

# What does battery storage time mean





## Overview

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How long does a battery energy storage system last?

Let's break it down: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): Lithium-ion BESS typically have a duration of 1-4 hours. This means they can provide energy services at their maximum power capacity for that timeframe. Pumped Hydro Storage: In contrast, technologies like pumped hydro can store energy for up to 10 hours.

What is energy storage duration?

When we talk about energy storage duration, we're referring to the time it takes to charge or discharge a unit at maximum power. Let's break it down: Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS): Lithium-ion BESS typically have a duration of 1-4 hours. This means they can provide energy services at their maximum power capacity for that timeframe.

What is a battery's average duration?

A battery's average duration is the amount of time a battery can contribute electricity at its nameplate power capacity until it runs out. Batteries used for electricity load shifting have relatively long durations. We calculate a battery's duration by using the ratio of energy capacity (measured in megawatthours [MWh]) to power capacity (in MW).

How much power does a battery store?

At the end of 2021, the United States had 4,605 megawatts (MW) of operational utility-scale battery storage power capacity, according to our latest Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. Power capacity refers to the greatest amount of energy a battery can discharge in a given moment.



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