

## Energy storage for demand response ukraine

The ongoing Russian aggression has turned Ukrainian energy sector into a critical battlefield, with Russia's relentless attacks targeting infrastructure that sustains Ukraine's power grid and heating systems. Since the full-scale invasion began in February 2022, these attacks have inflicted unprecedented damage, pushing Ukraine's energy system to the brink. Yet, amid the darkness lies an opportunity to rebuild the energy sector not only to survive the war but to emerge stronger, greener, and more self-reliant.

In many cases, small-scale solar PV panels already provide good value even under the currently capped electricity tariffs, with lower-bound estimates from a study earlier this year suggesting payback periods below 8 years. Importantly, larger amounts of battery storage will be needed to ensure that renewable energy sources can be integrated into the system. In mid-2024, the Transmission System Operator Ukrenergo took important steps forward in this direction, holding a successful auction for 99 MW of storage capacity.

If expanded and sustained, these initiatives could drive a significant shift towards a greener energy system, reducing the country's reliance on imported fossil fuels and enhancing its long-term energy security. While the immediate focus is elsewhere, renewables can already help and must be prioritised in the overall reconstruction of the system, going in tandem with increases in balancing and storage capacity.

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