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## *Integrated Energy Systems: Advancing Economy-wide Net-Zero Solutions*

# Ambitious goals to mitigate climate change: Achieving “net-zero”

- President Biden has set a goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050 and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- Steps in reaching this goal require the U.S. to achieve
  - 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035
  - Net-zero economy wide by 2050
- Must be achieved while...
  - Investing in infrastructure
  - Fueling an economic recovery – job creation
  - Advancing environmental justice
  - Bolstering domestic supply chains

## ***What is “net-zero”?***

“Net-zero” refers to a target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

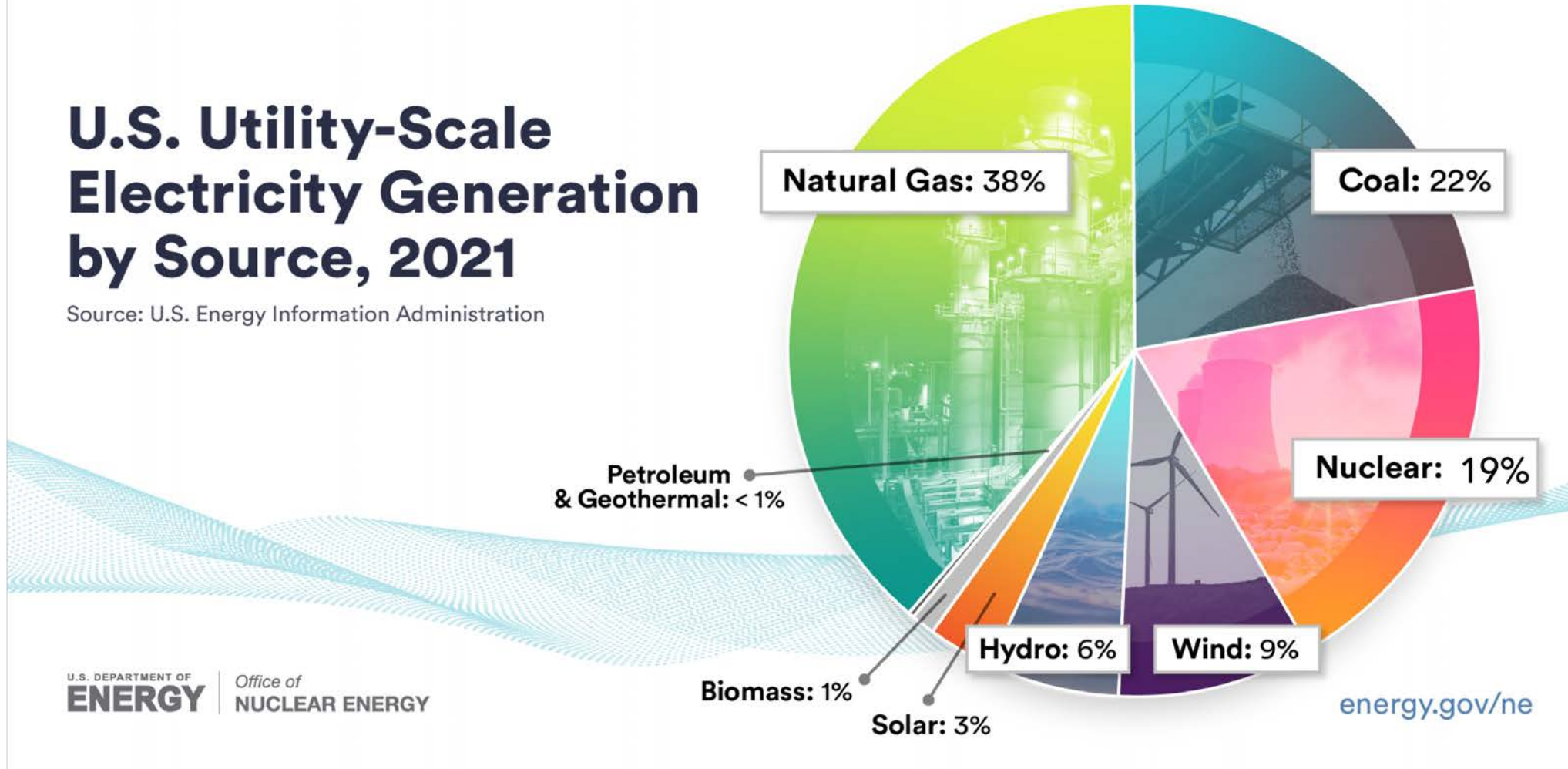




# The U.S. Electricity Mix (2021)

## U.S. Utility-Scale Electricity Generation by Source, 2021

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

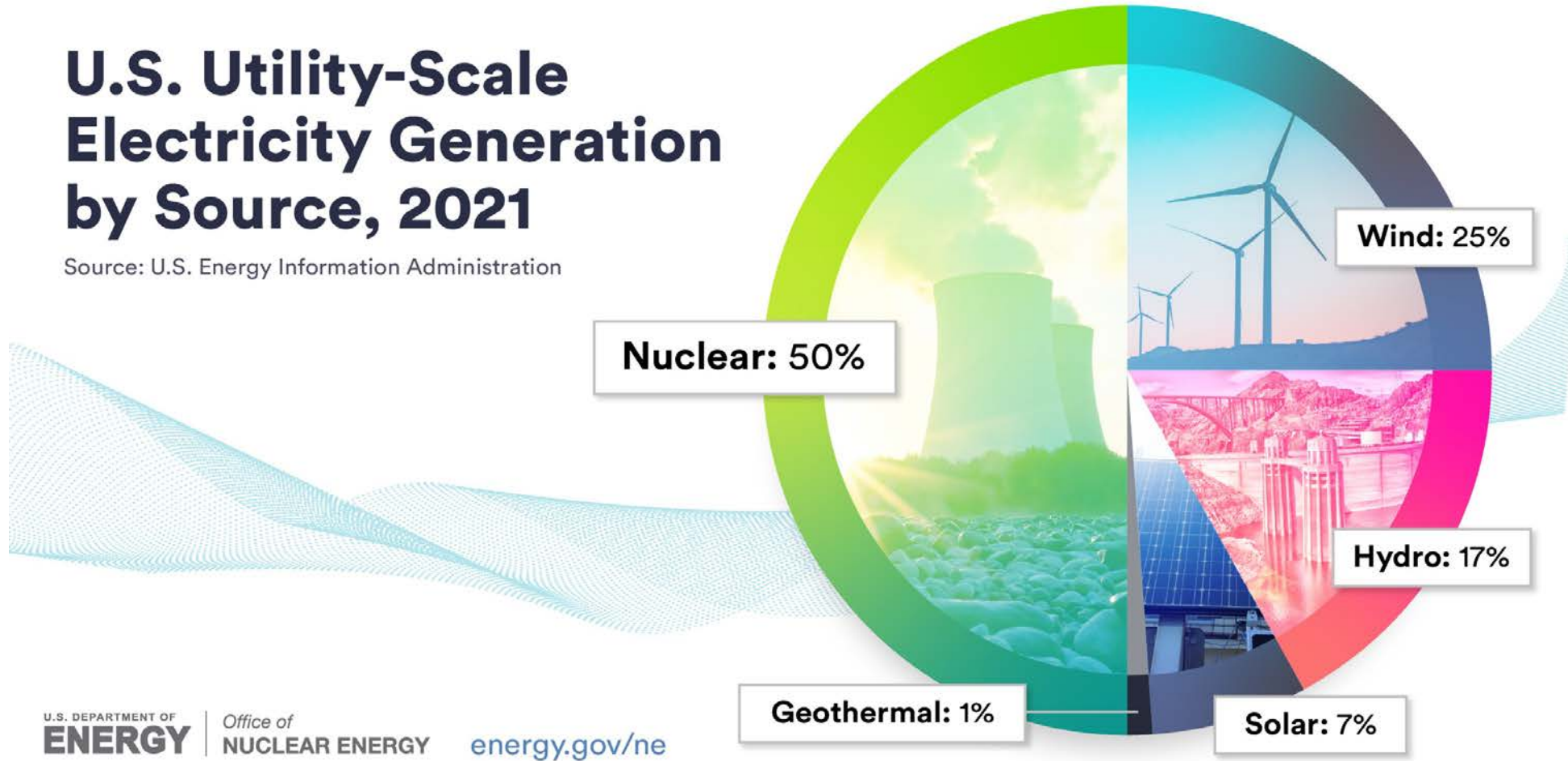


60% of U.S. electricity in 2021 was derived from fossil-based generation sources

# The U.S. Clean Electricity Mix (2021)

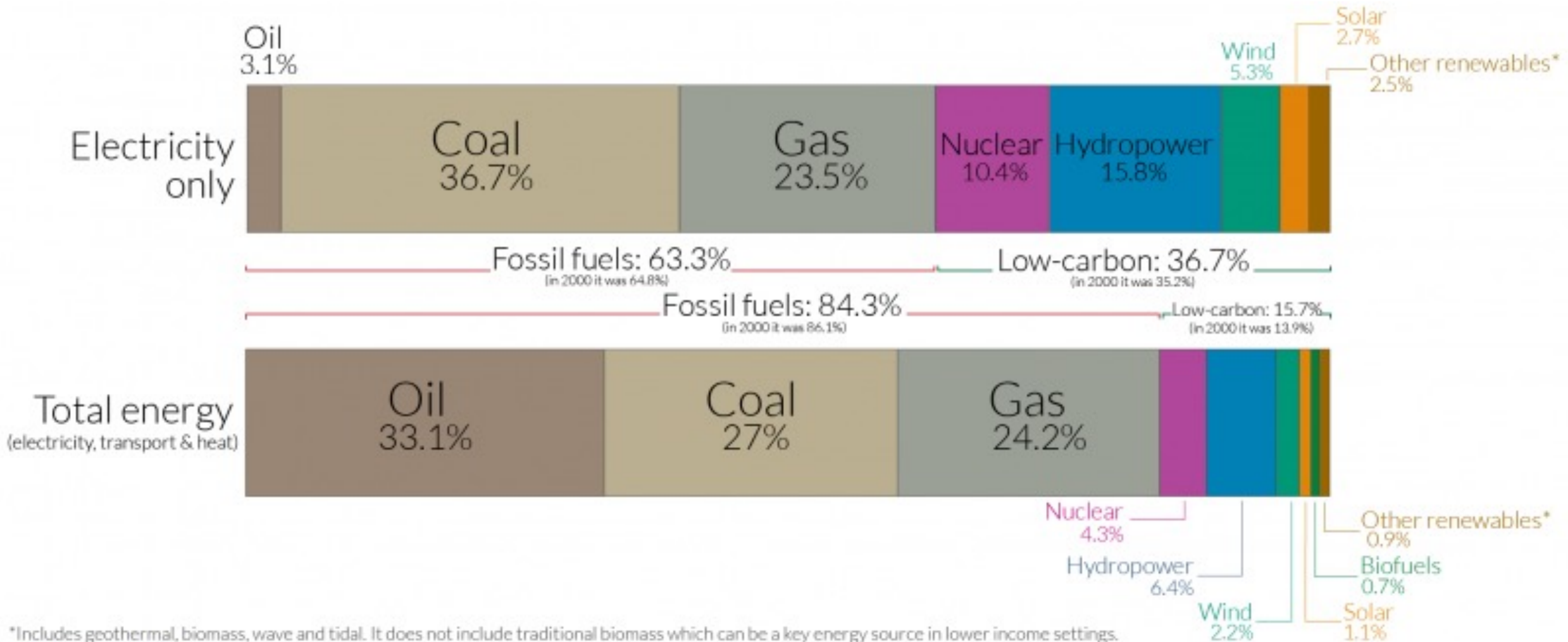
## U.S. Utility-Scale Electricity Generation by Source, 2021

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration





# The global challenge: Decarbonizing electricity and total energy sources (2019)



\*Includes geothermal, biomass, wave and tidal. It does not include traditional biomass which can be a key energy source in lower income settings.

OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Source: Our World in Data based on BP Statistical Review of World Energy (2020). Based on the primary energy and electricity mix in 2019.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie.

# The U.S. Department of Energy is doubling down on the commitment to clean energy

- *Energy Earthshots™ will accelerate breakthroughs of more abundant, affordable, and reliable clean energy solutions within the decade. They will drive the major innovation breakthroughs that we know we must achieve to solve the climate crisis, reach our 2050 net-zero carbon goals, and create the jobs of the new clean energy economy.*  
*(<https://www.energy.gov/policy/energy-earthshots-initiative>)*

Hydrogen Shot

Long Duration Storage Shot

Carbon Negative Shot

Enhanced Geothermal Shot

Floating Offshore Wind Shot

Industrial Heat Shot

Clean Fuels & Products Shot

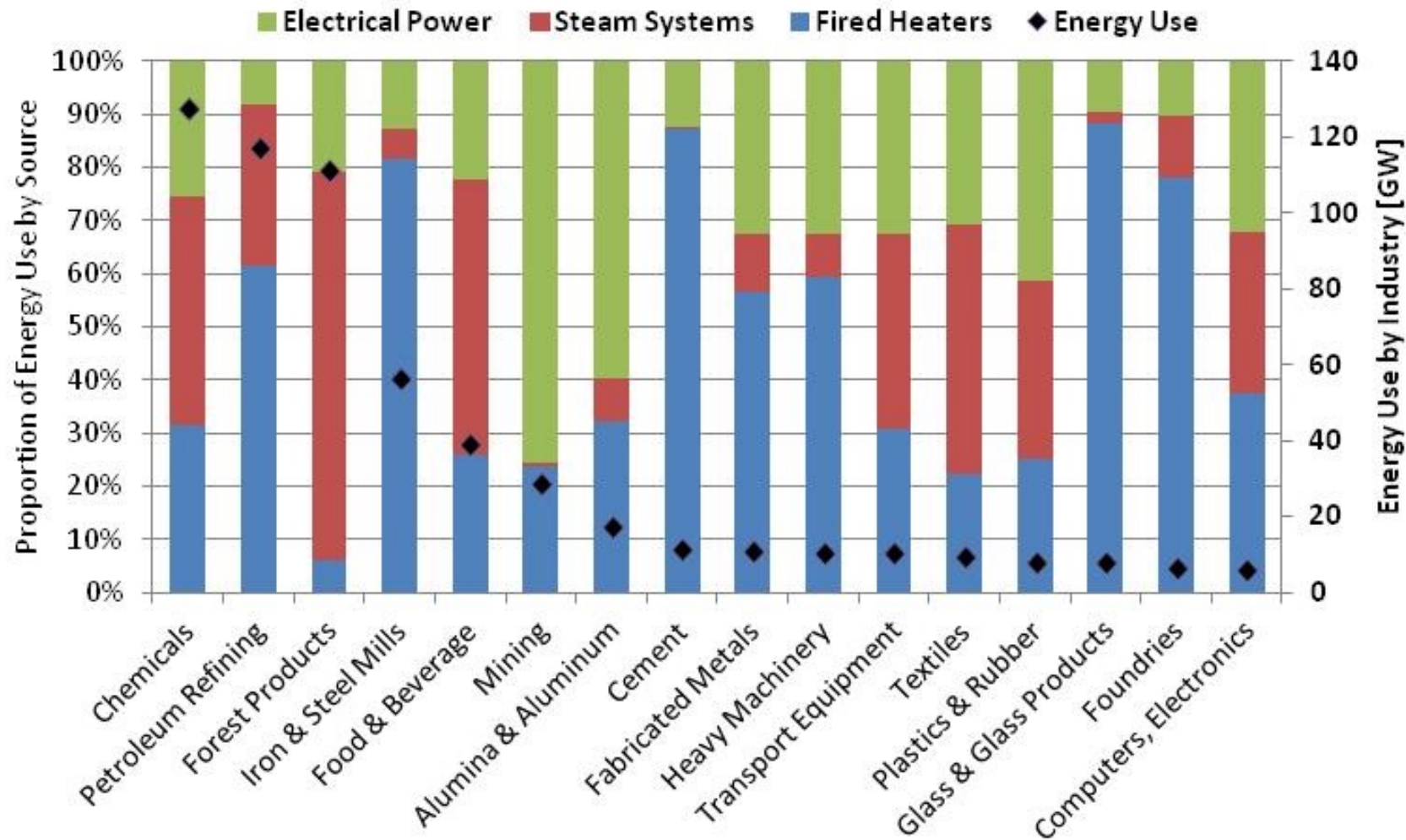




# Considerations in selecting a clean energy option

- **Type of energy required** — Electricity? Heat? Steam?
- **Flexibility** — Is the energy demand constant, or does it vary over time?
- **Availability** — Is the energy available “on demand”?
- **Land use** — How much space is needed to support the selected energy source?
- **Resource utilization** —
  - What materials are needed to construct the generation asset? Are those resources readily available?
  - How are materials disposed of at the end of life?
- **Lifetime** — How long will the generation system operate?
- **Cost** — Capital costs to build, operation/maintenance costs

# Energy use by U.S. manufacturing and mining industries (2004 data)



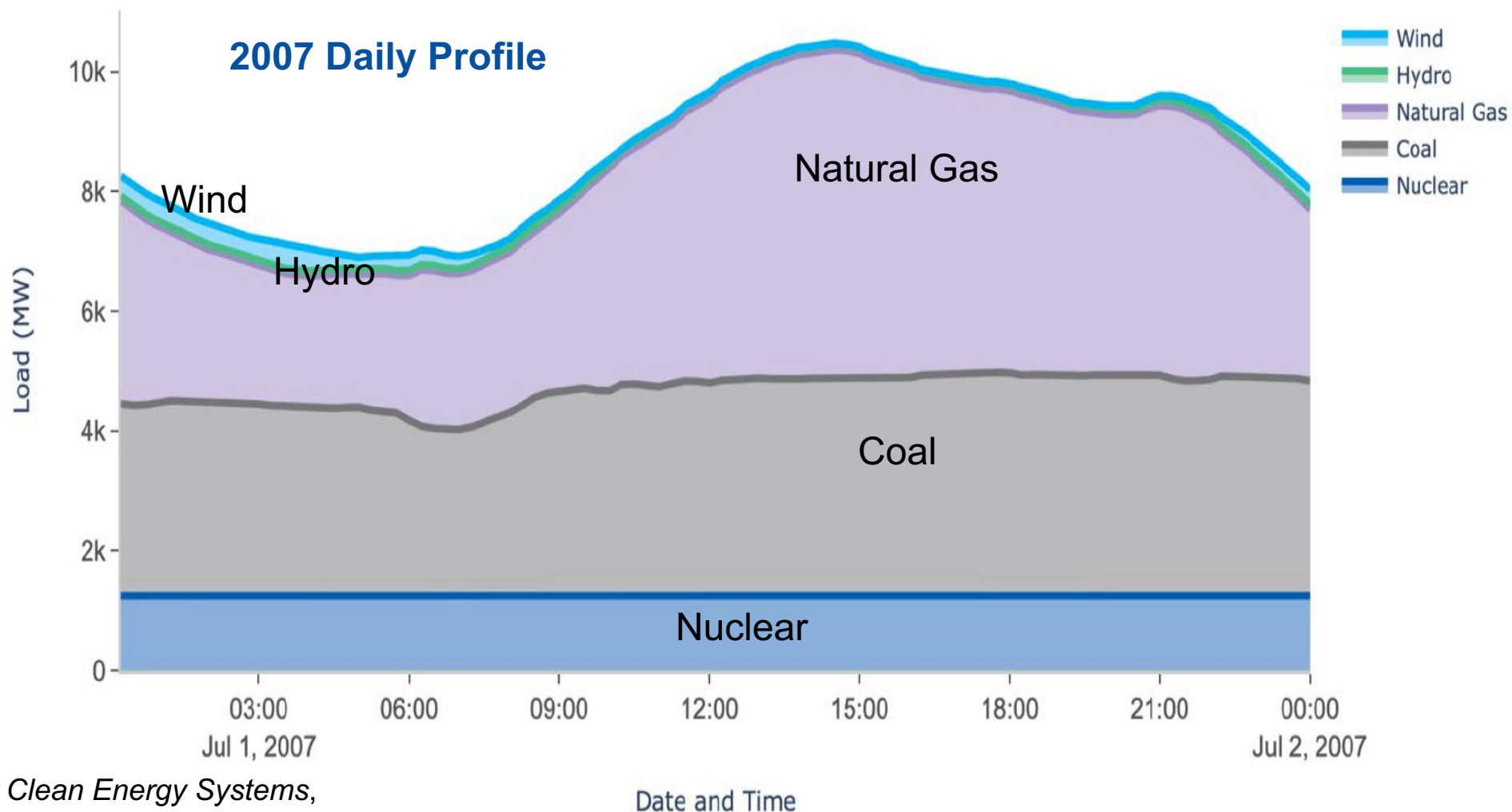
Data from Pelligrino et al., 2004, DOE IPT Report.

Plotted by Ruth et al., 2014, Energy Conversion and Management.



# The electrical power sector is shifting away from traditional baseload

ERCOT (Texas) generation by fuel source for July 1, 2007  
(ERCOT 2020)

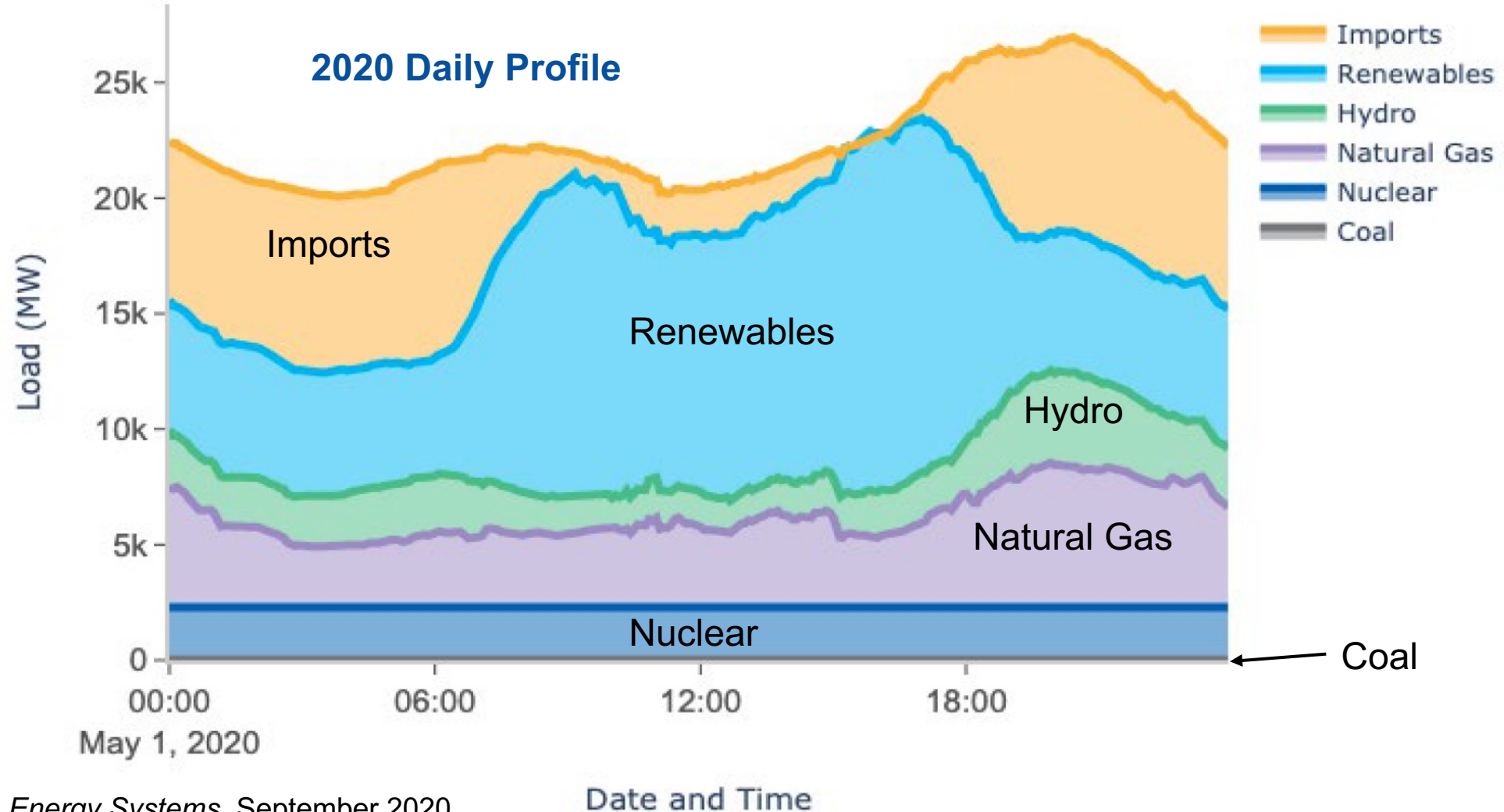


Flexible Nuclear Energy for Clean Energy Systems, September 2020, <https://www.nice-future.org/flexible-nuclear-energy-clean-energy-systems>.

# The electrical power sector is shifting away from traditional baseload

California Independent System Operator (CAISO) generation by fuel source for May 1, 2020

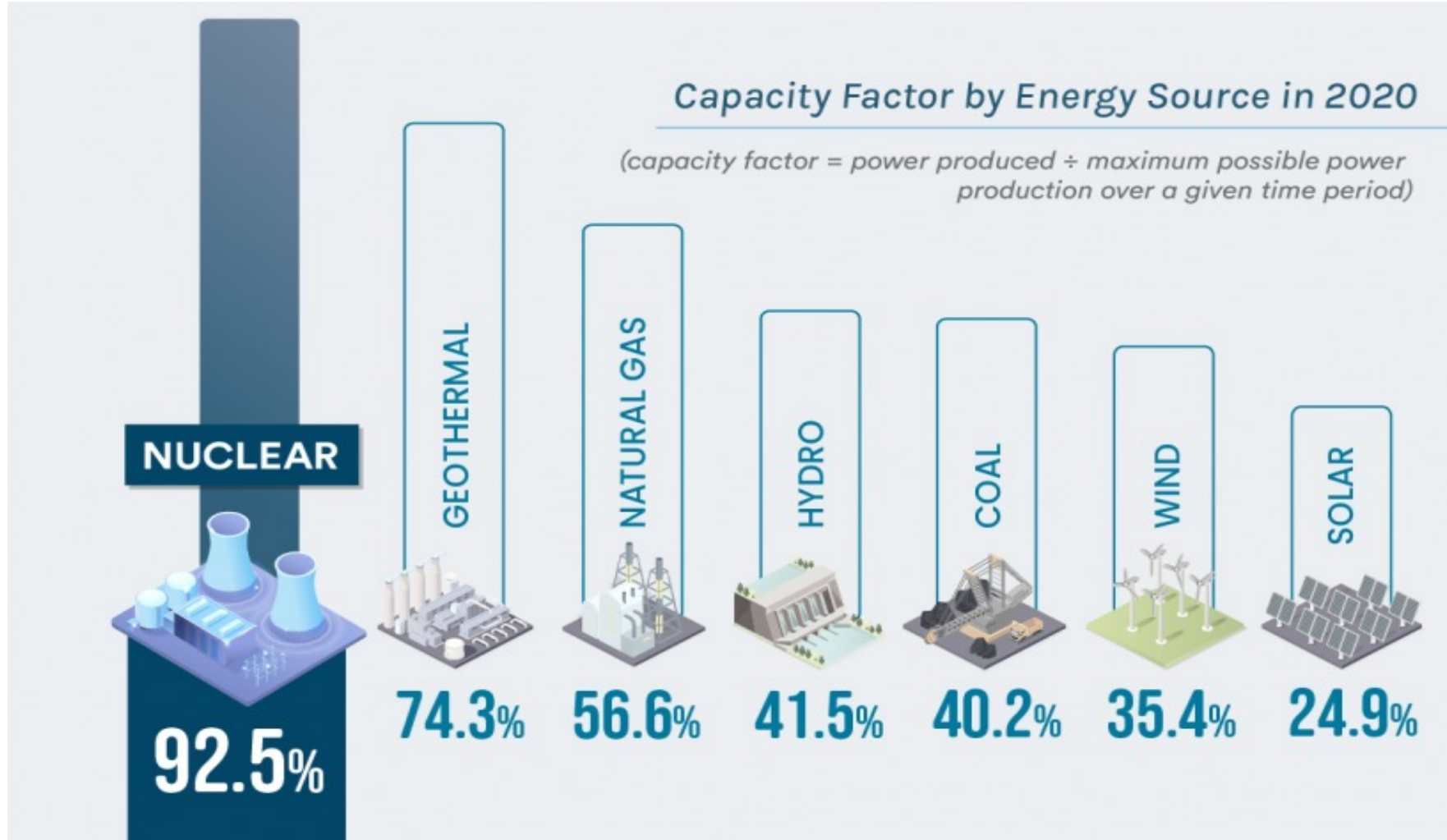
Source: "FERC: Documents & Filing – Forms – Form 714 – Annual Electric Balancing Authority Area and Planning Area Report – Data Downloads", n.d.



Flexible Nuclear Energy for Clean Energy Systems, September 2020, <https://www.nice-future.org/flexible-nuclear-energy-clean-energy-systems>.

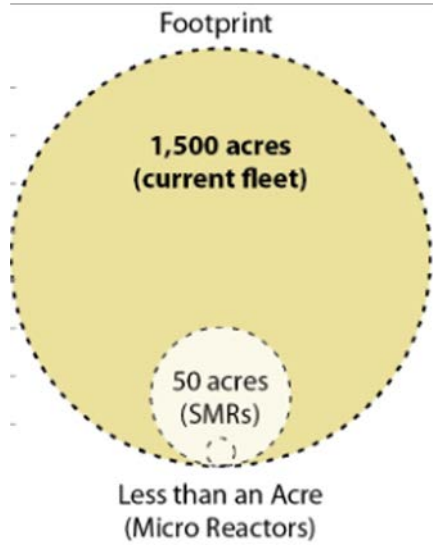


# Net-zero needs reliable, dispatchable energy



Source: NEI

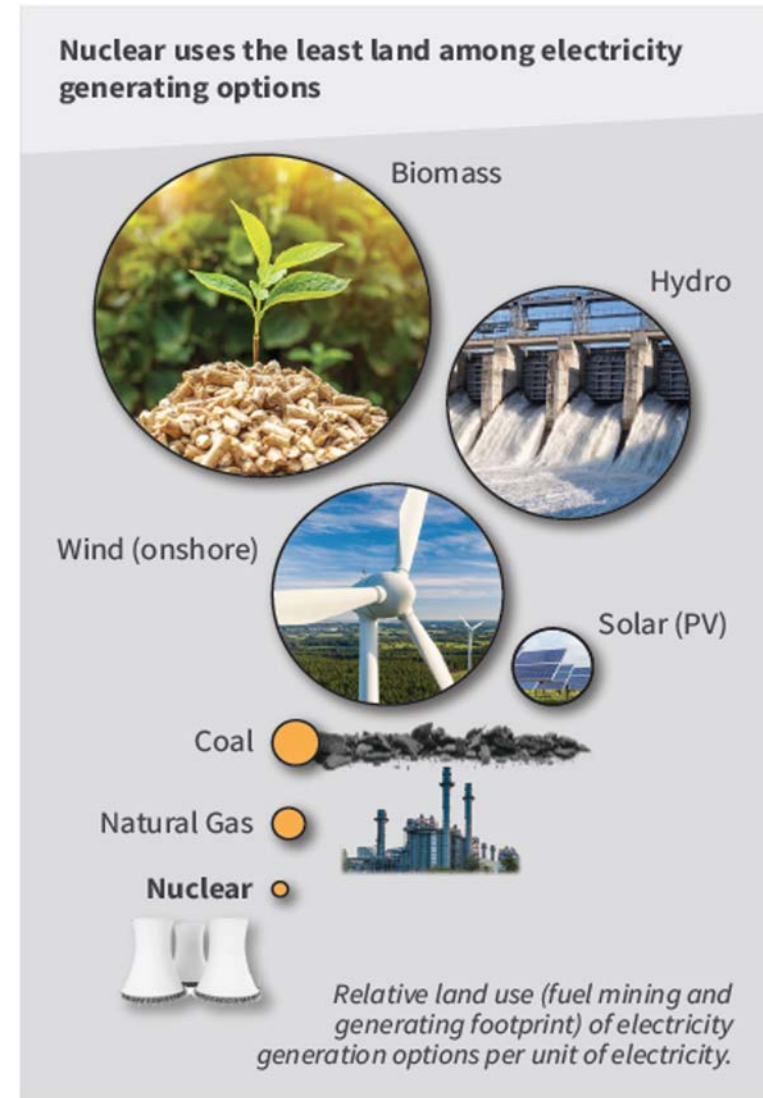
# Nuclear energy and deployment flexibility



Artist renditions courtesy of GAIN and Third Way, inspired by the *Nuclear Energy Reimagined* concept led by INL. Learn more about these and other energy park concepts at [thirdway.org/blog/nuclear-reimagined](http://thirdway.org/blog/nuclear-reimagined)



***Microreactors and small modular reactors can be deployed to provide reliable energy where it is needed with a small footprint that allows for siting very near to the intended use.***



Source: <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/energy-and-the-environment/nuclear-energy-and-sustainable-development.aspx>



# Thinking outside the box to meet clean energy demands

# Today's energy systems

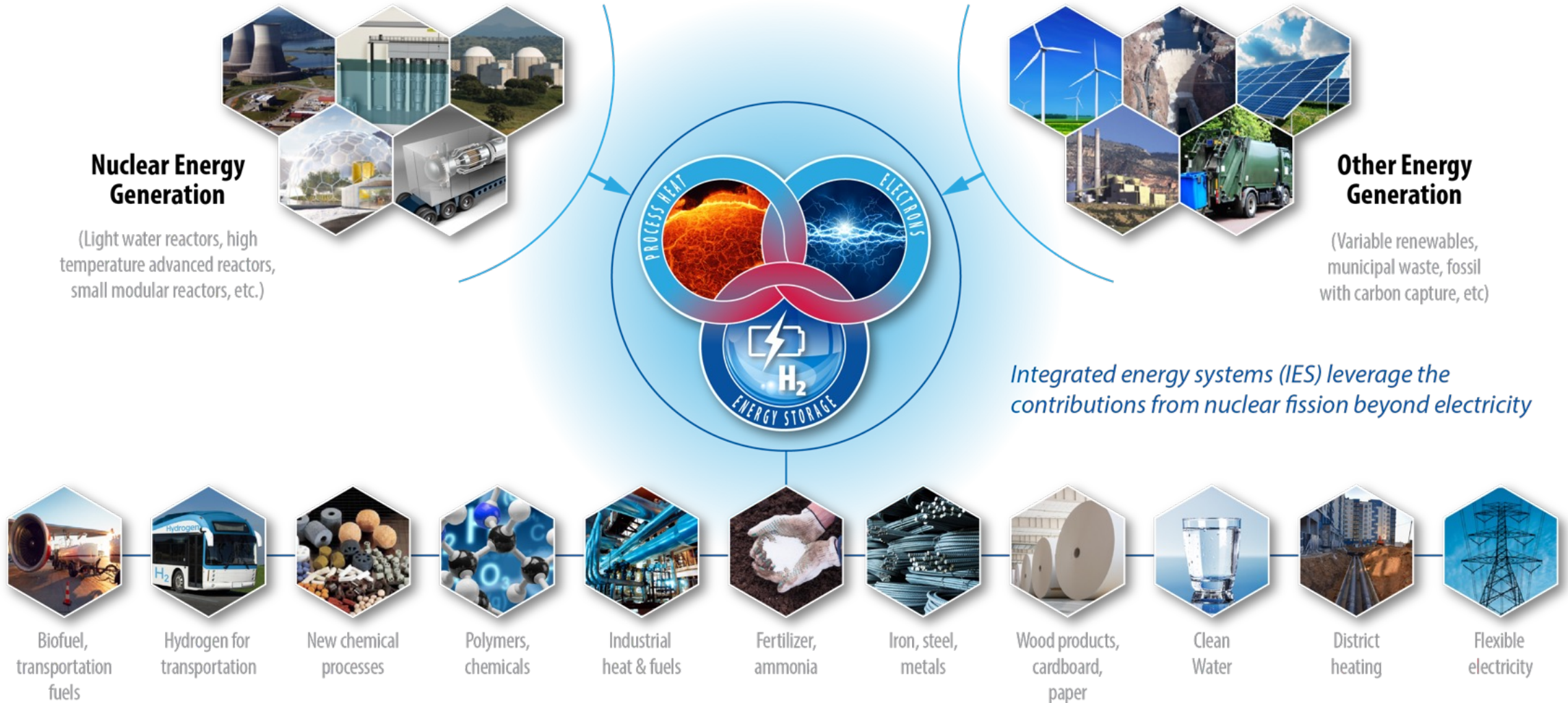


- Individual generators contribute to meeting grid demand, managed by an independent grid operator
- Individual thermal energy resources typically support industrial demand
- Transportation mostly relies on fossil fuels (with growing, yet limited, electrification)

***Achieving net-zero emissions will require us to consider the role(s) of all clean energy generation options—and we must look to non-emitting sources of heat in addition to electricity.***

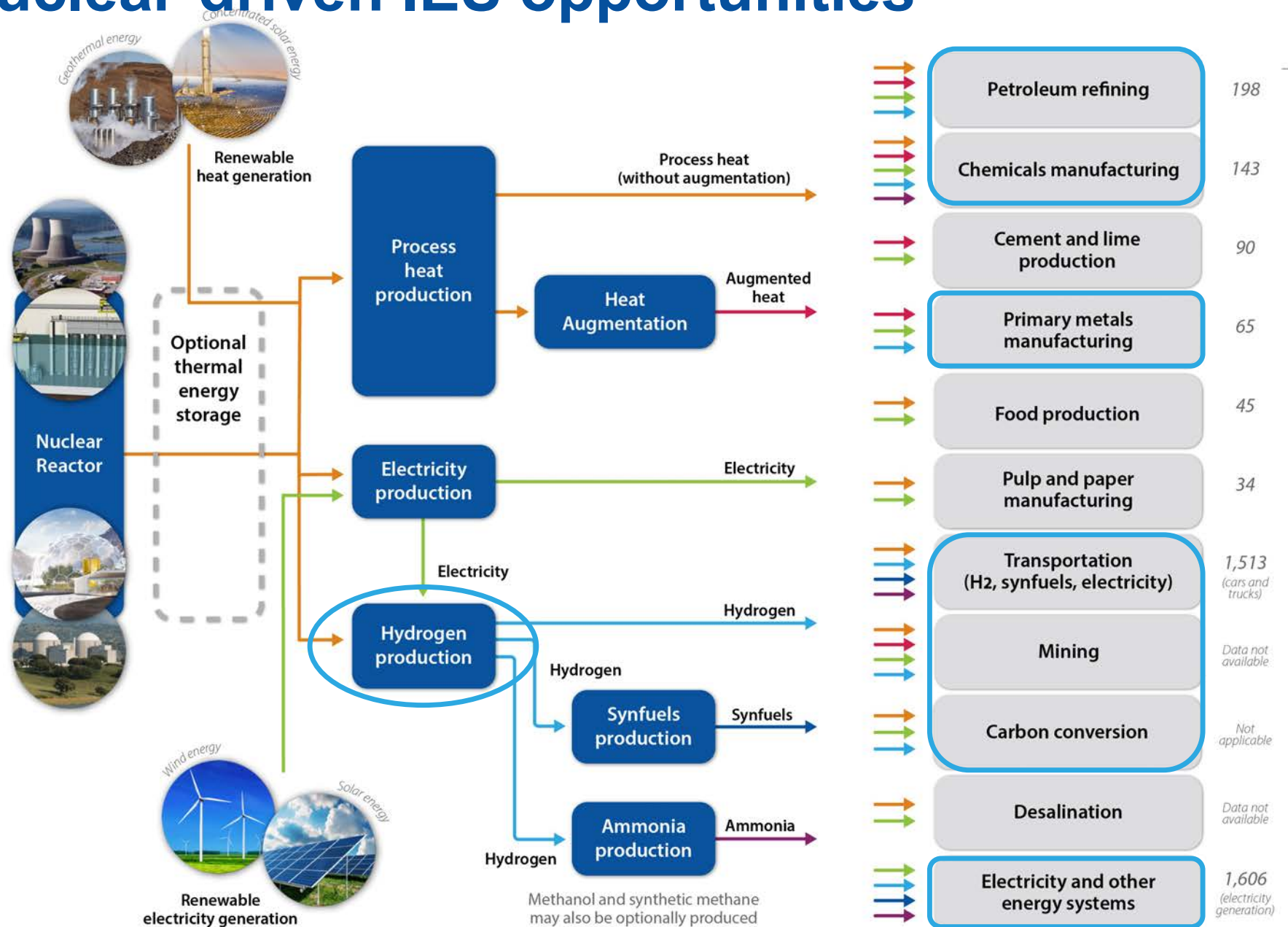


# Future clean energy systems – transforming the energy paradigm



# Potential nuclear-driven IES opportunities

Reactor sizes align with the needs of each application; heat augmentation can be applied if needed to match process temperature demands.



Source: Adapted from INL, *National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC) Integrated Energy Systems Demonstration Pre-Conceptual Designs*, April 2021

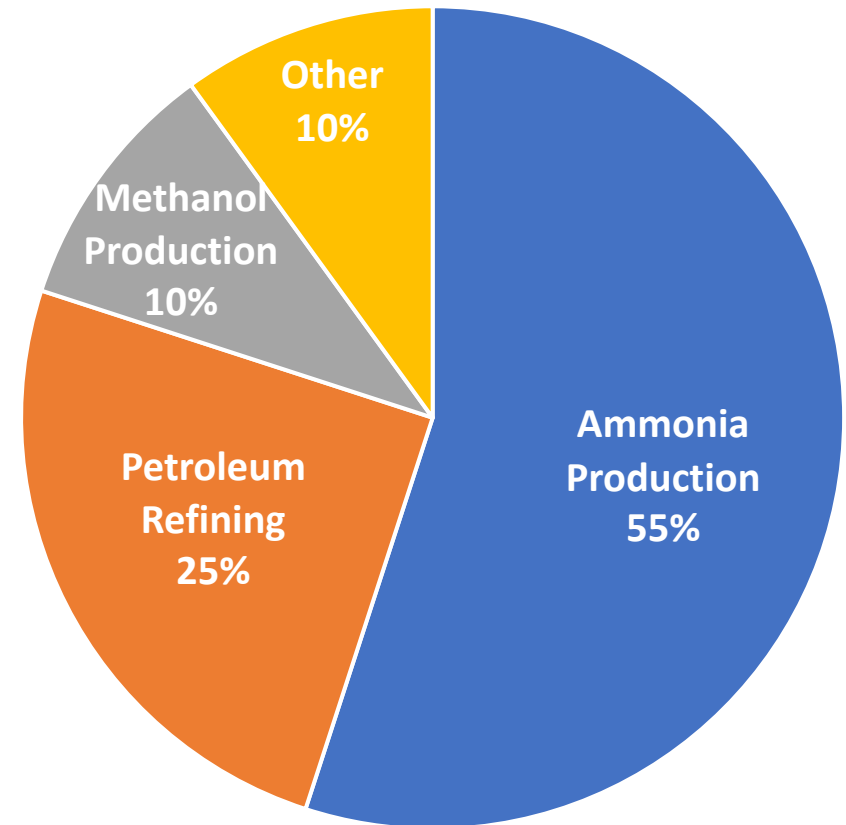
2019 U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (million tons)

# Why all the hype about hydrogen?

## Hydrogen applications in industry

- Agriculture/chemical industry: ammonia, ammonia-based fertilizers
- Petroleum refining: hydrocracking to produce gasoline, diesel
- Methanol production
- Other:
  - Food (e.g., hydrogenated oils)
  - Metalworking
  - Welding
  - Flat glass production
  - Electronics manufacturing
  - Medical applications

Fraction of Global Hydrogen Use by Industry



Data source: Hydrogen Europe  
[hydrogeneurope.eu/hydrogen-applications](https://hydrogeneurope.eu/hydrogen-applications)



# Research and development will enable a clean hydrogen future

## CLEAN HYDROGEN POWERED BY NUCLEAR

H<sub>2</sub>

Hydrogen H<sub>2</sub>

### THE POTENTIAL

Hydrogen is an **economic commodity** and an element for moving energy into fuels and chemicals in the industrial, agricultural, and transportation sectors.

### THE PROBLEM

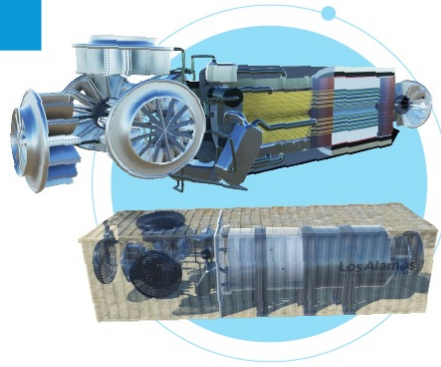
About **95%** of the hydrogen produced in the U.S. comes from **natural gas**, resulting in emissions.





## BUT HOW?

Current and advanced reactors can utilize the constant heat and electricity they generate to split water into pure hydrogen and oxygen through **low- and high-temperature electrolysis.**



## THE IMPACT

Creates **clean hydrogen** at a **competitive price** for many applications:



Oil Refining



Fertilizer Production



Steel Production



Synthetic Fuels



Grid Storage



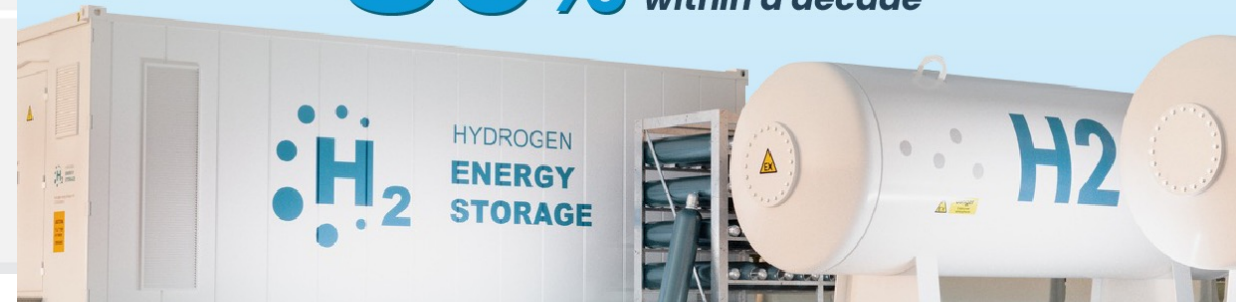
Transport Fuels



## THE RESULT

- ✓ Reduces air emissions
- ✓ Deploys hydrogen at scale
- ✓ Expands the use of carbon-free nuclear energy into the transportation and industrial sectors
- ✓ Supports the Hydrogen Shot goal of reducing the cost of clean hydrogen by

**80%** to \$1 per kilogram within a decade



LEARN MORE: [energy.gov/ne](https://energy.gov/ne)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
**NUCLEAR ENERGY**

# Nuclear-based hydrogen production is a reality!

Press release:

<https://www.constellationenergy.com/newsroom/2023/Constellation-Starts-Production-at-Nations-First-One-Megawatt-Demonstration-Scale-Nuclear-Powered-Clean-Hydrogen-Facility.html>



## Constellation Starts Production at Nation's First One Megawatt Demonstration Scale Nuclear-Powered Clean Hydrogen Facility

*State-of-the-art facility will demonstrate the value of producing hydrogen with carbon-free nuclear energy to help address the climate crisis*

OSWEGO, NY (Mar. 7, 2023) — Hydrogen production has commenced at the nation's first 1 MW demonstration scale, nuclear-powered clean hydrogen production facility at Constellation's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Plant in Oswego, New York, an advancement that will help demonstrate the potential for hydrogen to power a clean economy.



Photos courtesy Constellation, <https://www.ans.org/news/article-4810/constellation-starts-hydrogen-production-at-nine-mile-point/>

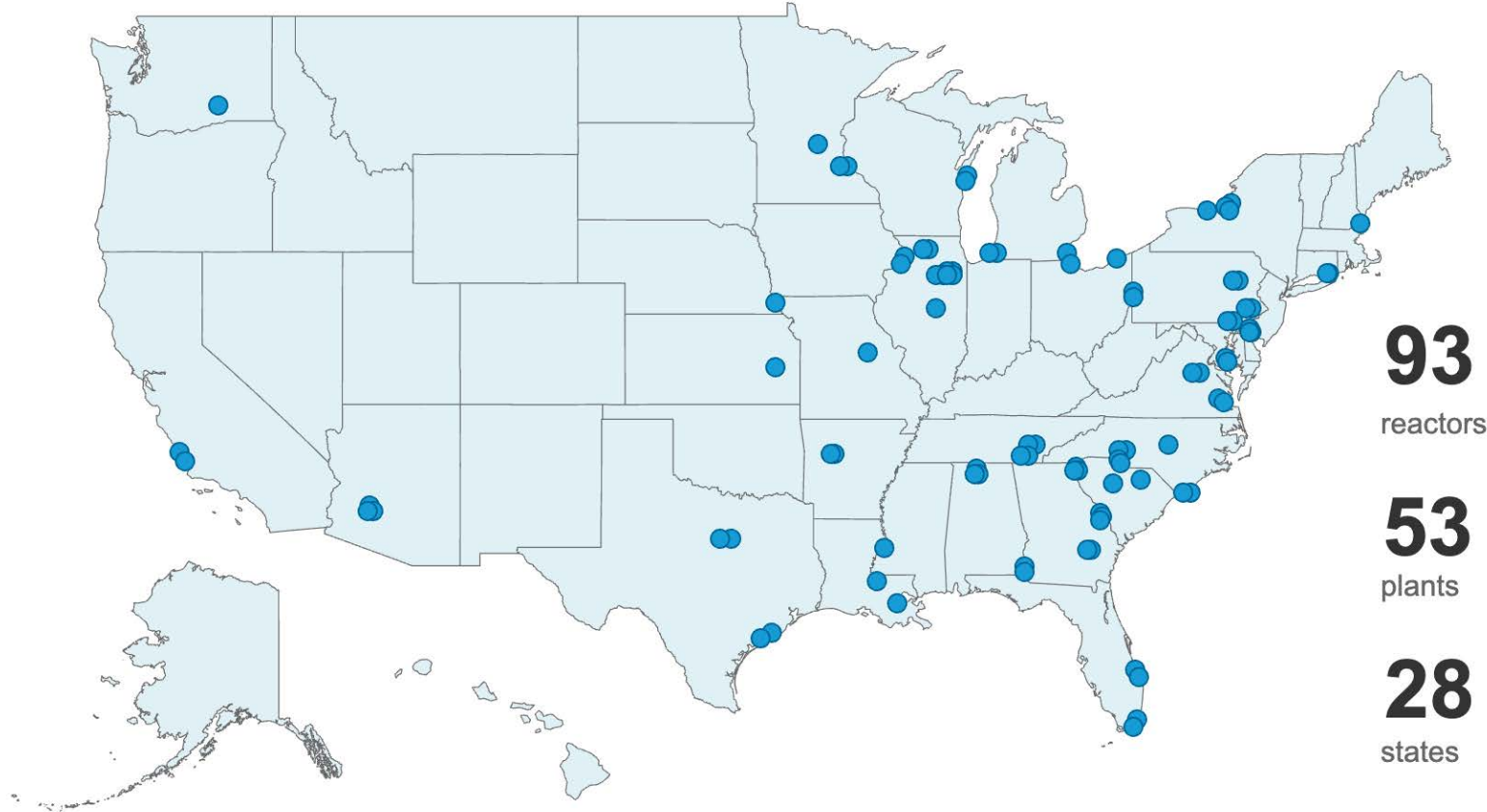
IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY



# Nuclear Energy Opportunities



**NUCLEAR POWER ACROSS THE U.S.**



**93**  
reactors

**53**  
plants

**28**  
states

Nuclear plants operating in the US today are “light water reactors.”

Each of these reactors provides electricity to support regional grid demands. Most are large-scale, generating ~1000 MW of electricity.

These plants can operate reliably for 40-80 years of electricity, without emissions.

**45.5%**

share of carbon-free electricity generated by nuclear energy

**470M**

metric tons of carbon emissions avoided in 2022

**475,000**

well-paying, sustainable direct and indirect jobs in the nuclear industry

**92.6%**

capacity factor of U.S. nuclear plants in 2022 as a reliable electricity source



# Why Advanced Nuclear?

## Key Benefits

- Inherent/passive safety
- Deployment flexibility
- Versatile applications
- Long fuel cycles
- Reduced waste
- Advanced manufacturing to reduce cost

*70+ private sector projects under development*

## SIZES

### SMALL

1 MW to 20 MW

Micro-reactors

*Can fit on a flatbed truck.  
Mobile. Deployable.*

### MEDIUM

20 MW to 300 MW

Small Modular Reactors

*Factory-built. Can be scaled up by adding more units.*

### LARGE

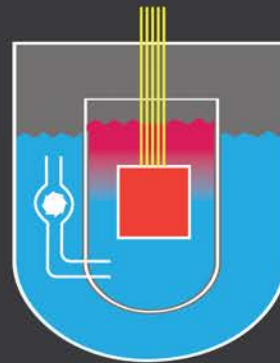
300 MW to 1,000 + MW

Full-size Reactors

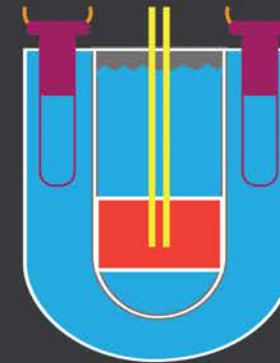
*Can provide reliable, emissions-free baseload power*

— **Advanced Reactors Supported by the U.S. Department of Energy** —

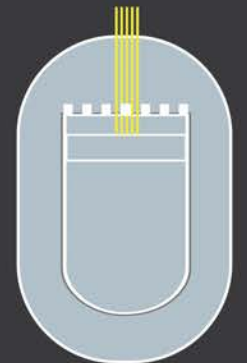
## TYPES



**MOLTEN SALT REACTORS –**  
Use molten fluoride or chloride salts as a coolant. Online fuel processing. Can re-use and consume spent fuel from other reactors.

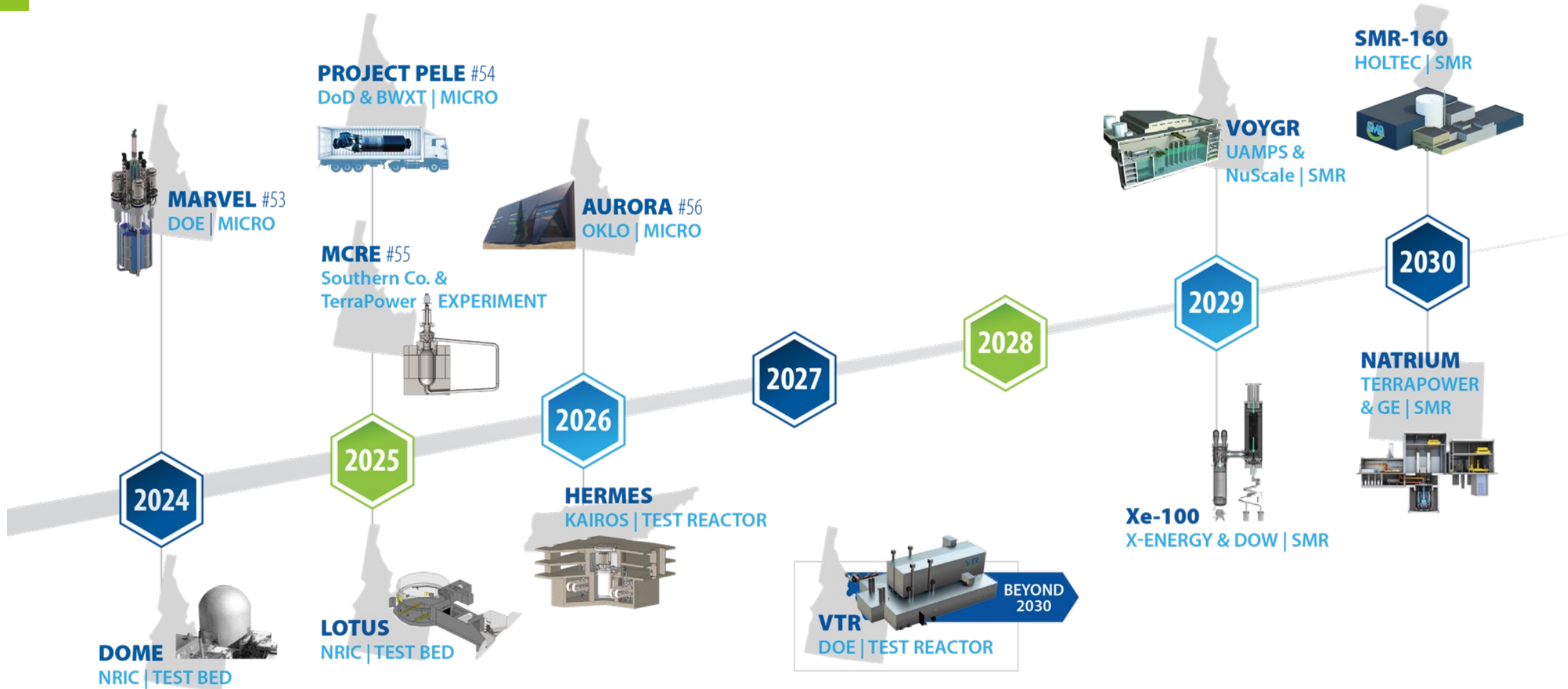


**LIQUID METAL FAST REACTORS –**  
Use liquid metal (sodium or lead) as a coolant. Operate at higher temperatures and lower pressures. Can re-use and consume spent fuel from other reactors.



**GAS-COOLED REACTORS –**  
Use flowing gas as a coolant. Operate at high temperatures to efficiently produce heat for electric and non-electric applications.

# Accelerating advanced reactor demonstration & deployment



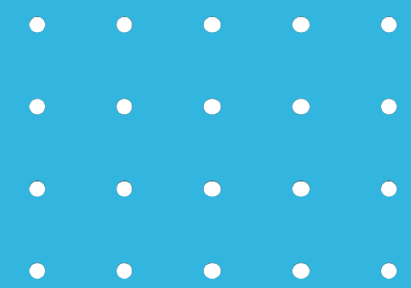
PELE – Portable Energy for Lasting Effects  
 DoD – Department of Defense  
 DOME – Demonstration of Microreactor Experiments  
 NRIC – National Reactor Innovation Center  
 LOTUS – Laboratory for Operating and Testing in the U.S.

# Tools for Engaging of Next Generation Innovators

**Example:**

***See It To Imagine It Toolkit***

**U.S. Women in Nuclear  
Nuclear Executives of Tomorrow  
2023 Cohort Capstone**



**SEE IT TO  
IMAGINE IT**



# SEE IT TO IMAGINE IT

- A comprehensive toolkit for Nuclear Professionals, Industry Organizations, Parents, Teachers, Coaches, and Influencers to attract young women to the Nuclear Industry and STEM
- Nuclear Fact Sheet
- [Inspirational Videos](#)
- Experiments and Activities
- Choose your own adventure

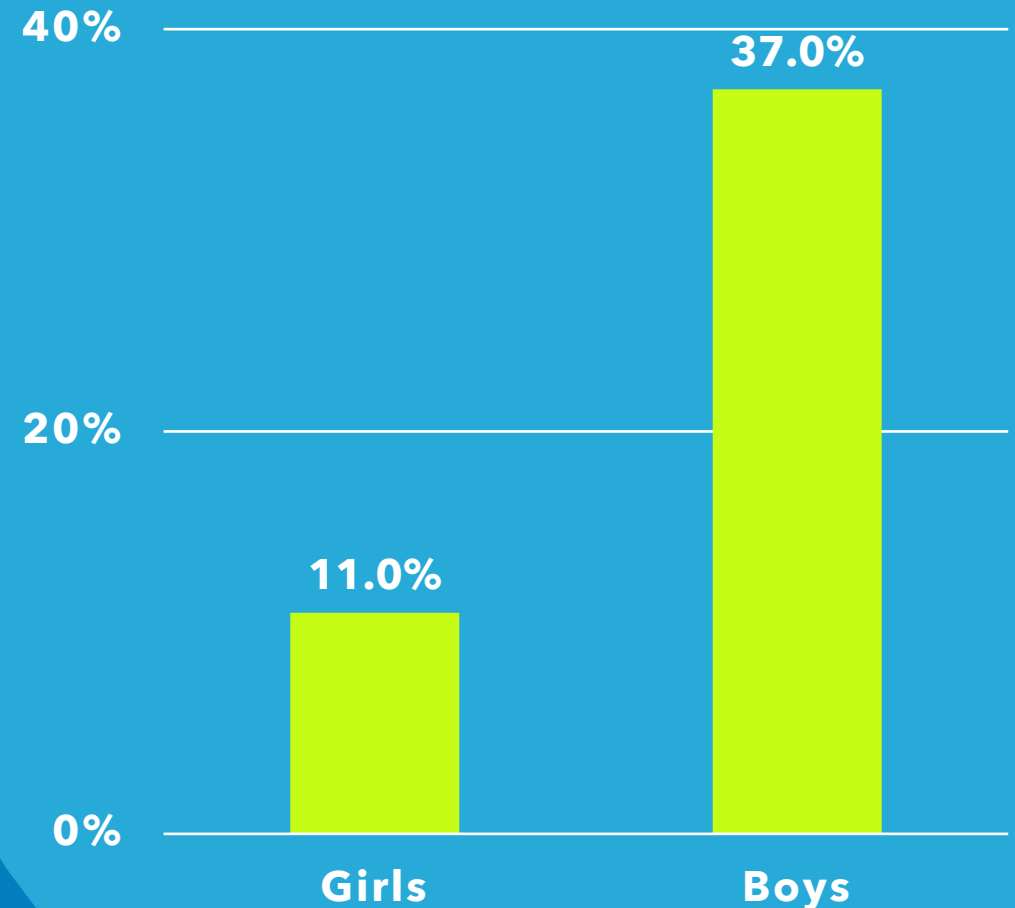


# TARGET AUDIENCE

- Age 13: milestone development age
- Need role models to break gender stereotypes associated with STEM careers
- Care about the environment and climate change
- Looking for purpose

*"Diverse teams make better decisions up to **87%** of the time"*

# EXPRESSED INTEREST IN STEM



Source: <https://heartofleadership.org/statistics/>

# NUCLEAR FACT SHEET

- 8th graders do not learn, talk or pay attention the same way adults do. To engage them, we have created an interactive Fact Sheet including:
  - *Fun facts about nuclear*
  - *Career exploration information*
  - *Virtual tours of nuclear facilities*
  - *Influencer nuclear videos*





# INSPIRATIONAL VIDEOS

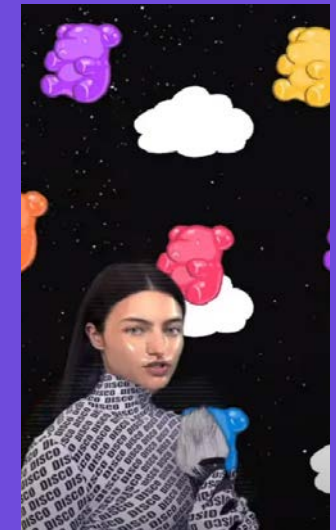
- We have assembled a series of inspirational videos of real women in the nuclear industry
- Let's break stereotypes: girls and women can do anything they set their minds to
- Let them **see** us to **imagine** themselves!





# Social Media Videos

- 13-year-olds learn and engage differently. We have curated a list of fun and educational videos that will resonate with them
- Include any of these in your collection for an interactive and appealing approach!



# EXPERIMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- There is no better way to engage 8th graders than with hands-on activities
- We have compiled a variety of fun and educational experiments and activities to choose from



# SHOPPING AND SOURCING LIST

- A curated list of products to consider as you prepare your own, customized toolkit
- Includes: consumables, experiments, educational items
- Direct link to Amazon shopping cart for convenience
- Preorder a kit by emailing [win.next2023@gmail.com](mailto:win.next2023@gmail.com)



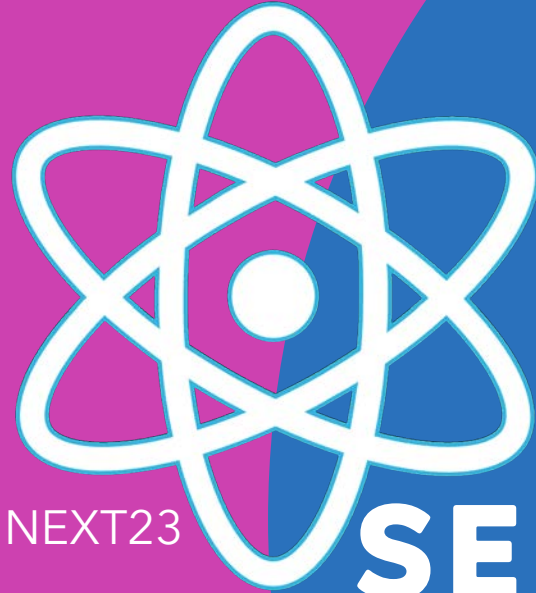




# CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

- While discovering who they are and what their **purpose** is, this interactive tool helps 8<sup>th</sup> graders start thinking about potential **career paths**
- Includes a variety of **alternatives**: from engineering and technicians to marketing and communications



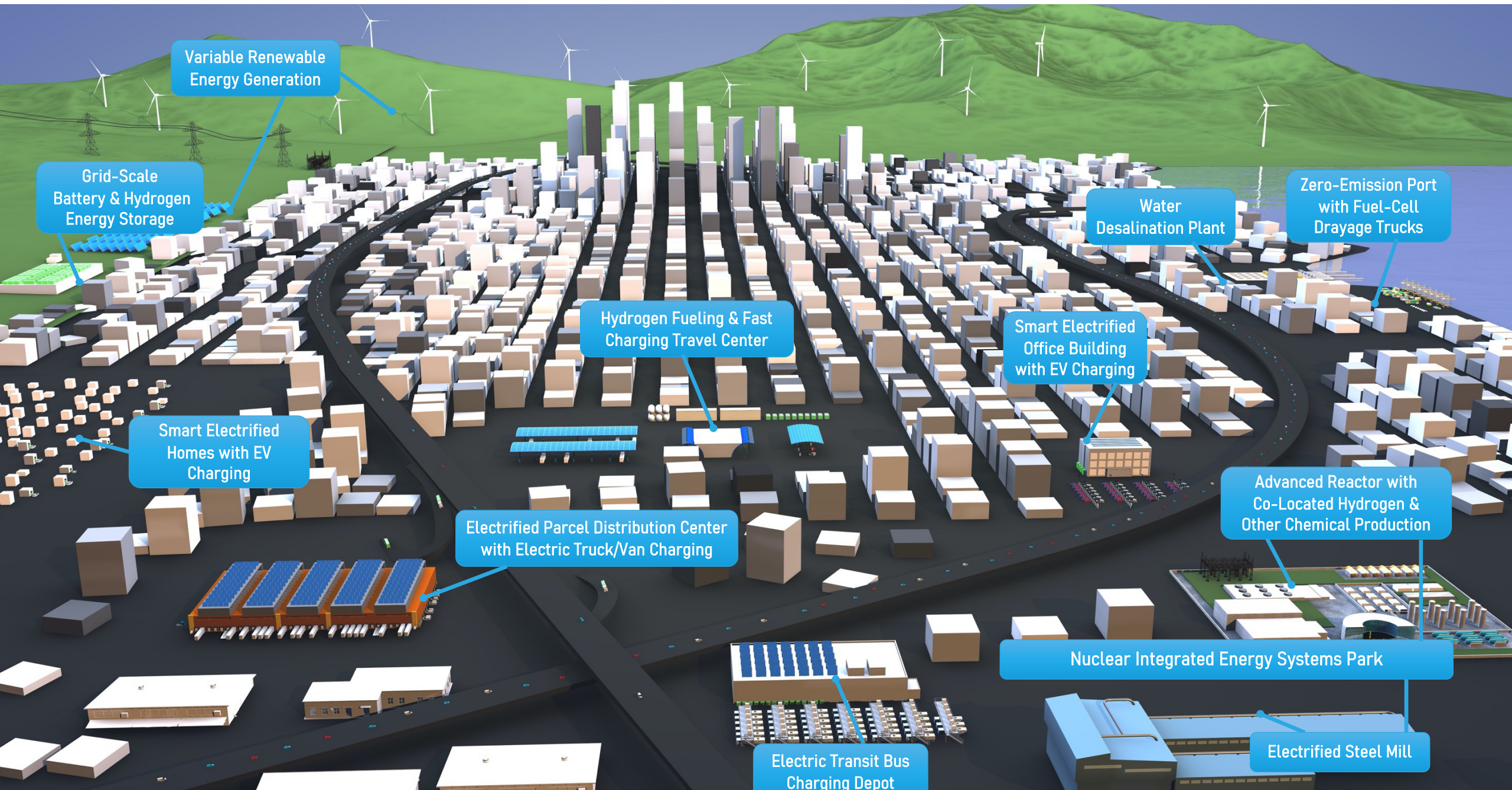


WIN NEXT23



**SEE IT TO  
IMAGINE IT**

# A vision for a net-zero future







Idaho National Laboratory