

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Columbia City
Electric Department



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Columbia City's North Substation is now online and providing electricity to residents and businesses in the community.

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Project Update: Substation Upgrades

For over a year, the Columbia City Electric Department has been working diligently to finish upgrades on the City's North Substation, located on Countryside Drive. A substation plays an important role in electricity distribution, serving to reduce the voltage of electrical power in order to safely supply electricity to homes and businesses. In this case, Columbia City's North Substation's upgrades consist of replacing the circuit breakers and constructing a new circuit breaker building, which will improve worker safety, increase electric reliability and allow for increased utility communication.

While the North Substation is online, the Columbia City Electric Department is working to

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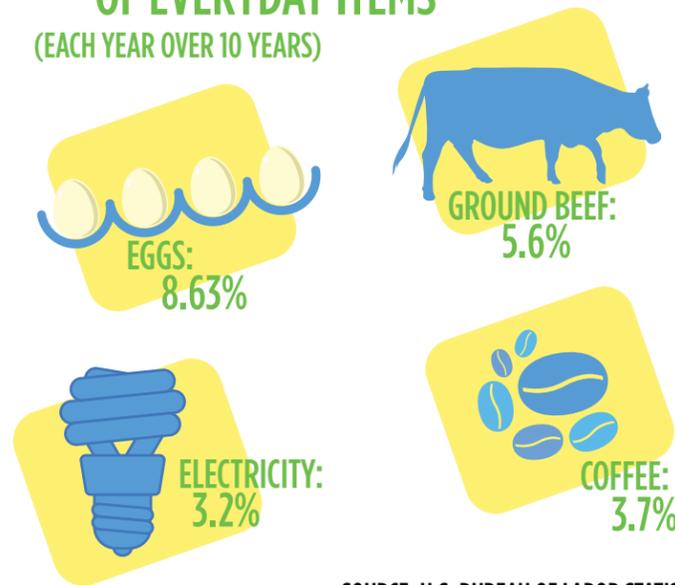
The Value of Electricity

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.

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

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

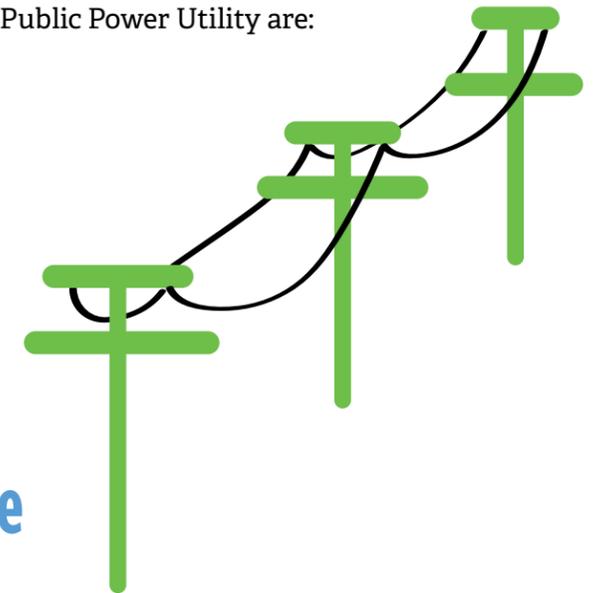
Average Daily Cost of Electricity in Indiana
\$3.73

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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Columbia City Electric Department and Tree Board Work Together

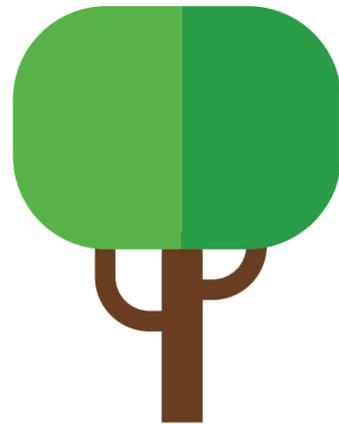
For more than 20 years, Columbia City's seven-member volunteer Tree Board has kept a watchful eye on the City's greenery. The members of this board are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and are responsible for a variety of tasks aimed at caring for, preserving, planting and removing trees and shrubs located in public areas. Each year, the Tree Board evaluates trees and shrubbery throughout the community and determines which need to be cut down or removed, based on the health of the greenery. Once the Tree Board determines the list, it is then transferred to the Columbia City Electric Department who will carry out the actual tree removal.

This year, there are approximately 50 trees or stumps that will be removed. According to Shawn Lickey, Superintendent at the Columbia City Electric Department, a new tree is usually planted in its place. "The electric department is responsible for the entire tree removal process," stated Lickey. "We will cut the tree all the way down, grind the stump, put in new dirt and sod, and typically plant a new tree in its place." The electric department coordinates with the street department to determine a timeline for the tree removal. Typically, the entire scope of the project can take several months, usually finishing up by late summer.

Since forming a Tree Board more than two decades ago, the community was given the Tree City USA designation, and has held it for 21 years. In order to receive a Tree City USA designation, a community

must have a Tree Board, a Tree Care Ordinance, a community forestry program with a budget of at least \$2 per capita, and it must organize an Arbor Day observance program each year. Columbia City is one of only 62 communities in Indiana who have received this designation on behalf of the Arbor Day Foundation.

If interested in the duties and actions of the Tree Board, the public is welcome to attend a Tree Board meeting. The Tree Board meetings occur every third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at City Hall.



Substation

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ensure that the substation is working correctly before it increases it to its 100% capacity. Once the department is sure that the station is working correctly, it will handle 1,000 amps. In total, Columbia City has four substations that serve to provide electricity to the community. Now that the North Substation is online and functional, one of the older substations will begin to phase out towards its retirement.

Celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial!

In an effort to celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial all year long, IMPA is bringing readers of the *Municipal Power News* fun facts about Indiana history. Read on to learn more about the Hoosier state.



In October 1824, a group of state officials loaded four spring wagons and moved the state capital from Corydon to Indianapolis, which was a distance of more than 130 miles. The journey took 11 days.

Indiana's Statehouse was built at its present site in 1835. The building was demolished in 1878 to make way for the current Capitol Building, which was completed in 1888.

Indiana has 16 million acres of farmland, which makes up 70 percent of all state land.

Source: Indiana Department of Education

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.

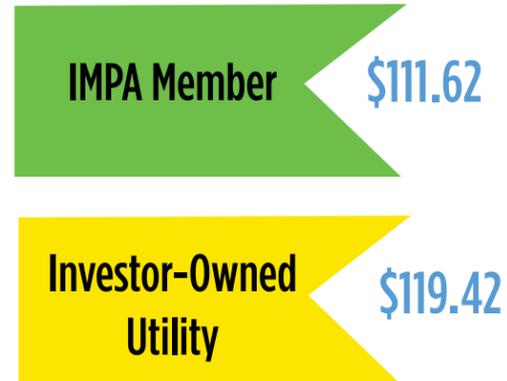
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership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

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.

Editor: Niki Dick
Manager of Marketing Communications
niki@impa.com

Correspondent:
Meredith Slavens
Communications Specialist
meredith@impa.com

Send submissions and comments to:
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032 or
newsletter@impa.com.



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

Pecan Pie

Recipe submitted by Gail Norton of Washington, Indiana.

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

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

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 Columbia
City Electric Department.

IMPA Commissioner: Shawn Lickey

Community Spotlight: Brewha Coffee House

The Brewha Coffee House, owned and operated by Kay Hildman, has been a downtown Columbia City staple for the last eleven years. Located at 120 N. Main Street, Brewha Coffee House boasts a cozy and inviting interior where patrons can relax and enjoy its signature drink, the Javha: a blend of espresso, white chocolate and caramel. Brewha also concocts a variety of other hot and cold coffee drinks, and also sells baked goods and paninis.

The coffee shop often hosts community events, including an open mic night, which takes place on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For more information on this local business, visit Brewha's website at www.brewhacoffeehouse.com.

