

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Williamsport Light and Water



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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The Town of Williamsport received a grant from Indiana's Office of Energy Development, which helped to pay for the replacement of twelve streetlights in the downtown area.

The Value of  
Electricity  
Page 2

Celebrate Indiana's  
Bicentennial  
Page 5

Energy Saving Tips  
for this Spring  
Page 8

## New Streetlights in Downtown Williamsport

After identifying a need for new streetlights, the Town of Williamsport began looking for opportunities for funding that would aid in replacing the dated lights. With the help of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Williamsport's wholesale power provider, the community applied for a Community Conservation Challenge grant through Indiana's Office of Energy Development (OED). This specific grant offers financial assistance for projects that either reduce energy consumption or utilize other non-traditional energy sources. In March of 2015, the OED announced that the Town of Williamsport, in partnership with IMPA and Dublin, another IMPA community

-continued on page 4

# 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

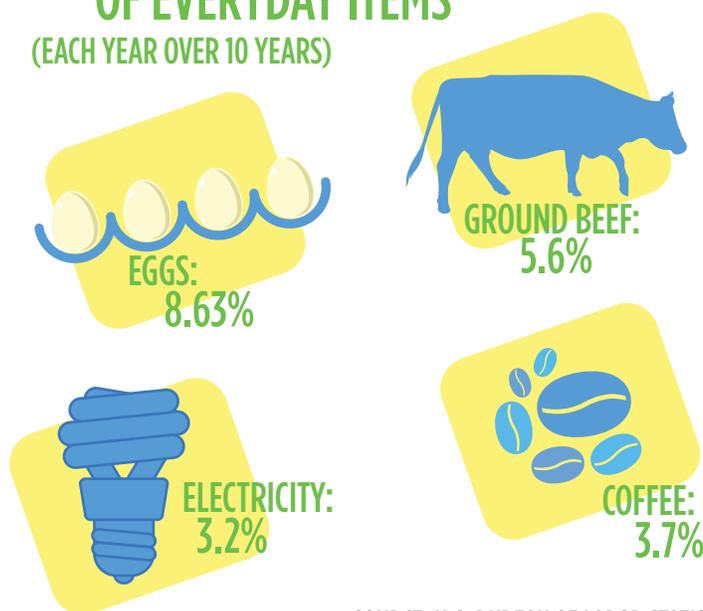
So, since electricity plays such a vital role in nearly all aspects of life, the cost of electricity must be high to keep up with its demand, right? Actually, no. The cost of electricity is one of the greatest values in today's world. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, a government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

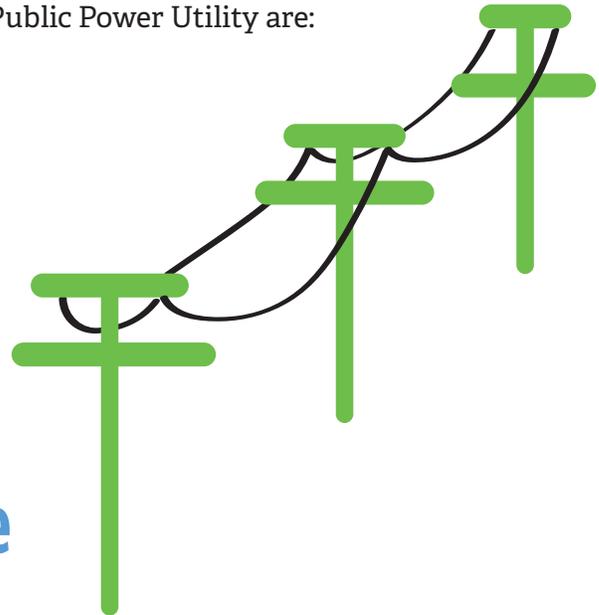


Electricity's average annual price increase is even more impressive when the amount of new technology and the energy it takes to power those devices is taken into consideration. While the advent and invention of new technology has been rapid over the past decade, the cost of electricity has not jumped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



-continued on page 4

# Streetlights

-continued from page 1

located in eastern Indiana, had won one of the seven available grants.

This grant, which totaled \$38,579 and was split between Williamsport and Dublin, allowed the town to replace 12 of its mercury vapor and high pressure sodium streetlights with more energy efficient ACL Acorn LED Luminaires. This type of light is known for its high performance, long life, low maintenance, and low cost installation. By updating the streetlights, the town will not only save money, but will also reduce its energy consumption by moving to this more efficient way of lighting the streets.

While the grant paid for twelve out of the thirteen streetlights to be replaced, the Town was responsible for paying for the thirteenth streetlight as well as replacing all of the streetlight poles. Since the cost of the LED lights was covered through the grant, the Town of Williamsport was able to cover the cost of the poles, which greatly improved the aesthetics and safety of the streetlights.

Many of the light poles had begun to rust and were in major need of repair. The Town also took the opportunity to bury the power lines for the

streetlights, whereas before, they had been above ground. Burying the lines will allow for more reliability and safety, and also improves the general aesthetic of the downtown area.

“We’ve really needed to replace these streetlights for quite some time, so receiving this grant allowed the town to realistically complete this project,” stated Scott Mathis, former Williamsport Town Council member. “IMPA immediately thought of Williamsport when they heard that there was a streetlight grant available. This project would not have been able to be completed without the help of IMPA and the grant from the OED.”

The LED technology in the updated streetlights will allow the lights to last for an extended period of time, thereby eventually paying for themselves due to their efficient energy usage. Additionally, the new streetlight poles will also add to the décor and aesthetics of the downtown area, as seasonal decorations can be hung on the poles, which will help brighten up the downtown area. These new streetlights will provide a safe, efficient and economical way to light the downtown streets for decades to come.●



# Celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial!

In an effort to celebrate Indiana's Bicentennial all year long, IMPA is bringing readers of the *Municipal Power News* fun facts about Indiana history. Read on to learn more about the Hoosier state.

In October 1824, a group of state officials loaded four spring wagons and moved the state capital from Corydon to Indianapolis, which was a distance of more than 130 miles. The journey took 11 days.

Indiana's Statehouse was built at its present site in 1835. The building was demolished in 1878 to make way for the current Capitol Building, which was completed in 1888.

Indiana has 16 million acres of farmland, which makes up 70 percent of all state land.

Source: Indiana Department of Education



## 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

-continued from pages 2-3

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.

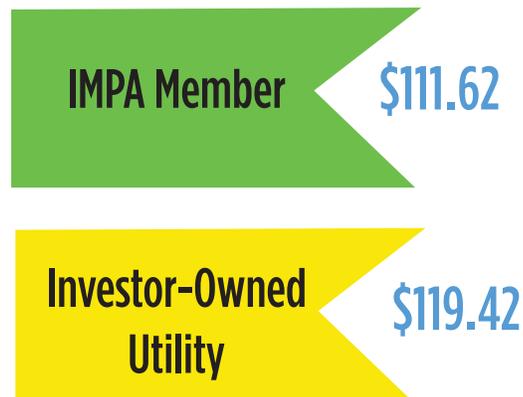
Additionally, a municipally owned utility often provides more reliable power because it is owned by the community that it serves. Whenever there is a problem or a power outage, it is addressed immediately by the employees at the utility. Those employees have a sense of pride and a sense of ownership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

**R**eaders 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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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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 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 published by the Indiana  
Municipal Power Agency and Williamsport Light and  
Water.

IMPA Commissioner: Dave Banta

## Save Energy This Spring!

**A**s the warmer months approach, here are a few tips to help save energy during the spring months:

- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment
- Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.
- Vacuum registers regularly to remove any dust buildup. Ensure that furniture and other objects are not blocking the airflow through your registers.
- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat settings about 4 degrees F with no reduction in comfort.

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