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Western Energy Imbalance Market exceeds \$4 billion in total benefits

Nearly \$800 million in benefits have been generated for entities since January

FOLSOM, Calif. – The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) generated \$798.7 million in benefits the first half of 2023, setting a new record of \$4.2 billion in cumulative benefits since the market was launched in late 2014.

The real-time energy market's \$379.91 million in [second-quarter](#) results is attributed to the growing number of participants providing diversity and economical energy transfers replacing more expensive generation.

The WEIM is designed to enable participating entities to buy and sell power close to the time electricity is consumed. With state-of-the-art technology, the market finds and delivers lowest-cost resources to meet immediate power needs and manages congestion on transmission lines to maintain grid reliability. The WEIM also provides system operators real-time visibility across neighboring grids, resulting in more efficient balancing of supply and demand.

Since 2020, the number of Western EIM participants has doubled to 22, further diversifying energy resources while improving transmission efficiencies and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Western Area Power Administration Desert Southwest region, El Paso Electric and AVANGRID Renewables are the WEIM's newest entities, joining in April 2023. The WEIM now includes portions of Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Texas and extends to the border with Canada.

The environmental benefits of the market are also noteworthy. With more variable resources such as solar and wind on the grid, excess clean power would typically tend to be curtailed and go unused to keep the grid from becoming overloaded.

With greater regional coordination enabled by the WEIM, that clean power can be moved across a large geographic area to displace other resources. Since 2014, greenhouse gas emissions have been reduced by more than 878,000 metric tons, or the equivalent of taking almost 184,000 passenger cars off the road for one year.

Additionally, grid operators have more resource options for balancing supply and demand, which is particularly helpful during summer evenings when electricity use remains high but solar generation is declining.

During the second quarter of 2023, the economic benefits by participant includes:

	<i>(millions \$)</i>
Arizona Public Service	\$ 11.95
AVANGRID Renewables	\$ 8.78
Avista	\$ 4.98
BANC	\$ 17.72
BPA	\$ 7.49
California ISO	\$ 70.47
EPE	\$ 3.04
Idaho Power	\$ 31.52
LADWP	\$ 17.09
NV Energy	\$ 46.16
NorthWestern Energy	\$ 4.44
PacifiCorp	\$ 37.49
Portland General Electric	\$ 13.84
PNM	\$ 7.29
Puget Sound Energy	\$ 6.46
Powerex	\$ 34.09
Seattle City Light	\$ 5.14
Salt River Project	\$ 22.83
Tacoma Power	\$ 4.86
TEP	\$ 5.43
TID	\$ 1.72
WALC	\$ 17.12
Total	\$379.91

Building on the success of the WEIM, the ISO collaborated with utilities, independent power producers, regulators, environmental advocates and other partners to develop an Extended Day-Ahead Market (EDAM) where the majority of energy transactions occur. By optimizing diverse generation resources and transmission connectivity on a day-ahead basis across the WEIM's wide geographic footprint, market participants and consumers could realize even greater reliability, economic and environmental benefits.

Because of the interdependency of the EDAM and Day-Ahead Market Enhancements (DAME), the ISO is planning to file the tariff language for both services with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in mid-August, and has announced a public EDAM Forum on August 30 in Las Vegas.

For information about the real-time energy market's participants, quarterly benefits, governance, initiatives and upcoming meetings, [visit the WEIM website](#).

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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.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. The WEIM 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 WEIM.