

Municipal Power News



Richmond Power & Light

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Call 811 for Outdoor Projects

Homeowners can never be sure just where underground wiring or other utilities lie around their property. The depth of utility lines often varies, and several utilities may be buried in a common area. When homeowners forego proper precautions and dig in their yard without verifying utility locations, they risk disrupting service to their home and neighborhood. Even worse, they risk serious injury.

Luckily, having the utility lines marked near a digging project is only one call away. If you are excited to begin planting trees, installing fences, or working on any other outdoor project that requires digging, the first step you need to take is calling 811. Call 811 is supported by the Common Ground Alliance, a national association that works to prevent damage to underground utility infrastructure while ensuring public safety and environmental protection. The Alliance works with state associations to address homeowner calls and mark underground utility lines, urging all homeowners and contractors to “Call Before You Dig.”

Indiana’s 811 service is a free resource established by the Common Ground Alliance that you can contact whenever you’re planning your next outdoor home improvement project. By calling the number 811 or submitting a ticket online at indiana811.org/submit-a-ticket, you can expect to get a visit from utility experts

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IMPA Celebrates 10 Years of its Solar Program

With the goal to expand the diversity of its power supply portfolio with economically feasible renewable generation sites, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) launched its solar program to construct solar parks within its member communities in 2014. At the time, solar power was just emerging as a cost-effective fuel resource for utilities, but IMPA embraced the challenge of incorporating this resource into its power supply portfolio to further diversify its resources and prepare for the future. Now, 10 years and 50 solar parks later, IMPA is proud of the numerous accomplishments made through its solar program and the nearly 200 megawatts of power that it contributes to all 61 member communities served by the Agency.



IMPA began its program cautiously, only constructing three demonstration solar parks in Frankton, Rensselaer, and Richmond, Indiana in its first year. Each site was housed on about eight acres of land and with 4,000 solar panels, and by the end of the year, the three sites generated 1.5 million kilowatt hours.

Through this process, IMPA expanded its knowledge of solar power and the steps needed to successfully develop parks of this scale in the most cost-effective way possible. Besides relying on in-house expertise, IMPA worked with local contractors in each of the three member communities to keep costs down and support local businesses. When construction of the three solar parks came in under budget while reliably providing environmentally-responsible electricity, IMPA and its Board of Commissioners started to envision the vast possibilities of building solar in several member communities. A spark was lit, and by 2015, six more solar parks were constructed in member communities, adding over 9 megawatts (MW) of solar capacity to the Agency's power supply portfolio.

In the ensuing years, IMPA increased its renewable footprint by building solar in collaboration with its member communities. As time progressed, so did the Agency's proficiency in constructing solar parks. By 2017, IMPA was constructing each of its solar parks with a single-axis



tracking system, allowing solar panels at each site to effectively track the movement of the sun throughout the day and generate more electricity as a result. The program continued to expand with new solar parks being constructed in member communities throughout the state, as well as additional parks being added to some communities whose infrastructure were able to handle more than one solar park . With the help of this program, IMPA achieved at least 30% low or no carbon resources by 2020 while still offering some of the lowest wholesale electric rates in the state of Indiana.

The success of IMPA’s solar program continues to thrive in recent years. In 2023, IMPA had its most prolific year yet for its solar park program as the Agency brought seven solar parks online in member communities. The agency’s largest park – at 9.9 MW – was completed, and IMPA celebrated a milestone as the Agency’s 50th solar park came online late in the year. From a small, idealistic program that started with three, 1-MW parks in 2014,

the Agency’s solar park program has grown exponentially in under 10 years. The Agency now has over 196 MW of solar power in member communities. Plans are already underway for four additional parks, and the Agency expects to surpass 209 MW of solar capacity by the end of 2025. The solar park program plays a key role in IMPA’s diverse power supply portfolio, and with its proven success rate, the Agency continues to provide a diverse fuel mix that benefits both consumers and the environment. •



IMPA’s 50th Solar Park Ribbon Cutting

Reader Feedback

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 does having reliable electricity mean to you and your family?



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!

Topic 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!



Planting Trees in the Right Place

Outdoor landscaping activities become a staple of many people's weekly routine as the weather gets warmer. Strategically planting trees around your property can help you conserve energy year-round and enjoy an increased amount of wildlife in your yard. However, if placed unwisely or left uncared for, the vegetation can create unsafe conditions for you, your property, and utility workers serving your community. Richmond's municipal electric utility wants to ensure that residents have the best information to help them make smart decisions when it comes to planting and maintaining foliage around homes and businesses.

Likely the most important information regarding tree planting is that each species of tree has an ideal location on a property based on its eventual size. Large trees, such as maple, oak, spruce, and pine trees, can easily surpass 50 feet in height at full maturation. These wide-reaching trees can block cold winter winds and provide shade to homes, reducing utility costs if strategically planted. However, if these trees are planted near power lines, their growth can



easily become dangerous as they approach and eventually touch the utility lines. Tree contact with power lines is a major cause of power outages and sometimes wildfires in the United States. Therefore, when planting trees, be sure to keep large species far from utility lines.

Some small species of trees, such as redbud, dogwood, and crabapple, generally do not exceed 25 feet in height. While these trees are safer to plant around utility lines, residents should avoid planting these within 20 feet of a power line to ensure safety. Richmond's electric utility truly appreciates your consideration while landscaping on your property, allowing them to continue providing high quality electric service. •

Call 811 for Outdoor Projects

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within two full business days who will mark their buried lines. These marks will help you determine the safety of your project or if you will need to consider relocating or modifying your plans.

When calling to request this service, Indiana residents should have the following information on hand:

- Name of County and Township where the digging will occur
- Street address and nearest intersecting street of planned project
- Exact location of potential digging on the property
- Name and phone number of individual/s who will do the digging

With the advice of utility experts on your side, you will be able to ensure your own safety and the reliability of local utilities when you dig on your property. •

What's the Word?

Investigating Power Terminology

Watt

A watt is a unit of measurement used to show the rate of energy transfer over one second of time. Consequently, a kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts, a megawatt is 1 million watts, and a gigawatt equals 1 billion watts.

You may have heard of a kilowatt hour (kWh), which is a common billing unit used by most utilities in the electric industry. Essentially, a kWh simply shows the energy use per hour of an appliance, device, or entire home measured in kilowatts. For example, a space heater rated at 1.5 kWh consumes 1,500 watts of power in one hour of continuous use!

Watts are named after James Watt, an inventor and engineer born in 1736 who also created the concept of horsepower.

Cooking Corner

Meatloaf

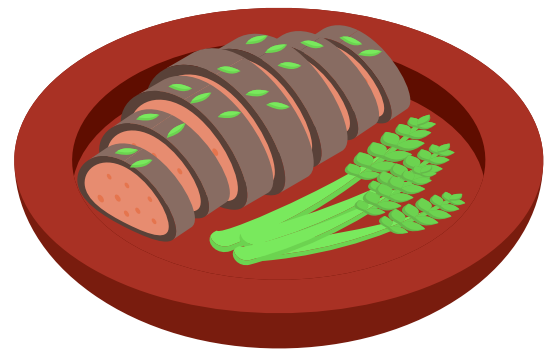
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 2 lbs hamburger
- 2 eggs
- 10 to 12 crackers (crumbled)
- 1 onion diced
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 pkgs instant oatmeal
- 2 to 3 squirts of ketchup

Mix all ingredients well. Form into a loaf and put into a greased loaf pan. Cover with ketchup. Refrigerate for 20 to 30 minutes covered to help the loaf firm up. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Remove loaf from refrigerator and bake in preheated oven for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

Once meatloaf is baked, remove from oven. Let rest on top of the stove for 30 minutes before cutting into so that it won't fall apart.

This recipe serves about 4 to 6 people. Invite your friends and family over to enjoy!



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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What are the Benefits of Public Power?

In the last issue of the *Municipal Power News*, we asked you what some of the benefits of public power are. As a reader of this newsletter, you live in a public power community, which means the electric utility that serves your power needs is a not-for-profit utility, owned and operated by your municipality.

The benefits of public power are numerous. Here is what some of our readers had to say about the advantages of living in a public power community.

“By being a part of the community, public power utilities can boost investment in the community, support local education, and be involved with charitable programs. They also care about the overall well-being of the communities they serve.”

– Fred

“Since public utilities are nonprofit organizations, their main focus is on providing affordable services rather than maximizing profit. This often leads to lower rates for customers, as any surplus revenue is reinvested into the improvement and expansion of services. Public power

also eliminates the need for shareholders and dividends, further reducing costs. Consequently, individuals and businesses can save money on essential utilities, allowing them to allocate their resources more efficiently.”

– Chris

“There are many benefits to public power, such as being able to be provided with economic advantages. IMPA makes sure all electric needs of the community are met, as well. It boosts community investments, supports local education, and gets involved with beautification.”

– Bridgette

These are all great answers that highlight how public power improves your community to help it thrive. Additionally, public power is affordable. According to a 2021 American Public Power Association (APPA) comparison, public power customers of Indiana and Ohio typically saved an average of more than 40% when compared to other types of electric utilities. APPA also reports that nearly 80% of projects currently under construction by public power utilities are solar and wind generating sources. This shows that public power utilities also recognize the importance of environmental stewardship and continue to invest in sustainable power sources.

Public power communities, including yours, consistently work to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to their consumers.

To learn more about public power, visit www.impa.com/publicpower!

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IMPA Commissioner: Tony Foster

What to Do if You See a Downed Power Line

With the storms of spring and summer in full swing, it's always great to remember what to do in case you ever come across a downed power line. Most importantly, you should always assume that any power line is live and dangerous. Power lines can energize the ground up to 35-feet in diameter—that's about three car lengths! And if the ground around it is wet, that diameter can increase in size. Do the following to keep you and your loved ones safe in case of a downed power line:

- Immediately call 911 to report a downed line
- Never try to move a downed line or drive over it—do not make contact of any kind
- If your vehicle comes into contact with a downed power line, tell others to stay away and call emergency services—do not exit the vehicle unless you see smoke or fire
- If you must walk around or away from a downed power line, walk with your feet together and shuffle away, avoiding lifting your feet.
- Do not touch the ground and anything in contact with a downed power line at the same time

Information found on www.esfi.org. •