



News from the Indiana Office of Energy Development

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Contact: Greg Cook, Indiana OED, gcook@oed.in.gov, 317.954.2501

Study: Battery energy storage systems enhance Indiana energy infrastructure

INDIANAPOLIS -- Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are expected to grow in Indiana while also offering constructive pathways for enhancing the state's energy infrastructure. Battery energy storage systems provide utility-scale capacity to meet energy demands and assist in restoration of electric services following grid outages.

These are central elements of key findings in a recent study on BESS conducted by Exeter Associates, commissioned by the Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"BESS technologies are an increasingly important part of the electric grid as technological advancements and rising demand both expand BESS's potential applications and increase deployment," the study found. "As the state's generation mix evolves, BESS can play a supportive role in optimizing the performance and reliability of new resources."

"We advocate for diversification and innovation, across the state's energy generation portfolio and utility-scale BESS technology offers another opportunity for innovation that benefits Hoosiers," said Indiana Secretary of Energy and Natural Resources Suzanne Jaworowski. "Governor Braun is committed to ensuring greater affordable, reliable, and resilient energy solutions provide statewide benefits."

"Indiana continues to explore ways of serving as a transformative leader in energy modernization," Jaworowski said.

The study found that BESS "are a flexible and, increasingly, cost-effective tool available to support Indiana's grid." It concluded by stating that "utility-scale BESS has strong potential to continue supporting Indiana's energy goals across all five statutory pillars" of reliability, resilience, stability, affordability, and environmental sustainability.

The study added that development of a utility BESS project takes time, up to more than 8 years in some instances, and incorporates regional, state, and local standards. In addition, given the early stages of BESS technology, local governments need more support on best practices for siting and also analyses of local ordinance considerations.

“Clear and consistent permitting and siting frameworks help ensure that BESS projects are integrated into communities in a way that minimizes adverse impacts,” according to the Exeter analysis. The report provides considerations for communities to consider when developing local ordinances.

The study also assessed safety considerations for BESS, noting that risks “are real but manageable.”

“Consistent adherence to all required safety measures ... will be key to minimizing risk,” the report said. Physical and cybersecurity are also critical considerations when implementing safety measures, according to the study.

Additionally, battery storage systems planning should include appropriate safety training and emergency response procedures, the report said.

“It is imperative that first responders are included early in the planning of BESS installations and provided with the training and real-time information necessary to gauge conditions at a battery facility and respond accordingly,” the study noted.

The study weighed potential BESS impact on economic and workforce development, forecasting that Indiana would observe “modest growth both in terms of jobs created and economic output.”

In sum the study found that the full potential of battery storage systems in Indiana can be realized through the continuation and enhancement of streamlined regulatory environments, safety standards, workforce and supply chain investment, community planning, and flexible policies to accommodate these emerging technologies.

The study may be found [here](#).

***About the Indiana Office of Energy Development:** The Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) is committed to affordable, stable, and reliable energy solutions for the benefit of all Hoosiers. Indiana OED supports the development of comprehensive energy policy that supports a diverse and balanced portfolio of energy resources.*