Storing solar power at home

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Solar energy is an abundant, clean, and cost-effective source of electricity, making it an increasingly popular choice for homeowners and businesses alike. However, one common challenge remains: what happens when the grid goes down? Most people assume that once they have installed a photovoltaic (PV) solar system, their power needs are covered, but this isn"t always the case.

When connected to a grid-tied solar system, solar panels produce electricity during the day, converting sunlight into direct current (DC). This DC power is then transformed into alternating current (AC) by an inverter and sent to your home"s main panel to power your appliances. But when the grid goes down, whether at night or during the day, your solar system shuts off, leaving you without electricity.

Solar panels generate electricity from the sunlight during the day. This means that if the grid goes down at night when solar panels do not generate electricity, you you will remain without electricity.

At least, this is what most people think when they install a photovoltaic system. But many people also get surprised when their solar system disconnects when the grid goes off during the day!

Since the sun’s radiation is a variable source of energy, there will be occasions when the power produced by your solar panels will not be sufficient to supply the full load.

If your panels are unstably producing electricity during the day and they are connected to the main panel, your electrical appliances could experience flickering, drops in voltages and other issues that could damage them [1].

The security reason focuses on the safety of the utility technical workers. In most cases, the grid goes off because of a failure in the distribution system. The utility company, therefore, sends technical experts to fix the problem.

If your solar system would continue generating power during the blackout while it is connected to the grid, utility company employees could be seriously injured by a back-feed in the line (distribution line with electrical current from the energy injected by your solar system).

When you install a grid-tied solar system, the power grid acts as an immense source of energy storage. The other option you have that is a stand alone system with a solar battery storage. In this scenario, a solar battery bank simply acts as a replacement of the grid.

In short: if you add a battery bank to your PV system, you will be able to have electricity even when the grid goes off. Your system will be independent of grid fluctuations.

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The principle of storing energy in batteries, first pioneered by Alessandro Volta in 1793, forms the foundation of how modern solar batteries store power today. By converting electrical energy into chemical energy, batteries offer a reliable way to store solar energy for use when needed--whether during the night or during a power outage.

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