

Western Energy Imbalance Market

In addition to running a day-ahead wholesale electricity market in its balancing authority area, the California ISO also operates the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM). Established in 2014, the WEIM extends the ISO's real-time market to other balancing authority areas in the West. WEIM participants, including the ISO, gain substantial economic, operational, and environmental advantages by trading energy supply and demand across a large geographic area in real time. Since its inception, the WEIM has grown to 22 participating entities representing 79% of the load in the Western Interconnection and has produced [more than \\$5 billion in benefits](#).

The WEIM is an energy-only market, and participants determine how transmission and generation resources engage in the market. The market platform allows participants the flexibility of controlling their assets and maintaining their own compliance responsibilities for managing their system as required by North American Electric Reliability Corporation and Western Electricity Coordinating Council) standards, while gaining access to a large pool of diverse resources across multiple western states and extending to the border with Canada and Mexico.

The WEIM can help during an emergency

The WEIM allows energy transfers across balancing areas, providing access to least-cost electricity in the broader western region. This increased coordination between areas is particularly helpful during weather events that impact one part of the Western Interconnection but not another. In these cases, participants are able to sell their excess electricity generation to areas in need—creating economic benefits for the seller and operational and reliability benefits for the buyer.

When a region is under stress conditions in real time, the increased coordination through the WEIM provides additional benefits as the market optimally schedules transfers. Given the diversity benefit of the WEIM, these transfers can reduce the probability of an area calling for emergency assistance as the market has automatically resolved the stressed condition for operators.

To learn more about the WEIM, including its economic and environmental benefits, [visit www.WesternEIM.com](http://www.WesternEIM.com).

The WEIM allows for energy trading across the West. During emergencies, that coordination can help all WEIM participants share energy. The market can automatically solve grid stress with these energy transfers.