...Thinking in terms of tomorrow
THE INLAND EMPIRE UTILITIES AGENCY was formed in 1950 to supply supplemental water to the Chino Basin. Today, the agency is involved in recycled water distribution, compost, renewable power generation from solar and methane gas, water conservation and water desalination.

IEUA FOCUSES ON SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES
Sustainability is a top priority at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. “Generally, most wastewater utilities view themselves as primarily in the business of disposing of and treating waste from wastewater plants,” said IEUA Board President Terry Catlin. “Instead, IEUA views its business as manufacturing three products: producing high quality recycled water to help drought-proof our service area; converting biosolids into high quality compost to ensure healthy soils; and renewable energy through methane gas and solar generation facilities.”

DEVELOPING NEW RECYCLED WATER IS A KEY PART OF IEUA’S MISSION
IEUA’s four wastewater facilities currently produce about 60 million gallons of recycled water each day that can be used for a variety of non drinking applications including irrigation, industrial use, and recharging local drinking water aquifers.

“Recycled water is the only new significant water supply we have,” explains IEUA Board Member John L. Anderson. Over the past 5 years, IEUA and its local water providers have invested in new water infrastructure, including a 75-mile recycled water pipeline distribution system that delivers recycled water from its wastewater recycling plants to its customers. “Every month we connect new parks, golf courses, and schools to recycled water,” said Anderson.

According to IEUA Vice-President Angel Santiago, who represents the Agency on the Metropolitan Water District’s Board of Directors, water recycling is more important than ever. “By investing in recycled water to reduce our demand on
expensive imported water, IEUA and its local water agencies are not only saving money, we are helping to drought-proof our region.”

“Recycled water is clean, safe, and 100% water conservation,” added Anderson.

At a time when our water supply is in question, IEUA is taking the proper steps to find answers. Plans are underway for a $40 million expansion of IEUA’s recycled water system into its northern service area. “These projects will help drought-proof the cities of Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga by providing over 10,000 acre-feet of water each year. That is enough water for about 20,000 homes!” said Santiago.

“IEUA partnered with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, to construct the first of its kind, a state-of-the-art enclosed compost manufacturing facility,” commented IEUA Secretary/Treasurer Michael Camacho. “The Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility produces exceptional quality compost that is good for soil in an environmentally sensitive manner. It also represent 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,” continued Camacho.

IEUA IS COMMITTED TO BUILDING A BETTER ENVIRONMENT BY EXAMPLE AND HAS BEEN LEADING THE WAY IN GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

IEUA is developing cost-effective and reliable renewable energy sources through green power technologies such as solar panels and biogas (methane) fuels.

On April 3, 2009 IEUA dedicated its $25-million solar-power system that has been operating since December 2008. The 2.5 megawatt, photovoltaic solar system, located at three of IEUA’s wastewater plant sites and 1 megawatt of solar energy at the Inland Empire Regional Composting Facility, provides 10 percent of the total electrical power needed for IEUA’s facilities.

“Since the California electricity deregulation crisis in 2001, IEUA’s Board of Directors’ vision has been to maximize the use of renewable energy,” said IEUA Board Member Gene Koopman. The solar-panel projects were completed in six months through a ‘power purchase agreement’ with SunPower whereby IEUA buys the electricity produced at a discount from our electric utility, Southern California Edison. In the first year, IEUA will save about $300,000 and this savings will increase each year in the future. “The 3.5 megawatts of clean solar power generation will reduce the single largest component of IEUA’s operating budget - electrical costs. In addition, IEUA’s Platinum LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) headquarter buildings has a small solar system. The headquarters is extremely energy efficient — using less than 20 percent of the electricity of a normal office building of similar size,” added Koopman.

MANAGING THE CHINO GROUNDWATER BASIN

The Chino Basin residents depend on our groundwater wells for about 65% of our drinking water needs. IEUA, Chino Basin Water Conservation District, Chino Basin Watermaster, and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District are working together to enhance our local water supplies by improving
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
59 Years of Excellence in Water Resources and Quality Management

6075 Kimball Avenue Chino, CA 91708
909 993-1600
www.ieua.org

Grantors have aided in many of IEUA’s projects.
These include:

- California Integrated Waste Management Board
- U.S. Department of Energy, CEC Pier grant
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Southern California Edison, State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Department Of Interior- Bureau of Reclamation
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, California Department of Water Resources, and WaterReuse Foundation.