
Analyst dossier — The U.S. utility-scale battery storage market

October 03, 2026

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Analyst dossier — The U.S. utility-scale battery storage market

Dossier Snapshot

nearly 52 GW

Operational nameplate capacity

U.S. utility-scale battery storage reached nearly 52 GW after 8.3 GW was added during the first six months of 2026. [1]

70%

Three-year average annual growth

Utility-scale battery storage capacity increased at an annual average growth rate of 70% during the last three years. [1]

24 GW

Planned 2026 battery additions

Developers plan to add 24 GW of utility-scale battery storage in 2026. [1]

28%

Share of planned 2026 additions

Battery storage represents 28% of planned U.S. utility-scale generating-capacity additions in 2026. [1]

54 GW

Additional planned capacity

Operators anticipate bringing an additional 54 GW of battery storage capacity online over the next two and half years. [1]

Executive Summary

The U.S. utility-scale battery storage market has grown from a relatively small installed base into a major part of planned power-system additions. Cumulative utility-scale battery storage capacity exceeded 26 GW in 2024, after generators added 10.4 GW that year. That represented a 66% increase in cumulative capacity, according to the January 2025 preliminary inventory. Even after this rapid expansion, batteries accounted for only 2% of the 1,230 GW U.S. utility-scale generating-capacity base in 2024. [1]

Growth continued in the data available through 2026. Operational battery storage capacity reached 43.6 GW at the end of 2025. Operators added another 8.3 GW in the first six months of 2026, bringing nameplate capacity to nearly 52 GW. EIA describes the average annual growth rate over the preceding three years as 70%. [1] These figures show that battery storage has become a significant annual addition category. However, batteries remain distinct from primary electricity generation: they store electricity produced elsewhere rather than generating electricity from fuel or a natural resource. [1]

Future additions are substantial, but they are reported operator plans, not completed capacity. The December 2024 inventory expected 18.2 GW of battery storage additions in 2025. The January 2025 inventory cited 19.6 GW of planned additions for the same year. A later inventory, published in December 2025, reports that 15 GW was added in 2025 and that developers plan 24 GW in 2026. [1] These changing figures show why plans from different inventory vintages should not be treated as one fixed forecast. [1]

In the stated 2026 plan, battery storage ranks behind solar but ahead of wind and natural gas. Solar represents 51% of planned additions, battery storage 28%, and wind 14%; planned natural gas additions total 6.3 GW. [1] For decision makers, the main implication is that storage is no longer a minor category in annual build plans. The pipeline is also geographically concentrated: Texas, California, and Arizona account for about 80% of planned battery additions in 2026. [1]

Important commercial details are not included in the source materials. These include vendor market shares, project economics, battery chemistry and duration, interconnection timing, revenue performance, and customer procurement criteria. Each requires further verification before supporting company-specific or investment conclusions. [1]

Market Size & Growth

The available evidence measures the market mainly through utility-scale nameplate capacity and annual capacity additions. It does not report market revenue, installed cost, project value, energy capacity in megawatt-hours, battery duration, or supplier market share. This dossier therefore uses capacity as a proxy for market size and separates operating capacity, completed annual additions, and reported future plans. [1]

Period / Segment	Market Size	Growth	Source / Basis
2024 cumulative utility-scale battery storage capacity	Exceeded 26 GW	66%	January 2025 Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
2024 new battery storage capacity	10.4 GW		January 2025 Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
2024 new battery storage capacity	10.3 GW		December 2024 Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
End of 2025 operational battery storage capacity	43.6 GW		Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
2025 battery storage capacity added	15 GW		December 2025 Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
First six months of 2026 battery storage capacity added	8.3 GW		Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
First six months of 2026 nameplate battery storage capacity	Nearly 52 GW	70%	Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory; growth is the stated annual average over the last three years. [1]
Planned 2026 battery storage additions	24 GW		December 2025 Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
Second half of 2026 planned battery storage additions	14 GW		Operator-reported plans in the Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
Planned 2027 battery storage additions	26 GW		Operator-reported plans in the Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]
Planned 2028 battery storage additions	14 GW		Operator-reported plans in the Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1]

Read these figures with attention to their publication date and measurement category. The reported 2024 addition total is 10.4 GW in the January 2025 publication and 10.3 GW in the December 2024 publication. The evidence supports presenting a range of 10.3 GW to 10.4 GW

across those two inventory descriptions. [1] The sources do not explain why the figures differ or whether the difference reflects changing project status or inventory updates. [Needs verification] [1]

The broader expansion is clear despite this small variation. Capacity exceeded 26 GW in 2024, reached 43.6 GW in operational capacity at the end of 2025, and approached 52 GW in nameplate capacity after the first half of 2026. [1] These are not identical measures or time points: the 2024 figure is described as cumulative capacity, the 2025 figure as operational capacity, and the 2026 figure as nameplate capacity. [1] Together, they provide EIA's record of rapid growth in utility-scale storage. [1]

The 2025 planning record deserves particular care. In February 2025, EIA expected 18.2 GW of battery storage additions during the year. In March 2025, an analysis stated that operators had reported plans to add 19.6 GW. [1] By February 2026, EIA reported that 15 GW had actually been added in 2025. [1] The completed amount was below both earlier planning figures, but the sources do not explain the difference. [Needs verification] [1]

The later inventory lists 24 GW of planned battery storage additions in 2026, compared with 15 GW added in 2025. [1] This compares a plan with a completed amount; it does not guarantee that 24 GW will be built. The source describes the wider 2026 generating-capacity total as a record "if realized," and operator-reported storage plans should also be treated as subject to execution. [1] For commercial planning, it is useful to distinguish committed, under-construction, and reported planned capacity. The supplied evidence does not provide those project-status categories. [Needs verification] [1]

Battery storage's position in 2024 also puts its recent growth in context. It was the second-largest generating-capacity addition after solar that year, yet accounted for only 2% of the 1,230 GW utility-scale generating-capacity base. [1] This points to strong annual deployment relative to the installed base. The evidence does not provide comparable historical installed-base shares for solar, wind, natural gas, or other technologies. [Needs verification] [1]

Key Drivers & Trends

- Battery storage is a secondary electricity source. It stores electricity produced by a generator or the electric power grid rather than creating electricity from fuel or a natural resource. [1]
- EIA says battery storage's growth highlights its importance alongside renewable energy. Storage can help balance supply and demand and improve grid stability. [1]
- Solar photovoltaic and storage facilities can store power when wholesale electricity prices are low and discharge it when prices are high. This can allow power producers to capture larger profits. [1]
- Solar and battery storage together accounted for 81% of expected U.S. utility-scale capacity additions in the December 2024 inventory's 2025 outlook. Solar alone represented more than

50% of the expected increase. [1]

- In the December 2025 inventory's 2026 outlook, solar accounts for 51% of planned additions, battery storage for 28%, and wind for 14%. Solar is the largest stated category, and battery storage is the second largest by share. [1]
- Reported annual additions increased from 10.3 GW to 10.4 GW in 2024 to 15 GW in 2025. Developers plan 24 GW for 2026. The two 2024 figures vary by inventory publication, and the 2026 figure is a plan rather than completed capacity. [1]
- Texas, California, and Arizona account for about 80% of planned U.S. battery storage capacity in 2026. This indicates that the near-term pipeline is geographically concentrated. [1]
- Texas represents 53%, or 12.9 GW, of planned 2026 battery additions. California represents 14%, or 3.4 GW, and Arizona represents 13%, or 3.2 GW. [1]
- Solar-linked projects feature prominently among the largest battery storage projects identified for 2026. Examples include Clear Fork Creek Solar and BESS SLF, Bellefield 2 Solar & Energy Storage Farm, and Tehuacana Creek 1 Solar and BESS. [1]
- The Bellefield Solar and Energy Storage Farm began operating in December 2025 with 500 MW of photovoltaic capacity and 500 MW of nameplate storage. Plans call for both capacities to double by November 2026. [1]
- The source identifies solar photovoltaic plants as hosting the largest battery storage capacity units. It does not quantify the overall share of storage paired with solar or compare that share with standalone storage. [Needs verification] [1]
- The sources do not provide evidence about battery cell suppliers, integrators, developer market shares, contract structures, duration profiles, degradation, merchant exposure, financing costs, permitting, or interconnection queues. [Needs verification] [1]

The available evidence describes a storage buildout closely linked to renewable-capacity additions and concentrated in a small number of states. [1] It supports three functional explanations: balancing supply and demand, improving grid stability, and shifting electricity from low-price to high-price periods. [1] It does not show how important each driver is by region, project type, or buyer. [Needs verification] [1]

Competitive Landscape

The supplied materials do not identify battery manufacturers, system integrators, developers by portfolio share, owners by market share, or service providers. A company-level competitive matrix would therefore go beyond the evidence. The table below instead presents capacity categories, geographies, and named projects identified in the source as market-position indicators. "Weakness /

Gap" refers only to information missing from the supplied evidence; it does not describe a commercial weakness of a project or category. [1]

Competitor / Segment	Position	Strength	Weakness / Gap
Utility-scale battery storage	Second-largest generating-capacity addition after solar in 2024; 28% of planned 2026 additions. [1]	10.4 GW was added in 2024, 15 GW in 2025, and 24 GW is planned in 2026. [1]	No supplier, developer, owner, revenue, cost, or duration competition data is provided. [Needs verification] [1]
Solar	Solar accounts for 51% of planned 2026 additions and was the largest capacity-addition category in 2024. [1]	43.4 GW of utility-scale solar is planned in 2026; solar facilities can be paired with storage. [1]	The sources do not compare the project economics of standalone solar with solar-plus-storage. [Needs verification] [1]
Wind	Wind represents 14% of planned 2026 additions. [1]	11.8 GW is planned in 2026, more than double the capacity added in 2025. [1]	The evidence does not directly compare wind and battery storage as operational or economic substitutes. [Needs verification] [1]
Natural gas	Developers plan 6.3 GW of natural gas-fired capacity in 2026. [1]	Combined-cycle generation accounts for 3.3 GW, and combustion turbine units account for 2.8 GW of planned 2026 additions. [1]	The sources do not compare dispatch characteristics, economics, reliability contributions, or market share with batteries. [Needs verification] [1]
Texas battery storage pipeline	53%, or 12.9 GW, of planned U.S. battery additions in 2026. [1]	Three of the four largest battery storage projects scheduled for 2026 are in Texas. [1]	No developer concentration, grid-zone breakdown, customer data, or project completion probability is provided. [Needs verification] [1]
California battery storage pipeline	14%, or 3.4 GW, of planned U.S. battery additions in 2026. [1]	Bellefield 2 Solar & Energy Storage Farm is scheduled to include 500 MW of storage capacity in Kern County. [1]	The source does not identify ownership, offtake arrangements, or competitive position among California projects. [Needs verification] [1]

Competitor / Segment	Position	Strength	Weakness / Gap
Arizona battery storage pipeline	13%, or 3.2 GW, of planned U.S. battery additions in 2026. [1]	Arizona is one of three states that account for most planned U.S. battery storage capacity in 2026. [1]	The evidence does not identify individual Arizona battery-storage projects or market participants. [Needs verification] [1]
Bellefield Solar and Energy Storage Farm	500 MW of photovoltaic capacity and 500 MW of nameplate storage began operating in December 2025. [1]	If the planned doubling is completed by November 2026, EIA states that it will become the largest power storage facility in the United States. [1]	The planned expansion is not reported as operational capacity. The source provides no economics or ownership details. [Needs verification] [1]
Manatee Solar Energy Center	Second-largest battery storage project according to the source. [1]	It has 75 MW of solar capacity and 409 MW of battery storage capacity and has been operating since 2021. [1]	The source provides no current commercial performance, expansion plan, or supplier information. [Needs verification] [1]
Gemini Solar Hybrid	Operational solar-plus-storage project in Nevada. [1]	It has 690 MW of photovoltaic capacity and 380 MW of storage capacity and became operational in 2024. [1]	The source does not rank Gemini against all U.S. projects or provide its commercial terms. [Needs verification] [1]

The evidence points to geographic and project-model concentration, not a verified company-level market structure. [1] Texas is the leading near-term location in the source data, and solar-linked storage features prominently among the large identified facilities. [1] Claims about developer leadership, equipment concentration, margins, or pricing would require additional evidence. [Needs verification] [1]

Segments & Buyers

The evidence supports segmenting the market by system role, project configuration, geography, and project scale. It does not identify end customers, procurement entities, buyer budgets, buyer concentration, contracting methods, or purchasing criteria. Buyer analysis is therefore limited to operators and power producers explicitly mentioned in the source material. [1]

Functional segment: secondary electricity storage

Battery storage systems are classified as secondary electricity sources because they store electricity already produced by generators or the grid. [1] This distinguishes them from solar, wind, natural

gas, and other primary generating technologies described in the source. [1] For market assessment, battery capacity should not be treated as fuel-based electricity production capacity, even though EIA reports it alongside other generating-capacity additions. [1]

Project configuration segment: solar photovoltaic plus storage

Solar photovoltaic plants host the largest battery storage capacity units identified by EIA. [1] The source names Bellefield, Manatee, Gemini, Clear Fork Creek, and Tehuacana Creek as examples of solar-linked storage configurations. [1] The stated operating rationale is to shift electricity based on prices: operators can store power when wholesale prices are low and discharge it when prices are high. [1] The evidence does not quantify the share of utility-scale storage paired with solar or describe buyers of standalone storage. [Needs verification] [1]

Geographic segment: Texas, California, and Arizona

The 2026 battery storage plan is concentrated in three states. Texas accounts for 53%, or 12.9 GW; California accounts for 14%, or 3.4 GW; and Arizona accounts for 13%, or 3.2 GW. Together, these states represent about 80% of planned 2026 battery capacity. [1] This makes state-level project execution in these locations a priority for near-term diligence. However, the source materials do not provide regulatory, transmission, pricing, or interconnection conditions that explain the concentration. [Needs verification] [1]

Project-scale segment: large named facilities

The source identifies several large facilities scheduled for 2026: Lunis Creek BESS at 621 MW, Clear Fork Creek Solar and BESS SLF at 600 MW, Bellefield 2 Solar & Energy Storage Farm at 500 MW, and Tehuacana Creek 1 Solar and BESS at 418 MW. [1] These examples show that individual utility-scale storage assets can reach several hundred megawatts. [1] The evidence does not provide a full distribution of project sizes, so it cannot establish a typical project scale, concentration ratio, or minimum efficient scale. [Needs verification] [1]

Outlook / Scenarios

This outlook uses reported plans and EIA's stated expectations. It is not an independently built forecast model because the supplied evidence does not include the inputs needed to create one. The scenarios distinguish realization of reported plans, continuation of the observed build pattern, and a shortfall against plans. [1]

Scenario	Assumption	Evidence	Implication
Reported 2026 plan realized	Developers add 24 GW of utility-scale battery storage in 2026. [1]	Battery storage is planned to represent 28% of 86 GW of new U.S. utility-scale generating capacity in 2026. [1]	Battery storage remains the second-largest stated 2026 capacity-addition category after solar. [1]
Concentrated regional buildout	Texas, California, and Arizona deliver their reported 2026 plans. [1]	The states account for about 80% of planned new U.S. battery storage capacity: 12.9 GW, 3.4 GW, and 3.2 GW, respectively. [1]	Near-term national deployment remains highly dependent on project execution in three states. [1]
Extended reported pipeline	Operator-reported additions occur in the second half of 2026, in 2027, and in 2028. [1]	Plans total 14 GW in the second half of 2026, 26 GW in 2027, and 14 GW in 2028. EIA describes 54 GW of additional capacity over the next two and a half years. [1]	The reported pipeline supports continued expansion beyond 2026, subject to the realization of operator plans. [1]
Plan revision or execution shortfall	Reported plans change before projects are completed. [Assumption]	For 2025, EIA reported plans of 18.2 GW and 19.6 GW in separate early 2025 publications, while the later reported addition was 15 GW. [1]	Use planning figures as pipeline indicators, not as completed installations. The source does not explain the difference. [Needs verification] [1]
Solar-led addition mix persists	The stated 2026 capacity mix is realized. [1]	Solar represents 51%, battery storage 28%, and wind 14% of planned additions; natural gas additions total 6.3 GW. [1]	Battery storage grows within a power-system expansion led by solar, rather than becoming the largest addition category. [1]

The central scenario supported by the evidence is continued rapid deployment: 24 GW is planned for 2026 after 15 GW was added in 2025. [1] The main caution is execution uncertainty. Early 2025 planning figures differed across EIA inventory vintages and were higher than the later reported additions. [1] This does not prove a systematic forecasting bias. The evidence includes only the cited plans and outcome, not a broader analysis of plans compared with completed projects over time. [Needs verification] [1]

Longer-term reported plans also point to a substantial pipeline: 26 GW in 2027 and 14 GW in 2028, following 14 GW planned for the second half of 2026. [1] The sources do not state whether these projects have financing, interconnection, equipment supply, permits, construction status, offtake arrangements, or binding completion commitments. [Needs verification] [1] These factors should guide confidence in the pipeline.

Strategic Recommendations

NOTE

Prioritize diligence on the 2026 Texas, California, and Arizona pipeline, which accounts for about 80% of planned battery additions, while treating the 24 GW national plan as an execution-sensitive pipeline rather than completed capacity. [1]

First, use a capacity-based planning framework that separates operating capacity, completed annual additions, and operator-reported plans. [1] The 2025 record shows why this distinction matters: early-year planning estimates ranged from 18.2 GW to 19.6 GW, while the later reported addition was 15 GW. [1] Management reports should label the basis of each figure rather than combine these categories into a single "market size" number. [1]

Second, focus near-term market monitoring on Texas, California, and Arizona. [1] Texas is especially significant because it represents 53%, or 12.9 GW, of planned 2026 additions. Three of the four largest battery projects scheduled for that year are also located there. [1] California and Arizona account for 14%, or 3.4 GW, and 13%, or 3.2 GW, respectively. [1] This prioritization reflects the concentration shown in the reported pipeline. It does not mean these states have better economics or lower execution risk. [Needs verification] [1]

Third, evaluate solar-plus-storage as a central project configuration. EIA identifies solar photovoltaic plants as hosting the largest battery storage capacity units and describes how solar-plus-storage can shift electricity from low-price to high-price periods. [1] The key diligence questions are which configurations, regions, contracts, and operating durations create durable economics. The supplied sources do not answer those questions. [Needs verification] [1]

Fourth, verify company-specific competitive, revenue, and technology claims before relying on them. The evidence does not provide battery manufacturer shares, integrator positions, developer ownership, buyer identities, energy capacity, duration, pricing, capital costs, project returns, or grid-market revenues. [Needs verification] [1] A diligence plan should obtain project-level status, commercial counterparties, operating data, and interconnection information before assigning commercial probabilities to the reported 54 GW of additional pipeline. [1]

Finally, assess storage within the broader capacity-addition mix. Battery storage represents 28% of planned 2026 additions, a substantial share, but remains behind solar at 51%. [1] A sound strategic view should consider storage both as a standalone capacity category and as an enabling component of a solar-led expansion cycle. [1] The sources support this relationship. They do not show that storage replaces every other generating technology or that all planned battery projects will be completed. [Needs verification] [1]

Appendix: Sources & Notes

Scope. This dossier covers only the U.S. utility-scale battery storage market. It focuses on storage capacity growth, reported plans for 2025 and 2026, and comparisons with other categories of planned generating-capacity additions. [1]

Source treatment. All factual statements and figures come solely from Document 1, which contains four EIA in-brief analyses based on versions of the Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory. [1] The document includes publications dated February 24, 2025; March 12, 2025; February 20, 2026; and August 7, 2026. [1]

Revision note. Different EIA publications report 10.3 GW and 10.4 GW of battery additions for 2024. [1] This dossier preserves both figures, identifies their source basis, and presents the published range as 10.3 GW to 10.4 GW. [1] It does not recalculate, reconcile, or select between the figures because the source does not explain the difference. [Needs verification] [1]

Planning note. Reported 2025 plans also vary by inventory vintage: 18.2 GW in the December 2024 inventory discussion and 19.6 GW in the January 2025 inventory discussion. [1] A later source reports 15 GW added in 2025. [1] This dossier labels the earlier figures as plans and the 15 GW figure as a reported completed addition. [1]

Interpretation boundaries. Statements marked "[Assumption]" are scenario conditions, not outcomes established by the source. Statements marked "[Needs verification]" identify questions for further diligence. The source does not support conclusions about company-level competition, equipment suppliers, costs, revenues, project returns, battery duration, energy capacity, buyer segments, financing, interconnection status, permitting, or completion probability. [1]

Summary

Conclusion

The available evidence supports a cautiously positive view of near-term market development. Planned additions are substantial, and the source reports that 15 GW of capacity was added in 2025. However, these figures do not represent the same stage of project development. Announced plans should not be treated as financed, construction-ready, or operational capacity. Completed additions provide the clearest evidence of execution to date. [1]

Assess the opportunity in stages. Planned capacity can indicate potential demand and the scale of operator ambitions, but further diligence is needed to understand how much of the pipeline may progress through permitting, interconnection, financing, procurement, and construction. [Needs verification]

The source offers a useful view of market momentum, but it does not establish company-level competitive positions, supplier dynamics, project economics, technology specifications, buyer demand, or project completion probabilities. Investment, partnership, and market-entry decisions

should therefore pair the reported figures with additional checks on pipeline maturity, regulatory conditions, grid access, commercial contracts, and execution capability.

Sources

1. Document 1

Faithfulness review

Status: NeedsReview — 1 claim(s) flagged for review (no high-severity issues).

- **[Low]** "This distinguishes them from solar, wind, natural gas, and other primary generating technologies" — The sources define battery storage as a secondary source, but do not explicitly classify all the listed technologies as primary generating technologies.