

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

City of Rensselaer



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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The new fire station is located on State Road 114 and includes six engine bays as well as increased office and storage space

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New Fire Station Close to Completion

After members of the Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department, City Council members and Mayor Stephen A. Wood broke ground for the City's new fire station in June 2015, construction has been ongoing in order to complete it as quickly as possible. This new, 25,000 square foot fire station is located on five acres of land west of town on State Road 114. This location is crucial, not only because it places the fire department closer to where the majority of emergency calls occur, but also because the building will be within the city's tax-increment financing district, meaning that the station will have no direct impact on residents' property taxes.

Consisting of six drive-through engine bays, the fire station is equipped with many new features including training areas, increased office space, and storage space for all fire equipment.

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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

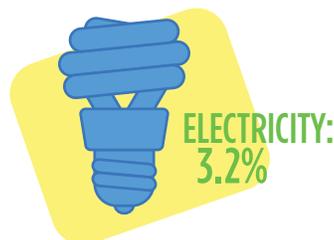
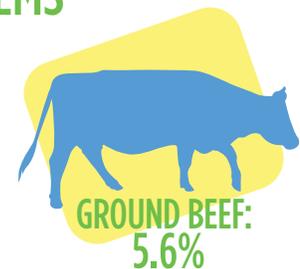
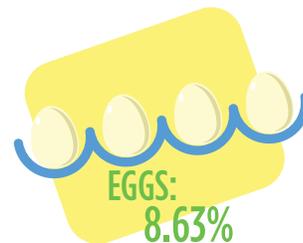
So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government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

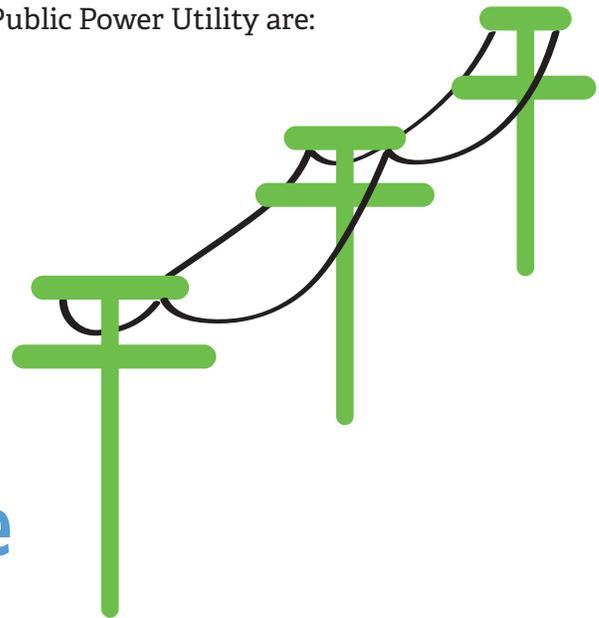


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

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Construction on the fire station is almost complete, as all the walls are closed in and drywall has been applied. All utility service is also turned on in the building, and currently construction is ongoing in the interior of the building, as well outside with the landscaping. The Town hopes the fire station will open in either April or May with a grand opening celebration tentatively planned for June.

“This new fire station will provide a great benefit for the City of Rensselaer,” said Mayor Stephen A. Wood. “The city’s current station is much smaller and has had structural issues for quite some time. Having this new station will make the volunteer fire department more efficient and will provide them with more space for training and their equipment.”

The 28 member department protects 232 square mile area, including 32 miles of Interstate 65. The department is also responsible for approximately 10,000 residents that span Rensselaer, as well as the townships of Barkley, Hanging Grove, Jordan, Marion, Milroy, Newton and Union. Throughout the territory, the fire department responds not only to fires, but also to rescue calls that may occur along the 14 miles of U.S. Highway 231, State Roads 14, 16 and 114 and rail routes to and from Chicago. For more information about Rensselaer’s Volunteer Fire Department, visit its website at www.rensselaervfd.com.

“ Having this new station will make the volunteer fire department more efficient and will provide them with more space for training and their equipment. ”
-Mayor Stephen A. Wood

Rensselaer Municipal Electric Utility Welcomes New Staff Member

Trace Bowles, the new Manager of Operations and Engineering, joined the Rensselaer Municipal Electric Utility on October 1, 2015. In this role, Bowles is responsible for a wide variety of tasks in the electric department including the preparation of budgets and standards, negotiating with new businesses, managing the personnel in the department, and assisting with electrical design. This position requires a depth of knowledge as the utility includes a line department, a metering department and a power plant, all of which Bowles oversees.

Prior to working for the utility, Bowles served as the Vice President of Operations for Spectrum Engineering in Auburn, Indiana for over 30 years. In that role, Bowles had the opportunity to hone his skills in a variety of areas, having worked with many municipal utilities during his time with the organization. Bowles was also responsible for personnel management at the company for ten years. After working at the engineering firm for over 30 years, Bowles became well versed in management, as well as in financial skills and technical aptitude.

“I am so thankful to work for the City of Rensselaer and its Municipal Electric Utility,”

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Bowles

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commented Bowles. “I just cannot say enough about this community or about the department. Everyone has been so welcoming and the camaraderie with the staff has been great. I’m glad that I can bring my skillset to Rensselaer to help continue propelling the town forward.”

“Trace has been a great fit with the utility so far,” stated Mayor Stephen A. Wood. “His expertise is impressive, and our city is lucky to have him. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together.”

Bowles moved to Rensselaer with his wife, Pam, in 2015. He and his wife have three grown daughters, two son-in-laws and two grandchildren. In his spare time, Bowles enjoys spending time with his family and exploring his new city. The City of Rensselaer welcomes Trace to his new position and wishes him all the best! ●



Trace Bowles, Rensselaer Municipal Electric Utility's new Manager of Operations and Engineering.

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.

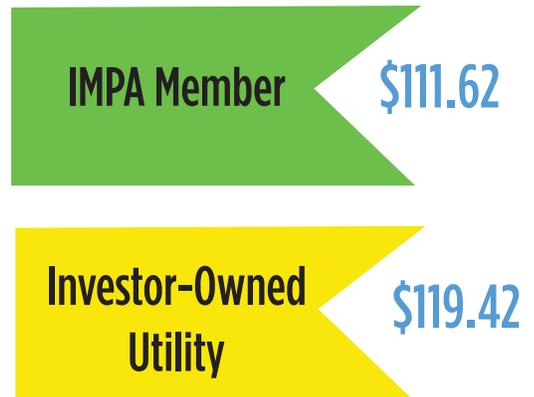
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership 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 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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Advance	Columbia City	Greendale	Middletown	South Whitley
Anderson	Covington	Greenfield	Montezuma	Spiceland
Argos	Crawfordsville	Huntingburg	New Ross	Straughn
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Bargersville	Dublin	Jasper	Pendleton	Thorntown
Blanchester, OH	Dunreith	Kingsford Heights	Peru	Tipton
Bremen	Edinburgh	Knightstown	Pittsboro	Veedersburg
Brooklyn	Etna Green	Ladoga	Rensselaer	Walkerton
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 tbs. vanilla
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 9-inch pie shell
- 2 tbs. 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

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 the City of Rensselaer.

IMPA Commissioner: Mayor Stephen A. Wood

IMPA Rensselaer Solar Park Data Available Online

In 2014, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) built a one megawatt solar park in Rensselaer, located on city-owned land on Maple Street, near the Lintner Industrial Park. This solar park has been generating electricity for almost two years, and has powered over 200 homes and reduced carbon dioxide emission by 1,750 tons. In addition to Rensselaer, IMPA also has solar parks in Argos, Bainbridge, Crawfordsville, Frankton, Pendleton, Peru, Richmond and Tell City.

IMPA provides real-time data on each of its solar parks on its website, allowing website visitors to see how much power the solar parks are generating at any given time. To find out how much power the IMPA Rensselaer solar park is generating, visit www.impa.com, click on the “Spotlight IMPA Solar Parks” on the homepage, and choose IMPA Rensselaer. ●



The one megawatt IMPA Rensselaer Solar Park has been generating power since 2014.