

Comparison of carbon-neutral technologies and need for energy storage



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Introduction



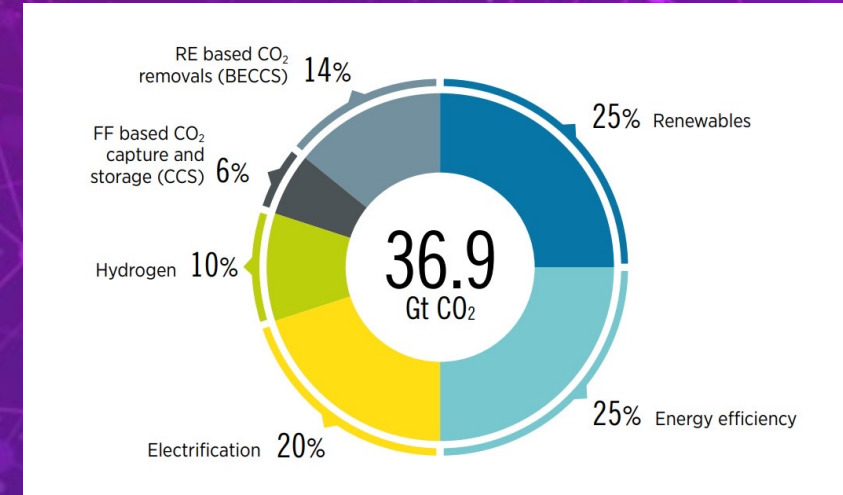
Despite good progress in some areas, there are large gaps between the current deployment of energy transition technologies and the levels needed to achieve the 1.5°C Paris climate goal.

A 1.5°C compatible pathway requires a massive transformation in consuming and producing energy.

By 2050, the world would need to have net zero emissions, requiring a cut of nearly 37 gigatonnes (Gt) of annual CO₂ emissions.

Global energy consumption would need to decrease by 11% from 2019 levels through ambitious energy efficiency improvements, with a simultaneous increase in the share of renewables in the global energy mix – to 79% by 2050, from 19% in 2019.

Renewables would have to increase across all end-use sectors, while a high rate of electrification in sectors such as transport or buildings would require a ten-fold increase in renewable electricity capacity by 2050.



Reducing emissions by 2050 through six technological avenues

IRENA (2022), World Energy Transitions Outlook 2022: 1.5°C Pathway, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi

Options for climate change mitigation

Arguments for energy policy

- Price of energy
- Diversification (more fuel sources)
- Energy security (independence of other countries)
- Trade balance
- Employment and industry policy (e.g. mines)
- Military
- Next generations
- Environment/climate change

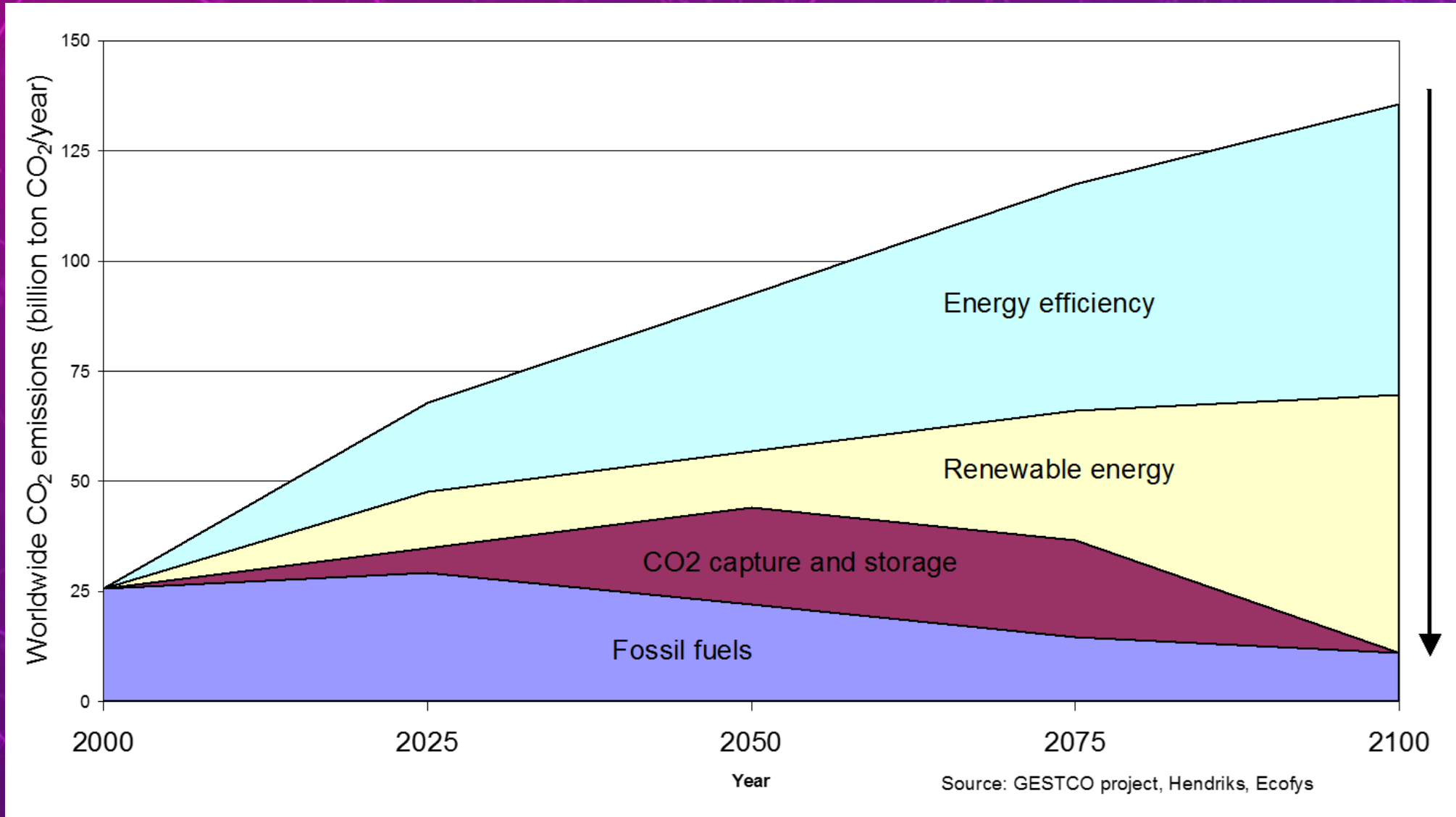
Options that can meet demands

1. Energy storage, energy efficiency
2. Renewable sources
 - Wind
 - Solar
 - Biomass
 - Tidal/wave (current)
 - Geothermal
3. Fossil fuels with CCUS
4. Biomass with CCS (Bio-CCS, or BECCS)
5. DACCS
6. Nuclear



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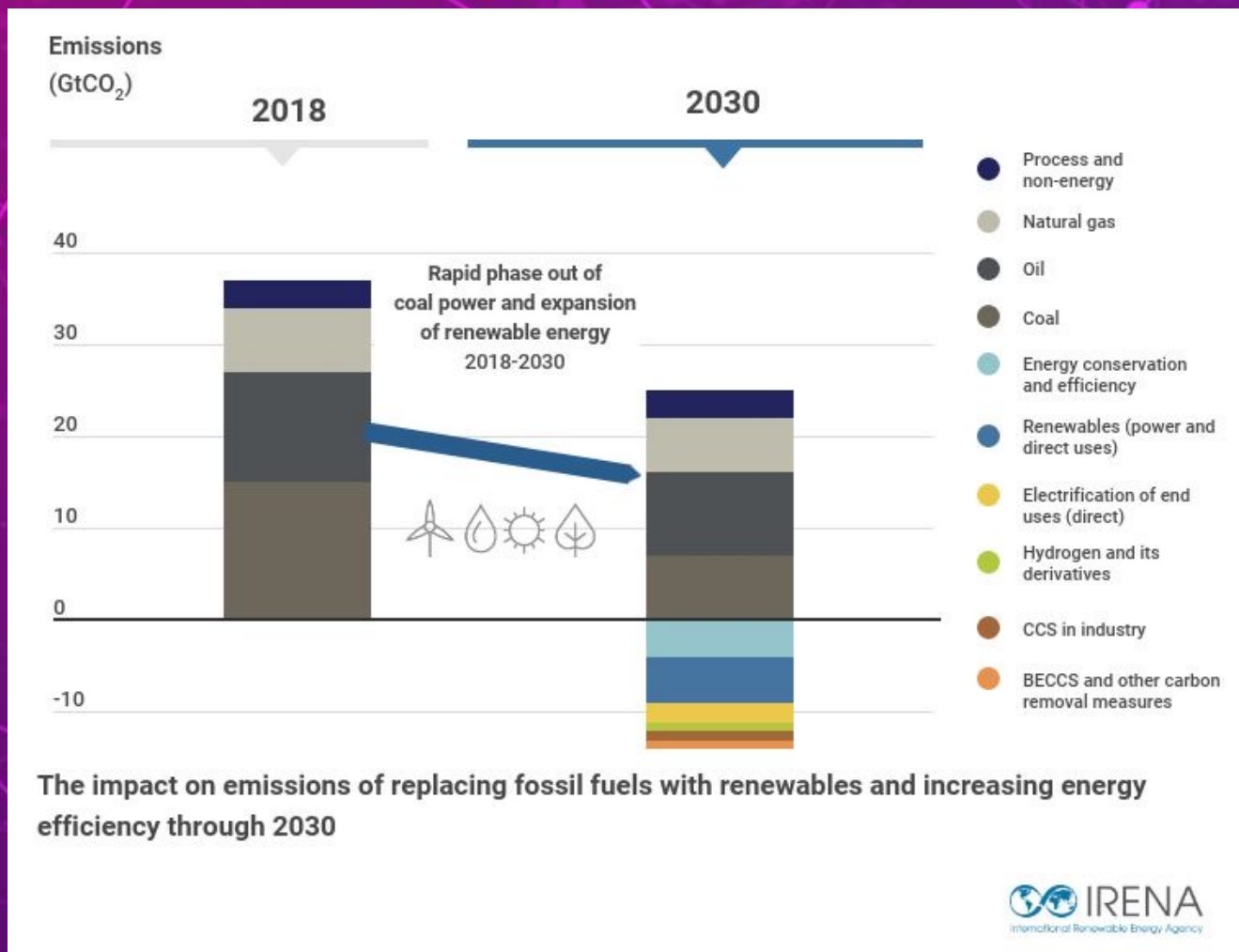
Options for climate change mitigation





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World energy transition targets by 2030



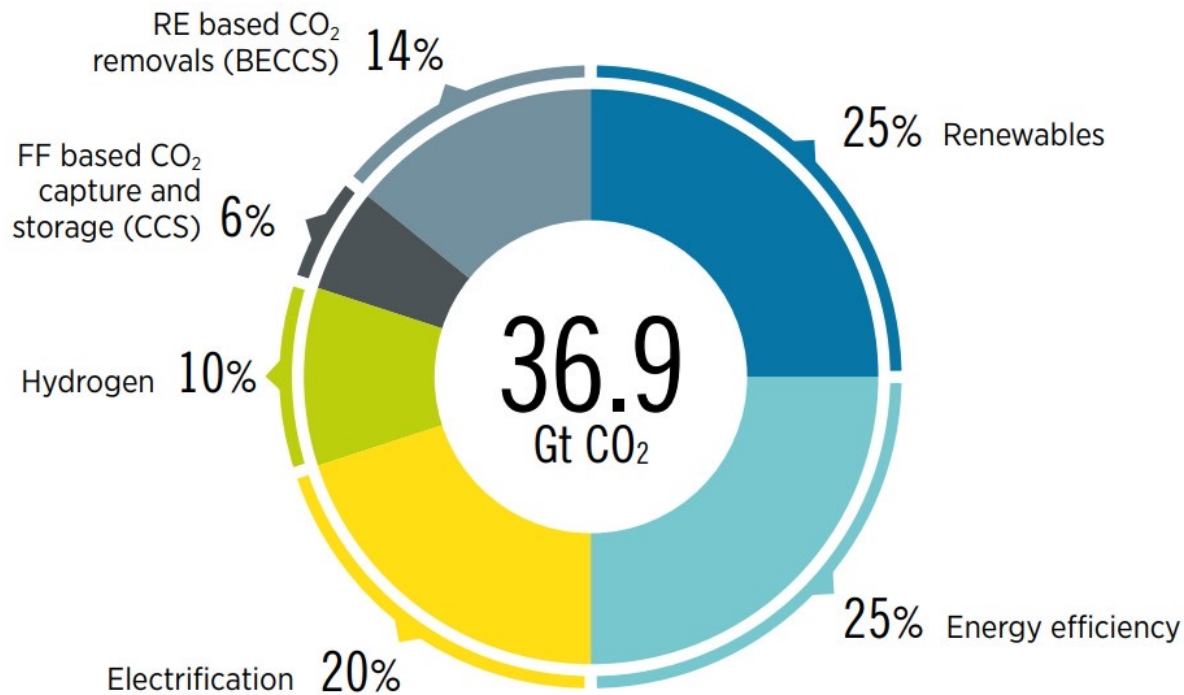
Renewable energy share in electricity generation must increase to 65% by 2030

The share of direct electricity in total final energy consumption (TFEC) must rise from 21% to 30%;

Deployment of energy efficiency measures must increase 2.5 times

Direct renewables in end use sectors must grow from 12% in 2019 to 19% by 2030.

Reducing emissions by 2050 through six technological avenues



IRENA's 1.5°C pathway positions electrification and efficiency as key drivers of the energy transition, enabled by renewables, hydrogen, and sustainable biomass.

This pathway would result in a cut of nearly 37 Gt of annual CO₂ emissions by 2050.

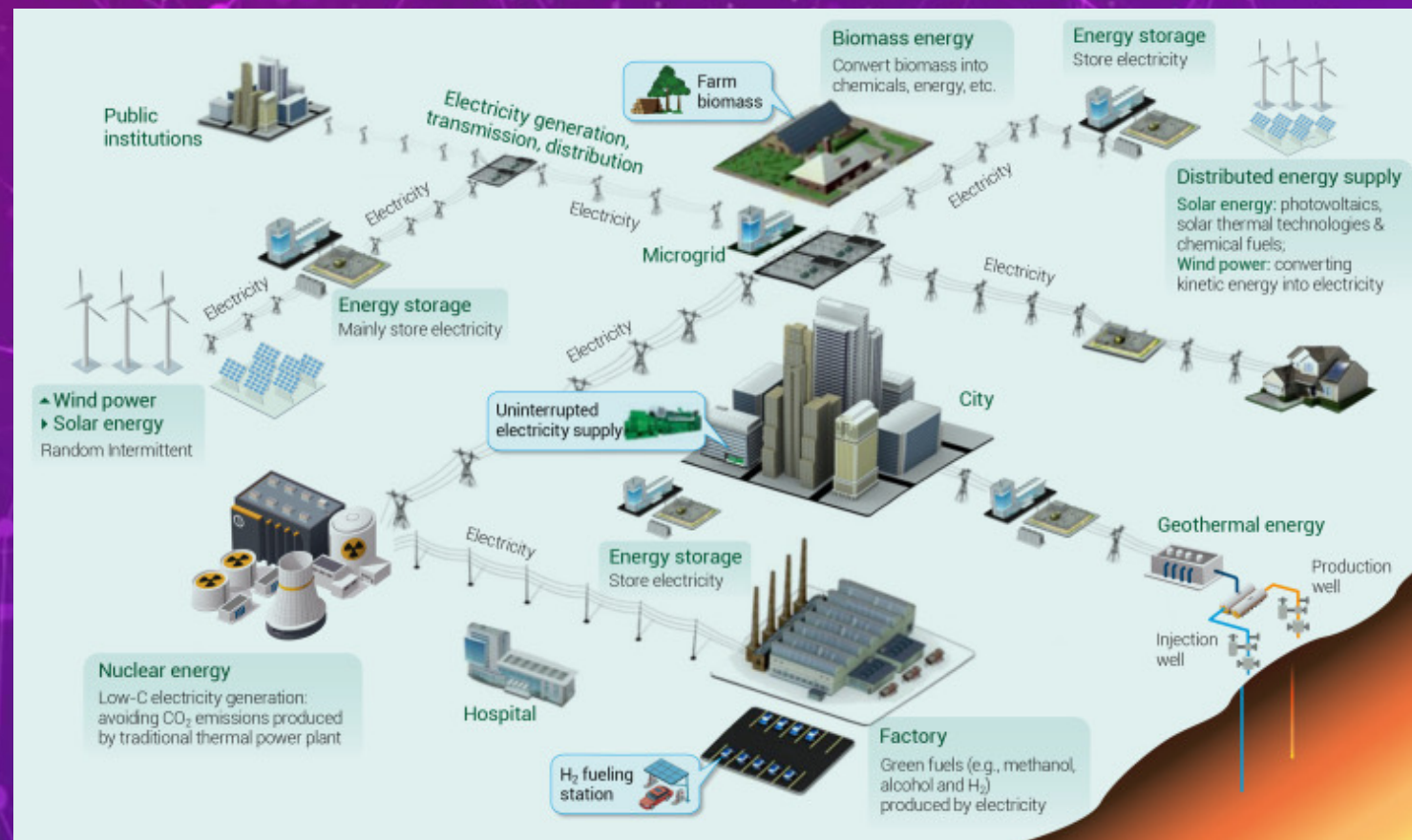
These reductions can be achieved through

- 1) significant increases in generation and direct uses of renewables-based electricity;
- 2) substantial improvements in energy efficiency;
- 3) the electrification of end-use sectors (e.g. electric vehicles and heat pumps);
- 4) clean hydrogen and its derivatives;
- 5) bioenergy coupled with carbon capture and storage;
- 6) last-mile use of carbon capture and storage

CCS = carbon capture and storage; BECCS = bioenergy with carbon capture and storage; GtCO₂ = gigatonnes of carbon dioxide; RE = renewable energy; FF = fossil fuel.

Options for climate change mitigation

- Renewable energy is energy derived from natural sources, that are replenished at a higher rate than they are consumed.
- Sunlight and wind, for example, are such sources that are constantly being replenished.
- Renewable energy sources are plentiful and all around us.
- Fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - on the other hand, are non-renewable resources that take hundreds of millions of years to form.
- Fossil fuels, when burned to produce energy, cause harmful greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon dioxide.



Core technologies for renewable energy production (Wang et al, 2021)

Underground Energy Storage

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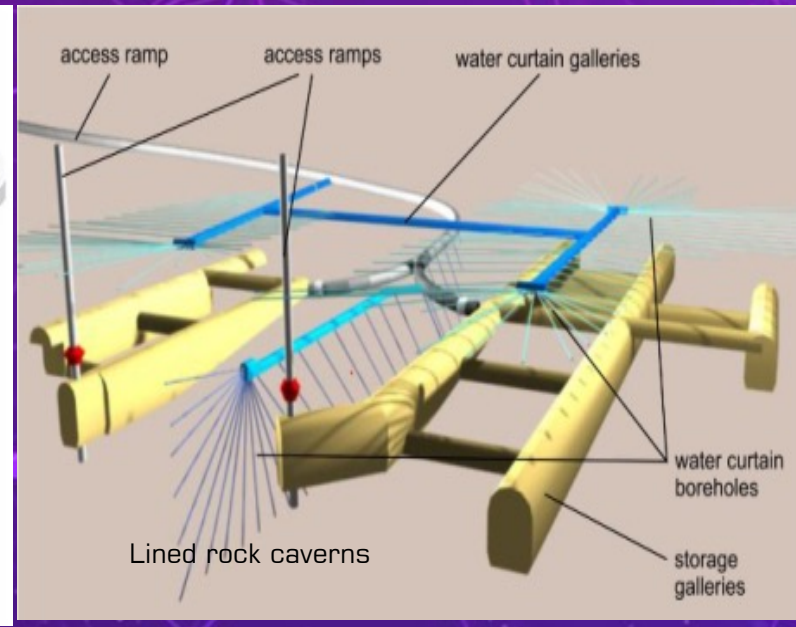
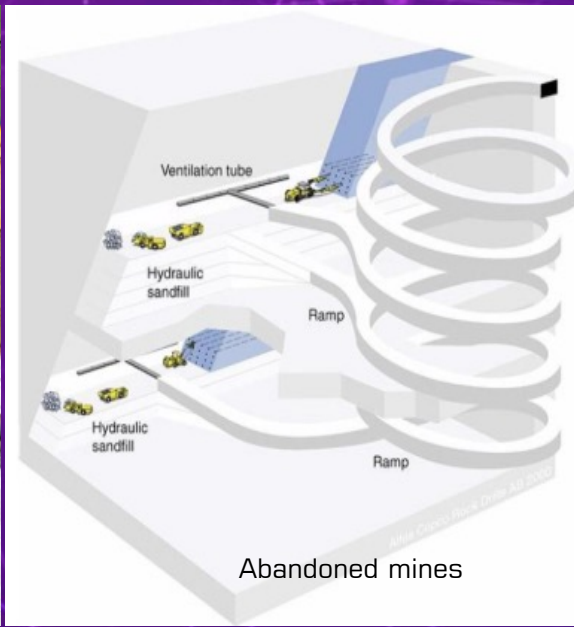
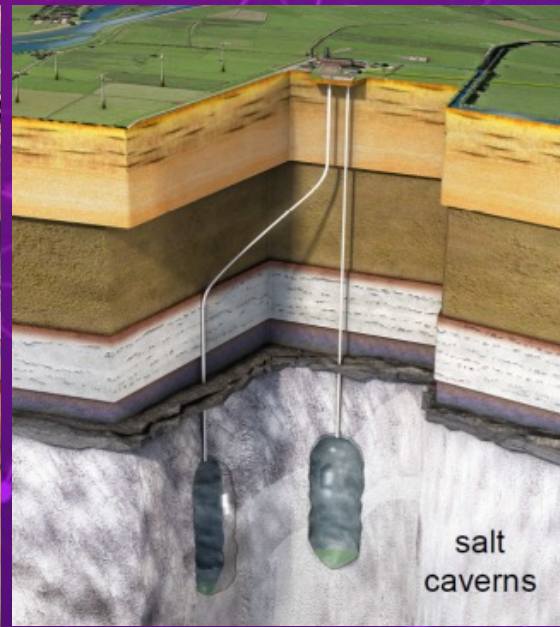
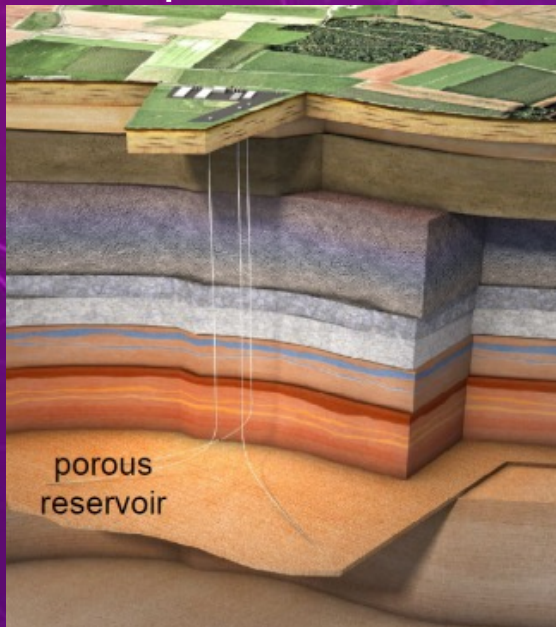
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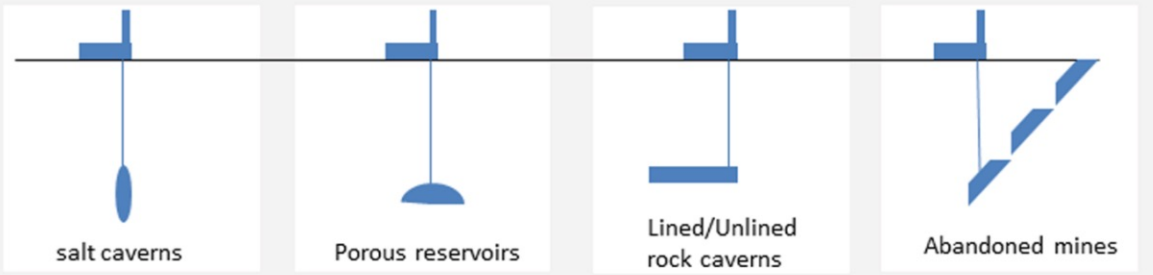
- Underground energy storage is another option for combating climate change, permitting to use of produced energy more effectively

Energy storage is required for balancing intermittent renewable energy like wind and solar energy

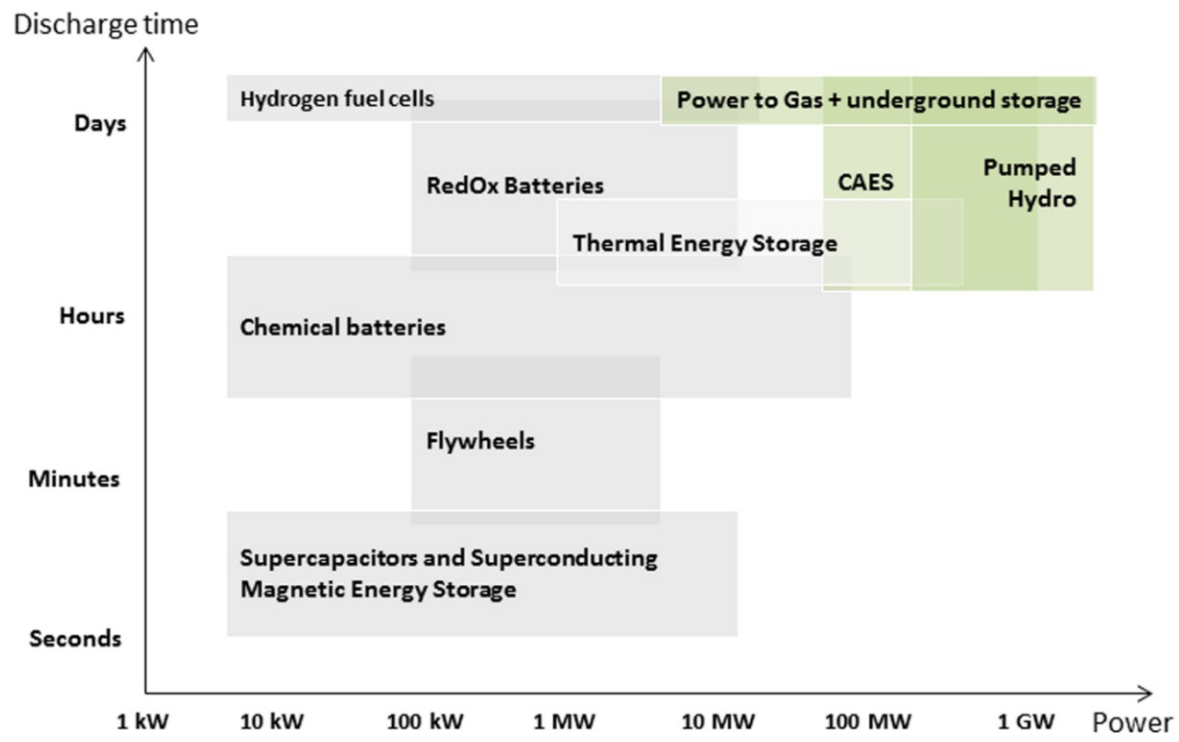
Energy could be stored in structural traps in reservoir rocks, man-made cavities in salt and hard rocks and porous basalts located at a suitable depth



Electrical Storage Technologies

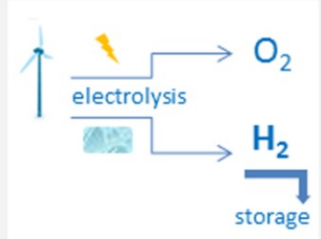


Geological Targets for Energy Storage

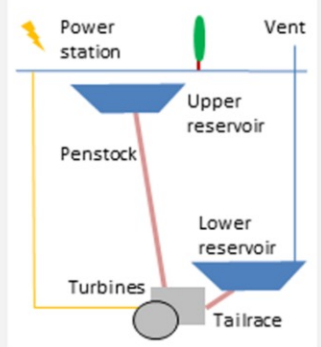


Underground Energy Storage Technologies

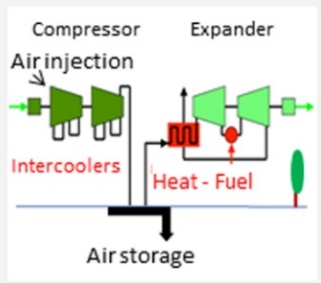
Power to Gas



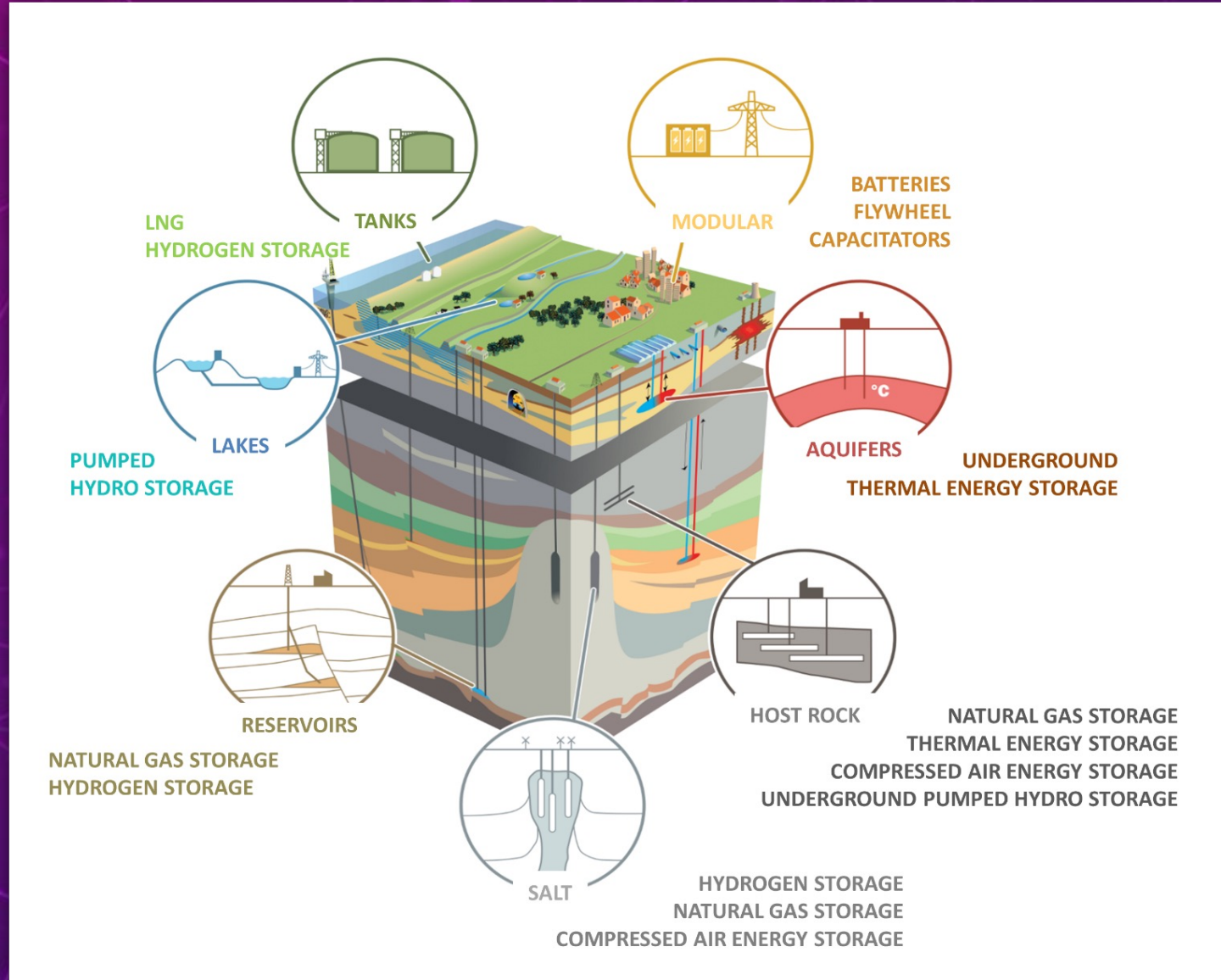
Pumped-Hydro Storage in abandoned mines



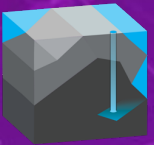
Compressed Air Energy Storage



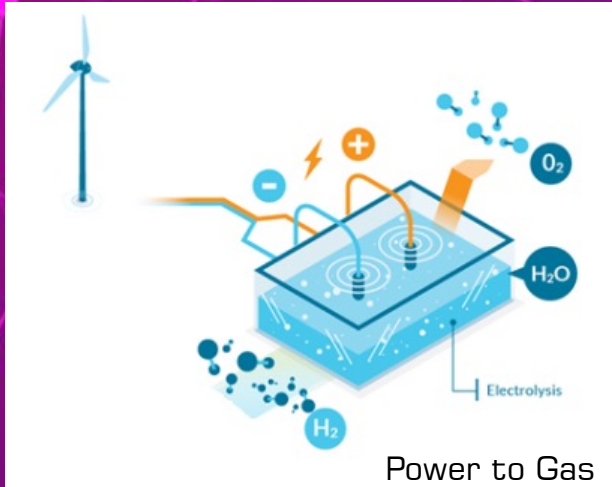
Subsurface and above-ground energy storage technologies



Underground Energy Storage



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Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)

Hydrogen and Synthetic Methane Storage

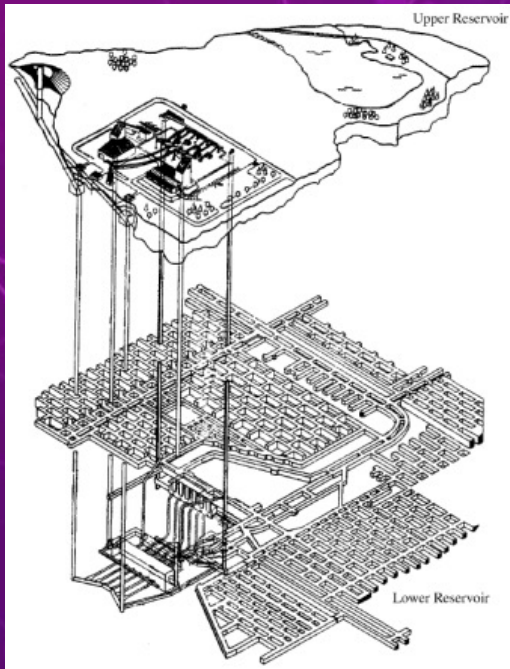
and CO₂ energy storage are in research, pilot and demonstration phase only

Pumped-Hydro Storage is good known technology,

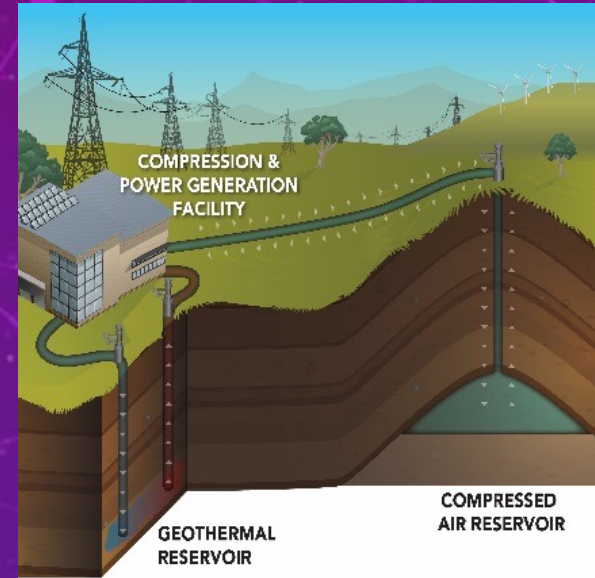
but not yet implemented in abandoned mines

(in developing phase only, including one project in Estonia)

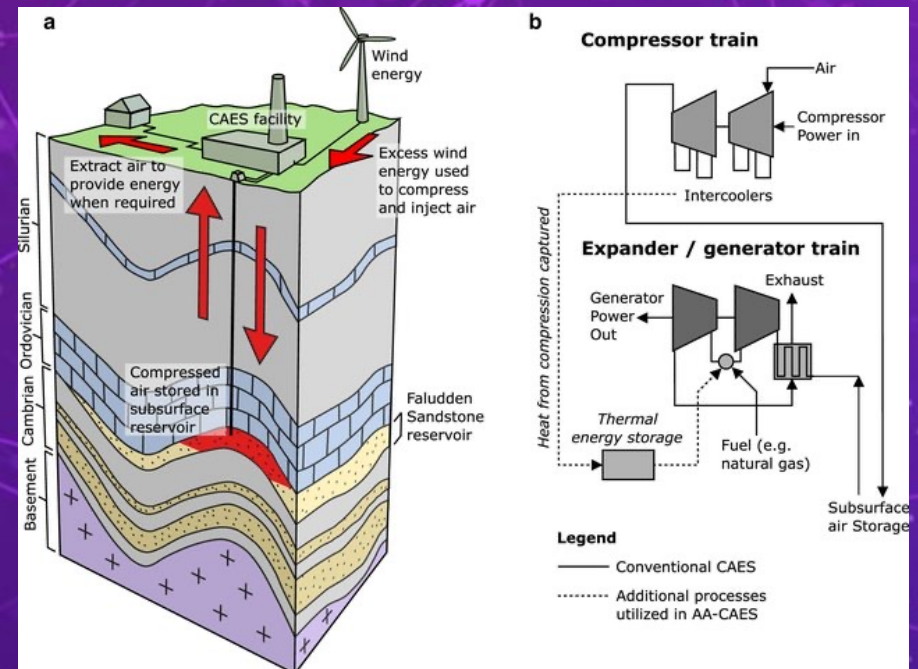
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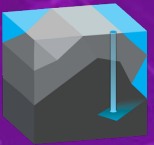
Pumped-Hydro Storage in abandoned mines



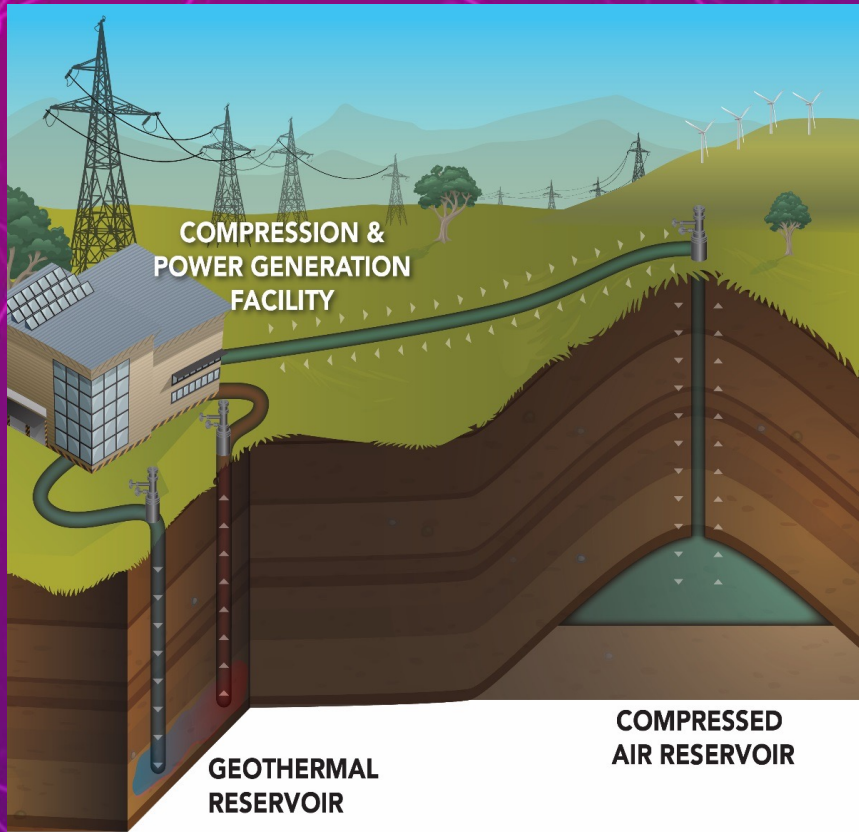
Compressed Air Energy Storage at Yakima Mineral site (BP McGrail, USDOE)



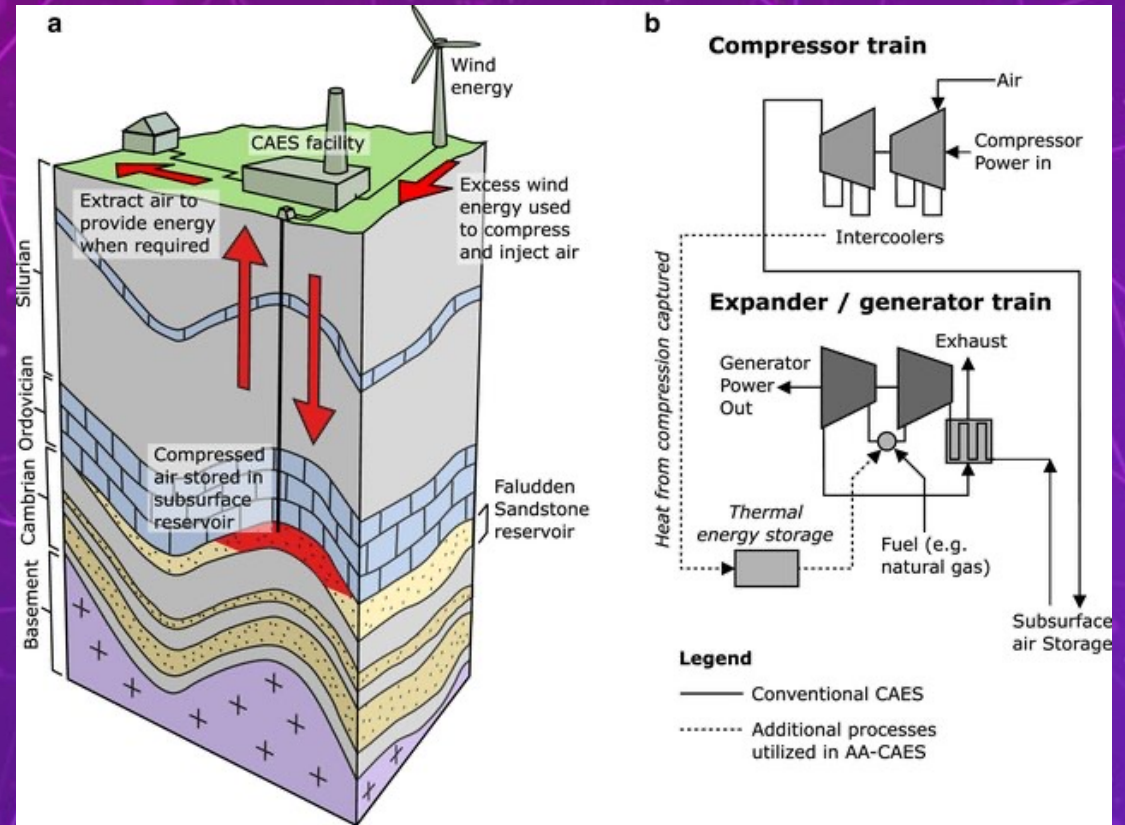
Compressed Air Energy Storage



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Compressed air energy storage at Yakima Minerals site. Geothermal energy recovery from water $\geq 150^{\circ}\text{C}$ is predicted at a depth of more than 3600 m. The storage reservoir is represented by thick sub-basalt sandstones with excellent permeability at a depth of more than 3000 m. (BP McGrail, USDOE, A. Shogenova, ENeRG NL29, 2014)



a) A schematic cross-section demonstrating the concept of CAES within the porous Faludden sandstone reservoir beneath Gotland. b) A schematic of a CAES plant. The solid lines outline the main processes utilized in conventional CAES. The dotted lines indicate additional processes utilized in AA-CAES, where heat from the compression stage is stored and used later in the expansion stage, mitigating the need to utilize fuel for heating (Sopher et al, 2019 - modified by from Succar and Williams 2008)



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Energy saving: only advantages

- The cheapest option, often money can be earned
- Large potential: factor 2–4 savings
- Reducing dependence on (imported) fuels
- Reducing pollution
- Suited to small and large-scale applications

However, in practice implementation is not always easy.

van Egmond et al, 2004



Solar energy

Solar energy is the most abundant of all energy resources and can even be harnessed in cloudy weather. The rate at which solar energy is intercepted by the Earth is about 10,000 times greater than the rate at which humankind consumes energy.

Solar technologies can deliver heat, cooling, natural lighting, electricity, and fuels for a host of applications. Solar technologies convert sunlight into electrical energy either through photovoltaic panels or through mirrors that concentrate solar radiation.

Although not all countries are equally endowed with solar energy, a significant contribution to the energy mix from direct solar energy is possible for every country.

The cost of manufacturing solar panels has plummeted dramatically in the last decade, making them not only affordable but often the cheapest form of electricity. Solar panels have a lifespan of roughly 30 years and come in a variety of shades depending on the type of material used in manufacturing.

Wind energy

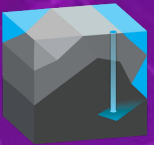
Wind energy harnesses the kinetic energy of moving air by using large wind turbines located on land (onshore) or in the sea- or freshwater (offshore).

Wind energy has been used for millennia, but onshore and offshore wind energy technologies have evolved over the last few years to maximize the electricity produced - with taller turbines and larger rotor diameters.

Though average wind speeds vary considerably by location, the world's technical potential for wind energy exceeds global electricity production, and ample potential exists in most regions of the world to enable significant wind energy deployment.

Many parts of the world have strong wind speeds, but the best locations for generating wind power are sometimes remote ones.

Offshore wind power offers tremendous potential.

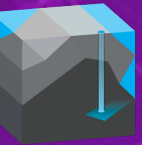


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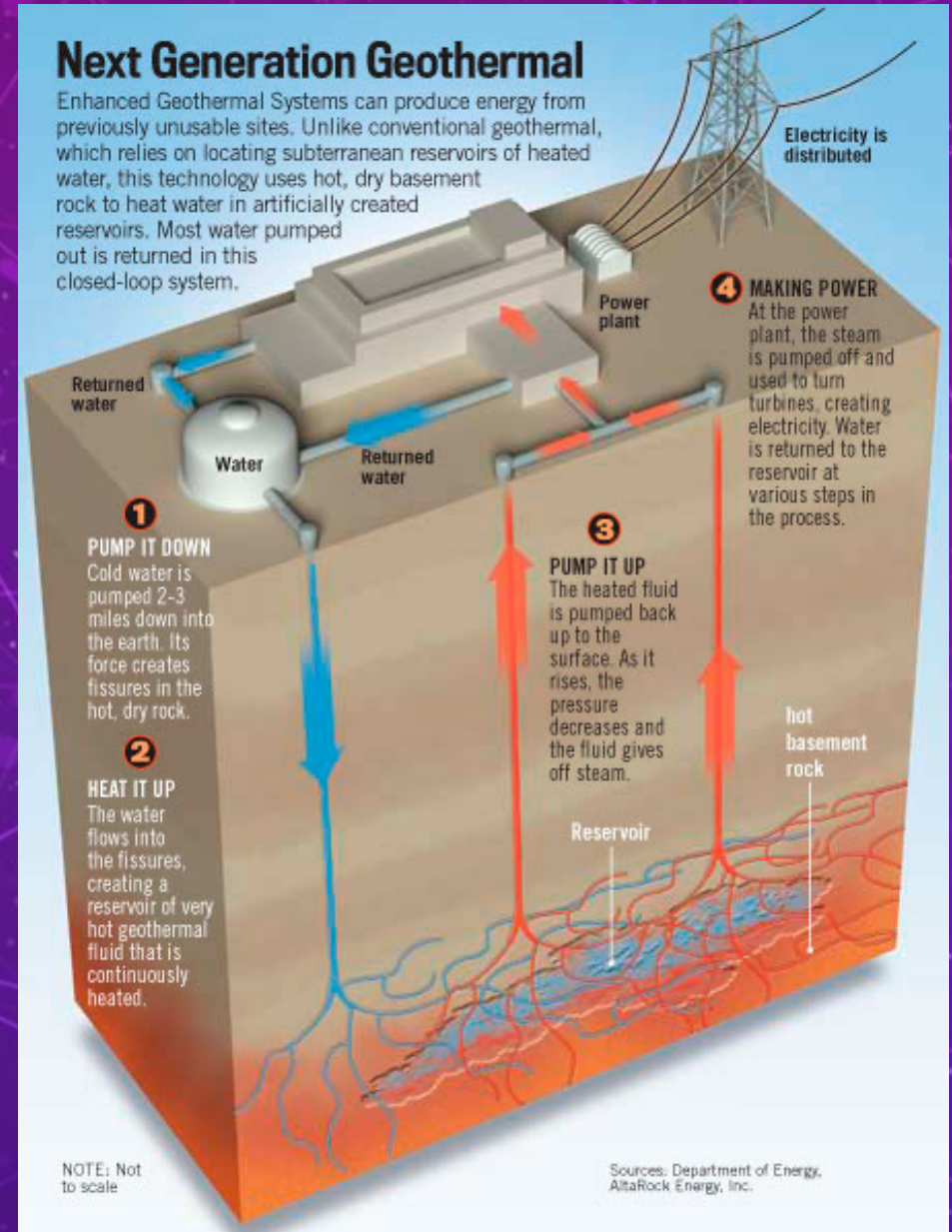
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Geothermal energy



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1. Geothermal energy is the only renewable and **non-intermittent** (in contrast to intermittent wind and solar energies) **underground resource**, which could be shallow, deep permeable aquifer reservoirs, hot springs, fumaroles, geysers, travertine deposits, chemically altered rocks and hot dry rocks.
2. Deep geothermal energy is not yet sustainable in many regions, being more expensive than produced from fossil fuel
3. Until recently, geothermal power systems have exploited only resources where naturally occurring heat, water, and rock permeability are sufficient to allow energy extraction.
4. **Enhanced Geothermal System (EGS)** is a relatively new type of geothermal power technology that does not require natural convective hydrothermal resources



Hydropower and Ocean energy



HYDROPOWER

Hydropower harnesses the energy of water moving from higher to lower elevations. It can be generated from reservoirs and rivers. Reservoir hydropower plants rely on stored water in a reservoir, while run-of-river hydropower plants harness energy from the available flow of the river.

Hydropower reservoirs often have multiple uses - providing drinking water, water for irrigation, flood and drought control, navigation services, as well as energy supply.

Hydropower currently is the largest source of renewable energy in the electricity sector. It relies on generally stable rainfall patterns and can be negatively impacted by climate-induced droughts or changes to ecosystems that impact rainfall patterns.

The infrastructure needed to create hydropower can also impact ecosystems in adverse ways.

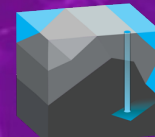
For this reason, many consider small-scale hydro a more environmentally-friendly option, and especially suitable for communities in remote locations.

OCEAN ENERGY

Ocean energy derives from technologies that use the kinetic and thermal energy of seawater - waves or currents for instance - to produce electricity or heat.

Ocean energy systems are still at an early stage of development, with a number of prototype wave and tidal current devices being explored.

The theoretical potential for ocean energy easily exceeds present human energy requirements.



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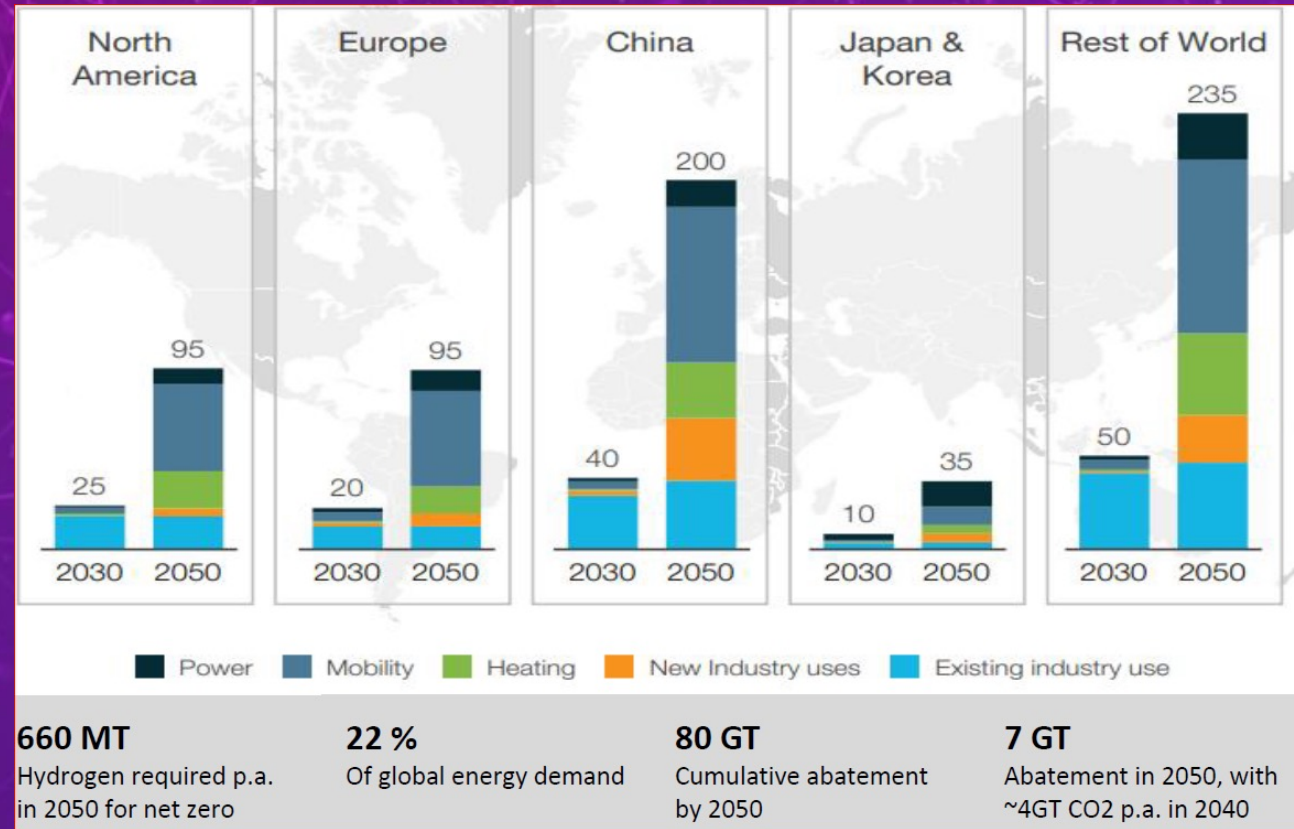
Introduction to H₂ energy production (energy storage option)

Hydrogen has an important role in fighting global warming and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

In addition to others decarbonization technologies green and blue hydrogen (renewable and low carbon) offer the cost-effective option for deep decarbonization in sectors such as steel, maritime, aviation, and ammonia.

With annual potential of reducing 7 GT CO₂ in 2050, hydrogen can contribute 20% of the total abatement needed in 2050.

This requires the use of **660 million tons (Mt)** of hydrogen in **2050**, equivalent to **22%** of global final energy demand



Source: Hydrogen Council, McKinsey & Company, 2021

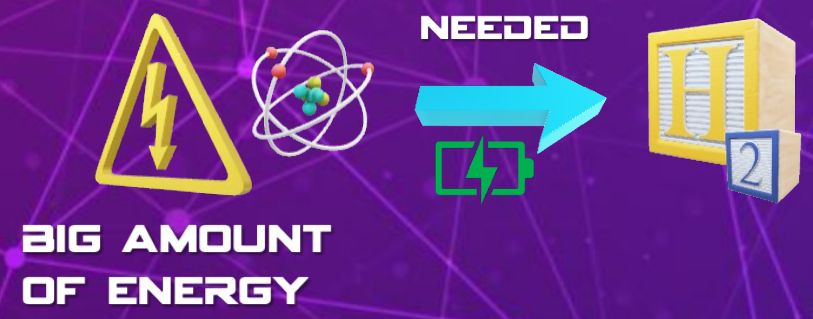
Introduction to H₂ energy production (energy storage option)



COMBUSTION OF HYDROGEN
COMBUSTION OF METHANE OF HYDROGEN



PRODUCTION OF HYDROGEN
OF HYDROGEN

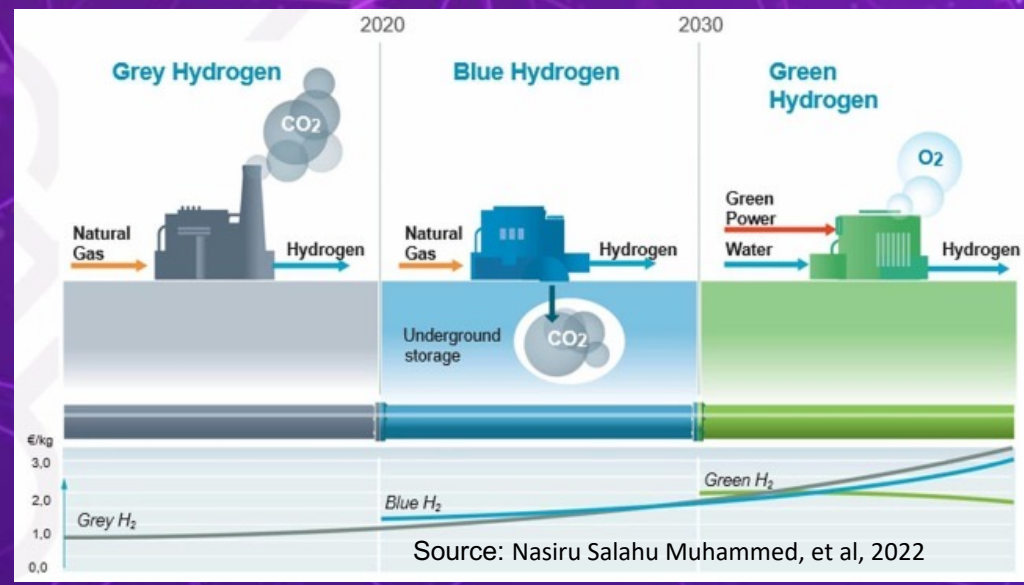


H₂ produces about 3 times more energy than natural gas.

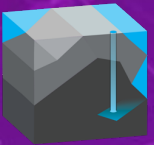
However, production of H₂ needs a lot of energy.

Considering that H₂ production requires more energy than it can provide, it is known as one of the energy storage options.

Large H₂ projects will need Underground Hydrogen Storage (UHS)

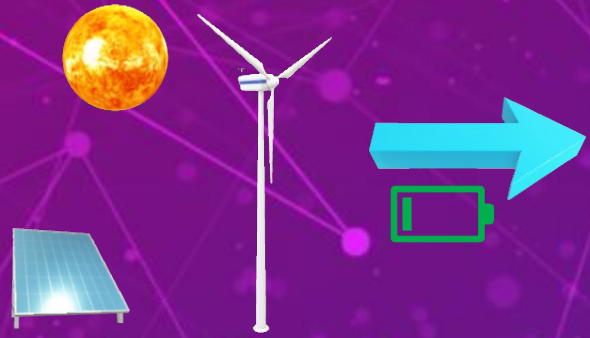


HYDROGEN STORAGE OPTIONS



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MAIN IDEA
OF H₂ ENERGY



"GEOLOGICAL POWER-BANK" (K.SHOGENOV)



H₂ STORAGE OPTIONS

ON THE GROUND FACILITIES

- GAS CYLINDERS
- CRYOGENIC TANKS
- ADSORBED HYDROGEN ON MATERIALS WITH A LARGE SPECIFIC SURFACE AREA
- ABSORBED ON INTERSTITIAL SITES IN A HOST METAL
- CHEMICALLY BONDED IN COVALENT AND IONIC COMPOUNDS
- THROUGH OXIDATION OF REACTIVE METALS



UNDERGROUND STORAGE (UHS)

Conventional:

- Salt caverns
- Saline aquifers
- Depleted oil and gas fields

Unconventional:

- excavated caverns in coal,
- Igneous and metamorphic rocks



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Underground Sun Storage (Austria)

Advantages:

Carbon neutral

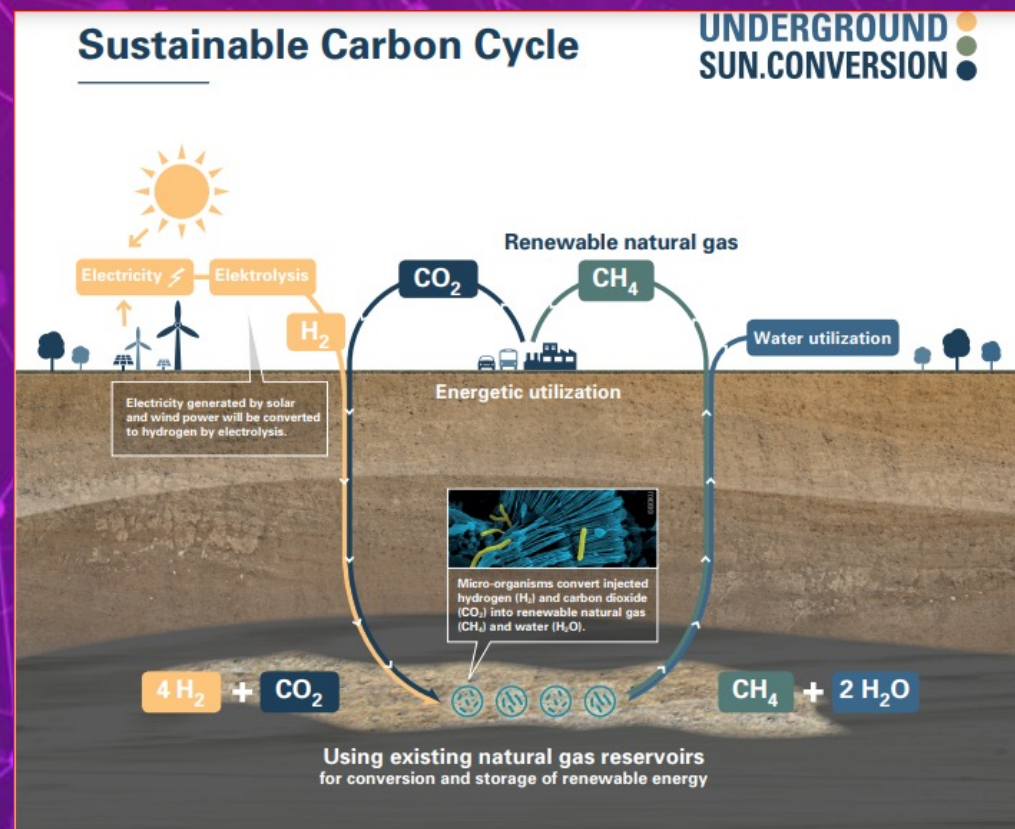
Renewable natural gas is carbon neutral if CO₂ that is already present – for example, from burning biomass – is utilised and absorbed by the production process. This creates a sustainable carbon cycle.

Renewable energy becomes storable

Solar and wind power output fluctuates due to changing weather conditions, meaning that production cannot be adjusted to demand. The problem of storing renewable energy is solved by converting it into renewable natural gas.

Use of existing infrastructure

Infrastructure already in place can be used for the natural production process, as well as for underground storage in natural gas reservoirs, and environmentally friendly transportation to consumers.



- First, hydrogen is produced from solar or wind power and water, in an above-ground facility, and then injected with carbon dioxide into an existing (porous) natural gas reservoir.
- At a depth of over 1 km, in a relatively short time naturally occurring microorganisms convert these substances into renewable gas which can be stored in the same reservoir, withdrawn as needed at any time, and transported to consumers via the existing pipeline network.
- The aim of the research project is to use existing gas (pore) reservoirs as natural bio-reactors.
- The methanation process and storage take place naturally in underground pore reservoirs. This represents a huge source by potentially providing the urgently needed flexibility which renewable energy sources currently lack.
- Initial laboratory tests conducted as part of the forerunner project, Underground Sun Storage – which is also supported by the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund – show that hydrogen and carbon dioxide injected into the reservoir are converted into methane by microbiological processes.
- This enables the creation of a sustainable carbon cycle.



Comparison of the conventional H₂ storage options

Storage option	Storage capacity	Discharge rate	Initial cost	Cyclic cost	Seismic risk	Chemical conversion rate	Cushion gas requirement	Leakage risk	Usability
Caverns	Depends on cavern size	High	High	Low	Low	Low	Low (22-33%)	Low	Frequent
Aquifer	High	Low	Average	Average	High	High	High (up to 80%)	High	Seasonal
Depleted reservoirs	High	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average (50-60%)	High	Seasonal

Modified after Visser, 2020 and Mohammed et al, 2022

Future prospects for underground H₂ storage



- Hydrogen underground storage technology and cross-cutting issues are yet in their early development stages.

There are no unified and agreed requirements for storage site selection, storage capacity estimation and ISO standards for H₂ production and storage

Regulations for UHS are mostly not available

Social perception is not known (as very limited projects in the world)

Storage in Depleted Hydrocarbon Fields are not yet demonstrated

Storage in saline aquifers is known only for H₂ mixtures

A lot of experience could be gained from natural gas and CO₂ storage

For example, storage should be made only in saline aquifers (not in fresh aquifers). As CO₂ storage in Europe is not permitted in potable water columns and aquifers, similar regulations could be expected for H₂ storage.

- Monitoring requirements should be also established and described in ISO standards.

ISO/TC 197 Hydrogen technologies are under development now.

Still, a lot of research is needed about possible risks for storage in sandstone and carbonate reservoirs: possible reaction of H₂ with sulphide minerals, and biological reaction, both can lead to loss of H₂.

The cost of energy and availability of excess green energy are critical issues for H₂ production and use.

The efficiency of H₂ production is still a great issue for researchers.

After the energy transition period in 2050-2070 many working UGS will be available for storage of CO₂, and/or H₂. The large available expertise is a promising issue for switching from CH₄ storage to H₂ storage, and to CO₂ storage, which still will be needed for industry.

Bio-CCS and DACCS are needed to implement negative emission scenarios.

Advantages renewables

- Diversifying energy carriers
- Reducing dependence on imported fuels
- Reducing pollution from conventional energy systems
- Suited to small and large-scale applications

Disadvantages renewables

- Technologies often capital intense
- Costs are often not (yet) competitive
- Diffuse energy source: spatial requirements
- Environmental and social concerns (hydro, wind, biomass)
- Intermittent character (wind, solar)

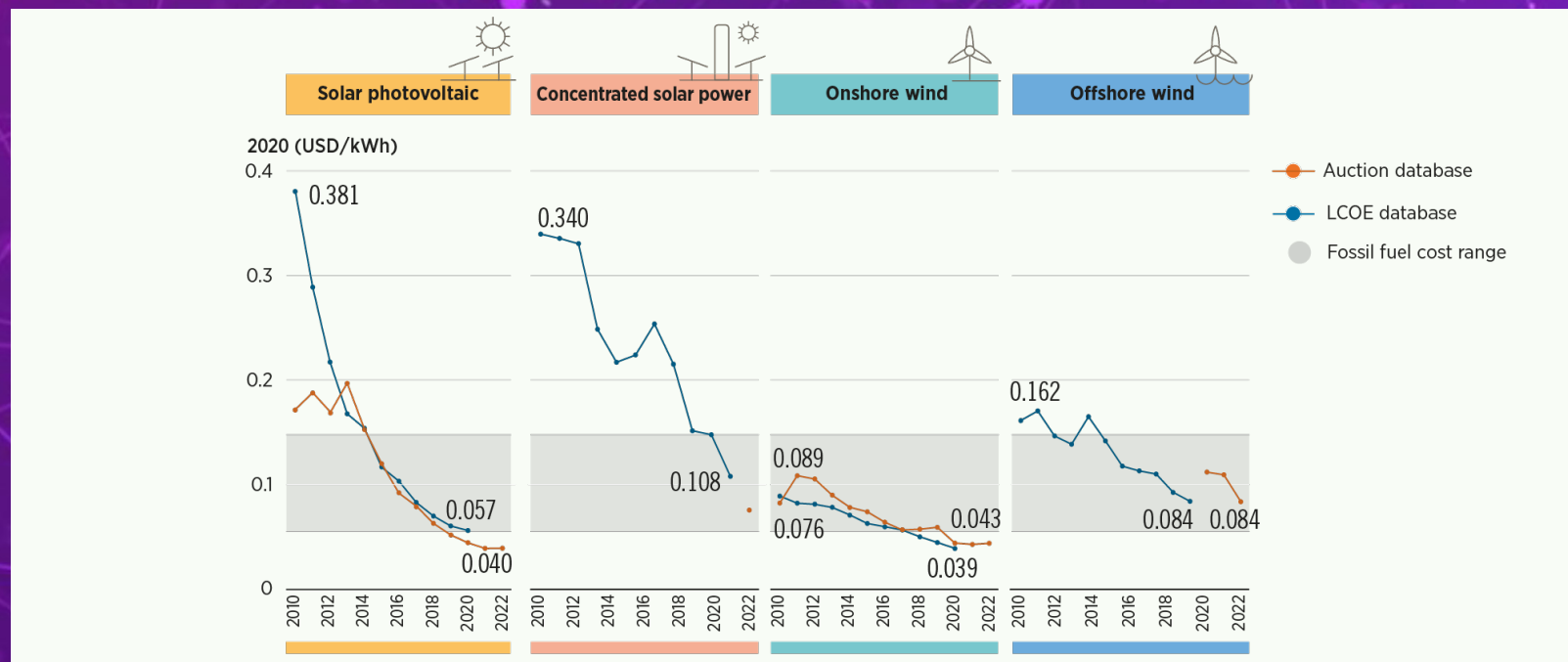
Latest Developments:

Significant decrease in RE technologies cost during 2010-2020:

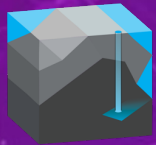
- The global weighted average levelised cost of electricity from utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) projects fell by 85%
- concentrating solar power (CSP) by 68%
- on-shore wind by 56%,
- and off-shore wind by 48%

(IRENA 2022)

However, the 2021-2022 energy crisis negatively influenced all energy costs!



Key findings by IEA, 2022



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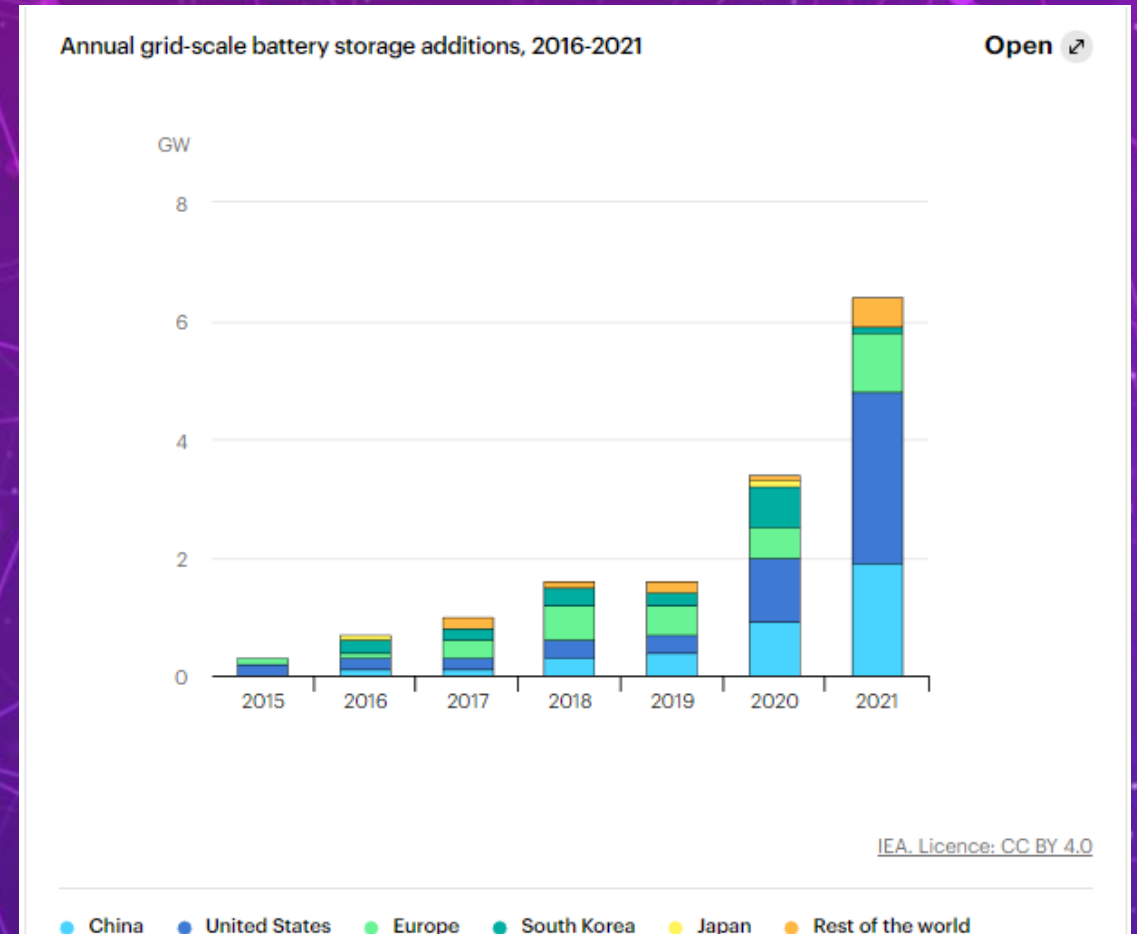
Pumped-storage hydropower is still the most widely deployed storage technology today, but grid-scale batteries are catching up

Grid-scale storage plays an important role in the Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario, providing important system services that range from short-term balancing and operating reserves to long-term energy storage and restoring grid operations following a blackout.

Pumped-storage hydropower is the most widely used storage technology and it has significant additional potential in several regions.

Batteries are the most scalable type of grid-scale storage and the market has seen strong growth in recent years.

Other storage technologies include compressed air and gravity storage, but they play a comparatively small role in current power systems.



IEA, *Annual grid-scale battery storage additions, 2016-2021*, IEA, Paris
<https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/annual-grid-scale-battery-storage-additions-2016-2021>, IEA. Licence: CC BY 4.0

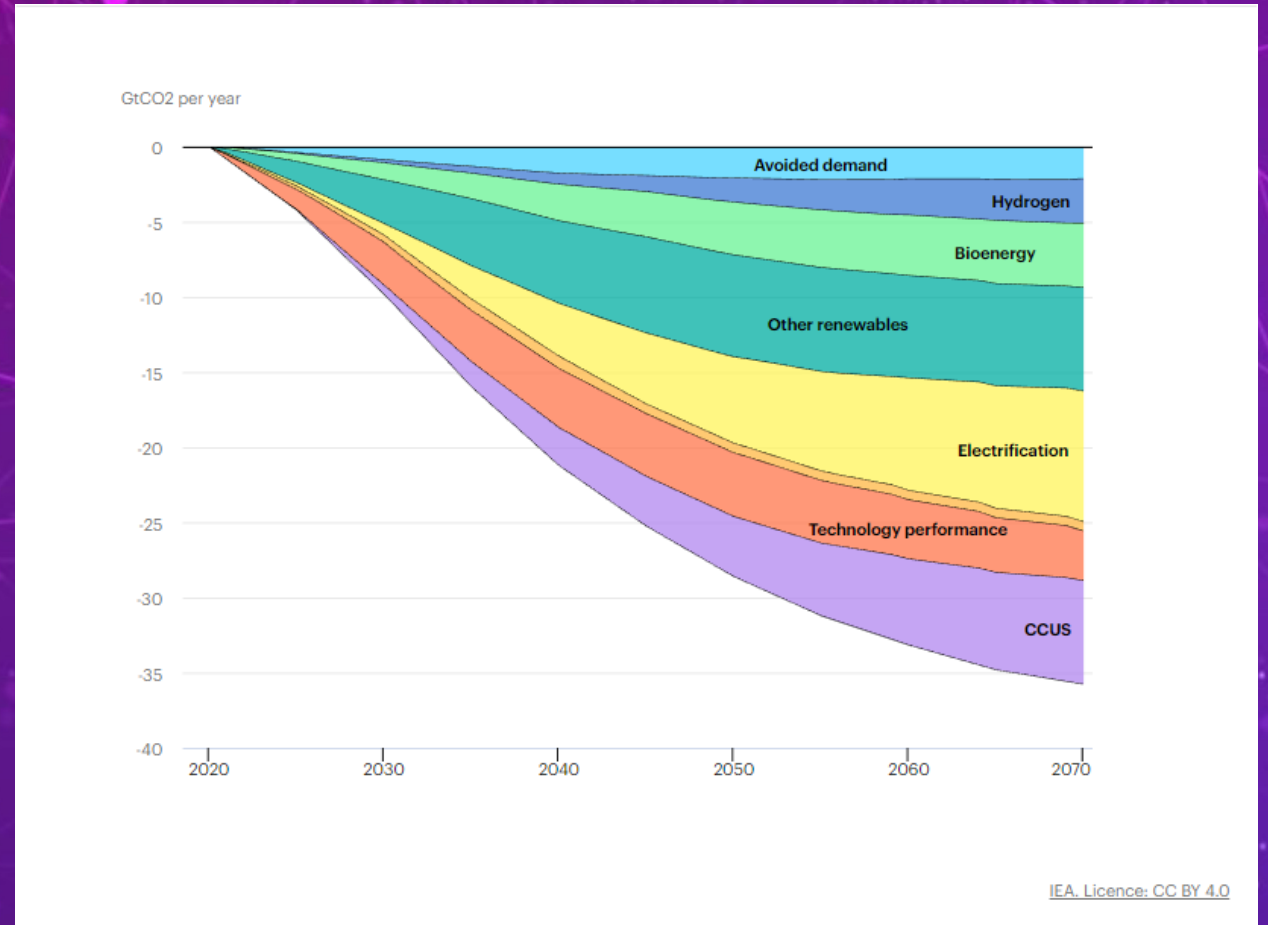
Energy transformations for net-zero emissions (IEA, 2020)



An energy sector transition to net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2070 of the kind depicted in the Sustainable Development Scenario requires a radical technological transformation of the energy sector.

Energy efficiency and renewables are central pillars, but additional technologies are needed to achieve net-zero emissions.

Four technology value chains contribute about half of the cumulative CO₂ savings: technologies to widely electrify end-use sectors (such as advanced batteries); carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS); hydrogen and hydrogen-related fuels; and bioenergy.

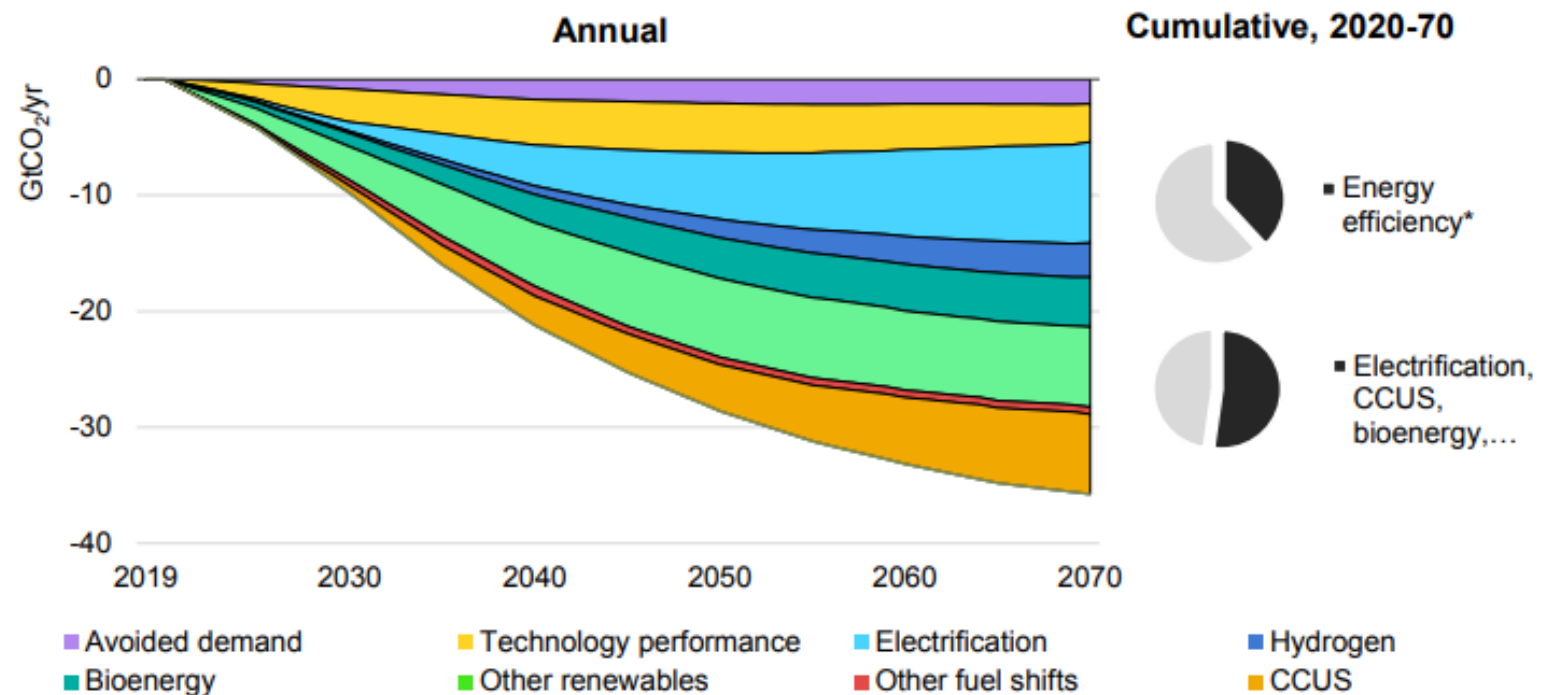


IEA. Licence: CC BY 4.0

CCUS in the Sustainable Development Scenario

In total, CCUS contributes nearly 15% of the cumulative reduction in CO₂ emissions worldwide compared with the Stated Policies Scenario, which takes into account current national energy- and climate-related policy commitments.

Figure 2.1 Global energy sector CO₂ emissions reductions by measure in the Sustainable Development Scenario relative to the Stated Policies Scenario, 2019-70



IEA 2020. All rights reserved.

The contribution of CCUS to the transition to net-zero emissions grows over time, accounting for nearly one-sixth of cumulative emissions reductions to 2070.

A roadmap to 2050 – tracking progress of key energy system components to achieve the 1.5°C target (IRENA, 2022)



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Indicators	Recent years	2050 ⁽²²⁾	Off / On track
ELECTRIFICATION WITH RENEWABLES			
Share of renewables in electricity generation	26% ¹¹⁾	90%	
Addition of renewable energy technologies	264 GW/yr ²⁾	836 GW/yr	
Annual solar PV additions	126 GW/yr ³⁾	444 GW/yr	
Annual wind energy additions	115 GW/yr ⁴⁾	248 GW/yr	
Investment needs for RE generation	0.3 USD trillion/yr ⁵⁾	1 USD trillion/yr	
DIRECT RENEWABLES IN END USES			
Share of renewables in final energy consumption	16% ⁶⁾	79%	
Solar thermal collector area	25 million m ² /yr ⁷⁾	165 million m ² /yr	
Modern bioenergy consumption	18 EJ ⁸⁾	58 EJ	
Geothermal consumption	0.9 EJ ⁹⁾	4 EJ	
District heat generation - buildings	0.4 EJ ¹⁰⁾	7.3 EJ	

ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Energy intensity improvement rate	12%/yr ¹¹⁾	2.9%/yr	
	Investment needs for energy efficiency	0.3 USD trillion/yr ¹²⁾	1.5 USD trillion/yr	
ELECTRIFICATION	Share of direct electricity in final energy consumption	21% ¹³⁾	50%	
	Passenger electric cars on the road	7 million/yr ¹⁴⁾	147 million/yr	
	Investments needs for charging infrastructure of EV's	2 USD billion/yr ¹⁵⁾	131 USD billion/yr	
HYDROGEN	Clean hydrogen production	0.8 Mt ¹⁶⁾	614 Mt	
	Investment needs for clean hydrogen infrastructure	0 ¹⁷⁾	116 USD billion/yr	
	Clean hydrogen consumption - industry	0 ¹⁸⁾	38 EJ	
CCS AND BECCS	CCS to abate emissions in industry	0.04 GtCO ₂ captured/yr ¹⁹⁾	3.4 GtCO ₂ captured/yr	
	BECCS and others to abate emissions in industry	0.001 (GtCO ₂ captured/yr) ²⁰⁾	5.0 GtCO ₂ captured/yr	



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Conclusions

Energy efficiency and renewables are key technologies needed to reach climate targets, but additional technologies are needed to achieve net-zero emissions.

Energy Storage as one of the energy efficiency technology needs to increase investments 5 times and improve 2.5 times intensity rate by 2050 compared to recent years

Clean hydrogen production should increase from 0.8 Mt to 614 Mt by 2050

CCS should increase from 0.04 Gt captured/year to 3.4 Gt/year by 2050.

Thank You!

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