

Importing & Exporting Energy in Idaho

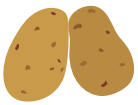
Idaho Spuds & Energy: A Similar Story

Like potatoes, energy is a commodity. Like any commodity, the best thing you can do is produce it, use it, buy it, and sell it!



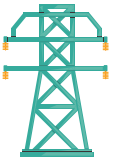
Export Potatoes

Idaho exports extra potatoes for profit



Import Potatoes

Idaho imports the potatoes it doesn't grow, like seed potatoes



Export Electricity

When Idaho has excess supply, it exports electricity to other states, reducing costs to Idahoans



Import Electricity

When Idaho's power demand exceeds its supply, it must import electricity from neighboring states

Why Exporting and Importing Energy Matters for Idaho



Low Prices

Keeps Idaho's energy prices low



Reliable Supply

Keeps Idaho's energy supply dependable



Energy Independence

Puts Idaho in control of its own energy system



Importing & Exporting Energy in Idaho

The Reality of Idaho's Energy Balance

At times Idaho is able to produce enough energy for demand, but Idaho is usually a net importer of energy.



During mild seasons or when water levels are high for hydropower, **Idaho can meet its own demand.**



On hot summer days or cold winter nights, **demand outpaces in-state supply.**

Three key reasons Idaho imports energy:

1. **In-state supply isn't always enough:** Even with hydropower, Idaho can't always meet peak demand or power the entire state year-round.
2. **Imported energy is often cheaper:** Other states may be generating surplus electricity, (especially solar in the Southwest) which Idaho can purchase more affordably than generating its own.
3. **Idaho could generate more, but not yet:** Idaho has strong potential in wind and solar, but until more clean energy is built, Idaho relies on imports.

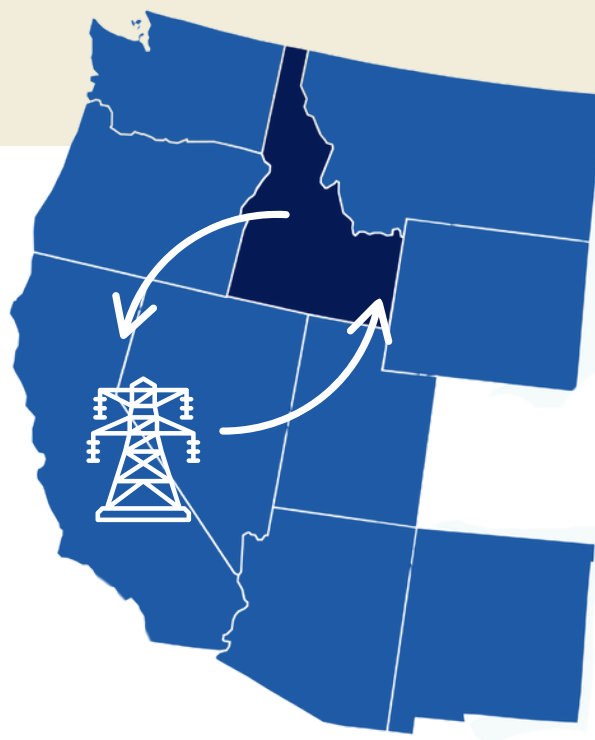
Key takeaway:

Energy is about local production and smart trade.

How the Regional Market Helps:

The **Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM)** diversifies Idaho's energy supply chain and ensures that Idaho has constant access to a supply of energy capable of meeting the state's demand.

- Allows Idaho to import energy from the Southwest and California in the daytime hours when it's cheaper than producing locally
- Allows Idaho to sell energy to the Southwest and California when those sales can reduce Idahoan's costs
- Every dollar earned from energy sales goes back to Idahoans, one for one
- Allows Idaho to buy low and sell high!



Questions? Contact:

Aaron Menenberg

Idaho Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest

☎ 206-484-3596

✉ aaron@renewablenw.org



RENEWABLE
NORTHWEST

renewablenw.org