



Photovoltaic plus energy storage battery requirements

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.

Can PV and battery storage be co-located?

When PV and battery storage are co-located, they can be connected by either a DC-coupled or an AC-coupled configuration. DC, or direct current, is what batteries use to store energy and how PV panels generate electricity. AC, or alternating current, is what the grid and appliances use.

How many kWh can a PV inverter use a year?

Depending on your location and type of racking, the total clipped energy can be over 1,000,000 kWh per year. With storage attached to the array, the batteries can be charged with excess PV output when the PV inverter hits its peak rating and would otherwise begin clipping. This stored energy can then be fed into the grid at the appropriate time.

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.

Why are DC-coupled PV-plus-battery systems more energy efficient?

DC-coupled PV-plus-battery systems with higher ILRs will have higher total energy output because of the additional (DC) capacity of the PV array; without a DC-coupled battery, this additional energy would be clipped by the inverter, as shown in the figure below.

How much clipped energy does a PV array produce?

However, the figure below indicates the amount of clipped energy for our representative technology is 0.0%-0.5% of the DC electricity produced by the PV array in the majority of the conterminous United States.

The PV-plus-battery technology is represented as having a 130-MW DC PV array, a 71.5-MW DC battery (with 4-hour duration), and a shared 100-MW AC inverter. Therefore, the PV component has a DC-to-AC ratio (or inverter loading ratio ...

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