

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

City of Rensselaer



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Rensselaer Power Plant Continues to Generate Electricity

As temperatures this summer have reached record highs, the Rensselaer Power Plant came online to generate electricity for 39 days during the months of June and July. The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Rensselaer's wholesale power provider, purchases power generated by the plant to utilize as a component of its diverse power portfolio.

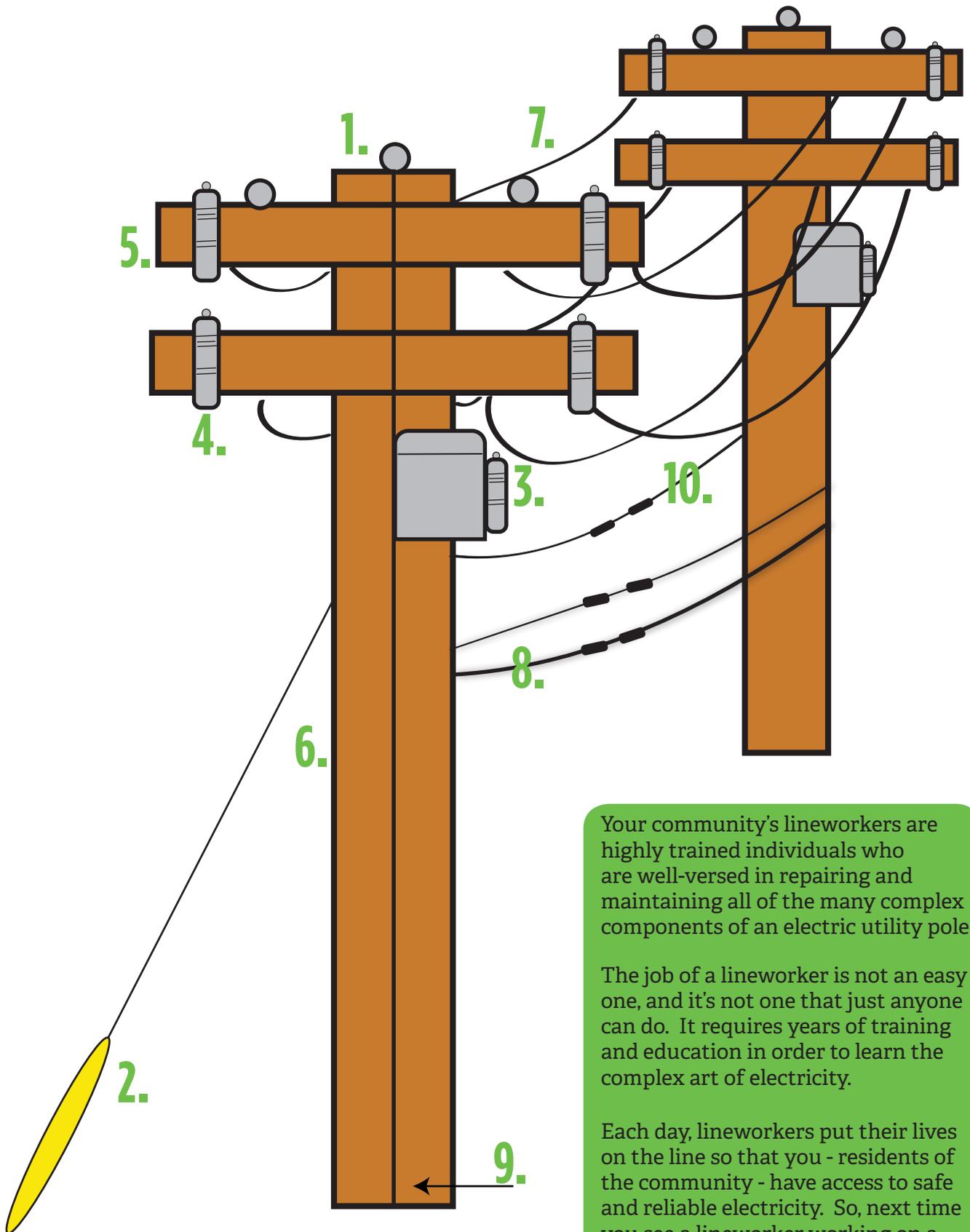
During June and July, the power plant generated almost 3,000 megawatts of electricity. To put that into perspective, the average home in Rensselaer uses just over 1 megawatt per month during hot summer days. "As long as natural gas prices remain low, and IMPA needs to purchase additional power from our plant, we will likely continue to generate," stated Trace Bowles, Manager of Operations for the Rensselaer Electric Department. ●

Anatomy of an Electric Utility Pole

Utility poles are a common sight throughout the United States, as they are located adjacent to many roadways that are visible while driving. While you see these poles every day, have you ever thought about the function of the poles and the lines and attachments that hang onto them?

Utility poles play an important role in electrical distribution, which is a fancy term for how electricity travels to your home or business. All of the lines and attachments that sit on the utility pole play an essential role in this process. Read on to learn more about the different parts that make up your everyday electric power pole.

- 1. Insulator:** The insulator prevents wires from coming into contact with each other on the utility pole, which could cause fires, outages and other dangerous conditions.
- 2. Guy wire:** The guy wire is a tensioned wire that helps to stabilize the utility pole to the ground.
- 3. Transformer:** An electrical device, typically in a metallic enclosure, that converts high voltage electricity to a lower voltage for use in homes and businesses.
- 4. Fuse cutout:** A combination of a fuse and a switch, the fuse cutout is used to protect power lines and other equipment from surges or overloads by disconnecting the power line from a transformer.
- 5. Crossarm:** This horizontal piece of the utility pole is typically made of high-quality wood and holds power lines and other equipment, such as transformers, onto the pole.
- 6. Utility pole:** The utility pole is typically made of wood or steel, and can range in height from 30 feet to more than 100 feet. The pole serves as the backbone for the electric line and holds all of the components and equipment.
- 7. Primary wire:** These wires are on the very top of the utility pole, and usually carry high voltage electricity from a substation.
- 8. Lowest wires:** Utility poles don't just hold electric wires; other wires, such as telephone or cable wires, are also attached to these poles. Typically, these wires are found closest to the ground and are the lowest wire on the utility pole.
- 9. Ground wire:** This wire runs the entire length of the utility pole, directing any electricity on the pole safely into the ground.
- 10. Secondary wire:** Once the high voltage electricity has been converted to a lower voltage, the secondary wire carries that electricity to homes and businesses.



Your community's lineworkers are highly trained individuals who are well-versed in repairing and maintaining all of the many complex components of an electric utility pole.

The job of a lineworker is not an easy one, and it's not one that just anyone can do. It requires years of training and education in order to learn the complex art of electricity.

Each day, lineworkers put their lives on the line so that you - residents of the community - have access to safe and reliable electricity. So, next time you see a lineworker working on a utility pole, stop and thank them for their service to the community.

Rensselaer Fire Station Now Operational

The Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department has a new home to call their own, following the completion of the new fire station. Located west of town on State Road 114, this 25,000 square foot fire station provides a huge upgrade to the department and its firefighters. The new station is equipped with state of the art training spaces, storage and living areas, as well as increased office space for Fire Chief Kenny Haun and his volunteer firefighter department.

The Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department was established in the late 1800's, making it one of the oldest fire departments in the State of Indiana. This new fire station pays homage to the department's historical past, as it includes a small museum dedicated to showcasing pieces of antique equipment as well as old photos. The fire wagon, which is located in the museum, was the first piece of equipment that the city ever purchased. It was retired in 1920 after the purchase of a gas powered fire engine; however, the city has continued to maintain the old wagon for historical purposes. Its permanent home will be in the fire station where it will sit on display for visitors.

In addition to the museum, the fire station also contains a memorial to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. This memorial contains actual pieces from one of the Twin Towers, and provides a somber reminder of all of the individuals, including many firefighters, who lost their lives on that day. The plaque on the memorial reads, "In memory of all those who lost their lives and to the brave men and women who gave their lives to save so many others on September 11, 2001. Their courage and love of our country will be a source of strength and comfort to our great nation. God Bless America." The memorial was initially

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The new fire station contains a small history museum featuring a fire wagon, which was purchased by the city at the turn of the 20th century.



There is plenty of space in the new fire station for all of the volunteer fire department's equipment and gear.

Fire Station

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dedicated in 2012, but was rededicated at its new location during the fire station's grand opening celebration on June 25, 2016.

For Fire Chief Kenny Haun, this new fire station has been a labor of love. "Our fire department is really proud of our history here in Rensselaer, and we're also really proud of this new fire station. It provides us with enough space to carry out our duties, and also gives us room to grow for the future."



Outside of the station sits a memorial dedicated to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. The memorial contains actual pieces from one of the Twin Towers.

Tidbits & Trivia

Question: Which type of wire on a utility pole carries the high voltage electricity from a substation?

- a) Secondary wire
- b) Primary wire
- c) Ground wire
- d) None 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.

Substation

noun.

A facility used for switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electric energy. A substation may tie generating stations to transmission systems or transmission systems to distribution systems.

IMPA Continues Building Solar Parks in Local Communities

Throughout the last two years, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) has constructed nine solar parks in large and small IMPA communities throughout Indiana. This year, the Agency is in the midst of constructing four additional solar parks in the communities of Anderson, Huntingburg, Waynetown and Washington. These solar parks are all aimed at adding more renewable and economical energy resources to IMPA's power portfolio.

When energy is created by the solar parks, it is then placed onto the local distribution system in whichever town or city the solar park is located in. As the solar power is produced, it becomes a part of all of the electric generation that is supplying the system, which is typically a mixture of power produced via coal, natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear.

The process of generating electricity from the sun may seem to be a complex one, but in reality, is really quite simple. When sunlight

hits the solar panels, the panels convert that energy into direct current electricity. That electricity is transferred to an inverter, located within the solar park. The inverter then takes the direct current electricity and converts it into alternating current (AC) electricity. Once converted to AC, the transformer steps-up the voltage to the proper level, and is then transferred to the interconnection point on the distribution system. The AC meter measures the energy from the solar park prior to its connection to the distribution system and ultimately the customer.

IMPA plans to add approximately 10 megawatts of solar capacity into its overall power portfolio each year, meaning more and more IMPA member communities will have solar parks within the coming years. For more information on IMPA's solar parks, visit www.impa.com.

How does solar generate electricity?



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

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Chalmers	Frankton	Lewisville	Rockville	Williamsport
Coatesville	Gas City	Linton	Scottsburg	Winamac

Chicken and Dumpling Casserole

Recipe submitted by Vicky Hicks-Spear of Tell City, Indiana.

- 1 pound chicken breasts
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 cups Bisquick
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 tsp. chicken bouillon
- 1/2 tsp. sage
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 stick butter

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9x13 baking pan, melt 1/2 stick butter. Shred chicken and spread over butter. Sprinkle black pepper and sage over the chicken. Do not stir. In a small bowl, mix milk and Bisquick. Slowly pour over chicken. In another medium bowl, whisk together 2 cups of chicken broth, chicken bouillon and soup. Once blended, slowly pour over the Bisquick layer. Bake casserole for 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown.

Strawberry Delight

Recipe submitted by Burdett Parsons of Washington, Indiana.

- 1 pre-made angel food cake
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 16 oz. strawberry glaze
- 16 oz. tub whipped cream
- 1 ^{1/3} cup sugar
- 1 qt. fresh strawberries

Tear angel food cake into pieces and mix with 1/3 of the tub of whipped cream. Put whipped cream mixture into the bottom of a serving dish. Mix the rest of the whipped cream with the cream cheese and the sugar and place on top of the cake. Slice strawberries into quarters and mix with the strawberry glaze. Then, spread the strawberry mixture over the top of the cake.

The Municipal Power News is published by the Indiana
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IMPA Commissioner: Mayor Stephen A. Wood

Save Energy This Fall!

As the summer months wrap up and temperatures begin to cool, take action to ensure that your house and habits are as energy efficient as possible. Read on for helpful tips to save money this fall:

- Schedule regular maintenance for your heating system.
- Take shorter showers. This can save hundreds of gallons of hot water and also reduce water heating costs.
- Replace the air filter in a furnace on a monthly basis. A dirty air filter makes the heating and cooling system work harder, causing wear and tear on the equipment.
- Turn off kitchen and bath ventilation fans after use. If left on, the fans can blow the warm air from inside your home to the outside.

The best way to reduce your electric bill is to do everything you can to make your home more energy efficient. ●