WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) has surpassed $2 billion in benefits for entities participating in the real-time energy market. Operated by the California Independent System Operator (ISO), the WEIM was designed to enable participants to buy and sell power close to the time electricity is consumed. Using state-of-the-art technology, the WEIM finds and delivers lowest-cost resources to meet immediate power needs while managing congestion on transmission lines to maintain grid reliability. The WEIM also helps reduce the curtailment of renewable energy through the transfer of resources across a wider geographic footprint.

The WEIM entities agree that regional collaboration has benefited millions of their consumers in the West and this effort must continue to meet the needs of an evolving grid. Here is what WEIM participants are saying about the $2 billion milestone.

"The Western Energy Imbalance Market has significantly reduced power costs for Portland General Electric customers and is a critical tool for integrating clean energy resources across the West."

Maria Pope, president and CEO, Portland General Electric

"We have clearly seen benefits from our participation in the WEIM. There are financial benefits, as well as operational efficiencies and intermittent resource management benefits from participation," he added, "As the West evaluates market expansion, BANC is focused on looking to leverage our investment in the WEIM into day ahead opportunities such as the EDAM."

Jim Shetler, general manager, Balancing Authority of Northern California

"Our participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market has become another successful way that PNM can lower customer costs while embracing the clean energy transition. New Mexico has an abundance of sunshine and wind, and the structure of this imbalance market provides for better utilization of the renewable investments made in our state. At the same time, the efficiencies of this market have already provided significant benefits to customers in our first year of participation. This has been a clear benefit for our customers, communities and the environment."

Pat Vincent-Collawn, chairman, president and CEO, PNM Resources

"NorthWestern Energy supports an incremental approach to energy markets in the West and pursued the WEIM because of the benefits we can achieve for our customers. Participating in the WEIM provides our customers access to cost-effective energy and a market for our excess energy from intermittent generation sources when it is not required to serve our customers. WEIM is a great tool in our tool kit for the specific job to be done. Meanwhile, we continue to focus on meeting our Montana customers’ severe exposure to extended peak demand periods, both summer and winter."

Bob Rowe, chief executive officer, NorthWestern Energy
Seattle City Light continues to realize significant value for our utility and our customers through our participation in the WEIM. As we reached our two-year anniversary in WEIM on April 1, benefits for our utility have exceeded our expectations, and we look forward to continuing to be an active participant in the WEIM and the evolution of markets in the West. The milestone of achieving $2 billion in overall benefits for participants and their customers showcases how broad regional collaboration, as well as economic, efficient energy dispatch provides both monetary and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

Debra Smith, general manager and CEO, Seattle City Light

PacifiCorp customers have seen tremendous value from our participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market. Our partnership with CAISO has led to more than $400M in customer benefits since we helped launch the WEIM in 2014. Since 2016, we have experienced about 5 million tons of carbon dioxide reductions annually. We have used the WEIM to better optimize our generation dispatch and create additional opportunities to integrate new renewable resources. Participation in the WEIM has been truly transformational for PacifiCorp and enormously beneficial for our customers.

Stefan Bird, president and CEO, Pacific Power

TID has seen tremendous value from our participation in WEIM by capturing incremental market opportunities. Be it through greater access to low priced energy or capturing increased value for excess capacity, the benefits of WEIM have been greater than anticipated. TID looks forward to extending these same benefits to the Day Ahead markets, and is committed to working with market participants in the West to craft a product that builds on the success of WEIM.

Brad Koehn, chief operating officer, Turlock Irrigation District

Gaining first-hand experience with centralized markets will better prepare us to engage in regional discussions about expanding such markets to advance our service delivery in safe, reliable, affordable, environmentally-friendly way.

Jackie Flowers, director, Tacoma Public Utilities

The WEIM has reached such a landmark in demonstrating its indispensable benefits in integrating renewable resources, improving operational efficiency in clearing region-wide imbalances between real-time demand and energy production, and enhancing the reliability and efficiency of the electric system. Over the first year of its participation in the WEIM, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has realized net benefits in excess of $53 million – a noteworthy and remarkable achievement. As LADWP transitions towards a 100% clean energy future, the efficiencies, savings, and revenues resulting from its participation in the WEIM will continue to benefit its customers and strengthen its commitment in meeting its sustainability goals.

Reiko Kerr, senior assistant general manager of Power System, Engineering, Planning & Technical Services, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Seattle City Light continues to realize significant value for our utility and our customers through our participation in the WEIM. As we reached our two-year anniversary in WEIM on April 1, benefits for our utility have exceeded our expectations, and we look forward to continuing to be an active participant in the WEIM and the evolution of markets in the West. The milestone of achieving $2 billion in overall benefits for participants and their customers showcases how broad regional collaboration, as well as economic, efficient energy dispatch provides both monetary and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

Debra Smith, general manager and CEO, Seattle City Light