

IMPA Commissions Two Solar Parks

On September 23, IMPA officials joined with leaders and community members in the northern town of Winamac, Indiana to host a ribbon cutting event at their 3.3 megawatt (MW) solar park. Just three weeks later, IMPA staff traveled west to celebrate yet another community solar park ribbon cutting in Veedersburg, Indiana. The Veedersburg site brings an additional 1.35 MW of solar generation to IMPA's power supply portfolio.

The solar arrays at each solar park are connected to a single axis tracking system that rotates throughout the day, following the path of the sun. This allows for increased efficiency of solar production at each site. The Winamac and Veedersburg parks have the ability to supply enough electricity to power the annual energy usage of approximately 500 homes and 240 homes, respectively.

With the addition of these solar parks this fall, IMPA has now constructed 54 solar

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Phil Ferrel (left) and Frankfort Utility General Manager Todd Corrie (right)

Phil Ferrel of Frankfort Wins Lineworker Award

Phil Ferrel, Superintendent of Frankfort City Light and Power, was named the 2025 recipient of the Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award at the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's Lineworker Appreciation Event this September. Ferrel has demonstrated remarkable commitment to providing the essential service of power to the city's families for nearly 40 years.

IMPA's Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award was created in 2021 to honor the life and legacy of the late Kerry Vincent, a longtime employee of IMPA and advocate for public power. Kerry's career in the public power industry spanned the course of four decades, and his passion for the industry and the brotherhood of linemen

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parks in member communities throughout the state of Indiana, capable of generating over 210 MW of solar capacity. Each of these solar parks creates electricity that is consumed within the community it is located in, bringing environmentally responsible electricity directly to utility customers and helping to diversify IMPA's overall power supply. Additionally, IMPA's solar parks contribute to local economies. Each site will contribute hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes to its community location over its lifetime, and they also bolster economic development since renewable power is highly marketable to prospective businesses and industries. Between power supply diversification and the economic advantages of solar power, IMPA's solar parks help solidify a bright future for all the Agency's member communities.

"Our solar park program is unique among joint action agencies in that we connect each park to one of our member's distribution systems," said President and



Winamac Solar Park Ribbon Cutting

CEO Jack Alvey. "This brings a direct benefit to our members who host solar parks, but the overall effect of diversification benefits everyone. We've learned a lot about solar construction and maintenance since launching our program in 2014, and with the help of communities like Winamac and Veedersburg, we've secured our place at the forefront of the industry."

IMPA continues to investigate innovative technology with its ongoing solar battery storage project at its Richmond 6 Solar Park on the east side of the state. The project, rated at 6 MW, is anticipated to wrap up this year and provide enough storage for 24 MW-hours of energy upon commissioning.

To learn more about IMPA's solar pursuits, visit www.impa.com/solar! •



Check Out IMPA's Monthly Web Posts

IMPA posts once a month at its webpage at www.impa.com/news to help keep utility customers, developers, and leaders up to date on all things IMPA. The posts feature IMPA programs, department spotlights, updates on legislative happenings, and project announcements. Visit our webpage to learn more today! •

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was evident in everything he did. The Kerry Vincent Award was established to recognize a lineworker from a member community that embodies the traits Kerry exhibited in his everyday life: Commitment, Compassion, Character, and Community. To those who know him, Ferrel clearly embodies these traits in his day-to-day life.

“Phil’s commitment to the residents of Frankfort is undeniable,” said Mayor Judy Sheets. “He has served our community for over 38 years and is someone our community knows they can count on. He not only takes care of the daily tasks at City Light & Power but also goes the extra mile to ensure our special projects and festivals receive the attention they deserve to be successful. Thank you, Phil. This award couldn’t have gone to a more deserving Frankfort Municipal Utility employee.”

Ferrel joined Frankfort’s electric utility in 1987, steadily working his way to the role of Superintendent. Since becoming leader of the local utility, Ferrel has prioritized safety, integrity, and reliability in his work. He ensures that the electric department team adheres to stringent safety standards, underscoring his dedication to performing jobs responsibly and getting his team home safely after a hard day’s work. No matter the time of day or the weather, Ferrel responds swiftly to power outages and storm damage situations, demonstrating his unwavering dependability. Due to his impactful leadership, Frankfort utility customers enjoy excellent electric service, and the electric crew operates safely and efficiently.

Not only is Ferrel a great worker, but he’s a wonderful friend to the community. He has a

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reputation for stepping up and helping coworkers when difficult situations arise. He’s fundraised donations for those who need help, organized food deliveries, and planned appreciation events for his department, and the utility as a whole. Ferrel also takes his own time to participate in community events, such as “Touch-a-Truck” events, where Ferrel educates local students about utilities and future career opportunities. These efforts truly embody the ideals of public power that both Frankfort Municipal Utilities and IMPA stand for.

“We are honored to present Phil with the Kerry Vincent Award,” said Jack Alvey, IMPA President and CEO. “The value Phil has provided to Frankfort Municipal Utilities and his community for decades certainly deserves recognition, and Kerry Vincent would be proud to see Phil recognized in this way.” •



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IMPA Hosts Linemen Appreciation Event

On September 18, IMPA held its fifth annual Lineman Appreciation Event to celebrate the workers who dedicate their lives to keeping lights on in the Agency's member communities. Over 100 utility leaders and lineworkers from municipalities across Indiana joined at IMPA's headquarters for a fun-filled day to recognize the hard work and dedication of lineworkers throughout the state.

At the event, attendees spent time visiting dozens of vendors, participated in skeet shooting and yard games, a knot tying competition, a cornhole tournament and networked with other utility employees from around the state. Winning the knot tying competition was Dalton of Crawfordsville, and Austin and Blaine of Greenfield took home the prize for the cornhole tournament.



The day's events also included recognition of public power linemen and presentation of the Kerry Vincent Distinguished Lineworker Award. Speaking at the ceremony was Josh Hawkins, Superintendent of Utilities in Jamestown, Indiana.

"Being a lineman is not just what we do, it's who we are," said Hawkins, "We choose this life for the challenges – for the satisfaction that doesn't come with a paycheck, knowing that when the power goes out, people are counting on us." ●