

# Pathways to Renewable Hydrogen

**WANG Lei**  
ChBE @ NUS  
[wanglei8@nus.edu.sg](mailto:wanglei8@nus.edu.sg)



**NUS**  
National University  
of Singapore

National University of Singapore

# The earliest concern on carbon emission

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LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND DUBLIN  
**PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE**  
AND  
**JOURNAL OF SCIENCE.**

[FIFTH SERIES.]

APRIL 1896.

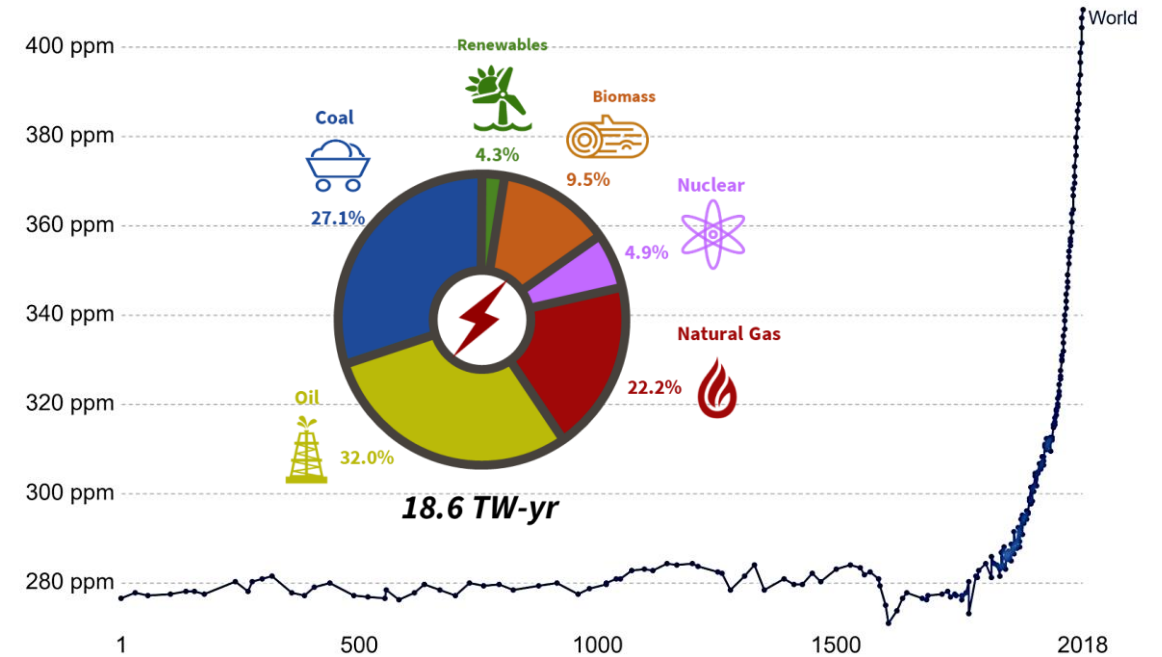
XXXI. *On the Influence of Carbonic Acid in the Air upon the Temperature of the Ground.* By Prof. SVANTE ARRHENIUS \*.

I. Introduction : Observations of Langley on Atmospheric Absorption.

A GREAT deal has been written on the influence of the absorption of the atmosphere upon the climate. Tyndall† in particular has pointed out the enormous importance of this question. To him it was chiefly the diurnal and annual variations of the temperature that were lessened by this circumstance. Another side of the question, that has long attracted the attention of physicists, is this: Is the mean temperature of the ground in any way influenced by the presence of heat-absorbing gases in the atmosphere? Fourier‡ maintained that the atmosphere acts like the glass of a hot-house, because it lets through the light rays of the sun but retains the dark rays from the ground. This idea was elaborated by Pouillet§; and Langley was by some of his researches led to the view, that “the temperature of the earth under direct sunshine, even though our atmosphere were present as now, would probably fall to  $-200^{\circ}$  C., if that atmosphere did not possess the quality of selective

## Global CO<sub>2</sub> atmospheric concentration

Global mean annual concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) measured in parts per million (ppm).

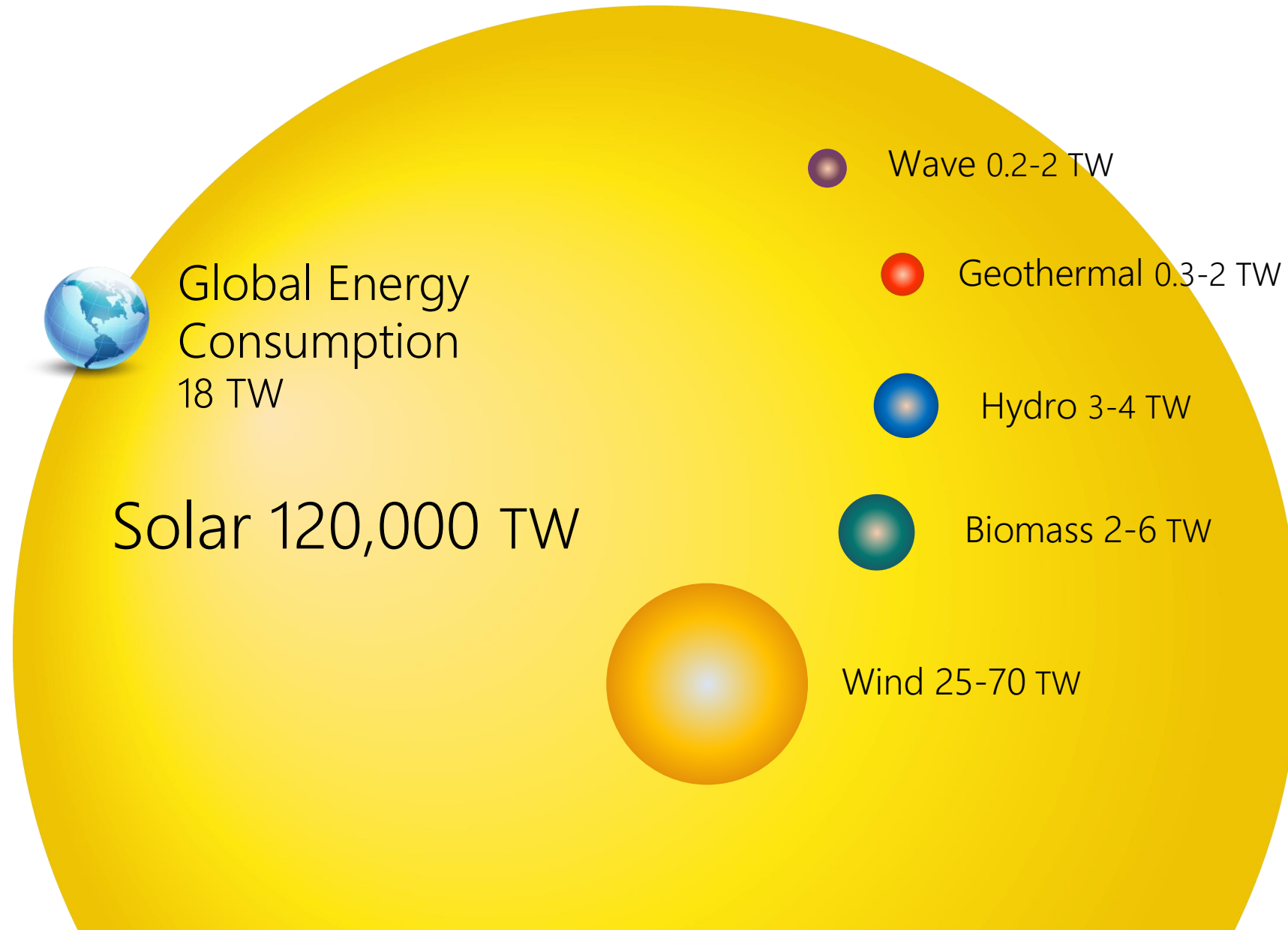


Source: NOAA/ESRL (2018)  
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions/ • CC BY

CO<sub>2</sub> emission > 40 Gton/year

The temperature rise 5-6 °C if CO<sub>2</sub> doubled: ~3000 years

Solution for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emission: renewable energy



We have more than enough renewable energy resources, the key is to upgrade them into the **quality** that can meet our needs!

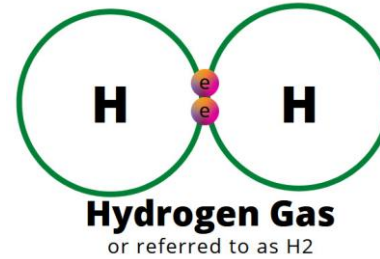
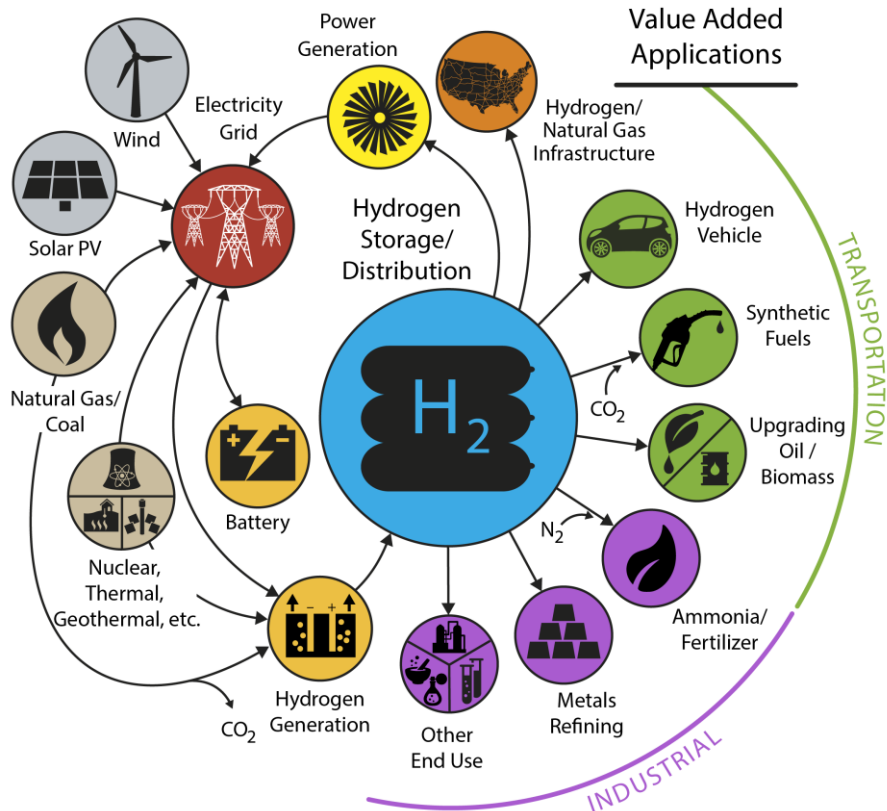


# Hydrogen as clean energy carrier

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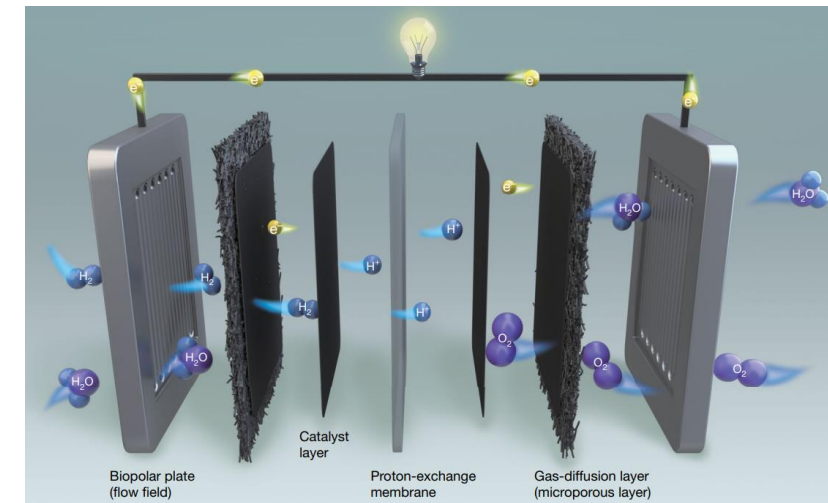
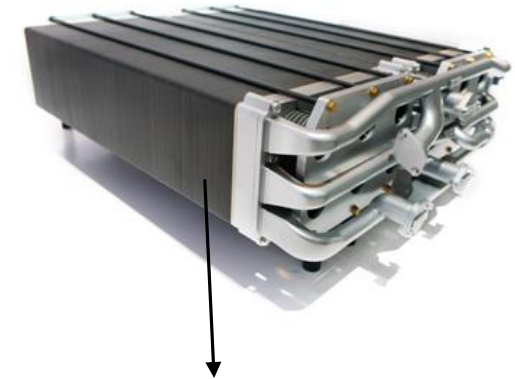
The most abundant element in the universe!

Already a crucial chemicals and fuels today!



Driving range: > 600 km  
Tank capacity: < 6 kg  
Electric motor: > 180 HP

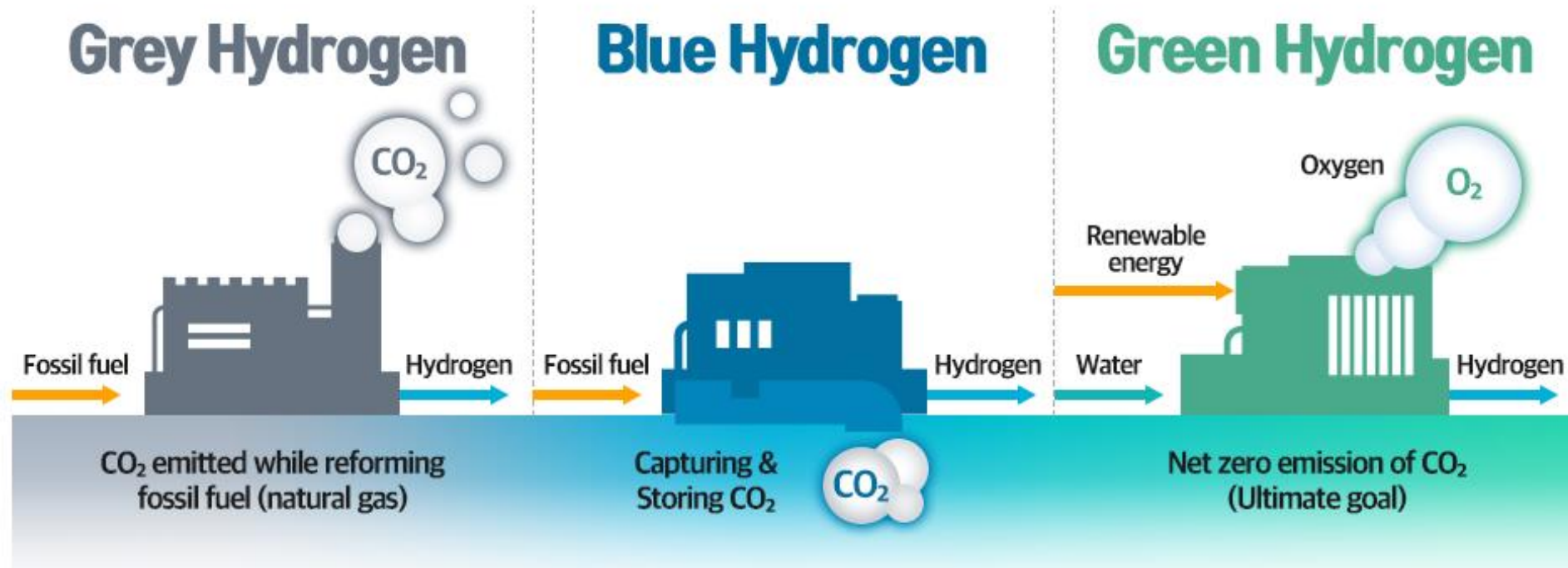
Fuel cell stack



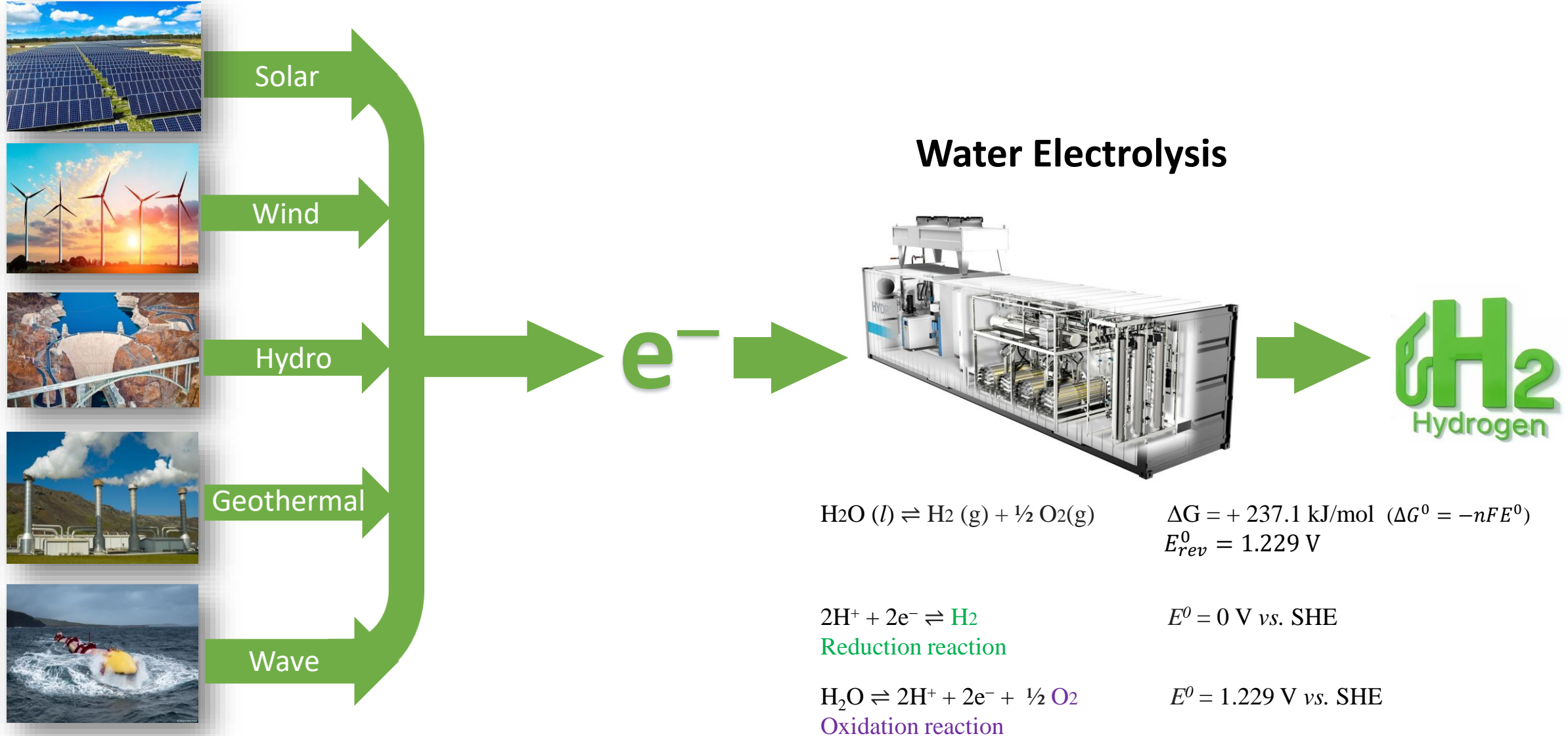
# Hydrogen productions

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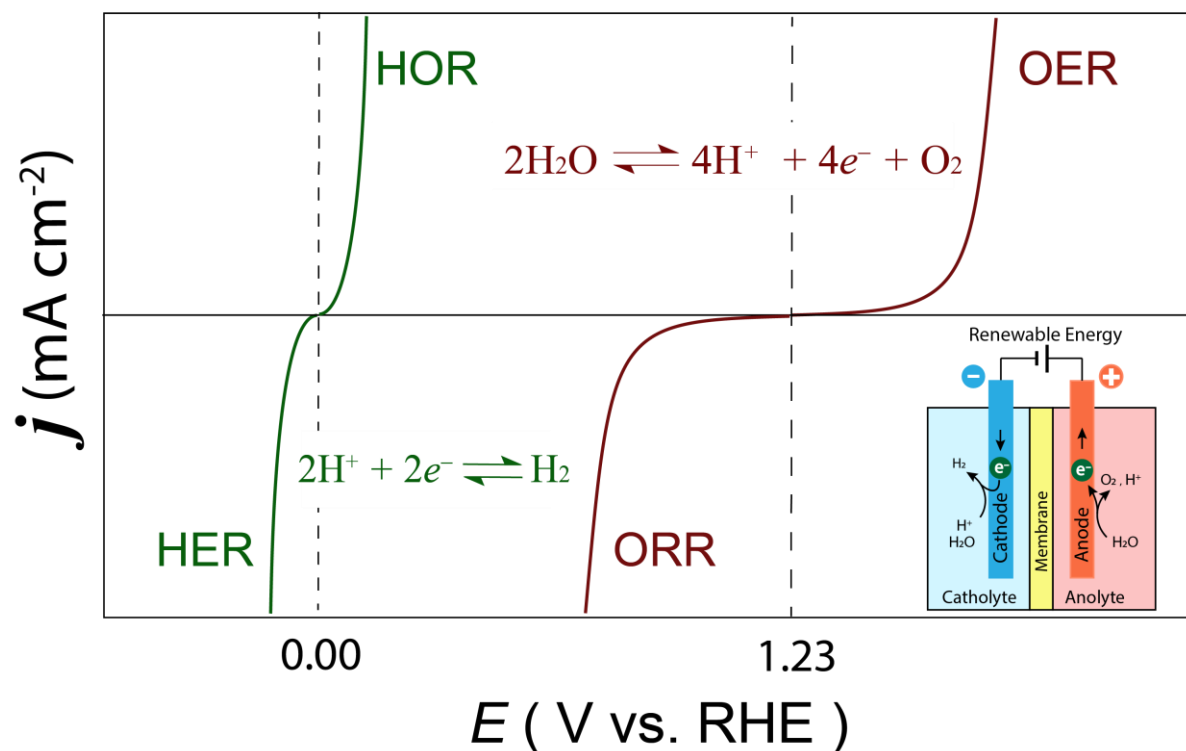
~70 million tonnes/yr



>96% of H<sub>2</sub> production produced from fossil fuels today

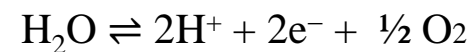


## Water Electrolysis



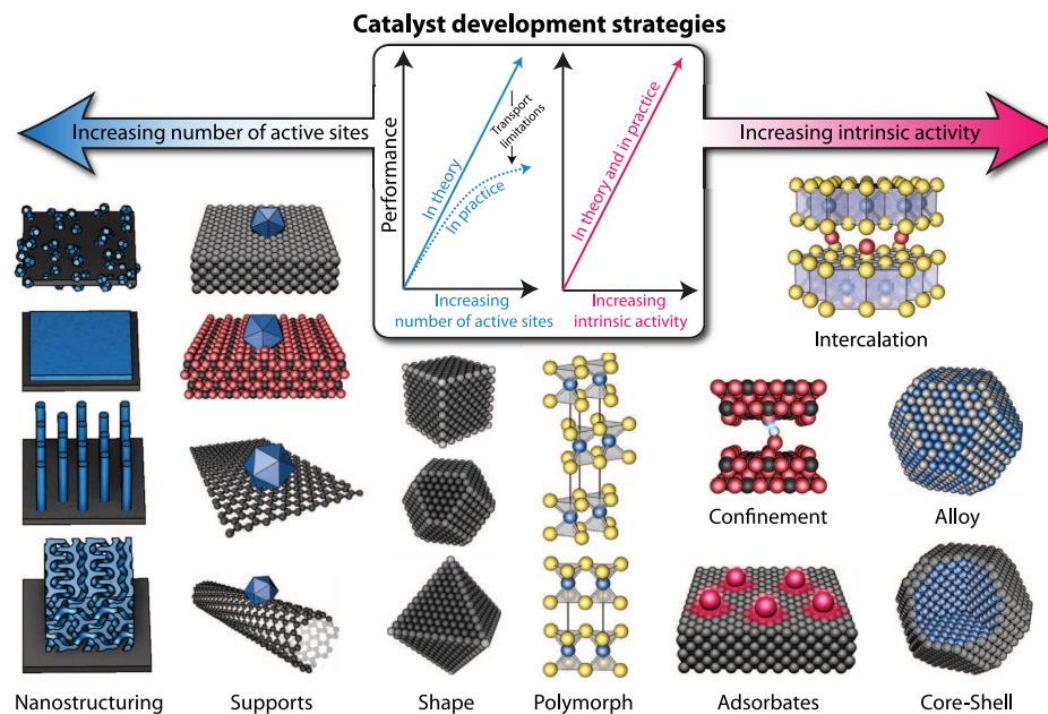
$$E^0 = 0 \text{ V vs. SHE}$$

Hydrogen Evolution Reaction (**HER**)



$$E^0 = 1.229 \text{ V vs. SHE}$$

Oxygen Evolution reaction (**OER**)



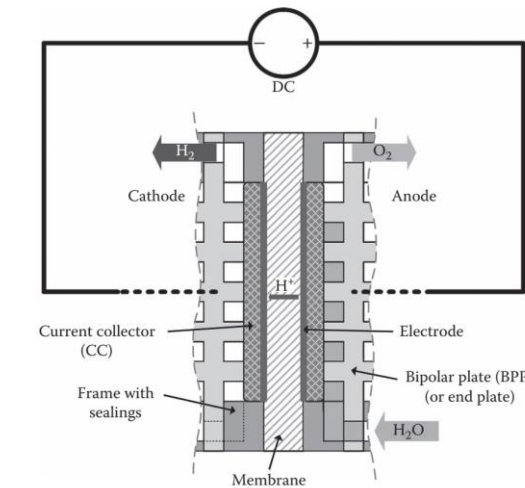


# Green hydrogen productions

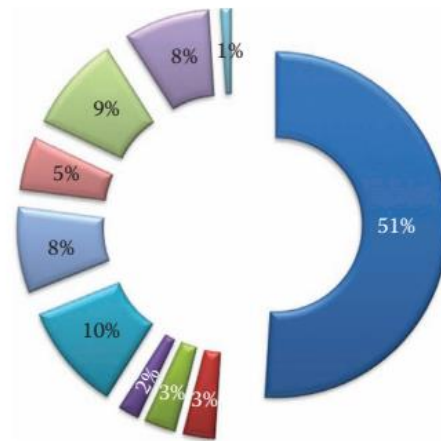
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## Water Electrolysis : Alkaline, PEM, Solid oxide...

### PEM water electrolyzer



PEM stack cost breakdown



- Bipolar plates
- Pressure plates
- Small parts
- Stack assembling
- MEA manufacturing
- Catalyst cathode
- Catalyst anode
- Membrane
- Current collectors cathode
- Current collectors anode
- End plates

#### Electrode materials:

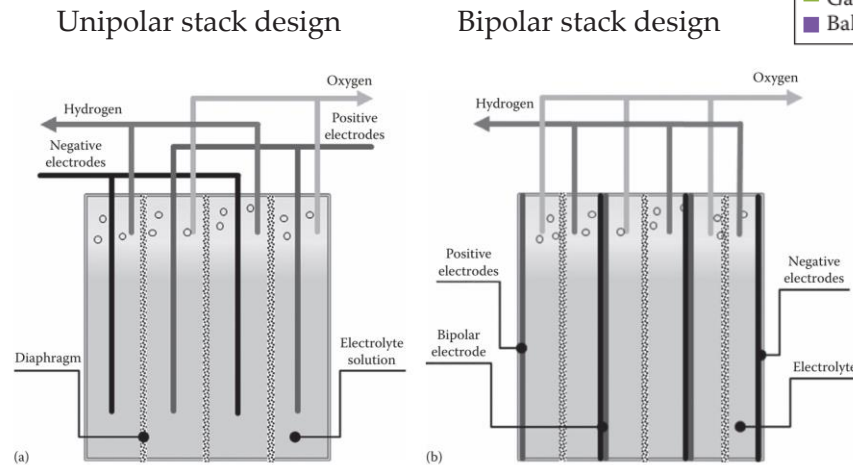
Cathode: Pt/substrates;  
Anode: IrO<sub>2</sub>/TiO<sub>2</sub>.

**PEM:** Nafion from DuPont

#### Typical performance:

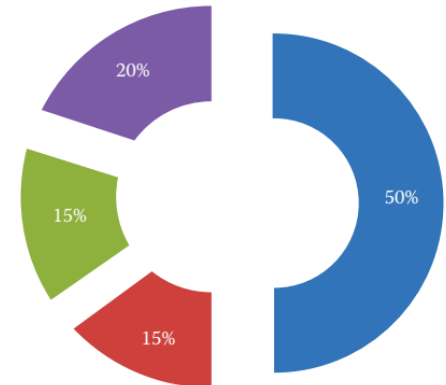
Current density: > 2 A/cm<sup>2</sup>;  
Efficiency [%] (HHV) 48.5–65.5;  
Hydrogen purity [vol.%]: >99.999;  
System lifetime: 10–20 years.

### Alkaline water electrolyzer



- Stack
- Power conditioning
- Gas conditioning
- Balance of plant

Alkaline system



#### Electrode materials:

Ni treated stainless steel (corrosion resistant in alkaline media); Cobalt is usually added to the anode, while Iron and Vanadium are used at the cathode.

#### Typical performance:

Current density: ~ 500 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>;  
Efficiency [%] (HHV) 50–70.8;  
Hydrogen purity [vol.%]: 99.3–99.999;  
System lifetime: 20–30 years.

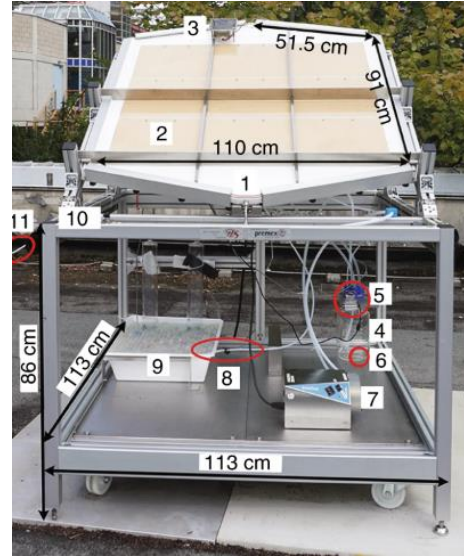
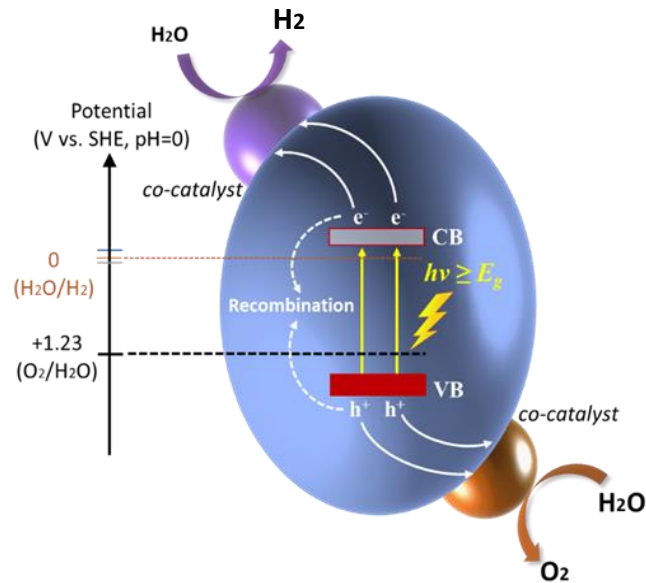
Nel (Norsk Hydro)  
Glomfjord / Norway  
1953 – 1991

135MW  
(30,000Nm<sup>3</sup>/h)



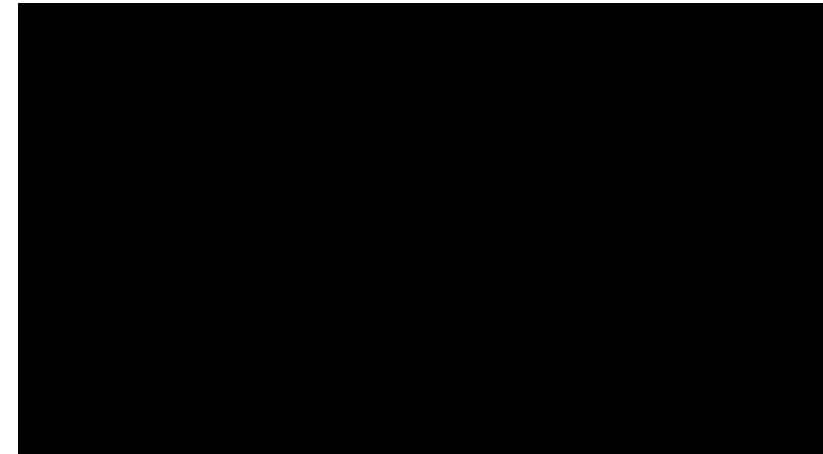
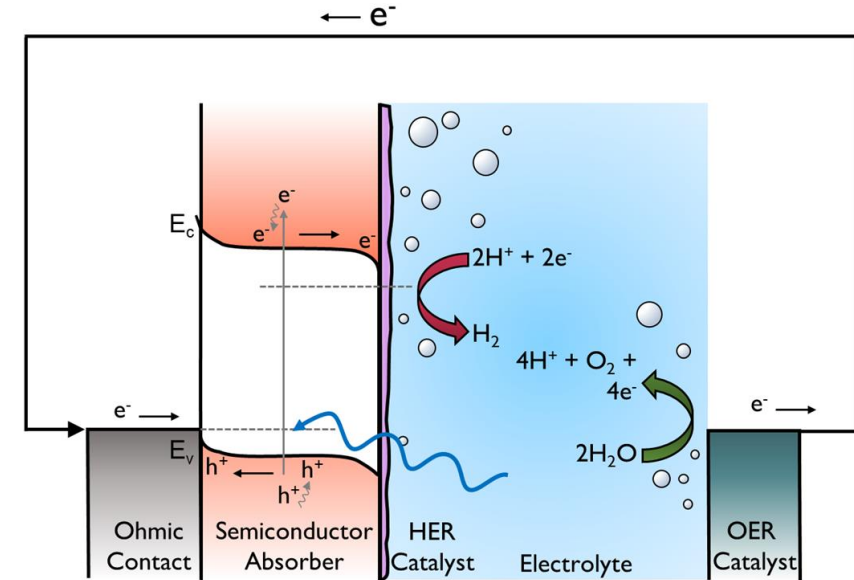


## Photocatalytic water electrolysis

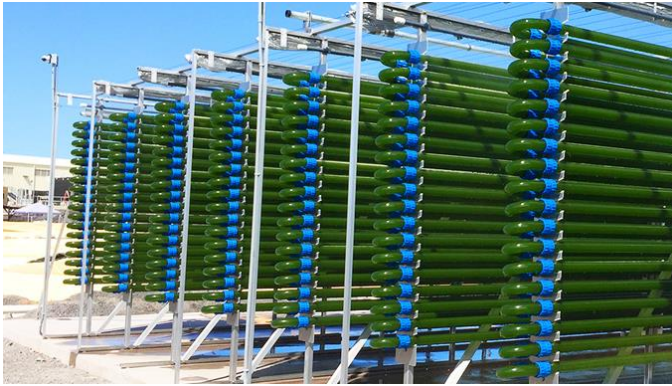


Suitable for non-centralized facilities

## Photoelectrochemical water electrolysis



## Photobiological hydrogen production



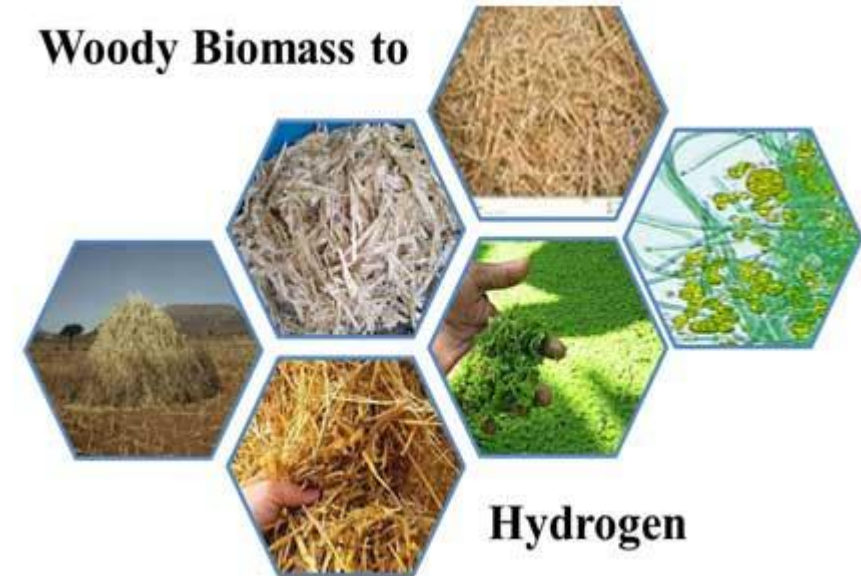
Can extend to  
other bio-fuel, e.g.,  
bio-diesel

## Solar Thermochemical Hydrogen production



A solar concentrator  
uses mirrors to capture  
and focus sunlight to  
produce temperatures  
up to 2,000°C, to thermal  
decompose water.

## Biomass hydrogen production



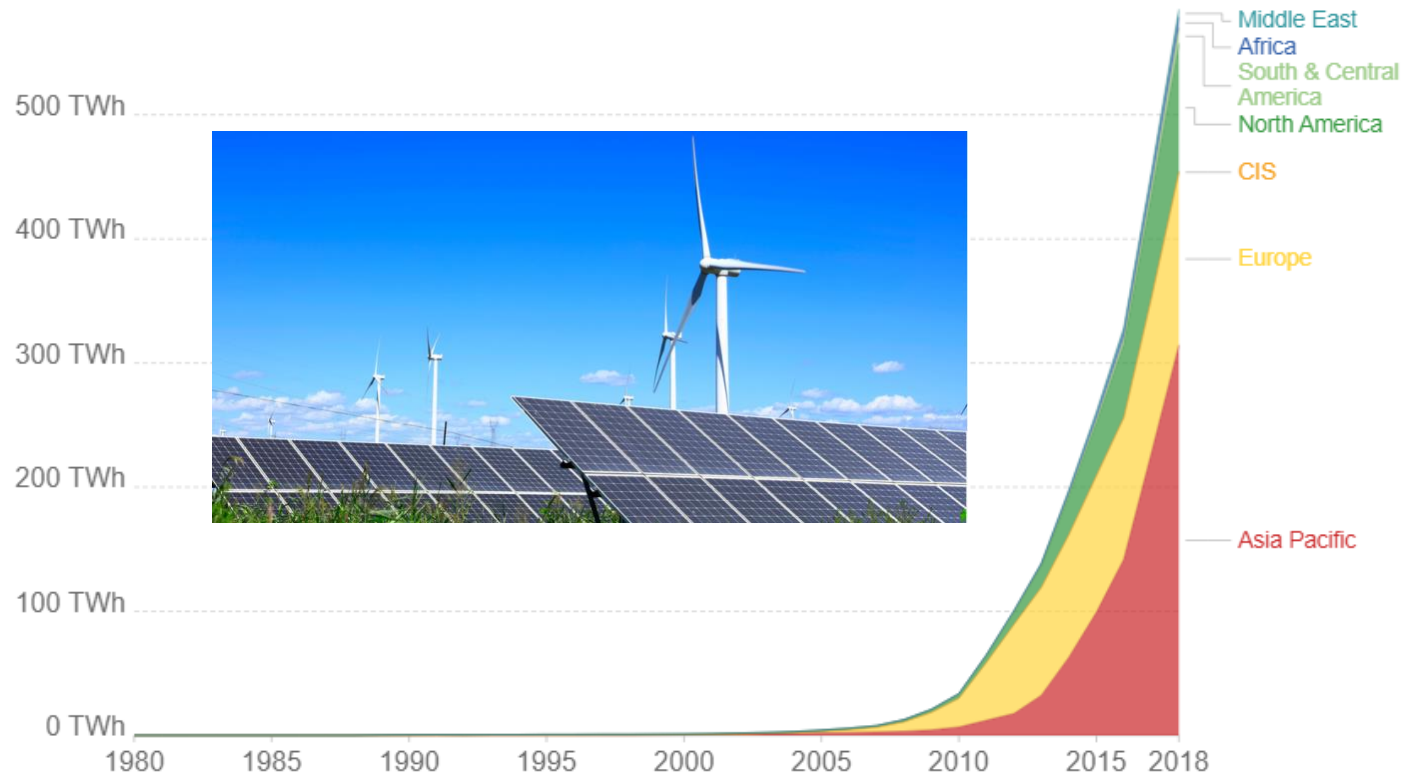
Thermal chemical, biochemical, fermentations...

# Opportunities and challenges

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## Solar energy generation by region, 1980 to 2018

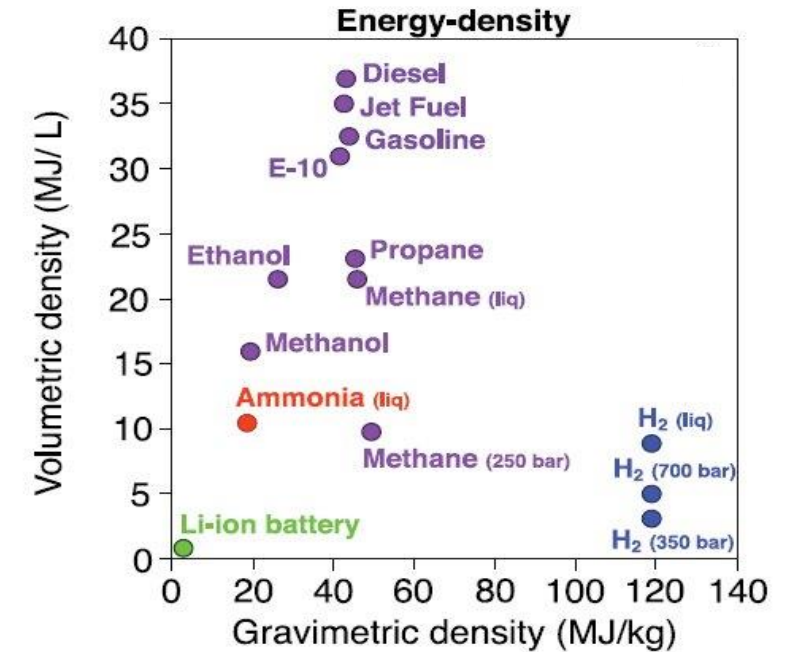
Solar energy generation is measured in terawatt-hours (TWh) per year.



Source: BP Statistical Review of Global Energy (2019)

Note: CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) is an organization of ten post-Soviet republics in Eurasia following break-up of the Soviet Union.

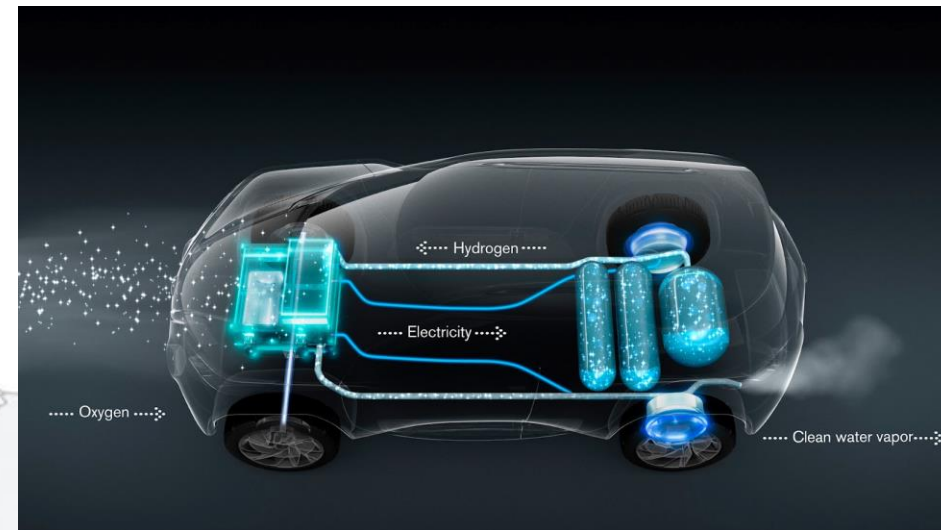
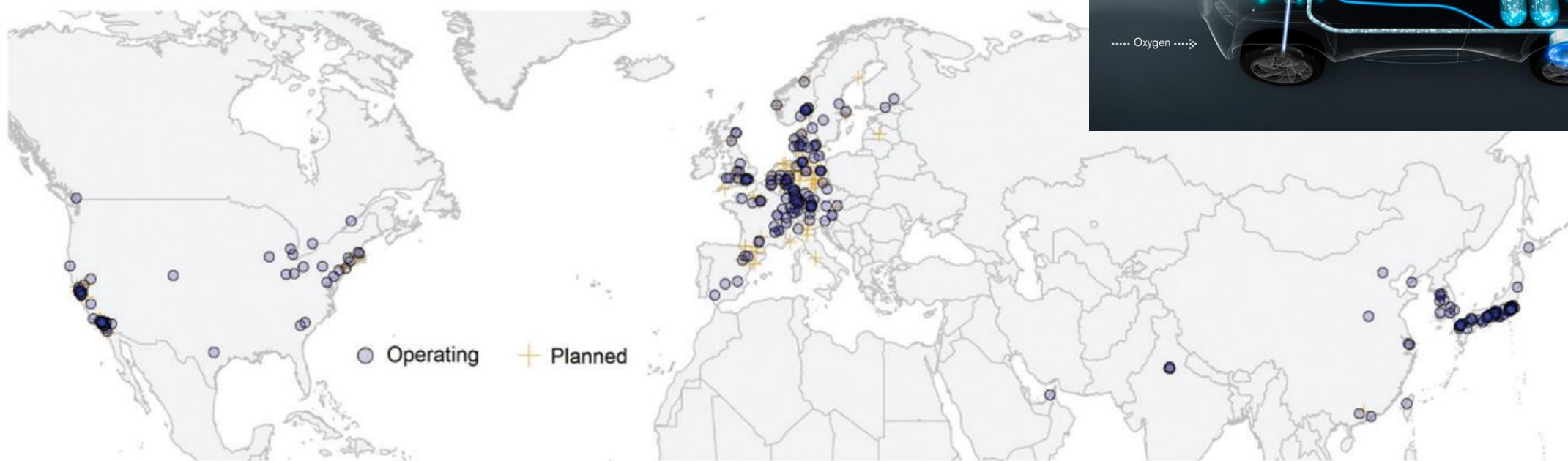
CC BY



Storage & Transportations

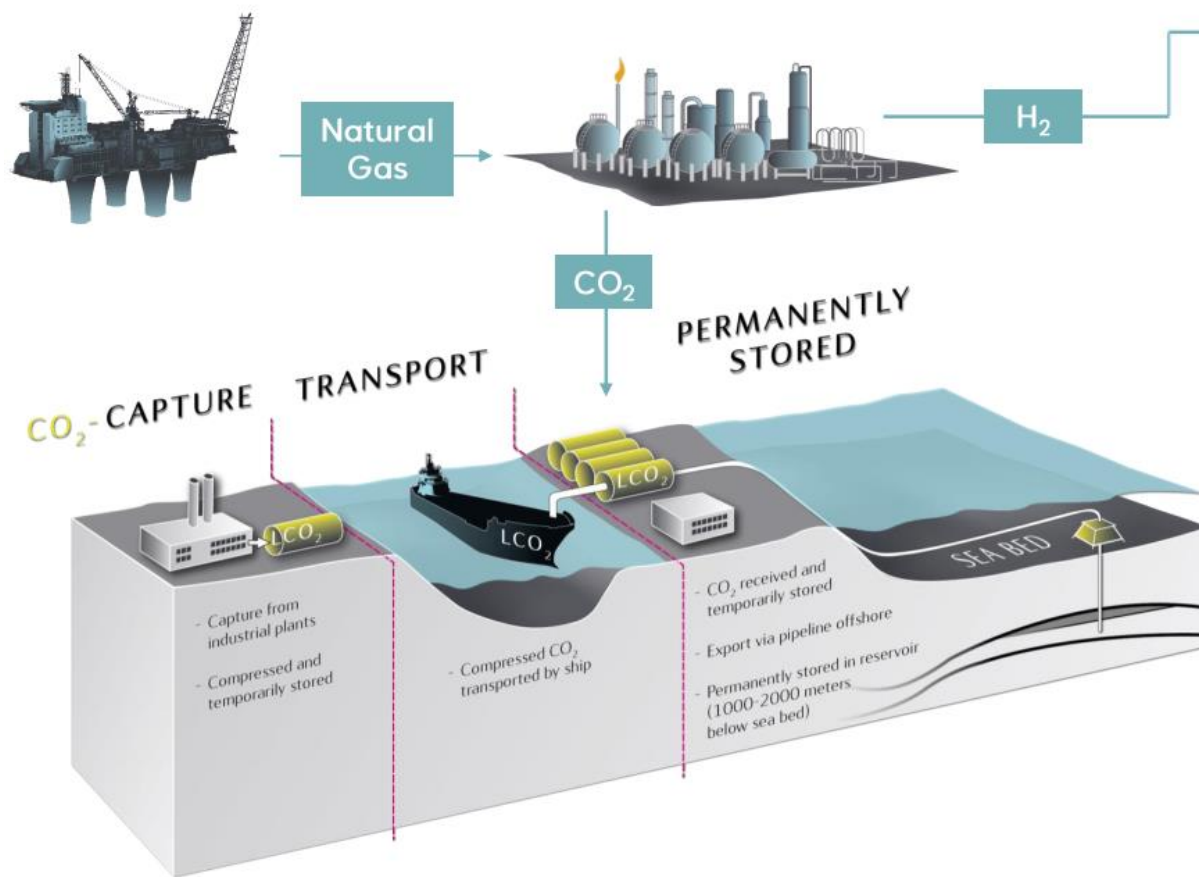


## Hydrogen fueling station worldwide



<https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2019/ee/c8ee01157e>

# Thank You!



**H<sub>2</sub>**  
Clean Hydrogen



for power  
generation



for heat



for maritime  
transport