

Does installing solar rooftops require energy storage





Overview

These systems require battery storage to provide electricity during nighttime or cloudy days. Are rooftop solar panels or battery energy storage systems worth the cost?

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) researchers are here to help. Homeowners must navigate a quagmire of complicated policies to determine whether the energy savings from rooftop solar panels or battery energy storage systems (BESS) are worth the high upfront cost.

How does a rooftop solar PV system work?

Rooftop solar panels convert solar energy into electricity. This can be used to meet the building's own energy consumption requirements or, in certain situations, fed back into the electrical grid. Rooftop solar PV systems are distributed electricity generation options, which help to meet a building's energy needs, or provide electricity within.

Are rooftop solar and battery energy storage a barrier to adoption?

Even with the benefits of rooftop solar and battery energy storage, the upfront cost of these systems is still a barrier to adoption. In some cases, especially for BESS, the time it takes for a homeowner to recoup the cost of the system with energy savings is longer than the lifetime of the technology itself.

How much would a rooftop solar system cost without BESS?

Without BESS, the same household could install 10 kW of rooftop solar, which would cost \$28,700 and save \$1,567 per year. PGE and the state of Oregon both offer incentives for rooftop solar and battery energy storage. With the utility, state, and federal incentives, the combined solar and BESS system could be paid back within 11 years.



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