



## Trough Energy Storage System

The enclosed trough architecture encapsulates the solar thermal system within a greenhouse-like glasshouse. The glasshouse creates a protected environment to withstand the elements that can increase the reliability and efficiency of the solar thermal system. Lightweight curved solar-reflecting mirrors are suspended within the glasshouse. A single-axis tracking system positions the mirrors to track the sun as it moves across the sky each day. Alternatively, the trough can be aligned on an east-west axis; this reduces the overall efficiency of the system.

**Overview** A parabolic trough collector (PTC) is a type of that is straight in one dimension and curved as a parabola in the other two, lined with a polished metal. The sun's rays enter the mirror parallel to its axis. The trough is usually aligned on a north-south axis, and rotated to track the sun as it moves across the sky each day. Alternatively, the trough can be aligned on an east-west axis; this reduces the overall efficiency of the system.

**Parabolic Trough** Parabolic trough technology is currently the lowest-cost CSP option for electricity production; however, unsubsidized electricity from troughs still costs about twice that from conventional solar collectors. A sustainable and efficient energy storage system The high-temperature operation of these systems enables efficient energy storage, facilitating the generation of electricity even during periods of low solar irradiance, such as nighttime.

**How CSP Works: Tower, Trough, Fresnel or Dish** There are four types of CSP technologies: The earliest in use was trough, and the predominant technology now is tower. This is because tower CSP can attain higher temperatures, resulting in greater efficiency.

### 10.2. Parabolic Trough Collector Systems | EME 811: Solar

Parabolic trough technology is the most widespread among utility-scale solar thermal plants. The potential of this type of concentrating collectors is very high and can provide output fluid temperatures up to 400°C. Thermal energy storage in trough solar power stations allows energy to be stored for later use. The system uses heated fluids or molten salt, which can retain heat for extended periods.

**CSP Physical Trough Model** The physical trough model calculates the electricity delivered to the grid by a parabolic trough solar field that delivers thermal energy to a power block for electricity generation, with an efficiency of about 15-20%.

**Solar Trough Systems** All together, nine trough power plants, also called Solar Energy Generating Systems (SEGS), were built in the 1980s in the Mojave Desert near Barstow, California. Parabolic Trough | Concentrated Solar Power | CSP

Parabolic troughs are aligned on a north-south basis and they track or rotate throughout the day to follow the sun in order to keep the maximum amount of the sun's available energy. Parabolic Trough Thermal Energy Storage Technology

The first Luzon trough plant, SEGS I, included a direct two-tank thermal energy storage system with 3 hours of full-load storage capacity. This system simply used the mineral oil (Caloria) heat transfer fluid.

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