

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Rensselaer Municipal
Electric Utility



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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The Washington Street bridge is one of several projects the city has completed to improve the infrastructure of downtown Rensselaer.

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Rensselaer Makes Improvements with Downtown Grants

Several areas of Rensselaer have seen infrastructure improvements in recent years. In hopes of continuing the efforts of giving the city's downtown an overall revitalization, Rensselaer's Main Steet organization is planning for further updates.

In 2017, the city received a \$40,000 planning grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs to draw up ideas and concentrate on specific projects within the revitalization project. Rensselaer Mayor and IMPA Commissioner Stephen Wood said the city council adopted the planning grant in May, which includes new lighting, downtown sidewalks, as well as facades on various buildings.

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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 counterclockwise 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)



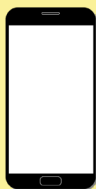
\$0.02 - \$0.06

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 implemented 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. •

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

City of Rensselaer Holds Parks for People Fundraiser

The City of Rensselaer is continuing its Parks for People campaign to update and modernize the local park system. City of Rensselaer Mayor and IMPA Commissioner Stephen Wood said past improvements to the parks have proved to increase property tax values, as well as increase the overall park attendance.

“We are really looking forward to this fundraising campaign and I think everyone will be really pleased when the improvements and upgrades to the parks are made,” Wood said.

The parks that will be improved include Brookside Park, Staddon/Monnett Park, as well as a dog park that will be newly implemented.

Plans for Brookside Park include new ball diamonds (concession stand, press box, bleachers, batting cages, improved restrooms, and dugouts), frisbee golf, upgraded basketball courts and additional parking.

The renovations for Staddon/Monnett Park include a soccer complex, improved baseball field, walking path, exercise stations, concession building, renovated restrooms, upgraded basketball courts and an ice skating rink.

The newly proposed dog park will include fenced areas, a play apparatus, water faucets, benches and a shelter.

According to Wood, the city has received \$830,000 in donation pledges so far to complete the project. The combined cost of the proposed project is \$1.5 million in renovations. Several naming and recognition opportunities are available when donating to the Parks for People campaign. •

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
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).

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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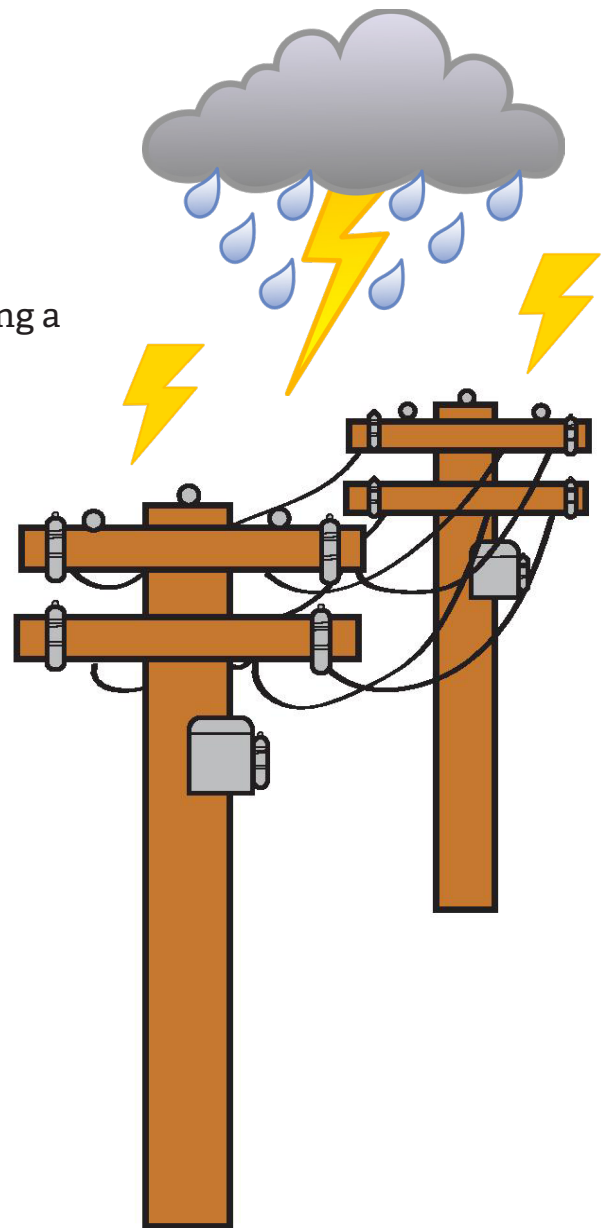


| | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Advance | Covington | Huntingburg | Paoli | Thorntown |
| Anderson | Crawfordsville | Jamestown | Pendleton | Tipton |
| Argos | Darlington | Jasper | Peru | Troy |
| Bainbridge | Dublin | Kingsford Heights | Pittsboro | Veedersburg |
| Bargersville | Dunreith | Knightsdown | Rensselaer | Walkerton |
| Blanchester, OH | Edinburgh | Ladoga | Richmond | Washington |
| Bremen | Etna Green | Lawrenceburg | Rising Sun | Waynetown |
| Brooklyn | Flora | Lebanon | Rockville | Williamport |
| 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!

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!

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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: Mayor Stephen Wood

Downtown Grants

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Once the city has a set plan for the downtown improvements, applications for additional grants and funding will go out in hopes of getting the financing for the project set in stone. The planning grant doesn't expire for three years, and Wood hopes funding for the project will be established at that point in time.

The most recent major upgrade to the city's downtown includes the facelift of the bridge on Washington Street, which was officially complete in November 2017, just in time for the city's Christmas parade.

"We would like the bridge on Washington Street to match the rest of the downtown improvements we make," Wood said. "INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation) funded the renovations to that bridge, but we decided to pay extra to have additional upgrades done, including decorative lighting and a brick facade underneath the bridge. We were really impressed with the outcome." ●