



Low-cost energy storage

Which energy storage technologies have low energy capacity costs?

Mechanical energy storage technologies, such as pumped hydroelectric energy storage (PHES) and compressed air energy storage (CAES), tend to have low energy capacity costs where suitable topography or underground caverns are available (e.g., very large reservoirs or caverns).

Can low-cost long-duration energy storage make a big impact?

Exploring different scenarios and variables in the storage design space, researchers find the parameter combinations for innovative, low-cost long-duration energy storage to potentially make a large impact in a more affordable and reliable energy transition.

Why is energy storage more expensive than alternative technologies?

High capital cost and low energy density make the unit cost of energy stored (\$/kWh) more expensive than alternative technologies. Long duration energy storage traditionally favors technologies with low self-discharge that cost less per unit of energy stored.

Does energy storage capacity cost matter?

In optimizing an energy system where LDES technology functions as "an economically attractive contributor to a lower-cost, carbon-free grid," says Jenkins, the researchers found that the parameter that matters the most is energy storage capacity cost.

Can energy storage technologies help a cost-effective electricity system decarbonization?

Other work has indicated that energy storage technologies with longer storage durations, lower energy storage capacity costs and the ability to decouple power and energy capacity scaling could enable cost-effective electricity system decarbonization with all energy supplied by VRE 8,9,10.

Why do we need a co-optimized energy storage system?

The need to co-optimize storage with other elements of the electricity system, coupled with uncertain climate change impacts on demand and supply, necessitate advances in analytical tools to reliably and efficiently plan, operate, and regulate power systems of the future.

Our study finds that energy storage can help VRE-dominated electricity systems balance electricity supply and demand while maintaining reliability in a cost-effective manner ...

Recognizing the cost barrier to widespread LDES deployments, the United States Department of Energy (DOE) established the Long Duration Storage Shot in 2021 to achieve 90% cost reduction by 2030 for technologies that can provide 10+ hours duration of energy storage ...

When varying energy storage costs from 102 to 0.5 \$/kWh, the longest duration storage plants in the WECC



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vary from 8.9 h to 34 days. ... When energy storage costs are low, ...

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