

## Israel energy storage policy updates

Israel's planning administration has approved the terms for deploying up to 16 MWh of storage facilities. The government said that due to the Gaza conflict, storage has become ever more important for emergencies.

The Israeli Planning Administration has approved a new set of regulations for energy storage. Set out as a national outline plan, the new regulation deals with the capacities of different energy storage facilities, where they can be built and under what conditions.

"The plan will allow the deployment of storage units next to PV plants, gas stations and houses. That will help regulate energy consumption under high demand," the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure said in a statement. "On the backdrop of the war in Gaza, energy storage can maintain energy for few hours under emergency conditions."

According to the plan's original papers from January 2023, storage of up to 600 kWh can be built on any land, under some caveats. Bigger storage facilities of up to 5 MWh are allowed on any land, with the exceptions of agricultural land, scenic land, protected land or in the vicinity of a river.

Larger storage facilities, of up to 16 MWh, will only be allowed on land with specific uses. Among permitted lands are those for industrial use, parking lots and public buildings. More extensive storage of more than 16 MWh is not regulated in this program.

"Storage infrastructure improves the potential of renewable energy use," the ministry added. "This regulation plan was made to support it, as based on it, permits for construction of such facilities can be issued."

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The Electricity Authority of Israel has received proposals for a competitive procedure aimed at establishing and operating large storage facilities by the private market. These facilities will be utilized by the system manager, Nega Company, to regulate energy flow in the electricity grid and relieve loads in substations, thereby maximizing the use of the existing grid infrastructure.

The competitive process, conducted in full coordination with Nega Company, attracted offers from 11 different bidders for 29 projects, totaling approximately 4,000 megawatts of capacity for at least four hours. The facilities are scheduled to begin operations in 2027.

These new storage facilities will enable the connection of additional renewable energy installations to the grid, aiding in frequency stabilization and enhancing the reliability of the electricity supply as part of the development plan for the production segment.

The facilities will be built in three regions with significant congestion in the electricity network and high potential for renewable energy production: the northern region, the Takuma region (western Negev), and the Arabah. These installations are expected to bolster energy security in these areas.

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