

A-Core Container

Solar projects account for a high proportion of energy storage investment



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Overview

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Developers and power plant owners plan to add 62.8 gigawatts (GW) of new utility-scale electric-generating capacity in 2024, according to our latest Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. This addition would be 55% more added capacity than the 40.4 GW added in 2023 (the most since 2003).

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 US solar industry installed 7.5 gigawatts direct current (GW dc) of capacity in Q2 2025, a 24% decline from Q2 2024 and a 28% decrease since Q1 2025. Solar accounted for 56% of all new electricity-generating capacity added to the US grid in the first half of 2025, with a total of 18 GW.

Technology firms are the dominant industry investing in solar as electricity demand soars to keep pace with data center growth. With the rise in electricity demand and decrease in solar prices, U.S. companies are investing in record levels of solar and energy storage to power operations or offset.

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. What Is Energy Storage?

“Storage” refers to technologies that.

New report from EnergySage finds consumers are more willing than ever to add storage to their solar systems. In the first half of 2024, more than a third of homeowners who bought solar panels through Energy Sage, also purchased a battery according to the company’s 19th semiannual “Solar & Storage.

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