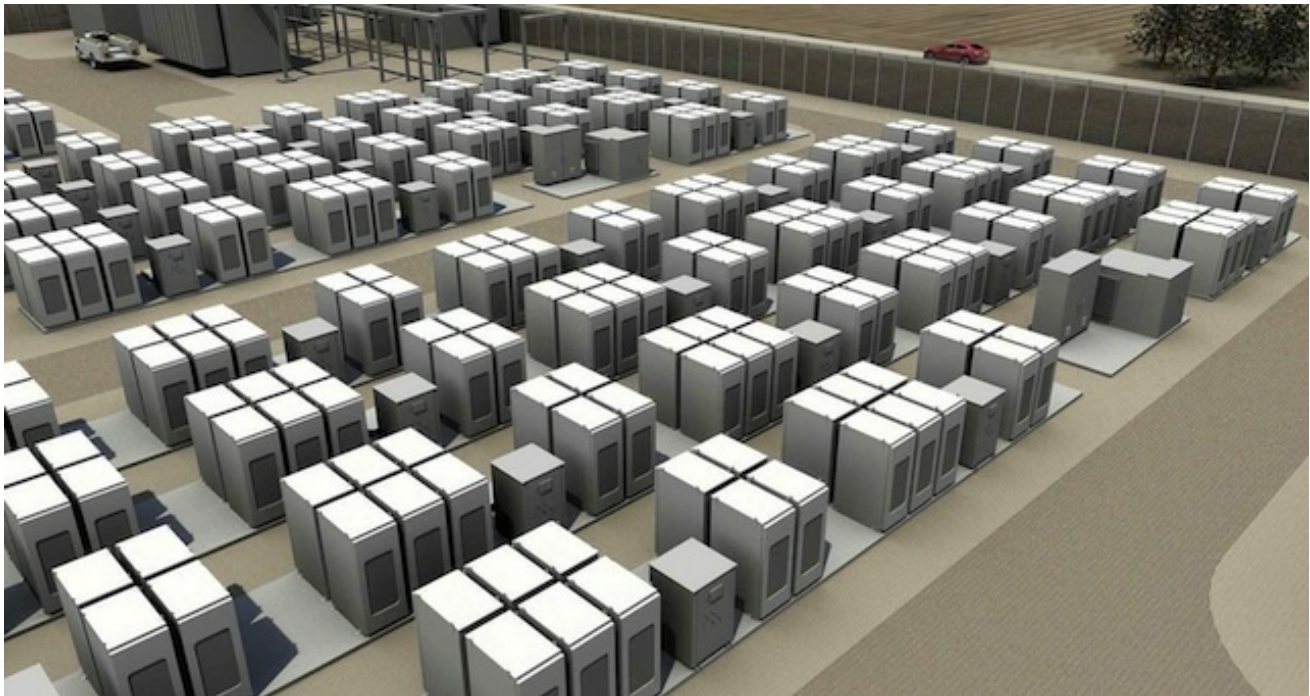


## Fresno's Cargill plant adopts Tesla battery system

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A Tesla rendering shows an application of a Tesla battery system aimed at power utility-scale energy storage. Cargill has teamed with Tesla and Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on the installation of a new energy storage system at the company's Fresno beef processing facility.

Cargill officials said the Tesla system, which has a 1-megawatt capacity, will significantly reduce energy costs at the Fresno plant.

The new Tesla batteries will be charged daily from the PG&E electricity grid system during off-peak hours, when electricity rates are lowest.

The electricity stored in the batteries will then be used when rates are the highest each day during peak-use times, allowing Cargill to reduce its reliance on PG&E-generated peak-period electricity.

Cargill officials estimate the new system will save more than \$100,000 annually in electricity costs.

As the first large-scale energy storage installation at a Cargill meat processing facility, the company said it "hopes to learn from the new Tesla technology" and possibly use it in the future at its plants worldwide.

Tesla installed the system and will retain ownership of the equipment, according to Mike Martin, director of communications at Cargill.

"Tesla Energy Storage is another example of our willingness to employ new and different concepts for reducing our

environmental footprint in ways that benefit the community and our beef business," said Jon Nash, Cargill's beef plant general manager in Fresno.

"We understand that while we produce nourishing protein for millions of people on the West Coast, it is important for us to do so as responsibly as possible," Nash added. "Proper stewardship of the resources required to produce food is crucial to the ongoing success of our business and is important to current and future generations as the world's population increases from more than 7 billion people today to more than 9 billion in 2050."

On Thursday, Tesla CEO Elon Musk also revealed plans for the sale of the new Tesla Powerwall, a wall-mounted battery pack designed to store renewable energy in U.S. homes — and another sign the Silicon Valley-based electric-vehicle manufacturer is expanding to become an advanced energy device company.

The lithium-ion, software-equipped Tesla Powerwall comes in two versions: a 7 kilowatt-hour pack for \$3,000 and a 10 kilowatt-hour pack for \$3,500. Those fees don't include installation. Either version will power a typical U.S. home during peak evening hours, according to a report in the Detroit Free Press.

Martin said installation of the Tesla system at Cargill's Fresno facility coincides with the company's global Earth Day activities around the world.

In recent years, Cargill has pioneered the use of new technology to improve its environmental footprint at its Fresno plant.

In 2013, the company worked with a third party to install a solar water heating system on the roof of the beef plant's main building, resulting in a reduction of the facility's use of natural gas while also reducing its cost to heat water for food safety and plant sanitation purposes.

Some years earlier, the plant installed a methane gas recovery system for its wastewater pond, which captures this greenhouse gas for use as a fuel source to heat boilers.

Water from the boilers is used for daily plant sanitation, eliminating greenhouse gas from being released into the atmosphere.

Additionally, the plant's water use has been significantly lowered through an ongoing program of reduction and reuse.

"In 2015, Cargill is celebrating 150 years of feeding people in a way that helps people, communities where we have a presence, and the planet, thrive," Nash said. "Through science-based innovations and technologies, we believe our rich heritage will continue for the next 150 years."

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