

## Dakar energy storage for load shifting

Load shifting is quickly becoming a key currency for energy companies. Increased electrification, changing energy production and evolving customer needs put a premium on the ability to smooth our energy peak loads. Without this ability, energy companies and consumers run increased risks of blackouts and higher energy prices.

It centres on shifting energy use from peak periods to non-peak times. This can be achieved through means like switching off electric equipment during high-demand periods, variable energy pricing, and more.

Load shifting is often complemented by peak shaving, which focuses on short-term additions of extra energy sources or shedding energy use. The central difference is that peak shaving does not seek to delay or shift energy use.

Load shifting presents multiple benefits for energy companies and consumers, particularly in terms of cost efficiency and grid management. Effective load balancing allows businesses and individual consumers to reduce their power consumption and, thereby, their energy bills. Smoothing out energy demand peaks also reduces grid strain and lowers the risk of power outages.

Load shifting helps maintain an even energy load across the grid, preventing overloads and potential equipment damage. This enhances infrastructure longevity and lowers operational costs for energy companies. Minimising peak loads also helps maximise the effectiveness of existing systems and infrastructure and minimises the need for costly additional development projects, including new power lines, transformers and generators, leading to significant Capex savings.

Finding the most effective load balancing strategies rarely centres on a single solution. Integrating a blend of approaches that collectively help optimise grid stability and efficiency tends to provide the best results.

An excellent first step is conducting a thorough assessment of each strategy's infrastructure and solution requirements to function optimally. This includes the current and expected future grid system capacity and the potential influence of new technologies, such as smart grids or advanced energy storage solutions.

Analysing each strategy's infrastructure needs and specific benefits can inform energy companies' decisions and help create a comprehensive, future-proof load balancing plan.

**Summary:** The growth of EVs makes managed EV charging a powerful pillar of load shifting. It involves controlling electric vehicles' charge time and rate via advanced smart charge functionality.

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Utilities can incentivise drivers to charge during off-peak hours or when the grid is under stress. This strategy stabilises the grid and extends the lifespan of existing grid infrastructure. Some solutions can be integrated directly into existing solution portfolios, slashing development costs and times.

Summary: Most load shifting strategies revolve around incentivising energy users to move consumption times. This often involves demand response programs (DRP) providing financial incentives for such actions. These programs will usually rely on communication with smart meters and other sensors to quickly adjust consumption patterns across residential and commercial properties, effectively decreasing the overall demand on the grid.

Benefits: Reduced power consumption during peak periods, shifting energy usage to off-peak times to stabilise the grid, and increased customer attraction and retention.

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