



Behind the meter

Behind the meter

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You are likely familiar with front-of-the-meter (FTM) systems as a concept, even if you aren't aware of the term. FTM systems are the large-scale power plants that are interconnected with the distribution and transmission systems. The "meter," in this case, is a reference to the end-user's service meter that measures how much grid energy is being used by the residence, business, or other facility. Power generated by FTM systems must pass through that electric meter before reaching an end-user, hence power plants are "front of the meter."

In contrast, behind-the-meter (BTM) systems refer to electric-generating and storage systems (such as solar and battery storage) that are connected to the distribution system on the customer's side of the meter. Energy that a facility receives from behind-the-meter solutions bypasses the electric meter, hence "behind the meter." They differ from front-of-the-meter systems in many ways, including who typically owns the systems, where they are installed, and the size of the systems installed.

Behind-the-meter solar and battery storage, along with other grid assets deployed at the distribution level like electric vehicle charging infrastructure, are broadly referred to as distributed energy resources (DERs). We highlight the most common types of distributed energy resources below:

Note that it's becoming increasingly common to have different types of energy resources on-site, like solar and battery storage systems that integrate with EV charging.

To effectively coordinate these resources, optimization software consisting of a site controller and cloud-based platform (highlighted in orange above) is essential. At Enel, our optimization software is called DER.OS - and it acts as the brain of the system, managing and controlling the flow of energy between the various DERs, the building/facility, and the grid. This allows the end-user to optimize their energy use to reduce demand charges, conduct energy arbitrage, and earn money from providing grid services like demand response.

DER.OS's cloud-based platform provides real-time monitoring and analysis of energy usage, allowing for further optimization and the identification of potential issues or inefficiencies. By leveraging such a powerful

optimization tool, organizations can effectively manage and optimize their behind-the-meter resources for maximum efficiency and cost savings.

There are multiple drivers behind the rapidly growing adoption of behind-the-meter energy resources, including:

A major advantage of behind-the-meter resources is their ability to reduce energy and demand costs on electricity bills. By optimizing energy use from solar panels and batteries, organizations can minimize the amount of energy they draw from the grid during peak demand times and shift energy usage from high-priced to low-priced hours. This flexibility can lead to significant bill savings over time. Furthermore, these assets can, in some cases, also participate in lucrative programs like demand response.

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