

AUTOMOTIVE

## Mercedes-Benz affirms clean energy goals with solar storage

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*Mercedes-Benz Energy works on solutions for homes, commercial properties and utilities*

By STAFF REPORTS

German automaker Mercedes-Benz is extending its eco-friendly impact beyond electric cars with the launch of a solar energy solution.

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A newly established joint offer between U.S. company Vivint Solar and Mercedes-Benz Energy will see Mercedes' vehicle battery technology used to store solar energy in consumers' homes. As automakers put more focus on green technology for their cars, some are taking the concept beyond the road to have a broader effect.

### Power move

This marks Mercedes-Benz Energy's first collaboration with a U.S. solar company. The subsidiary of Daimler Auto Group began in Germany in 2016 and expanded to North America later last year, providing residential, commercial and utility solutions.

Mercedes-Benz Energy's solution for Vivint Solar will first be offered to consumers in the California market. Once installed, these batteries give homeowners the ability to store their electricity generated, affording them greater flexibility in power.

For instance, the energy kept in these batteries can be used in case of a power outage, or consumers can opt to save their solar power during the day to power their homes at night, when electricity rates tend to be higher.

Individuals can tailor their storage to their needs, with a modular system of 2.5 kWh batteries that can be combined to hold up to 20 kWh of power.



*Homes that employ a battery system can increase their use of self-generated energy*

"As Mercedes-Benz electrifies its vehicle fleet, solar plus storage is essential to enable those vehicles to be powered by clean energy," said Boris von Bormann, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Energy Americas, LLC.

"With batteries featuring the best in automotive engineering from Mercedes-Benz, and high-quality solar energy systems from Vivint Solar, our solution allows customers to take the next step toward a sustainable energy future," he said. "The launch of our home battery system in Europe has been successful and we are thrilled to be working with Vivint Solar to bring a reliable and compelling solar plus storage offering to American homes."

With sustainability an increasing concern for consumers, automakers are leveraging their understanding of technology to create solutions outside of the vehicle.

U.S. electric automaker Tesla is further expanding its brand into energy efficiency with a battery installment in California's power grid as it moves beyond automotive.

The energy efficient battery installment will soak up energy throughout the day and feed it back into the power grid. Tesla's battery storage facility was built in just three months and was inspired by an accident with Southern California Edison that sent thousands of tons of methane gas into the atmosphere ([see story](#)).

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