

Hydrogen's Role in Decarbonizing Power Generation

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Colors of Hydrogen

GREEN

Cost: most expensive

Prevalence: low but emerging



Derived from the electrolysis of water, using a renewable power source, with zero carbon emissions in production and combustion

GREY

Cost: low cost

Prevalence: dominant source, most widely used



Derived from methane (or natural gas) using a process known as steam methane reforming, but with material carbon emissions in production

BROWN

Cost: low (or lowest) cost

Prevalence: lower than grey



Derived from coal using a regasification process, but with material carbon emissions in production

BLUE

Cost: more costly than grey or brown, but less than green

Prevalence: low but emerging

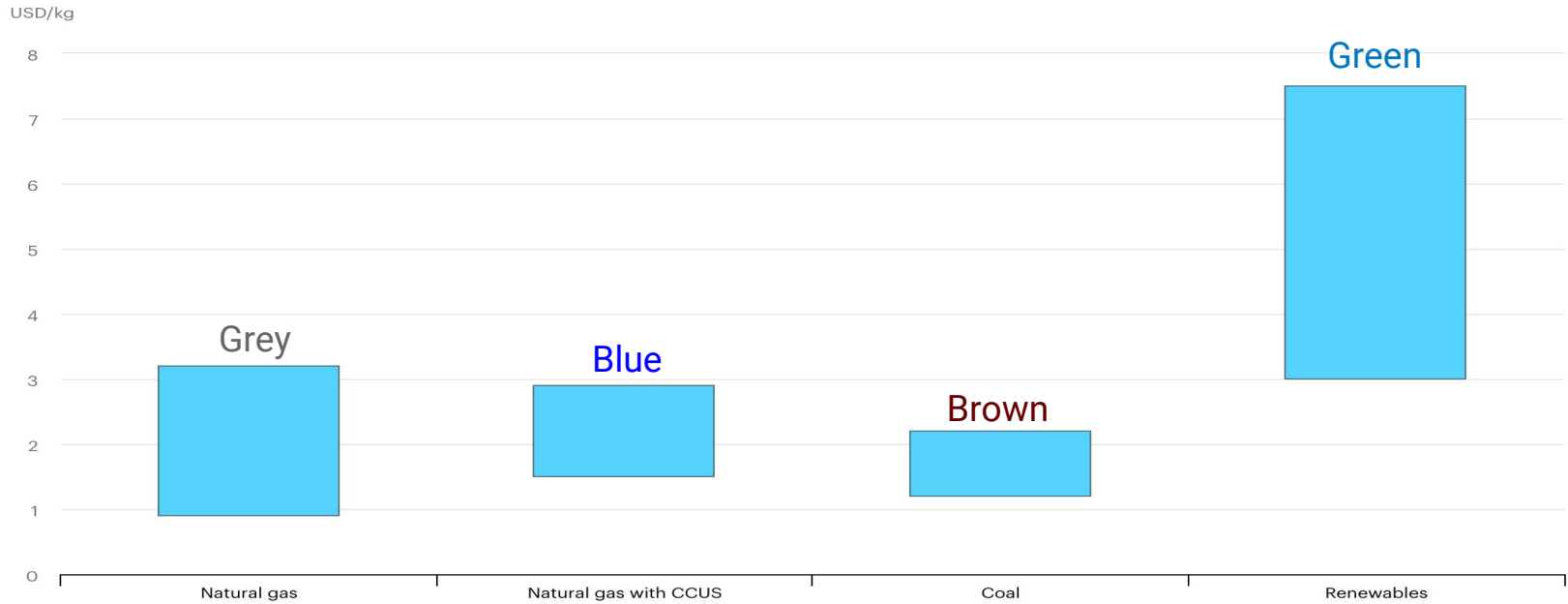


Derived from brown or grey sourced hydrogen, but carbon emissions are captured and sequestered or otherwise fully off-set (CCS)

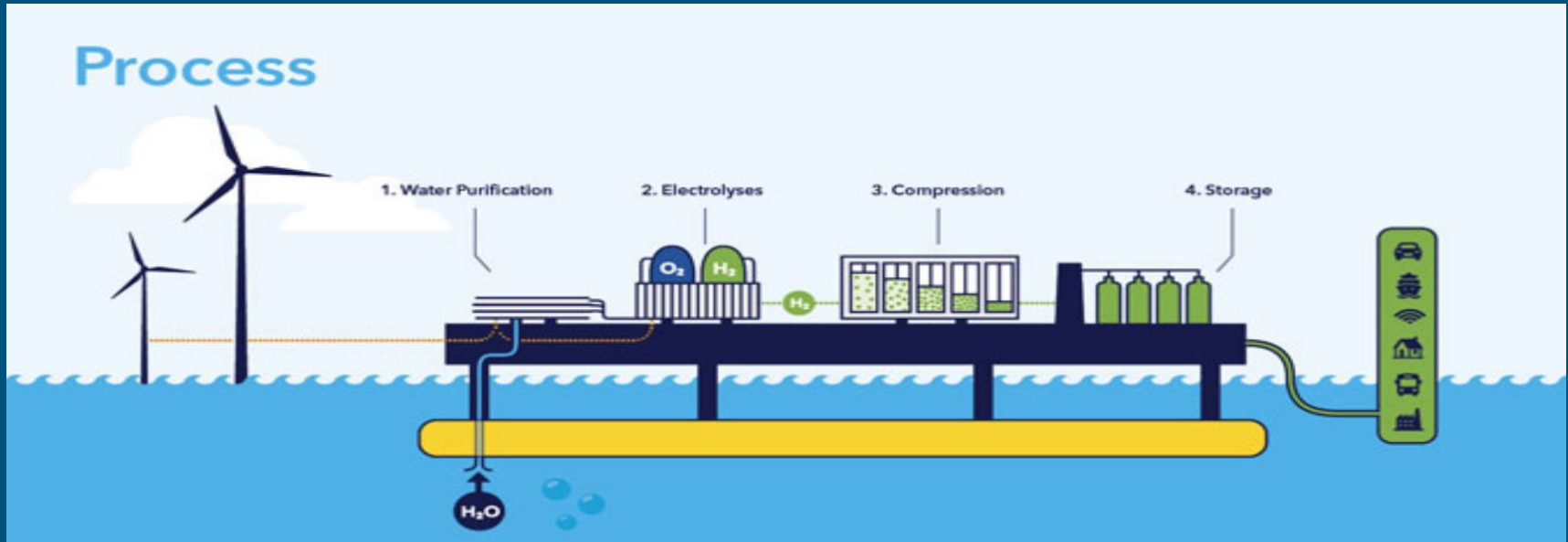
This presentation will focus on Green Hydrogen.

Cost of Hydrogen Production By Color

Hydrogen production costs by production source, 2018



Green Hydrogen Example Process



Wind Generation → Water Purification → Electrolysis → Hydrogen Compression → Storage & Transport

Any
Renewable
Generation

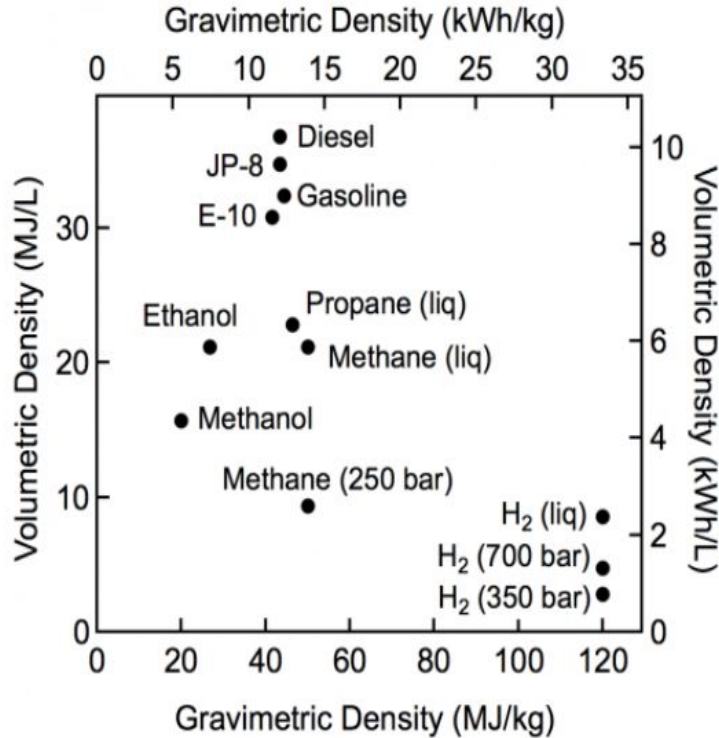
Desalination
(If necessary)

Separating
 H_2O into
Hydrogen &
Oxygen

Compression
for more
efficient storage

Transport for
consumption

Hydrogen Density



1. **Hydrogen weighs very little**
 - a. High energy/weight density (Gravimetric)
2. **Hydrogen takes up a comparatively large amount of space**
 - a. Low energy/volume density (Volumetric)
3. **Both have implications on the storage and transportation of Hydrogen**
 - a. Costs, Space, Weight

Note: "Bar" Unit Refers to Gas Tank Pressure

Green Hydrogen in the Energy Transition

Enable the renewable energy system

Decarbonize end uses

Enable **large-scale renewables integration** and **power generation**



Distribute energy across sectors and regions



Act as a **buffer** to increase system resilience



Help decarbonize **transportation**



Help decarbonize **industrial energy use**

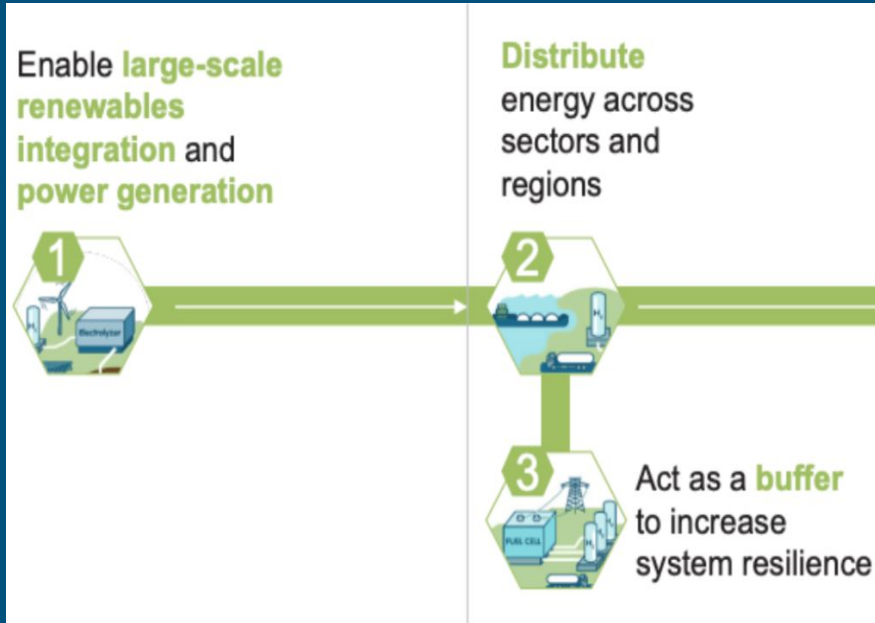


Help decarbonize **building heat and power**



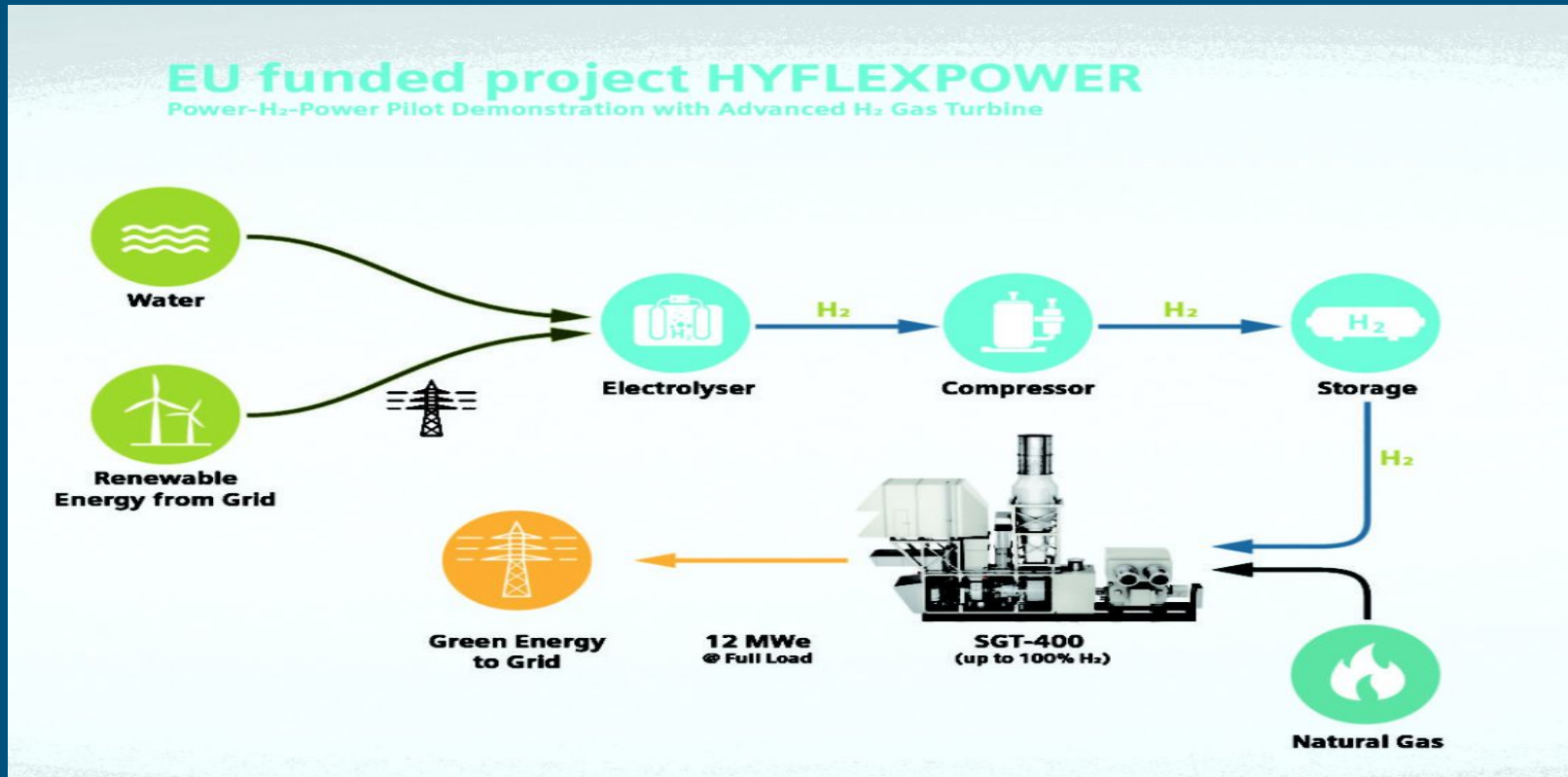
Serve as renewable **feedstock**

Enable the Renewable Energy System



1. **Currently, hydrogen blends can help to reduce emissions at natural gas plants**
 - a. non-variable green energy production
2. **Hydrogen can be transported more easily than electricity**
 - a. Transmission from high-generation to low-generation areas
3. **Using electrolysis, over-generation from solar/wind can be converted to Hydrogen to be used later**

Hydrogen in Combined Cycle Gas Turbines



EU – Siemens HYFLEXPOWER Project

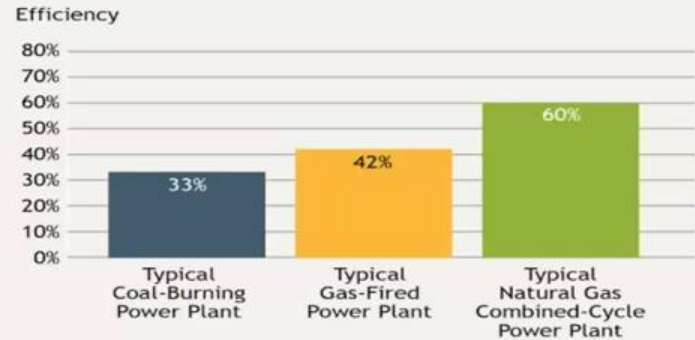
Advantages

- Reduces CO2 emissions
- Reduces energy costs up to 40%
- Higher efficiency
- Increased power reliability

Disadvantages

- Only viable when both heat and hot water is needed
- Financially intensive (compared to regular Natural Gas plant)
- Not a true “renewable” energy source

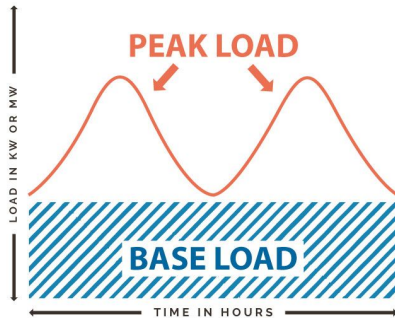
The Efficiency of Various Power Plants
Converting Heat Energy into Electrical Power



Siemens CC Gas Plant model capable of



Baseload & Peaker Generation



Base Load and Peak Load

Baseload

Nuclear power plant
Coal power plant
Hydroelectric

Peaker

CC Gas plant
Solar power plant
Wind turbines

H₂ - Natural Gas Blend Project Development Model



- Market price of \$5.50/kg H₂
- SoCal solar (\$0.025/kWh, 28.4 % CF)
- Nel M4000 PEM Electrolyser
- Salt cavern storage with pipelines
- 5% discount rate
- 3% depreciation rate
- 36% tax rate
- 8-year life of PEM stack
- 16 year project life
- \$3/mmbtu natural gas

Economics of Green Hydrogen Production

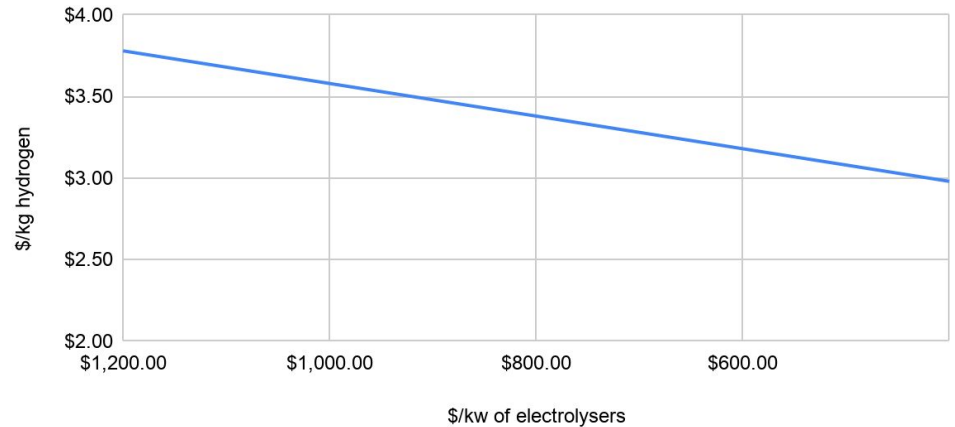
LCOH- Levelized Cost of Hydrogen

Capital costs - Total upfront cost

DOE targets \$400/kw by 2035

Midpoint estimate in 2020: \$950/kw

Relationship between capital costs and LCOH



Economics of Green Hydrogen Production

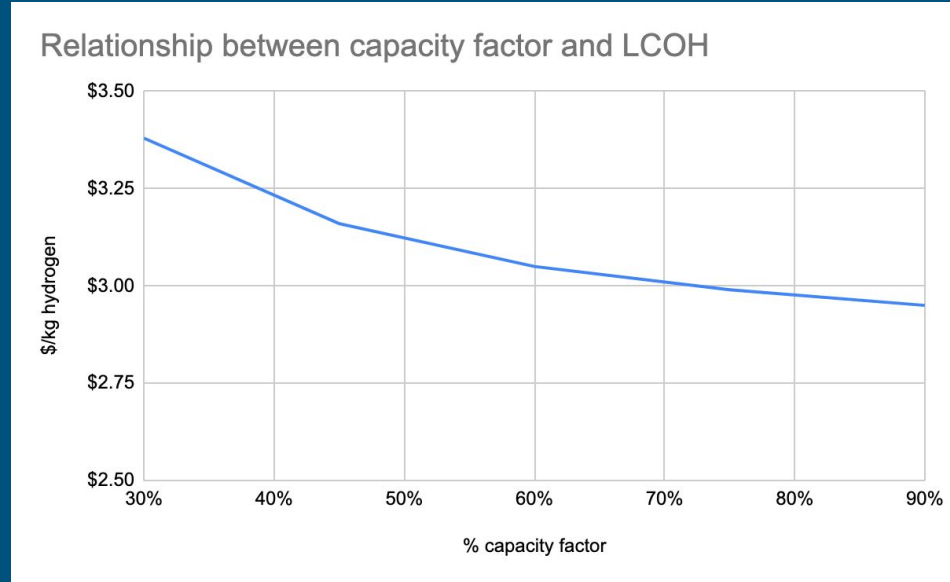
Capacity Factor - % of time in operation

%CF depends on power supply

Solar - 28.4%

Solar+Wind - ~65%

Grid + REC - 95+%



Scenario #1: Base Case

Conditions:

- 200MW solar array onsite (28.4% capacity factor) powering 220MW of electrolyzers
- No grid interconnection
- 70% natural gas, 30% hydrogen blend

Results:

- \$4.11 per kg of H₂
- \$0.0656/kWh fuel cost of power
- \$0.0331/kWh Δ fuel cost of power (relative to natural gas)

Scenario #2: Grid Interconnection

Conditions:

- 200MW solar array onsite (28.4% CF), paired with grid interconnection (85% net CF), powering 220MW of electrolyzers
- **\$4/MWh REC purchase for grid electricity**
- 70% natural gas, 30% hydrogen blend

Results:

- **\$3.19/ kg of H₂**
- **\$0.0572/kWh fuel cost of power**
- **\$0.0251/kWh Δ fuel cost of power (relative to natural gas)**

Scenario 3: Aggressive Future Case

Conditions:

- 100% renewable energy grid (95% CF) at \$0.015/ kWh powering 220 MW of electrolyzers
- Best-case manufacturing scenario for PEM electrolyzers (\$400/kW)
- \$200/ton CO₂ released
- 100% hydrogen (market price of \$3)

Results:

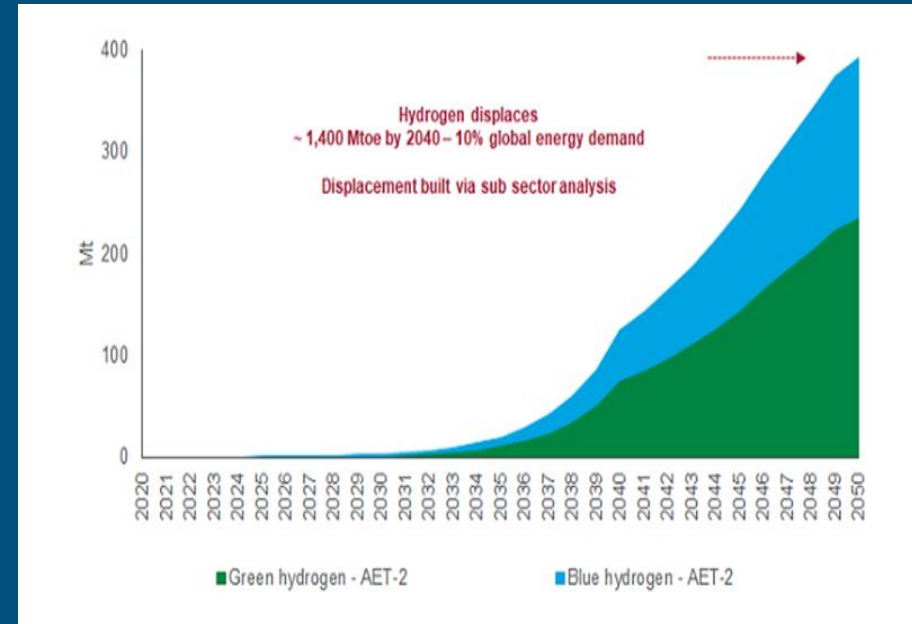
- \$2.13/ kg of H₂
- \$0.157/kWh fuel cost of power
- -\$0.0190/kWh Δ fuel cost of power (relative to 100% natural gas)

Then why do developers want to do this?

- Strict pollution restrictions inhibit permits for a CCGT due to the requirements of a rigid zero emission plan
 - Example: New York State Law
- A significant cost discrepancy exists between renewable hydrogen and fossil fuel hydrogen
 - SMR (grey) hydrogen is below \$1-1.80/kg
 - Green hydrogen is \$2.50-6.80/kg

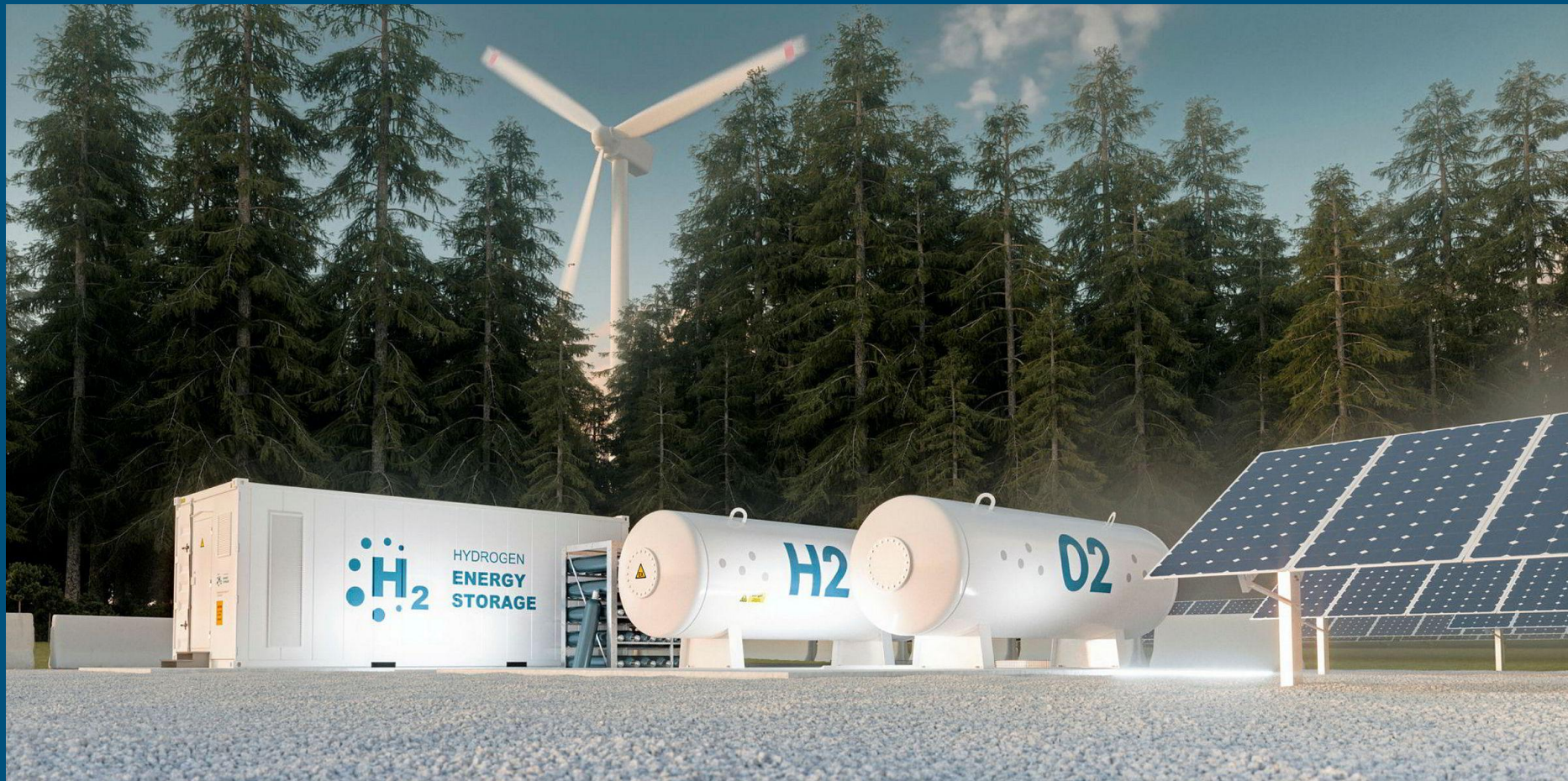
Conclusion

- As of now, the cost of producing renewable hydrogen is too high for economic viability
- However, policy incentives are a necessity to make green hydrogen competitive
 - Examples: Carbon price, zero carbon peaker, hydrogen infrastructure



Source: Forbes

Questions?



Sources

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- <https://hydrogencouncil.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Hydrogen-scaling-up-Hydrogen-Council.pdf>
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