

# Battery Energy Storage Systems

Information For You and Your Constituents



**ENSURING**  
safety

**BUILDING**  
resilience

**MODERNIZING**  
energy systems



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## A Smarter, Cleaner Grid for Your Community

Battery energy storage systems are key to building a modern, efficient electric grid, making it more resilient while creating cleaner air and healthier communities in the process. New York State's robust safety standards and oversight help ensure that energy storage systems can be part of a safe, reliable, and affordable energy future for your community.

**New York State has some of the most rigorous safety standards for energy storage projects in the country, reinforced by independent nationally recognized experts to ensure full compliance.**

On July 28, 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul announced the creation of a New York State Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group (Working Group) to ensure the safety and security of energy storage systems across the State following several fire incidents.

In response to the incidents, NYSERDA, through the Working Group's guidance, began immediate inspections of energy storage sites. Simultaneously, the Working Group undertook efforts to help prevent fires and ensure emergency responders have the necessary training and information to prepare and deploy resources in the event of a fire.

### Updated Statewide Codes Based on Expert Recommendations

On July 25, 2025, the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council adopted updated energy storage safety codes, informed by the Working Group's recommendations developed in collaboration with FDNY, state agencies, and national experts. These updates strengthen protections for communities and demonstrate New York's proactive commitment to safety and oversight.

### Independent Third-Party Review

Larger NYSERDA-supported projects undergo independent third-party review by nationally recognized experts to ensure full compliance with New York's strict codes and regulations. These reviews provide an added layer of oversight beyond local and state permitting. Projects that do not meet these standards are not eligible for NYSERDA incentives helping to ensure that only safe, high-quality systems are developed in New York communities.



**NYSERDA**  
New York State Energy Research  
and Development Authority

## Improved Safety Inspections

The site field inspections that were conducted directly informed the development of an enhanced inspection process. This process better aligns with real-world conditions, improves safety protocols, and strengthens coordination between storage developers, local authorities, and emergency responders.

The NYSERDA independent peer reviews and enhanced inspections run parallel to local permitting authority, meaning every community retains control while benefiting from expert safety checks.

## Energy storage benefits New York State communities.

Energy storage delivers wide-ranging benefits to New York State communities strengthening the grid and supporting a cleaner, more affordable energy future. It:

- **Lowers energy costs** by storing electricity when plentiful and cheap, so we can use it when we need it most.
- **Improves grid reliability** by quickly delivering power during peak demand or outages.
- **Acts as a backup power source** during emergencies or disruptions.
- **Supports energy needs** of New York State's homes, businesses, communities, and the grid.
- **Creates economic and environmental value** by reducing fossil fuel use and enables clean energy integration.

## Energy storage has risks just like any electrical system, but with the regulations and oversight, it's safe and reliable.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute's Battery Energy Storage Systems Failure Incident Database, the rate of incidents is extremely low—and falling—even as deployments rapidly increase across the U.S. and globally. This downward trend is largely due to energy storage technology advancements.

New York State's updated battery energy storage systems (BESS) codes are among the highest standards internationally and are designed to reduce risk while ensuring that in the rare case a fire does happen, it is contained and does not pose a threat to the facility's host community or first responders. New York City has successfully implemented a similar approach, developing and enforcing its own set of high safety standards for BESS projects, ensuring strong oversight and compliance across installations within the five boroughs.

## Learn more about how energy storage could be right for your community.

To learn more, visit [nyserdera.ny.gov/storageforNYS](https://nyserdera.ny.gov/storageforNYS)  
or email us at [energystorage@nyserdera.ny.gov](mailto:energystorage@nyserdera.ny.gov)



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