May 1, 2025

Sunrun's Distributed Power Plant Quadruples in Size to 75,000 Solar-Powered Batteries to Support California's Grid

Sunrun customers create one of the nation's largest solar-powered battery resources to bolster grid reliability and help prevent blackouts by networking together tens of thousands of distributed home storage systems

SAN FRANCISCO, May 01, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Sunrun (Nasdaq: RUN), the nation's leading provider of clean energy as a subscription service, announced today that its CalReady power plant has more than quadrupled in size as the summer heat begins to stress the state's energy grid. More than 56,000 Sunrun customers' solar-plus-battery systems—totaling approximately 75,000 batteries—will provide critical energy to California's grid during times of high energy prices, heat waves, and other grid emergency events while simultaneously lowering energy costs for all ratepayers.

"Sunrun is leading the transformation of the energy grid with a customer-led revolution to a more reliable, energy independent way to power their homes while at the same time being a solution to help other Californians who rely solely on the grid," said Sunrun CEO Mary Powell. "The expansion of CalReady highlights our increasing role as a critical energy provider and underscores the system-wide value we're delivering to ratepayers, utilities, and the grid."

Sunrun's CalReady power plant is the largest home storage aggregation in the California Energy Commission's Demand Side Grid Support program. CalReady is available to support the state's grid each day from 4 to 9 p.m. from May through October. This is the second year that Sunrun has operated CalReady as the nation's largest virtual power plant.

In 2024, Sunrun's CalReady power plant enrolled over 16,000 households and delivered an average of 48 megawatts of stored solar energy to the grid during summer heat waves, reaching an instantaneous peak of 54 megawatts. This year, CalReady's power output has more than quadrupled and is expected to deliver an average of 250 megawatts per two-hour event, with the ability to reach an instantaneous peak of up to 375 megawatts—enough to power approximately 280,000 homes, equivalent to all of Ventura County, California.

"Sunrun has created one of the largest batteries in the country, rivaling large-scale utility projects but without taking up additional land or requiring costly new infrastructure," Powell added. "CalReady's decentralized nature eliminates any potential single point of failure while offering greater resilience and flexibility for the state's evolving energy needs."

Sunrun customers enrolled in CalReady are compensated up to $150 per battery for sharing their stored solar energy, and Sunrun is paid for dispatching the batteries. Last year, CalReady delivered more than $1.5 million in value to Sunrun customers and helped lower costs for all ratepayers, reduced pollution, and stabilized the grid for all electric customers in the state. This year, Sunrun customers are expected to collectively receive nearly $10 million for participating in the virtual power plant.

“Being rewarded for sharing energy with the grid from our two batteries makes CalReady a no-brainer,” said San Jose resident and Sunrun customer Tom Weldon. “This will be our third year participating in Sunrun’s virtual power plants. We appreciate the relationships Sunrun develops with customers and utilities to create these programs that have mutual benefits. It’s a win all around.”

Sunrun’s direct compensation to customers is a stark contrast to thedouble-digit utility rate hikes in California, which are growing faster than inflation and significantly faster than the average electricity rates across the country.

“CalReady is unlocking meaningful opportunities for families to generate passive income from their existing storage and solar systems,” said Sunrun President and Chief Revenue Officer Paul Dickson. “Now in its second year, our rapidly growing power plant is proving that grid operators can depend on distributed energy resources to deliver reliable, cost-effective services at scale when critical emergency power is most needed.”

The scale of CalReady is a direct result of Sunrun’s storage-first strategy. At the end of 2024, more than 60% of new Sunrun customers chose to add battery storage to their solar system. In California, the storage attachment rate was even higher at nearly 90%.

Sunrun actively monitors and dispatches participating batteries, making it a hassle-free experience for customers enrolled in CalReady. For customers with outage protection, batteries will still retain, at minimum, a backup reserve of 20% so that they can continue to power their homes in the event of a local power outage.

About Sunrun
Sunrun Inc. (Nasdaq: RUN) revolutionized the solar industry in 2007 by removing financial barriers and democratizing access to locally-generated, renewable energy. Today, Sunrun is the nation’s leading provider of clean energy as a subscription service, offering residential solar and storage with no upfront costs. Sunrun’s innovative products and solutions can connect homes to the cleanest energy on earth, providing them with energy security, predictability, and peace of mind. Sunrun also manages energy services that benefit communities, utilities, and the electric grid while enhancing customer value. Discover more at www.sunrun.com

Media Contact
Wyatt Semanek
Director, Corporate Communications
press@sunrun.com

Investor & Analyst Contact
Patrick Jobin
SVP, Deputy CFO & Investor Relations Officer

investors@sunrun.com

Source: Sunrun Inc.