ENERGIZE DELAWARE
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY UTILITY

November 10, 2026

# Request for Information

## Battery Energy Storage Systems

Deadline to Respond:
**December 18, 2026**

500 W. LOOCKERMAN ST, SUITE 400
DOVER, DE 19904

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**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:**
**BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS**

The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU) d.b.a. Energize Delaware, is a unique non-profit organization offering a one-stop resource to help residents and businesses save money through clean energy and energy efficiency. The DESEU was created in 2007 by the state of Delaware to foster a sustainable energy future for the State. Their mission is to inspire sustainable energy solutions for a thriving environment and economy. They value being customer driven while maintaining their nimble and flexible nature to adapt to changing landscapes.

The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU), doing business as Energize Delaware, issues this Request for Information (RFI) on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to solicit information to help the State of Delaware develop strategies and programs to promote the development of BESS in Delaware.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments and analysis in response to the following questions. The deadline to respond is December 18, 2026.
To learn more about DESEU, please visit our website at: https://www.energizedelaware.org

To clarify the scope of your responses, please check the use cases your answers will be addressing:

**Use Cases**
Check the use case basis of your responses

__Front of the meter (FTM)
- __ Merchant Wholesale Market Participant
- __ Utility-Owned Wholesale Market Participant
- __ Utility-Owned Distribution Asset

Behind the meter (BTM)
- __ Customer-Sited BTM
  - __ Solar-attached BESS, used only for back-up power
  - __ Self-consumption, export limiting BESS (e.g. sited on constrained circuits)
  - __ BESS including EV, interconnected to export
  - __ BESS including EV as a VPP/DERA asset
- __ Standalone Distributed BTM at medium voltage

1. What type of background or experience will your answers draw upon regarding these use cases?
2. What are the market potentials for each use case you are addressing?
3. What are the risks/benefits/costs of different use cases?
4. Who benefits from different use cases?
5. Are all potential benefits available (revenue streams stackable) in all use cases or are some mutually exclusive?
6. Compare the value of arbitrage vs straight peak shaving to reduce transmission and capacity costs for utilities.

**Policy Drivers**

1. What policy, market, regulatory, or economic factors currently influence the development of battery energy storage systems (BESS) for the identified use cases in Delaware?
2. What barriers, if any, limit the development of BESS for the identified use cases, and what approaches could be considered to address those barriers?
3. What types of incentives, compensation mechanisms, or policy frameworks have been effective in supporting BESS deployment in other jurisdictions, and under what circumstances have they been used?
4. What entities are best positioned to design, administer, or support BESS incentive programs, and what factors should be considered when assigning those responsibilities?
5. What are the potential benefits, costs, risks, and implementation considerations associated with different BESS ownership models, including utility-owned, third party owned, customer owned, and hybrid approaches?
6. What procurement approaches could be used to support BESS deployment in Delaware, and what are the advantages, disadvantages, and implementation considerations associated with each approach?
7. How do different procurement approaches interact with various ownership models, and under what circumstances might multiple approaches be used concurrently?
8. Which BESS applications, configurations, or operating strategies have demonstrated the ability to increase hosting capacity or support additional distributed energy resource (DER) interconnections on constrained distribution circuits?
9. What technical, operational, or regulatory considerations should be evaluated when using BESS to facilitate additional DER connections on the distribution system?
10. What operating parameters, including charging behavior, export limits, dispatch strategies, and control capabilities, may enable BESS to support greater DER integration while maintaining distribution system reliability and performance?
11. How should the effectiveness of BESS in addressing distribution system constraints and enabling additional DER interconnections be evaluated and measured?

**BESS Procurement**

1. What procurement approaches should Delaware consider for acquiring battery energy storage systems (BESS), and what are the advantages and disadvantages of each approach?
2. What entities could be responsible for issuing a procurement solicitation for BESS resources in Delaware, and what considerations should inform that determination?

3. Should BESS procurement be structured on a statewide basis, utility-specific basis, or through another framework? Please describe the benefits, challenges, and implementation considerations of each option.
4. What contracting structures should Delaware consider for BESS resources, and which entities would be best positioned to enter into and manage such contracts?
5. How should ownership, operational responsibility, and contractual obligations for BESS resources be allocated among utilities, third-party developers, state agencies, or other entities?

**BESS and Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)**

1. What roles can BESS play in VPP configurations, and what technical, operational, and market considerations influence their participation?
2. What architectures, communication capabilities, and control strategies are commonly used to aggregate distributed BESS resources, and how do these approaches differ across use cases?
3. How are BESS resources currently valued in energy, capacity, ancillary services, and other relevant markets, and what methodologies are used to assess that value?
4. What opportunities and challenges exist for aggregated BESS participation in wholesale and retail electricity markets?
5. What regulatory, tariff, technical, operational or commercial factors affect the aggregation of third-party-owned BESS resources and how have other jurisdictions addressed those factors?
6. What market designs, program structures, or policy frameworks have been effective in enabling participation by aggregated BESS resources while maintaining system reliability and customer protections?
7. What approaches can be used to coordinate wholesale market participation, distribution system needs, and customer backup objectives for BESS resources?
8. What roles and responsibilities may be assigned to utilities, aggregators, customers, market operators, or other entities in dispatching and operating BESS resources?
9. How are battery degradation, customer back up energy needs, operational constraints, and customer compensation typically addressed in BESS and VPP program designs?
10. What technology, operational and organization capabilities are needed to manage and coordinate distributed BESS resources at scale?
11. Under what circumstances are distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) used to support aggregation, coordination, or utility management of distributed energy resources, including BESS?
12. What factors influence the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of DERMS implementation for utilities of varying sizes and organizational structures?
13. How do management and control approaches differ, if at all, between front-of-the-meter (FTM) and behind-the-meter (BTM) BESS resources, and what implications do those differences have for system operations, market participation, and customer engagement?
14. What are the advantages, limitations, and implementation considerations associated with centralized and distributed approaches to managing BESS resources?

**Utility Regulation**

1. What legislative, regulatory, or policy frameworks currently support or affect the deployment of BESS in Delaware, and what changes, if any, could facilitate additional deployment?
2. What legal, regulatory, or market considerations should Delaware evaluate when assessing alternative ownership, operational, and compensation models for BESS?
3. How can retail rate structures, including time of use rates, influence the deployment and operation of BESS and aggregated distributed energy resources?
4. What experiences from other jurisdictions may inform the design of rate structures intended to support grid services, customer benefits, and efficient BESS operation?
5. What legal, regulatory, and operational considerations apply to utility ownership of BESS in Delaware, including investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utility models?
6. What are the potential advantages, disadvantages, and implications of different BESS ownership and cost recovery approaches?
7. What factors should policymakers and regulators consider when evaluating whether and under what circumstances utility investment in BESS may be eligible for cost recovery?
8. For each BESS use case, what approvals, permits, interconnection requirements, market-participation requirements, and operating approvals typically apply, and which entities are responsible for those processes?
9. Under what circumstances have utilities or regulators evaluated and deployed BESS as a non-wires alternative (NWA) and what evaluation criteria have been used?
10. What safety, siting, permitting, emergency response, and operational considerations should be evaluated for BESS deployment?
11. What regulatory, utility or local government practices have been effective in facilitating efficient BESS development while maintaining safety, reliability, environmental protection, and community engagement?
12. What standards, guidance, or best practices should Delaware consider when evaluating BESS safety, siting and permitting processes?

**Incentives**

1. What policy, market, or program mechanisms have been effective in supporting battery energy storage system (BESS) deployment for the identified use cases, and under what circumstances have they been applied?
2. What factors should be considered when evaluating the appropriateness of incentives or other support mechanisms for different BESS use cases?
3. How do incentive needs, if any, vary across different BESS applications, ownership models, customer classes, and market participants?
4. What approaches have other jurisdictions used to encourage BESS deployment while promoting cost-effectiveness, reliability, and achievement of policy objectives?
5. What program design elements have been used to ensure that publicly supported BESS projects deliver intended customer, grid, environmental, or resilience benefits?
6. What eligibility criteria, performance expectations, reporting requirements, or operational obligations are commonly associated with BESS incentive programs, and how do these vary by use case?

7. What considerations should policymakers evaluate when determining whether and how incentive recipients should demonstrate cost savings, public benefits, performance, or accountability?
8. How can incentive or support mechanisms be structured to balance market development, customer value, system reliability, and long-term program sustainability?

Responses are due December 18, 2026.

Please respond to:

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