

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Argos Utilities



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Argos Utilities and the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, along with town officials and students from Argos High School, welcomed a new solar electric generating facility to the community on November 10, 2015.

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## IMPA Argos Solar Park Now Generating Power

Representatives from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) and the Argos Electric Department, along with Argos town officials and four students from Argos High School, welcomed a new solar generating facility to the community on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. The IMPA Argos Solar Park is a 720 kilowatt solar facility located on approximately seven acres of land just west of town.

"This has been a great partnership between IMPA and Argos," said Jamie Lindstrom, Assistant Electric Superintendent and IMPA Commissioner. "IMPA has really invested in our community by constructing this solar park. It comes at no additional cost to tax payers and truly provides a great

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# The Value of Electricity

If a group of people were asked to think of a few items that they cannot live without, a variety of answers may come up: food, water and basic shelter are usually some of the first objects that people may think of. Others may say their smart phones or their tablets. Still others might say their microwaves, televisions or vehicles. While these items run the gamut in terms of necessities and luxuries, they all have one component in common: the utilization of electricity. Without electricity, there would be no refrigerators to store food, or heaters and air conditioners to regulate the temperatures inside homes. Without electricity, there would be no way to power or charge electronics and other appliances. An extended power outage would also make it difficult to fill a car with gasoline and provide clean, filtered water. Virtually all of the necessities and luxuries in life are powered by electricity.

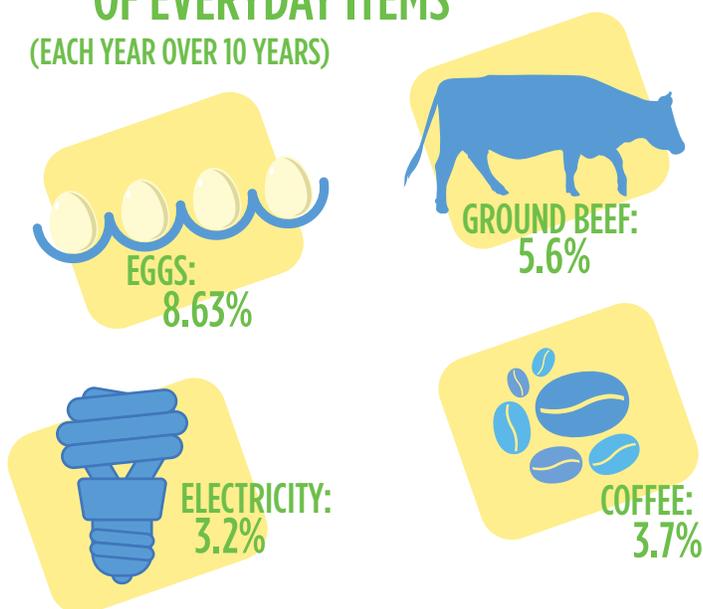
## Cost Calculation of Electricity

So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government agency that collects, analyzes, and disseminates information pertaining to energy, the average monthly residential electric bill in Indiana is \$115.56. When that total is divided by the 31 days that make up an

average month, the average cost of electricity per day in Indiana is only \$3.73. That means that you are able to do laundry, prepare meals, watch television, charge smart phones, tablets and laptops, and complete a variety of other tasks at any time of the day or night, all for less than \$5 a day. In today's world, it's difficult to find anything of worth for under \$5, making the value of electricity even more surprising.

Not only is electricity a great value, but its average annual price increase is also low when compared to other daily staples. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cost of electricity has increased an average of 3.2% each year, over the last ten years. In comparison, the cost of coffee has increased 3.7%, ground beef has increased 5.6% and eggs have increased by 8.63%.

## AVERAGE PERCENT PRICE INCREASE OF EVERYDAY ITEMS (EACH YEAR OVER 10 YEARS)



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Average  
Daily Cost of  
Electricity in  
Indiana

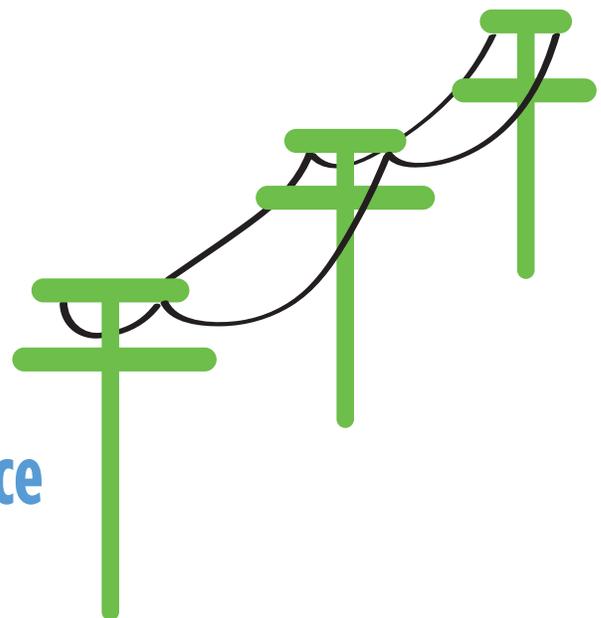


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped significantly. Additionally, electricity is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, allowing light switches to be turned on at any hour, and heaters and air conditioners to run through the night. The value of having access to electricity at any time of the day or night for only a few dollars a day makes it one of the most economically advantageous products available.

## The Value of an IMPA Community

Electricity is an excellent value all around, but because your community owns its own Municipal Electric Utility, electric rates in your community are even lower than in other towns and cities in Indiana. A Municipal Electric Utility, also sometimes called a Public Power Utility, means that a utility is owned and operated by the town or city in which it is located. Your hometown electric utility purchases low-cost and reliable electricity from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), and then uses its own equipment and infrastructure to deliver power to residents and businesses in the community. Some of the greatest benefits of a Public Power Utility are:

1. Low-cost power
2. Reliability
3. Local, hometown service



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# IMPA Argos Solar Park

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benefit to our town.”

“IMPA has long been a proponent of a diverse power supply,” stated Raj Rao, President and CEO of IMPA. “The solar park that we have built in Argos, as well as solar parks throughout other IMPA communities, serves as the foundation of our expanding solar generation plan. We appreciate the confidence that Argos has placed in us to provide this renewable source of power. IMPA looks forward to working with additional member communities as we expand solar parks to other towns and cities throughout the state.”

The IMPA Argos Solar Park contains approximately 2,700 solar panels that will generate up to 720 kilowatts of electricity. The solar park features fixed-tilt panels, which maximize output while balancing installation and maintenance costs. Currently, IMPA has installed a total of 13 megawatts (MW) of solar

energy, with 10 MW coming online in 2015. In addition to Argos, IMPA also has solar parks in Bainbridge, Crawfordsville, Frankton, Pendleton, Peru, Rensselaer, Richmond and Tell City. Looking ahead to 2016, IMPA plans to construct approximately 10 MW of solar energy in other member communities, including Anderson, Huntingburg, Washington and Waynetown. These solar parks build upon IMPA’s mission to provide low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power to the communities that it serves.

IMPA provides real-time data on each of its solar parks on its website, allowing website visitors to see how much power the solar parks are generating at any given time. To find out how much power the IMPA Argos solar park is generating, visit [www.impa.com](http://www.impa.com), click on the “Spotlight IMPA Solar Parks” on the homepage, and choose IMPA Argos. ●



Dan Worl, Manager of Sustainable Energy Programs at IMPA, gives students from Argos High School a tour around the IMPA Argos Solar Park.

## Utilities Superintendent Celebrates 30 Year Milestone

A familiar face around the community, Jim Burroughs, current Utilities Superintendent, celebrated 30 years of employment with the Town of Argos in October of 2015. Burroughs began his career with the town in 1985, serving in the Argos Police Department for nine years until 1994. Then, Burroughs transitioned to the Electric Department where he worked his way from an Apprentice to a Journeyman Lineman and finally to his current position of Utilities Superintendent, which he has held since April of 2014.

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# Argos Welcomes New Clerk-Treasurer

**S**tarting her first term on January 1<sup>st</sup>, Lisa Mullaney now serves Argos as Town Clerk. In her role, Mullaney is responsible for a host of responsibilities that include managing and monitoring the town's finances, funds and investments, producing annual budgets, processing payroll and attending Town Council meetings, along with many other tasks. Prior to serving as Town Clerk, Mullaney was a licensed insurance agent for 19 years, selling mostly auto insurance to her clients and customers.

"I am very excited to serve as the Town Clerk for Argos," said Mullaney. "After spending almost two decades in insurance, I've had the opportunity to hone many skills that will transfer well to this new position. I'm looking forward to moving the town forward and improving many of the processes of how the town is run."

Mullaney moved to Argos in 1999 with her husband, David, and their two sons. David grew up in Argos, and both he and Lisa wanted their sons to also grow up in the same tight-knit community. Both of their sons are enlisted in the Navy, and Mullaney and her husband reside in Argos. ●



## Tidbits & Trivia

**Question:** Which of the following is a benefit of being an IMPA community?

- a) Local, hometown service
- b) Low-cost service
- c) Reliability
- d) All of the above

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 a low cost, reliable and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members.

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

## Joint Action Agency

*noun.*

A not-for-profit organization of municipal utilities that band together to jointly own and operate generation and transmission facilities to gain economies of scale.

Example: *IMPA is a Joint Action Agency.*

# The Value of Electricity

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Municipally owned utilities are often able to provide lower-cost power to their customers than investor-owned utilities because they do not exist to make a profit for shareholders. All money earned by a municipally owned utility is used to cover costs and is invested to improve the electric system for everyone. For example, the average monthly bill for a community that is a Member of IMPA is \$111.62, while the monthly bill for a customer from an investor-owned utility is \$119.42, showing that those who live and work in an IMPA community receive an even greater value in terms of electricity.

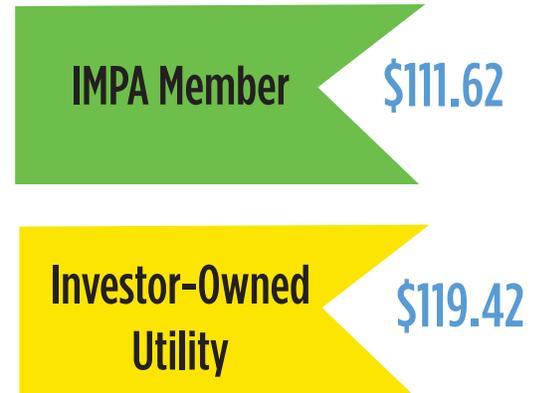
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership in the utility because they, too, live in the community that they serve.

Finally, a municipally owned utility prides itself on local, hometown service. Public power employees are your friends and neighbors, and they have the same pride in your community that you do. That pride shows in their work on the utility distribution system – every pole, meter and wire is maintained to the highest standards by someone in the community. If there is a problem with your service and you contact the utility office, you talk with an actual person that works in a local office just a few miles down the road.

## The Great Value of Electricity

Electricity is a necessity that is available and ready to be used at any time. For under \$5 a day (and even less if living in a Public Power community!), you have the capability to fully power your homes and businesses. So, next time you flip on a light switch, run a load of laundry, or make a cup of coffee, remember that electricity is not only a necessity in daily life, but that it also offers one of the greatest values of any product or service in today's world.●

## Cost of Average Monthly Retail Electric Bill



## New Look for the Municipal Power News

**R**eaders of the Municipal Power News may notice something different about the publication: it's now in full color! This change is in response to a growing need for visual imagery, making the newsletter more visually pleasing for its readers.

The Municipal Power News is a periodic publication by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, your community's wholesale power provider. This newsletter aims to inform readers about local community news as well as relevant and helpful information about power and the electric industry. IMPA welcomes comments, questions and suggestions about the newsletter's new look – please send all comments to [newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com) or 11610 N. College Ave.; Carmel, IN 46032.

The newsletters are also available online! To receive your newsletter electronically, visit [www.impa.com](http://www.impa.com), click on News & Publications, and then Municipal Power News. You can then enter your name, e-mail address and community.●

# 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)

The **MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS** is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 60 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

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## Pecan Pie

Recipe submitted by Gail Norton of Washington, Indiana.

- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup dark Karo syrup
- 2 tbsp. vanilla
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 9-inch pie shell
- 2 tbsp. vanilla
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 stick (1/4 cup) butter- melted
- 1 1/2 pecan halves

Stir eggs, Karo syrup, brown sugar, butter, vanilla and salt until blended. Add pecans to the mixture and coat well. Pour mixture over a 9-inch pie shell. Bake in center of oven 15 minutes at 425 degrees. Turn oven down to 350 degrees and bake another 40 minutes or until center is done.

## Smoked Sausage Soup

Recipe submitted by Jean Marion of Rensselaer, Indiana.

- 1/2 pound smoked peeled sausage
- 2 cups frozen corn
- 1 rib of celery
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- 6 medium potatoes, and diced
- 1 can chicken broth
- 1/4 cup sliced carrots
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder
- 2/3 cup shredded

Dice and brown the 1/2 pound of smoked sausage until done. Set the sausage aside and add the remaining ingredients into a large stockpot. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer. Add the sausage, and simmer for 15 minutes.

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



The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and Argos Utilities.

IMPA Commissioner: Jamie Lindstrom

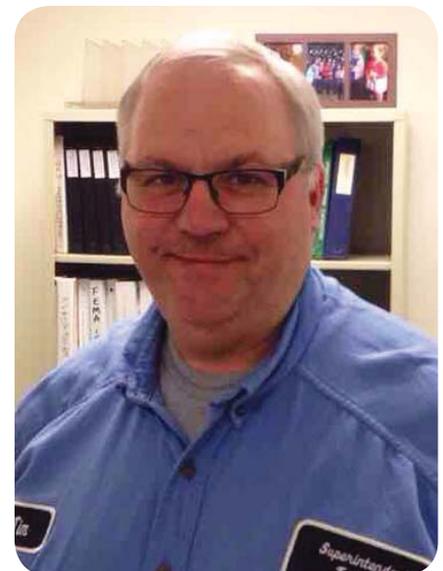
## Utilities Superintendent

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Prior to working for the Town, Burroughs served in the United States Coast Guard for four years, from 1979-1983. He also served for eight years on the Argos Town Council, with four of those years as President, as well as participating in the Argos Ambulance Service and the Argos Volunteer Fire Department. In addition to his service to his town, Burroughs is also the current Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Court Appointed Special Advocates of Marshall County, where he helps to provide a voice for children who are abused or neglected.

"Having the opportunity to work for Jim has been a true honor," commented Jamie Lindstrom, Assistant Superintendent at Argos Utilities. "He is a true public servant with a passion for our town. I've learned a lot from working by his side."

Burroughs has been married to his wife, Donna, for 37 years. They have one daughter, Mandy, who is married and lives in St. Louis with her husband and two children, and one son, Jimmy, who is also married and lives in Texas with his twin daughters. The Town of Argos thanks Jim for his dedication to the town, and congratulates him on this 30 year milestone!●



Jim Burroughs celebrated 30 years of employment with the Town of Argos in 2015.