



# Renewable technologies: a quiet revolution

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## MACRO SCENARIOS

Where the energy market is going?



## RES STATE OF ART

Renewable energy sources technological status and market

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The disruptive power of RES



## CHECK POINT

Now it's up to you

Renewable technologies: a quiet revolution

## MACRO SCENARIOS



# The evolution of the energy sector



## Urbanization



By 2050,  
**6.3 billion people**  
will live in cities

## Digitalization



Global Internet Traffic  
entered in the **ZB** era

## Electrification



**Electric passengers**  
vehicle  
sales reached 2.1  
million in 2019

## Energy Storage



The cost of Lithium-ion  
batteries will fall **below**  
**100 \$/kWh** in 3 years

## Climate Change



2 degree scenario  
requires **additional**  
**\$5.3 trillion**  
investments

**The energy sector is experimenting a deep transformation.**

## Global urbanization trends: Percentage of population living in urban areas



Shanghai population: 24.1 mln (2014)

A new city the size of Shanghai  
**every four months**

**An extra 2.5 billion people added to the urban population by 2050.  
Two thirds of clients will need smart and resilient power.**

# Digitalization

Global Internet Traffic entered in the ZB era

KB kilobyte	$10^3$ bytes
MB megabyte	$10^6$ bytes
GB gigabyte	$10^9$ bytes
TB terabyte	$10^{12}$ bytes
PB petabyte	$10^{15}$ bytes
EB exabyte	$10^{18}$ bytes
ZB zettabyte	$10^{21}$ bytes
YB yottabyte	$10^{24}$ bytes

1987  
**2 TB**

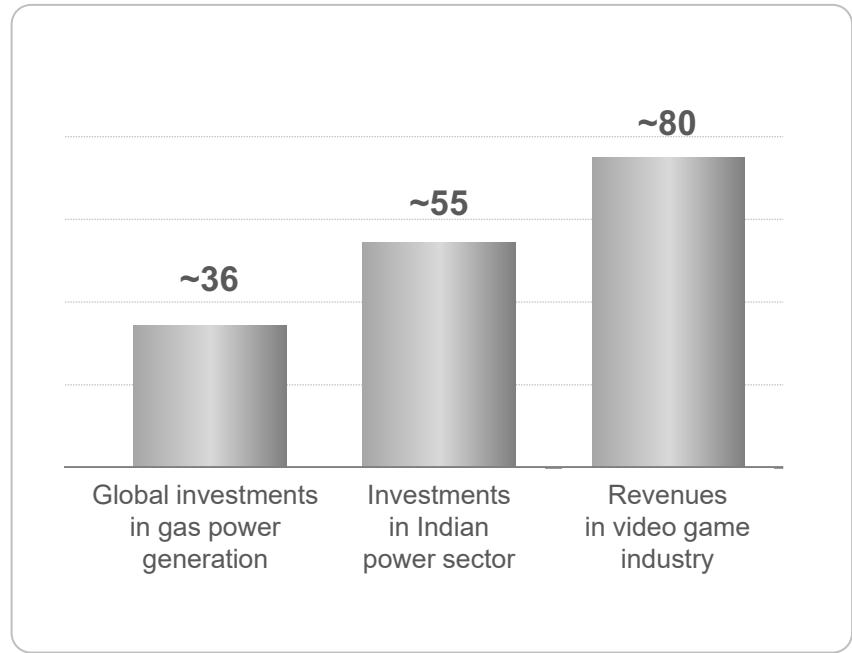
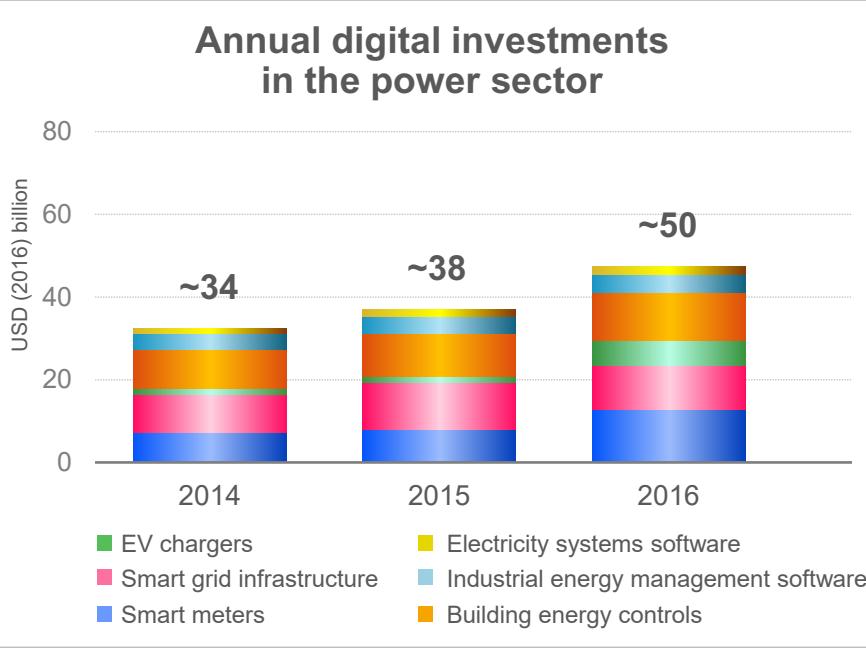
1997  
**60 PB**

2007  
**54 EB**

2017  
**1.1 ZB**  
~  $10^6$  times all data  
of all U.S. libraries

**Around 90% of the data in the world today  
was created over the past two years**

# Investments in digital technologies



**Investments in digital electricity infrastructure and software grew over 20% annually between 2014 and 2016, overtaking global investments in gas-fired power generation**

## BiG Data & A.I.

BIG Data infrastructure to valorize data, in order to improve plant maintenance efficiency:

- ✓ Cost optimization
- ✓ Reduction of maintenance stop
- ✓ Higher revenues



## Augmented Reality

Enhanced reality tools to increase plant operation efficiency and safety on worksites



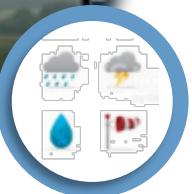
## Internet of Things

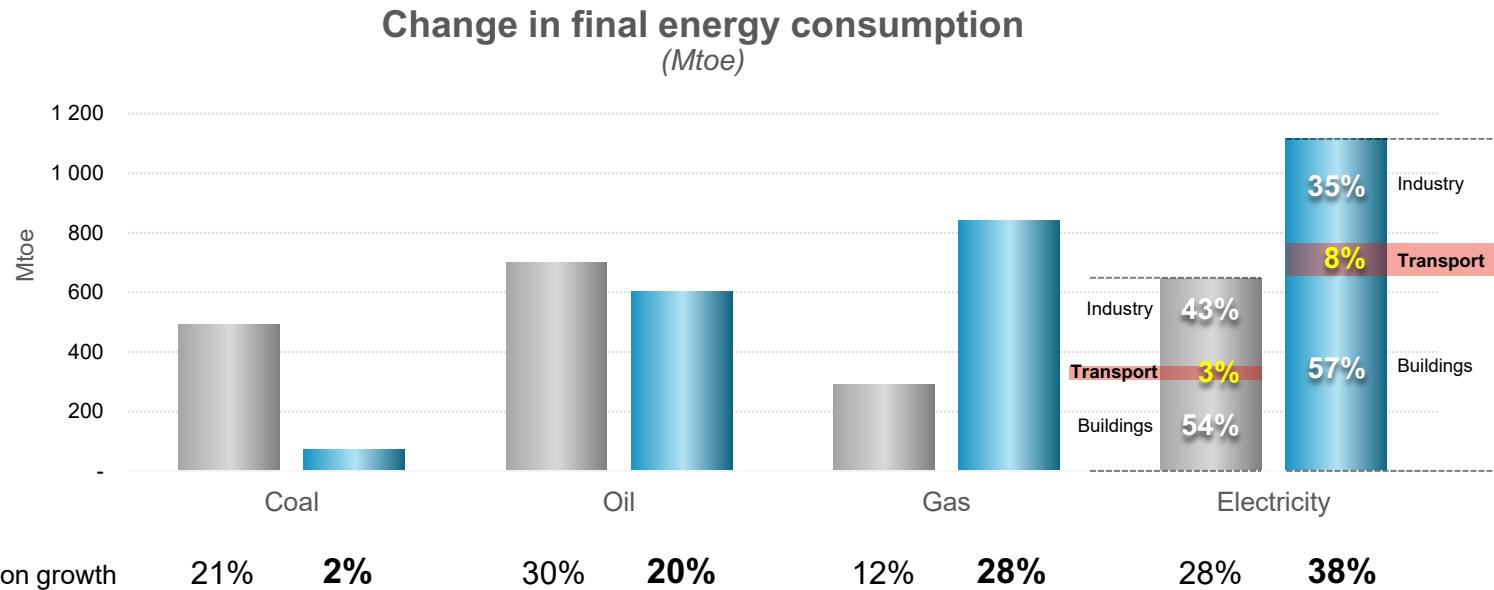
Fleet Retrofitting with sensors  
Wearable devices for maintenance of plants



## Forecasting - Nowcasting

Use of Weather forecasting for energy yield



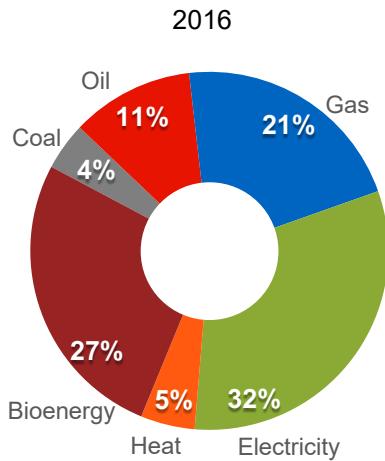


**Final energy consumptions increase globally,  
with electricity expected to be the first source of growth**

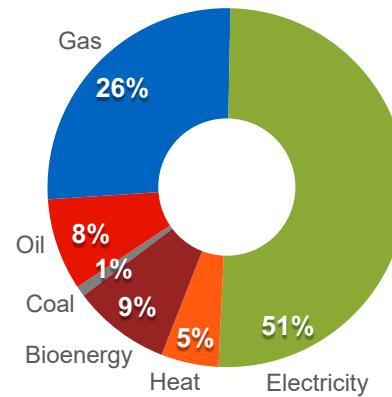
# Electrification in Buildings



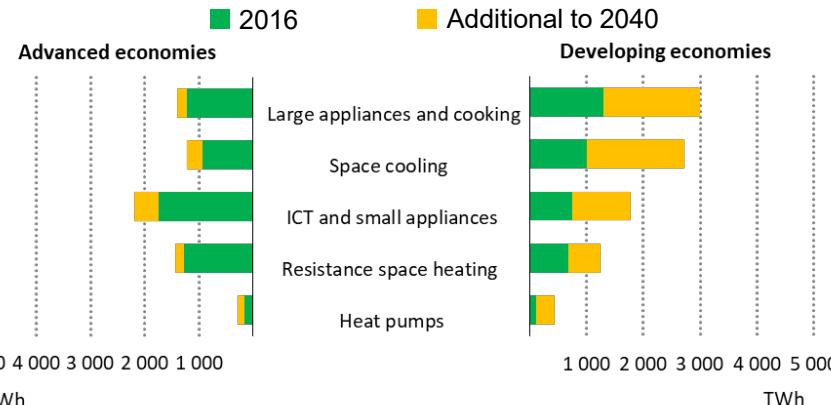
## Total final consumption in Buildings



2040



## Electricity demand by end use in Buildings

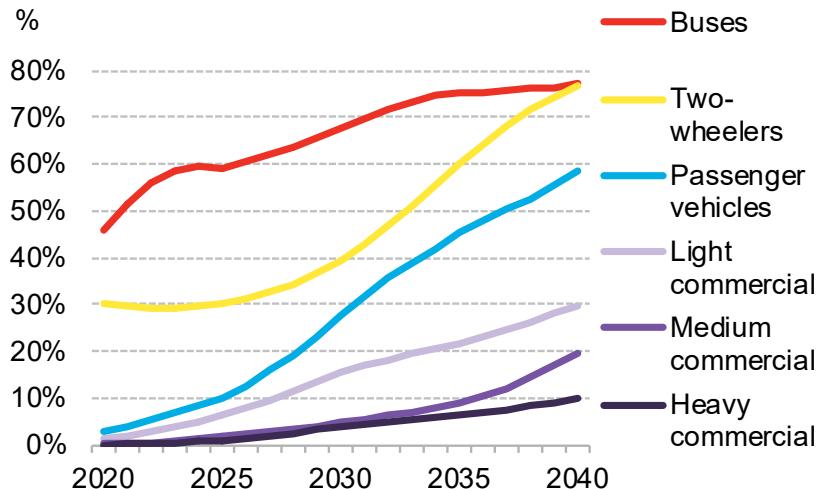


**Electricity is expected to be the first source of energy in Buildings by 2040, mainly driven by large appliances, space cooling and plug-in devices**

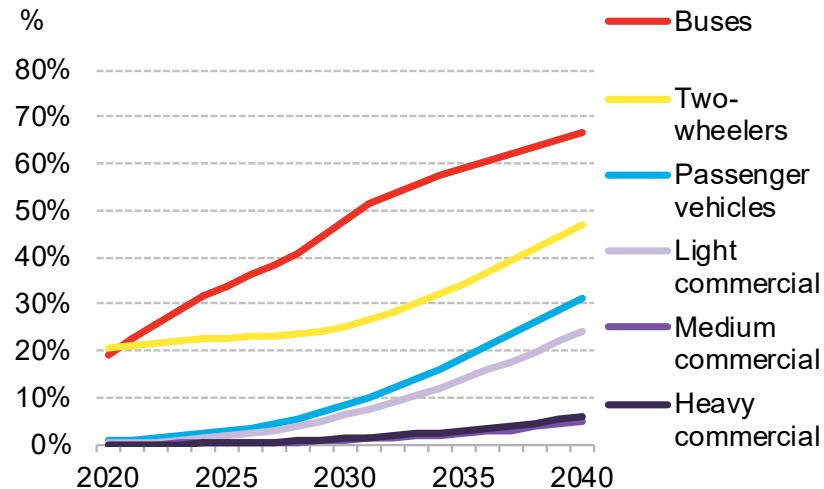
# Electrification of Transport



EV share of global new vehicle sales by segment



EV share of global vehicle fleet by segment

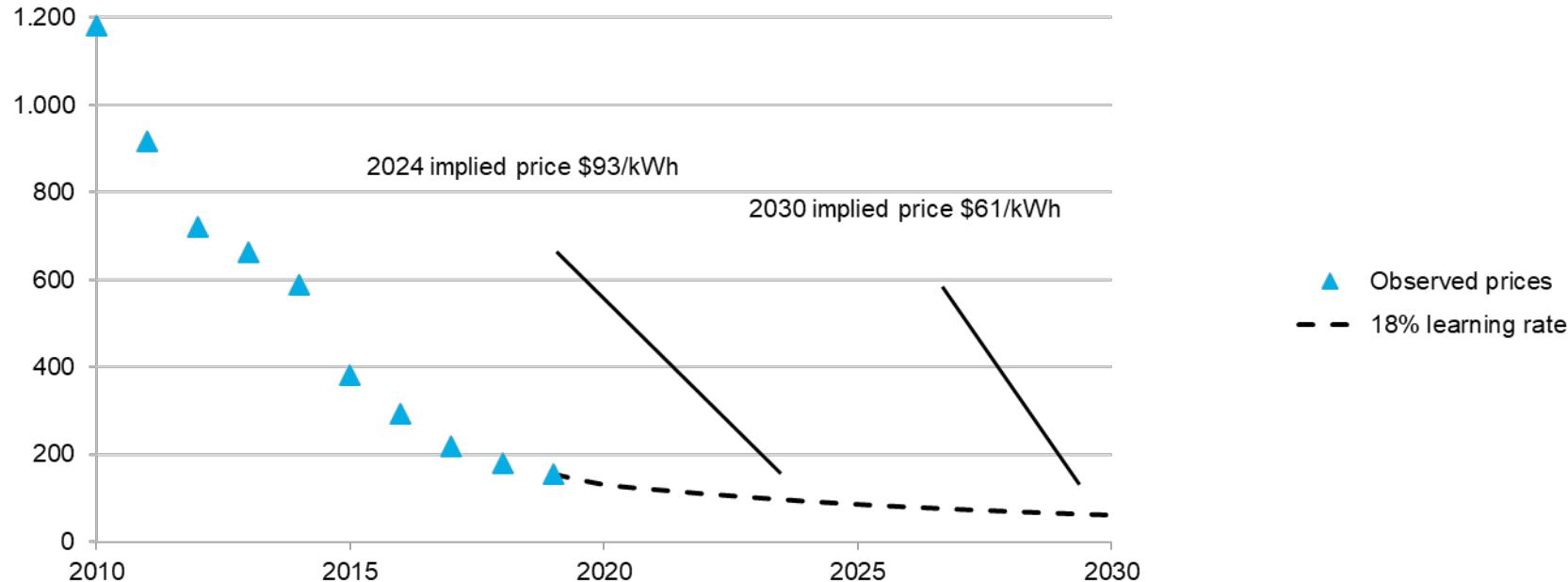


By 2040 1/3 of passenger vehicles will be electrical (EV sales 60%)  
E-bus will be dominant in world fleet

# Energy Storage - Lithium-ion battery pack price forecast

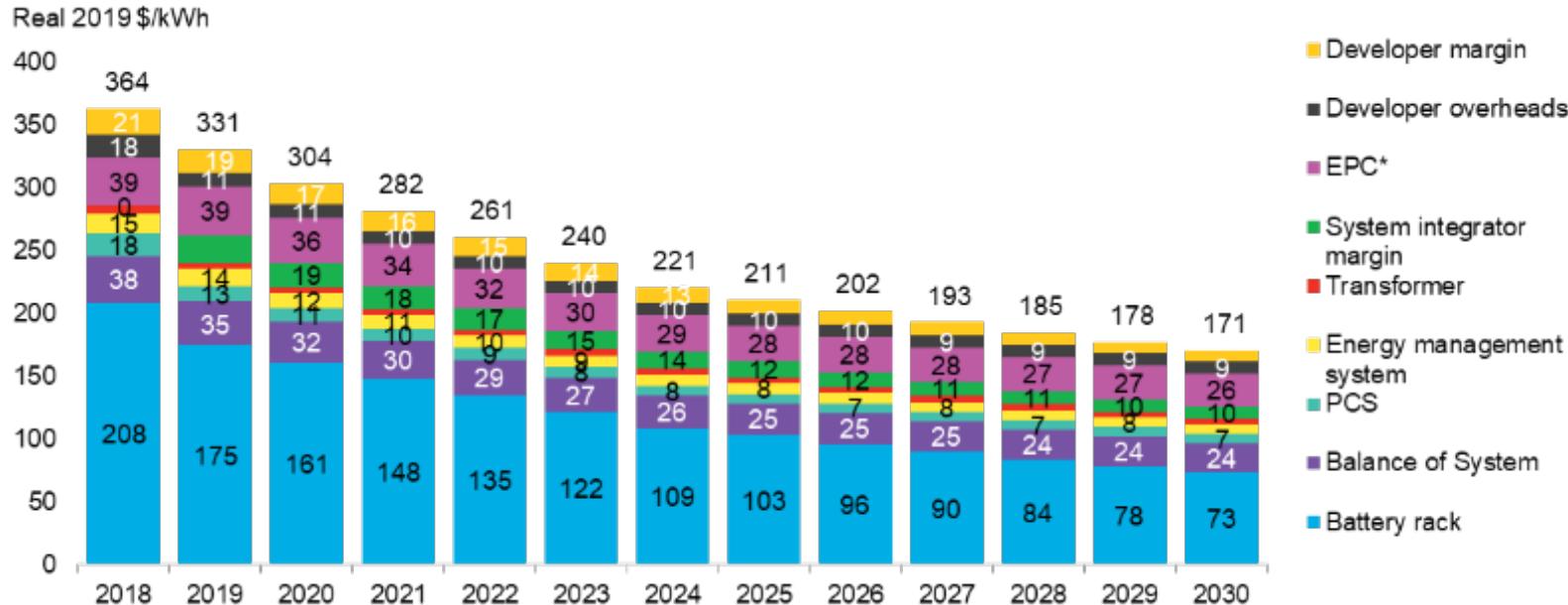


Lithium-ion battery pack price (real 2019 \$/kWh)



**A conservative 18% learning rate takes to break the \$100/kWh threshold in 3 years.**

# Energy Storage – Utility scale systems



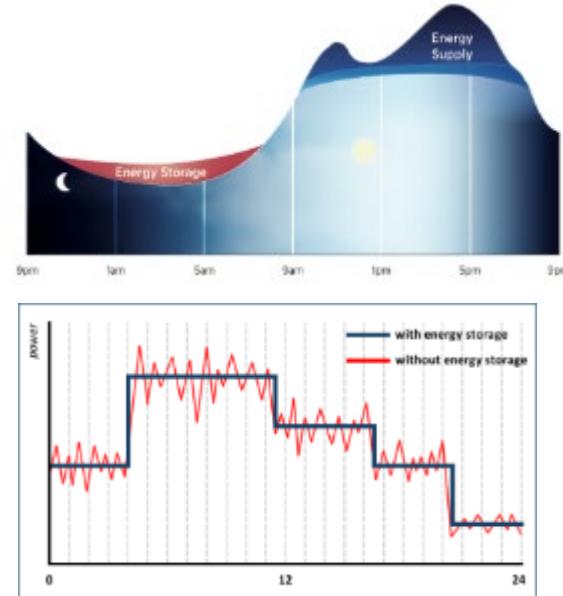
A typical 20 MW/80 MWh energy storage system can now balance load and generation fluctuations in a competitive way.

# The Enabling Role of Energy Storage



Energy storage systems (ESS) can enable **high levels of renewable energy adoption** by complementing the predictably variable and sometimes intermittent nature of solar and wind resources. Two main categories of services can be identified:

- **Energy shifting:** ESS can shift wind or solar renewable power plants production to optimize grid energy flow and to fit the renewable sources with demand, allowing them to participate to the energy market as a conventional "fossil" power plant.
- **Ancillary services:** ESS can provide various "grid-stabilizing services", such as frequency and voltage regulation, quickly injecting/absorbing power to/from the grid. Dedicated markets are growing to compensate for these contributions.



**Anything Coal and Gas can do, Renewables and Energy Storage will do cheaper.**

# Climate change

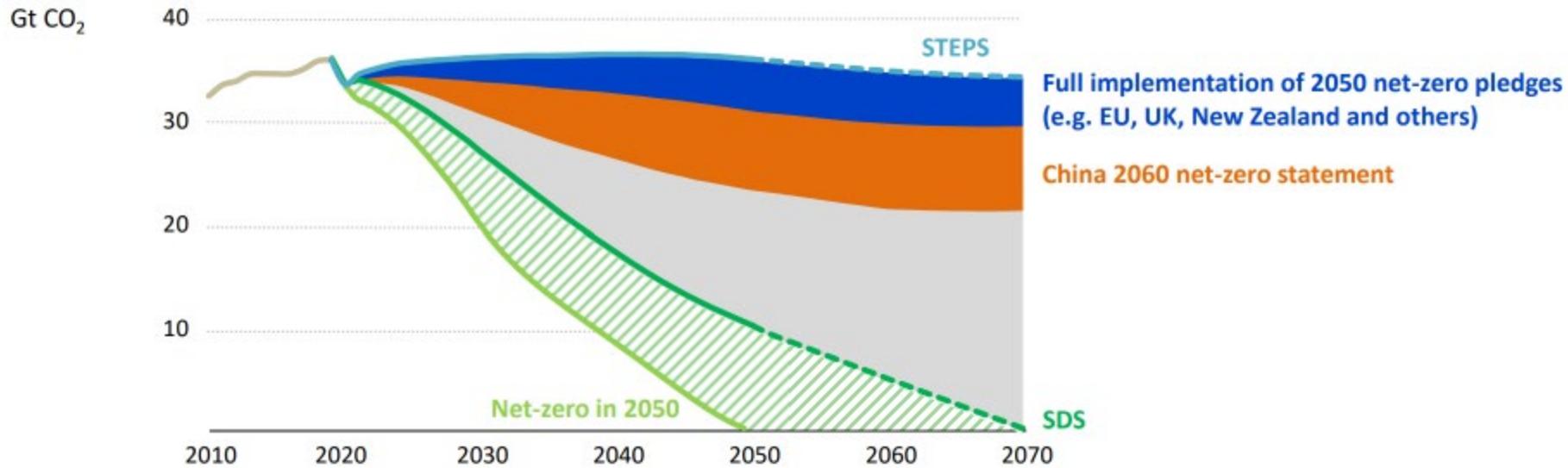


1931



2016

# Climate Change - CO2 emissions



**Gas alone can't get us to 2 degrees – Additional efforts are necessary**

Renewable technologies: a quiet revolution

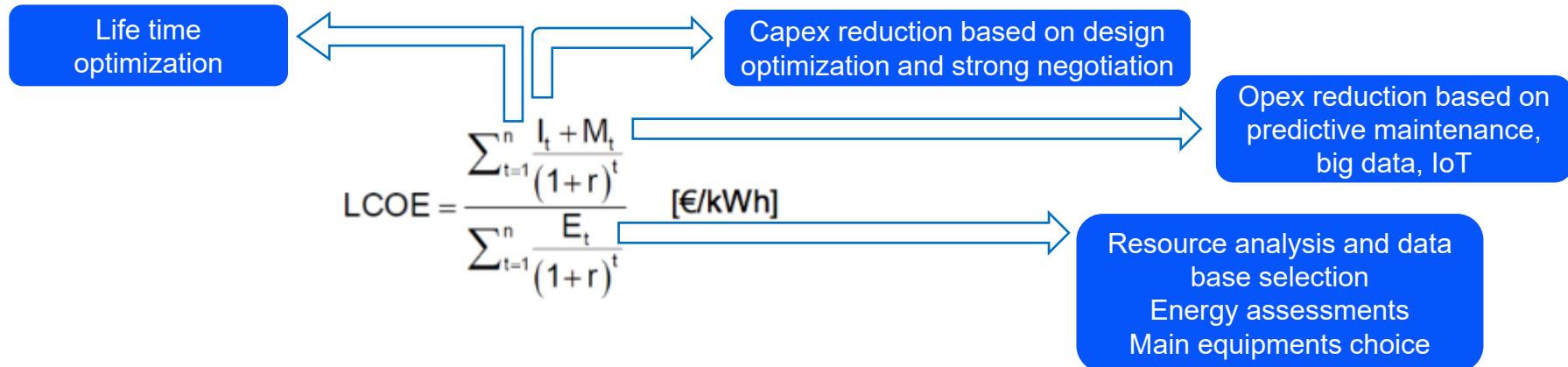
## RES STATE OF ART



# LCOE is the main market driver

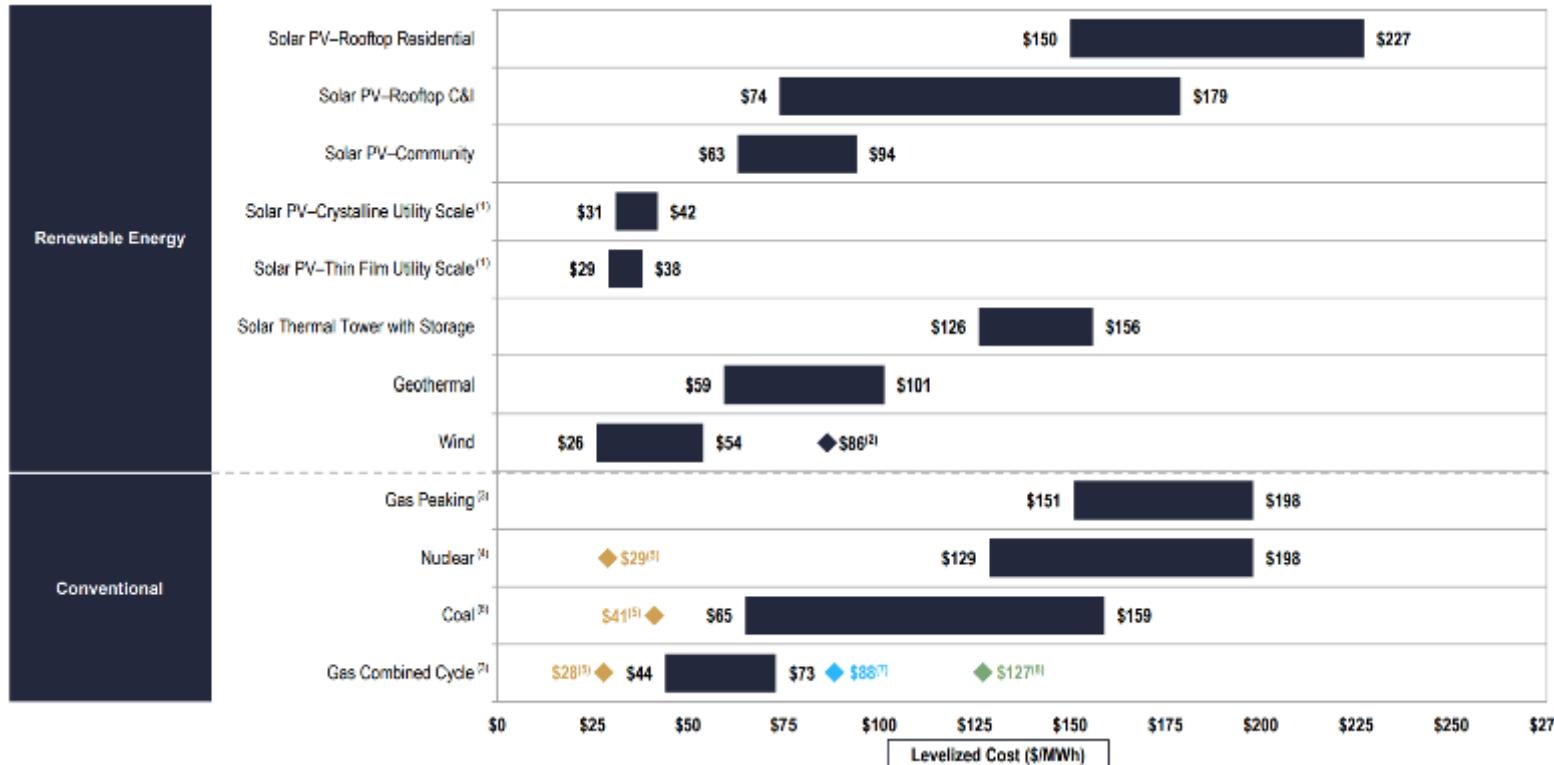


Main GOAL is to reduce LCOE acting on all possible variables



**Levelized Cost of Energy (LCOE)**  
represents one of the utility industry's primary metrics for the cost of electricity produced by a generator.

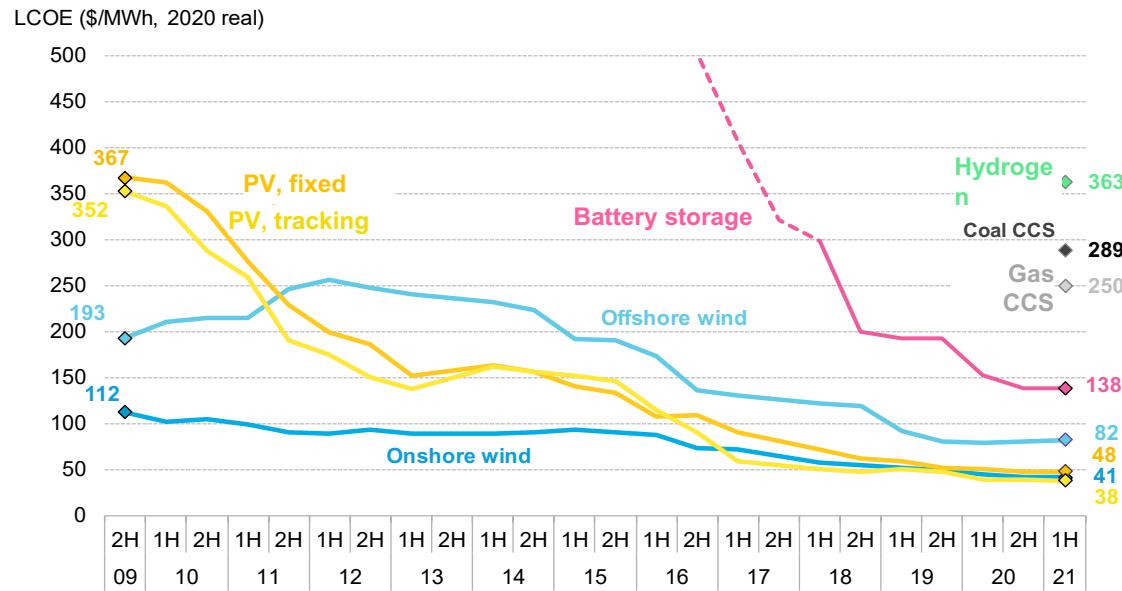
# Renewable vs. Conventional LCOE (2020)



Source: Eia.org/estimates

Wind and solar PV utility scale the most competitive power plants that nowadays can be built

# Global benchmarks for selected low-carbon technologies



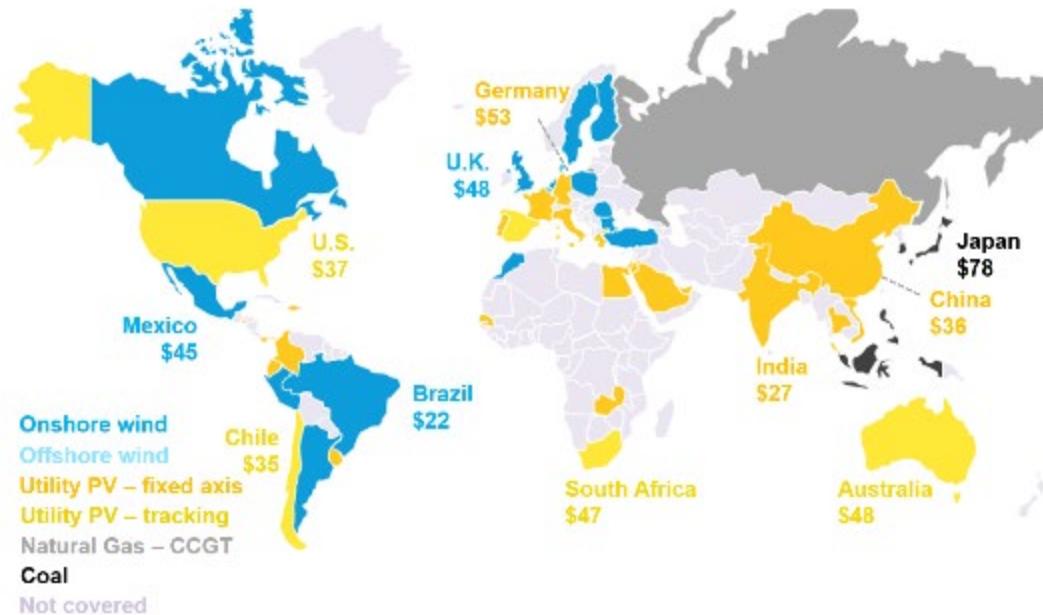
**Best trends for PV and battery storage**

Source: BloombergNEF. Note: The global benchmark for PV, wind and storage is a country-weighted average using the latest annual capacity additions. For hydrogen-fired power, coal- and gas-fired power with carbon capture and storage (CCS), it is a simple global average. The storage LCOE is reflective of a utility-scale Li-ion battery storage system with four-hour duration running at a daily cycle and includes charging costs.

# The quiet revolution - 1



Cheapest source of bulk generation, 1H 2021  
New-build solar, wind, coal and gas

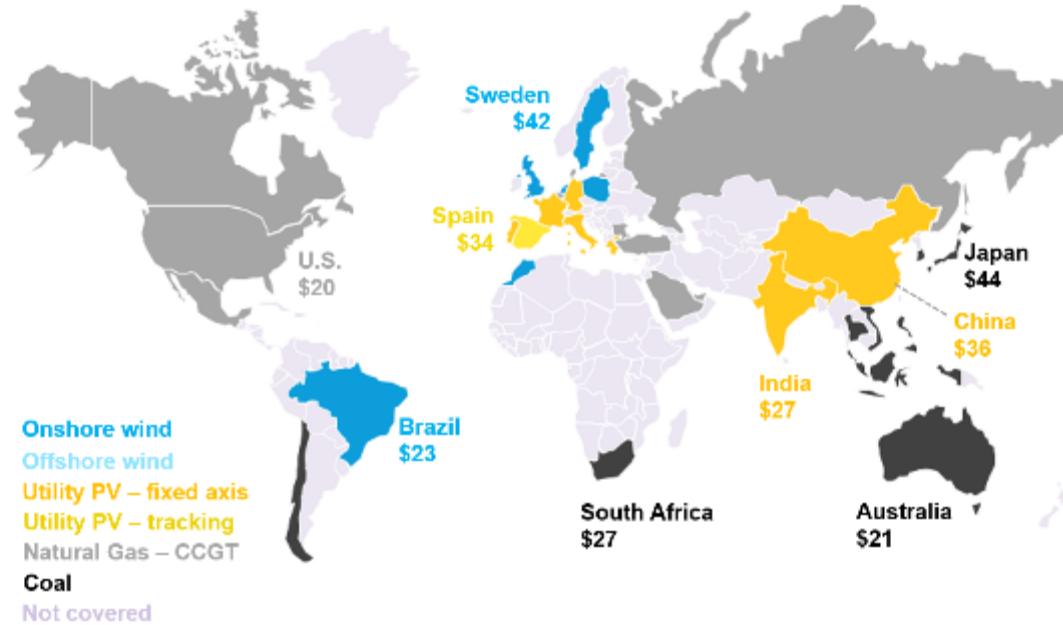


**Renewables are the cheapest source of new bulk electricity in countries representing more than two-thirds of the world population and 91% of electricity generation.**

# The quiet revolution - 2



Cheapest source of bulk generation, 1H 2021  
New-build solar and wind versus existing coal and gas



New solar and onshore wind now competes on cost with existing coal and gas power stations in countries representing almost half of the world's population and 48% of electricity generation.

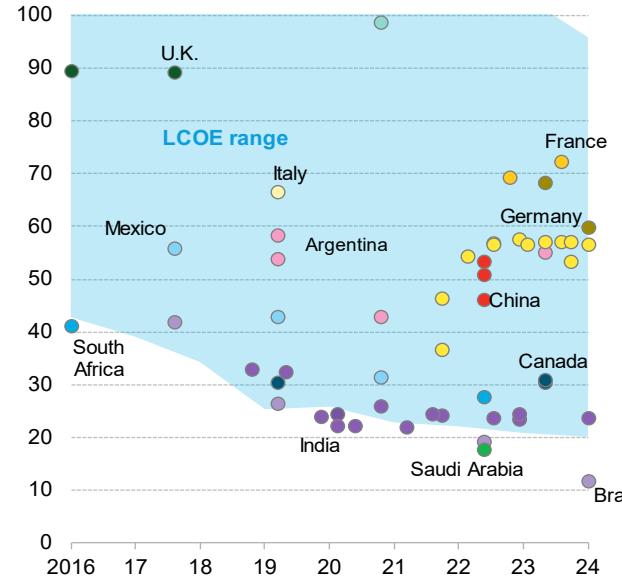
# Auctions continue to push down wind and PV prices



## Levelized auction bids, global

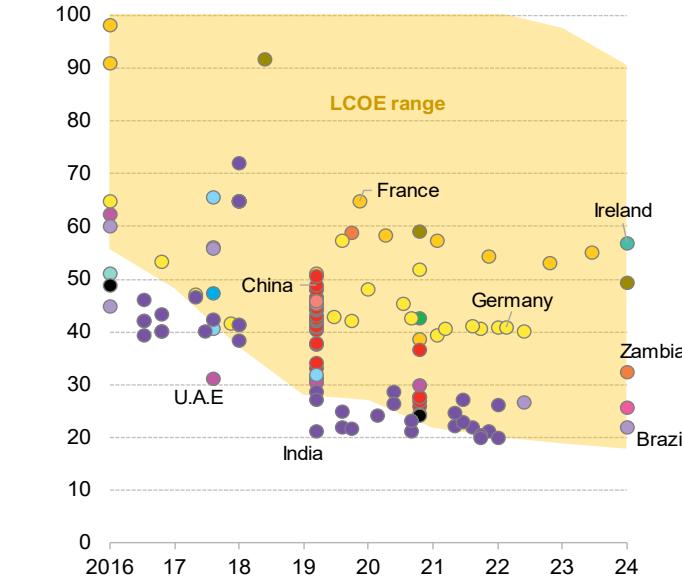
### Onshore wind

\$/MWh (2020 real)



### Utility-scale PV

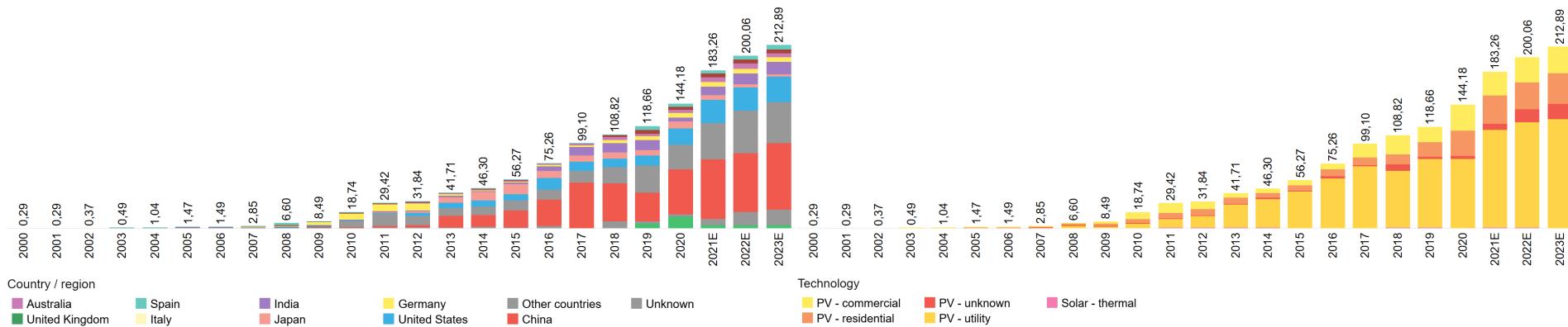
\$/MWh (2020 real)



Source: BloombergNEF. Note: Levelized auction bids and LCOEs are shown by commissioning date. For a full list of countries, please consult the Excel document attached on the insight web page.

**Remember that the tariffs awarded and the LCOE are not the same thing.**

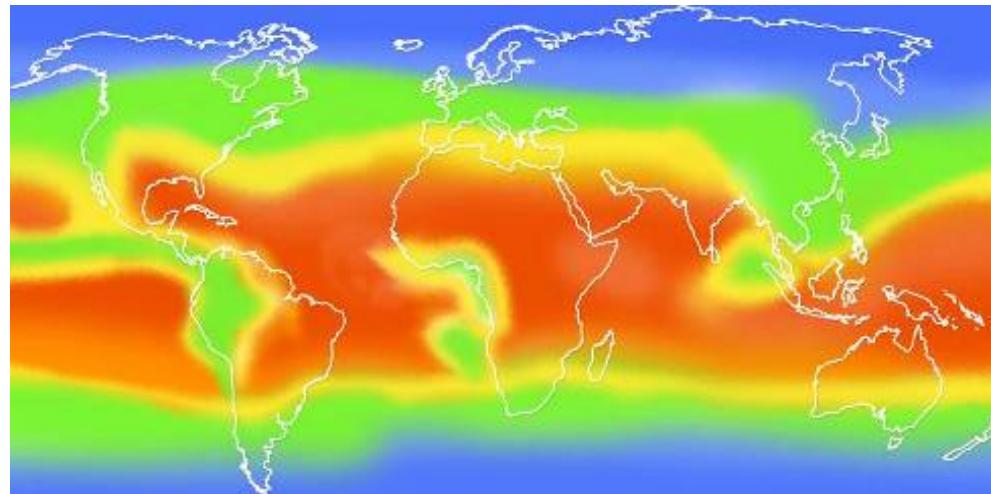
# SOLAR annual new additions (GW)



**By far the absolute winner. No space for solar thermal in the future.**

# SOLAR PV - Uniform distribution

World solar radiation (yearly average)



Good levels in most of the Globe  
Stabilizing effect from a macro political point of view  
Developing Countries are particularly well irradiated

# SOLAR PV - Modularity, simplicity and flexibility



## Stand Alone

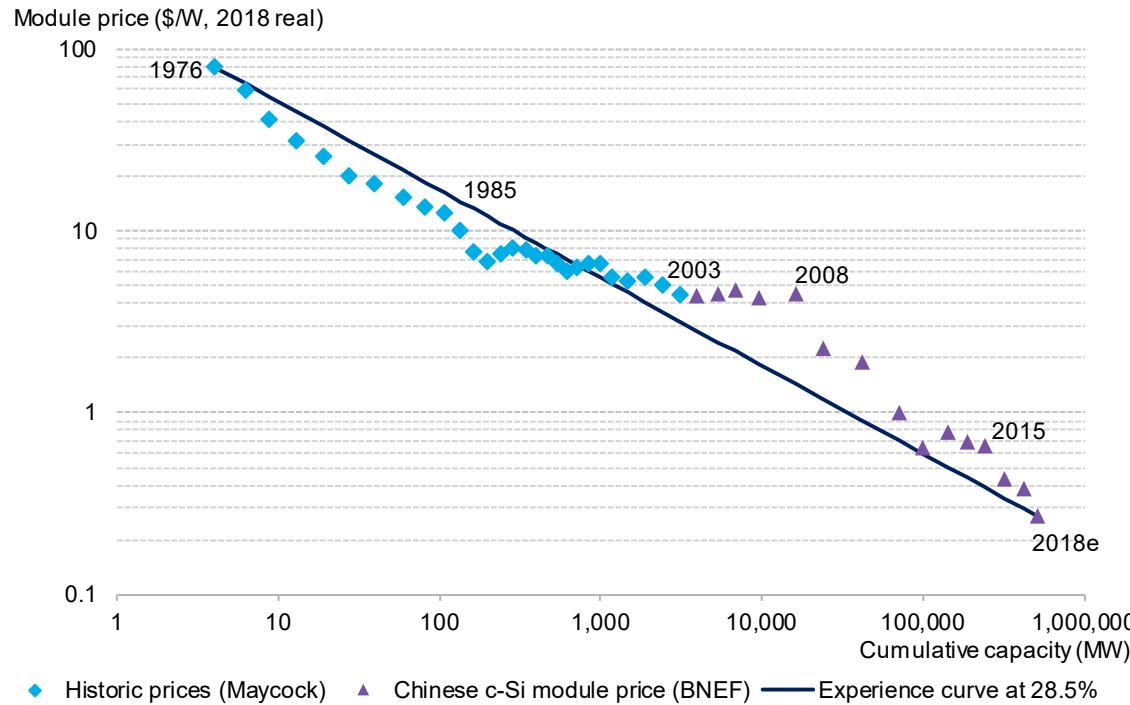
- Electronic devices power supply 1 mW – 10 W
- Micro stand alone systems 10 W – 100 W
- Small home systems 100 W – 1 kW
- Micro grids 10 - 100 kW

## Grid Connected

- Residential 1 - 10 kW
- Commercial 10 kW – 1 MW
- Ground mounted, utility scale 1 MW – 1 GW

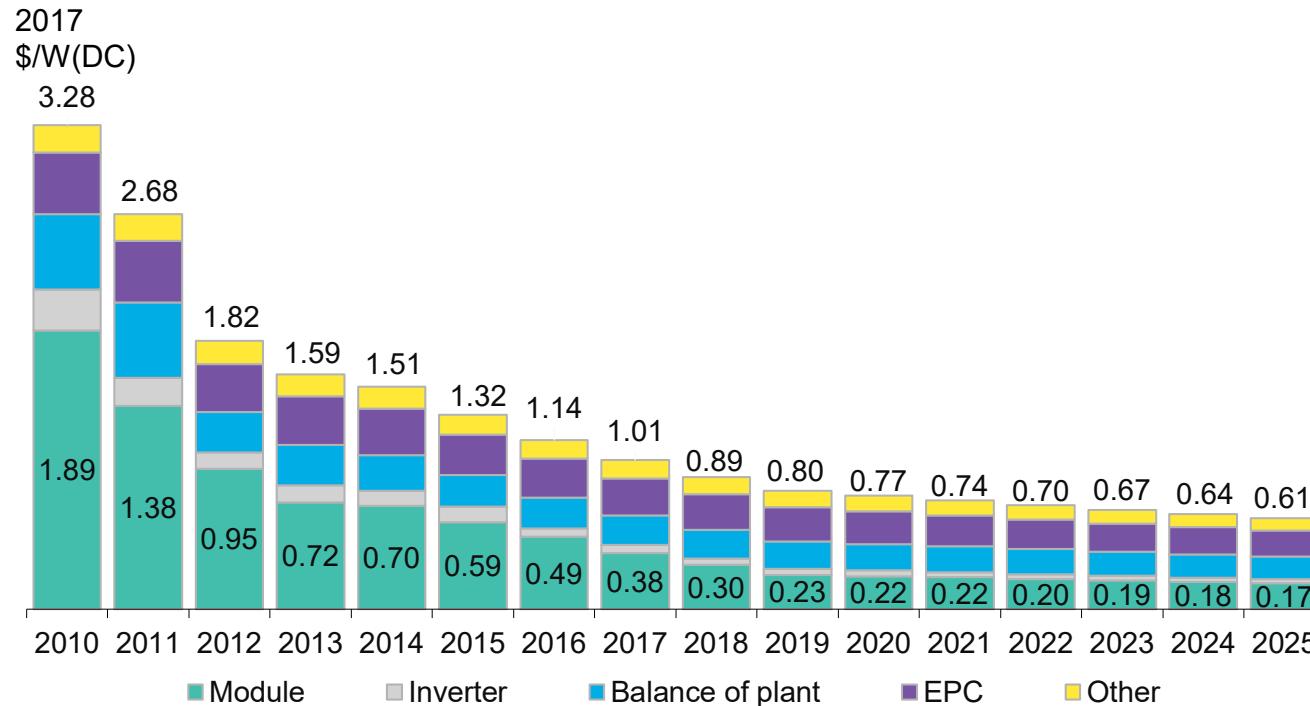
**The same technology base in a wide range and for quite different uses**

# SOLAR PV - The learning curve for c-Si PV modules



Each time that cumulated volumes double price decreases 28%

# SOLAR PV - Benchmark price for utility scale fixed-axis PV system



**The PV module doesn't represent the majority of the cost any more**

# SOLAR PV - Technological reasons to dramatic cost reduction



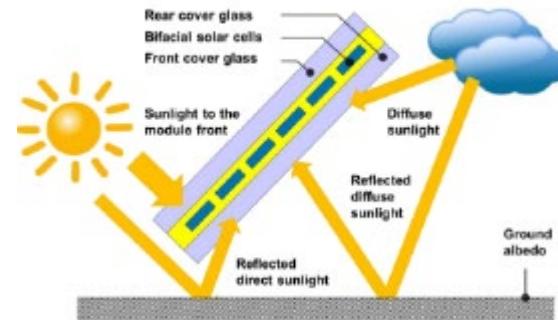
- Silicon based technology: synergies with electronics both for innovation and industrial scale
- Few mechanical parts, no moving elements
- High purity silicon cheap and cost decreasing due to scaling up of volumes
- Wafering is plenty of new approaches (N type wafers, thickness reduction, epitaxial growth, ...) that allows reducing active material use (<5 g/W, in 2010 more than 10). Waiting for epitaxial deposition.
- Standard crystalline cells are quickly improving in efficiency due to wafer quality and many innovations on the process, up to 22% (16% in 2010)
- High efficiency cells (PERC, HJT, backcontacting, etc.) are decreasing in cost mainly due to scale effect, efficiency up to 24% already commercially available
- New materials (perovskite layers for tandem modules) will give efficiency up to 30%
- Bifacial modules are now a commercial standard
- New BOS choices, especially on conversion units

**Efficiency improvement is the main driver to PV modules cost reduction**

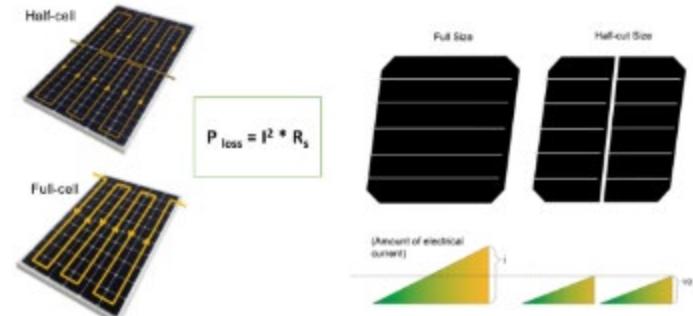
# Advanced PV module concepts



**Bifacial** technology uncovers the rear side of the PV module for sunlight absorption. The gain varies between 5 and 30%, depending on various aspects, such as device design, site albedo, mounting conditions.



Using **half-cut cells** in a solar module makes a lot of sense. Two half cut pieces have the same voltage as the full cell, but the current – which is a function of the surface area- gets divided accordingly by half. Consequently, the internal electrical losses are reduced to 1/4 for a half cell compared to full square solar cells.

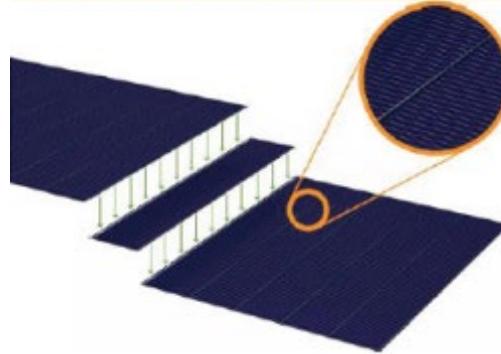


# Advanced PV module concepts

**Shingles:** the beauty of this technology is that it eliminates ribbons completely. That means the cells are interconnected directly by placing them on each other. The shingle interconnection technology following a specific design improves the modules efficiency by 1.86% absolute compared to standard ribbon based interconnection.

One of the simplest ways to reduce resistance losses is to increase the **number of bus bars**. Same approach aiming at reducing the resistance losses is applied by **multi bus bar**. Instead of employing 4,5 or even 6 ribbons for interconnection between cells, several thin wires are used.

Tiled-cell panel Solar Cells



MBB Module

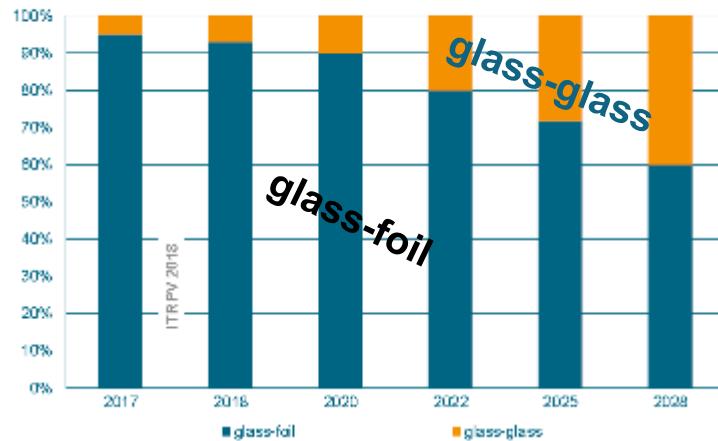


# PV market trend

Future Material Trend - let's see until 2028

## Different back cover technologies with glass front cover

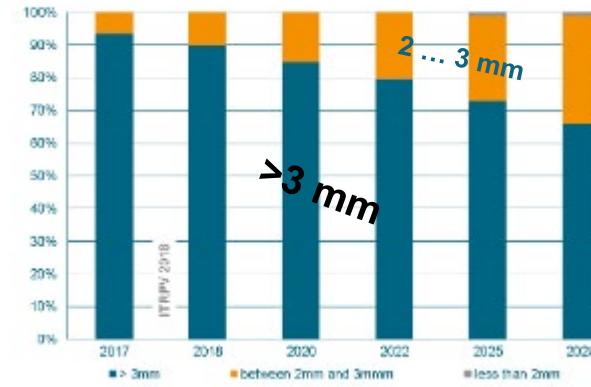
World market share [%]



- glass-glass will gain market share
- glass – foil will remain mainstream
- Al frame modules will stay mainstream

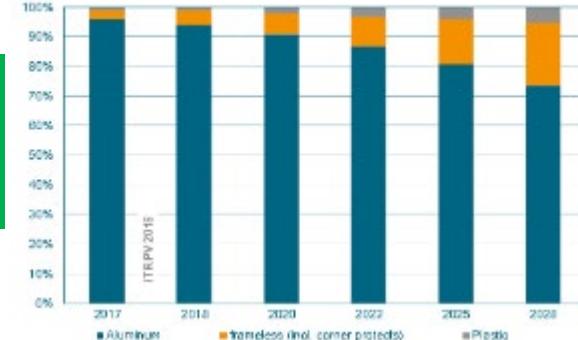
## Thickness of front glasses in modules

World market share [%]



## Different frame materials

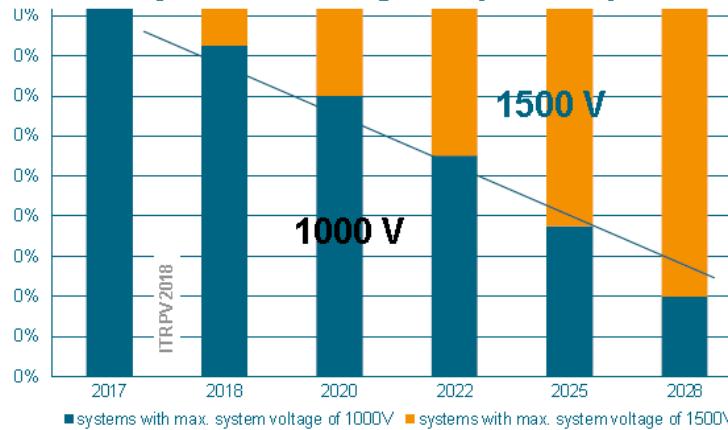
World market share [%]



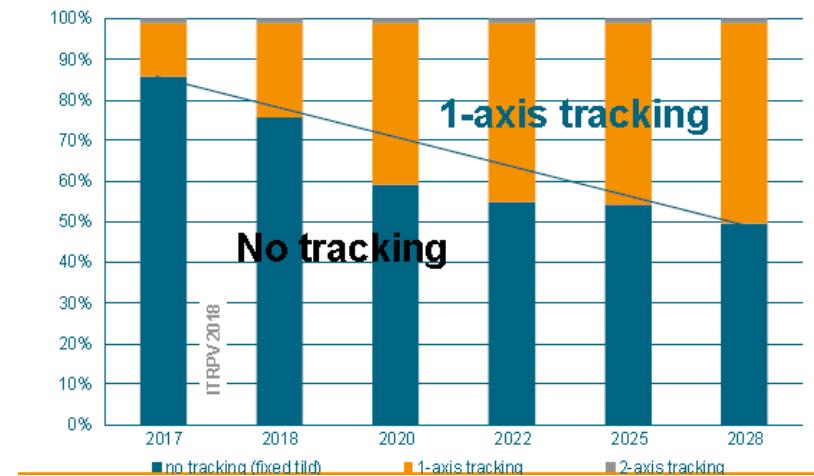
# PV market trend and development considerations

## Systems – Modules and Mounting

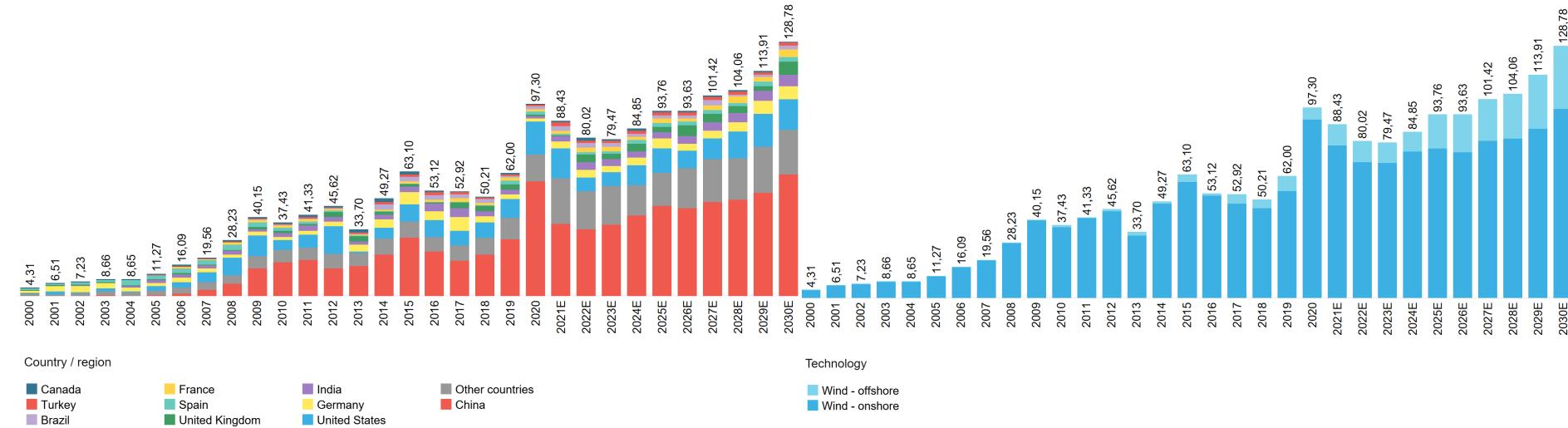
### Trend: system voltage in power plants



### Trend: tracking in PV power plants

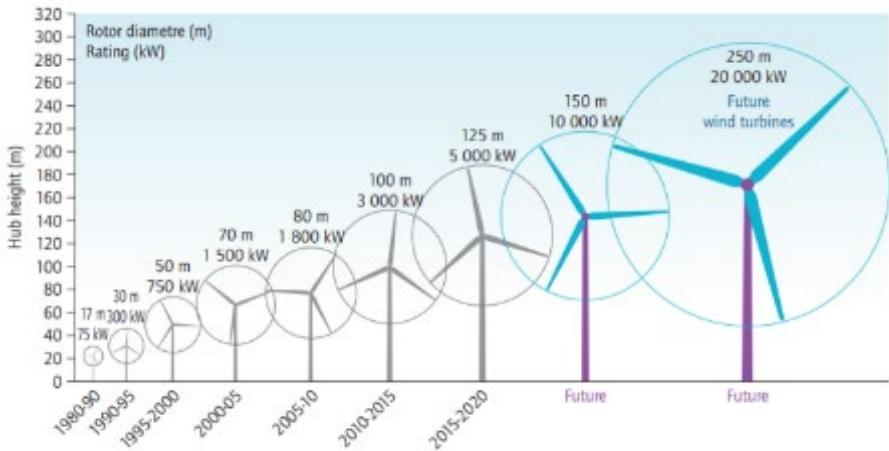


# WIND – annual new additions (GW)

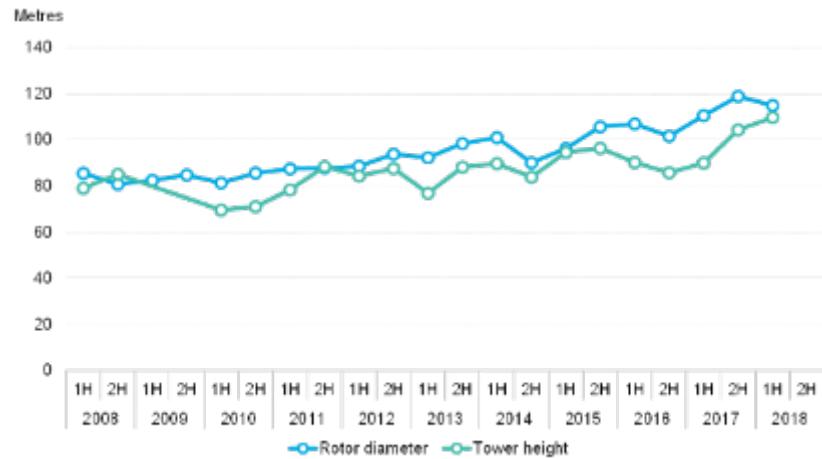


**Short - medium term stable growth. Off shore increases.**

# WIND turbines evolution



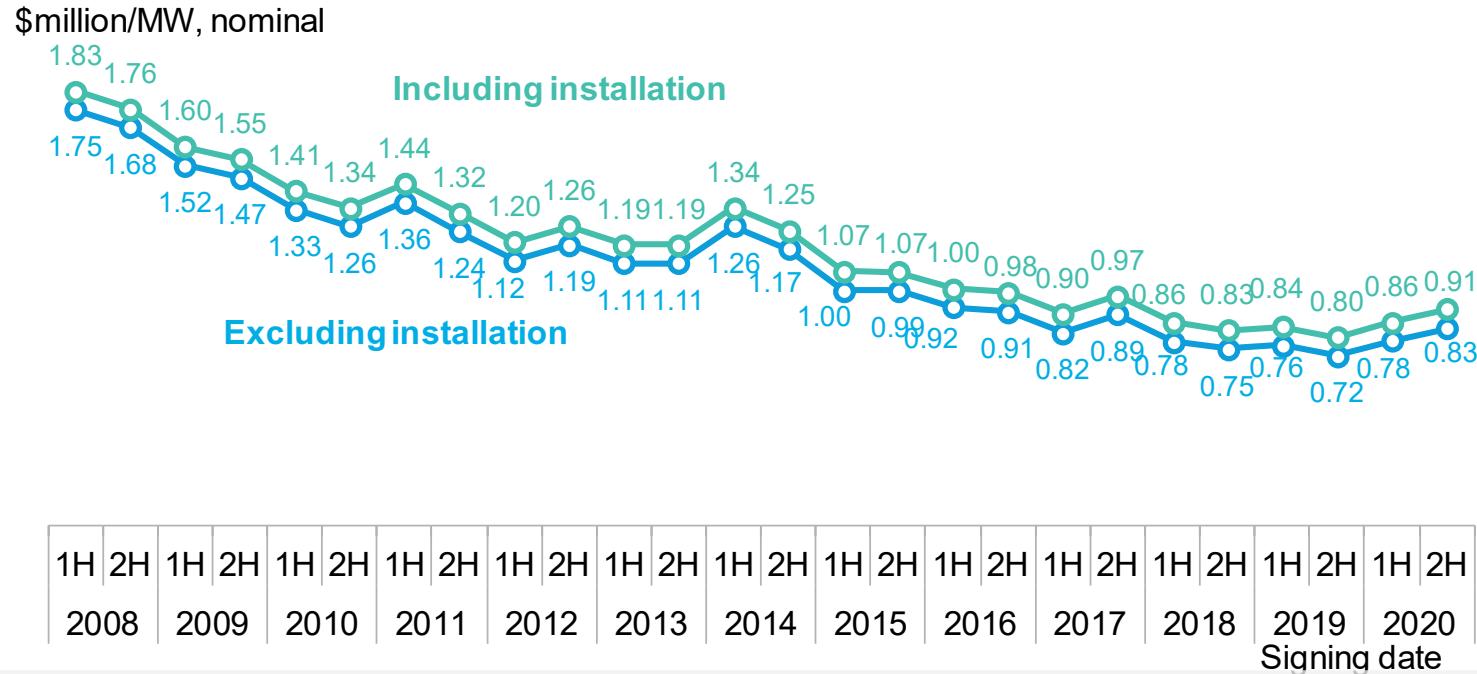
Source: adapted from EWEA, 2009.



Bloomberg New Energy Finance

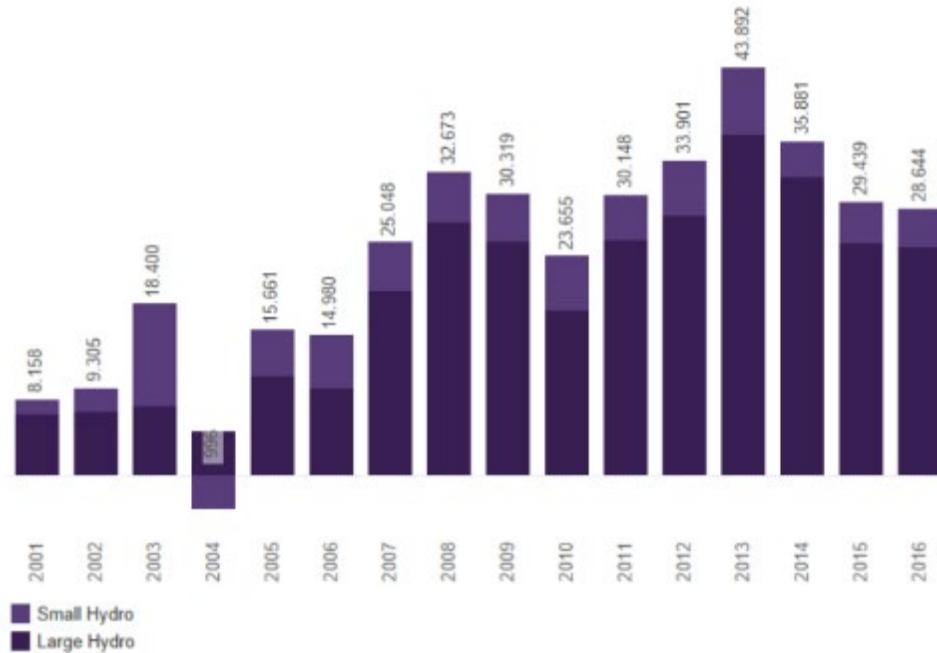
**Wind turbines are reducing LCOE by using bigger rotors, increasing the hub height and improving the design to extract more energy from the same power**

# WIND - Turbine price per MW by signing date



Also unitary price decreases steadily but not as fast as solar

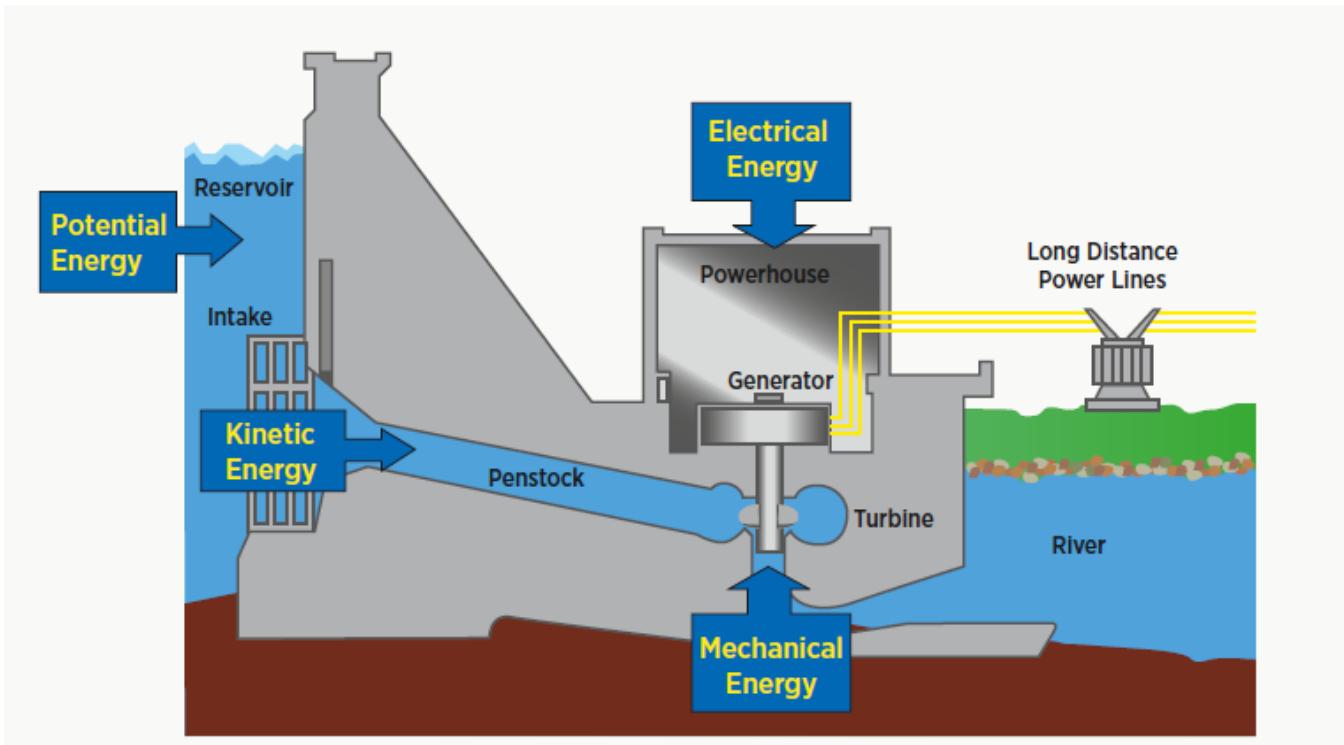
New build capacity (MW), historic and short-term forecast



The more mature, still space for moderate development.

# Hydro technology

## Basic



### **Hydropower is:**

1. a renewable
2. reduce risks of energy price volatility
3. can offer multiple co-benefits
4. rapid-response power when intermittent sources (like solar or wind) are offline
5. Possibility to concentrate the production during peak hours

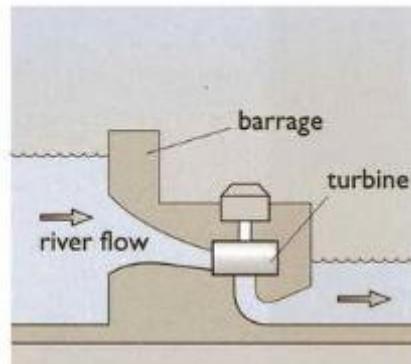
# Hydro technology

Type of plants and electromechanical equipments

## Run of River HPP

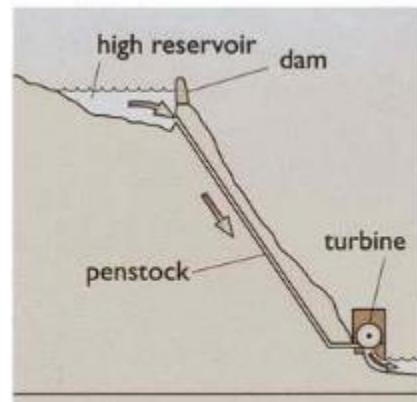
HPPs do not have capacity of regulation.

The instantaneous power depends on the instantaneous water flow.



## Reservoir HPP

A dam realizes a water **reservoir**. This makes possible the regulation of the water and of energy produced.



**Large plants need time. Environmental impact to be deeply assessed.**  
**The first case of power storage in the electricity history.**

# GEOTHERMAL



New build capacity (MW), historic and short-term forecast

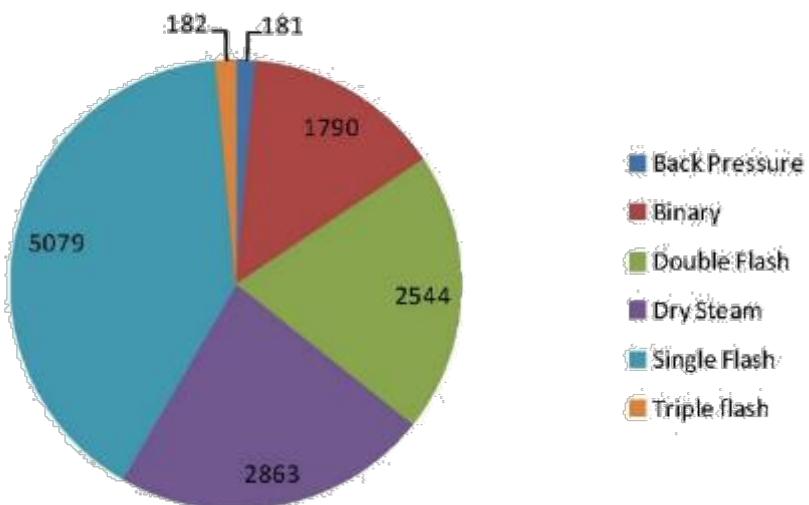


**Limited availability of resource, localized. High load factors.**

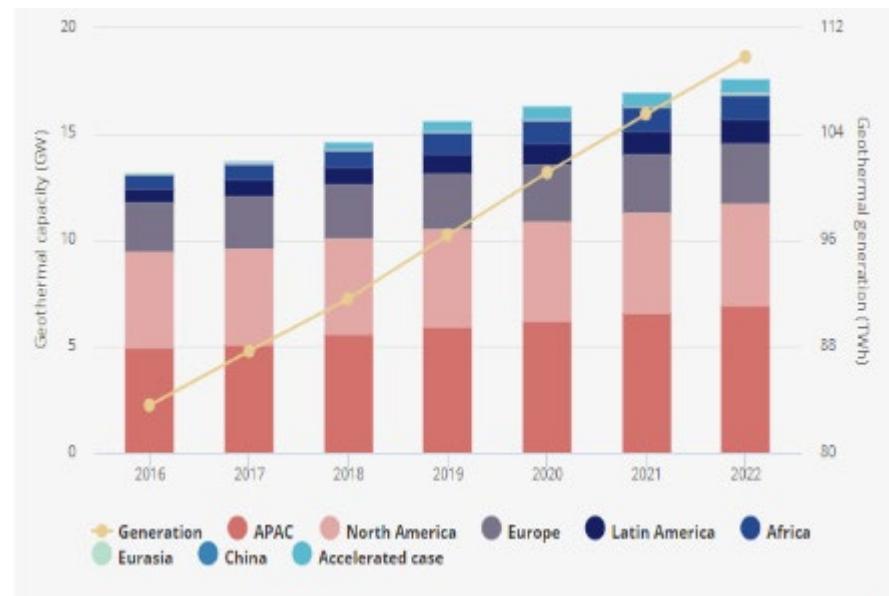
# Geothermal installed capacity by technology



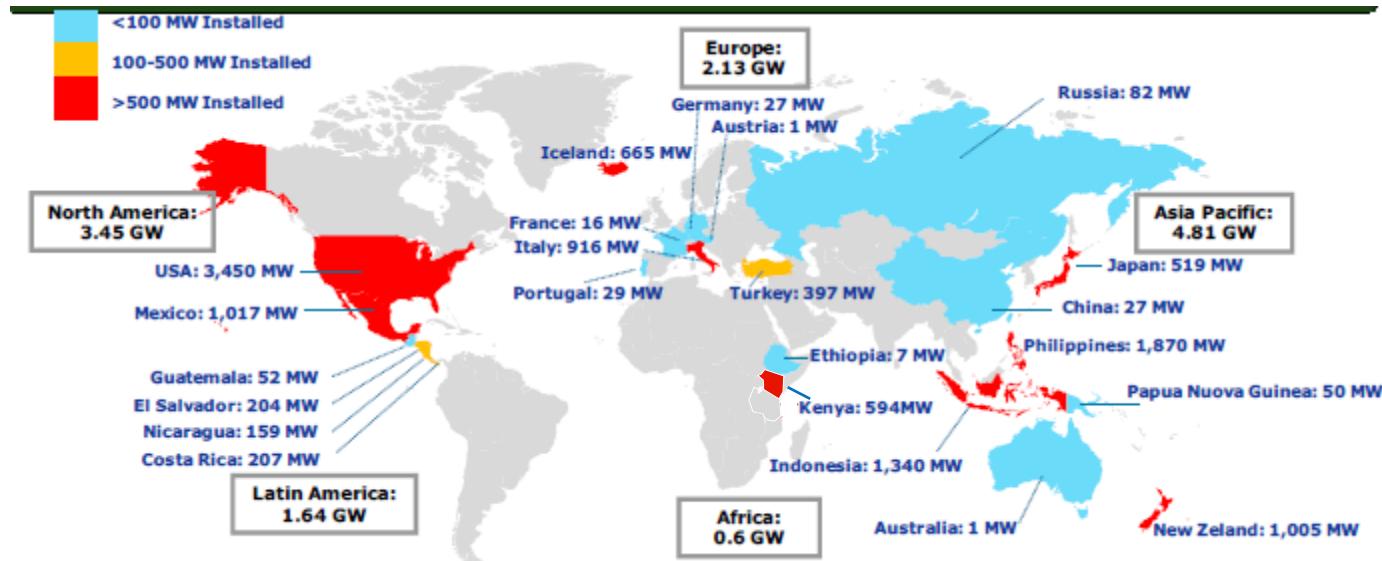
World total amount of geothermal power plant installed capacity up to 2015 was about 12.6 GWe.



Geothermal power generation and cumulative capacity by region, 2016-2022

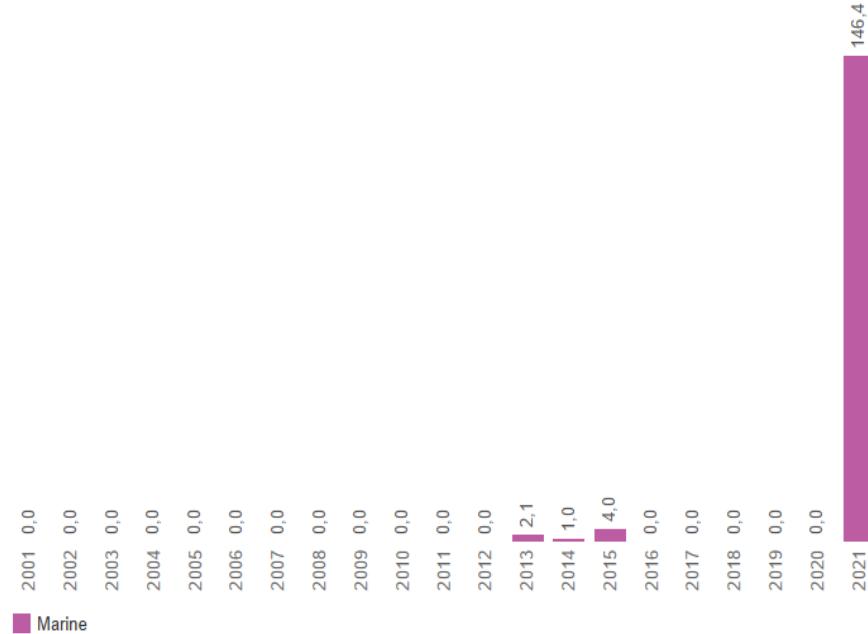


# Geothermal energy installed capacity worldwide



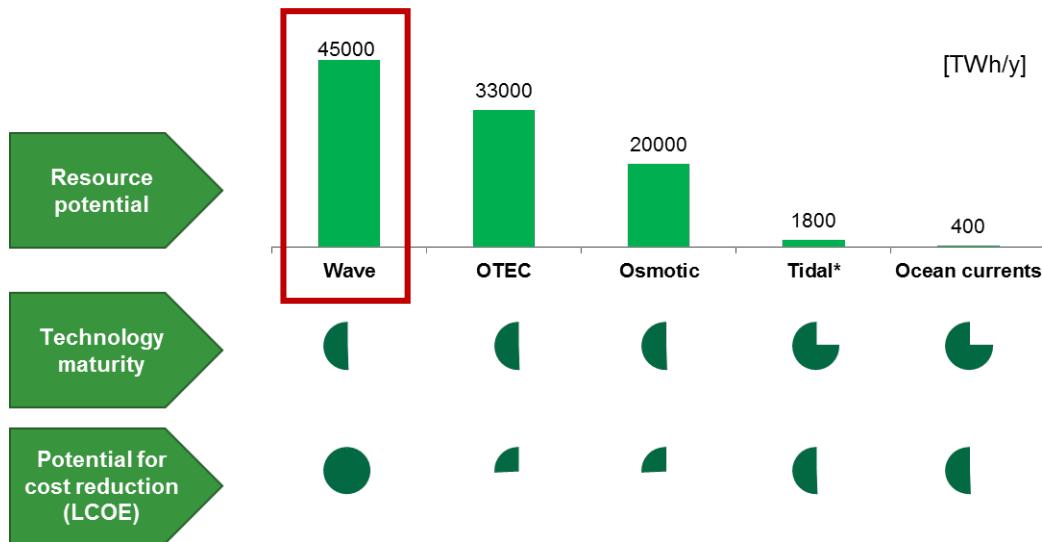
Installed geothermal capacity worldwide in 2015 (12.6 GWe)

New build capacity (MW), historic and short-term forecast



**Very early stage, only demonstrative projects. High potential.**

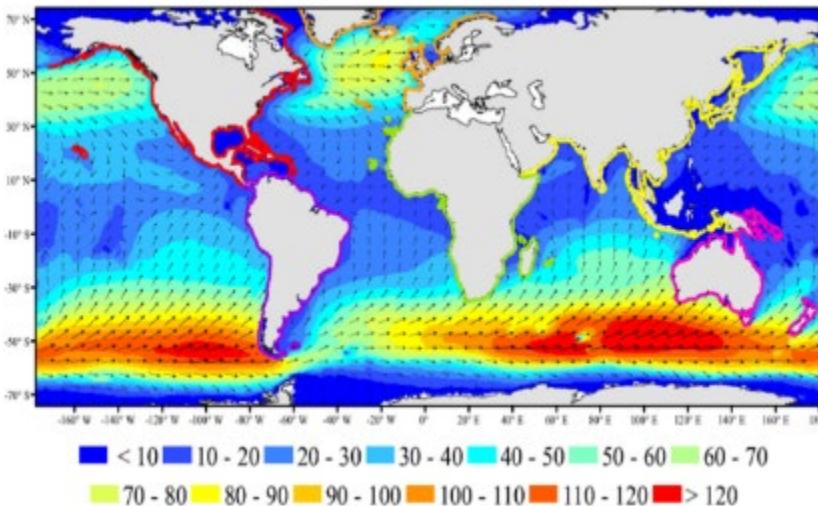
# Marine Energy



- **Marine** energy looks very attractive in terms of **future development** and **market potentials**
- Nowadays **technologies** are not mature and the **market** has to be built as well as the **supply chain**
- **Environmental impacts** are still a challenge

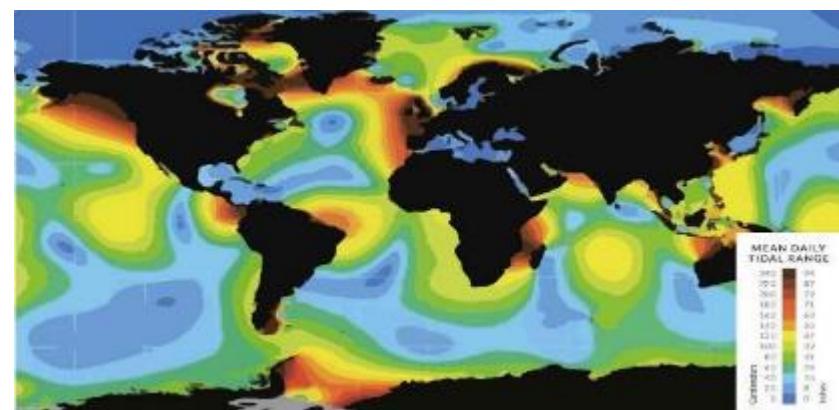
# Marine Energy

Huge resource availability and predictability, heterogeneous and geographically distributed, looks very attractive in terms of **future development of the market**



**Wave power potential**

Annual mean wave-power level (kW/m), from [Gunn & Stock-Williams \(2012\)](#)



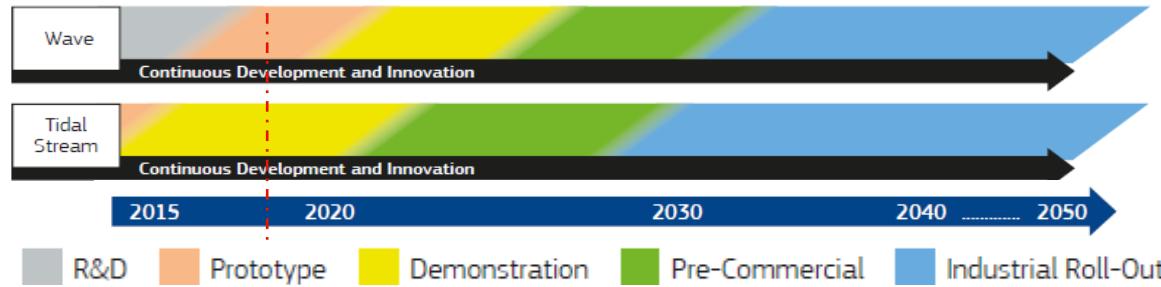
**Tidal power potential**

provided by [Electric Power Research Institute \(EPRI\)](#)

**Technologies are not mature and market has to be created as well as the supply chain. Resource quite distributed and complementary with other sources distribution**

# Marine Energy

Timeline for the development phase and main technologies Clusters

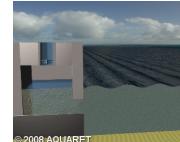


Source: Ocean Energy Europe consultation with Ocean Energy Forum

## Wave Energy main technologies

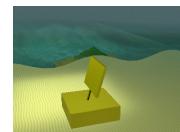


**Point Absorber**  
Submerged Pressure differential



Oscillating water column

Attenuator



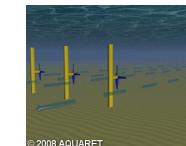
Oscillating wave surge converter

Inertial Rotating Mass

## Tidal Stream Energy main technologies

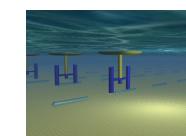


Oscillating Hydrofoil



Horizontal Axis turbine

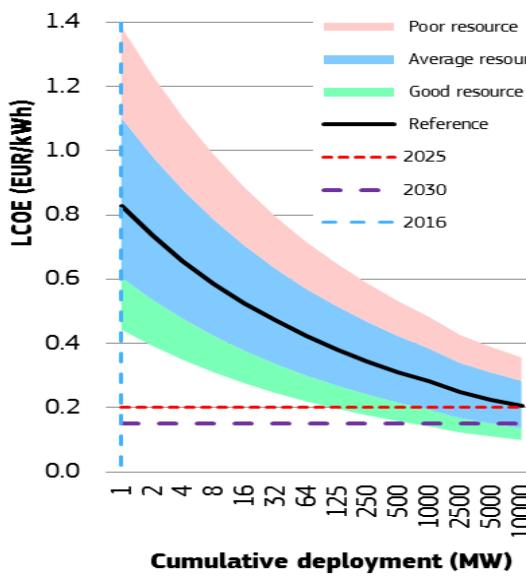
Enclosed tips



Vertical Axis turbine

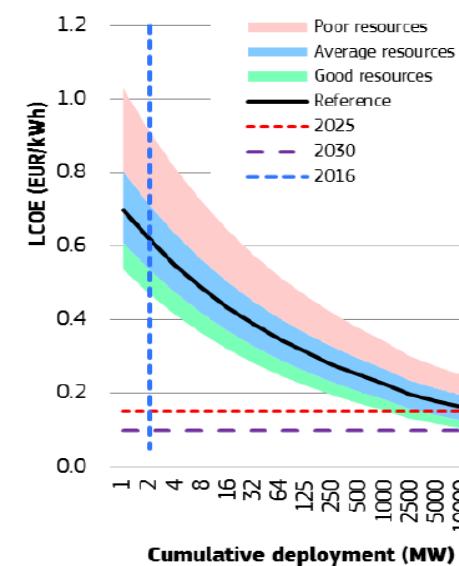
# Marine Energy

## LCOE predictions for wave and tidal arrays



2025: 20 c€/kWh

2030: 15 c€/kWh



2025: 15 c€/kWh

2030: 10 c€/kWh

\* LCOE predictions have been calculated with the learning rates 12% for CapEx and 3% for OpEx. - Low and High resource were represented by using different CFs

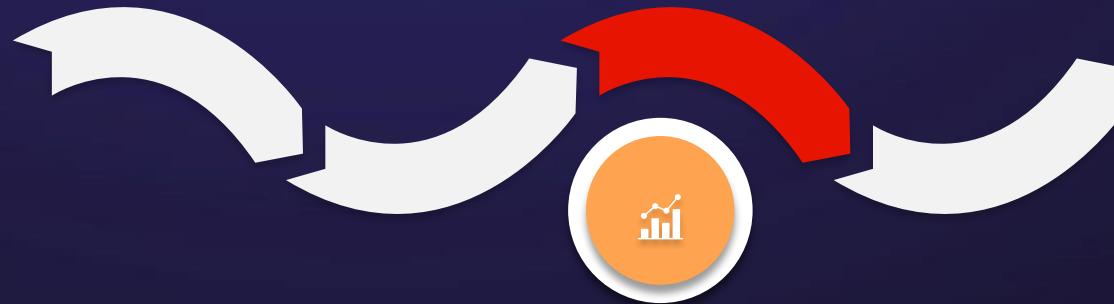
New build capacity (MW), historic and short-term forecast



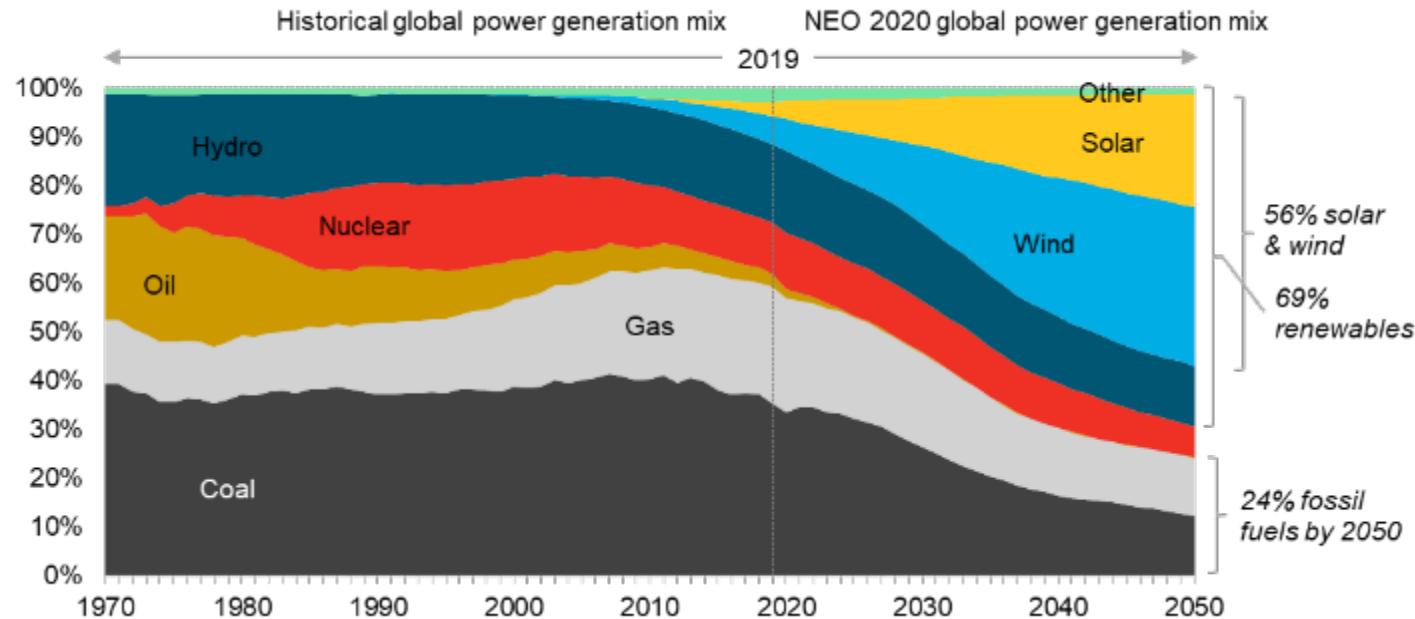
**Good solution in case of easy and sustainable resource. Moderate development.**

# Renewable technologies: a quiet revolution

## WHAT'S NEXT?



# Global generation mix

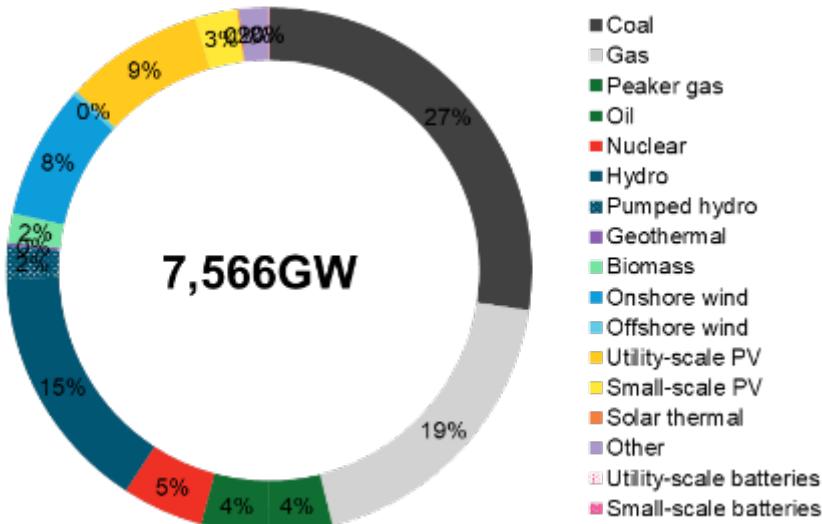


No story in the long run.

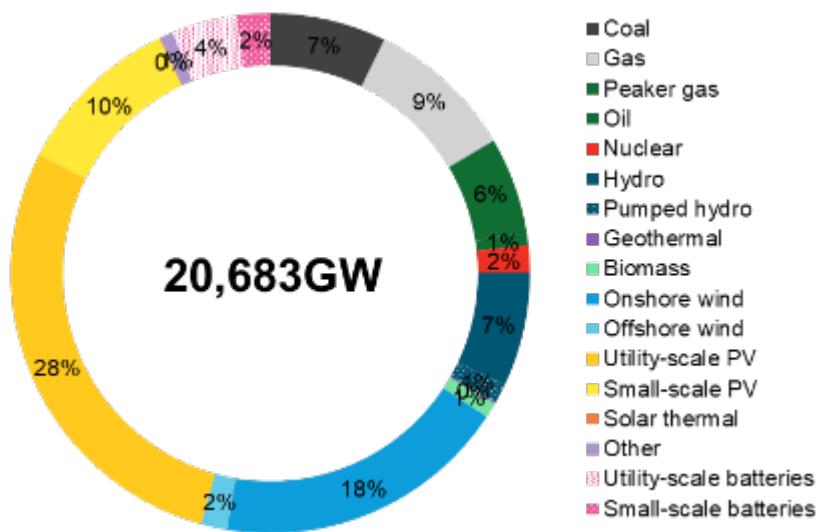
# The future of electricity: sun, wind and flexible capacity



Global cumulative installed capacity (GW): 2019



Global cumulative installed capacity (GW): 2050

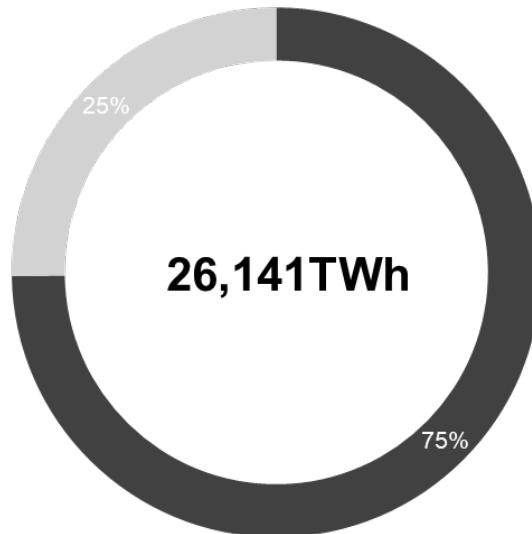


**The share of Renewables in power generation almost 70% by 2050.  
Increasing need for flexible capacity such as storage and demand response.**

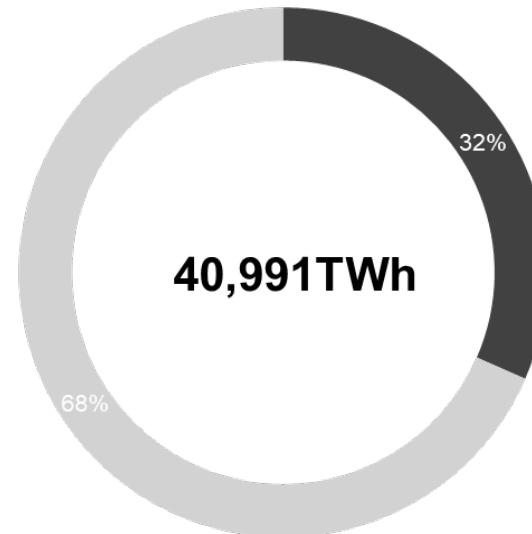
# RES will dominate also in terms of generation



Global electricity generation mix 2019 - 2050



■ Fuel-based  
■ Fuel-free



■ Fuel-based  
■ Fuel-free

**In terms of energy generation, two thirds will come from Renewables by 2050.**

# CONCLUSIONS



- Final uses more and more electric thanks to Urbanization, EV, Heat Pumps, ...
- Electrification pushing the global electricity demand up
- Global warming urging for clean energy
- Storage and digitalization driving the time decoupling between production and consumption and solving any grid stability issue and RES penetration
- Renewable energy competitive and still with large unexpressed potential of LCOE reduction, mainly for solar PV and wind

**THE GOOD NEWS is that renewable energy has demonstrated the ability to solve the complex equation of sustainable and abundant power for all. Anything Coal and Gas can do, Renewables and Energy Storage can do cheaper.**

# Renewable technologies: a quiet revolution

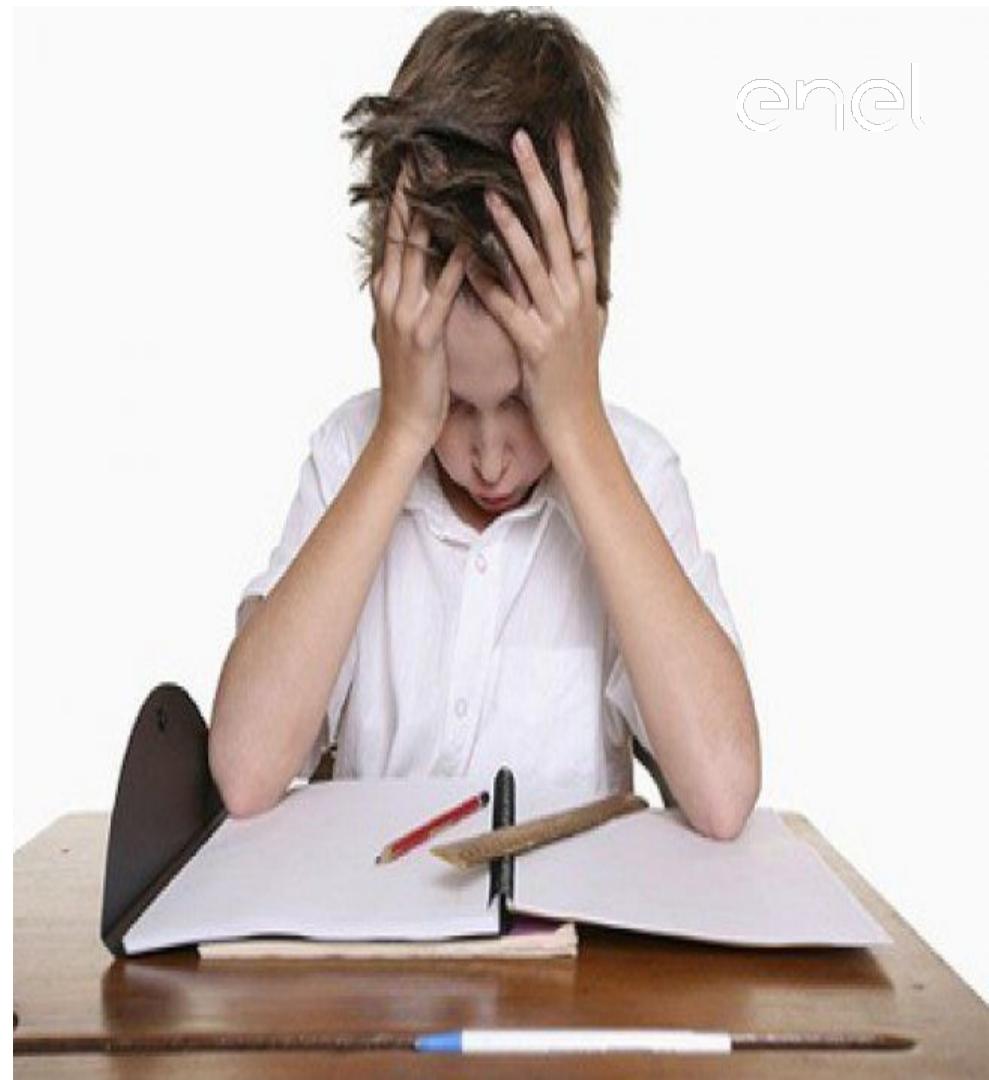
## CHECK POINT





## Three multiple answer questions

Choose the most appropriate answer, just one is correct!



## Question 1



**Solar PV is expected to be the cheapest source of power. Why?**

1. The fuel costs zero
2. The production comes during the day when the consumption is higher
3. The technology improvement potential is the highest due to intrinsic reasons such as direct conversion, modularity, synergies with electronics, etc.
4. There is no emission (CO2, pollutants, noise, radiations, etc.) during production
5. The conversion efficiency is very high compared to other sources
6. The capacity factor is very high

## Question 2



**LCOE allows to compare competitiveness of any power generation systems.**

1. YES, because it considers all the elements that contributes to calculate the average cost of the electricity produced all along the useful life of the plant.
2. YES, as for point 1, but only for fossil fuel free sources.
3. NO, it allows to compare only the cost of produced energy without considering operation and maintenance costs that can heavily affect the return of the investment.
4. NO, it allows to have an estimation of final prices of electricity to end users.
5. YES, because by means a complex algorithm it gives the average value of last competitive processes all around the world such as public and private auctions, PPAs, feed in tariff, etc.
6. NO, it is an important KPI to evaluate the efficiency (as the ratio between produced energy and consumed) of a specific technology

## Question 3



**Batteries (and hydrogen) will play a key role in the development of renewables. Why?**

1. The diffusion of many battery equipped devices (including electric vehicles) will increase electricity consumption and it will push renewables growth.
2. The energy produced by emerging renewable technologies (wind and solar) depends on the natural source and cannot be adjusted to match the load. Batteries and hydrogen are entitled to do this.
3. The efficiency of wind and solar plants increases if they are equipped with battery storage.
4. Batteries stabilize the voltage level of the grid and this allows the renewables to produce more and better.
5. The development of the battery technology for electric vehicles is stimulating important innovations in wind and solar technology.
6. Batteries allows to improve the technical parameters of electricity produced by wind and solar plants such us wave form, harmonics, spikes, etc.<sup>58</sup>

# CONCLUSIONS



There's a guy in a forest in the rain and he's dying of thirst.

He has an axe and he starts cutting down the trees to drink the sap. A mouthful in each tree.

All around him is a wasteland, no wildlife, and he knows that thanks to him the forest is disappearing fast.

So why doesn't he just open his mouth and drink the rain?

Ian McEwan, Solar