

ContainerPower Energy Solutions

The cost of flow batteries



Overview

Are flow batteries worth it?

While this might appear steep at first, over time, flow batteries can deliver value due to their longevity and scalability. Operational expenditures (OPEX), on the other hand, are ongoing costs associated with the use of the battery. This includes maintenance, replacement parts, and energy costs for operation.

How do you calculate a flow battery cost per kWh?

It's integral to understanding the long-term value of a solution, including flow batteries. Diving into the specifics, the cost per kWh is calculated by taking the total costs of the battery system (equipment, installation, operation, and maintenance) and dividing it by the total amount of electrical energy it can deliver over its lifetime.

What is a flow battery?

At their heart, flow batteries are electrochemical systems that store power in liquid solutions contained within external tanks. This design differs significantly from solid-state batteries, such as lithium-ion variants, where energy is enclosed within the battery unit itself.

How long do flow batteries last?

Flow batteries also boast impressive longevity. In ideal conditions, they can withstand many years of use with minimal degradation, allowing for up to 20,000 cycles. This fact is especially significant, as it can directly affect the total cost of energy storage, bringing down the cost per kWh over the battery's lifespan.

What is the capital cost of flow battery?

The capital cost of flow battery includes the cost components of cell stacks (electrodes, membranes, gaskets and bolts), electrolytes (active materials,

salts, solvents, bromine sequestration agents), balance of plant (BOP) (tanks, pumps, heat exchangers, condensers and rebalance cells) and power conversion system (PCS).

Are flow batteries a cost-effective choice?

However, the key to unlocking the potential of flow batteries lies in understanding their unique cost structure and capitalizing on their distinctive strengths. It's clear that the cost per kWh of flow batteries may seem high at first glance. Yet, their long lifespan and scalability make them a cost-effective choice in the long run.

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