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The Outlines of Deep Decarbonization

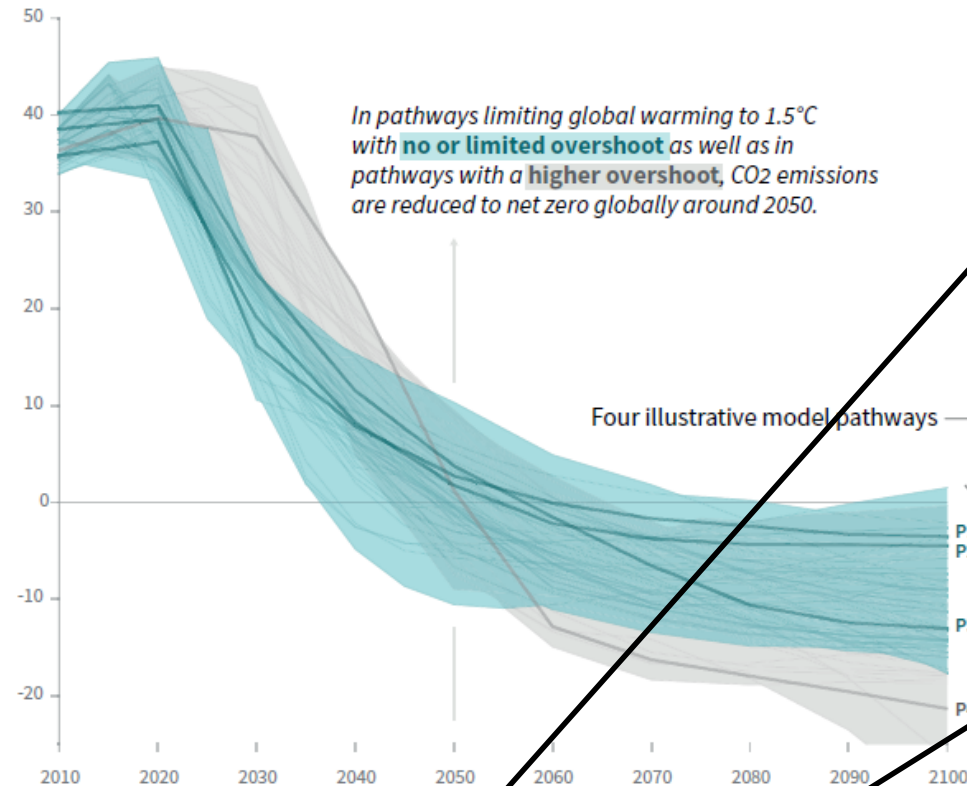
Leon Clarke
July 22, 2019



Limiting temperature change to 2C or 1.5C requires rapid emissions reductions

Global total net CO₂ emissions

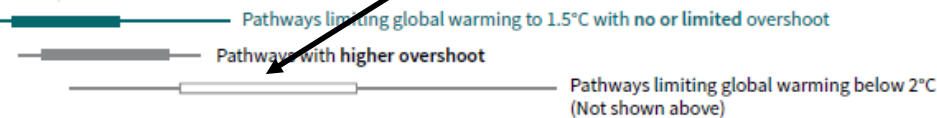
Billion tonnes of CO₂/yr



1.5°C Pathways: Carbon neutrality around 2050

2.0°C Pathways: Carbon neutrality around 2070

Timing of net zero CO₂
Line widths depict the 5-95th
percentile and the 25-75th
percentile of scenarios



Source: IPCC, 2018, *Global Warming of 1.5°C*



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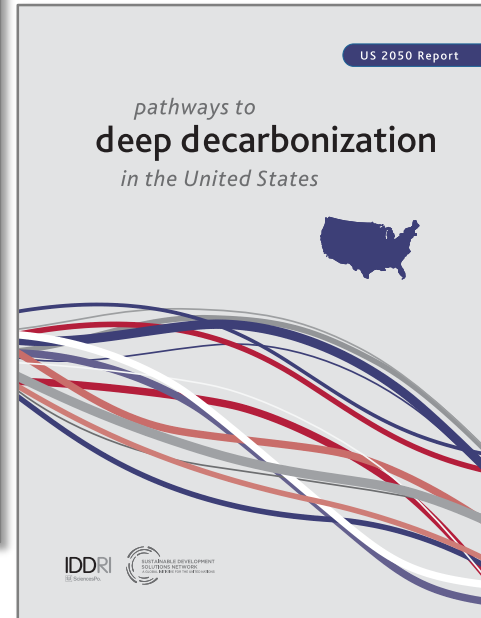
Many studies have explored deep decarbonization in the U.S.



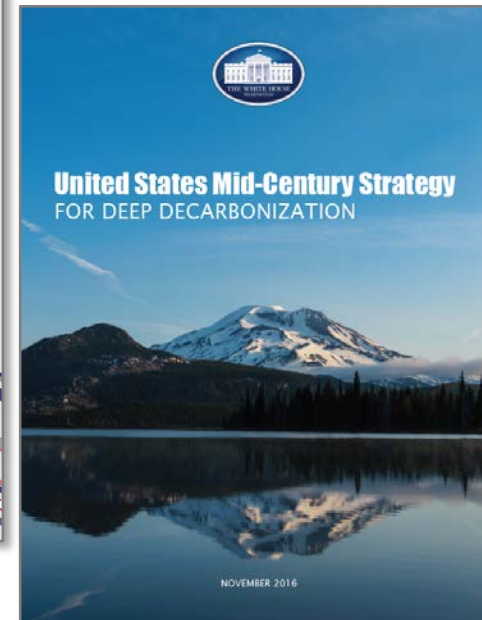
Energy Modeling
Forum 22 (2009)



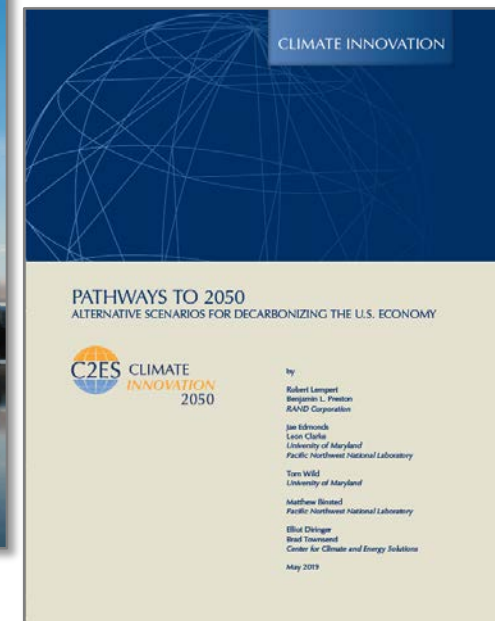
Energy Modeling
Forum 24 (2014)



Deep Decarbonization
Pathways Project
(2014)



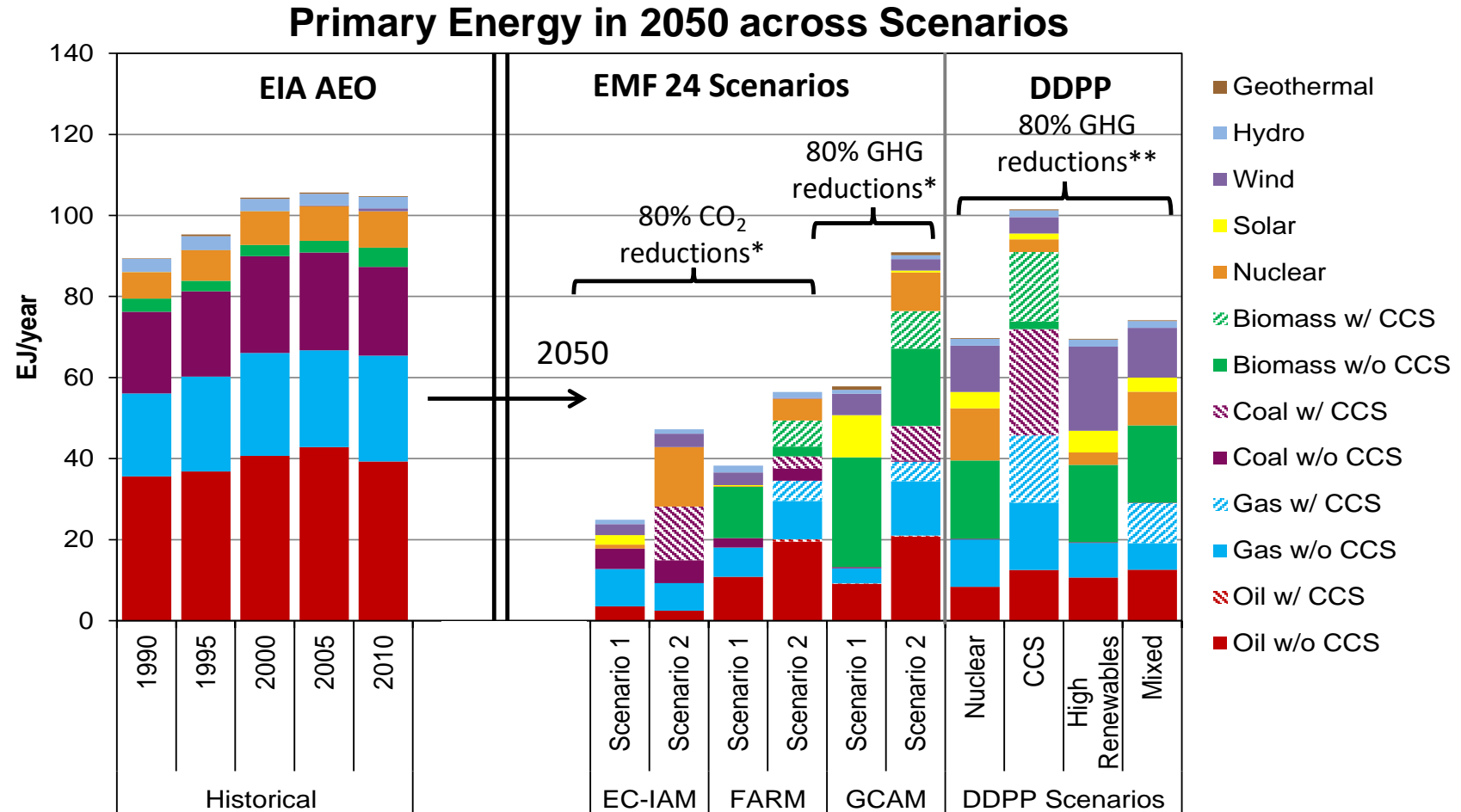
U.S. Mid-Century
Strategy (2016)



Climate Innovation
2050 (2019)



Many energy system pathways are possible



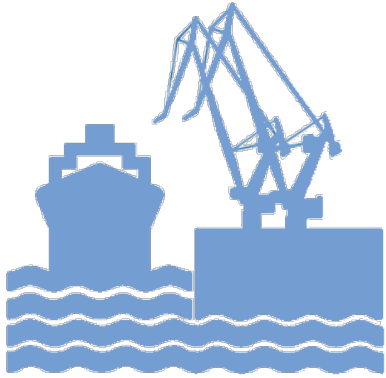
*80% reductions with respect to 2005. Excludes LUC

**80% reductions with respect to 1990. Includes LUC

Results reflect a variety of sources that use different modeling approaches.

There are multiple societal pathways to deep decarbonization

A Competitive Climate



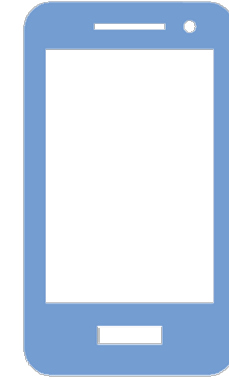
Strong international pressure in the form of carbon tariffs and growing recognition of the competitive benefits of low-carbon innovation lead to a strong, early U.S. federal response, including an economy-wide price on carbon.

Climate Federalism



Responding to economic opportunities and intensifying climate-related disasters, a growing number of U.S. states implement ambitious climate policies, leading to calls from business for a more harmonized national response.

Low-Carbon Lifestyles

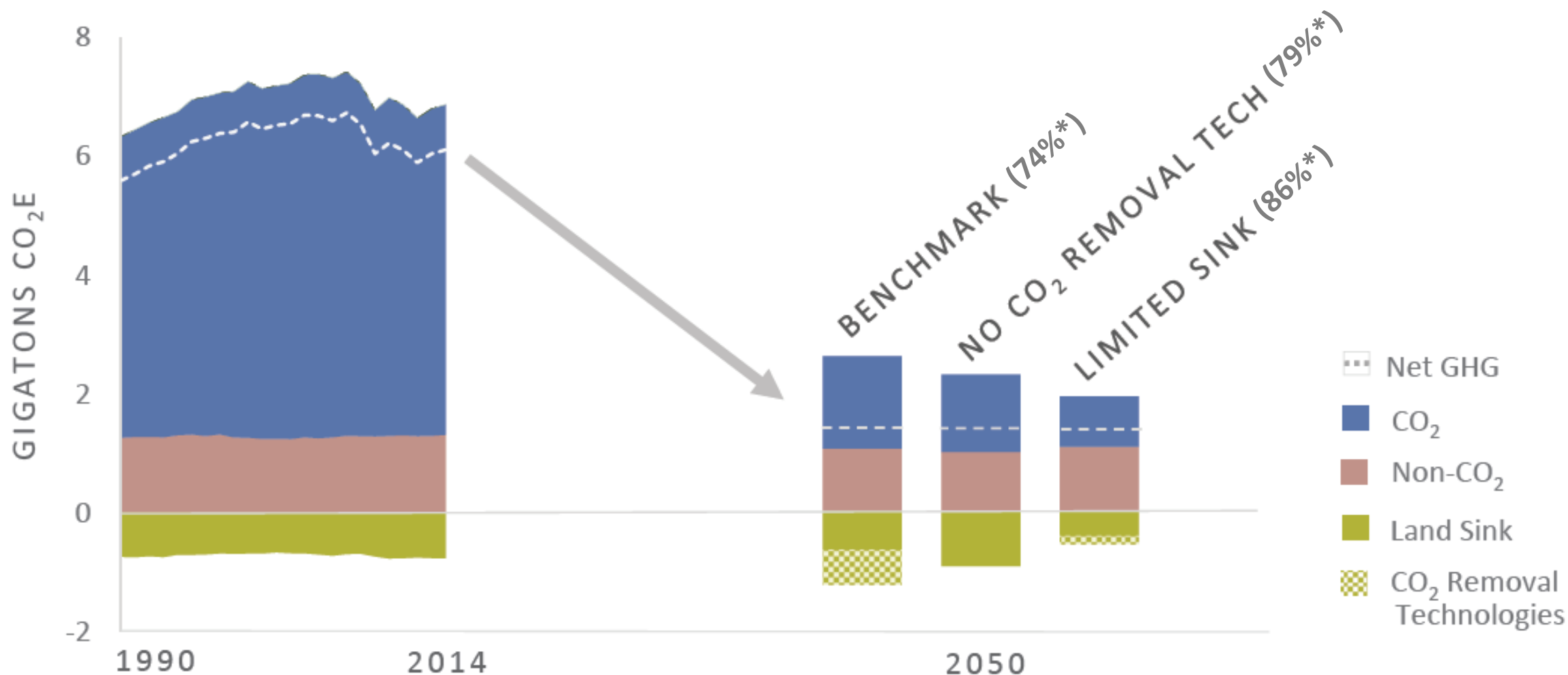


Increased urbanization, generational shifts, and technological breakthroughs lead to strong market demand for low-carbon consumption products and services, along with the emergence of innovative low-carbon business models.

Every scenario requires broad societal support and involves actors across the economy (e.g., governments, businesses, consumers)



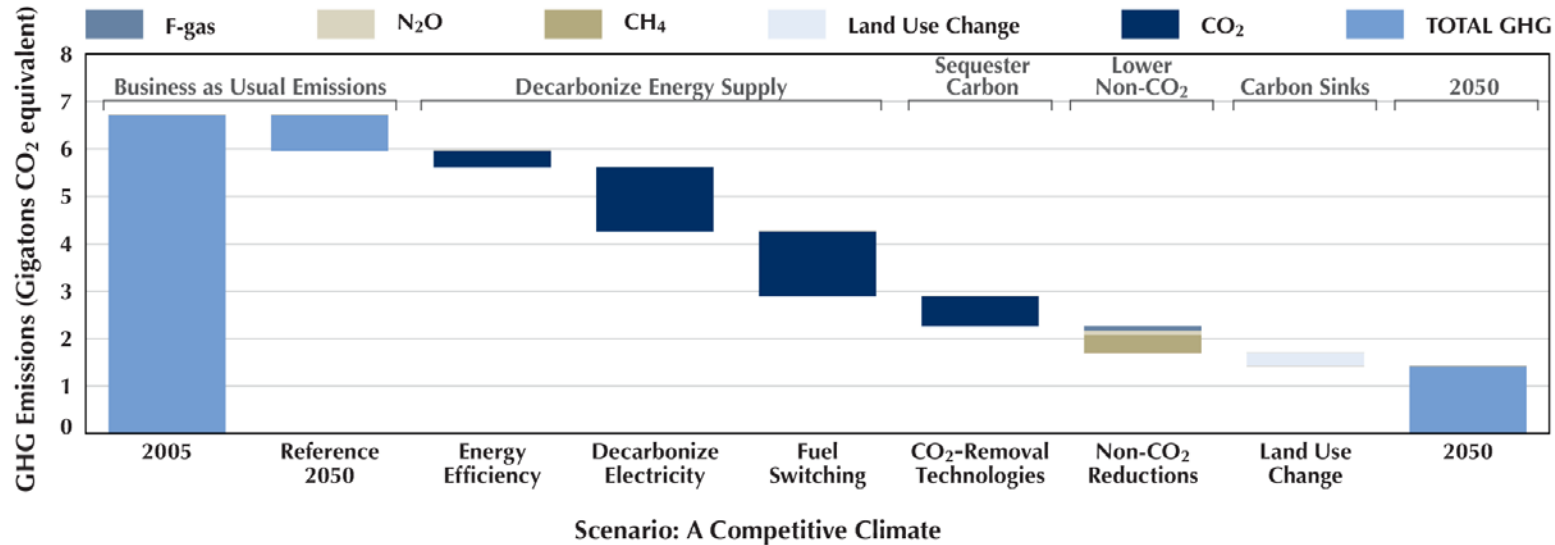
Energy emissions in context



Source: United States Mid-Century Strategy (2016)

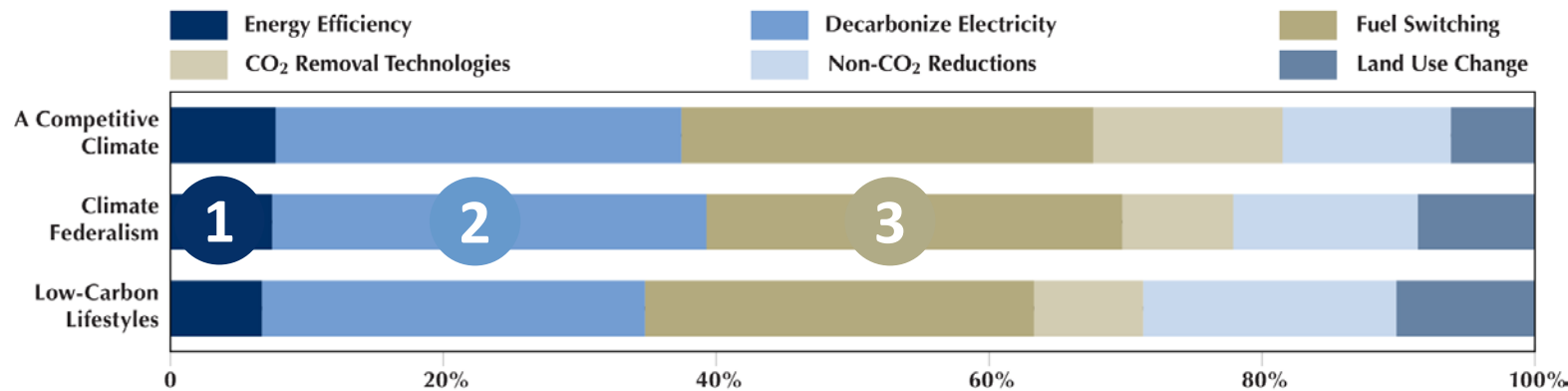
* (Percent reduction in direct fossil combustion relative to 2005. Does not account for CDR from energy)

Key Elements of Decarbonization



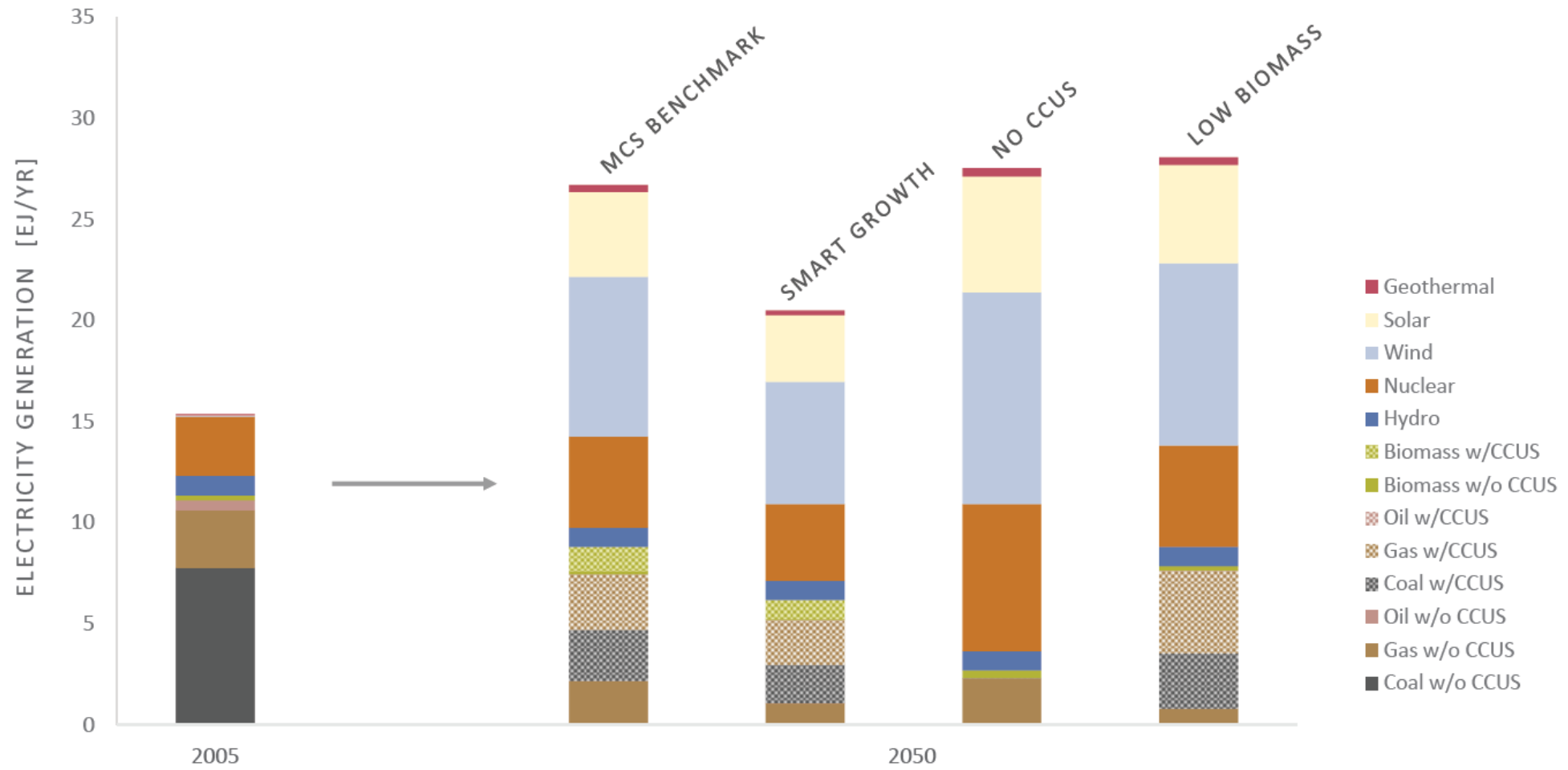
Three pillars of energy sector decarbonization

- 1 Energy Efficiency
- 2 Decarbonize electricity
- 3 Fuel switching





Electricity in the MCS Benchmark



Only 8% of electricity comes from freely-emitting fossil energy; no freely-emitting coal in the benchmark scenario

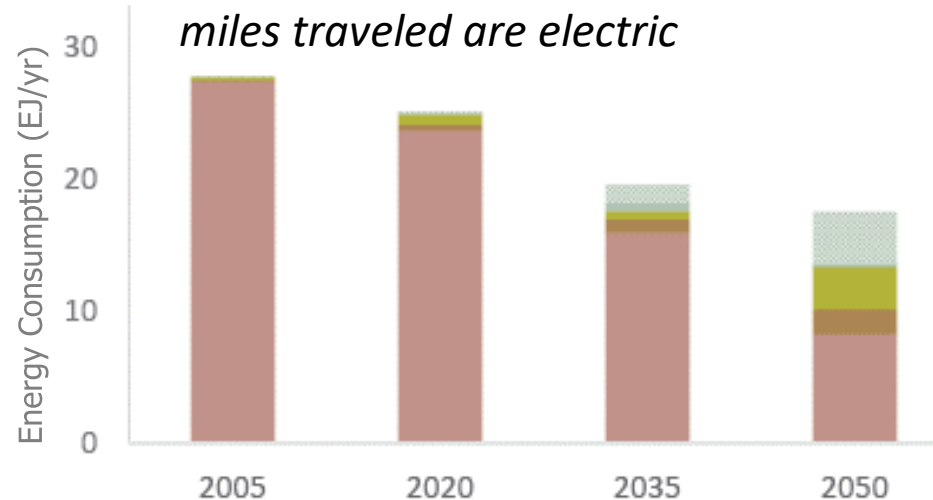
Source: United States Mid-Century Strategy (2016)



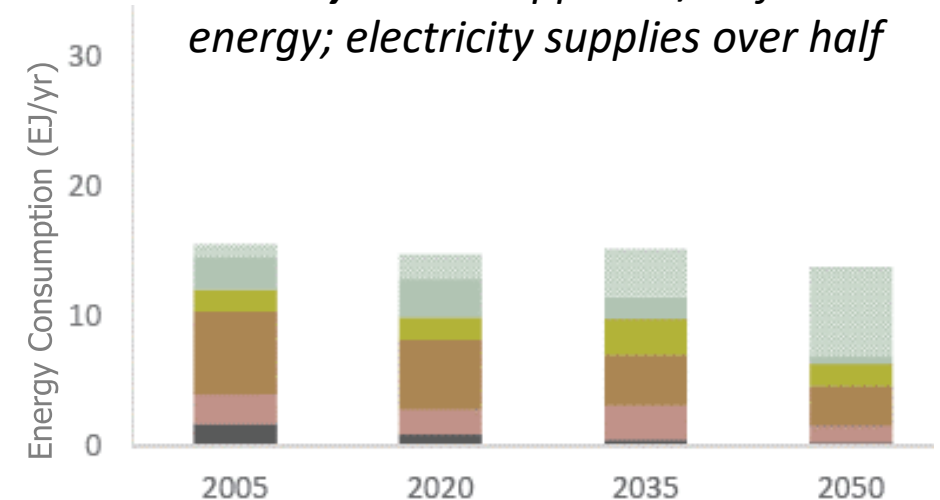
The transformation will extend across sectors

Primary energy
use declines by
over 20
percent
between 2005
and 2050

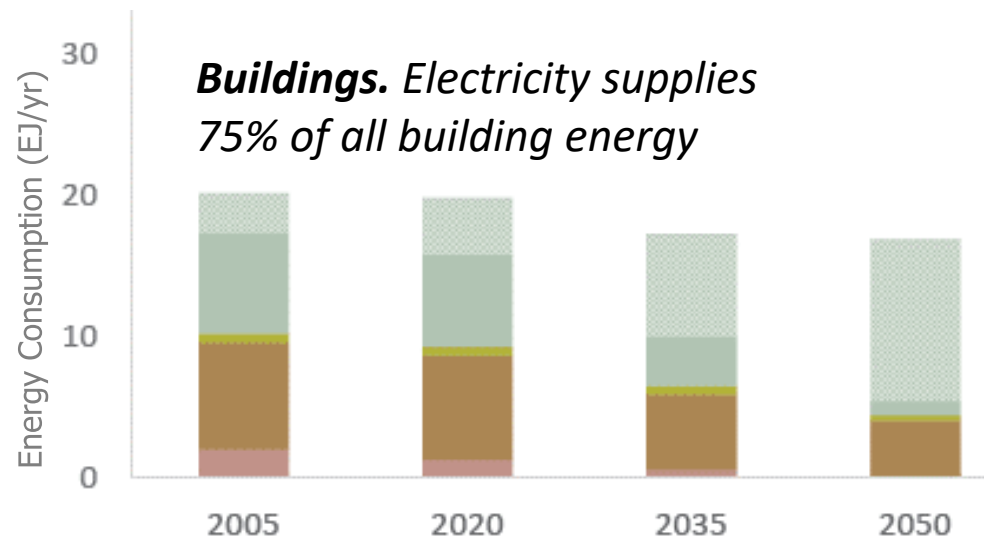
Transport. 60% of all light duty
miles traveled are electric



Industry. Fossil supplies 1/3 of total
energy; electricity supplies over half



Buildings. Electricity supplies
75% of all building energy

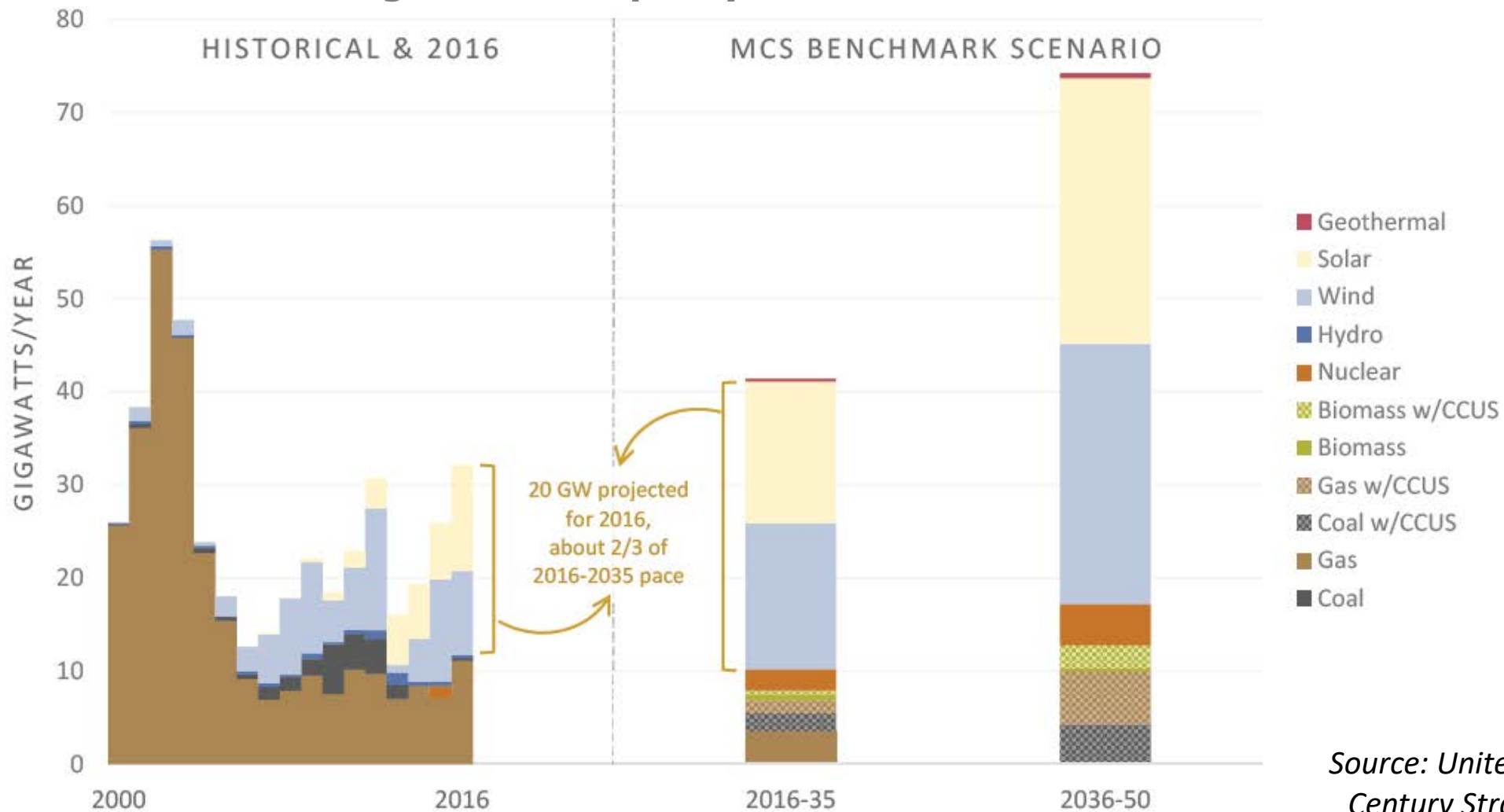


Source: United States Mid-Century Strategy (2016)



Investment patterns need to evolve

Average Annual Capacity Additions



Source: United States Mid-Century Strategy (2016)



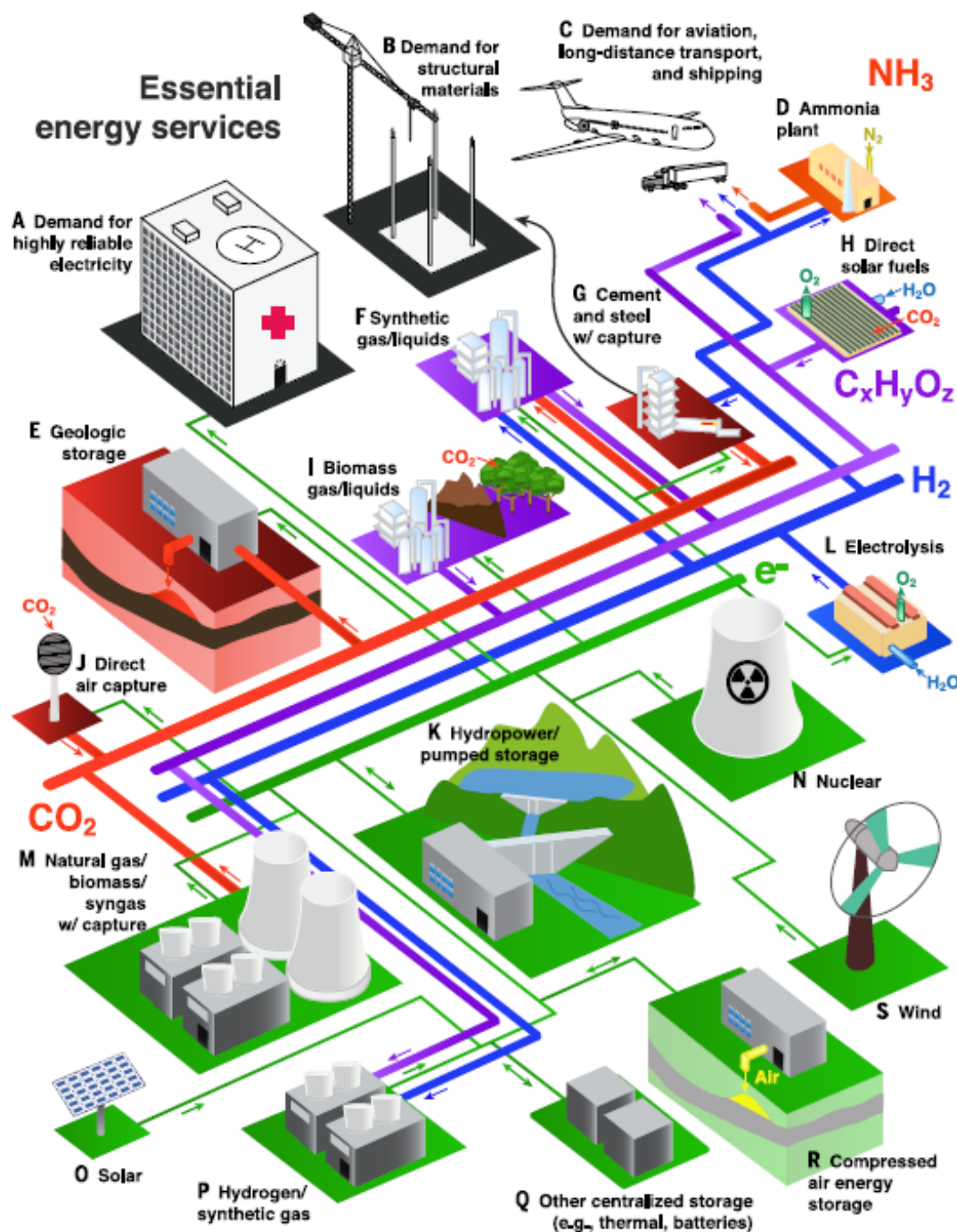
What do we know and not know?

Not so clear

Three pillars of energy sector decarbonization

- 1 Energy Efficiency
- 2 Decarbonize electricity
Almost all electricity from clean sources by 2050
- 3 Fuel switching
A major evolution toward electricity across end uses

1. The electricity mix
2. Bioenergy and alternative fuels like hydrogen
3. CCUS and the future of coal and gas
4. Carbon dioxide removal
5. Hard-to-decarbonize sectors (e.g., air transport, structural materials)
6. The industrial sector
7. Growth and evolution in energy services
8. Societal approach to mitigation (e.g., policies, consumer preferences)



The long-term goal is zero or negative emissions

1. Aviation, long-distance transport, and shipping.
2. Structural materials (iron and steel, cement)
3. Load-following electricity

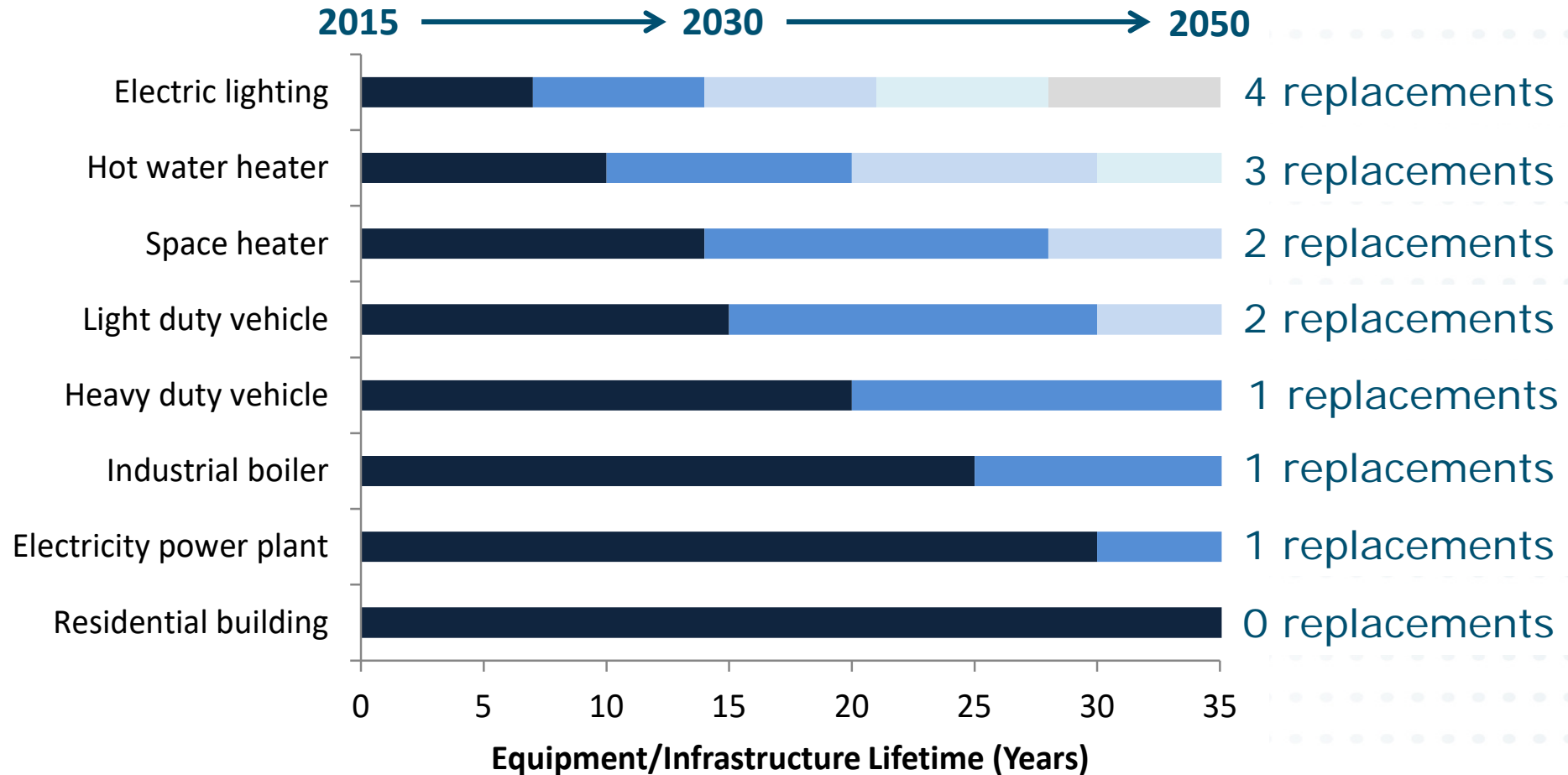
Source: Davis, S. J., Lewis, N. S., Shaner, M., Aggarwal, S., Arent, D., Azevedo, I. L., ... & Clack, C. T. (2018). Net-zero emissions energy systems. *Science*

- Carbon dioxide removal



Timing for Action is Limited

- + A car purchased today is likely to be replaced at most 2 times before 2050.
A residential building constructed today is likely to still be standing in 2050.





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Thank You