Fundamental Properties of Solar Cells, Principles and Varieties of Solar Energy

January 10, 2012

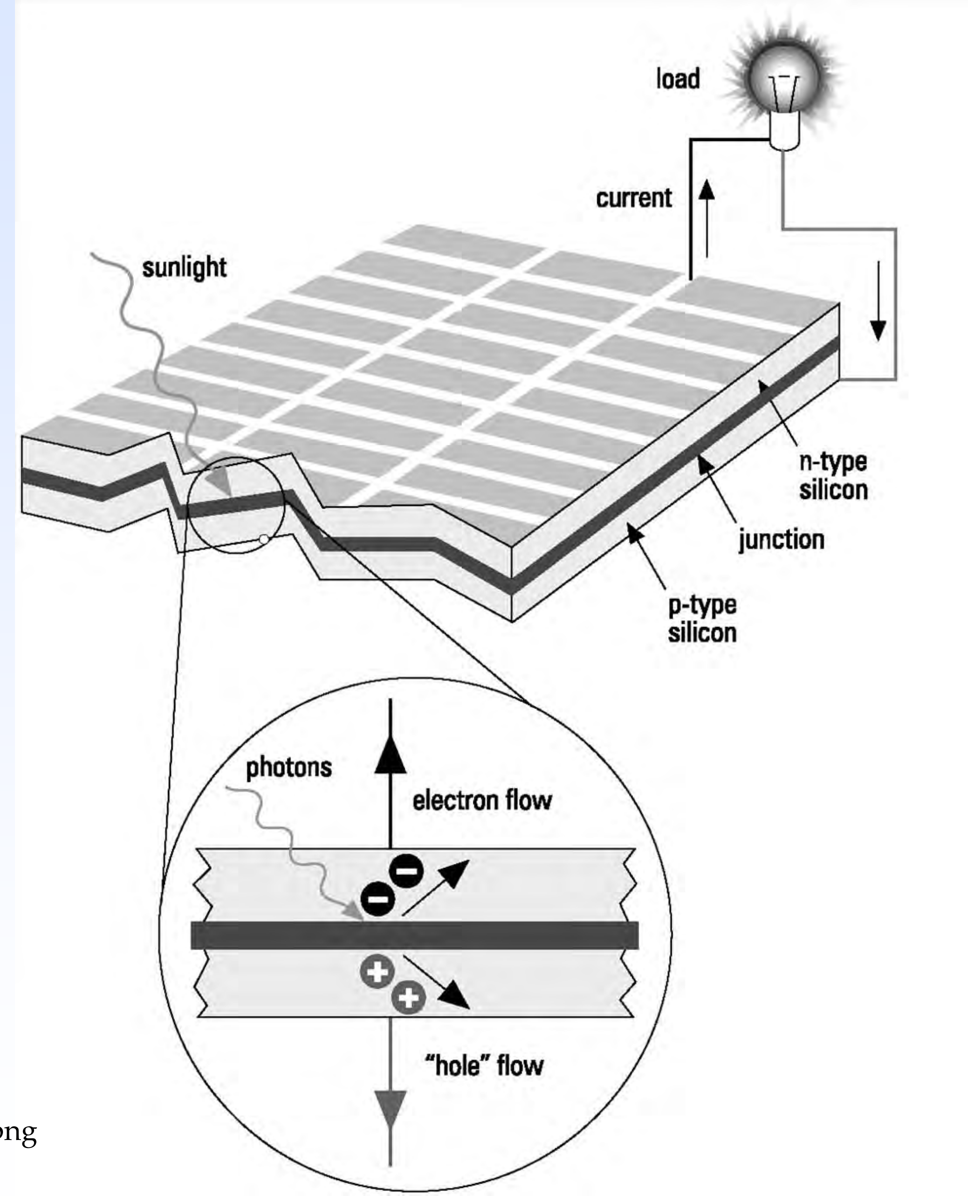
The University of Toledo, Department of Physics and Astronomy
SSARE, PVIC

Principles and Varieties of Solar Energy (PHYS 4400)
and
Fundamentals of Solar Cells (PHYS 6980)

Basic silicon photovoltaic (solar) cell operation

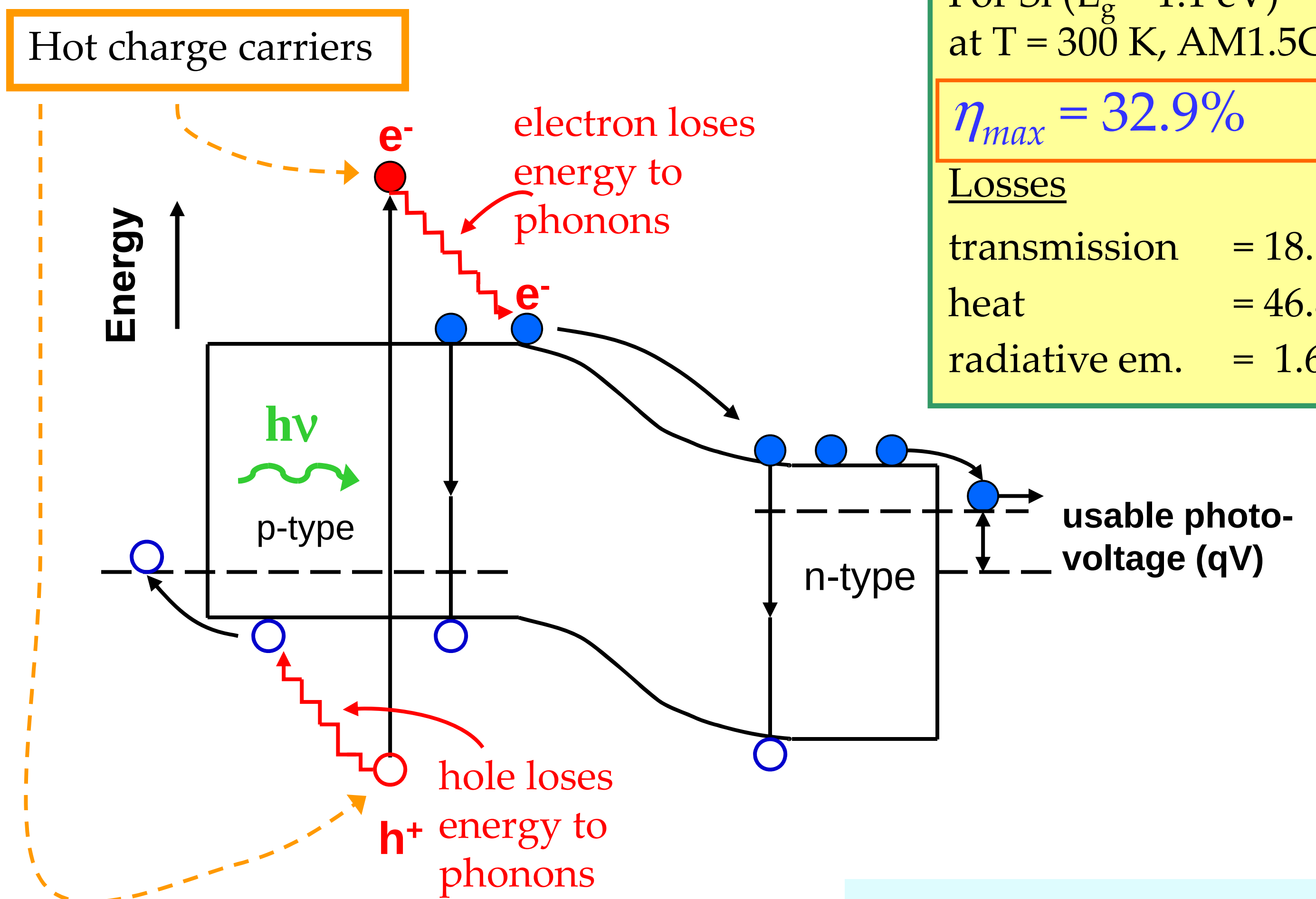
<u>Key functions of a solar cell</u>

- absorbs sunlight efficiently
- separates charge (electrons from "holes")
- creates an electrical current and voltage when illuminated
- acts like a battery under sunlight



http://www.emeraldinsight.com/fig/0870210205001.png

Conventional p-n junction photovoltaic cell



For Si (E_g = 1.1 eV)
at T = 300 K, AM1.5G

η_{max} = 32.9%

<u>Losses</u>

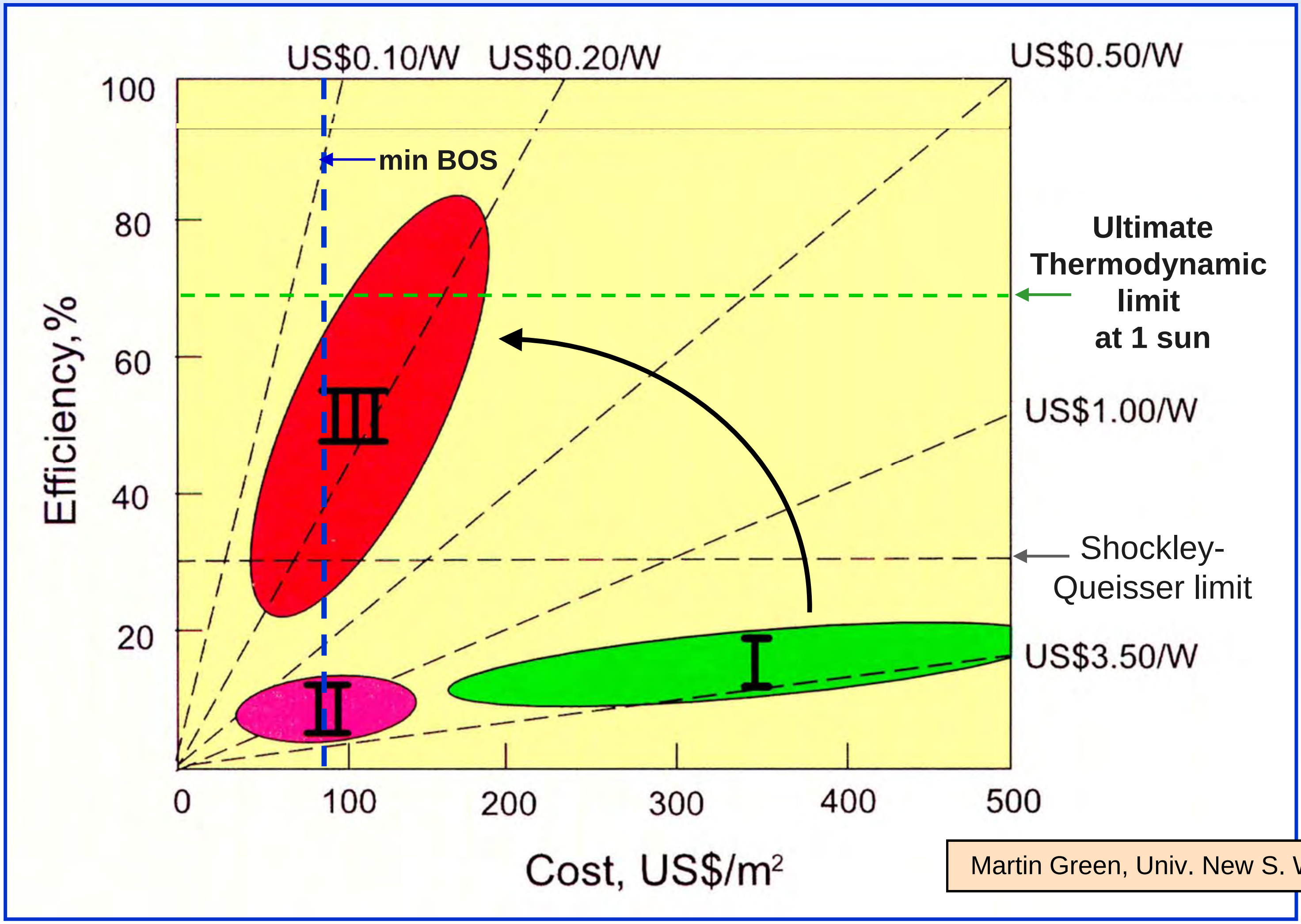
transmission	= 18.7%
heat	= 46.8%
radiative em.	= 1.6%

1 e^--h^+ pair/photon

“Generations” of photovoltaic cells

- *1st generation:* ***crystalline silicon***
- *2nd generation:* ***thin films***
  e.g. amorphous Si, CdTe, $CuInGaSe_2$ (CIGS)
- *3rd generation:* ***nanostructures, organic materials, and advanced concepts.***

Economics of solar conversion cost and efficiency

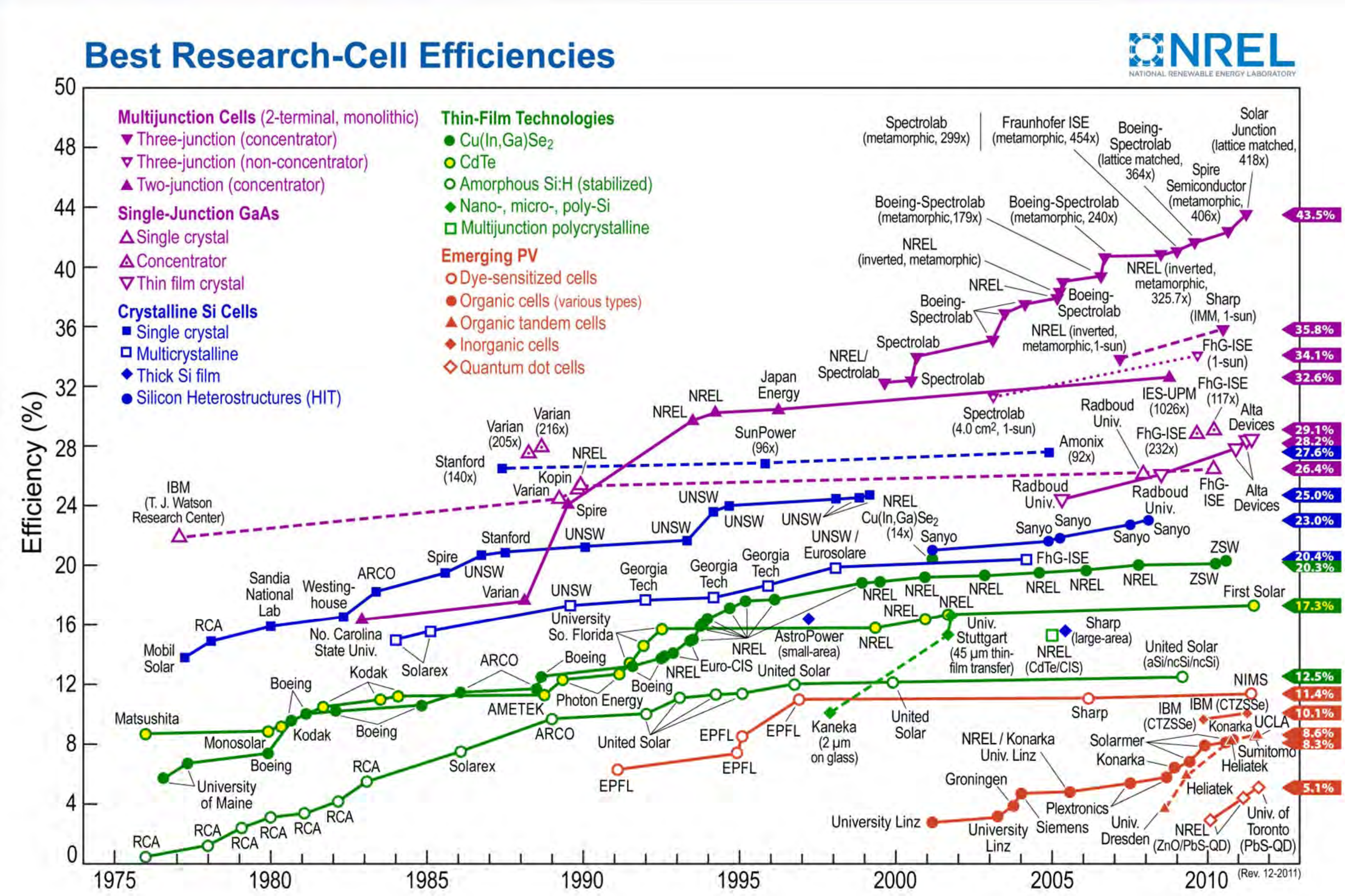


Martin Green, Univ. New S. Wales, Australia

To provide the level of CO_2-free energy required for electricity and fuel:
Power cost needs to be 2-3 cents/kWh (module cost of \$0.20 – \$0.30/W)

BOS = Balance of System, incl. inverter, installation, etc.

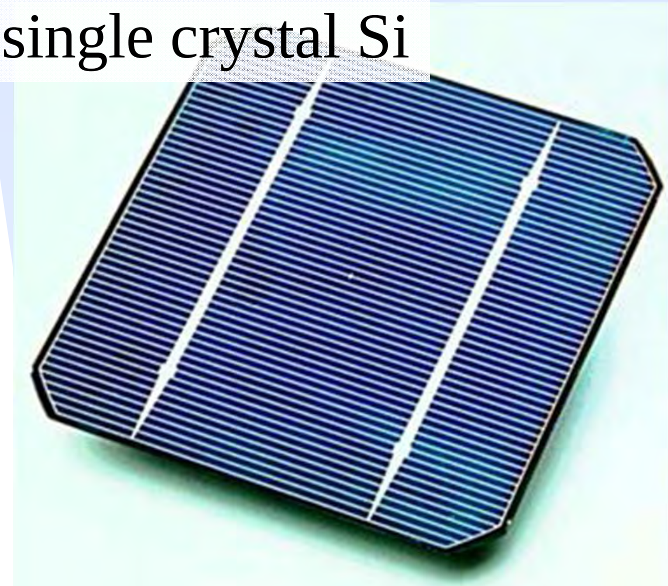
Trends in solar cell efficiencies

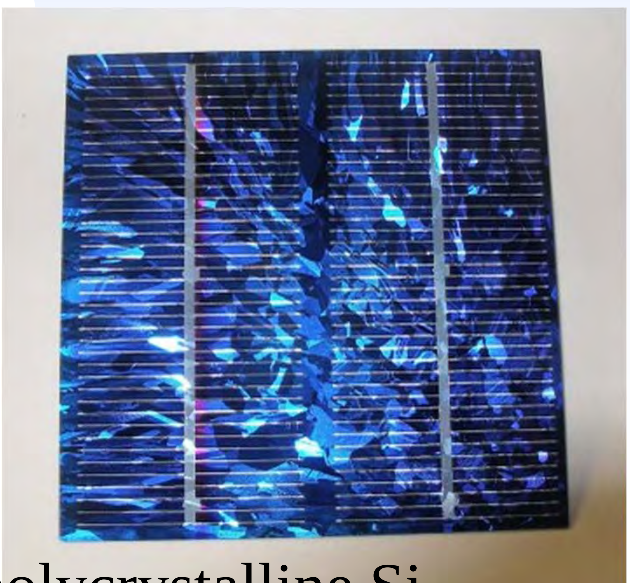


Many different solar cell technologies are being developed, for various applications (rooftops, solar power plants, satellites, backpacks or clothing, etc.).

1st gen.

single crystal Si





polycrystalline Si

Xunlight

2nd gen.: thin film amorphous Si and CdTe

First Solar

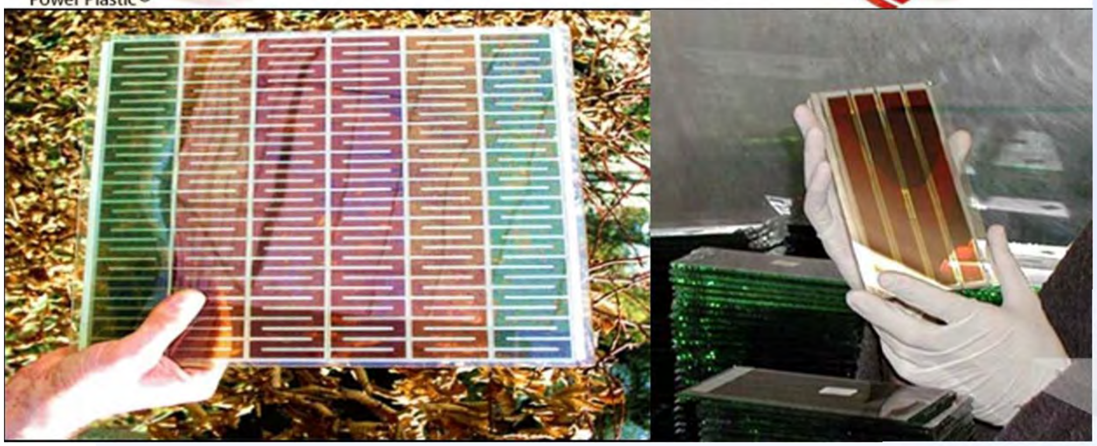
The biggest PV power plant (so far)

The Olmedilla Photovoltaic (PV) Park uses 162,000 flat solar photovoltaic panels to deliver **60 MW** of electricity on a sunny day. The entire plant was completed in 15 months at a **cost of about $530 million** at current exchange rates. Olmedilla was built with **conventional solar panels**, which are made with **silicon** and tend to be heavy and expensive. So-called "thin-film" solar panels, although less efficient per square meter, tend to be much cheaper to produce, and they are the technology being tapped to realize the world's largest proposed PV plant, the Rancho Cielo Solar Farm in Belen, N. Mex., which is **expected to cost $840 million**, cover an area of 700 acres (285 hectares), and produce **600 MW** of power.

http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=10-largest-renewable-energy-projects

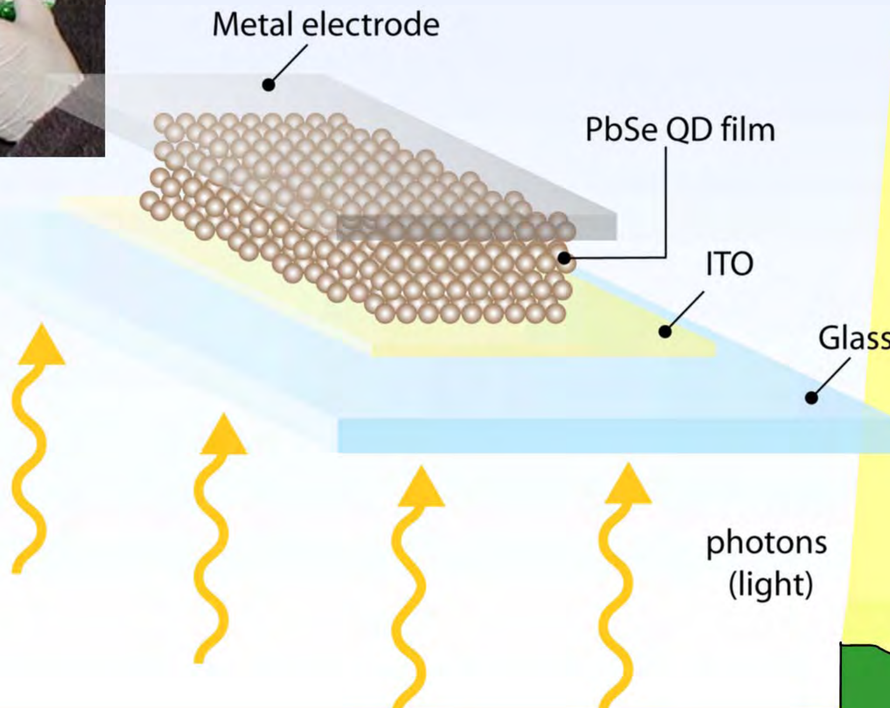
3rd Generation Solar Cells

Polymer solar cell



Dye-sensitized solar cell

Nanocrystal solar cell



Toledo and UT in the PV news (again)

Toledo reinvents itself as a solar-power innovator

Updated 13h 5m ago | Comments 27 | Recommend 3

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Enlarge — By J.D. Pooley for USA TODAY

Rosa Zartman, 23, a 2009 University of Toledo graduate, works in the school's solar lab.

By Judy Keen, USA TODAY

TOLEDO — This city is trying to swap its Rust Belt image for a new identity as a hub of solar-energy research and production.

The mission is being led by an unusual partnership of business, academia and government that could be a model for other aging industrial cities. "We are ready to do anything; we are ready to try anything," says University of Toledo President Lloyd Jacobs.

Like many manufacturing cities, Toledo has struggled with the loss of jobs and tax revenue, but it has taken pieces of its past as the glass capital to create a new future in solar energy.

The payoff so far: At least 6,000 people work in the area's solar industry. First Solar (FSLR), which makes solar panels, was founded here and employs more than 1,000 at its 900,000-square-foot plant here. There are more than a dozen solar-related start-up companies in the area. The University of Toledo is home to top solar researchers and has a business incubator that provides business services to solar entrepreneurs. It has graduated four solar companies and is working with six more. Owens Community College, which had 13 students in its first solar class in 2004, has trained 255 solar installers.

"In the solar world, Toledo is a hot spot," says Xunming Deng, a physics professor on leave from the University of Toledo. He's developing Xunlight, the company he founded here in 2002 to produce thin, flexible solar panels. It has about 100 employees.

USA Today, June 15, 2010

Photovoltaic Goal of $1 per Watt

Science and Technology has given us solutions in the past.

With the right government policies, it will come to our aid in the future.

-- Energy Secretary, Steve Chu

$ per Watt Workshop held Aug. 11-12, 2010 [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/dollar_per_watt.html].

Photovoltaic Goal of $1 per Watt

In 1990, Carl Sagan convinced NASA engineers to turn Voyager for one last, homeward look before leaving the solar system

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it, everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives …. Every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, … every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there--on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

"….The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate … Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand."

-- Energy Secretary, Steve Chu

$ per Watt Workshop held Aug. 11-12, 2010 [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/dollar_per_watt.html].

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/dpw_chu.pdf

Energy for Planet Earth: The Role of “Carbon-Free” Energy Sources

Prof. Randy J. Ellingson, Physics and Astronomy
Prof. Mike J. Heben, Physics and Astronomy, and Chemistry

Wright Center for Photovoltaics Innovation and Commercialization (PVIC – www.pvic.org) and

School for Solar and Advanced Renewable Energy (SSARE)

PHYS 4400, PHYS 6980
January 10, 2012

Humanity's Top Ten Problems for next 50 years

1. ***ENERGY***
2. *WATER*
3. *FOOD*
4. *ENVIRONMENT*
5. *POVERTY*
6. *TERRORISM & WAR*
7. *DISEASE*
8. *EDUCATION*
9. *DEMOCRACY*
10. *POPULATION*

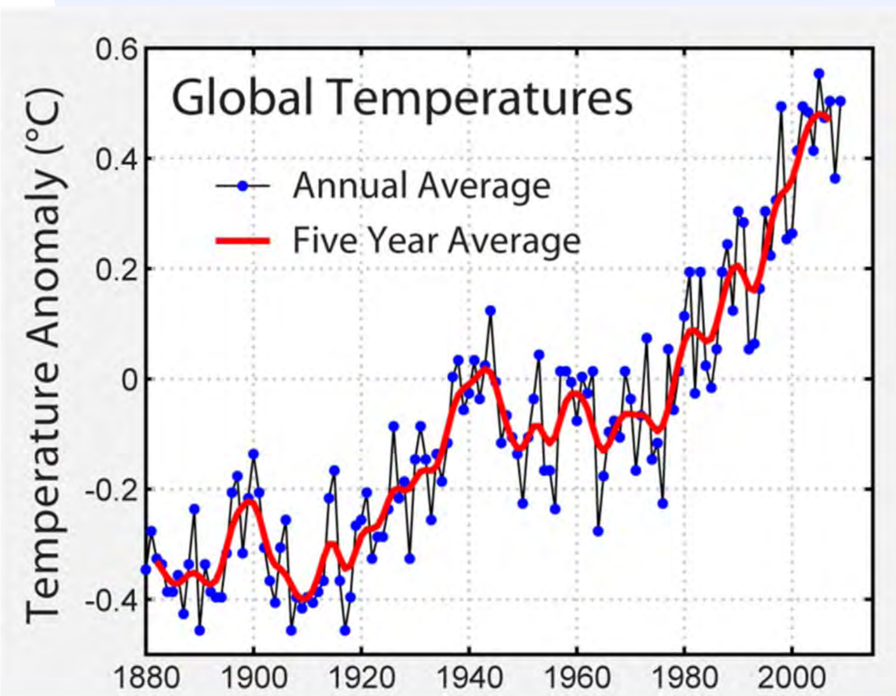
List developed by Nobel Laureate, Richard Smalley, while surveying colleagues from 2002-2003

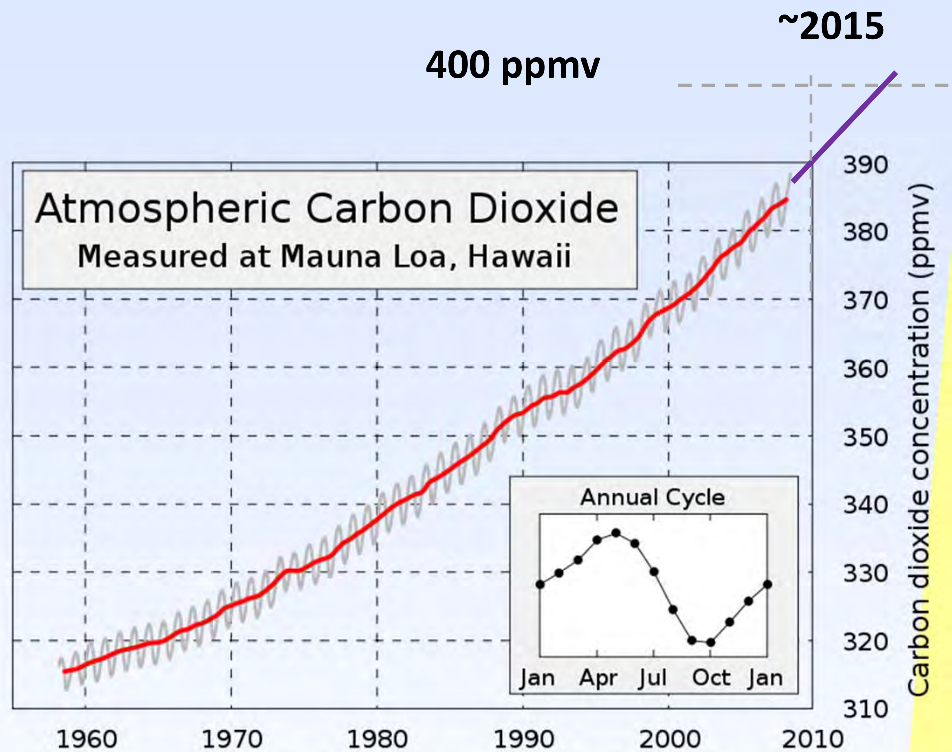
~~**2006**~~	~~**~ 6.5**~~	~~**Billion People**~~
2012	**~ 7.1**	**Billion People**
2050	**~ 10**	**Billion People**

http://www.agci.org/library/presentations/about/presentation_details.php?recordID=16950

On watch: global temperatures, atmospheric CO_2

Global average temperatures from NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (Columbia University in NYC). Data set follows methodology developed by James Hansen [Hansen, J., et al. (2006) "*Global temperature change*", Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 103: 14288-14293].





Keeling curve, data from Mauna Loa, Hawaii.

Need for clean energy

NATURE |VOL 395 | 29 OCTOBER 1998
Energy implications of future stabilization of Atmospheric CO_2 content
M. Hoffert et al.

Growth

- Growth in global energy consumption predicted to average ~1.6-1.7% per year.
- Includes for 1%/yr. efficiency improvement
- 28 TW global power consumption by 2050
- Population growth primarily in less-developed countries → increased C-intensity.

Health

Coal-fired power plants:

- 59% of total U.S. sulfur dioxide pollution
- 18% of total nitrous oxides every year
- largest polluter of toxic mercury pollution

Acid rain, smog (ozone), soot → unhealthy ecosystems, respiratory problems, unhealthy lungs (incl. asthma)

A developmental toxin, affecting unborn children

All U.S. power plants: release over 40% of U.S. CO_2
[Sources – U.S. DOE and U.S. EPA]

A Power and Energy Primer

Dealing with **energy** and **power** in:

1 kW·hr = 3.6 x 10^6 J

	Standard International Units	Everyday Life*
Energy	Joule	kW·hr
Power	Watts (1 W = 1 J/sec)	Watts

Energy is the amount of work that can be completed by a force.
Power is the *rate* at which the energy is converted (dE/dt).

A toaster is a good benchmark for power → typically at the 1,000 W (1 kW) power level.

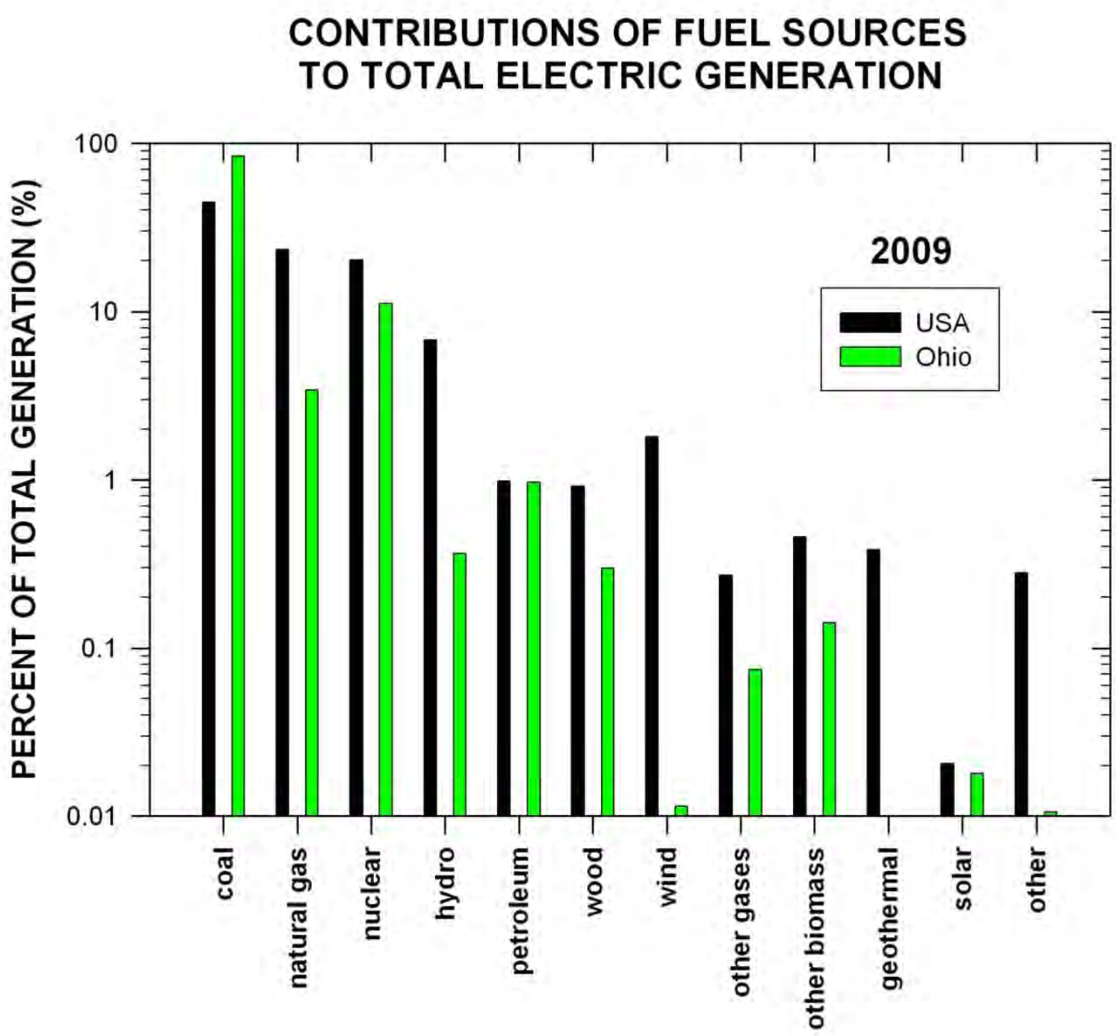
Leave a toaster on for an hour continuously →

1 kW·hr. Same as a 100 W bulb left on for 10 hrs. Cost is about $0.12/ kW·hr, but leave one on for a year?

How much energy is used to light this room for 10 hours?

* Average cat generates ~5 W during sleep, and ~24 W walking briskly

How Ohio's Electric Power Generation Stacks Up



Data Source: Energy Information Administration
U.S. Department.of Energy

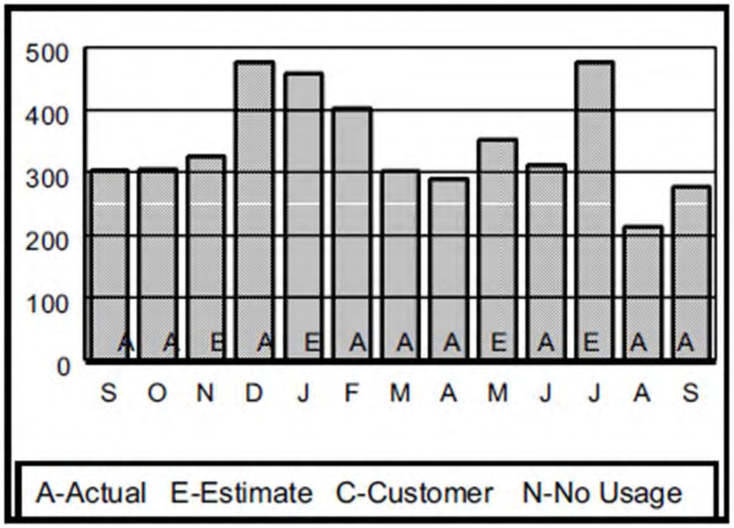
Graphs prepared by B. Martner, Lafayette, CO

Household *electrical* energy consumption

According to [http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/esr/table5.html], the average US home consumes 920 kW-hr/month, or about 11,000 kW-hr/year.

Usage Information

Usage Comparison



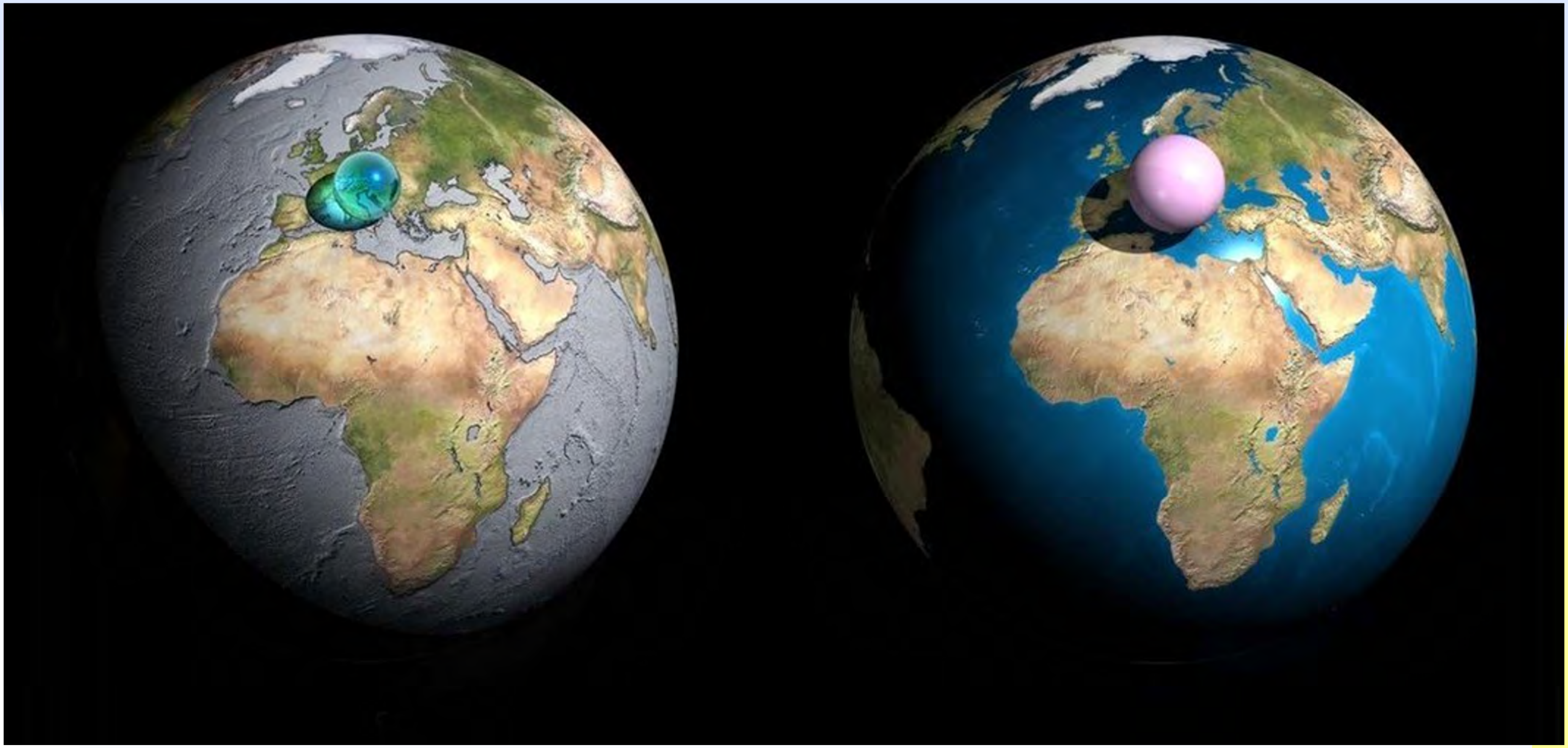
Historical Usage Information

Sep	10	303	Mar	11	302
Oct	10	304	Apr	11	289
Nov	10	326	May	11	352
Dec	10	476	Jun	11	312
Jan	11	458	Jul	11	476
Feb	11	402	Aug	11	213
			Sep	11	277

	Sep 10	Sep 11
Average Daily Use (KWH)	10	9
Average Daily Temperature	69	69
Days in Billing Period	30	30
Last 12 Months Use (KWH)		4,187
Average Monthly Use (KWH)		349

Average per-capita (total) energy consumption per day: World average is ~8 kW-hr/day; U.S. average is ~39 kW-hr/day.

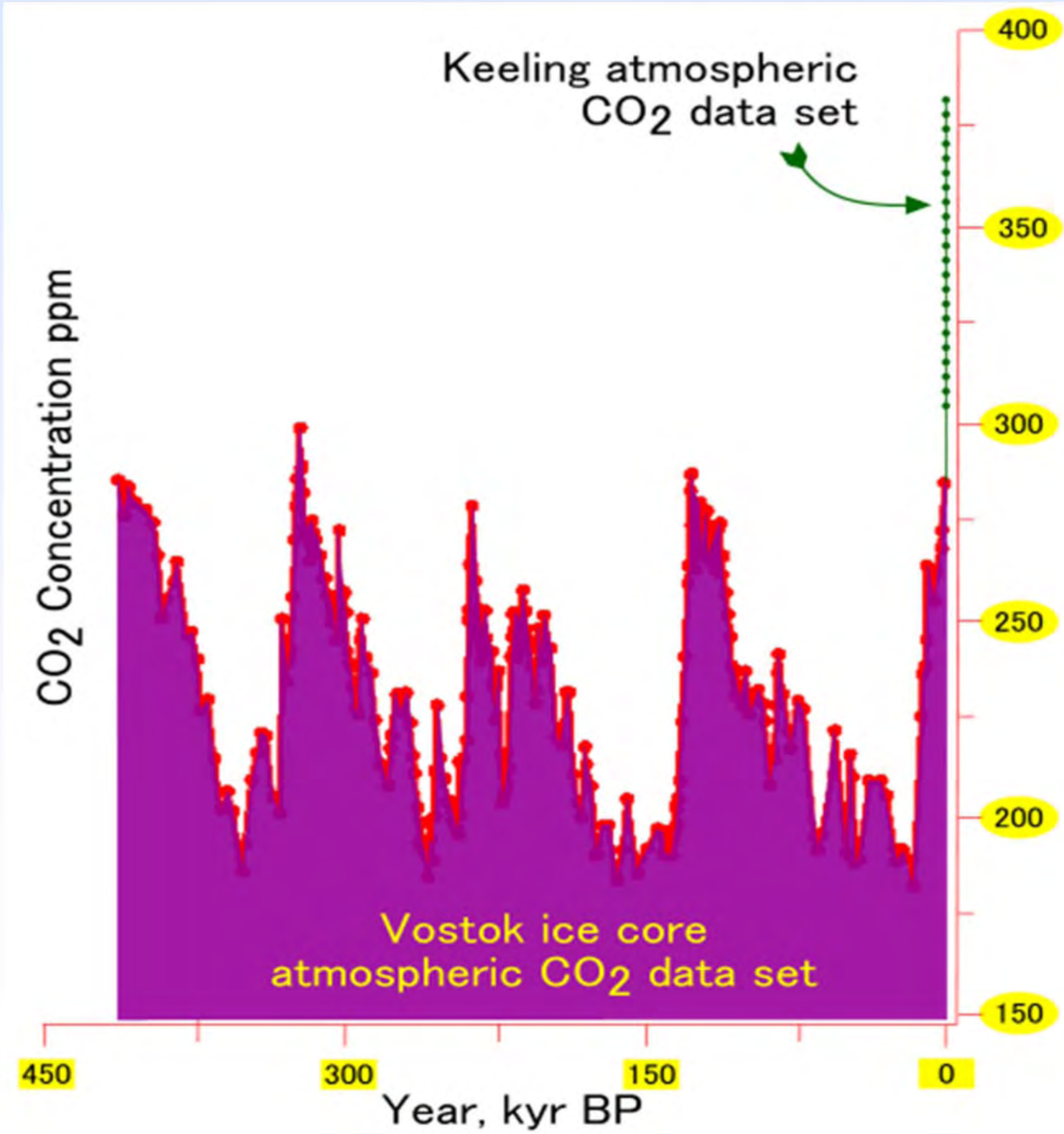
Earth's key natural resources: water and air



Volume of Earth: 1.1×10^{12} km^3
Volume of water: 1.4×10^{9} km^3
Volume of atmosphere: 4.2×10^{9} km^3

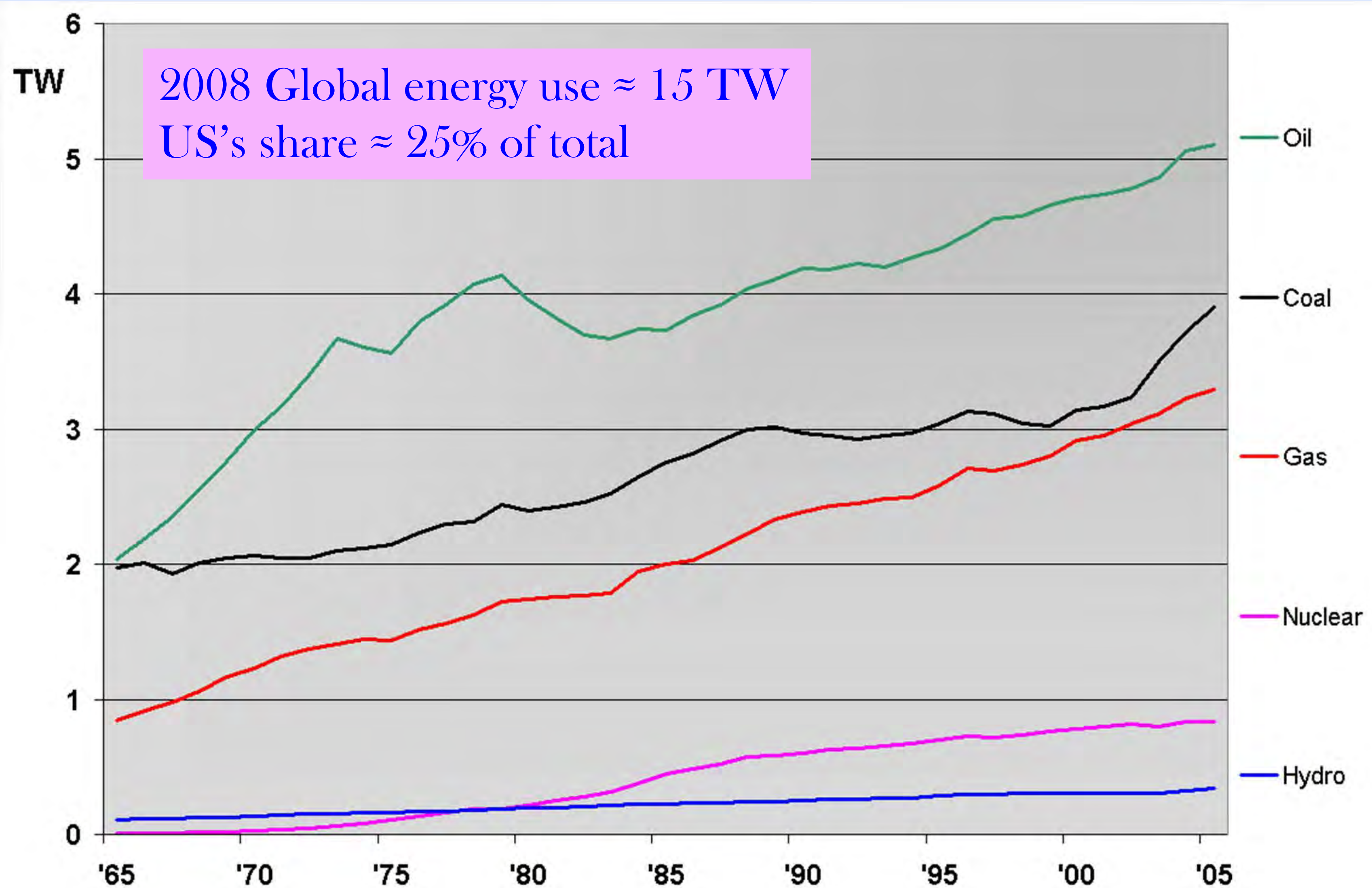
Photo & caption info: ADAM NIEMAN / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

420,000+ years of atmospheric CO_2 levels



from N. Lewis, Cal Tech

Earth's energy consumption

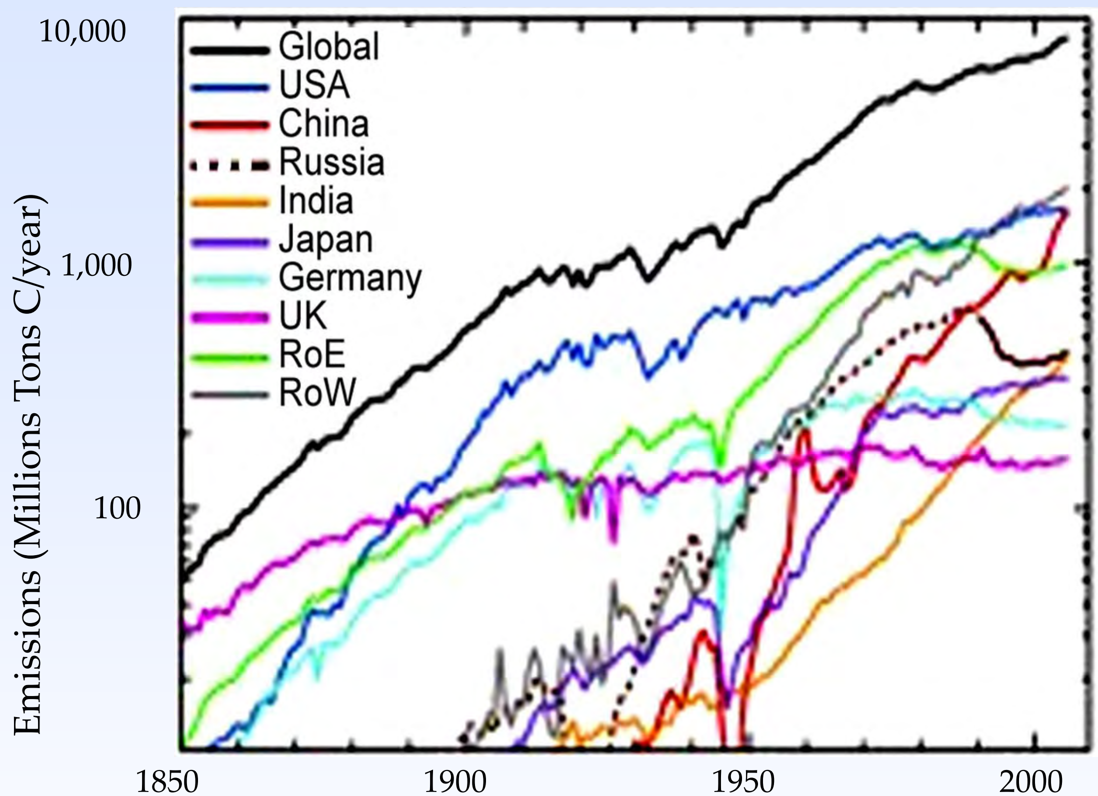


http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_energy_resources_and_consumption

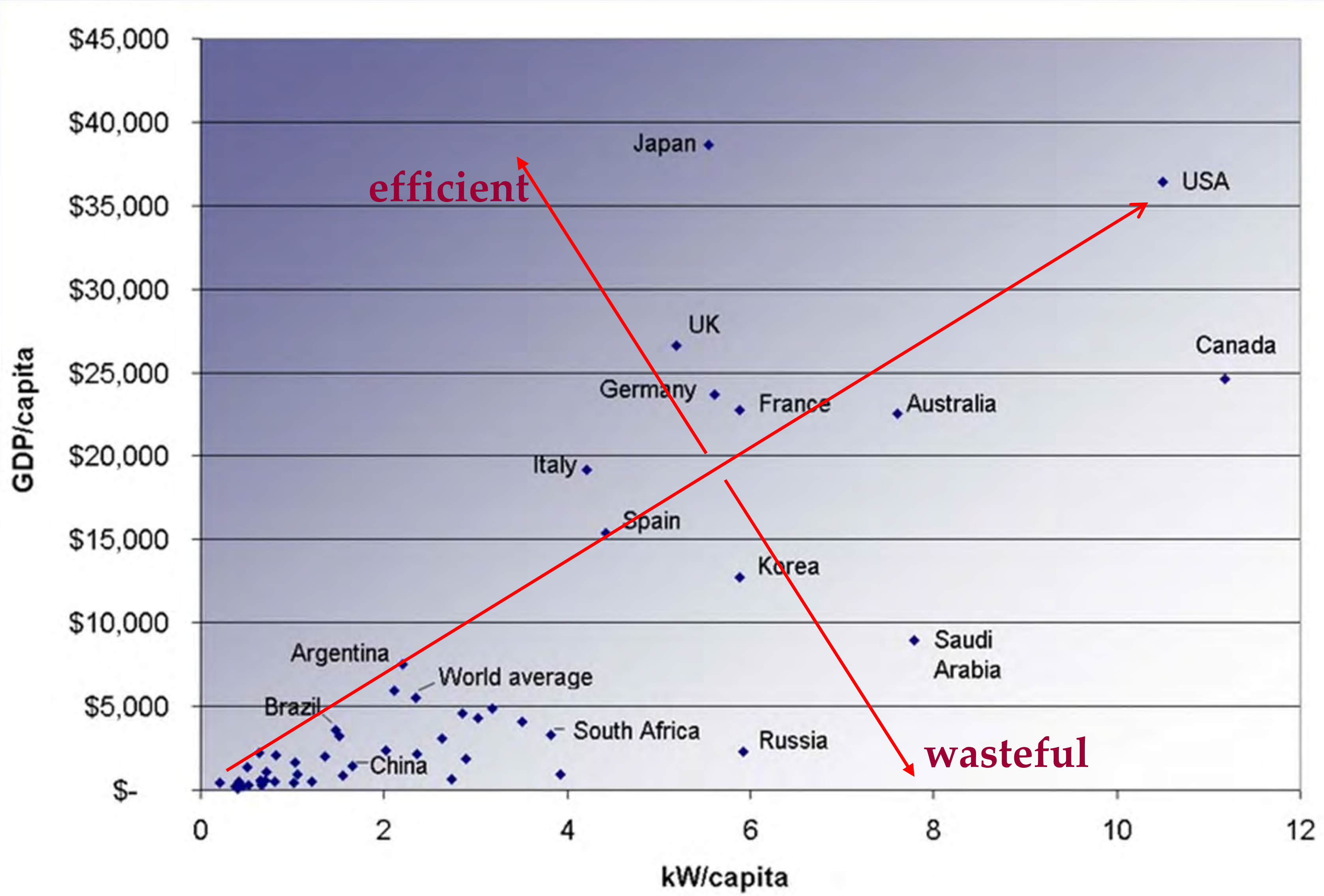
Fossil fuel emissions

>China has emitted 8.2% of cumulative emissions, as compared to 27.5% emitted by the US (3 times that of any other country).
>China became the emissions leader in 2006.
>China's population is more than 4 times that of the US, so per capita emissions were roughly 1/4 of the US's.
>Per capita emissions from China could double or triple in coming decades

From China Sustainable Energy Program: http://www.efchina.org

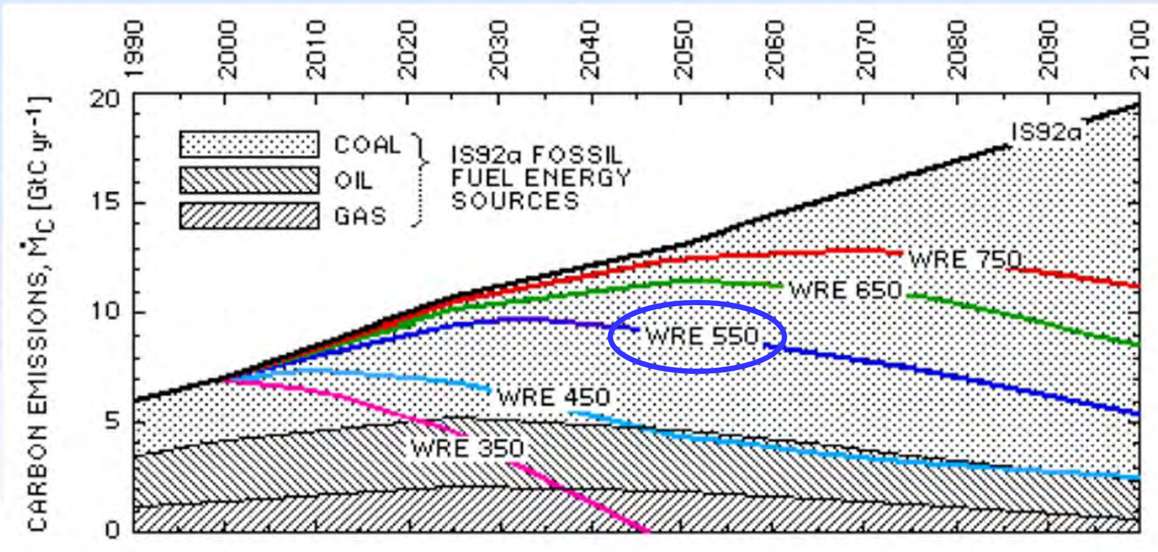


Energy Consumption and GDP



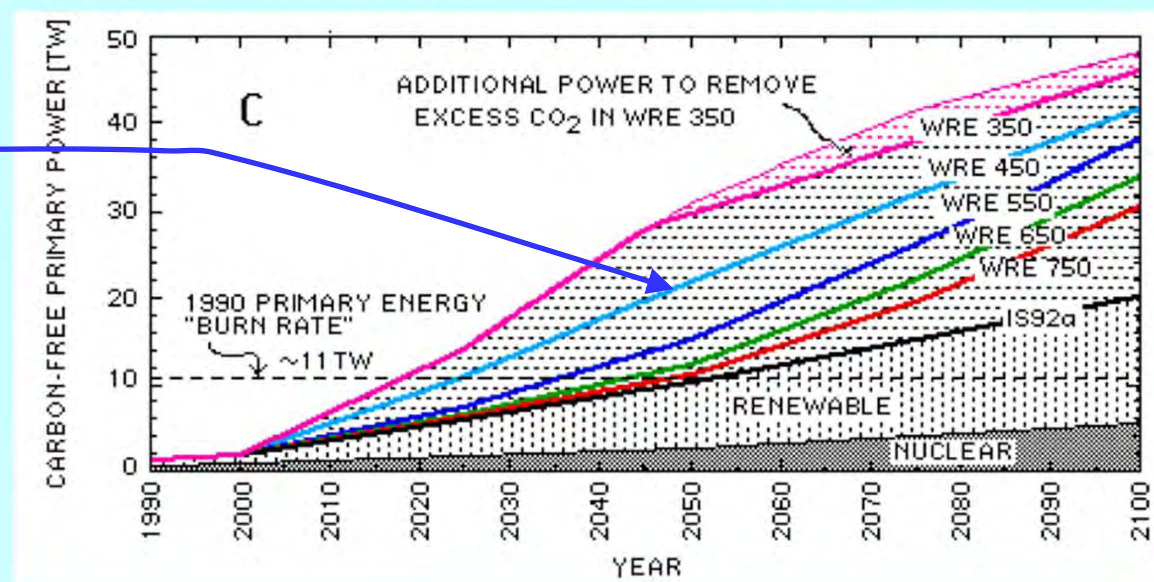
From: Wikimedia Commons

Earth's energy problem



Global power consumption is current ~15 TW; projected need by 2050 of ~30 TW.

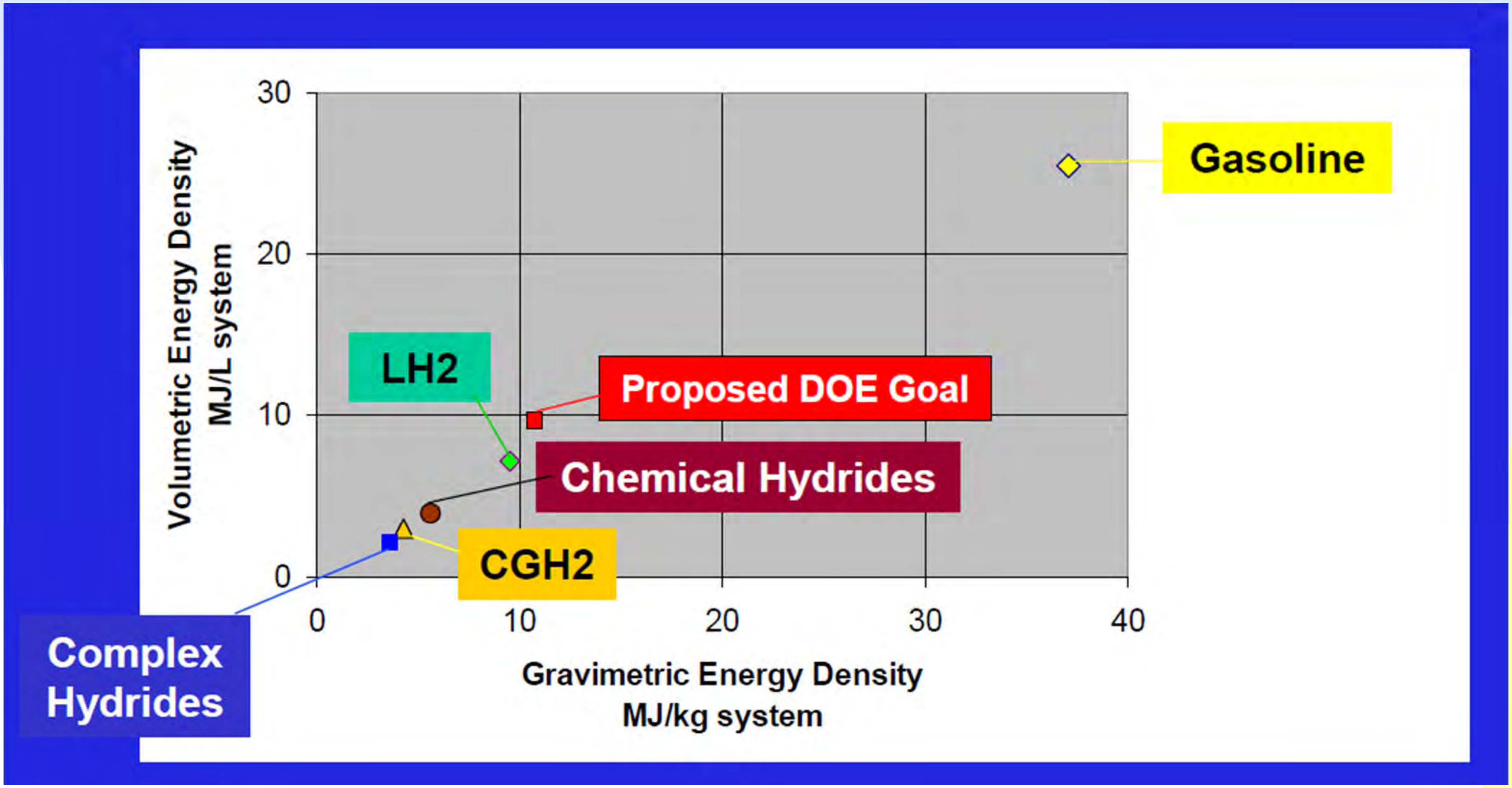
Carbon-free power required by 2050 to stabilize atmospheric CO_2 at 450 ppm ~15 TW



By 2100, carbon-free power requirement jumps to ~40 TW.

from M. I. Hoffert et. al., Nature, 1998, 395, 881

Transportation fuel energy density

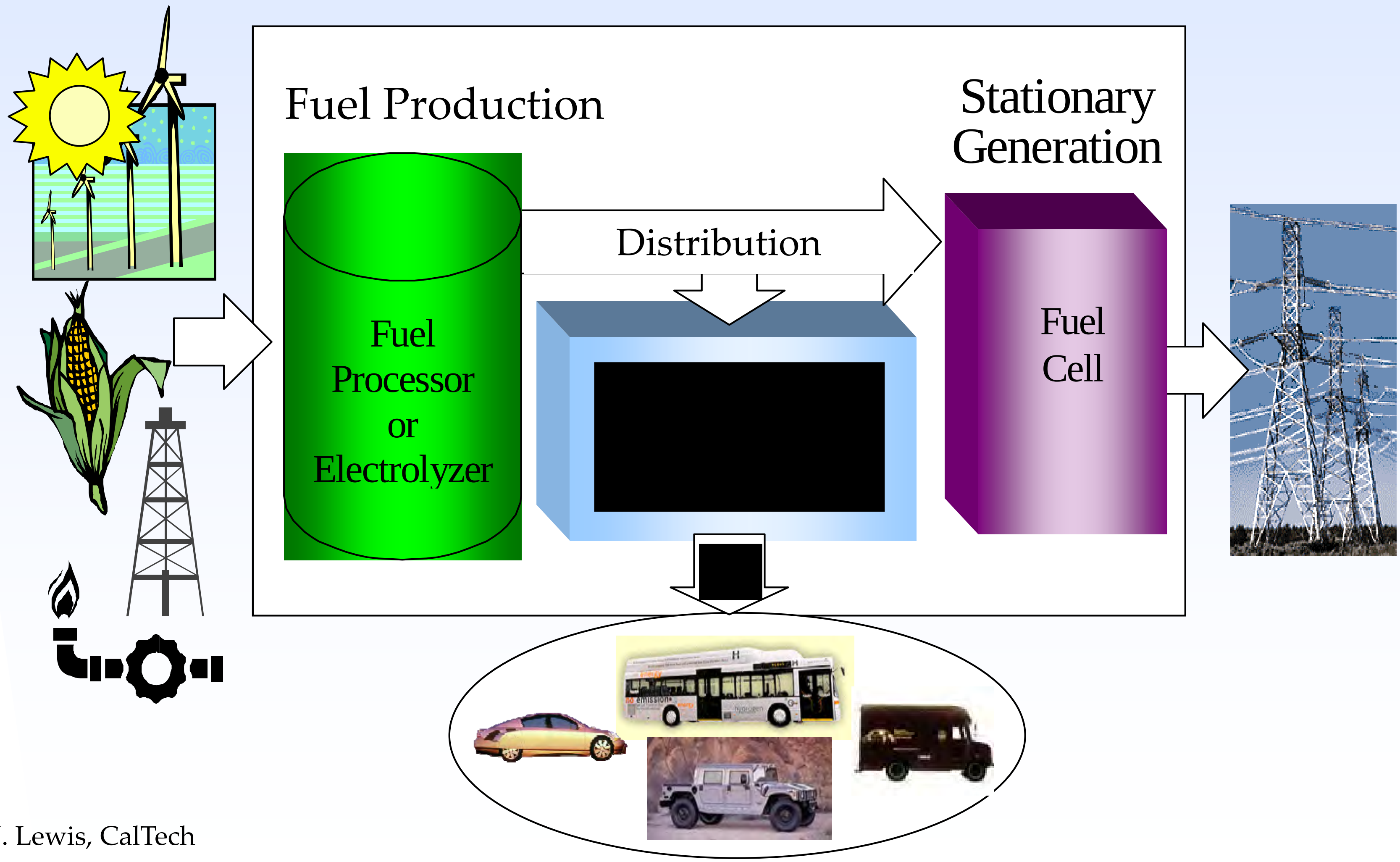


“Gasoline was great.”

-- from R. Smalley’s energy talk (2003)

The Need to Produce Fuel

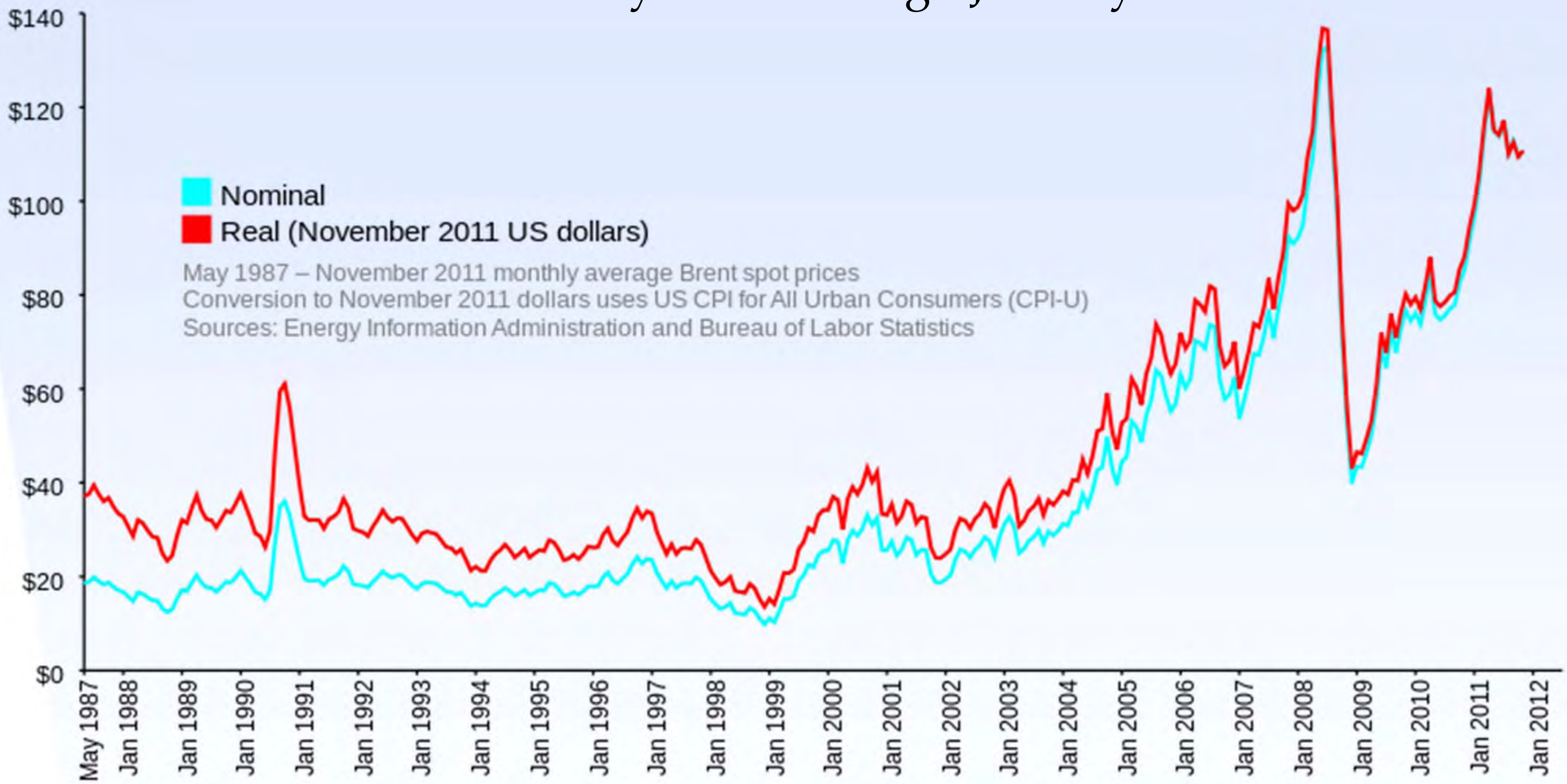
"Power Park Concept"



From N. Lewis, CalTech

Brent Spot Crude Prices

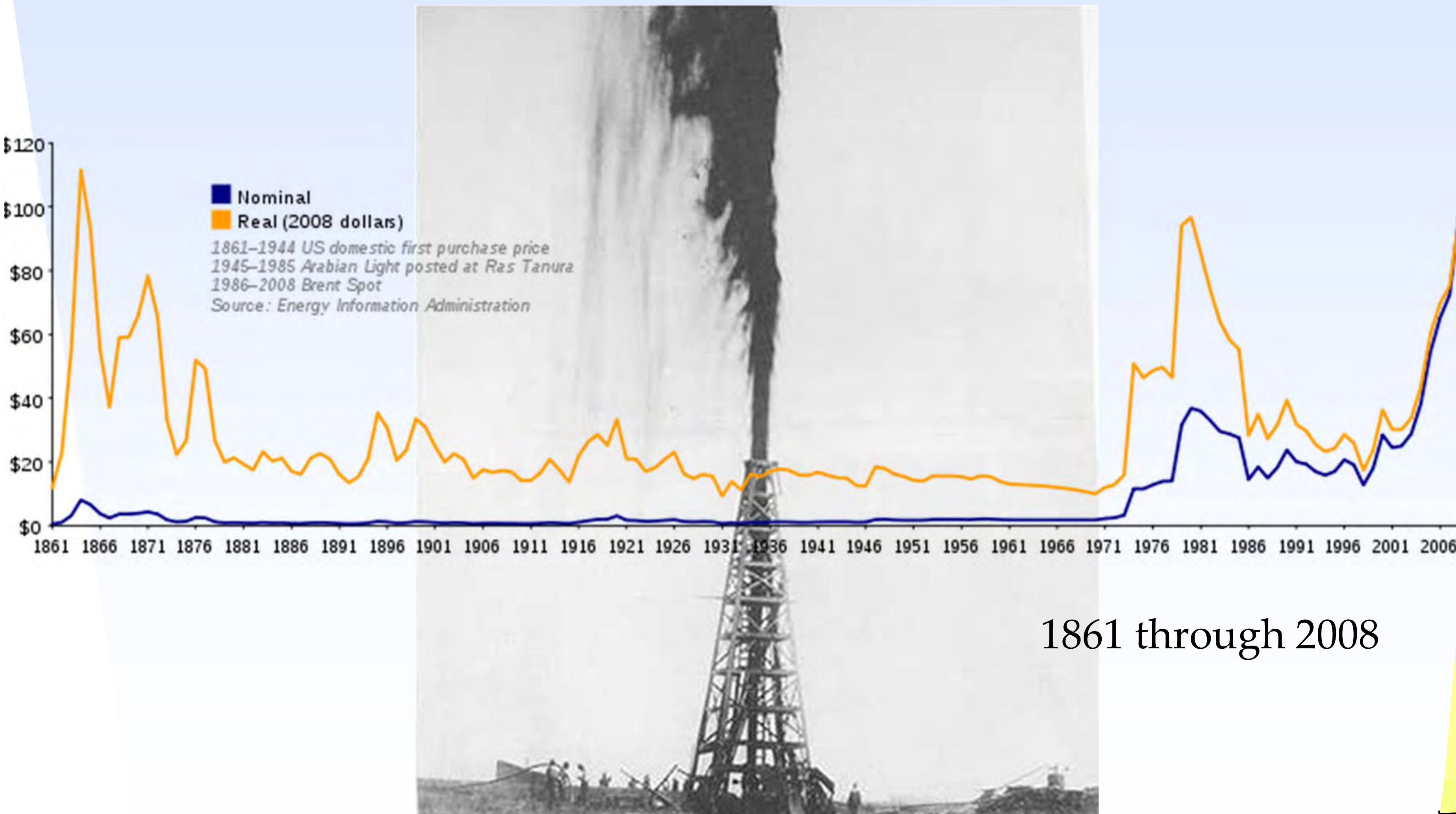
May 1987 through January 2012



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Price_of_petroleum

Oil Prices Over a Longer History

Lucas gusher, January 10, 1901, Beaumont Texas



1861 through 2008

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Price_of_petroleum

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_petroleum_industry_in_the_United_States

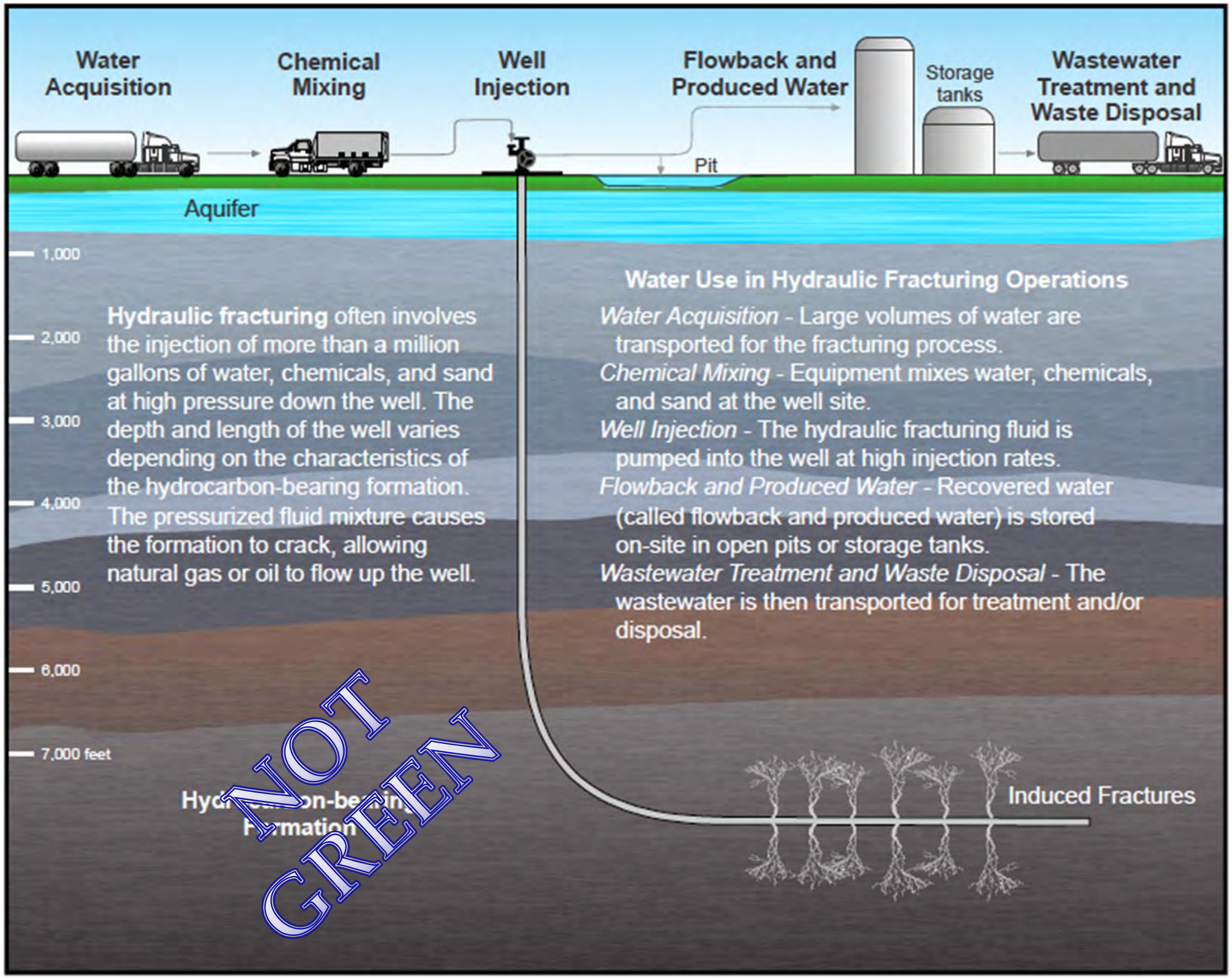
Oil: The Haves and the Have-nots

Nations that HAVE oil (% of Global Reserves)		Nations that NEED oil (% of Global Consumption)	
Saudi Arabia	26%	U.S.	26%
Iraq	11%	Japan	7%
Kuwait	10%	China	6%
Iran	9%	Germany	4%
UAE	8%	Russia	3%
Venezuela	6%	S. Korea	3%
Russia	5%	France	3%
Mexico	3%	Italy	3%
Libya	3%	Mexico	3%
China	3%	Brazil	3%
Nigeria	2%	Canada	3%
U.S.	2%	India	3%

Source: EIA International Energy Annual 1999

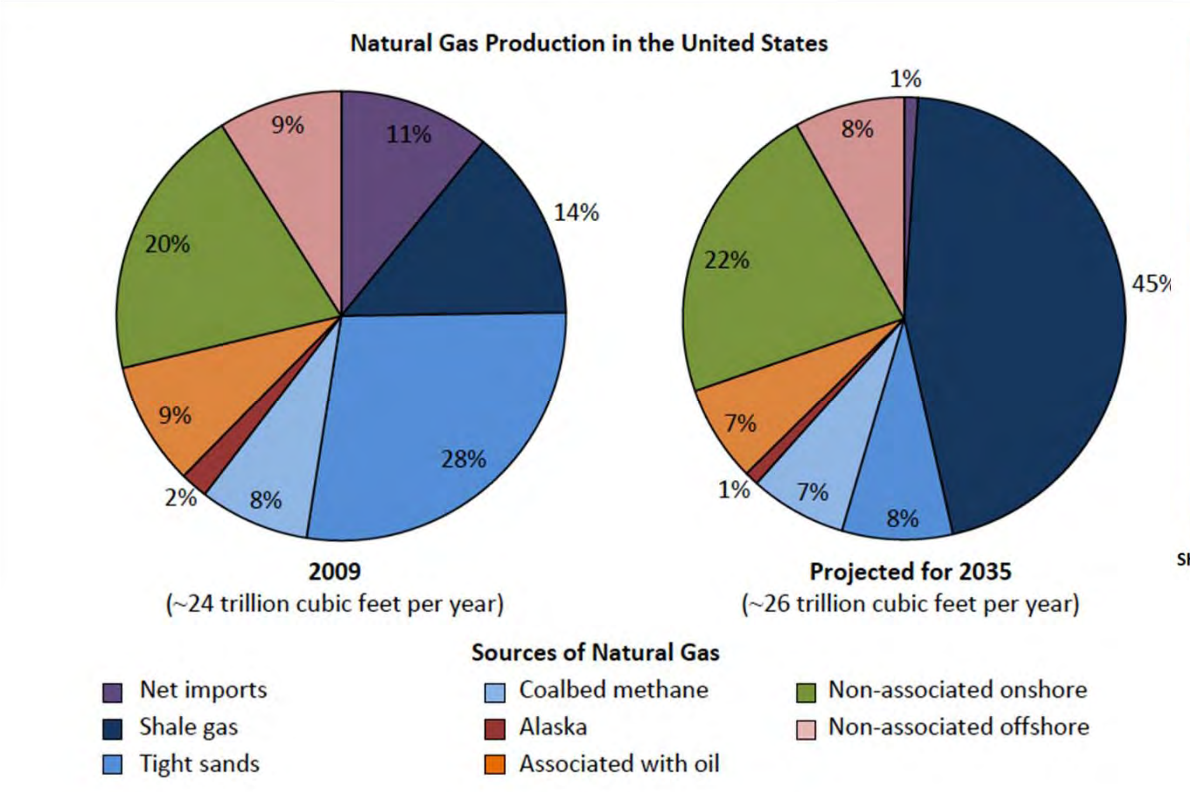
•*From Sam Baldwin's contribution to "Basic Research Need to Assure a Secure Energy Future", A Report from DOE's Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee*

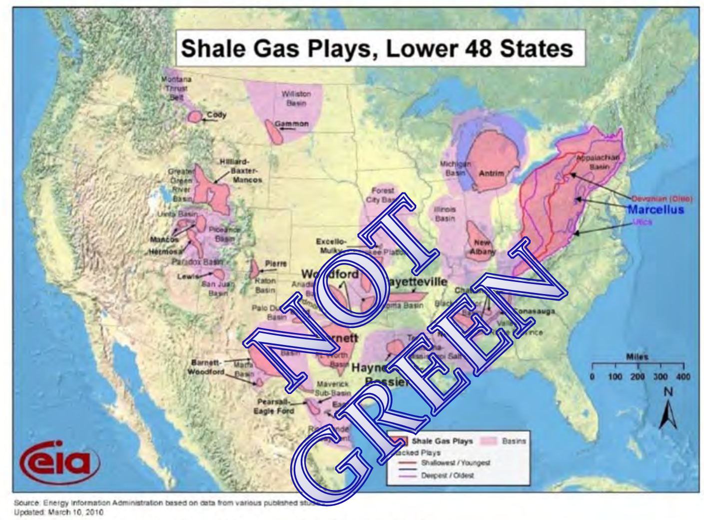
Fracking is Growing



After EPA Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources (2011)

"Unconventional" Natural Gas





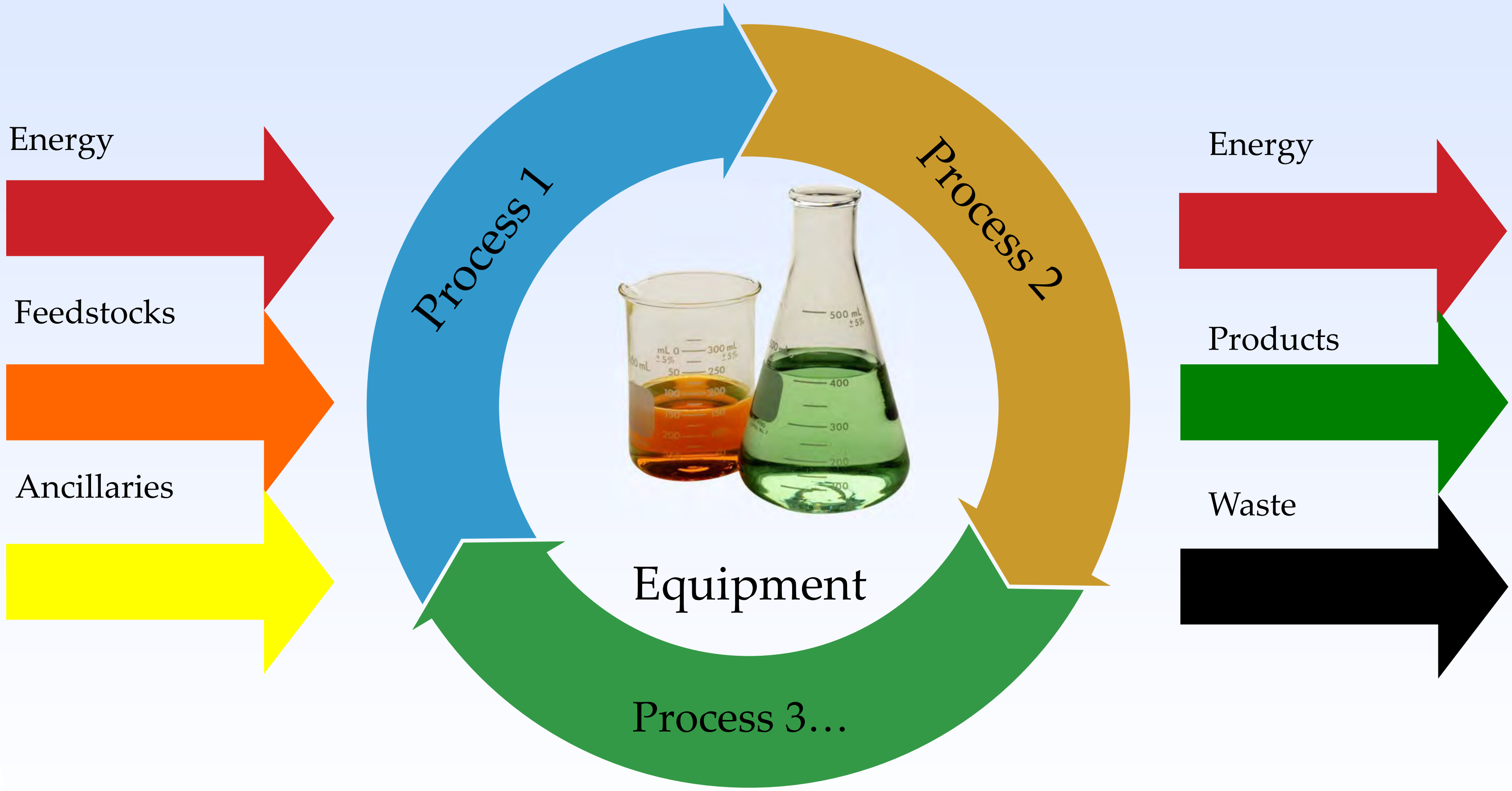
SHALE GAS PLAYS IN THE CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES

28% of NG Production in 1998, 50% in 2009, increasing to 60% by 2035

~35,000 wells are fractured each year in the U.S. If the majority of wells are horizontal, the water requirement ranges from 70 to 140 billion gallons/yr, equivalent to the water used by 1 to 2 cities of 2.5 million people. Hundreds of different chemicals, many known carcinogens, are added to the fracking fluids, in concentrations of ~0.5%. These and other species released by fracturing (including naturally occurring radioactive species) may reach aquifers, or be diverted via flowback to municipal water treatment facilities.

EPA Draft Plan to Study the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources (2011)

Basic Accounting for any Generic Process



True, with Differing Inputs/Outputs, for any Chemical, Physical, Power Generating or Energy Storage Tech.

In the End, It's all About the Money

For Green Chemistry, it comes down to cost, when all costs are included.

The same is true for Renewable Energy technologies.

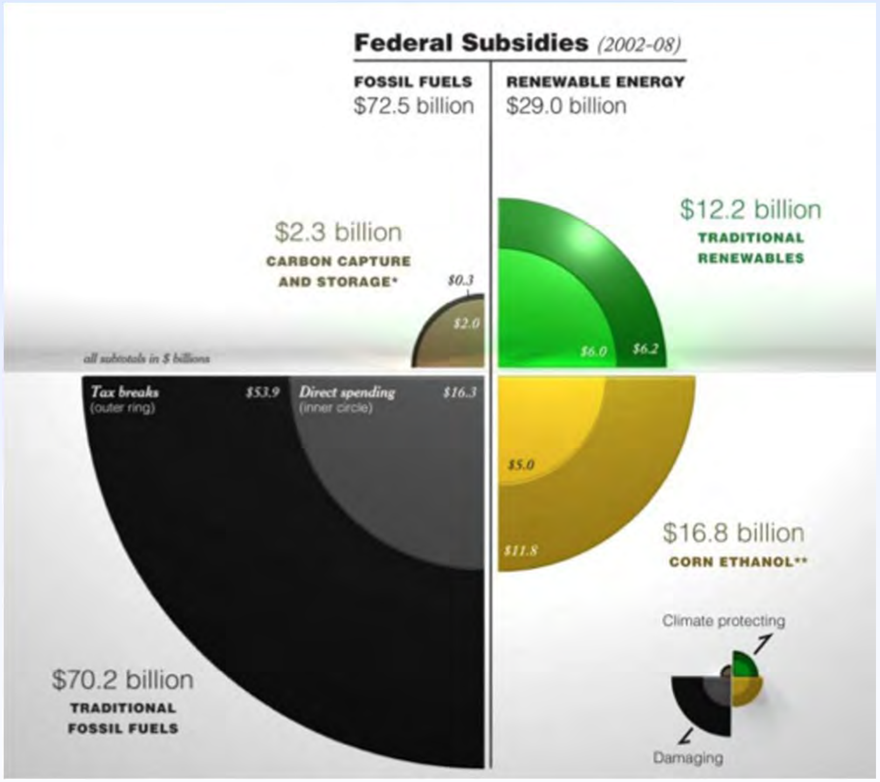
When everything is included, the real metrics have to do with **value**;
- What are you making?
- Why is it needed by society?
- What are the impacts of making it?
- Or not making it?

Large rai stone money in the village of Gachpar, Yap, Micronesia; the largest are 3 meters in diameter and weigh 4 metric tons (Wikipedia and NPR).

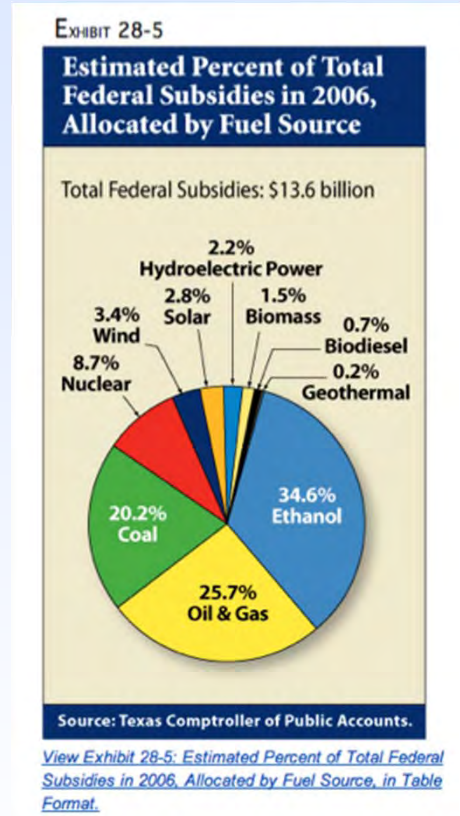
Better, cleaner, less expensive, more "valuable" processes

Renewable Energy is Growing in the Energy Mix Despite Heavy, Direct Federal Subsidies to Fossil Fuels

Energy Subsidies: Black Not Green



http://www.eli.org/pdf/Energy_Subsidies_Black_Not_Green.pdf



http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/subsidies/

- *Calculated Subsidies do not including other important health, environment, and national security costs.*
- *"Green" considerations may in fact be driving the growth in Renewables.*
- *Technologies like Fracking can grow due to both Direct and Indirect Subsidy.*

From a Global Perspective: What's in our Flask?

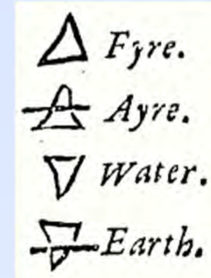
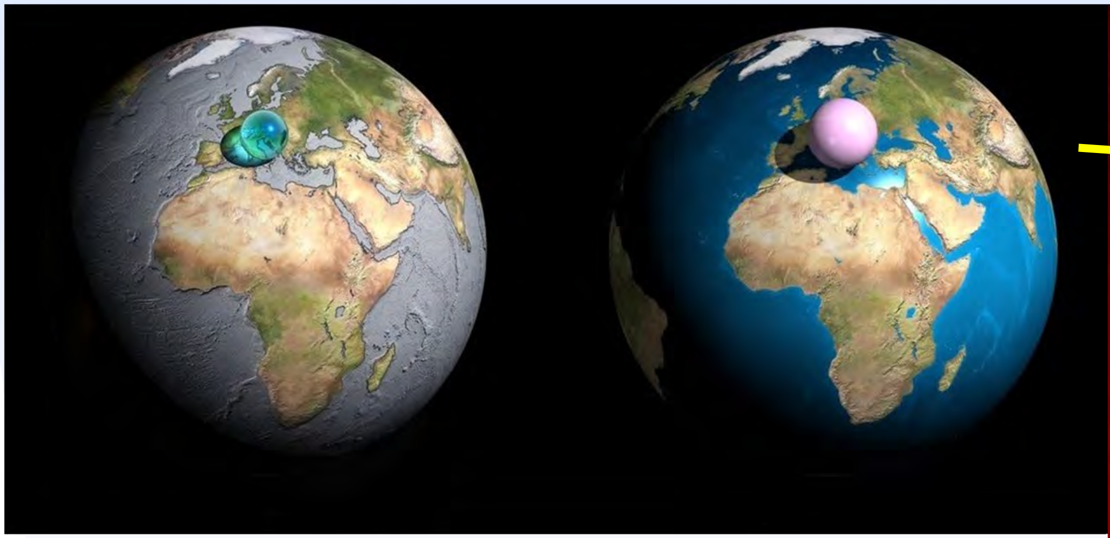
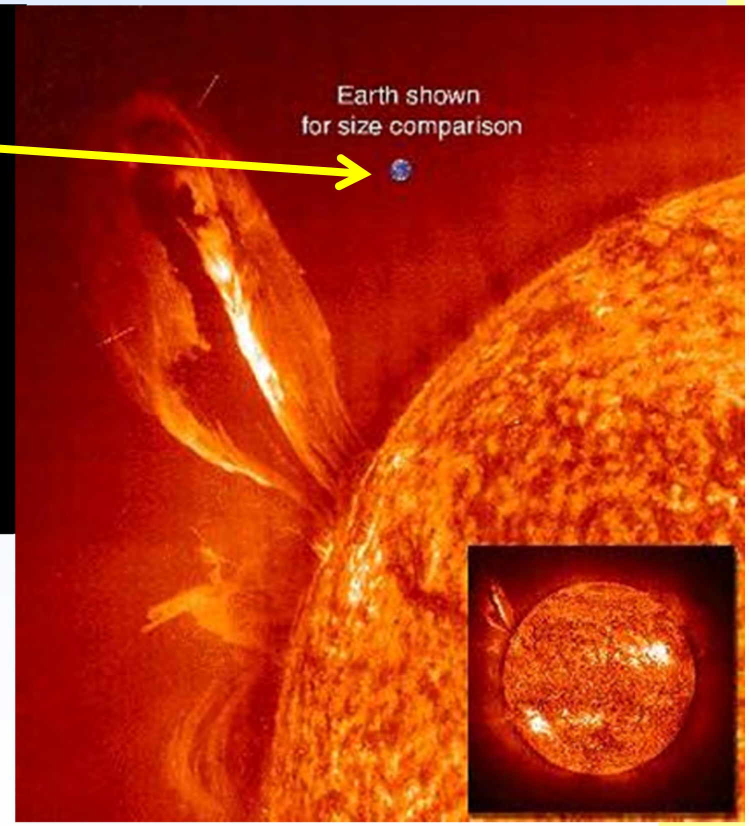


Photo & caption info: ADAM NIEMAN / SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY





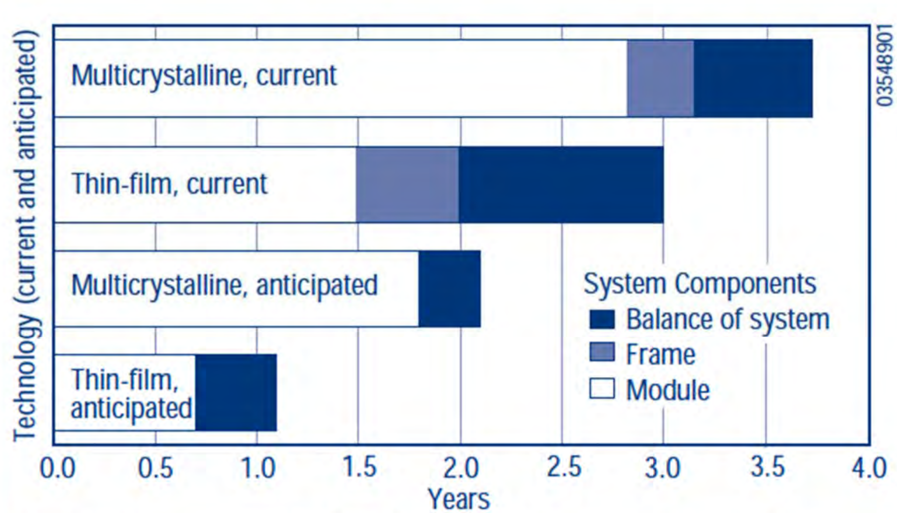
Volume of Earth: 1.1×10^{12} km^3
Volume of water: 1.4×10^9 km^3
Volume of atmosphere: 4.2×10^9 km^3
Solar Energy at Earth's Surface: 1.25×10^5 TW

http://cnst.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=246

Energy Payback Time for PV

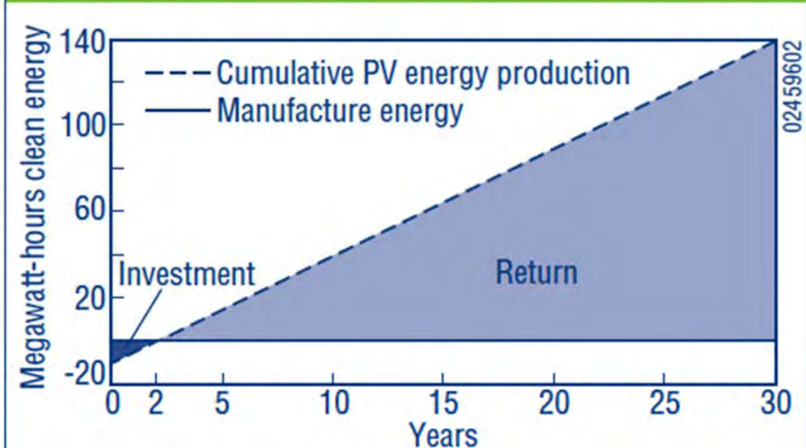
http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/35489.pdf

Figure 1. Energy Payback for Rooftop PV Systems



Reaping the environmental benefits of solar energy requires spending energy to make the PV system. But as this graphic shows, the investment is small. Assuming 30-year system life, PV systems will provide a net gain of 26 to 29 years of pollution-free and greenhouse-gas-free electrical generation.

Figure 2. Cumulative Net Clean Energy Payoff

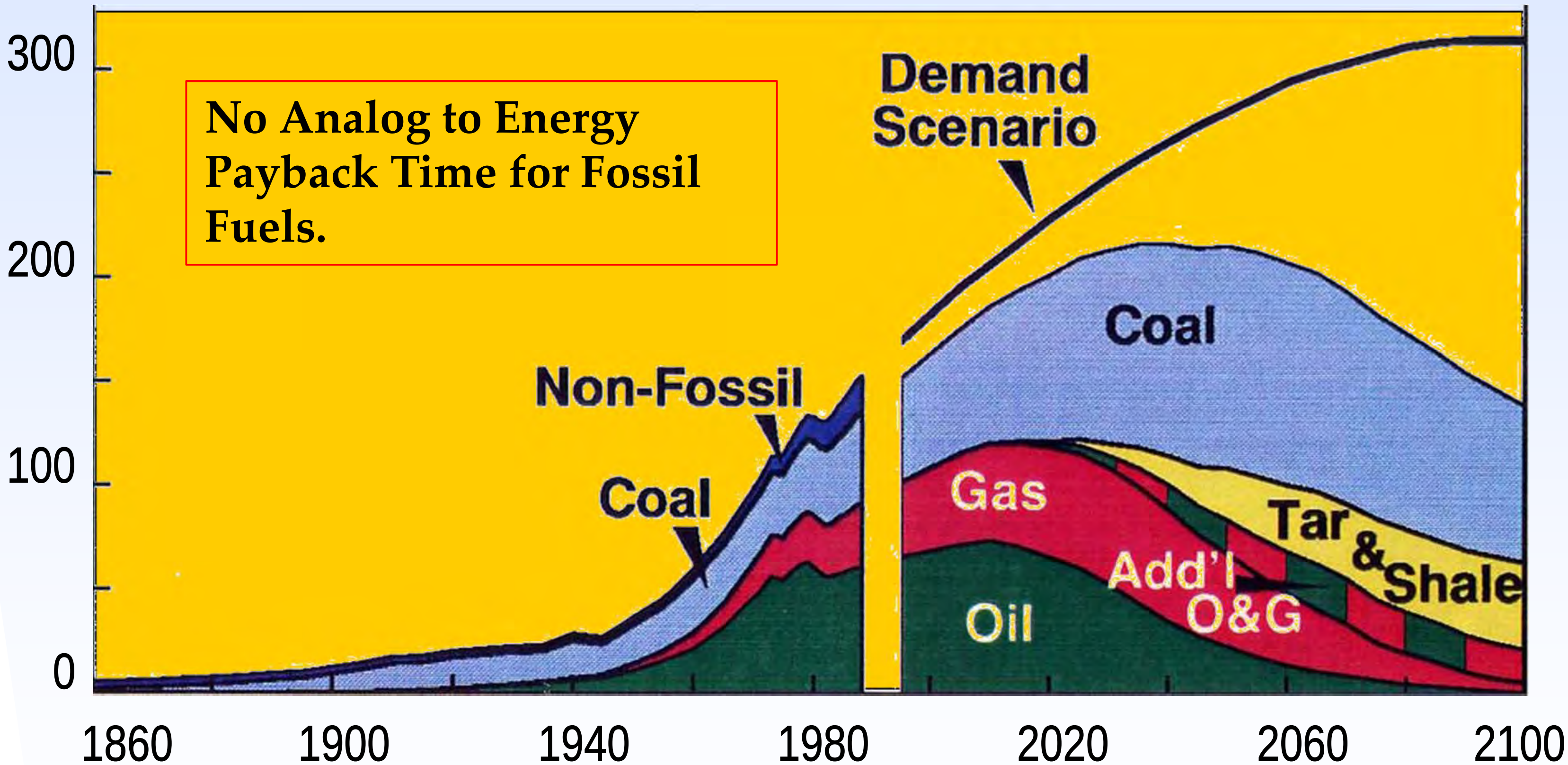


PV systems can repay their energy investment in about 2 years. During its 28 remaining years of assumed operation, a PV system that meets half of an average household's electrical use would eliminate half a ton of sulfur dioxide and one-third of a ton of nitrogen-oxides pollution. The carbon-dioxide emissions avoided would offset the operation of two cars for those 28 years.

Over a projected 28 years of clean energy production, a rooftop system with a 2-year energy payback and meeting half of a household's electricity use would avoid conventional electrical-plant emissions of more than **half a ton of sulfur dioxide, one-third a ton of nitrogen oxides, and 100 tons of carbon dioxide**

World Energy

Millions of Barrels per Day (Oil Equivalent)

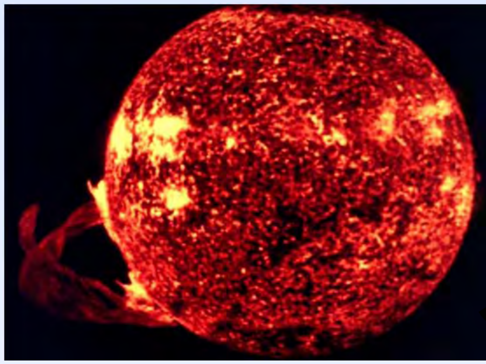


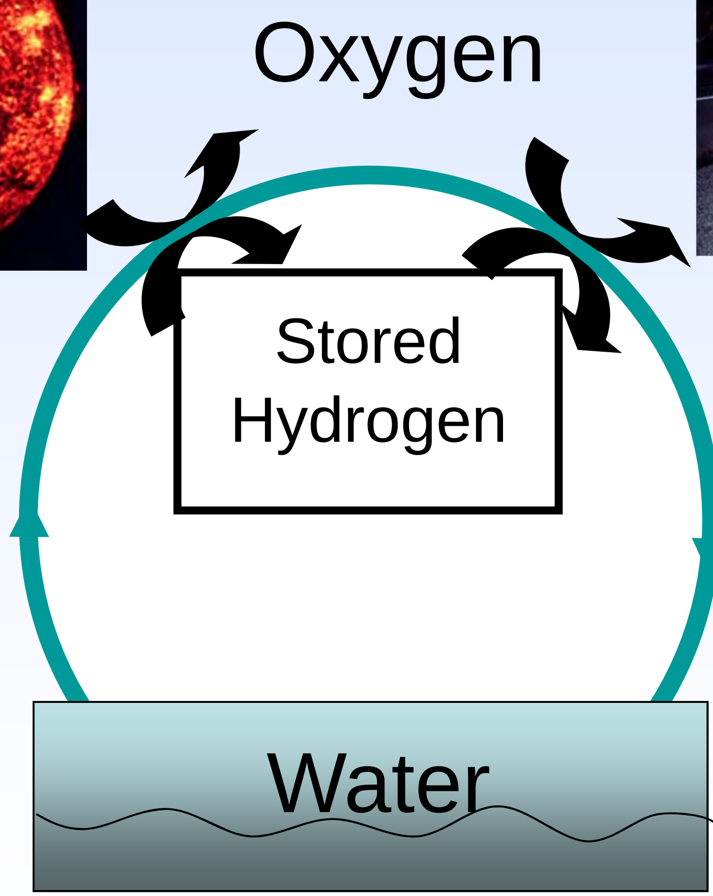
No Analog to Energy Payback Time for Fossil Fuels.

Source: John F. Bookout (President of Shell USA) ,"Two Centuries of Fossil Fuel Energy" International Geological Congress, Washington DC; July 10,1985. Episodes, vol 12, 257-262 (1989).

http://cnst.rice.edu/content.aspx?id=246

H_2 Energy Cycle with Fuel Cells





Inputs:

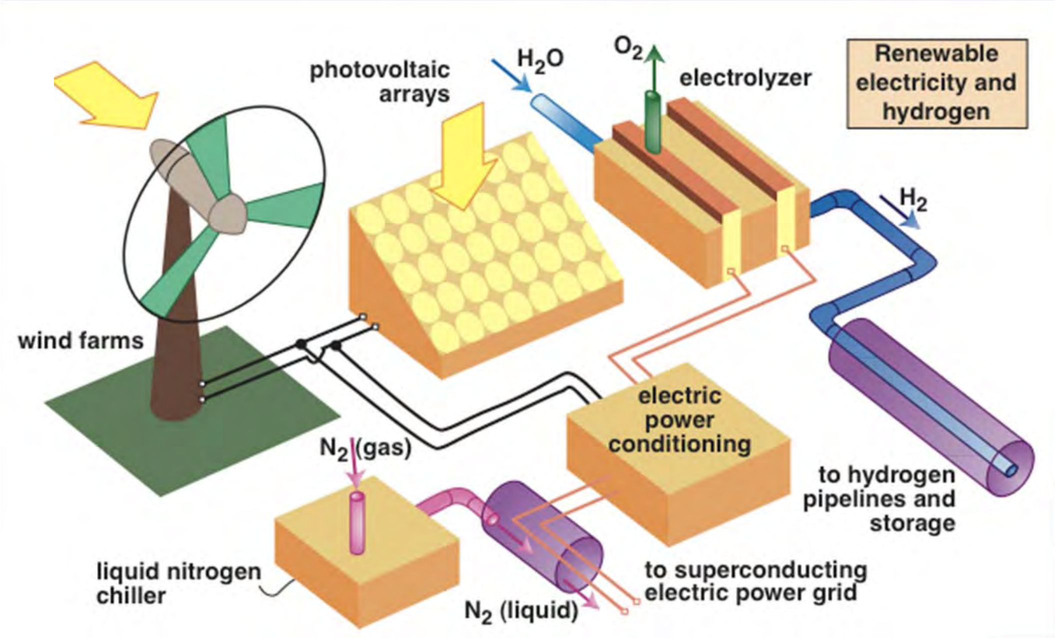
- Solar Energy
- Water
- Nuclear Energy
- Fossil Fuel

Outputs:

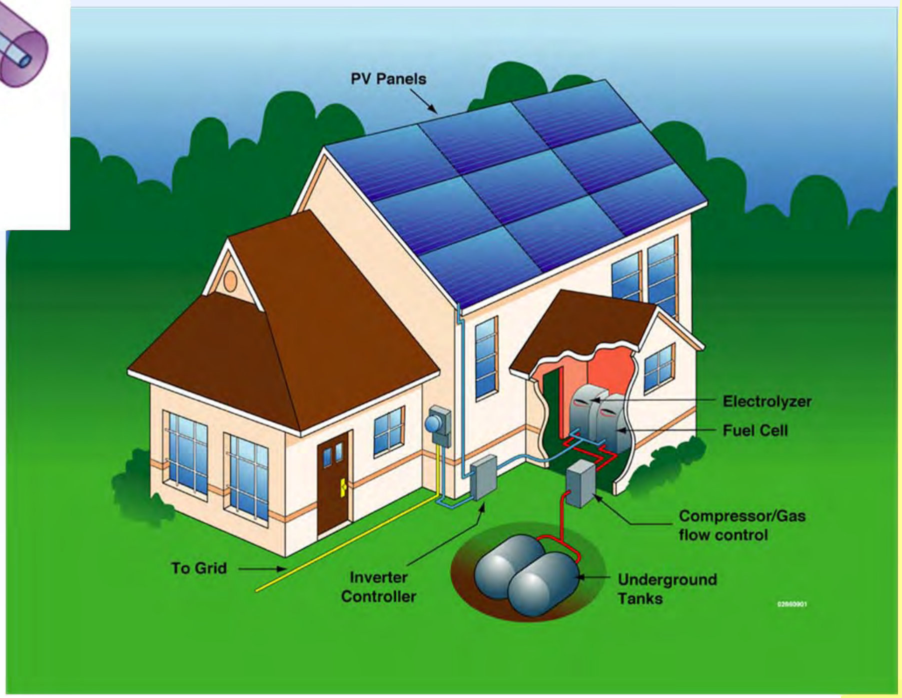
- Electricity
- Heat
- Water
- Nuclear Waste
- CO_2 w Fossil

Adapted from John Turner, NREL

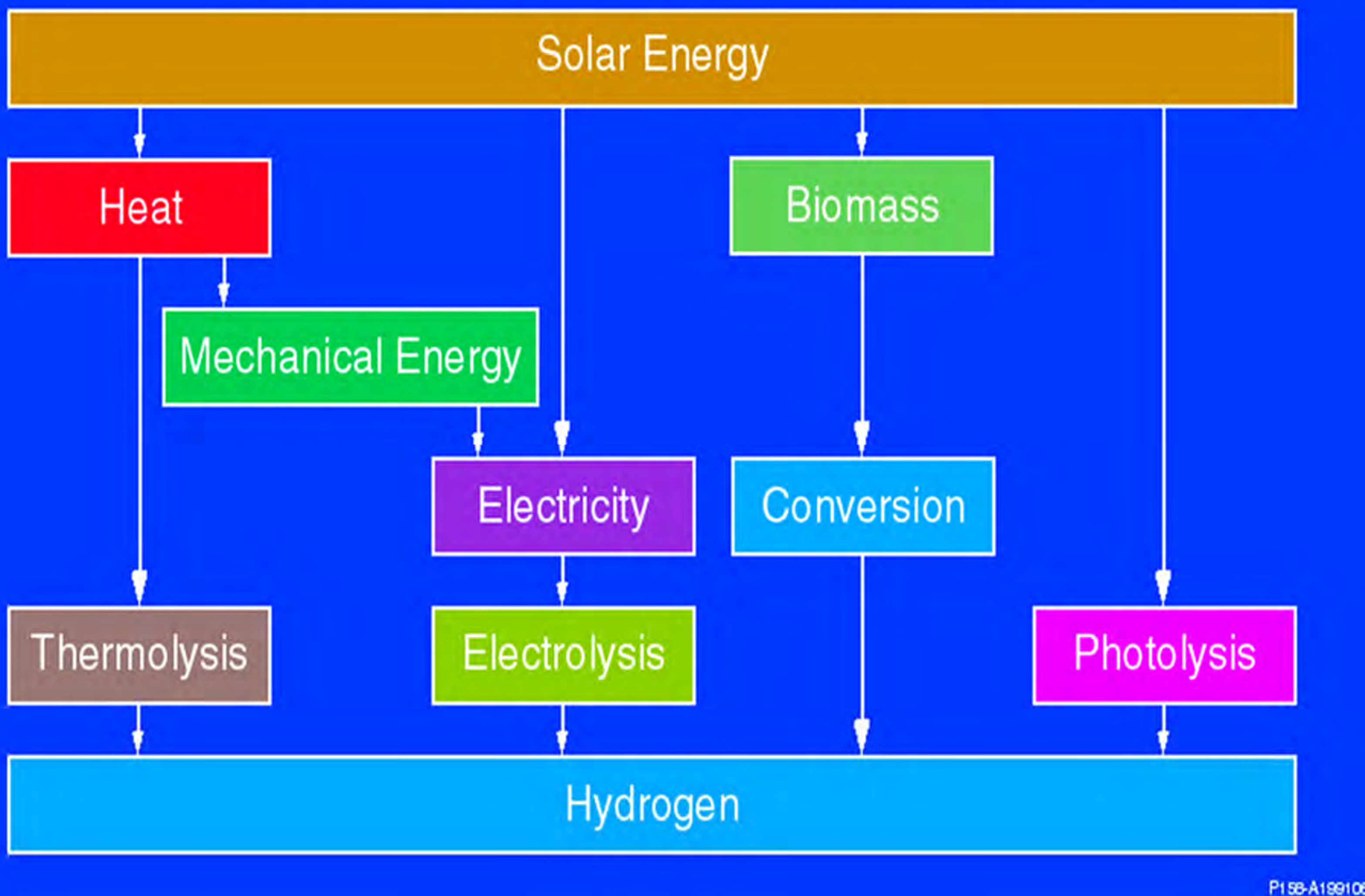
Integrated Large- and Small-Scale Systems
(distributed energy systems)



Hoffert, *et al.*, *Science*, 298 (2002)



Sustainable Paths to Hydrogen



Earth's Energy use as of 2008 (burn rate)

World energy resources and consumption

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

(Redirected from World Energy)

In 2008, total worldwide energy consumption was 474 exajoules (5×10^{20} J) with 80 to 90 percent derived from the combustion of fossil fuels.[1] This is equivalent to an average power consumption rate of 15 terawatts (1.504×10^{13} W) or a yearly energy consumption of 133 Petawatt•hr (132.8×10^{15} Wh). [snip]

Most of the world's energy resources are from the sun's rays hitting earth.

Tough Reality

The Good News

In 2009, world energy consumption decreased for the first time in 30 years (-1.1%) , a result of the financial and economic crisis (GDP drop by 0.6% in 2009). Coal posted a growing role in the world's energy consumption: in 2009, it accounted for 27% of the total.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_energy_resources_and_consumption

Sources of renewable*, carbon-free energy

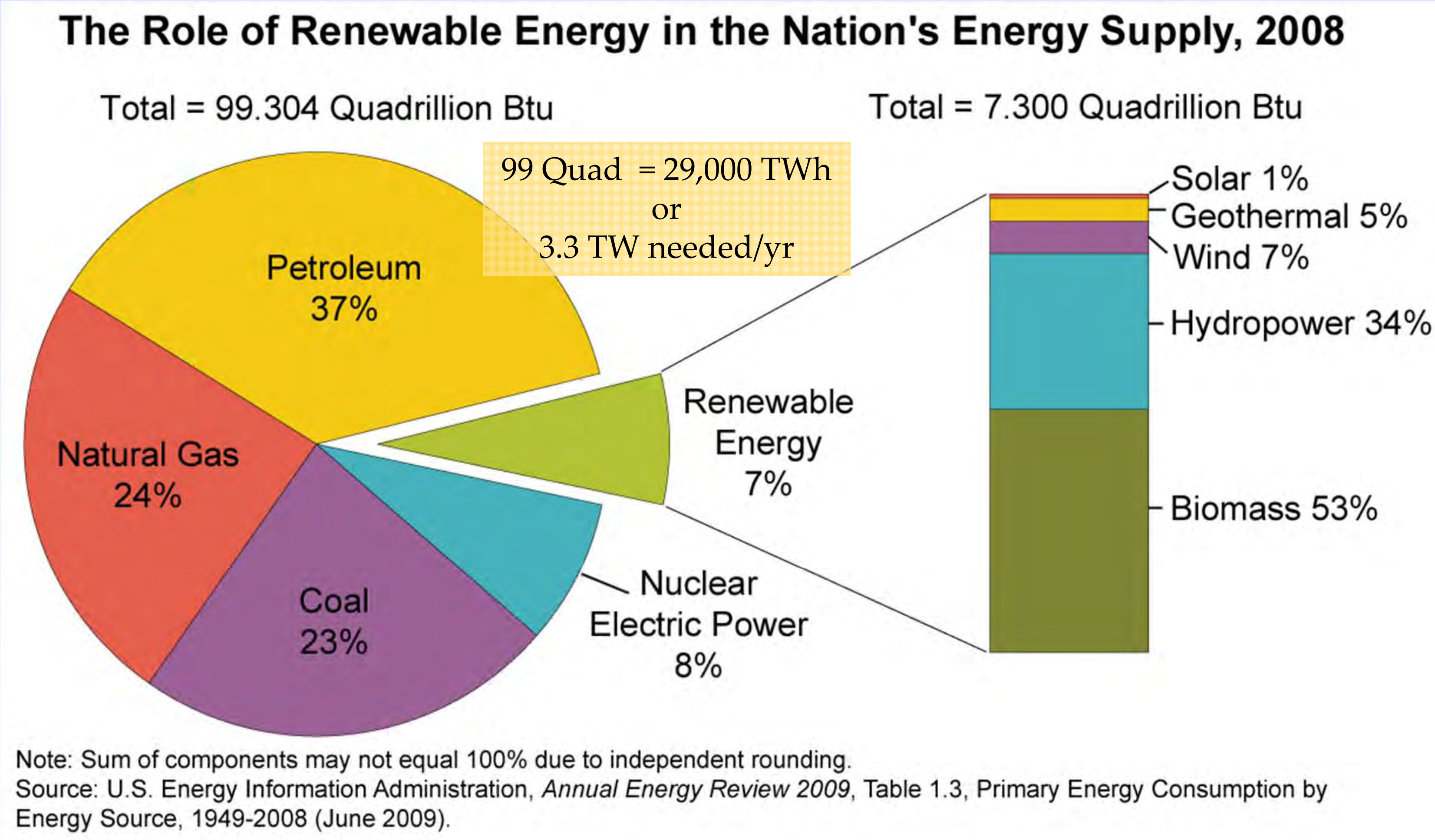
Potential Sources for Significant Carbon-Free Energy

• Hydroelectric (1.5 TW technically feasible – 0.777 TW generated in 2006)	1.5 TW
• Geothermal (installed capacity in 2007)	10 GW
• Tides/Waves	1 TW
• Wind	65 TW
• Solar (120,000 TW solar energy striking Earth globally)	600 TW*

* 50 TW – 1500 TW, depending upon land fraction, etc., and assuming today's typical solar-to-electricity conversion efficiency of 10%.

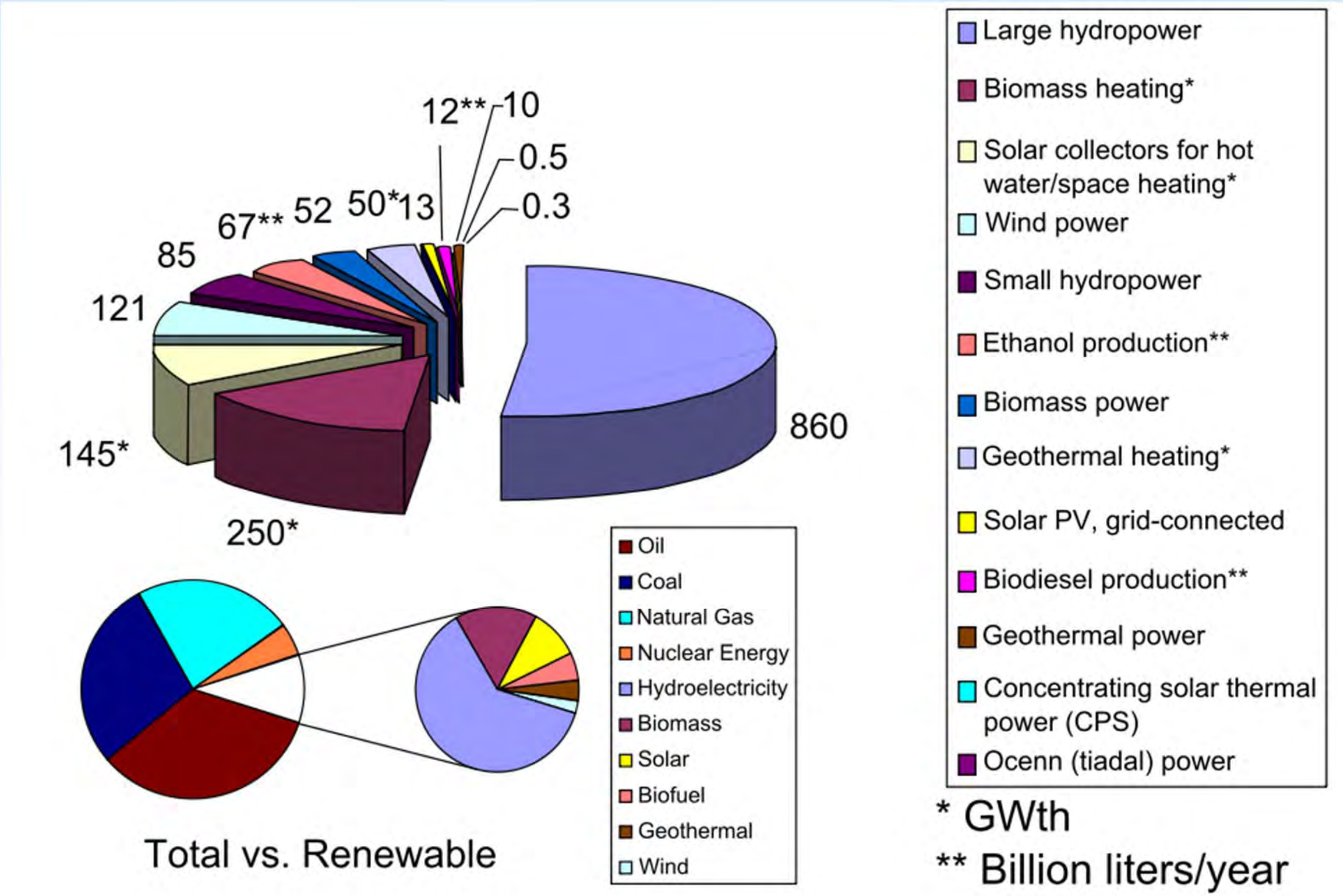
* Renewable only as long as our Sun shines

How are We Doing so Far?



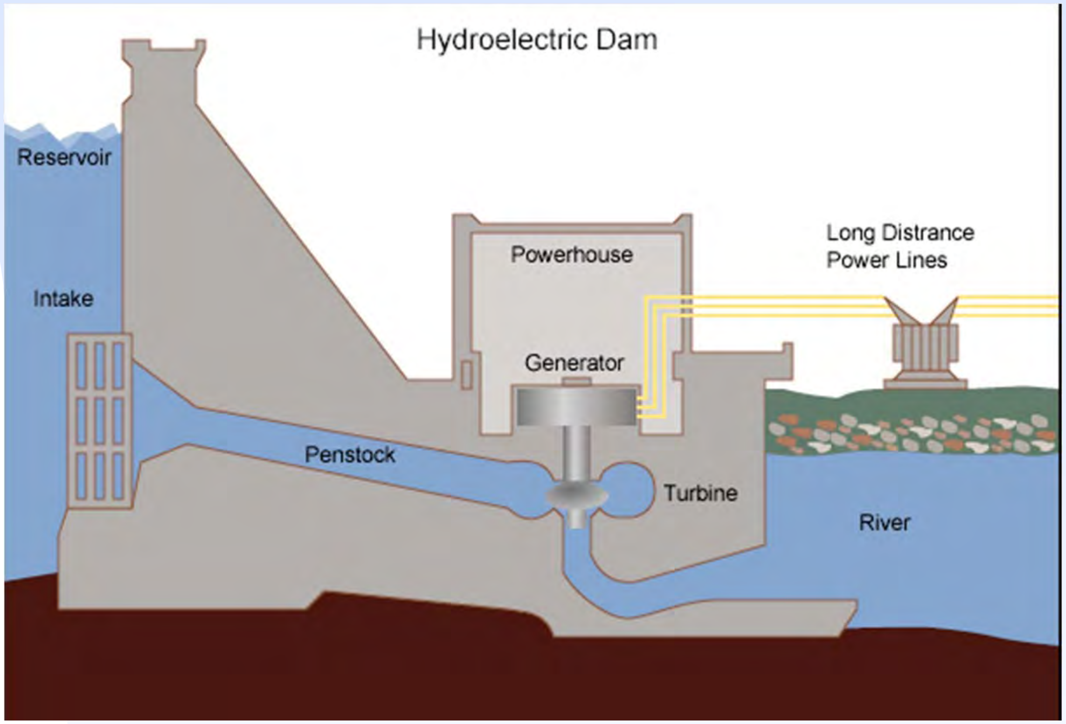
- In 2008, total worldwide energy consumption was 132,000 TWh, corresponding to an average annual power consumption rate of ~15 terawatts.
- For the world, in 2006, 18% of energy used was Renewable, 13% was Biomass.

Renewable energy (end of 2008)



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/6e/Ren2008.svg/1000px-Ren2008.svg.png

Hydroelectric Power

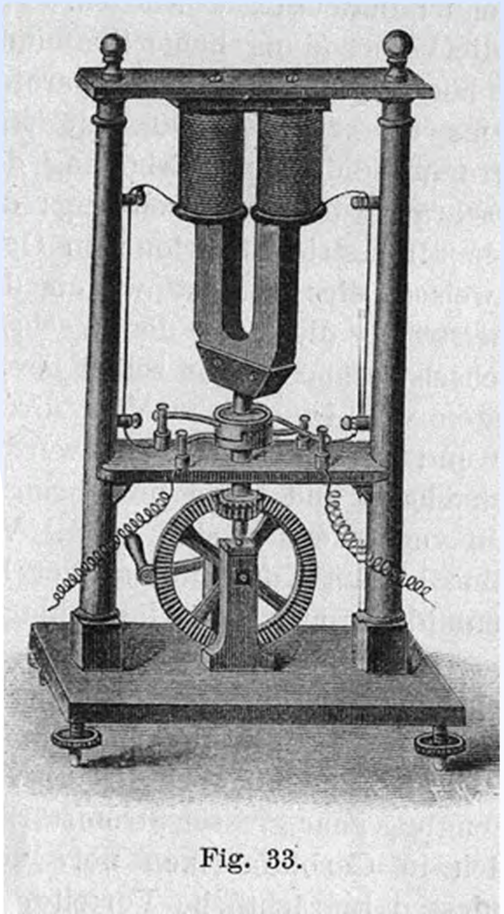


Power produced depends on factors such as the density of water ($\rho = 1000$ kg/m^3), the "hydraulic height" (h), the flow rate in cubic meters per second (r), the gravitational constant (g), and the efficiency factor (k):

$$P = \rho h r g k$$

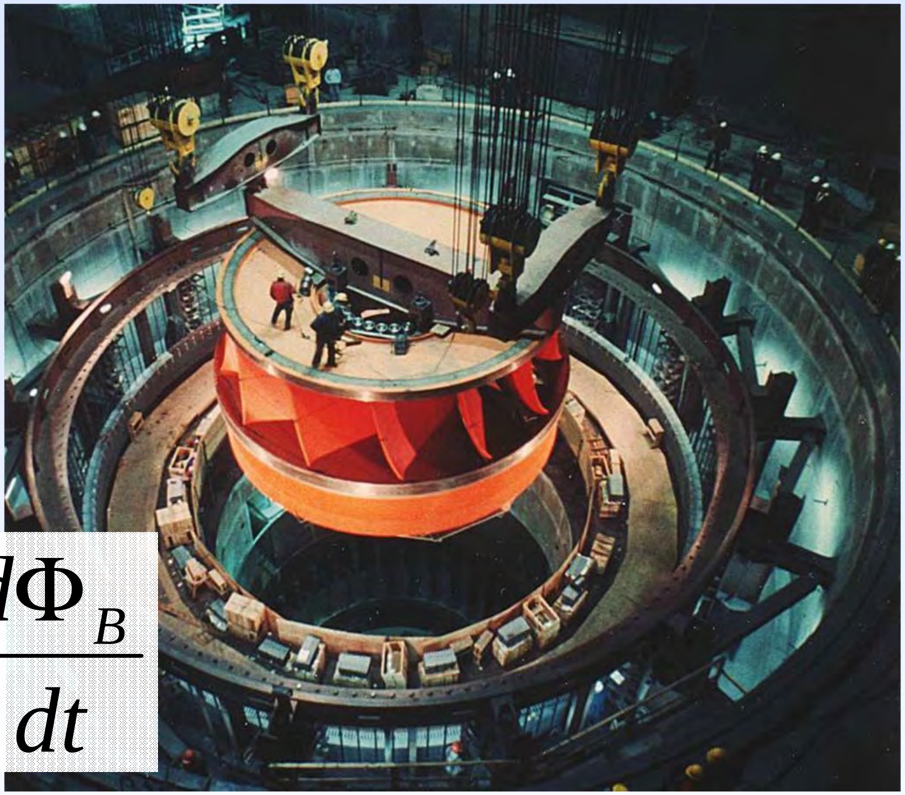
- eliminates cost of fuel;
- long-lived power production compared to fuel-fired plants;
- operates without CO_2 emissions;
- no nuclear waste
- sizeable hazard (dam failures among largest human-created disasters);
- siltation ultimately limits "economic" life;
- environmental impacts: spawning, downstream river environment, anaerobic decay of plant material – methane
- population relocation
- flow reduction (global warming)

Hydroelectric Power – Electromagnetic Induction



Pixii's dynamo (1832), built by **Hippolyte Pixii** (1808–1835), an instrument maker from Paris, France.

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt}$$



750 MW water turbine being installed at Grand Coulee Dam (Columbia River).

ε is the electromotive force (volts); Φ_B is the magnetic flux (webers). 1 weber/m^2 = 1 tesla

electric motor ←→ electric generator

Hydroelectric Power – Big Players

Country	Annual Hydroelectric Energy Production(TWh)	Installed Capacity (GW)	Capacity Factor	Percent of all electricity
Norway	140.5	27.528	0.49	98.25[24]
Brazil	363.8	69.080	0.56	85.56
Venezuela	86.8	-	-	67.17
Canada	369.5	88.974	0.59	61.12
Sweden	65.5	16.209	0.46	44.34
Russia	167.0	45.000	0.42	17.64
China (2008)[25]	585.2	171.52	0.37	17.18
India	115.6	33.600	0.43	15.80
France	63.4	25.335	0.25	11.23
Japan	69.2	27.229	0.37	7.21
United States	250.6	79.511	0.42	5.74
Paraguay (2006)	64.0	-	-	

Potential capacity of 1.5 TW; ultimately driven by the Sun.

Reminder: We need 15 – 40 TW total CfP

Geothermal Power

What: thermal energy "in the Earth" from:

- original formation of the planet (hot springs, geysers)
- radioactive decay of minerals
- solar energy absorbed at the surface

[redacted]

How much: 10 GW of electricity generated in 2007;
28 GW of direct thermal heating capacity.

Notes:

- Earth's heat content = 10^{31} J
- Thermal conduction to surface at rate of 44 TW (44×10^{12} J/s)
- Additional heat generated by radioactive decay, 30 TW
- Average thermal power at Earth's surface: ~ 0.1 W/m^2

Reminder: We need 15 – 40 TW total CfP

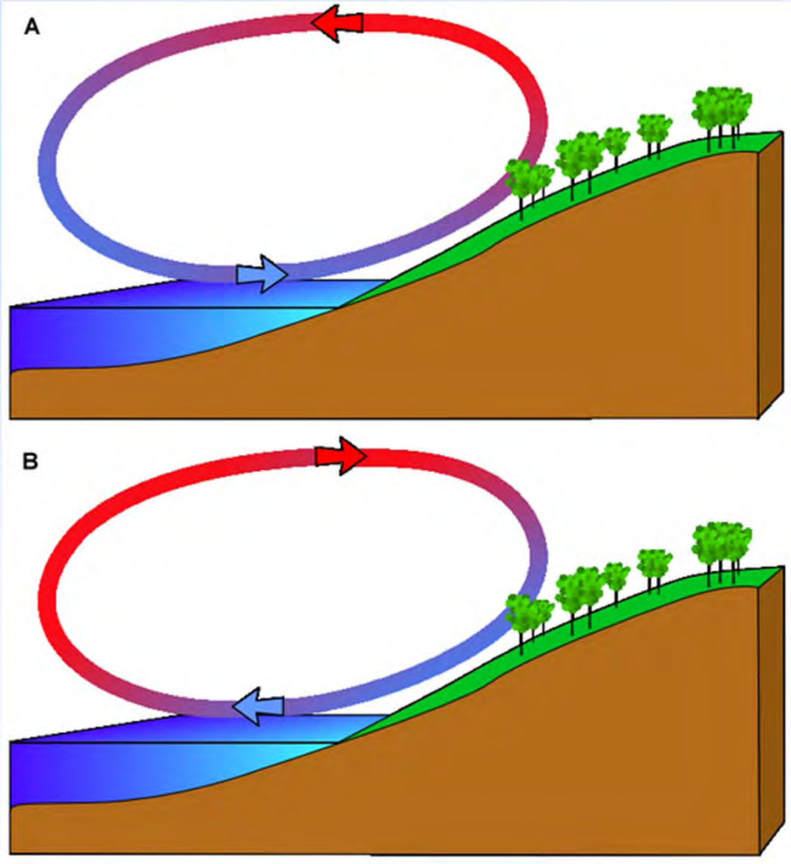
Origins of Wind

Wind results from pressure differentials in the atmosphere; local effects include variations in heating and cooling (e.g., land vs. a body of water).

Air subsequently moves to alleviate these pressure differences; since air has mass, it's movement (wind) carries with it kinetic energy that can be converted to electricity through the use of turbines (*electrical generators*).

The two dominant causes of wind in Earth's atmosphere are:

1. the differential solar heating between the equator and the poles, and
2. the rotation of the planet.



Land is often warmer than water (A) during the day, and cooler than water (B) at night.

Wind Power

"Humans have been using wind power for at least 5,500 years to propel sailboats and sailing ships, and architects have used wind-driven natural ventilation in buildings since similarly ancient times. Windmills have been used for irrigation pumping and for milling grain since the 7th century AD."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power

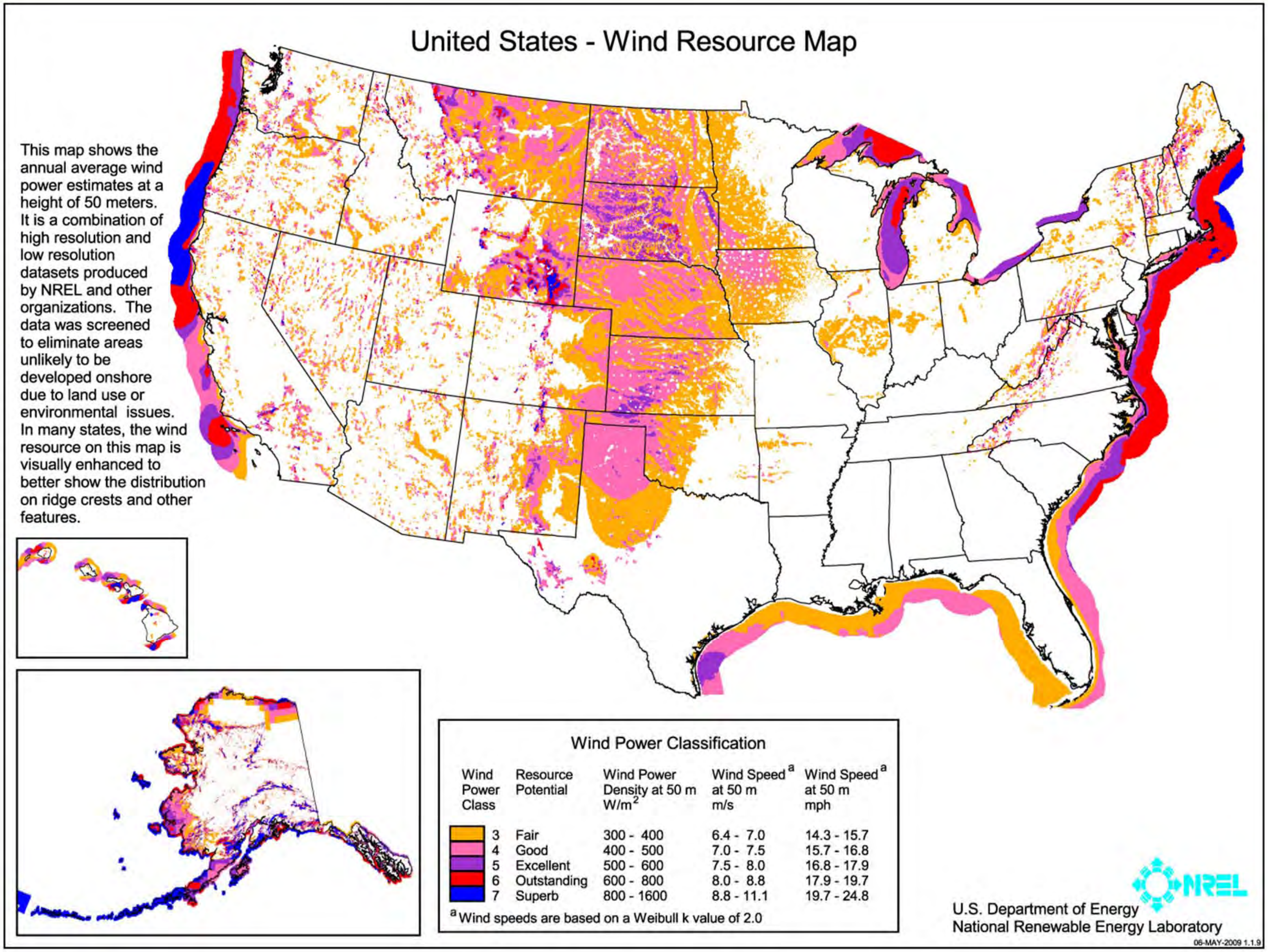
… growth in the forecasts can be attributed to the increasingly common use of very large turbines that rise to almost 100 meters.
Wind speeds are greater at higher elevations. Previous wind studies were based on the deployment of 50- to 80-meter turbines.

http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/16/

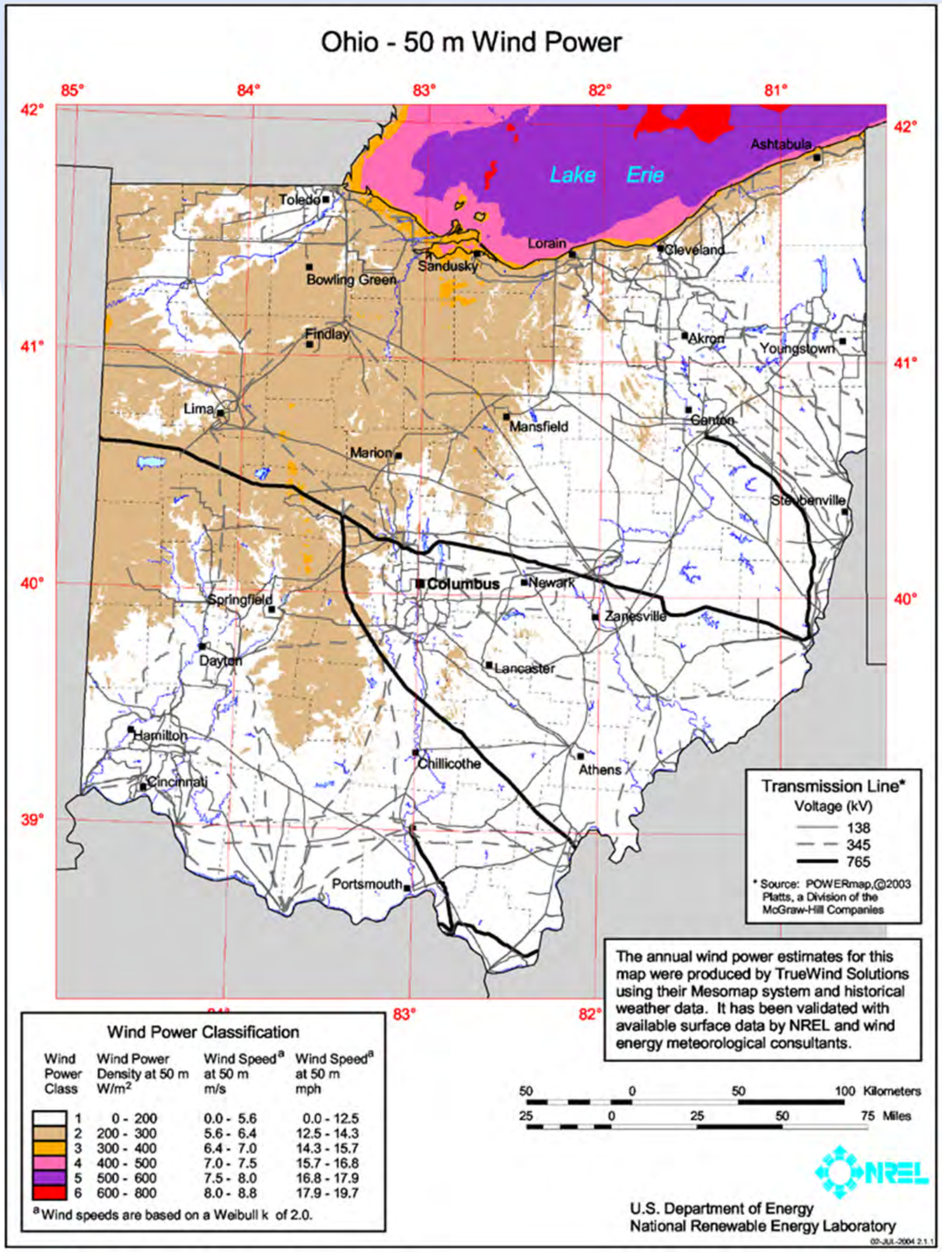
Global potential for wind-generated electricity
Xi Lu, Michael B. McElroya,, and Juha Kiviluomac
www.pnas.orgcgidoi10.1073pnas.0904101106

Reminder: We need 15 – 40 TW total CfP

Wind Power

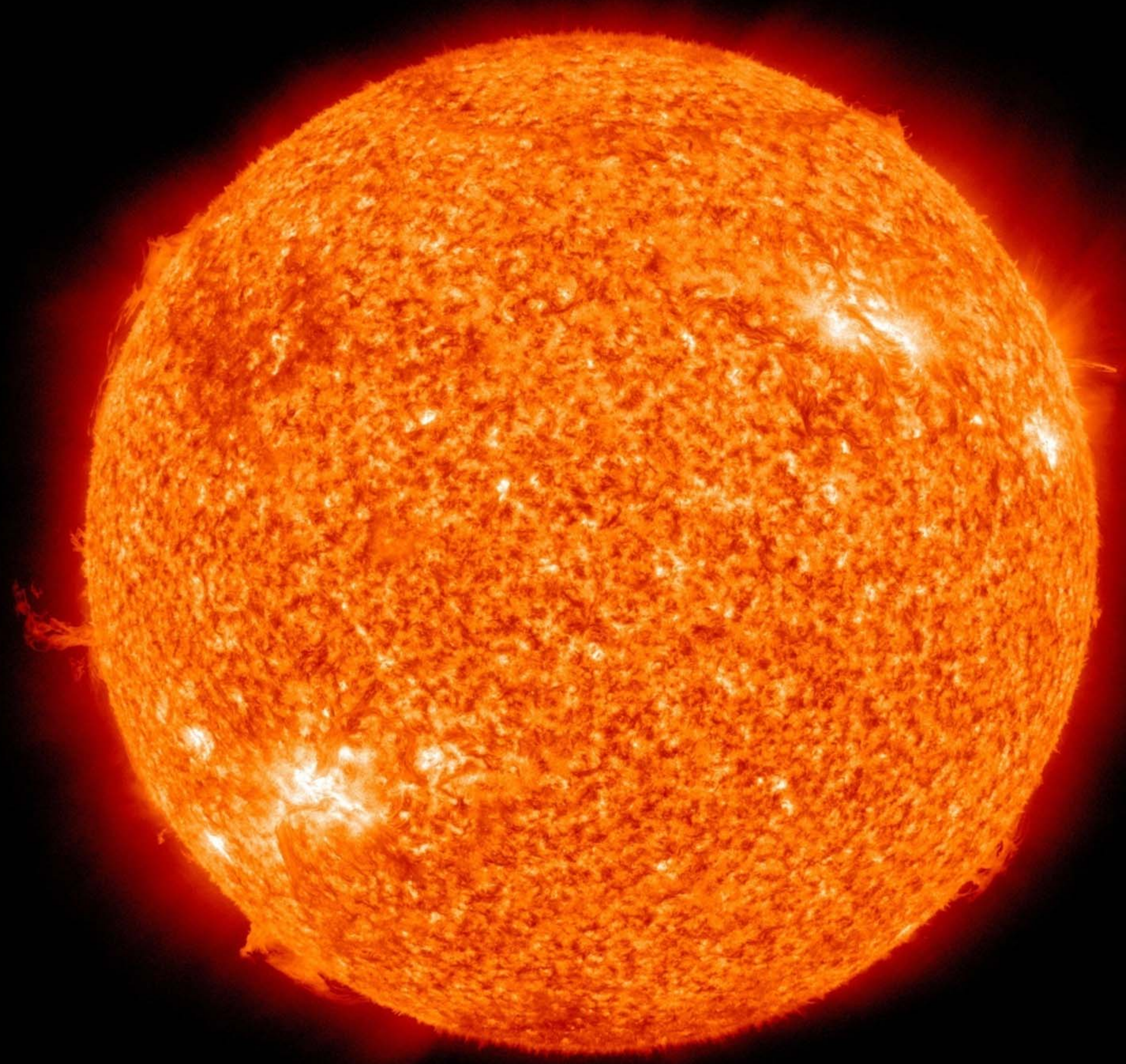

United States - Wind Resource Map
This map shows the annual average wind power estimates at a height of 50 meters. It is a combination of high resolution and low resolution datasets produced by NREL and other organizations. The data was screened to eliminate areas unlikely to be developed onshore due to land use or environmental issues. In many states, the wind resource on this map is visually enhanced to better show the distribution on ridge crests and other features.
Wind Power Classification
Wind Power Class | Resource Potential | Wind Power Density at 50 m W/m2 | Wind Speed[a] at 50 m m/s | Wind Speed[a] at 50 m mph
3 Fair 300 - 400 6.4 - 7.0 14.3 - 15.7
4 Good 400 - 500 7.0 - 7.5 15.7 - 16.8
5 Excellent 500 - 600 7.5 - 8.0 16.8 - 17.9
6 Outstanding 600 - 800 8.0 - 8.8 17.9 - 19.7
7 Superb 800 - 1600 8.8 - 11.1 19.7 - 24.8
[a] Wind speeds are based on a Weibull k value of 2.0
NREL
U.S. Department of Energy
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
06-MAY-2009 1.1.9

Ohio Wind Power



Wind farms are under consideration and/or planned along the shores of, or out on the open water of, Lake Erie.

The Sun



"Why Does the Sun Shine?"
by *They Might Be Giants*

The sun is a mass of
incandescent gas
A gigantic nuclear furnace
Where hydrogen is built into
helium
At a temperature of millions
of degrees

Yo ho, it's hot, the sun is not
A place where we could live
But here on Earth there'd be
no life
Without the light it gives

We need its light
We need its heat
We need its energy
Without the sun, without a
doubt
There'd be no you and me

The Sun

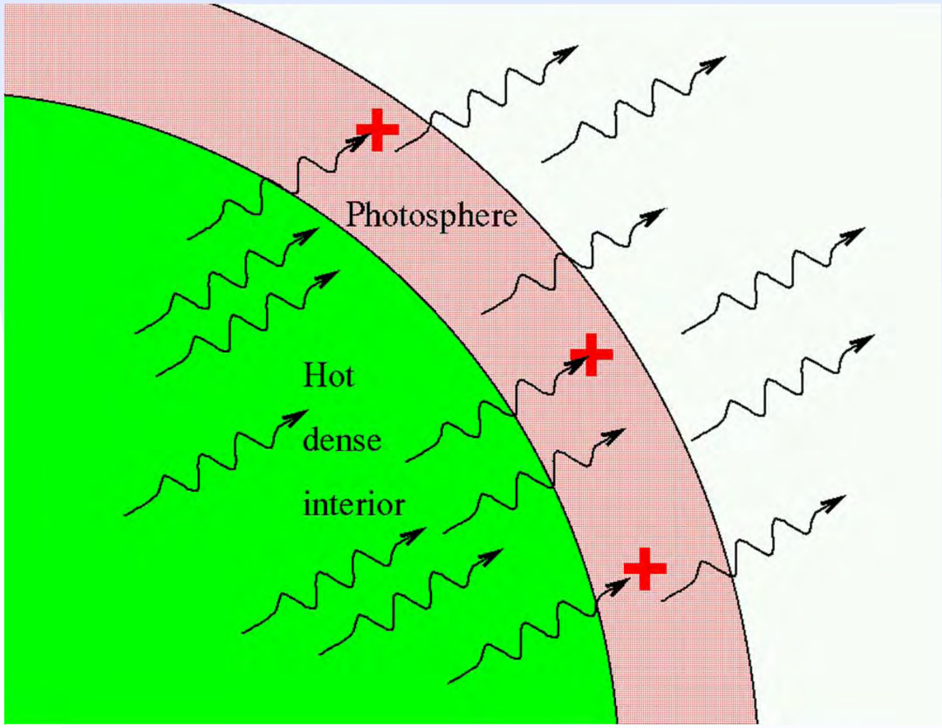
Mean diameter	1.392×10^6 km
Equatorial radius	6.955×10^5 km
Equatorial circumference	4.379×10^6 km

109 times the Earth's diameter, radius, circumference

Sidereal* rotation period (at equator) 25.05 days

* Sidereal means: "Of or relating to the stars"
(http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/sidereal)

The Sun's "Photosphere"



http://spiff.rit.edu/classes/phys301/lectures/spec_lines/spec_lines.html

The **photosphere** of an astronomical object is the region from which externally received light originates. It extends into a star's surface until the gas becomes opaque, equivalent to an optical depth of approximately 2/3. In other words, a **photosphere** is the deepest region of a luminous object, usually a star, that is transparent to photons of certain wavelengths.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Photosphere

The Sun's Hydrogen

$$E_n = -\frac{13.6}{n^2}\,\text{eV}$$

approximation

$$E_n = -\frac{13.6057}{n^2}\,\text{eV}$$

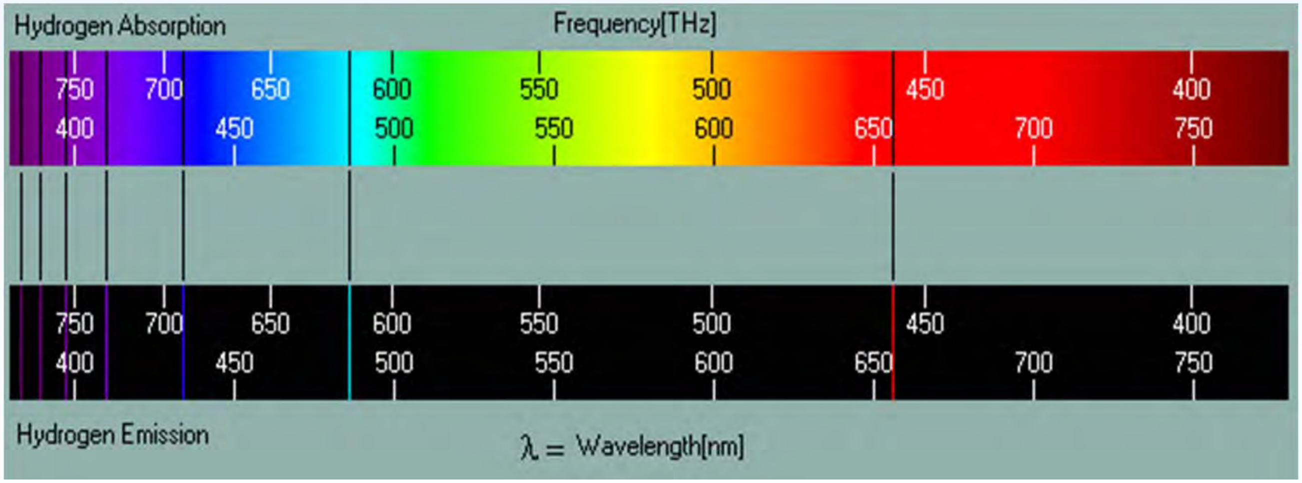
more sig figs

$$E_n = -\frac{13.5983}{n^2}\,\text{eV}$$

with reduced mass

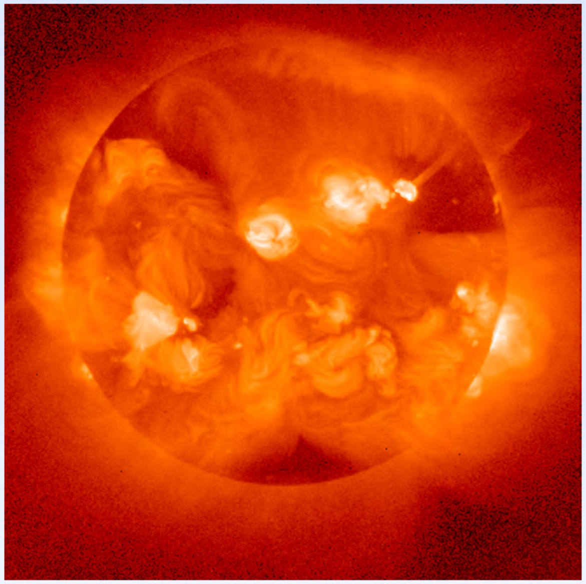
Balmer Series: H-atom transitions for which final state is n = 2!

$$E_{photon} = E_n - E_2 = -13.5983\,\text{eV} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{n^2} - \frac{1}{2^2}\right)$$



http://www.horrorseek.com/home/halloween/wolfstone/Lighting/colvis_ColorVision.html

Earth's Solar Resource



- Theoretical: 1.2×10^5 TW solar energy potential (1.76 $\times 10^5$ TW striking Earth; 0.30 Global mean albedo)
- Energy in 1 hr of sunlight ↔ 14 TW for a year
- Practical: > On-shore electricity generation potential of ≈ 600 TW (10% conversion efficiency).
- *Photosynthesis*: 90 TW

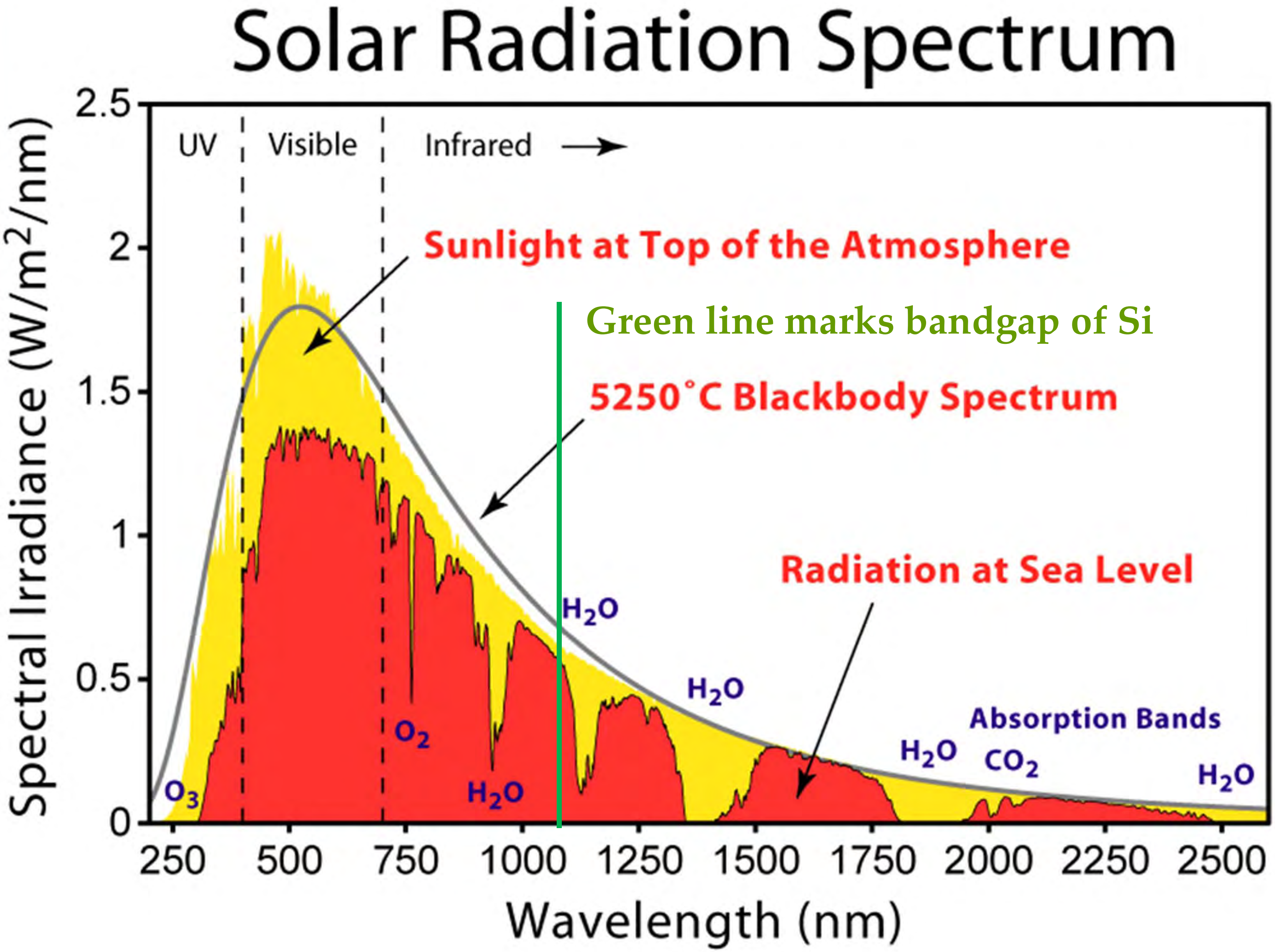
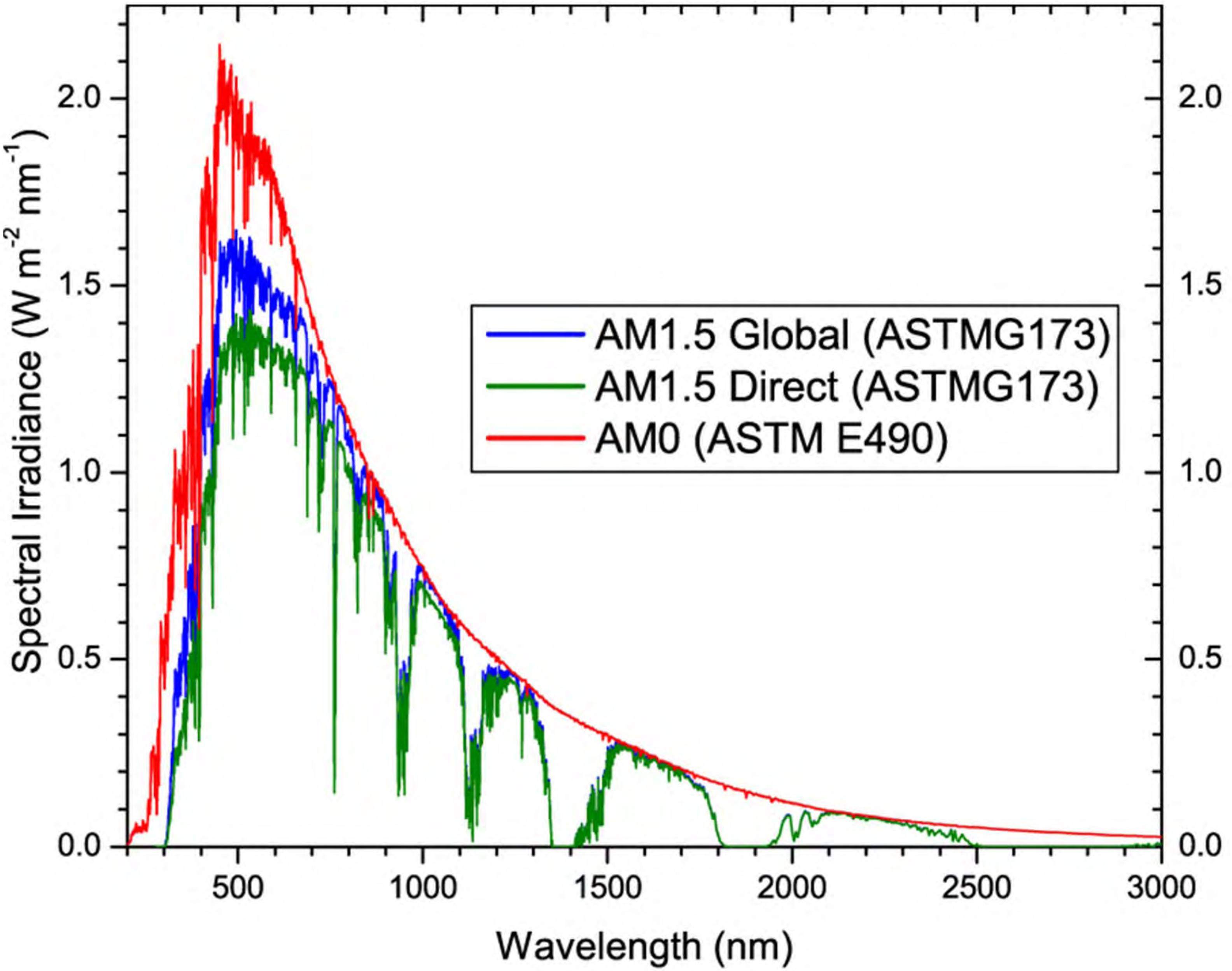


Image created by Robert A. Rohde / Global Warming Art

Solar spectra at Earth



http://pvcdrom.pveducation.org/APPEND/Am1_5.htm

The Solar Resource in the US

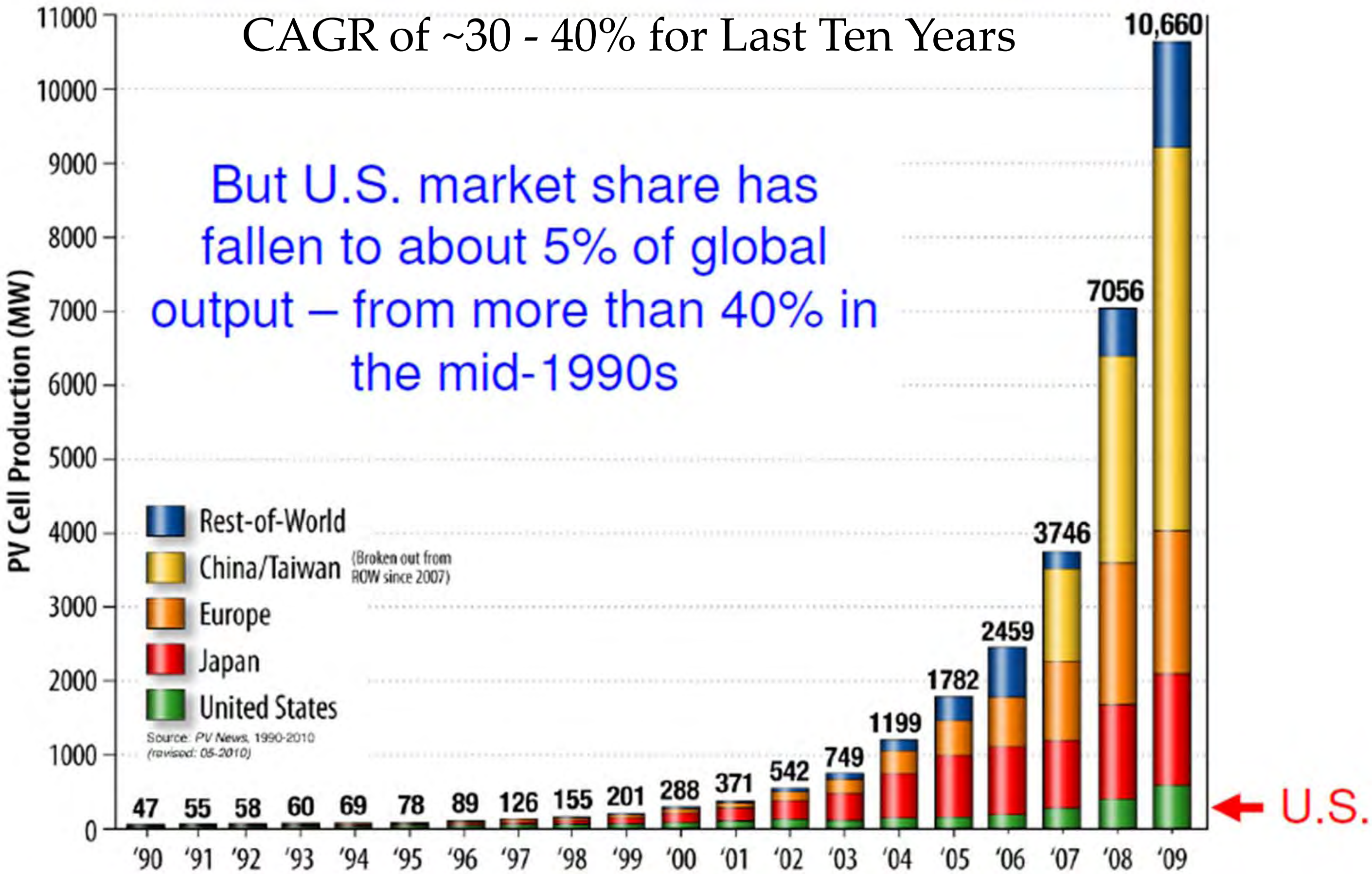
3
TW

-PV covering area of square ~110 miles x 110 miles could satisfy all of US energy needs; less than ¼ of the area covered by roads and streets.

- assumes 10% solar-electricity conversion efficiency.

J. Turner, Science ***85****, 1999*

Solar PV is a booming global industry

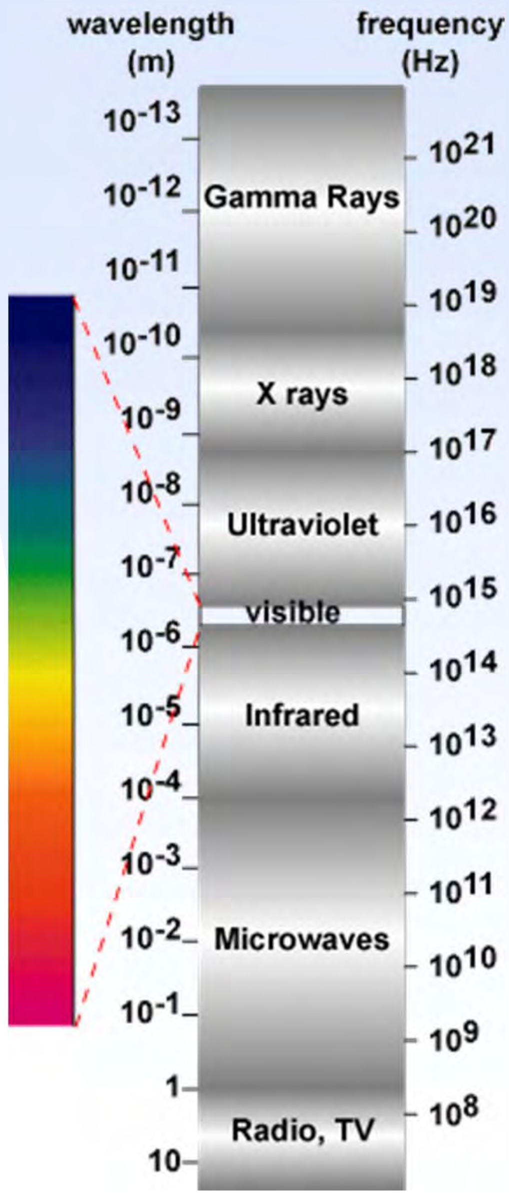


Worldwide production of solar photovoltaics – in Megawatts

For comparison:
Installed world capacity of 442 Nuclear Reactors is ~ 375 GW (100 GW in USA, not growing)
Installed world capacity of Wind Turbines is ~197 GW (20 – 30% CAGR)

http://www.euronuclear.org/info/encyclopedia/n/nuclear-power-plant-world-wide.htm
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/dpw_chu.pdf

Properties of light



Energy of a photon: $E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}$

Convenient relation: $E = \frac{1.24}{\lambda(\mu m)}$

1 eV = 1.602 x 10^{-19} J

Definition of photon flux: $\Phi = \frac{\#\, of\ photons}{\sec m^2}$

Spectral irradiance:

$$F = \left(\frac{W}{m^2 \mu m}\right) = q\Phi \frac{1.24}{\lambda^2(\mu m)} = q\Phi \frac{E^2(eV)}{1.24}$$

F is the spectral irradiance in $Wm^{-2}\mu m^{-1}$; Φ is the photon flux in # photons $m^{-2}sec^{-1}$; E and λ are the energy and wavelength of the photon in eV and μm respectively; and q, h and c are constants.

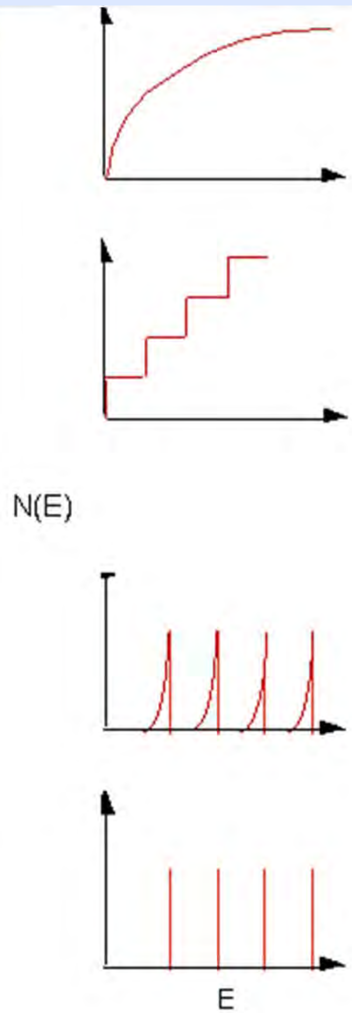
An excellent resource:
http://www.pveducation.org

Nanomaterials for solar energy conversion

- Enable high surface area devices →
  - strong light absorption (dye-sensitized nanostructured TiO_2)
  - facilitates fast charge separation (proximity of photoexcited carriers to charge-separating interface)
- Customizable properties enable unique designs →
  - Engineerable (size-dependent) absorption spectrum
  - Varying geometries – e.g., efficient charge transport in quantum rods
  - Controlled chemical functionalization to direct charge separation
- Efficient multiple exciton generation?

Quantum confinement effect on density of electronic states

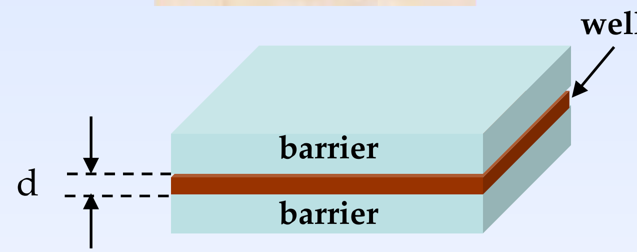
Dimensionality



Bulk Semiconductor

3D

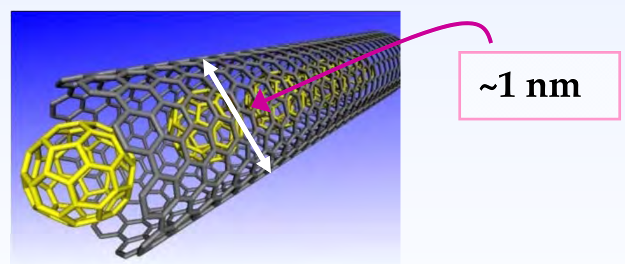
Quantum Well



$d < a_B$ (Bohr exciton size)

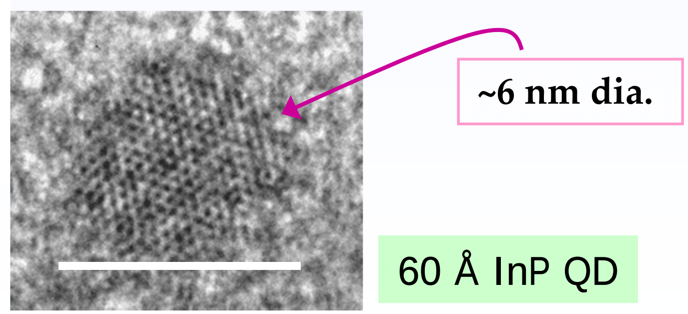
2D

Quantum Wire



1D

Quantum Dot
(or Nanocrystal)

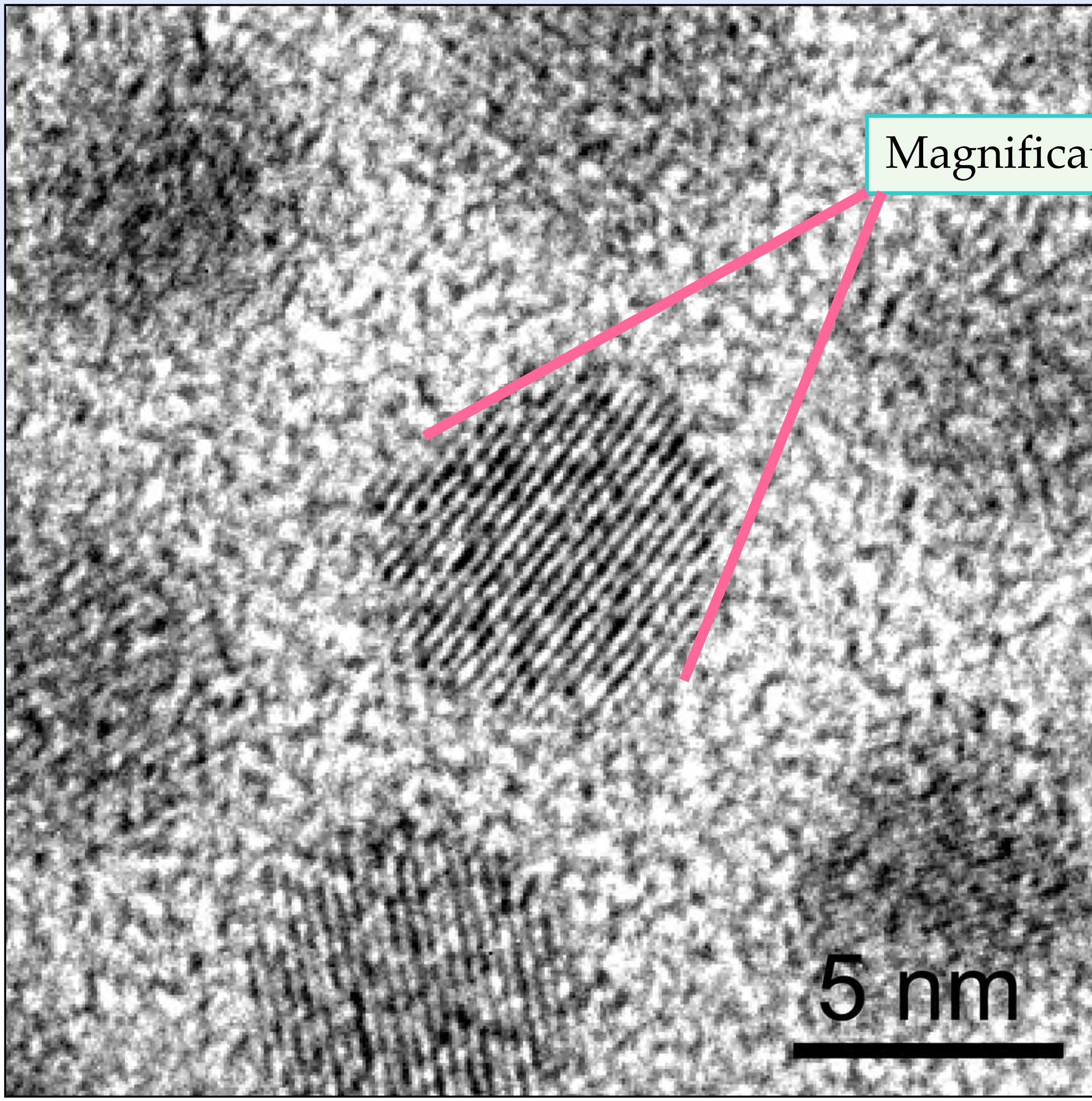


60 Å InP QD

0D

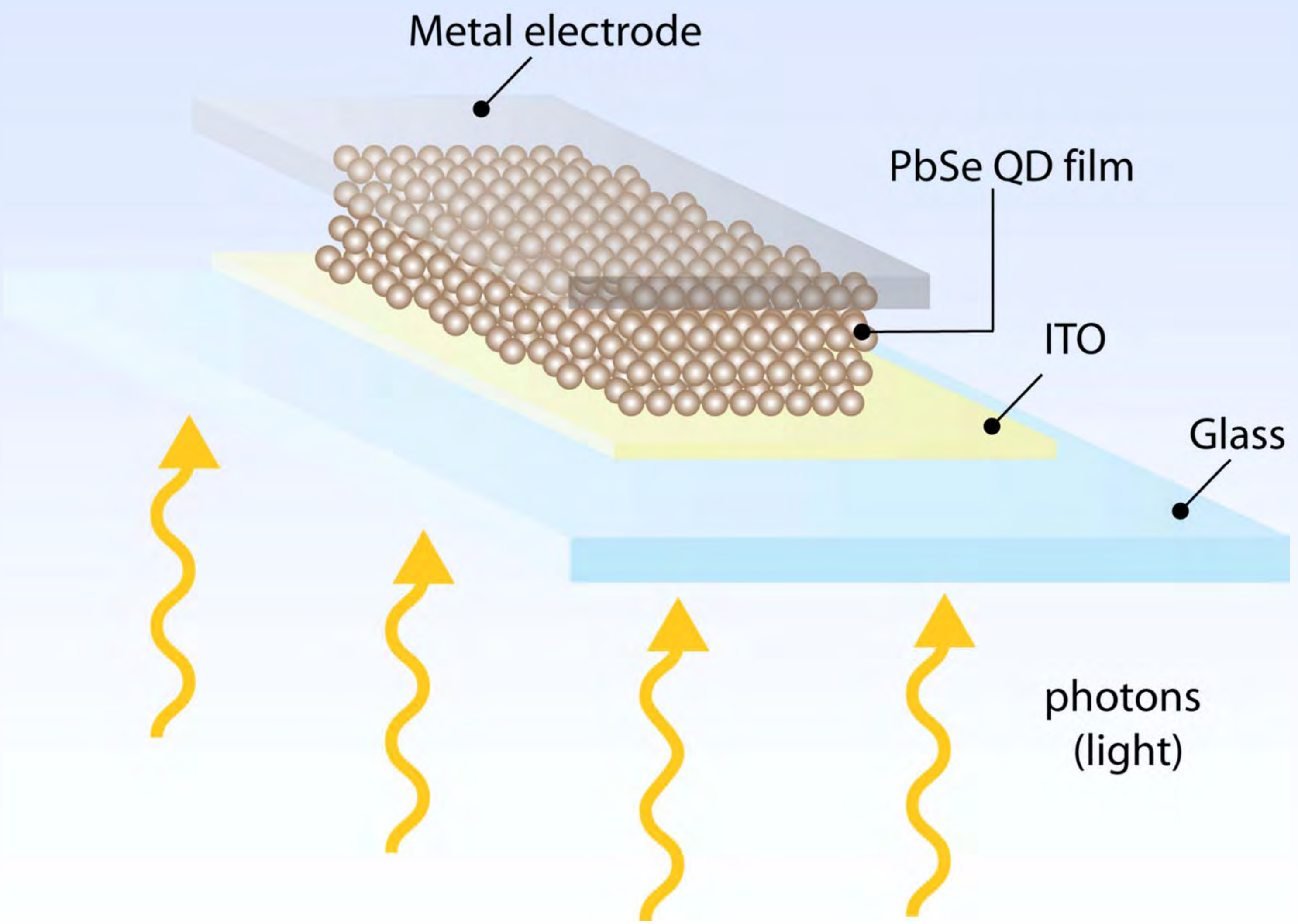
Transmission electron micrograph (TEM) of Lead Selenide NCs

PbSe



Quantum dots (i.e., nanocrystals): size-dependent properties

Nanocrystal-based solar cell to exploit MEG



State of Texas Comptroller: Assessment of *Direct Federal* Subsidies

Exhibit 28-4
Types of State and Local Financial Energy Subsidies

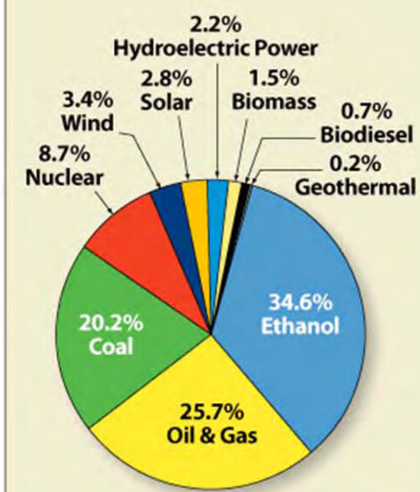
Types of Financial Subsidies	Descriptions	Examples
Taxes	Special tax credits, deductions, exemptions, allowances and property tax incentives	• Tax exemption for oil and gas production for a wellbore certified as non-producing for previous two years • Chapter 312 property tax abatements
Homeowner incentives	Rebates, leasing/lease purchase programs	• Monetary rebate for customers who install solar photovoltaic systems • Program to lease or purchase solar water pumping systems directly from utility company
Direct Spending	Grants compiled of funds received from industry fees and matching general revenue funding	• Fuel Ethanol and Biodiesel Production Incentive Program (sole example in this study)

Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Exhibit 28-5

Estimated Percent of Total Federal Subsidies in 2006, Allocated by Fuel Source

Total Federal Subsidies: $13.6 billion



Source: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

[View Exhibit 28-5: Estimated Percent of Total Federal Subsidies in 2006, Allocated by Fuel Source, in Table Format.]

Total Federal Subsidies by Fuel Source

The Comptroller's office estimates that the total amount of federal energy subsidies for 2006 was $13.6 billion. Ethanol had the largest share, at $4.7 billion, or 34.6 percent of total subsidies. The share of federal subsidies by fuel source is shown in **Exhibit 28-5**.

http://www.window.state.tx.us/specialrpt/energy/subsidies/

US PV Growth: Breakdown by region

Figure 1.2 Source: IREC 2009; updated December 30, 2009.