Indipower Systems, Inc

Customer Newsletter — Spring 2009

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New Product – The 'Silent Air' 3.5Kw Generator

Indipower is proud to announce our latest wind generator, the Silent Air. This generator features horizontal blades and improved bearing assemblies, as well as 3.5kw of electrical generating ability. The Silent Air will be featured on new Individual Power Stations, but can also be retrofitted to existing power stations. Indipower customers who have not used all of their expansion slots may also add the 3.5Kw generator to their units.

Featured Employee – Rick Gervais, EET

Rick has been with Indipower Systems since 2005, coming to us only months after we founded the company. Rick is an EET (Electrical Engineering Technologist); he spends his days installing, testing, and maintaining Individual Power Station assemblies across most of Montana. If you see him in the community, make sure to say "Hi!"

Green Living Tips – LED Light Bulbs

Most people are familiar with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). These light bulbs fit into any standard light socket and use less electricity than a comparable incandescent bulb. However, few people have heard about LED lighting. LED light bulbs are the most efficient bulbs available on the planet today, but they are much more expensive than a CFL bulb. While CFL bulbs cost 10-20 times the price of an incandescent bulb, LED lights sell for about $50 –much more than cost of an incandescent bulb. Despite this initial investment, they are currently the best choice for energy efficient lighting.

LED light bulbs last a very long time; over 50,000 hours. Compare this to a 1,000 hour lifespan for an incandescent bulb, or a 10,000 hour lifespan for a CFL bulb. Additionally, LED bulbs consume about 1/3 the power used by a CFL. As a bonus, LED bulbs do not contain mercury, an environmental toxin that is contained in CFL bulbs. (Always follow the guidelines for cleaning up a broken CFL bulb. You can find them at: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/products/lighting/cfls/downloads/CFL_Cleanup_and_Disposal.pdf)

While the initial cost of entry is high, an LED light bulb will pay for itself over time through reduced power usage and peace of mind.

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Maintenance Bulletin

Recently, Indipower has been receiving phone calls from customers informing us of a squeaking noise coming from the 2kw wind generator installed in some of our early IPS units. Those of you who have warranty remaining on the generators may call our toll-free service hotline at 1-800-555-1212 to book a service call. This service will be covered under warranty at no cost to you.

If your generator is out of the warranty period and the noise is bothering you, there is something that you can do about it. The cause of the noise is a dry bearing on the top shaft of the wind generator. The long-term fix is to replace the bearing with an upgraded part; however, there is no danger in continuing to run the generator with the older version of the bearing. The new part simply includes an improved dust seal to keep debris from coming into contact with the bearing assembly. For those who find the noise unbearable, the bearing can be replaced by our technical service team. This bearing is not a user replaceable part as the turbine must be rebalanced after installation.

However, the noise can be effectively controlled with the simple application of some white lithium spray grease. This type of grease is readily available from home centers and hardware stores. Do not substitute any other type of lubricant for this procedure as you may damage critical components.

1. Begin by opening the user control panel located in your home. Turn the GRID/INDIPOWER switch to GRID. This will switch the electrical source for your home from the Individual Power Station back to your local electrical grid.

2. Beside the GRID/INDIPOWER switch is another switch marked BRAKE. Turn this switch to ON. This will apply a brake to the wind generator to keep it from moving while you work on it.

3. Locate your access hatch and climb onto the power platform. Using the ***white lithium spray grease***, generously lubricate the bearing and spindle at the top and bottom of the generator shaft.

4. Return to the user control panel, making sure to lock the access hatch behind you. Turn the brake switch to OFF, and the GRID/INDIPOWER switch to INDIPOWER.

This lubrication procedure is expected to last between 3 and 6 months before it will need to be repeated. If you do not feel comfortable performing this maintenance step yourself, call our technical service division at 1-800-555-1212. A technician will be dispatched to perform the service or to discuss the replacement of the bearing.