

# **Solar plus energy storage model**





## Overview

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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 is solar-plus-storage?

For solar-plus-storage—the pairing of solar photovoltaic (PV) and energy storage technologies—NREL researchers study and quantify the unique economic and grid benefits reaped by distributed and utility-scale systems. Much of NREL's current energy storage research is informing solar-plus-storage analysis.

Is energy storage a viable option for utility-scale solar energy systems?

Energy storage has become an increasingly common component of utility-scale solar energy systems in the United States. Much of NREL's analysis for this market segment focuses on the grid impacts of solar-plus-storage systems, though costs and benefits are also frequently considered.

Is solar-plus-storage better than thermal?

Solar-plus-storage is comparable to thermal's technical characteristics in provision of firm and dispatchable sources of electricity. Lower costs compared to thermal: Costs of solar-plus-storage and tariffs achieved are much lower in many countries, compared to HFO, and fuel-based thermal generations.



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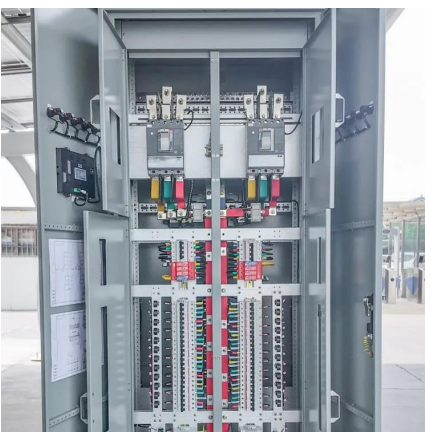
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