

Municipal Power News



Town of Straughn

Volume 28, Issue 2 | Fall 2023



Free Little Library and Pantry

Have you seen Straughn's communal library box and food pantry in front of the municipal town office? Residents who need books or nonperishable food items are encouraged to pay a visit to the case and borrow available books or use food that has been donated. Those who would like to contribute their own books or food items are also welcome to drop them off at the pantry. Straughn officials hope that the library and pantry provide a way for the community to get together and care for one another throughout the year.

The popularity of community book and donation exchanges held through accessible boxes has risen significantly in recent years, with these mini communal structures popping up throughout the United States and even into Canada, the Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand. Hundreds of mini pantries and thousands of library boxes have been constructed in the last ten years in an attempt to alleviate need in local communities and to promote access to books. The mini pantry and library movements continue to gain traction as non-profit organizations centered around the idea have developed and strive to bring these facilities to each community across the world.

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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!



Learn How to Avoid Common Utility Scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission, fraud complaints were received from more than 2.4 million people through last year, showing a total loss of \$8.8 billion, \$2.6 billion of which were from impostor scams. Many of these scams are utility scams where scammers pretend to be representatives of utility companies and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnects.

Learn How to Spot a Utility Scam with These Tips:

1. Utility companies do not request payment, or other personal information, over the phone or through email.
2. Utilities do not ask for gift cards, prepaid cards, or money transfers as forms of payment.



Little Library and Pantry

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Straughn's communal box is unique in that it functions both as a library and pantry, while most throughout the country are either one or the other!

Next time you pay a visit to the town office, be sure to check out this charitable amenity. •



3. Utilities will not contact you threatening to disconnect service or ask for immediate payment over the phone or email.
4. Scammers can fake emails or phone numbers. If you have any questions about your account, contact the utility directly using the phone number or email listed on your bill.
5. Have you noticed a scam? Let your utility know. This can happen to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors.

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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The Municipal Power News is published
by the Indiana Municipal Power
Agency and the Town of Straughn.

IMPA Commissioner: Ruth Davidson

Follow Straughn Municipal Utility Online

Did you know that your local electric utility has a Facebook page? Straughn Municipal Electric regularly posts updates on town office hours, utility information, town board meetings, and more. Stay up to date on all things Straughn by following their social media at:

www.facebook.com/Straughn-Municipal-Electric-838583569543274 •

