

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Blanchester Board of Public Affairs



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Blanchester recently became a full benefits member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency. While Blanchester has been a wholesale power customer for many years, the village was just recently able to join as a full member. Ram Reddy (pictured), Utilities Director for Blanchester, takes the oath of office as a commissioner of IMPA.

BPA projects benefit
community

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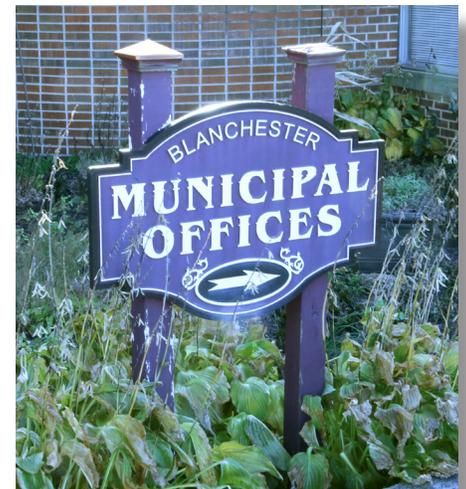
Wholesale electric
rate decrease

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BPA projects provide lasting benefit

The Blanchester Board of Public Affairs (BPA) is known to provide reliable, local electric, water and sewer services to the community. Providing those services in a reliable manner requires ongoing attention and maintenance, however. Besides providing daily services to customers, BPA is constantly working behind the scenes to improve system reliability and service, often at no cost to the customer. Although the work is not always immediately recognizable, it is all done in an effort to provide the best services possible to the Village of Blanchester citizens.

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BPA projects provide lasting benefit to community

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Electric:

On the electric side, BPA has taken numerous steps to improve system reliability, including rebuilding or upgrading primary electric lines throughout a significant portion of the community, as well as extending both above ground and underground lines to serve other areas. The rebuilt/upgraded lines are constructed to meet the standards set forth by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). By upgrading these lines, Blanchester is not only meeting safety requirements, but is preparing the lines for a possible conversion in the future that would provide improved capacity and efficiency in service.

BPA has also worked to improve power factor across the system. Power factor is a measure of reliability, and a poor power factor can lead to increased costs for the utility and the community as a whole. Through an arrangement with another community in Indiana served by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Blanchester's wholesale power supplier, Blanchester was able to acquire several capacitor banks at no cost to the community. The installed capacitor banks helped to improve overall power factor across the system.

In addition to system improvements, some changes BPA has made improved aesthetics as well. Outdated and inefficient street lights throughout the village were updated with state-of-the-art light-emitting diode (LED) lighting, reducing energy usage and providing a brighter light quality throughout the community. The BPA replaced 598 streetlights throughout the community, as well as 14 decorative lights covering two blocks of Broadway. Completed in two phases, the lighting replacement was done without relying on funds from the village or taxpayers. BPA was able to update the lighting through a grant from the Department of Energy, which was earned through IMPA, and by funding phase two of the lighting replacement through the utility.

The work BPA is doing is not just in the field, however. The utility has also found ways to more efficiently manage its workforce and workload, reducing overtime and the costs associated with it significantly. The utility also completed an electric rate study and adjusted rates for commercial and industrial customers based upon the findings. Doing so resulted in significantly reduced energy and power costs to those classes of customers.



Water:

While the work on the electric side is significant, BPA has also worked to improve services on the water side. BPA implemented a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that connects all of the pump stations and water towers, allowing the utility to monitor, control and operate equipment remotely. The system improves efficiency and provides cost savings on the operation and maintenance of the equipment.

A new water tower was constructed on the east side of the village to improve water supply pressure to commercial and industrial customers in the area. Not only was service improved, but BPA was able to complete the project in a cost effective manner as land for the tower and the booster station needed to pump the water were both donated to the village.



Notably, BPA recently finished the construction of a new water treatment plant. The village's prior water treatment facility was built in the early 1900s and had reached the end of its useful life. The new plant enables the utility to avoid costly upgrades and modifications to the old plant while providing a safer and better drinking water infrastructure for the residents of Blanchester. Construction of the new plant was entirely funded through state and federal grants and low or no-cost loans.

Sewer:

Finally, on the sewer side, Blanchester initiated a project to separate its combined sewer and improve its sewer collection system to better address sewer overflows. The utility completed major upgrades to its sewer treatment plant as well as construction of a major sewer main to help with overloading on the east side. The changes and upgrades will allow the village to better serve existing customers as well as prepare for new customers and future growth. Additionally, by continuing to monitor and address weaker sections in the sewer infrastructure, BPA will be able to avoid sewer backups and infiltration into other systems, improving system reliability as a whole. As with the water treatment plant, all of the upgrades and changes the BPA has made on the sewer side were financed entirely through state and federal grants as well as low and no-cost loans.

The BPA has been proactive in making upgrades to infrastructure to support and promote continued and expanded economic development. These projects and ongoing improvements are just a sampling of all that BPA does to provide local, reliable service to the residents, businesses and industries of Blanchester. ●

Banners honor local veterans

Veterans from the Blanchester area were recently recognized and honored throughout the community. Banners displaying photos of local veterans and their years of service hung on streetlights throughout the village from July until Veterans' Day. The banners, which were sponsored by the Local American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, were installed by staff of the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs. Approximately 250 banners were displayed throughout the community, honoring the individuals who served their community and their country. When not hanging for display, the banners are carefully stored at the municipal building by the BPA staff. ●



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the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the
Blanchester Board of Public Affairs.
IMPA Commissioner: Ram Reddy

BPA announces electric rate decrease for 2018

The Blanchester Board of Trustees of Public Affairs (BPA) will be implementing a reduction of its retail electric rates to residential customers in 2018.

As a member community of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), the BPA's wholesale power provider, the community will see a reduction in its wholesale electric rates for 2018. Blanchester will see an approximate 5% decrease in its wholesale rates for 2018. The BPA plans to pass the cost savings through to its residential customers, with usage beginning as of January 1, 2018.

IMPAs wholesale rates are based on the Agency's operating costs, which are derived from its diverse generation and transmission ownership, purchased power, debt service and administrative and general expenses. This decrease is the result of IMPA's investments in generation and transmission projects over the last two decades. All of the Agency's newer units, including new solar projects, as well as a reduced regulatory burden are contributing to lower, sustained costs for 2018 and beyond. ●



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY