

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

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The Columbia City Electric Department is celebrating its 120th anniversary of providing the city with electric power.

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## Columbia City Utilities Celebrates 120th Anniversary

**I**t all started on Feb. 4, 1888, when electricity first came to Columbia City. When it first arrived, the public was divided on the issue. While some were interested in the idea, particularly local government, others feared electric power, as it was a relatively new phenomenon that was generally not understood by most people.

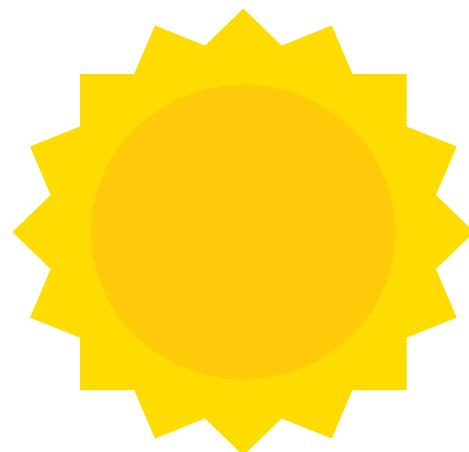
A contract was signed that winter with Columbia City and George W. and Joseph H. Ruch to provide the city with 26 Jenny arc lights of 2,000 candlepower each. These lights were kept burning from dusk until midnight, and cost the city \$74 per light annually. For the first time in history, Columbia City was illuminated by electricity on April 13, 1888, in front of a cheering crowd and music from Pickett's Band and drum corps. By 1898, the Columbia City Electric Department served just under 400 customers.

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# Beat the Heat with Energy Saving Tips

Summer is here, and that means hot, sticky temperatures. You can find relief in a number of places – the museum, pool and even your own home – and still control your electricity costs. As a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, your local utility already provides you with affordable rates. Now, it's up to you to save even more and help your local utility manage costs during the peak summer months. Follow one or more of these tips and enjoy a cool, less expensive summer:

- Replace air filters regularly. Dirty air filters can increase your electric bill by 20 percent.
- Shade your outside air conditioning unit with trees or shrubs, but do not block the air flow. A unit operating in the shade uses as much as 10 percent less electricity. Keep plants, shrubs and bushes trimmed so they are at least 18 inches away from your outside A/C unit to allow air to flow freely.
- Use your ceiling fans and pedestal fans. Fans can make it feel three to four degrees cooler. Fans should turn counterclock wise in the summer and clockwise in the winter.
- Do not place lamps or televisions near your air conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Turn your thermostat down when you aren't home, but be mindful of pets. You can save 10 percent of your electricity costs each year by turning the thermostat down 10 to 15 percent for 8 hours.
- Turn your thermostat down when you are sleeping.
- Windows can account for 10 to 25 percent of your electric bill. Install lightly colored window shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat away from your windows. Close curtains on the south and west facing windows.
- Seal and/or insulate your ductwork.
- Use light-emitting diode (LED) or compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs instead of incandescent light bulbs. LEDs and CFLs last longer, save on energy costs and don't produce heat like the incandescent bulbs.
- Appliances and electronics generate heat. Turn them off when you aren't using them.
- Close the doors in rooms you don't often use so you're not cooling them as well.
- Try to stay in or out. Opening and closing doors lets cold air out and warm air in.



# How Much Do My Appliances Cost to Run?

Today we are using more appliances and electronics than ever before. Have you ever wondered how much it really costs to run each device? Here are some figures using average electric costs for a residential public power customer:

To run one dishwasher cycle  
(depending on how much hot water is used)



\$0.17 - \$0.73

To run a central A/C system  
for two hours



\$0.28 - \$0.81

To watch two hours of television  
(ranges for different types of TVs)



\$0.02 - \$0.06

To light a room for three hours with  
four 60-watt-equivalent CFLs



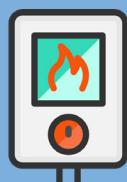
\$0.02

To recharge a smartphone



<\$0.01

To heat a household's water  
heater for one month



\$46 - \$77

\*Information from the American Public Power Association

# IMPA Welcomes New Solar Parks

IMPA added to its diverse portfolio of power supply resources in 2017 with the construction of four solar parks. In 2018, the Agency will continue its ongoing commitment to providing a low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power supply to its 61 communities.

Thousands of additional homes around the state were powered last year thanks to the efforts of IMPA and the member communities the Agency serves. Communities in which solar parks were completed in 2017 include Anderson, Flora, Greenfield and Spiceland.

Other IMPA communities in which solar parks have been built include Argos, Bainbridge, Crawfordsville, Frankton, Huntingburg, Pendleton, Peru, Rensselaer, Richmond, Tell City, Washington and Waynetown.

Raj Rao, IMPA President and CEO, said the output of solar parks throughout the state enables the Agency to continue expanding its diverse portfolio through the addition of solar energy.

"We are certain these parks will have a lasting impact on the communities," Rao said.

IMPA has begun construction on additional solar parks in IMPA member communities for 2018. Generation data for each solar park is available on IMPA's website at [www.impa.com/solar](http://www.impa.com/solar). ●

## Anderson 2

- 8.1 MW
- Largest IMPA solar park
- Powers over 1,000 homes annually

## Flora

- 0.81 MW
- 2,964 solar panels
- Powers over 100 homes annually

## Greenfield

- 2.84 MW
- 10,450 solar panels
- Powers over 400 homes annually

## Spiceland

- 0.53 MW
- 1,938 solar panels
- Powers over 80 homes annually

# Columbia City Utilities Works to Develop AMI

An advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) program is gradually developing within Columbia City, in hopes of helping the electric department become more efficient and provide better customer service. Columbia City Electric Department Superintendent Shawn Lickey said as more communities are using automatic meter reading software, the utility wants to be on the front line of those changes with the addition of AMI software, which will provide live, two-way communication between customer meters and the utility.

"Our 100-meter pilot program deployment was approved in late 2017 and we are hoping to have full deployment with the program by 2019," Lickey said. "We would be a little ahead of the game because this is the latest version of AMI technology. Co-ops around us are trying to upgrade to what we are deciding to go with, and they are helping us with our deployment as well."

The software, Tantalus, allows the utility to gather information through Itron meters, meaning less time will be spent on reconnects and meter reading. It also has the ability to alert the utility about outages before the customer has the chance to make a phone call to report it. The utility currently uses automatic meter reading, but Lickey said it's not as efficient as the software program the utility is piloting in 2018.

"More communities are utilizing this software because it proves to be more efficient as far as time management and customer service is concerned," he said. "Once it's implemented, the utility will essentially be saving money by having the ability to dedicate the time it would take to read meters by hand to focus on other tasks that need to be addressed."

Lickey has earmarked money for the project for the past four years and hopes to be able to further carry out the project through 2018. ●

# Cooking Corner

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](mailto:newsletter@impa.com)

## Pesto

Recipe submitted by Kristy Lewellyn of Linton, Indiana

2 cups packed fresh basil leaves  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil  
1/3 cup pine nuts  
3 medium sized garlic cloves minced  
salt & pepper  
1/2 cup parmesan - optional

Chop basil, nuts & garlic as finely as possible and slowly add other ingredients. The perfect start to your own Bruchetta. Or, serve over pasta or as an appetizer with crackers or bread.

## Chutney Cheese Canapé

Recipe submitted by Leisa Lowrey of Jasper, Indiana

8 oz. cream cheese  
1/4 c. chutney, chopped fine  
1/2 tsp. dry mustard  
1 tsp. curry powder  
toasted slivered almonds  
serve in 1/2 pineapple - optional

Blend all ingredients well in blender or food processor. Chill for at least 4 hours. Scoop out pineapple half & fill with mix. Top with almonds. Serve with crackers (Ritz are best).

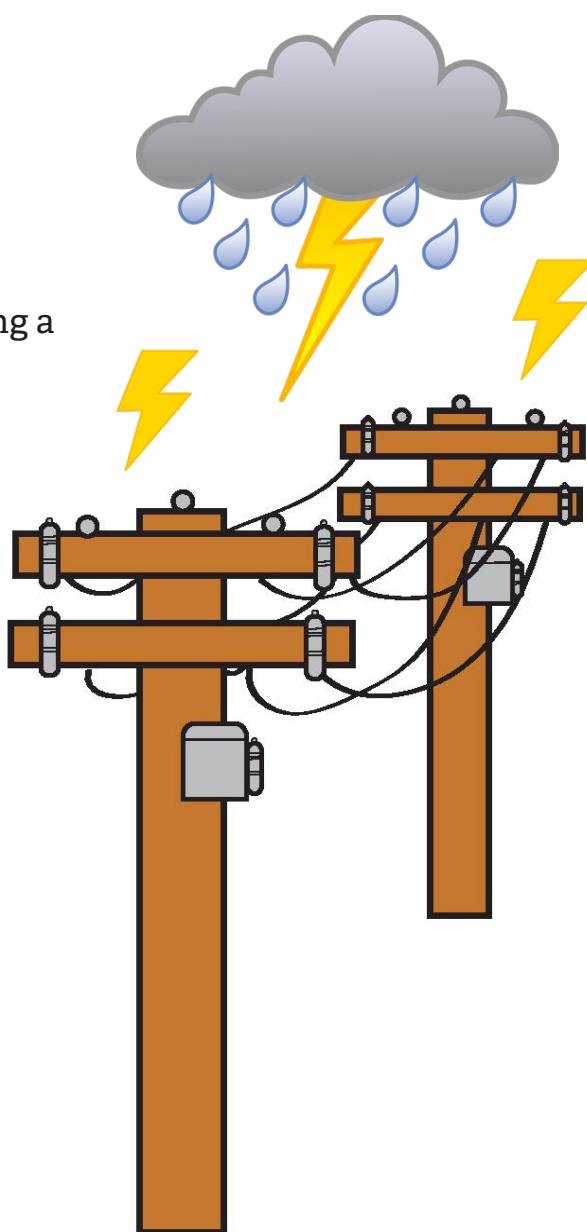
Advance	Covington	Huntingburg	Paoli	Thorntown
Anderson	Crawfordsville	Jamestown	Pendleton	Tipton
Argos	Darlington	Jasper	Peru	Troy
Bainbridge	Dublin	Kingsford Heights	Pittsboro	Veedersburg
Bargersville	Dunreith	Knightstown	Rensselaer	Walkerton
Blanchester, OH	Edinburgh	Ladoga	Richmond	Washington
Bremen	Etna Green	Lawrenceburg	Rising Sun	Waynetown
Brooklyn	Flora	Lebanon	Rockville	Williamsport
Brookston	Frankfort	Lewisville	Scottsburg	Winamac
Centerville	Frankton	Linton	South Whitley	
Chalmers	Gas City	Middletown	Spiceland	
Coatesville	Greendale	Montezuma	Straughn	
Columbia City	Greenfield	New Ross	Tell City	



# Thunder and Lightning, Oh My!

**T**hunderstorms can be very unpredictable. It could be a warm, sunny day, and minutes later a dark cloud appears on the horizon. Every year in the United States, lightning kills about 100 people and injures about 250 others. Follow these steps to ensure the safety of yourself and others during thunderstorms:

- Be cautious and aware of your actions during a thunderstorm.
- Don't handle any kind of electrical equipment.
- Even using the telephone can be dangerous during a storm because lightning can follow the phone circuits after striking miles away. Cordless and cellular phones are generally safe, but any metal object can become a hazard when used outside during a storm.
- If you must be out during a storm, avoid wide open area and stay away from wire fences, railroad tracks and all metal objects.
- Also, stay clear of trees and poles – tall objects and wet wood attract lightning.



The bottom line is that storms are dangerous, so exercise caution and be prepared!

# Follow IMPA on Social Media!



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## Tidbits & Trivia

**Question:** How many solar parks did IMPA open in 2017?

- a) 1
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 7

Send your answer to the question to IMPA, and we will randomly select winners from all of the correct entries to receive an energy efficiency prize pack. Please send your name, e-mail address and address with your answer to:

[newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com)

OR

MPN Energy Efficiency Quiz  
11610 North College Avenue  
Carmel, IN 46032

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides an economic, reliable and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members.

IMPA member utilities purchase their power through IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within the community.

## Renewable Energy

Energy that is collected from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

Example: Solar parks are a form of renewable energy.

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Columbia City Electric Department.

IMPA Commissioner: Shawn Lickey

## Anniversary

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The town's electric utility grew rapidly in the first few decades of the 1900s. In 1920, the Columbia City electric utility used approximately 5,000 tons of coal - at a cost of \$6.83 per ton - to generate power at the city-owned plant. By the 1930s, the electric utility not only provided power for its city customers, but it also furnished current for the Whitley County Rural Electric Membership Cooperative (REMC) when it came into existence in 1936. During the first five decades, the department kept busy with setting poles and setting up wiring for electric lights, fixtures, outlets and switches in houses and businesses as the demand for power grew. In 1993, the department contracted with IMPA as its sole supplier of wholesale power.

120 years later, the electric department serves just over 5,000 customers, with improvements and upgrades to the electric system being made regularly to meet the demands of its growing customer base. Columbia City Electric Superintendent Shawn Lickey said 120 years is important to celebrate, but the 125th anniversary will be even more special to the electric department.

"We aren't positive about what we will do yet to celebrate 125 years of service to Columbia City, but we want to make it special because that's a long time to provide reliable power to our community." ●

