Different type of solar inverters

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Basically, inverters are devices that convert the direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC) so that it can be used by appliances. Normal inverters use direct current from their batteries, but solar inverters are a bit different. They receive direct current from solar panels that convert solar energy into electric energy. Solar inverters also perform the same function of conversion but instead of taking current from the batteries they feed the solar batteries to charge them.

Whether a solar battery is AC-coupled or DC coupled, both types of power can be transmitted from a solar inverter to charge these batteries. Solar inverters transfer the alternating current to the utility grid and from there it is supplied to household appliances. In the case of an off-grid solar panel system, AC is directly supplied from the solar inverter to the appliances.

These bidirectional inverters include a battery charger and inverter. This type of solar inverter needs batteries to work and can be used in both off-grid and on-grid solar panel systems. However, this is decided on the basis of their UL rating and design. These inverters provide the power backup along with converting it.

Benefits: With this, your grid power consumption is reduced, and it provides a constant power supply. Also, it provides load management, and its operating cost is affordable. Plus, they are easy to maintain.

These larger versions of string inverters are much larger than them and are capable of supporting numerous strings on the panels. In central inverters, string from solar panels is connected together in a combiner box from where DC from panels enters the inverter. Central inverters are suitable for large applications where regular solar power harvesting is done.

Benefits: They have the highest capacity and are suitable for utility-scale systems like solar farms. Their capacities can range from 100 kilowatts to megawatts. Central inverters are packaged with a power station as they are designed to be linked directly to the grid. They are less expensive per kilowatt along with being easy to install and manage.

These inverters are designed to match the phase with a utility-charged sine wave and are mostly used with on-grid solar power systems. Grid tie inverters are ideal for residential, commercial, and office applications. They can easily support small to medium-scale operations.

This inverter stores the surplus generated solar power into the utility grid. In an on-grid solar power system, the utility grid acts as a virtual battery and all stored power from the solar inverter is converted into power credits. The solar inverter uses these credits to take clean energy from utility providers when needed without actually paying for it. If by the month’s end, solar credits are not exhausted, they will be adjusted in the monthly electricity bills.

Benefits: This inverter is cost-effective in comparison to off-grid solar inverters. There is no need for batteries and maintenance costs are also minimal. It is easy to install and manage, which is why it is most suitable for residential purposes.

These types of solar inverters are designed to handle the hybrid solar system. A hybrid solar inverter performs the same function of converting DC to AC. Along with conversion, this inverter transfers this power to the battery to charge them. Yes, as the name suggests, a hybrid solar inverter does a dual job by charging the battery and powering the appliances at the same time.

Hybrid solar power provides a constant power supply to your house. With this inverter, you can sell excess-produced solar electricity to the utility provider. Also, this inverter converts from solar to grid, and the grid to the battery if required (during power outages at night when there is no solar power generation) with an automatic changeover switch.

Benefits: Hybrid solar inverters can provide a constant power supply. With this inverter, you can save surplus generated solar power, and nothing goes to waste. Yes, they are costly, but they are worth the price.

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