

Science and Policy Innovation for the Just Energy Transition

Daniel Kammen

Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Justice

Department of Civil and Systems Engineering (CASE)
Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)
The Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute (ROSEI)
Johns Hopkins University

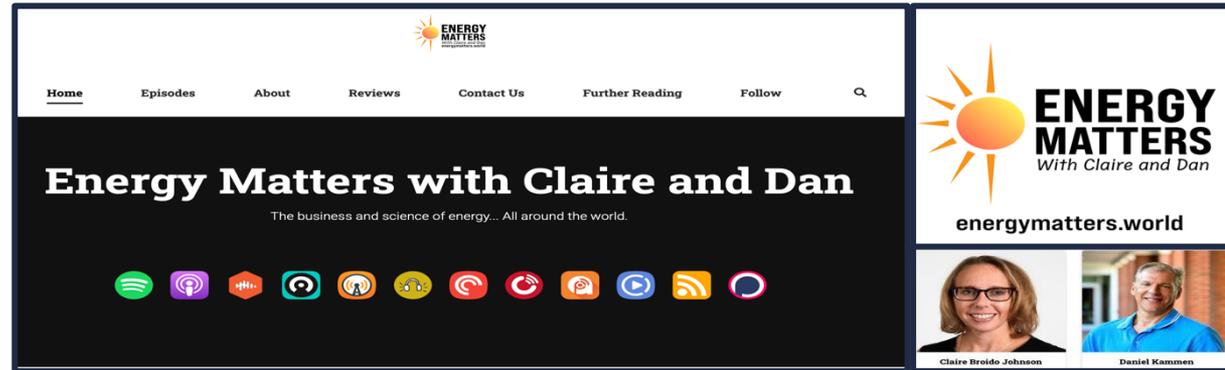
Former Science Envoy, United States Department of State
US National Academy of Science | American Academy of Arts & Sciences

Avenues to interact:

1. The Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute <http://energyinstitute.jhu.edu>
Bluesky: [@dankammen.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@dankammen.bsky.social)
Twitter: [@dan_kammen](https://twitter.com/dan_kammen)

2. *Energy Matters* podcast

<http://energymatters.world>



3. The Renewable Energy & Equity Worldwide Lab: <https://kammen.wse.jhu.edu>

Overview:

The landscape of sustainable and reliable clean energy

Leveraging clean energy for Justice on a fragile, hot, and crowded planet

- **Energy markets in the US west**
- **Energy Systems models in Japan, China & Africa**
- **Energy for the UN SDG goals in Africa**

An to a Just Energy collaboration in Africa

My personal experience at: RAEL (@UC Berkeley), now RENEW (@JHU) is an an innovation engine



Businesses

Community Groups



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Institutions



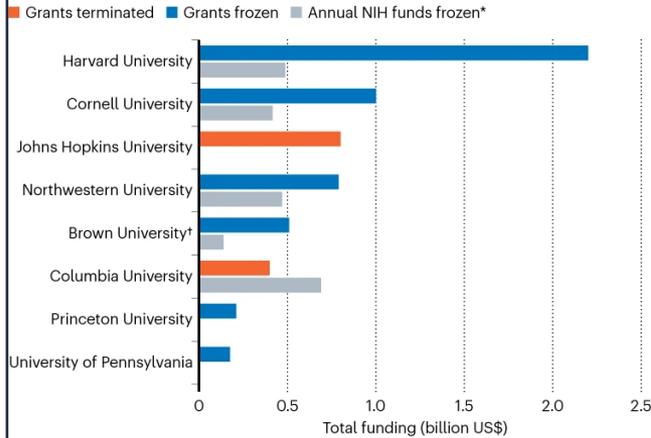
Energy at Hopkins



The sad turn away from sanity and civility: “Like going on a diet by removing brain tissue”

SCIENCE STALLED

The administration of President Donald Trump began its campaign against US universities by terminating funding to Columbia University in New York City and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Since then, administration officials have allegedly frozen US\$4.9 billion in research funds across 6 more institutions. On 17 April, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) was also directed to stop making any awards to five of the universities.

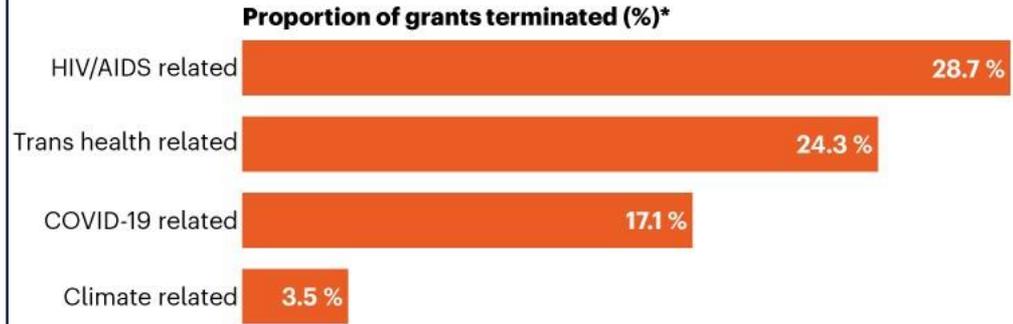


*Data reflect the amount that each university got from the NIH during the 2024 fiscal year. These amounts probably overlap to some extent with what has already been frozen at these universities. Please note that some amounts represent university systems; for instance, numbers for Cornell University include funds for the main campus in Ithaca, New York, as well as Weill Cornell Medicine in New York City. †Frozen grants have yet to be reported by researchers at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

enature

TERMINATED GRANT TALLY

Under President Donald Trump, the US National Institutes of Health has cancelled roughly 770 active research grants as of 7 April. Nearly 29% of the grants terminated were for research that mentioned HIV/AIDS, and about one-quarter of the grants terminated were related to the health of transgender people. Other topic areas that the Trump team has deemed no longer in the interests of the agency are COVID-19 and the effects of climate change on health.



*Percentages are calculated by searching NIH grant titles and abstracts for key terms such as ‘transgender’, ‘gender diversity’, ‘climate’ and ‘SARS-CoV-2’. Percentages do not sum to 100% because these topic do not cover all grants cancelled and because there is some overlap between them.

enature

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01289-4>

The global damage that the current US administration is doing may be long-lasting





UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD ALUMNI NETWORK
OXFORD CLIMATE ALUMNI NETWORK

HOME | LEARN | CONNECT | ACT | PEOPLE | JOIN | DONATE

To get specific, MIT Economist Robert Solow received the 1987 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics [2] for his work on economic growth, where he found overwhelming theoretical and empirical evidence that 90% or more of economic growth is due to new innovations. There was before, and has been since 1987, a great deal of important work in this area, but the Solow growth model put the sharpest point on the centrality of innovation (notably in science), technology, and what we would now call interdisciplinary problem-solving, to show that, without both an ecosystem of innovators and support for ideas, economies can wither and die.

Decades of my own work has shown that, in the energy and climate arena, the Solow perspective on the need to nurture and invest in innovations is vital. Work using patents to show the multiplicative returns on investing in research and development (R&D) [3] and efforts to study the pathways and communities of innovators in the US [4] and in Africa [5] both support this finding.

It is for this reason that the current self-harm that the US is doing to its research base – the current and the future research community – is such short-sighted stupidity. In terms of current research capacity, the new administration has already cancelled hundreds of National Science Foundation [6] and National Institutes of Health [7] grants, and grants for science in the armed forces [8], and is engaged in highly indiscriminate mass layoffs of staff with specialised skills across government [8]. There is simply no other way to understand these cuts than to invoke the poorest of short-sighted, self-destructive urges we have witnessed before, which have been immortalised in the famously haunting Martin Niemöller poem:

*First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me*

<https://www.oxfordclimatealumni.org/post/an-antidote-to-the-ongoing-suicide-of-a-superpower>



Science Envoy, US State Department

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 12, 2017

Daniel Kammen, Ph.D.
Berkeley, California

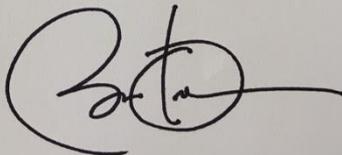
Dear Dr. Kammen:

Please accept my deepest gratitude for the distinction with which you have represented our country and my Administration as a Science Envoy.

Embodying the spirit of service and the search for shared values that speak to our common interests and humanity, you've helped promote the advancement of science, diplomacy, and partnership between nations and strengthen our country's standing in the world. I want you to know how much I have appreciated your work and the role it has played in our efforts to bring about a future of greater possibility, both here at home and across the globe.

Again, thank you for endeavoring alongside me to demonstrate that there is far more that binds us than that divides us and to bring us closer to a tomorrow that reflects this essential truth. You have my very best wishes for all that lies ahead.

Sincerely,



Letter on Twitter

DIRECTOR, RENEWABLE AND APPROPRIATE ENERGY LAB (RAEL)
BERKELEY, CA 94720-3050
URL: <http://rael.berkeley.edu>
TWITTER: @DAN_KAMMEN

DANIEL M. KAMMEN
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, ENERGY AND RESOURCES GROUP
PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY IN THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL
PROFESSOR OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

August 23, 2017

Mr. President,

I am resigning from my position as Science Envoy for the Department of State of the United States. Since 1996, I have served the Departments of Energy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the State Department in a number of roles. Working closely with the talented teams at State Department Headquarters and at U. S. embassies abroad, we have built significant partnerships in North and East Africa, and in the Middle East, around shared visions of national security, job creation in the U. S. and sustainable energy.

My decision to resign is in response to your attacks on core values of the United States. Your failure to condemn white supremacists and neo-Nazis has domestic and international ramifications. On this issue, I stand with the unequivocal and authoritative statements of Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Ohio Governor John Kasich, Senator John McCain, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, Dr. Cornel West, Linda Sarsour, the Palestinian-American activist and one of the organizers of the Women's March, and many others.

Particularly troubling to me is how your response to Charlottesville is consistent with a broader pattern of behavior that enables sexism and racism, and disregards the welfare of all Americans, the global community and the planet.

Examples of this destructive pattern have consequences on my duties as Science Envoy. Your decision to abdicate the leadership opportunities and the job creation benefits of the Paris Climate Accord, and to undermine energy and environmental research are not acceptable to me.

Acts and words matter. To continue in my role under your administration would be inconsistent with the principles of the United States Oath of Allegiance to which I adhere.

Character is vital in leadership. I find particularly wise the admonition of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who cautioned that, "A people [or person] that values its privileges above principles soon loses both."

Herein, with regret, I resign. I deeply respect and value the work of the many fine people I have encountered in our federal agencies and will miss the opportunity to work with and support them. Your actions to date have, sadly, harmed the quality of life in the United States, our standing abroad, and the sustainability of the planet.

Sincerely,

Professor Daniel M. Kammen
Science Envoy, U. S. State Department (former)



Renewable & Appropriate Energy Laboratory

RAEL

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



J.K. Rowling @jk_rowling

Aug 23

I wonder whether there's anyone left in America who doesn't know what an acrostic is.

Daniel M Kammen @dan_kammen

Mr. President, I am resigning as Science Envoy. Your response to Charlottesville enables racism, sexism, & harms our country and planet. pic.twitter.com/eWzDc5Yw6t



4,271



20K



Daniel M Kammen @dan_kammen

Aug 23

Mr. President, I am resigning as Science Envoy. Your response to Charlottesville enables racism, sexism, & harms our country and planet.

embassies abroad, we have built significant partnerships in North and East Africa, and in the Middle East, around shared visions of national security, job creation in the U. S. and sustainable energy.

My decision to resign is in response to your attacks on core values of the United States. Your failure to condemn white supremacists and neo-Nazis has domestic and international ramifications. On this issue, I stand with the unequivocal and authoritative statements of Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Ohio Governor John Kasich, Senator John McCain, Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush, Dr. Cornel West, Linda Sarsour, the Palestinian-American activist and one of the organizers of the Women's March, and many others.

Particularly troubling to me is how your response to Charlottesville is consistent with a broader pattern of behavior that enables sexism and racism, and disregards the welfare of all Americans, the global community and the planet.

Examples of this destructive pattern have consequences on my duties as Science Envoy. Your decision to abdicate the leadership opportunities and the job creation benefits of the Paris Climate Accord, and to undermine energy and environmental research are not acceptable to me.

Acts and words matter. To continue in my role under your administration would be inconsistent with the principles of the United States Oath of Allegiance to which I adhere.



45K



125K



Renewable & Appropriate Energy Laboratory

RAEL

NEWS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA DECISION 2022 PLAN YOUR VOTE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT COVID U.S. NEWS OPINION WATCH **NOW**

POLITICS NEWS

State Dept. Science Envoy Spells Out 'IMPEACH' In Resignation Letter

Daniel Kammen, a State Department science envoy, quit Wednesday with a blistering letter, writing that Trump's response to Charlottesville was the last straw.

A former Trump science adviser on his "impeach" message, getting rid of coal, and embracing renewable energy

Energy expert Dan Kammen weighs in on recent controversies.
By David Roberts | @dvroits | Sep 6, 2017, 9:30am EDT



Los Angeles Times

I-M-P-E-A-C-H: UC Berkeley professor who broke from Trump administration over Charlottesville speaks out

BY JAMES QUEALLY, ALENE TOHEMEDYAN
AUG. 24, 2017 9:50 AM PT

SUBSCRIBERS ARE READING

For the last two decades, UC Berkeley professor Daniel Kammen has served as a climate change advisor under Republican and Democratic presidents.

THE HILL News Policy Opinion Events Jobs HILL.TV Changing America

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

State Dept. science envoy resigns with letter that spells out 'Impeach'

BY REBECCA SAVANSKY - 08/23/17 12:09 PM ET

Just In...
NY Republican won't run for second term after backing gun control
HOUSE - 4H 4M AGO

Graham: 'It is time to mobilize our retired and former service members' to secure schools
SENATE - 5H 23M AGO

California court says some bees are fish
NEWS - 7H 11M AGO

Support the Guardian Available for everyone, funded by readers

The Guardian News website of the year

Environment Climate crisis Wildlife Energy Pollution Green light

Donald Trump

Science envoy resigns over Trump - with a letter spelling out 'impeach'

State department's Daniel Kammen quits with note calling out Charlottesville and Paris accord - and a hidden message in the first letters of each paragraph

Associated Press
Wed 23 Aug 2017 18:39 EDT

Your opinion matters. Won't you please take a few minutes to share your thoughts with us? Take the survey ->

The Washington Post Democracy Dies in Darkness

SCIENCE

Trump's science envoy quits in scathing letter with an embedded message: I-M-P-E-A-C-H

By Amy B. Wang
August 23, 2017 at 2:55 p.m. EDT

Science

NEWS CAREERS COMMENTARY JOURNALS

Science envoy resigns from Trump administration with a hidden message: 'impeach'

Daniel Kammen quit in response to President Trump's "attacks on the core values" of the coun

23 AUG 2017 BY GEORGIA GUILLUMI

SCIENCE Independent Global News

Daily Shows Top Stories Web Exclusives Topics Columns

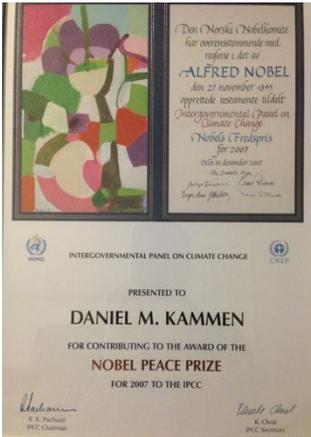
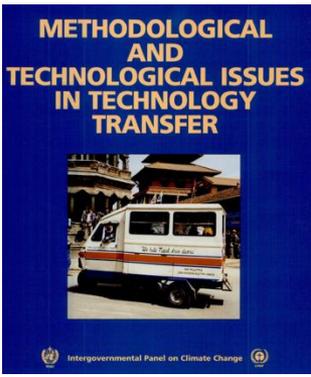
Meet the State Dept. Science Envoy Who Spelled Out "Impeach" in His Resignation Letter to Trump

STORY AUGUST 23, 2017 Watch Full Show

More from this interview

Part 1: Meet the State Dept. Science Envoy Who Spelled Out "Impeach" in His Resignation Letter to Trump

Part 2: Science Envoy Who Resigned in Protest of Trump's Climate Change Stance Stomps Like Harvey Moust Secure



IPCC Estimates of Climate Damages



Figure 16: The difference in projected climate impacts between 1.5°C and 2°C of warming. Source: IPCC 2018.



New York City
Monday May 5, 2023



New York City
Wednesday May 7, 2023



Bladerunner
2049

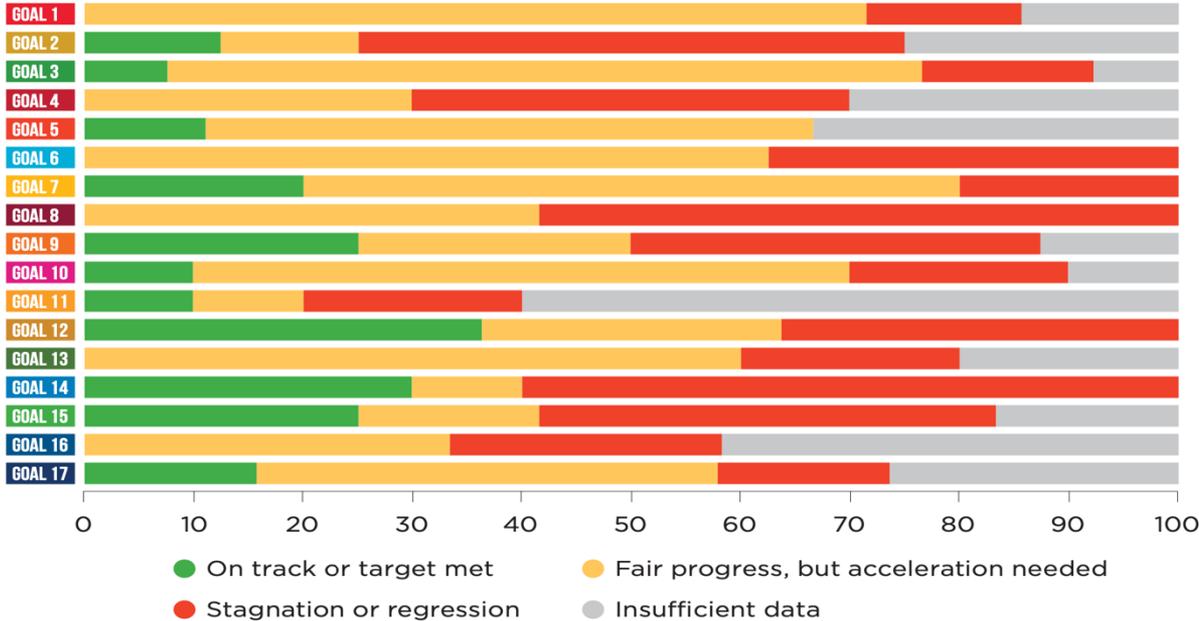


The world is not on pace to meet the SDGs

This is where the Johns Hopkins innovation ecosystem must focus



Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



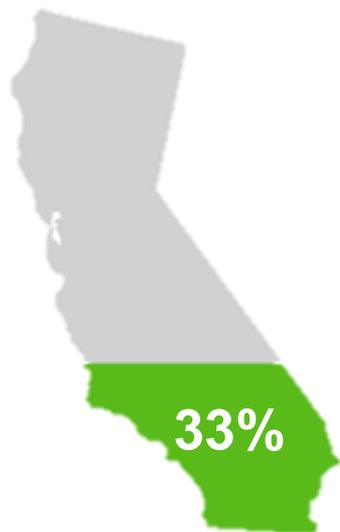
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/progress-chart/Progress-Chart-2023.pdf>

California Energy & Environmental Justice Path

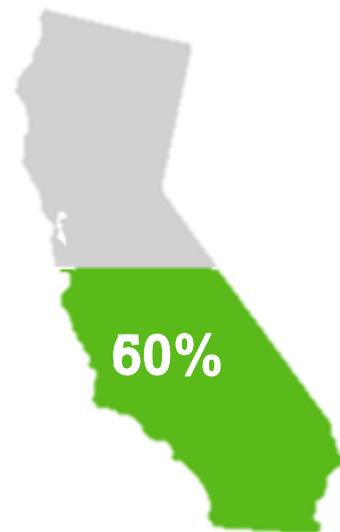
35%+ of Carbon Cap & Trade Funds for Under-Served Communities



2013



2020

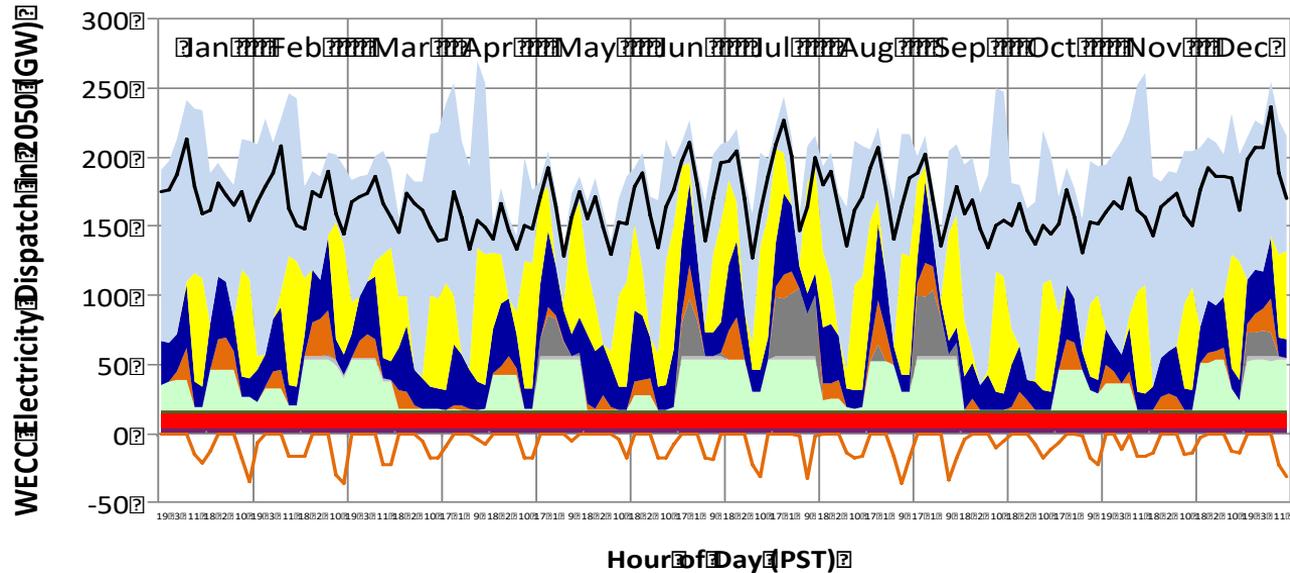


2030

California Senate Bill 100: 100% clean energy by 2045 and 2030 standard now 60% (without nuclear or large hydro)

Dispatch in 2050 (SWITCH-WECC, Western North America): Flexibility and variable renewables dominate

Storage almost exclusively moves solar to the night
Geothermal only remaining substantial baseload



- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Nuclear | Geothermal | Biopower | Coal |
| Coal (CCS) | Gas (baseload) | Gas (CCS) | Gas (intermediate) |
| Gas (peaker) | Storage (discharging) | Hydro (non-pumped) | Solar |
| Wind | Storage (charging) | Demand | |

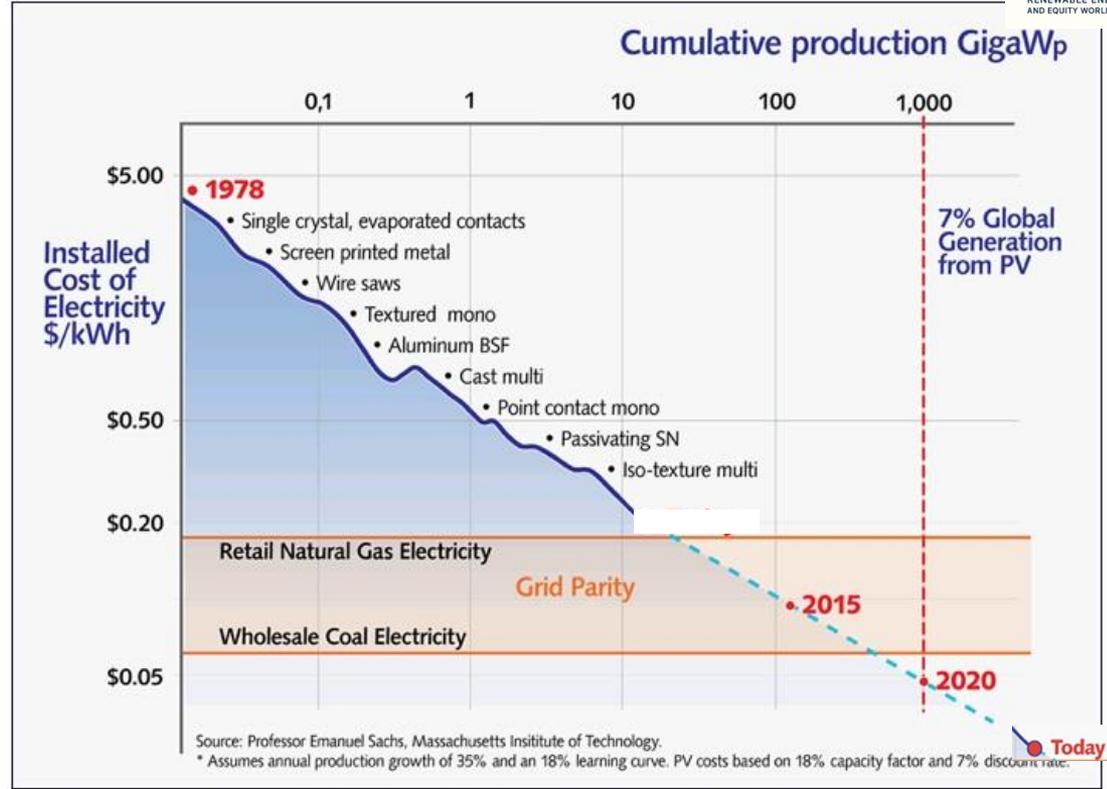
The Learning Curve Swanson's Law

“Moore’s Law”

Cost (C) & Sales(V)
at times t_1 and t_2

$$\frac{C_{t2}}{C_{t1}} = \left(\frac{V_{t2}}{V_{t1}} \right)^{-b}$$

Solar cost decreases 10% per year



Source: Professor Emanuel Sachs, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

*Assumes annual production growth of 35% and an 18% learning curve. PV costs based on 18% capacity factor and 7% discount rate.



Comment



The Taipingling nuclear power plant in Huizhou, China, has been under construction since 2019.

Can China break the 'cost curse' of nuclear power?

Shangwei Liu, Gang He, Minghao Qiu & Daniel M. Kammen

Escalating construction expenses threaten to derail global progress on atomic energy. China offers lessons on how to rein in costs.

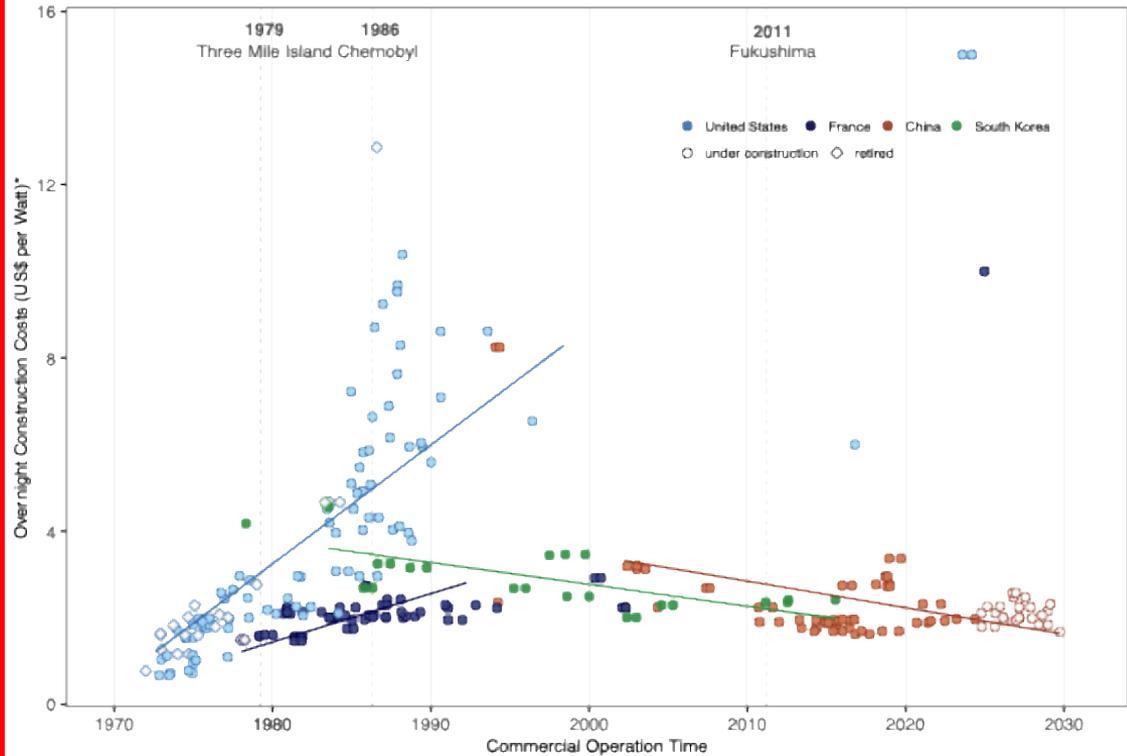
Once again, the world is betting on nuclear power. The United States aims to quadruple its nuclear capacity by 2050, and more than 30 countries have pledged to triple global capacity by mid-century. China has more than 30 reactors under construction and is planning, and France has announced plans to

build 14 reactors. Technology giants, including Amazon, Google and Microsoft, are also investing in nuclear to power their energy-hungry data centres and lower their carbon emissions.

A central challenge remains: can development be done at a manageable cost? Historically, the industry has faced a 'cost escalation curse' — building more nuclear reactors has led to higher, not lower, costs per watt (see 'Costly construction', hampering their economic viability. By contrast, for solar and wind energy, mass production and steady technological improvements have driven costs down". The cost of building nuclear power plants can soar because of a lack of standardized designs, rising material and labour costs, evolving regulations and technical complexities'. But is this cost escalation inevitable? Here, we show that tailored regulations

and policies can reverse the trend. Decades of nuclear-energy development in China demonstrate that construction costs can be brought down through a combination of stable regulations and efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains.

China's success in curbing costs
Over the past two decades, China has been the main country to substantially and consistently expand its nuclear fleet, to 56 operating reactors in 2024. Since 2022, the government has been approving around ten new reactors each year, putting China on track to surpass the United States and become the world's largest holder of nuclear power capacity by 2030. State-affiliated research centres have outlined a goal of quinqupling China's current nuclear capacity by 2050.



*Overnight construction costs are the cost of building a project as if it were completed overnight, without taking financing costs (interest during construction) into account. All costs are converted to their equivalent 2020 value. Direct cross-country cost comparisons should be interpreted with caution because of differences in exchange rates and inflation. Cost data for the US, France, and South Korea are from Lovering et al. (2016). Cost data for China are from Liu et al. (2025). No data are available for South Korea after 2016.

Shangwei Liu, Gang He, Minghao Qiu & Daniel M. Kammen (2025) "Can China break the 'cost curse' of nuclear power," *Nature*, 643, 1186 – 1188. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-02341-4>

Setting the agenda in research

Comment



The Taipingling nuclear power plant in Huzhou, China, has been under construction since 2019.

Can China break the 'cost curse' of nuclear power?

Shangwei Liu, Gang He, Minghao Qiu & Daniel M. Kammen

Escalating construction expenses threaten to derail global progress on atomic energy. China offers lessons on how to rein in costs.

build 14 reactors. Technology giants, including Amazon, Google and Microsoft, are also investing in nuclear to power their energy-hungry data centres and lower their carbon emissions. A central challenge remains: can development be done at a manageable cost? Historically, the industry has faced a 'cost escalation curse' — building more nuclear reactors has led to higher, not lower, costs per watt (see 'Costly contractor', hampering their economic viability. By contrast, for solar and wind energy, mass production and steady technological improvements have driven costs down".

Once again, the world is betting on nuclear power. The United States aims to quadruple its nuclear capacity by 2050, and more than 30 countries have pledged to triple global capacity by mid-century. China has more than 30 reactors under construction and is planning, and France has announced plans to

The cost of building nuclear power plants can soar because of a lack of standardized designs, rising material and labour costs, evolving regulations and technical complexities. But is this cost escalation inevitable? Here, we show that tailored regulations

and policies can reverse the trend. Decades of nuclear-energy development in China demonstrate that construction costs can be brought down through a combination of stable regulations and efforts to strengthen domestic supply chains.

China's success in curbing costs
Over the past two decades, China has been the main country to substantially and consistently expand its nuclear fleet, to 58 operating reactors in 2024. Since 2022, the government has been approving around ten new reactors each year, putting China on track to surpass the United States and become the world's largest holder of nuclear power capacity by 2030. State-affiliated research centres have outlined a goal of quipping China's current nuclear capacity by 2050.

1186 | Nature | Vol 643 | 31 July 2025

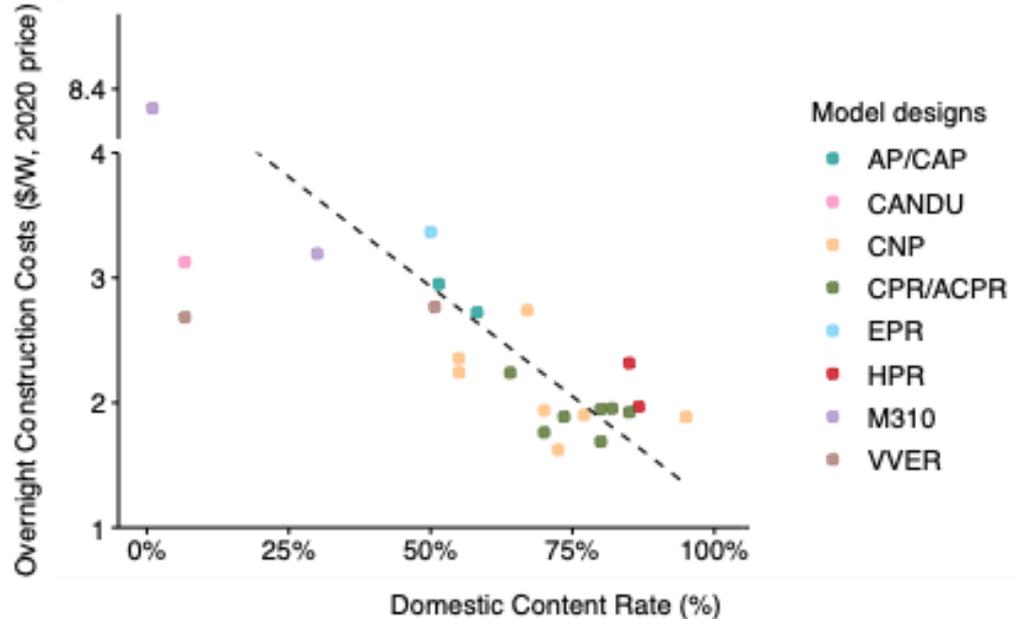
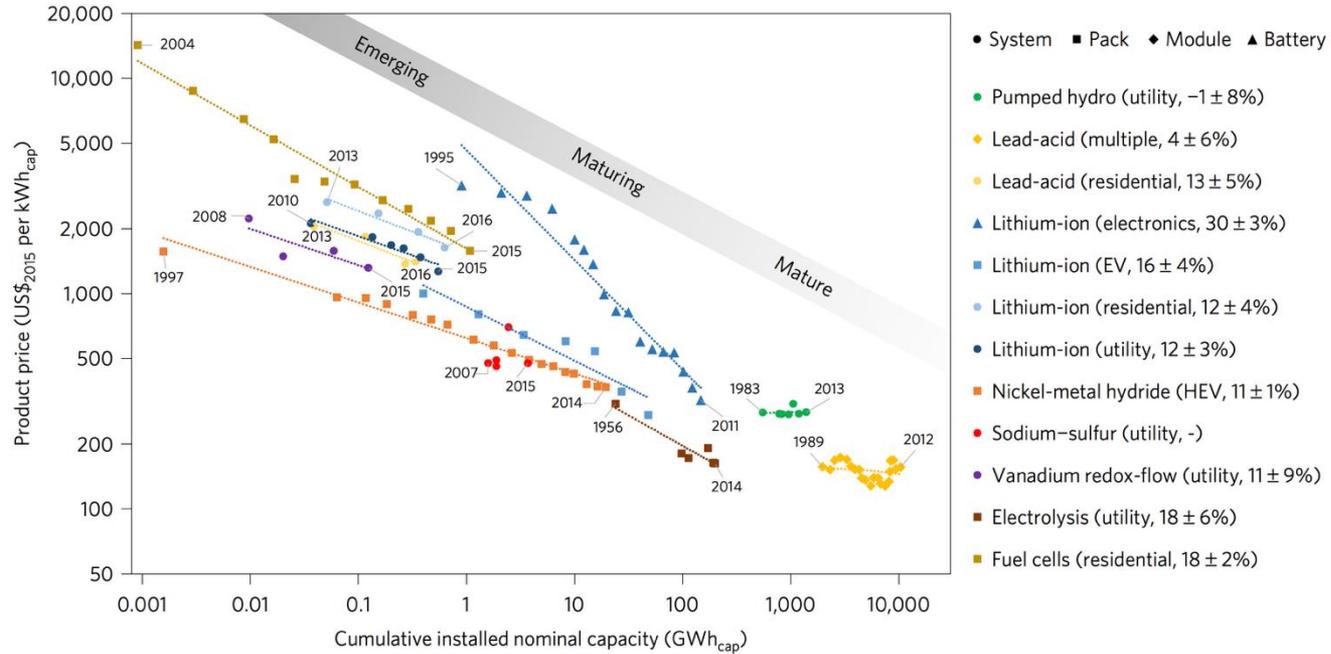


Figure 3 The effect of indigenization (domestic content rate) on unit overnight construction costs of Chinese operating nuclear power plants. Each dot represents a nuclear power plant (including multiple units), as costs and domestic content rates are typically reported at this level. The dashed line represents the fitted linear regression of domestic content rate against unit overnight construction costs.

Shangwei Liu, Gang He, Minghao Qiu & Daniel M. Kammen (2025) "Can China break the 'cost curse' of nuclear power," *Nature*, 643, 1186 – 1188. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-025-02341->

Materials Science & Engineering for Storage Innovation



Kittner, Lil & Kammen (2017) Energy storage innovation. *Nature Energy*, **2**, 17125

The SWITCH Modeling Framework

<http://rael.Berkeley.edu/project/SWITCH>

$$\min_{(c_i)} NPV \sum_{i,k=1}^{n,m} TC_k (c_i)$$

Total Cost $TC_k = \text{Capital Cost}_i * \text{Capacity} (c_i) + [\text{Variable Cost}_i * \text{Capacity} (c_i) * CF_i * 8760]$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Capacity} (c_i) * \text{Peak Contribution}_i \geq \text{Annual Peak Demand} * [1 + \text{Reserve Margin}]$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n [\text{Capacity} (c_i) * CF_i * 8760] \geq \text{Annual Load}$$

$$\text{Annual Load} * \text{Spill Factor} \geq \sum_{i=1}^n [\text{Capacity} (c_i) * CF_i * 8760]$$

$$\text{Total Resource Potential}_i \geq \sum_{k=1}^m \text{Capacity} (c_i)$$

Official users:



A UC Berkeley-RAEL proposal became the California 2013 Energy Storage Legislation: 1.2 Gw_{peak} of new storage online by 2020

Giant Batteries Are Transforming the Way the U.S. Uses Electricity

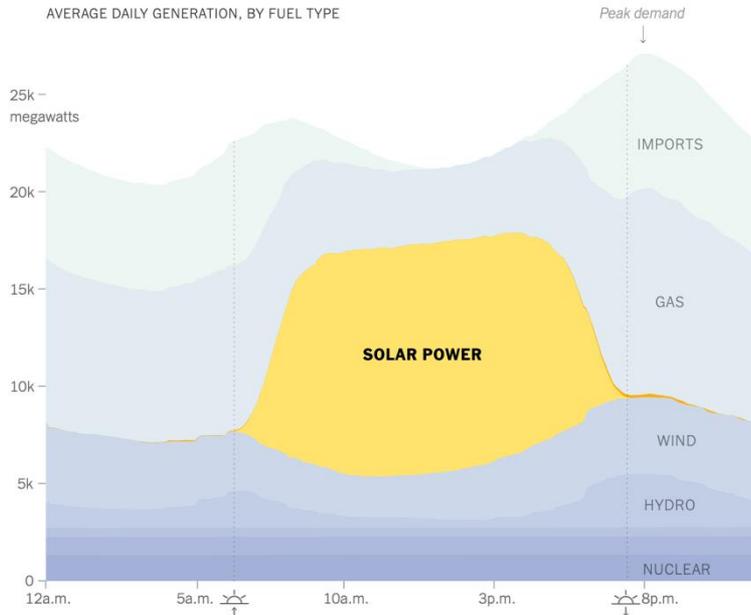
They're delivering solar power after dark in California and helping to stabilize grids in other states. And the technology is expanding rapidly.

By Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich May 7, 2024

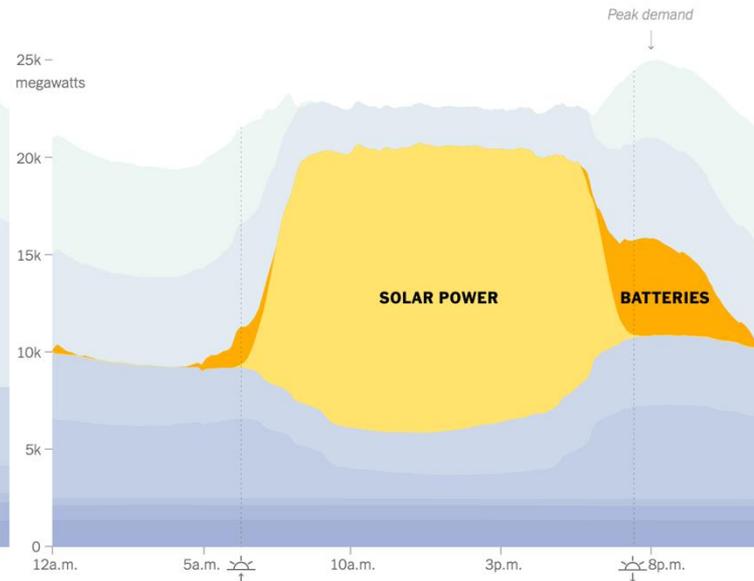


How California powered itself in April 2021 ...

AVERAGE DAILY GENERATION, BY FUEL TYPE



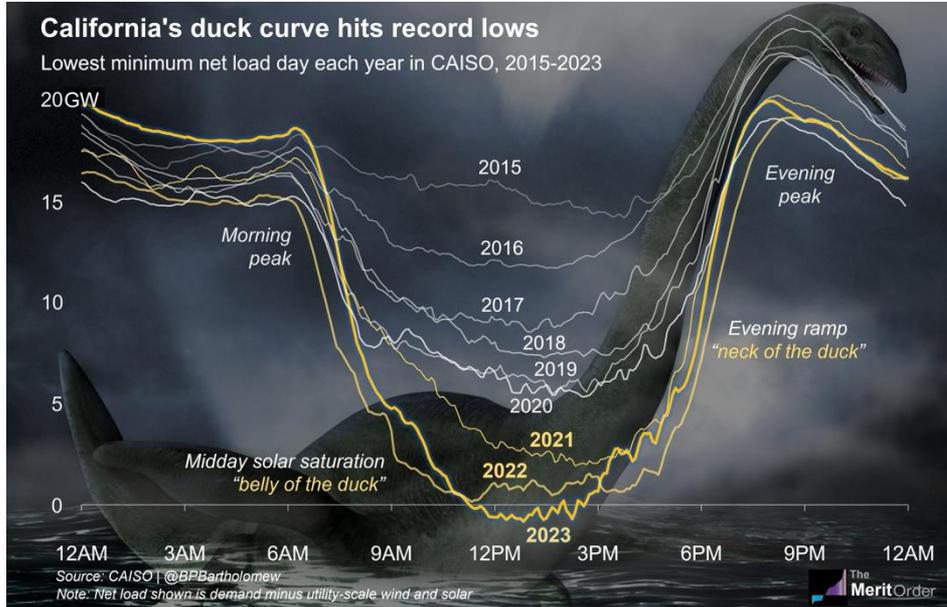
and in April 2024.



<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/05/07/climate/battery-electricity-solar-california-texas.html>



From (perceived) utility crisis to energy innovation opportunity

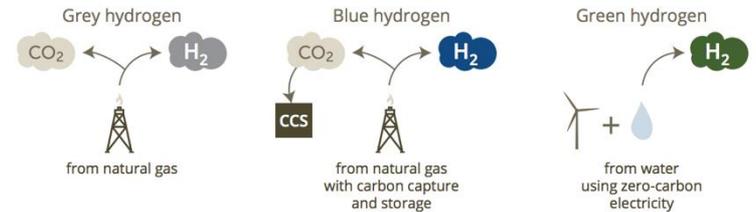


Bidirectional EV Charging

Energy Flow Cycle



- 1 AC power from Grid to Charger
- 2 Converted DC power into the EV battery
- 3 Excess Energy used by homes
- 4 DC power converted to AC, and supplied back to grid



ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS



LETTER

The role of hydrogen as long-duration energy storage and as an international energy carrier for electricity sector decarbonization

OPEN ACCESS

RECEIVED
9 March 2024REVISED
24 May 2024ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION
14 June 2024PUBLISHED
9 July 2024Original content from
this work may be used
under the terms of the
Creative Commons
Attribution 4.0 licence.Any further distribution
of this work must
maintain attribution to
the author(s) and the title
of the work, journal
citation and DOI.Kenji Shiraishi^{1,2,3*}, Won Young Park³ and Daniel M Kammen^{1,2,4*}¹ Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America² Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America³ Department of Sustainable Energy and Environmental Systems, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America⁴ Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America

* Author to whom any correspondence should be addressed.

E-mail: kammen@berkeley.edu

Keywords: hydrogen energy, decarbonization, zero-emission, long-duration energy storage, international energy carrier

Supplementary material for this article is available [online](#)

Abstract

With countries and economies around the globe increasingly relying on non-dispatchable variable renewable energy (VRE), the need for effective energy storage and international carriers of low-carbon energy has intensified. This study delves into hydrogen's prospective, multifaceted contribution to decarbonizing the electricity sector, with emphasis on its utilization as a scalable technology for long-duration energy storage and as an international energy carrier. Using Japan as a case study, based on its ambitious national hydrogen strategy and plans to import liquefied hydrogen as a low-carbon fuel source, we employ advanced models encompassing capacity expansion and hourly dispatch. We explore diverse policy scenarios to unravel the timing, quantity, and operational intricacies of hydrogen deployment within a power system. Our findings highlight the essential role of hydrogen in providing a reliable power supply by balancing mismatches in VRE generation and load over several weeks and months and reducing the costs of achieving a zero-emission power system. The study recommends prioritizing domestically produced hydrogen, leveraging renewables for cost reduction, and strategically employing imported hydrogen as a risk hedge against potential spikes in battery storage and renewable energy costs. Furthermore, the strategic incorporation of hydrogen mitigates system costs and enhances energy self-sufficiency, informing policy design and investment strategies aligned with the dynamic global energy landscape.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LETTERS



LETTER

Exploring offshore wind's potential to enhance energy security in nations with limited land and fuel resources

OPEN ACCESS

RECEIVED
11 November 2024REVISED
10 January 2025ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION
27 January 2025PUBLISHED
11 February 2025Original content from
this work may be used
under the terms of the
Creative Commons
Attribution 4.0 licence.Any further distribution
of this work must
maintain attribution to
the author(s) and the title
of the work, journal
citation and DOI.Kenji Shiraishi^{1*}, Umed Paliwal², Nikit Abhyankar³, Daniel M Kammen^{1,2,3*}, Amol Phadke⁴ and Won Young Park^{1,3*}¹ Sustainable Energy and Environmental Systems Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America² Energy Markets and Policy Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America³ Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America⁴ Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America^{*} Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720, United States of America

* Authors to whom any correspondence should be addressed.

E-mail: kshiraishi@lbl.gov and wypark@lbl.gov

Keywords: offshore wind energy, zero-carbon grid, energy security

Supplementary material for this article is available [online](#)

Abstract

Offshore wind (OSW) power is critical to addressing energy security issues in nations with limited land and fuel resources. This study aims to assess the quality of OSW resources with high temporal and spatial resolution and to elucidate the economically feasible deployment of OSW using advanced power system models with Japan as a case study. First, comprehensive evaluations of OSW resources were performed by integrating a geographic information system (GIS)-based resource assessment with simulated data for hourly resource availability and renewable power plant operation. Then, using the 'SWITCH-Japan' model developed in our previous study, four key policy scenarios ('pathways') were analyzed. Each scenario incorporated three technology cost sensitivities and was assessed on multiple criteria including affordability, energy security, and land-use change. Finally, the potential for hydrogen production in other sectors was explored. We found that the Least-Cost scenario, which accelerates renewable energy growth, reduces average system costs by 43% and increases energy self-sufficiency by 31 percentage point compared to the business-as-usual scenario. While it is a highly valuable resource, OSW nonetheless necessitates significant infrastructure development and potentially faces both stricter regulations and local opposition. In recognition of this, the Limited Onshore Resources scenario reduces direct land use by half but finds only a slight increase in overall costs. While the balance of OSW potential is utilized for power systems, the remainder can materially enhance energy security for entire economies. Ultimately, OSW energy presents a strategic opportunity for nations to achieve energy self-reliance and reduce import dependence, emphasizing the need for timely infrastructure development.

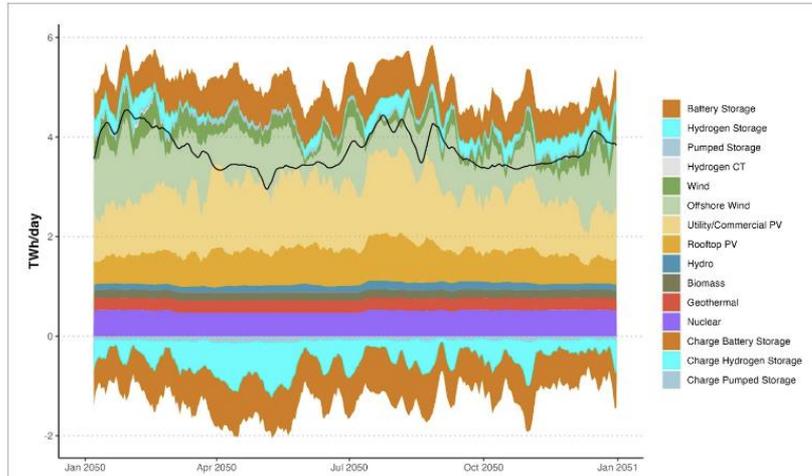


Figure 3. Annual national dispatch results with seven-day averaging under the Base scenario. The black solid line represents Japan's national load.

Clean Energy Japan scenario details:

Published today in *Env. Research Letters*
 July 10, 2024:

The role of Hydrogen in the low-cost, high-reliability decarbonization of the Japanese power sector.

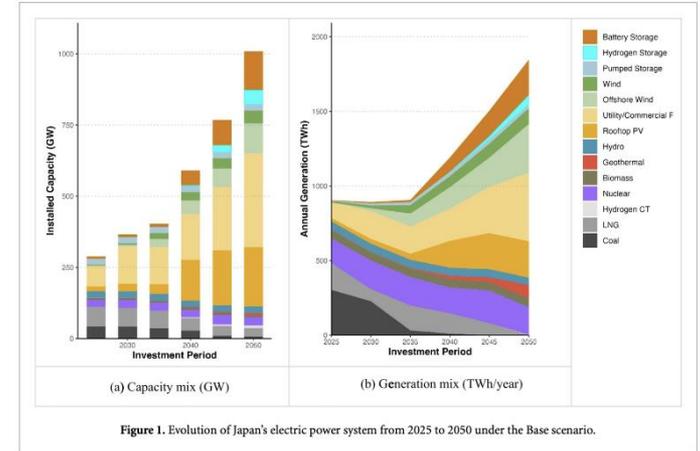


Figure 1. Evolution of Japan's electric power system from 2025 to 2050 under the Base scenario.

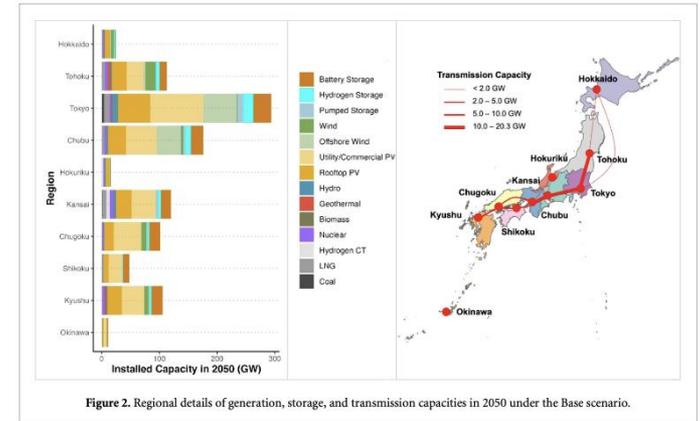
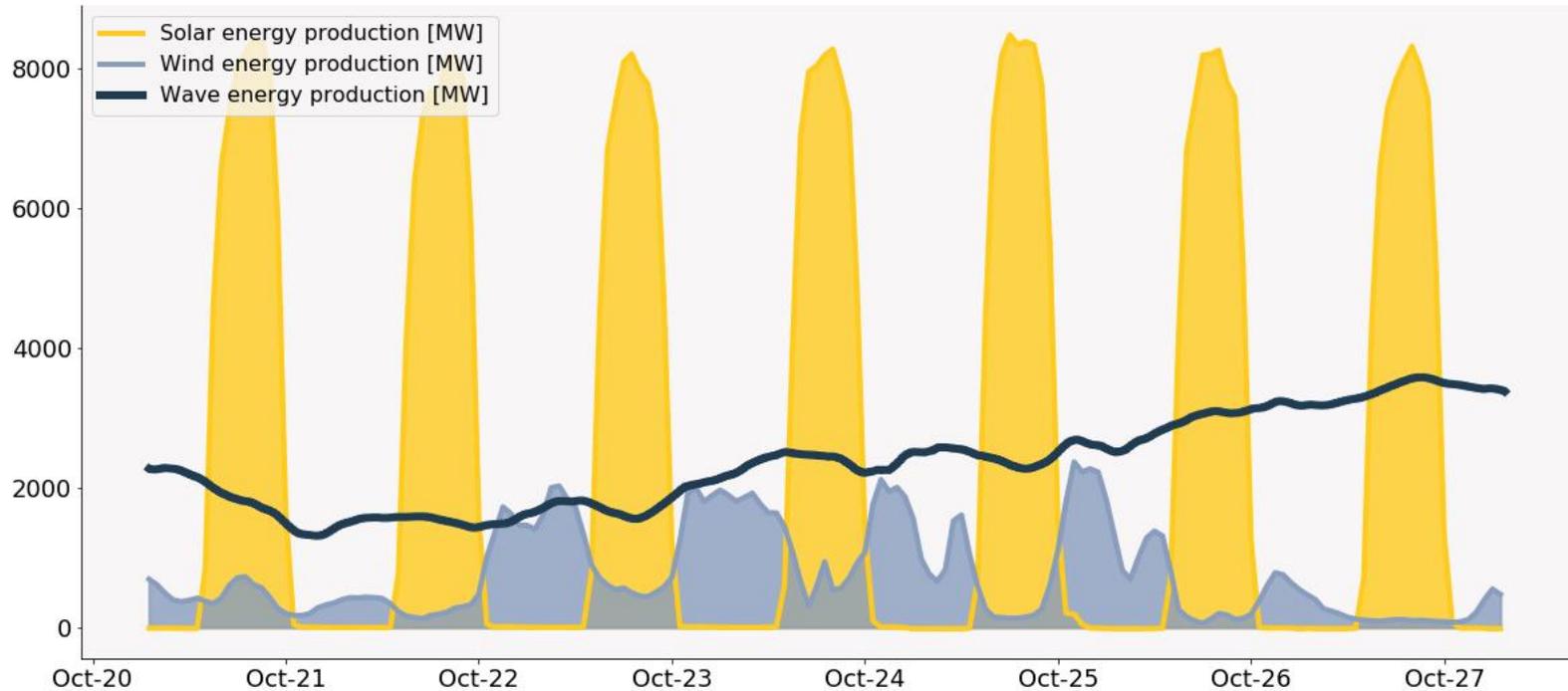


Figure 2. Regional details of generation, storage, and transmission capacities in 2050 under the Base scenario.

Consistent and complementary production profile

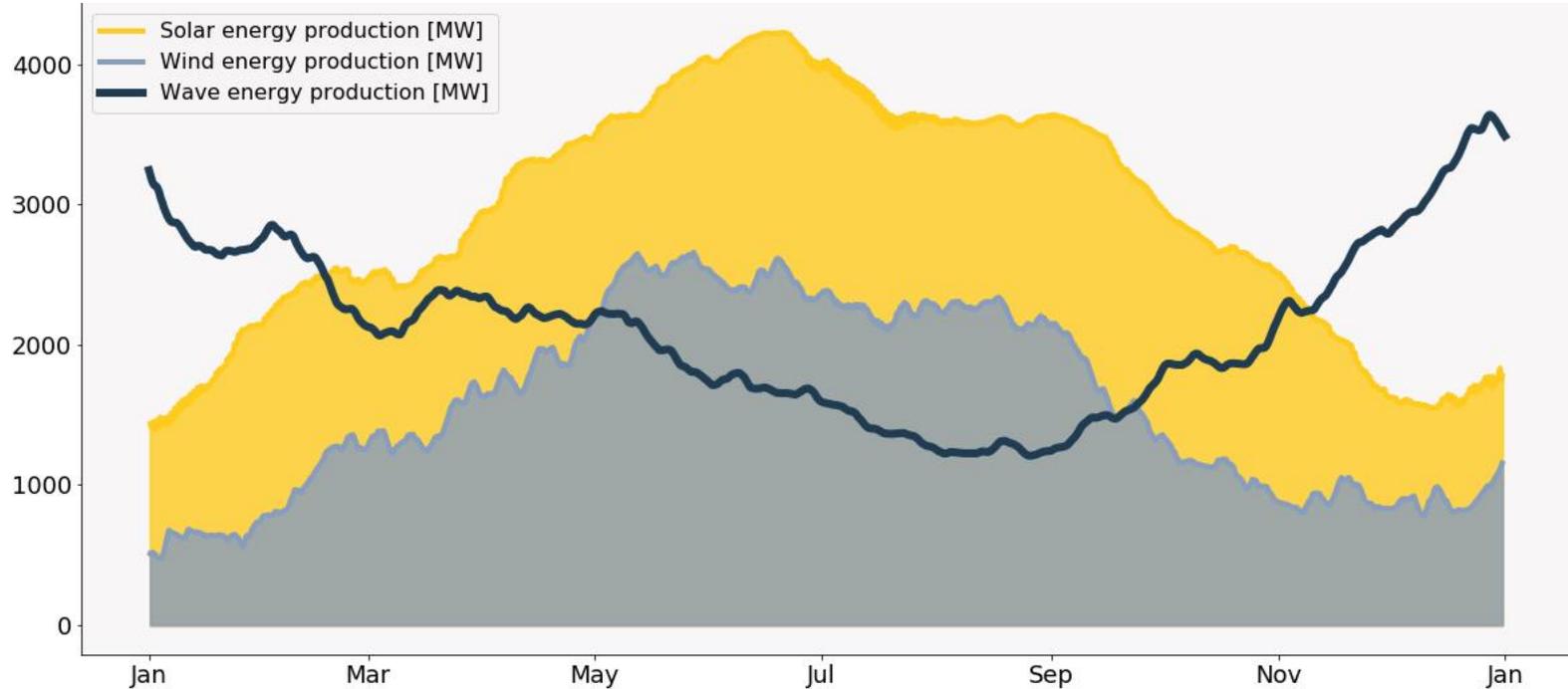


Wind (6.5 GW) and solar (13.5GW) production: Actual time series of the period
Wave production (6.0 GW): Estimate based on measured wave data and CorPower power matrix
6 GW wave energy devices evenly distributed over four sites along the coast of California

ANNUAL PROFILE

Annual profile is complementary to solar and wind on US west coast.

Attractive for seasonal balancing.



Wind (6.5 GW) and solar (13.5GW) production: Actual time series of the period
Wave production (6.0 GW): Estimate based on measured wave data and CorPower power matrix
6 GW wave energy devices evenly distributed over four sites along the coast of California

TRANSPARENT IN STORMS – AMPLIFIED IN NORMAL OPERATION





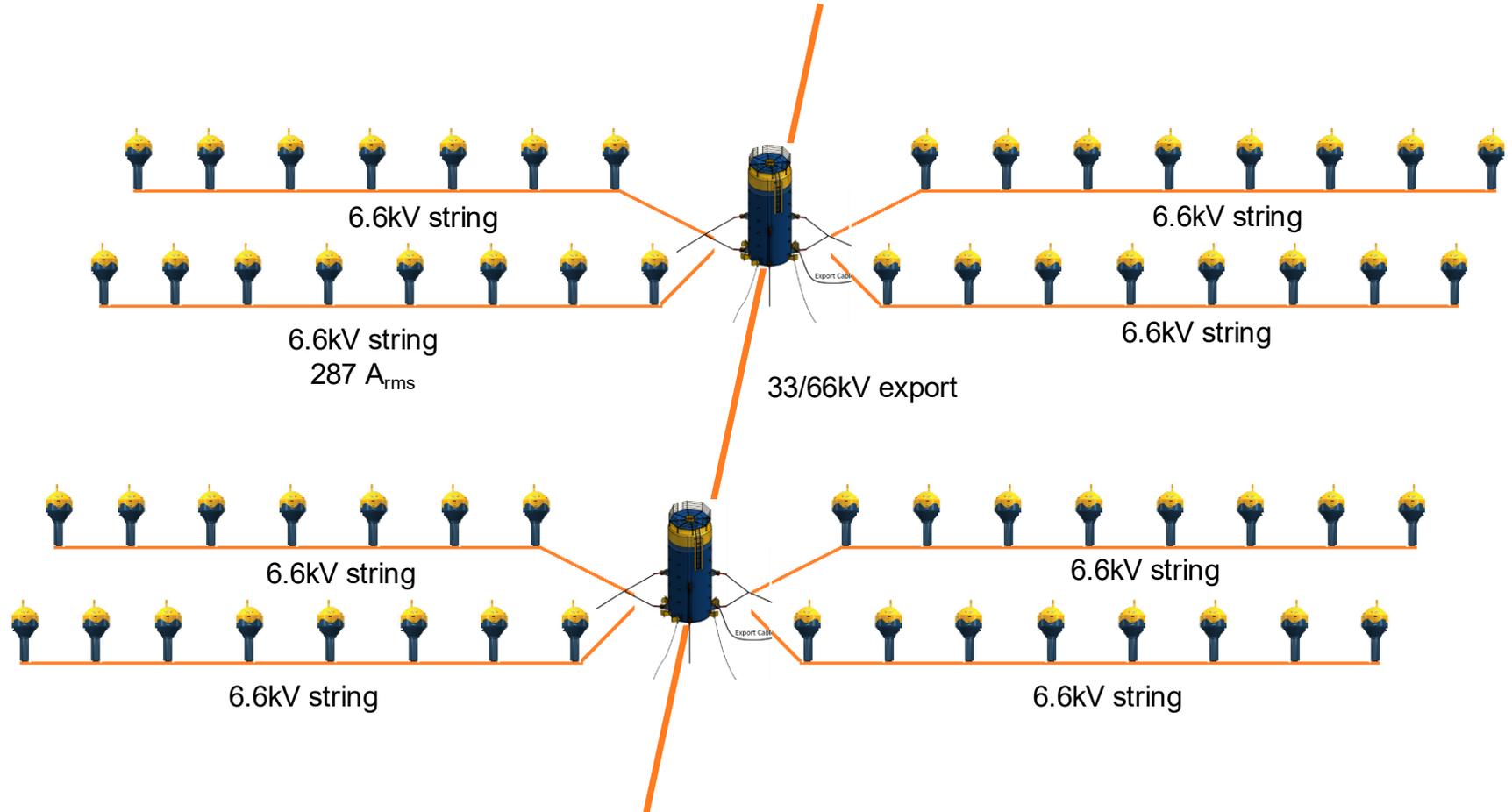
TRANSPARENT IN STORMS – AMPLIFIED IN NORMAL OPERATION



PRODUCT: 5-30MW+ CLUSTERS

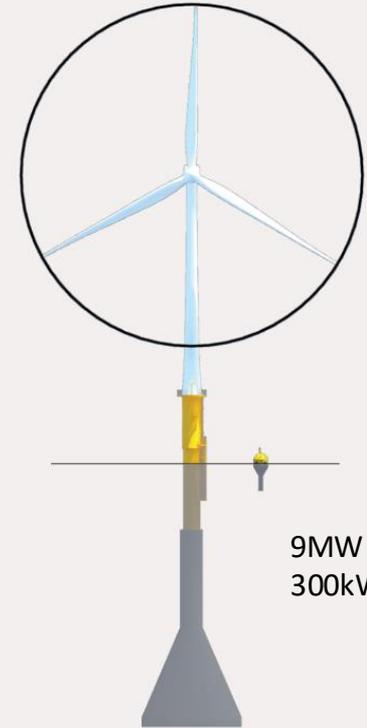
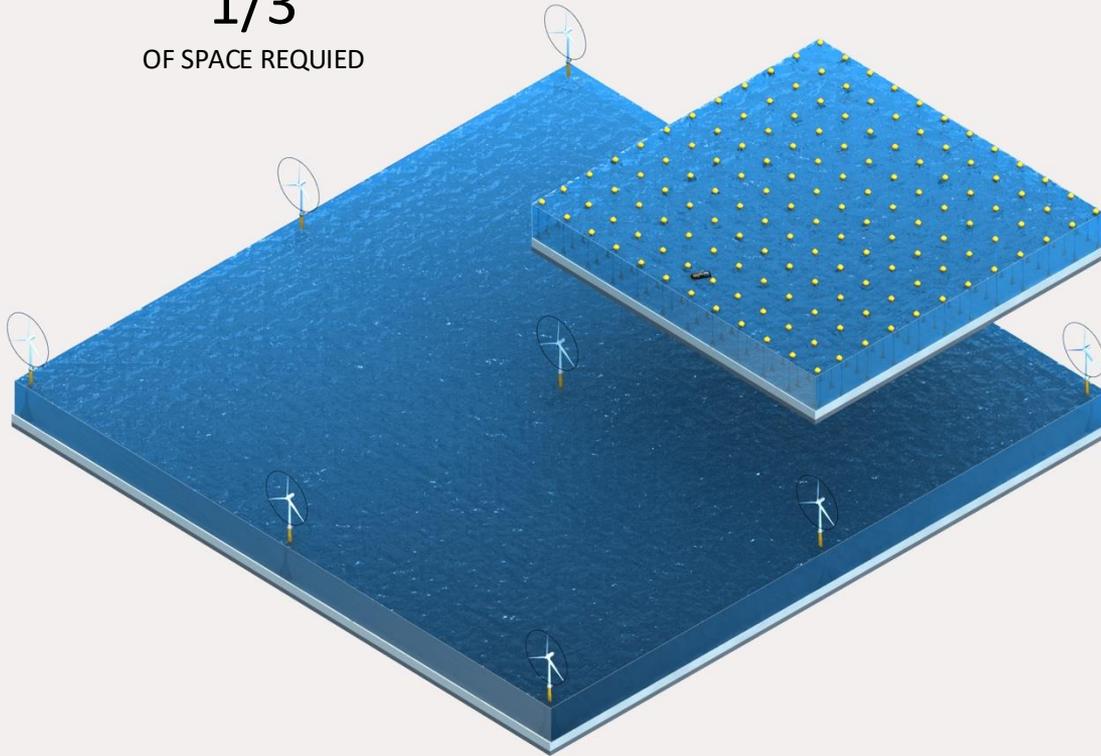


ELECTRICAL CONNECTION ARCHITECTURE: 5-30MW CLUSTERS



OCEAN FOOTPRINT & DEVICE SIZE

1/3
OF SPACE REQUIRED

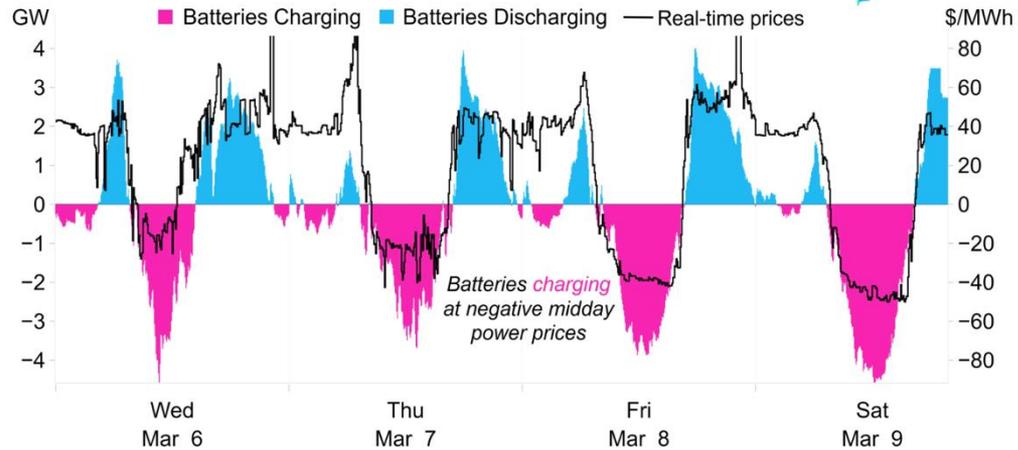


9MW turbine
300kW WEC

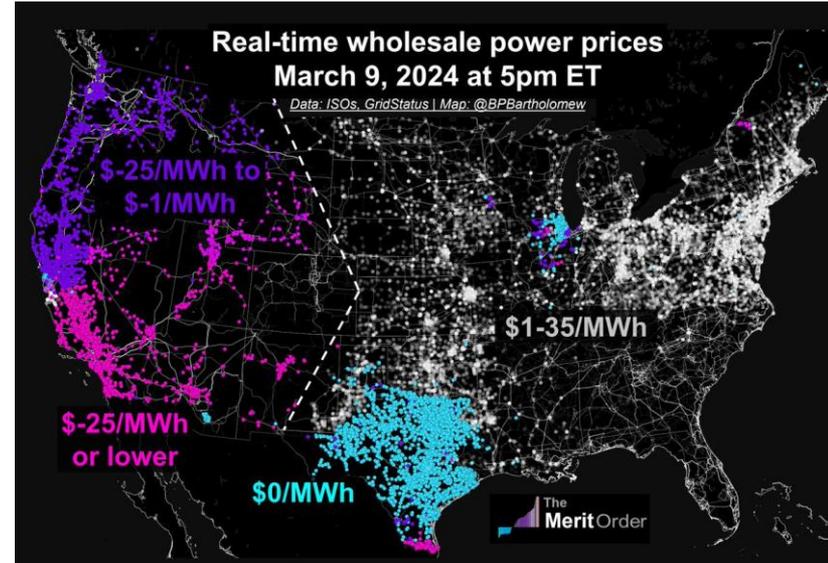
From laboratory to green market innovation and transformation

California batteries are getting paid to charge midday

CAISO battery dispatch and SP15 real-time electricity prices



Data: CAISO, GridStatus | Chart: @BPBartholomew



Electric Vehicle Data Science: China and New York City

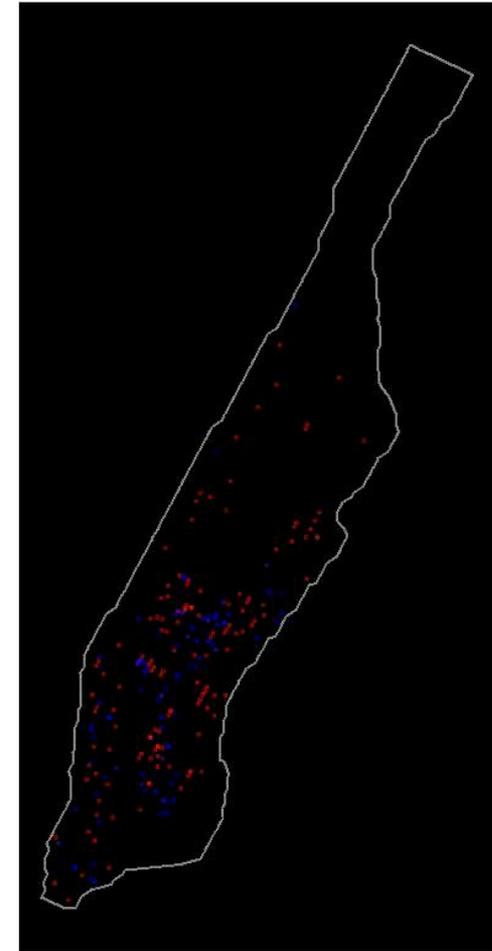
Midnight (0:00) to 3 pm (15:00)

Red dot: taxi with passengers

Blue dot: taxi w/o passengers

Green: optimal charging

Day 1 00:01



Charge



Vehicle

- Unoccupied
- Occupied

Example: Shenzhen Taxi Fleet Transformed in partnership with RAEL: 0 to 95% EV in 1 year



As of 2021: 95% of the taxi fleet is EV in Shenzhen, China (21,000+ vehicles)

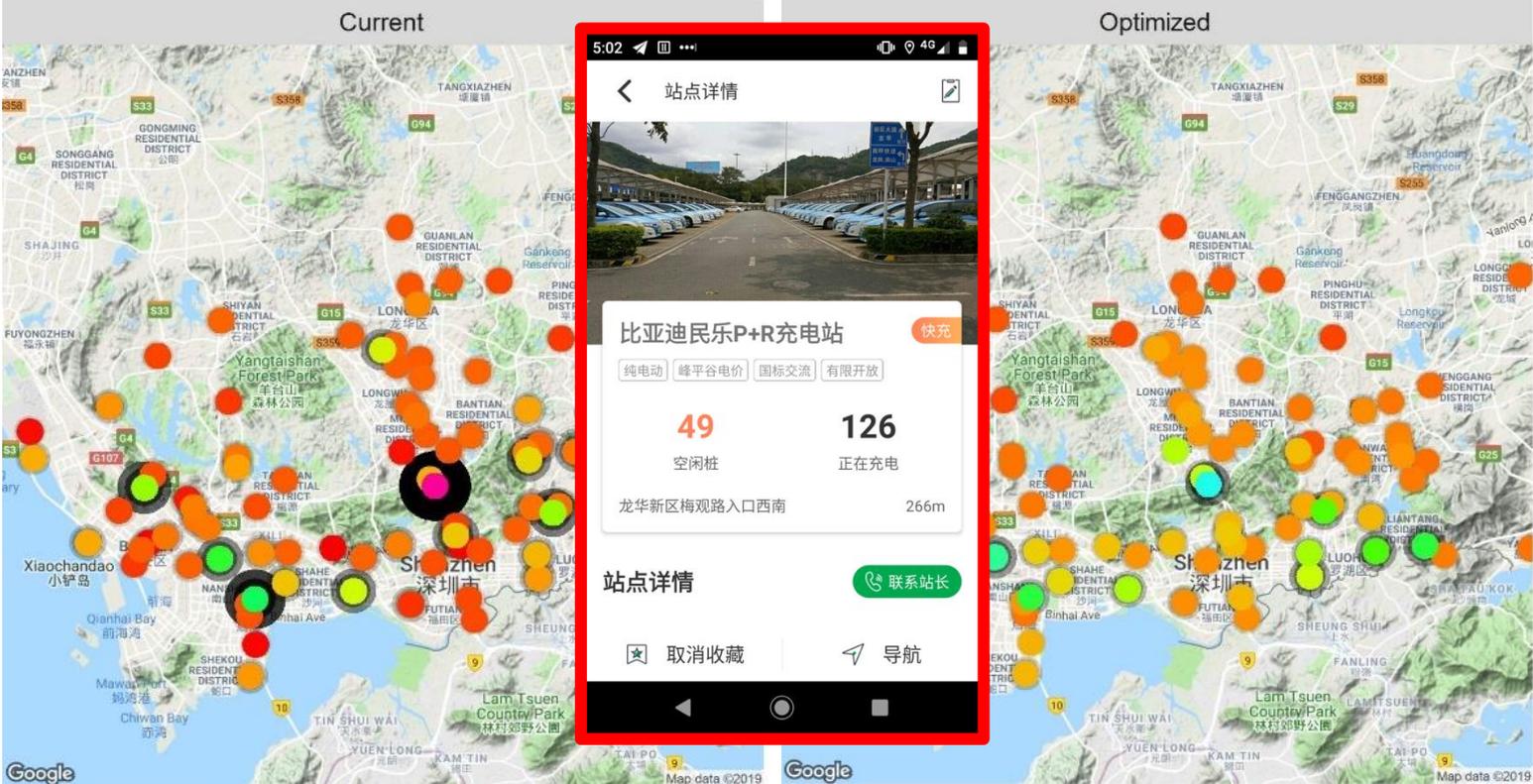
Big Data Application | Solving long wait time outside EV taxi charging stations



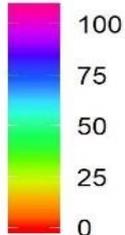
Data Science for Optimized dispatch: 20% reduced delay time; increased revenue



派尔城市
PAIR CITY



Energy charged (MWh/day)



Queue time (hr/day)



Integrated Energy-IT Systems for Equitable Access

Integrated green mobility of subway, bus, bike & EV in Chengdu



So many business opportunities while 'doing good' E-bikes and battery swapping in Kenyan cities



Light-duty e-bikes now #1 delivery option in Kenyan cities

So many business opportunities while 'doing good'



Integrated EV truck and eHelicopter: delivery of supplies, patients, supplies

So many business opportunities while 'doing good'



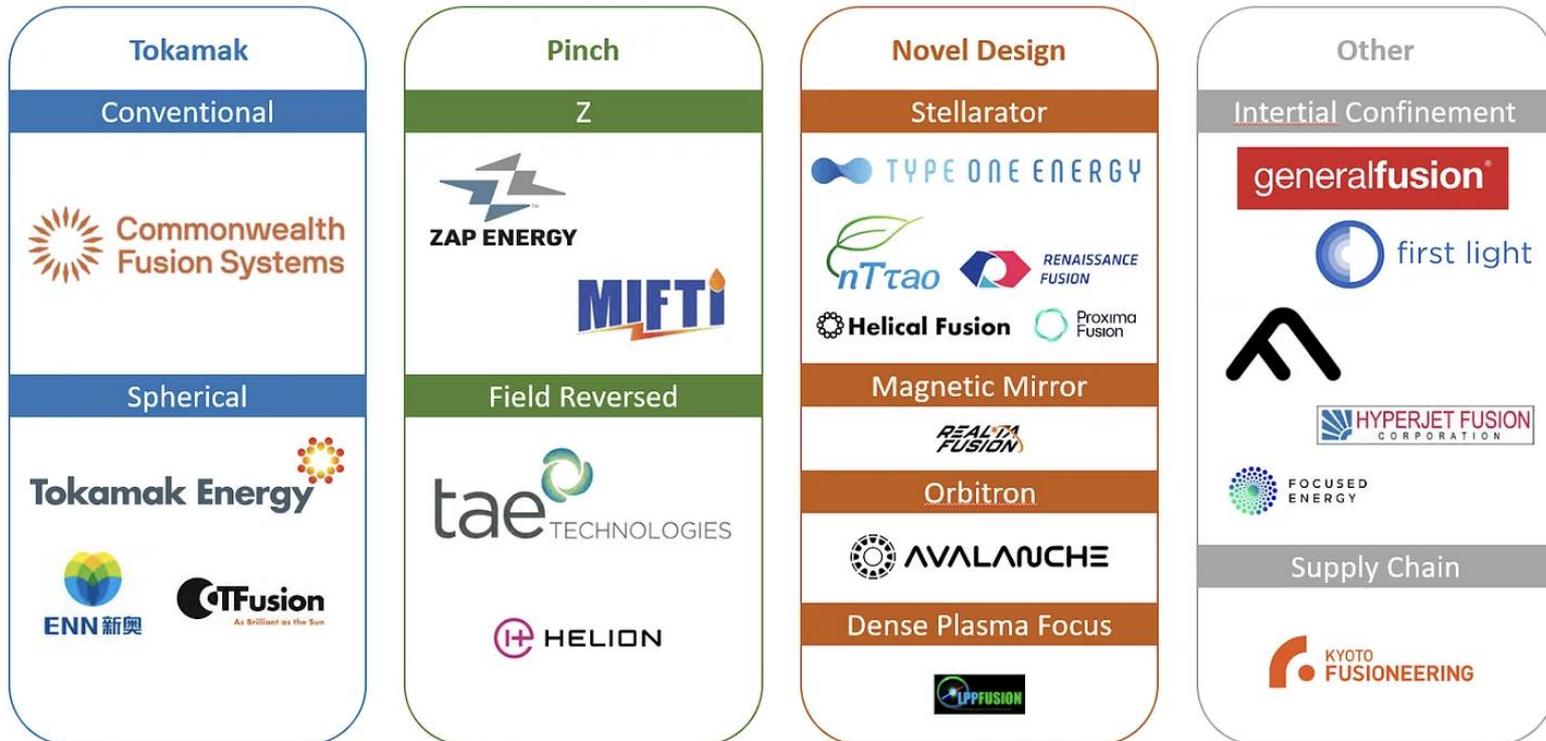
Integrated EV truck and eHelicopter: delivery of supplies, patients, supplies

Over 50 fusion startups:



TheGigaton.com

Fusion Startup Landscape



Note: Includes companies with >5M USD raised as of July 2023

Source: <https://www.fusionindustryassociation.org/news/from-the-fia/#industry-reports>

Forecast:

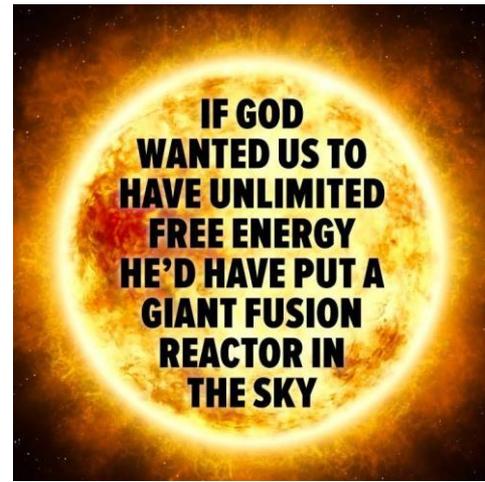
In 2070 we will be ~70%
powered by fusion energy,

with half of it
150 million kilometers away

1/3 solar

1/3 terrestrial fusion

1/3 other

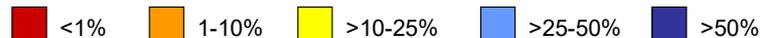


End-of-life (EOL) recycling rates for 62 metals in your phone

A new innovation agenda is needed.

1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
55 Cs	56 Ba	*	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	**	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Uub	113 Uut	114 Uuq	115 Uup	116 Uuh	(117) (Uus)	118 Uuo

* Lanthanides	57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu
** Actinides	89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr

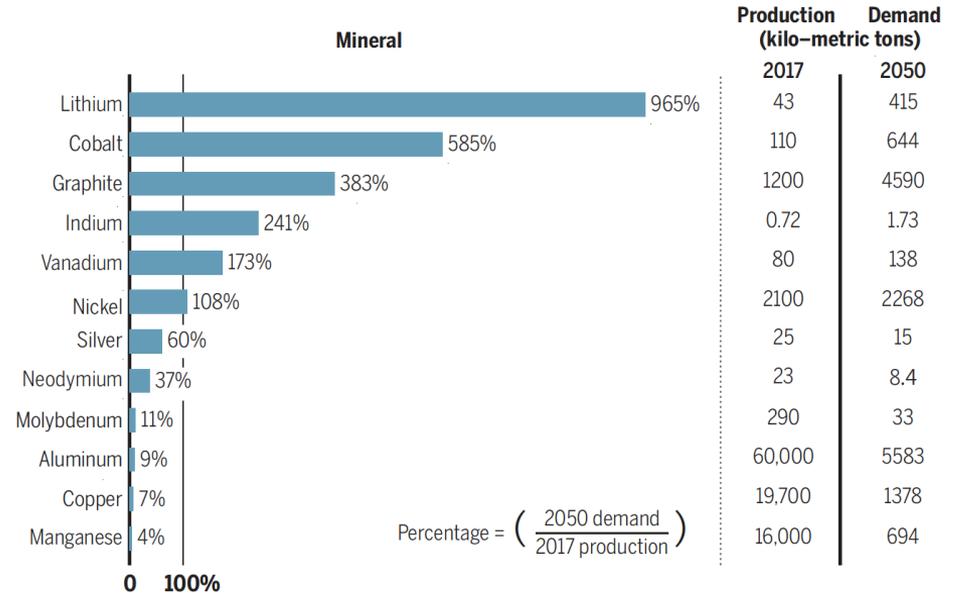


We must center ‘Directed Innovation’ to Make Wise Choices



A creuseur, or digger, descends into a Congolese copper and cobalt mine in Kawama. Wages are low, and working conditions are dangerous, often with no safety equipment or structural support for the tunnels.

Growth in mineral needs for low-carbon energy technology

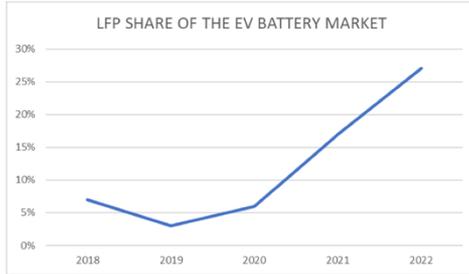


All production and demand data reflect annual values. 2017 data reflect annual production for all uses. 2050 data reflect estimated demand for only low-carbon energy technology uses. Data from (7).

“Sustainable minerals and metals for a low-carbon future”

Benjamin K. Sovacool, Saleem H. Ali, Morgan Bazilian, Ben Radley, Benoit Nemery, Julia Okatz and Dustin Mulvaney
 DOI: 10.1126/science.aaz6003
Science **367** (6473), 30-33.

Centering Ecosystem Protection



Source: International Energy Agency, Paris³

The Lithium Phosphate (LFP) market has grown from 7% to over 30% in 2023. In China the LFP battery share is over 20%



Next Generation EV Batteries Eliminate the Need for Deep Sea Mining October 2023

Abstract

Advances in electric vehicle (EV) battery technology, and the accelerating adoption of these technologies, are leading to the replacement of EV batteries dependent on cobalt, nickel, and manganese. As a result, the deep sea mining of these metals is neither necessary, economically advantageous, or environmentally advisable. In fact, efforts to promote the mining of these metals in the deep ocean now serve neither manufacturers nor consumers, but only enterprises that have been established for the express purpose of deep sea mining. Typically, companies and consumers are asked to make sacrifices for the good of conservation and the environment. Now, happily, what is good for both enterprise and the end consumer, also serves the need to protect and preserve our oceans, and the life that resides within.

Authors

Jeanne Everett
Daniel Kammen
Stan Rowland

ECONOMIST IMPACT

Dr Dan Kammen
professor of sustainability at the University of California, Berkeley

PUBLISHED 5 FEBRUARY, 2024 • 4 MIN READ

It is a good day indeed when science, US job creation, bipartisan politics, economics, technological advances, Indigenous wisdom, social justice and ocean protection *all* align.

<https://impact.economist.com/ocean/sustainable-ocean-economy/dont-buy-the-greenwashing-we-dont-need-deep-sea-mining>

<https://www.blueclimateinitiative.org/next-gen-batteries-eliminate-need-for-dsm>



Renewable & Appropriate Energy Laboratory

RAEL

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

<http://rael.berkeley.edu>

The Need: HETA

Health, Electrification & Telecommunications Alliance

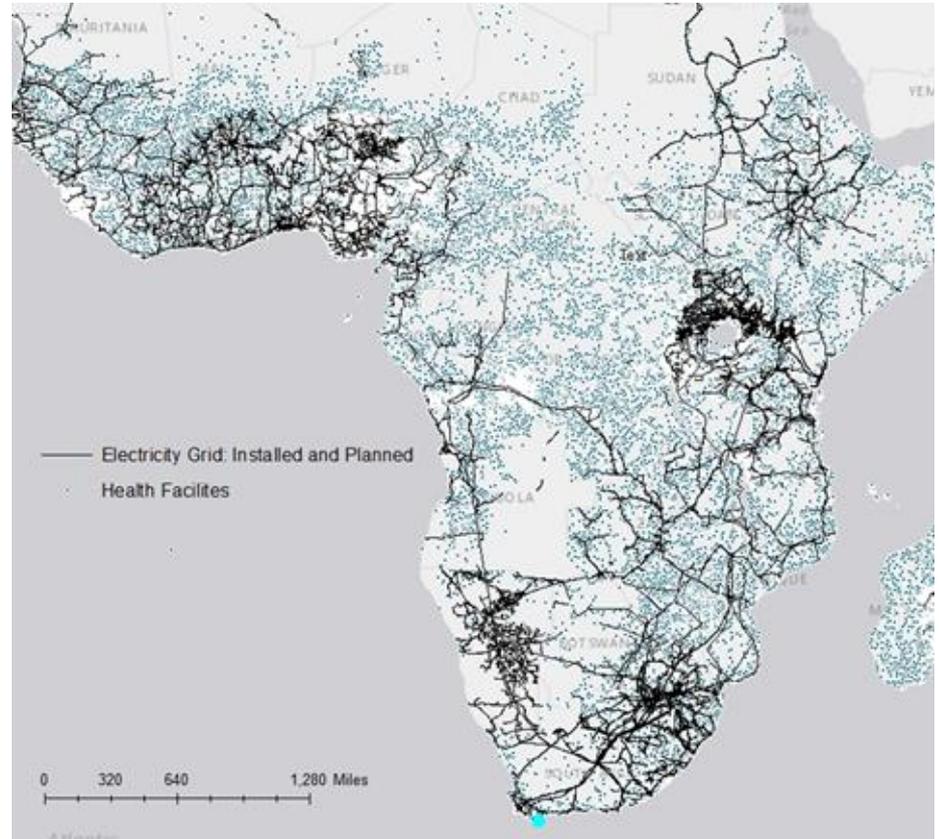


100,000 facilities (public)
lack access to reliable or
no power in SSA

Nearly **1 billion** globally
served by health facilities
without reliable electricity

\$5 billion is needed to
achieve universal health
electricity

Source: Recent Energizing
Health report



Source: Kakoulaki, Georgia; Moner-Girona, Magda (2021)

A partnership to transform health and invest in the SDGs

No longer ON-PACE: Electrify 10,000 health facilities by 2025; ultimately 100,000



A social/technical strategy is needed for HETA



Photo: Power Africa/Justice Kalebe

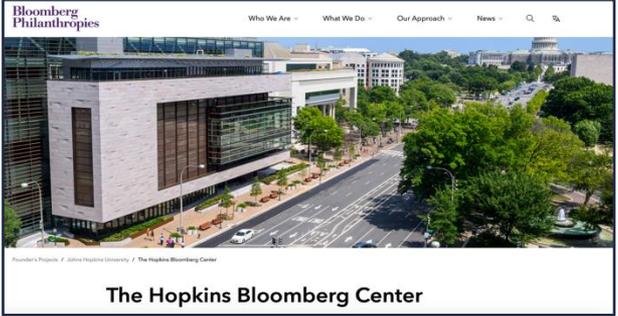


Photo: Jeremy Weate

The largest mini-grid in Africa: Goma, DRC

Design and monitoring with UC Berkeley spin-out technology

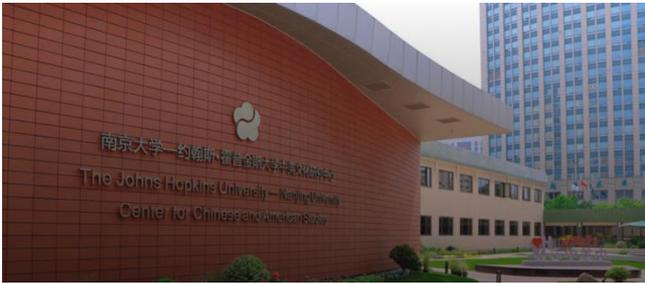
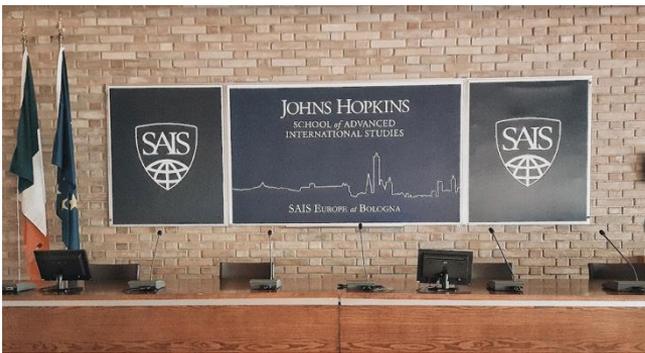




Mike Bloomberg will donate \$600m to historically Black medical schools

Gifts to 'diversify the medical field' will give millions to schools like Howard University College of Medicine





For seven decades, Johns Hopkins students have distinguished themselves by pursuing academic excellence in international relations. The school was established in Washington, D.C., in 1943, opened its campus in Bologna, Italy, in 1955 and in 1986 initiated one of the first Western university programs in the People's Republic of China in Nanjing.

Plan: open programs in Africa in 2026

Plan: open campus in Africa in 2027

Johns Hopkins University Africa - *Phase I* proposal

- An R1 research and teaching university in Africa, with a deep foundation in data science, smart systems & AI, sustainability and social justice.
- Phase 1: Excellence in three mission-driven areas:

Energy Systems



Sustainable energy is critical to inclusive growth

The Blue Economy



Marine conservation and ocean health is our health



Land use, gender & biodiversity

Sustainable lives, sustainable ecosystems & vibrant culturally rich and diverse societies



We seek partners in this vision where African and other needy students attend on scholarship

Launching the Blue New Deal



Marine Energy and Transport



Food and Nutrition



Health and Well-being



Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions



Mineral and Genetic Resources



Sustainable Tourism

<https://www.blueclimateinitiative.org>

Launching the Blue New Deal



Marine Energy and Transport



Food and Nutrition



Health and Well-being



Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions



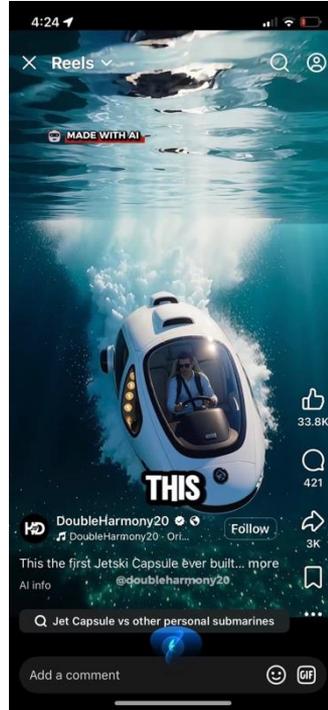
Mineral and Genetic Resources



Sustainable Tourism

<https://www.blueclimateinitiative.org>

Personal / scientific eSubmarines now under development



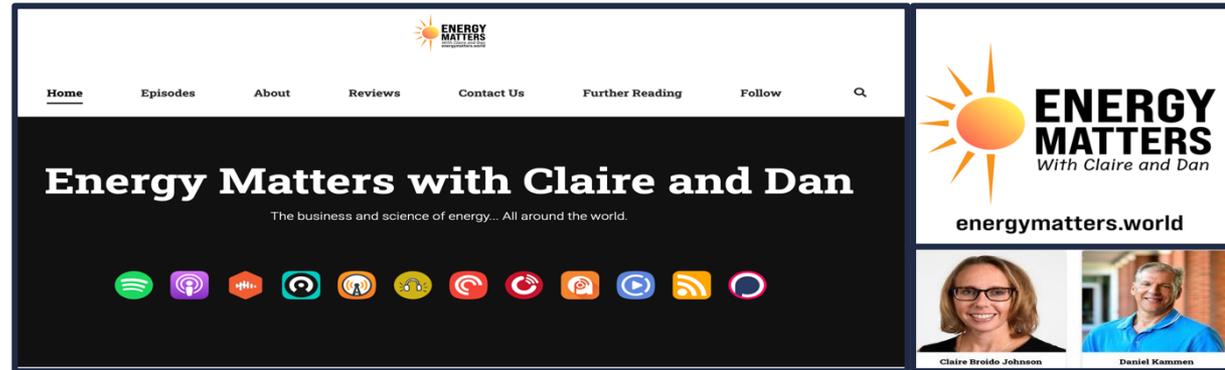
Precision Ecotourism and science

Avenues to interact:

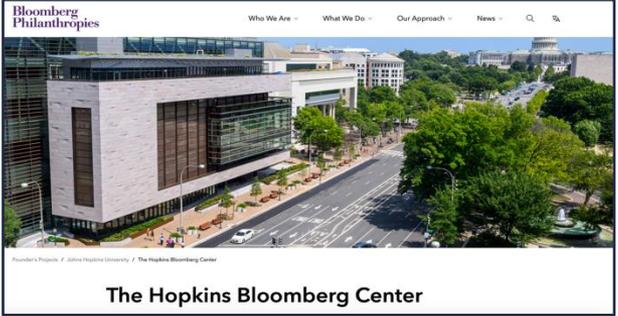
1. The Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute <http://energyinstitute.jhu.edu>
Bluesky: [@dankammen.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@dankammen.bsky.social)
Twitter: [@dan_kammen](https://twitter.com/dan_kammen)

2. *Energy Matters* podcast

<http://energymatters.world>

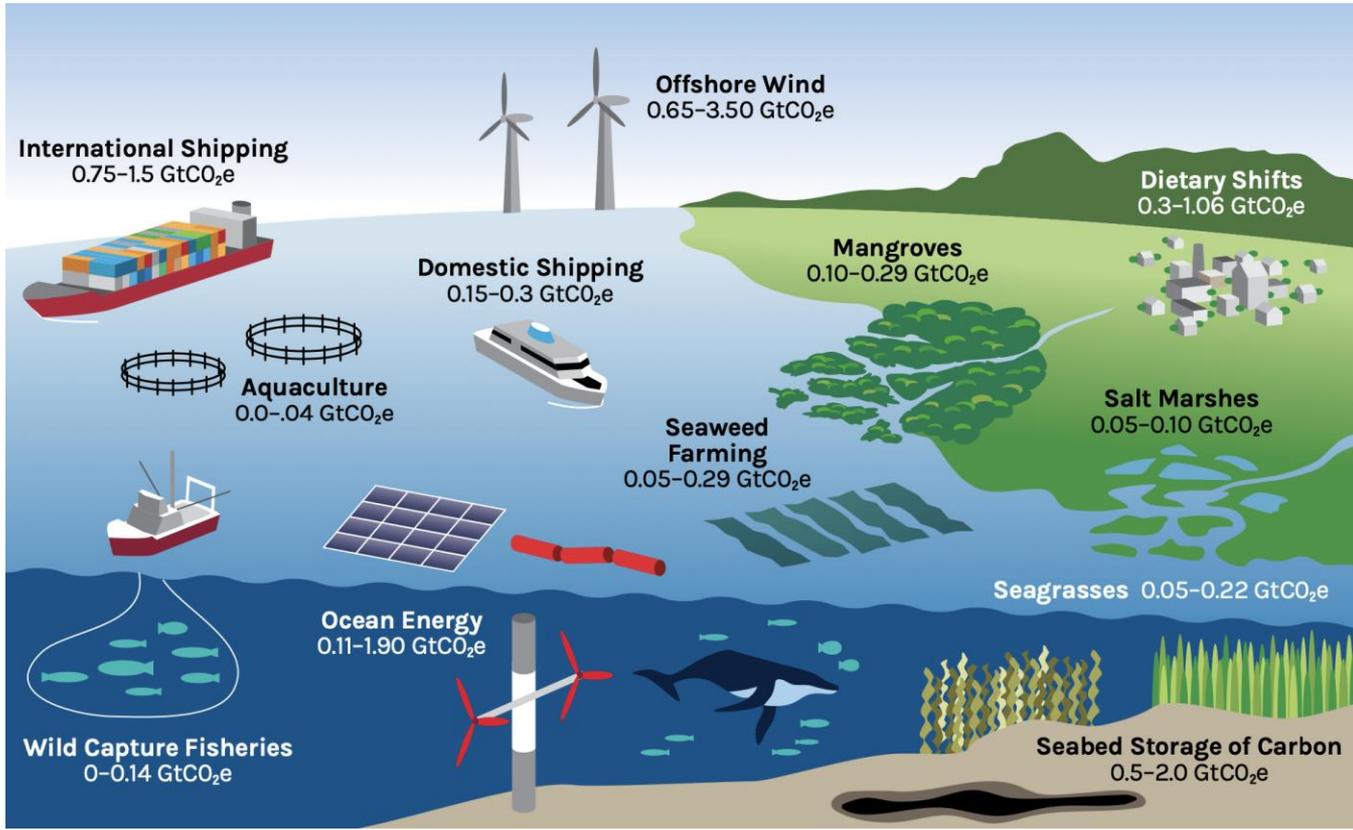


3. The Renewable Energy & Equity Worldwide Lab: <https://kammen.wse.jhu.edu>



Ocean solutions:

We need to reduce emissions by 30 – 40 Gt CO₂



Hoegh-Guldberg. O., *et al.* (2019). “The Ocean as a Solution to Climate Change: Five Opportunities for Action.” Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <http://www.oceanpanel.org/climate>