



# Introduction to Grid Energy Storage

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Sandia National Laboratories

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# US Department of Energy: National Laboratories



## Office of Science Laboratories

- 1 Ames Laboratory  
Ames, Iowa
- 2 Argonne National Laboratory  
Argonne, Illinois
- 3 Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, New York
- 4 Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory  
Batavia, Illinois
- 5 Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Berkeley, California
- 6 Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee
- 7 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
Richland, Washington
- 8 Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory  
Princeton, New Jersey
- 9 SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory  
Menlo Park, California
- 10 Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility  
Newport News, Virginia

## Other DOE Laboratories

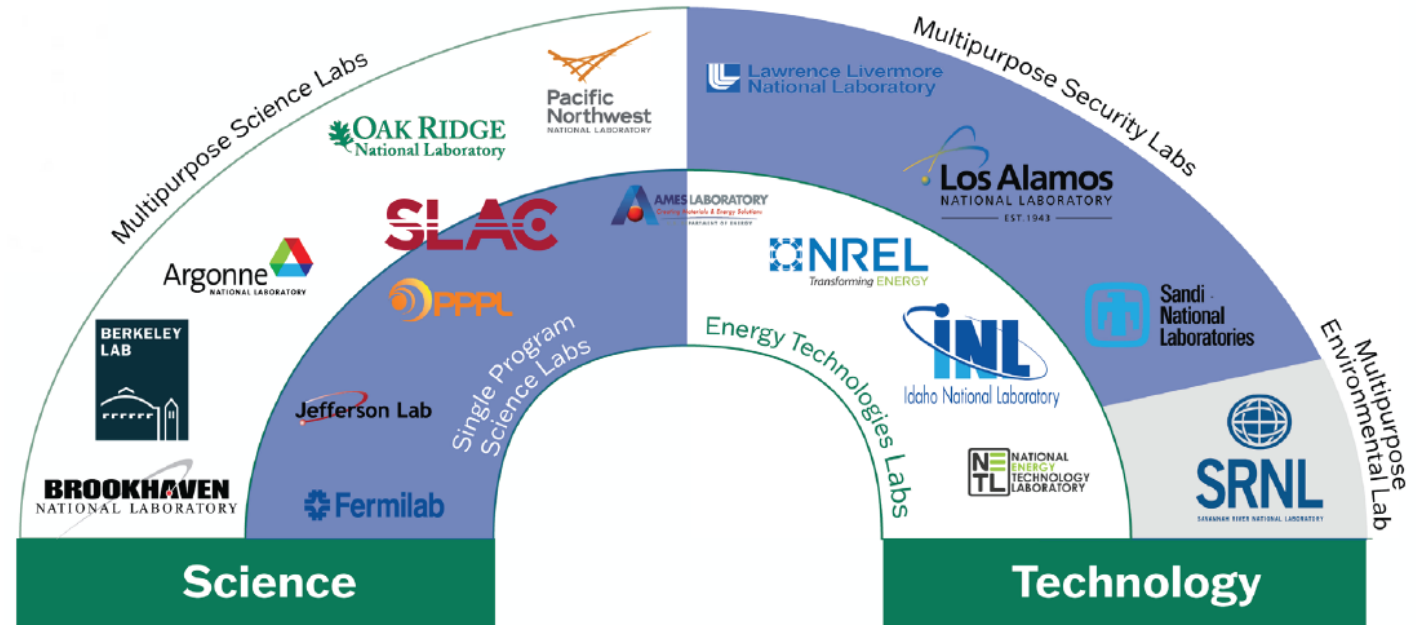
- 1 Idaho National Laboratory  
Idaho Falls, Idaho
- 2 National Energy Technology Laboratory  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
Albany, Oregon
- 3 National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Golden, Colorado
- 4 Savannah River National Laboratory  
Aiken, South Carolina

## NNSA Laboratories

- 1 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory  
Livermore, California
- 2 Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Los Alamos, New Mexico
- 3 Sandia National Laboratory  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Livermore, California



17 National Laboratories - Basic sciences, Engineering and Technology Development



# Sandia National Laboratories



## Activity locations

- Kauai, Hawaii
- Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, Carlsbad, New Mexico
- Pantex Plant, Amarillo, Texas
- Tonopah, Nevada

## Main sites

- Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Livermore, California

15,000 staff, \$4.4B in 2023



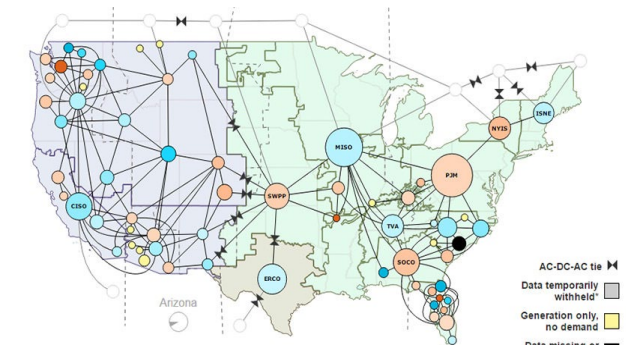
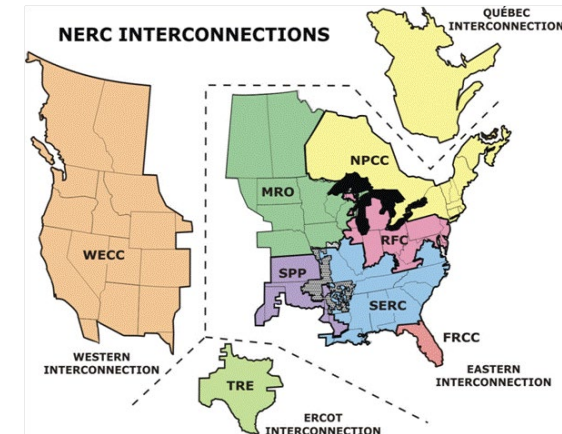
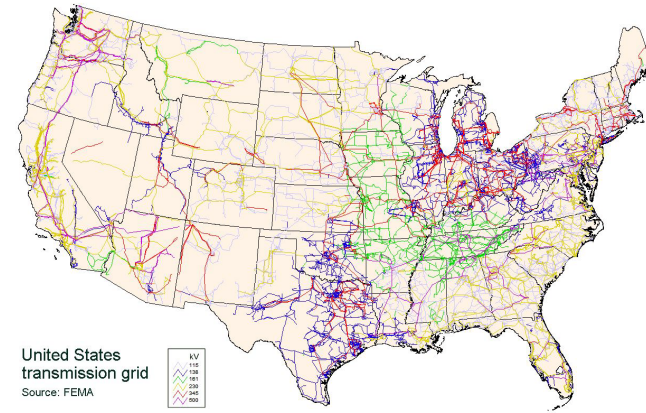
# U.S. Electric Grid

Big interconnected system with  $\sim 850$ GW baseload, 1250 GW summer peak, 7,000 operational power plants

- 3,200 utilities, 60k substations, 642k miles of HV transmission lines, 6.2 million miles of distribution circuit, 159 million customers.
- 4,000 TWh of generation (2020)
- Revenues reaching \$400 B,  $\sim 10.42$  c/kWh avg

Four interconnect regions and a number of balancing authorities:

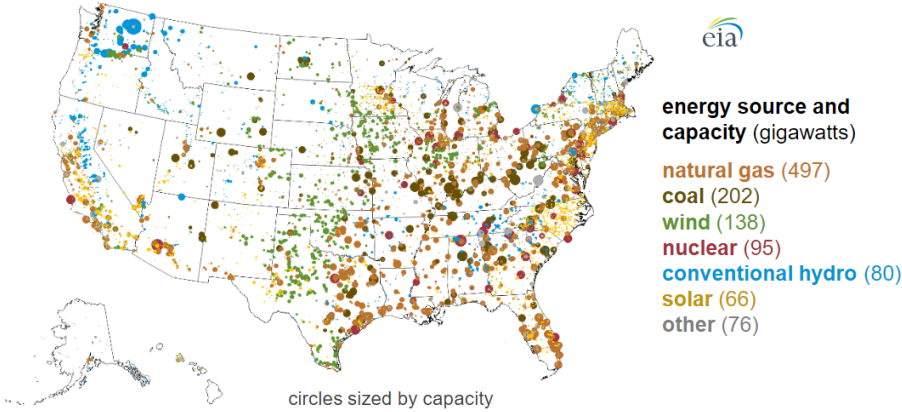
- Eastern Interconnection (31 US, 5 Canada)
- Western Interconnection (34 US, 2 Canada, 1 Mexico)
- ERCOT, Hydro-Quebec



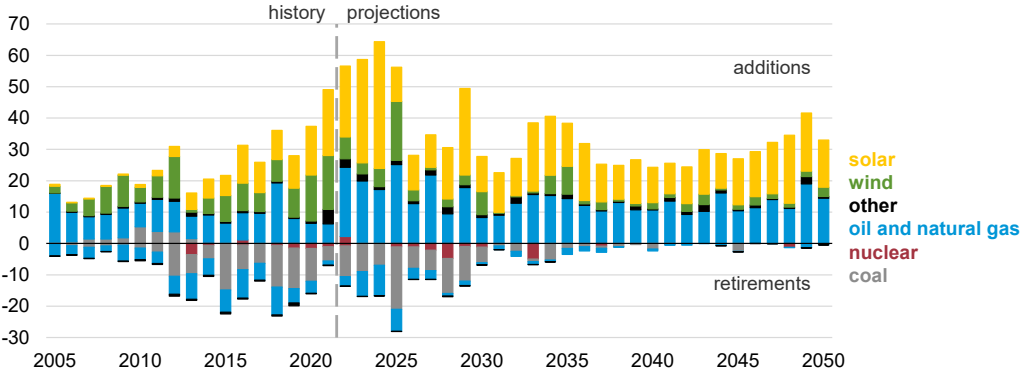
# US Electric Grid: Generation



Operable utility-scale generating units (June 2022)

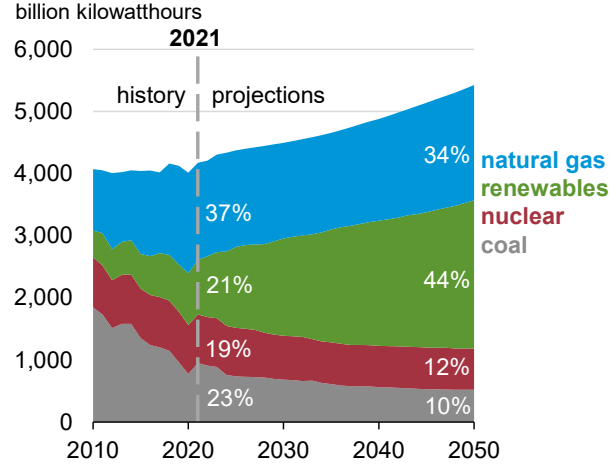


Annual electricity generating capacity additions and retirements AEO2022 Reference case gigawatts

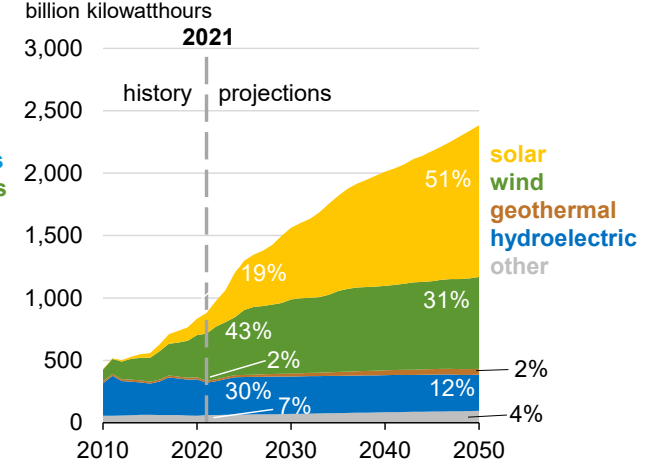


Source: Form EIA-860M, Monthly Update to the Annual Electric Generator Report, August 2021

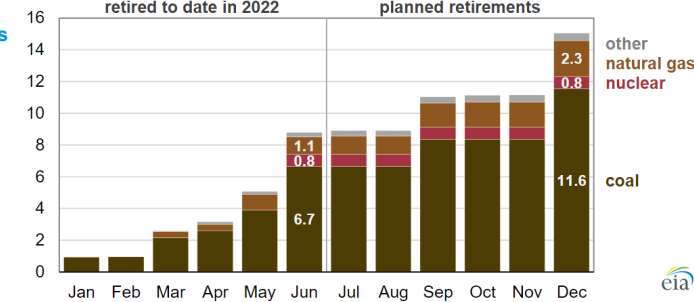
U.S. electricity generation from selected fuels AEO2022 Reference case billion kilowatthours



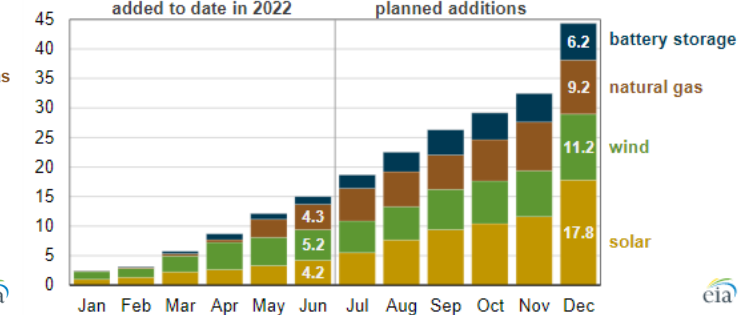
U.S. renewable electricity generation, including end use AEO2022 Reference case billion kilowatthours



Cumulative utility-scale electric generating capacity retirements (2022) gigawatts

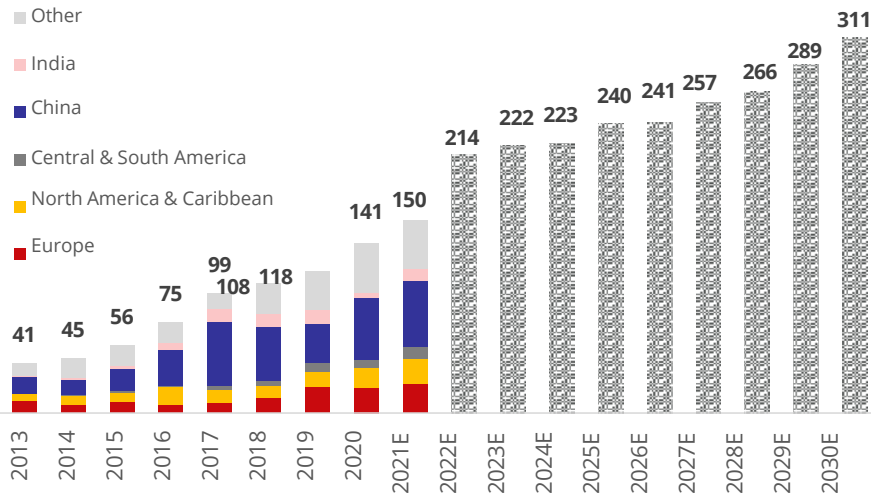


Cumulative utility-scale electric generating capacity additions (2022) gigawatts



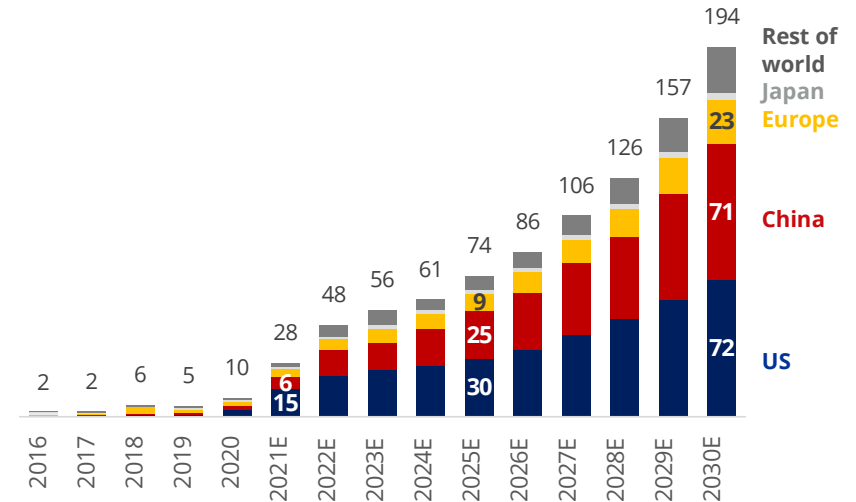
- Mostly large centralized generators (natural gas, coal, Nuclear, hydro)
- Accelerating retirements of coal fired power plants
- Increasingly amounts of renewables: 42% of generation by 2050 (EIA)
- Rapid growth of storage deployment, coupled with renewables

# Grid Evolution: Rapid Growth of DERs, Energy Storage, EVs



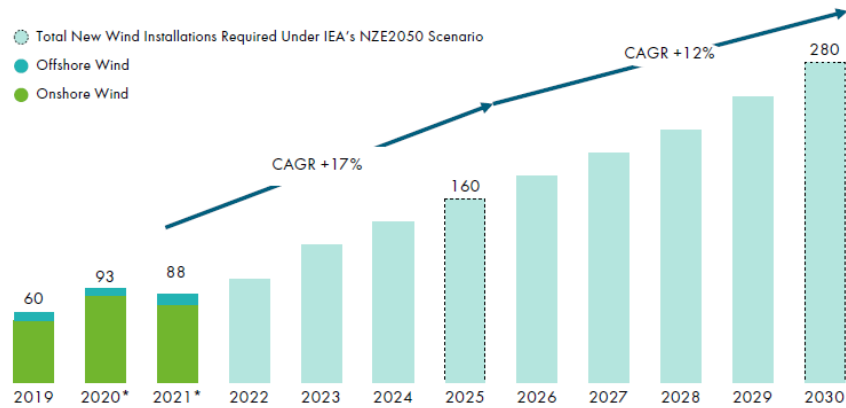
Global Solar PV Annual Installations, GW

Source: BNEF, Wood Mackenzie estimates (2021)



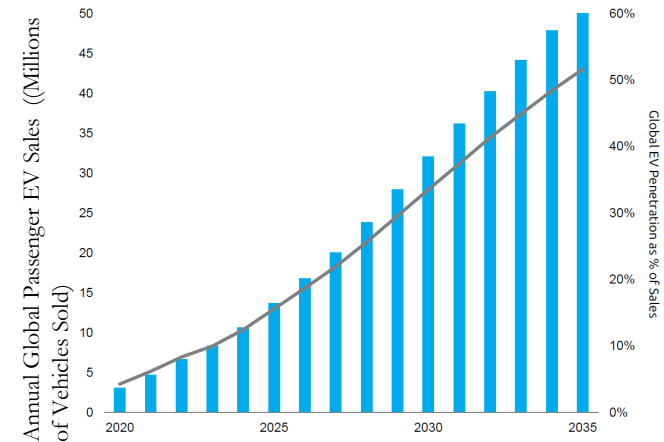
Projections for Energy Storage Annual Capacity Additions, GWh

Source: BNEF, Wood Mackenzie estimates (2021)



Global Wind Energy Report 2021

Source: Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC, 2021)



Annual Sales of Battery EVs and Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles

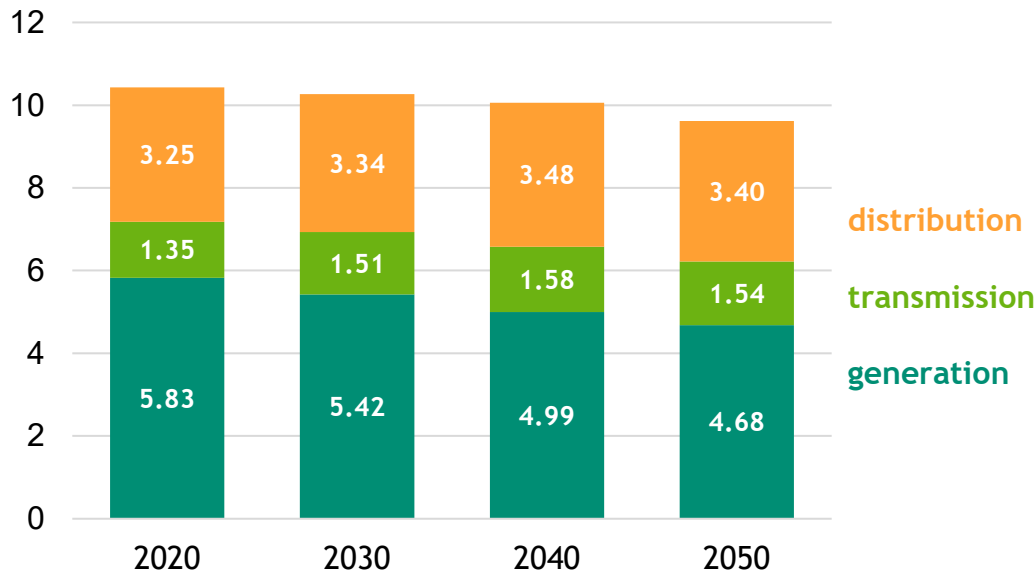
Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance BNEF, 2021

# Renewables at Parity with Combined Cycle Gas

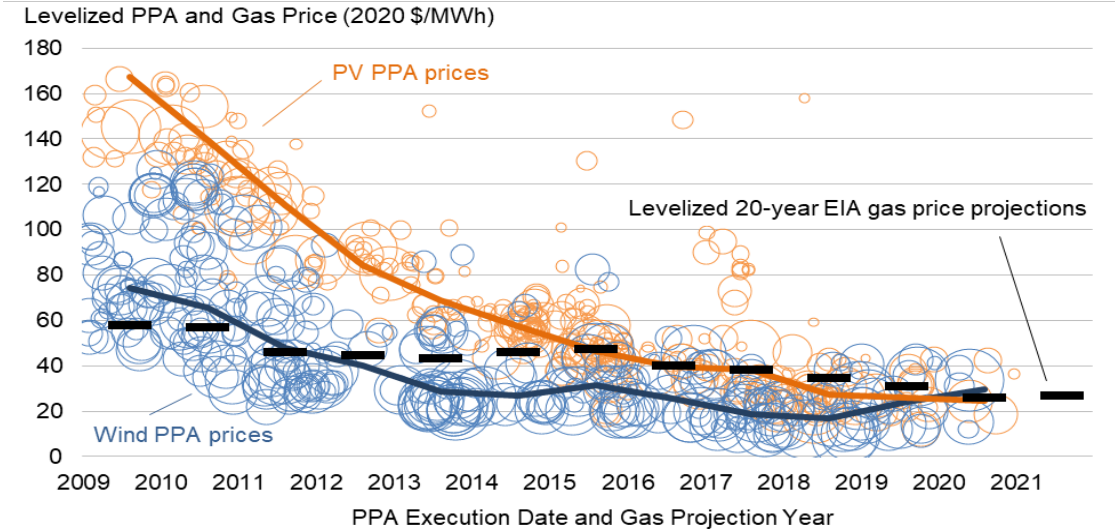


PV and wind have reached economies of scale  
 Becoming cheaper, at parity with traditional  
 generation.  
 Major challenge - making renewables firm power

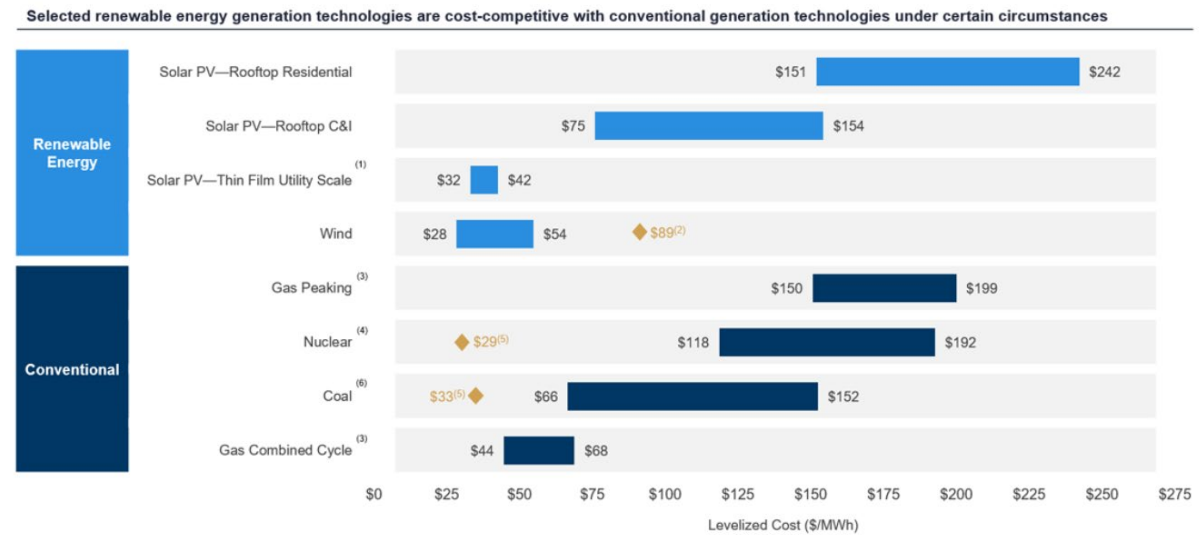
2020 c/kWh



Components of U.S. Electricity Prices (DOE, EIA, AEO2021)



Source: Berkeley Lab, FERC, EIA. Note: Smallest bubble sizes reflect smallest-volume PPAs (<5 MW), whereas largest reflect largest-volume PPAs (>500 MW).



# Grid Edge: Changing Rapidly



Rapid growth of behind-the-meter technologies

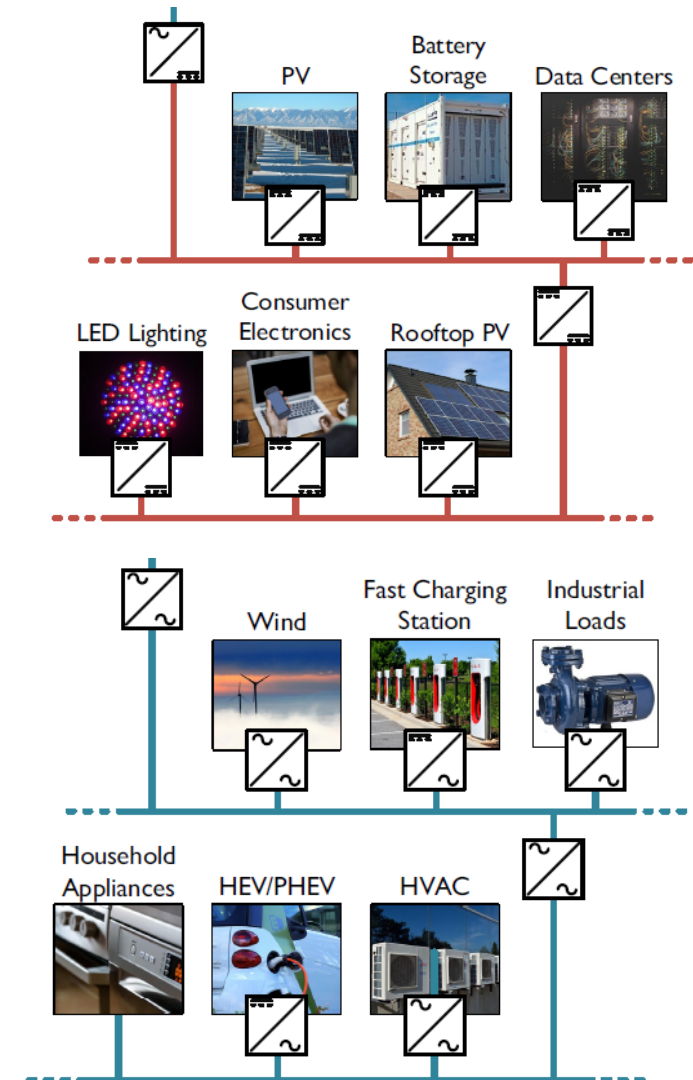
- Rooftop solar, battery storage, smart meters, smart loads
- Managing power flows, protection

Electrification of the Transportation Sector

- Infrastructure bottlenecks, especially in dense urban areas
- Distribution systems are not ready for fast charging
- Ensuring stability of grid, capacity constraints for large loads
- Infrastructure for transactive energy

Rapid evolution of off-grid and micro-grids

Computation challenges associated with distributed sensing, control, and big data

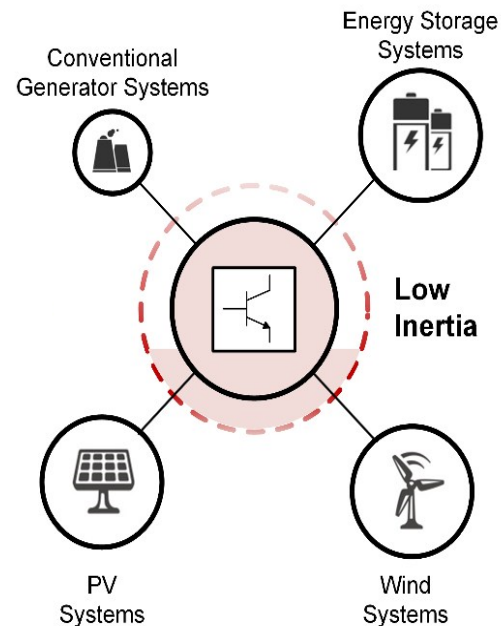
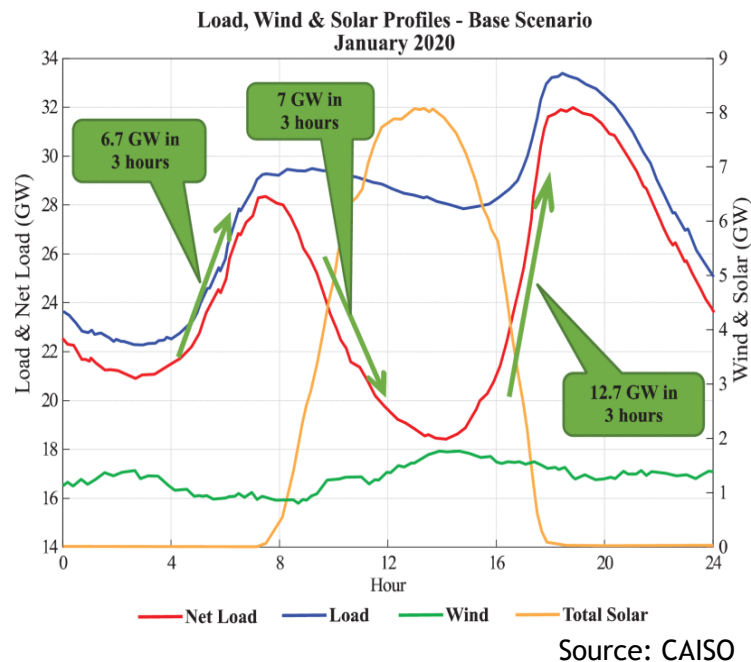




# Maintaining Grid Reliability

Maintaining system frequency; voltage stability, low inertia

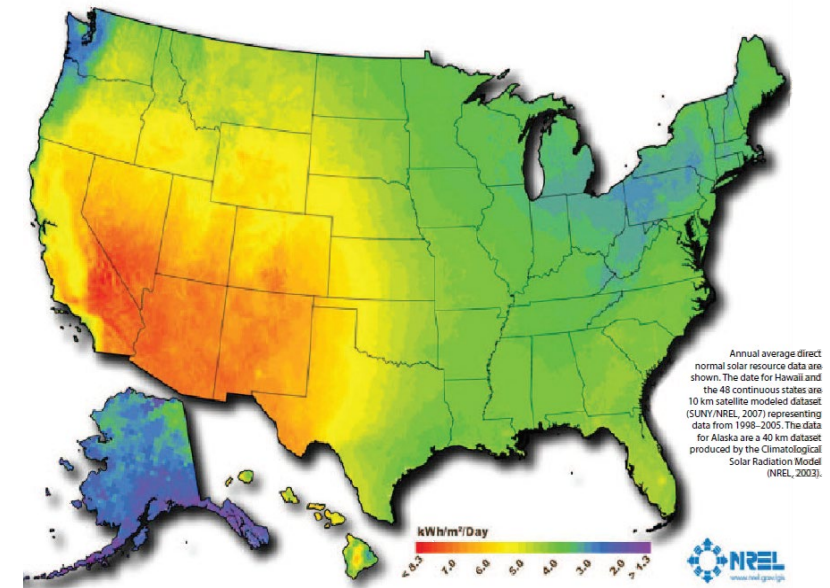
Resource adequacy and transmission capacity to meet peak demand



Source: U. Tamrakar, D. Shrestha, M. Maharjan, B. Bhattarai, T. Hansen, and R. Tonkoski, "Virtual Inertia: Current Trends and Future Directions," *Applied Sciences*, vol. 7, no. 7, p. 654, Jun. 2017.

## Zero Inertia Grid

Inverter-dominated power systems have low or no inertia creating large frequency fluctuation after disturbances.



## Transmission Infrastructure

Most attractive resources for wind/solar are located far from load centers requiring enormous transmission expansion.

## High Variability And Uncertainty

Large amount of generated renewable energy is not coincident with the peak load creating large ramps

# Grid Resiliency



Estimated cost of electricity interruptions in the US: ~\$150B/year

For every \$1.00 spent on electricity, \$0.50 is spent to cover the cost of power failures.

Natural phenomena:

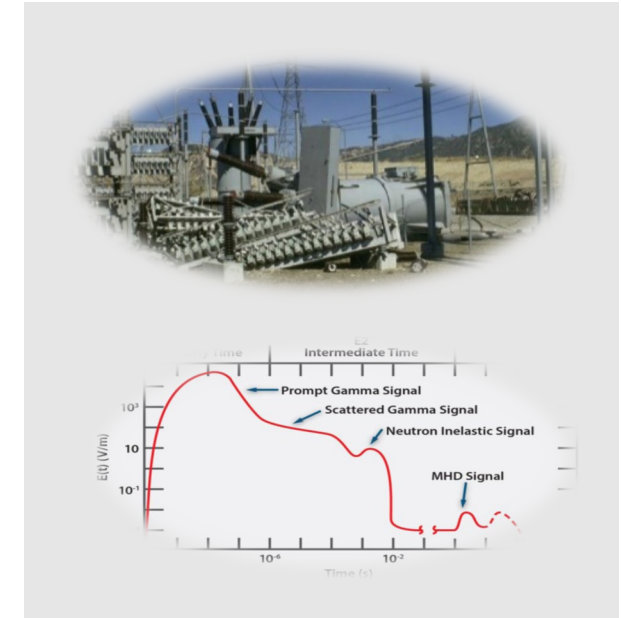
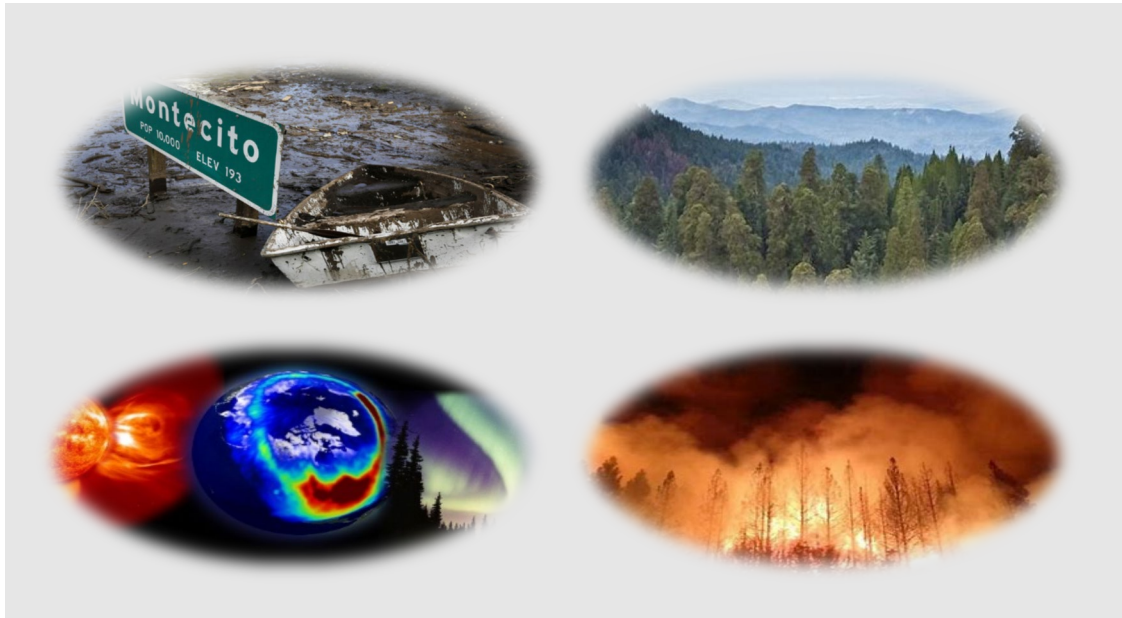
- “The New Normal” of more extreme weather events (i.e., hurricanes, torrential rain, wind-storms, wildfires)
- Space weather events

Man-made:

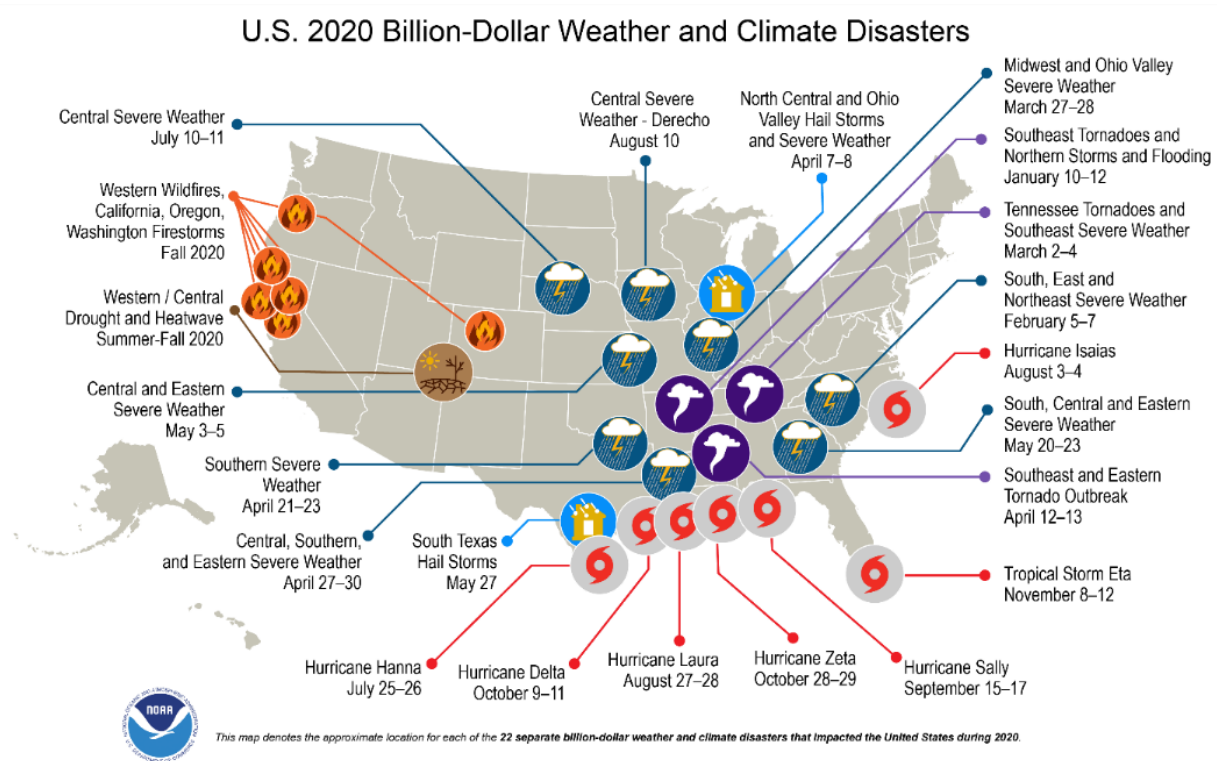
Cyber and physical security, EMP

System design, aging, and human error:

Equipment tripping, power system islanding, voltage and angular instability

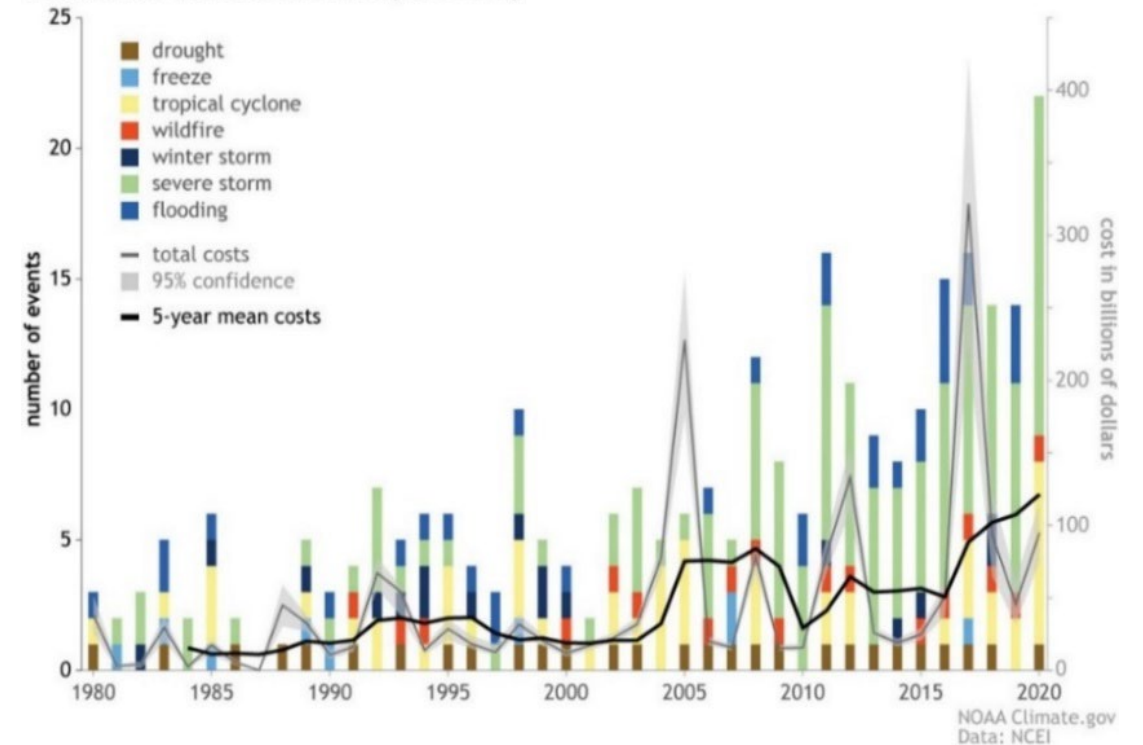


# Climate Change: Increasing Impacts on Grid Operations



**Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters in the U.S. in 2020 (NOAA, 2021)** <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>

**Billion-dollar disasters and costs (1980-2020)**



**U.S. Economic Losses Due to Natural Disasters Exceeding \$1B in Damages per Year**

A.B. Smith, 2020 U.S. billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in historical context, January 8, 2021.

<https://www.climate.gov/disasters2020>

# Electrification and Deeper Decarbonization: Societal Goals



## Targets

- Increased decarbonization
- Clean energy to support public health
- Reliable and resilient energy delivery
- Maintaining affordable electricity prices

### New York's Clean Energy Standard:

- Reduce greenhouse gas 85% by 2050
- 70% renewables by 2030; 100% carbon-free by 2040
- Energy storage: 1.5 GW 2025; 3 GW 2030
- Doubling energy efficiency by 2025

| Germany                           | 2020 | 2030 | 2050 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Greenhouse gas reduction (1990)   | 40%  | 55%  | 80%  |
| Renewable energy share            | 18%  | 30%  | 60%  |
| Energy efficiency increase (2008) | 20%  |      | 50%  |

*Present cost of generation is affected by regulatory policies*

US: ~10¢/kWh  
 CA: ~15¢/kWh  
 EU: ~27¢/kWh  
 GE: ~36¢/kWh

## Energy solutions

### Energy/fuel transformation

- Renewable generation (i.e., solar, wind, etc.)
- Electrical energy storage

### Energy efficiency and demand response

### Electrification

- Transportation: light-, medium-, heavy-duty, buses
- Buildings: residential and commercial
- Industrial and agriculture



**1891: First successful electric car**

**1904: ~1/3 cars were electrical**

# Grid Modernization - Infrastructure Challenges



Adaptation to accommodate High Renewables, Electrification and Climate Change

- Flexibility, G-T-D Coordination, Market Design
- Resource adequacy. Large scale integration of energy storage systems.
- Infrastructure upgrades to enable electrification of transportation.

Improve system reliability and resiliency to mitigate and adapt to climate change

- Weather, Natural disasters, Cyber, Physical attacks

Smarter Grid

- Sensors, Analytics, Automation, IOT, Demand Side Participation, cyber and physical security
- Intelligent power conversion systems with advanced circuit topologies and high speed communication infrastructure.

Need significant cost reductions in power electronics. Lower cost, longer duration energy storage

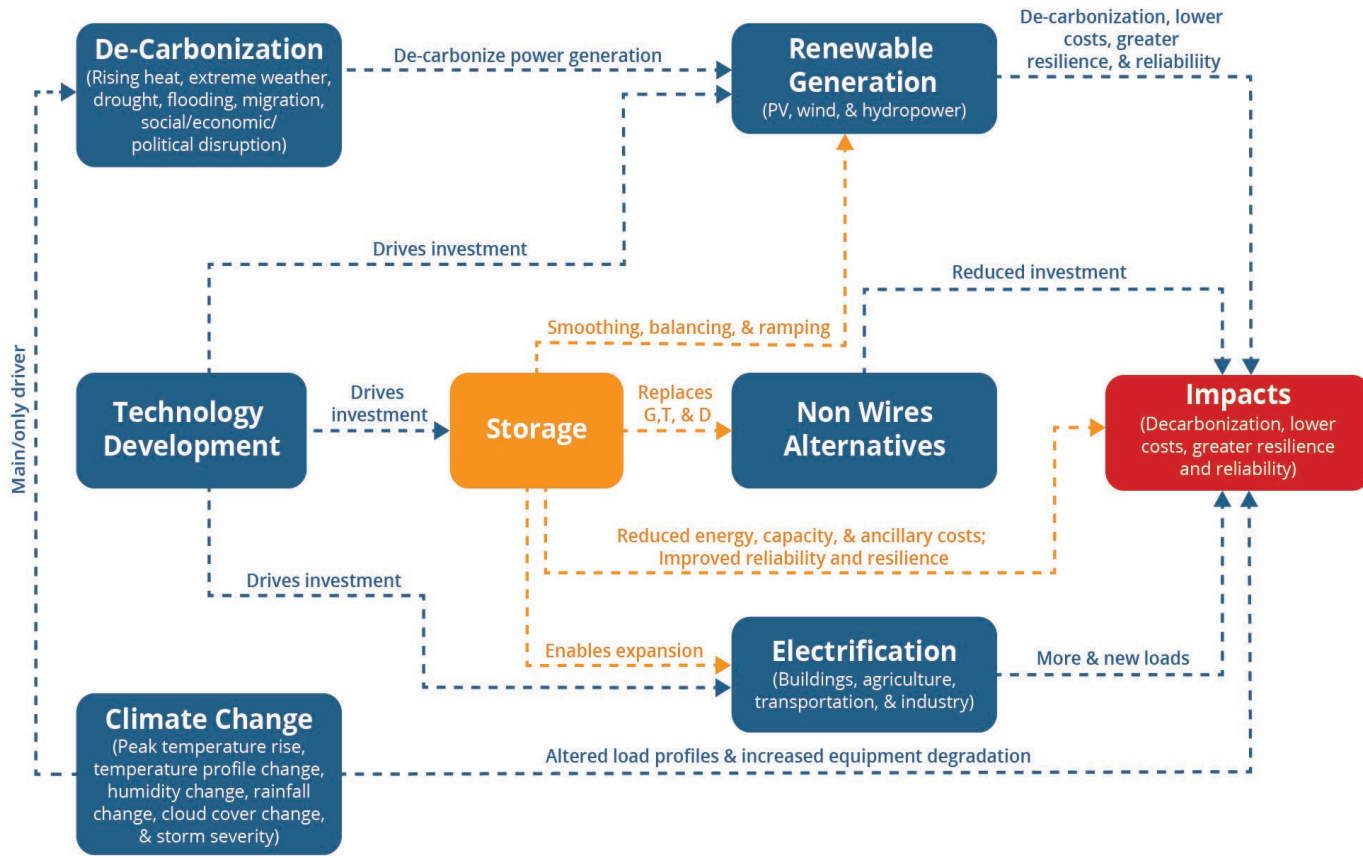
Improvements in safety and reliability of power converters and energy storage systems

Coordinated sensing and control infrastructure

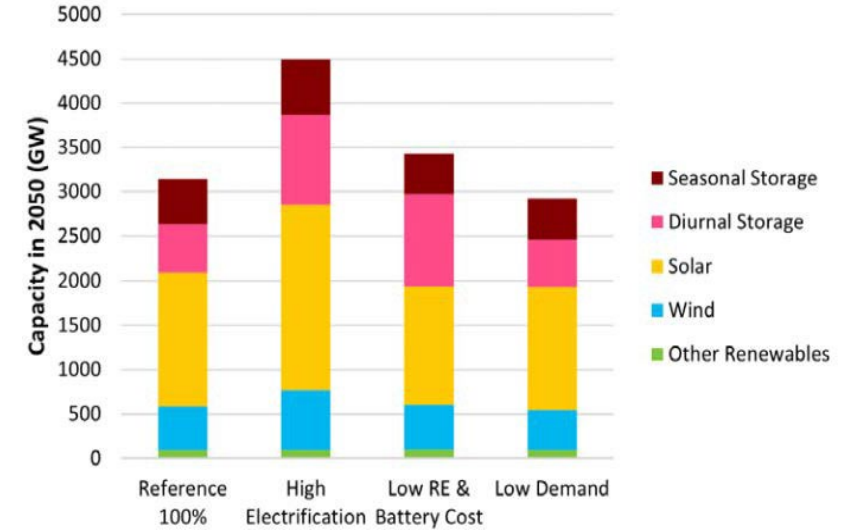
Black start capability without significant traditional generation assets

Greater understanding of the operational reliability and resiliency of a the new electric grid

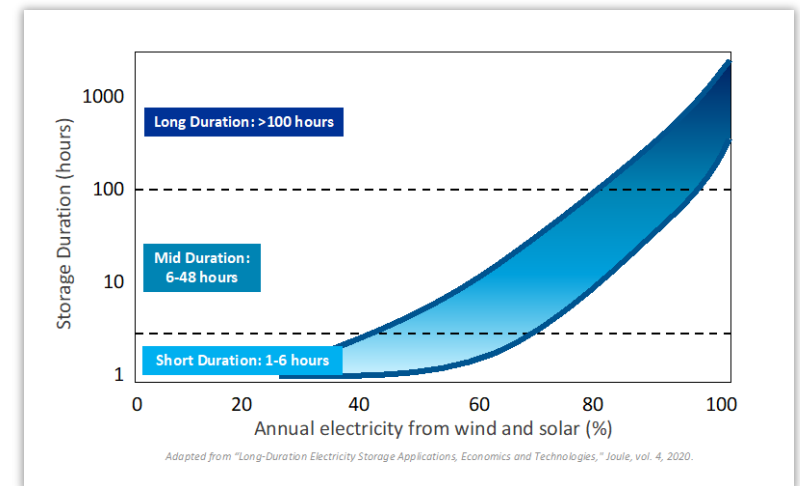
# Energy Storage is Central to Large Scale RE integration and Deeper Decarbonization



Source: R. Masiello, R. Fioravanti, B. Chalamala, and H. Passell, Proc. IEEE, 2022.



Source: N. Blair, NREL Energy Storage Futures Study, 2022.



Source: H. Hack, EPRI, 2022.

# Energy Storage in the Grid Today



Grid-Scale Energy Storage < 0.1% of U.S.  
Generation Capacity

US installed energy storage capacity of 29 GW of pumped hydro, 20 GW of BESS (through 2023) represents ~20 min ride through

Pace of deployments of energy storage picking up

- Grid reliability, solar + storage, resiliency applications



1.6 GW Raccoon Mountain PHS



100 MWh BESS Plant - Tesla

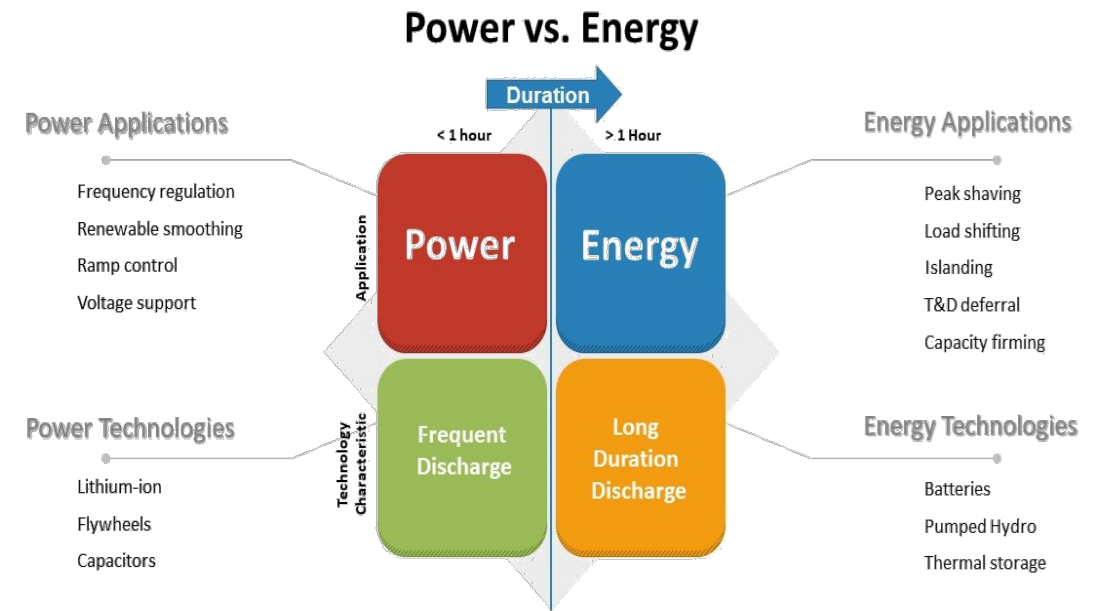
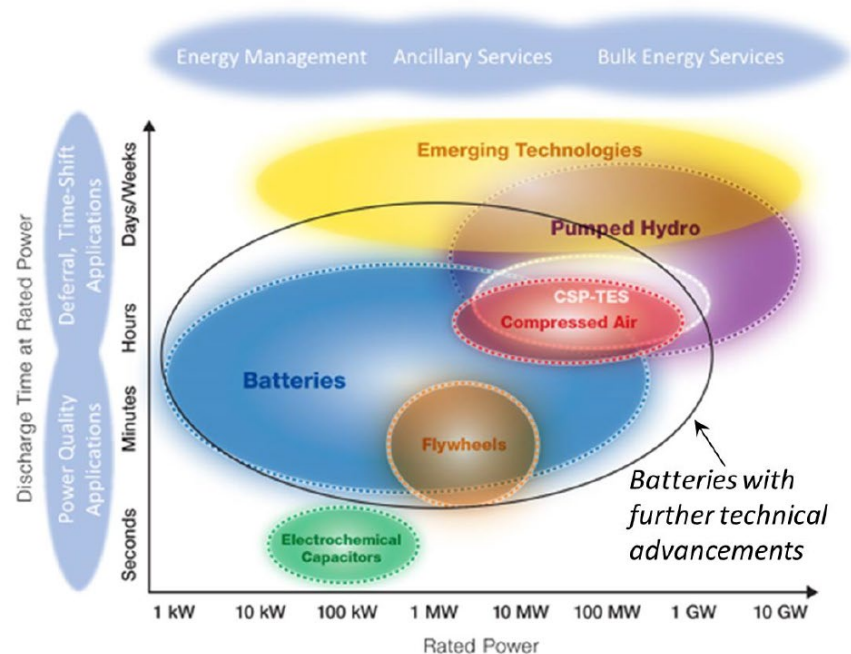
Compared to the need, the scale of energy storage deployments is insignificant.  
With a 1 TW US electric grid, even 1 hr of energy storage means 1 TWh

# Grid Energy Storage: Range of Technologies and Applications



- Range of battery technologies for short duration energy storage, seconds to days
  - Pumped hydro and CAES for hours-to-day long energy storage
  - No ready solutions for real long-duration and seasonal storage needs

- Applications of energy storage systems
  - “Energy” applications: slower time scale, large amounts of energy
  - “Power” applications: faster time scale, real-time control of the electric grid





# Li-ion BESS Driving Large Commercial Deployments



Saft 6 MW / 4.2 MWh ESS  
Kauai - Grid Stability



AES 30 MW / 120 MWh ESS, Escondido, CA  
Peaker replacement

GWh size BESS Plants  
no longer at the  
conceptual stage



Tesla 100 MW / 129 MWh ESS  
Australia - Grid stability

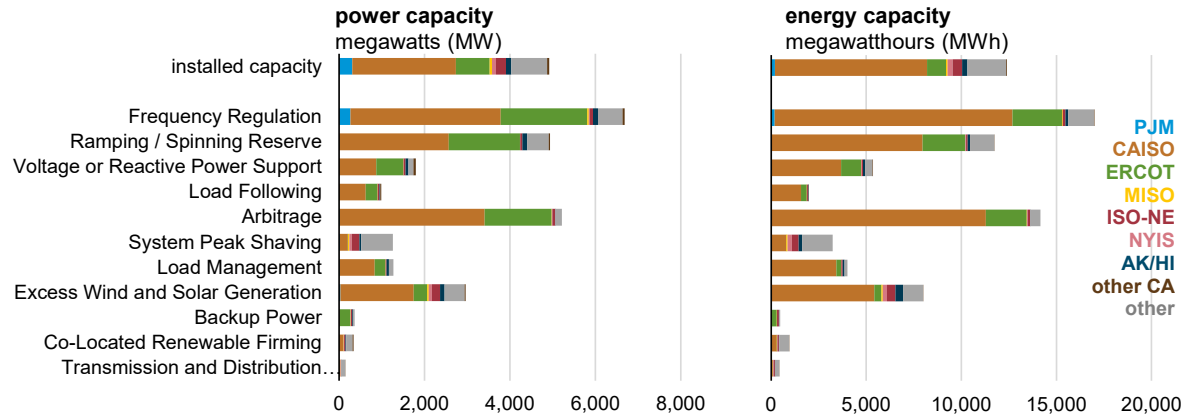


Vistra Energy, Moss Landing, Monterey, CA - 300  
MW / 1200 MWh - Peaker Replacement, Grid  
Reliability

# Battery Energy Storage Deployments



Applications served by large-scale battery storage (2022)



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2022 Form EIA-860 Early Release, Annual Electric Generator Report

Applications served by large-scale battery storage in the US (2022)

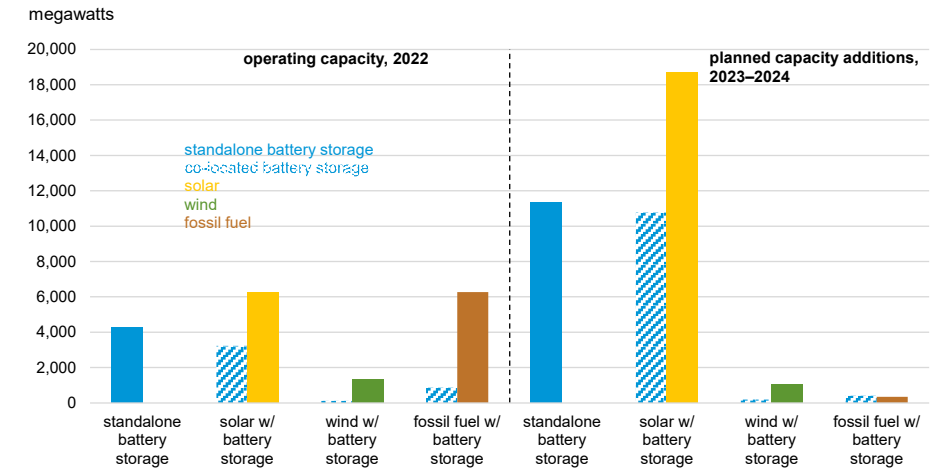
**Early deployments are mainly regulation and ramping services**

Planned new capacity in the pipeline is hybrids either with solar, wind or NG in selected markets

Energy markets beginning to open, energy storage is still expensive for many energy applications including bulk grid

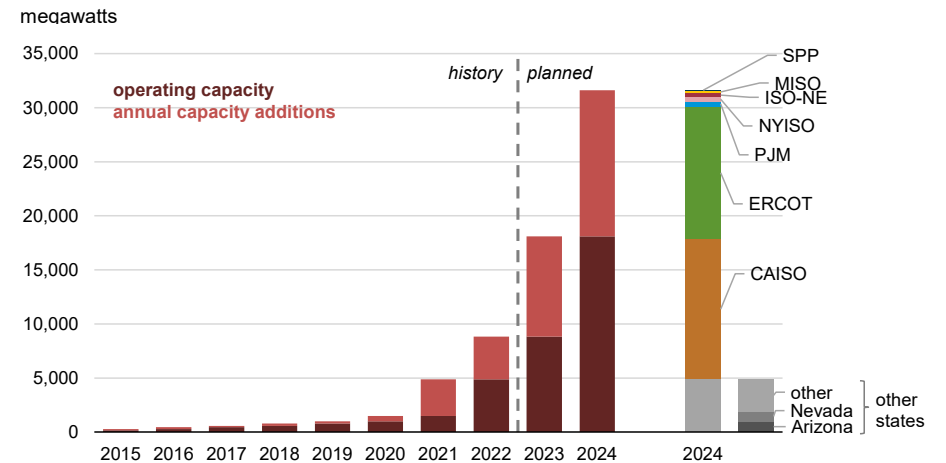
Battery energy storage systems are mostly using Li batteries

Large-scale battery storage power capacity, standalone and co-located (2022–2024)



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2022 Form EIA-860 Early Release, Annual Electric Generator Report  
Note: Solid yellow, green, and brown bars indicate generating total capacity of solar, wind, and fossil fuels that have battery storage on-site.

Large-scale battery storage cumulative power capacity (2015–2024)



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2022 Form EIA-860 Early Release, Annual Electric Generator Report

# Electrochemical and Chemical Energy Storage



What do we currently have?

- Lithium battery energy storage systems: mature, majority of currently deployed BESS for most grid storage applications

What is on the horizon?

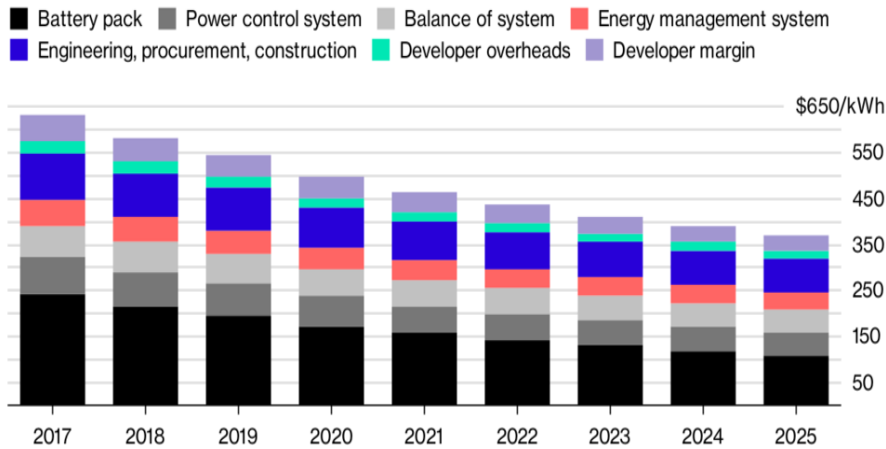
- Range of battery technologies including flow batteries, metal-air batteries
- Hydrogen potentially for longer duration storage
- Liquid fuels and other chemical carriers for even longer durations and seasonal

For shorter duration (up to 8 hours) – Li-ion BESS is the technology of choice. Difficult for other technologies to compete in this market in the near term

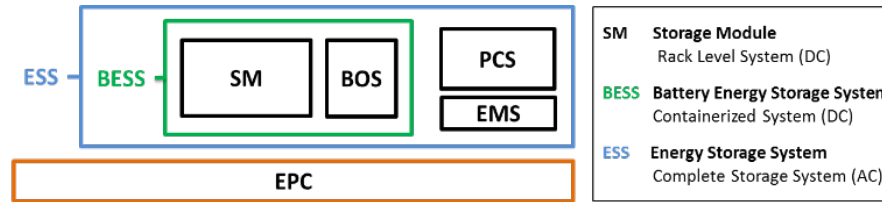
# Engineering Battery Energy Storage Systems



- Integration costs are significant to meet safety and performance requirements
- Performance of battery energy storage systems are not solely dependent on the cell itself, but in the systems and integration level
  - System-level integration modules, e.g., BMS, PCS, are crucial for the performance, safety, and reliability



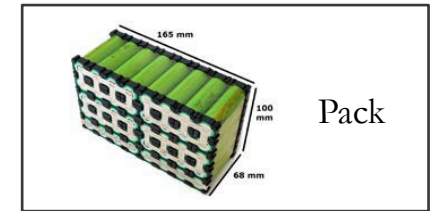
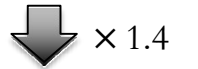
Note: Benchmark numbers for a 1MW/1MWh project  
Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF)



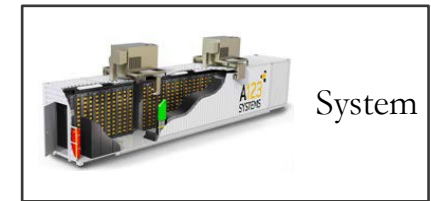
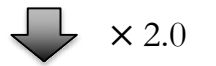
| Storage Module (SM)         | Balance of System (BOS)           | Power Conversion System (PCS) | Energy Management System (EMS) | Engineering Procurement & Construction (EPC) |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Racking Frame / Cabinet     | Container                         | Bi-directional Inverter       | Application Library            | Project Management                           |
| Local Protection (Breakers) | Electrical Distribution & Control | Electrical Protection         | Economic Optimization          | Engineering Studies / Permitting             |
| Rack Management System      | Fire Suppression                  | Connection to Transformer     | Distributed Asset Integration  | Site Preparation / Construction              |
| Battery Management System   | HVAC / Thermal Management         |                               | Data Logging                   | Foundation / Mounting                        |
| Battery Module              |                                   |                               | Communication                  | Commissioning                                |



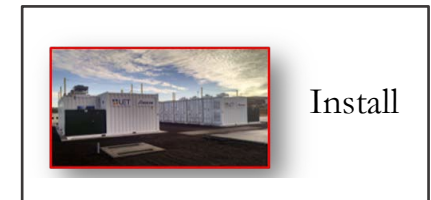
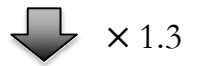
Cell



Pack



System



Install

Integration costs increase as cell → battery → Storage System.  
For example, doubling in cost, \$250/kWh battery leads to \$500-\$700/kWh at the system level.

Various components are required for system-level integration of batteries for safety, performance, and compliance.

# Battery Energy Storage Systems – Design and Application Aspects



- **Cell Architecture**
  - Cylindrical, prismatic, bipolar, flow cell
- **Cell Chemistry**
  - Aqueous, non-aqueous
- **Cycle Life**
  - Electrical
  - Thermal
- **Modularity and Scalability**
  - kW to MW (Power Scaling)
  - kWh to MWh (Energy Scaling)
  - Module stacking and Containerization
- **Operational Aspects**
  - Round-trip efficiency
  - Auxiliary power consumption
  - O&M Costs
- **Plant Models**
  - Modularized
- **Power vs. Energy**
  - High-power, short-duration discharge
  - High-energy, long-duration discharge
  - Fast Charging
- **Safety**
  - Abuse resistance, flammability, toxicity, containment
- **Thermal Management**
  - Heating, cooling

# Safety R&D is largely focused on Li-ion BESS

- Li-ion batteries: knowledge base mostly form consumer electronics, safety issues adequately addressed.
  - Safety issues for larger size (EV, grid) just beginning to be dealt with
- New technologies are being introduced
  - Is testing adequate to new technologies?
  - Li-ion – High energy anode materials
  - Li metal , solid state batteries
  - Advanced aqueous batteries
  - Molten salt batteries
- Large storage systems targeting non-traditional locations, and areas near population centers
- Grid-scale systems are complex, including not only a large battery but sophisticated power electronics
  - Qualifying safety? Is full-scale testing necessary?

2012 Battery Room Fire at Kahuku Wind-Energy Storage Farm



2018-2019 A string of 21 energy storage system fires in South Korea leads to suspension of new projects



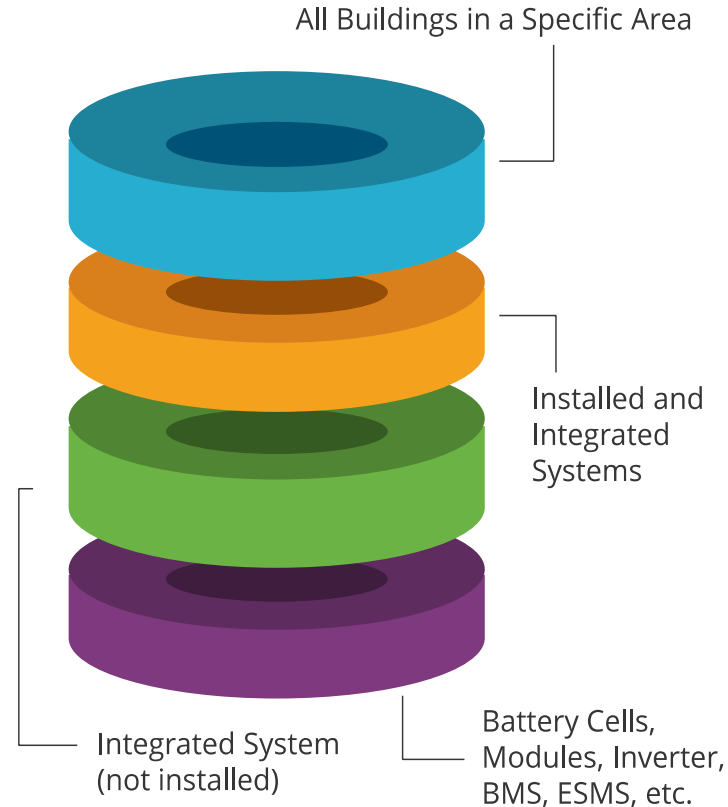
2019 A fire in an ESS in Surprise, AZ leads to an explosion injuring first responders

# Standards to Ensure Energy Storage Systems Safety



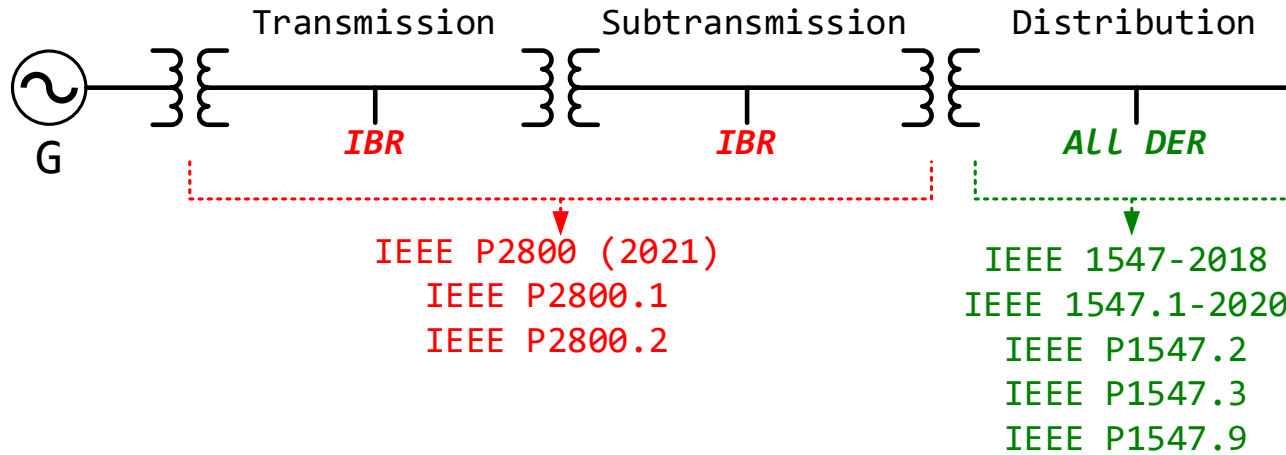
Ensuring safety of battery storage systems remains a major concern  
Need significant advances at materials, engineering and systems level

- 4 Built Environment**  
 International Codes – IFC, IRC, IBC  
 IEEE – C2, SCC 18, SCC 21  
 NFPA 5000, NFPA 1, ISA
- 3 Installation / Application**  
 NFPA 855, NFPA 70, IEEE C2, IEEE  
 1635/ASHRAE 21, IEEE P1578,  
 FM Global 5-33, UL 9540A, NECA 416
- 2 Energy Storage Systems**  
 UL 9540, MESA  
 ASME TES-1, NECA  
 NFPA 791
- 1 System Components**  
 UL 1973, UL 1974, UL 810A, UL 1741,  
 CSA 22.2 No. 340-201, IEEE 1547, IEEE 1679



## Categories for Energy Storage Codes and Standards

# Need for Interconnection Standards



Standards drive uniformity of requirements across jurisdictions

Diverse & different requirements across various jurisdictions

Inverter-based resources (IBR) are different from synchronous generators

Requirements may not be balanced

|                                     | Performance  | Test & Verification & Model Validation   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>FERC / NERC?</b><br>Transmission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FERC Orders</li> <li>• NERC Reliability Standards &amp; Guidelines</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NERC compliance monitoring &amp; enforcement</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>NARUC / State PUCs?</b>          | Sub-Transmission   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not available</li> </ul>  |
|                                     | Distribution (for DER)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IEEE Std 1547-2018 ✓</li> <li>• UL1741 (SB) ✓</li> <li>• IEEE ICAP</li> </ul> |

**IEEE P2800**

**IEEE P2800.1 and/or .x**

IEEE 1547 becoming widely adapted as the de facto DER interconnect standard

- IEEE 1547.9 new standard for energy storage interconnection

IEEE P2800 applies to interconnection of inverter based resources at the transmission and subtransmission levels

- Currently under development



# R&D Gaps and Engineering Challenges



Further improvements in energy density, cost and performance (all battery technologies)

Materials and technologies for longer duration energy storage, esp. efficiency improvements

Safety of electrochemical storage – addressing foundational materials issues

Reducing system level complexity including making systems modular

Engineering costs are significant for small format cells. Large format cells are needed to reduce overall system costs.

Large format cells also allow for tighter integration of power electronics, sensors, SOH monitoring at the cell level.

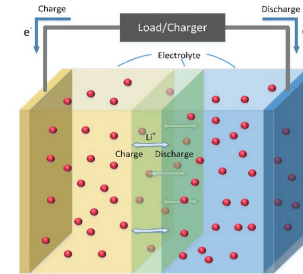
**Emerging battery technologies are burdened by lower efficiencies (compared to Li-ion), large footprints, and no ready monetizable market segment to deploy projects**

# Making Energy Storage Mainstream to Grid Operators



## Technology

- **Lower cost, longer cycle life systems; longer duration storage is a major gap**
- Technologies that can scale from microgrids to large transmission applications
- **Further improvements in safety and reliability**



## Manufacturing

- Industry needs cycles of learning – manufacturing scale through deployments
- Project finance – bankable, warranties, performance guarantees, risk management
- **Standardization – equipment, permitting, construction processes**



## Grid Operation

- **Markets and Operations – business models and operational tools**
- **Analytics – economics and planning tools**
- Appropriate Regulatory Policy – business models, asset classification



# ENERGY STORAGE R&D AT SANDIA



## BATTERY MATERIALS

Large portfolio of R&D projects related to advanced materials, new battery chemistries, electrolyte materials, and membranes.



## DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Work with industry to develop, install, commission, and operate electrical energy storage systems.



## CELL & MODULE LEVEL SAFETY

Evaluate safety and performance of electrical energy storage systems down to the module and cell level.



## STRATEGIC OUTREACH

Maintain the ESS website and DOE Global Energy Storage Database, organize the annual Peer Review meeting, and host webinars and conferences.



## POWER CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Research and development regarding reliability and performance of power electronics and power conversion systems.



## GRID ANALYTICS

Analytical tools model electric grids and microgrids, perform system optimization, plan efficient utilization and optimization of DER on the grid, and understand ROI of energy storage.



## SYSTEMS ANALYSIS

Test laboratories evaluate and optimize performance of megawatt-hour class energy storage systems in grid-tied applications.

Wide ranging R&D covering energy storage technologies with applications in the grid, transportation, and stationary storage



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