

# WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



California ISO

## News Release

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### Western Energy Imbalance Market benefits reach \$1.28 billion

Eleven participants share a record \$101 million in first-quarter benefits

FOLSOM, Calif. – The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) reached a record-setting \$101 million in first-quarter benefits for 2021, raising the cumulative benefits to \$1.28 billion.

“These very strong first quarter results further demonstrate the value of the Western EIM for market participants and consumers,” said ISO Senior Vice President and COO Mark Rothleder. “I look forward to continuing the ISO’s efforts to provide enhanced economic, environmental and reliability benefits to our partners throughout the West.”

The \$101.01 million in [first-quarter results](#) for 2021 exceeds the previous first-quarter record of \$85.38 million in 2019. The current results are due in part to the extreme winter weather event in February that affected parts of the Northwest, Midwest and Southwest regions and also drove up energy prices in the Western United States.

Since its launch in 2014, the Western EIM, operated by the California Independent System Operator (ISO), has been using sophisticated technology to find and deliver the lowest-cost energy to utilities, while enhancing reliability and reducing emissions.

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

	<i>(millions \$)</i>
Arizona Public Service	\$ 15.01
BANC	\$ 7.53
California ISO	\$ 8.91
Idaho Power	\$ 12.54
NV Energy	\$ 14.14
PacifiCorp	\$ 20.48
Portland General Electric	\$ 8.80
Powerex	\$ 1.17
Puget Sound Energy	\$ 4.31

Salt River Project	\$ 5.52
Seattle City Light	\$ 2.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 101.01</b>

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) and the Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC) Phase 2 joined one week before the end of the quarter, and resulting benefits will be reflected in the next report. The results listed for BANC reflects only the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) as a participating entity.

Because of the renewable energy transfers supported by the Western EIM, there was a reduction in the need for renewable curtailments during periods of oversupply. The avoided renewable energy curtailment for the quarter was 76,147 megawatt hours (MWh), resulting in a total of 1,400,055 MWh since 2014.

In addition to the economic results, the cumulative greenhouse gas emissions reduction resulting from avoided renewable curtailment is 599,144 metric tons, which is equivalent to removing 125,967 passenger cars from the road for one year.

The Western EIM had a significant number of new entities join the market since March 2021, including:

- Turlock Irrigation District
- BANC Phase 2 – which is comprised of Modesto Irrigation District, the City of Redding, the City of Roseville, and the Western Area Power Administration – Sierra Nevada Region
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and;
- Public Service Company of New Mexico

In addition, the Western EIM will expand later this year into Montana with the participation of NorthWestern Energy. The Western EIM footprint currently includes portions of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and extends to the border with Canada. By 2023, 22 active Western EIM participants will represent over 83% of the load within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC).

Visit the [Western EIM](#) website for more information about participants, the market, quarterly benefits reports, and other information on its governance, upcoming meetings, and initiatives.

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