

Municipal Power News



Bargersville Utilities

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Utility Resilient Through 2023 Storms

Through 2023, the town of Bargersville saw an unusual number of severe weather events leading to unsafe traveling conditions, power outages, and damaged buildings. In the late hours of April 1, heavy rain and high winds worsened into a tornadic event in south Bargersville, traveling northeast for nearly two miles and damaging the local electric distribution system. Only two months later in June, another damaging line of severe storms swept through central Indiana, knocking out power to approximately 200,000 Hoosiers, including those in Bargersville and Whiteland. These storms left many in the community shaken.

One of the primary concerns for Bargersville leaders in response to these events was to restore power supply to the community, as electricity is an essential resource in putting the pieces back together after such massive events. In both April and June when officials realized they would need extra help to reenergize, one of the first calls they made was to the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA).

IMPA is Bargersville's not-for-profit wholesale power provider, but the Agency also provides services that extend beyond power supply. The organization's operations

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See how readers of the newsletter responded to this question.

40 Years of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency



The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) began with a single idea to enable municipally-owned utilities to join and share power resources for a more reliable and cost-effective future. Before the formation of the Agency, individual municipal utilities in Indiana only had limited access to power supply options, and their small size kept them vulnerable to the changing energy market. However, the founders of IMPA believed in the adage of “strength in numbers,” and sought to withstand these challenges by working together. In 1979, representatives of 11 Indiana municipally-owned utilities organized themselves into a Joint Action Committee to investigate the feasibility of uniting into a joint action agency, which would allow them to share generation resources and bulk purchase power at a mutually beneficial low cost.

By 1980, Indiana state legislation was passed allowing the 11 representative communities to unite in the purchase of

wholesale electric power and transmission services, as well as issue bonds to pay for the cost of projects. This allowed the formation of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, which had its first operating year in 1983—40 years ago.

In four decades, IMPA has been through a vast number of changes, but has always remained true to its strong founding mission of providing a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. Through the years, the Agency’s membership has grown from 11 Hoosier communities to 61 towns, cities, and villages in Indiana and Ohio. The Agency has also grown to offer services beyond power supply, including economic development assistance, marketing and communications support, and government relations work. IMPA also formed its operations and engineering subsidiary—IMPA Service Corp—in 2001 to provide a cost-effective resource for members regarding engineering work, rate studies, and electric system management. These services continue to strengthen IMPA’s membership for the betterment of public power utility customers across the Midwest.

IMPA initially began in 1983 with 24.95% ownership in a coal-fired baseload generating facility called Gibson 5 in southwestern Indiana. As the Agency’s membership grew throughout the decades, IMPA would come to acquire additional power supply resources to support its



Some of the founders of IMPA

members and incorporate diverse fuel types into its portfolio. By 2023, IMPA has added seven combustion turbines operated primarily on natural gas, four with fuel oil backup for reliability, to its resources, as well as joint-ownership in other coal-fired power plants in Kentucky and Illinois. The Agency has also incorporated power purchase agreements of nuclear, wind, and solar power into its power supply portfolio.

Since 2014, IMPA has also developed its own solar power program—constructing 44 solar parks in member communities throughout Indiana. This solar park initiative has played an integral role in building the renewable portion of IMPA’s portfolio and diversifying resources to the benefit of all members. Moving forward, IMPA is working toward a projected energy portfolio made up of 46% no-carbon resources by 2026. As environmental regulations continually change, and as older generation units near their end-of-life expectancy, the shift is a necessity for the Agency’s future success.

Forty years ago, the founders of IMPA provided the building blocks for a resilient foundation, and this foundation remains strong. IMPA as an Agency today has truly been formed by its history — the visionaries



that created the Agency, the decisions that shaped the Agency’s operations, and the evolution of IMPA’s service and power supply over time. As the Agency embarks on its next 40 years of existence, IMPA will continue to write its own story and history as the Agency adapts for future generations. •

IMPA Adds 75 MW of Wind Power

This June, Alta Farms wind farm in DeWitt County, Illinois, announced it began operations to produce renewable wind power. IMPA previously signed a power purchase agreement with the wind farm’s developer, Enel North America, for 75 megawatts of power, which has

now been added to the Agency’s power supply portfolio.

IMPA continues to build upon its historic foundation with wise investments in the Agency’s power supply portfolio, ensuring that its members will always have their everchanging electric needs met.

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 solar energy?



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!



Utility Resilient Through 2023 Storms

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and engineering subsidiary in particular, IMPA Service Corp, aims to reduce the duration of distribution outages through emergency and storm restoration services. With each of 2023's storm incidents, IMPA Service Corp swiftly coordinated procedures and staffing requirements to restore electricity to the town.

"We had 100% of our electric customers without power the night of the April storm and well into the next day," said Bargersville Utilities Manager Kevin Killinger. "IMPA and IMPA Service Corp played a huge role in restoring our power as safely and effectively as possible. The morning after the storm, staff from IMPA Service Corp were here to assist in any way possible. These employees coordinated with Duke, Hoosier Energy, and Johson County REMC to re-energize

us. The restoration efforts were powerful to see. Watching the line crews roll in that early morning after the storm with all of their equipment ready to go gave me goosebumps.”

During the second event in late June, Bargersville wasn't the only community pulled apart by severe weather. With the severe “derecho” ripping through much of the state, IMPA Service Corp's responders were called to support restoration work in over a dozen of the organization's towns.

“Our line crews have been put to the test lately, and their dedication to our member communities is what has gotten us through these volatile weather events,” said Mike Adams, IMPA Service Corp Operations Manager. “We continue to work with our members to improve our communication and better our response times even more, and we're thankful to all the utility staff in our communities who help us to do so.”

“We hope that we never have to go through this kind of year again, but if we do, we know all the staff at IMPA will have our back,” said Killinger. “We're very fortunate to work with a great group of folks, from the lineworkers to the supporting staff members who coordinate communication.” •



Town Earns Grant

In late August, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) announced that Bargersville was a recipient of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The \$600,000 awarded to the community will assist the town in making much needed upgrades to its stormwater infrastructure. The town was one of only 17 communities to be awarded in this round of OCRA's CDBG program, which distributed over \$11 million in total.

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What's the Word?

Circuit Breaker

A circuit breaker is a safety device typically used in homes to interrupt the flow of electricity whenever the current level gets too high. These devices are vital in preventing house fires or other electrical hazards caused by wiring problems or equipment failures.

Typically, homes have a circuit breaker panel, which acts as the control system for the electricity in a house. Here, you can use switch controls to alter the distribution of power around your home.

While circuit breaker panels are intentionally built for easy access and use, always call a professional if you need breaker modifications, or if you are in doubt about anything. It's always best to prioritize safety when it comes to electricity!

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.

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Cooking Corner

Darlington High School Pizza Burgers

Recipe submitted by Martha of New Ross, Indiana

- 1 lb hamburger
- 1/2 lb bologna
- 1 1/2 cups pizza sauce
- Italian seasoning to taste
- Salt and Pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 4-8 oz pizza cheese
- 1 dozen hamburger buns

Mix hamburger and bologna. Chop bologna in food processor. Brown until hamburger is no longer pink. Add salt, pepper, garlic, and italian seasoning. Stir in pizza sauce. Should not be too wet. Let cool slightly. Add cheese and spoon onto half of a bun. Bake 350 until hot. May add more cheese on top. Makes 2 dozen.

Apple Dumplings

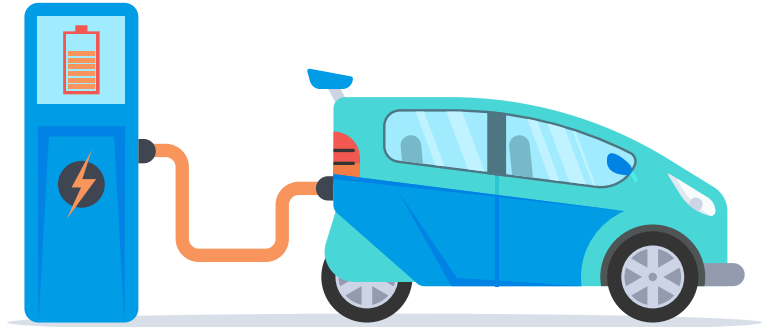
Recipe submitted by Jamie of Linton, Indiana

- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 2 large Granny Smith apples
- 1 1/2 sticks butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup Mountain Dew

Cut apples into 8 slices each and wrap each slice into a crescent roll. Mix butter, sugar and cinnamon; bring to a boil then spoon over rolls. Pour on Mountain Dew next. Some people will add the Mountain Dew in with the butter, sugar and cinnamon. Bring to a boil. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

The Benefits of Electric Vehicles

In the last issue of the Municipal Power News, we asked readers to share some of the advantages of driving an electric car rather than a traditional gas powered vehicle. We received a number of great comments from our readers—check out what some of you said!



“One significant benefit of driving an electric vehicle (EV) over a gas-powered car is the cost savings associated with fuel and maintenance. Electric vehicles are more energy-efficient, allowing drivers to cover more miles per unit of energy compared to internal combustion engine vehicles. With electricity generally being cheaper than gasoline, EV owners can save significantly on fuel costs over time. Furthermore, electric vehicles have fewer moving parts and require less frequent maintenance. They don’t need oil changes, spark plug replacements, or timing belt adjustments, reducing ongoing maintenance expenses. This combination of lower fuel costs and reduced maintenance requirements makes electric vehicles a cost-effective choice for environmentally conscious drivers.” – Mario, Richmond

Spot on answer! The energy efficiency of EVs, as well as their low maintenance needs, make these vehicles remarkably safe and dependable. Like Mario, many of our other readers mentioned the environmental benefits of EVs:

“A benefit of driving an electric car is zero tailpipe emissions.” – Sue, Bremen

“Electric vehicles are better for the environment by having a lesser carbon footprint.” – Todd, Winamac

“Lower carbon footprint.” – Charlie, Bainbridge

This is also a great observation—No power source is completely benign environmentally. While the mining and production of the battery components causes emissions, EVs may have an edge when considering lifetime emissions of EVs versus conventional gas powered cars. As renewable energy generation becomes more popular, the electricity that fuels EVs is also becoming cleaner. This reduction in emissions improves the air quality of your community and supports renewable resource integration.

The popularity of electric vehicles steadily rises as consumers learn about the numerous benefits that they provide as compared to gas powered cars. While EVs may not be for everyone, their use is expected to grow in the coming decade. As a member of a public power utility, EVs also benefit your entire community as their fuel supply comes from your local utility. The energy purchased to charge an electric vehicle helps to support infrastructure upgrades, hometown jobs, and steady electric rates that are provided by public power utilities. Next time you’re in the market for a new vehicle, consider going electric!

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IMPA Commissioner: Kevin Killinger

Town Earns Grant

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"I applaud the local leaders across Indiana who always take the extra step when it comes to bettering the lives of their community members," said Crouch in a press release, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "I look forward to seeing how each of these projects revitalize rural Indiana."

Using the funding, Bargersville's utility will work to replace aged stormwater lines throughout the town that are contributing to sink holes, as well as preventing flooding in local roads when storms come through. In addition to new stormwater pipes, the utility plans to install new inlets and catch basins with the grant money. •

