

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Brookston



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Meet Brookston's New IMPA Commissioner

The Town of Brookston recently appointed Town Council Member Steve Putt to serve on the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's (IMPA) Board of Commissioners. Prior to Putt, Brookston Utilities Superintendent Max Eldridge served as IMPA's Commissioner for over 10 years. IMPA greatly appreciates Eldridge's years of service as the IMPA Commissioner, and also happily welcomes Putt.

As an IMPA commissioner, Putt will represent Brookston's public power interests and provide essential input in directing IMPA's future. Putt will be a vital addition to the Board as he has a working knowledge of the Town of Brookston, having served as a Council member since 2012.

IMPA provides wholesale electric power to 60 communities, and each community has a representative on the Board. The Board is comprised of a diverse group of individuals with

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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

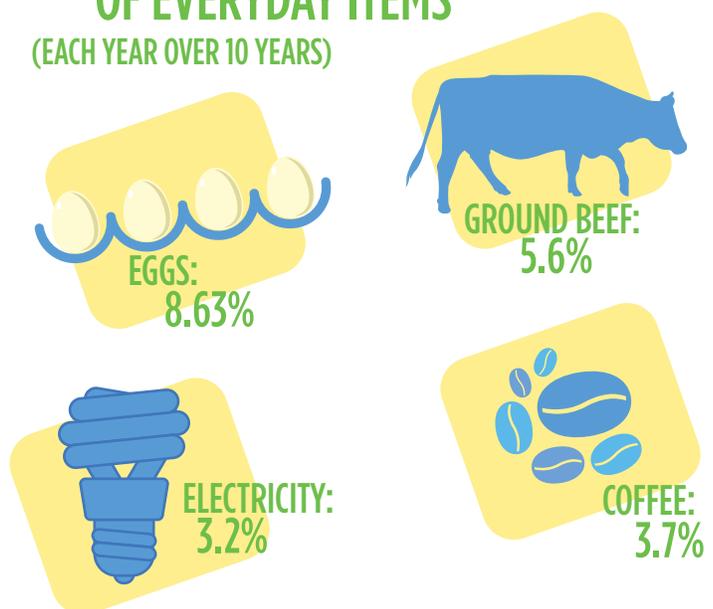
So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government 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

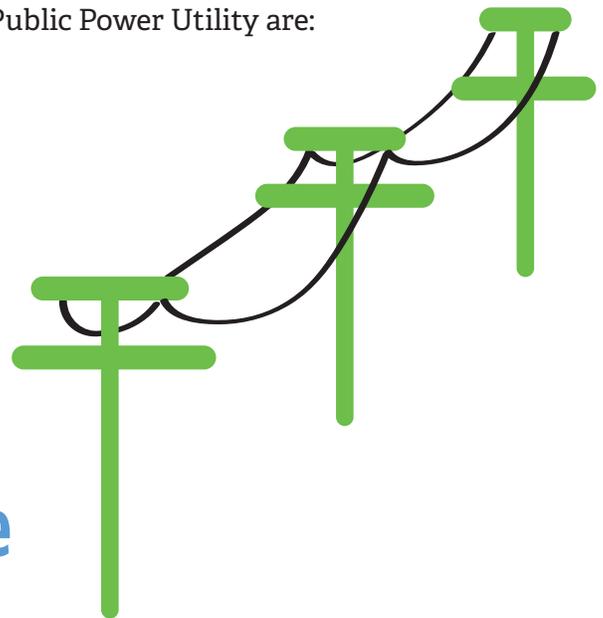


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

In February, the Town of Brookston elected new Town Council member, Dawn Girard. The *Municipal Power News* sat down with Dawn to find out more about her and what made her excited to join the Brookston Town Council.

Municipal Power News: What made you decide to run for Town Council?

Dawn Girard: I decided to run for Town Council to be more involved in the decision making process of my community. I have sat on many other boards prior to becoming a Town Council member. I am a past president of Delta Theta Tau sorority along with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Northwest Solid Waste District. I have also been a committee member for Union Township for the Republican Party. Those are only a few activities that I have been involved with around our county. I like being involved and helping where needed.

MPN: How long have you lived in Brookston, and what are some of your favorite parts about living there?

DG: My family and I have lived in Brookston for 4 ½ years. I feel that there are so many great aspects about living in Brookston. The community has a great school system, nice sidewalks, many parks, clean streets and a nice downtown area. Brookston also offers municipal power along with water and sewage to residents at a low rate. And of course being close to Lafayette is a large plus.

MPN: What is your educational and career background?

DG: I am a 1993 graduate of Frontier High School in Chalmers, Indiana. After graduating high school, I attended Purdue University for Interior Design and Advertising. After leaving Purdue, I joined White County Recycling. I have been with White County Recycling for 18 years and the director of the facility for 15 years.

MPN: Tell us a little more about your family.

DG: My husband Aaron and I have been married for 20 years. We have three boys - Darrian, a senior in high school, and twins Treven and Trenten, who are both in the 8th grade at Frontier.

MPN: Finally, what are you most excited for when serving as a Town Council member?

DG: I feel that the most exciting aspect about serving on the Town Council is the constant need to be on top of things at all times. From new businesses coming into town to helping design a new office or fire station, there are always issues that need resolved. Being a Town Council member is very rewarding, and makes a person feel as though he or she is making their community a better place for the future.●

IMPA Commissioner

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backgrounds ranging from utility superintendents and lineworkers to town council members and clerk-treasurers. Although their daily jobs may be different, these individuals do have one thing in common when they arrive at an IMPA Board meeting – their commitment to their community. Putt is no different.

IMPA commissioners dedicate their time and energy to the Board, a commitment outside the realm of their daily life. Putt will give his time to attend meetings and workshops so that he may bring information back and use it in Brookston. Putt and IMPA's other commissioners evaluate proposals, plan for the future and make decisions that are in the best interest of their community's municipal electric utility customers.

IMPA's commissioners serve another role as well – that of communicators. Putt will serve as a channel of communication between IMPA and Brookston. He is responsible for bringing information about the community and its needs to IMPA, as well as taking information learned from IMPA back to share with those in Brookston. Amongst all the obligations of a commissioner, this is perhaps one of the most important duties. IMPA is a member-driven organization. It exists because of its member communities, and to serve its member communities. As Brookston's representative to the Board, Putt will be an advocate for public power to ensure that Brookston's customers continuously receive low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible electric power from IMPA. ●

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.

Cost of Average Monthly Retail Electric Bill

IMPA Member **\$111.62**

Investor-Owned Utility **\$119.42**

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.●

New Look for the Municipal Power News

Readers 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 or 11610 N. College Ave.; Carmel, IN 46032.

The newsletters are also available online! To receive your newsletter electronically, visit 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

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.

The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana
Municipal Power Agency and the Town of Brookston.

IMPA Commissioner: Steve Putt

Save Energy This Spring!

As the warmer months approach, here are a few tips to help save energy during the spring months:

- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Vacuum registers regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the airflow through your registers.
- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat settings about 4 degrees F with no reduction in comfort.

The best way to reduce your electric bill is to do everything you can to make your home more energy efficient. ●