OurEnergyPolicy.org
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Powering Progress: Batteries and Energy Storage

Summary of Comments - November 13, 2025

On November 13th, 2025, OurEnergyPolicy hosted a discussion on advancements in energy storage technology, their role in the grid of the future, and the current political and economic landscape for battery deployment. Find the recording here.

SPEAKERS

Molly Rafelson
Program Director, Energy Storage, The Clean Fight

Evan van Hook
Chief Sustainability Officer, Viridi

Garrett Fitzgerald
Senior Director, Electrification, Smart Electric Power Alliance

Greg Silverberg
SVP, Strategy REV Renewables

OurEnergyPolicy is a non-partisan organization. The following represents a summary of comments from the panelists.

Summary of Key Points

- Batteries and storage provide capacity, resilience, flexibility, and decarbonization.
- Batteries and storage are often undervalued for the resilience and flexibility they provide to the grid.
- Battery and storage upgrades reduce pressure for more transmission and generation.
- Interconnection costs and timelines remain a barrier to storage deployment.
- While there is uncertainty around federal policy, state policy can provide clear market signals for industry growth.

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Batteries and Energy Storage

- Energy storage systems, particularly battery storage, are discussed on three scales:
  - Utility: Centralized battery storage facilities.
  - Residential/Commercial: Decentralized, often behind-the-meter storage.
  - Mobility Scale: Batteries used in electric vehicles.
- For successful deployment of grid-scale storage, projects must be co-designed with the communities that house them.
- The Clean Fight published a white paper as part of its Energy Storage Capital Challenge on Aligning Capital For Innovative Energy Storage Projects In New York State.
- Further integration of AI and machine learning is key to unlocking the full potential of grid assets. Particularly, further integration will make Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) more effective.

The Role of Battery Storage in VPPs

- VPPs are a collection of grid assets behind-the-meter or near-the-meter being aggregated to provide value to the grid.
- Residential/Commercial and Mobile battery storage are all assets to VPPs.
- To optimize the function of VPPs, improvement is needed in the interoperability of Distributed Energy Resources (DERs).
  - Programs for separate DERs should be streamlined into one cohesive incentive program to make it easier for residentials to participate in VPP programs.
- Compensation for participation in VPPs is a worthy investment since it can reduce the need for some transmission and generation infrastructure investments.

Federal and State Policy Impacts

- While current policy outcomes are still relatively positive for the battery industry, it will be impacted by reductions in solar and wind development since renewables integration is often paired with battery deployment.
- Given the uncertainty around tariffs and federal policy, state-level programs can create clear, long-term market signals of opportunity for energy storage developers to land and expand in state markets.
  - Incentives can include direct funding to manufacturing companies or creating demand for products created in these manufacturing facilities by funding projects that utilize them.
- Some thermal energy storage systems can avoid FEOC restrictions since they do not have imported battery cells that may disqualify them from federal incentives.