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Costs and Benefits of U.S. Hybrid Power Plants

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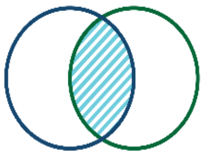
Pros and cons of hybridization vs. developing standalone battery and generator plants



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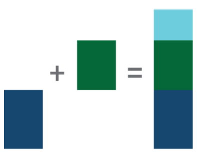
Cost Synergies

- Currently qualify for more financial incentives.
- Shared permitting, siting, equipment, interconnection, transmission, and transaction costs.



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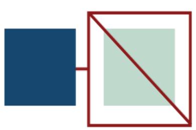
Market Value Synergies

- Policy driven market design rules may value hybrids more than standalone batteries.
- Batteries can capture otherwise “clipped” energy.
- Batteries can reduce wear and tear from thermal generator cycling.



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Operational and Siting Constraints

- Reduced operational flexibility.
- Potentially sub-optimal siting away from congested areas.

+/-

Regulatory Uncertainty

- Market rules for standalone and hybrid batteries continue to evolve.
- Uncertainty related to the future availability of financial incentives (e.g., federal ITC).

Economic arguments for hybridization (vs. standalone plants) focus on opportunities to reduce project costs and enhance market value

Not all of these drivers reflect true system-level economic advantages, e.g., the federal ITC and some market design rules that may inefficiently favor hybridization over standalone plants

Possible disadvantages of hybridization include operational and siting constraints

If reduced operational flexibility is, in part, impacted by suboptimal market design then this too does not reflect true system-level economic outcomes

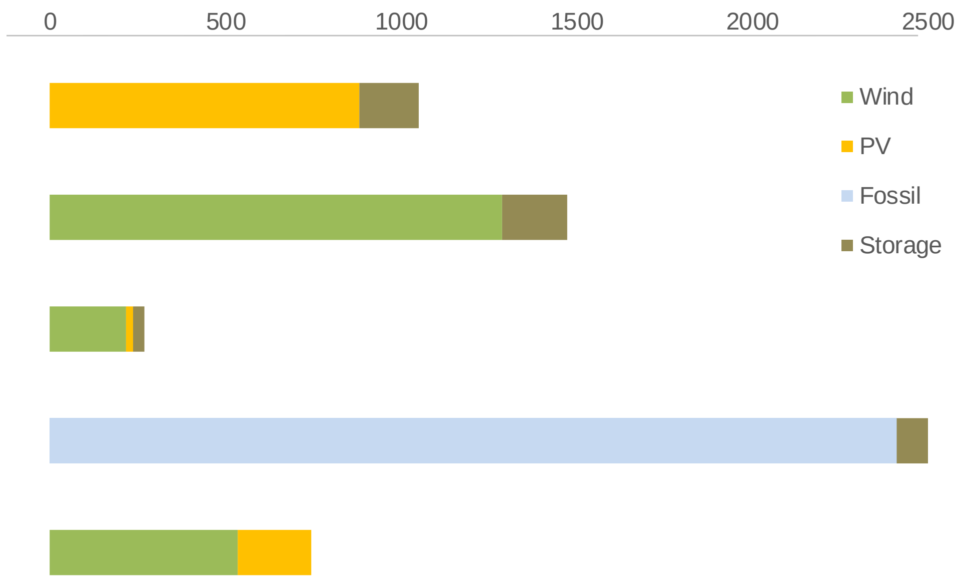
For more see: Gorman et al. (2020)

Existing Hybrid Projects: Installed by end of 2019

Comparing the frequency and design of a subset of the various hybrid / co-located project configurations: end of 2019

	# projects	Storage ratio	Duration (hrs)
PV+Storage	40	19%	2.6
Wind+Storage	13	14%	0.6
Wind+PV+Storage	2	15%	0.4
Fossil+Storage	10	4%	0.9
Wind+PV	6	n/a	n/a

Total capacity (MW)

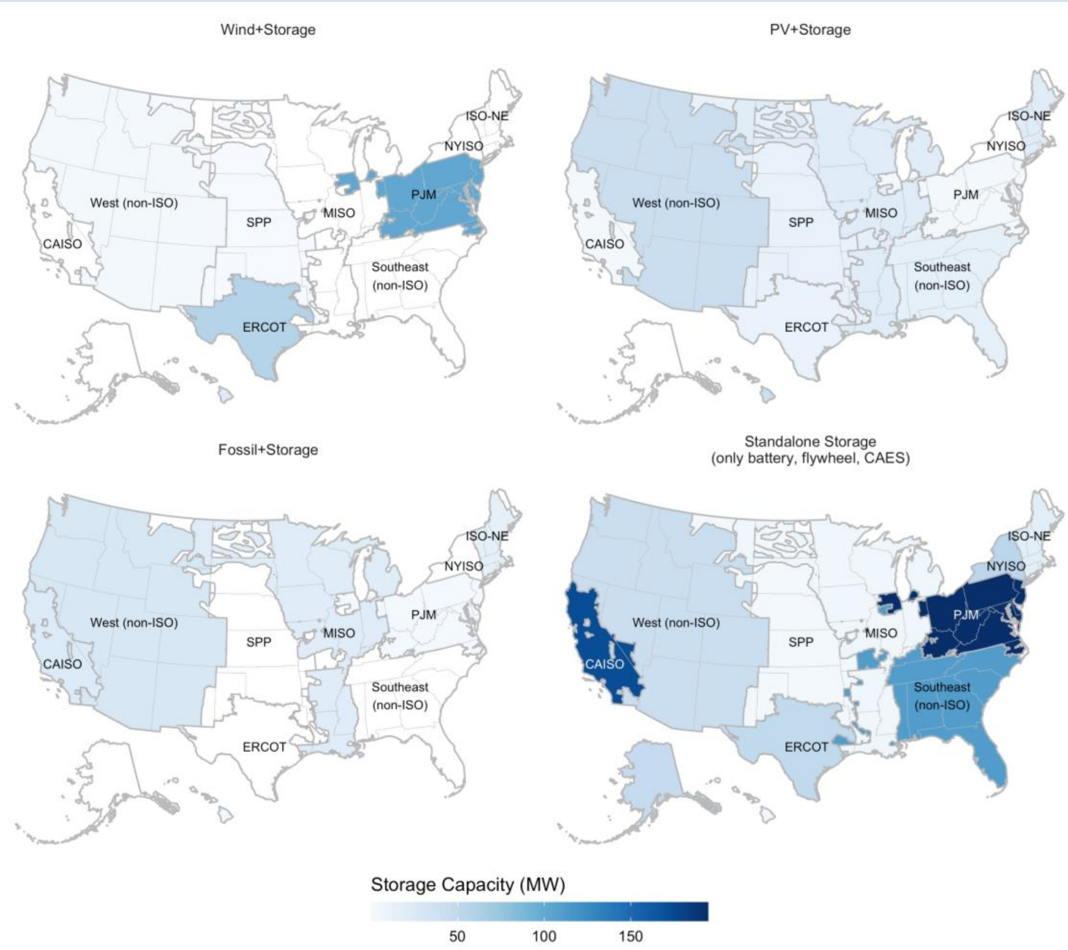


Notes: Not included in the figure are 54 other hybrid / co-located projects with other configurations;
***Storage ratio** defined as average storage capacity divided by total generation capacity.*
***Duration** defined as average MWh of storage divided by MW of storage.*

Sources: EIA 860 2019 Early Release, Berkeley Lab

For more see: Wiser et al. (2020)

Standalone storage (even excluding pumped hydro) capacity exceeds the storage capacity included in existing hybrids



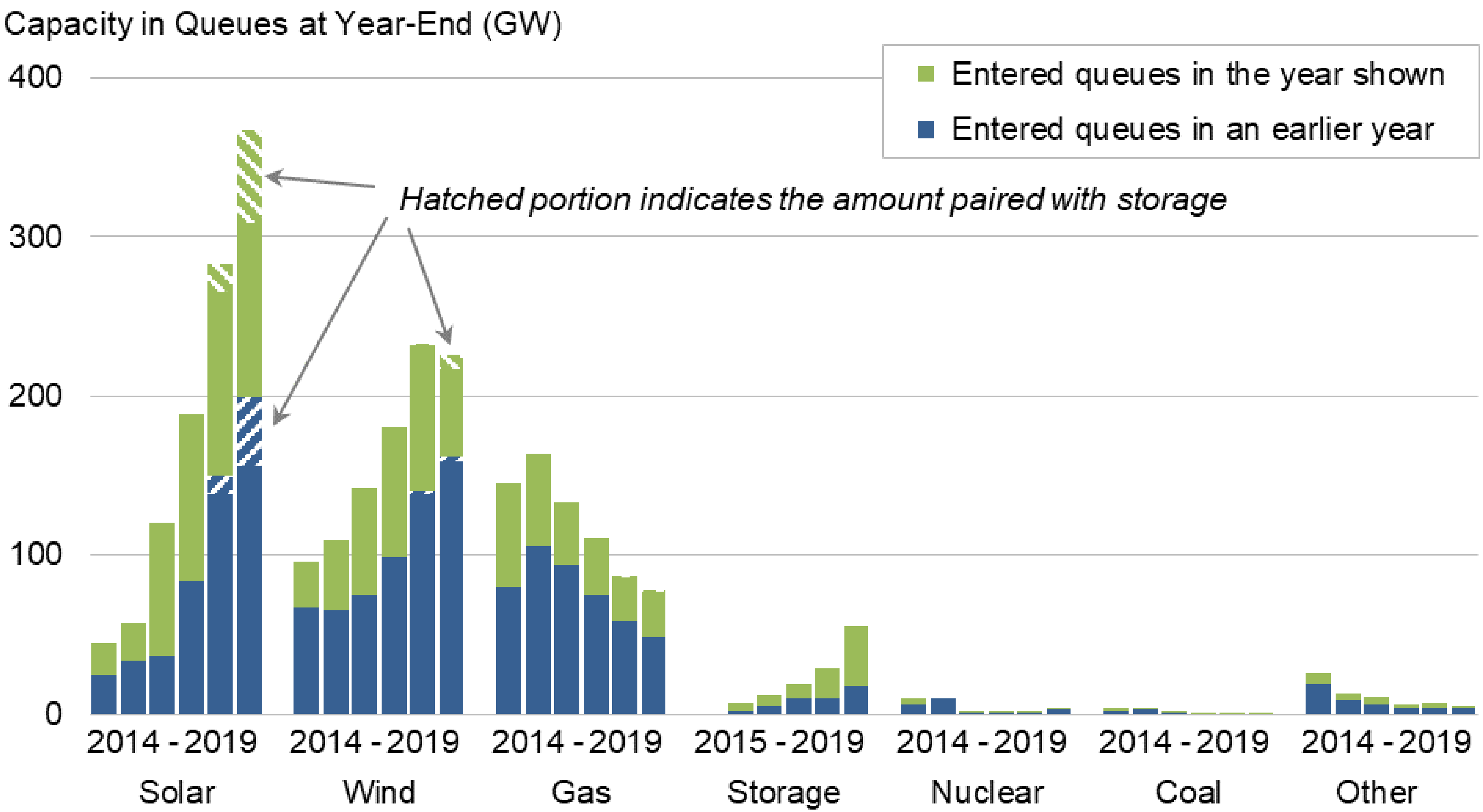
Sources: EIA 860 2019 Early Release, Berkeley Lab

- Standalone storage capacity (battery, flywheel and CAES, excluding pumped hydro) is greatest in PJM, CAISO, Southeast
- Standalone storage capacity exceeds storage capacity included in wind+storage, PV+storage, and fossil+storage hybrids
- Storage capacity included in hybrids is located roughly in proportion to where the hybrid plants are located

For more see: Wiser et al. (2020)

Longer-term Pipeline: Interconnection Queues at end of 2019

Interconnection queues indicate that commercial interest in solar, wind and storage has grown, including via hybridization

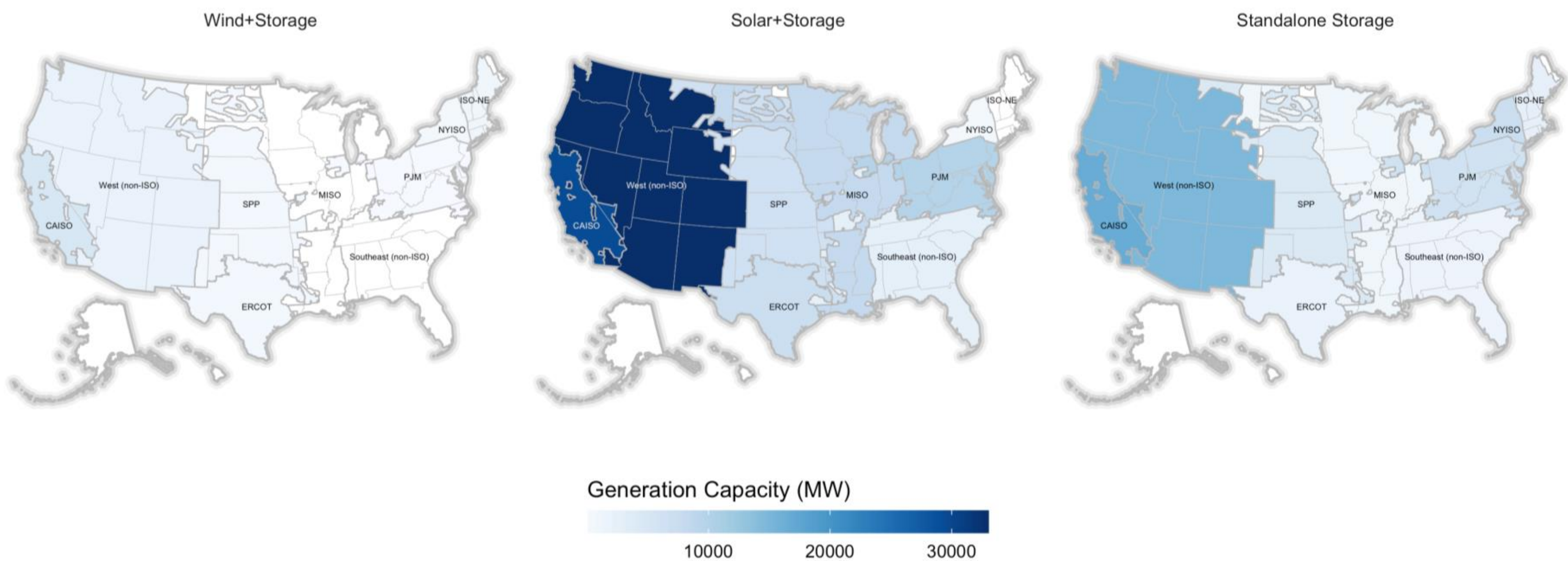


Source: Berkeley Lab review of 37 ISO and utility interconnection queues

Note: Not all of this capacity will be built

For more see: Wiser et al. (2020)

Solar+storage is dominant hybrid type in queues, wind+storage is much less common; CAISO & West of greatest interest so far



For hybrid/co-located plants, the generation capacity is depicted. For standalone storage, the storage capacity is depicted.

Average storage:generation capacity ratio for solar+storage (66%) is higher than for wind+storage (27%), in subset of ISO queues; these are both much higher than for existing hybrid plants shown earlier

	Storage:Generation Capacity Ratio	
Region	**Wind+Storage**	**Solar+Storage**
CAISO	25%	78%
ERCOT	54%	38%
SPP	23%	38%
NYISO	7%	49%
Combined	**27%**	**66%**

Source: Berkeley Lab review of interconnection queues

Note: Not all of this capacity will be built

For more see: Wiser et al. (2020)

Hybrids comprise a sizable fraction of all proposed solar plants in multiple regions; proposed wind hybrids dominated by CAISO

Region	Percentage of Proposed Generators Hybridizing in Each Region		
	Wind	Solar	Nat. Gas
CAISO	50%	67%	0%
ERCOT	3%	13%	0%
SPP	1%	22%	0%
MISO	2%	17%	0%
PJM	0%	17%	1%
NYISO	1%	5%	4%
ISO-NE	6%	0%	0%
West (non-ISO)	6%	50%	0%
Southeast (non-ISO)	0%	6%	0%
TOTAL	**4.8%**	**27.7%**	**0.6%**

Source: Berkeley Lab review of interconnection queues

Note: Not all of this capacity will be built

- **Solar** hybridization relative to total amount of solar in each queue is highest in CAISO (67%) and non-ISO West (50%), and is above 10% in PJM, MISO, ERCOT
- **Wind** hybridization relative to total amount of wind in each queue is highest in CAISO (50%), and is less than 7% in all other regions

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For more see: Wiser et al. (2020)

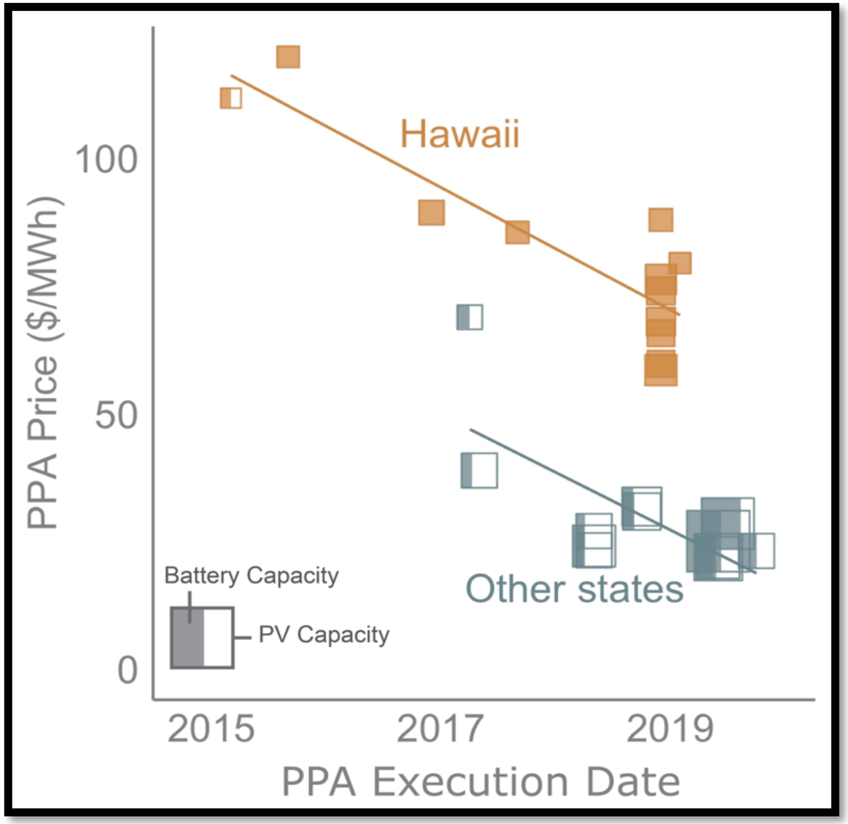
Cost and Valuation of Hybrid Projects

Levelized PPA prices for PV-battery projects are declining

- ***Hawaiian*** prices dropped from around \$120/MWh in 2015 to around \$70/MWh by the end of 2018

- For ***southwestern U.S. projects***, prices dropped from \$40–\$70/MWh in 2017 to \$20–\$30/MWh in 2018 and 2019

- Hawaiian hybrids priced at premium; may be attributable to higher construction cost and higher battery-generator ratios

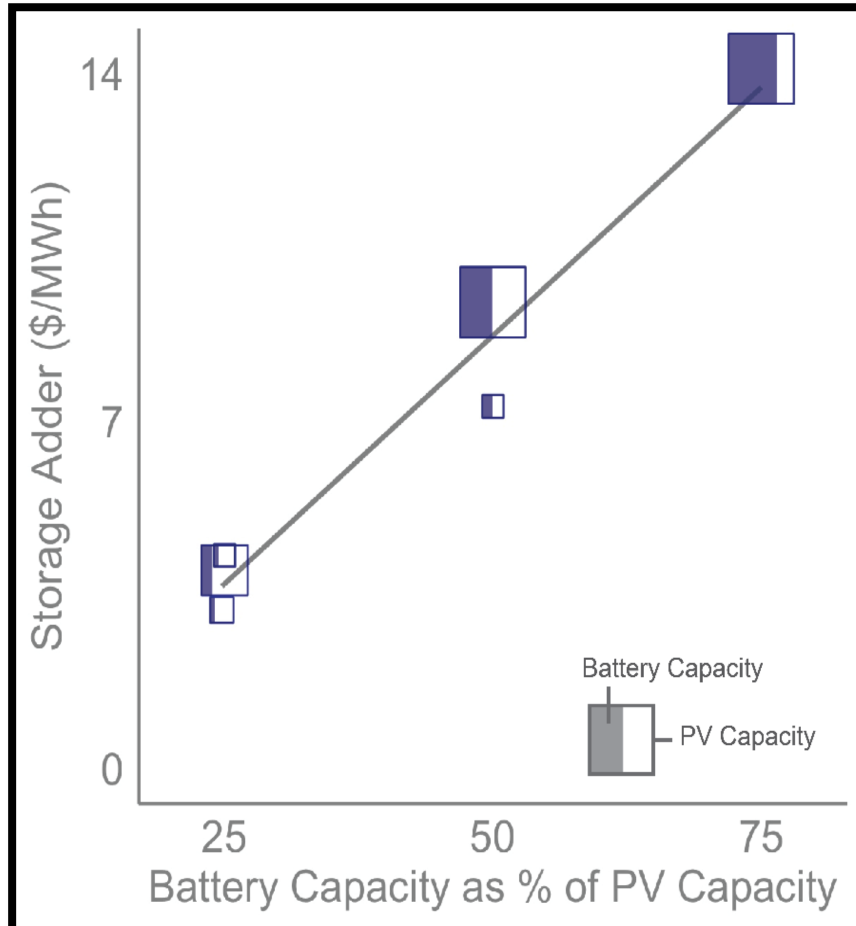


For more see: Gorman et al. (2020)

Battery PPA premium for 4-hr duration storage is ~$4-14/MWh depending on battery size relative to PV capacity

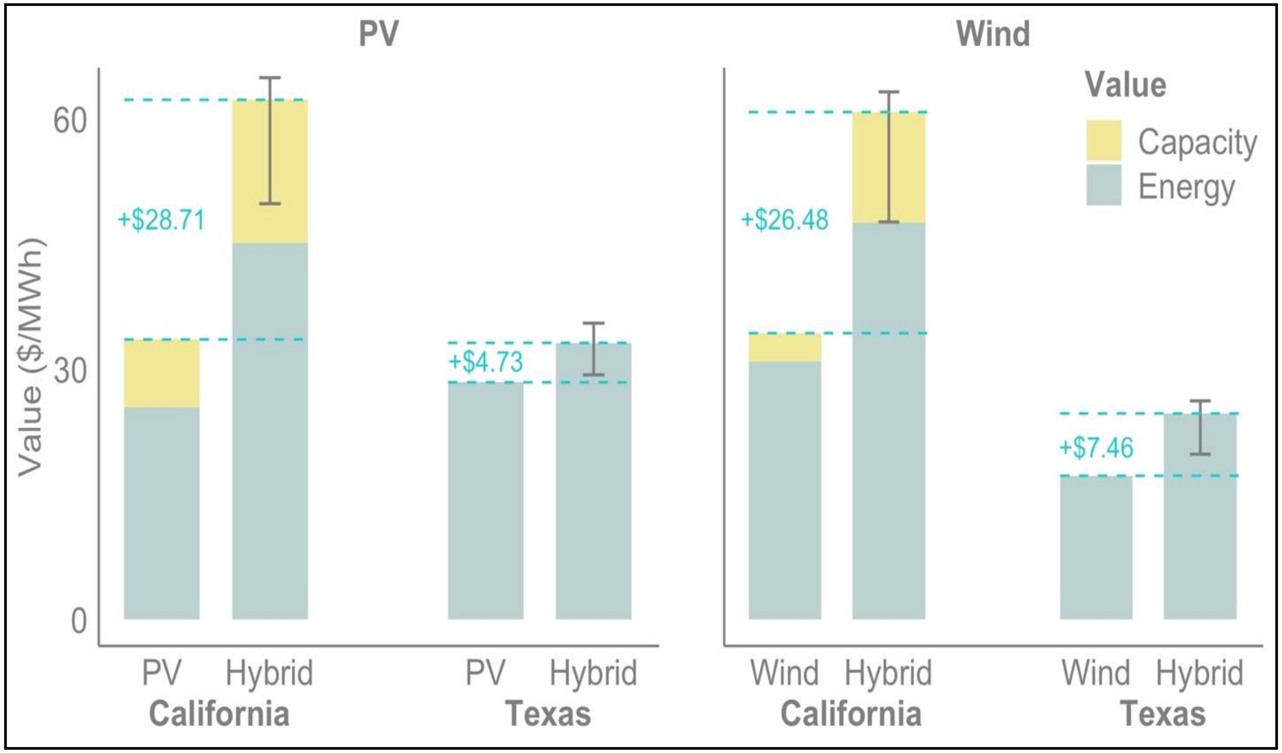
- ***Six of the 23*** PV-battery PPAs provide information to enable calculation of a ***battery adder*** (e.g., through separate capacity payments for battery component)

- For 4-hr duration storage, as the battery capacity increases from 25% to 50% and 75% of the PV capacity, the levelized battery adder increases linearly from ***$4/MWh-delivered*** to about ***$10/MWh-delivered*** and ***$14/MWh-delivered***, respectively



For more see: Gorman et al. (2020)

Hybrid projects in CA would have added more value than in TX, considering energy & capacity prices from 2016-2018

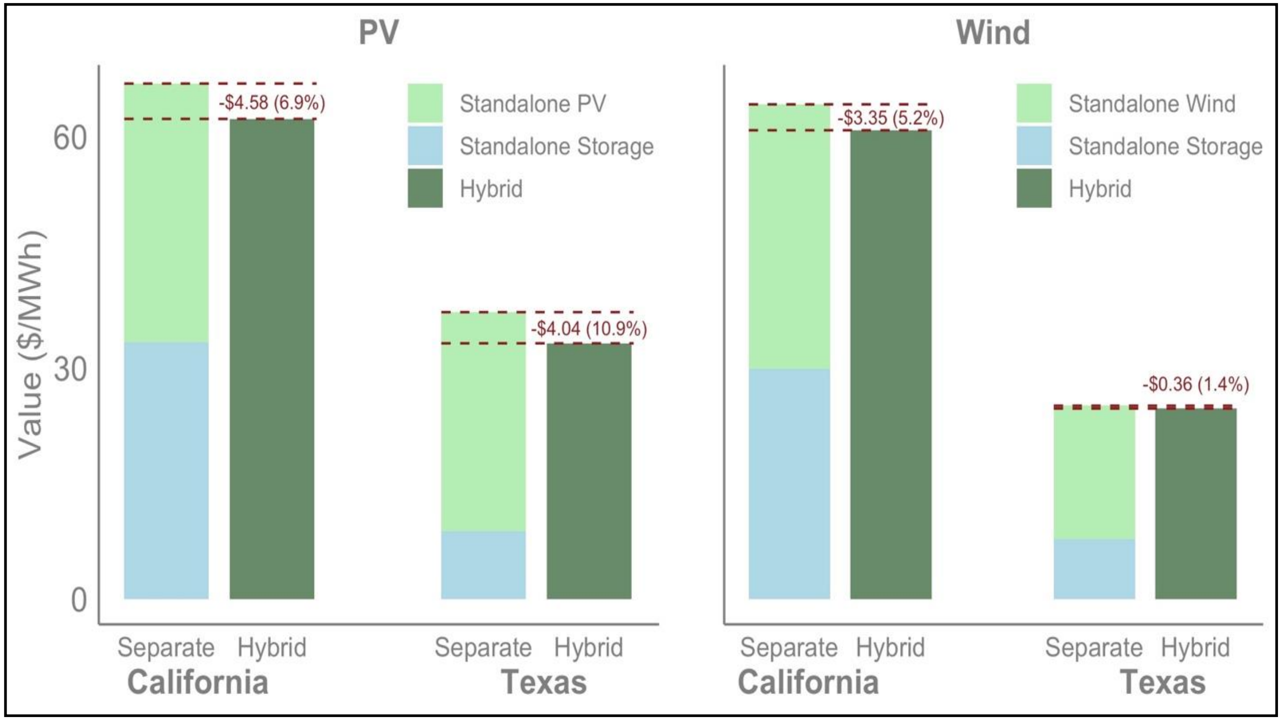


(1) Upper gray bar represents 15-minute perfect foresight dispatch case
(2) Lower gray bar represents day ahead persistence case, where storage is dispatched based on previous day's optimal schedule

- ***Adding storage*** to standalone PV or wind results in a value premium between ***$26-29/MWh*** in CA and ***$5-7/MWh*** in TX
- PV hybrid storage value adder somewhat higher in CA than wind hybrid, and vice versa in TX; ***differences across markets much larger than differences across technology***
- Optimization ***algorithm impacts value premium*** (see gray bars): low-value case ~$13-16/MWh premium in CA, ~$1-3/MWh TX
- ***Compare results to ~$10/MWh price/cost*** adder shown earlier

For more see: Gorman et al. (2020)

Constraints on hybrid projects lead to somewhat lower value relative to standalone projects without constraints



Two constraints drive difference

(1) Hybrid ***cannot charge*** from grid

- Would disappear or be relaxed ***post-ITC***

(2) ***Point of interconnection*** limit

- Developer ***choice*** but queues suggest hybrids sizing POI limit close to ***size of generator***

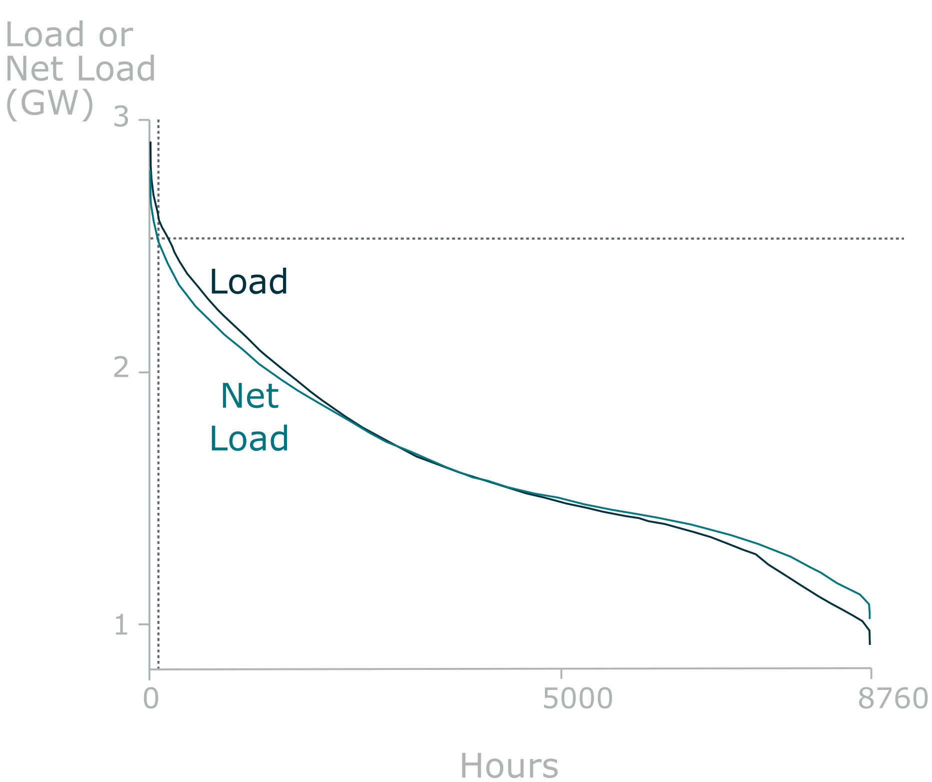
NOTE: Analysis assumes standalone battery delivers to same pricing node as hybrid; as such, analysis likely understates value of standalone storage and so also understates value-reduction due to hybridization

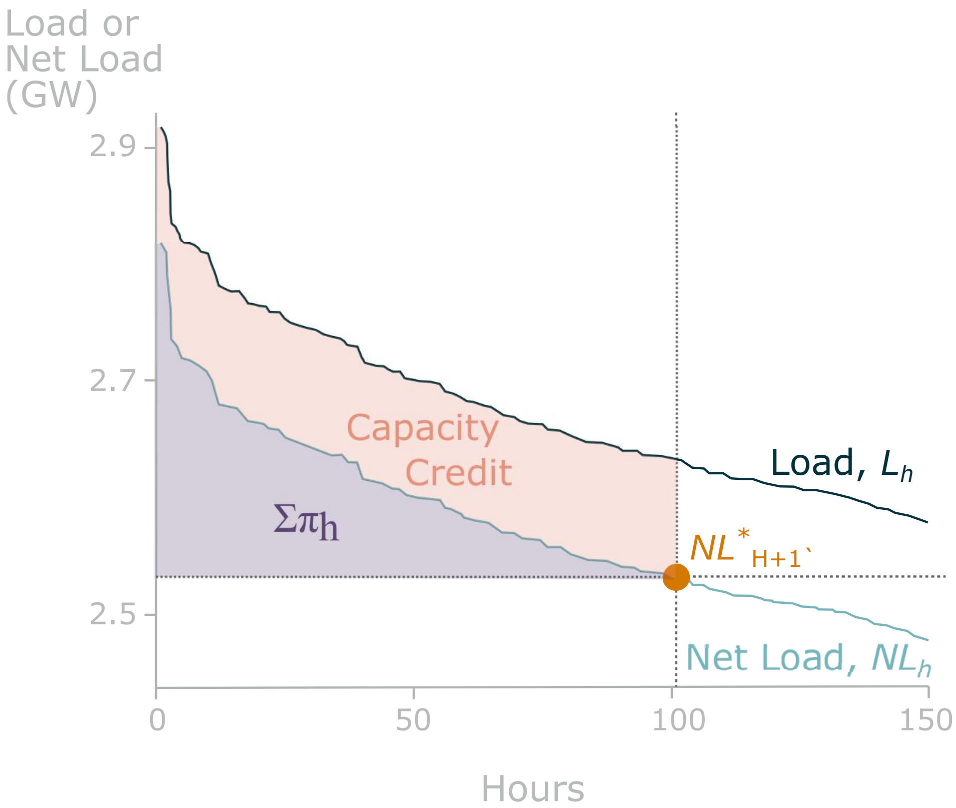
Benefits of hybridization from receiving the investment tax credit and reducing interconnection costs need to be weighed against this value loss from hybridization

For more see: Gorman et al. (2020)

Capacity Value of Hybrids

Simple algorithm for calculating the capacity credit of hybrids that is well suited to exploratory analysis





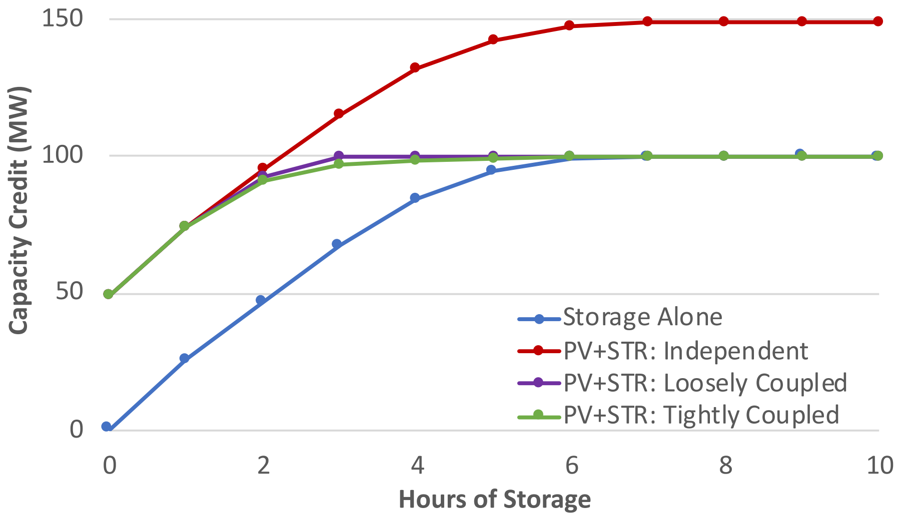
Define capacity credit similar to NREL's "Resource Planning Model": difference of the highest peak load hours and highest peak net load hours. Use a simple linear model to find the storage dispatch that maximizes this capacity credit.

For more see: Mills et al. (2020)

Capacity credit of solar+storage hybrids varies with configuration: Case study based on municipal utilities in Florida

FMPP (Load has high summer peaks)

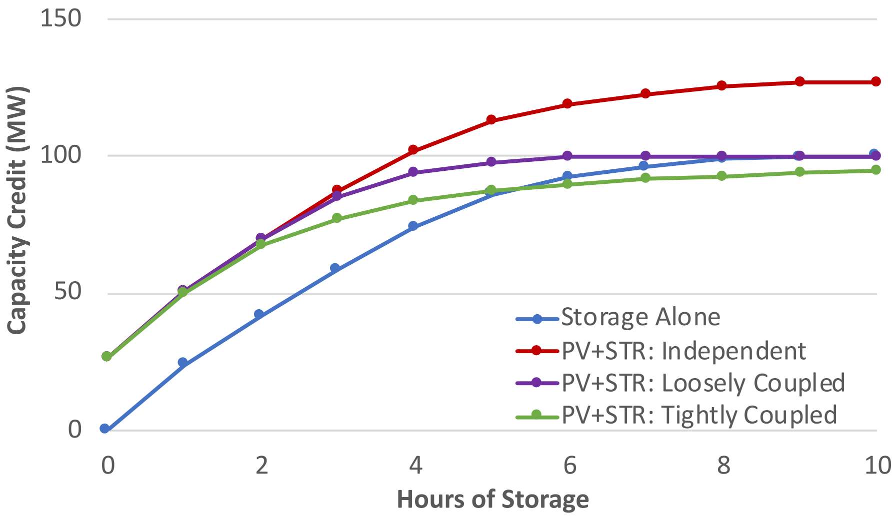
100 MW of PV and 100 MW Storage



- Capacity credit of PV+Storage can be limited by the shared inverter when DC coupled (or shared point of interconnection limit for AC coupled)
- No significant difference for loosely vs. tightly coupled

JEA (Load has high winter and summer peaks)

100 MW of PV and 100 MW Storage



- For a load with high winter peaks, differences between loosely and tightly coupled are more important
- Restricting storage to charge only from solar can lead to a lower capacity credit than storage alone

For more see: Mills et al. (2020)

Questions?

- Contact the presenter
  - Andrew Mills (admills@lbl.gov)

- Additional project team at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory:
  - Will Gorman
  - Ryan Wiser
  - Mark Bolinger
  - Joe Rand
  - Cristina Crespo
  - Jo Seel
  - Cody Warner
  - Ben Paulos

Download all of our work at:

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Resources

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- Gorman, W., A. Mills, M. Bolinger, R. Wiser, N. G. Singhal, E. Ela, and E. O’Shaughnessy. “Motivations and Options for Deploying Hybrid Generator-plus-Battery Projects within the Bulk Power System.” The Electricity Journal 33, no. 5 (June 1, 2020): 106739. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tej.2020.106739.
- Mills, A. D., and P. Rodriguez. “A Simple and Fast Algorithm for Estimating the Capacity Credit of Solar and Storage.” Energy, August 15, 2020, 118587. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2020.118587.

Extra Slides

Methods and Data Source: Online Projects

- Form **EIA-860 2019 early release**
  - Generator specific information for power plants with **>1 MW combined** capacity
  - Very limited amount of spot checking for corrections to EIA data
- Hybrids identified by having the **same EIA ID**
  - **Suggests co-location of generators** at one plant / point of interconnection, but not necessarily co-controlled generators
  - Virtual hybrids cannot be identified; smaller plants excluded
- Challenges and Limitations:
  - Difficult to separate behind-the-meter/micro-grid resources from front of the meter resources
  - EIA ID does **not identify all hybrids or co-located plants** as some co-located plants could have different IDs

Independent Statistics & Analysis
U.S. Energy Information Administration

FORM EIA-860
INSTRUCTIONS
ANNUAL ELECTRIC GENERATOR REPORT

Approval: OMB No. 1905-0129
Approval Expires: 05/31/2023
Burden: 16.0 Hours

PURPOSE Form EIA-860 collects data on the status of existing electric generating plants and associated equipment (including generators, boilers, cooling systems and air emission control systems) in the United States and Puerto Rico, and those scheduled for initial commercial operation within 5 or 10 years, as applicable. The data from this form appear in EIA publications and public databases. The data collected on this form are used to monitor the current status and trends of the electric power industry and to evaluate the future of the industry.

REQUIRED RESPONDENTS Existing plants are required to respond to the EIA-860 if:

- The plant's total generator nameplate capacity is 1 Megawatt (MW) or greater **and**
- The plant's generator(s), or the facility in which the generator(s) resides, are connected to the local or regional electric power grid and have the ability to draw power from or deliver power to the grid

If the existing plant is jointly-owned, only the operator of that plant should respond to the EIA-860.

Hybrid / co-located projects of various configurations exist as of the end of 2019, but market remains limited in overall size

Wind Hybrids / Co-Located Projects

- Wind+Storage dominates configurations: 13 projects, 1,290 MW wind, 184 MW storage
  - Small storage:generator ratios (14%) and storage durations (0.6 hrs) on average, built for AS markets
- Wind+PV (535 MW wind) and Wind+PV+Storage (216 MW wind) also present
- Configurations that include fossil involve minor amounts of wind

PV Hybrids / Co-Located Projects

- PV+Storage dominates configurations: 40 projects, 882 MW solar, 169 MW storage
  - Small storage:generator ratios (19%), but longer storage durations (2.6 hrs) on average
- PV+Fossil is common (26 projects) but involves minor amount of PV (77 MW) added to fossil units (6,876 MW, including 3 coal plants totaling 5 GW) at point of interconnection
- Other configurations w/ wind, fossil, biomass, geothermal, CSP involve small amount of PV

Fossil Hybrids / Co-Located Projects

- Fossil+PV is most common: small amount of PV added to larger fossil units (6,876 MW)
- Fossil+Storage also relatively common (10 projects, 2,414 MW fossil, 91 MW storage)
  - Small storage:generator ratios (4%) and storage durations (0.9 hrs) on average, built for AS markets

CSP, Geothermal, Hydropower, Biomass Hybrids / Co-located Projects

- Multiple configurations, with CSP+Storage involving the most capacity

Methods and Data Sources: Interconnection Queues

- Data from **generator interconnection queues** for 7 ISOs and 30 utilities, representing ~80% of all U.S. electricity load
  - Projects that connect to the bulk power system: not behind-the-meter or virtual
  - Includes all projects in queues through the end of 2019
  - Filtered to include only “active” projects: removed “online,” “withdrawn,” “suspended”
- Hybrid / co-located projects identified via either of these two methods:
  - “Generator Type” field includes **multiple types for a single queue entry** (row)
  - Two or more queue entries (of different gen. types) that share the **same point of interconnection** and sponsor, queue date, ID number, and/or COD
    - Emphasis was placed on identification of wind+storage and solar+storage
    - Other hybrid configurations are likely undercounted
- Storage capacity for hybrids (i.e., broken out from generator capacity) was **only available for 4 of 7 ISOs**, and not collected for the utilities
  - Available for: CAISO, ERCOT, SPP, and NYISO
- Note that being in an interconnection queue does not guarantee ultimate construction: majority of plants are not subsequently built

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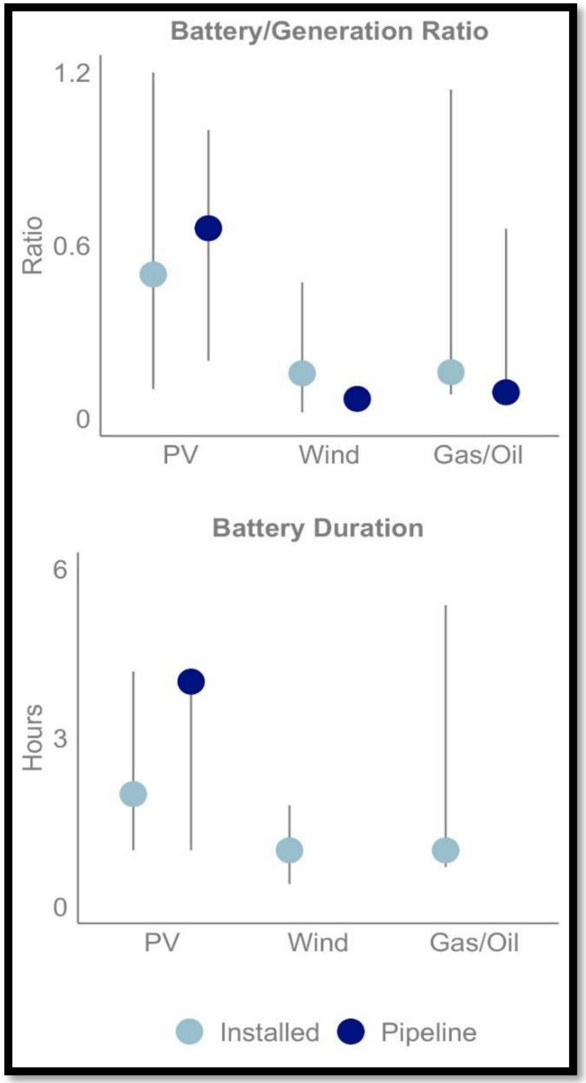
Hybrid project characteristics vary depending on generator type and are changing as market develops

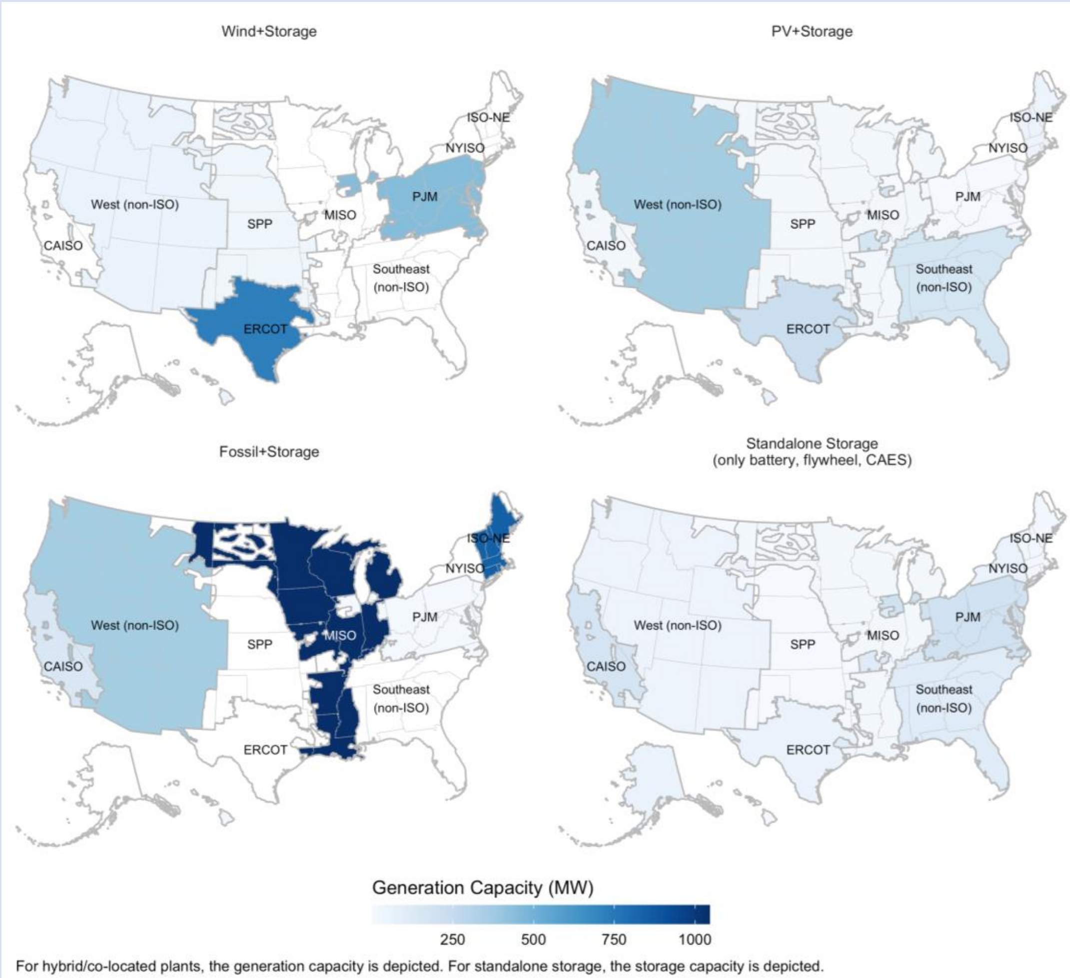
- ***Battery-to-generation ratios*** *and* ***battery durations*** are ***larger*** for PV-battery projects than for wind and gas hybrids

- ***Battery durations*** and ***battery-to-generation ratios*** appear to be on the rise for PV hybrids: higher in near-term pipeline than those currently online

- Majority of these projects rely on ***lithium-ion***, as opposed to lead acid or sodium-based battery technologies



Generator + storage hybrid / co-located projects at end of 2019, compared to subset of standalone storage technologies

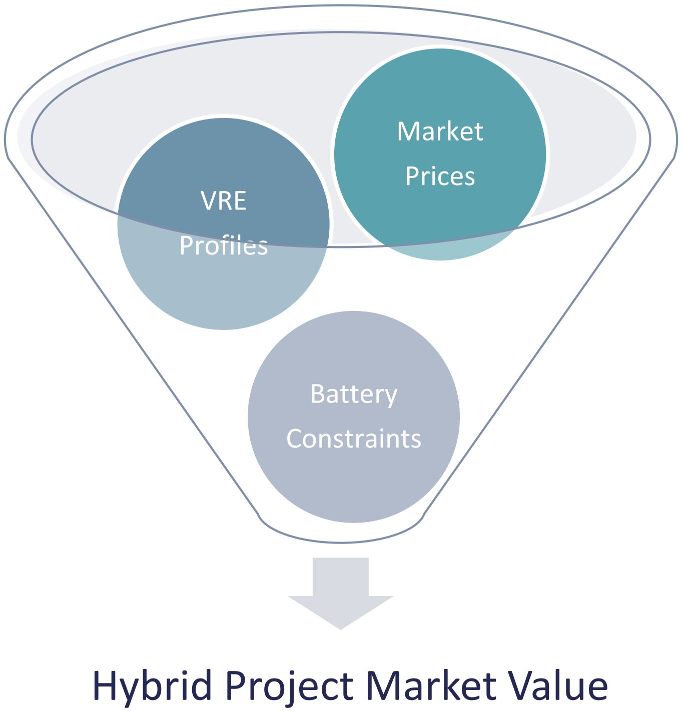


Sources: EIA 860 2019 Early Release, Berkeley Lab

- Wind+storage plants located primarily in ERCOT and PJM so far
- PV+storage plants located primarily in non-ISO West, ERCOT, and Southeast
- Fossil+storage plants located primarily in MISO and ISO-NE
- Standalone storage (ex. pumped hydro) largely in PJM, CAISO, Southeast

Simple optimization model used to provide preliminary insights into value of hybridization, vs. standalone

- System specifications
  - 4-hour, AC-coupled battery (81% roundtrip efficiency)
  - Battery sized to 50% of renewable capacity
  - No battery degradation cost
- Optimization
  - Storage dispatch maximizes hourly real-time energy market revenue with perfect foresight (exclude AS, given relatively small size of AS markets)
  - Alternative bounding scenarios using 15-minute real-time prices and perfect foresight (highest case) and day-ahead persistence method (low case)
  - Hybrid charges from generator only (not from grid), given federal ITC
- Inputs
  - Price taker analysis using SP15 (CA) and West Hub (ERCOT) prices from 2016-2018
  - PV profiles modeled from weather data; wind profiles represent aggregate production in SP15 and West Texas regions
  - Same renewable profiles used for hybrid and standalone system
  - Standalone batteries assumed to access same pricing nodes as in hybrid
  - In CA, hybrids get the wind/solar capacity credit plus 100% capacity credit of storage, capped at the generator nameplate capacity (also assumed to be POI limit)



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