MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

City of Covington

IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Covington City Utilities is working to update its water and electric meters from a traditional analog meter (left) to one that utilizes automated meter reading technology (right).

Utility Transitions to Radio Read Meters

Soon, all of the City of Covington's water and electric meters will be updated to utilize automatic meter reading (AMR) technology, which transmits meter data through radio waves. A utility employee would simply use a data collection device, usually a wand or probe, and drive by homes and businesses to record meter data. The signal is automatically transmitted from the meter to the wand, and the data can then be easily uploaded to a computer. Last year, the utility updated all of its electric meters to this new technology, and the utility hopes to update all of its water meters by the end of the year.

Before the utility decided to update its meter technology, an employee of Covington City Utilities had to manually read each water and electric meter, walking from house to house and recording the reading in a written log. Not only was that process extremely time consuming, but

-continued on page 4

Anatomy of an Electric Utility Pole

Utility poles are a common sight throughout the United States, as they are located adjacent to many roadways that are visible while driving. While you see these poles every day, have you ever thought about the function of the poles and the lines and attachments that hang onto them?

Utility poles play an important role in electrical distribution, which is a fancy term for how electricity travels to your home or business. All of the lines and attachments that sit on the utility pole play an essential role in this process. Read on to learn more about the different parts that make up your everyday electric power pole.

1. Insulator: The insulator prevents wires from coming into contact with each other on the utility pole, which could cause fires, outages and other dangerous conditions.

2. Guy wire: The guy wire is a tensioned wire that helps to stabilize the utility pole to the ground.

3. Transformer: An electrical device, typically in a metallic enclosure, that converts high voltage electricity to a lower voltage for use in homes and businesses.

4. Fuse cutout: A combination of a fuse and a switch, the fuse cutout is used to protect power lines and other equipment from surges or overloads by disconnecting the power line from a transformer.

5. Crossarm: This horizontal piece of the utility pole is typically made of high-quality wood and holds power lines and other equipment, such as transformers, onto the pole.

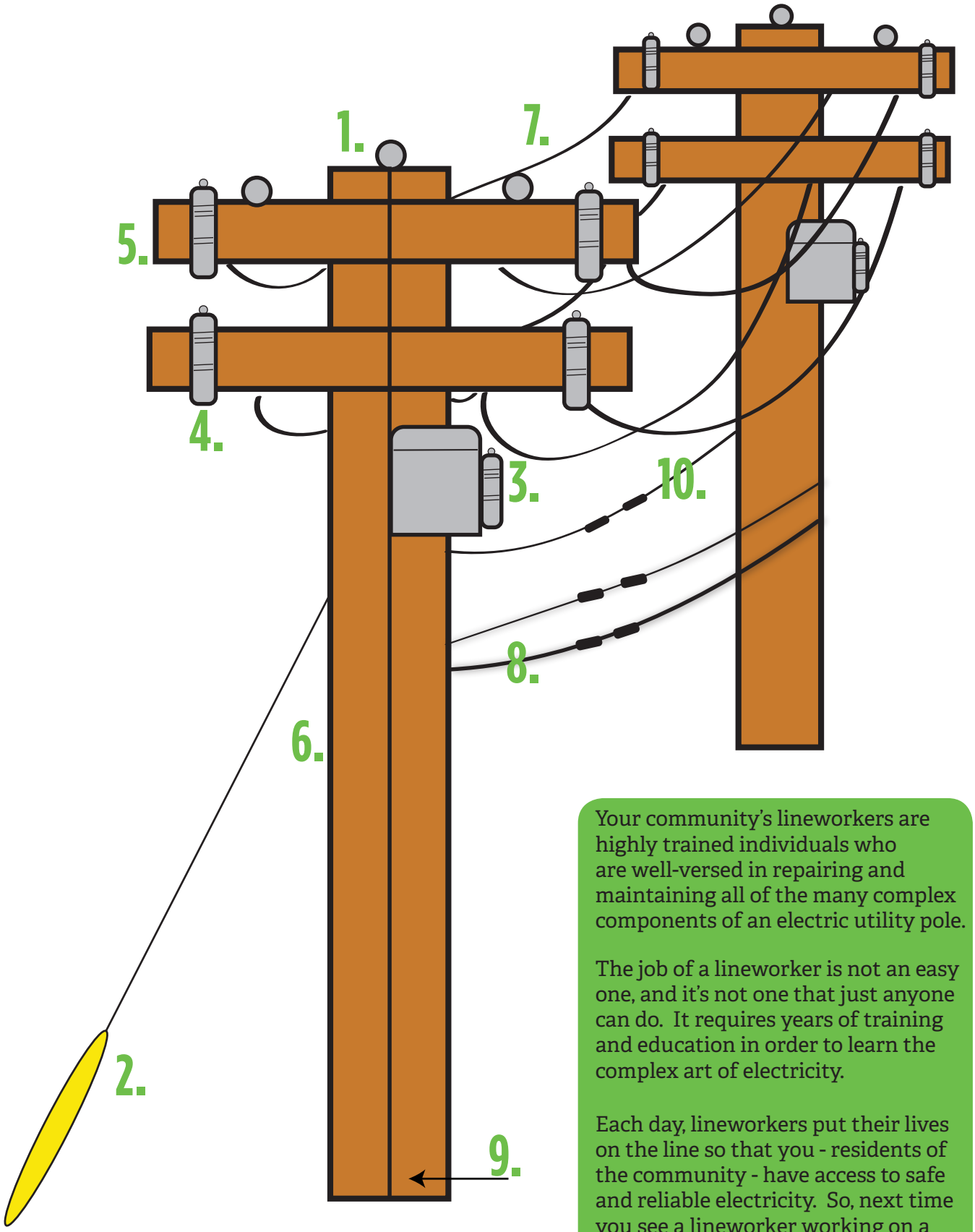
6. Utility pole: The utility pole is typically made of wood or steel, and can range in height from 30 feet to more than 100 feet. The pole serves as the backbone for the electric line and holds all of the components and equipment.

7. Primary wire: These wires are on the very top of the utility pole, and usually carry high voltage electricity from a substation.

8. Lowest wires: Utility poles don't just hold electric wires; other wires, such as telephone or cable wires, are also attached to these poles. Typically, these wires are found closest to the ground and are the lowest wire on the utility pole.

9. Ground wire: This wire runs the entire length of the utility pole, directing any electricity on the pole safely into the ground.

10. Secondary wire: Once the high voltage electricity has been converted to a lower voltage, the secondary wire carries that electricity to homes and businesses.



Your community's lineworkers are highly trained individuals who are well-versed in repairing and maintaining all of the many complex components of an electric utility pole.

The job of a lineworker is not an easy one, and it's not one that just anyone can do. It requires years of training and education in order to learn the complex art of electricity.

Each day, lineworkers put their lives on the line so that you - residents of the community - have access to safe and reliable electricity. So, next time you see a lineworker working on a utility pole, stop and thank them for their service to the community.

Covington Park Board Presents Master Plan

After forming in February 2016, the Covington Park Board has been hard at work developing long-term plans to update and restructure the Covington City Park. The Board worked with Schmidt Associates, an architecture and design firm based in Indianapolis, to help design a forward thinking master plan for the park. The Park Board also received a grant totaling $7,375 from the Western Indiana Community Foundation to help pay for a portion of the design fees incurred.

Renderings of Covington's City Park master plan, created by Schmidt Associates. Plans for the park include a splash pad, a tree house playset and various other public play spaces.

Revealed to the public in June 2016, the master plan includes an impressive design, which encompasses much of the public feedback that was received in late 2015. The plans include a splash pad, a tree house playset, new swings, and various other climbing structures. Also included is a greenspace area, which will include native Indiana plants and flowers.

Now that the master plan is developed, the Park Board is in the process of fundraising and seeking sponsorships to help pay for the construction of this plan. The Board's goal is to raise approximately $275,000 in private donations, and to break ground sometime in 2017. For more information about the park's master plan or to get involved, visit www.facebook.com/CovingtonCityPark.

Radio Reads

-continued from page 1

the reads were also prone to error, whether due to inability to read the meter or because of human error. The new AMR technology will not only be more efficient, but will also give the utility and the customer a more accurate reflection of the amount of water and electricity being used. In addition, it will also be easier to catch leaks and other issues that sometimes cause high water and electric bills before the situation gets out of control.

Once installed and operational, these new radio read water and electric meters will provide a higher level of customer service, as well as accuracy and reliability for the customers of Covington City Utilities.

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.

Indiana's state motto, "Crossroads of America," has been in existence since the early 1800s when river traffic along the Ohio River was a major mode of transportation. Today, more interstates and highways intersect Indiana than any other state.

Southern and central Indiana contain an abundance of limestone, which has been used in the construction of famous buildings such as the Pentagon and the Empire State Building.

Indiana's state flag was adopted in 1917 and was designed by Paul Hadley as part of a contest celebrating the state's 100th birthday.

Source: Indiana Department of Education

Tidbits & Trivia

Question: Which type of wire on a utility pole carries the high voltage electricity from a substation?

a) Secondary wire
b) Primary wire
c) Ground wire
d) None 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.

Substation

noun.

A facility used for switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electric energy. A substation may tie generating stations to transmission systems or transmission systems to distribution systems.

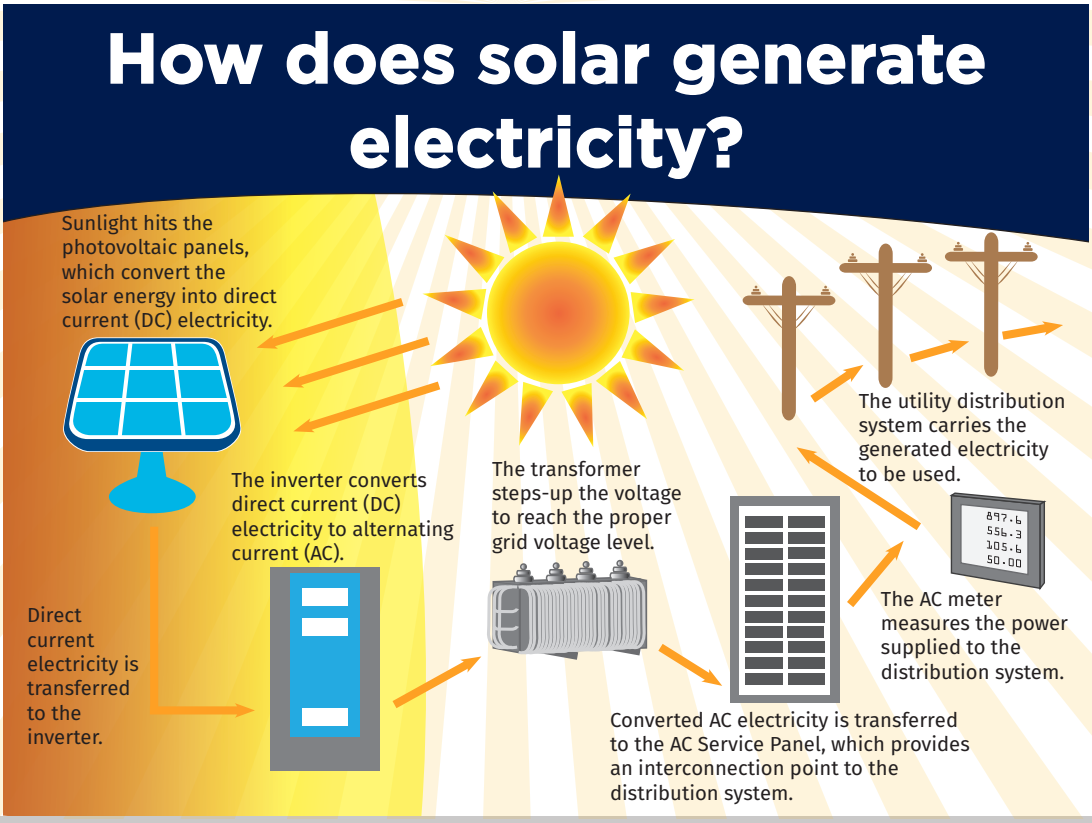
IMPA Continues Building Solar Parks in Local Communities

Throughout the last two years, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) has constructed nine solar parks in large and small IMPA communities throughout Indiana. This year, the Agency is in the midst of constructing four additional solar parks in the communities of Anderson, Huntingburg, Waynetown and Washington. These solar parks are all aimed at adding more renewable and economical energy resources to IMPA's power portfolio.

When energy is created by the solar parks, it is then placed onto the local distribution system in whichever town or city the solar park is located in. As the solar power is produced, it becomes a part of all of the electric generation that is supplying the system, which is typically a mixture of power produced via coal, natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear.

The process of generating electricity from the sun may seem to be a complex one, but in reality, is really quite simple. When sunlight hits the solar panels, the panels convert that energy into direct current electricity. That electricity is transferred to an inverter, located within the solar park. The inverter then takes the direct current electricity and converts it into alternating current (AC) electricity. Once converted to AC, the transformer steps-up the voltage to the proper level, and is then transferred to the interconnection point on the distribution system. The AC meter measures the energy from the solar park prior to its connection to the distribution system and ultimately the customer.

IMPA plans to add approximately 10 megawatts of solar capacity into its overall power portfolio each year, meaning more and more IMPA member communities will have solar parks within the coming years. For more information on IMPA's solar parks, visit www.impa.com.



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

Chicken and Dumpling Casserole

Recipe submitted by Vicky Hicks-Spear of Tell City, Indiana.

-1 pound chicken breasts
-2 cups chicken broth
-1/4 cup butter
-2 cups Bisquick
-2 cups whole milk
-1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 tsp. chicken bouillon
-1/2 tsp. sage
-1 tsp. black pepper
-1/2 stick butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9x13 baking pan, melt 1/2 stick butter. Shred chicken and spread over butter. Sprinkle black pepper and sage over the chicken. Do not stir. In a small bowl, mix milk and Bisquick. Slowly pour over chicken. In another medium bowl, whisk together 2 cups of chicken broth, chicken bouillon and soup. Once blended, slowly pour over the Bisquick layer. Bake casserole for 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown.

Strawberry Delight

Recipe submitted by Burdett Parsons of Washington, Indiana.

-1 pre-made angel food cake
-8 oz. cream cheese
-16 oz. strawberry glaze
-16 oz. tub whipped cream
-1 1/3 cup sugar
-1 qt. fresh strawberries

Tear angel food cake into pieces and mix with 1/3 of the tub of whipped cream. Put whipped cream mixture into the bottom of a serving dish. Mix the rest of the whipped cream with the cream cheese and the sugar and place on top of the cake. Slice strawberries into quarters and mix with the strawberry glaze. Then, spread the strawberry mixture over the top of the cake.

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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IMPA Commissioner: Mayor Brad Crain

Covington Bicentennial Update

Progress is steadily continuing on Covington's new gazebo, which is currently being built on the grounds of the Fountain County Courthouse. The 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 Hoosier state's 200th birthday.

The gazebo will be made out of limestone and metal, ensuring that it's a durable structure and able to last for many years. Construction on the gazebo is ongoing, and city officials hope to have the structure completed by October.

Construction is rapidly progressing on the City of Covington's new gazebo, built in honor of Indiana's Bicentennial.