



# Microgrid benefits georgia

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Aug. 2, 2021. A partnership between the Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia Power, a Southern Company utility, aims to study "all the questions you can ask about a microgrid" through the 1.4-MW Tech Square Microgrid, a behind-the-meter demonstration project in midtown Atlanta on the Georgia Tech campus. Lisa Cohn.

Benefits to the Customer. With PowerSecure's industry-leading reliability and advanced microgrid capabilities, this distributed generation solution: Provides Georgia Power and Georgia Tech's CODA's High-Performance Computing Center with multiple layers of resiliency

A partnership between the Georgia Institute of Technology and Georgia Power, a Southern Company utility, aims to study "all the questions you can ask about a microgrid" through the 1.4-MW Tech Square Microgrid, a behind-the-meter demonstration project in midtown Atlanta on the Georgia Tech campus.

The microgrid will provide Georgia Power with insight into how smart energy management systems, such as the one installed at the Coda data center, can interact with the grid to achieve optimal energy use. In addition, it will provide teaching and learning opportunities for Georgia Tech professors and students.

Microgrids serve industries, institutions, communities and other customers in a range of ways. Here we look at eight main microgrid benefits - from keeping the lights in a storm to lowering energy costs to improving community well-being. Eight microgrid benefits. 1. A microgrid improves electric reliability.

The Public Service Commission did so in a vote on Georgia Power's integrated resource plan (IRP), a strategy that outlines what resources the utility plans to use over 20 years. (Dockets 42310 and 42311).

Filed in January, the original IRP called for 1,000 MW of renewables. Later, in a stipulation agreement with commission staff that amount was increased to 1,650 MW. Then, before the commission voted on the plan yesterday, its chairman, Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, called to increase the renewable goal to 2,210 MW.

"Experts expect about 11 GW of solar to be deployed in 2020, and this will represent about 10% of the total in the entire US. That makes it significant," said Tim Echols, commission vice chairman, in an interview with Microgrid Knowledge.

Echols added: "States like California and Arizona have already acquired all that their grids can tolerate for now, and those states have moved on to battery arrays to eliminate the duck curve effect on their grid. So California is way ahead of Georgia when it comes to batteries, just as they were with solar. But I think in time we will deploy batteries on a substantial basis -- although it may be in 2022 or 2025."



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"Working with the Georgia PSC, we are positioning Georgia as a leader in the Southeast in battery energy storage, which is critical to growing and maximizing the value of renewable energy for customers as we increase our renewable generation by 72% by 2024," said Allen Reaves, Georgia Power's senior vice president and senior production officer, in a statement issued by the utility.

The commission also approved a small (\$250,000) pilot project using lithium ion batteries for electric vehicle charging. The pilot will explore how to keep fast charging affordable and insulate the grid from spikes in electricity demand.

The commission did not take action on a filing by Emory University, made late in the IRP process, to install a microgrid in conjunction with Georgia Power. Echols said that no motion was made on the Emory microgrid because a clear plan was not presented. The IRP was one of several routes the university has been exploring to develop the microgrid.

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