

SolarTech Power Solutions

The relationship between solar energy and energy storage



Overview

Sometimes energy storage is co-located with, or placed next to, a solar energy system, and sometimes the storage system stands alone, but in either configuration, it can help more effectively integrate solar into the energy landscape. Does energy storage provide more capacity value under higher penetrations of solar PV?

We found that energy storage provides more capacity value under higher penetrations of solar PV because the solar generation shortens the duration of peak net load, allowing the energy-limited storage to better reduce the remaining peak.

What is energy storage & how does it work?

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How do solar and energy storage work together?

Used in tandem, solar and energy storage can provide more capacity value than the sum of the two technologies used separately. These technologies work symbiotically to provide essential grid service. On many days, solar shortens the net load peak, while two- or 4-h duration storage effectively shifts the remaining peak load.

What is the relationship between solar PV and storage?

When solar PV and storage are considered simultaneously, the concurrent shift in the net load profile suggests a symbiotic relationship: storage can be dispatched during hours when solar exhibits diminished output, and solar helps to shorten the durations of peak load that must be shaved by energy-limited storage systems.

Why is solar storage important?

Storage helps solar contribute to the electricity supply even when the sun isn't shining. It can also help smooth out variations in how solar energy flows on the grid. These variations are attributable to changes in the amount of sunlight that shines onto photovoltaic (PV) panels or concentrating solar-thermal power (CSP) systems.

Should solar energy be combined with storage technologies?

Coupling solar energy and storage technologies is one such case. The reason: Solar energy is not always produced at the time energy is needed most. Peak power usage often occurs on summer afternoons and evenings, when solar energy generation is falling.

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