# Municipal Power News

IMPA

Town of Advance

Volume 28, Issue 1 | Spring 2023


## Inside this Issue



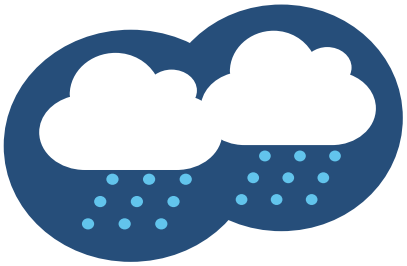
# The Advantages of Public Power

Public power utilities are publicly-owned, not-for-profit electric service providers rooted in the principles of community service. Advance is proud to be one of the 72 public power utilities in Indiana and among more than 2,000 in the United States. For nearly 120 years, Advance's electric utility has provided reliable public power and competitive electric rates to local businesses and residents. As a community-owned entity, Advance's electric utility is invested in the town and focuses on providing excellent customer service and improving the local quality of life.

While larger, investor-owned utilities provide much of the electricity that is consumed in the United States, the advantages of traditionally smaller public power utilities are numerous. Since Advance wholly owns its electric distribution system, the town is able to maintain local control of the utility, and all revenue generated by the utility's electric rates goes directly back to the community to pay for the actual costs of electricity and maintenance of the system. As a public power entity, Advance's electric utility is governed by local elected officials, giving community citizens a voice in utility

-continued on page 4

# 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**

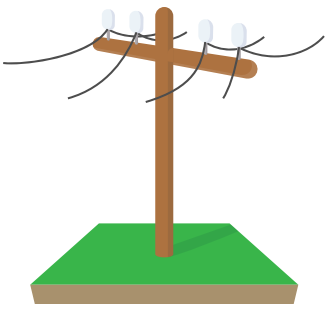
Once the power is generated, no matter from which type of resource, a set of equipment located within a substation is used to "step up" the electricity's voltage. A higher voltage means that the electricity can travel longer distances over high-voltage transmission lines with lower energy losses.

**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!


# The Advantages of Public Power

-continued from page 1

decisions. This local accountability results in excellent customer service, and consequently, Advance's electric utility supplies a high-quality power supply.

Advance's competitive electric service is due in part to its membership with the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). IMPA is a not-for-profit wholesale power provider that supplies electric service to 61 cities and towns in Indiana and Ohio, including Advance. Since becoming a member of IMPA in 1990, Advance has worked with the Agency to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to its residents and businesses.

As a result of the town's membership with IMPA, Advance provides competitive


electric rates when compared to other utilities. In a rate comparison from July 2022, Advance residents with an average usage of 1,000 kilowatt-hours spent $16.49 less on their monthly electric bill than an average customer supplied by Indiana's investor-owned utilities for the same amount of power. IMPA achieves its comparatively low-cost energy by maintaining a diverse power supply portfolio that includes coal, natural gas, solar, and nuclear resources. Additionally, the Agency's long-term vision, wise decision making, and strong bond ratings contribute to IMPA's comparatively low wholesale electric rates. These low rates are extended to residents and businesses in each of IMPA's 61 member communities.

The diversification of IMPA's generation resources also increases the reliability of service, and IMPA coordinates with communities like Advance to ensure that the town's electric infrastructure remains reliable. With IMPA's goal to establish multiple solar parks around the state, IMPA's power supply is increasingly renewable, too. Advance is proud to be one of the dozens of IMPA member communities to host a solar park constructed by the Agency, ensuring a bright future for all 61 members. The Agency's goal to ensure environmentally-responsible electricity helps IMPA and its member communities develop long-term plans to invest in the future of public power.

Together, IMPA and Advance provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power for community members like you. To learn more about IMPA and how the organization benefits your community, visit www.impa.com! •

## What's the Word?

### Gas Turbine Plant

*noun*

**A facility which uses natural gas or other liquid fuels to power a combustion turbine 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.

Editor: Niki Dick
Senior Director of Marketing Communications

Correspondent:
Whitney Hicks
Communications Coordinator

## MEMBERS

Advance
Anderson
Argos
Bainbridge
Bargersville
Blanchester, OH
Bremen
Brooklyn
Brookston
Centerville
Chalmers
Coatesville
Columbia City
Covington
Crawfordsville
Darlington
Dublin
Dunreith
Edinburgh
Etna Green
Flora
Frankfort
Frankton
Gas City
Greendale
Greenfield
Huntingburg
Jamestown
Jasper
Kingsford Heights
Knightstown
Ladoga
Lawrenceburg
Lebanon
Lewisville
Linton
Middletown
Montezuma
New Ross
Paoli
Pendleton
Peru
Pittsboro
Rensselaer
Richmond
Rising Sun
Rockville
Scottsburg
South Whitley
Spiceland
Straughn
Tell City
Thorntown
Tipton
Troy
Veedersburg
Walkerton
Washington
Waynetown
Williamsport
Winamac

# How Do I Save Energy in Hot Weather?

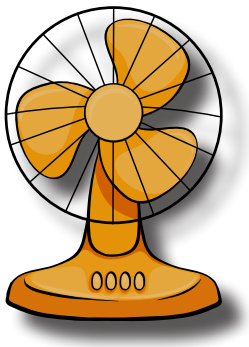
Last year, we asked *Municipal Power News* readers, "What are some of the methods you use the reduce your energy consumption in hot weather?" Here's what Kenneth had to say!

*"Our answer at home is to close the drapes, blinds, and try to cook with the air fryer, microwave, or outside on the grill instead of using the stove or oven on the really hot days. We've already purchased new thermo sliding glass doors with blinds and low-e ratings. We've also spray-foamed the basement walls and the underside of the roof. For a 1964 house, we feel pretty efficient.*

*At work, we try to close the blinds and raise the thermostat a degree or two. We also bought two digital smart thermostats and replaced the old mercury bulb sliders."*

-Kenneth E

That's a great answer, full of energy efficiency tips! Below are a few other ways you and your family can save on energy this summer.

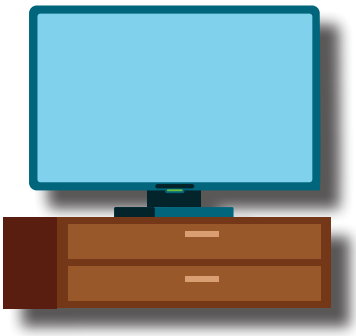


## Energy Efficiency Tip #1

Use fans around your home to circulate cool air. Set ceiling fans to turn counter clockwise, as this will push air down and create a cooler feeling in the room.

## Energy Efficiency Tip #2

Replace air filters in your home with each season. Dirty air filters can cause your system to work harder and longer, using unecessary energy as a result.



## Energy Efficiency Tip #3

Keep lamps and TV sets away from your thermostat. Thermostats can sense the heat that these items give off, which can cause the A/C to run longer than required.

Indiana Municipal Power Agency
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit # 9555

The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Town of Advance.

IMPA Commissioner: Jim Caldwell

# REACH Alert in Advance

Advance officials understand the importance of accurate and timely communication regarding events affecting the community. Consequently, the town initiated a notification service in collaboration with REACH Alert, an organization that specializes in mass communication. This notification system allows important information to be shared with the community in a matter of seconds through phone and email alerts, keeping everyone up to date on urgent local occurrences. The notification service is free to the public and information given to REACH Alert is encrypted, ensuring that user data is safe and secure. Residents who register with REACH Alert online will have the option of receiving these notifications through text message, voice message, or email.

Instructions for registration can be found at reachalert.com/register. •