

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Darlington Light and Power



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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The Darlington Community Center will undergo extensive renovations to improve the building's infrastructure.

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## Construction begins on Darlington Community Center

A staple in the community, the Darlington Community Center is preparing to undergo an extensive renovation that will improve the building's infrastructure, making it safer and more accessible for town residents. The community center, formerly an Armory, was donated to the town by the National Guard in 2008. Since then, the community has heavily utilized the building for community gatherings, recreational sports leagues, meetings, storage for town equipment, and a variety of other functions.

While the size of the building made it a functional and usable space, various aspects of the

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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.

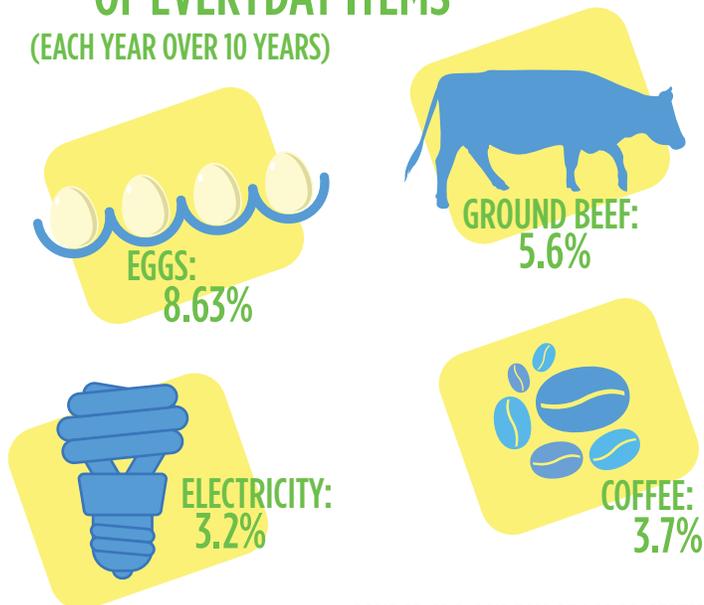
## Cost Calculation of Electricity

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

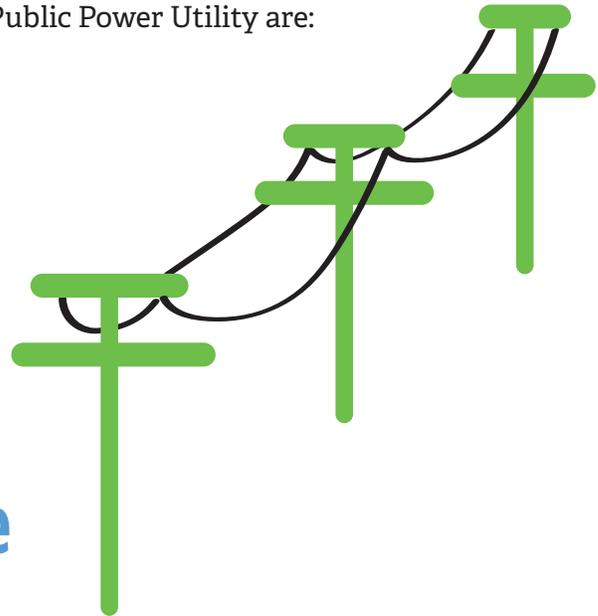


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

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building needed updating. Understanding that, the town applied for and received a \$400,000 grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in December 2014. This generous grant is aimed at upgrading many of the aging aspects of the building, and will include the funding for a new roof, storm windows, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems, and restroom facilities. Construction is expected to begin this spring and should take approximately three months to complete. Once completed, the Town of Darlington will have an updated and safe space in which to hold town activities and events.

The Darlington Community Center is also available to rent for special events such as parties, receptions or reunions. The space is available to rent for \$150 plus a \$10/hour maintenance fee. A refundable \$50 damage deposit is also due when signing the rental waiver. More information regarding rental of the community center is available online at [www.darlingtonindiana.com](http://www.darlingtonindiana.com).

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## Fundraiser Benefits Community Center

**B**ecause the Darlington Community Center plays such a vital role in the well-being of the town, several fundraisers are held throughout the year to help defray the expense of the building. These fundraisers, presented by the Darlington Fish Fry & Festival Committee, are called 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Dinners, and take place each month that has a fifth Sunday.

These meals take place at the Darlington Community Center and begin at 11:30 a.m. The food varies depending on the month, but past meals have included soup, spaghetti or pork loins. All proceeds of the event directly benefit the community center as well as the programs and activities that take place there.

The next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Dinner is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> and will include spaghetti with side dishes. Another dinner is also scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. Be sure to mark your calendar to attend these events and support the Darlington Community Center.

### Upcoming 5th Sunday Dinners

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>; 11:30 a.m.  
Spaghetti Dinner with Sides

Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>; 11:30 a.m.  
Dinner is TBD.

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## Darlington Town Council Expands

**A**fter consisting of three members for many years, this year the Darlington Town Council expanded and welcomed two new individuals to serve as Town Council members. Two more people means more input, ideas and help for the Town Council, who serve to lead the town and make important decisions about the community's future.

Ron Hatley, one of Darlington's newest Town Council members, has called the community home since 2005. He, along with his wife and four children, attend Darlington Christian Church, and enjoy the slow pace of the town. Ron is the owner of Comfort Mechanical Heating and Air Conditioning and in his spare time enjoys golf, soccer, boxing, football and hunting.

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# 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.

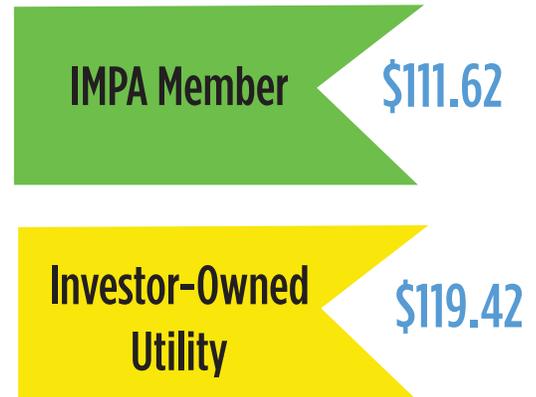
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership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

**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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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.



The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana  
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Power.

IMPA Commissioner: Greg Gayler

## Town Council

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Teresa A. Sunderlin, Darlington's other new Council Member, has lived in the community for nearly her entire life. Before joining the Town Council, Teresa served as the community's Clerk-Treasurer for 18 years and has since served as the Clerk of the Darlington Christian Church since 1999. In her spare time, Teresa enjoys spending time with her husband and family, reading, baking, making candy, crafting and traveling. In addition to Ron and Teresa, the Town Council also consists of Kim Lough Carpenter, Marilyn Cohee and Justin Sparrow.

The Town of Darlington would like to welcome both Ron and Teresa to the Town Council, and also thank all five members of the Town Council for their dedication to the community. ●

## Save Energy This Spring!

**A**s the warmer months approach, here are a few helpful tips on saving energy during the spring months:

- Vacuum registers regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the airflow through your registers.
- 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.
- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment ●