

# Emerging Economics of Hydrogen Production and Delivery

## PREPARED BY

Frank Graves   Josh Figueroa   Ragini Sreenath  
Lorenzo Sala   Jadon Grove   Stephen Thumb

## COMMISSIONED BY

Environmental Defense Fund

FEBRUARY 2024



# Purpose and Scope

---

**This study reviews how the production and delivery costs of hydrogen are changing under the influence of recent strong tax incentives, DOE support for hydrogen research and hub development, rapidly growing commercial scale, and projected technology improvements.**

---

We compare costs under a few different modes of production, or “colors,” of hydrogen including green pink and blue, but most focus is on green hydrogen.

- We compare costs if H<sub>2</sub> is produced intermittently (when wind or solar power are available) versus if it is produced in “steady state” at a uniform level throughout the year (which requires overbuilding the renewable power and including storage).
- Comparisons are between 2023 and 2030, when many developers hope to be bringing announced projects to market (for which they also project technology improvements used herein).
- Due to pronounced differences in feedstock costs, H<sub>2</sub> costs will vary by region. We compare California to the Gulf Coast and to New York, which correspond to where most H<sub>2</sub> development projects are being pursued at this time.
- Delivery costs are evaluated for pipelines and trucking, but not for distribution scale pipes or conversion expenses of hydrogen customers. Focus is on getting hydrogen to market areas, not on end-use demands or priorities.

# Findings

---

**Results indicate that public programs, especially the recent Clean Hydrogen Production tax credits for green H<sub>2</sub> can offset around half of H<sub>2</sub> production costs, making it close to competitive with conventional (grey) H<sub>2</sub>. Projected large reductions in electrolysis costs could achieve comparable reductions, potentially reaching or beating DoE’s “hydrogen shot” goal of \$1/kg by 2030.**

- Indeed, 2030 costs with tax shields could be negative in some places.
- A \$1/kg price is equivalent to about \$7.44/MMBtu, i.e. close to natural gas, esp. if the latter were penalized by a CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions charge reflecting the social cost of carbon.

**Midstream and downstream delivery and storage costs for moving H<sub>2</sub> appear to be less than \$1/kg, but there are significant unresolved technical limitations (esp. leakage) on bulk shipping and storing**

- The small size of H<sub>2</sub> molecules makes remote delivery and storage challenging
- There are regional hydrogen pipeline networks in the Southeast, and some hub projects include new pipes, but at

present no natural gas pipeline company is (publicly) considering expansion or conversion to hydrogen

- Only salt-dome storage seems well suited to hydrogen, which are mostly located on the Gulf Coast; long term seasonal storage (akin to natural gas storing summer for winter) seems unlikely

**As a result, a national market for H<sub>2</sub> may be slow to develop; instead H<sub>2</sub> will tend to be made more locally, close to end use, under differing technologies and costs that suit those locations.**

**Long run demand for H<sub>2</sub> is projected to be high, but there is a fairly clear “ladder” of priority for best-use (hence most likely realization) across industries, with hard-to-electrify industrial applications and some heavy duty transportation the strongest.**

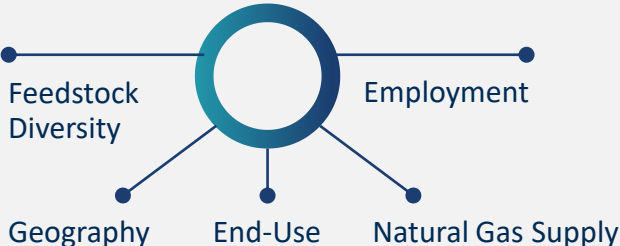
**The clean power requirements for making the quantities of H<sub>2</sub> that are sometimes projected for 2040-2050 (30-50 million metric tons per year) could be huge: perhaps as much as 700GW of renewable power just to serve this demand.**

# Recent U.S. policy is driving investment and focus on H<sub>2</sub>

## Hydrogen Hubs (2021)<sup>[1]</sup>

Congress appropriated \$8 billion to award “networks of clean H<sub>2</sub> producers, consumers, and the connecting infrastructure.”

- Part of the Infrastructure Investment Job Act (IIJA)
- DOE is administering the funding in 50% cost-sharing agreements
- Seven hubs selected Oct 2023, each receiving about \$1 billion and targeting mix of H<sub>2</sub> feedstock's and end-uses
- An additional \$1 billion is targeted for demand-side initiatives.
- DOE expects projects to be executed over 8 to 12 years



## Inflation Reduction Act (2022)<sup>[2]</sup>

Congress introduced major incentives for clean energy production, including expanded tax credits for carbon capture utilization and storage (CCUS) and direct air capture (DAC), and novel tax credits for clean hydrogen production.

Tax Credit	Amount	Description
45V (new)	Up to \$3/kg H <sub>2</sub>	Production tax credit for “clean” hydrogen, developers allowed to choose between ITC and PTC
45Q (extended and augmented)	Up to \$85/tCO <sub>2</sub> stored	Production tax credit for capture and sequestration; Cannot be stacked with 45V
45Z (new and augmented)	\$0.2 to \$1/gal. x emission factor	Clean transport. fuel production credit; higher amount available for meeting wage and labor criteria; Cannot be stacked with 45V
	\$0.35 to \$1.75 x emission factor (aviation fuel)	

## EPA Section 111 (2023)<sup>[3]</sup>

EPA proposed updates to New Source Performance Standards for new stationary combustion turbines:



Establishes both (a) 90% carbon capture and (b) **30% hydrogen co-firing with natural gas** as best available technology beginning in 2032



Establishes both (a) 90% carbon capture and (b) **96% hydrogen co-firing with natural gas** as best available technology beginning in 2038

# IRA: a watershed for US H<sub>2</sub> economy

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act provided \$369 billion of spending for climate protection provisions. Among these, the outsized clean production tax credits for H<sub>2</sub> are stimulating the development of a US H<sub>2</sub> economy.<sup>[4]</sup>

- 45V clean H<sub>2</sub> tax credits can be \$3/kg – about half the size of recent production costs, or \$22.30/MMBtu, and these tax credits can be monetized
- In response, there have already been announcements of at least 25 industry H<sub>2</sub> projects, many of which project very substantial IRRs.<sup>[5]</sup>



Many specifics for the IRA are unresolved, which creates a number of uncertainties for H<sub>2</sub> development.

- One critical area is the resolution of the proposed 45V regulations which aims to ensure that power used for making H<sub>2</sub> is not inducing new GHG emissions, deemed the “additionality problem”:<sup>[6]</sup>
  - Preliminary 45V rules state that power for electrolysis needs to be on-site *or* temporally aligned with H<sub>2</sub> production (“hourly matching”), within the same deliverability region (“deliverability”), and from new renewable resources (“additivity”).
  - Affects costs and locations of potential projects (more feasible with less additionality)
  - Also unresolved are the extent of allowable stacking of different types of energy tax credits, and how to deal with fugitive emissions
- *Herein, we assume strict additionality is required; no remote, partially clean power used*
  - But, H<sub>2</sub> use has additional positive and negative side effects from changing methane leakage and its own possible leakage as a GHG on delivery
  - Still reduces GHGs, but not 100%

# Department of Energy Hydrogen Programs: Hydrogen Hubs

2021's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act appropriated \$8 billion in funding to the DOE for awards to between six and ten hydrogen hubs.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Overview:

- Awards are intended for networks of clean H<sub>2</sub> producers and consumers, and the infrastructure connecting the two
- Hubs must include capabilities for all stages of a H<sub>2</sub> supply chain, including production, processing, delivery, storage, and end-use.

## Criteria:

- DOE was required by law to selected seven hubs such that, together they meet the following requirements:
  1. Feedstock diversity: renewable, natural gas with CCS, and nuclear
  2. End-use diversity: power generation, industrial, heating, and transportation
  3. Geographic diversity
  4. At least two hubs must be located in natural gas producing regions
  5. Create employment requirements

## Timeline:

- Projects were selected in Fall 2023
- DOE expects project execution over 8 – 12 years

## Applicant Hubs:

- **Northeast:** CT, NY, NJ, ME, RI, VT and MA to compete jointly for a \$1.25 billion hydrogen hub funding. Hub will focus on clean electrolytic production for hard to decarbonize sectors *i.e.* transportation and heavy industry.
- **California:** State-wide hub application led by the Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems
- **Texas:** Three hub proposals- Gulf Coast Hydrogen Transition Hub, HyVelocity Hub, Corpus Christi Horizons Clean Hydrogen Hub
- 21 projects, including the five above, were encouraged to and submitted full applications to the DOE.

# Selected Clean Hydrogen Hubs

	States	Type of H <sub>2</sub>	Funds	Target Sectors <sup>[a]</sup>
<b>Appalachian Hydrogen Hub</b>	WV, OH, PA	Green, Blue, Biohydrogen	up to \$925 million	Ammonia, chemicals, industrial, heavy-duty transport, mining, data centers, distribution centers, Sustainable aviation fuel (eSAF), gas utility blending, residential fuel cells
<b>California Hydrogen Hub</b>	CA	Green, Biohydrogen	up to \$1.2 billion	Heavy duty-transport, power generation, port operations
<b>Gulf Coast Hydrogen Hub</b>	TX, LA	Green, Pink, Blue	up to \$1.2 billion	Ammonia, refining and petrochemicals, industrial, heavy-duty transport, transit authorities, ports, eSAF, marine fuel (eMethanol), power generation
<b>Heartland Hydrogen Hub</b>	MN, ND, SD, MN, WI	Green, Pink, Blue	up to \$925 million	Fertilizer, industrial, eSAF, power generation, gas LDC blending
<b>Mid-Atlantic Hydrogen Hub</b>	PA, DE, NJ	Green, Pink, Blue	up to \$750 million	Industrial, refineries, heavy-duty transportation, transit authorities
<b>Midwest Hydrogen Hub</b>	IL, IN, MI	Green, Pink, Blue	up to \$1 billion	Agriculture, industrial, manufacturing, heavy-duty transportation, eSAF, gas utility blending
<b>Pacific Northwest Hydrogen Hub</b>	WA, OR, MT	Green	up to \$1 billion	Fertilizer, refiners, industrial, heavy-duty transport, eSAF, marine fuel, long-duration energy storage

[a]: Targeted sectors are not all or mostly yet committed as offtakers, i.e. demand is not fully assured.

# Recent industry project announcements targeted mostly at industrial uses<sup>[5]</sup>




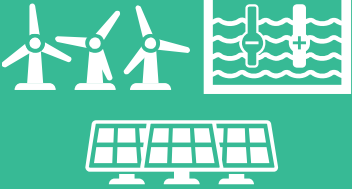

No.	Firm(Partner)	Type of Project	Location	Production /Size	Type of Supply	CCS	Midstream	Type of Offtake	Offtake Agreement
1	CF Industries	NH3 - Blue	Donaldsonville, LA	1.7 MMst NH3/yr.	Steady	Yes	None	Brownfield	None
2	CF Industries(Mitsui)	NH3 - Blue	LA	1.35 MMst NH3/yr.	Steady	Yes	None	Brownfield	None
3	CF Industries	NH3 - Blue	Yazoo, MS	-----	Steady	Yes	None	Brownfield	None
4	Nutrien(Mitsubishi)	NH3 - Blue	Geismar, LA	1.35 MMst NH3/yr.	Steady	Yes	-----	-----	-----
6	Enbridge/Yara	NH3 - Blue	Ingleside, TX	1.3 MMst NH3/yr.	Steady	Building CO2 Storage	-----	Greenfield; online 2028	100% to Yara
5	Air Products	Blue H2 & NH3	Eastern LA	4 MMst NH3/yr.	Steady	Yes	Air Products H2 P/L	Greenfield; online 2026; 50% H2 & 50% NH3	-----
7	ExxonMobil	Blue H2 & NH3	Baytown, TX	1 BCFD H2	Steady	Building 10 MMmt CO2 Storage	-----	Greenfield; online 2028	Baytown refinery & adjacent Sk, Inc NH3 plant
8	NextEra/CF Industries	Green NH3	Verdigris, OK	-----	Steady	No	-----	450 Mw co-located renewables for 100MW electrolyzer	-----
9	CF Industries	Green H2 & NH3	Donaldsonville, LA	20 Mst H2/yr.	Steady	No	-----	Uses 20 MW alkaline electrolyzer	Japanese utility to co-fire with coal
10	Air Products(AES)	Green H2	Wilbarger Cty, TX	78 MMmt H2/yr.	Intermittent	No	Building liquefier; trucks; won't build H2 P/L	Greenfield; serve transportation sector	-----
11	Air Products	Green H2	Casa Grande, AZ	3.65 Mmt H2/yr.	Steady	No	-----	Greenfield; online 2023; 300 MW solar for 120 MW electrolyzer	-----
12	Air Products(World Energy)	Green H2	Paramount, CA	-----	Intermittent	No	SoCal H2P/L; can store 400 kg H2 onsite	Greenfield; online 2028; Includes aviation fuels plant	World Energy
13	Air Products	Green H2	Massena, NY	12.5 Mmt H2/yr.	Intermittent	No	Building liquefier; trucks	Greenfield; serve transportation sector; online 2027; hydro power at \$20/MWh	-----



---

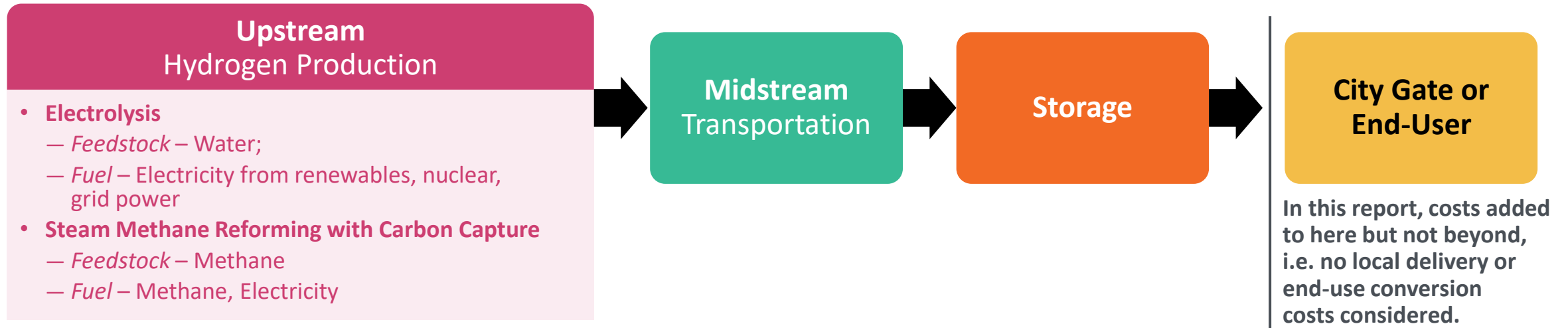
# Hydrogen Production

# Hydrogen can be produced via many system configurations

					
	<b>Grey</b>	<b>Blue</b>	<b>Yellow</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Pink</b>
<b>Technology</b>	Steam Methane Reforming (SMR)	SMR with Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)	Electrolyzer - Alkaline, Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM)	Electrolyzer - Alkaline, Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM)	Electrolyzer - Alkaline, Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM)
<b>Feedstock /Fuel</b>	Natural Gas/Electricity	Natural Gas/Electricity	Water/ Grid Electricity	Water/Renewable Electricity	Water/Nuclear Electricity

Other production processes such as pyrolysis (turquoise hydrogen) and partial oxidation are also being developed but are commercially unproven thus far and less prevalent in industry discussions today.

# Wholesale hydrogen cost chain



Here we assume that hydrogen production is either by electrolysis of water (renewables - green, nuclear - pink, or grid power—yellow) or by steam methane reform (SMR) + carbon capture and storage (CCS) of natural gas (blue) to determine the cost of production in three regions – CA, Gulf Coast, and Northeast (NY) – across different time periods.

Electrolysis is assumed to be by Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) technology unless otherwise indicated.

All required electrolysis power is assumed to be local and synchronous with H<sub>2</sub> production; no sub-additivity.

We use nominal **levelized cost of hydrogen** (LCOH = lifecycle breakeven flat price per kg) as comparison metric.

# Current green H<sub>2</sub> production costs

For green H<sub>2</sub> today, electricity costs are by far the lion's share, i.e. 70-90%, of total costs.

Power costs in turn depend strongly on how it is produced (renewable, nuclear, grid, etc. – shaded blue bars at right depict alternative power sources)

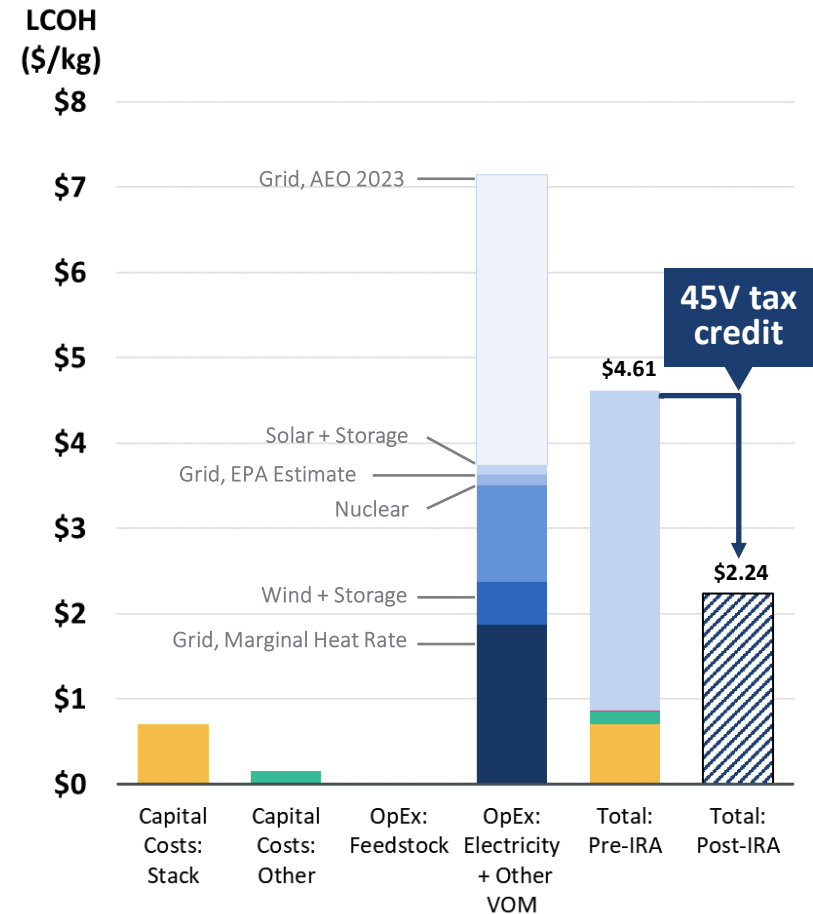
Under the Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credits, green H<sub>2</sub> receives a \$3/kg credit for production in the first 10 years of plant life, cutting net costs by as much as half.

Capital costs and efficiency of electrolyzers are projected by developers to improve rapidly over next few years.

- PEM costs about \$1,000-1,500/kW today, but recent industry projects cite around \$250/kW by 2030 and requiring 20% less electricity per kg
- Also, many other electrolyzer technologies emerging and improving
- Renewable power costs also likely to fall over the coming decade, if past trends are indicative.

***H<sub>2</sub> at \$1/kg corresponds to \$7.44/MMBtu***

**2023 California Costs for Steady State H<sub>2</sub> via Electrolysis using PEM**



**Note:** 45V tax credit converted from larger initial 10-year value to equivalent net benefit over entire life of the plant

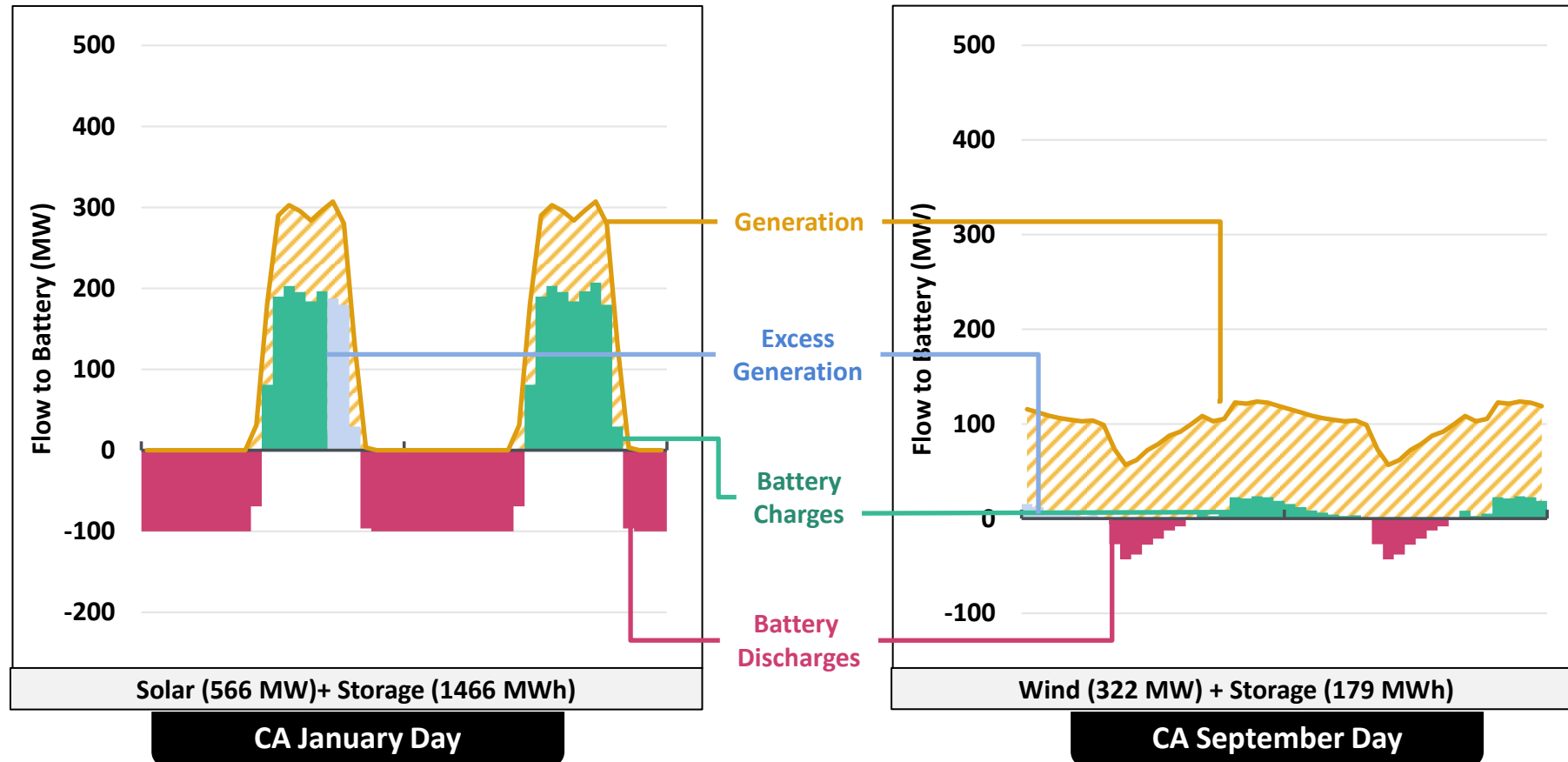
# Technology assumptions – improvements by 2030

Process	Input	Units	2023	2030	Sources
Electrolysis	Electrolyzer CapEx	\$M	\$1,263	\$202	2023: [8]
		\$/kW	\$1,000	\$250	2030: [9]
	Electrolyzer Capacity	MW	1,263	809	Assumption
		kg/day	474,000	474,000	
	Efficiency	kWh/kg <sub>H2</sub>	64	41	2023: [10] 2030: [11]
	Lifetime	Years	15	15	Assumption
	Utilization rate	%	Reflects source of electricity		
Steam Methane Reform with Carbon Capture & Sequestration	SMR CapEx	\$M	\$216	\$216	[12]
	CCS CapEx	\$M	\$140	\$135	[13]
	SMR Capacity	kg/day	500,000	500,000	[13]
	Efficiency	MMBtu <sub>CH4</sub> /kg <sub>H2</sub>	0.171	0.171	[13]
	Lifetime	years	15	15	Assumption
	Utilization rate	%	90%	90%	[13]
	Carbon intensity	kg <sub>CO2</sub> /kg <sub>H2</sub>	8.5	8.5	[13]
	Carbon capture rate	%	90%	90%	[13]

\*Cost improvements based on DOE Liftoff report, consistent with several industry projections

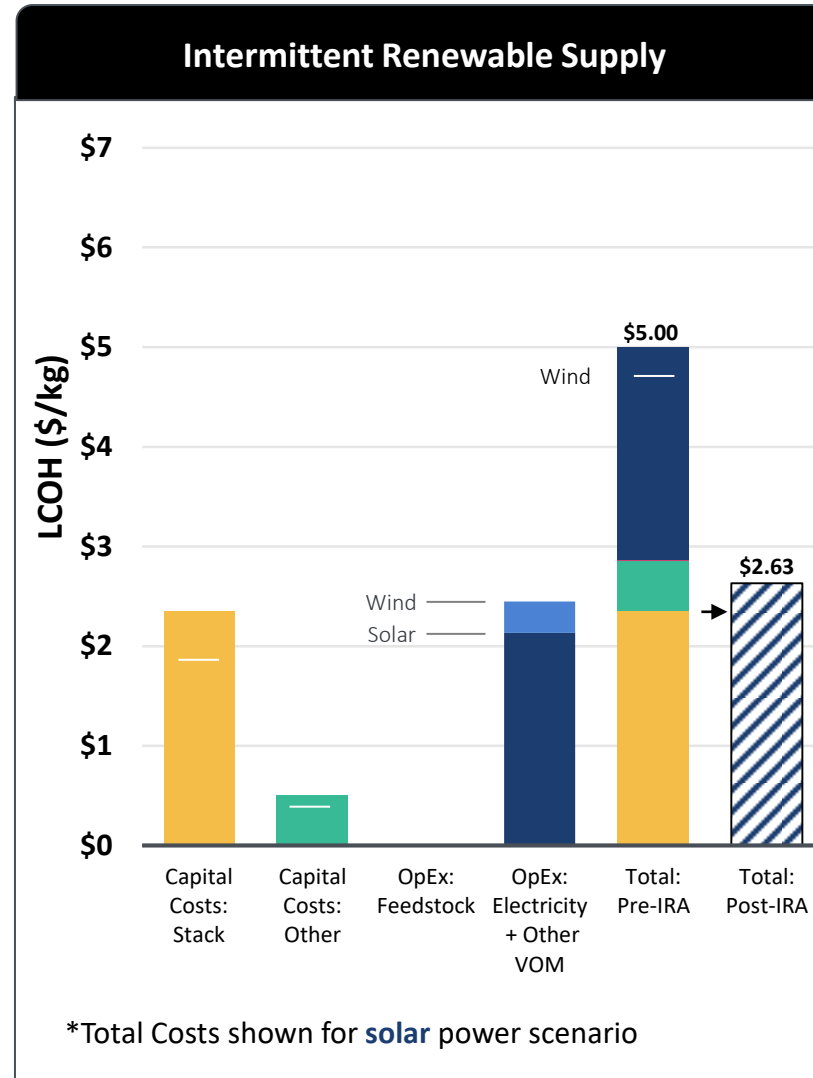
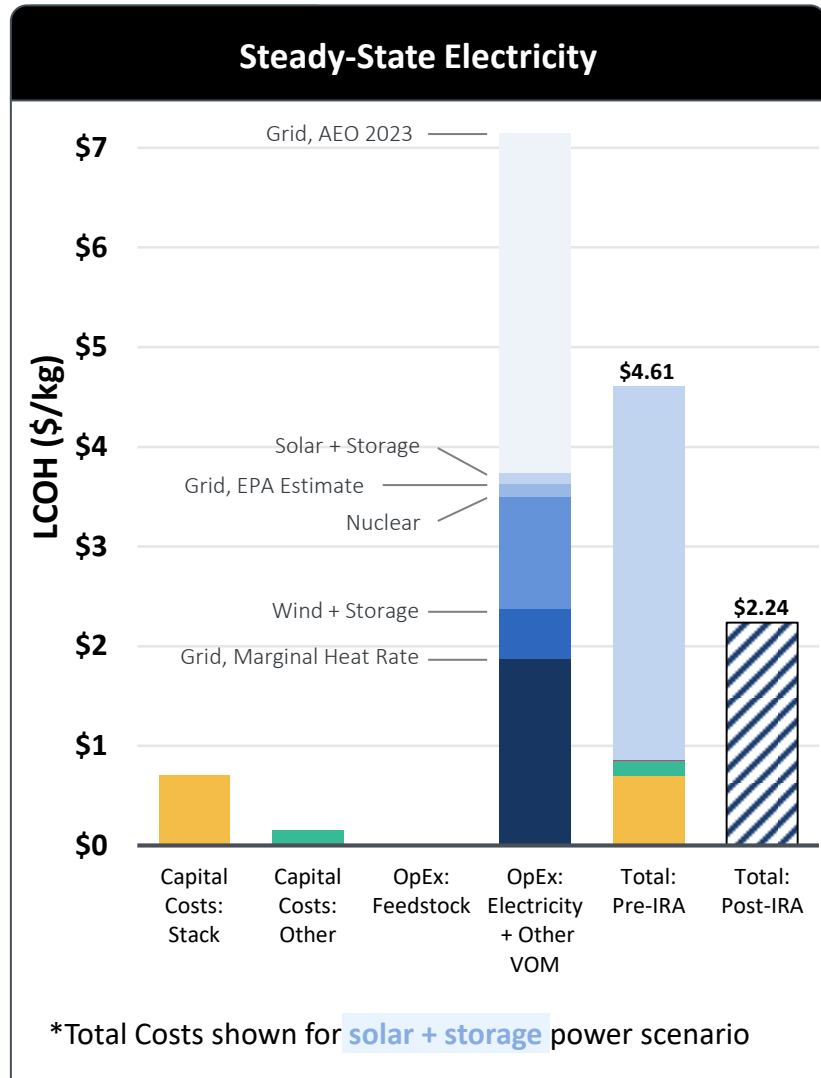
# Sizing of electricity for steady state H<sub>2</sub>

To produce H<sub>2</sub> year-round at 100% load factor, renewable power must be sized at  $\frac{\text{Electrolyzer capacity (in MW)}}{\text{VRE Daily Capacity Factor}}$  for, e.g., two consecutive days of poor to average sun or wind, and corresponding battery storage added. Result can be many multiples of electrolyzer size (here assumed to be 100 MW, under California RE power conditions).



**Note:** Sizing for poor seasonal (e.g. solar winter) capacity factor results in large **power supply** with considerable **excess generation in some months** that can be sold into wholesale power market (at seasonal spot prices) to defray some H<sub>2</sub> costs.

# 2023 Intermittent vs. Steady-State Green H<sub>2</sub> – CA production



Steady state production is slightly cheaper per kg than intermittent, at around \$4.60 vs. \$5/kg.

Steady state cheaper despite much higher total power supply capital requirements, due to much higher volume of H<sub>2</sub> (roughly 3x) to bear those fixed costs

With the 45V tax credit, green H<sub>2</sub> becomes competitive with gray hydrogen (assuming a grey LCOH of \$1-1.50/kg).

#### Assumptions:

- Technology: PEM
- Region: California
- Electricity Source: Solar PPA (\$28/MWh)
- CapEx Cost: 1,000/kW
- PEM Efficiency: 64 kWh/kg

Note: Each portion of the “OpEx: Electricity + Other VOM” bar corresponds to the incremental cost of that contribution to the LCOH under each electricity supply scenario. The blue section of the “Total: Pre-IRA” bar matches the full height of the corresponding portion in the bar to its left.

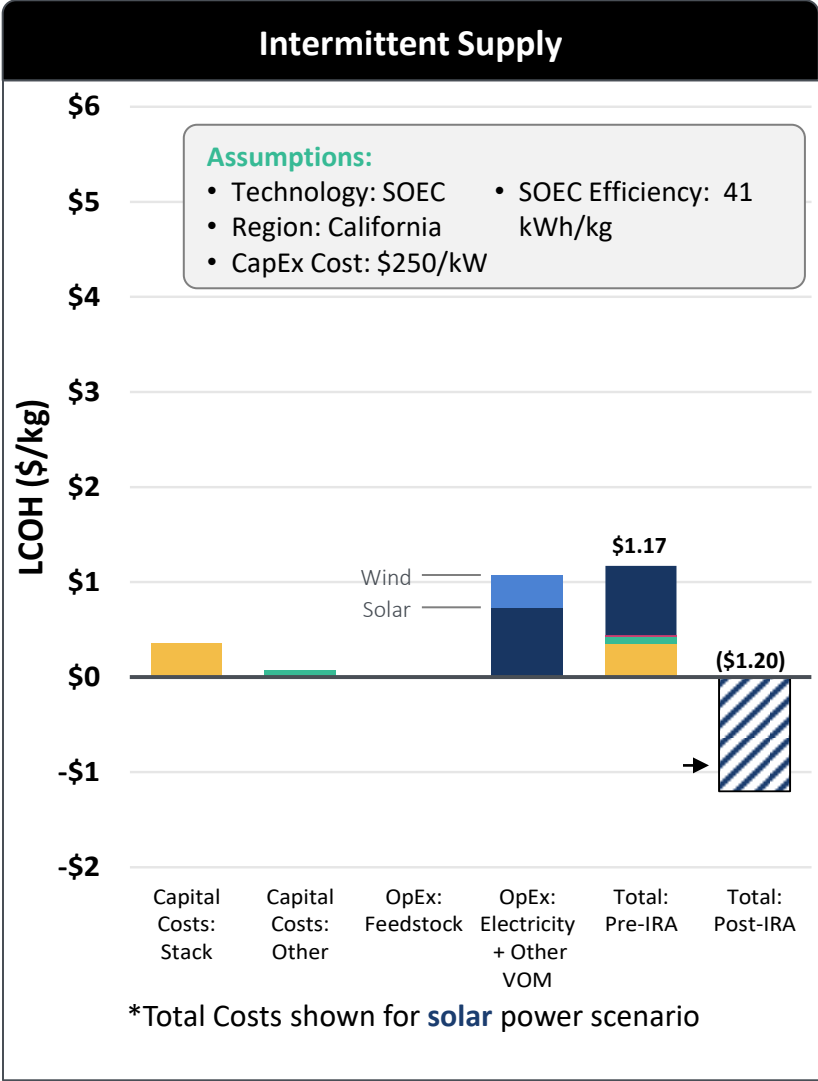
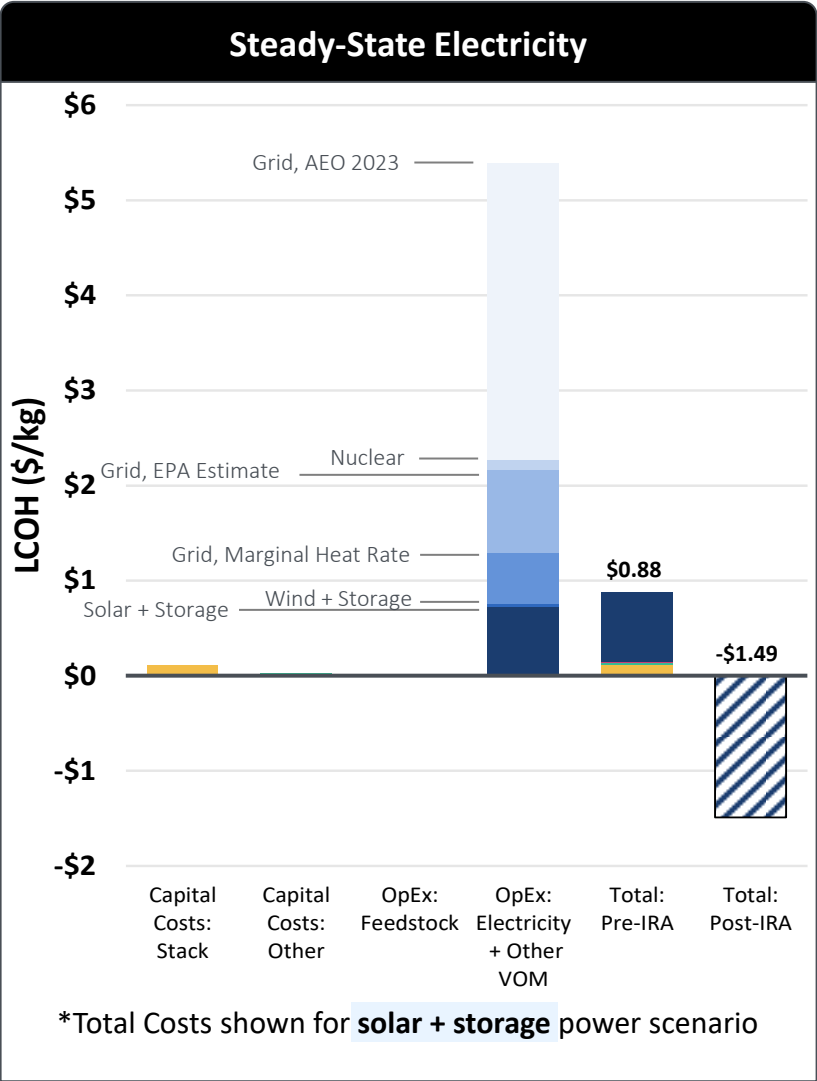
# Industry electrolyzer improvement outlooks

Type	Unique Characteristics	Drawbacks	Commercial Availability	Major Vendors	Other Notes <sup>[a]</sup>
<b>Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fastest cycle times</li> <li>Pairs well with intermittent renewables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses precious metals (platinum &amp; iridium), which could adversely impact future costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominated the market in the recent past</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plug Power,</li> <li>Siemens</li> <li>Cummins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plug Power forecasts PEM cost decline of 50%</li> </ul>
<b>Anode Exchange Membrane (AEM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CapEx is 25% less than PEM (Uses steel/titanium instead of iridium)</li> <li>AEM pairs well with intermittent VRE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relatively small scale (often referred to as the perfect fit for small consumers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enapter (Europe)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enapter's patented dry cathode improves compactness, makes scale-up &amp; maintenance easier.</li> </ul>
<b>Alkaline</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CapEx is lower than PEM or AEM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slow start times</li> <li>Does not pair as well with intermittent renewables as a result</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longi (China)</li> <li>Nel (Europe)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longi forecasts cost decline to as low as \$250 per kW</li> </ul>
<b>Solid Oxide Electrolyzer Cell (SOEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25% more efficient than PEM</li> <li>Does not use precious metals</li> <li>Uses steam instead of water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nascent technology that only recently became commercial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only demo plant to date (size is about 1/10<sup>th</sup> of PEM units)</li> <li>Commercially available by 2024</li> <li>\$10B in orders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bloom Energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bloom predicts costs a cost decline of 10% to 15% per year</li> </ul>

[a] Electric Hydrogen thinks costs will decline to <\$500/kW by 2030. Linde and Air Products foresee costs as low as \$200/kW.



# Potential production costs in 2030 – CA example

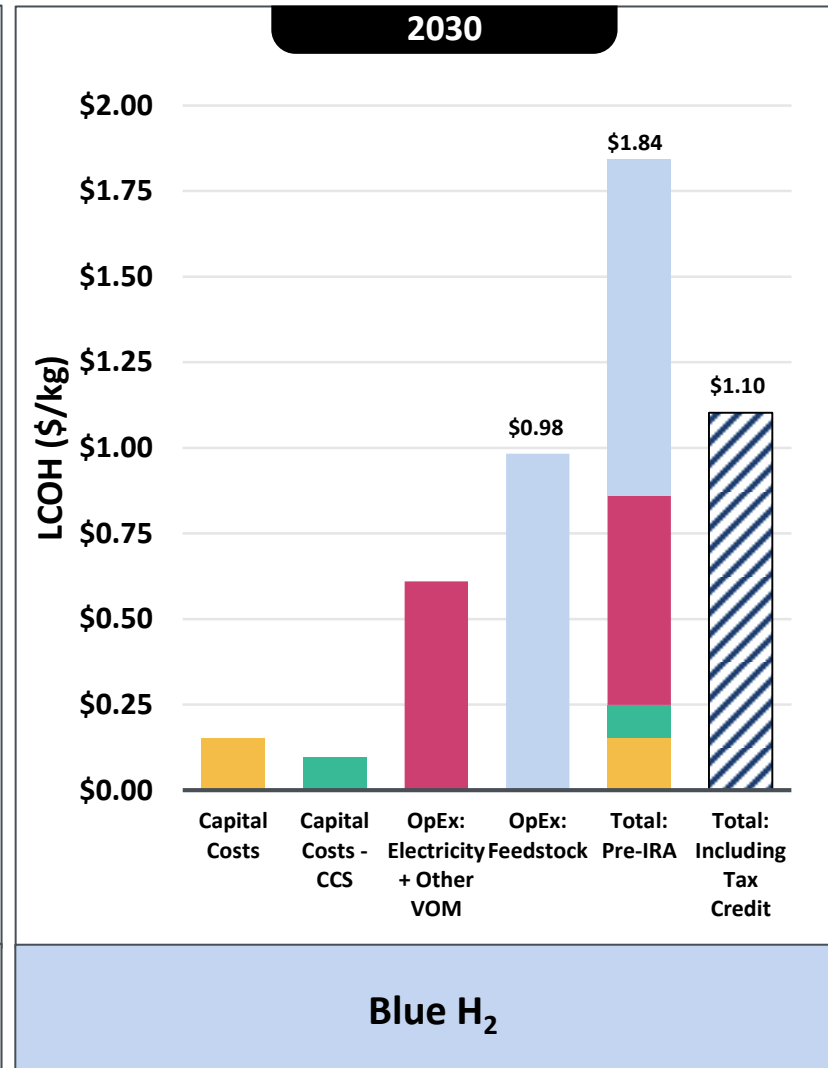
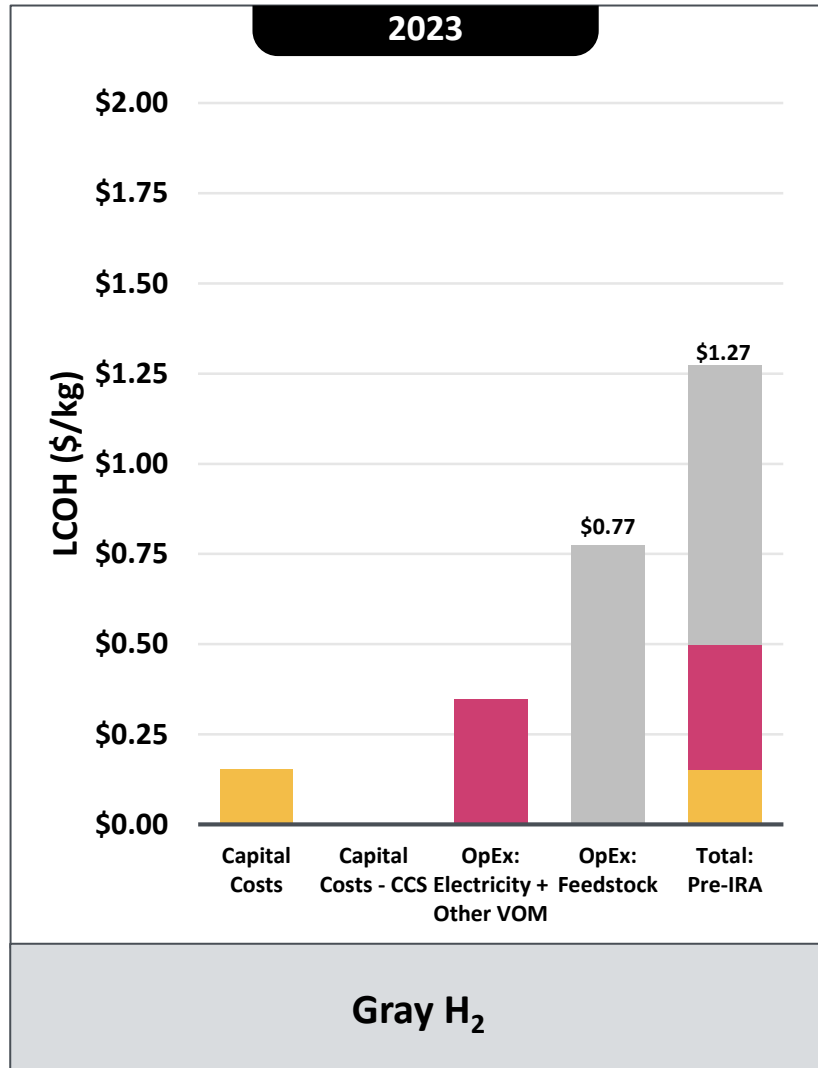


Even without IRA tax benefits, green H<sub>2</sub> reaches cost parity with, or beats, gray hydrogen by 2030 (assuming gray stays around \$1-1.50/kg).

- Continuing 45V tax credits, if extended then, lead to **negative** production costs.
- The decline in the capital cost of electrolyzers significantly reduces the contribution to LCOH (\$0.11 for steady state, \$0.35/kg for intermittent)

Note: Each portion of the “OpEx: Electricity + Other VOM” bar corresponds to the incremental cost of that contribution to the LCOH under each electricity supply scenario. The blue section of the “Total: Pre-IRA” bar matches the full height of the corresponding portion in the bar to its left.

# Blue H<sub>2</sub> produced in the Gulf Coast by SMR w/CCS could cost around \$1.80 per kg by 2030 without 45Q, and \$1.10 per kg with it, at or below gray.



- The vast majority of hydrogen currently produced is gray H<sub>2</sub> at low costs (\$1 - \$1.5/kg) but high emissions (8.5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg)
- The 45Q tax credit for CCS, along with low forecasts for natural gas prices (specific to the Gulf Coast) means blue H<sub>2</sub> also likely to reach cost parity with gray H<sub>2</sub> by 2030.
- *No assessment herein of CCS technology risk*

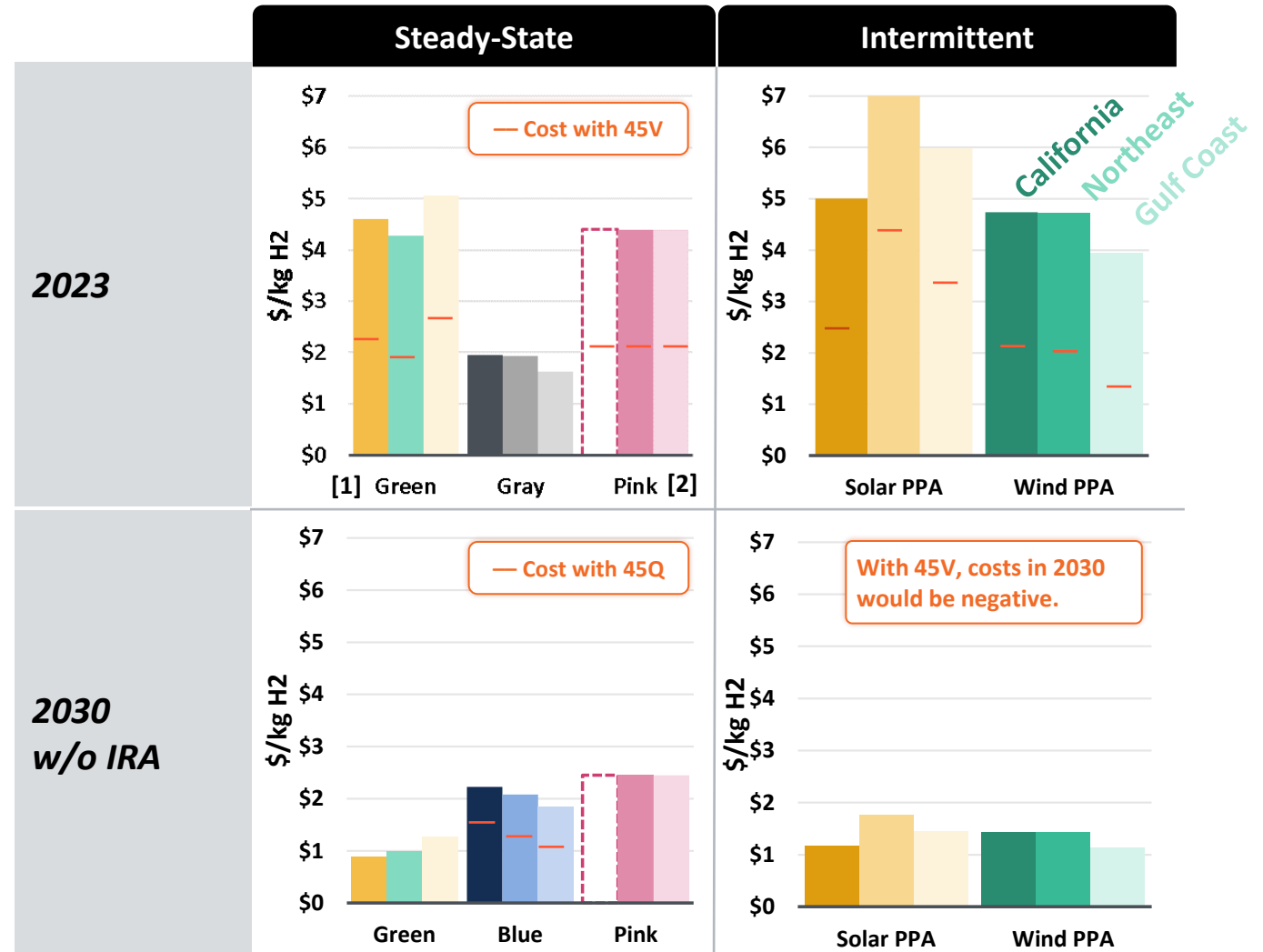
### Assumptions:

- Technology: SMR
- Region: Gulf Coast
- Electricity Source: Solar PPA
- 45Q credit: \$1/kg CO<sub>2</sub>
- Cost of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage: \$20/kg CO<sub>2</sub> (2023 dollars)<sup>[13]</sup>
- No penalty on CO<sub>2</sub> residual emissions from SMR
- Efficiency: 0.171 MMBtu/kg H<sub>2</sub>
- Facility Lifetime: 15 years
- CCS CapEx: \$135 M in 2030; 96% Capture
- Cost of Natural Gas (changes Y-over-Y): 2023: \$5.86/MMBtu 2030: \$4.06/MMBtu

# Current vs. 2030 Production costs by region and technology

- Bars to the right compare H<sub>2</sub> techs under steady-state (left) and intermittent (right) approaches.
  - For green H<sub>2</sub> bars, all **shades of yellow indicate solar** supply, all **shades of green wind**. From darkest to lightest shade, the bars represent California, the Northeast and the Gulf Coast in that order.
  - Blue and pink H<sub>2</sub> assumed to operate only in steady-state mode.
  - All bar heights show costs without tax benefits. Orange lines in mid-bar indicate cost with 45V or 45Q savings
- Steady-state modes are generally cheaper than intermittent in both 2023 and 2030.
- Green H<sub>2</sub> appears cheapest in 2030 even before tax benefits.

**Cost estimates assume all H<sub>2</sub> produced is immediately consumed, i.e. no storage, curtailment, or H<sub>2</sub> demand load-following.**



[1] Cases for green hydrogen reflect the following PPA resources: CA and GC – Solar; NY – Wind.

[2] Given the lack of new nuclear generation and barriers to development, we do not anticipate pink hydrogen will be viable in California.

# By 2030, green, pink and blue H<sub>2</sub> could be competitive with conventional natural gas

By 2030, hydrogen costs could decline to between \$0.9 and \$2.4 per kg, or \$6.7 to \$17.8 per MMBtu

- In comparison, the average natural gas citygate costs in the three regions ranged from \$3.60 to \$4.80 per MMBtu from 2020 to May 2023, and the current cost is around \$3 to \$4.50/MMBtu.<sup>[14]</sup>
- If a \$190/ton carbon price (recent EPA social cost of carbon) were to apply to natural gas in 2030, the total cost in use of \$4.50 gas would exceed \$15.2/MMBtu.
- In addition, the \$190/ton carbon price would raise the cost of gray hydrogen by \$1.62/kg, improving the attractiveness of clean H<sub>2</sub>

**Steady Electricity Supply**

2023 Cost Estimates (per kg)	
Solar + Storage	\$4.6 (\$2.2)
Wind + Storage	\$3.2 (\$0.9)
Nuclear	\$4.4 (\$2.0)

**Intermittent Electricity Supply**

Wind Only	\$4.7 (\$2.4)
Solar Only	\$5.0 (\$2.6)

Data for Green H<sub>2</sub> in CA. All in 2023 dollars.

2030 Cost Estimates (per kg)	
Solar + Storage	\$0.9
Wind + Storage	\$0.9
Nuclear	\$2.4

Wind Only	\$1.4
Solar Only	\$1.2

Data for Green H<sub>2</sub> in CA. All in 2030 dollars.

Costs shown inside parentheses are the LCOH after applying the tax credit benefits of 45V.

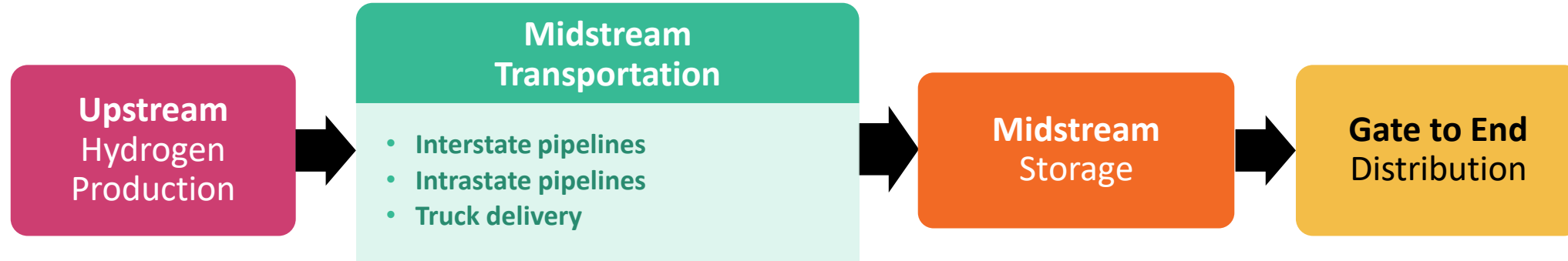
Tax benefits **not** shown in the 2030 estimates, as all scenarios eligible for the tax credit then become negative

---

# Hydrogen Midstream – Transport

# Transporting hydrogen

---



**This section considers whether H<sub>2</sub> will mostly be produced close to end-use, i.e. at the citygate or at industrial end-user site, vs. transported from remote bulk production centers.**

- Development of midstream infrastructure will depend on: whether hydrogen is materially cheaper to produce in some locations, the scale and geographic concentration of large demands, and how much hydrogen delivery adds to total costs versus producing on-site
- There are unresolved technical impediments to midstream H<sub>2</sub> transport and storage, but notwithstanding their uncertainty, we evaluate long-haul systems with storage to determine the impact of that handling on total delivered costs.

# Midstream costs not limiting with production near end uses

Midstream costs (for H<sub>2</sub> transportation and storage) are likely to have a limited impact on the overall costs of end-use H<sub>2</sub> (≈10% increase today). However, with future lower H<sub>2</sub> production costs, midstream handling costs may become significant (i.e., ≈20% to 30%) to regional advantages.

**Transportation** - No strong natural advantage for green hydrogen production in one region vs. another (unlike natural gas). This will diminish or delay any development of a national H<sub>2</sub> delivery network

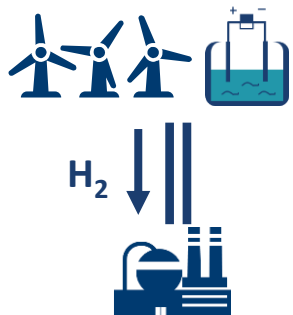
- **Costs of transporting** often exceed production cost differences between low and high cost regions → most H<sub>2</sub> will be made very near its end use.
- **Technical/economic barriers** of leakage, corrosion, pressure management for flowing gaseous H<sub>2</sub> in bulk over long distances
  - No major US natural gas transmission pipeline is publicly considering upgrading or retrofitting gas pipes at this time
  - Also because no market destinations yet of appropriate scale (chicken-and-egg problem)

- **Medium size local**, lower volume networks may evolve if/once substantial industrial use in a region, e.g. Gulf Coast already has 900 miles of H<sub>2</sub> pipelines;<sup>[15]</sup> CA next most likely
- **Distribution by truck** (over a few 100s of miles) will be needed for H<sub>2</sub> in HDV transport, in order to reach filling stations – expensive and relatively higher leakage rates, but there is no good alternative and the avoided diesel is also expensive
- **Transport as ammonia** – NH<sub>3</sub> is produced for export to foreign markets and transported by tanker; mostly for use as ammonia, not for conversion back to H<sub>2</sub>



# New pipelines – cost- and time-intensive solution that may only be suitable for moderate ranges

- Per ACER (2021),<sup>[16]</sup> new H<sub>2</sub> pipes could cost about 110-150% of corresponding new natural gas pipelines (so adding around \$1 or more per MMBtu to delivered H<sub>2</sub> costs)
- Building new hydrogen pipelines for **moderate** ranges of 100 or so miles is part of a few recent industry proposals
- Building H<sub>2</sub> pipes may be economical (quicker and cheaper) to accelerate development if/where H<sub>2</sub> production can use existing power grid infrastructure near pipeline input, thereby avoiding long interconnection delays for new power at end-use location.



Co-locating electrolyzer near existing power lines remote from H<sub>2</sub> end-use

+

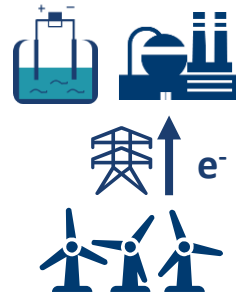
Siting and development of a pipeline to demand center

Or

Co-locating power for electrolyzer near end-use demand center

+

Upgrade of transmission for new renewable facility



- However, key challenges include permitting hurdles and upfront capital risks, esp. while waiting for a strong end-use market to develop potentially



# Midstream transportation costs – literature estimates

Repurposing existing transmission pipelines appears to be feasible for 10-35% of the cost for a new hydrogen pipeline (ACER 2021,<sup>[16]</sup> Hydrogen Council 2021<sup>[17]</sup>) – however, no major pipeline is (publicly) considering this as yet

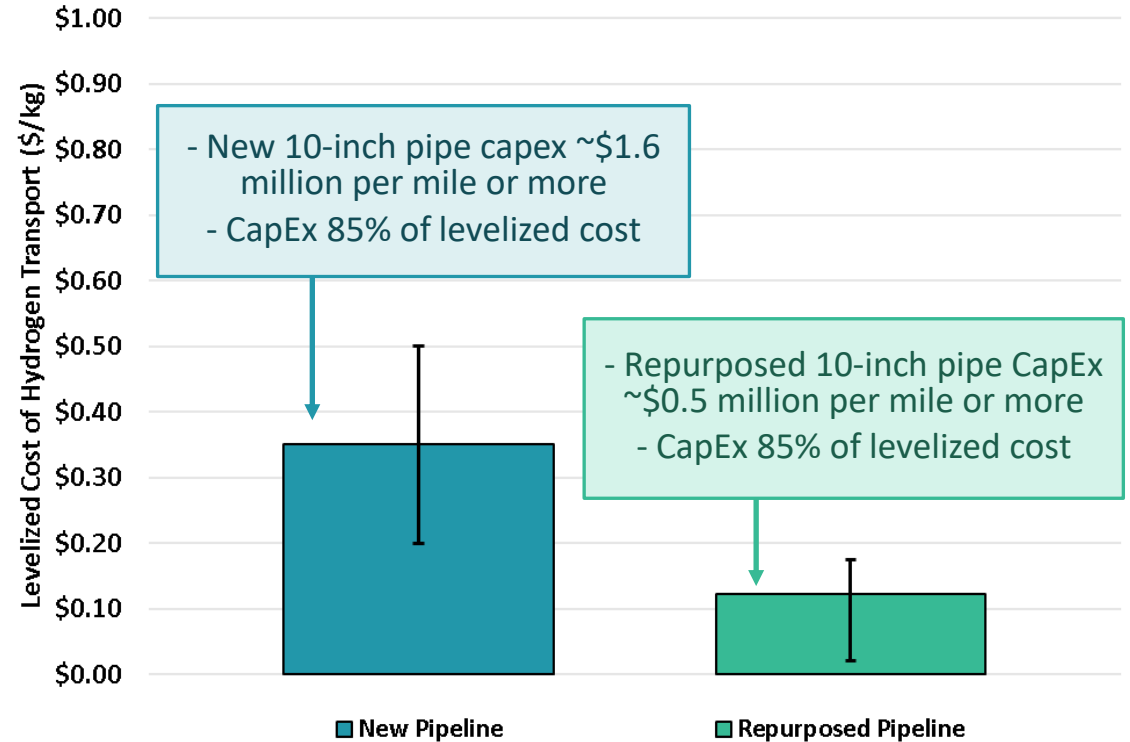
- Adaptation costs per mile increase with pipeline diameter and pressure (the higher the pressure, the higher the risk of cracking)
- Transportation networks more likely to be intraregional, as in Gulf region today

Costs modelled here for only smaller, regional pipes

Variable	Assumptions
Volume transported	600 ton per day
Pipeline length	186 miles
Pipeline diameter	6 to 14 inch
Pipeline pressure	1160 psi

- Diameter suitable for moderate length pipelines (not long haul, like LA HyBuild which assumes 24" pipeline)

## 2030 Levelized Costs per kg H<sub>2</sub>



Source: DOE, Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Clean Hydrogen.<sup>[18]</sup> DOE, Hydrogen\_Delivery\_Scenario\_Analysis\_Model\_(HDSAM)\_V3.1.xlsm.<sup>[19]</sup>

Notes: DOE does not display levelized cost for repurposed pipeline. In line with Hydrogen Council, we assumed a repurposed pipeline might cost one-third of the cost building a new pipeline

# Transporting hydrogen via trucks

---

**In areas where hydrogen pipelines do not exist, or are challenging to build, hydrogen can be transported via truck from production site to end-user.**

- Gaseous H<sub>2</sub> compressed to >180 bar (2,600 psig) into steel tubes carried on a trailer; approximately 560-900 kg H<sub>2</sub> per trailer<sup>[20]</sup>
- Or, cryogenic Liquid hydrogen is transported via tankers at temperatures below 20 degrees Kelvin, carrying approximately 4,000 kg H<sub>2</sub> per trailer; requires regasification facility at point of delivery<sup>[20]</sup>

This is mainly suitable for low to moderate demand levels served from a fairly local or regional H<sub>2</sub> production facility

- Requires on-site storage at end-use and nearly round-the-clock deliveries to maintain steady supply of hydrogen
  - E.g., serving a green steel facility's demand of 350,000 Kg of H<sub>2</sub><sup>[21][22]</sup> per day requires 380 gaseous or 86 cryogenic truck deliveries per day
  - Amazon expects to serve the energy needs at 100 fulfillment centers with by 2025<sup>[23]</sup> hydrogen<sup>[23]</sup>

Trucking hydrogen is 2-6.5x more expensive than pipelines, but may be worth it if costs of building/repurposing a hydrogen pipeline is prohibitively or not feasible.

- **Gaseous:** \$0.9-\$1.9/Kg, ideal for small volumes (<20 tones per day) and shorter distances due to lower capex costs than pipes<sup>[18]</sup>
- **Liquid:** \$2.7-\$3.2/kg, better suited for larger volumes and longer distances to minimize number of trips and labor costs<sup>[18]</sup>
- Federal and State regulations may limit ability to transport hydrogen via trucks
  - E.g., U.S. DOT limits hydrogen trailers to 250 bar of pressure; local limitations on transporting hydrogen on critical road infrastructure (tunnels, bridges, etc.)

# Midstream transportation costs: literature estimates

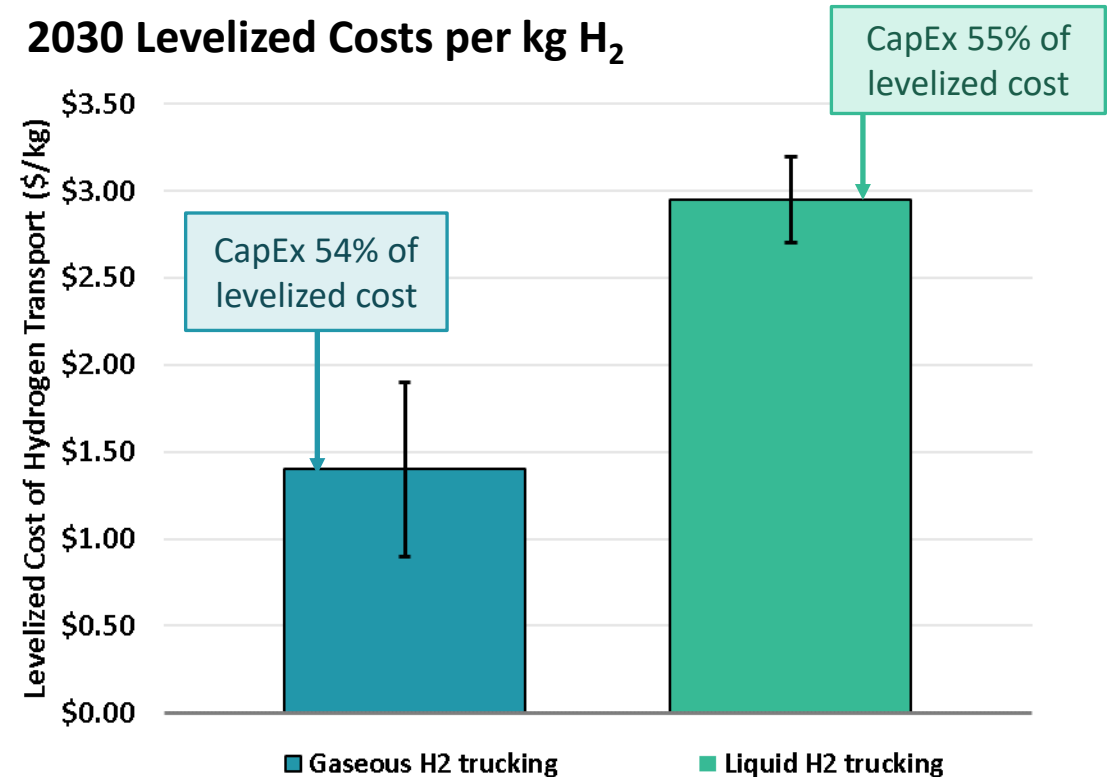
- **Compressed Gaseous Trucking:** Suitable for small volumes and short distances, esp. HDV vehicle depots
- **Liquid Hydrogen Trucking:** More economical for medium distances, but requires higher CapEx for liquefaction; likely users include aviation and maritime industries

Gaseous H <sub>2</sub> trucking	Assumptions
Volume transported	<20 ton per day
Distance length	<150 miles
Tank pressure	500 bar

Liquid H <sub>2</sub> trucking	Assumptions
Volume transported	<50 ton per day
Distance length	>150 miles

Source: [18] DOE, Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Clean Hydrogen

## 2030 Levelized Costs per kg H<sub>2</sub>



Source: DOE, Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Clean Hydrogen<sup>[18]</sup>

Notes: levelized cost of liquid H<sub>2</sub> trucking includes the cost of liquefaction

# Announced infrastructure for proposed H<sub>2</sub> projects: Transportation

Only a handful of announced projects identify any associated transportation plans or facilities.

	Company	Location	Transportation	Other Notes
1	<a href="#">Green Hydrogen International</a>	Corpus Christi, TX	Yes, no data on miles	Region already has 110 miles of existing H <sub>2</sub> pipelines.
2	<a href="#">SoCal Gas</a>	Los Angeles, CA	Yes (Angeles Link), no data on miles	Announced delivery of green H <sub>2</sub> in an amount equivalent to almost 25% of the NG SoCalGas delivers today.
3	<a href="#">Air Products/AES Corporation</a>	Ascension Parish, LA	Will use existing Gulf Coast pipeline system	Largest hydrogen pipeline system in the world, > 700 miles; can supply more than 1.6 Bcf per day.
4	<a href="#">Air Products</a>	Paramount, CA	10 miles of transport pipelines to extend network	Output to be used for sustainable aviation fuels production.
5	<a href="#">HyVelocity Hub</a>	Gulf Coast, TX and LA	Retrofitting existing ~35,000 miles gas network in TX; ~1,500 miles in 2030 and ~5,200 miles in 2040	Plans to first blend as much as 20% hydrogen to avoid retrofitting pipes & cluster physical assets around production and demand to increase utilization while decreasing costs.
6	<a href="#">HyBuild LA</a>	Los Angeles, CA	1,300 miles of pipes to be built/repurposed, 620 MW of compressor stations (+ 310 MW of compressor capacity at upstream injection). Spend estimated: \$4.2 billion on pipes, \$1.2 billion for compression stations	Closest commercially-proven geologic salt cavern site is located in Delta, Utah. Designed to serve a total demand of 1.4 MMT GH <sub>2</sub> , is estimated to require a total capital expenditure (CapEx) of \$34 billion through 2030
7	<a href="#">Air Products</a>	Massena, NY	Distribution by truck to fueling stations <sup>[a]</sup>	Will add H <sub>2</sub> liquefaction and distribution capacity. To be stored above ground and be distributed using trucks.

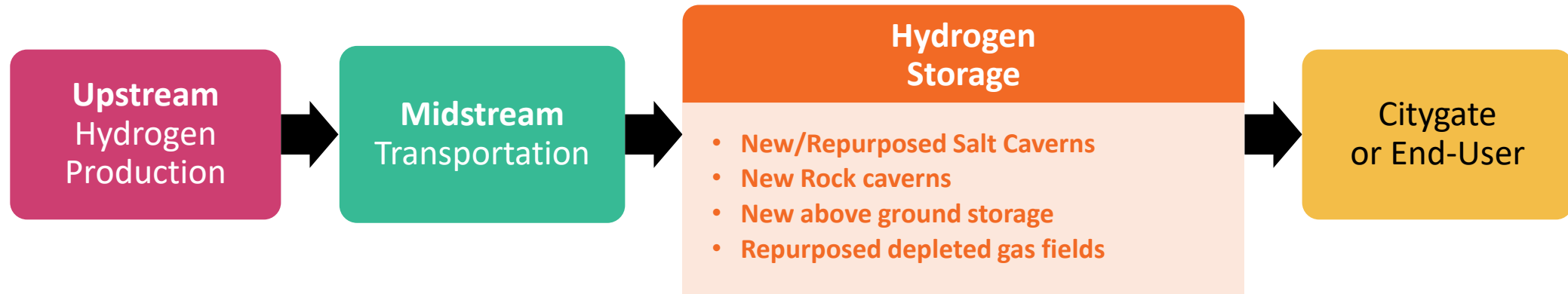
[a]: Project is one example of a transportation end use. Other transportation projects have been announced, but were not surveyed exhaustively.

---

# Hydrogen Storage

# Hydrogen storage

---



- We assess the cost of storing hydrogen using different commercially available technologies including geologic storage (salt caverns, rock caverns), depleted natural gas fields and in newly-built, above-ground storage facilities.
- Depleted gas fields exist in California and North East regions, whereas both depleted fields and salt caverns exist in the Gulf Coast region.

# Storage Types

---

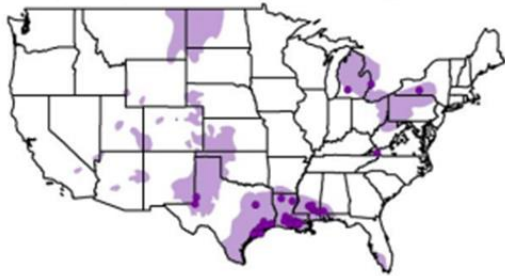
Storage may help achieve desired end-use load factors, and allow greater use of intermittent production, but many technical and geographic limitations on possibilities:

- **Below ground geological storage** akin to natural gas not technically viable – too much loss to penetration and absorption into cavern; microbial reactions with  $H_2$ 
  - This also implies seasonal storage of  $H_2$  in caverns will not be viable
- **Salt dome caverns** appear to be the only viable bulk storage approach because of small  $H_2$  molecule size.
  - Their economics also depends on nearly monthly cycling (so high inventory turns per year)
  - *Appears to add roughly 0.2 \$/kg to production costs*
  - Most salt caverns located in Gulf Coast, giving it an advantage over other regions (with a few exceptions, e.g. Utah)
- **Modest scale above ground storage** may be useful/necessary for intermediate/somewhat flexible load factor uses of  $H_2$  – e.g. for heavy duty vehicles and perhaps power resiliency
- **Ammonia as storage** –  $H_2$  converted to liquid  $NH_3$  for easier transport, but developers note penalty cost of  $\approx 15\%$  of energy to disassociate the  $H_2$
- **New projects** – Only four of the recently announced projects using  $H_2$  storage – three serving transportation sector likely using above ground and one using below ground for a power plant



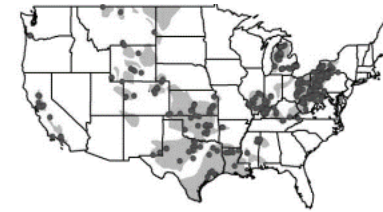
# Overview of hydrogen storage technologies

## Salt Caverns

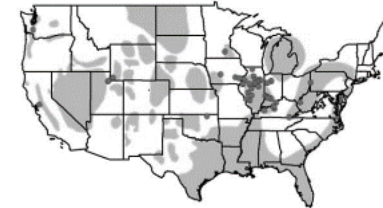


- Artificial structures constructed in underground rock salt formations
- Proven to be suitable for H<sub>2</sub> at field scale
- Concentrated near the Gulf Coast, with some also in central and northeastern USA

## Depleted fields



## Aquifers



## Depleted Fields and Aquifers

- Depleted fields - Underground geological structures that once naturally contained hydrocarbons, used for natural gas storage after depletion; Aquifers – porous sedimentary rock structures previously contained water
- Untested for H<sub>2</sub> storage
- Present across the country

## Hard Rock Caverns



- Artificial structures created in metamorphic and igneous rock formations, requiring relatively less cushion gas
- No existing hard rock caverns in the US; technology still immature

## Above Ground Storage

- Hydrogen can also be stored in new above-ground facilities either as compressed gas or in liquid form
- Compressed gas storage usually implemented at smaller scales, thus has high unit costs,
- Liquid hydrogen storage not suitable for long term storage; additionally liquefaction uses >30% of H<sub>2</sub> energy content

Sources and Notes: Maps from DOE-NETL Study (2022)<sup>[24]</sup> ; shaded area represents development potential, circles represent locations of existing storage facilities



# Availability, loss rates, allowed cycling, and capital costs factor into storage technology decisions for hydrogen

		Investment Cost	Loss/Leakage	Availability	Cycling	
Likelihood of adoption ↑	1	Salt Caverns	↓ Low	↓ Low	Limited (Regional)	Months
	2	Above Ground Storage	↑ High	↓ Low	High	Days-Weeks
	3	Depleted Fields and Aquifers	↓ Low	↑ High	High	Seasonal
	4	Hard Rock Caverns	— Mid	↓ Low	Very Limited	Months-Weeks

# Midstream storage costs

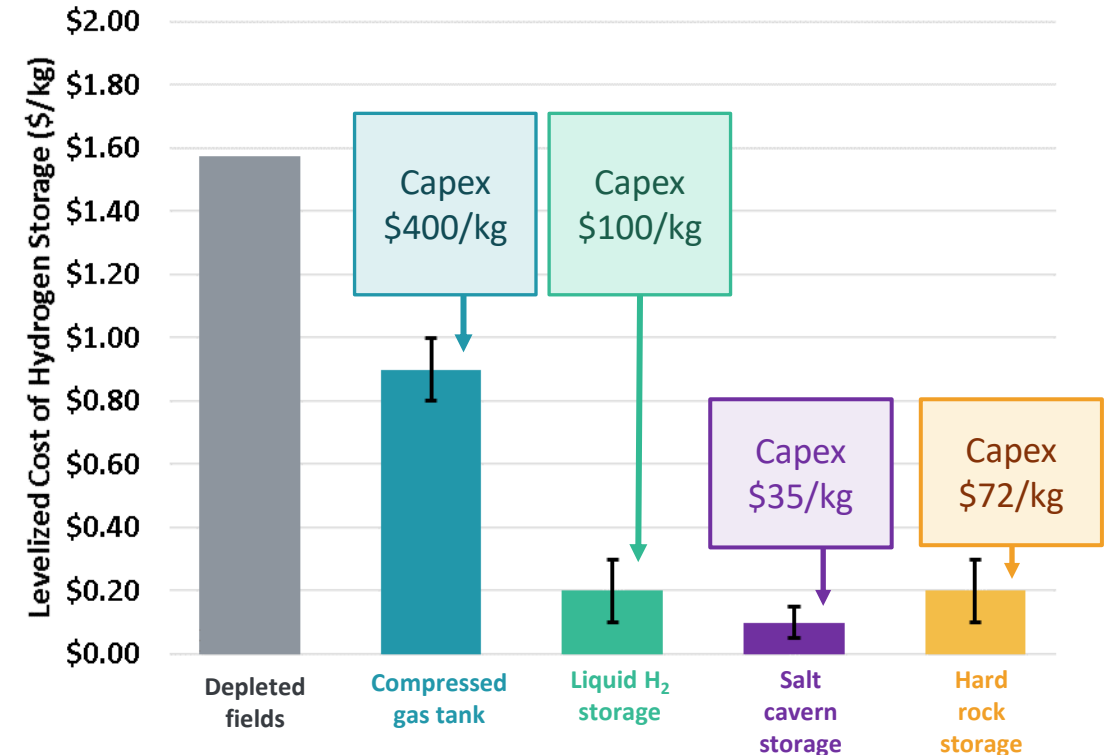
Salt caverns storage are the cheapest storage and most viable option due to low capital cost, relatively frequent cycling, and the lowest leakage rate. This gives the Gulf Coast a unique operating advantage.

- Limited cycling capability makes depleted fields the most expensive technology on a levelized cost basis. There are also large loss concerns with this approach.
- Liquid storage can be economical but is preceded by expensive H<sub>2</sub> liquefaction (\$2.7/kg at 50 ton per day, per DOE) and can only be stored for short durations (up to 10 days) due to H<sub>2</sub> boil-off.<sup>[18]</sup>

Technology	Volume*	Pressure	Cycles
Salt cavern	4,200 T (range based on 350-14,000 T)	80 bar	1/week
Hard Rock cavern	-	150 bar	1/week (range based on 0.5-2 cycles per week)
Depleted Fields	1,912 ton	138 bar	1-2/year
Compressed gas storage	950 kg	500 bar	1/week
Liquid H <sub>2</sub> Storage	50 TPD	-	1/week (range based on 0.5-2 cycles/week)

\* Volume assumptions are not related to national potential capacity but to the expected average project size in the US by 2030

## 2030 Levelized Costs



Source: DOE, Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Clean Hydrogen;<sup>[18]</sup> Sandia National Laboratories,<sup>[25]</sup> Geologic Storage of Hydrogen: Scaling up to Meet City Transportation Demands.

\*Range of costs for salt caverns cover 50-2,000 TPD volume. Range of costs for liquid storage and hard rock storage based on 0.5-2 cycles/week

\*Depleted field “capex” costs not available; reflects only typical ongoing cost

# Planned infrastructure additions for proposed hydrogen projects: Storage

Very few of the announced hydrogen projects in the US explicitly indicate plans for hydrogen storage.

Company	Location	Storage	Other Notes
<a href="#">Green Hydrogen International</a>	Corpus Christi, TX	6 TWh salt dome storage	Region already has 110 miles of existing H <sub>2</sub> pipelines.
<a href="#">Air Products</a>	Massena, NY	Small above ground storage	Will add H <sub>2</sub> liquefaction and distribution capacity. to be stored above ground and be distributed using trucks.
<a href="#">HyBuild LA</a>	Delta, UT	130 kT H <sub>2</sub> of salt dome storage, \$2.4 billion spend	Closest commercially-proven geologic salt cavern site is located in Delta, Utah. Project designed to serve a total demand of 1.4 MMT H <sub>2</sub> per year, with overall costs estimated to reach \$34 billion through 2030

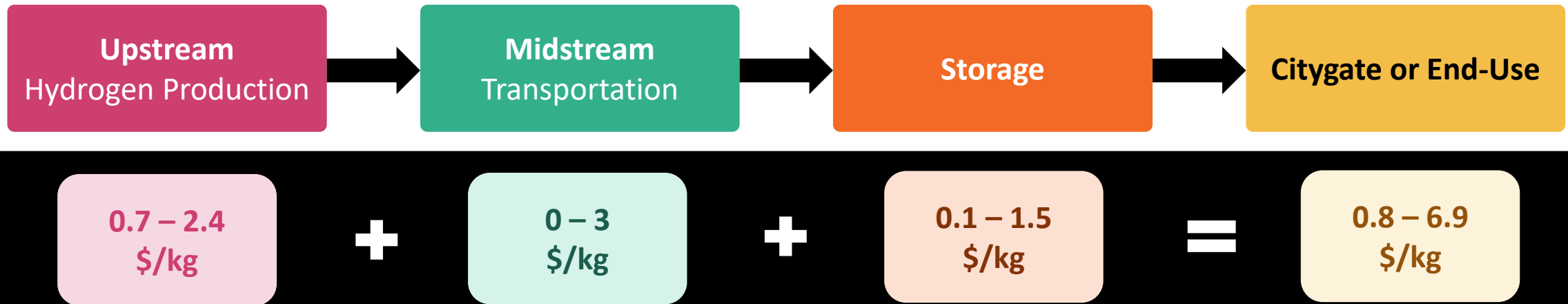
- Salt caverns are the most likely to be used, but just for short term storage. They are mostly available in the southeast.
- Long-term seasonal storage is expensive due to low cycling (costs must be recovered over one turn of stored H<sub>2</sub>) and loss prone. It may be more economical to overbuild capacity then vary behind the meter H<sub>2</sub> production than to store seasonally.

---

# Implications for H<sub>2</sub> market

# Total H<sub>2</sub> delivered 2030 cost ranges

The supply cost of H<sub>2</sub> is likely to fall considerably with stimulus monies and learning improvements. But the total cost of H<sub>2</sub>/kg will vary substantially depending on how it is produced (color, location, intermittency vs. steady state) and how much handling it requires. It could be fairly close to natural gas for some applications and locations by 2030.



\* Costs presented in 2030 nominal dollars. Production costs span the range of costs to produce clean hydrogen (green and pink) across NY, CA and Texas in 2030 without PTC. Midstream varies from \$0 if production is onsite to \$3 if by truck.

***It appears unlikely there will be a single representative or reference price/marginal cost for H<sub>2</sub> that determines whether users will produce it for themselves or attempt to buy it from the market. Regional production and use with differing costs is more likely, more akin to coal markets than natural gas.***

# Ladder of H<sub>2</sub> Demand Applications

Approximately \$60B of expenditures are announced for hydrogen development through 2030, with the majority of those anticipating H<sub>2</sub> offtake to industrial and feedstock applications.

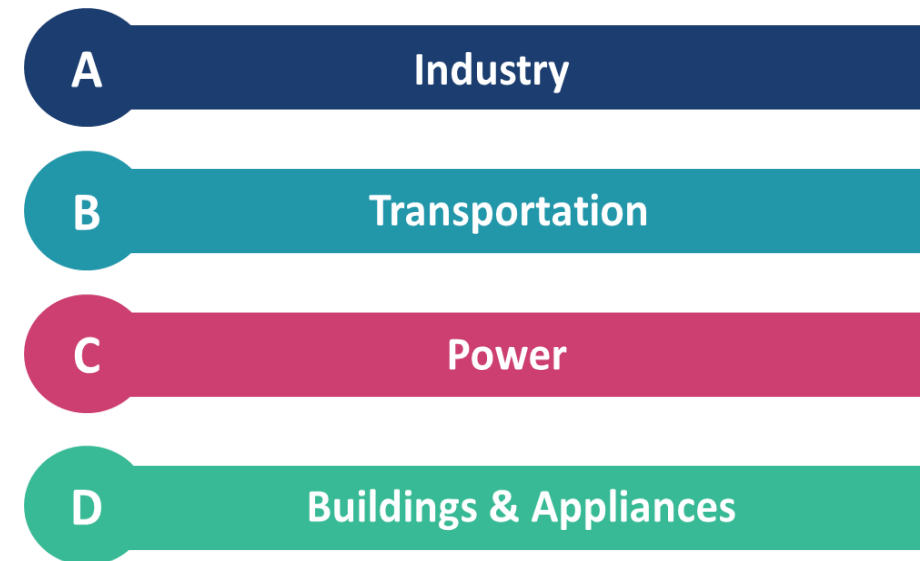
This is consistent with studies that have found the highest and best use of hydrogen to be in hard to decarbonize industries with few or expensive options to use electricity or other clean fuels. Priority should be based on cost/availability and carbon reduction benefits relative to the Next Best Alternative (NBA). While this prioritization is a moving target (as technologies change for H<sub>2</sub> and other fuels), the fairly consistent ladder is:

Very few clean alternatives to H<sub>2</sub> for feedstock or high heat industrial applications makes using H<sub>2</sub> for the decarbonization of the **industrial sector** a priority

Some heavy duty commercial **transportation** has high ordinary fuel costs, so H<sub>2</sub> could be useful even if expensive.

For the **power** sector, H<sub>2</sub> is a form of long duration energy storage, offering firm power that qualifies under proposed EPA GHG emission limits. But the sector has many other carbon reduction alternatives. Also, round trip efficiency losses are huge and unattractive, except if used to supply resiliency power to back up renewables.

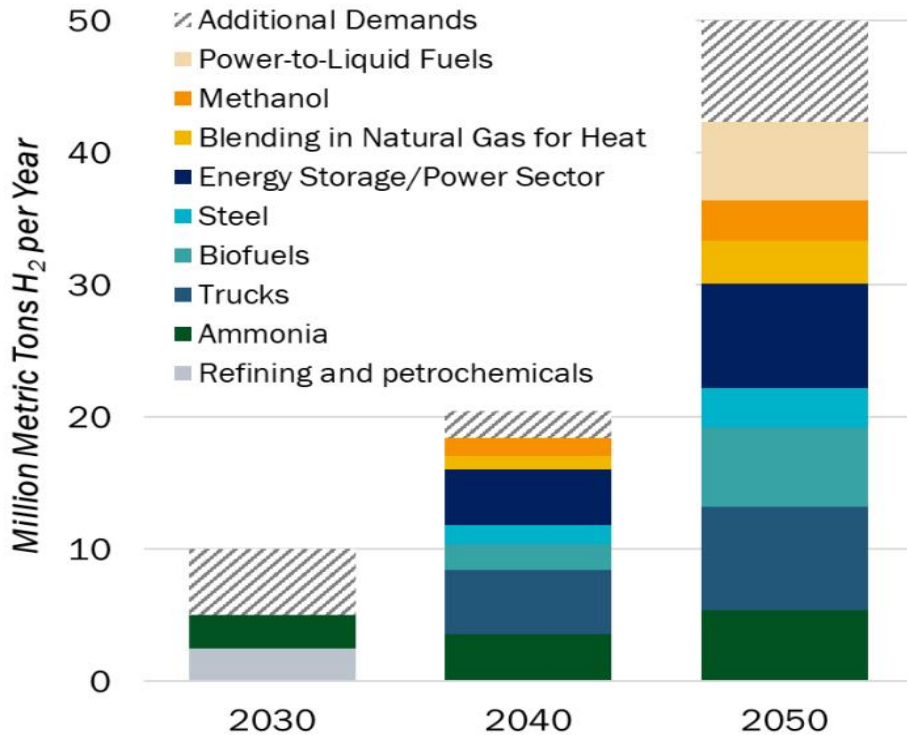
For **building** heating, H<sub>2</sub> is under review by LDCs for blending at small quantities in distribution gas (<= 7% of energy content), but technical /economic feasibility is unresolved. Long run usage at higher blending looks much more problematic, requiring massive, highly coordinated conversions of distribution infrastructure and customer appliances. Electrification is a competitive and viable alternative.



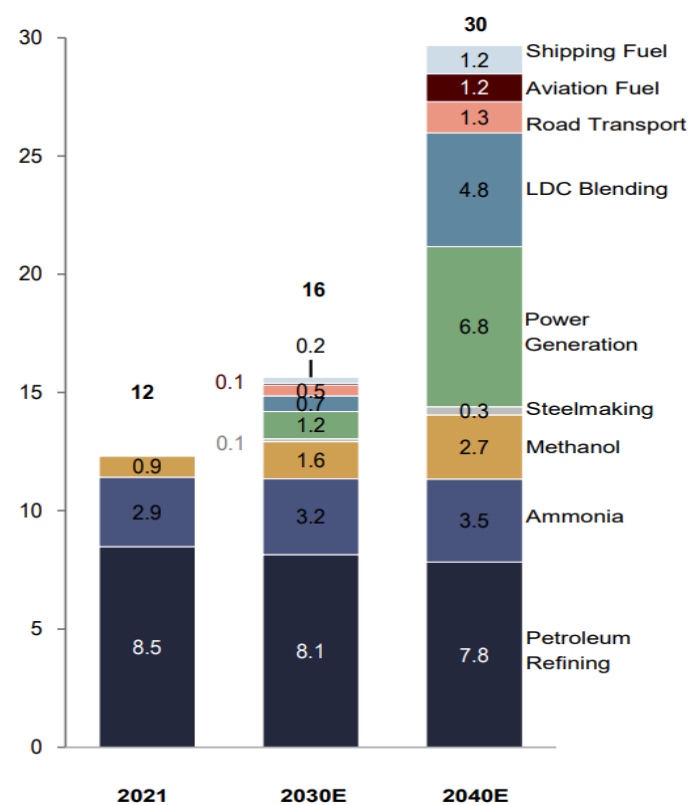
# Projections of Future H2 Demand in All Sectors

Demand for H<sub>2</sub> is projected to be mostly in industrial applications, but even low supply costs may not attract green H<sub>2</sub> demand if there are large end-use conversion costs (NOT quantified in this study).

**U.S. DOE ESTIMATES (US DOMESTIC)  
WITHOUT IRA INCENTIVES<sup>[26]</sup>**



**LAZARD'S ESTIMATES (US DOMESTIC)  
WITHOUT IRA INCENTIVES<sup>[27]</sup>**



- Fertilizer has sunk cost capacity in place for using natural gas, rather than taking clean H<sub>2</sub>
- Converting steel to H<sub>2</sub> requires significant investments in new furnaces
- Chemical applications may choose to stick with grey (or blue, gas + CCS) because of also needing the heat energy from the SMR process

***There may need to be additional subsidies or incentives (e.g., CO<sub>2</sub>e pricing) for demand to match emerging supply.***

# Electricity Implications of H<sub>2</sub> Demand in 2050

Electricity may not become a dominant user of H<sub>2</sub>, but hydrogen production will greatly affect that industry.

## How much power will hydrogen-fired generation supply?

The amount of electricity that hydrogen can produce will depend on the technology that is used (CT vs CC vs fuel cell).

2030 Power Sector Hydrogen Demand: The DOE (June 2023) predicts a **1 MMT/yr demand for H<sub>2</sub> in the power sector in 2030**

- This is **enough to fire 8.5 GW of CTs operating at a 20% annual CF**

2050 Power Sector Hydrogen Demand: DOE (June 2023) predicts **7.8 MMT/yr demand for H<sub>2</sub> in the power sector in 2050.**<sup>[26]</sup>

- Enough for about **66 GW of CTs** operating at 20% CF (≈116 TWh)
- Equivalent to about **2-4%**<sup>[26]</sup> **of then-expected total US power capacity**

## How much power will making US hydrogen require?

The power required to make hydrogen depends on whether electrolyzers will be operated as **baseload** or **intermittent** production.

Baseload Hydrogen Production Example: **1 MMT of baseload H<sub>2</sub> production (Load factor: 90%) would require 5.7 GW of electrolyzers.**

- This level of production would need **~19 GW of PV** (18% current PV capacity) operating at 30% CF, with additional battery storage.

2050 Total Hydrogen Production: DOE (June 2023) predicts a H<sub>2</sub> demand of **50 MMT/yr for all sectors.**<sup>[26]</sup>

- If 75% of this is produced via electrolysis and half of that demand is met by **baseload H<sub>2</sub>, 107 GW of electrolyzers powered by ~360 GW of PV with storage** would be needed (3.5x current PV deployment).

## How much flexibility will electrolyzers provide?

**Intermittent** H<sub>2</sub> production via electrolyzers may be a HUGE flexibility resource.

Intermittent Hydrogen Production Example: **1 MMT of intermittent H<sub>2</sub> production (Load factor: 30%) would require ~17 GW of electrolyzers.**

- This level of production would need **~19 GW of PV** operating at 30% CF.

2050 Total Hydrogen Production: Using the same assumptions as the baseload example

- **Intermittent** H<sub>2</sub> to satisfy 2050 demand would need **~321 GW of electrolyzers** and **~350 GW of PV with storage** (≈920 TWh)
- This 321 GW of electrolyzer capacity would be flexible load (4.5x current available flexible load).



---

# References

# References

---

- [1] [Congressional Research Service, Hydrogen Hubs and Demonstrating the Hydrogen Energy Value Chain, 2022.](#)
- [2] [U.S. Congress, H.R.5376 - Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, 2022.](#)
- [3] [U.S. EPA, Greenhouse Gas Standards and Guidelines for Fossil Fuel-Fired Power Plants, 2023.](#)
- [4] [The Whitehouse, FACT SHEET: One Year In, President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act is Driving Historic Climate Action and Investing in America to Create Good Paying Jobs and Reduce Costs, 2023.](#)
- [5] Bank of America US Chemicals Team, Analysis of Blue/Green Ammonia & Hydrogen Projects, 2022
- [6] [Resources for the Future, 45V Hydrogen Tax Credit in the Inflation Reduction Act: Comparing Hourly and Annual Matching, 2023.](#)
- [7] [Energy Futures Initiative, The U.S. Hydrogen Demand Action Plan p.28, 2022.](#)
- [8] Bank of America Global Research. U.S. Alternative Energy Renewables Conference Debrief: Optimism in the Air but Challenges Can’t Be Ignored. December 5, 2022.
- [9] Bank of America Global Research. U.S. Alternative Energy Hydrogen Conference Recap: Getting back to basics...at gigawatt scale. December 16, 2022.
- [10] Bank of America Global Research. Chemicals Blue/Green Hydrogen/Ammonia projects, returns look favorable but many variables. December 28, 2022.

# References

---

- [11] [Bloom Energy. Data Sheet | Electrolyzer. 2023.](#)
- [12] [Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Energy Association. Road Map to a U.S. Hydrogen Economy. 2019.](#)
- [13] [Katebah, Mary, Ma'Moun Al-Rawashdeh, and Patrick Linke, Analysis of hydrogen production costs in Steam-Methane Reforming considering integration with electrolysis and CO2 capture, 2023.](#)
- [14] [EIA, Natural Gas Citygate Price.](#)
- [15] [Center for Houston's Future et al., Houston as the epicenter of a global clean hydrogen hub, May 2022](#)
- [16] [ACER, Transporting Pure Hydrogen by Repurposing Existing Gas Infrastructure: Overview of existing studies and reflections on the conditions for repurposing, 2021.](#)
- [17] [Hydrogen Council, Hydrogen Insights: A perspective on hydrogen investment, market development and cost competitiveness, 2021.](#)
- [18] [U.S. Department of Energy. Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Clean Hydrogen. 2023.](#)
- [19] [DOE, Hydrogen Delivery Scenario Analysis Model \(HDSAM\) V3.1.xlsm](#)
- [20] [DOE, "Hydrogen Tube Trailers"](#)

# References

---

- [21] [Owais Ali, “Green Hydrogen for Steel Production,” AZO Cleantech, July 27, 2022.](#)
- [22] [SMS Group, “H2 Green Steel”.](#)
- [23] [Amazon, Amazon adopts green hydrogen to help decarbonize its operations, August 2022.](#)
- [24] [DOE, NETL, Subsurface Hydrogen and Natural Gas Storage: State of Knowledge and Research Recommendations Report, 2022.](#)
- [25] [Sandia National Laboratories, Geologic Storage of Hydrogen: Scaling up to Meet City Transportation Demands.](#)
- [26] [Department of Energy \(DOE\), National Clean Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap, June 2023.](#)
- [27] [Lazard’s Levelized Cost of Hydrogen Analysis-Version 3.0, 2023.](#)
- [28] [US Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2023, 2023.](#)
- [29] [California Public Utilities Commission, Avoided Cost Calculator, 2021.](#)
- [30] [US Environmental Protection Agency, Post-IRA 2022 Reference Case, 2023.](#)
- [31] [Tax Foundation, Corporate Income Tax, 2022.](#)

# References

---

- [32] [National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL Annual Technology Baseline, 2022.](#)
- [33] [National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL Annual Technology Baseline: Utility-Scale PV Resource Classes, 2022.](#)
- [34] [National Renewable Energy Laboratory, NREL Annual Technology Baseline: Land-Based Wind Resource Classes, 2022.](#)
- [35] [NREL's Renewable Energy Potential \(reV\) model](#)

---

# Appendix I: Model Assumptions

# Electricity from the grid

## California:

### A. EPA Post-IRA Reference Case

- 2023 – 2050 average industrial rate: \$45/MWh
- Source: EPA’s Power Sector Modeling Platform v6, as-of April 5, 2023, and inclusive of the Inflation Reduction Act Provisions.<sup>[28]</sup>

### B. Marginal Heat Rate:

- 2023 – 2050 average industrial rate: \$25/MWh
- For this profile, we assumed a gas unit is on the margin in the long run. The market clearing price is calculated by multiplying the projected natural gas price from EIA’s Annual Energy Outlook 2023 by the forecast market heat rate from the CPUC’s avoided cost calculator.<sup>[29]</sup>

### C. EIA Annual Energy Outlook Case;

- 2023 – 2050 average industrial rate: \$126/MWh
- Source: EIA’s Annual Energy Outlook 2023 forecast for the *Pacific* census region<sup>[30]</sup>

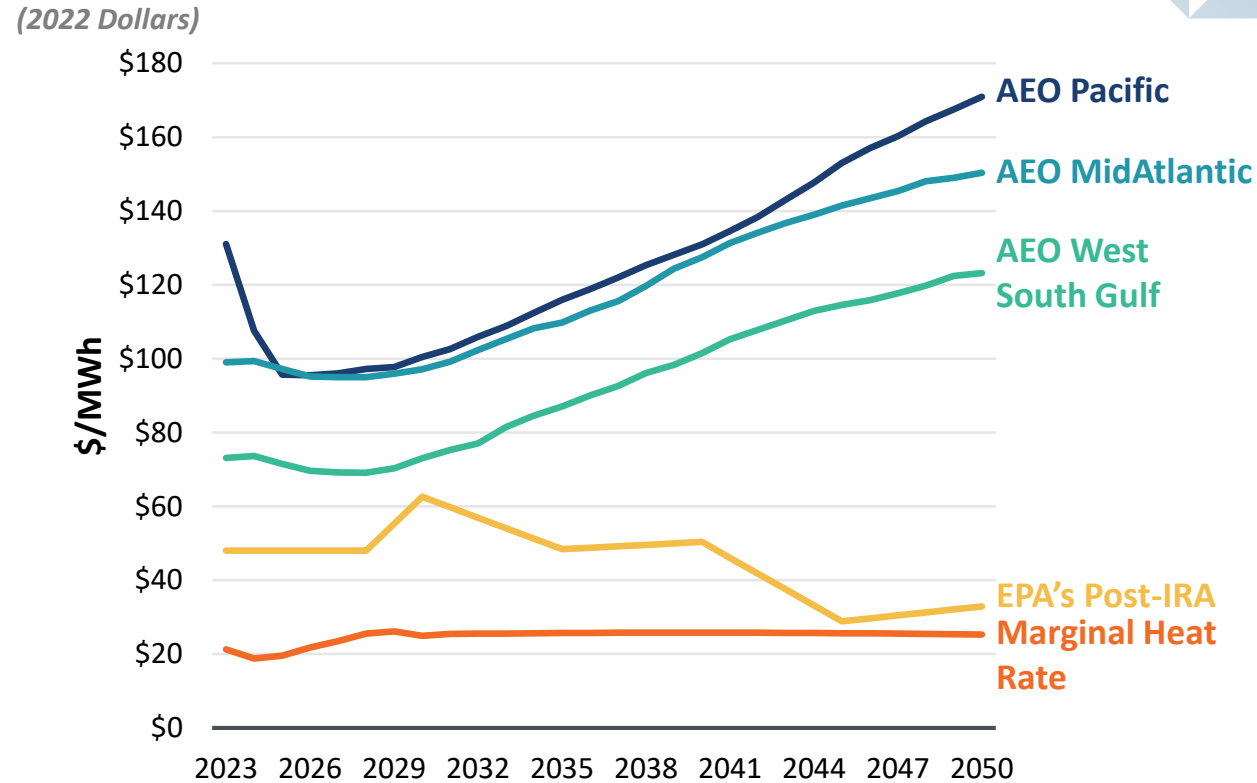
## New York:

- 2023 – 2050 average industrial rate: \$118/MWh
- Source: EIA’s Annual Energy Outlook 2023 forecast for the *MidAtlantic* census region<sup>[30]</sup>

## Texas:

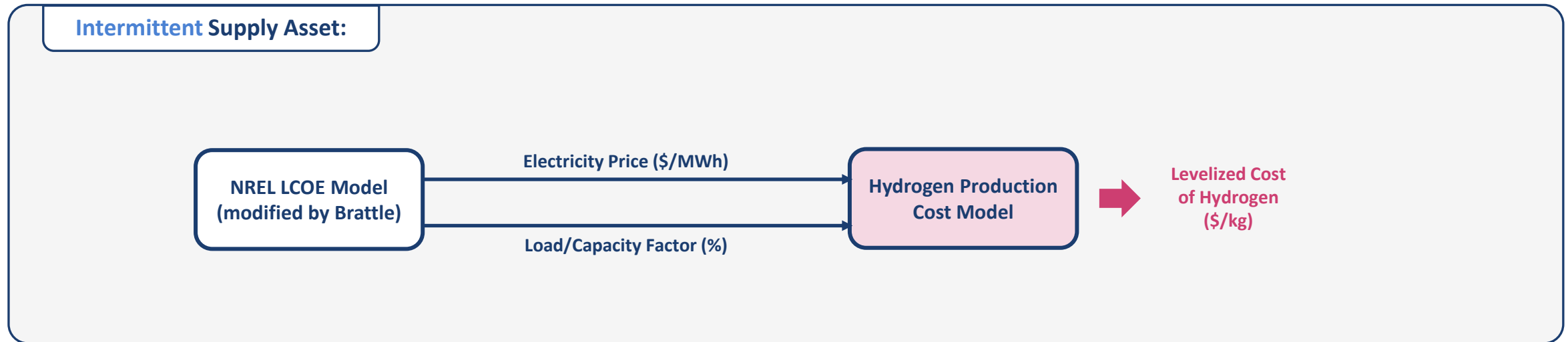
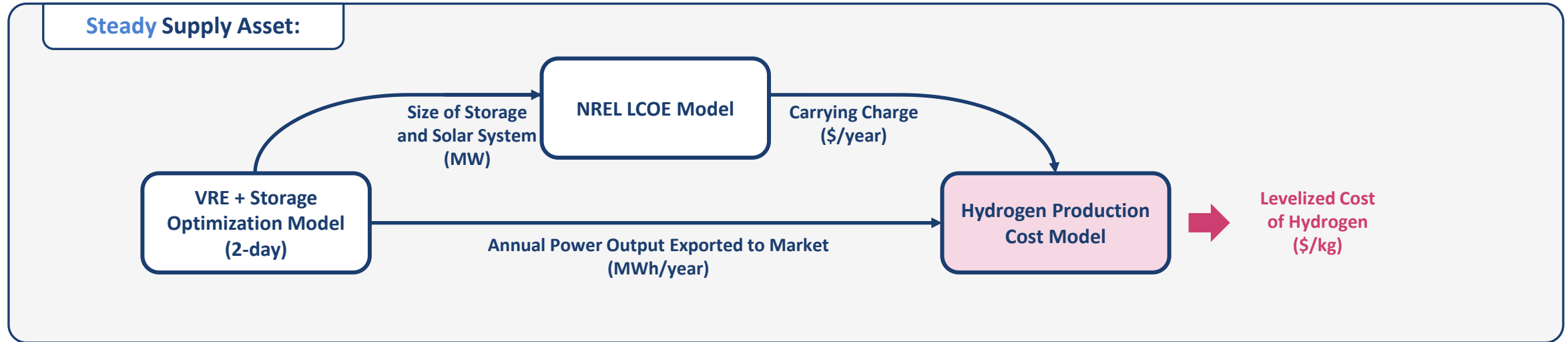
- 2023 – 2050 average industrial rate: \$93/MWh
- Source: EIA’s Annual Energy Outlook 2023 forecast for the *West South Central* census region<sup>[30]</sup>

## ELECTRICITY PRICE FORECASTS BY REGION



All AEO values have been adjusted for inflation assuming a 2% annual inflation rate, and thus reflect the nominal price per MWh.

# Modeling contracted renewables (via PPA or BTM generation)





# Electricity price results – approach to LCOE estimates

**Standalone Asset**

$$LCOE = \frac{PMT(\sum \text{Discounted Cash Flows (e.g., Installed Cost, O\&M, Financing Costs)})}{\text{Capacity (MW)} \times \text{Capacity Factor (\%)} \times 8760 \text{ hours}}$$

Sized to match electrolyzer demand

**Renewable Paired with Storage**

$$LCOE = \frac{PMT(\text{Cost of Standalone Asset} + \text{Cost of Battery})}{\text{Capacity (MW)} \times \text{Capacity Factor (\%)} \times 8760 \text{ hours}}$$

Sized to avoid interrupted operation

Resource Type	2023 (\$/MWh)			2030 (\$/MWh)		
	California	New York	Texas	California	New York	Texas
Solar	\$28.44	\$44.16	\$35.37	\$12.04	\$22.86	\$16.81
Wind	\$33.33	\$33.08	\$25.66	\$20.42	\$20.23	\$14.16
Solar + Storage	\$53.61	\$85.86	\$60.56	\$12.07	\$34.60	\$21.50
Wind + Storage	\$32.13	\$48.33	\$29.68	\$12.64	\$14.86	\$8.15

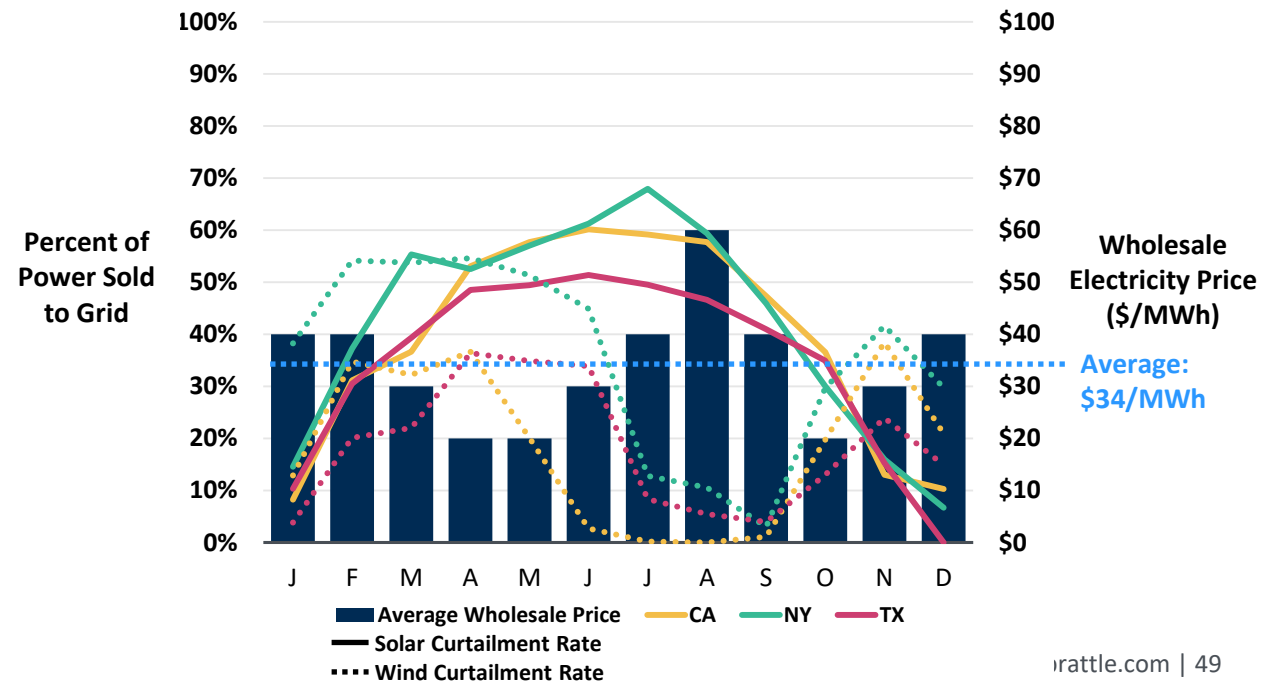
# Standard financial assumptions for electricity cash flows

## Standard Financial Assumptions

- Seasonal Market Price (\$20-60/MWh)
- Debt/Equity ratio: 52%/48%
- Economic lifetime: 20 years
- Depreciation schedule: 20-year MACRS
- Debt rate: 4.2%
- Equity Rate: 9.6%
- Corporate tax rates:<sup>[31]</sup>
  - Federal: 21%
  - California: 8.84%
  - New York: 7.25%
  - Texas: 0.5%
- Annual inflation rate: 2.0%
- ATWACC: 6.54% (nominal)
- Applicable tax credit: PTC with no banking

The revenue from curtailed power is only relevant for renewable + storage configurations. The revenue is based on the simplification that all curtailed power is allowed to export to the grid at a wholesale rate. The volume of sold electricity is based on the average monthly curtailment rates of the system configurations detailed on the previous slide. Monthly wholesale prices reflect near-term estimates in the normal range for the regions considered.

Given the emphasis on hydrogen production, there were several limitations to the modeling of battery storage. The charge and discharge behavior is based on a reduced form model that does not consider the state of the battery charge, and estimates for reliably available wholesale prices were considered instead of calculating revenue based on long-term hourly forecasts.



## Cost estimates for behind-the-meter assets and PPAs

---

- **Key assumption:** All of our cases model a 100% source of co-located or on-site clean power
  - Solar
  - Wind
  - Solar with Storage
  - Wind with Storage
- Parameters and operating characteristics are modeled state-by-state to reflect the physical and financial environment of the resources in each state
- Renewable resources were sized in two ways:
  - a) For stand-alone solar and wind, the capacity is a function of the project's capacity factor, or the ratio of total generation over what the generation would be if the project operated at full capacity every hour of the year. It is sized equivalently to meet 100 MW of year-round use during an operating year.
  - b) For solar and wind paired with storage, the asset size was co-optimized with 4-hour batteries to meet 100 MW of demand during every hour of the year
- Capital expenditure estimates are based on NREL's 2022 Annual Technology Baseline.<sup>[32]</sup>

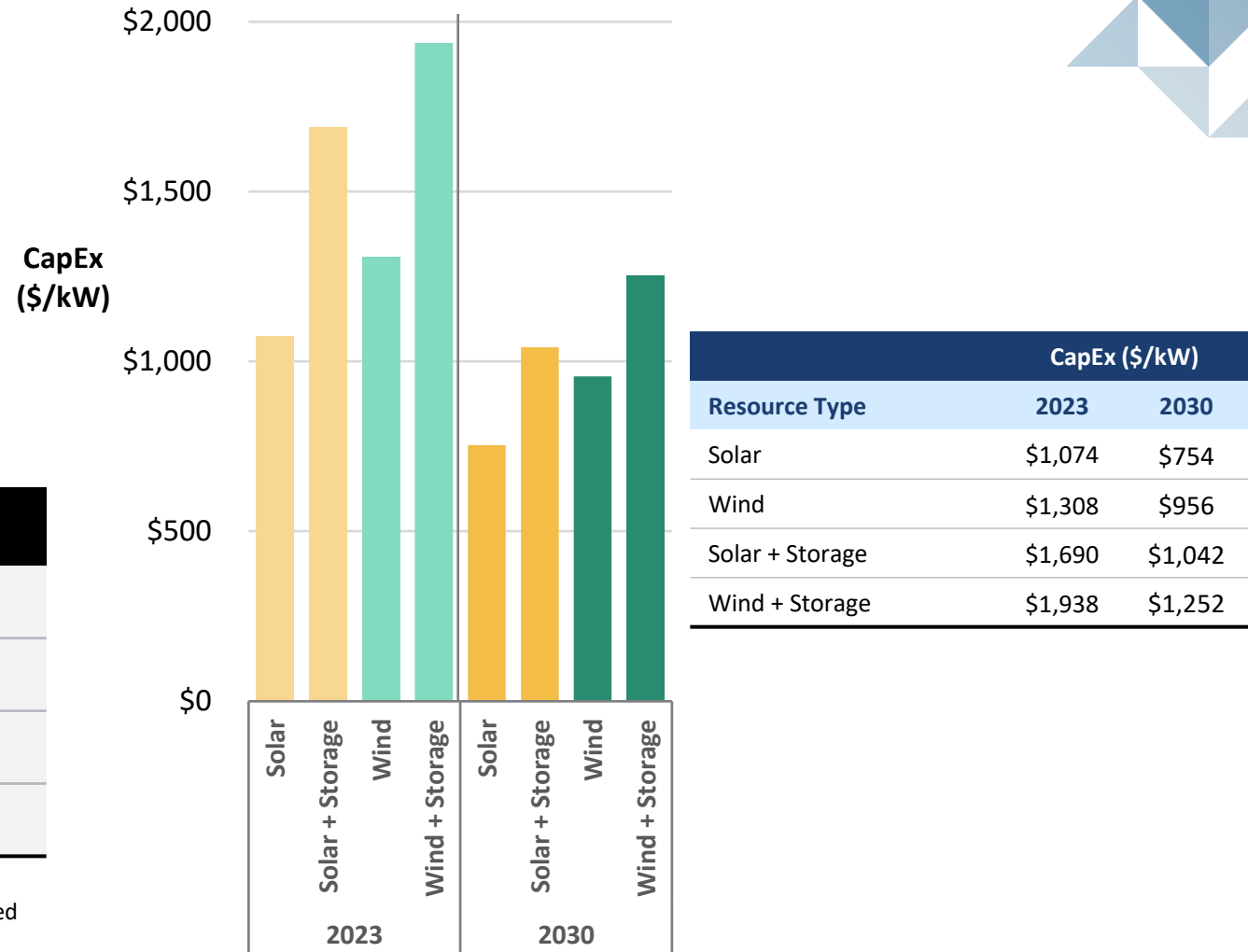
# Capital expenditure estimates

- Capital expenditures are modeled as a linear function of the size of the asset. Prices scale based on the capacity of the project.
- The solar and wind asset sizes reflect the capacity factor of their regions:

		CA	NY	TX
Solar	Class*	2	8	5
	Capacity Factor**	29.9%	22.0%	25.2%
Wind	Class*	7	7	5
	Capacity Factor**	37.5%	37.5%	43.2%

Notes:  
 \* Asset class corresponds to the average wind speed of the region. Regions were categorized based on NREL definitions. ([33], [34])  
 \*\* The source for the capacity factors used to determine CapEx is NREL’s 2022 Annual Technology Baseline. [32]

INSTALLED COST OF RENEWABLE ASSETS



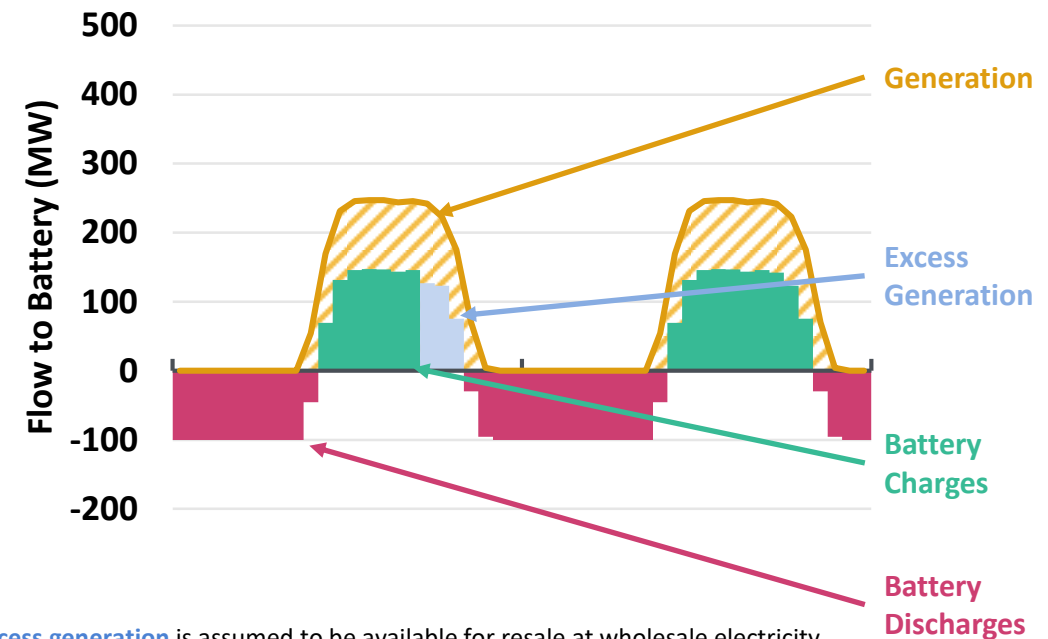
Source: [32]  
 Notes: The “Moderate” case was selected for all technologies.

# Optimization of renewable assets with storage

- One objective of renewable systems paired with storage is to enable continuous operation of the electrolyzer. The combined system that achieves this must meet several conditions:
  - Utilization (met demand divided by total demand) must equal 100% (the electrolyzer operates continuously)
  - Electrolyzer demand precedes charging the battery
  - Electrolyzer demand that exceeds generation can only be met by energy discharged from the battery
  - Battery charge cannot exceed the capacity of the battery, and any generation that would otherwise exceed this limit is considered to be curtailed

Resource	Parameter	CA	NY	TX
Solar	Month modeled	January	January	January
	Average capacity factor (%) <sup>[35]</sup>	18%	12%	17%
Wind	Month modeled	September	September	September
	Average capacity factor (%) <sup>[35]</sup>	31%	18%	30%

The optimal configuration encounters several *modes* where the electrolyzer is being charged by the renewable asset, the electrolyzer is being charged by the battery, and when the battery is being charged by the renewable asset:



**Note:** Excess generation is assumed to be available for resale at wholesale electricity prices. See Slide 54 for the prices modeled.

# Renewable sizing results

## Steady-State

Resource	Parameter	CA	NY	TX
Solar + Storage	Solar Capacity (MW)	566	803	576
	Battery Size (MWh)	1,466	1,499	1,425
	Maximum Battery Discharge (MW)	367	375	356
Wind + Storage	Wind Capacity (MW)	322	560	332
	Battery Size (MWh)	179	287	359
	Maximum Battery Discharge (MW)	45	72	90

## Intermittent

Resource	Parameter	CA	NY	TX
Stand-Alone Solar	Solar Capacity (MW)	100 (sized to electrolyzer)		
Stand-Alone Wind	Wind Capacity (MW)	100 (sized to electrolyzer)		

Two key methodological assumptions feed into the VRE + Storage Optimization Model to size the renewable asset:

1. The system configuration resembles two-day operation (48 hours of operation)
2. The systems are sized to provide adequate generation on the worst days (Solar & Wind: Winter)

These result in systems that are oversized the majority of the year, but avoid curtailment of H<sub>2</sub> production.

# Contact Our Experts

---



**Josh Figueroa**

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE | BOSTON**

[Josh.Figueroa@Brattle.com](mailto:Josh.Figueroa@Brattle.com)

+1 617 234 5640



**Ragini Sreenath**

**ASSOCIATE | BOSTON**

[Ragini.Sreenath@Brattle.com](mailto:Ragini.Sreenath@Brattle.com)

+1 617 234 5765



**Frank Graves**

**PRINCIPAL | BOSTON**

[Frank.Graves@Brattle.com](mailto:Frank.Graves@Brattle.com)

+1 617 234 5633

# Brattle's Hydrogen Expertise

## Emissions

- Lifecycle emissions assessment
- Emissions accounting standards
- Impact of H<sub>2</sub> hubs on state/regional emissions

## Technological

- Impacts on power system from electrolyzer demand (flexible/ fixed)
- The value of H<sub>2</sub> as a clean firm, dispatchable generation resource
- Analyzing optimal hydrogen operations

## Regulatory

- H<sub>2</sub> pipeline and storage siting and safety regulations
- H<sub>2</sub> procurement and risk management reviews
- Rate base and customer bill impacts
- Regulatory due diligence

## Economics

- Impact of Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives (and their planned sunset in early 2030s)
- Regional H<sub>2</sub> market dynamics
- Economics of potential end-use pathways
- Economic impact assessments

## Contracting

- Structure of H<sub>2</sub> offtake contracts

## Markets

- Evolution of hydrogen markets – location, demand, type

To learn more: [www.brattle.com/hydrogen](http://www.brattle.com/hydrogen)



# About Brattle

---

The Brattle Group answers complex economic, finance, and regulatory questions for corporations, law firms, and governments around the world. We are distinguished by the clarity of our insights and the credibility of our experts, which include leading international academics and industry specialists. Brattle has 500 talented professionals across four continents. For more information, please visit **brattle.com**.

## Our Services

Research and Consulting  
Litigation and Support  
Expert Testimony

---

## Our People

Renowned Experts  
Global Teams  
Intellectual Rigor

---

## Our Insights

Thoughtful Analysis  
Exceptional Quality  
Clear Communication

---

# A Global Firm

---



**BOSTON**



**CHICAGO**



**LONDON**



**MADRID**



**NEW YORK**



**PARIS**



**ROME**



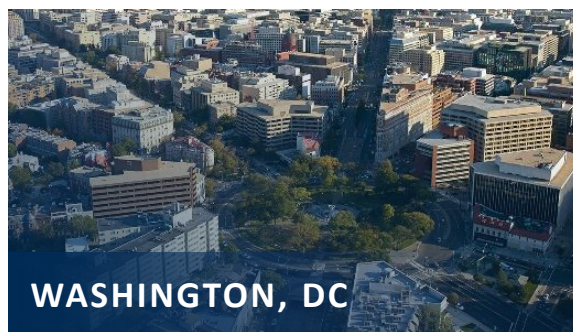
**SAN FRANCISCO**



**SYDNEY**



**TORONTO**



**WASHINGTON, DC**



# Clarity in the face of complexity

---



**Brattle**

