

Binational Water and Renewable Energy Institute

The Binational Water and Renewable Energy Institute was created by Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona and Governor Eduardo Bours of Sonora in September 2007. The Binational Institute promotes the development of water and energy sustainability that will create a regional competitive advantage, benefiting citizens of both states.

The Binational Institute will serve the Arizona-Sonora region by integrating and implementing otherwise independent applied research efforts that are aligned with real-world goals. The Binational Institute will facilitate partnerships with a number of public and private sector interests and will operate under the auspices of the Arizona-Mexico Commission (AMC) and its Mexican counterpart, the Comisión Sonora-Arizona (CSA).

The state coordinators for this initiative are the Arizona Water Institute (AWI) and Sonora's Council for Science and Technology (COSCYT).

The Institute will coordinate the applied research efforts of key universities in Sonora and Arizona:

- Arizona State University
- University of Arizona
- Northern Arizona University
- Monterrey Institute of Technology – Sonora Campus (ITESM)
- University of Sonora (UNISON)
- Sonoran Institute of Technology (ITSON)
- Sonora's Food and Development Research Center (CIAD)
- College of Sonora (COLSON)

In addition, collaborative efforts will be pursued with water and energy-focused utilities, water and energy research organizations, funding institutions such as Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz), appropriate governmental agencies, and others that may help advance the Institute's goals and objectives.

The Binational Institute is currently working to identify several strategic “proof of concept” projects that can realistically be completed by mid-2009. These initial projects are expected to address:

- The nexus between water and renewable energy;
- Enhanced water management coordination between Arizona and Sonora; and
- The development of renewable energy in the Arizona-Sonora region.

Please contact Plácido dos Santos for additional information about the Binational Institute for Water and Renewable Energy at (602) 771-8551, pdossantos@azwater.gov.