Municipal Power News

IMPA

Town of Middletown

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Inside this Issue

Middletown Commissioner Re-appointed to IMPA Exec Committee

On March 21, Middletown's wholesale power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), hosted its Annual Meeting in Carmel, Indiana. At the Annual Meeting, communities who receive power through the Agency come together with IMPA staff and other stakeholders to network, discuss industry challenges and successes, and hold one of the year's most important Board Meetings in which new Board leadership is adopted. Here, Middletown's IMPA Commissioner Ron Koons was re-elected to the IMPA Executive Committee for a three-year term.

Though originally from Sidney, Ohio, Koons and his wife, Sandee, came to Middletown in 1973 as newlyweds who were following promising job opportunities. Since then, Koons has worked as a professional writer, photographer, safety consultant, and electrical designer. He and his wife even started a successful safety consultant company, leading them to travel and work in over 30 states throughout the years. Though Koons does spend time abroad for his company, a majority of his time is spent in Middletown, working as the town's cable TV liaison, station

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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!

Commissioner

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manager of the local access channel, committee member of the Middletown Environmental Committee, and IMPA Commissioner. His expertise and forethought will continue to contribute even more to IMPA as a part of the Executive Committee.

IMPA is governed by its Board of Commissioners, comprised of one representative from each of the 61 communities the Agency serves. The Agency's 61 municipal utility members—otherwise known as public power utilities—are local, not-for-profit entities that receive electricity from the Agency. Middletown's electric utility is also a public power utility run as a division of local government, like a public library or school. Governed by a locally appointed board, community citizens have a direct voice in utility decisions, including the rates it charges and its sources of electricity. This is one of the many benefits of public power.

Middletown was a founding member of IMPA in 1983 and has played an instrumental role in the Agency's success through over 40 years of operation. As a part of IMPA's family, Middletown residents and business owners gain the advantages of a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply.

IMPA staff and Board leadership are glad to have Koons remain on the Executive Committee.

"Ron is a great supporter of IMPA and municipal utilities as a whole," said IMPA President and CEO Jack Alvey. "In his years as a commissioner on the IMPA Board, he has joined us on several trips across the country to get a better understanding of utility operations, our Agency bond ratings, and legislative impacts on public power. We're glad to have him on the Executive Committee and look forward to his continued guidance."•

Other Benefits of Public Power

Public Power is Affordable

Across the country, municipal electric utilities continue to lead the way in providing customers with low-cost energy. Public power's historically lower rates are the result of the low-cost structure central to its business model, supported by its not-for-profit status, access to tax-exempt financing, higher credit ratings, local control, and its ability to contract for low-cost power supplies. In a 2024 statistical report, the American Public Power Association

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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.

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.

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Cooking Corner

Meatloaf

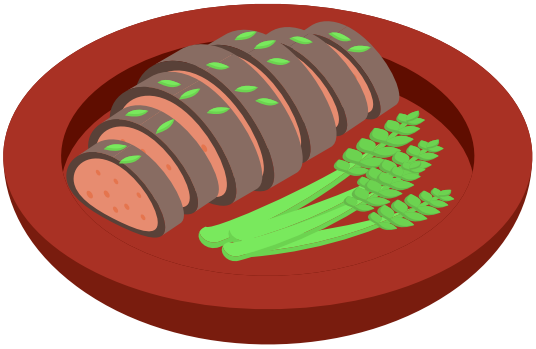
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 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!



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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!

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IMPA Commissioner: Ron Koons

Other Benefits of Public Power

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found that public power customers of Indiana and Ohio typically saved an average of more than 40% when compared to other types of utilities.

Public Power is Reliable

Public power utilities are actively responsive to customers' needs and concerns because their primary goal is to provide efficient, reliable service to the customers in their communities. Public power utilities focus on overall system reliability, quick restoration of power after an outage, and making excellent customer service a priority.

Public Power is Invested in the Community

Public power utilities are embedded into the fabric of their communities and support a range of community programs including charitable, educational, and beautification programs. These utilities are operated by family members, friends, and neighbors within the community, giving employees a unique sense of pride and responsibility to utility customers. Public power employs 93,000 people across the United States in hometown jobs. •