

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Bainbridge Municipal  
Electric Department



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Bainbridge Municipal Utilities and the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, along with the fourth and fifth grade classes from Bainbridge Elementary School, welcomed a new solar electric generating facility to the community on November 13, 2015.

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## IMPA Bainbridge Solar Park Now Generating Power

Representatives from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) and Bainbridge Municipal Utilities, along with Bainbridge town officials and the fourth and fifth grade classes from Bainbridge Elementary School, welcomed a new solar electric generating facility to the community on November 13, 2015. The IMPA Bainbridge Solar Park is a 360 kilowatt solar facility located on three acres of land just west of Bainbridge Elementary School.

"This has been a great partnership between IMPA and Bainbridge," said Troy Elles, Utility

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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.

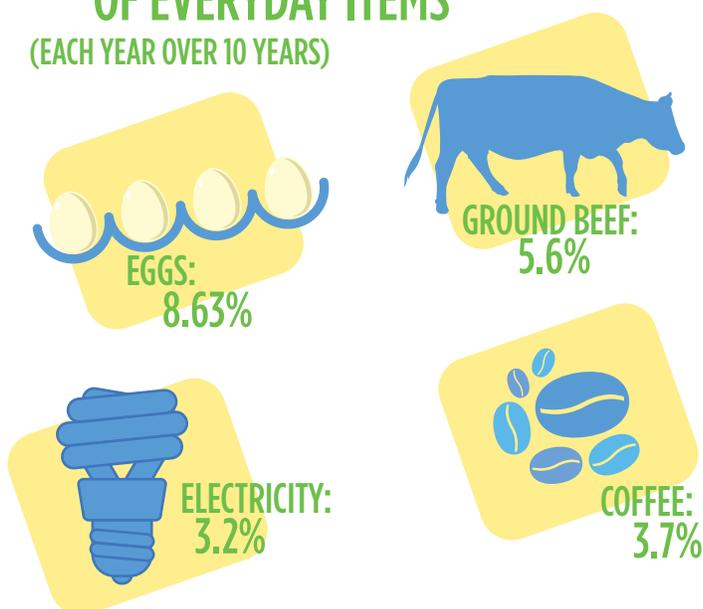
## Cost Calculation of Electricity

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

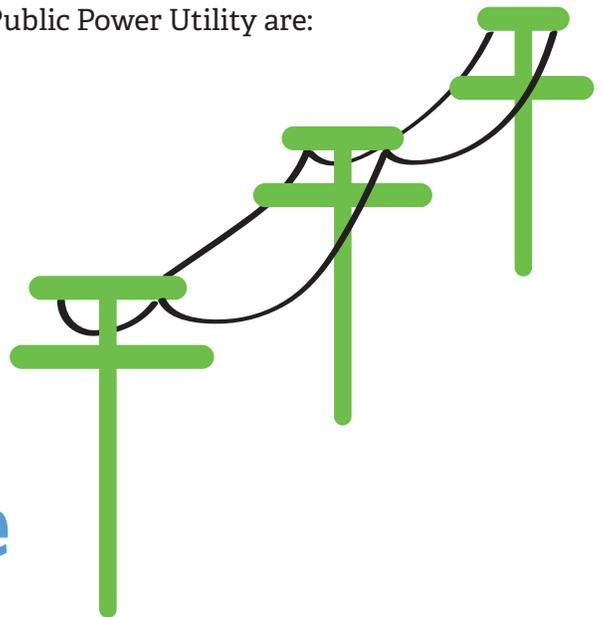


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped 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 Bainbridge Solar Park

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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 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 Bainbridge, as well as solar parks throughout other IMPA communities, serves as the foundation of our expanding solar generation plan. We appreciate the confidence that Bainbridge 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 Bainbridge Solar Park contains approximately 1,350 solar panels that will generate up to 360 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 power, with 10 MW coming online in 2015. In addition to Bainbridge,

“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 benefit to our town.”  
-Troy Elless, Utility Superintendent

IMPA also has solar parks in Argos, Crawfordsville, Frankton, Pendleton, Peru, Rensselaer, Richmond and Tell City. Looking ahead to 2016, IMPA plans to construct approximately 10 MW of solar power 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 Bainbridge 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 Bainbridge.



Jack Alvey, Senior Vice President of Generation at IMPA, explains how solar parks generate electricity to a group of fourth and fifth graders from Bainbridge Elementary School.

# Bainbridge Welcomes New Clerk-Treasurer

**S**tarting her first term on January 1st, Monica Bray now serves Bainbridge as Clerk-Treasurer. In her new position, Bray 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 Clerk-Treasurer, Bray was a television director/producer for ten years, and then served as Bainbridge's Deputy Clerk-Treasurer for six years, from 2007 to 2013. While serving as Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Bray had the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of maintaining the electric, gas, water and sewer utilities.

"When serving as Deputy, I felt I could make a bigger impact in our community if I could take on the office of Clerk-Treasurer," stated Bray. "The people in this town are very



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## 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.

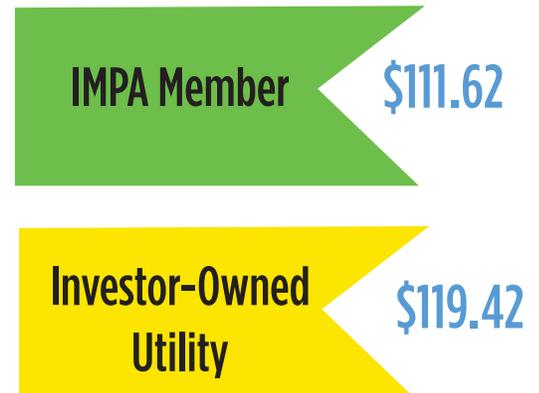
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership 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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[newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com).

IMPA  
Members

## 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  
Anderson  
Argos  
Bainbridge  
Bargersville  
Blanchester, OH  
Bremen  
Brooklyn  
Brookston  
Centerville  
Chalmers  
Coatesville

Columbia City  
Covington  
Crawfordsville  
Darlington  
Dublin  
Dunreith  
Edinburgh  
Etna Green  
Flora  
Frankfort  
Frankton  
Gas City

Greendale  
Greenfield  
Huntingburg  
Jamestown  
Jasper  
Kingsford Heights  
Knightstown  
Ladoga  
Lawrenceburg  
Lebanon  
Lewisville  
Linton

Middletown  
Montezuma  
New Ross  
Paoli  
Pendleton  
Peru  
Pittsboro  
Rensselaer  
Richmond  
Rising Sun  
Rockville  
Scottsburg

South Whitley  
Spiceland  
Straughn  
Tell City  
Thorntown  
Tipton  
Veedersburg  
Walkerton  
Washington  
Waynetown  
Williamsport  
Winamac

The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Bainbridge Municipal Electric Department.

IMPA Commissioner: Troy Elless

## Bainbridge Clerk-Treasurer

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passionate and I want to do my best to represent their best interests and the best interests of our town and utilities. I'm very proud of the work I've done here and becoming Clerk-Treasurer will continue to help me expand those goals."

In the short time that Bray has been the Clerk-Treasurer, she has already made several positive changes, most recently spearheading the effort to bring billing and collections back to the Clerk-Treasurer's office. In February, the Town Board adopted the use of Keystone Accounting software, which will greatly increase the efficiency and accuracy of billing, and also save the town money over time. "I am really looking forward to bringing the billing and collections back to the office," said Bray. "The best part of being a small utility operation is having the ability to relay great customer service. It also serves as a great way to remain in touch with the customers and problems can be found and resolved quickly."

Bray grew up in Bainbridge, and attended both Bainbridge Elementary and North Putnam High School. She and her husband, along with their two daughters, reside in the community. ●

“ The people in this town are very passionate and I want to do my best to represent their best interests and the best interests of our town and utilities. ”

-Monica Bray, Clerk-Treasurer