



SolarTech Power Solutions

Solar plus storage



Overview

What is a solar-plus-storage system?

Simply put, a solar-plus-storage system is a battery system that is charged by a connected solar system, such as a photovoltaic (PV) one. In an effort to track this trend, researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) created a first-of-its-kind benchmark of U.S. utility-scale solar-plus-storage systems.

How does solar-plus-storage affect energy systems?

Solar-plus-storage shifts some of the solar system's output to evening and night hours and provides other grid benefits. NREL employs a variety of analysis approaches to understand the factors that influence solar-plus-storage deployment and how solar-plus-storage will affect energy systems.

What are the benefits of solar-plus-storage?

Among other benefits, it can help maintain the stability of the electric grid, shift energy from times of peak production to peak consumption, and limit spikes in energy demand. Solar-plus-storage shifts some of the solar system's output to evening and night hours and provides other grid benefits.

Are solar-plus-storage projects economically viable?

Technology cost and utility rate structure are key drivers of economic viability of solar and storage systems. This paper explores the economics of solar-plus-storage projects for commercial-scale, behind-the-meter applications. It provides insight into the near-term and future solar-plus-storage market opportunities across the U.S.

Where are solar-plus-storage systems most cost-effective?

The highest potential for savings was found in California, New York, New Mexico, and Alaska. Across all scenarios modeled, solar-plus-storage systems were most often cost-effective in San Francisco, Anaheim, and Los Angeles.

These locations have both good solar resource and relatively high demand rates.

Will the solar-plus-storage market grow?

At the lowest technology cost point modeled, solar-plus-storage is economical in 10 of the 17 locations and in all of the 16 building types modeled. This suggests that the solar-plus-storage market will grow significantly if solar and storage costs continue to decline as expected in the future.

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