Economy 7 battery storage



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This article is a gateway to better understanding battery energy storage systems. We will focus specifically on how these systems work alongside Economy 7. In addition to exploring their uses and benefits, we will look at the technical aspects.

Economy 7 refers to a UK off-peak electricity price scheme. Consumers are encouraged to use more off-peak electricity and less peak-time electricity (peak shaving) for grid load balancing. This applies to commercial and domestic users. To benefit from Economy 7, you need a smart meter, that applies to retail or business users.

If your business or organisation cannot get a smart meter or Economy 7, look at your on-peak/off-peak pricing from your energy supplier. If there is a differential and opportunity for cheaper electricity at night, keep reading as the principles will be the same.

We are now seeing the mass adoption of PV Solar, electric vehicles and battery storage systems. Load-shifting and preset battery storage and release times inside your building or house are key considerations for saving energy bills.

Switching to an Economy 7 tariff can save you money if you use more energy after midnight. However, if your energy habits lean towards the daytime, watch out for those higher rates. The ideal solution is to store affordable nighttime electricity so that you can use most of your power during the day.

Rechargeable batteries in battery energy storage systems are essential for storing energy from solar panels or wind turbines. Battery storage systems deliver this stored energy to consumers when needed.

Peak shaving involves reducing the energy drawn from the grid during busy times. (For example, between 6-8 pm when families come home from work and school). Peak shaving is critical to help us transition to a green economy.

Battery energy storage enables electricity consumers to adjust their energy consumption from peak hours to off-peak hours. This load-shifting method saves money and lowers grid stress during peak demand hours.

Lower energy consumption during peak hours can lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The adoption of battery energy storage systems by homeowners and businesses aligns with sustainable practices, which supports today's eco-conscious society.

Homeowners can significantly cut their energy expenses by charging battery storage devices during off-peak hours when power rates are low and utilising that stored energy during peak hours. This benefits companies

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that rely on electricity, such as factories and research centres.

The price of commercial and industrial battery storage systems decreased significantly in 2023. That means that payback periods are realistic, and consumers of every size can profit. In previous years, battery storage on large projects was done for practical and environmental reasons, not so much for financial ones. This all changed in 2023, and we are excited about the implications!

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