

Solar Park

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who builds the solar parks?

A: IMPA, the not-for-profit wholesale power provider to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, is the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contractor of many solar parks located throughout the state in our member communities. The output of IMPA member solar parks is part of IMPA's power supply to its members.

Q. Will my home power be connected to the solar park?

A. All of the power produced at the solar parks stays within the local community where the park is located. The output from the solar park is placed on the local electric distribution system, which in turn is connected to the high voltage power electric system ("The Grid") and becomes part of all electric generation that is attached to the system. As electricity from the solar panels joins with electricity generated by other facilities on the electric system, it is impossible to tell if the electricity generated by the solar park is specifically powering any particular home or building.

Q. Will having the solar park located in my community lower my electric bill?

A: The solar park will have very little impact on your electric bill. IMPA is dedicated to providing low cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power to its member communities. Electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind is intermittent, meaning its output is not present around the clock. While becoming more competitive cost-wise, renewable energy sources must be part of a power supply portfolio anchored with traditional resources to ensure a reliable power supply. The construction of solar parks in IMPA's member communities is meant to further diversify IMPA's portfolio of power supply resources, adding additional renewable energy as we prepare for the possibility of future, more restrictive, federal or state requirements. IMPA's solar projects will be blended with its other resources, and through this initiative and others, IMPA will strive to keep its electric rates among the lowest in Indiana.

Q: Does the solar park have security?

A: Yes, the park has security measures in place. The park is behind a locked, chain link fence topped with barbed wire. The park itself does not require someone to be there to operate, but IMPA technicians will conduct regular maintenance.

Q: What about noise?

A: Capturing the sun's power through solar cells does not make noise in itself, but there can be a hum produced when the electricity is transformed to be used in our homes and businesses. This sound is similar in volume to other electric equipment you would hear in neighborhoods and businesses. Steps have been taken at the solar park, through enclosures and the facility's physical layout, to reduce any noise.

Q: Is there any danger having the park in our community?

A: A solar park is about as safe as a facility can be. There are no air emissions from the facility. There are no chemicals. No trucks will be coming and going on a daily basis once construction is complete. The power will leave the park on lines just like the power lines in your neighborhood.

Q: What about glare?

Glare is produced by reflected sunlight. The more sunlight a solar panel absorbs, the more electricity it can produce. Solar panels are designed to absorb light, and only reflect a small amount of the sunlight that hits them as compared to most other everyday objects. The light that solar panels reflect is not any more noticeable than the light reflected by trees and is significantly less than flat water.

