

PRESS RELEASE:

BVES: ENWG AMENDMENT ELIMINATES CHAOS IN FLEXIBILITY EXPANSION AND OPENS THE DOOR TO MARKET INTEGRATION OF ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

Berlin, November 12, 2025 – The German Energy Storage Systems Association (BVES) welcomes the latest amendment to the Energy Industry Act (EnWG), which was passed today by the relevant economic committee and will be submitted to the Bundestag tomorrow.

The amendment provides a welcome clarification of the factual and legal situation regarding a range of issues that have previously stood in the way of the efficient use of electricity storage systems. In particular, it is expedient that electricity storage facilities are now explicitly privileged for outdoor installation. This legal clarification finally creates a reliable basis for approving flexibility projects more quickly and with greater planning security at suitable locations.

“After years of chaos and a patchwork of regulations, lawmakers have understood that flexibility and resilience in the energy system require new rules and that outdated regulations must be adapted to the new requirements and facilities in the energy system,” says Urban Windelen, Federal Managing Director of the BVES.

“With this amendment, legislators are taking a clear and pragmatic step in precisely this direction – something we in the energy storage industry naturally welcome very much.”

The new regulation supplements Section 35 of the German Building Code (BauGB) and clarifies that battery storage systems with a capacity of 1 MWh or more, as well as sub-daily heat and hydrogen storage systems, will in future be considered privileged projects in rural areas. This ends years of uncertainty caused by differing interpretations in the federal states and creates a uniform legal basis for approval procedures.

“The new regulation will make things much more transparent, reliable, and legally secure for all parties involved, i.e., local authorities, project developers, and investors. This means less bureaucracy, faster results, and thus faster positive effects for our energy system,” explains Windelen.

In addition to the amendment to building law, an adjustment to Section 118 (6) of the Energy Industry Act (EnWG) was also decided. This amendment opens up market integration for existing and future energy storage facilities. A more precise wording (“insofar as” instead of “if”) now clarifies that grid fee exemptions for storage facilities are possible in all applications – in companies, at renewable generation plants, or in households. A small change with a big impact – over 2 million home storage facilities can now be activated for the benefit of the entire system.

Urban Windelen: *“This legislative initiative sets an important milestone for the energy system. But after the amendment is before the amendment: there is still much to be done to remove further barriers to flexibility and create a cost-efficient, secure energy system for citizens and industry.”*

The BVES – German Association of Energy Storage Systems e.V. is the leading voice for companies and organizations across all areas of systemic energy storage in the electricity, heat, and mobility sectors. As a technology-neutral industry association, BVES serves as a dialogue partner for politics, administration, science, and the public. It unites the efforts of key industry representatives, shapes public and political discussions, and provides advice on the development of political and legal frameworks, as well as standards and norms at the regional, federal, and EU levels.

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