



# Solar plus storage vs standalone

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Final verdict: Both standalone storage and solar-plus-storage can help you save on electricity bills with demand charges or TOU rates, but solar-plus-storage should save you more on TOU rates. Find the right solar-plus-storage system on EnergySage

Simply put, a solar-plus-storage system is a battery system that is charged by a connected solar system, such as a photovoltaic (PV) one. In an effort to track this trend, researchers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) created a first-of-its-kind benchmark of U.S. utility-scale solar-plus-storage systems .

These differences add up fast: with solar and storage your annual TOU bill savings could be over \$1,000, double the bill savings with just standalone storage. Final verdict: both standalone storage and solar-plus-storage can help you save on electricity bills with demand charges or TOU rates, but solar-plus-storage should save you more on TOU ...

Most people rely on electricity from the power grid to supplement their solar-generated power. But residential solar energy systems paired with battery storage--generally called solar-plus-storage systems--provide power regardless of the weather or the time of day without having to rely on backup power from the grid.

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The vast majority of energy storage systems installed at homes and businesses in the US are paired with solar. In fact, according to research from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), through 2019, 70% of all behind-the-meter storage is paired with solar. And there's a good reason for this trend: Most people install batteries for backup, and if you install a standalone battery, you'll have no way to recharge your battery after you've depleted it until your utility restores electrical service.

That said, there are a few instances where installing a standalone battery might make sense. Here are some questions to consider as you decide whether standalone storage or solar-plus-storage is right for you.

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The desire for backup power isn't a new phenomenon. In fact, homes and businesses have been installing backup generators for decades. While generators and batteries can provide similar benefits during an outage, there are several important differences between the two of them. To learn more about which solution might be right for you, as well as to compare the longer-term financials of a generator versus a battery, check out our battery vs. generator comparison article and our "do the math" article.

If you're interested in installing energy storage for the financial benefits, the biggest variable to consider is the structure of your rate plan. There are two primary ways that batteries can help you lower your electric bills, regardless of whether you are installing a standalone battery or solar-plus-storage: by reducing your peak demand if you have demand charges or by shifting your consumption from the grid to less pricey times if you're on a time-of-use (TOU) rate.

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