

# WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



## News Release

For immediate release | **June 16, 2021**

**Media Email | [ISOMedia@caiso.com](mailto:ISOMedia@caiso.com)**

For more information, contact  
Vonette Fontaine | [vfontaine@caiso.com](mailto:vfontaine@caiso.com)  
Anne Gonzales | [agonzales@caiso.com](mailto:agonzales@caiso.com)

NorthWestern Energy Contact:  
Jo Dee Black | [JoDee.Black@northwestern.com](mailto:JoDee.Black@northwestern.com)

### **NorthWestern Energy joins the Western Energy Imbalance Market**

The real-time wholesale energy market now includes a Montana-based utility

FOLSOM, Calif. – The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), operated by the California Independent System Operator (ISO), has expanded its footprint to Montana with the addition of NorthWestern Energy.

NorthWestern Energy's participation, which began today, caps off a year of significant growth for the real-time energy market, with eight utilities joining already this year. The Western EIM now serves consumers in 10 states, including portions of Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and Montana. By 2023, 22 active Western EIM participants will represent more than 83% of the load in the Western Interconnection.

"We are very pleased to welcome NorthWestern Energy into the family of Western EIM entities," said ISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. "This new partnership with NorthWestern will add regional diversity and diverse resources into the real-time energy market and provide additional economic and environmental value to consumers in Montana and across the West."

Joe Stimatz, manager of asset optimization for NorthWestern Energy, agreed that joining the EIM will bring tangible benefits to the utility's customers.

"Our participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market will provide our customers with economically efficient energy to resolve imbalances and variations in load and generation on our Montana system," Stimatz said.

Since its launch in 2014, the Western EIM has been using advanced technology to find and deliver the lowest-cost energy to utilities, while enhancing reliability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The most recent [quarterly results](#) show the Western EIM has achieved \$1.28 billion in cumulative gross benefits for its participants.

NorthWestern Energy provides electricity and natural gas to more than 743,000 customers in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska. In Montana, the utility serves customers with an electric generation portfolio that is nearly 70% carbon-free and

includes hydro, wind, and solar on 6,809 miles of electric transmission lines and 18,068 miles of electric distribution lines. NorthWestern Energy is well on its way to meeting its goal of reducing its carbon intensity 90% by 2045, with a 50% reduction to date.

Visit the [Western EIM](#) website for participant information and quarterly benefits reports.

###

<p><b>California ISO Media Email   <a href="mailto:ISOMedia@caiso.com">ISOMedia@caiso.com</a></b></p> <p>250 Outcropping Way   Folsom, California 95630   <a href="http://www.caiso.com">www.caiso.com</a></p> <p>     </p>
<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) Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders with delegated authority from the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.</p>