

# Global Thermal Energy Storage Market Revenue by Applications in 2018

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### Where the Heat Went: Breaking Down TES Market Applications

Remember when your coffee thermos became the office MVP during power outages? The thermal energy storage (TES) industry works on that same "keep-it-hot" principle, but with industrial-scale sophistication. Back in 2018, this market was quietly heating up across three key sectors:

**Concentrated Solar Power (CSP):** The sun-chasing rockstar of renewable energy, holding 48% market share

**Industrial Process Heating:** The unsung workhorse in manufacturing, accounting for 35%

**District Heating Systems:** The neighborhood warm hug at 17%

### CSP: Where Mirrors Meet Molten Salt

Picture 3,500 football fields covered in sun-tracking mirrors - that's the scale of CSP plants driving this segment. Spain's Gemasolar plant became the poster child, using 7,500 tons of molten salt to keep turbines spinning 24/7. This application single-handedly generated \$4.2 billion in 2018, proving solar power could outlast sundown.

### Steel, Cement & Chemical Industries: The Thermal Thirst

While not as glamorous as solar farms, factories became silent adopters. A German cement plant's clever move - storing waste heat in volcanic rock beds - cut energy costs by 18%. This practical approach helped the industrial segment avoid 12 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions annually, equivalent to taking 2.6 million cars off the road.

**Fun Fact:** The average TES system in 2018 could store enough heat to bake 4.2 million pizzas simultaneously. Now that's what we call thermal mass!

### Market Drivers: More Than Just Hot Air

Three key factors fueled this \$8.75 billion market:

Renewable integration challenges (solar/wind's intermittent nature)

Industrial decarbonization pressures

Advancements in phase-change materials

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The emergence of "thermal batteries" using novel materials like zeolite and paraffin wax composites allowed 72% more energy density compared to traditional molten salt systems. This technological leap made TES solutions 40% more space-efficient - crucial for urban district heating projects.

### The Policy Kitchen: Government Incentives Cooking Growth

California's SB-700 storage mandate acted like growth hormones for the industry, while the EU's Winter Package Directive created a 22% spike in European installations. These policy shifts weren't just paperwork - they translated to 650 new TES projects breaking ground globally in 2018 alone.

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