

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Gas City Municipal Utilities



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Gas City Officially Part of Indiana Main Street Program

All of the hard work and efforts from the Gas City Main Street Board was rewarded when the city was officially declared a member of the Indiana Main Street program at the end of 2015. Indiana Main Street is a program through the Indiana Office of Rural and Community Affairs, which aims to revitalize and restore downtown areas in Indiana cities and towns. This program provides assistance and educational opportunities to communities that participate in the program.

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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

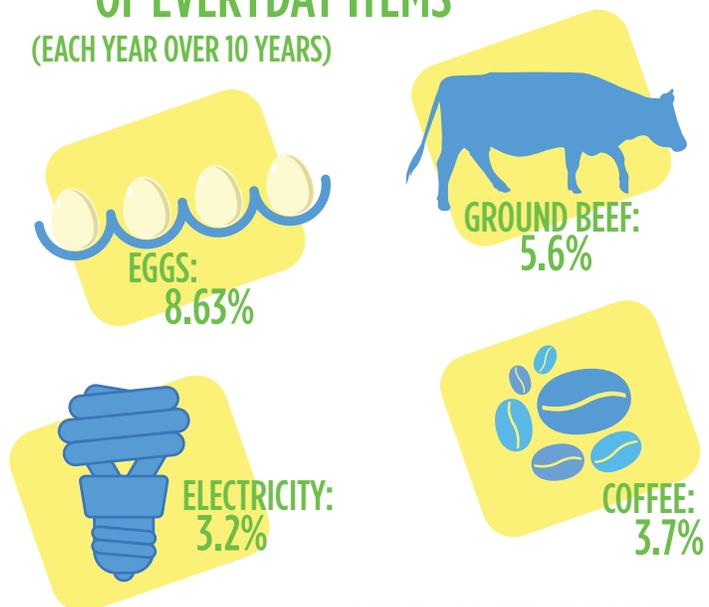
So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government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

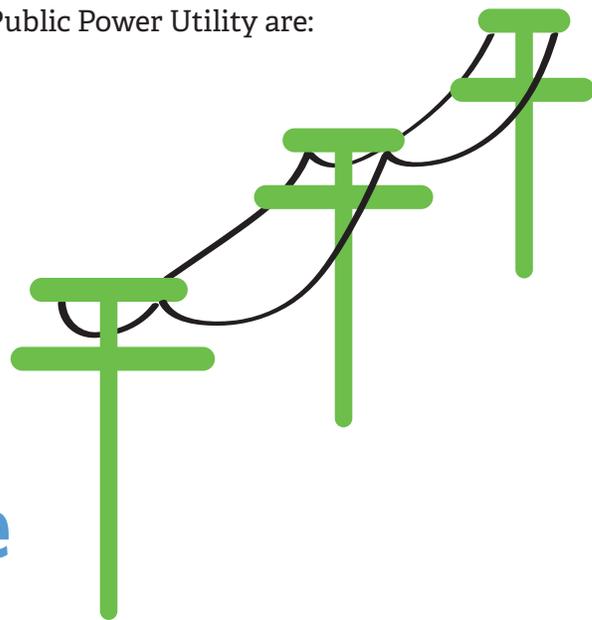


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

On February 8th, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Gas City's wholesale power provider, hosted a dinner in downtown Indianapolis, which brought together members of the Indiana General Assembly, as well as 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.

Five individuals from the City of Gas City attended the event. Those in attendance included David Huffman, Council Member; Dick Justice, Electrical Supervisor; Mike Planck, Council Member; Bill Rock, Council Member; and Ray Smith, Utility Superintendent. Because these individuals attended the event, the City of Gas City 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 Gas City be in attendance at this legislative dinner," commented Smith. "Networking with our state Senators and Representatives is essential to ensuring that the interests of Gas City and other IMPA member communities remain top of mind." ●



Representatives from Gas City attended a Legislative Dinner sponsored by IMPA. This event allowed Gas City to be represented on a larger state scale, letting the community's voice be heard by state decision makers.

Indiana Main Street

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Indiana Main Street focuses on a four-point approach, which includes design of a downtown, economic restructuring, organization of a sustainable revitalization effort, and promotion of a downtown as the center of community life. Now that Gas City is a participating member, the community will become more eligible for grants that will help to improve the downtown area. Having a Main Street designation opens communities up for more opportunities than if they did not have that title. Gas City joins approximately 120 other towns and cities in Indiana that are also Main Street communities. To find out more about the Indiana Main Street program, visit the official website at www.in.gov/ocra/mainstreet.htm. ●

Road Construction on the Horizon

After years of preparation and applying for grants, Gas City has officially received funding to complete a major road construction project in the community. This construction will all take place on South First Street, stretching north from Main Street all the way south to South D. Street. This stretch of road is in the downtown area, and sees a heavy amount of daily traffic, due to its proximity to the Packaging Corporation of America. Much of this traffic includes semi-trucks that are heading to and from the facility, causing lots of wear and tear on this stretch of road.

This construction does not just consist of re-paving the street. Instead, this is an entire rebuilding project that will repair and update not only the road, but also the curbs, sidewalks, storm sewers, and water and electric lines. Because Gas City received a \$1.6 million grant through the Indiana Department of Transportation, this project will allow the community to experience significant savings.

"This project involves many departments throughout the city," commented Ray Smith, Utilities Superintendent for the City of Gas City. "Once this project is complete, this stretch of road will be completely updated all at a very low cost for the city."

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

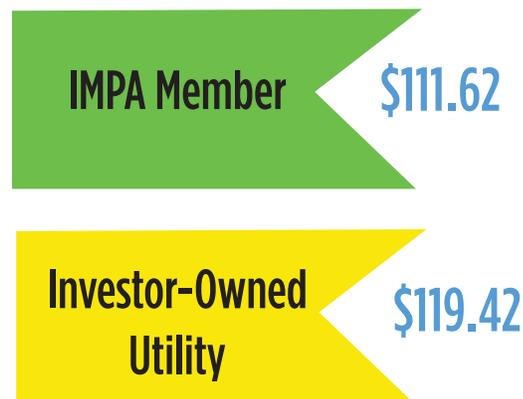
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Municipally owned utilities are often able to provide lower-cost power to their customers than investor-owned utilities because they do not exist to make a profit for shareholders. All money earned by a municipally owned utility is used to cover costs 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



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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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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The Municipal Power News is published by the
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IMPA Commissioner: Ray Smith

Gas City Welcomes New Clerk-Treasurer

Starting her first term on February 1, 2016, Teri Miller now serves her community as Clerk-Treasurer. As the Clerk-Treasurer, Miller is responsible for a host of responsibilities that include managing and monitoring the town's finances, funds and investments, producing annual budgets, processing payroll and attending City Council meetings, along with many other tasks. Prior to serving as Clerk-Treasurer, Miller was the Financial Manager and Office Coordinator at Kiley, Harker & Certain, a law firm in Marion, Indiana, for seven years.

"I've lived in Gas City for my entire life, so I am really looking forward to becoming more involved with my community," commented Miller. "This is definitely a new challenge for me, but I feel confident that I'm up to the challenge and am prepared for it. I am excited to do my part to help better the community."

Miller was elected to her position as Clerk-Treasurer by a unanimous vote from a Democratic Party caucus on January 30, 2016, after the former Clerk-Treasurer, Julie Flores, left Gas City to become the Controller for the City of Marion. Miller is a graduate of Mississinewa High School and attended International Business College where she obtained her Associates Degree in Accounting.