MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Pittsboro

IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 24, Issue 1 | Summer 2018

Since 2013, IMPA has constructed solar parks in 17 of its member communities, bringing the total solar capacity of the Agency to 36.6 megawatts (MW).

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IMPA Welcomes New Solar Parks

IMPA added to its diverse portfolio of power supply resources in 2017 with the construction of four solar parks, bringing the total solar capacity of the Agency to 36.6 megawatts (MW). Thousands of additional homes around the state were powered last year thanks to the efforts of IMPA and the member communities the Agency serves.

In 2018, the Agency will continue its ongoing commitment to providing a low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power supply to its 61 communities.

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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.

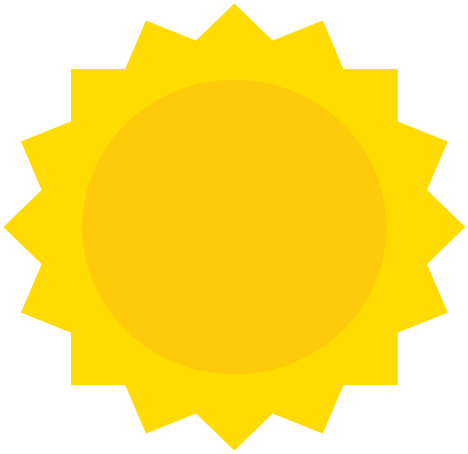
• Turn your thermostat down when you aren't home, but be mindful of pets. You can save 10 percent of your electricity costs each year by turning the thermostat down 10 to 15 percent for 8 hours.

• 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 flourescent 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 applicances 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

Rain, Rain Help Me Save

You may not think of rain droplets as anything more than a nuisance initially, but all of that free water can actually help you save money. As the rainy season continues, you may want to invest in a rain barrel to help harvest the water for your own personal use.

It is calculated that a 2,000 square foot roof can collect approximately 1,000 gallons of water. A single rain barrel cannot capture that total amount, but it can catch enough to reuse in a multitude of ways. An average household barrel can range in size from 53 to 60 gallons in capacity. That may seem like a lot of space, but an average rainfall of half an inch would fill it to the brim.

The simplest way to set up a rain barrel is to put it under a gutter downspout. For more water capacity, there are also more complex systems that hook up several barrels to one pump.

In addition to saving you money when watering your garden, rain barrels can also help reduce stormwater runoff. More citizens using rain barrels could start a snowball effect to improve your community. Less stormwater runoff means reduced levels of pesticides and fertilizers in the water. To find a rain barrel that meets your needs, visit your local home improvement store or nursery. For additional questions, visit www.rainbarrelguide.com.

Uses for collected rainwater:

- Fill a watering can and hand-water plants, flowerbeds and gardens
- Keep your compost bin moist
- Rinse off gardening tools
- Connect to a soaker hose (with the pressure-reducing washer removed)
- Fill the bird bath
- Harness it in case of dry months or drought

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

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
¼ c. chutney, chopped fine
½ tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp. curry powder
toasted slivered almonds
serve in ½ 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).

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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Thunder and Lightning, Oh My!

Thunderstorms 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:

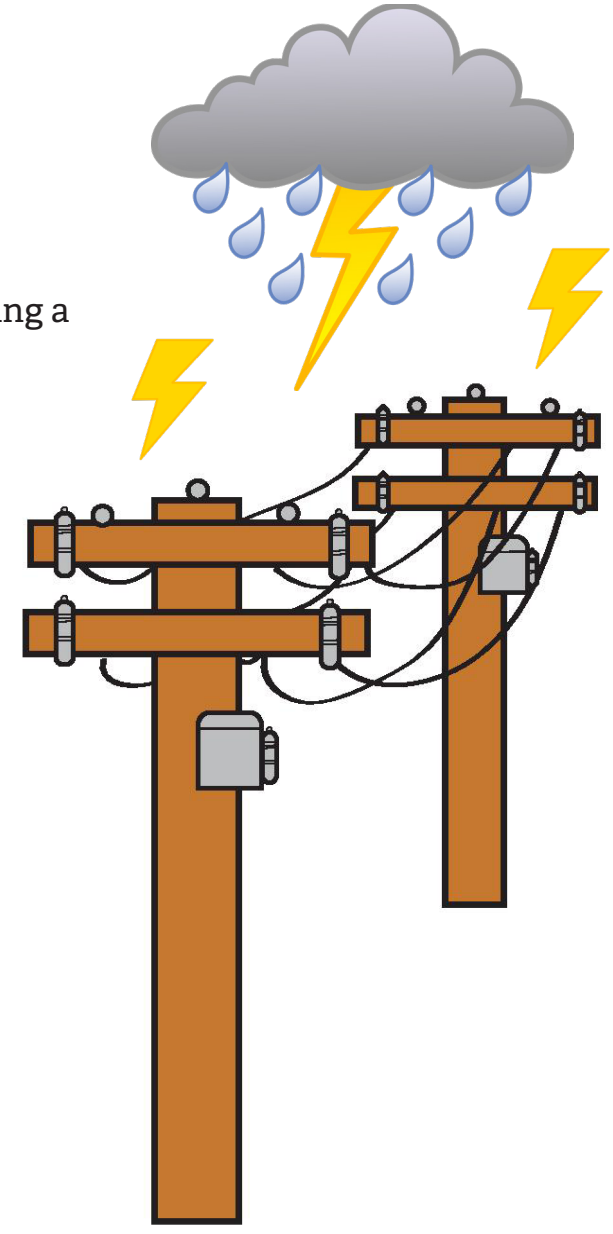
•Be cautious and aware of your actions during a thunderstorm.

•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.

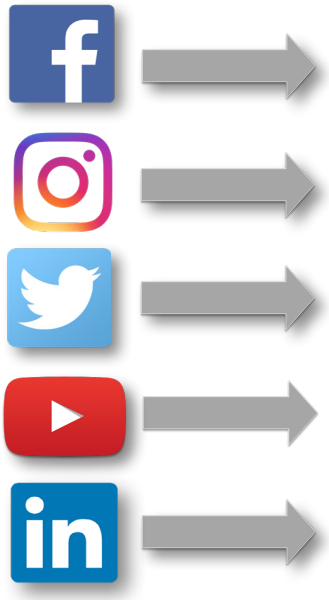
•If you must be out during a storm, avoid wide open area and stay away from wire fences, railroad tracks and all metal objects.

•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

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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IMPA Commissioner: Jason Love

Solar Parks

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Communities in which solar parks were completed in 2017 include Anderson, Flora, Greenfield and Spiceland. Ranging from 0.53 MW up to 8 MW, together these resources added 12 MW of solar capactiy to the Agency's existing solar portfolio that is now made up of 17 solar parks. 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. In time, IMPA plans to contruct over 100 MW of solar capacity in member communities. Generation data for each solar park is available on IMPA's website at www.impa.com/solar.