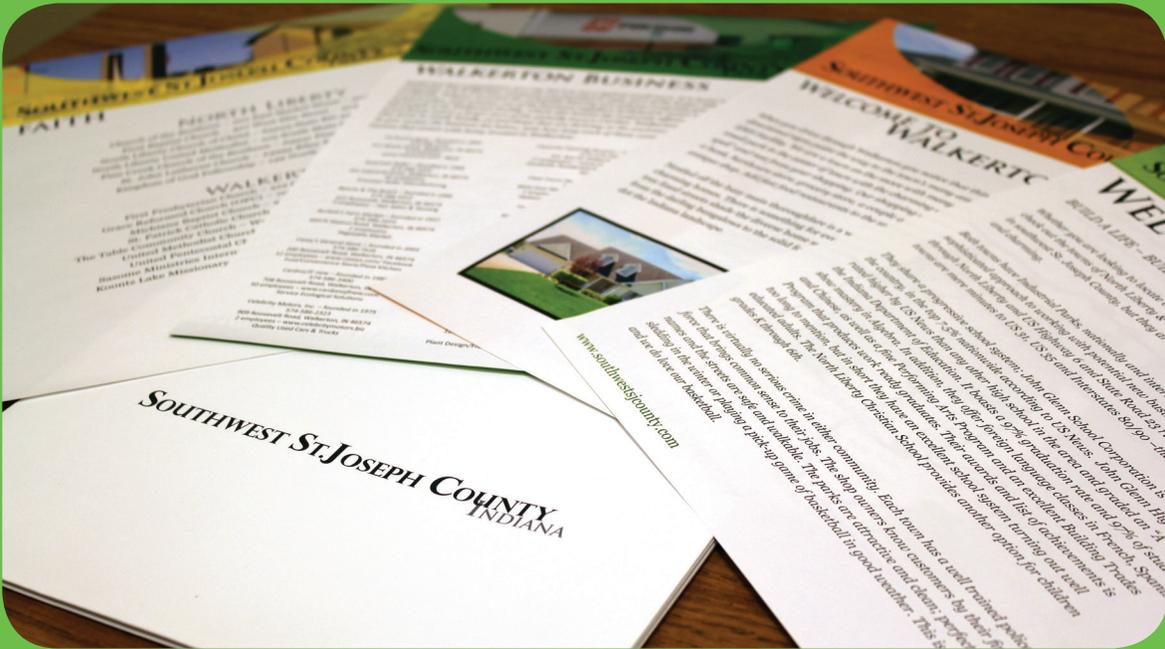


MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 1 | Winter 2016



A selection of some of the marketing materials used by the Southwest St. Joseph County Initiative. This initiative is aimed at bringing residential and commercial development to the communities of Walkerton and North Liberty.

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Local Town and County Officials Ramp Up Economic Development Initiative

After identifying several strengths, the Town of Walkerton, along with the nearby community of North Liberty, have teamed up to promote both towns in an economic development initiative entitled Southwest St. Joseph County. This initiative aims to promote the benefits of both residing in and working in the two communities of Walkerton and North Liberty.

Both communities have individuals that represent their respective towns and who have helped organize this initiative. Representatives include Town Council members, individuals from the School Board as well as the School Superintendent, Chamber of Commerce Members, and Economic

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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

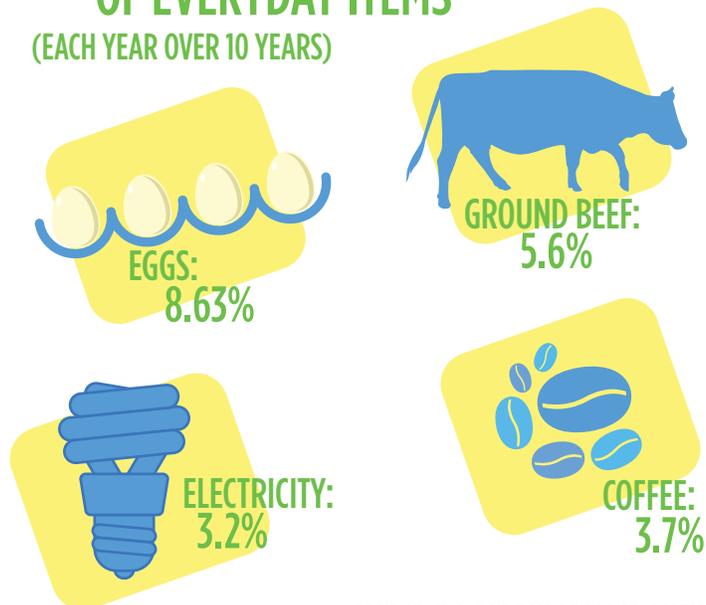
So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government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

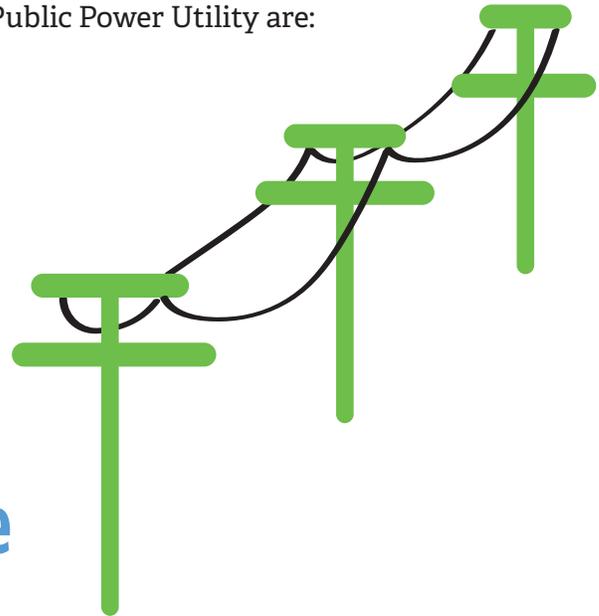


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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

In January, the Town of Walkerton elected new Town Council member, Jeff Fansler. The *Municipal Power News* sat down with Jeff to find out more about him and what made him excited to join the Walkerton Town Council.

Municipal Power News: What made you decide to run for the Town Council?

Jeff Fansler: I have a strong belief in service to the community. I had served on the Park Board for almost 15 years and decided to attempt the progression to Council. I wanted to help guide the direction for the present and future of the town.

MPN: How long have you lived in Walkerton, and what are some of your favorite parts about living there?

JF: I have been part of the community all my life, but moved into the town limits 26 years ago. I enjoy the small town charm that is still here and the lack of big city congestion. The slower pace of living in the small town has a strong appeal to me.



MPN: What is your educational and career background?

JF: I graduated from John Glenn High School and attended Indiana University in South Bend. I have been employed in the residential and commercial millwork industry for a total of 27 years, with 19 of those years with my current employer. I travel a lot for my job, which allows me to see aspects of cities and towns that I would like to incorporate into Walkerton.

MPN: Tell us a little more about your family.

JF: My wife Penni and I have been married for 31 years. We have three children, two of whom are grown, and our youngest is a senior in high school. We, along with my in-laws, have owned and operated the Corner Cup Café for 15 years. We are solidly invested in this community.

MPN: Finally, what are you most excited for when serving as a Town Council member?

JF: The future looks bright for the town. Solving the issues facing the town provides a sense of accomplishment, and it is my goal to solve these issues in the most fiscally conservative way possible. There are needs to be addressed, but being able to do this with little impact to the residents is the challenge. ●

Economic Development

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Development professionals, as well as a wide variety of other community members. Since forming this initiative almost two years ago, members of the Southwest St. Joseph County initiative have been meeting to compile information and create marketing collateral for the communities.

“We’re hoping that we will be able to continue drawing residents and businesses to both our areas,” said Phil Buckmaster, Economic Director for the Town of Walkerton. “We have a lot of good things happening in both communities with residential and commercial expansion, so we felt that it was important to promote our area. We like to promote both communities as great places to live, work and play.”

This initiative is diligently working to incentivize business owners to open their doors in either community, and also for residents to move to the two towns. Both communities are within a commutable distance from South Bend, so the two towns are perfect bedroom communities for those working in the city. The Town of Walkerton also provides many incentives for businesses, industry, and housing, including tax abatements, utility options, redevelopment funds, and economic development assistance, among others. Another major benefit to both of the communities is the excellent shared high school. John Glenn High School was ranked in the top 7.5% of high schools nationwide by US News and is also rated an ‘A’ school by the Indiana Department of Education. “The excellent school system is

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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.

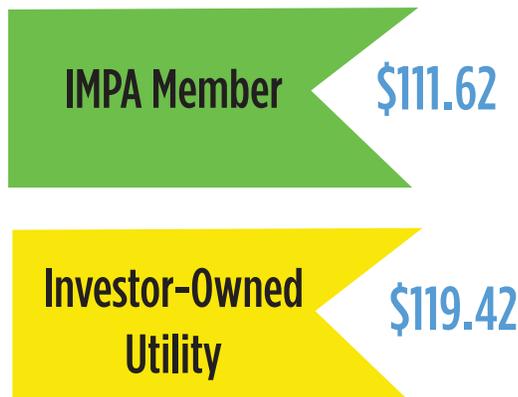
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership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

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.

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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IMPA Commissioner: Kackie Chrapliwy

Economic Development

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definitely a large draw to both the communities,” said Buckmaster. “The quality of a school system is a very important component when choosing a place to live, so Southwest St. Joseph County is really promoting that as one of our greatest strengths.”

Since forming this initiative, committee members have created an informational folder filled with materials that detail the benefits of living and working in the two communities. Local real estate agents have access to these materials and often give them to potential residents. The Walkerton Area Chamber of Commerce along with the North Liberty Area Chamber of Commerce also stock these folders and hand them out to potential residents and business owners as well. Also, at the end of January, the Southwest St. Joseph County initiative was featured on the local news station, ABC 57. This two-minute segment detailed the work of the economic development initiative and featured interviews from both Phil Buckmaster and North Liberty’s Clerk Treasurer Vicki Kitchen.

More information, including the informational materials and contact information for committee members, can be found on Southwest St. Joseph County’s website: www.southwestsjcounty.com.