

Where Does Burbank's Power Come From?

Burbank Water and Power gets electricity from a number of sources, using a wide variety of technologies and fuels, located in California, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Wyoming, and Utah. Here is one.....

TIETON HYDROELECTRIC

Located on the Tieton River near Yakima in eastern Washington, the Tieton project is rated at 14 megawatts (MW) generated by twin 7 MW hydroelectric turbines.

Hydroelectric plants generate electricity by harnessing the power of moving water which spins the turbines which, in turn, spin a generator to produce electricity. Hydroelectric power is renewable and creates no greenhouse gases.

The Tieton dam is a 300-foot high earthen structure built in the early 1900's. In the early 2000's, the dam's owners turned it into a hydroelectric facility. In 2010, the Southern California Public Power Authority, better known as SCPPA, purchased the project on behalf of BWP and Glendale Water and Power. Burbank and Glendale each receive 50% of Tieton's output and Burbank is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project.

Tieton is a "run-of-the-river" hydroelectric plant, meaning that it generates electricity as river flows allow versus releasing

stored water behind a dam when electricity is needed. Tieton's river flows only allow power generation during spring and early to mid-summer.

BWP's share of the project's output is transmitted to Southern California through a "firming and shaping" agreement with a third-party power marketer. The power marketer takes BWP's share of Tieton's output as its generated and delivers an equivalent amount to BWP from March to October. This arrangement is not unusual for seasonal generators like Tieton, optimizes limited transmission capacity, and better matches Tieton's output to the needs of BWP's customers.

Tieton helps BWP comply with California's Renewable Energy Standards which mandate that California utilities procure a significant portion of their energy from renewable sources. BWP currently receives about 25% of its energy from renewables increasing to 33% by 2020.