RESPONSES

1. We are currently in the process of getting generators for both of our locations for the reasons you listed!  Our Clarksville branch is the emergency location for the local retirement home and we wanted to make sure   
that we had heat and/or air for them.

Both of them are stand by generators. We worked with APCOM out of Mt. Pleasant (even though   
we are between Grand Rapids and Lansing).  The gentleman who came out was great- he even went over blueprints to figure out what was heating and cooling what and went from there.  
  
Just so you know- we are looking to run EVERYTHING- heating, cooling, electrical, lighting, bathrooms, etc at both facilities.  Basically as if there wasn't a power outage- we just probably won't have internet but not due   
to us not powering it but because if the entire villages are without power, our cable internet will probably go down too.

Here are the stats for our generator purchases--   
Saranac has over 4000 square feet and will be getting a 27kw 60 hz standby generator.  This will run everything in the library as though the power was still on.  Clarksville which is 3600 square feet upstairs will be getting a 22 kw air cooled standby generator-  this building has fewer air conditioners and furnaces to run.   
  
The company installing is APCOM Electric and Power Systems.  They are out of Spring Lake and Mt. Pleasant.  Their phone number is 989-773-6500.  They are awesome to work with and extremely helpful.  Bill came out to look over the buildings first and he even helped us label our electrical panel because it never had been done in some areas!  I think overall the first day he spent close to 5 hours going over everything in our buildings.  Then he came down with the proposals and discussed them with me.  Then he has been back out to look things over again as we had some decisions to make on where to put the generator in Saranac.  I have been extremely impressed- great customer service!   
  
Let me know if you have any additional questions.  I did get one other full quote and attempted to get quotes from two other companies as well.  One did come out but he never got a quote out to me and the other just wanted us to put some sort of meter on our electric meter for a couple weeks to determine our draw and wanted us to spend several hundred dollars to have them do this, all without even coming to see the buildings.  All the other companies just looked at our past electric bills in several months to determine that.   
  
Good luck!   
  
Kerry Fountain, Director   
Saranac Public Library 616-642-9146   
Clarksville Area Library  616-693-1001   
[sarkf@llcoop.org](mailto:sarkf@llcoop.org)

2. We are moving in our new facility as we speak which came equipped with a wonderful big Generac Backup Generator.  Since purchasing this building with the generator, my thoughts have been the same as yours to provide a community warming center, etc., during power outages.  I don’t know how it would work, since we are new to having a backup Generator.  I do know the generators are expensive.  I just setup the maintenance contract for our generator and it is $450 a  year. I think it would be a wonderful thing if the libraries could be used a warming shelter, etc., during power outages.  Just don’t the logistics.  Good luck!  Let me know if  you learn anything interesting from the other libraries!

Nannette Pretzer, Director

St. Charles District Library

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3. We have been looking into this as well. Have you approached your local fire department about this?

Our fire department asked us if we'd be a temporary emergency shelter (replacing the schools on his list) for tornado emergencies. Temporary as in just the time frame you mention, after which the Red Cross would be stepping in to set up something for longer duration. There was some possibility that there may be funds (grant money) available through fire/emergency management channels to help fund a generator if we were designated shelter.

Sorry, but I have no concrete info for you and we've not gotten a generator ourselves yet. You do have to decide if you want generator just to power heat/lights (maintain building) or whether you want to it to fully support all operations (computers etc.) - sizing of generator will affect cost of project.

 --- jude halloran, Highland Library, 248-887-2218 ext. 110     [www.highlandlibrary.info](http://www.highlandlibrary.info/)

4. Over here in Albion, we're thinking the same thing.  We had a power pole come down on the building on Friday in those wicked winds.  We're incredibly thankful that the transformers didn't rupture/explode while they were live and burn the building down.  On top of that, we had our second brown-out of the calendar year on Monday!  We have some uninterruptible power supplies on our servers, but brownouts are horrible and wiped the configuration on one of them, causing no internet access for almost 18 hours as we worked to diagnose and remedy the issue.

We also have the issue of no real place for patrons to go in an outage to access internet, charge devices, stay cool/warm.  While it might not have been an expense my board was willing to even discuss before all this, at least they're willing to consider options now.

Cynthia Stanczak

Library Director

Albion District Library

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5. We have a generator that keeps us up and running, but not a whole building one as that would be HUGE and we could not afford it.  Ours can keep most lights on plus computers and keeps our heat boilers running if needed.  However, there's no way it can run our air conditioners and air handlers - too much of a draw for that.  If it's in the summer, the generator runs enough outlets that we can plug in fans to keep us comfortable.  But, at least we would have lights in most areas and people could come here and charge/use phones and use laptops/computers.  We are not equipped to be a Red Cross either, but our intent is to provide what we can for basic help.  You would need to talk to your HVAC people to see what you could reasonably do.

Our electric goes out all the time and we have been burning up servers, computers and our phone system.  With the generator, we have cut way down on that as it kicks in within seconds and our UPSs don't run down.  So, power out, UPS takes over and keeps computers, etc. up and then the generator kicks in and keeps stuff up until power comes back on.  Ours is connected to our building's gas supply, so no worries about it running out.

Hope this helps.

Shelley

6. Our library installed such a generator about 3 years ago. It is connected to natural gas and comes on automatically when the power goes out for more than 15 seconds. Powers off automatically when power is restored. Operationally, it requires a weekly test run which happens automatically. Staff from our maintenance department do a quarterly check on it as well.

We have seen it in action over a 24-hour period. Our patrons loved being able to come in out of the cold, recharge battery powered devices, and use our Internet connection to conduct business while their homes and businesses were without power. Our rationale for this type of installation was 2-fold. First, our staff are required to report to work even if the power is out. Very limited list of tasks that we can do without electricity. Second, we made the argument that with our extended hours of service, evenings and weekends, we could serve as a shelter for the community, especially our nearby neighbors. Once nice advantage for us is the close proximity to the main fire station/EMS service.

It was a costly installation but we have already demonstrated its value on more than one occasion.

Joan

Our building is 27,300 sq ft. The generator installed is a275kw Generac generator. Cost of the project was $223,700, which included $204,200 for generator purchase and installation and $19,500 for design and construction engineering services. The consulting services turned out to be quite valuable in that they considered all possible options, natural gas vs. diesel, full building back-up vs. partial building back-up and simply sizing the unit properly for our use. We learned that the path we chose, full building back-up with natural gas, was the most economical in the long run. To do a partial set-up would have added significantly to the cost of the project because of rewiring a large portion of the building would have been necessary. We were fortunate to have a fund balance to cover the cost of the project.

Again, I can’t stress strongly enough the value our community places on having the library as a sheltering option during a power outage.

Hope this is useful,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Joan M. Rogers, MSLS**  **Library Director**  [5168 Civic Center Dr](https://maps.google.com/?q=5168+Civic+Center+Dr+%0D%0A+%0D%0A+Waterford+MI+48329&entry=gmail&source=g)  [Waterford MI 48329](https://maps.google.com/?q=5168+Civic+Center+Dr+%0D%0A+%0D%0A+Waterford+MI+48329&entry=gmail&source=g)  p. 248.618.7691 |
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7. We currently open 10 am – 5pm on Snow Days, and serve as emergency shelters for tornados and such. This is part of our service to the University, and surrounding community.

 Our Dean of Libraries has been advocating for us to get a generator because of problems with computers/shelter needed during power outages.

We are an academic library, so our function is somewhat different than publics, but perhaps this feedback can be helpful to you.

 Anne E Oyerly

*Building & Stacks Manager*

James White Library

Andrews University

269-471-6117

8.  I have natural gas generators for two of my buildings (84K sf and 20K sf), but they are not for everything. The cost to do the HVAC was prohibitive so we had to be selective. So I tried to prioritize things that we put on the generator:

1.       Sump pumps

2.       Front automatic doors

3.       Server room including ILS system, internet access, routers, phone system, paging system, card access, wifi hotspots if not PoE

4.       Emergency lights

5.       Outlets at circulation desk so staff can still check people’s things out

6.       Board room (to serve as “control room” in case of a disaster

 A few things I’ve learned or would do differently:

1.       I don’t think we could power the elevator with it so we ended up with a one-time take down to the lowest floor and open the doors battery pack.

2.       I would have done more outlets and the lights in my office

3.       I would have done lights over the other service desks and outlets at those desks

 Per a longer term strategy for serving the public in a long-term outage I would consider:

1.       Powering public desks so people could come in hang out and charge their cell phones and other devices

2.       Maybe a few external outlets so people could charge 24/7 without having to come into the library

3.       Maybe a refrigerator

4.       Maybe a TV/cable box if you wanted to be able to offer news updates

Again, if you can do the HVAC or at least heat for the winter or heat and fans to circulate air, that would be great. I just don’t know if you can do A/C units on a generator. I’d be curious to learn what you hear from others as I’m in the process of designing a new branch and will be looking at this issue again shortly.

Thanks!

 --Larry