



News Release

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Western EIM achieves record-setting \$739 million in benefits for 2021

The real-time energy market posts \$204.14 million in fourth-quarter results

FOLSOM, Calif. – The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) attained a record-setting \$739 million in benefits in 2021, surpassing all previous yearly results and pushing the real-time market closer to the \$2 billion mark in total efficiencies since its start in 2014.

Last year’s benefits are more than double the \$325 million accrued in 2020. The market saw \$204.14 million in [fourth-quarter 2021 benefits](#), for a cumulative total of \$1.93 billion. That level of benefits for the last quarter of 2021 is due to the addition of several new EIM entities earlier in the year and a higher volume of economical transfers, which displaced generation that was more expensive.

“The Western EIM’s outstanding performance last year provides further tangible evidence of the value of broad regional market coordination,” said California Independent System Operator (ISO) President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. “We are excited to be working with our many partners across the West to build on this strong foundation and produce additional economic, environmental and reliability benefits through an extended day-ahead market (EDAM).”

The Western EIM uses sophisticated technology to find and deliver the lowest-cost energy to its members, while enhancing reliability and providing significant environmental benefits through the reduction of renewable energy curtailments during periods of oversupply.

Reducing curtailments leads to lower greenhouse gas emissions because the renewable energy - rather than going unused - can be deployed by other market participants, and may displace power generated using fossil fuels.

The following table shows the 2021 fourth-quarter economic benefits for each participant:

	(Millions \$)
Arizona Public Service	\$ 9.95
BANC	\$ 31.44

California ISO	\$ 55.50
Idaho Power	\$ 7.09
LADWP	\$ 10.60
NV Energy	\$ 9.38
NorthWestern Energy	\$ 5.87
PacifiCorp	\$ 39.81
Portland General Electric	\$ 7.41
Powerex	-\$ 0.02
PNM	\$ 3.44
Puget Sound Energy	\$ 5.42
Salt River Project	\$ 11.99
Seattle City Light	\$ 4.65
Turlock Irrigation District	\$ 1.61
Total	\$ 204.14

Because of the renewable energy transfers supported by the Western EIM, the avoided renewable energy curtailment for the quarter was 38,044 megawatt hours (MWh), resulting in 1,570,200 MWh of avoided renewable energy curtailment since 2014.

In addition to the financial benefits, the cumulative reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from avoided renewable curtailment since 2014 is 671,966 metric tons. That is equivalent to removing 141,278 passenger cars from the road for one year.

Operated by the ISO, the Western EIM footprint includes portions of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and extends to the border with Canada. By next year, the active Western EIM participants are expected to represent nearly 80% of the load within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

Visit the [Western EIM](#) website for more information about participants, the market, previous benefits reports, governance, the Governing Body meeting schedule and initiatives.

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<p>The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.</p>	
<p>The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. The Western EIM Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders and has shared authority with the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.</p>	