



**Wilson  
Center**



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
European Research Area**



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**



University of Illinois  
at Chicago

EU-US Energy Summit  
*Visions of Sustainable Economic Growth*  
Sep 11, 2012 Washington DC

Argonne National  
Laboratory



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# ***Significant Science Breakthrough Scenario***

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## *Societal issues*

Energy security and predictability  
Climate change and carbon emissions  
Economic development and growth

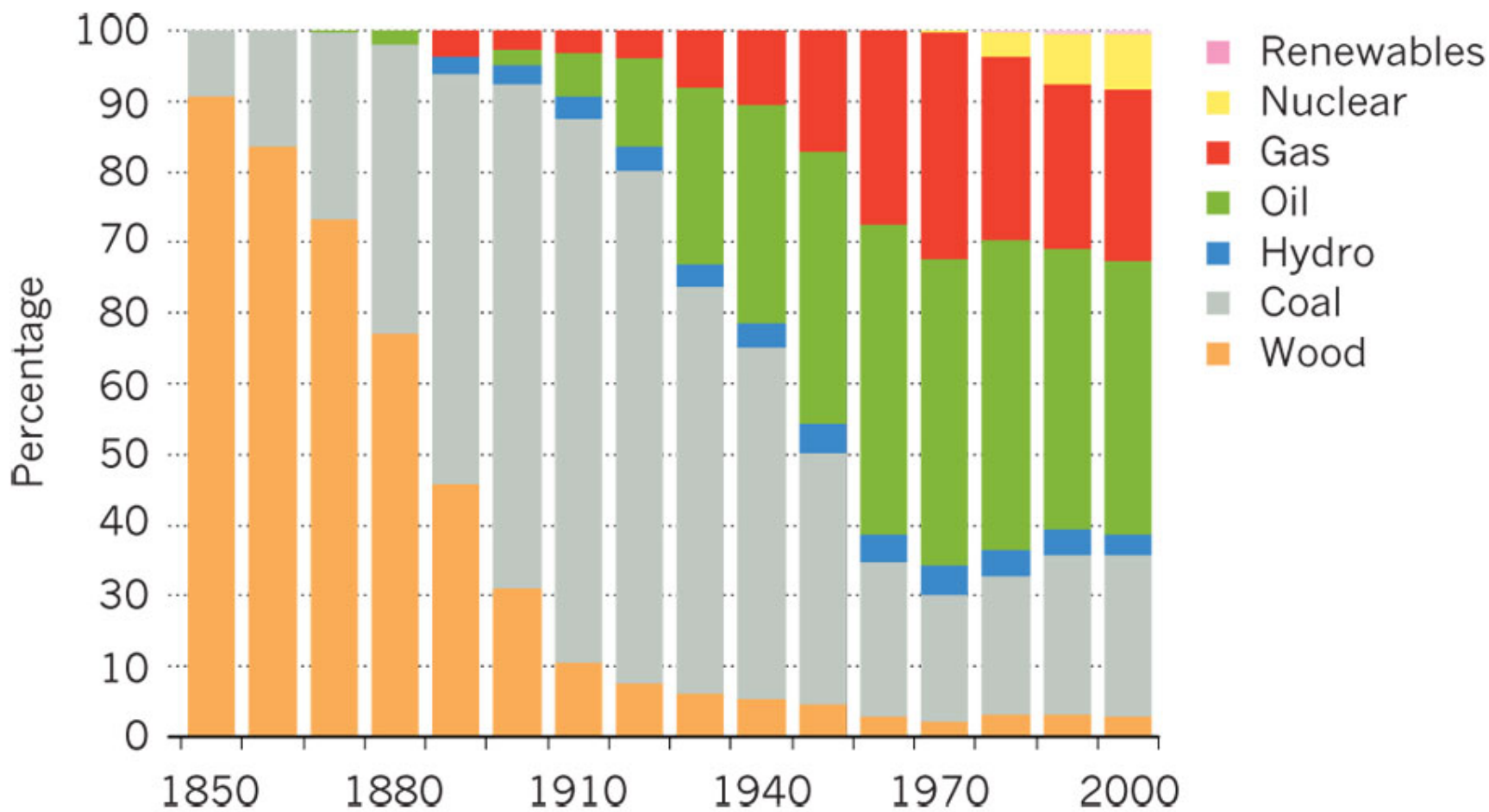
## *Science breakthroughs*

Hydraulic fracturing – shale gas  
Mineralize carbon dioxide  
Electricity storage beyond Li-ion  
Recycle carbon dioxide to fuel  
Safe, higher performing nuclear electricity

Interchangeable energy carriers  
electricity, chemical bonds, photons



# Energy Transformation Takes Time



Chu and Majumdar Nature 488, 294 (2012)  
 US EPA, *Renewable Fuel Standard Program (RFS2): Final Rulemaking*

# *Societal Concerns to 2050*

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Energy security, sustainability and predictability

*basic to personal, social, professional and civic life*

Climate change and carbon emissions

*avoid the human and economic cost*

Economic development and growth

*the natural aspiration of people and countries*

*inexpensive, abundant energy*

International market to mediate across countries, regions and forms of energy

*regulates supply, demand and price*

*provides interchangeable energy alternatives*

*oil, gas, coal, biofuel, geothermal, solar, wind, and the means to produce them*

*Independent of geopolitical control over supply and price*



# Science Breakthroughs to Address Societal Concerns

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Replace/displace coal and oil with abundant, cheap shale gas

Mitigate carbon emissions: mineralize carbon dioxide to, e.g.,  $\text{MgCO}_3$

Safe, higher performing nuclear electricity

Offshore wind with high capacity superconducting turbines

Sustainable energy carriers

*Storage and transmission of electricity, for transportation and the grid*

*Recycle carbon dioxide to chemical fuel*

Break down barriers between energy carriers

*Facile, efficient conversion among electricity, chemical fuel, photons*

*Flexibility, versatility among energy sources and uses*

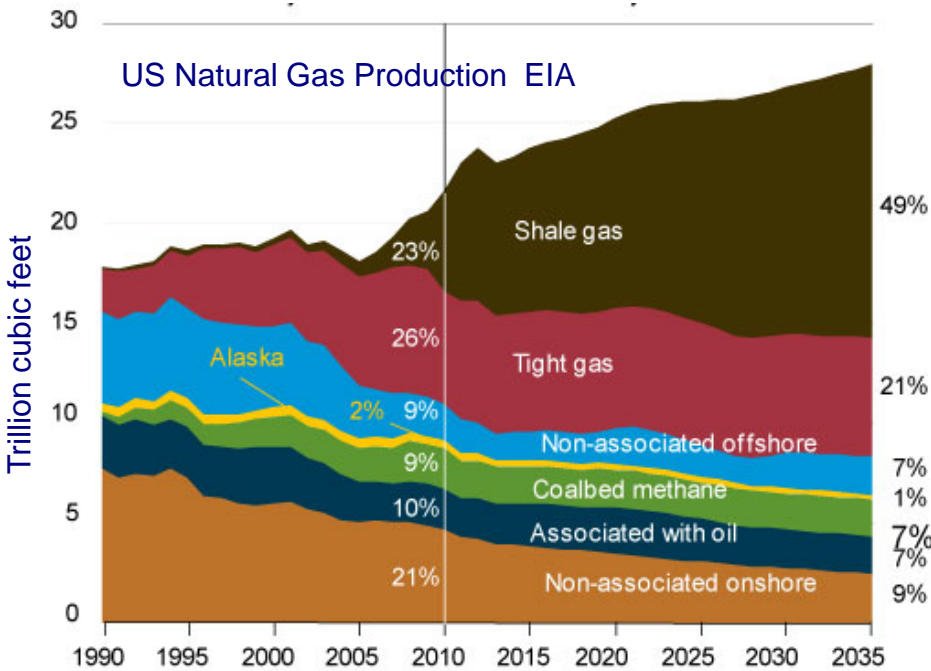


# Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing

Abundant  
Inexpensive

	\$/MBTU
peak 05-08:	\$12
non-peak 05-08:	\$8
Jan 2012:	\$2

Source: EIA



*Potential Game Changer*  
carbon emissions  
energy security  
diversity of sources and uses

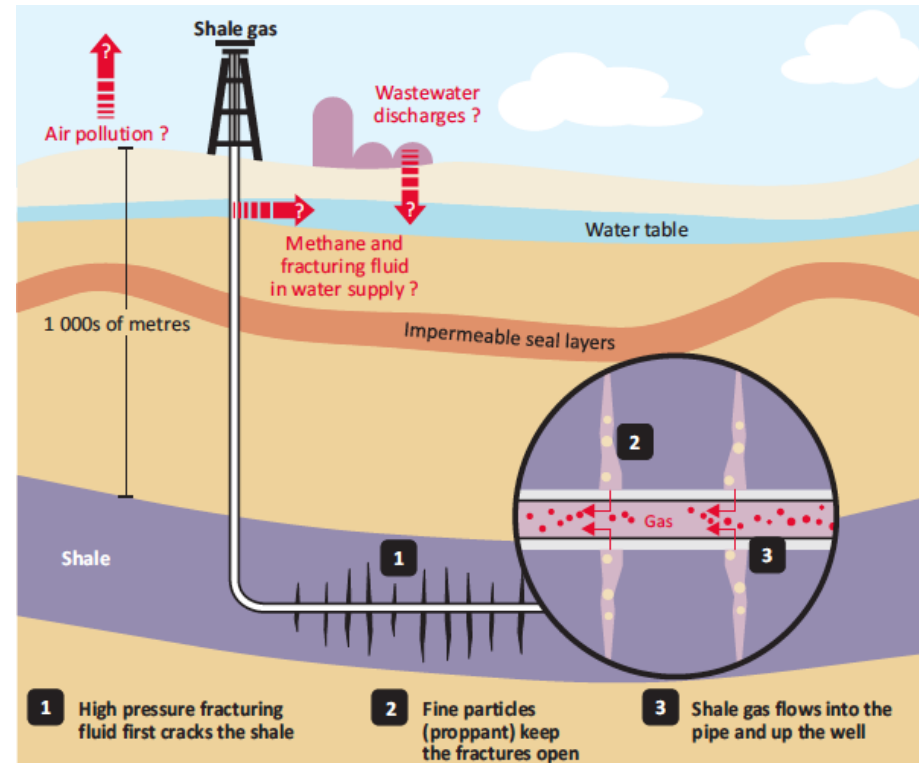
# Hydraulic Fracturing Science Challenges

## Operation

Distant horizontal drilling into thin shale layers  
Local explosions fracture rock  
High pressure hydraulic fluid opens fissures  
Sand driven into fissures to prop open  
Gas and oil flow out

## Challenges

Flow of fluids in mesoporous rock  
contamination of water, air  
initial rush of gas  
sharp decline in first year  
only 15% of shale gas recovered



Source: Rachel Ehrenberg, *Science News* 182, 20 (2012)

Understand fissure mechanics, pore formation, fluid flow in fractured rock

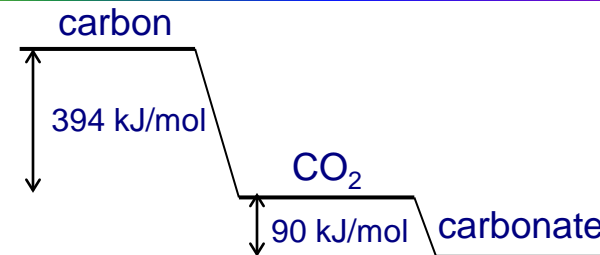


# Carbon Dioxide Mineralization



Also Ca, Fe, . . .

- Spontaneous reaction
- Permanent storage
- No follow up monitoring
- Theoretical capacity >> emissions



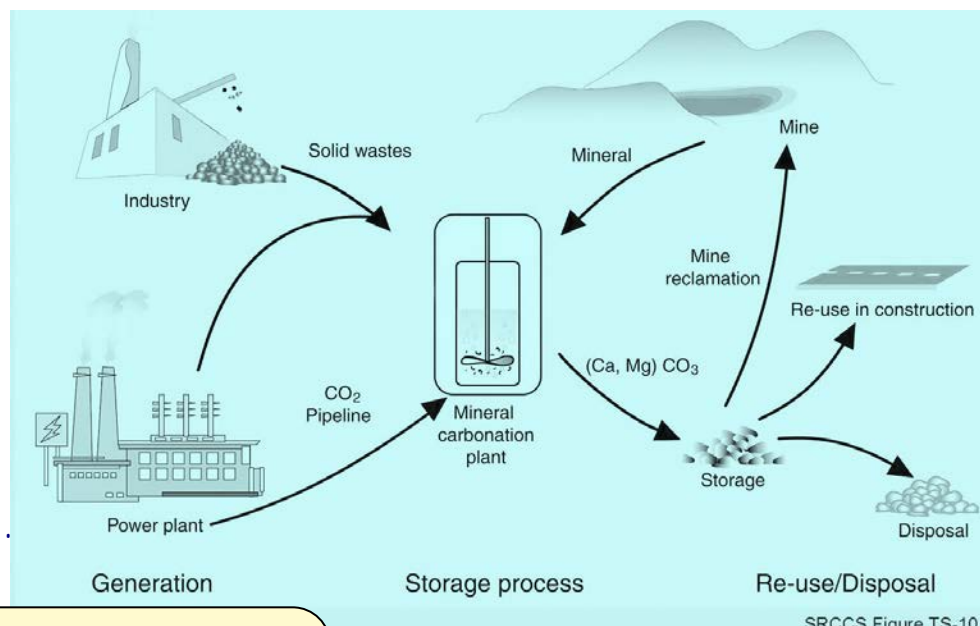
In situ: react underground

Ex situ: react in industrial plant

transport reactants and products

Reduce cost - market carbonate products

Roads, buildings, land reclamation, . . .



SRCCS Figure TS-10

IPCC Special Report on Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (2005)

Zevenhoven, Fagerlund and Songok, Greenhouse Gas Sci Technol 1, 48 (2011)  
Sanna, Hall and Maroto-Valer Energy Environ Sci 5, 7781 (2012)

## Science Breakthroughs

Slow kinetics – find catalysts

Passivating layer – control surface chemistry





# Safe, Higher Performing Nuclear Electricity

Heat without combustion or carbon dioxide

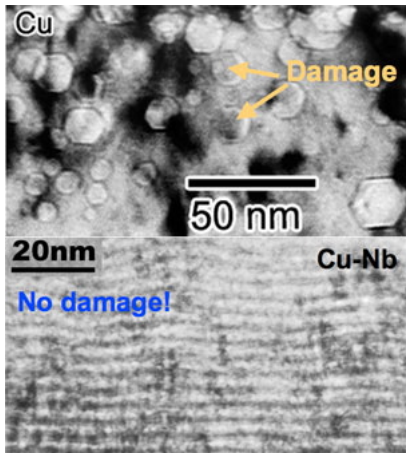
Established experience curve

Challenges

Safety

1960s technology

Spent fuel



CuNb interfaces  
Michael Demkowicz-MIT

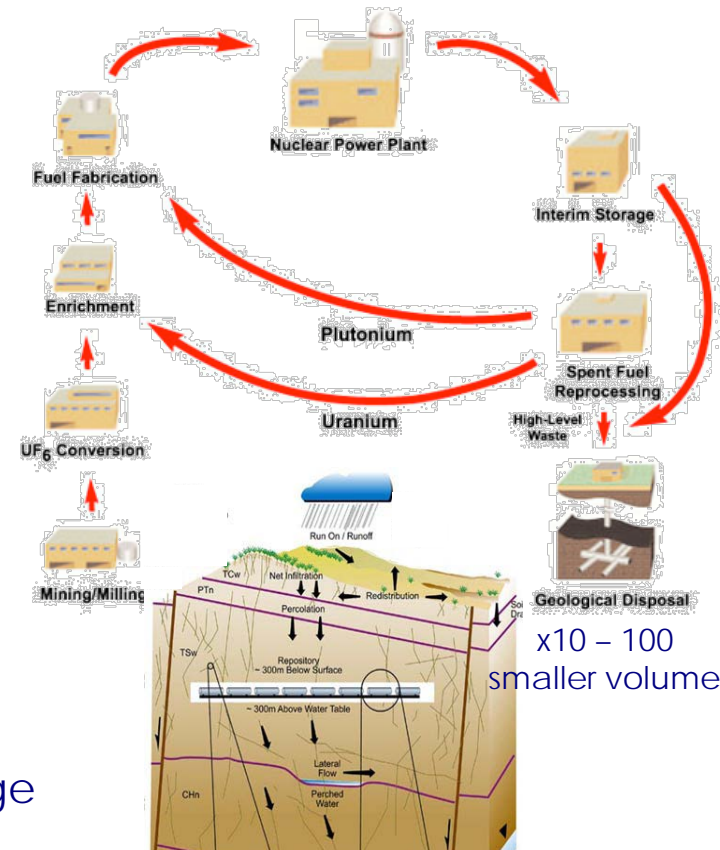
Now: 35% efficiency  
2050: 50%

Science Challenges

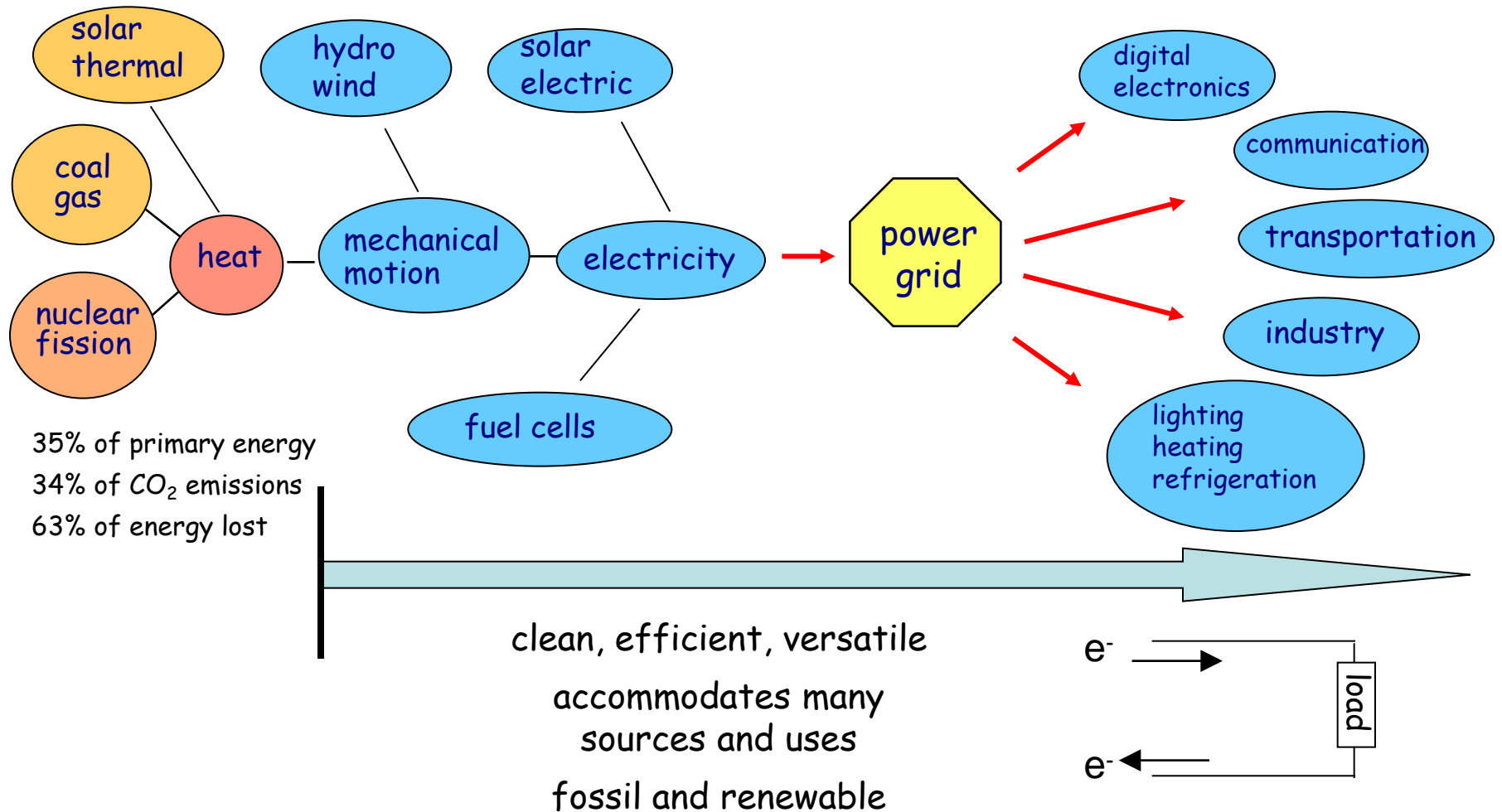
Materials for

- Higher temperature
- Higher radiation damage

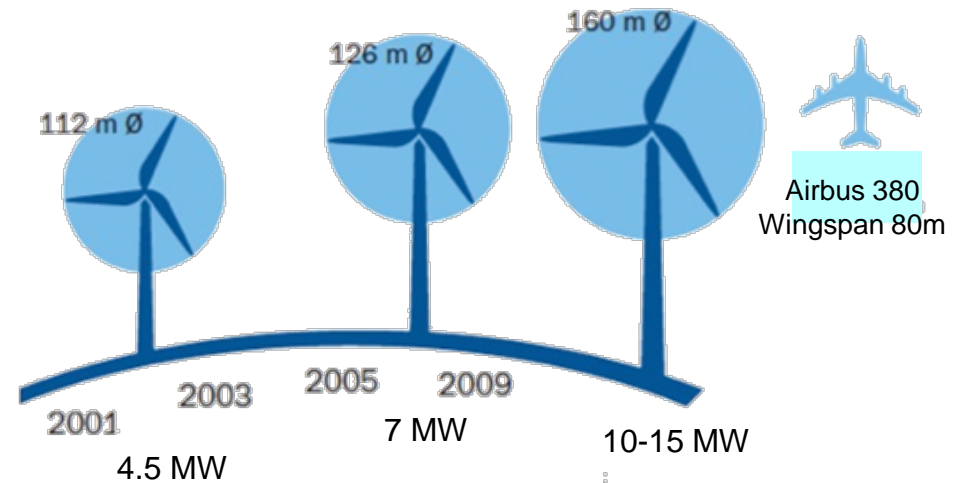
- Reprocessing for
- More electricity/fuel
  - Less spent fuel storage



# Develop Electricity as a Sustainable Energy Carrier



# Superconducting Offshore Wind Generation

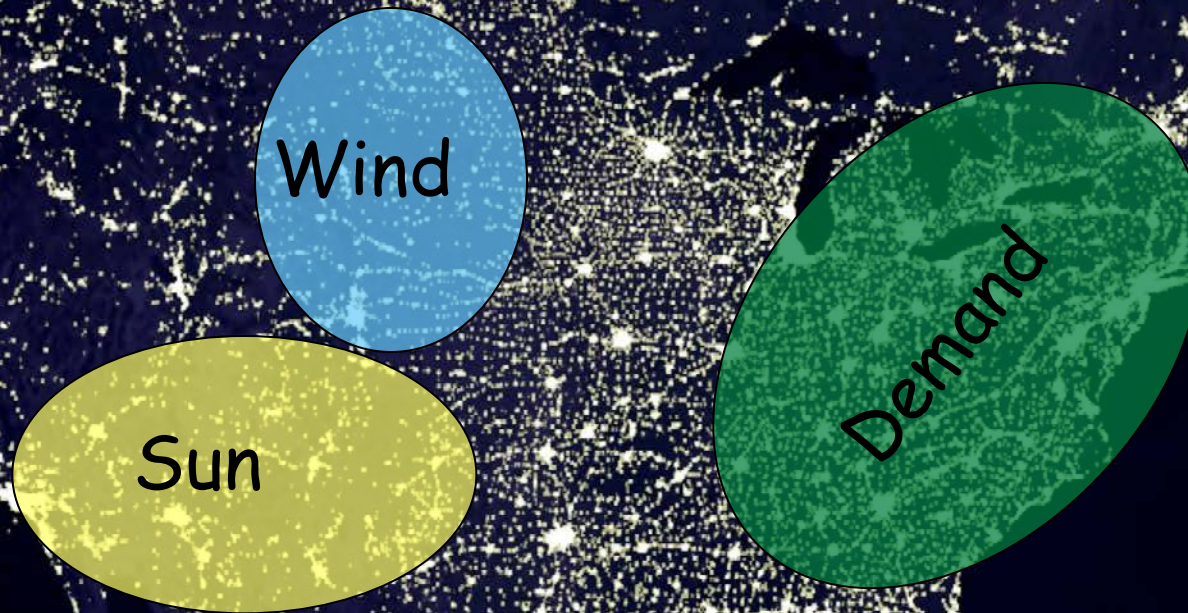


Wind turbine output limited by weight supported on the tower

Science Breakthrough  
*Superconducting wind generator*  
Double the output for same size and weight  
capacity limit: 15-20 MW  
→ offshore wind

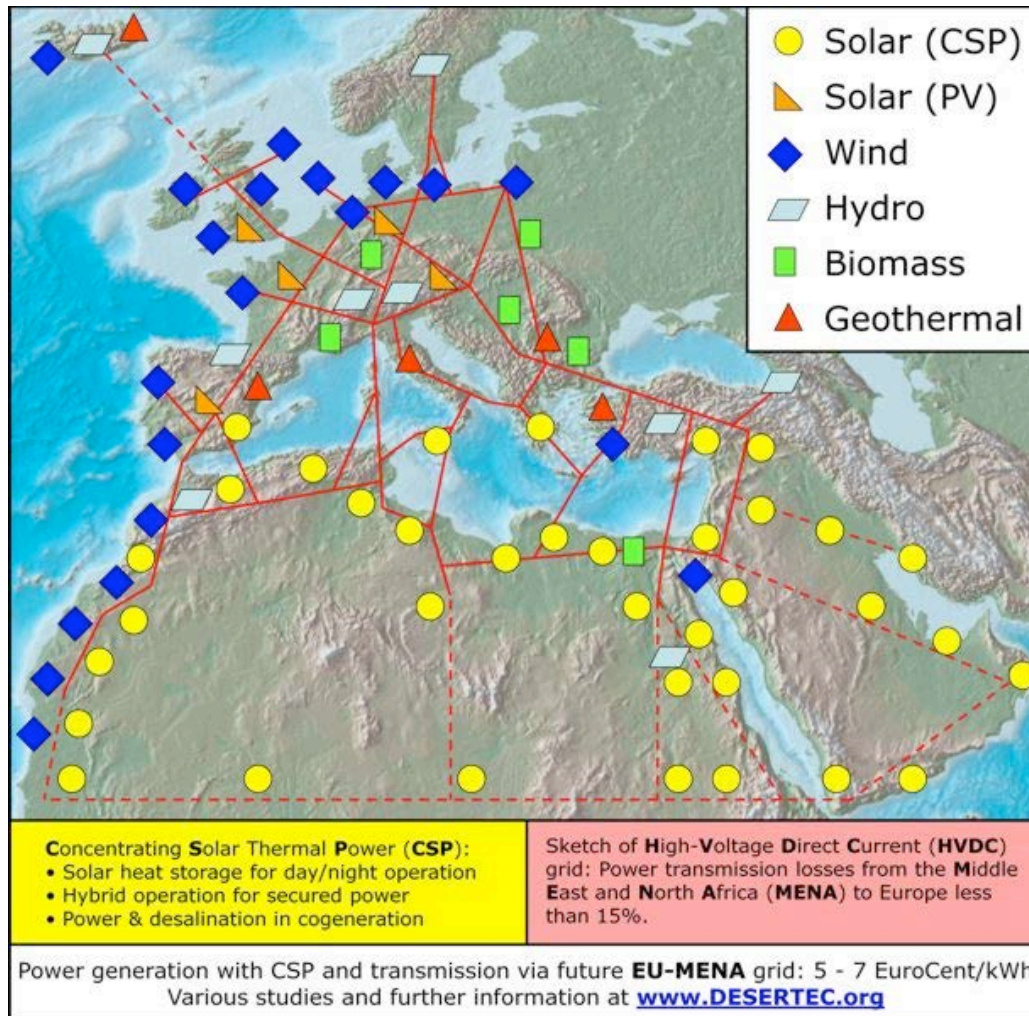


# *Long Distance Electricity Transmission - US*



breakthroughs needed  
long distance reliable, efficient delivery of electricity

# Long Distance Electricity Transmission - Europe



## Desertec

connect North Africa with Europe

15% of European power by 2050

thermal storage for power after sunset

<http://www.dii-eumena.com/dii-answers/technologies-and-costs.html>

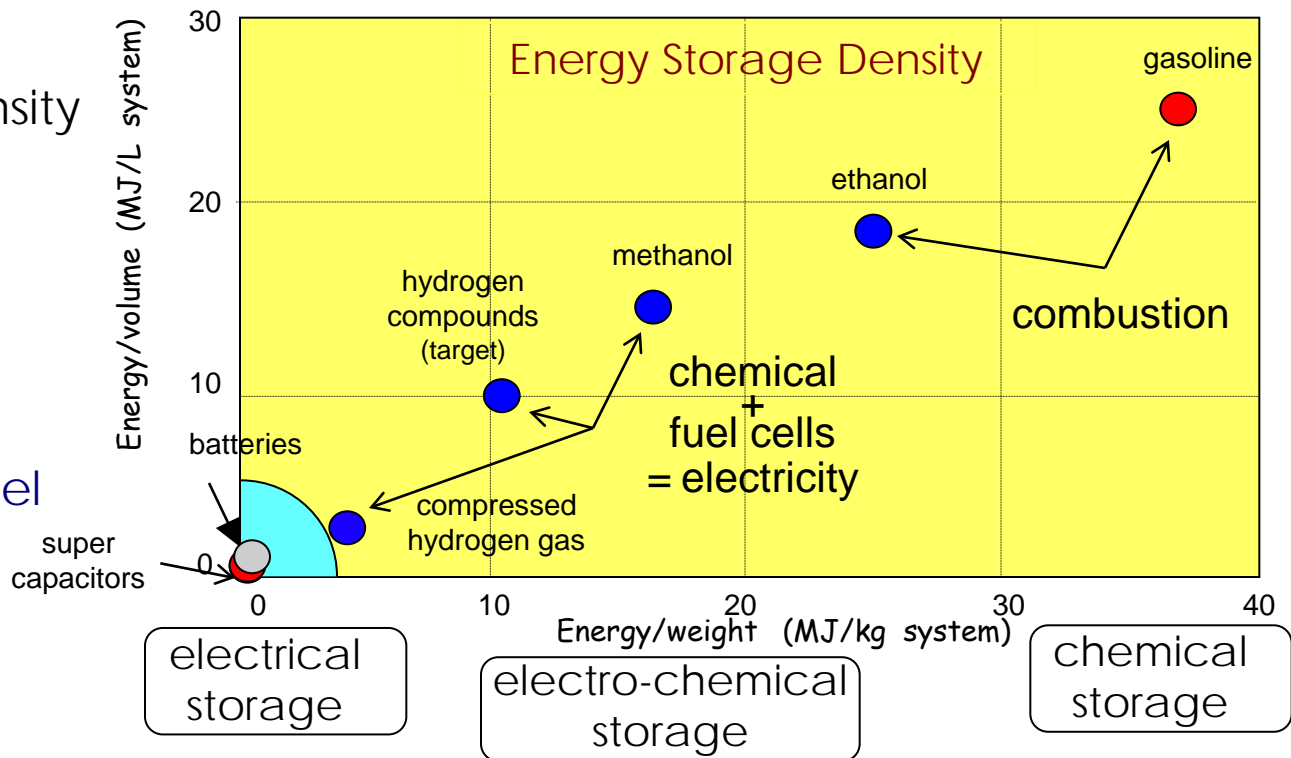
# Storing the Energy We Produce

- Store intermittent solar and wind electricity
- Electrify transportation with plug-in hybrids and electric cars

batteries:  
30-50x less energy density  
than gasoline

impossible dream:  
x10 improvement

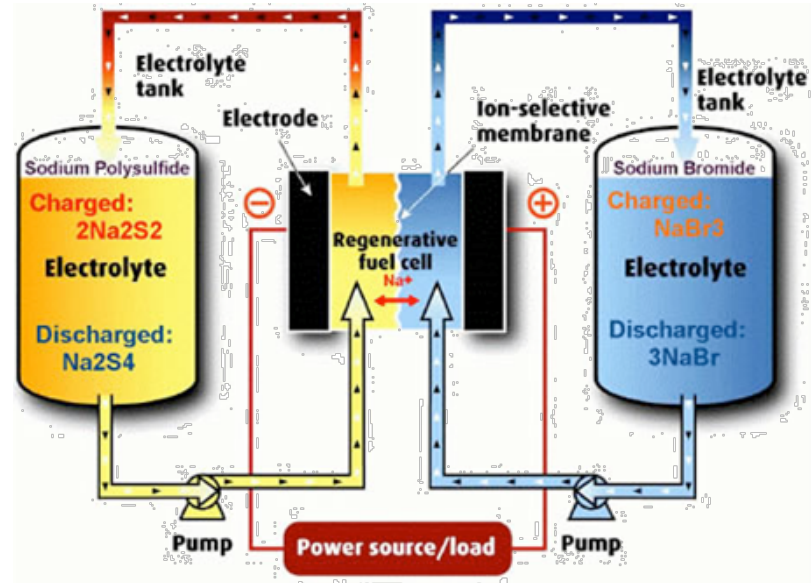
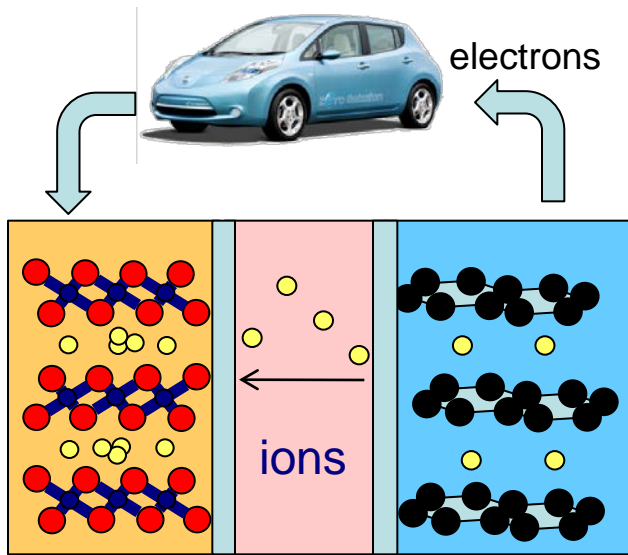
beyond batteries:  
chemical storage + fuel  
cells = electricity



*breakthroughs needed*  
x2-5 increase in battery energy density  
x10-20 increase through chemical storage + fuel cells



# Electrical Energy Storage Beyond Li-ion



$\text{Li}^+ \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{++}, \text{Y}^{+++}$   
multivalent intercalation

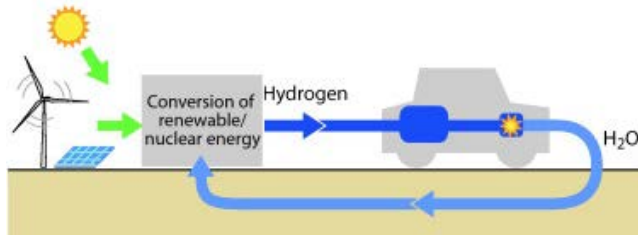
Intercalation  $\rightarrow$  chemical reaction  
Li-O<sub>2</sub>, Li-S, Na-S

Flow batteries

High capacity, efficient, inexpensive

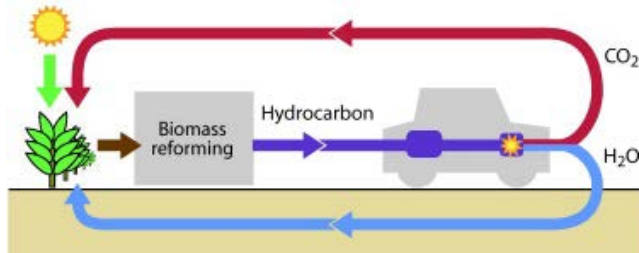
Many unexplored redox couples

# Develop Chemical Bonds as a Sustainable Energy Carrier



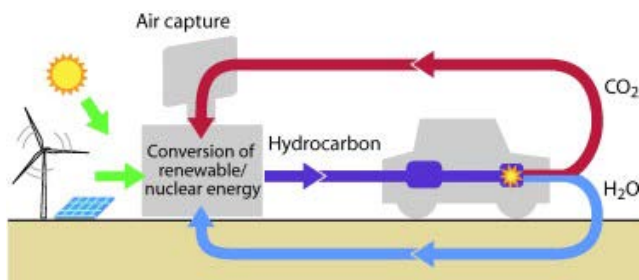
*Hydrogen*  
requires infrastructure, storage,  
renewable production

2003 →



*Cellulosic biofuels*  
requires land, low efficiency,  
limited capacity

2007 →



*Carbon dioxide + water (hydrogen)*  
recycled chemical fuels  
Significant science breakthrough

Drop-in replacement for fossil  
Incremental change to established combustion infrastructure  
Promotes carbon mitigation, energy security

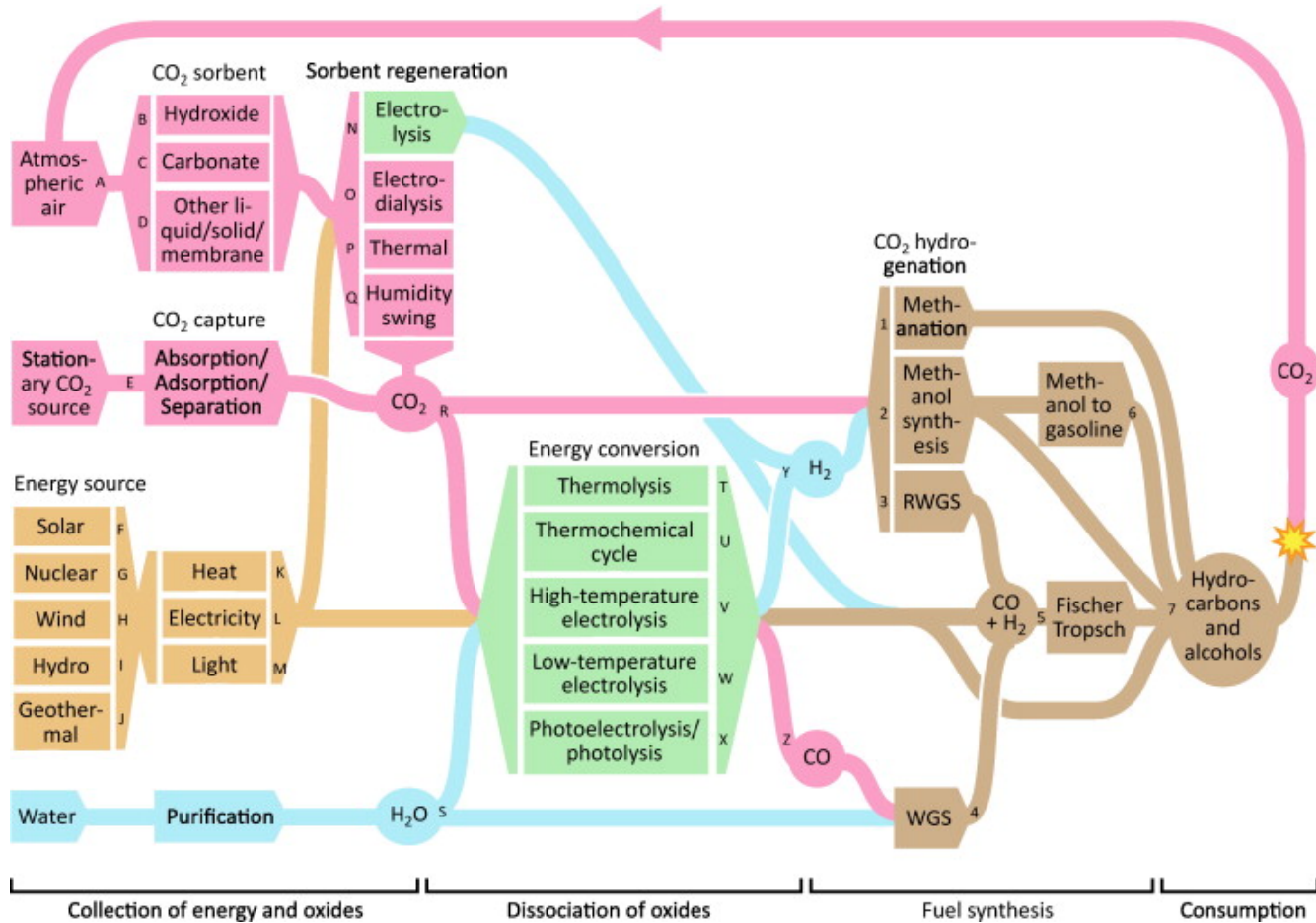
Graves, Ebbesen, Mogensen, Lackner  
Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 15,1 (2011)





# Develop Chemical Bonds as a Sustainable Energy Carrier

$\text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow$  many opportunities for sustainable chemical fuel



Graves, Ebbesen, Mogensen, Lackner  
Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 15,1 (2011)



# Break the Barriers Among Energy Carriers

## Electricity

Clean, efficient, versatile

Low energy density, low capacity storage

Avoids combustion and Carnot efficiency limits

## Chemical bonds

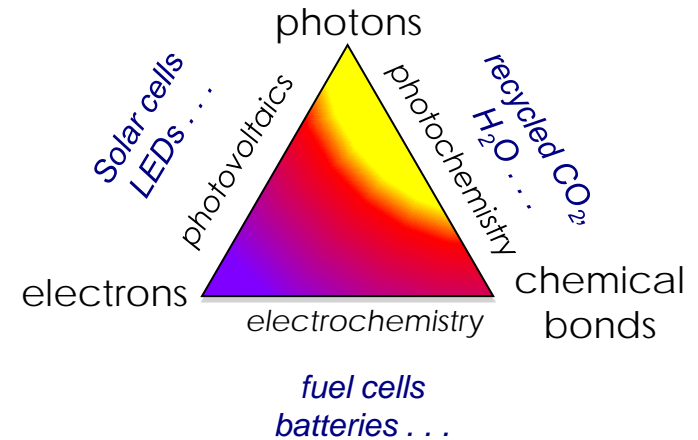
Stable, long term, high energy density storage

Conversion to heat by combustion

## Photons

Solar energy carrier

Ultimate source of light and heat



Science breakthrough

Seamless connection among three energy carriers

Fungible energy sources and uses

*Oil for transportation replaced by electrons from sun . . .*



# *Perspective – Societal Vision for 2050*

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## Societal concerns

- Energy security and predictability
- Climate change
- Economic development and growth

## Energy landscape

Versatile, interchangeable energy carriers, sources and uses

Energy as a commodity

widely available in many forms from many sources

International market promotes accessibility and predictability



# *Perspective – Science Breakthroughs*

Mechanics and fluid flow in fractured rock – safe, abundant, cheap shale gas

Mineralization of CO<sub>2</sub> – safe, permanent, benign carbon mitigation

Recycle CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O to fuel – chemical bonds as a sustainable carrier

Electrical energy storage beyond Li-ion

multivalent working ions, chemical transformation, non-aqueous flow batteries

High capacity superconducting wind turbines – enable offshore wind

Materials for extreme environments, reprocessing chemistry for spent fuel

safe, high performance nuclear electricity

Efficient, easy conversion among energy carriers

Electricity, chemical bonds, photons

*The carriers: hydrogen, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, alcohols, light, heat . . .*

*The converters: fuel cells, batteries, motors, generators, solar cells, light emitting diodes, internal combustion engines, combined cycle gas turbines, . . .*

International market in commodity energy

*Science enables the conversion, social and political forces achieve the outcome*



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