

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY



ISC assists the Town of Rockville with an electrical project on U.S. 41.

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Strong Partnership Between Rockville and IMPA Continues

Since 2006, the Town of Rockville has been a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), the community’s wholesale power provider. As Rockville’s wholesale power provider, IMPA meets Rockville’s electric needs through a combination of power generated by plants in which the Agency has ownership interests and also through long-term power contracts and purchases on the market. In addition to selling power to Rockville, IMPA also assists the community in a variety of other ways.

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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.

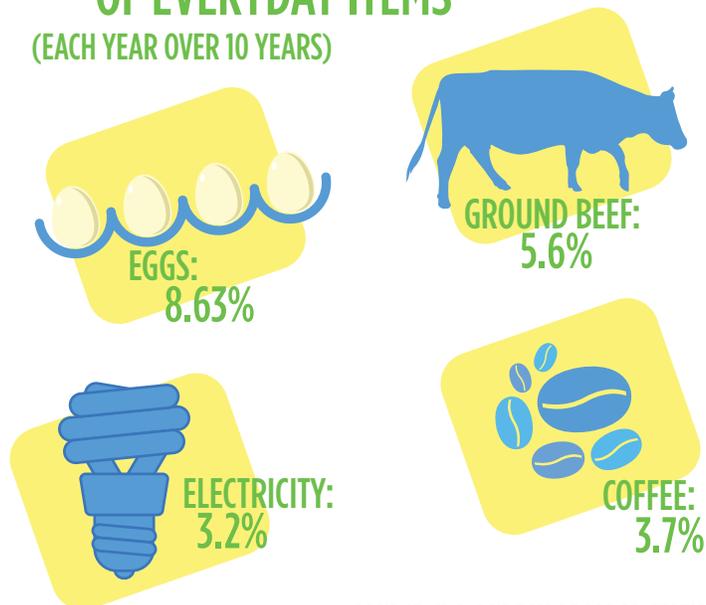
Cost Calculation of Electricity

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

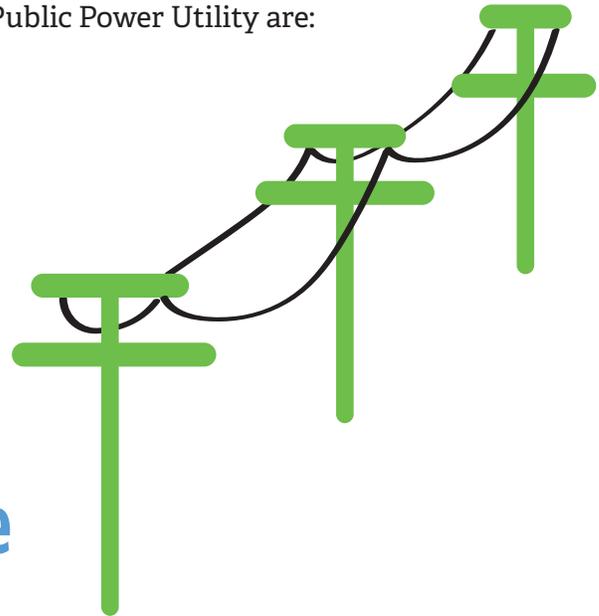


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

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For the past several years, the Town of Rockville has employed the service of ISC, the engineering subsidiary of IMPA, to complete many projects that aid in improving the Town's electrical system. By utilizing ISC's services, the Town has had more control over the projects, which has allowed for the projects to be completed in a timely manner. Not only were the projects completed in a more efficient manner, but the Town also paid a much more reasonable rate than if a commercial contractor would have been used. Recently, ISC, with the help of Rockville's own lineworkers, installed switches and circuits, which will greatly improve reliability throughout town. ISC is currently in the engineering stage of several new projects aimed to upgrade the electric system, and construction is expected to begin this year.

While IMPA is highly focused on providing affordable and reliable electricity, the Agency also values training and developing the employees and that live and work within its member communities. In October 2015, Rockville Clerk-Treasurer Mark Spelbring attended IMPA's Customer Service Boost Camp. This day-long training focused on the importance of providing a customer-centric experience while learning best practices to improve interpersonal skills.

"It is important to the Town that our employees take advantage of every professional development and educational opportunity," said Rockville Town Council Member Dr. Steven Waltz. "We encourage appropriate employees to attend all of the quality trainings that IMPA offers



Clerk-Treasurer Mark Spelbring attended an IMPA-sponsored Customer Service Workshop in 2015 to help prepare him for his new position.

throughout the year."

In addition to the Customer Service Boost Camp, IMPA also offers its Second Wednesday program, a free one-day workshop for utility personnel. This program tackles a different topic each month that will help build the skillset of lineworkers, substation workers, meter personnel and engineering staff members within IMPA's member communities. Two of Rockville's utility staff members attended the training in January and three attended February's workshop. Depending on the focus of the future trainings, more staff plan to attend each workshop throughout the year as well. ●

The Town of Rockville Sees Rate Increase

The Rockville Electric Department is committed to maintaining its reliable service to its customers by investing in its infrastructure and upgrading its electrical system. Over the past few years, the Town has completed several projects aimed at increasing reliability, including the installation of new distribution lines, replacing electric meters throughout town, rerouting the downtown area electrical system, and installing capacitor banks, switches and circuits, just to name a few.

All of these updates are aimed at improving electric service throughout the Town of Rockville, ensuring that all businesses and residents have access to reliable electricity at all times. These necessary updates do come at a cost, which is why the Rockville Electric Department has raised its rates

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Rate Increase

-continued from page 4

in the form of a flat fee increase. Residential customers may notice their bill increased by \$5 each month whereas commercial customer bills increased by \$15. The rate increase will help to pay for these capital improvements, and will also account for inflation.

Not only will this rate increase pay for the necessary infrastructure updates, but it will also ensure that all customers are paying a fair charge for the ability to have electricity any time it's needed. The new rates were carefully designed to ensure that no customer is subsidizing another, making sure that each electric customer is paying their share of electricity in a fair manner.

Many factors can affect the cost of providing power, including newly imposed environmental regulations, infrastructure maintenance, fuel costs and inflation, among many other variables. In order for the Rockville Electric Department to continue providing safe and reliable power to its customers for decades to come, the costs must be covered in some way. Rate increases, like the one recently reviewed and approved by the Town Council, will ensure that the community is equipped with the proper distribution system infrastructure and that customers continue receiving reliable electricity at a fair price for years to come.●

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.

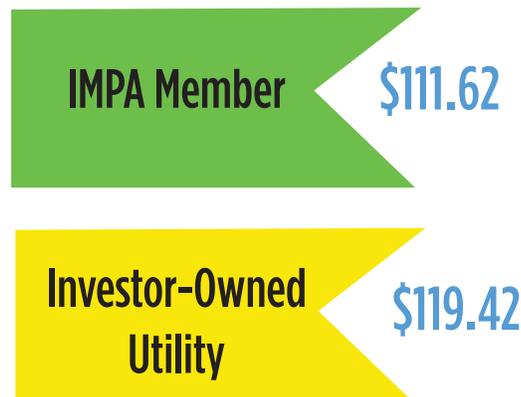
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership 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.

Editor: Niki Dick
Manager of Marketing Communications
niki@impa.com

Correspondent:
Meredith Slavens
Communications Specialist
meredith@impa.com

Send submissions and comments to:
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032 or
newsletter@impa.com.

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Spiceland
Straughn
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Tipton
Veedersburg
Walkerton
Washington
Waynetown
Williamsport
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.

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

IMPA Commissioner: Dr. Steven Waltz

Community Spotlight: The Jailhouse Café

In business since 2012, The Jailhouse Café is a Rockville favorite, specializing in breakfast and lunch food and drinks. Boasting the only espresso machine in all of Parke County, the café's most popular coffee drink is the caramel macchiato, but it also offers popular seasonal drinks such as pumpkin spice lattes and peppermint mochas. The café also offers lunch fare, with favorite made-from-scratch items that include the chicken salad and the Italian panini. The café is passionate about using local and fair trade ingredients whenever possible, supporting local and regional farms and businesses.

The Jailhouse Café also offers on and off-site catering, and will also rent out the café for small events. Live music is offered on Saturday nights during the summer, and the café also has game nights on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. For more information about The Jailhouse Café, visit its website at www.jailhouse-cafe.com.

