

How to calculate the price of energy storage products

What are storage costs?

Storage costs are overnight capital costs for a complete 4-hour battery system. Figure 9. Comparison of cost projections developed in this report (solid lines) against the values from the 2023 cost projection report (Cole and Karmakar 2023) (dashed lines). Figure 10.

Do investors underestimate the value of energy storage?

While energy storage is already being deployed to support grids across major power markets, new McKinsey analysis suggests investors often underestimate the value of energy storage in their business cases.

What is the difference between total lifetime cost and energy output?

The total lifetime cost is the sum of the cost of PV energy generation and the cost of storage. The energy output of the PP is the sum of directly used energy from PV and the amount that is taken from PV to the storage system and then released to the output of the PP.

Why are battery system costs expressed in \$/kWh?

By expressing battery system costs in \$/kWh, we are deviating from other power generation technologies such as combustion turbines or solar photovoltaic plants where capital costs are usually expressed as \$/kW. We use the units of \$/kWh because that is the most common way that battery system costs have been expressed in published material to date.

How do I evaluate potential revenue streams from energy storage assets?

Evaluating potential revenue streams from flexible assets, such as energy storage systems, is not simple. Investors need to consider the various value pools available to a storage asset, including wholesale, grid services, and capacity markets, as well as the inherent volatility of the prices of each (see sidebar, "Glossary").

Should energy storage be undervalued?

The revenue potential of energy storage is often undervalued. Investors could adjust their evaluation approach to get a true estimate--improving profitability and supporting sustainability goals.



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