# Municipal Power News

IMPA

Columbia City Electric Department

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# Eagle Park Construction Begins

On the grounds of the former Columbia City High School (CCHS) property, construction has begun on a multi-phase park project to bring a state-of-the-art recreation space to the community. The new park, appropriately dubbed Eagle Park, will include numerous amenities to better serve residents and attract visitors to the area. City leaders are excited to convert the 56-acre previous CCHS property to a versatile community gathering space.

"Our parks are powerful tools for community engagement, improving public health and quality of life, and strengthening our resiliency," said Columbia City Mayor Ryan Daniel. "We're looking forward to the completion of this first phase of Eagle Park and the continued expansion of the property to include athletic spaces, playgrounds, a performance area, nature trails, and more."

The first phase of Eagle Park's construction will include the repair of potholes and street lighting on current roads and parking lots in the area, as well as a small amount of roadwork. More notably will be the addition of four new pickleball courts, which have been widely popular among the city's parkgoers. Additionally,

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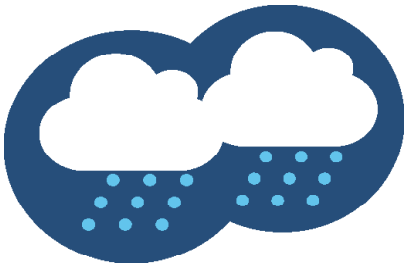
# IMPA Responds to Winter Storm Elliott



From December 22 to the 26 of 2022, Winter Storm Elliott swept across North America, causing record low temperatures and severe winter conditions throughout the United States. Snowfall, ice, and blizzard-like conditions blew through much of the Midwest while hazardous road conditions kept many of us hunkered down inside through the holidays. During these days of sub-zero temperatures, approximately 1.5 million utility customers throughout the country lost power (according to www.poweroutage.us).

Fortunately, Indiana utility customers were only a small portion of those without power, and the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) worked diligently with neighboring utilities and the state's Regional Transmission Organizations to ensure the reliability of the power grid. IMPA's seven combustion turbines—totaling 249 megawatts (MW) of capacity in Anderson, Indiana, and Richmond, Indiana—were staffed and operational through the winter storm. The Anderson and Richmond units are run by IMPA employees who worked day and night through December's winter storm to ensure power was delivered to utility customers. These units, which primarily run on natural gas and are built to operate in temperatures down to -20 degrees Fahrenheit, are a vital dispatchable resource in extreme weather events due to their capability to utilize ultra-low sulfur No. 2 fuel oil as a backup. The backup fuel allowed the units to run and provide power during the whole severe winter weather event.

Other staff members who were out in the field during the cold weather event included IMPA Service Corp's linemen and operations employees who responded to outages in member communities. During Winter Storm Elliott, IMPA Service Corp's crews responded to eight IMPA member communities to assist with power restoration to keep utility customers warm in their homes.

IMPA is grateful to the dedicated staff members who braved the historic winter conditions to ensure the rest of us could remain safe and warm at home. The Agency's reliability, whether during a typical day or an extreme period of uncertainty, is its upmost priority. Now, as we head toward the warmer weather of spring, IMPA looks forward to continuing its legacy of reliable operations and excellent electric service for all member communities.•

# How Does Reliable Electricity Reach Me?

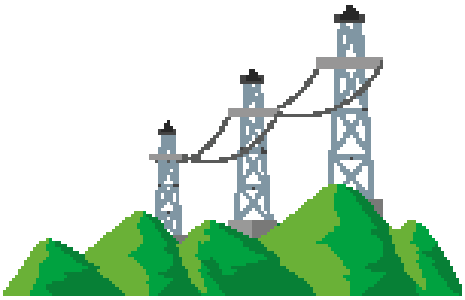
Your power is unique as it is distributed not by a for-profit electric utility, but rather by your municipally-owned, locally controlled electric utility. Your municipal electric utility—also known as a "public power" utility—receives its power from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, a not-for-profit organization created by 61 public power utilities in the Midwest. This is where your electricity begins!

**STEP 1**

IMPA is the wholesale power provider to your community, meaning that it produces or purchases electricity (depending on what is most economically advantageous) and transmits that energy to your local utility. IMPA's power supply portfolio is made up of coal, natural gas, solar, wind, and nuclear energy. By providing its member communities with power from multiple sources, IMPA can maintain stable costs.

**STEP 2**

Once the power is generated, no matter from which type of resource, a set of equipment located within a substation is used to "step up" the electricity's voltage. A higher voltage means that the electricity can travel longer distances over high-voltage transmission lines with lower energy losses.

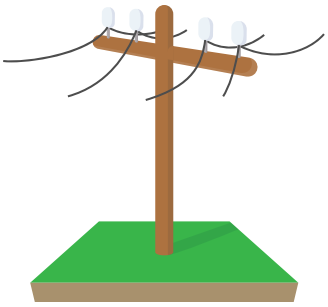


**STEP 3**

Once "stepped-up," the electricity is sent along transmission lines, allowing it to reach IMPA's member communities. IMPA jointly owns a portion of the state's transmission system, which covers about 2/3 of Indiana.

**STEP 4**

Once the electricity reaches a community like yours, it is "stepped down" by a local substation, bringing the power to a lower voltage that will allow it to travel on your local community's distribution power lines.



**STEP 5**

The power then travels along local distribution lines owned by your public power utility to reach homes and businesses in the community.

# Tidbits & Trivia

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 provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

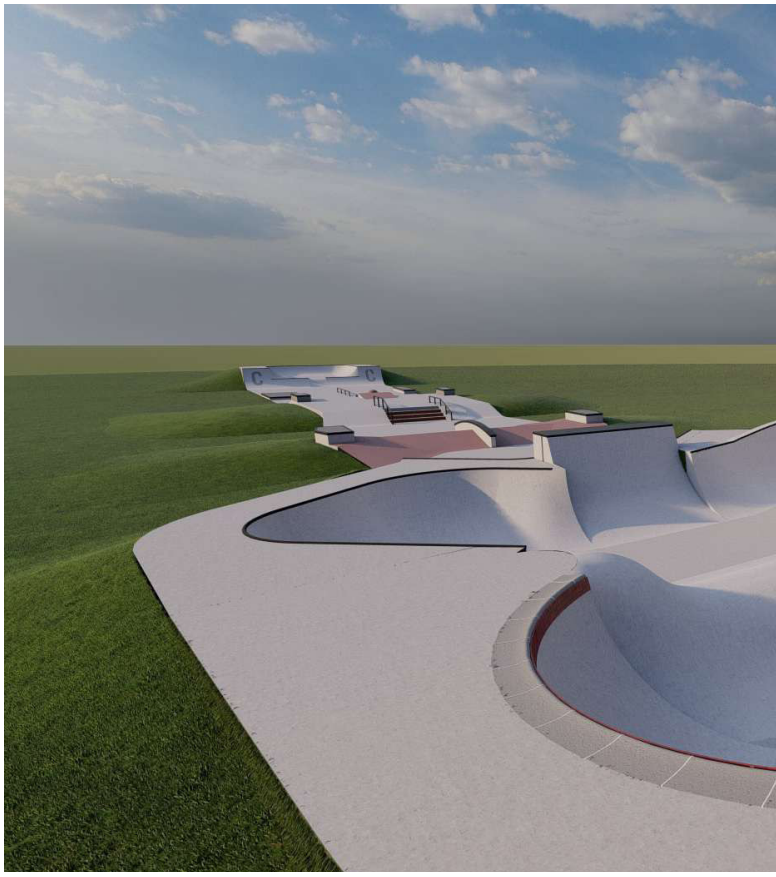
**Question:** What is one benefit of driving an electric vehicle rather than a gas-powered car?

Send your answer to **newsletter@impa.com**, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

# Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



# Eagle Park

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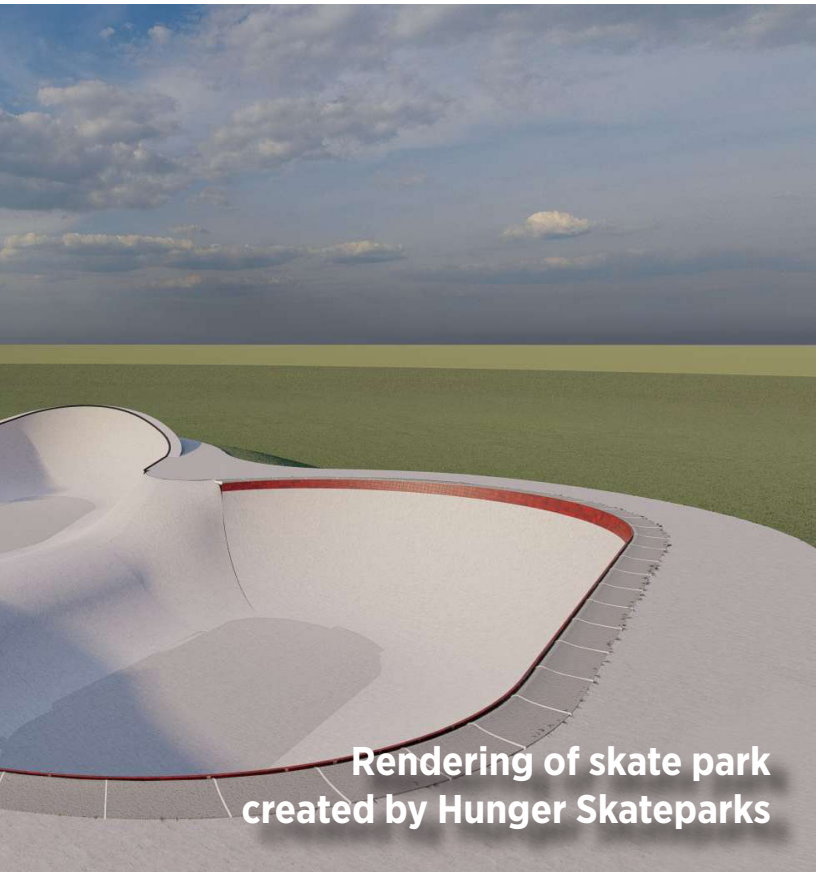
a three-bay trellis swing will include bench swings large enough for families to sit and relax on while visiting the park. Perhaps the most anticipated amenity of this first phase includes the establishment of a large skate park.

"The plan for this new skate park is that it will be a little bit longer than a football field, but shorter in width," said Chip Hill, Columbia City Community Development Director. "The entire concrete amenity will have dozens of elements for skating, including bowls, halfpipes, quarter pipes, roll-ins, and a pool coping extension. It'll be like nothing we've ever had in Columbia City."

To fund the construction of this phase, Columbia City was recently awarded a $600,000 state grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to cover



Rendering of skate park created by Hunger Skateparks

approximately half of the project. Luckily, the old CCHS property was donated to the Columbia City Parks Department from the city, so costs to acquire the land were alleviated. Overall, Eagle Park is expected to be a phenomenal asset to the community and a wise investment for the future growth of Columbia City.

"Being a past student of the former Columbia City High School, I am so excited to see this area reinvented into a place that, again, welcomes and gathers citizens and visitors alike," said Mayor Daniel. "I know this space is very special to so many in our community and, once completed, will become special for a new batch of residents for a different reason. Overall, enhancement of our City's Quality of Life is priority number 1. We continue to focus on ways to diversify our parks experience, while upgrading the amenities that are attractive to residents."

Columbia City will also benefit from the economic advantages of expanding the parks system. It'll bring in people who are looking for a place to live with great amenities, and visitors from other towns and cities will spend money on food and gas while they're here, so it aids local businesses. Not to mention, it will complement a growing school system.

After the first phase of construction is completed, subsequent phases to add trails throughout the naturally forested areas of the property, indoor recreation areas, nature outlooks, additional athletic fields, and more will be on their way. To learn more about the Eagle Park project, visit www.columbiacity.net and view the details of the "CCHS Property Master Plan" on the home page! •

# What's the Word?

## Gas Turbine Plant

*noun*

**A facility which uses natural gas or other liquid fuels to power a combustion turbine to and generate electricity. The first true gas turbine was patented in 1791!**

**IMPA owns seven combustion turbines and associated facilities totaling 419 MW in the aggregate. These include three units in Anderson, IN, two near Richmond, IN, and two in Indianapolis, IN. IMPA employees operate and maintain the combustion turbines located in Anderson and Richmond, while the plant in Indianapolis is operated and maintained under a contract with a separate utility that has two other units at the same facility.**

# 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

## Broccoli Casserole

Recipe submitted by Kimberly of Paoli, Indiana

- 2 lbs broccoli, frozen or cooked
- 1/2 lb velveeta, cubed
- 1 roll ritz crackers, crumbled
- 1 stick butter divided in half

Cook broccoli according to package directions. Add velveeta and 1/2 stick butter. Cook until melted. Butter a 2 qt casserole dish. Pour broccoli into casserole dish. Pour crumbled crackers on top. Melt remaining 1/2 stick butter and pour on crackers. Bake on 350 degrees for 30 minutes and enjoy!

## White Mountain Salad

Recipe submitted by Jean of Middletown, Indiana

- 1 small can crushed pineapple (in juice)
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 can Eagle brand milk
- 1 can chopped pecans
- 1 eight oz tub cool whip (thawed)

In a large bowl, stir all ingredients together. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

"When I take this recipe to a dinner, I always get several requests for the recipe!" - Jean

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

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# How Do I Save Energy in Cold Weather?

In the last issue of the Municipal Power News, we asked what are some of the methods you use to reduce your energy consumption in cold weather. Here is what some of you said!

"I have reduced my energy consumption due to my purchase of long cloth door tubes that resemble snakes. They are the draft prevention cloth tubes approximately 36" x 3 1/2" filled with beans or double tubes with center strips. They can be placed in the home at the bottom of outside doors or where drafts enter under doors inside a home. The double tube style can slide under the storm door outside the house door---one tube outside the storm door and the other tube set between the storm door and the inside house door. These can also be used on doors in cold rooms with closed doors to stop drafts. This is really great in blocking cold air at the floor level that cause cold feet and drafts."

- Jean

**"I often use an infrared/radiant space heater that is thermostat-controlled. During the day I close off unused rooms so my living room/kitchenette is comfortably warm. The glow of the radiant heater is pleasing like a fireplace. You definitely need to wear insulated slippers or plush socks indoors in addition to layered clothing. Wearing indoor weather-appropriate clothing, I can keep my heater set on a lower temperature—generally less than 65 degrees. My furnace, in comparison, needs to be set at 70+ degrees to maintain satisfactory room warmth."**

**– Penny**

"During the cold weather months, the most effective method for reducing my energy consumption is by closing off rooms that do not necessarily have to be heated all day. I also put plastic on any drafty windows and use draft stoppers for my doors. I've replaced most of my home's light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs and I change my furnace filter often. Room darkening curtains help keep the heat in and as the famous saying goes, I never let the water run!"

– Tiffany

**"The method that I use most is to wear warmer clothes in the house. I know that there are people who want to sit around the house in shorts and t-shirts, and run around the house in bare feet, all the while having their thermostat turned way up. That makes no sense to me. Today, for instance, it's 14º outside. The thermostat is set at 68º inside. I'm wearing a flannel shirt with a puffy vest, long pants, and shoes."**

**– Bruce**

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The *Municipal Power News* is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Columbia City Electric Department.

IMPA Commissioner: Shawn Lickey

# Pay Your Utility Bills Online

Visit Columbia City's website at www.columbiacity.net and click on the link titled "Pay Your Utility Bill" to access your municipal utility's virtual payment system. This convenient payment method is available for water, electric, sewer, storm, trash, and fire protection bills. All information provided to make each payment is kept confidential and is backed by the highest security standards. Remember to only use payment links provided by Columbia City's website to protect yourself from fraud, and always remain cautious when providing personal information and account numbers online! •