Long Duration Storage Shot: An Introduction

Overview
The U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Energy Earthshots Initiative aims to accelerate breakthroughs of more abundant, affordable, and reliable clean energy solutions within the decade. Achieving the Energy Earthshots will help America tackle the toughest remaining barriers to addressing the climate crisis, and more quickly reach the Biden-Harris Administration’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 while creating good-paying union jobs and growing the clean energy economy.

The Long Duration Storage Energy Earthshot establishes a target to reduce the cost of grid-scale energy storage by 90% for systems that deliver 10+ hours of duration within the decade. Energy storage has the potential to accelerate full decarbonization of the electric grid. While shorter duration storage is currently being installed to support today’s level of renewable energy generation, longer duration storage technologies are needed as more renewables are deployed on the grid. Cheaper and more efficient storage will make it easier to capture and store renewable clean energy for use when energy generation is unavailable or lower than demand – for instance, so renewable sources generated during the daytime like solar-generated power can be used at night or nuclear energy generated during times of low demand can be used when demand increases. Long Duration Storage Shot will consider all types of technologies – whether electrochemical, mechanical, thermal, chemical carriers, or any combination that has the potential to meet the necessary duration and cost targets for grid flexibility.

Impact
The Long Duration Storage Shot target is key to reaching President Biden’s goal of net-zero carbon emissions from the electricity grid by 2035 and economy-wide by 2050. Developing the technology and manufacturing to reach the Long Duration Storage Shot cost targets will also establish a new, U.S.-based manufacturing industry for storage products. Energy storage can also increase local control of the power system and build resilience for communities who are frequently disconnected or may not have access to the grid.

Stakeholder Engagement
DOE plans to hold a series of events to engage communities, industry and other stakeholders, including a Long Duration Storage Shot Summit to be held on the Autumn Equinox, also known as World Energy Storage Day, September 22, 2021. Check for event updates available on the Energy Storage Grand Challenge website.

Funding
Several DOE offices conduct energy storage activities, and the President’s Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request included a total of $1.16 billion for these activities, tracked through the Energy Storage Grand Challenge crosscut. Pending appropriations, DOE anticipates funding opportunities and other activities to help advance progress toward meeting Long Duration Storage Shot goals, which align with DOE’s Energy Storage Grand Challenge Roadmap.

Long Duration Storage Shot seeks to achieve affordable long duration grid storage—for clean power anytime, anywhere.

For more information, visit: Energy Storage Grand Challenge | Department of Energy DOE/EE-2384 • July 2021