

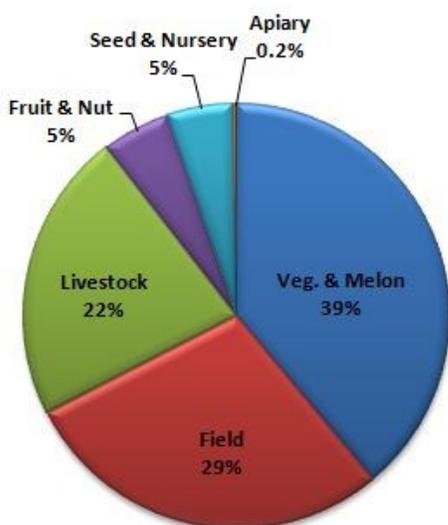


# Imperial Valley Bio-Fuels

Renewable energy is growing quickly in Imperial Valley. With its rich and fruitful tradition in agriculture, the region is becoming fertile ground for the location of bio-fuel companies that recognize the advantages of locating here:

- › Publicly owned water and energy delivered at an affordable cost
- › Available land zoned for agricultural and commercial use
- › Optimal climate for year-round growing season
- › Central location to major southwest markets
- › Proximity to biotechnology firms and research in San Diego
- › Availability of a youthful workforce
- › Access to three international ports

## 2014 Agricultural Production Gross Value



Source: Imperial County Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report



## Opportunities with Bio-Fuels

### Algae

The Imperial Valley is working with San Diego to develop a regional model centered on the research and commercial production of algae. Algae can be used as a bio-mass for bio-fuel production.

### Bio-Diesel

The Imperial Valley is a prime location for the production of bio-diesel from algae and manure.

**Imperial Valley is the global leader in Algae Bio-Crude Production**

### Ethanol

Sugarcane for ethanol is already being grown in the Imperial Valley. There are also opportunities with sweet sorghum, sugar beets, switchgrass, and other plant varieties.

### Bio-Mass

With the wide variety of crops grown in the Imperial Valley, many different types of organic matter can be used for bio-mass, which can be converted into bio-diesel.

## 2013—2014 Summary

Commodity	2013 Value	2014 Value
LIVESTOCK	\$617,371,000	\$410,512,000
FIELD CROPS	\$470,461,000	\$530,849,000
VEGETABLE & MELON CROP	\$865,401,000	\$723,260,000
FRUIT & NUT CROPS	\$100,019,000	\$95,909,000
SEEDS & NURSEY CROPS	\$100,557,000	\$93,818,000
APIARY PRODUCTS	\$4,708,000	\$4,441,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,158,517,000</b>	<b>\$1,858,789,000</b>

Source: Imperial County Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report

## More at [www.IVEDC.com](http://www.IVEDC.com):

- › Available Properties
- › Imperial County Economic Development Strategic Plan
- › Imperial Valley Regional Profile
- › City Profiles
- › Business Resources
- › Incentives



The Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation (IVEDC) is a private corporation designed to assist businesses in expanding or relocating to the Imperial Valley region of California. Our investors include a host of private and public corporations that benefit from the growth of the economy.



# IMPERIAL VALLEY™

## At-A-Glance

### Foreign Trade Zones

A Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) provides incentives for domestic manufacturers that utilize imported raw material and are located inside the designated areas of the FTZ. Imperial Valley has seven areas in FTZ #257. These areas are considered outside the United States by U.S. Customs. Imported material or merchandise imported into the zones is excluded from customs duties and excise taxes until it leaves the FTZ. Materials and goods exported outside the U.S. are excluded from being charged a duty. Additional benefits include:

- Reduced tariffs
- Duty exemptions
- Weekly entry fee savings
- Duty deferral

### EB-5 Visa Program

The EB-5 Program allows foreign investors to obtain immigration benefits for having made an investment.

- The EB-5 Program calls for a minimum investment of \$1,000,000 USD. This sum may be reduced currently to \$500,000 USD if the enterprise that receives the investment is situated in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA). Imperial Valley is a TEA.
- To qualify as an EB-5 investor, each investor must demonstrate that 10 full-time, year-round jobs will be created on account of the investment.

### Benefits of the EB-5 Visa Program

- Qualifying investors and their spouse and minor children (under 21) will be granted U.S. Lawful Permanent Residency (Green Card).
- No minimum requirements as to age, to speak English, employment experience, or education.
- Investor and family may live/work anywhere in the United States.
- Education benefits including admission of Universities at U.S. resident costs.
- After five years, the investor and their family may obtain U.S. citizenship, subject to meeting all immigration requirements, as required under law.

### Physical Characteristics

Imperial Valley extends over 4,597 square-miles in Southeastern California, bordering Baja California, Mexico to the south, Riverside County to the north, San Diego County to the west, and Arizona to the east. The elevation varies from 253 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea, to 4,854 feet at Blue Angel Peak. Imperial Valley has a largely flat terrain with mountains toward the west. Its central portion has been irrigated with water from the Colorado River since nearly the turn of the century. Today, the economy is driven by logistics firms, warehousing, retail trade, and light manufacturing.

### Transportation

Imperial Valley has three ports of entry facilitating bi-national trade, which was valued at over \$7.7 billion in 2013. Union Pacific Railroad (UPR) and Carrizo Gorge Railway (CGR) provide freight service to Imperial Valley. UPR has direct routes to Los Angeles in the west and El Paso in the east. The center line connects eight communities in Imperial Valley and is the only rail connection from California into Central Mexico. CGR provides freight service between Imperial Valley and San Diego via Northern Baja California, Mexico.

### Population 2016

Total	185, 831
Brawley	26,566
Calexico	40,211
Calipatria	7,468
El Centro	45,170
Holtville	6,093
Imperial	18,165
Westmorland	2,256
Unincorporated	39,902

Source: CA Department of Finance

### Population Forecast

2020	222,920
2030	259,339

Source: CA Department of Finance

### Labor Force 2015

Labor Force	79,900
Employment	61,100

Source: CA Employment Development Department

### Ethnic Diversity 2014

Hispanic	81.0%
White	12.8%
African American	3.0%
Asian	1.5%
American Indian/Alaska	0.9%
Native	
All Other	0.9%

Source: Southern California Assoc. of Governments (SCAG)

### Per Capita Personal Income 2014:

\$16,409  
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

### Median Household Income 2014:

\$39,039  
Source: Southern California Assoc. of Governments (SCAG)

### Median Existing Home Sales Price 2014:

\$166,250  
Source: Southern California Assoc. of Governments (SCAG)

