

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

Solar supporting energy storage capacity



Overview

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Together, solar and battery storage account for 81% of the expected total capacity additions, with solar making up over 50% of the increase. Solar. In 2024, generators added a record 30 GW of utility-scale solar to the U.S. grid, accounting for 61% of capacity additions last year.

We expect 63 gigawatts (GW) of new utility-scale electric-generating capacity to be added to the U.S. power grid in 2025 in our latest Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory report. This amount represents an almost 30% increase from 2024 when 48.6 GW of capacity was installed, the largest.

The AES Lawai Solar Project in Kauai, Hawaii has a 100 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system paired with a solar photovoltaic system. Sometimes two is better than one. Coupling solar energy and storage technologies is one such case. The reason: Solar energy is not always produced at the time.

Utility-scale systems combine energy arbitrage, frequency regulation, capacity payments, and transmission deferral benefits. Commercial systems stack demand charge reduction, backup power value, and grid services participation. This multi-revenue approach significantly improves project economics.

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.

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) has released a whitepaper recommending the US deploy 10 million distributed solar installations and reach 700GWh of installed energy storage capacity by 2030. The whitepaper

analyses the economic and energy security imperative of having a strong.

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