



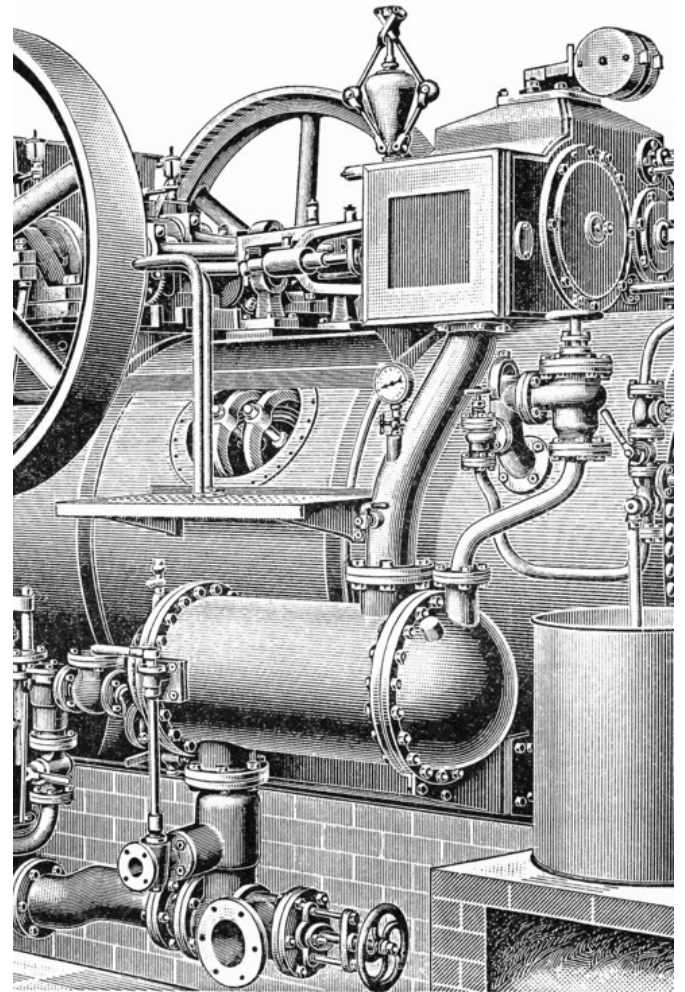
# Energy systems: status, challenges and efficiencies

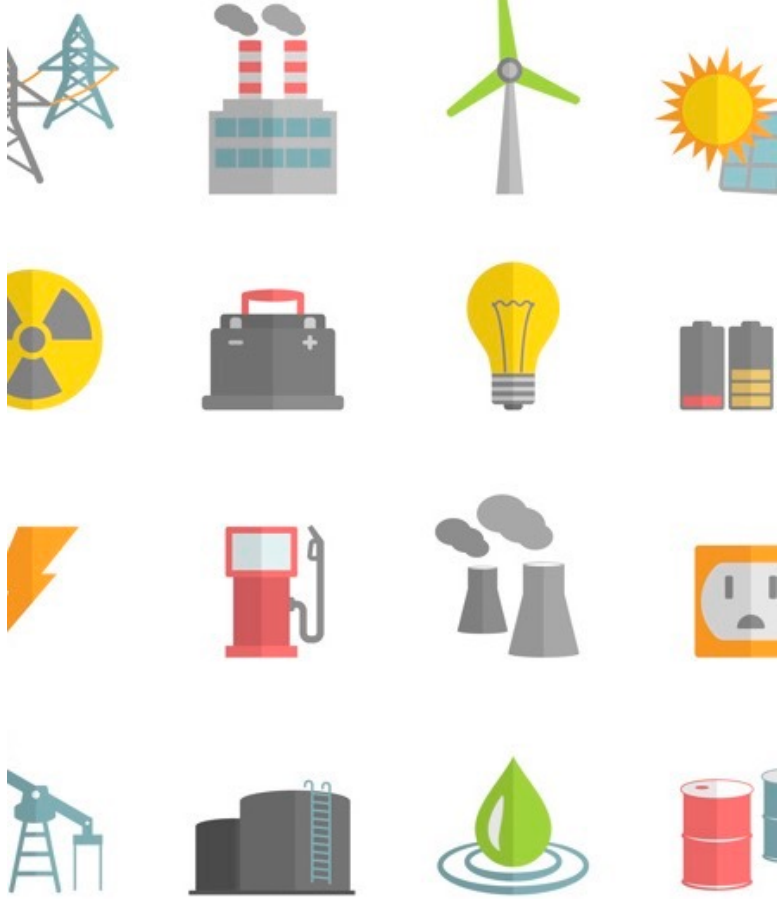
Tuong-Van Nguyen  
PLANAIR

Week	Date	Topic	ENERGY SYSTEM, MODELS, POLICIES	Lecturer
1	08/09	Introduction / What is an energy system?		FM / TVN
2	15/09	Energy system: status, challenges and efficiencies		TVN
3	29/09	Rankine cycles		TVN
4	06/10	Combustion / Brayton cycles		FM
5	13/10	Coal / CCS		FM
6	27/10	Nuclear / Cogeneration		TVN
7	03/11	Heat pumps / Geothermal		TVN
8	10/11	Solar		FM
9	17/11	Wind / Hydro		FM
10	24/11	Biomass		TVN
11	01/12	Storage		TVN
12	08/12	Fuel cells & Hydrogen		JVH
13	15/12	Energy strategy / Final wrap-up		GG / FM / TVN

# Goals

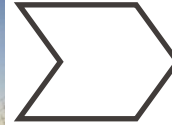
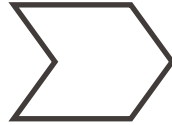
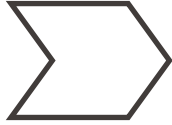
- **Explain** the status and challenges related to the energy transition and future energy systems
- **Use** different metrics to compare energy systems (costs, efficiencies, areas)
- **Calculate** the maximum efficiency an energy conversion system can reach





# Recall from Lecture #1

# Energy systems



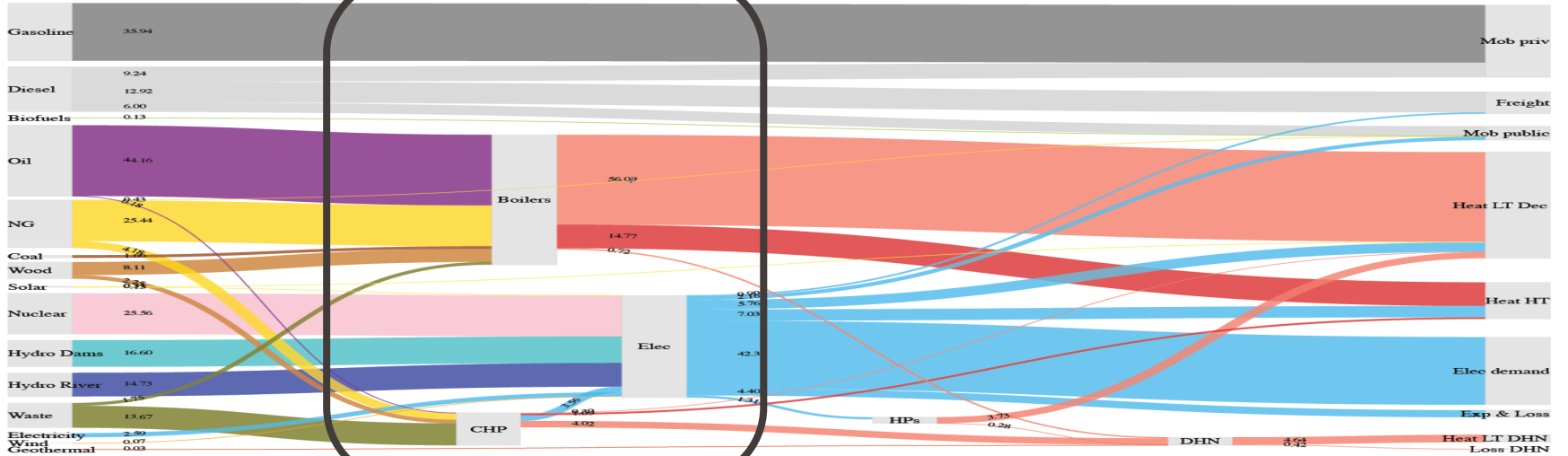
Production

Conversion

Delivery

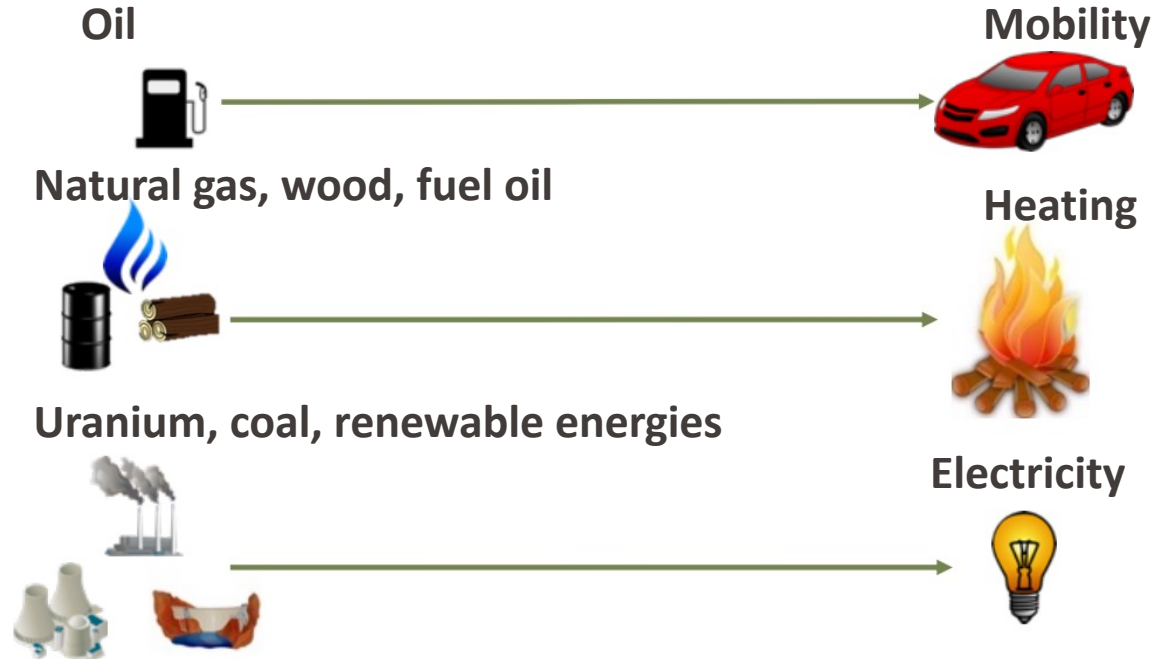
Use

ME-409 ENERGY CONVERSION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

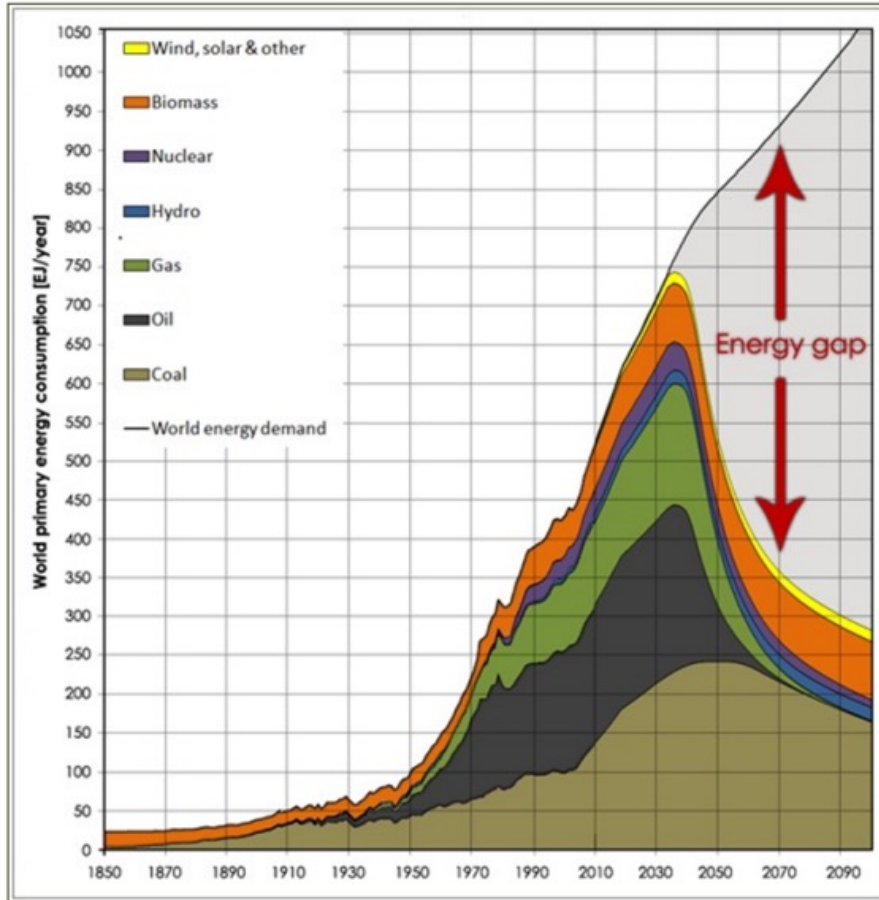


# The energy system - *before*

- Until now, every resource has its own **use!**
- Possible if there is no resource **limitation**



# The energy system - *in the future?*



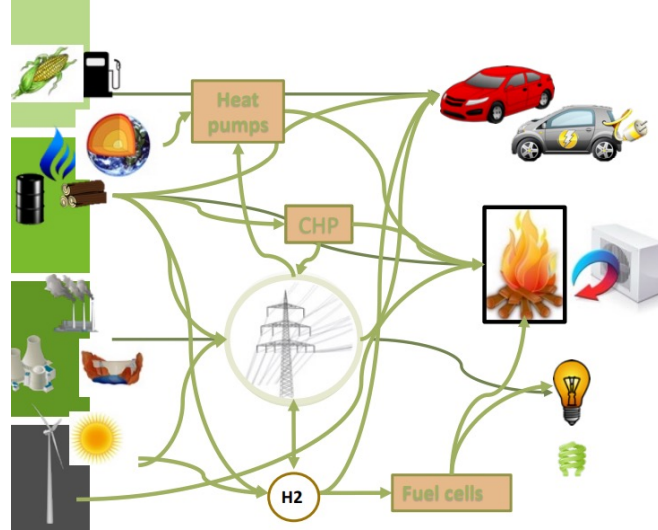
As our economy **grows**, so does our energy consumption

We need to **reduce** our demand for fossil fuels to curb global warming **and** ensure our energy security

# The energy system - *in the future?*

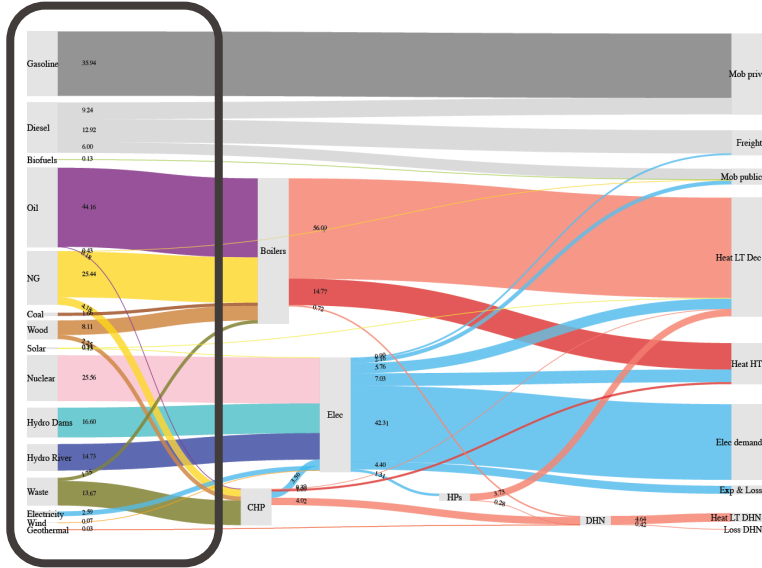
## 4 key trends :

- Exploitation of new fossil resources
- Diversification of fossil fuel and material supplies
- Integration of **renewable energies** and electrification
- Reducing our demands, decoupling from growth





# Energy system: status and challenges



# The "energy" challenge

Resources vs. Reserves

Renewables vs. non-renewables

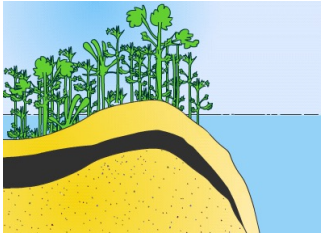
# Energy resources

## - Renewables vs. Non-renewables

- Non-renewable

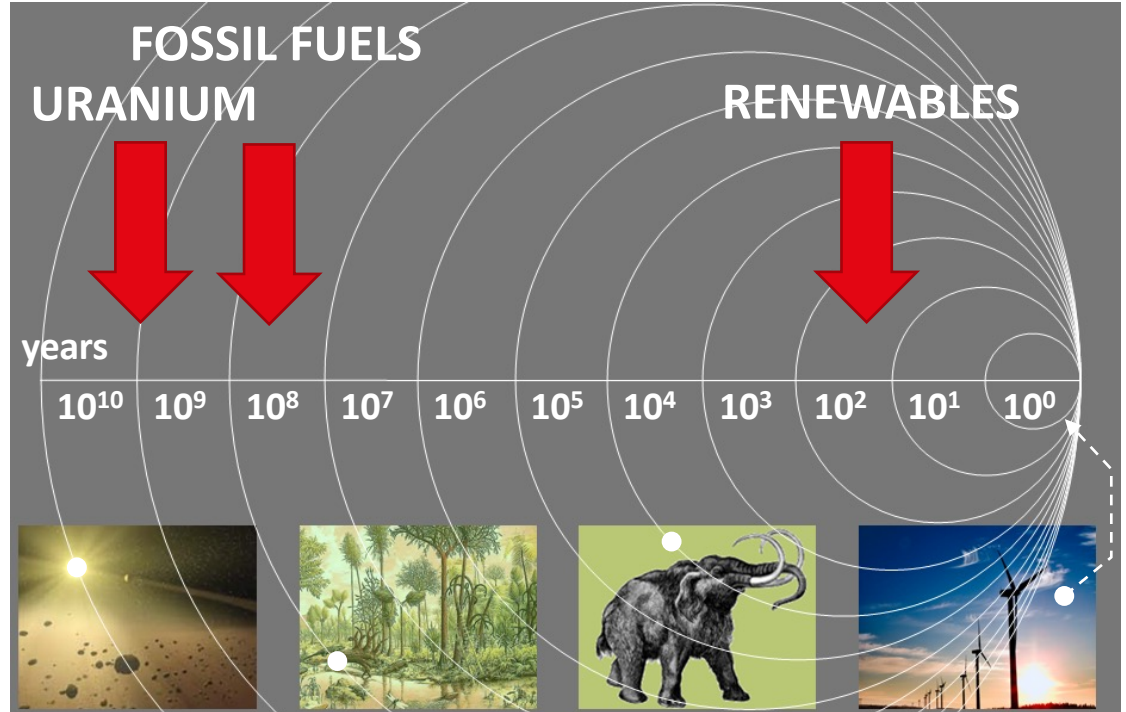
Consumption

<< Generation



100-400 mil years

“Bank analogy”

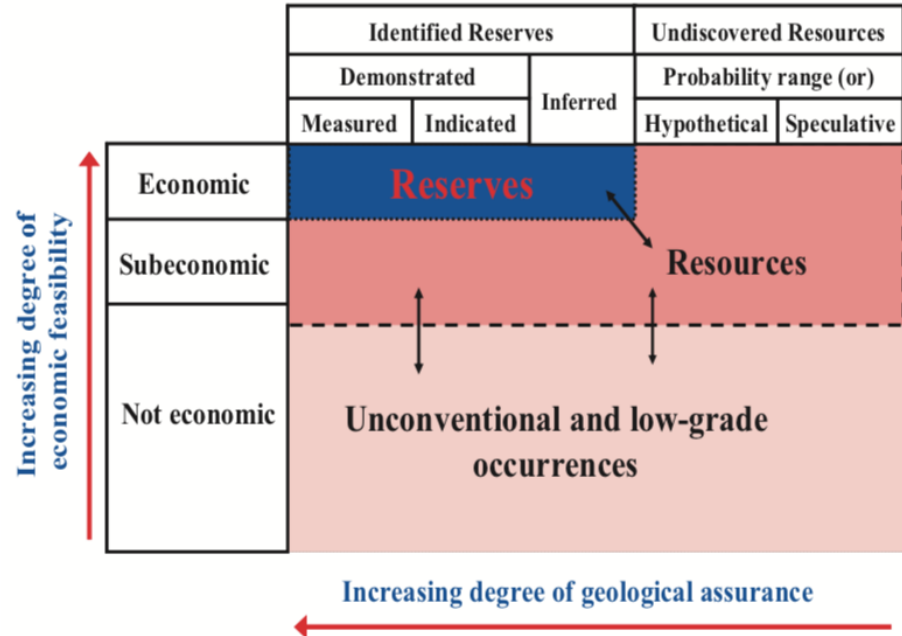


# Energy resources

## - Reserves & Resources

+ Certainty & economic producibility

- **Reserves** = can be recovered in the future
- **Resources** = detected, cannot yet be recovered profitably
- **Unconventional** = not economic or not feasibly recoverable



Given the current global reserves and production rates, **how many years** still of **coal, oil and gas**?

- A. < 20 years
- B. 20-50 years
- C. 50-100 years
- D. > 100 years

# Energy resources

## – Fossil fuel reserves

	Historical production through 2005	Production 2005	Cumulative extraction GEA scenarios 2005–2100 [EJ]	Reserves	Resources	Additional Occurrences
	[EJ]	[EJ]		[EJ]	[EJ]	[EJ]
Conventional oil	6 069	147.9	6 600–10 000	4 900–7 610	4 170–6 150	
Unconventional oil	513	20.2	2–470	3 750–5 600	11 280–14 800	> 40 000
Conventional gas	3 087	89.8	7 900–11 900	5 000–7 100	7 200–8 900	
Unconventional gas	113	9.6	180–8 500	20 100–67 100	40 200–121 900	> 1 000 000
Coal	6 712	123.8	3 300–16 500	17 300–21 000	291 000–435 000	
Conventional uranium <sup>(b)</sup>	1 218	24.7	1 520–28 500	2 400	7 400	
Unconventional uranium <sup>(c)</sup>	n.a.	–			4 100	> 2 600 000

- (a) The data reflect the ranges found in the literature; the distinction between reserves and resources is based on current (exploration and production) technology and market conditions. Resource data are not cumulative and do not include reserves.
- (b) Reserves, resources, and occurrences of uranium are based on a once-through fuel cycle operation. Closed fuel cycles and breeding technology would increase the uranium reserve and resource dimensions 50–60 fold. Thorium-based fuel cycles would enlarge the fissile-resource base further.
- (c) Unconventional uranium occurrences include uranium dissolved in seawater

# Energy resources

## - Fossil fuel reserves

“The stone age did not end because the world ran out of stones, and **the oil age will not end because we run out of oil**”

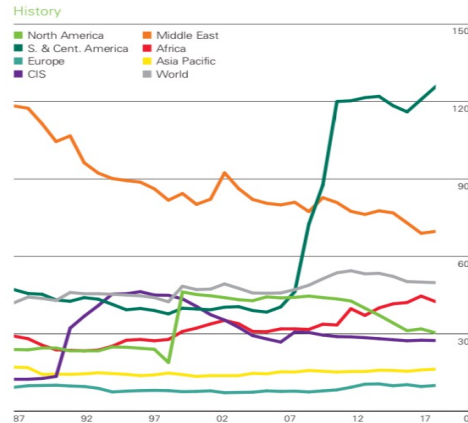
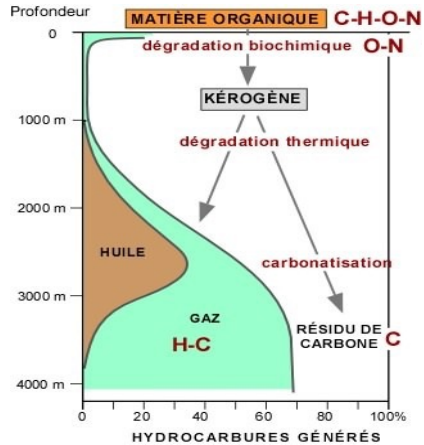
- Don Huberts, Shell



# Energy resources

## - Oil

- Reserve/production ratio  $\approx$  50 years
- “Peak debate” (2040?)
- Fossilized organic materials



# Energy resources

## - Oil

**Oil: Production by region**

Million barrels daily

- Asia Pacific
- Africa
- Middle East
- CIS
- Europe
- S. & Cent. America
- North America

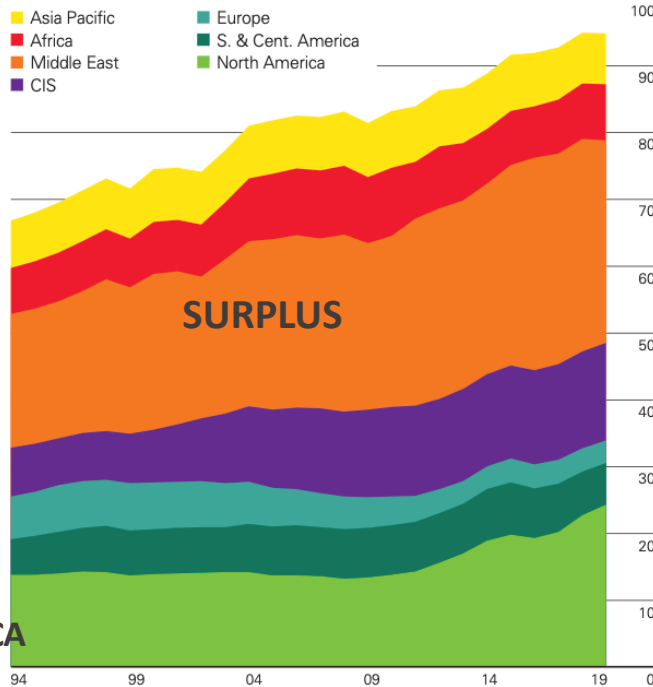
ASIA/PACIFIC

SURPLUS

MIDDLE EAST

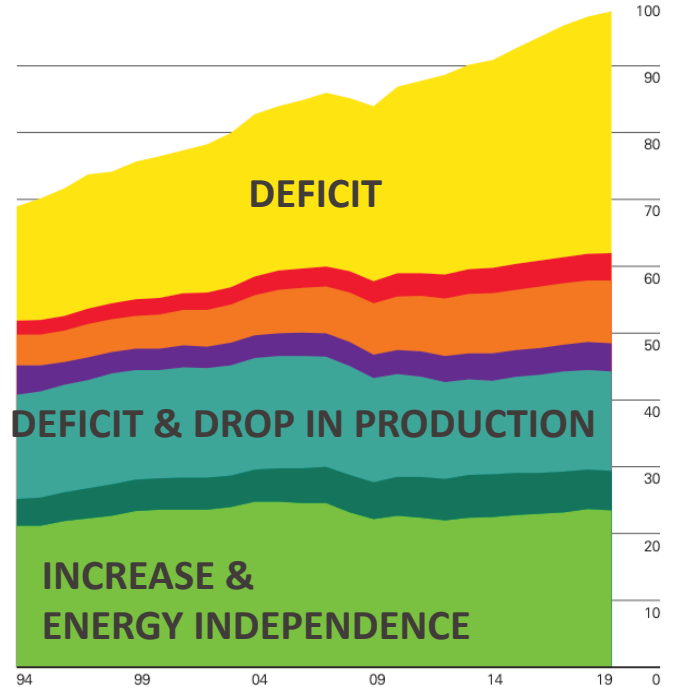
EUROPE

NORTH AMERICA



**Oil: Consumption by region**

Million barrels daily



DEFICIT

DEFICIT & DROP IN PRODUCTION

INCREASE & ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

# Energy resources

## - Oil

Start of Russian exports

New field discoveries (Texas, Venezuela)

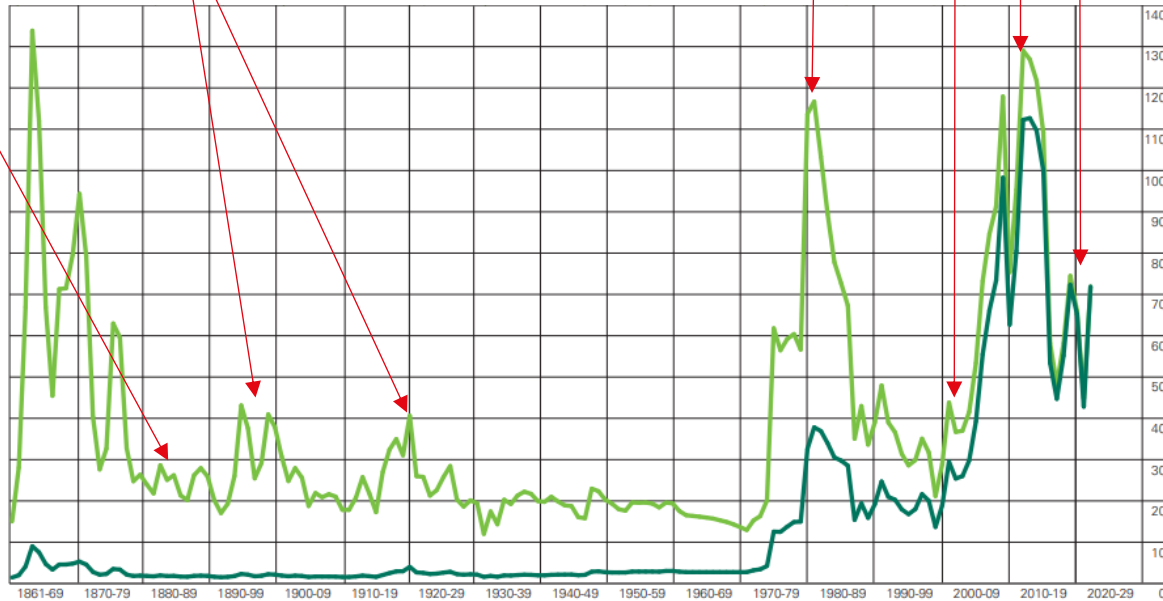
Invasion of Iraq

Arab Spring

COVID-19

Iranian Revolution

Oil price (\$/barrel)



■ \$ 2021 (deflated using the Consumer Price Index for the US)  
 ■ \$ money of the day

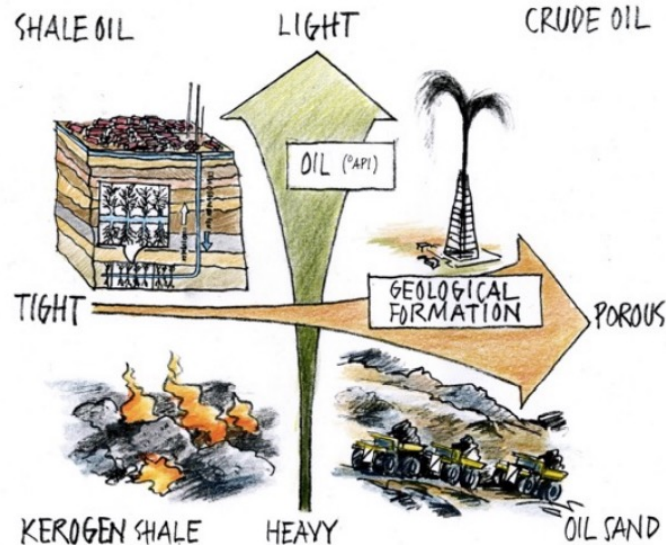
1861-1944 US average.  
 1945-1983 Arabian Light posted at Ras Tanura.  
 1984-2021 Brent dated.  
 \$2021 (deflated using the Consumer Price Index for the US).

Source: Statistical Review of World Energy (2022)

# Energy resources

## - Non-conventional oil resources

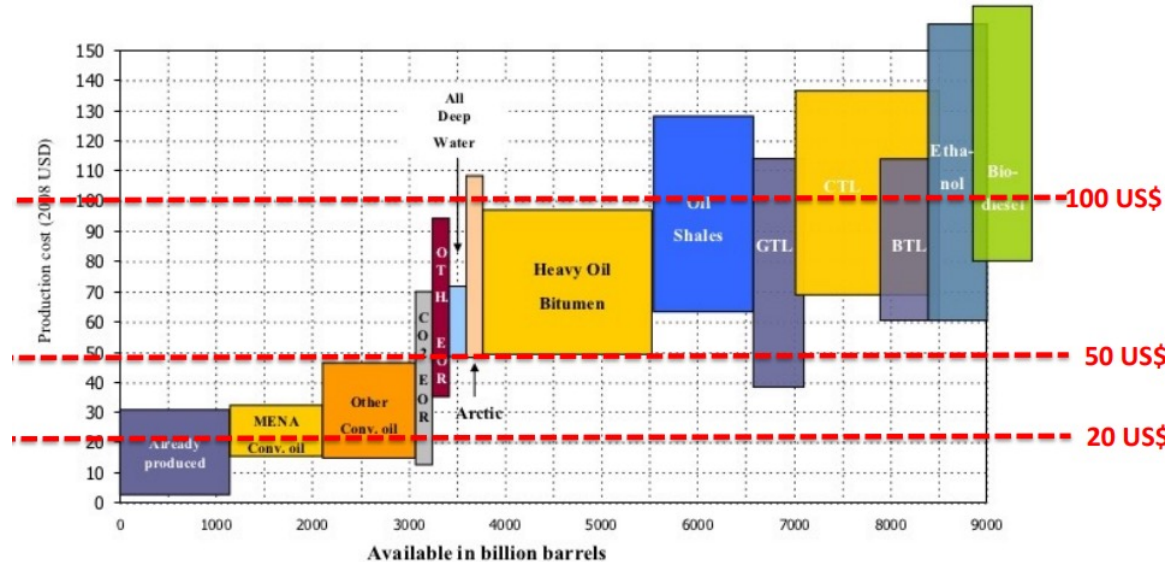
- More difficult operating conditions and greater environmental/economic risks
- Currently not economically interesting to extract?



# Energy resources

## - Non-conventional oil resources

- The higher the price of oil...
  - The more competitive renewable resources are
  - As well as non-conventional resources (as in the USA)!

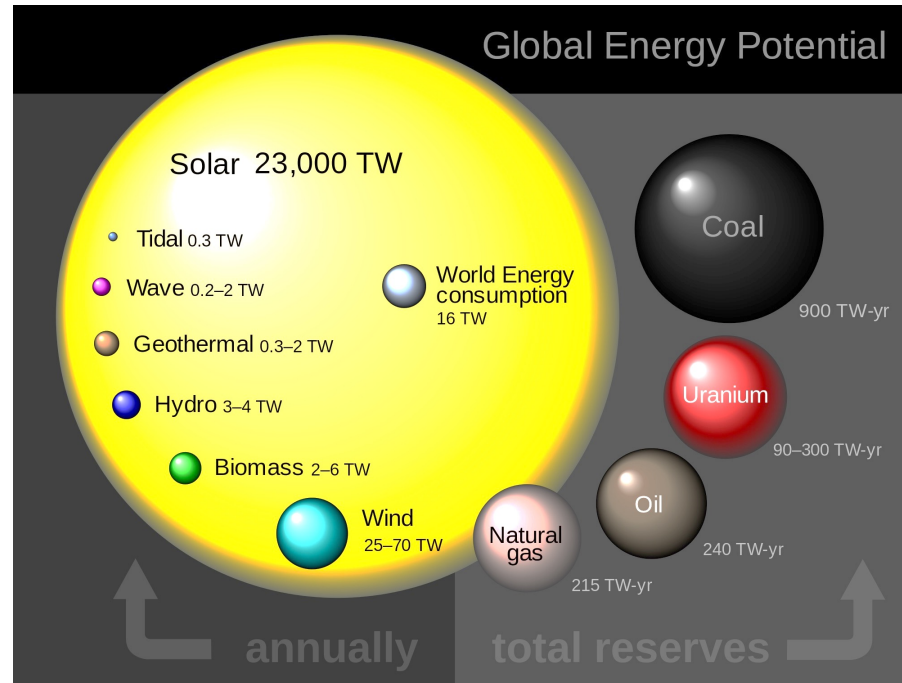


OECD/IEA 2009

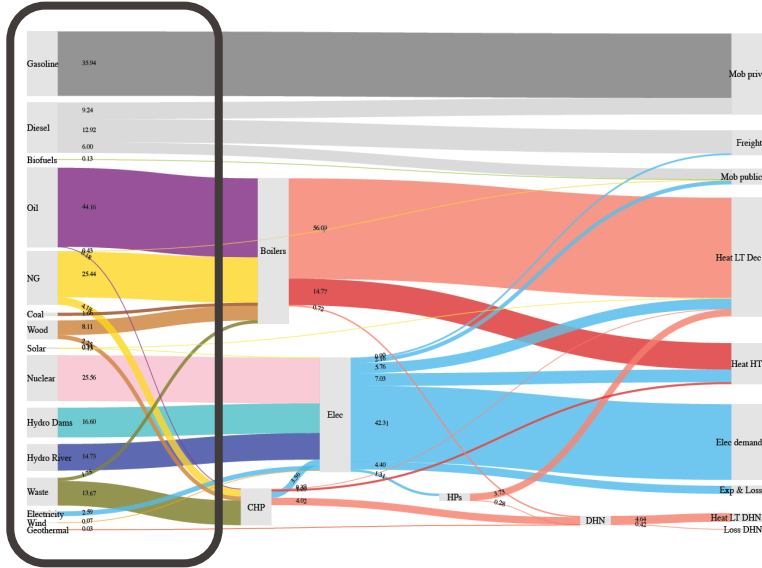
# Energy resources

## - Comparison

- We have by far enough resources – fossil fuel depletion is not an issue



Perez et al., 2009, "A Fundamental Look At Energy Reserves For The Planet"



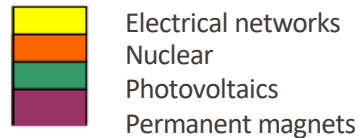
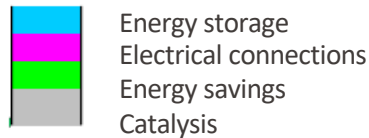
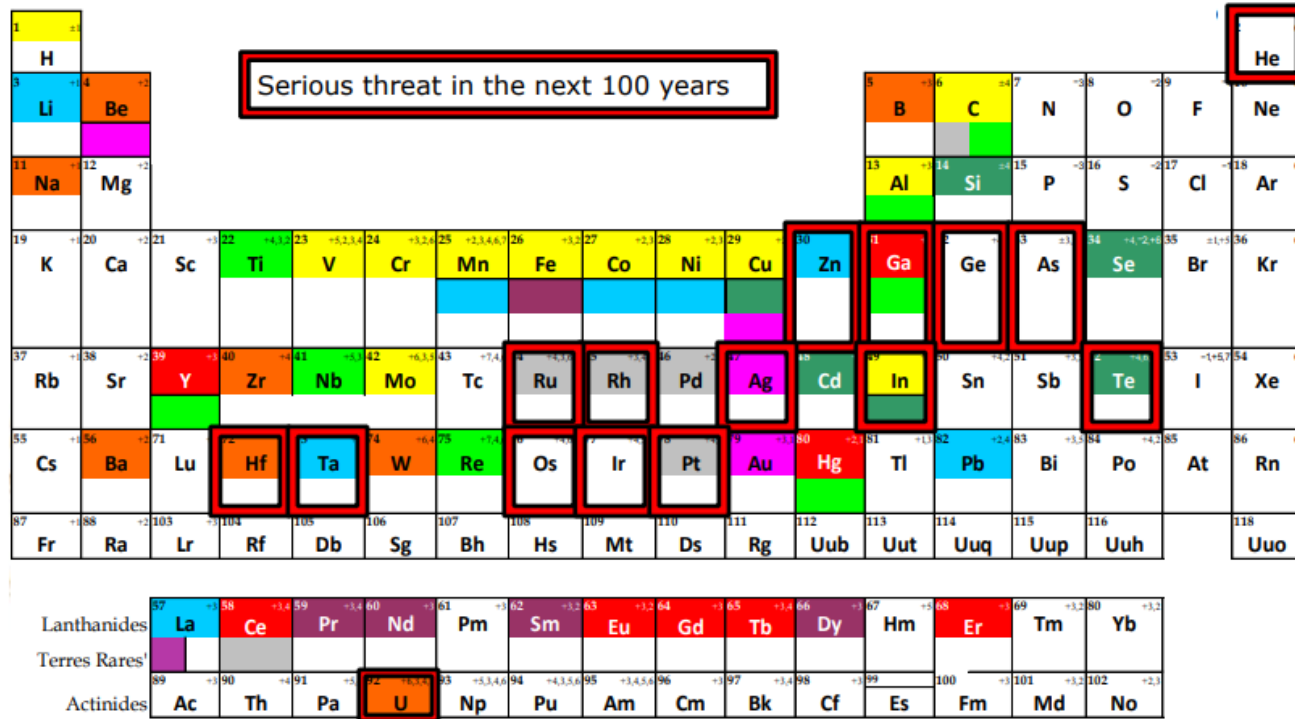
# The "material" challenge

Material requirements  
Supply chains

# Which of these energy resources require rare earths?

- A. Fossil (gas, coal)
- B. Wind
- C. Solar
- D. Nuclear

# Materials requirements



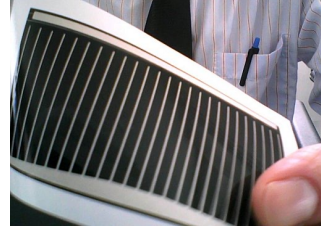
# Materials requirements



## Rare earths (17 elements)

- Not necessarily rare
- Supply risk
- Increasing use

e.g. Neodymium, Dysprosium  
(synchronous generators -  
offshore wind power)



## Rare metals

- Low abundance metals
- e.g. Indium (PV CIGS)

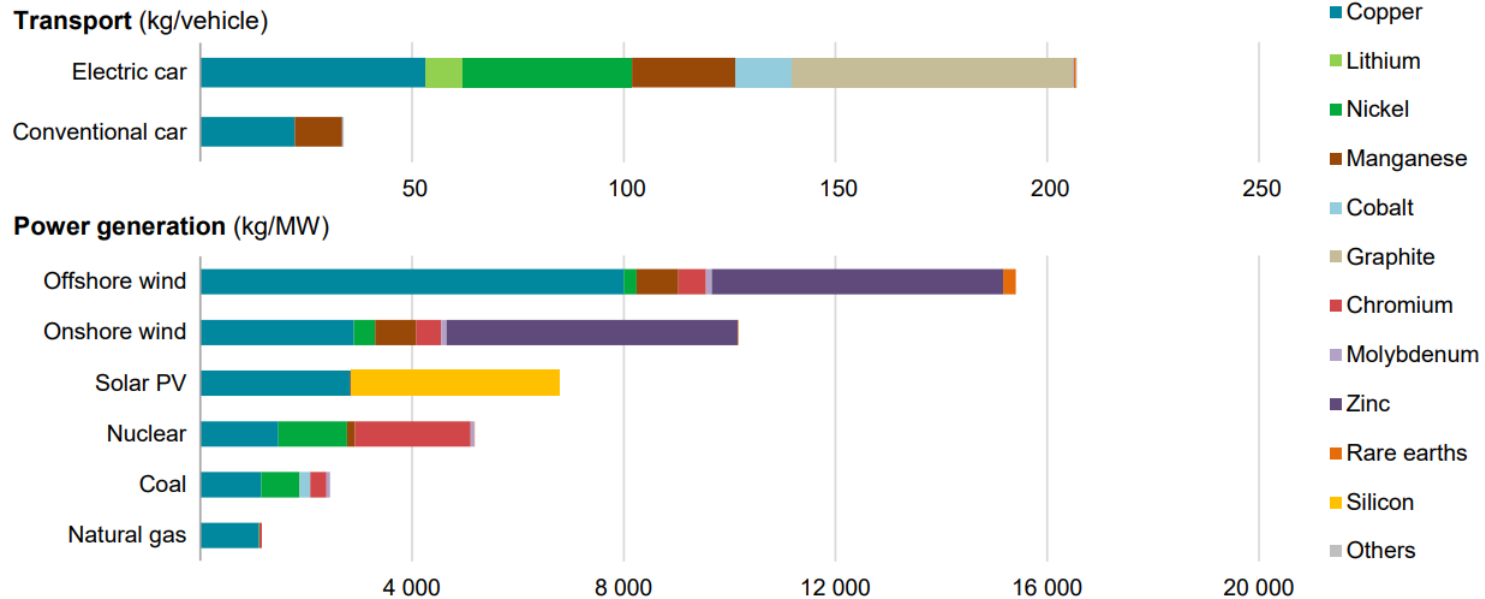


## Critical materials

- Strategic sourcing
- Ex: Silicon (PV), Copper  
(PV/wind/geothermal),  
Silver (PV), Tellurium (PV)

# Materials requirements

- Developing wind power, solar energy and electric vehicles
- On the other hand - **few impacts** caused by hydroelectricity and bioenergy

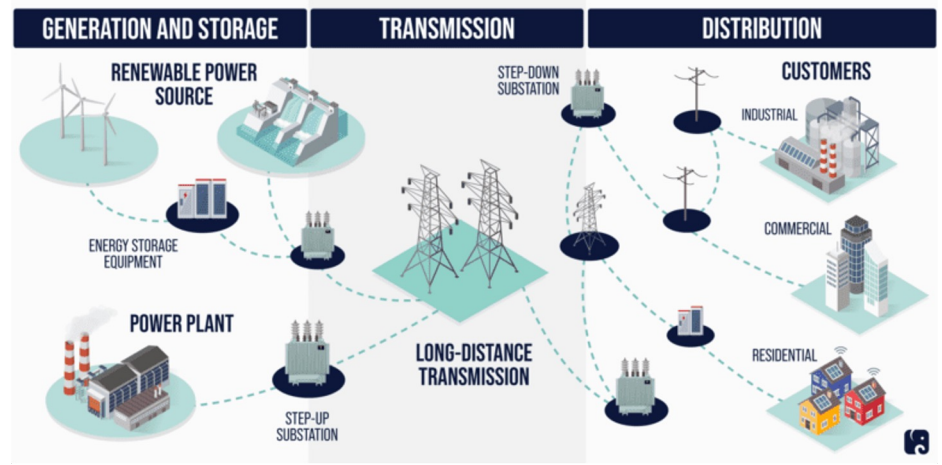
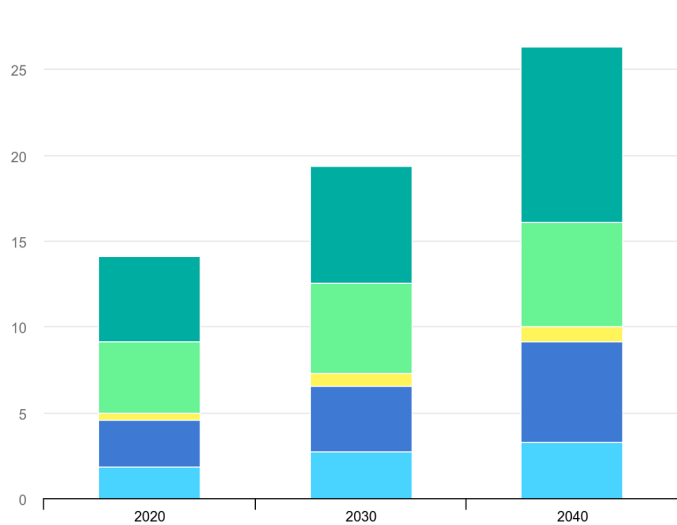


Source: International Energy Agency - The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions (2020)

# Cases: aluminium and copper

- Extensive use of copper in all solutions
- Demand often underestimated, as grid development is often not taken into account

30 Demand for copper and aluminium for electricity grids



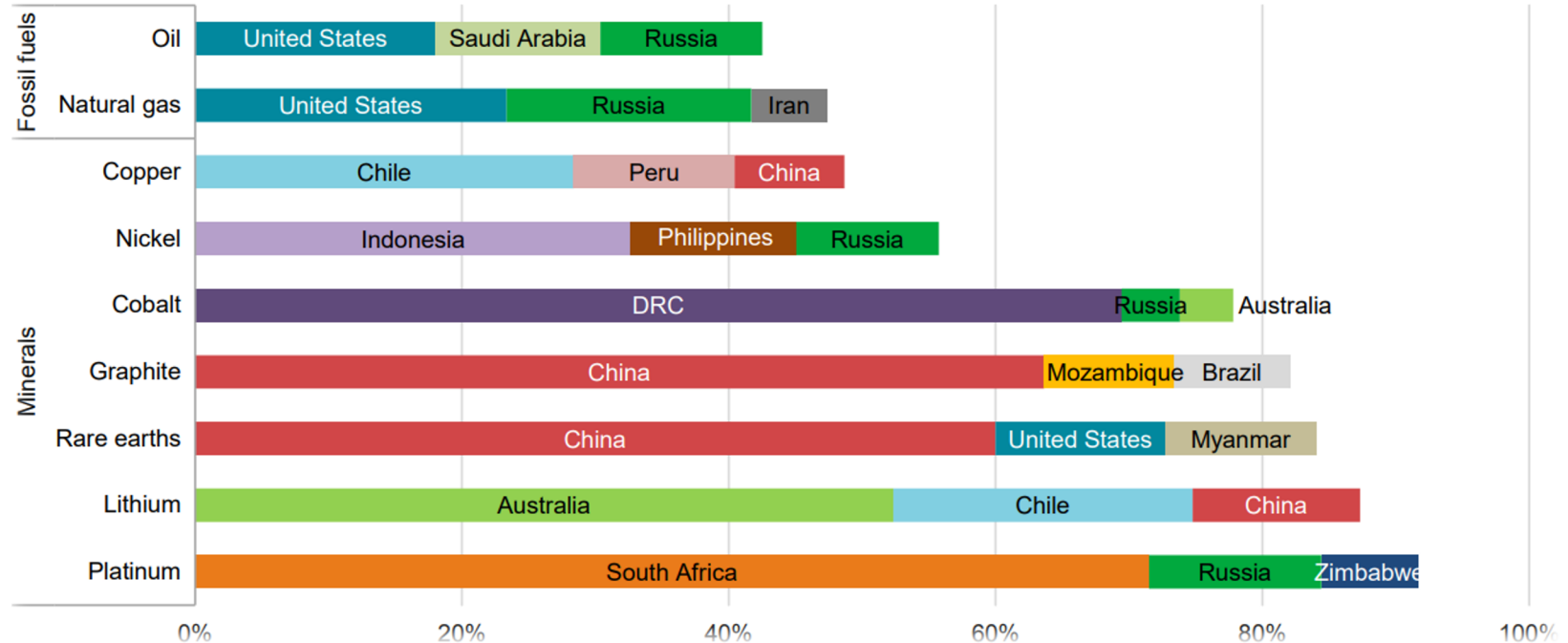
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- Copper: Transmission
- Copper: Distribution
- Copper: Transformer
- Aluminium: Transmission
- Aluminium: Distribution



# Supply & processing chains

Share of top three producing countries in total production for selected minerals and fossil fuels, 2019

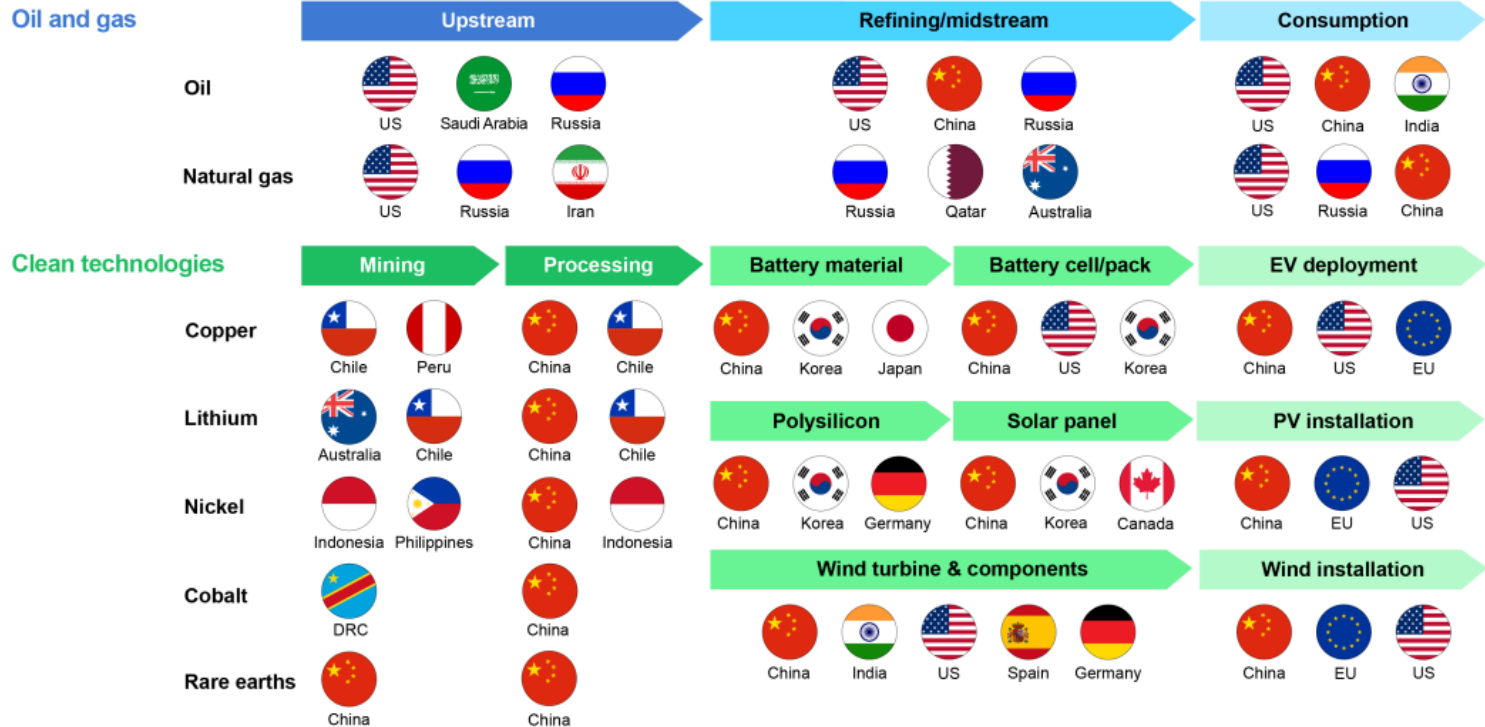


Source: International Energy Agency - The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions (2020)

- ME-409 ENERGY CONVERSION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
- More geographically concentrated reserves of materials!

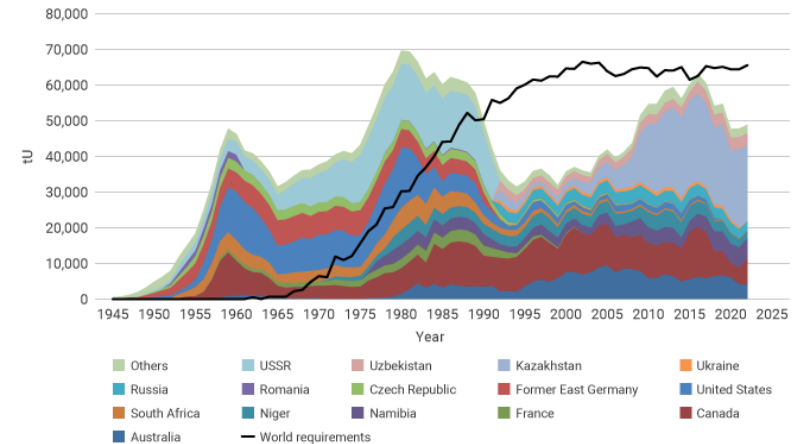
# Supply & transformation chains

- Less diversified chains - China is a key player for rare earths and manufacturing!

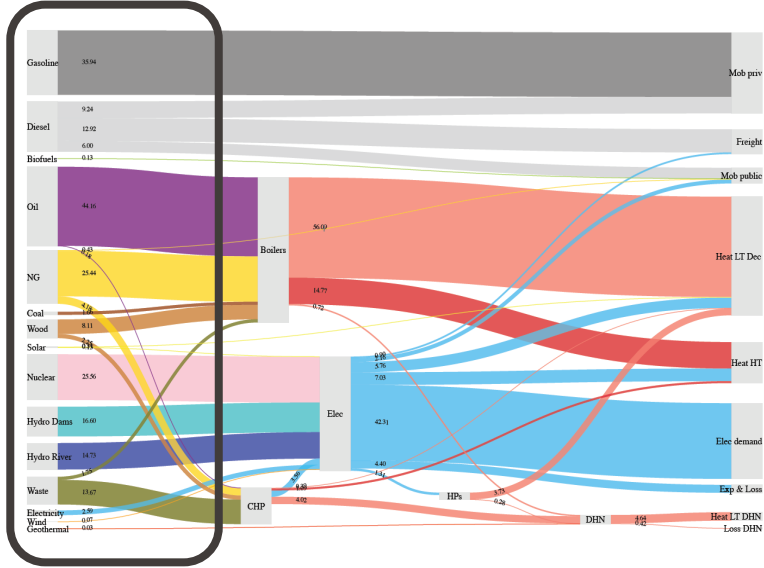


Source: International Energy Agency - The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions (2020)

- Similar situation for conventional **nuclear fuels**
- Major uranium-producing countries: Kazakhstan, Canada and Australia
- Major enrichment countries: Russia (Rosatom), France/Germany/USA (Orano & Urenco), China
- Thorium: development in India?



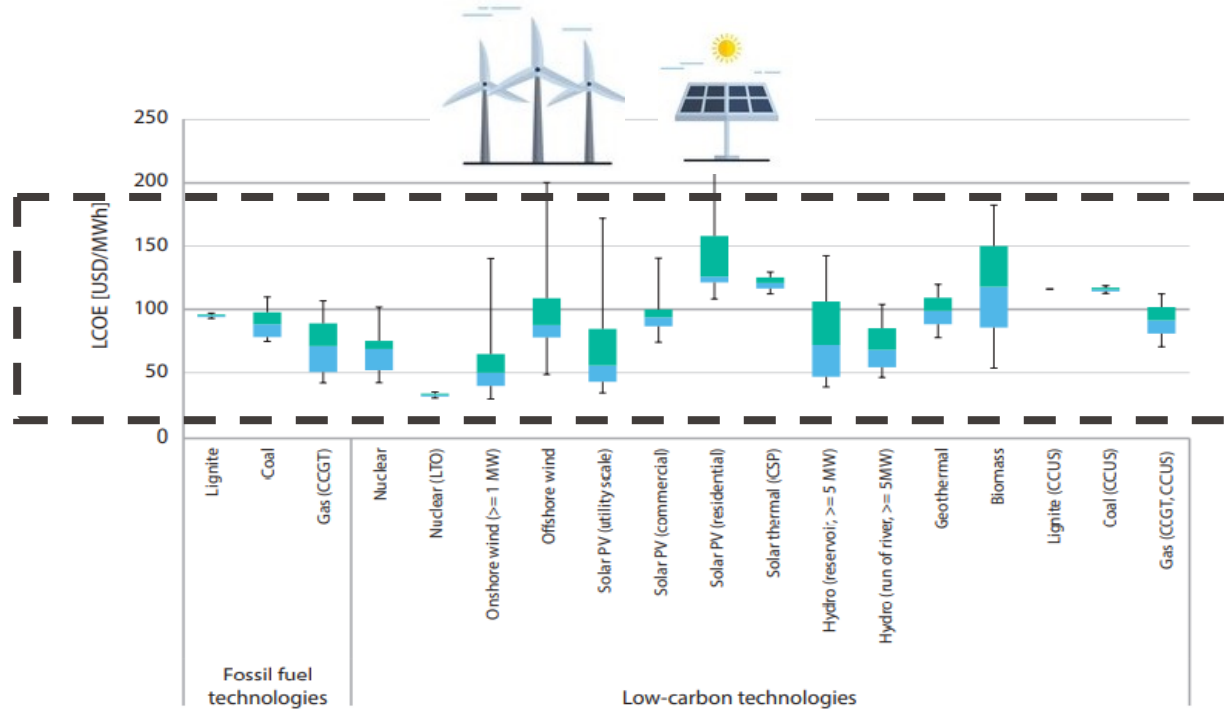
Source: OECD-NEA, IAEA, World Nuclear Association



# The "cost" challenge

# Costs of low-carbon technologies (LCOE)

- Cost of electricity generation (Levelised Cost of Electricity)



Note: Values at 7% discount rate. Box plots indicate maximum, median and minimum values. The boxes indicate the central 50% of values, i.e. the second and the third quartile.

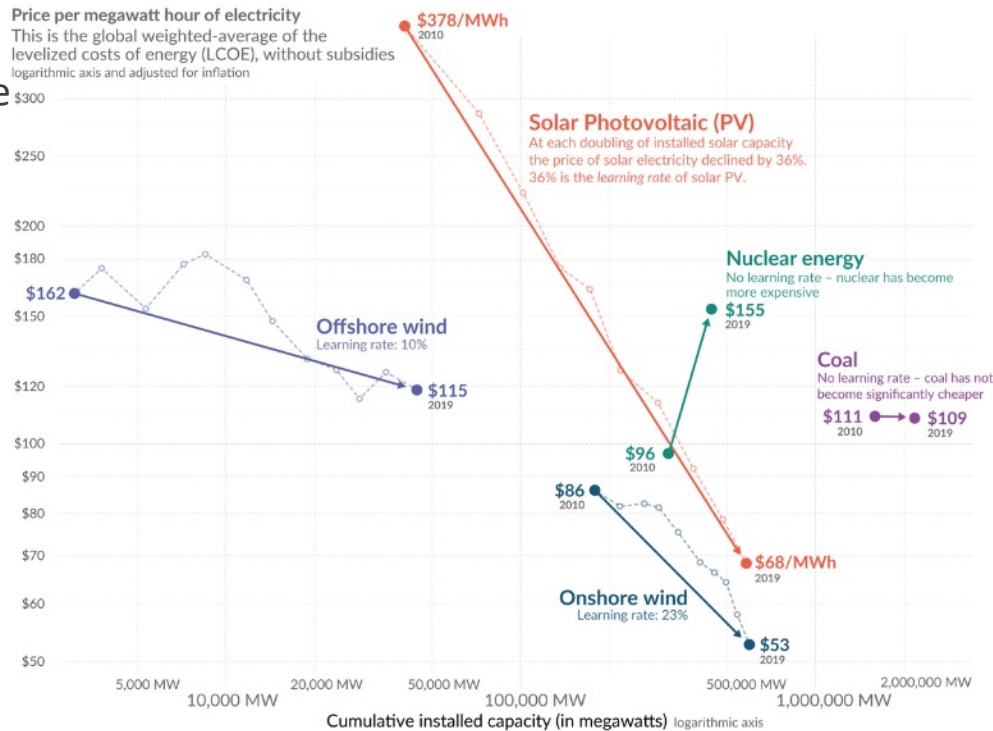
Source: International Energy Agency - Projected Costs of Generating Electricity (2020)

# Costs of low-carbon technologies (LCOE)

- These costs depend on the **installed capacity** and the type of energy.
- Some renewable energies have only recently become **competitive!**

Electricity from renewables became cheaper as we increased capacity – electricity from nuclear and coal did not

Our World  
in Data



Source: IRENA 2020 for all data on renewable sources; Lazard for the price of electricity from nuclear and coal – IAEA for nuclear capacity and Global Energy Monitor for coal capacity. Gas is not shown because the price between gas peaker and combined cycles differs significantly, and global data on the capacity of each of these sources is not available. The price of electricity from gas has fallen over this decade, but over the longer run it is not following a learning curve.

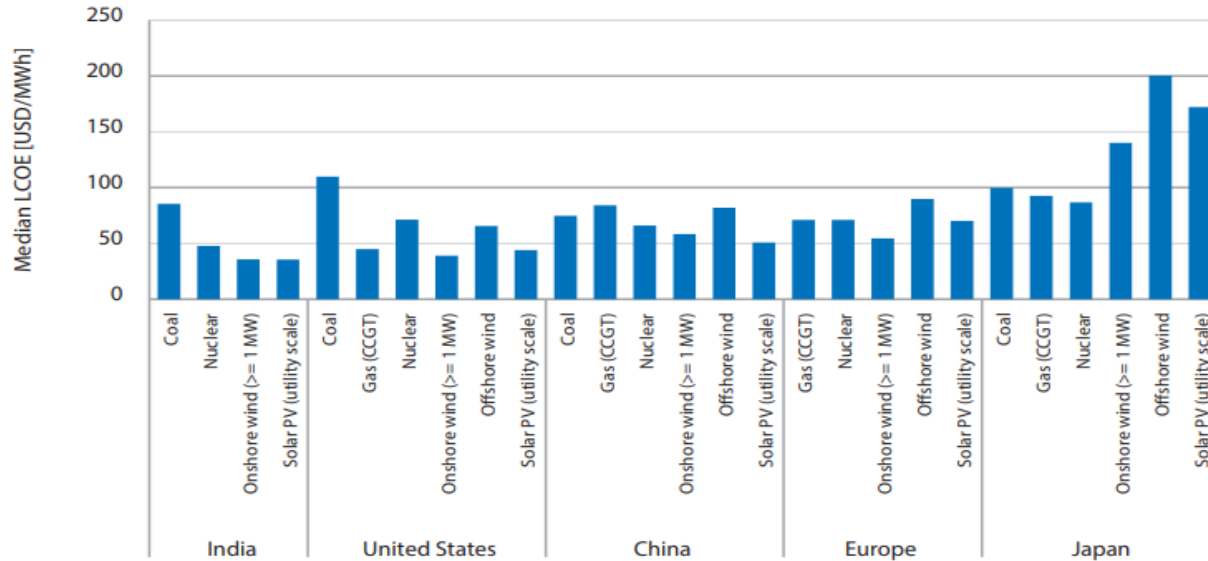
OurWorldInData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Licensed under CC-BY  
by the author Max Roser

# Costs of low-carbon technologies (LCOE)

- In 2020, renewables were **competitive** in Europe, but not in Japan!
- Example: median cost of producing electricity in India, USA, China and Europe

Figure ES2: Median technology costs by region

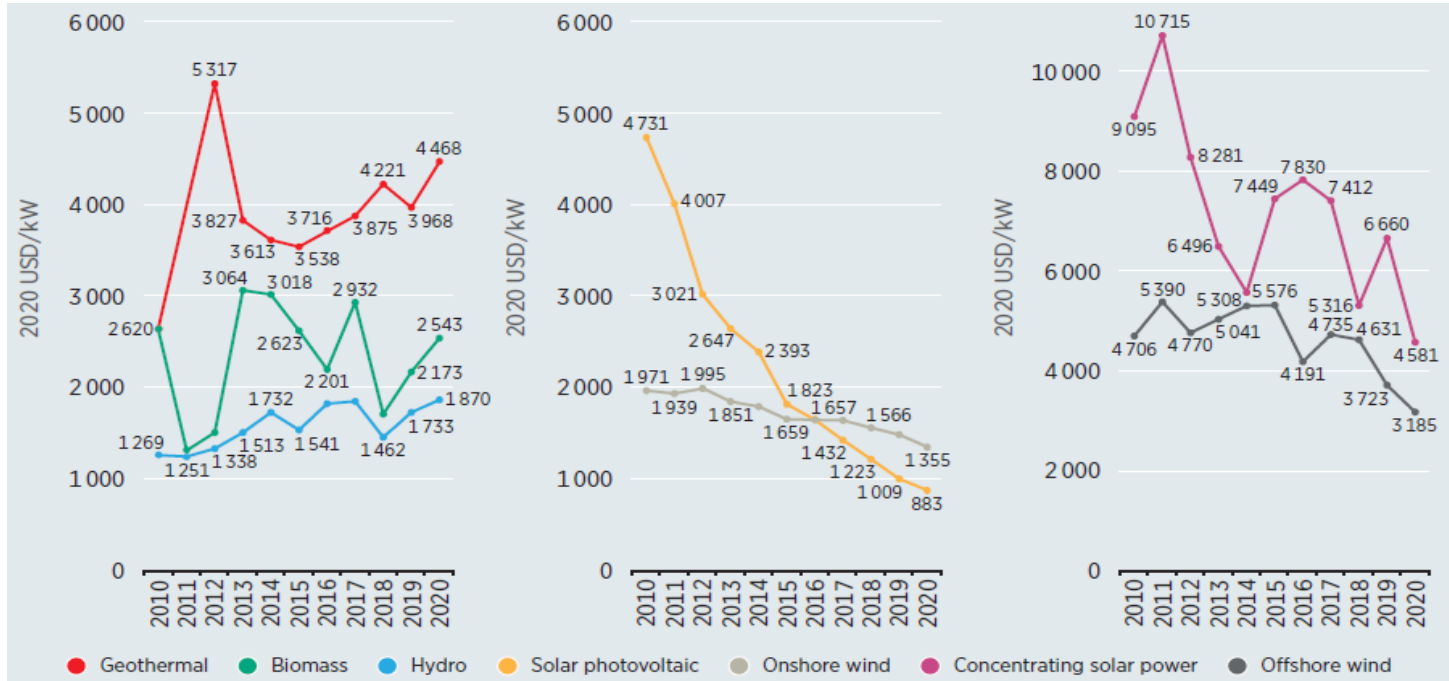


Note: Values at 7% discount rate.

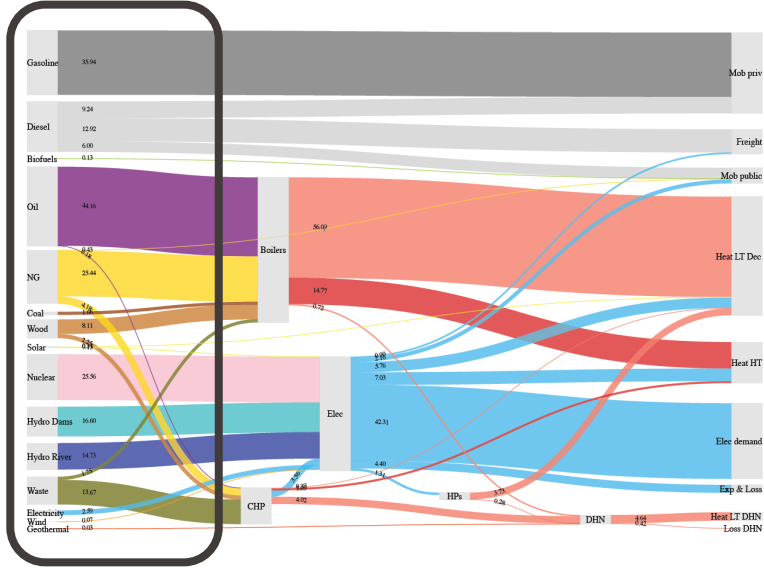
Source: International Energy Agency - Projected Costs of Generating Electricity (2020)

# Costs of low-carbon technologies (investment)

- Investment costs : PV, hydro and onshore wind least expensive to invest in



Source: IRENA - Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020



# The "energy and power density" challenge

# If Switzerland was to satisfy all its energy needs with only solar energy, how much surface would be required?

- A. 10-20% of the Swiss total area
- B. 40-60%
- C. 80-100%
- D. More than 100% (energy needs to be imported!)

# Renewables require large areas

bioethanol  $\sim (0.05 \rightarrow 0.15) \text{ W/m}^2$

wind  $\sim (2 \rightarrow 10) \text{ W/m}^2$

hydro  $\sim (10 \rightarrow 15) \text{ W/m}^2$

solar  $\sim (5 \rightarrow 20) \text{ W/m}^2$

Solucar Solar Complex  
Sanlúcar la Mayor, Spain  
5x50MW



barrage hydro  
Tarbela, Pakistan  
250km<sup>2</sup>, ~3.5GW



Foote Creek Wind Farm  
Wyoming (USA)  
41MW



Eggebek Solar Park  
Allemagne  
83MW



A corn field in  
Switzerland

# A Swiss citizen would need...

**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**

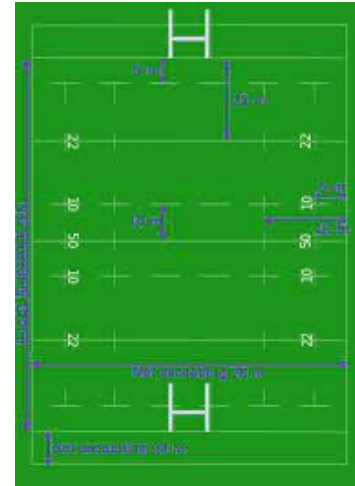
Swiss area = 41'285 km<sup>2</sup>

---

Swiss population ~ 8'400'000 p

➔ **Area per capita ~ 4'915 m<sup>2</sup>/p**

➔ *(1 rugby field ~ 8'400 m<sup>2</sup>)*



# A Swiss citizen would need...

**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**

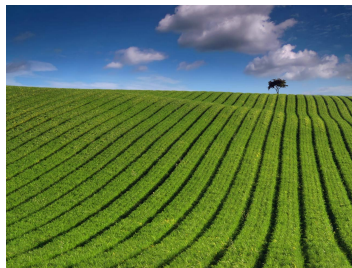
bioethanol

3.2kW/p

0.5W/m<sup>2</sup>

=

6'400 m<sup>2</sup>/p



Swiss area = 41'285 km<sup>2</sup>

Swiss population ~ 8'400'000 p

➔ **Area per capita ~ 4'915 m<sup>2</sup>/p**

➔ *(1 rugby field ~ 8'400 m<sup>2</sup>)*



# A Swiss citizen would need...

**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{windmills} \\ 3.2\text{kW/p} \\ 2.2\text{W/m}^2 \\ \hline = \\ \sim 1'455\text{m}^2/\text{p} \end{array}$$



Swiss area = 41'285 km<sup>2</sup>

Swiss population ~ 8'400'000 p

➔ **Area per capita ~ 4'915 m<sup>2</sup>/p**

➔ *(1 rugby field ~ 8'400 m<sup>2</sup>)*



# A Swiss citizen would need...

**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**



Solar PV

3.2kW/p

5W/m<sup>2</sup>

=

640 m<sup>2</sup>/p

Swiss area = 41'285 km<sup>2</sup>

Swiss population ~ 8'400'000 p

➔ **Area per capita ~ 4'915 m<sup>2</sup>/p**

➔ (1 rugby field ~ 8'400 m<sup>2</sup>)



# A Swiss citizen would need...

**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**

bioethanol	windmills	Solar PV	Concentrated solar
3.2kW/p	3.2kW/p	3.2kW/p	3.2kW/p
0.5W/m <sup>2</sup>	2.2W/m <sup>2</sup>	5W/m <sup>2</sup>	20W/m <sup>2</sup>
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
=	=	=	=
6'400 m <sup>2</sup> /p	~1'455m <sup>2</sup> /p	640 m <sup>2</sup> /p	160 m <sup>2</sup> /p

Swiss area = 41'285 km<sup>2</sup>

Swiss population ~ 8'400'000 p

➔ **Area per capita ~ 4'915 m<sup>2</sup>/p**

➔ (1 rugby field ~ 8'400 m<sup>2</sup>)



# A Swiss citizen would need...

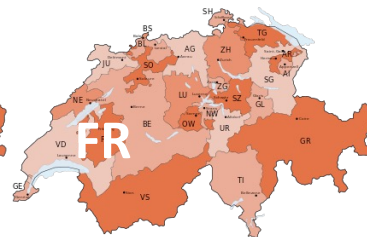
**Average power use of a Swiss citizen = 3.2 kW/p**

$$\frac{\text{bioethanol } 3.2\text{kW/p}}{0.5\text{W/m}^2} = \frac{6400\text{m}^2/\text{p}}{4915\text{m}^2} = \sim 1.3 \times \text{CH}$$

$$\frac{\text{windmills } 3.2\text{kW/p}}{2.2\text{W/m}^2} = \frac{\sim 1455\text{m}^2/\text{p}}{4915\text{m}^2} = \sim 0.30 \times \text{CH}$$

$$\frac{\text{Solar PV } 3.2\text{kW/p}}{5\text{W/m}^2} = \frac{640\text{m}^2/\text{p}}{4915\text{m}^2} = \sim 0.13 \times \text{CH}$$

$$\frac{\text{Concentrated solar } 3.2\text{kW/p}}{20\text{W/m}^2} = \frac{160\text{m}^2/\text{p}}{4915\text{m}^2} = \sim 0.033 \times \text{CH}$$



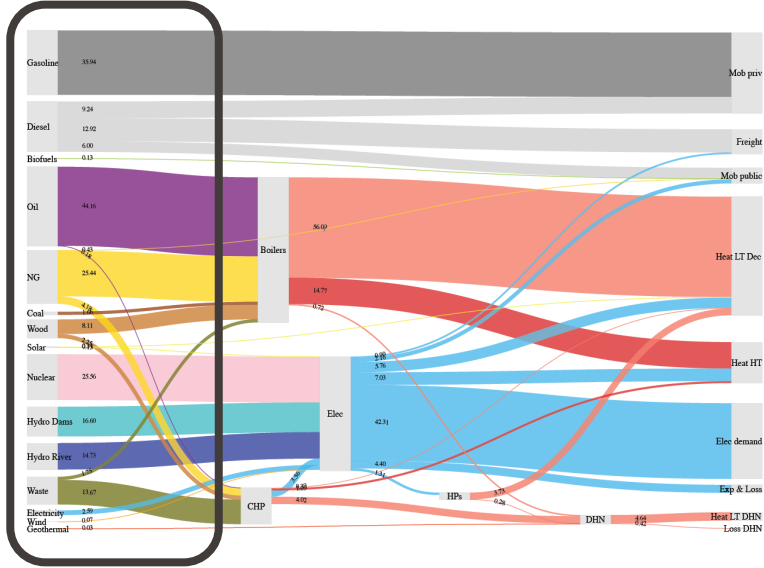
**GROUP QUESTION (2 ppl., 5-10 mins)**

Switzerland has an installed capacity of 300 MW (electric) of natural gas plants, producing at full load only 27% of the time (8'760 hours). 1 kWh of electricity from natural gas  $\Leftrightarrow$  420 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh.

- How many MW of PV panels are required to replace them (capacity factor of 15%) ?
- How much surface (solar – 5 W/m<sup>2</sup>) is needed ?
- How much CO<sub>2</sub> is saved per year ? 1 kWh of electricity from solar PV  $\Leftrightarrow$  18 g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh.

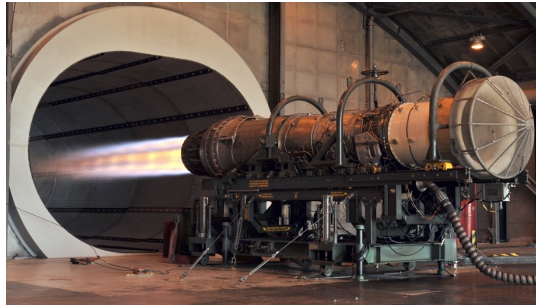
<https://app.wooclap.com/ME409/questionnaires/66f11364f18a641fcd19053d>





# The "efficiency" challenge

- The concept of **energy efficiency** : what you want / what you consume
- Example of a **power plant** :
  - What we want = power, electricity
  - What we consume = nuclear fuel, coal, natural gas
- Example of a **heating system** :
  - What we want = heat
  - What we consume = wood, gas, oil



# Which of the following electricity production technologies present the highest energy efficiency?

- A. Gas-fired plants
- B. Solar photovoltaics
- C. Hydroelectric dams
- D. Nuclear power plants

# Energy conversion

- **Thermodynamics**  
= transformations of energy
- **Industrial revolution : empirical**  
foundations + observations
- **Four** main principles
  - Can energy be **created from nothing**?
  - Do all forms of energy have the same “value”  
? How much electricity can we produce at best?



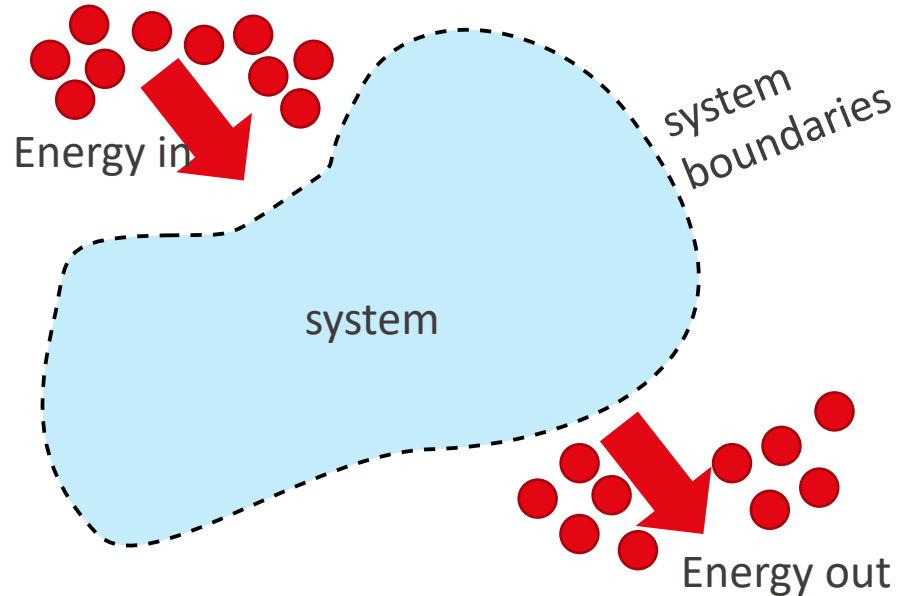


# Energy system: efficiencies

# First principle

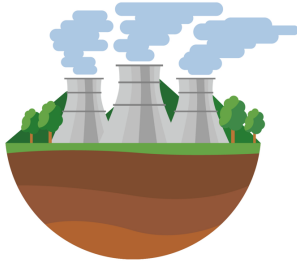
## - Energy conservation

- *Applying thermodynamics to energy systems...*
- *You can't win. Energy is **conserved**, neither created nor destroyed.*

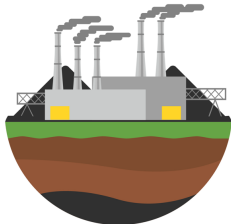


# First principle

## - Energy for heat and mechanical engines



NUCLEAR



COAL

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Nuclear fuel energy}}$$

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{W^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Wind kinetic energy}}$$

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Coal chemical energy}}$$

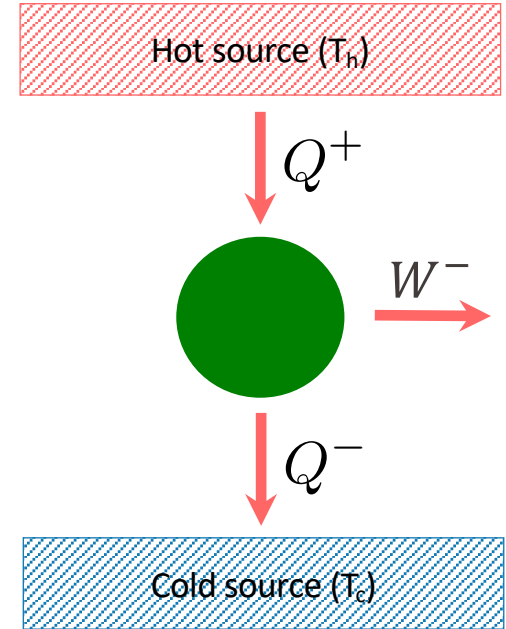


Image by macrovector on Freepik :

[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration\\_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from\\_view=search](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from_view=search)

## Examples :

The Mühleberg **nuclear** power plant, the Bouchain **gas** power plant

Nominal **thermal output** of reactor: 1097 MW(th)

**Gross electrical output**: 372 MW(e)

**Auxiliary electrical consumption** (pumps, etc.): 17 MW(e)

Required area (infrastructure, mining, plant): 1.55 km<sup>2</sup>

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Net power output}}{\text{Nuclear fuel energy}}$$



Nominal **thermal output** of reactor: 1140 MW(th)

**Net electrical output**: 701 MW(e)

Required area (infrastructure, mining, plant): 1.46 km<sup>2</sup>

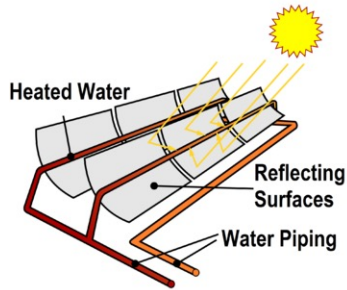
$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Net power output}}{\text{Gas consumption}}$$

# First principle

## - First-law efficiency for heat production technologies



$$\eta_I = \frac{Q^-}{W^+} = \frac{\text{Heat output}}{\text{Electricity input}}$$



$$\eta_I = \frac{Q^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Heat output}}{\text{Solar radiation}}$$

# Examples :

## Electric heaters and solar collectors

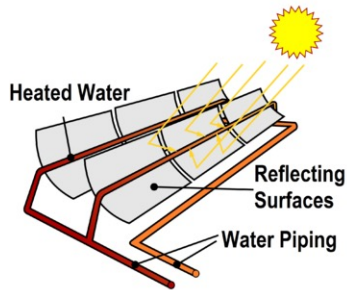


*For a basic electric heater with a footprint area*

Nominal thermal output: 12 kW (th)

Nominal electricity consumption: 13 kW

$$\eta_I = \frac{Q^-}{W^+} = \frac{\text{Heat output}}{\text{Electricity input}}$$



*For a solar thermal collector with a footprint area of 20 m<sup>2</sup>*

Nominal heat output: 14 kW (th)

Solar radiation : 20 kW

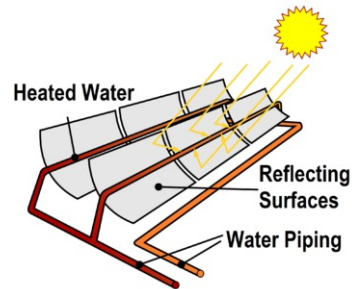
$$\eta_I = \frac{Q^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Heat output}}{\text{Solar radiation}}$$

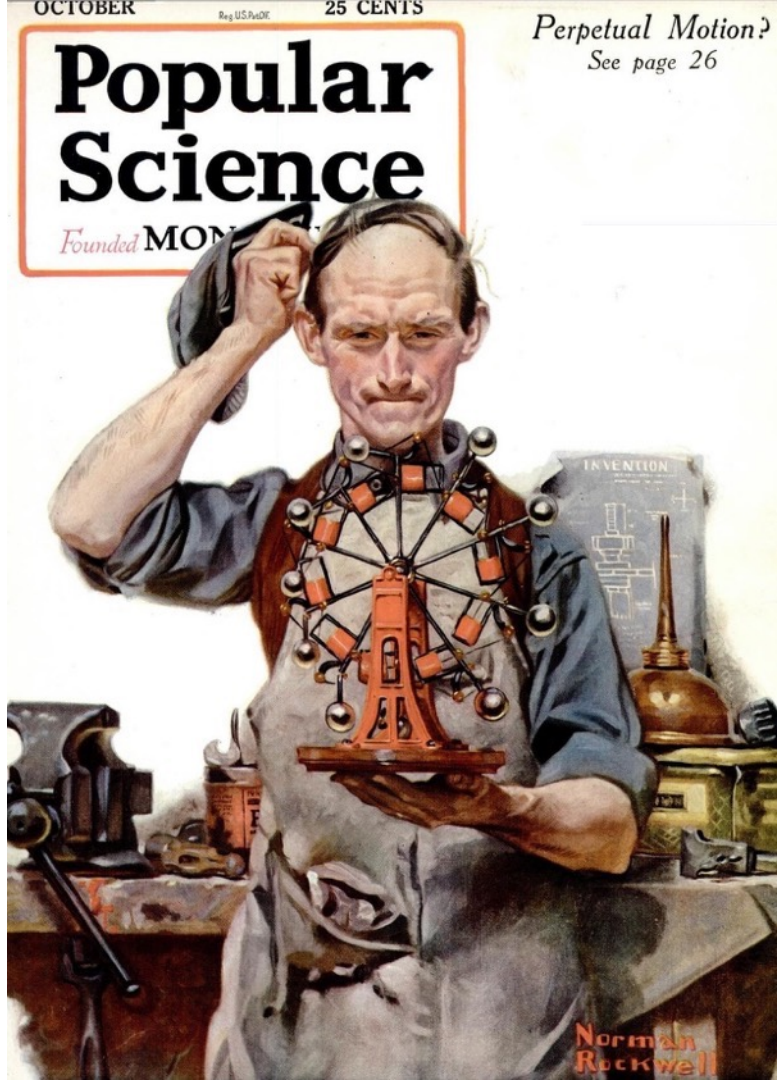
## GROUP QUESTION (2 ppl., 5-10 mins)

Determine, for the 4 examples given before, their **energy efficiencies (%) AND power densities ( $\text{W}/\text{m}^2$ )**.

Please answer at this link:

<https://app.wooclap.com/ME409/questionnaires/66f11364f18a641fcd19053d>



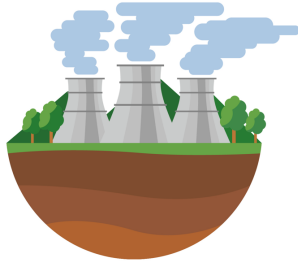


## Second principle

Can we produce as much work as we get heat?

How valuable is heat compared to electricity?

# Comparison of energy efficiencies

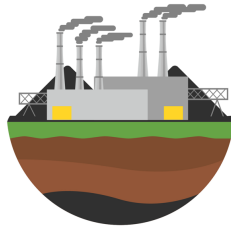


NUCLEAR

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Nuclear fuel energy}} \approx 30\text{-}35\%$$



$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Gas chemical energy}} \approx 35\text{-}60\%$$



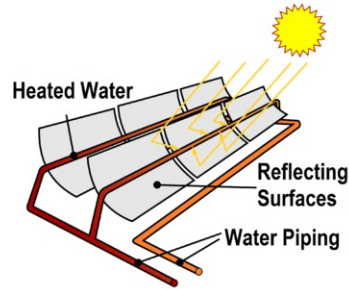
COAL

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Coal chemical energy}} \approx 35\text{-}40\%$$

Image by macrovector on Freepik :

[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration\\_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from\\_view=search](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from_view=search)

# Comparison of energy efficiencies



$$\eta_I = \frac{Q^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Heat output}}{\text{Solar radiation}} \approx 70\text{-}80\%$$



$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{W^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Water potential and kinetic energy}} \approx 80\text{-}90\%$$



$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{W^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Wind kinetic energy}} \approx 20\text{-}40\%$$

Image by macrovector on Freepik :

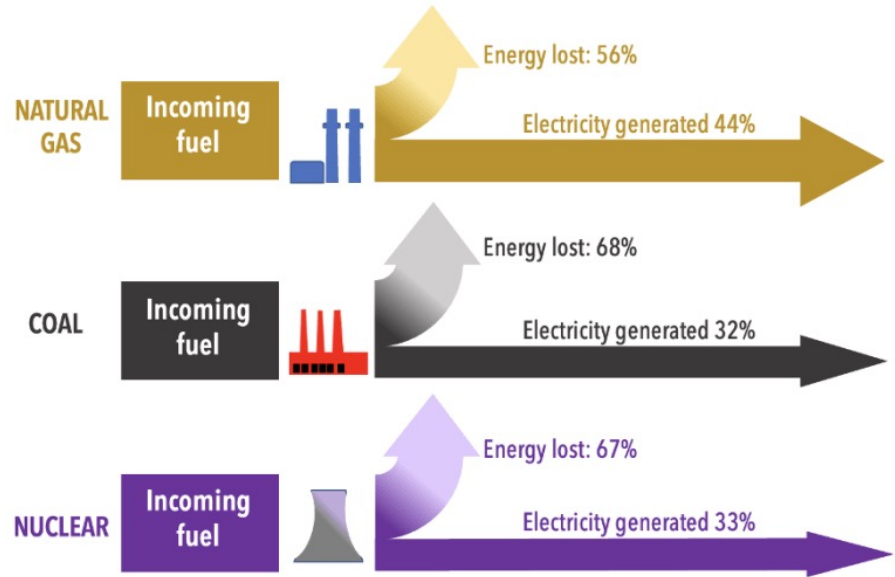
[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration\\_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from\\_view=search](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from_view=search)

# Comparison of energy efficiencies

- Difficult to compare **different energy conversion plants**
- **Heat-to-electricity devices** have lower energy efficiencies
- How can these efficiencies be improved?
- How can we best compare energy conversion plants?

## Traditional sources of electricity lose most of their energy as waste heat

Data from U.S. electricity generation, thermal plants - average operating efficiencies in 2020



Data from the Energy Information Administration  
Image by Karin Kirk for Yale Climate Connections

# Second principle

## - An explanation for these differences

- **Impossible** to get as much power **out** as heat **in** from a given power plant
- Entropy generation  $\Leftrightarrow$  100% efficiency is not achievable
- So... what is the maximum reachable efficiency?



# Second principle

## - Carnot efficiency $\theta$

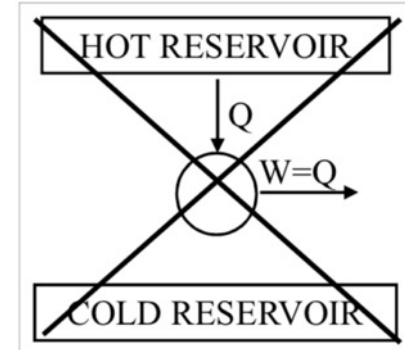
- Not all heat can be converted into electricity (heat has a lower «value»)
- On the contrary, all electricity can be converted into heat (high «value»)
- The limit is Carnot.

- $\theta = \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}\right)$

Ambient temperature (Kelvin)

Heat transfer temperature (Kelvin)

Carnot factor = "maximum theoretical efficiency"



# Second principle

## - Carnot efficiency $\theta$

$$\theta = \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}\right)$$

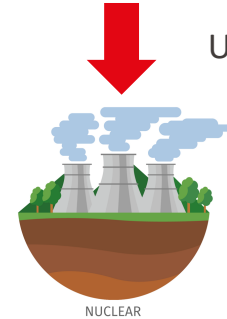
High  $T_Q$   
= high value of  
heat

$$\theta = \left(1 - \frac{15 + 273.15}{300 + 273.15}\right)$$

$T = 300^\circ\text{C}$



Uranium: 100 MJ



Electricity: 35 MJ



$T = 15^\circ\text{C}$



Heat to the river: 65 MJ

# Second principle

## - The concept of exergy

Exergy – the “useful work potential” = *how much electrical or mechanical work can be produced from a given energy source in ideal conditions?*

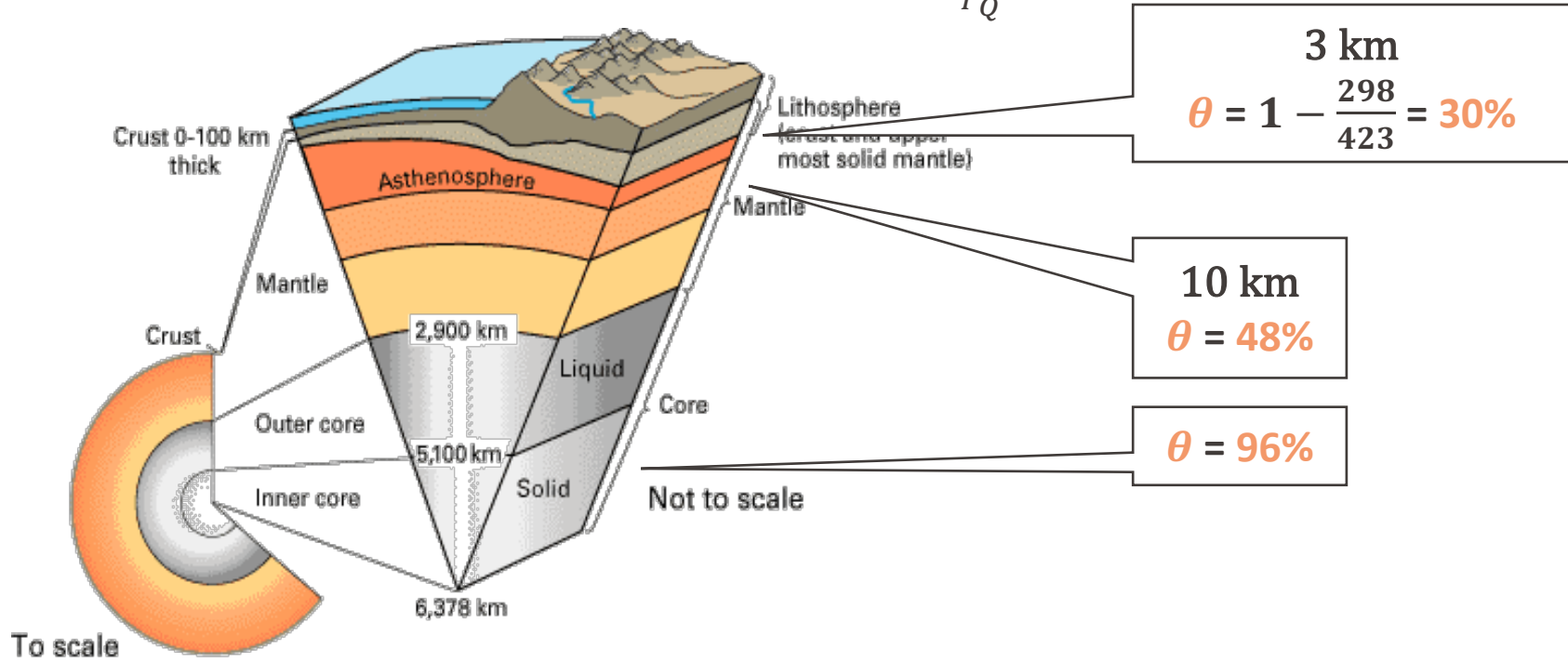
- For mechanical and electrical flows : exergy = energy = **W**
- For fuels : exergy  $\approx$  higher heating value (**HHV**)
- For heat : exergy = energy  $\times$  Carnot factor  $(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}) = \mathbf{Q} \times \boldsymbol{\theta}$

# Second principle

## - The concept of exergy

Exergy – an indication of the value of different energy forms

For heat : exergy = energy  $\times$  Carnot factor  $(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}) = Q \times \theta$



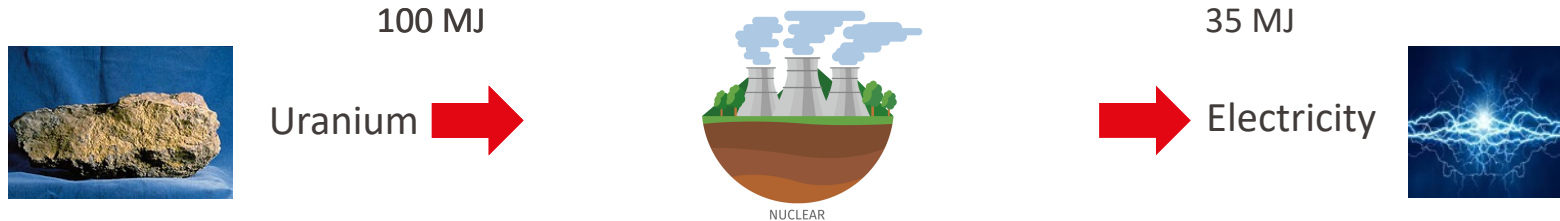
# Second principle

## - Second-law efficiency $\eta_{II}$

- Second-law efficiency  $\eta_{II}$

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{\text{what you get}}{\text{what you would get in the **ideal** case}}$$

- High second-law efficiencies = *small margin of improvement*



# Second principle

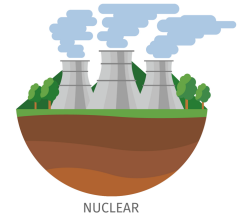
## - Second-law efficiency – examples $\eta_{II}$

- Second-law efficiency for heat engines  $\eta_{II}$

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{W^-}{Q^+ + \theta}$$

“Value of heat”  
= **Carnot factor**

What you pay =  
**fuel energy**



- Second-law efficiency for heat production from electricity  $\eta_{II}$

$$\eta_{II} = \frac{Q^-}{W^+}$$



# Example 1 : the Mühleberg **nuclear** power plant



For a power plant producing only **electricity**

Nominal **thermal output** of reactor: 1097 MW(th)

**Gross electrical output**: 372 MW(e)

**Auxiliary electrical consumption** (pumps, etc.): 17 MW(e)

Reactor temperature : 300°C

River temperature : 11°C

$$\theta = \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}\right)$$
$$\eta_{II} = \frac{W^-}{Q + \theta}$$

**GROUP QUESTION (2 ppl., 5-10 mins)**

**Determine**, for the 2 examples given before (gas power plant and electric heater), their maximum (Carnot) **AND second-law efficiencies**.

Please answer at this link:

<https://app.wooclap.com/ME409/questions/66f11364f18a641fcd19053d>



## Example 2 : The Bouchain **gas** power plant (FR)



Nominal **thermal output** of reactor: 1140 MW(th)

**Net electrical output**: 701 MW(e)

Gas combustion temperature : 1590°C

Ambient temperature : 15°C

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+} = \frac{\text{Power output}}{\text{Gas consumption}}$$
$$\theta = \left( 1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q} \right)$$
$$\eta_{II} = \frac{W^-}{Q^+ + \theta}$$

## Example 3 : A basic electrical heater



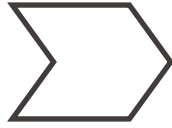
For a heat production technology

- Nominal thermal output: 12 kW (th)
- Nominal electricity consumption: 13 kW
- Heater temperature : 45°C
- Ambient temperature : 15°C

$$\theta = \left(1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q}\right)$$
$$\eta_{II} = \frac{Q^- \theta}{W^+}$$



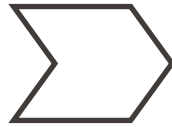
Production



Conversion



Delivery



Use

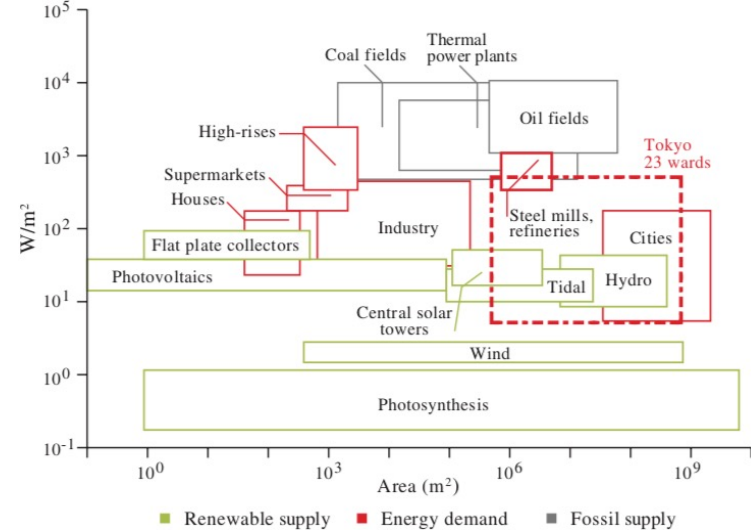
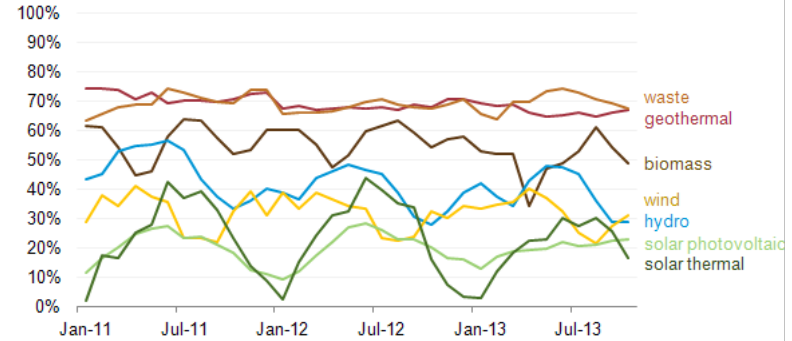
# Conclusion

Take-home message

# Take-home message

- **First-law efficiency** : simple and widely used energy metric.
- **Carnot factor** : measure of the maximum efficiency that can be reached, or value of heat
- **Second-law efficiency** : how ideal is my system? Can it be improved?

Monthly capacity factors for select renewable fuels and technologies  
(January 2011–October 2013)



# Important formulas

Calculate :

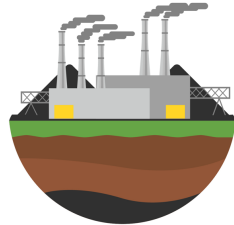
- First-law efficiency  $\eta_I$

$$\eta_I = \frac{W^-}{Q^+}$$

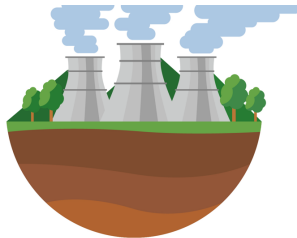
- Carnot factor  $\theta$

$$\theta = \left( 1 - \frac{T_0}{T_Q} \right)$$

- Second-law efficiency  $\eta_{II}$
- $$\eta_{II} = \frac{W^-}{Q^+ \theta}$$



COAL



NUCLEAR



BIOMASS



Image by macrovector on Freepik :

[https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration\\_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from\\_view=search](https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/generation-energy-types-power-plant-icons-vector-set-renewable-alternative-solar-tidal-wind-geothermal-biomass-wave-illustration_10601053.htm#query=power%20plant&position=3&from_view=search)



**Questions?**

**Tuong-Van  
Nguyen**