

Municipal Power News



Town of Walkerton

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The Advantages of Public Power

Public power utilities are publicly-owned, not-for-profit electric service providers rooted in the principles of community service and local control. Walkerton is proud to be one of the 72 public power utilities in Indiana and among more than 2,000 in the United States. For decades, Walkerton's electric utility has provided reliable public power and competitive electric rates to local businesses and residents. As a community-owned entity, Walkerton's electric utility is invested in the town and focuses on providing excellent customer service and improving the local quality of life.

While larger, investor-owned utilities provide much of the electricity that is consumed in the United States, the advantages of traditionally smaller public power utilities are numerous. Since Walkerton wholly owns its electric distribution system, the town is able to maintain local control of the utility, and all revenue generated by the utility's electric rates goes directly back to the community to pay for the actual costs of electricity and maintenance of the system. As a public power entity, Walkerton's electric utility is governed by local elected officials, giving community citizens a voice in utility decisions. This local accountability results in

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Holiday Safety with IMPA!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and preparing for this hectic time of year can help things go over a bit more smoothly. Safety precautions are always important but can often be forgotten in the midst of holiday chaos. Use this time to remind yourself and your loved ones about the following safety tips that will help everyone enjoy the time to come.

Decorative Lights

- Check all electrical wiring before you install decorations, and throw away any damaged wiring.
- Using miniature lights or LED lights on a Christmas tree can produce less heat, decreasing the chances of mishap.
- All lights should be labeled as approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as the Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Always unplug any lights before leaving your home.



Candles

- Imitation electric candles are always safer than traditional candles that burn with fire.
- Keep all candles away from window dressings, furniture, and greenery.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

Cooking

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Keep handles on pots turned in, so they won't be bumped or in reach of small children.
- Extinguish a cooking fire by putting a lid, or even a plate, on the pot or pan. If a fire breaks out in the oven, keep the door shut and turn off the appliance.

Toys

- When buying electrical toys, purchase only those approved by the UL, and those that meet fire and shock hazard standards.
- Make sure toys that are given as gifts are always suitable to the receiver's age.



How Does Public Power Work?

The transmission lines stretching across the country carry electricity to households and businesses nationwide. However, some of the electricity travels to customers served by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or rural electric cooperatives (REMCs), while other households like yours are served by a public power utility. Your community, as a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), buys its electricity from the Agency before selling it to you and bringing it to your door. The electricity that your community purchases is called wholesale power—it is supplied to your local public power utility for resale to retail customers of the utility. By purchasing wholesale power in bulk, the member utilities of IMPA are able to provide electricity with the economic advantages than if they were to individually generate the power themselves or purchase it elsewhere. Your community takes advantage of this benefit, since all 61 member communities of IMPA work together to purchase power in bulk through the Agency.

Member utilities of IMPA have contracts with the Agency to ensure that all the electric needs of the community are met. IMPA, by either generating power at a

generation facility or purchasing it from other utilities, places the power on the electric grid through transmission lines.

The high voltage electricity travels across the grid on these transmission lines to your community. Before the electricity gets to your residence, a substation transformer is used to lower the voltage of the electricity to make it safer to travel across shorter distances than the transmission lines cover. This lower voltage also makes it safer for the electricity to be in closer proximity to traffic and people. Once electricity goes through the transformer in the substation, it moves through distribution lines in your local community to a transformer at homes and businesses. It then arrives at your home and allows you to turn on the lights, heat your home, and watch tv.

Public power utilities are not just there to provide power – they work for the betterment of the community, too. These utilities are embedded in the fabric of their communities—boosting community investment, supporting local education, and getting involved with beautification and charitable programs. As a result, public power customers benefit from affordable energy, better service, local control, and a utility that cares about the overall well-being and growth of your community. •



At IMPA Board Meetings, a representative from your community helps guide the direction and decisions of the Agency.

Tidbits & Trivia

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 provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

What are some of the benefits of public power?



Send your answer to newsletter@impa.com, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



Public Power

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excellent customer service, and consequently, Walkerton's electric utility supplies a high-quality power supply.

Walkerton's competitive electric service is due in part to its membership with the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). IMPA is a not-for-profit wholesale power provider that supplies electric service to 61 cities and towns in Indiana and Ohio, including Walkerton. Since becoming a member of IMPA in 2006, Walkerton has worked with the Agency to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to its residents and businesses.

As a result of the town's membership with IMPA, Walkerton provides competitive electric rates when compared to other utilities. In a rate comparison conducted in July 2023, Walkerton residents with an average usage of 1,000 kilowatt-hours spent



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\$24.64 less on their monthly electric bill than an average customer supplied by Indiana's investor-owned utilities for the same amount of power. IMPA achieves its comparatively low-cost energy by maintaining a diverse power supply portfolio that includes coal, wind, natural gas, solar, and nuclear resources. Additionally, the Agency's long-term vision, wise decision making, and strong bond ratings contribute to IMPA's comparatively low wholesale electric rates. These low rates

are extended to residents and businesses in each of IMPA's 61 member communities.

The diversification of IMPA's generation resources also increases the reliability of service, and IMPA coordinates with communities like Walkerton to ensure that the town's electric infrastructure remains reliable. With IMPA's goal to establish multiple solar parks around the state, IMPA's power supply is increasingly renewable, too. Just last year, Walkerton became

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What's the Word?

Investigating Power Terminology

Distribution Lines

Utilities use distribution lines to transport electricity from the larger transmission system to individual customer homes and businesses. While transmission lines carry electricity across long distances at a high

voltage, distribution lines carry electricity over shorter distances at a lower voltage. You may see transmission lines while driving on a highway, but the utility lines you see on the streets of your community are distribution lines.

Distribution lines bring electricity to its final stage of delivery. As a member of a public power utility, your town or city owns and operates the distribution lines in your community.

Cooking Corner

Eggnog Bread

Recipe submitted by Susan of Richmond, Indiana

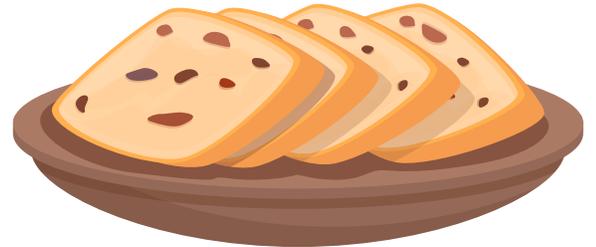
- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup skim milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups eggnog
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp grated orange zest
- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk wet ingredients together with orange zest in a bowl. In another bowl, combine all dry ingredients except for cranberries and macadamia nuts. Add the liquid mixture to the dry mixture, carefully stirring until the flour is moistened. Fold in cranberries and nuts. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans and pour in batter. Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes, then remove wire racks to cool completely. Slice and serve with orange marmalade. Or, to serve without a spread, use the glaze below.

In a small bowl, mix:

- 1 tbsp eggnog
- $\frac{3}{8}$ cup confectioner's sugar

Drizzle mixture over the cooled loaves



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

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

Editor: Niki Dick
Senior Director of Marketing Communications

Correspondent:
Whitney Hicks
Communications Coordinator

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How Do I Save Energy in Cold Weather?

Last year, we asked readers of the *Municipal Power News* some of the methods they use to reduce energy consumption in cold weather. Here is what some of you said!

“I have reduced my energy consumption due to my purchase of long cloth door tubes that resemble snakes. They are the draft prevention cloth tubes approximately 36” x 3 1/2” filled with beans or double tubes with center strips. They can be placed in the home at the bottom of outside doors or where drafts enter under doors inside a home. The double tube style can slide under

the storm door outside the house door---one tube outside the storm door and the other tube set between the storm door and the inside house door. These can also be used on doors in cold rooms with closed doors to stop drafts. This is really great in blocking cold air at the floor level that cause cold feet and drafts.”

- Jean

“I often use an infrared/radiant space heater that is thermostat-controlled. During the day I close off unused rooms so my living room/kitchenette is comfortably warm. The glow of the radiant heater is pleasing like a fireplace. You definitely need to wear insulated slippers or plush socks indoors in

addition to layered clothing. Wearing indoor weather-appropriate clothing, I can keep my heater set on a lower temperature—generally less than 65 degrees. My furnace, in comparison, needs to be set at 70+ degrees to maintain satisfactory room warmth.”

- Penny

“During the cold weather months, the most effective method for reducing my energy consumption is by closing off rooms that do not necessarily have to be heated all day. I also put plastic on any drafty windows and use draft stoppers for my doors. I’ve replaced

most of my home’s light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs and I change my furnace filter often. Room darkening curtains help keep the heat in and as the famous saying goes, I never let the water run!”

- Tiffany

“The method that I use most is to wear warmer clothes in the house. I know that there are people who want to sit around the house in shorts and t-shirts, and run around the house in bare feet, all the while having

their thermostat turned way up. That makes no sense to me. Today, for instance, it’s 14° outside. The thermostat is set at 68° inside. I’m wearing a flannel shirt with a puffy vest, long pants, and shoes.”

- Bruce

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IMPA Commissioner: Phil Buckmaster



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one of the many Hoosier communities with an IMPA-constructed solar park in its service territory. This solar park provides 1 megawatt of solar capacity that is consumed in the local utility's distribution system. The Agency's goal to ensure environmentally-responsible electricity helps IMPA and its member communities develop long-term plans to invest in the future of public power.

Together, IMPA and Walkerton provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power for community members like you. To learn more about IMPA and how the organization benefits your community, visit www.impa.com! •