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What's on your wall? A guide to residential microgrid equipment

Main electrical panel

The main panel connects the main power supply to a building. It is the hub for energy distribution and contains the • main circuit breaker.

Load center

A load center, or breaker box, connects to the main power source and distributes current. Each circuit is protected from over-current by a circuit breaker.

Inverter

An inverter converts direct current (DC) power (such as from a solar panel array or microgrid battery) to alternating current (AC) power, which is used by appliances and the electric grid.

• Smart panel

A smart home electrical panel is a responsive device that allows the user to prioritize loads during a power outage and helps manage energy during peak demand hours. It can be located inside or outside the home.



A microgrid controller is a smart controller that ensures power demand does not exceed supply. It can also optimize battery discharge times to minimize costs.

Microgrid battery

A rechargeable battery stores electricity from the solar array and discharges it during periods of high demand. Most homes will not have an individual battery.

Sources: Andrea Traber, Corey Lyons & Therese Peffer, EcoBlock • EcoBlock 101 Infographics • Heila Technologies • Lumin •TechTarget