THE WIRE

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Agency Celebrates Battery Project

On June 3, Officials from the City of Richmond and Richmond Power & Light joined with representatives from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) to cut the ribbon on the IMPA Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Pilot Project at the Richmond 6 Solar Park.

The six-megawatt BESS can store 24-megawatt-hours of energy. This means that when dispatched, the battery will be able to discharge six megawatts of power for four hours onto Richmond's distribution system. Once fully charged, the battery will be able to store that power until needed, providing a beneficial, controllable resource to IMPA, Richmond Power & Light, and all of IMPA's members.

IMPA commissioned the BESS in December 2025. To date, the battery has

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IMPA Hosts Start Small Summit

The Indiana Communities Institute (ICI) at Ball State and Indiana Municipal Power Agency hosted the first Start Small Summit on June 3. The day-long workshop explored a variety of topics with a focus on the all-important first steps that communities can take locally to build momentum and make a positive difference. Dozens of economic and community development professionals from across the state attended to learn how to take further action in their communities.

The event's lessons emphasized the value of "small" efforts, which may seem menial, but end up strengthening progress and fostering larger ideas. Start Small was led by expert authors, real estate entrepreneurs, and civic leaders offering practical insights on transforming communities. These speakers

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primarily been discharged during morning and evening hours. This timing covers periods of high demand – sunrise or sunset – that are outside the hours in which IMPA's solar parks are generating renewable energy.

The battery project was established as a pilot project allowing IMPA to test the feasibility of including batteries in the Agency's power supply portfolio.

"This test project will help our staff familiarize themselves with the technology while demonstrating the viability and nuances of battery storage as a resource," said Chris Sanders, IMPA Vice President of Generation. "Since commissioning the project in December, the battery has met and exceeded our expectations, adding additional dispatchable resources to our generation portfolio and allowing us to shift our load strategically when market prices fluctuate. With the data we collect from this project, we'll determine if incorporating future batteries into IMPA's portfolio is worthwhile."

The BESS project is expected to produce a net present value of $14.5 million for IMPA, providing a financial benefit to the Agency and its member communities as well. Through this project and others, IMPA balances the necessity of investigating opportunities for the future and providing cost-effective services. •

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focused on small steps to resolve large issues such as housing, social capital, and downtown development. Creative strategies and actionable ideas were shared with and amongst attendees, who also shared their own local solutions with colleagues.

"We really wanted to highlight the value of those incremental steps that are necessary for creating big change," said Victoria Ross-Frost, IMPA's Economic Development Manager who played a lead role in coordinating the Start Small Summit. "Big wins and changes are often celebrated, but recognizing the smaller efforts is just as important for creating a real difference. It was great to partner with ICI to bring such insights to our local communities."

ICI works to advance community economic development pursuits in collaboration with professionals across the Ball State campus who provide both academic and professional expertise. The organization was a great partner to IMPA in developing a robust and informative event.

IMPA leaders received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants of the Summit. Moving forward, the Agency is considering hosting such an event on a regular basis to continue providing educational opportunities for development leaders throughout IMPA member communities and beyond. •

Renewable Energy Tax Credits Benefit IMPA

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) received approximately $2.6 million of tax credit benefits plus interest for the solar park built during 2024 through the Inflation Reduction Act for its work to develop renewable energy resources for its 61 municipal members. Since 2014, the Agency has constructed 54 solar projects throughout Indiana to serve the power needs of its member communities.

Prior to passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), tax-exempt and governmental entities were unable to directly claim investment tax credits (ITC) to help offset renewable energy capital project costs. Historically, IMPA worked with third-party investors to access a smaller portion of the ITC benefits for many of the solar projects the Agency constructed to serve member load. While the partnership with investors resulted in improved value for the Agency's member communities, IMPA had to share a significant portion of the ITC benefit with the investors. With the passage of the IRA in 2022, tax-exempt and governmental entities may now directly receive the full value of the ITC for construction of renewable energy projects that meet qualifying requirements.

Following passage and implementation of the Elective Pay ITC provisions in 2022, IMPA constructed the Richmond 8 Solar Park in 2024. With the construction of this park, IMPA added 6.1 MW of capacity to its portfolio, enough to power nearly 915 homes.

"With the implementation of the IRA and its Elective Pay option, our not-for-profit members are now provided the same incentive possibilities enjoyed by investor-owned utilities and other energy developers who invest in renewable energy projects," commented Jack

Alvey, IMPA President and CEO. "IMPA's direct receipt of the ITC directly benefits IMPA's members' customers. We appreciate the opportunities provided by the IRA for renewable energy development and the benefits they provide to the 350,000 people in our municipal electric communities, enabling IMPA to continue serving our members with low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power."

IMPA previously received $15.7 million through the ITC for solar parks constructed in 2023, and the Agency estimates an additional $6.4 million when it files for the 2025 solar parks and Battery Energy Storage System.

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IMPA Issues Tax-Exempt Bonds

In early May, IMPA leaders worked with financial advisors to price the Agency's 2026 Series A Bonds and enter a bond sale to refund the 2016 A and C bonds and achieve savings for its members. Though the market experienced volatility due to the Iran conflict, oil prices, and inflation, IMPA's bonds were in high demand and sold relatively quickly. Later in the month, IMPA closed on the issuance of the 2026 Series A Bonds, resulting in $46.2 million and 10.5% present value savings. These savings help reduce IMPA's total debt service cost. IMPA plans to utilize a portion of these savings to reduce the amount needed to finance the Anderson Combustion Turbine 4 project. By using a significant portion of its savings to fund future construction projects, IMPA estimates saving an additional $14.3 million in project costs.

"We continue to get favorable results when we enter markets, even during times of challenging market conditions, due to our A1/A+ ratings and the strength of our member contracts," said Chris Rettig, IMPA's Chief Financial Officer. "These results demonstrate the strength of our financial position and position us to continue supporting our member communities well into the future."