

Wind and solar power consumption and solar energy storage





Overview

Can a solar-wind system meet future energy demands?

Accelerating energy transition towards renewables is central to net-zero emissions. However, building a global power system dominated by solar and wind energy presents immense challenges. Here, we demonstrate the potential of a globally interconnected solar-wind system to meet future electricity demands.

Why do we need energy storage?

Because power systems are balanced at the system level, no dedicated backup with energy storage is needed for any single technology. Storage is most economical when operated to maximise the economic benefit of an entire system. Don't we need storage to reduce curtailment?

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What happens if solar-wind generation exceeds net power demand?

When solar-wind generation within a grid exceeds its net power demand (i.e., total demand minus baseload), surplus power is first transferred to interconnected grids experiencing shortages, with the remaining surplus stored until capacity is reached. Any surplus beyond storage capacity is curtailed.

How does solar-wind generation affect the cost of a solar system?

High penetration of solar-wind generation is invariably associated with increased curtailments and system-wide costs, with pronounced marginal cost effects. For instance, the cost increase required to raise penetration from 78% to 80% is more than four times that of raising it from 72% to 75%.



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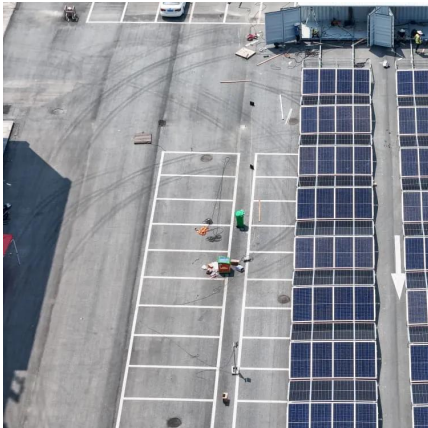
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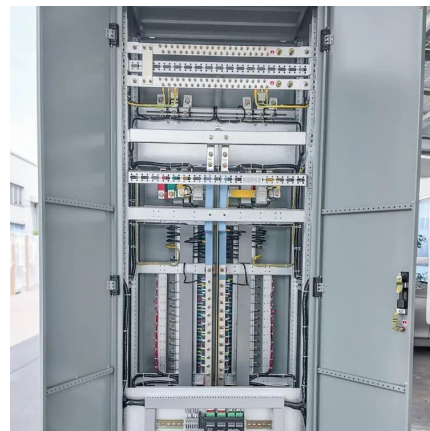


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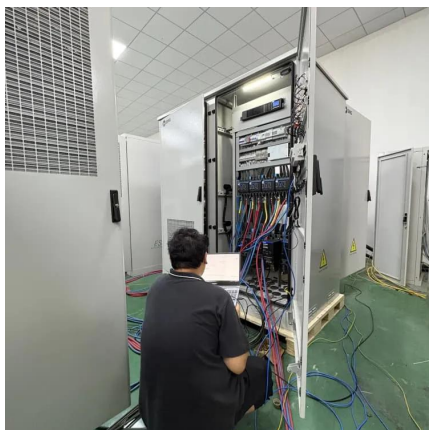


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