

# Data centers go diesel-free to generate energy storage

How can renewable diesel help a data center?

With data center energy consumption projected to rise, addressing backup power sustainability becomes crucial. Renewable diesel provides a bridge toward cleaner operations, helping generators maintain reliability while aligning with global carbon reduction goals.

Can a diesel backup generator decarbonize a data center?

Traditionally, these backup generators have run on fossil diesel, which is a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For diesel-powered backup generators, renewable diesel, also known as hydrotreated vegetable oil or HVO100, has been used by several data center operators around the world as a solution to decarbonize backup generators.

Should data centers use diesel generators?

Diesel generators commit data center owners to another twenty years of fossil fuel dependency, and their usage by data centers runs counter to US and EU climate goals. Further, due to their non-modular nature, backup diesel generators could limit the expansion of data center operations as needs evolve over time.

Can ESS replace diesel generators in data centers?

Additionally, ESS can replace diesel generators in data centers. ESS technologies include batteries (e.g., lithium-ion), flywheels, and compressed air energy storage. Among these, batteries, specifically Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), are the most common.

Are battery energy storage systems a viable alternative to diesel gensets?

As renewable energy systems proliferate, the more cost-effective, sustainable, and versatile alternative to diesel gensets is a battery energy storage system (BESS), which are positioned to change the way data centers are powered.

Do data centers use a backup generator?

However, data centers consume a significant amount of energy, and a portion of that energy is used to power backup generators. Traditionally, these backup generators have run on fossil diesel, which is a major source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Annual added battery energy storage system (BESS) capacity, % 7 Residential Note: Figures may not sum to 100%, because of rounding. Source: McKinsey Energy Storage Insights BESS market model Battery energy storage system capacity is likely to quintuple between now and 2030. McKinsey & Company Commercial and industrial 100% in GWh = ...

A Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) stores (typically) one to two hours of energy in batteries to help stabilize the grid, provide additional backup power and independence from the grid, reduce diesel generator ...

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With its recent battery addition, Microsoft moves closer to its goal of company-wide diesel-free data centres by 2030, for which it is also exploring energy sources like solar, ...

Fuel cells aren't energy storage devices like batteries. They generate electrical energy from chemical reactions created by a fuel source and oxygen. The most common fuel sources for fuel cells are hydrogen and natural gas. When hydrogen is used as a fuel source, the only byproducts are water and heat. Natural Gas Versus Hydrogen Fuel Cells

When electric grids experience outages, data centers have to use backup diesel generators or battery storage until service is restored. Renewables generate more energy than is used in their production, which can be stored ...

As the digital age progresses, the demand for data centers continues to surge, driving the need for more sustainable and efficient energy sources. Among the leading innovations is the potential use of hydrogen ...

large-scale data centers. Data centers equipped with natural gas engines may be more successful in obtaining air permits than those equipped with diesel generators. The lower emissions profile of natural gas engines also means data centers can typically provide greater backup capacity before ambient air quality exceeds local standards.

We find that new data center announcements corroborate this expectation." Some 13% of current data centers utilize some form of on-site power, according to the report. What will drive the upward trend in on-site ...

Renewable diesel is a significantly lower-emission power source, delivering up to 95 percent less GHG emissions over its lifecycle compared to fossil diesel. Renewable diesel is a liquid fuel that works seamlessly with all ...

Sustainability best practice for data centers Sustainable data centers work to be as efficient as possible in the following areas: Energy consumption Data centers are major energy consumers - everything from the servers, storage equipment and cooling infrastructures requires a significant amount of electricity.

operation. Per Seagate , the expected growth for data centers will go from 33 ZB in 2018 to 175 Zetabytes (1 Zetabyte = Billion Terabytes) by 2025. Despite the fact that the energy consumed per transmitted data (KWH/GB) is getting more efficient, it's fair to assume that Data Centers at the start of 2020, consumed as little as 0.015 kWh/GB

These challenges don't just increase the risk of downtime, but hinder growth, sustainability, and efficiency. Traditional UPS systems alone aren't enough to address these modern energy management needs. This whitepaper looks at how integrating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) can revolutionize your data

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center's power infrastructure.

Looking into the carbon-free energy trend, many hyperscale operators such as Microsoft and Google tend to eliminate diesel fuel and implement new approaches to their power resiliency, like using alternative ...

Most data centres rely on diesel generators for their energy storage. But with pressures to reduce carbon emissions on the road to net-zero and reach carbon neutral by 2030, data centres need to do more over the next few years. Keeping the lights turned on 24/7 is imperative for any data centres reputation as a core part of their service.

Accelerating digital transformation and advances in artificial intelligence (AI) is ushering in an unprecedented demand for computational power and storage, leading to a significant expansion of data centers worldwide. Today, data centers serve as the foundation for digitalization and connectivity. At the same time, their immense power consumption means ...

On premise energy storage can provide back-up power in the case of a grid outage, balance the volatility of distributed renewable energy, and shave energy costs during times when utility ...

**Renewable Energy Integration:** One of the most significant advancements in creating sustainable data centers is the adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. Companies like Google and Microsoft are leading this charge by committing to 100% renewable energy for their operations in the next few years ...

The next generation data center (Fig.2) power solution will see data center operators generating their own source of energy while using the power from the grid as a backup. With our multi-fuel power generators, data center owners ...

Data centers obviously can't go without power, even for a few minutes. As a result, operators' preferred option for gaining extended backup power is the diesel genset. However, since diesel gensets go primarily unused, this source of stranded power isn't an ideal allocation of companies' financial or energy resources.

Previously, we looked at how liquid immersion cooling and smart environmental monitoring can make data centers more sustainable. Let's now look at another option that's currently available, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and ...

Data centers utilize a variety of renewable energy sources, all of which produce carbon-free electricity (CFE) with zero direct emissions. These sources include solar, wind, ...

While many data centres have started using solar power as part of their energy sources, they still depend on grid energy because of regulatory issues like discom regulations and banking policies. To enhance the use of

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Total&#201;nergies subsidiary Saft has delivered four battery energy storage systems to replace diesel backup generators at a Microsoft data centre in Sweden. Globally, data centres account for more than 1% of the electricity sector's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, writes Microgrid Knowledge. "A study by Canadian researchers ...

Microsoft is using a battery energy storage system (BESS) from Saft at a Swedish data center, after its use of diesel backup generators in the country previously faced criticism. The BESS system was delivered in June, ...

In May 2021, Ambri teamed up with data center provider Terrascale to provide 250 MWh of renewable energy battery storage for the latter's Energos Reno project. And in September 2022, Microsoft announced it had installed Ambri ...

Switching from fossil diesel to RD can reduce lifecycle GHG emissions by up to 85%, depending on the source and transportation of the fuel. Since renewable diesel is derived from biomass already in the ecosystem, its ...

The company hopes to show that batteries can be a viable replacement for traditional data centers as backup generators and that data centers equipped with large energy storage systems can help to balance their local power grid.

This is Part One of a two-part series on hydrogen fuel cells in data centers. ... that by 2030, the hydrogen economy could be worth \$500 billion. Hydrogen fuel cells combine hydrogen and oxygen to generate low or zero ...

This approach allows data centers to generate and consume renewable energy "behind the meter", meaning the energy is produced and used on-site rather than being ...

The large energy consumption of DCs is an ongoing trend [21, 22]. There have been many studies focusing on the cost of green power usage [23, 24], and the improvement of renewable energy accommodation level of data centers has been a hot spot in recent years [25, 26]. Recent works find out that DCs' power consumption from the traditional power grid can be ...

Further challenges are unearthed when evaluating the capital expenditure and space requirements for switching from traditional diesel generators to hydrogen-based energy storage systems. An effort to assess ...

Microsoft is aiming for diesel-free data centers company-wide by 2030. To that end, the tech giant is exploring energy resources from solar, battery storage, renewable natural gas and someday perhaps even small modular ...

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