MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Straughn

IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 24, Issue 1 | Fall 2018

Since 2013, IMPA has constructed solar parks in 17 of its member communities, bringing the total solar capacity of the Agency to 36.6 megawatts (MW).

IMPA Welcomes New Solar Parks

IMPA added to its diverse portfolio of power supply resources in 2017 with the construction of four solar parks, bringing the total solar capacity of the Agency to 36.6 megawatts (MW). Thousands of additional homes around the state were powered last year thanks to the efforts of IMPA and the member communities the Agency serves.

Communities in which solar parks were completed in 2017 include Anderson, Flora, Greenfield and Spiceland. Ranging from 0.53 MW up to 8 MW, together these resources added 12 MW of solar capacity to the Agency's existing solar portfolio that is now made up of 17 solar parks.

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Prepare for Colder Weather with Energy Saving Tips

It's time to start thinking about cool weather energy saving opportunities. Check out these tips and cut down on your energy costs this fall:

• Check your furnace filters monthly. Dirty filters block air flow and increase your energy bill.

• Close your fire damper when your fireplace is not in use. Place a glass fireplace door over the opening to reduce heat loss.

• Cover up with an extra blanket on chilly nights and turn down the thermostat.

• Fifteen percent of your home energy bill goes to heating water. Save hot water by taking five-minute showers instead of baths.

• Lower the heat temperature on your water heater to "warm." Running water should be no hotter than 120 degrees.

• Insulate your water heater.

• Open your blinds and curtains to let sunlight warm your home.

• Switch your ceiling fans to rotate clockwise.

• Whenever possible, use a microwave oven instead of your conventional oven and save up to 50 percent of the energy you would use baking.

• Insulate your attic, basement and outside walls.

• Don't block your radiators or heating vents with furniture or draperies. Keep your radiators, registers and baseboard heaters dirt and dust free.

• Close vents and doors in unused rooms.

• Consider getting a humidifier to add moisture to the air.

How Much Do My Appliances Cost to Run?

Today we are using more applicances and electronics than ever before. Have you ever wondered how much it really costs to run each device? Here are some figures using average electric costs for a residential public power customer:

To run one dishwasher cycle
(depending on how much hot water is used)

$0.17 - $0.73

To run a central A/C system for two hours

$0.28 - $0.81

To watch two hours of television
(ranges for different types of TVs)

$0.02 - $0.06

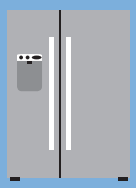
To light a room for three hours with four 60-watt-equivalent LEDs

$0.01

To recharge a smartphone

<$0.01

To run a refrigerator for one day
(assuming a 225-watt refrigerator operating 24 hours/day)



$0.21

*Information from the American Public Power Association

Staying Safe Around Generators

Electric generators are popular back-ups for power outages, especially as temperatures begin to drop in the fall and winter months. Installing them in homes and businesses can be a smart investment, as long as they are installed properly and well-maintained. The Town of Straughn encourages consumers to hire a licensed professional to install permanent generators in homes and businesses. In addition, a licensed electrician should install a transfer switch to break the electric circuit from power lines to your home.

For consumers who choose to invest in portable generators, the United States Consumer Safety Product Commission recommends the following tips to ensure your safety:

• NEVER use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas, even when using fans or opening doors and windows for ventilation. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide (CO) can quickly build up in these areas and can linger for hours, even after the generator has shut off.

• Follow the instructions that come with your generator. Locate the unit outside and far from doors, windows, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.

• Install battery-operated or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's instructions. CO alarms should be certified to the requirements of the latest safety standards. Test batteries monthly.

• Generators pose a risk of shock and electrocution, especially if they are operated in wet conditions. If you must use a generator when it is wet outside, protect the generator from moisture to help avoid the shock/electrocution hazard, but do so without operating the generator indoors or near openings to any building that can be occupied in order to help avoid the CO hazard. Operate the generator under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot reach it or puddle or drain under it. Dry your hands, if wet, before touching the generator.

• Connect appliances to the generator using heavy-duty extension cords that are specifically designed for outdoor use. Make sure the wattage rating for each cord exceeds the total wattage of all appliances connected to it. Check that the entire length of each cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs. Protect the cord from getting pinched or crushed if it passes through a window or doorway.

• NEVER try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding." This is extremely dangerous and presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household circuit protection devices.

• Never store fuel for your generator in the home. Gasoline, propane, kerosene, and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly-labeled, non-glass safety containers. Do not store them near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage.

• Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

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

Pesto

Recipe submitted by Kristy Lewellyn of Linton, Indiana

2 cups packed fresh basil leaves
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
1/3 cup pine nuts
3 medium sized garlic cloves minced
salt & pepper
1/2 cup parmesan - optional

Chop basil, nuts & garlic as finely as possible and slowly add other ingredients. The perfect start to your own Bruschetta. Or, serve over pasta or as an appetizer with crackers or bread.

Chutney Cheese Canapé

Recipe submitted by Leisa Lowrey of Jasper, Indiana

8 oz. cream cheese
¼ c. chutney, chopped fine
½ tsp. dry mustard
1 tsp. curry powder
toasted slivered almonds
serve in ½ pineapple - optional

Blend all ingredients well in blender or food processor. Chill for at least 4 hours. Scoop out pineapple half & fill with mix. Top with almonds. Serve with crackers (Ritz are best).

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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Tree Trimming: Out of Lines, Out of Danger

Winter is a popular time for utility crews to trim trees. The ground is usually too frozen for digging and most utility projects are better suited for warmer weather. The reason that they are cutting branches away from the power lines is for the community's safety. Protecting utility lines from trees isn't just the utility's job - you can help them with this mission. Check out these tips on how and why to keep trees away from power lines.

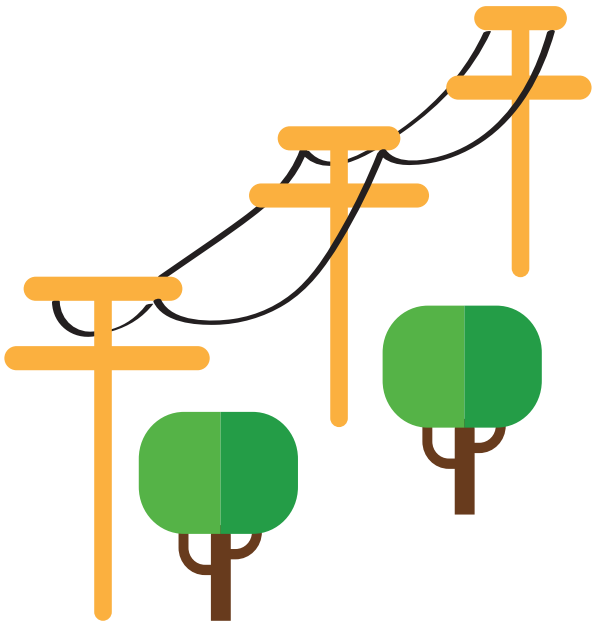
How to keep trees away from lines:

When planting a tree, be aware of its location. It may be small and away from power lines at the start, but make sure it won't get tangled in the lines as it grows.

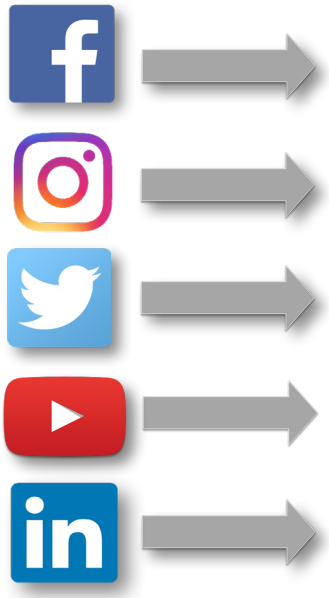
- Trees planted directly under or within 20 feet of the power lines should have a mature height of less than 25 feet.
- Trees that mature to 25 - 45 feet tall should be planted 20 to 50 feet away.
- Trees greater than 45 feet at maturity should be planted more than 50 feet away.

What to know about trees in power lines:

- Called 'burning the line', trees touching power lines can drain electricity off the electrical system, resulting in voltage loss. Low voltage can damage motor-driven appliances such as refrigerators, washing machines and sensitive electronics like computers.
- Tree limbs touching power lines put constant stress on live wires and can cause the branches to catch fire and fall to the ground.
- During storms, branches may fall onto the lines, which can tear down energized lines, transformers and poles. If this were to happen, you could experience a power outage for some time.



Follow IMPA on Social Media!



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Tidbits & Trivia

Question: How many solar parks did IMPA open in 2017?

a) 1
b) 4
c) 6
d) 7

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 an economic, reliable and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members.

IMPA member utilities purchase their power through IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within the community.

Renewable Energy

Energy that is collected from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale, such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves, and geothermal heat.

Example: Solar parks are a form of renewable energy.

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IMPA Commissioner: Stacy Smith

Solar Parks

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In 2018, the Agency continues its ongoing commitment to providing a low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible power supply to its 61 communities with the ongoing construction of four additional solar parks in Advance, Rensselaer, Richmond and Tipton.

Advance will be welcoming a 0.24 MW solar field to its community, which will be comprised of eight rows of 864 panels.

A second solar park is being constructed in Rensselaer, which will have a capacity of 3.84 MW. Construction on the site continues with electrical and site work.

Richmond is welcoming a 7.44 MW solar park, which will be the second solar park constructed in the city. The Advance, Rensselaer and Richmond solar parks will each be generating power by the end of 2018.

A new site will also be constructed in Tipton. Construction on Tipton's 5.25 MW solar park is expected to begin in October 2018. In time, IMPA plans to construct over 100 MW of solar capacity in member communities. Generation data for each solar park is available on IMPA's website at www.impa.com/solar.