



Press Release:
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Inland Empire Utilities Agency Receives AQMD's *Good Environmental Stewardship Award*

Inland Empire - Each year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District recognizes companies, organizations and individuals who have made a significant contribution to cleaning the air and creating a more sustainable economy. This year the Inland Empire Utilities Agency is the recipient of the *Good Environmental Stewardship Award* for developing a renewable energy portfolio, a joint venture to divert waste from landfills, and expansion of its recycled water and groundwater recharge programs.

In 2008, IEUA developed an Energy Management Plan that focused on increasing energy efficiency at wastewater treatment facilities, utilizing effective energy procurement strategies and pursuing new energy production alternatives with an emphasis on non-polluting renewable technologies. A second product of the Energy Management Plan was IEUA's "Go Gridless by 2020" initiative by focusing on energy independence from the regional grid during the peak energy usage hours.

The Go Gridless by 2020 plan includes:

- Solar panels, located at four of IEUA's water recycling plants, which collectively generate up to 3.5 megawatts of clean solar power. The amount of solar energy produced at IEUA since 2008, can power nearly 1,700 homes for one full year.
- A 1 megawatt wind turbine generator was commissioned in early 2012 at IEUA's water recycling facility in Rancho Cucamonga. The wind turbine is expected to provide approximately 1,500 MWh of clean energy per year.
- The fuel cells installed at IEUA's water recycling facility in Ontario is the largest fuel cell operating on digester gas in the world. The system is expected to supply approximately 70% of the annual electricity consumed by the Ontario facility.

In addition to IEUA's Go Gridless by 2020 program, IEUA developed a partnership with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County aimed toward diverting waste from our local

landfills called the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility. This facility is the nation's largest indoor biosolids composting facility and has provided an efficient and industrious alternative for treated biosolids that would otherwise be trucked to landfills or land applications in Arizona. "It represents a less expensive and more reliable solution to disposal of our region's organic material rather than costly, long distance trucking; therefore saving taxpayers' money," said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin.

Over the past few years, IEUA has also invested in an aggressive program to expand and utilize recycled water more efficiently as a reliable irrigation source that will improve the sustainability of the region's water supply. This has led to rapid expansion of IEUA's recycled water system facilities, reducing the demand on expensive imported water from northern California.

As part of this expansion, IEUA has enhanced the capabilities of the Groundwater Recharge system. This system provides a subsurface groundwater reserve for local use, enhancing the reliability of local groundwater available for a growing population. The recharge system consists of a network of delivery pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, storm channel diversions, and conservation berms that are used to route or retain storm water run-off, imported water, and recycled water to 18 recharge sites.

"IEUA strives to go beyond its role as a regional water provider and establish itself as a leader of sustainable practices among public agencies," said Catlin. "IEUA's goal of providing essential public services while promoting good environmental stewardship has been achieved through strategic project developments and both public and private partnerships that have produced a composting facility, clean renewable energy generation systems, expanded utilization of recycled water, and enhanced the reliability of local groundwater supplies," concluded Catlin.

"The Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Board of Directors is honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award," said Catlin. "It recognizes the commitment the IEUA Board and staff has to protecting the environment."

The Inland Empire Utilities Agency was formed in 1950 and distributes wholesale imported water from Metropolitan Water District and provides industrial/municipal wastewater collection and treatment services, operates the Chino Basin Desalter 1, and other related utility services for a 242-square-mile area in the western portion of San Bernardino County. Approximately 850,000 people reside in IEUA's service area.

For more information contact Sondra Elrod at 909-993-1747 or visit our website at www.ieua.org.