

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

City of Covington



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Covington Reinstates Park Board

In February, the Covington City Council unanimously voted to approve an ordinance that aims to reinstate the city's Park Board. After several community members took an interest in revitalizing and updating many aspects of the Covington City Park, especially its playground equipment, the City Council began drafting a park board ordinance aimed at reinstating the board.

The Covington Park Board consists of four members who will be responsible for a variety of tasks, which consist of overseeing improvements and maintenance within the park. This Board hopes to begin the process of purchasing new playground equipment, and is also investigating the possibility of adding a splash pad to the park as well. There are grants available to help pay for these updates through organizations such as the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana

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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.

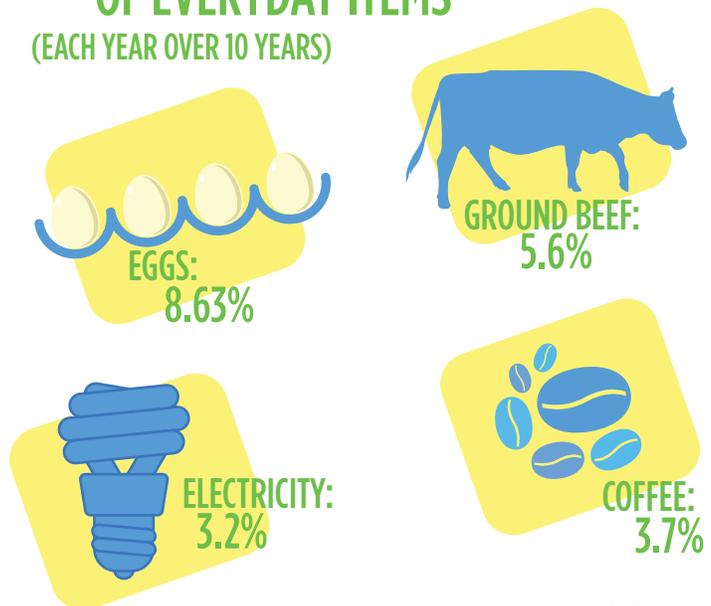
Cost Calculation of Electricity

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

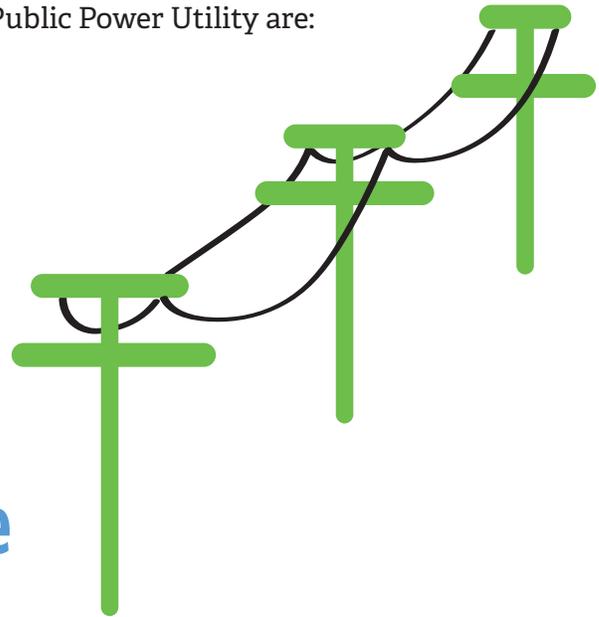


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

The City of Covington is making it a priority to celebrate Indiana's 200th birthday through public displays and projects. Currently, the Bicentennial flag can be seen flying in front of the City Hall, promoting the importance of Indiana's Bicentennial and the state's rich 200 year history.

The City is also making plans to construct a gazebo on the grounds of the Fountain County Courthouse. This gazebo is an official Bicentennial Legacy Project, endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Committee. The purpose of a Bicentennial Legacy Project is to celebrate and highlight the best parts of Indiana, and how communities across the state are celebrating the state's 200th birthday.

This gazebo will be made out of limestone, which is a sedimentary rock native to Indiana, further celebrating the state and its natural resources. A metal roof will grace the top of the gazebo, making the structure more durable and less susceptible to deterioration than if it were made from another material, such as wood.

The gazebo's location near the courthouse is also intentional. According to town history, a gazebo used to stand on the same location, until the courthouse and gazebo caught fire and burned down in the late 1930's. This new gazebo will pay homage to Covington's past, but also help the town look ahead to its future. Construction on the gazebo will begin this year. ●



The gazebo will be built on the grounds of the Fountain County Courthouse. This construction is in celebration of Indiana's Bicentennial.

Representatives from Covington Attend Legislative Dinner

On February 8th, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Covington's wholesale power provider, hosted a dinner in downtown Indianapolis to bring together members of the Indiana General Assembly along with elected officials and representatives from IMPA's member communities. The evening provided an opportunity for representatives from IMPA's member communities to speak with state legislators about the direct impact that the General Assembly has on Indiana's municipal electric communities.

Four individuals from the City of Covington attended the event. Those in attendance included Jeff Coffing, Council Member, along with his wife Susan, and Mayor Brad Crain along with his wife

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Park Board

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Office of Community and Rural Affairs, but a community must have a Park Board in order to be eligible for any of these grants.

The Park Board held its first public meeting on February 16th to receive input on potential playground design ideas, and to also hear more input from residents of the community. The Board is currently in the process of evaluating the feedback and developing a five-year plan that will allow the updates to be rolled out gradually in phases. ●



The Park Board will work to update equipment in Covington City Park.

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.

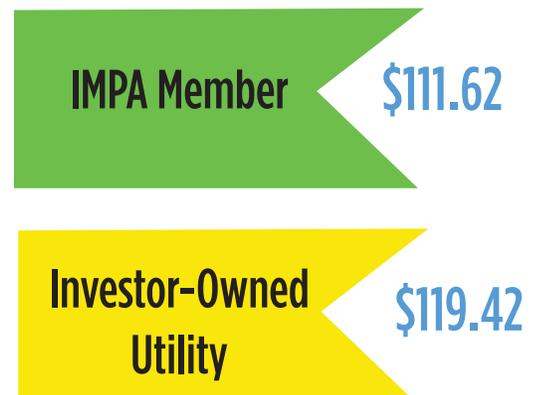
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership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

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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
- 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 cheese

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.

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IMPA Commissioner: Mayor Brad Crain

Legislative Dinner

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Marlea. Because these individuals attended the event, the City of Covington was represented on a larger state scale, which allowed the community's voice to be heard by the state's decision-makers.

"It was very important that representatives from Covington be in attendance at this legislative dinner," commented Crain. "Networking with our state Senators and Representatives is essential to ensuring that the interests of Covington and other IMPA member communities remain top of mind."●

Save Energy This Spring!

As the warmer months approach, here are a few helpful tips on saving 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.●