

# IMPA Wire



News from the Indiana Municipal Power Agency  
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## President's Message

### The Future of IMPA's Energy

—by Raj G. Rao

**A**dapting to changing electric industry conditions and renewable energy regulations is more important than ever as IMPA grows and prepares for a bright future. Our Agency must be prepared for the legislative and regulatory changes that may impact our industry. IMPA has shown that being nimble and adjusting our power resources to better suit our member communities' needs is one of the Agency's strengths, as we've remained on the leading edge of renewable energy and technological advancements in generation for years.

IMPA's history shows why we can remain confident about the future. Twenty years ago, when renewable energy was not commonplace, IMPA was providing power with a fuel mix comprised of 99% coal and 1% natural gas. Through the last two decades, IMPA embraced the transformation of its generation portfolio, maintaining a reliance on traditional fossil-fueled generation while also finding opportunities to incorporate renewable energy. With the establishment of a solar program in 2014 and through incorporating wind and solar purchase power into our portfolio, IMPA has welcomed the advent

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## Raj Rao Named "Sagamore of the Wabash"



**A**fter a lifetime dedicated to the support of municipal utilities in Indiana, Raj Rao, President and CEO of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), was named a recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash. The Sagamore of the Wabash is the highest honor which the Governor of Indiana bestows, and the award is a personal tribute to those who have rendered a distinguished service to the state. On September 28, the award was presented to Rao by Governor Eric Holcomb, with Rao's wife Jabili, and former, current, and future chairpersons of the IMPA Board of Commissioners Sue Saunders, Phil Goode, and Brent Slover joining to celebrate.

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# AMI Program Benefits IMPA Communities

It's been nearly a year since IMPA Service Corp (ISC), the Indiana Municipal Power Agency's engineering and operations subsidiary, launched an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) cost-sharing program, and seven of the Agency's member communities are now excited to take part. This AMI initiative assists IMPA communities with the installation, costs, and maintenance of the state-of-the-art technology, which allows for benefits like remote reads, live customer maps, power loss notifications, and remote disconnects.

As of early October, IMPA members Advance, Blanchester, Coatesville, Frankton, Greenfield, Lewisville, and Tipton have all signed contracts with IMPA Service Corp to implement AMI technology in their community and reap the benefits of cost-sharing

with others. The cost-sharing component of the AMI program will only add to the savings that these communities will experience once the technology is fully integrated. With the remote reads/disconnects, quality reports, and customer messaging systems that AMI incorporates, participating municipal utilities will also experience time and labor savings, making their utility more efficient in general.

"We are thrilled to help our members reduce their operating costs by providing them with leading technologies, expertise, and training," said IMPA President and CEO, Raj Rao. "The AMI program will greatly benefit all of the involved communities for years to come."

For more information about the AMI program, contact IMPA Service Corp at (317) 573-9955. *📞*

## IMPA Supplies Member Communities with Economic Development Tools

Beginning in July, IMPA re-introduced the Mystery Shopper Program, in which interested member communities participate in a mock request for information (RFI) process. IMPA partnered with the Fishers-based Site Selection Firm, Ginovus, to issue the RFI, review the responses, prepare a written report with feedback, and travel to each community for a mock site visit. After this process, esteemed site selectors met with communities to deliver feedback. This program has helped to clarify how IMPA's different member communities respond to what site selectors are looking for. Involved economic development entities and elected officials have commended the program as a wonderful tool to better themselves as professionals and better the communities for incoming opportunities.

Also, IMPA's economic development team continues to offer the Economic Development Rider (EDR) Incentive. Companies located in IMPA service areas already benefit from some of the lowest industrial rates in the Midwest,

and the EDR provides an opportunity for these companies to save an additional amount on their electric bill. Existing and prospective businesses that are approved for the EDR can expect to see a reduction in the cost of electricity based upon their energy consumption. This valuable tool has helped IMPA member communities attract new businesses to their territories, and help existing companies expand.

Most recently, IMPA also began taking drone footage of industrial sites within IMPA territories. The first round of drone photography and videography began in early October.

Though 2020 has proved to be a difficult year for economic growth across the globe, IMPA persists in offering its members a variety of economic development tools to expand and attract business in their communities. If you are interested in the Mystery Shopper Program, the Economic Development Rider, or drone photography for a site in one of your IMPA served sites, please contact Jenny Hartley at [jennyh@impa.com](mailto:jennyh@impa.com). *📞*

## Persevering Through COVID-19

During the ongoing public health emergency of COVID-19, IMPA continues to support member communities, municipal utility staff members, and the frontline workers who work to ensure our power supply is reliable. The health and well-being of our employees and communities remains the Agency's number one priority as we all return to a sense of normalcy. As essential service providers, IMPA staff is doing everything they can to safely deliver the quality electricity and resources that our members are accustomed to.

IMPA has compiled information regarding resources to help businesses and industries overcome the fallout of COVID-19. To browse these resources, please visit [www.impa.com/covid19](http://www.impa.com/covid19). Please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone at IMPA with questions or concerns as we navigate through this time. *W*

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Indiana Municipal Power Agency

## President's Message

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of clean energy. Today, our power portfolio now incorporates a variety of resources, including 6.5% of renewable energy, 6.5% natural gas, and 18.4% nuclear, while our coal resources have been reduced to 68.6%.

This successful metamorphosis in our power resources shows our ability to continue modifying our power supply portfolio for the future. Advances in technology have made solar generation more economically feasible, and as a result, IMPA plans to continue developing solar power in Indiana. As of now, IMPA has established at least 30 solar parks in over 20 towns and cities served by the Agency. By the end of 2021, we anticipate having constructed 150 megawatts of solar energy in our member communities. We also continue to invest in wise, renewable, purchase power options to further diversify our resources and ensure our supply is environmentally-responsible.

IMPA is doing extremely well in adapting to government regulations, member needs, and the public's desires for cleaner energy. Our member communities can rest assured that the Agency is prepared to handle any and all changes in the country's electric industry for decades to come. *W*



Frankton's solar park was the first renewable generation facility constructed by IMPA in 2014.



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## “Sagamore of the Wabash”

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“I am pleased to present a Sagamore of the Wabash to Raj Rao today,” commented Governor Holcomb. “Raj has been leading IMPA for 34 years and giving back to his community along the way. He makes us proud to be a Hoosier.”

Over the last 40 years, Rao’s stewardship of IMPA has benefitted countless citizens, businesses, and communities throughout Indiana. He is one of the most respected utility executives in his field and is looked upon as an expert and innovator in the development of solutions for Indiana’s power needs. Rao’s determination and deep desire to help has been, and continues to be, the driving force behind IMPA’s overall success. During his tenure, IMPA has grown from an Agency with zero assets to a \$2 billion organization today. The Agency was formed to provide municipal utilities with a low-cost, reliable, environmentally-responsible power supply, and IMPA’s 61 member communities continue to enjoy some of the lowest residential electric rates in the state today.



Rao’s tireless commitment to public power and his strong dedication to the citizens of the Hoosier state are evident. The energy with which he has approached his career, and his life, is tremendous. Through every one of his actions and words, his true passion for and commitment to his adopted home of Indiana rings true. Congratulations, Raj, on your well-deserved honor! *W*