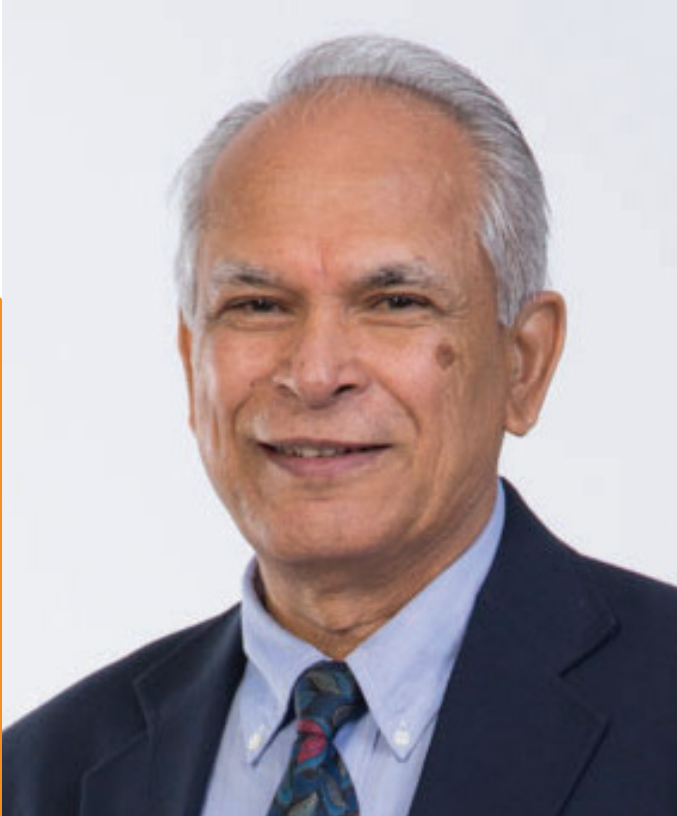


Municipal Power News



Blanchester Board of Public Affairs
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BPA Director Re-Appointed to Exec Committee of Blanchester's Power Provider

On March 21, Blanchester's wholesale power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), hosted its Annual Meeting in Carmel, Indiana. At the Annual Meeting, communities who receive their power from IMPA came together with IMPA staff and other stakeholders to network, discuss industry challenges and successes, and hold one of the year's most important Board Meetings in which new Board leadership is adopted. Here, the Blanchester Board of Public Affairs Director and Blanchester IMPA Commissioner Ram Reddy was re-elected to the IMPA Executive Committee for a three-year term.

IMPA is governed by its Board of Commissioners, comprised of one representative from each of the 61 communities the Agency serves. The Agency's 61 municipal utility members—otherwise known as public power utilities—are local, not-for-profit entities that receive electricity from IMPA. The BPA is also a public power utility run as a division of local government, like a public library or school. Governed by the Board of Public Affairs, community citizens have a

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Look through reader responses from the last edition of *Municipal Power News*.

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. •



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!



BPA Director

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direct voice in utility decisions, including the rates it charges and its sources of electricity. This is one of the many benefits of public power.

Blanchester has received its wholesale power supply from IMPA since 2006 and is the only community outside of Indiana that is included in the Agency's membership. Reddy was instrumental in the effort to secure membership for Blanchester with IMPA. As a part of IMPA's family, Blanchester residents and business owners gain the advantages of a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply.

Reddy serves as Blanchester's commissioner on the IMPA Board. The IMPA Board is comprised of 61 representatives, one from each of the Agency's 61 member communities. Each commissioner is appointed by their community's governing body to represent their town, city, or village to IMPA, acting as a two-way communicator between the community and the Agency. Since IMPA is a not-



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Indiana Municipal Power Agency

for-profit agency, all commissioners volunteer their time to represent their community to the Agency.

As part of the Executive Committee, Reddy dedicates even more of his time to securing the future of Blanchester and IMPA. His expertise and forethought are a valuable asset to the Agency's mission of providing low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible power.

"Ram is a great supporter of IMPA and municipal utilities as a whole," said IMPA

President and CEO Jack Alvey. "He's advocated for public power for years, joining us to talk with Congress about the direct impact of legislation on communities like Blanchester. His consistent involvement and advocacy for the betterment of IMPA and public power, whether at the local level in Blanchester, the state level in Indiana and Ohio, or at the national level, shows his dedication to electric customers around the country. We're privileged to have him on the Executive Committee." •

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

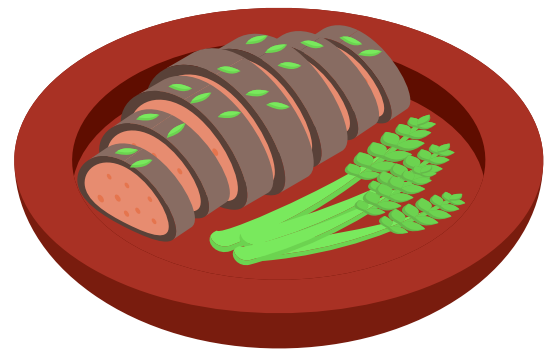
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 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.

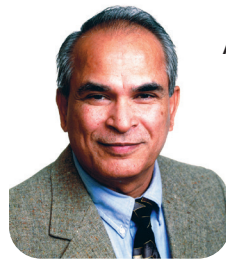
Public power communities, including yours, consistently work to provide low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power to their consumers.

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

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IMPA Commissioner and
Director of BPA Utilities: Ram Reddy

Stay Safe Through Storms

Electricity drives the modern world, and we often take it for granted. When a natural disaster occurs, there are a few things to remember to stay electrically safe during the storm.

- Before the storm hits, charge all phones and other communication devices. Then, unplug all electronics, and move them as high as possible to avoid water damage from flooding.
- Turn off the main power breaker feeding the home to prevent any surges to the wiring and equipment.
- After the storm blows through and you begin to evaluate the aftermath, it's important to avoid flooded areas as they may be electrified.
- Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics if they've been submerged.
- If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrical inspector.
- Protect your home with carbon monoxide detectors.
- When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings. If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away. Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized. If others are around, alert them to stay away and call 911.

Information found at www.esfi.org.