

Municipal Power News



Spiceland Municipal Utilities

Volume 29, Issue 1 | Spring 2024



Spiceland utility workers

Utility Works to Keep Customers Happy

Spiceland's local not-for-profit electric utility places reliability of service as one of its highest priorities, recognizing that access to power is a vital component to customers' everyday lives. The utility's lineworkers regularly trim trees and respond to power interruptions to ensure the effective delivery of power, and town leaders work to access grant funding and support from its wholesale power provider to keep utility rates stable. While these day-to-day efforts are important, taking on large infrastructure enhancement projects is oftentimes a necessary part of providing excellent customer service to Spiceland homes and businesses as well.

One such ongoing project is the upgrade of electric infrastructure that serves Spiceland's Draper, Inc. on the south side of town. Draper is a manufacturer of custom indoor and outdoor shading solutions for residential and commercial clients, as well as a provider of audiovisual systems, gym equipment, and more. Since Spiceland's electric utility is a not-for-profit, public power utility, the power payments made by local industries like Draper go directly toward maintaining a strong utility, low electric rates, and efficient infrastructure for everyone. Therefore, the success of local

-continued on page 4

Inside this Issue

Page 2

10 Years of Solar Power

IMPA celebrates a decade of its solar program.

Page 4

Reader Feedback

Respond to the question featured on this page for a chance to win a prize!

Page 7

The Benefits of Public Power

Look through reader responses from the last edition of *Municipal Power News*.

IMPA Celebrates 10 Years of its Solar Program

With the goal to expand the diversity of its power supply portfolio with economically feasible renewable generation sites, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) launched its solar program to construct solar parks within its member communities in 2014. At the time, solar power was just emerging as a cost-effective fuel resource for utilities, but IMPA embraced the challenge of incorporating this resource into its power supply portfolio to further diversify its resources and prepare for the future. Now, 10 years and 50 solar parks later, IMPA is proud of the numerous accomplishments made through its solar program and the nearly 200 megawatts of power that it contributes to all 61 member communities served by the Agency.



IMPA began its program cautiously, only constructing three demonstration solar parks in Frankton, Rensselaer, and Richmond, Indiana in its first year. Each site was housed on about eight acres of land and with 4,000 solar panels, and by the end of the year, the three sites generated 1.5 million kilowatt hours.

Through this process, IMPA expanded its knowledge of solar power and the steps needed to successfully develop parks of this scale in the most cost-effective way possible. Besides relying on in-house expertise, IMPA worked with local contractors in each of the three member communities to keep costs down and support local businesses. When construction of the three solar parks came in under budget while reliably providing environmentally-responsible electricity, IMPA and its Board of Commissioners started to envision the vast possibilities of building solar in several member communities. A spark was lit, and by 2015, six more solar parks were constructed in member communities, adding over 9 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity to the Agency's power supply portfolio.

In the ensuing years, IMPA increased its renewable footprint by building solar in collaboration with its member communities. As time progressed, so did the Agency's proficiency in constructing solar parks. By 2017, IMPA was constructing each of its solar parks with a single-axis



tracking system, allowing solar panels at each site to effectively track the movement of the sun throughout the day and generate more electricity as a result. The program continued to expand with new solar parks being constructed in member communities throughout the state, as well as additional parks being added to some communities whose infrastructure were able to handle more than one solar park . With the help of this program, IMPA achieved at least 30% low or no carbon resources by 2020 while still offering some of the lowest wholesale electric rates in the state of Indiana.

The success of IMPA’s solar program continues to thrive in recent years. In 2023, IMPA had its most prolific year yet for its solar park program as the Agency brought seven solar parks online in member communities. The agency’s largest park – at 9.9 MW – was completed, and IMPA celebrated a milestone as the Agency’s 50th solar park came online late in the year. From a small, idealistic program that started with three, 1-MW parks in 2014,

the Agency’s solar park program has grown exponentially in under 10 years. The Agency now has over 196 MW of solar power in member communities. Plans are already underway for four additional parks, and the Agency expects to surpass 209 MW of solar capacity by the end of 2025. The solar park program plays a key role in IMPA’s diverse power supply portfolio, and with its proven success rate, the Agency continues to provide a diverse fuel mix that benefits both consumers and the environment. •



IMPA’s 50th Solar Park Ribbon Cutting

Reader Feedback

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency** (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. IMPA provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

What does having reliable electricity mean to you and your family?



Send your answer to newsletter@impa.com, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

Topic Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



IMPA Service Corp linemen perform regular maintenance over a dozen member communities across

Utility

-continued from page 1

businesses not only provides jobs and a stable economy to the community, but it helps to create a reliable power system throughout the town.

Spiceland is upgrading two transformer banks in a local substation that serves the Draper campus directly. Substations are facilities that receive electric power from the transmission grid and lower the voltage of the electric power through transformers to make it suitable for delivery to homes and businesses. Transformers are the specific pieces of equipment in a substation that step down the voltage. Currently, the transformers at Spiceland's substation operate at 4 kilovolts (kV), a voltage that was once typical for all utilities, but is becoming outdated. Draper is working with Spiceland's municipal utility to convert the transformers to 12kV, a voltage that



er maintenance in
Indiana.

is substantially more efficient. Additionally, the town is helping the manufacturer refurbish overhead power lines and bury them underground.

While infrastructure rebuilds can be costly, Spiceland leaders are working to ensure that each dollar spent for the project is cost-effective. To achieve this, the town is working with its wholesale public power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power

Agency (IMPA), another not-for-profit utility. IMPA's subsidiary, IMPA Service Corp, provides distribution engineering design and project management services to the 61 member communities of the Agency. By working with its communities through a not-for-profit business model, IMPA Service Corp is able to provide these services at an economic rate for members like Spiceland.

Not only is IMPA Service Corp assisting with infrastructure upgrades, but they are also helping to ensure that the town is well-equipped to serve Draper as it expands in the near future. Late last year, the manufacturer announced that it would be adding a 10th building to its campus, increasing Draper's footprint by 25% and bringing 25-30 new jobs to the area. IMPA Service Corp and Spiceland's electric utility are working to connect utilities to the new building and ensure that the expansion comes as smoothly as possible.

The dedication of Spiceland's municipal utility to keep customers big and small happy is a large factor in the success of the community as a whole. Working with customers to create more reliable and efficient systems benefits everyone in town as it contributes toward economic growth, job creation, and a secure electric grid. To learn more about IMPA and IMPA Service Corp, visit www.impa.com!



What's the Word?

Investigating Power Terminology

Watt

A watt is a unit of measurement used to show the rate of energy transfer over one second of time. Consequently, a kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts, a megawatt is 1 million watts, and a gigawatt equals 1 billion watts.

You may have heard of a kilowatt hour (kWh), which is a common billing unit used by most utilities in the electric industry. Essentially, a kWh simply shows the energy use per hour of an appliance, device, or entire home measured in kilowatts. For example, a space heater rated at 1.5 kWh consumes 1,500 watts of power in one hour of continuous use!

Watts are named after James Watt, an inventor and engineer born in 1736 who also created the concept of horsepower.

Cooking Corner

Meatloaf

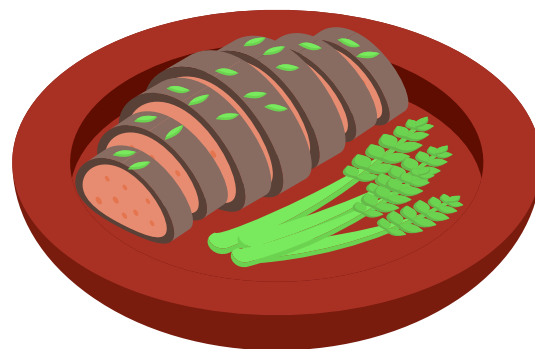
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 2 lbs hamburger
- 2 eggs
- 10 to 12 crackers (crumbled)
- 1 onion diced
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 pkgs instant oatmeal
- 2 to 3 squirts of ketchup

Mix all ingredients well. Form into a loaf and put into a greased loaf pan. Cover with ketchup. Refrigerate for 20 to 30 minutes covered to help the loaf firm up. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove loaf from refrigerator and bake in preheated oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Once meatloaf is baked, remove from oven. Let rest on top of the stove for 30 minutes before cutting into so that it won't fall apart.

This recipe serves about 4 to 6 people. Invite your friends and family over to enjoy!



For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

Editor: Niki Dick
Senior Director of Marketing Communications

Correspondent:
Whitney Hicks
Communications Coordinator

MEMBERS

Advance
Anderson
Argos
Bainbridge
Bargersville
Blanchester, OH
Bremen
Brooklyn
Brookston
Centerville
Chalmers
Coatesville
Columbia City

Covington
Crawfordsville
Darlington
Dublin
Dunreith
Edinburgh
Etna Green
Flora
Frankfort
Frankton
Gas City
Greendale
Greenfield

Huntingburg
Jamestown
Jasper
Kingsford Heights
Knightstown
Ladoga
Lawrenceburg
Lebanon
Lewisville
Linton
Middletown
Montezuma
New Ross

Paoli
Pendleton
Peru
Pittsboro
Rensselaer
Richmond
Rising Sun
Rockville
Scottsburg
South Whitley
Spiceland
Straughn
Tell City

Thorntown
Tipton
Troy
Veedersburg
Walkerton
Washington
Waynetown
Williamsport
Winamac

What are the Benefits of Public Power?

In the last issue of the *Municipal Power News*, we asked you what some of the benefits of public power are. As a reader of this newsletter, you live in a public power community, which means the electric utility that serves your power needs is a not-for-profit utility, owned and operated by your municipality.

The benefits of public power are numerous. Here is what some of our readers had to say about the advantages of living in a public power community.

“By being a part of the community, public power utilities can boost investment in the community, support local education, and be involved with charitable programs. They also care about the overall well-being of the communities they serve.”

– Fred

“Since public utilities are nonprofit organizations, their main focus is on providing affordable services rather than maximizing profit. This often leads to lower rates for customers, as any surplus revenue is reinvested into the improvement and expansion of services. Public power

also eliminates the need for shareholders and dividends, further reducing costs. Consequently, individuals and businesses can save money on essential utilities, allowing them to allocate their resources more efficiently.”

– Chris

“There are many benefits to public power, such as being able to be provided with economic advantages. IMPA makes sure all electric needs of the community are met, as well. It boosts community investments, supports local education, and gets involved with beautification.”

– Bridgette

These are all great answers that highlight how public power improves your community to help it thrive. Additionally, public power is affordable. According to a 2021 American Public Power Association (APPA) comparison, public power customers of Indiana and Ohio typically saved an average of more than 40% when compared to other types of electric utilities. APPA also reports that nearly 80% of projects currently under construction by public power utilities are solar and wind generating sources. This shows that public power utilities also recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and continue to invest in sustainable power sources.

Public power communities, including yours, consistently work to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to their consumers.

To learn more about public power, visit www.impa.com/publicpower!

Indiana Municipal Power Agency
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit # 563

The Municipal Power News is published
by the Indiana Municipal Power
Agency and Spiceland Municipal
Utilities.

IMPA Commissioner: Jeff Lane

Rebates Available to You!

Did you know that you could earn rebates on qualifying heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) installations? The IMPA Energy Efficiency Program is offered through your local utility, in partnership with its power supplier, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). It is designed to help consumers save money through reduced energy usage by providing an incentive for higher efficiency replacement equipment.

Visit www.impa.com/energyefficiency to view a list of current rebates and download an application. For any questions, please contact save@impa.com! •

