



Connecticut Sets Energy Storage Deployment Target of 1,000 MW by 2030

June 2021

SB 952

Status: Enacted

SB 952 sets a state deployment target of 1,000 MW of energy storage by 2030, making Connecticut the eighth state to set an energy storage target. Additionally, the legislation:

- Sets interim targets of 300 MW by 2024 and 650 MW by 2027, with the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) required to report annually on progress toward the goal.
- Directs PURA to establish programs to deploy energy storage on the distribution system, consistent with and expanding upon its current Straw Proposal for 580 MW of customer-sited energy storage.
- Authorizes DEEP to issue requests for proposals for standalone and generation-paired energy storage projects, consistent with the 1,000 MW goal.

Legislative Summary

Interim Targets are Consistent with ESA Recommendation

SB 952 sets a statewide target to deploy 1,000 MW of energy storage by December 31, 2030. Additionally, the bill sets interim targets of 300 MW by December 31, 2024, and 650 MW by December 31, 2027. The 2024 target level of 300 MW represents roughly 4% of Connecticut’s summer peak demand and aligns closely with ESA’s [State-level Target Design Policy](#), which recommends near-term targets of 2 to 7 percent of peak demand over 2 to 3 years.

Each year, the two agencies responsible for achieving the targets, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”) and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”), must report on the state’s progress towards meeting the interim goals to the Connecticut general assembly. Clear agency responsibility and reporting accountability is another recommendation of ESA’s Target Design Policy, which is critical to achieving effective compliance with the target. The law does not direct any specific action in the event of non-compliance with either the interim targets or final target.

PURA Energy Storage Program Authorized and Expanded

SB 952 directs PURA to “consider one or more programs and rate designs to incentivize the deployment of electric energy storage.” PURA has already taken steps to initiate such a program through Docket No. 17-12-03RE03, most recently through the issuance of an [Energy Storage Program Straw Proposal](#) on January 5, 2021. The Straw Proposal includes a 580 MW incentive and

compensation program for customer-sited storage. 580 MW is a level [recommended by ESA and the Northeast Clean Energy Council](#) as meeting the most expensive 2 percent of hours, and includes interim targets of 100 MW by January 1, 2024, and 200 MW by January 1, 2027.

The legislative direction creates clear statutory authority for the PURA-initiated program, which ensures longer-term certainty of the program. SB 952 also directs PURA to require certain elements beyond those described in the January 5 Straw Proposal. These include:

- Consideration of all energy storage configurations connected to the distribution system, including systems connected in front of the meter and not located at a customer premises. The January 5 Straw Proposal included only customer-sited behind-the-meter storage.
- A directive that programs shall seek to achieve objectives including “maximizing the value from the participation of energy storage systems in capacity markets.” The January 5 Straw Proposal required storage system owners to transfer to the Connecticut Green Bank their right to bid the storage into the ISO-New England capacity market.

Continued Engagement Necessary to Ensure DEEP Procurements

DEEP is responsible for approving an Integrated Resource Plan for the procurement of electric supply resources in Connecticut. SB 952 authorizes DEEP to issue requests for proposals and conduct cost-effective procurements of energy storage projects, as it already does for certain renewable energy resources. Energy storage projects procured by DEEP may be standalone or paired with Class 1 renewable energy sources or hydropower facilities 100 MW or smaller.

Importantly, while SB 952 grants this authority, it does not require DEEP to conduct the requests for proposal. ESA will continue to monitor the progress of DEEP in its procurement of energy storage resource to ensure that the goals of SB 952 are achieved.

For More Information

The bill text can be accessed here: [SB 952](#)

For a list of all states with energy storage targets, please see: [“Energy Storage Goals, Targets, Mandates: What’s the Difference?”](#)

ESA’s policy statement on state storage target design can be accessed here: [State-level Energy Storage Target Design](#)

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