

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Lebanon Utilities



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Lebanon Utilities new Power Operations Building will serve as a base of operations for Lebanon Utilities staff and lineworkers.

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## Power Operations Building Nearing Completion

After years of utilizing antiquated, separate buildings for all electric utility operations, Lebanon Utilities broke ground on a new Power Operations Building in 2015. This building will serve as a base of operations for Lebanon Utilities staff and lineworkers, as well as provide space for the lineworkers' trucks and equipment. The building will also house a material storeroom and inventory space for poles, meters and other equipment. Utility personnel are set to move into the new building in April.

The building is an impressive 18,000 square foot steel facility that is comprised of masonry blocks and insulated, water-resistant EIFS walls. The front half of the building contains offices for utility staff,

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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.

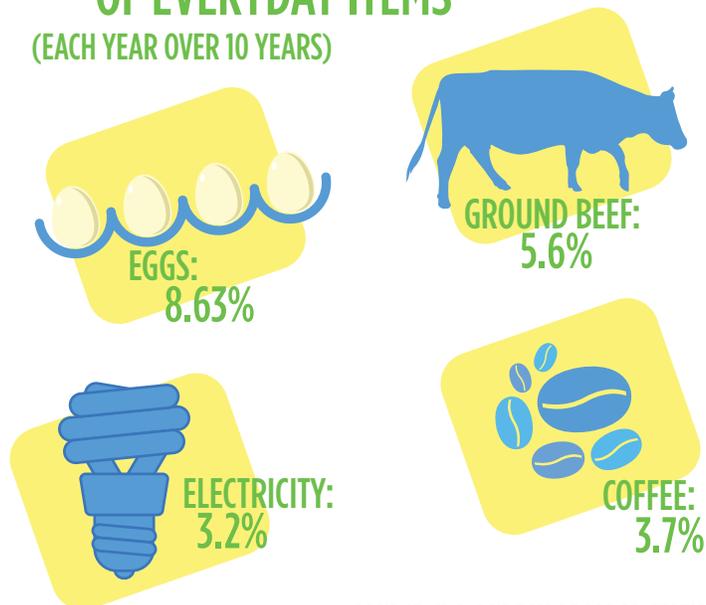
## Cost Calculation of Electricity

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

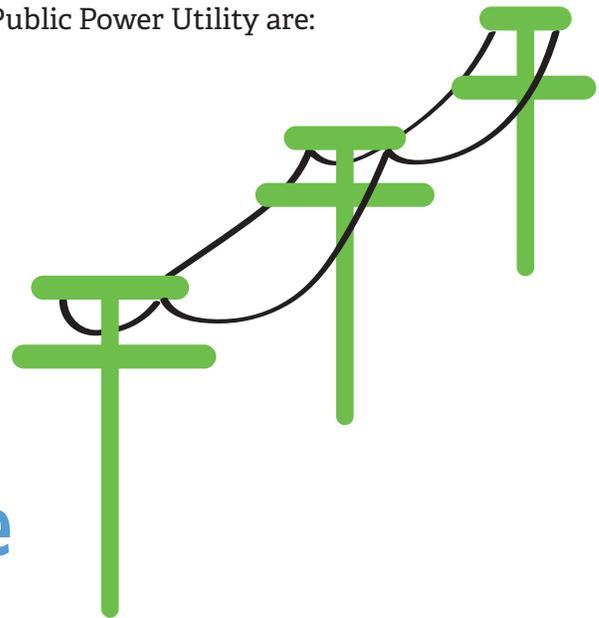


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

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as well as both a dispatch room and a crew room. It also includes a new mechanical and electrical room as well as an IT room, restrooms and ample space for storage.

The back half of the building is solely devoted to the lineworkers and their equipment. There are a number of bays that are available for servicing trucks, as well as a locker room, showers and restrooms specifically for the lineworkers. This area also contains a space for the lineworkers to set up power poles so that they are able to train on realistic practice poles, reaching 25 to 30 feet up in the air. Having this devoted space for utility personnel will greatly increase productivity and efficiency for staff, as all of the necessary materials are in one place as opposed to being housed in six separate buildings.

“This building will really provide a huge benefit, not only to electric staff members, but also to the Lebanon community,” said Mike Whitman, Lebanon Utilities General Manager. “In the past, when there was an outage or other work that needed to be done, lineworkers would have to drive to all six buildings to pick up supplies, further delaying the time it took to restore power. Now that everything is under one roof, our lineworkers, who serve on the front lines every day, have a safe and efficient space to call their own.”

Not only is the building equipped to provide a productive work environment for utility staff and lineworkers, but it was also constructed to be extremely energy efficient as well. The parking lot lights are a mixture of traditionally powered and solar powered high-efficiency LED fixtures, which are designed to be long lasting and durable. There are also a variety of other LED light fixtures throughout the building. The garage area of the facility boasts 25 skylights that allow for natural light to flow in, lessening the dependence for overhead lights to be used. Additionally, lights in this portion of the facility contain a function called “daylight harvesting”, which automatically adjusts the intensity of the lights based upon the amount of natural light coming through the skylights. Finally, the building also boasts an active photovoltaic solar panel array on the front of the building that will be used to provide a significant amount of the facility’s electrical needs.

To stay up to date on the progress of the Power Operations Building, along with other Lebanon Utilities news, visit its website at [www.lebanon-utilities.com](http://www.lebanon-utilities.com).

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## Lebanon Utilities Welcomes New General Manager

After serving as General Manager of Lebanon Utilities for over two years, Jay McCoskey announced his resignation from the utility in December 2015 in order to serve as the new CEO at Port Harcourt Electric Distribution Company in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Upon his resignation, McCoskey recommended Mike Whitman, Special Projects Manager for the utility, to serve as his replacement. After the Lebanon Utilities Service Board unanimously accepted McCoskey’s recommendation, Whitman began his role as Lebanon Utilities General Manager in December 2015.

Whitman brings more than 40 years of experience within the utility industry to his role as the General Manager. Before coming to Lebanon Utilities, Whitman spent over two decades as a project manager with Duke Energy where he honed his expertise in areas such as financial reporting, cost management, safety and overall system and business management. After retiring from Duke Energy in 2013, Lebanon Utilities persuaded Whitman to come out of retirement and serve at first as a part time project manager, which later morphed into a full time project manager position with the utility.

In addition to serving as Lebanon Utilities’ General Manager, Whitman also serves on the Indiana Municipal Power Agency’s (IMPA) Board of Commissioners. IMPA is a wholesale power

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# General Manager

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provider that sells power to 59 communities in Indiana, including Lebanon, as well as one community in Ohio. As Lebanon's IMPA Commissioner, Whitman represents Lebanon's public power interests and provides essential input in directing IMPA's future. Whitman is a vital addition to the Board as he has a vast knowledge of not only Lebanon Utilities, but of the utility industry as a whole.

"I am very honored to serve as both the General Manager at Lebanon Utilities as well as the Commissioner for IMPA," said Whitman. "After devoting the majority of my professional career to the utility industry, I am humbled to have been named the new General Manager. I am looking forward to continuing the quality work that has already been done, and to also prepare Lebanon Utilities for great work far into the future."

Whitman currently resides in Carmel, Indiana, but he and his family lived in Lebanon for 18 years. In his spare time, Whitman enjoys backpacking, photography, reading, bicycling and running 5k's. Whitman is married and has two grown sons. ●



Mike Whitman, Lebanon Utilities' new General Manager.

## 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.

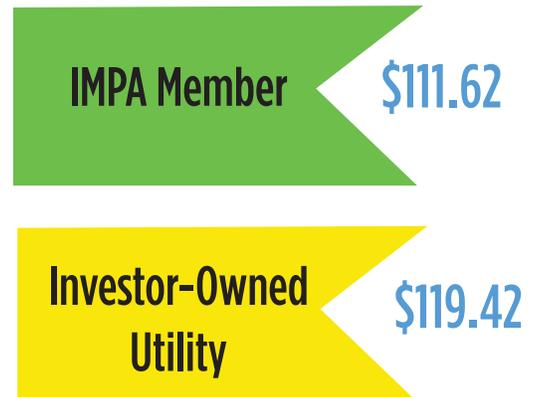
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership 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](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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Argos	Crawfordsville	Huntingburg	New Ross	Straughn
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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
- 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 Municipal Power Agency and Lebanon Utilities.

IMPA Commissioner: Mike Whitman

## Community Spotlight: Titus Bakery

**T**itus Bakery, located at 820 W. South Street, has been a Lebanon staple since it opened its doors over 35 years ago. A family owned and operated business, owner Terry Rake took over the bakery from her father in 2012, and worked to expand both its menu offerings and brand awareness. While initially famous for its donuts, the bakery also boasts other sweets such as cakes, pies and cookies as well as savory soups and sandwiches. The bakery makes its own bread in-house for sandwiches and also has a deli service that stocks Boar's Head deli meats and cheeses. Customers can even call ahead to order their deli meats and cheeses, and then pick the order up whenever it's convenient.

Over the last few years, Titus Bakery has received several awards and accolades including the Best Bakery in Indianapolis in 2014 as well as a 2015 Indiana Company to Watch. The bakery has plans for expansion, with its second location opening in Westfield this spring. The bakery is open Monday – Friday from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. For more information about the bakery, visit its website at [www.titusbakery.com](http://www.titusbakery.com).

