

# Municipal Power News



Town of Paoli  
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## New IMPA Commissioner for Paoli

On February 20, utility worker Taylor Baker was appointed to be Paoli's new commissioner for the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). IMPA is Paoli's not-for-profit, wholesale power provider, supplying electricity to 61 member communities throughout the Midwest. Like public schools and libraries, public power utilities such as Paoli's are owned by the community and run as a division of local government. Governed by a local city or town council or an elected or appointed board, community citizens have a direct voice in utility decisions, including the rates it charges and its sources of electricity. Since IMPA is a non-profit organization owned and governed by its member communities, the community of Paoli also has a say in the direction of their wholesale power provider through an IMPA Commissioner.

This spring, IMPA welcomed Baker into the Commissioner role for Paoli. Baker is well acquainted with Paoli's community and utility needs since working a town employee for the last 12 years. In his role, Baker works to ensure residents and business owners have access to reliable electricity and water by maintaining the town's infrastructure.

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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. •



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



From left to right: IMPA Vice President and IMPA Chairman Brent Slover, Taylor Baker,

## New IMPA Commissioner

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He also contributes his utility knowledge as an appointed member on the Town's Utility Board. Additionally, Baker serves his community as the Deputy Fire Chief of the Paoli Volunteer Fire Department, working with the department since 2011.

Just like all IMPA commissioners, Baker was appointed by his community's governing body to represent the town to IMPA, acting as a two-way communicator between the community and the Agency. As Paoli's representative, Baker will participate and vote in monthly board meetings that guide the direction of IMPA.

"From southern communities like Paoli, to northern cities and towns like Columbia City and Walkerton, the diversity of our Board of Commissioners is one of IMPA's greatest



**General Counsel Peter Prettyman, former and IMPA President and CEO Jack Alvey**

strengths,” said Jack Alvey, President and CEO of IMPA. “We are glad to welcome Taylor to the Board as we continue our relationship with Paoli and serving our municipal electric communities.”

Having community representation on IMPA’s Board is just one of the many benefits of having a municipally-owned power utility, like Paoli’s. As a public power community, the utility’s customers are friends, family,

## Thank You to Danny Hickman

**F**ormer Paoli council member Danny Hickman also served as the town’s previous Commissioner on the IMPA Board. IMPA is glad to have had Hickman’s support and advocacy over the past four years and extends its gratitude for his dedication.



and neighbors of those who work to operate the electric department. This connection fosters community-centered service on the part of utility employees. Public power utilities also provide local jobs and support the local economy, impacting economic development, demonstrating environmental stewardship, and investing back into their communities. To learn more about the benefits of public power, visit [www.impa.com/publicpower!](http://www.impa.com/publicpower!) •

## 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

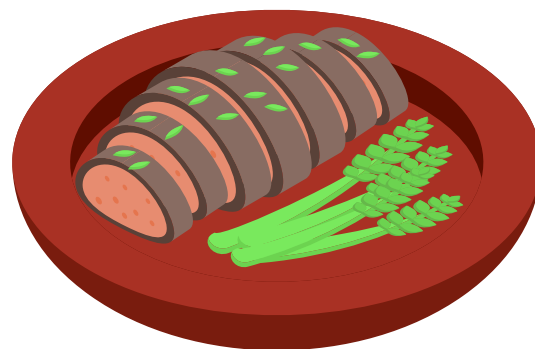
Recipe submitted by Marcie of Richmond, Indiana

- 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](mailto: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!](http://www.impa.com/publicpower!)

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IMPA Commissioner: Taylor Baker

## Cook with Safety in Mind

To many of us, cooking is such a mundane daily task that we often don't remember how dangerous it can be if things get out of hand. Prevention is always the best way to protect yourself from electric and fire hazards, so make sure you're following these tips next time you whip something up in the kitchen:

- Never leave cooking food unattended, whether on the stovetop or in a microwave
- Make sure your kitchen and bathrooms have GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protected outlets
- Unplug appliances when not in use
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms and never disable a smoke alarm when cooking •

