



The Unpopular and Hard Truths of Coal Power ***The Lifeblood of the U.S.A.***

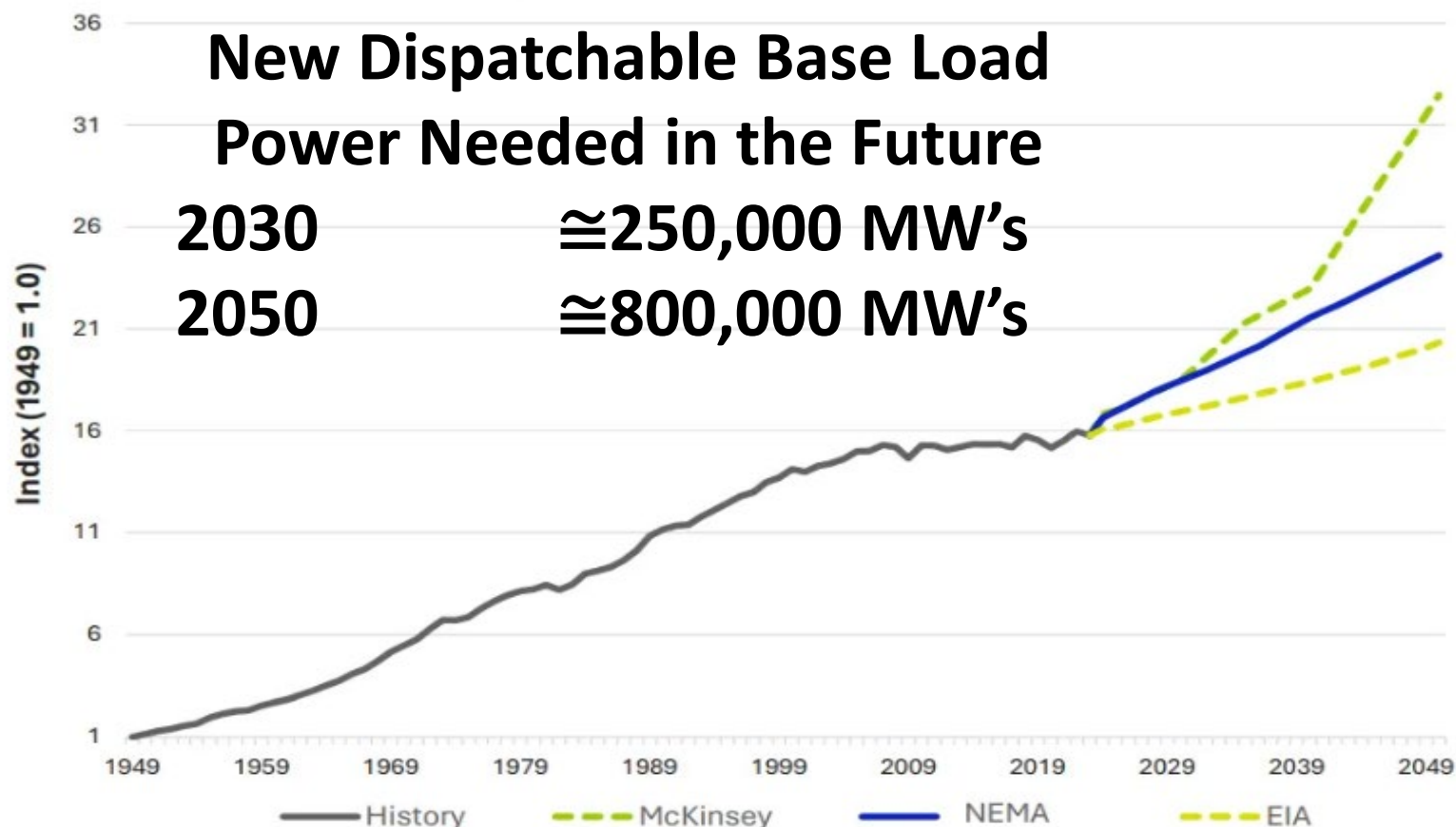
THE COAL INSTITUTE

by
Dick Storm
Storm Technologies



Electricity Growth Forecast to 2050

U.S. Electricity Consumption Index 1949–2050

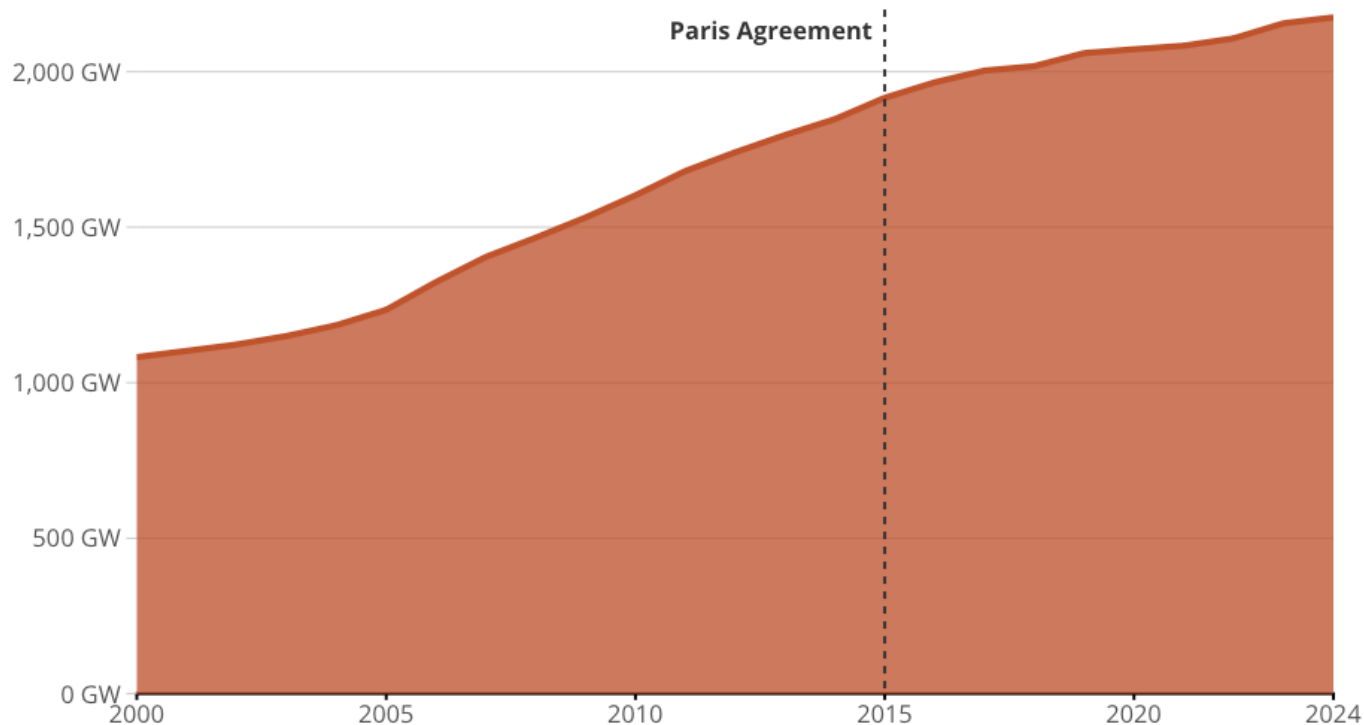


Coal as the #1 Source of Primary Energy Use for Electricity Generation is Growing Worldwide



How has coal capacity changed over time?

Total operating coal-fired power capacity, by year since 2000



[Download cumulative capacity data](#)





What were we doing in America up until Jan. 20, 2025?

“Decarbonize by Electrifying Everything”, according to MSM



The key to tackling climate change: electrify everything

By David Roberts | @drvolts | Updated Oct 27, 2017, 8:48am EDT



90%

OF NEW ELECTRICITY GENERATED IN 2020 COMES FROM RENEWABLES



Electricity: The Life-Blood of America



Jules Verne's Captain Nemo in the novel, "20 Thousand Leagues Under the Sea".....

"There is a powerful agent, obedient, rapid, easy, which conforms to every use and reigns supreme on board my vessel. Everything is done by means of it. It lights it, warms it, and is the soul of of my mechanical apparatus. This agent is electricity." In 1870, it was science fiction. Today, it is reality. Electricity is in fact, the Life-Blood of America

The Self-Inflicted Electricity Generation Crisis

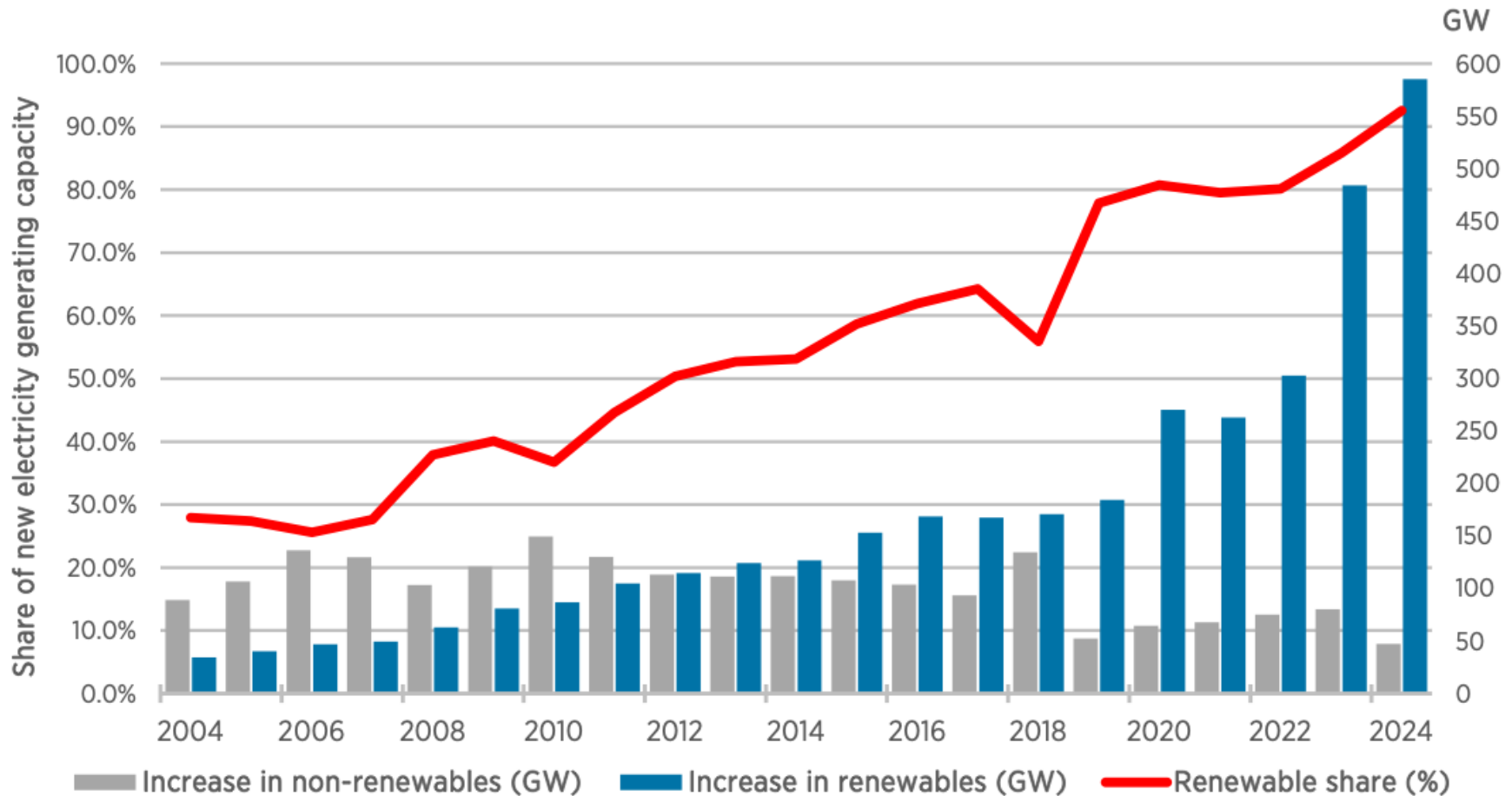
- **DEI and ESG**
- **Public Indoctrination**
- **"Woke" Utility Exec's**
- **Misguided Politicians**



Over 90% of Capital Investment for New Power Generation in 2024 was Wind & Solar



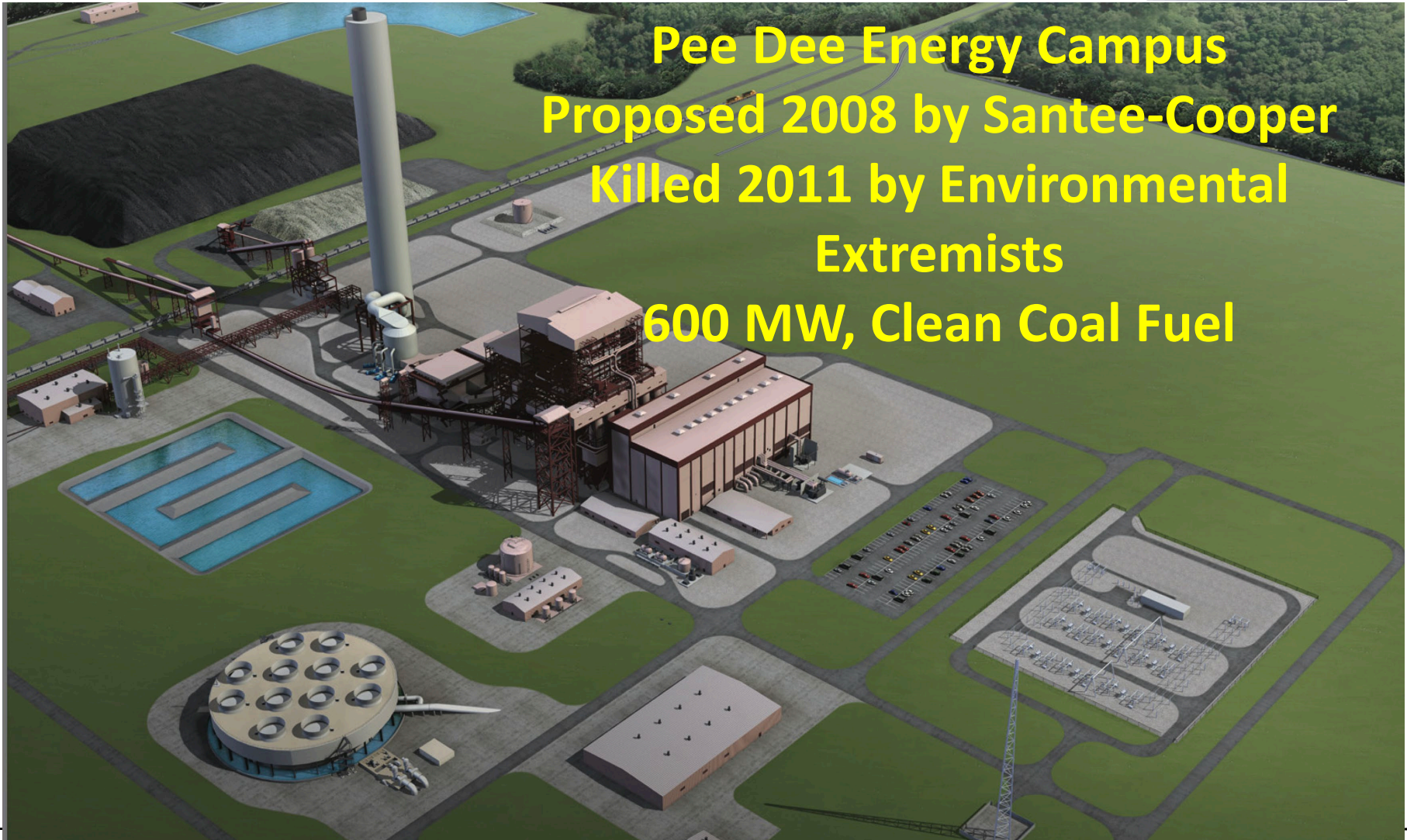
Renewable share of annual power capacity expansion



America Needs More New Generation Capacity Additions, Like the Canceled 600 MW Pee Dee Plant



**Pee Dee Energy Campus
Proposed 2008 by Santee-Cooper
Killed 2011 by Environmental
Extremists
600 MW, Clean Coal Fuel**



More Solar and Wind = High Electricity Costs



50%+ Coal

ND. \$0.1169

UT. \$0.1252

WY. \$0.1305

WVA \$0.1604

MT. \$0.1233

MO. \$0.1283

Near 0% Coal

HI \$0.4244

CA. \$0.3177

CT. \$0.3228

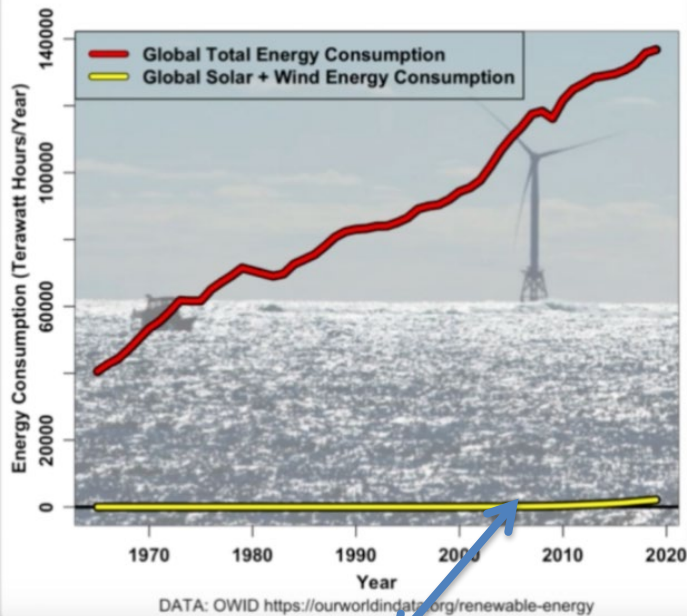
MA. \$0.3065

RI \$0.2889

https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a



Wind + Solar= Less than 2% of World's Primary Energy

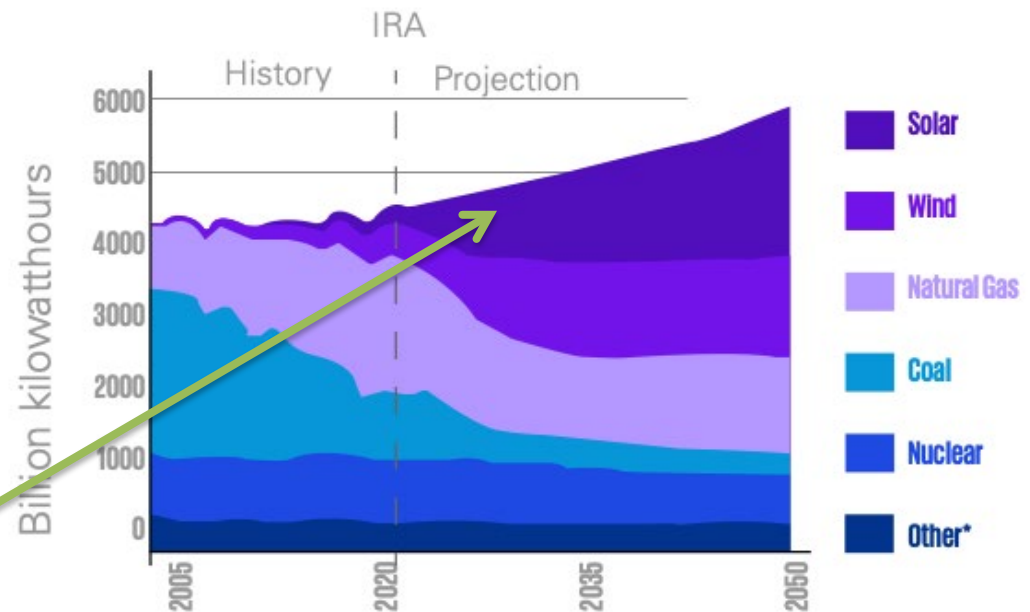


**Newtonian Physics
(Reality)**

Green "Hopium" Physics

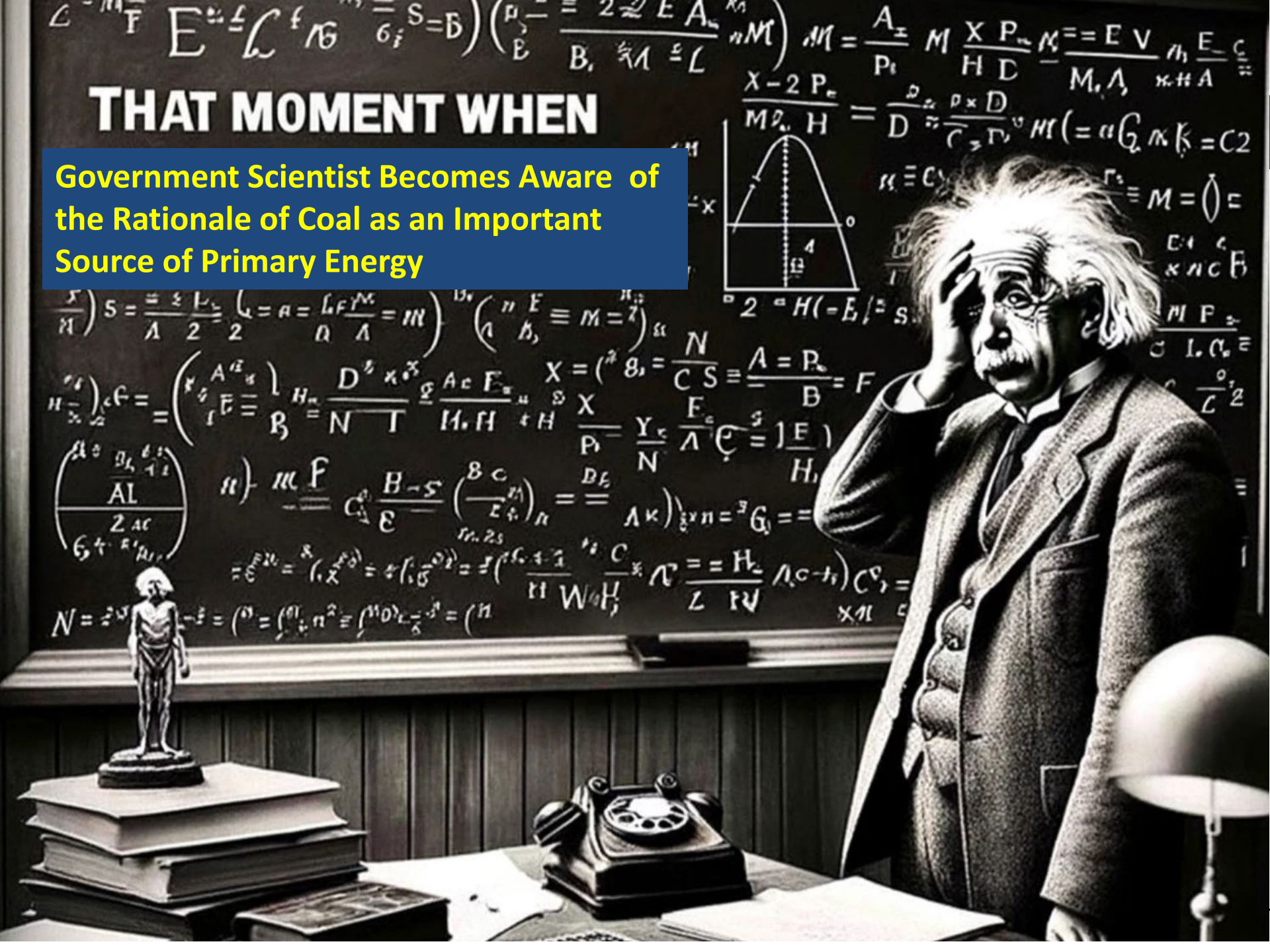
US net electricity generation by fuel source

The majority of US electricity generation will come from solar and wind by 2050



THAT MOMENT WHEN

Government Scientist Becomes Aware of the Rationale of Coal as an Important Source of Primary Energy

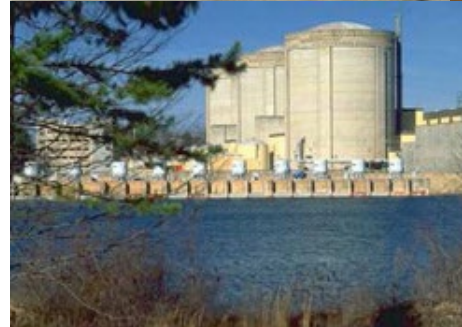


90% of the Primary Energy we use is from Conventional Sources



- Petroleum 35%
- Natural Gas 33%
- Coal 10%
- Nuclear 8%
- Hydroelectric (Dams over 70 years Old) 4%

Total 90%

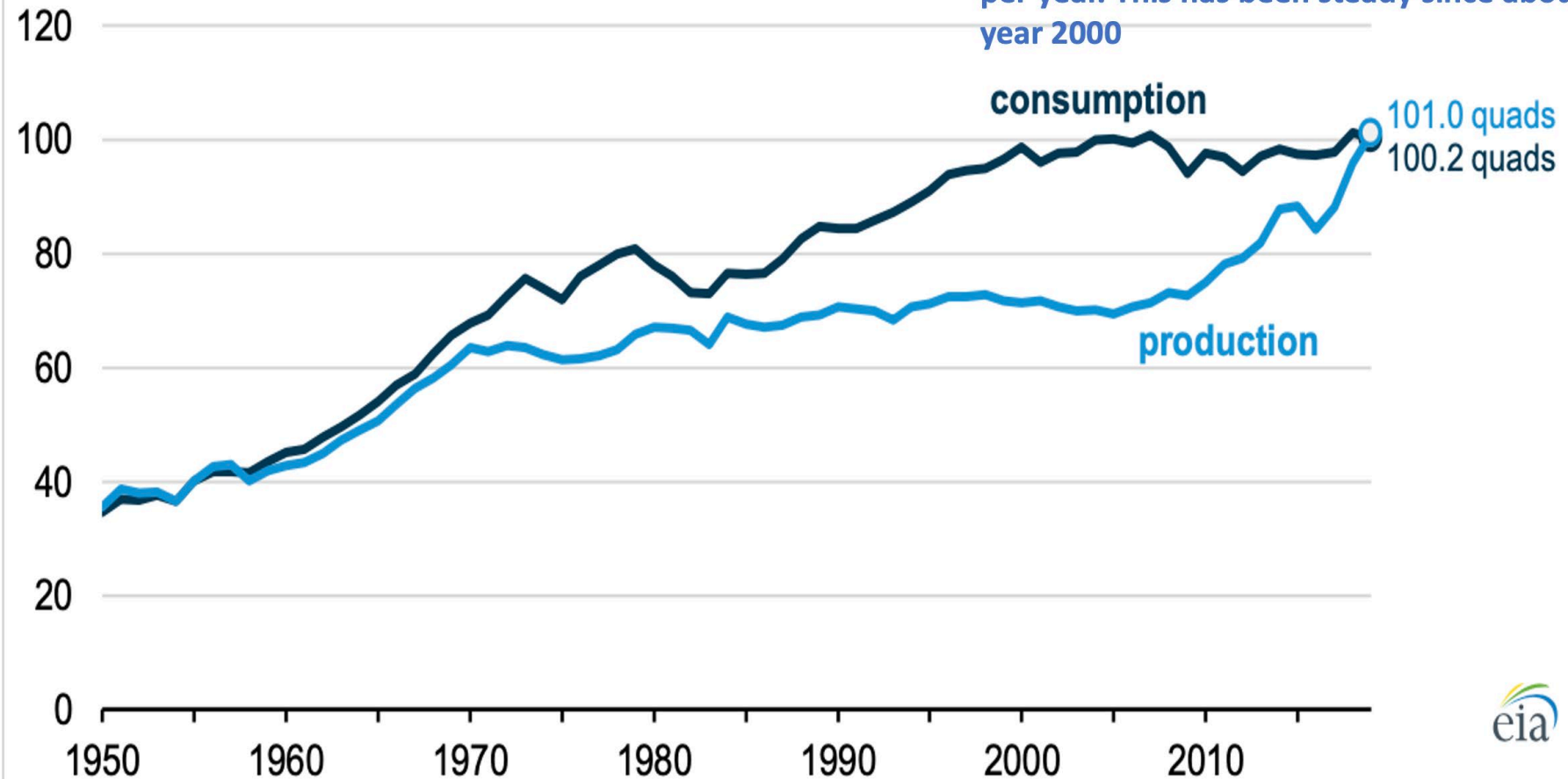


America Runs on About 100 Quads of Energy



U.S. total energy production and consumption (1950-2019)
quadrillion British thermal units (quads)

My Key Point: Our Quality of Life and Economy is Dependent on about 100 Quadrillion Btu's per year. This has been steady since about the year 2000

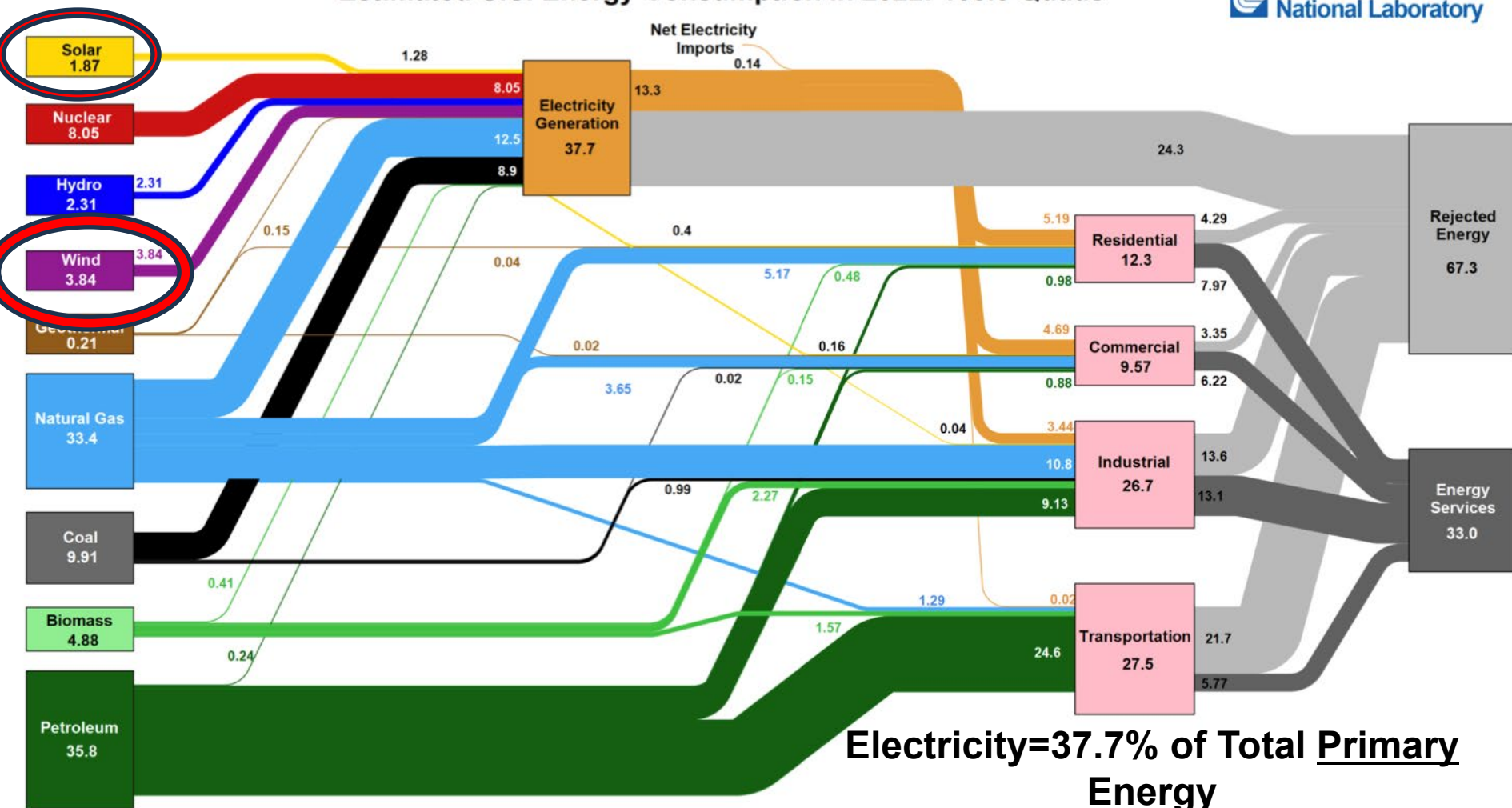


Solar + Wind= Less than 6% of Total Primary Energy



Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory

Estimated U.S. Energy Consumption in 2022: 100.3 Quads



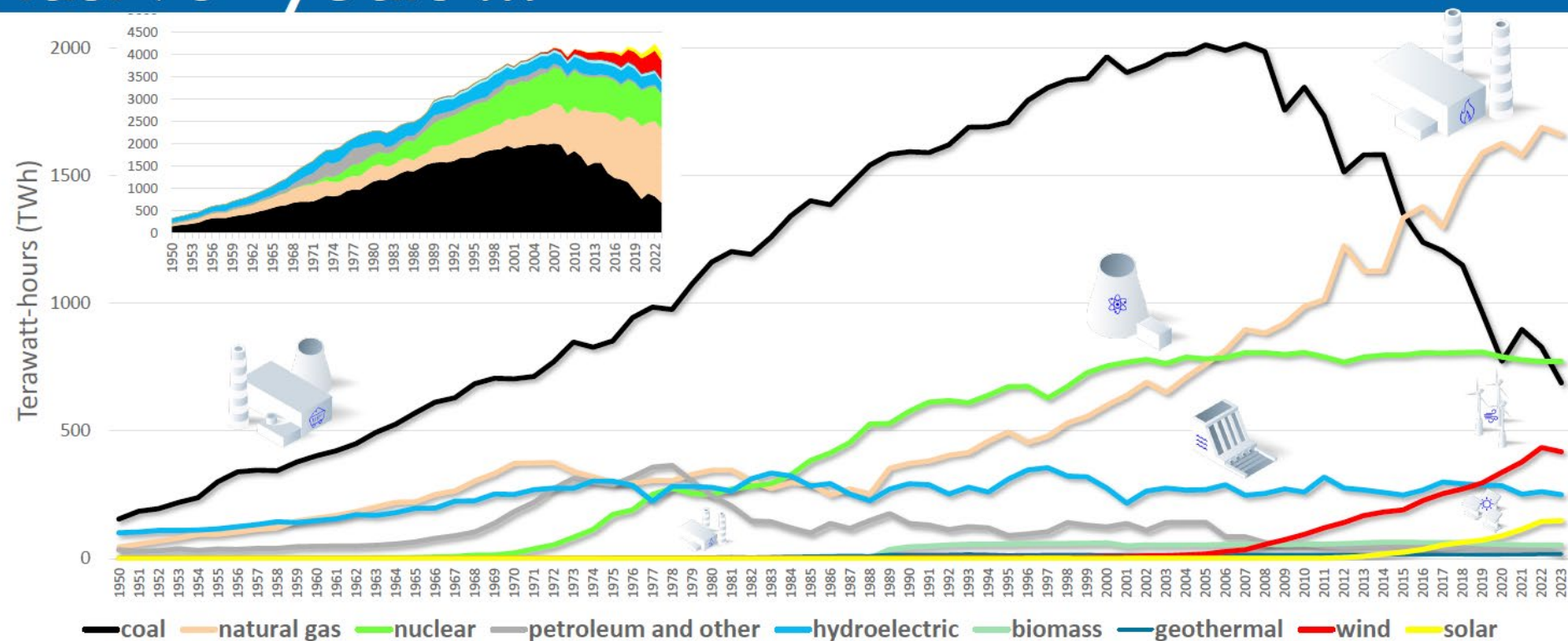
Electricity=37.7% of Total Primary
Energy

Solar + Wind= 5.71% of Primary Energy



Coal has lost #1 Fuel Position to Natural Gas

US Electricity Generation last 70+ years ... The Energy Transition



Gas is the leading electricity energy supply

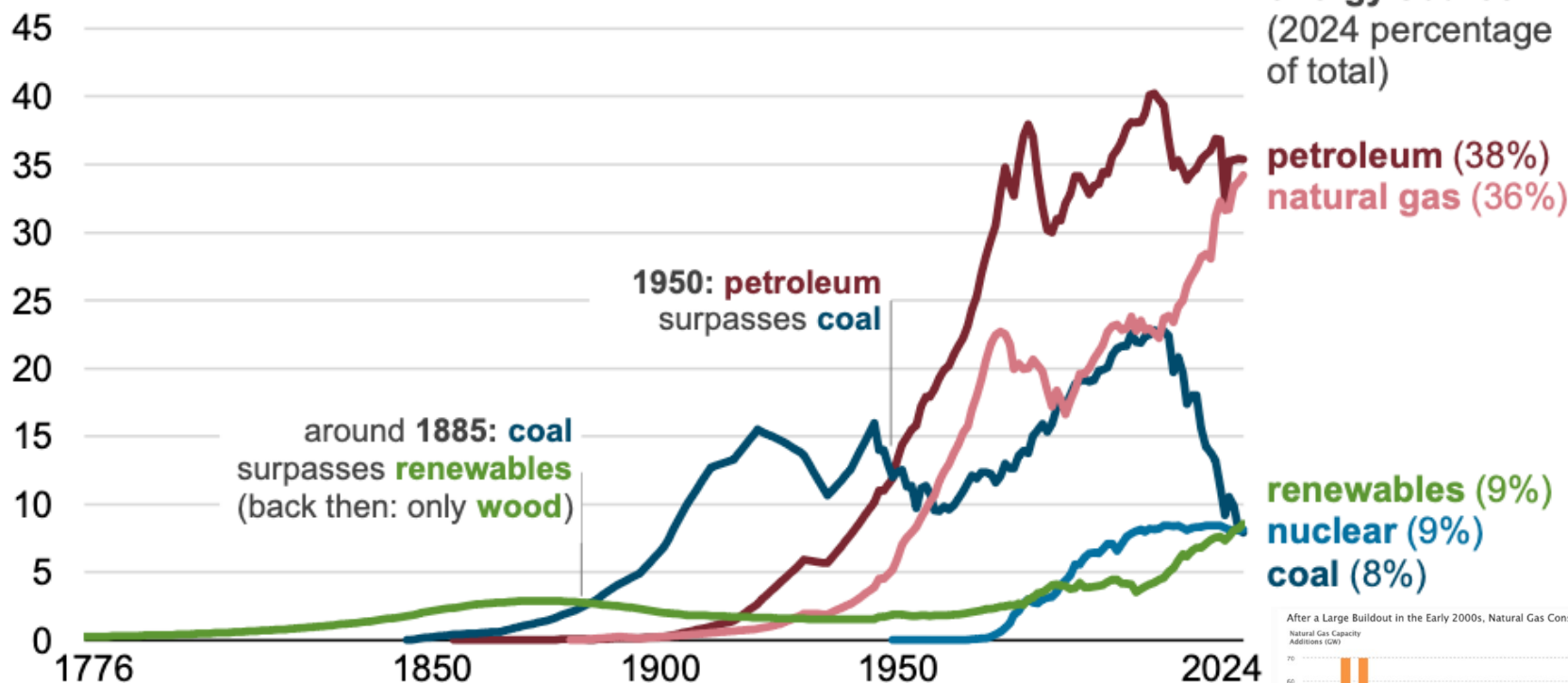


Electricity Demand Peaks & Dispatchable Gen

How has U.S. energy use changed since 1776?

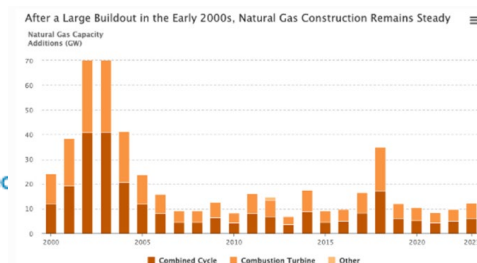
U.S. energy consumption (1776–2024)

quadrillion British thermal units



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, [Monthly Energy Review](#)

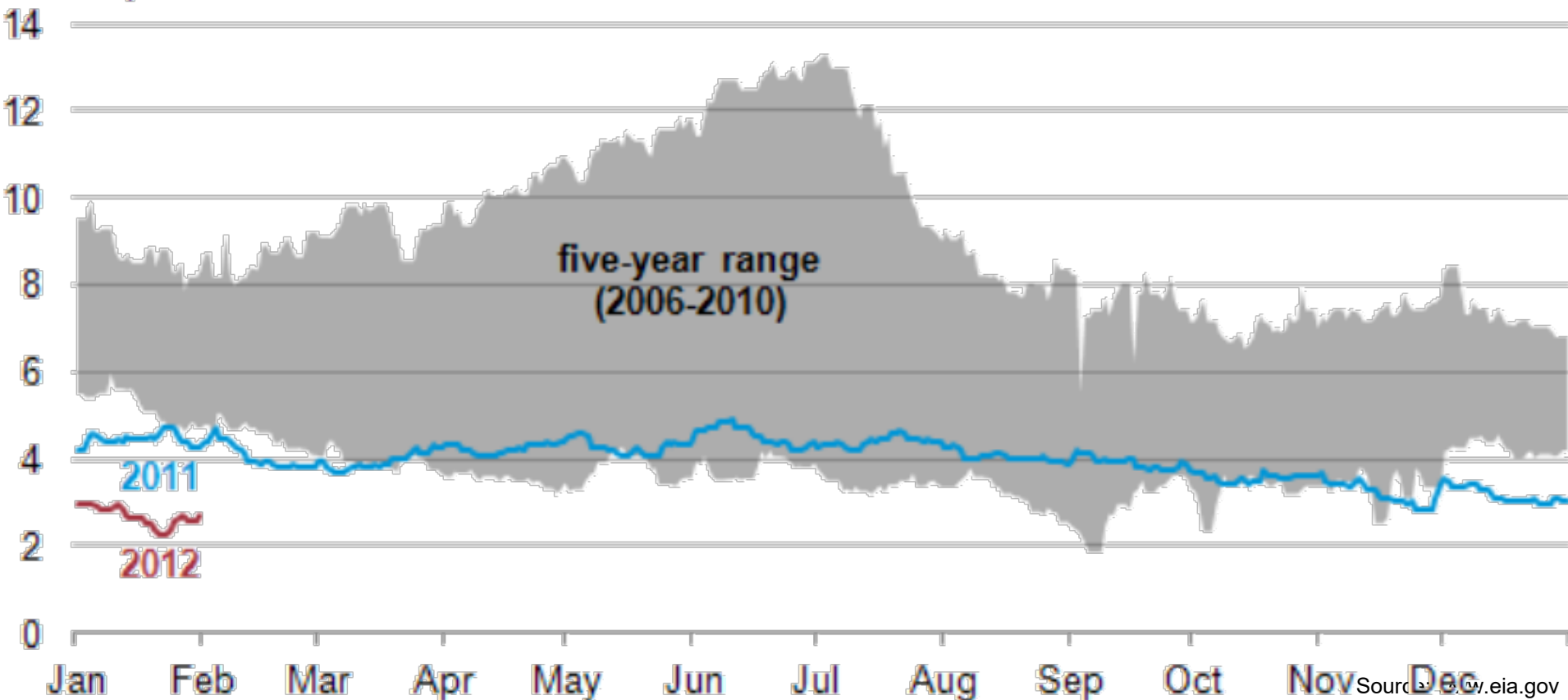
Data values: [Primary Energy Consumption by Source](#) and [Estimated primary energy consumption in the United States, select](#)



2006-2010 Natural Gas Prices Peaked 5 Year Range....Future \$/mmB Not Certain Balanced Generation Portfolio is Preferred



Spot Henry Hub natural gas price
dollars per million British thermal units

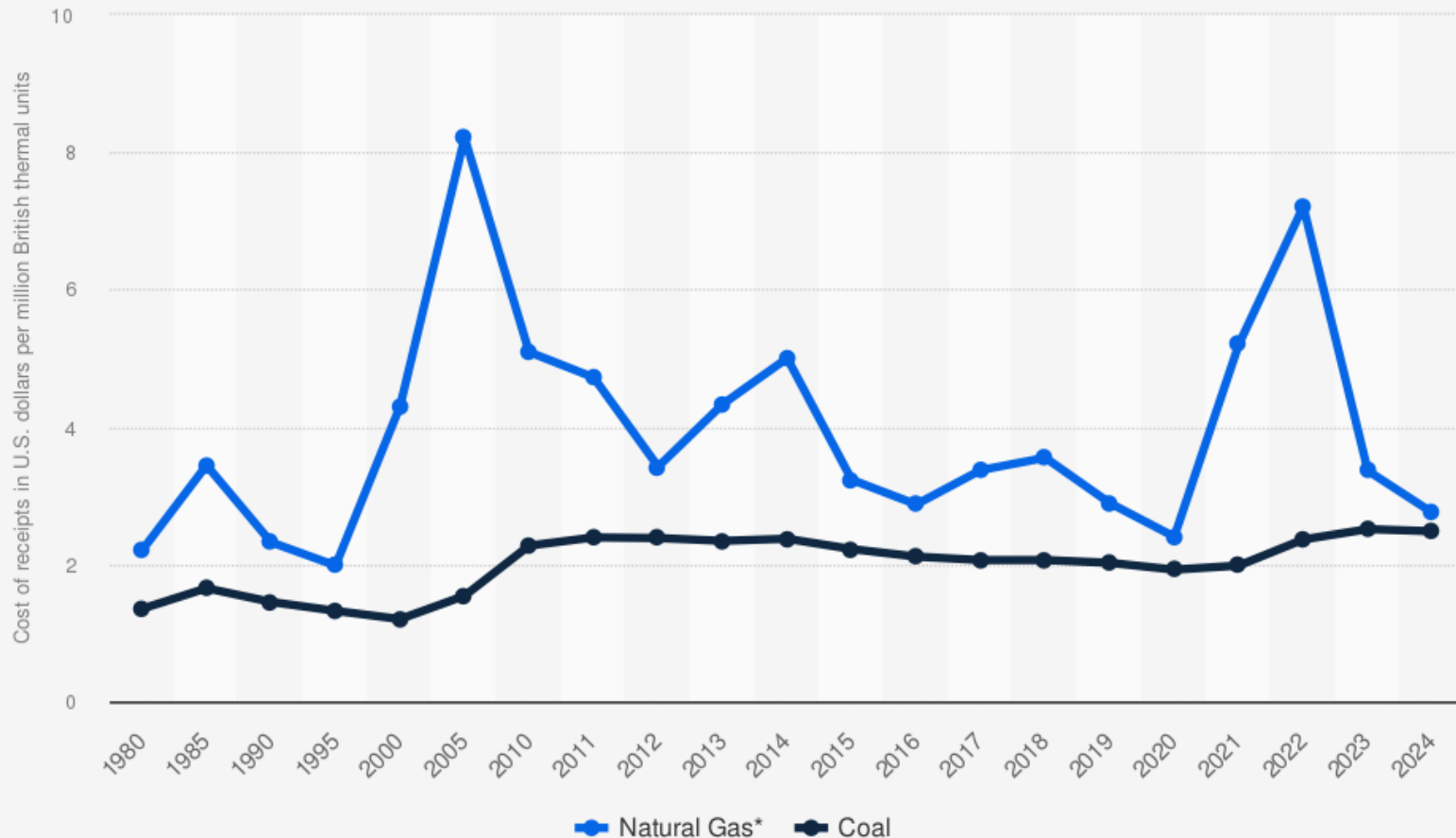


Source: www.eia.gov

Comparison of Coal & Natural Gas Prices 1980-2024



**Cost of coal and natural gas for electricity generation in the United States
from 1980 to 2024 (in U.S. dollars per million British thermal units)**



Natural Gas Plants \cong 45% of U.S. Electricity



IRP Generation: Two Neighboring Utilities



Assessment of Resource Need

Figure 9. Projected Supply v. Demand Balance (Base Case)

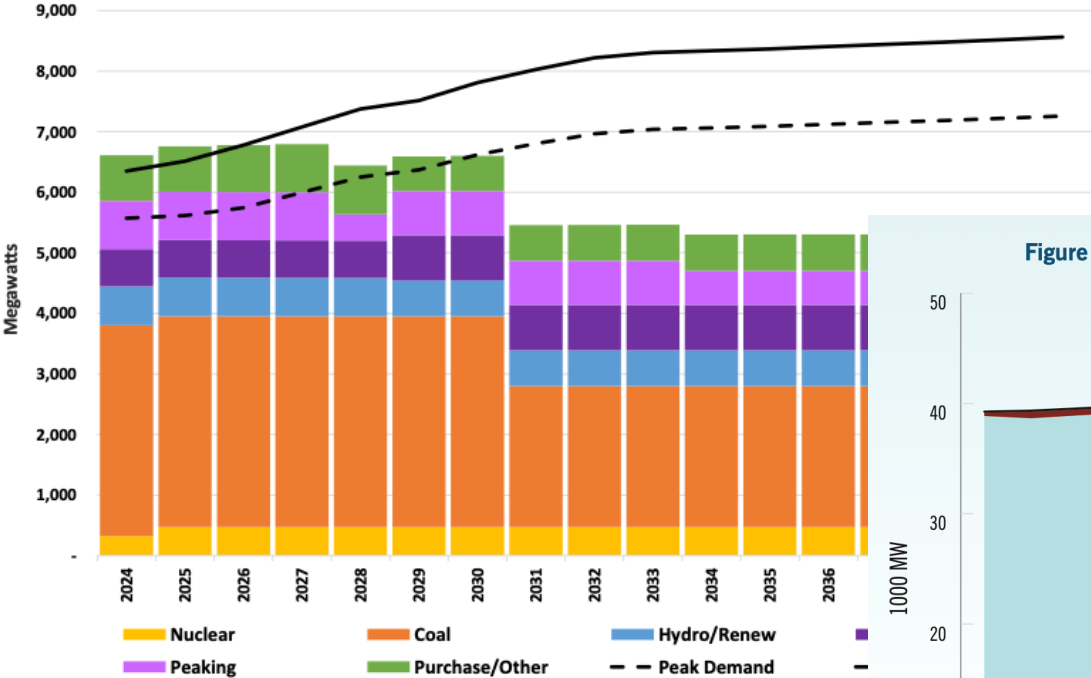
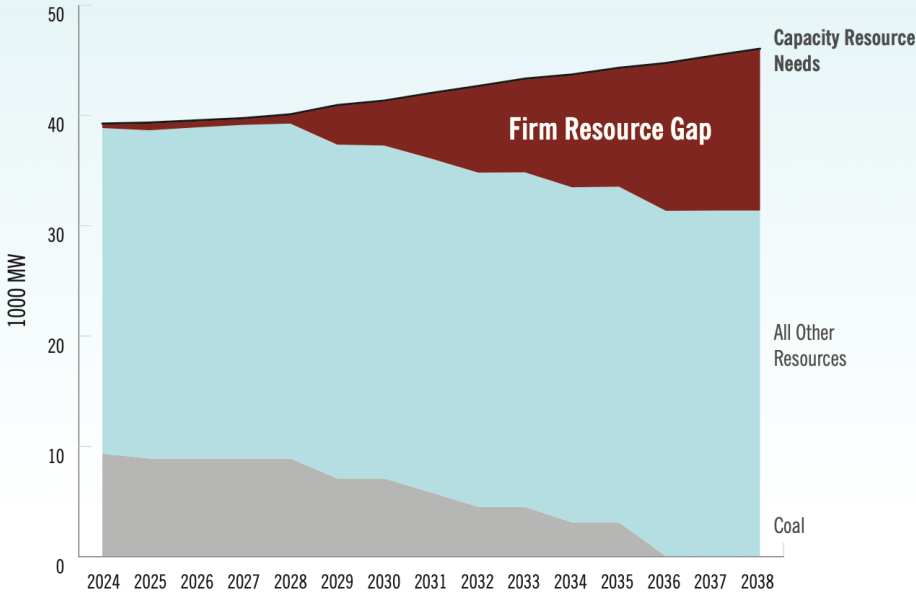


Figure 3: DEC and DEP Joint Winter Capacity Resource Needs



The Enormity of 100+ Quadrillion Primary Energy Btus...



- 100 Quadrillion 100,000,000,000,000,000. (15 zeroes after 100)
- 94.3% of this Primary Energy is Provided by Conventional Fuels of Natural Gas, Gasoline, Diesel, Jet Fuel, Nuclear, Coal & Old Hydroelectric Plants
- 79% of the Primary Energy we need and use is provided by the Fossil Fuels Gasoline, Diesel, Jet Fuel & Coal
- Each day Americans consume about 370 million gallons of gasoline for transportation not including Diesel and Jet Fuel
- In 2022 Americans consumed 135 Billion gallons of gasoline
- Now....Imagine what 135 Billion 1 gallon gasoline cans lined up would look like
- If 135 Billion 1 gallon gasoline cans were lined up, end to end, They would be about 21,212,121 miles long. Long enough to circle the earth 848 times or travel to the moon 88 times

 ***PRIMARY Energy Use expected in 2050: \cong 130 Quads***

The length of the coal car, coupling to coupling is about 55 feet. The heat content of 100 tons of western Powder River Basin coal at 9,000 BTU's per pound is about 1,800 million Btus per coal car. Dividing 1,800 million Btus into 10 Quadrillion results in a train of coal cars about 52,083 miles long. Long enough to circle the earth two times. That is just the coal used in the U.S.A. in 2022



10 Quadrillion Btus of coal for electricity generation in the U.S. the coal would fill a train that would circle the earth two times. Just as a matter of reference, the amount of coal used in China is more than ten times the coal consumed in the U.S.A.

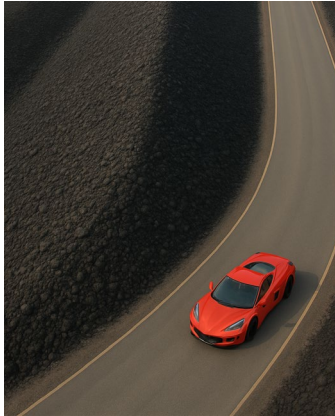




**10 Quadrillion
BTU**

**A Coal Train
52,400 miles long
wrapping around
the earth two
times is
equivalent to 10
Quadrillion BTUs**

So, How Large is one Quadrillion BTU of Coal?



1 Quadrillion BTUs of Coal

**Coal pile 3.3 miles long, 1 mile wide and 10 feet deep.
Imagine a race- track around the coal storage pile.**

A Corvette travelling 60 Mph. It would take about 9 minutes for the car to make a lap around a pile of one Quadrillion BTUs of coal





1 Quadrillion BTUs of Coal

Coal pile 3.3 miles long, 1 mile wide and 10 feet deep.

Imagine a race-track around the coal storage pile.

A Corvette travelling 60 Mph. It would take about 9 minutes for the car to make a lap around one Quadrillion BTUs of coal

Visualize 33 Quadrillion BTUs of Natural Gas, Imagine LNG Tankers such as the one shown below. That would be a line of 6,000 ships, each 950 feet long, placed in a line, stem to stern touching, they would reach over 1,070 miles. A continuous line of ships from just south of Philadelphia in the Delaware Bay would reach to Miami. This would represent the quantity of natural gas, stored in super dense liquid form used in one year. This line of ships would be equivalent to the natural gas burned in the U.S. in 2022.



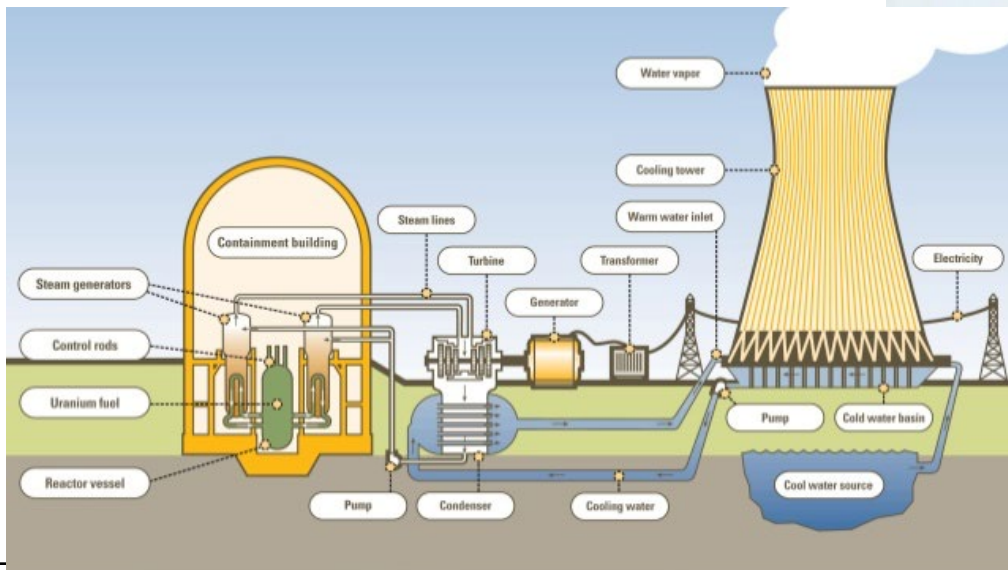


33 Quadrillion BTUs of Natural Gas, if in LNG form would fill 6000 ships, each 905 feet long, touching stem to stern from the Delaware Bay to Miami, about 1,070 miles





South Carolina's Electric Power Generation



Balanced Generation Portfolio is Best



Duke Energy Robinson Nuclear Plant Capacity- 759 MW



How About New Nuclear Plants



800,000 MW by 2050- What will it take?

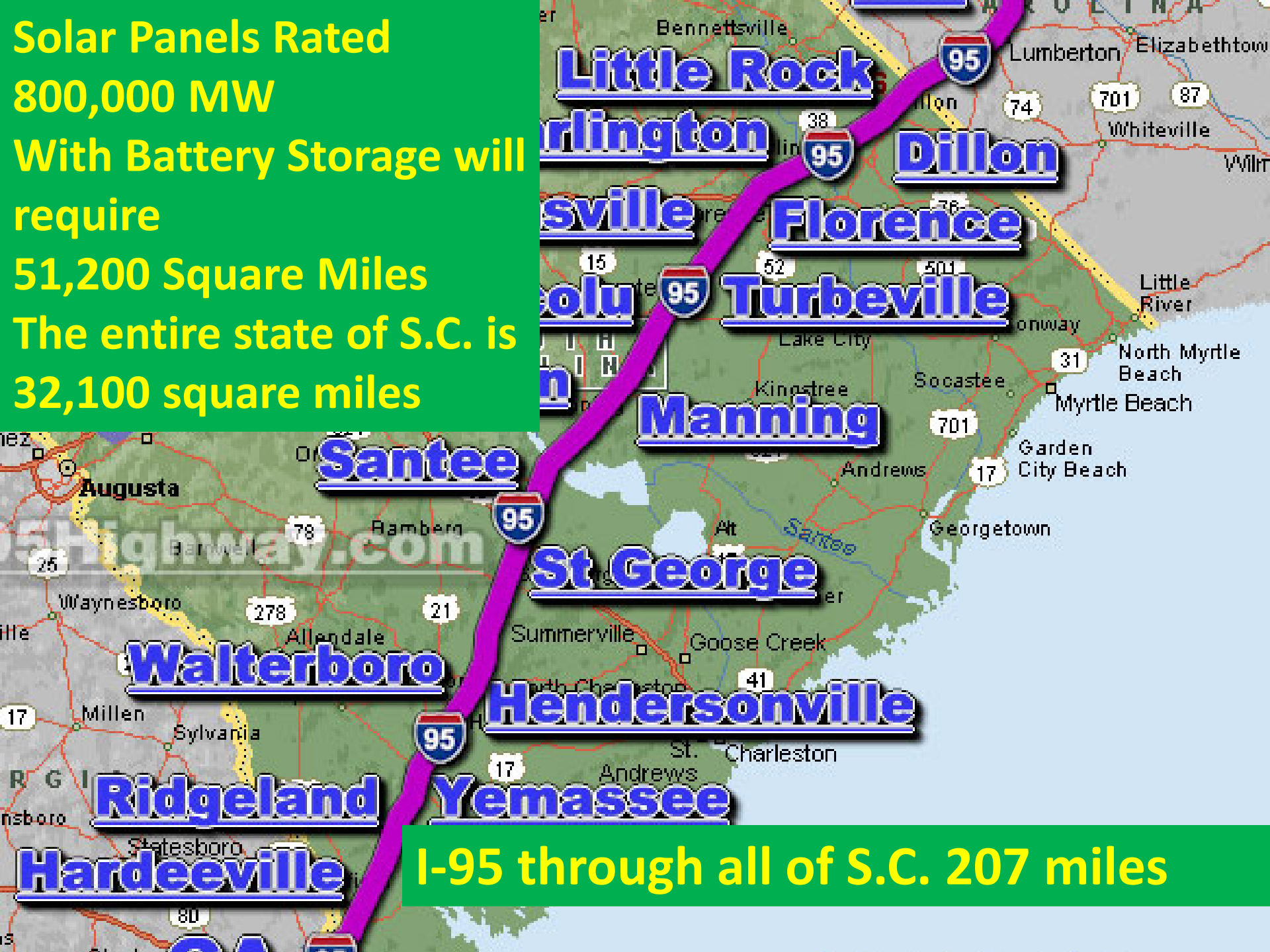
- **New Nuclear like Vogtle 3&4 building 14/year** **360 new plants**
- **New 100 MW SMR's building 320/year** **8,000 new plants**

Note: Existing nuclear fleet is 94 operating units, about 97,000 MW and it took 30 years to design, construct and refine maintenance practices to achieve the great performance & reliability of today

**2,500 MW of Solar Requires about
40-160 Square Miles Non-
Dispatchable, Intermittent Electricity
Generation**



**Solar Panels Rated
800,000 MW
With Battery Storage will
require
51,200 Square Miles
The entire state of S.C. is
32,100 square miles**

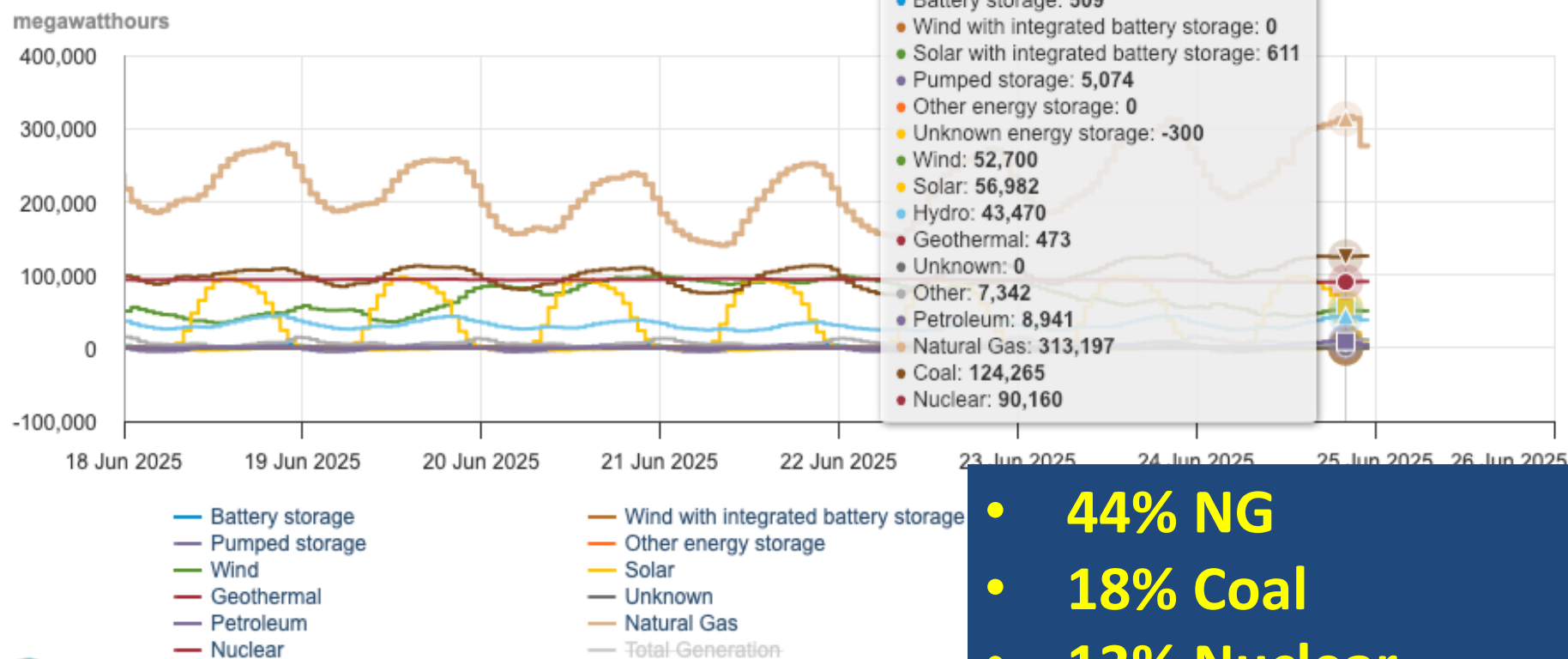


I-95 through all of S.C. 207 miles



Actual U.S. Grid Generation by Fuel June 25th, 2025 (Total Generation = 704,113 MW)

U.S. electricity generation by energy source 6/18/2025 – 6/25/2025

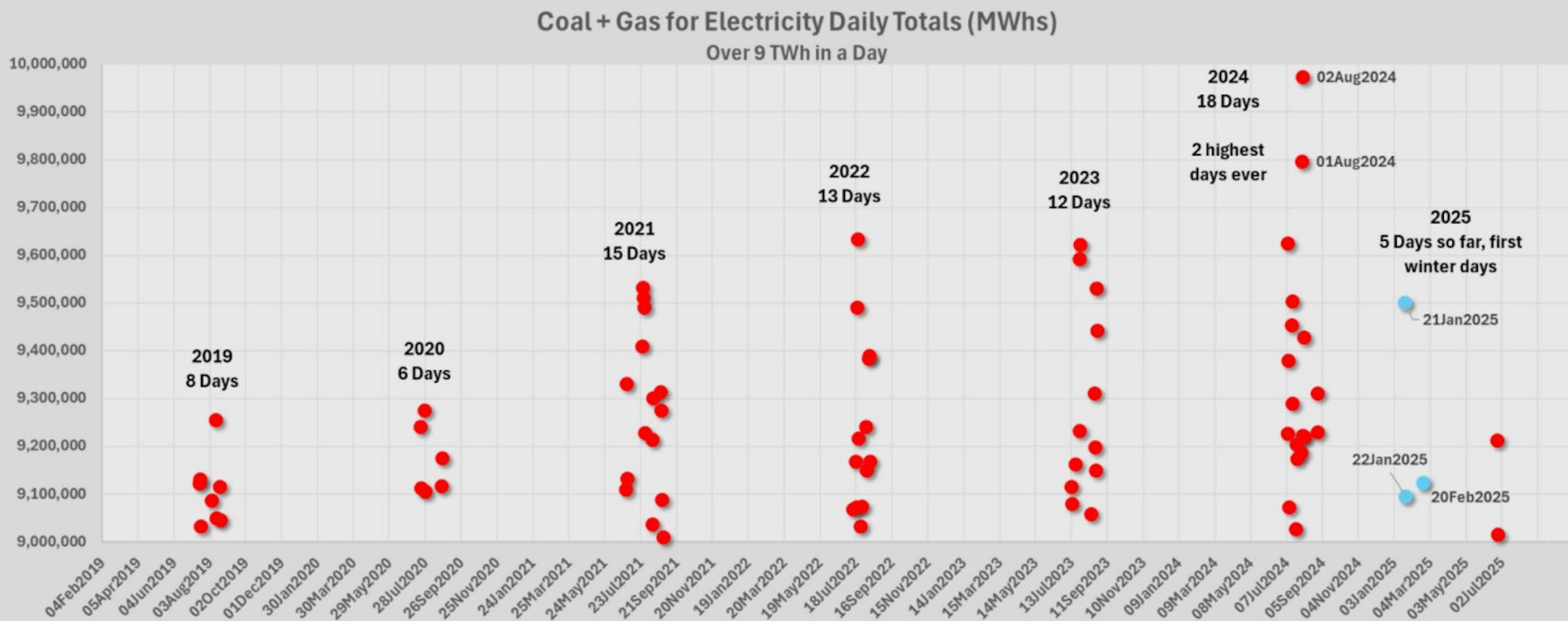


eia Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

- 44% NG
- 18% Coal
- 13% Nuclear
- 23% Renewables



Total Coal + Gas Generation Over 9 TWh in a day



Data from <https://lnkd.in/e9DcWKK> From Mike Caravaggio post on LinkedIn. Mike is VP at EPRI

Just looking at coal and gas use for electricity on a daily basis for the US Lower 48. The chart looks at days where coal+gas produced over 9 TWh (9,000,000 MWh).

The peak daily reliance on coal+gas has been going up, last year had the two highest days on records. This year was notable with the first days in the dataset (which goes back to the start of 2019) where there were winter days where coal+gas generation exceeded 9 TWh.

Roxboro Generating Station

Generating Capacity About 2462 MW

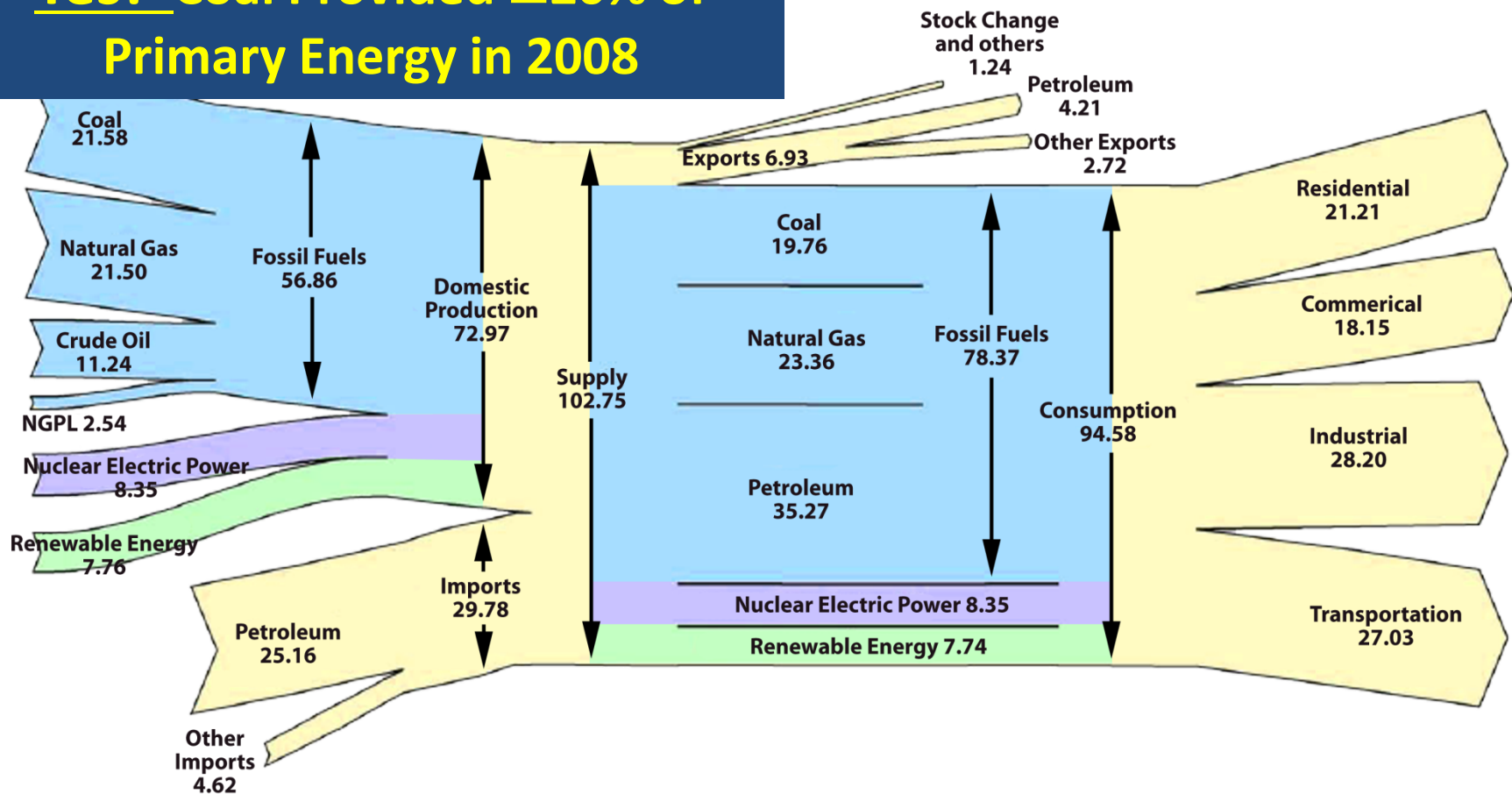


America needs the equivalent of 320 new Roxboro Generating Stations by 2050 in New Dispatchable Power



Double Coal Generation Capacity? Really? Is it Feasible?

Yes! Coal Provided $\cong 20\%$ of
Primary Energy in 2008



10 Reasons why the use of coal should increase in the U.S.A.



- 1. Proven to be Reliable Electricity generation fuel**
- 2. Proven to be a reasonable and stable cost fuel for power generation**
- 3. On site storage for security and 24/7 reliability**
- 4. Energy independence. America is the Saudi Arabia of coal**
- 5. Clean coal plants can be built with reasonable Regulations in about four years**
- 6. Coal is the only fuel source that can provide the enormous primary energy needed to meet the peak electricity generation forecasted for the next decade**
- 7. Until about 200,000 MW of new nuclear electricity generation capacity is built, coal is the most viable source to provide this surge in needed new electricity generation. New nuclear plants will take decades to be built in sufficient capacity**
- 8. Keeping America competitive with China and the rest of the world requires reliable, affordable electricity. Coal is the most available and proven fuel source to generate the power to reshore American Manufacturing**
- 9. Reliable power in the winter is most reliably provided by coal and/or nuclear**
- 10. There is already too much dependence on natural gas fuel and increasing generation capacity in the near term is difficult due to supply-chain limitations**

Dick Storm's "Perfect World Scenario" of a Balanced Generation Portfolio



- 30% Coal Fuel
 - 30% Nuclear Fuel
 - 30% Natural Gas Fuel
 - 5% Hydroelectric
 - 5% Wind and Solar
-
- The Total Generation Capacity to be a minimum of > 115% of Peak Demand

Reliable Electricity
The Life-Blood of America





Conclusions and Summary

- **New Coal Plants Should be Built, at least 125,000 MW**
- **Coal Primary Energy Supply should be about 20 Quadrillion BTUs and increase to about 1,000,000 tpy as in 2008**
- **Gas Fueled Power Plants are Maxed Out, Supply-Chain limits new gas turbines to be built by 2030**
- **Nuclear Plants should be built. However, likely to take at least ten years to build 125,000 MW of new nuclear**
- **Peak Electricity Growth in 2030-2035 is not likely to be provided by new nuclear, gas or renewables. Coal is the default source of primary energy**
- **A Balanced Generation Portfolio provides Security both against threats, weather or gas supply price surges**

Coal Powers China's Economy

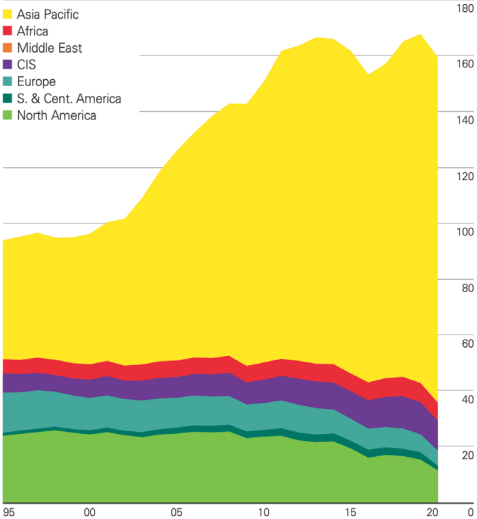


The Global Economy in 2050

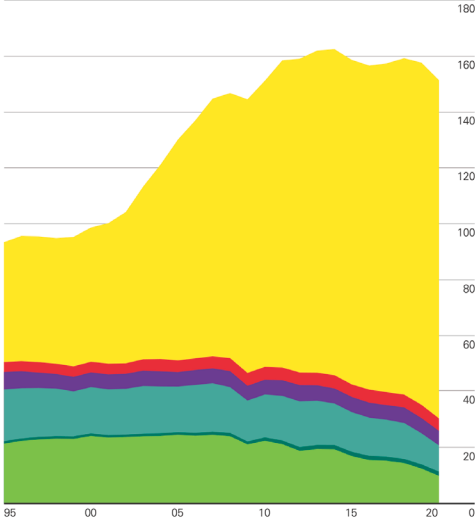
Here's how global GDP will be distributed in 2050, according to projections from Goldman Sachs.



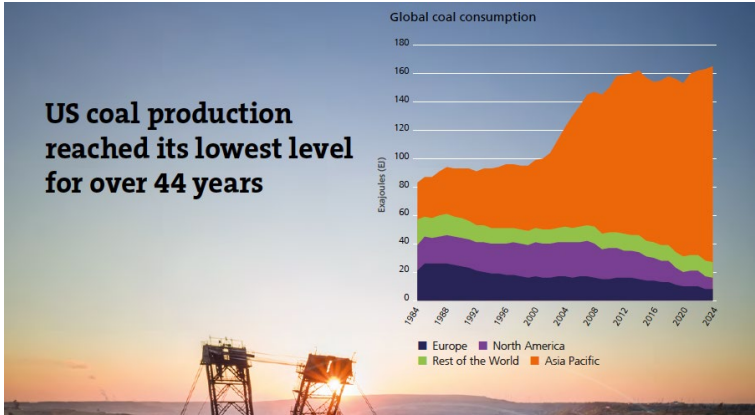
Coal: Production by region
Exajoules



Coal: Consumption by region
Exajoules



World coal consumption fell by 4.2%, its fourth decline in six years. In the non-OECD, the only notable increases in consumption were in China (0.3%) and Malaysia (18.7%), while significant consumption declines were recorded for India (-6.0%) and Indonesia (-4.9%). OECD demand fell sharply, led by the US (-19.1%) and South Korea





Thank You!

Questions?

Richard F. (Dick) Storm, PE

richard.storm@stormeng.com

<https://dickstormprobizblog.org>

Storm Technologies, Inc. website

[https:// Stormeng.com](https://Stormeng.com)

Real GDP in 2050 (USD trillions)

Region	Real GDP in 2050 (USD trillions)
Asia (ex DM)	\$90.6T
Developed Markets (DM)	\$82.9T
Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East, & Africa	\$38.3T
Latin America	\$16.0T
World Total	\$227.9T

Developed Markets

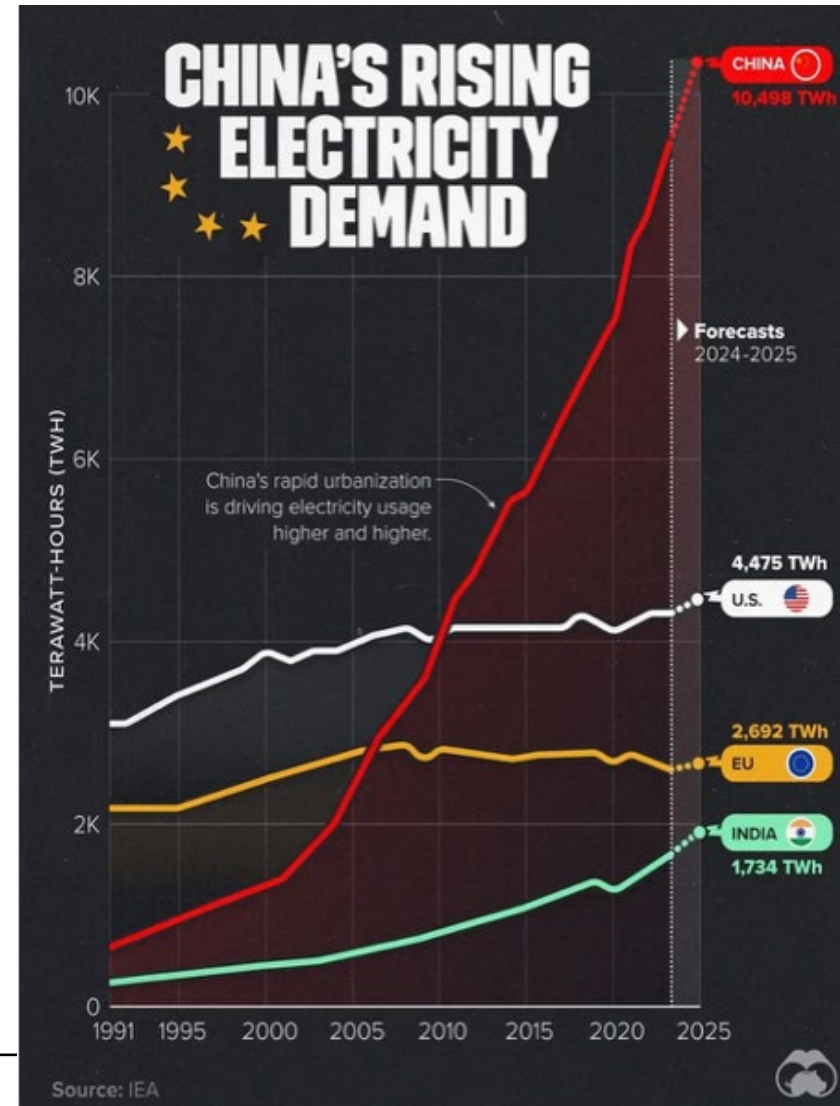
Developed markets will no longer represent the largest share of real GDP by 2050, being surpassed sometime in the mid 2040s.

Asia (ex DM)

China's real GDP growth will taper off significantly by 2050, but countries like India, Bangladesh, and the Philippines will remain above 3% annually.

Region	Country/Category	Real GDP in 2050 (USD trillions)	
Developed Markets (DM)	United States	\$37.2T	
	Japan	\$6.0T	
	Germany	\$6.2T	
	France	\$4.6T	
	United Kingdom	\$5.2T	
	Australia	\$2.8T	
	Canada	\$3.4T	
	Italy	\$3.1T	
	Other	\$14.4T	
	Latin America	Mexico	\$4.2T
		Chile	\$0.7T
		Argentina	\$1.4T
		Colombia	\$1.4T
		Brazil	\$4.9T
Peru		\$1.0T	
Other		\$2.1T	
Ecuador		\$0.3T	
Central & Eastern Europe, Middle East, & Africa		Poland	\$1.9T
		South Africa	\$1.4T
	Kazakhstan	\$0.9T	
	Turkey	\$3.1T	
	Russia	\$4.5T	
	Ghana	\$0.3T	
	Nigeria	\$3.4T	
	Saudi Arabia	\$3.5T	
	Ethiopia	\$1.6T	
	Egypt	\$3.5T	
	Pakistan	\$3.3T	
	Other	\$10.7T	
Asia (ex DM)	China	\$41.9T	
	India	\$22.2T	
	Indonesia	\$6.3T	
	Philippines	\$2.5T	
	Other	\$8.3T	
	Bangladesh	\$2.8T	
	South Korea	\$3.1T	

Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research



Examples of the Self-Inflicted Electricity Crisis



Duke Energy completes final implosion of Sutton Steam Plant - Nov. 9, 2016

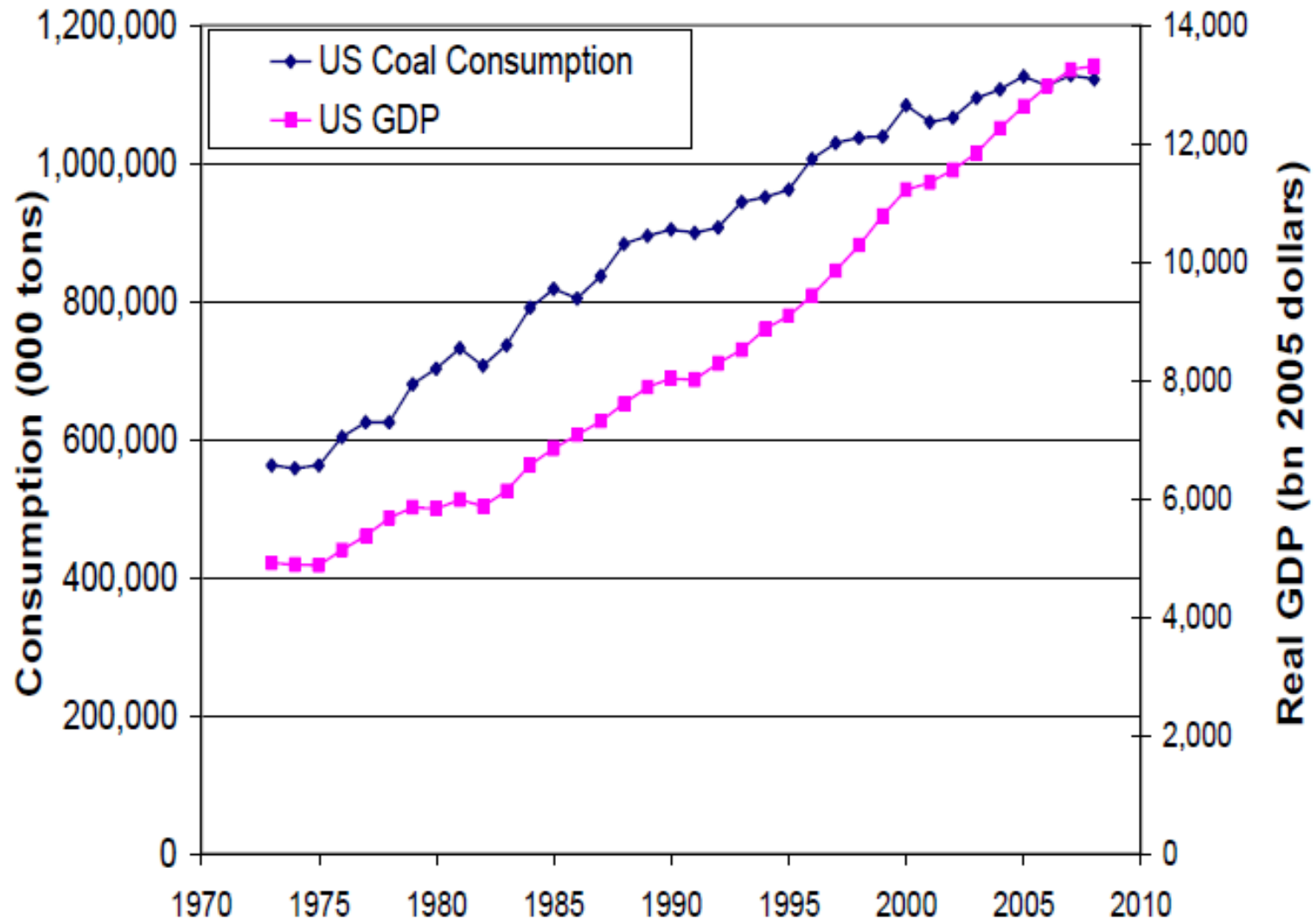
Sutton #3 Capacity - 420 MW

Duke Coal Plants Demolished:

- Sutton
- Lee
- Cape Fear
- Buck
- Dan River



Economic Growth & Coal Production Tracked each other 1970-2010

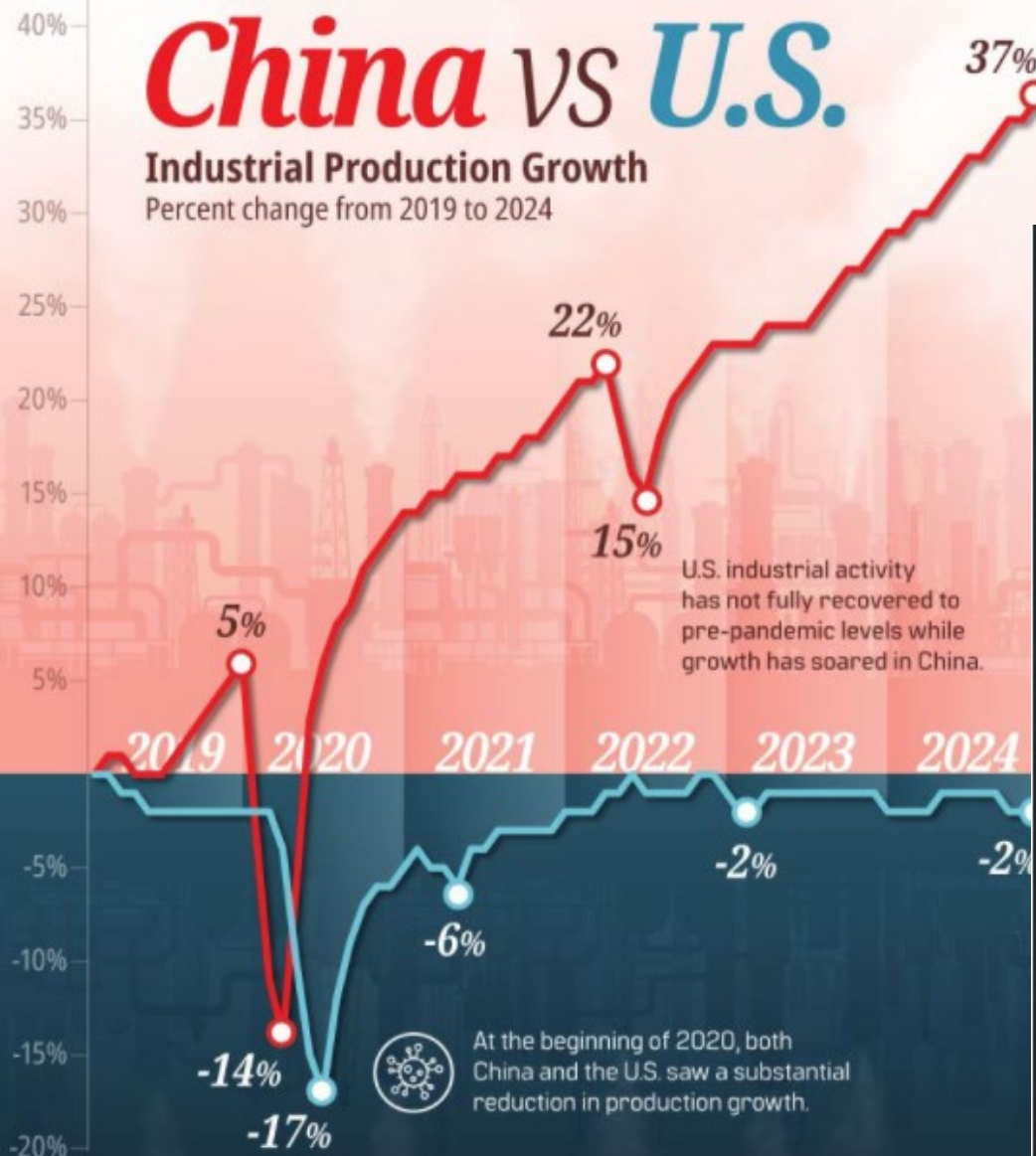




China vs U.S.

Industrial Production Growth

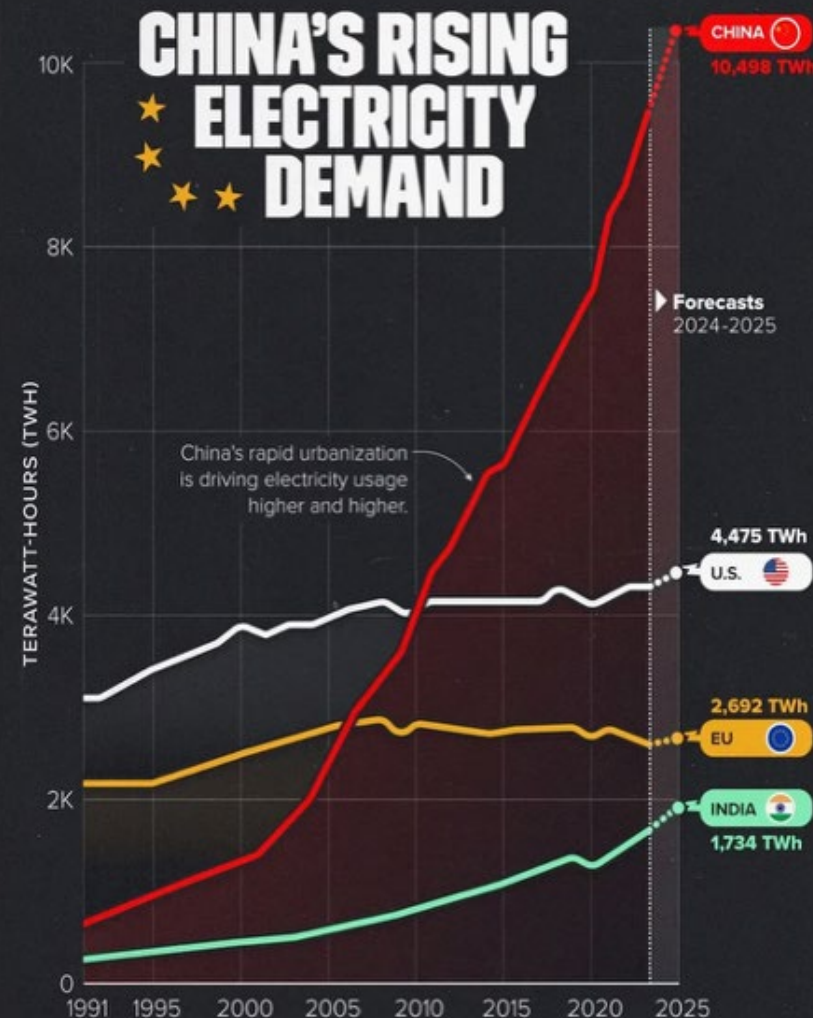
Percent change from 2019 to 2024



Source IMF April 2025 World Economic Outlook

 **VISUAL CAPITALIST**

CHINA'S RISING ELECTRICITY DEMAND

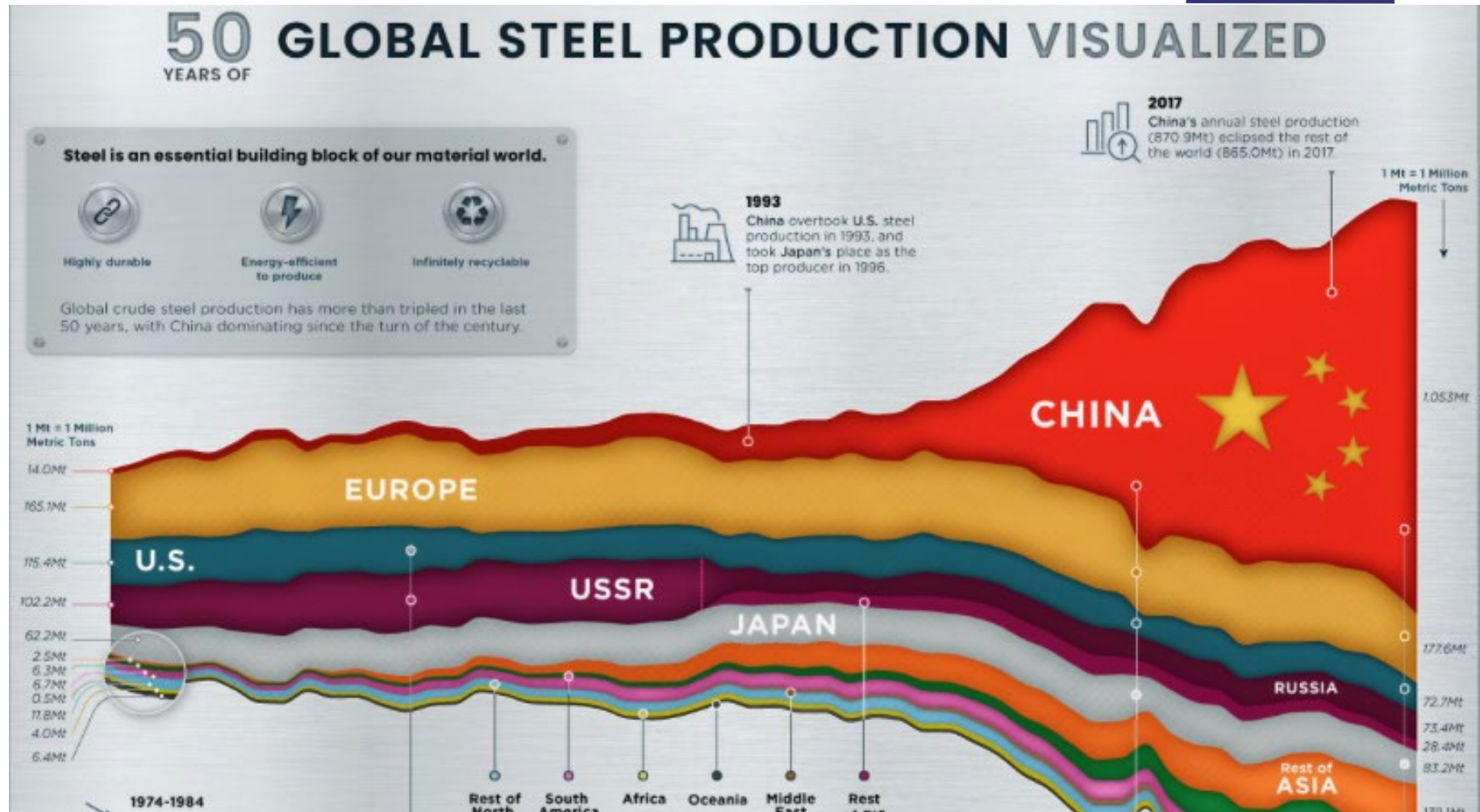


Source: IEA





So Did China's Economic Growth Track Coal Use

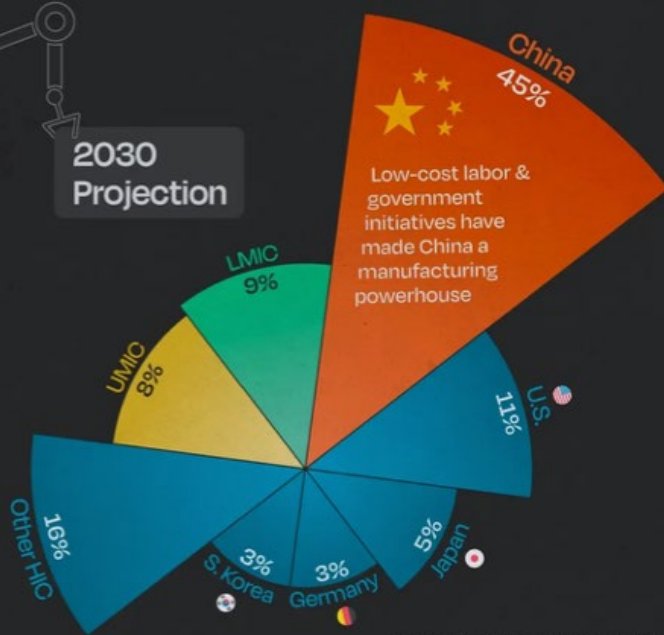
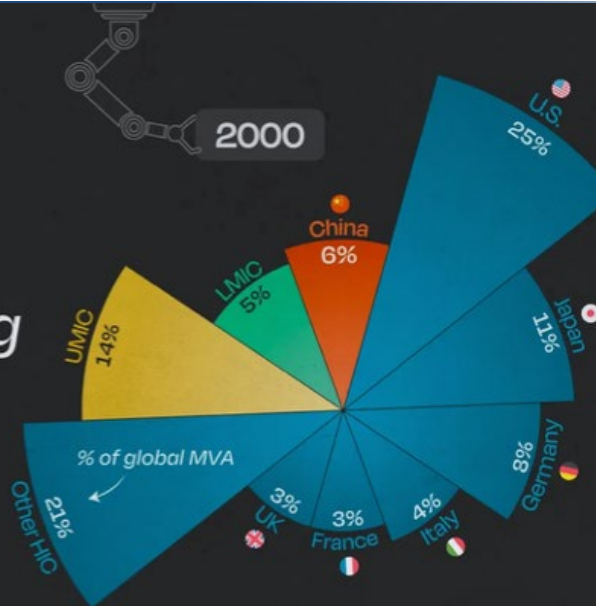


China's Takeover of Global Manufacturing

China will account for nearly half of global manufacturing value added (MVA) in 2030, up from 6% in 2000.

Country Groupings

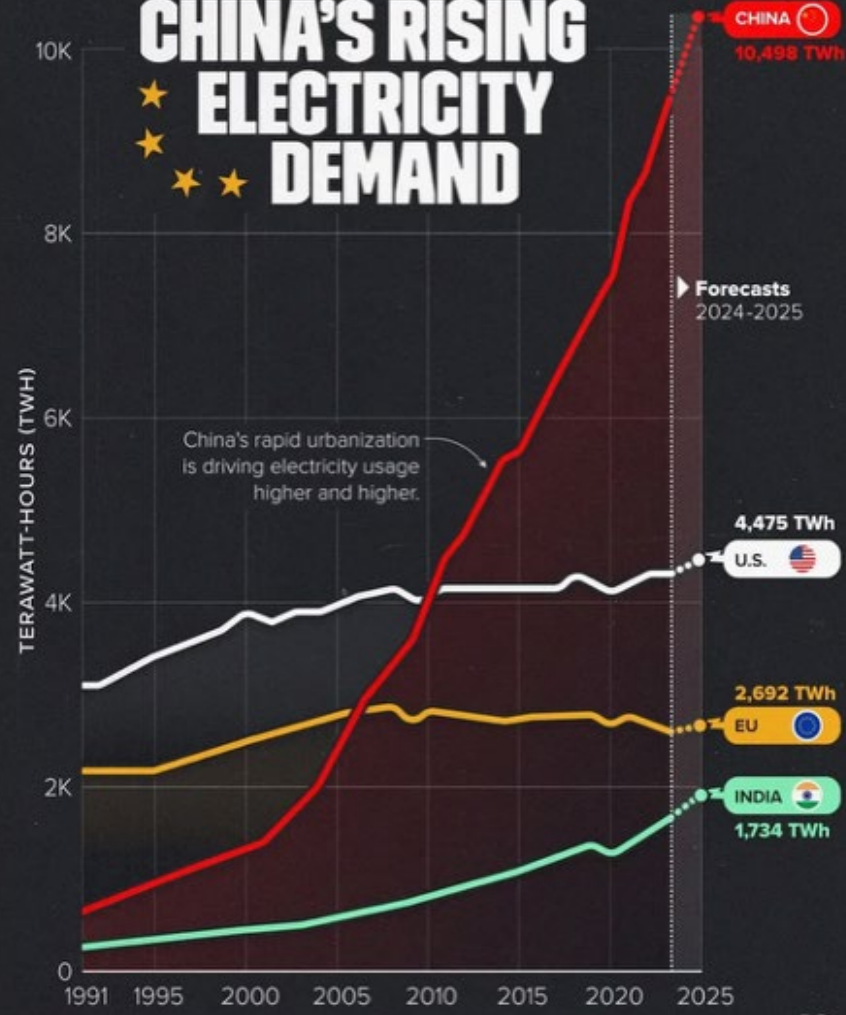
- China
- High income (HIC)
- Upper middle income (UMIC)*
- Low & Lower middle income (LMIC)



*Excludes China. Source: UN Industrial Development Organization (2024)



CHINA'S RISING ELECTRICITY DEMAND





References

1. Two Duke Plants have Best Heat-Rate in nation, 1998 Duke Power's Belews Creek Steam Station (Stokes County, NC) and Marshall Steam Station (Catawba, NC) are ranked top in efficiency in the United States according to a report from Electric Light & Power (EL&P), a utility industry magazine. The two coal-fired stations received the efficiency honors because they boasted winning heat rates of 8,962 Btu per kilowatt-hour and 9,009 Btu per kilowatt-hour <https://www.poweronline.com/doc/two-duke-power-coal-fired-stations-are-recogn-0001>
2. Power Magazine 2011, Coal Plant Trends including new plant costs at the time: <https://www.powermag.com/coal-fired-generation-cost-and-performance-trends/>
3. Power Engineering 2012 Top Coal Plant Performance: <https://www.power-eng.com/coal/2012-operating-performance/>
4. Duke Cliffside #6 Top Coal Plant 2013, Power Magazine, The contractual acceptance test demonstrated that Unit 6 achieved a heat rate of 8,890 Btu/kWh net, among the best in the country, while meeting the very stringent air permit emission limits. The excellent heat rate is attributed to low auxiliary loads and the extremely efficient supercritical boiler and supercritical steam turbine generator.: <https://www.powermag.com/cliffside-steam-station-unit-6-cliffside-north-carolina/>
5. America's Best Coal Plants 2014, Power Engineering: <https://www.power-eng.com/environmental-emissions/america-s-best-coal-plants/>

References-pg-2



6. Power Magazine 2009 on the harmful politics of planning new generation, 150 new coal plants were planned in 2007, only 10 built: <https://www.powermag.com/2009-industry-forecast-new-power-politics-will-determine-generations-path/>
7. List of Retired Coal Plants Wikipedia as of 2022: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_decommissioned_coal-fired_power_stations_in_the_United_States
8. Global Energy Monitor list of 151 coal plants planned in 2007: https://www.gem.wiki/Coal_plants_cancelled_in_2007
9. Global Energy Monitor- Coal Plants Dashboard: <https://globalenergymonitor.org/projects/global-coal-plant-tracker/dashboard/>
10. KPMG Report on Renewable Outlook 2025: <https://kpmg.com/kpmg-us/content/dam/kpmg/pdf/2024/us-renewable-energy-outlook-2025.pdf>
11. City of Lakeland McIntosh Plant Demolition: <https://www.powermag.com/watch-implosion-topple-florida-coal-fired-plant/>
12. EIA Real Time Grid generation data: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/gridmonitor/dashboard/electric_overview/US48/US48
13. IEA 2025 Energy Report: <https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/6ff289bd-5399-4625-9003-5218c2b9deab/Thestateofenergyinnovation.pdf>
14. IRENA 2025 Report on Renewable Generation: https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2025/Mar/IRENA_DAT_RE_Capacity_Highlights_2025.pdf
15. EIA List of Electricity costs for each state, June 2025: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a



Refernces-pg -3

16. Forbes on the future of low cost natural gas power generation:
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2025/07/06/natural-gas-harms-us-economy-and-wont-solve-rising-electricity-demand/>
17. EIA July 2, 2025 report on power generation summer 2025: <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/>
18. The World's Largest Gas Producer, Rigzone, July 2025:
https://www.rigzone.com/news/who_is_the_worlds_top_natural_gas_producer-7-jul-2025-181060-article/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily&utm_content=articleone
19. Real Clear Science, Vaclav Smil Interview:
https://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2025/07/05/an_interview_with_vaclav_smil_on_small_nuclear_reactors_a_fertility_crisis_and_more_1120332.html
20. Fred Palmer and Frank Clemente "Coal Zoom" Blog, July 2025: <https://www.coalzoom.com/article.cfm?articleid=40155>
21. Department of Energy Warning of Blackouts in future, July 5, 2025: <https://www.energy.gov/articles/departement-energy-releases-report-evaluating-us-grid-reliability-and-security>
22. Energy Bad Boys excellent analysis of solar plus battery storage costs and performance:
https://energybadboys.substack.com/p/the-baseload-solar-beatdown?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&triedRedirect=true
23. EIA report on 94 operating nuclear plants in U.S. : <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=207&t=21>
24. World Nuclear Assoc. Report on U.S. Nuclear Power Plants totaling about 97,000 MW: <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-t-z/usa-nuclear-power>