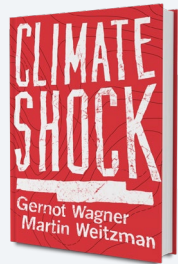


Climate Risks, Uncertainties, and Opportunities



Gernot Wagner

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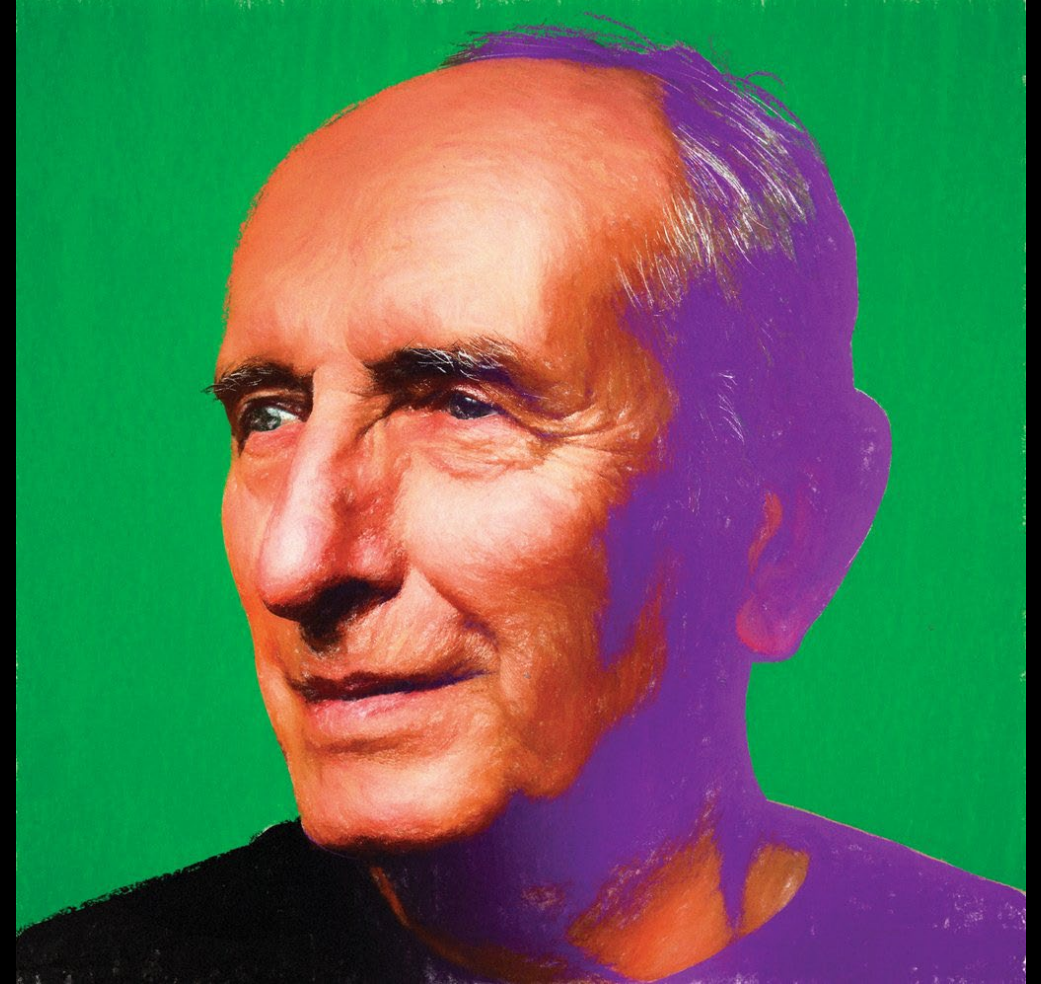
gwagner.com





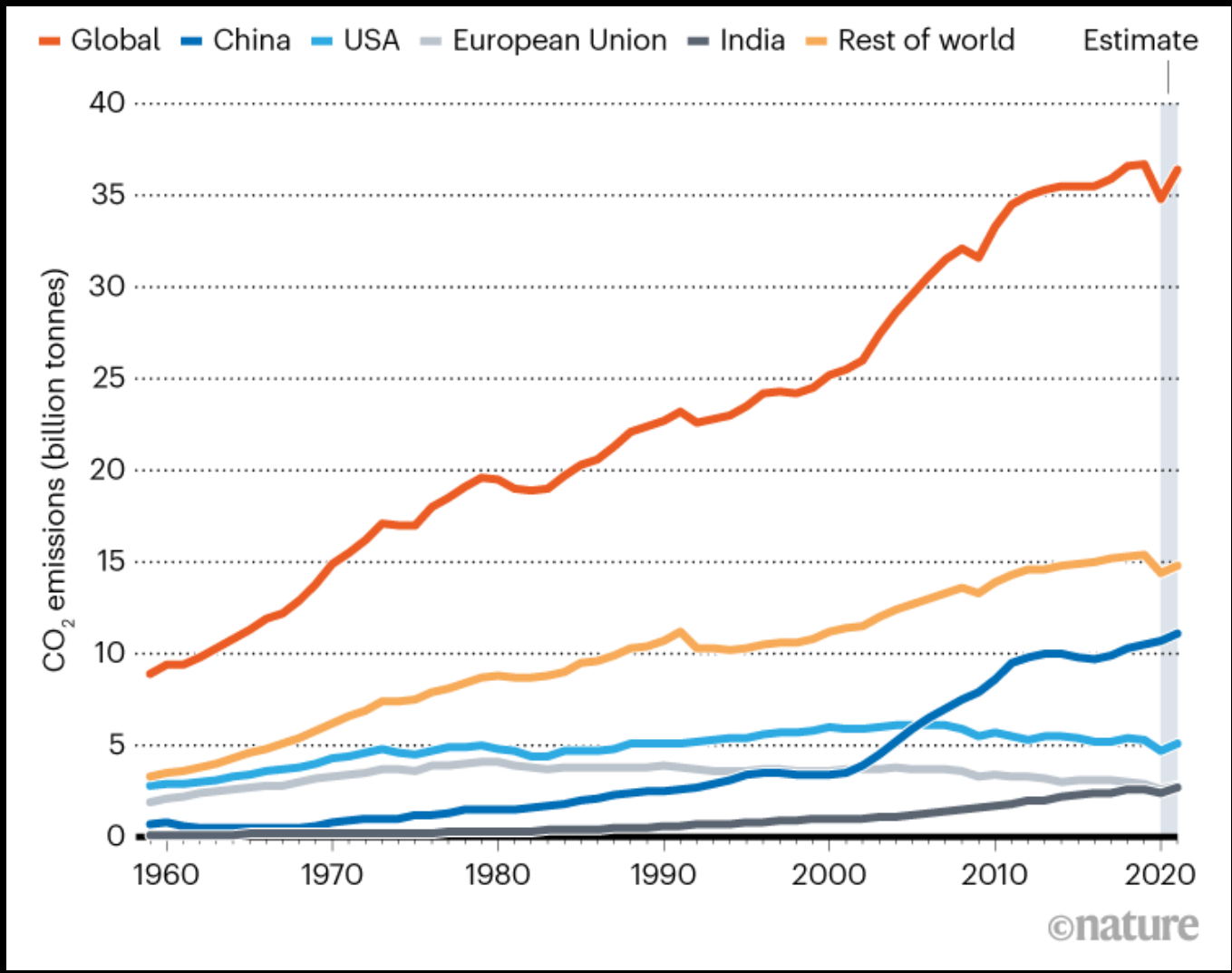
strikes that she helped inspire. “There’s this false image that I’m an angry, depressed teenager,” says Thunberg, whose rapid rise is the subject of “I Am Greta,” a new documentary on Hulu. “But why would I be depressed when I’m trying to do my best to change things?”

NYT Magazine (2020), nyti.ms/38oA9hX

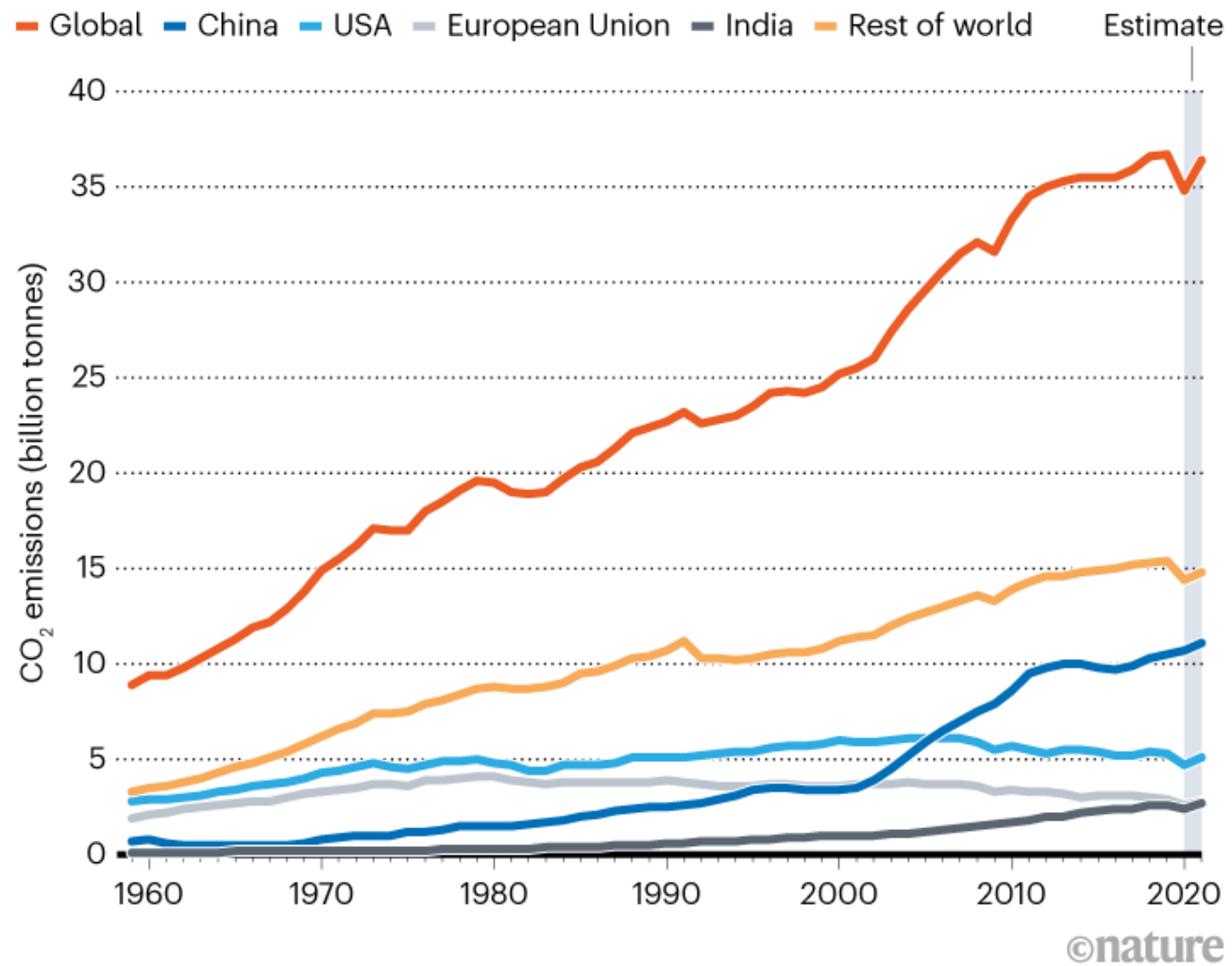


global warming. “I am not talking about what *could* be done,” says Smil, who is 78 and who counts Bill Gates among his many devotees. “I’m looking at the world as it *is*.”

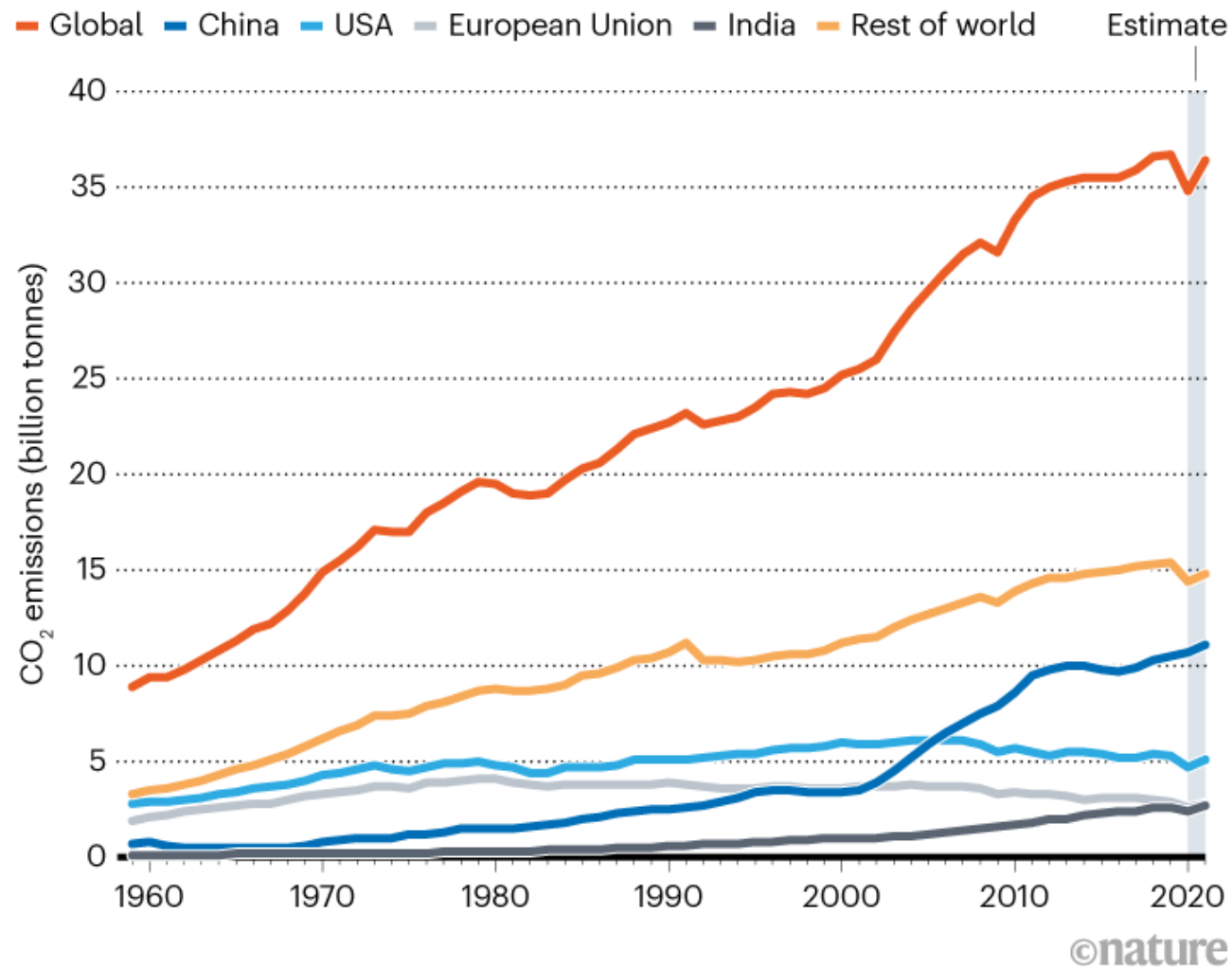
NYT Magazine (2022), nyti.ms/3kdBbAf



Source: Global Carbon Project



Source: Global Carbon Project



Source: Global Carbon Project + umpteen climate-economic model runs

Known knowns are bad

**Unknowns, unknowables, risks
& uncertainties make it worse**



Social costs
= \$50 / tCO₂

~\$50 Social Cost of CO₂

Based on 3% constant discount rate, and an average of 3 climate-economy models

Table ES-1: Social Cost of CO₂, 2020 – 2050 (in 2020 dollars per metric ton of CO₂)³

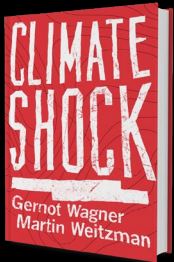
| Emissions Year | Discount Rate and Statistic | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 5% Average | 3% Average | 2.5% Average | 3% 95 th Percentile |
| 2020 | 14 | 51 | 76 | 152 |
| 2025 | 17 | 56 | 83 | 169 |
| 2030 | 19 | 62 | 89 | 187 |
| 2035 | 22 | 67 | 96 | 206 |
| 2040 | 25 | 73 | 103 | 225 |
| 2045 | 28 | 79 | 110 | 242 |
| 2050 | 32 | 85 | 116 | 260 |

~\$50 'interim' Biden SC-CO₂,
NPV of damages, not 'optimal' price

> \$100 / tCO₂ :

Climate damage quantification

including tipping points



Tail risks

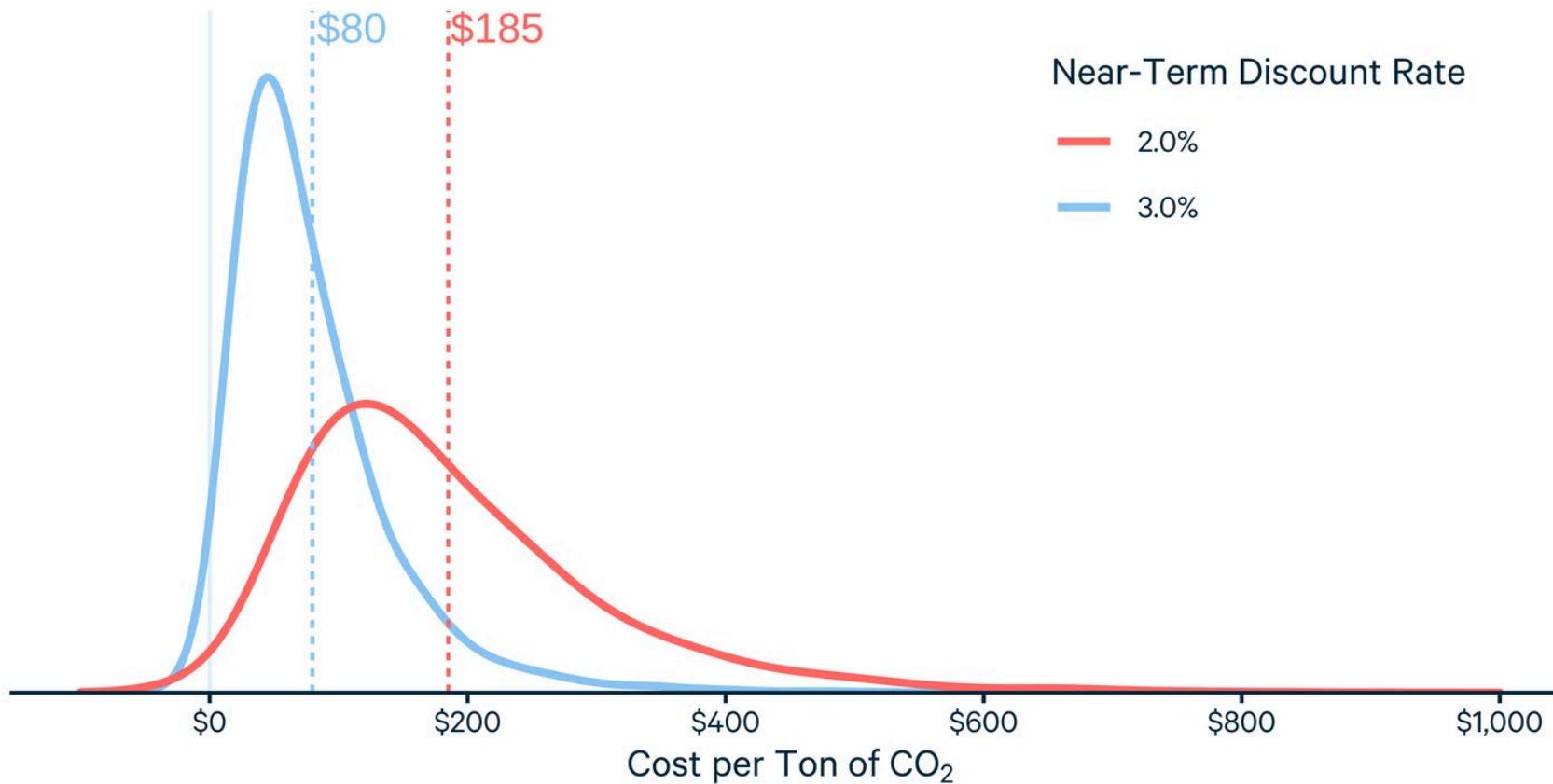
Discounting

Risk calibration, equity, etc.

~\$185 / tCO₂

~\$185 Social Cost of CO₂

Based on 2% constant discount rate, with most of the increase due to discounting



~\$50 to ~\$80 from updated damages,
~\$80 to ~\$185 from discounting

>>\$100 / tCO₂ :

Climate damage quantification

including tipping points

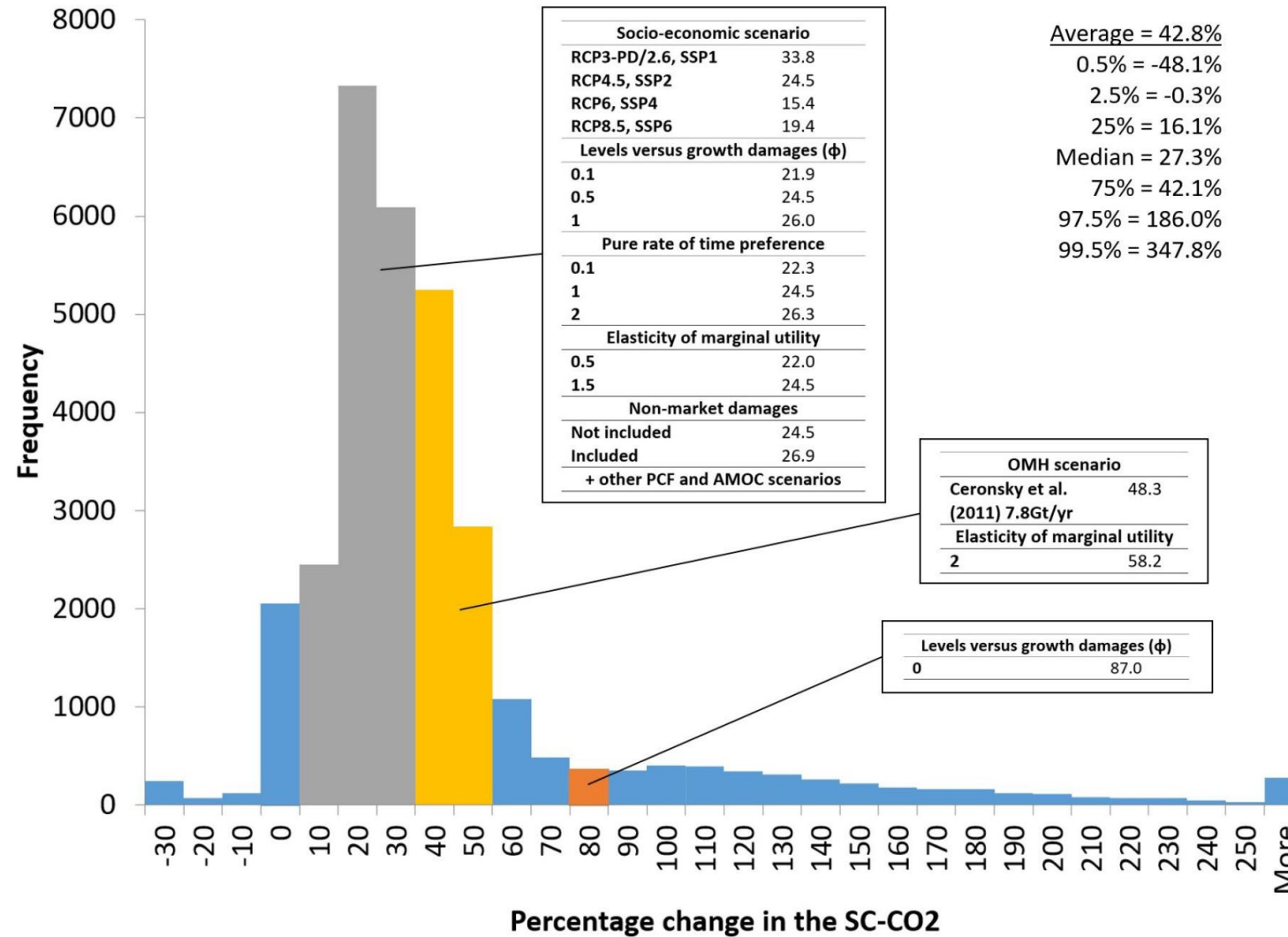
Tail risks

Discounting

Risk calibration, equity, etc.

Economic impacts of tipping points in the climate system

Tipping points increase SCC by between ~27-43%, with large, right-skewed distribution



Tail risks dwarf all else

Climate policy = insurance

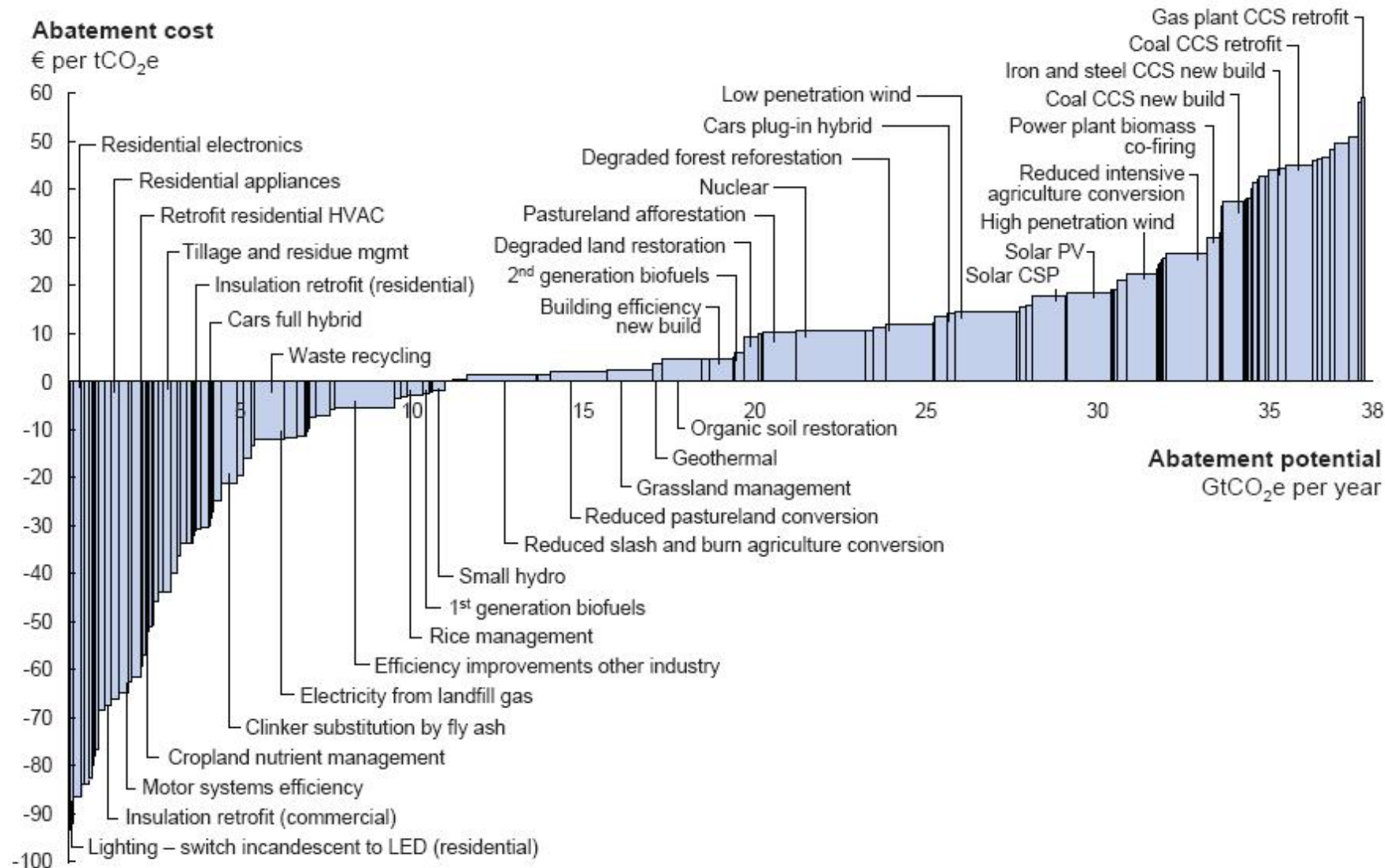


Climate policy = opportunity



Large abatement opportunities available at low or no cost

McKinsey Global v2.0 effort in 2009 identified 38 GtCO₂e abatement potential in 2030



Note: The curve presents an estimate of the maximum potential of all technical GHG abatement measures below €60 per tCO₂e if each lever was pursued aggressively. It is not a forecast of what role different abatement measures and technologies will play.
Source: Global GHG Abatement Cost Curve v2.0

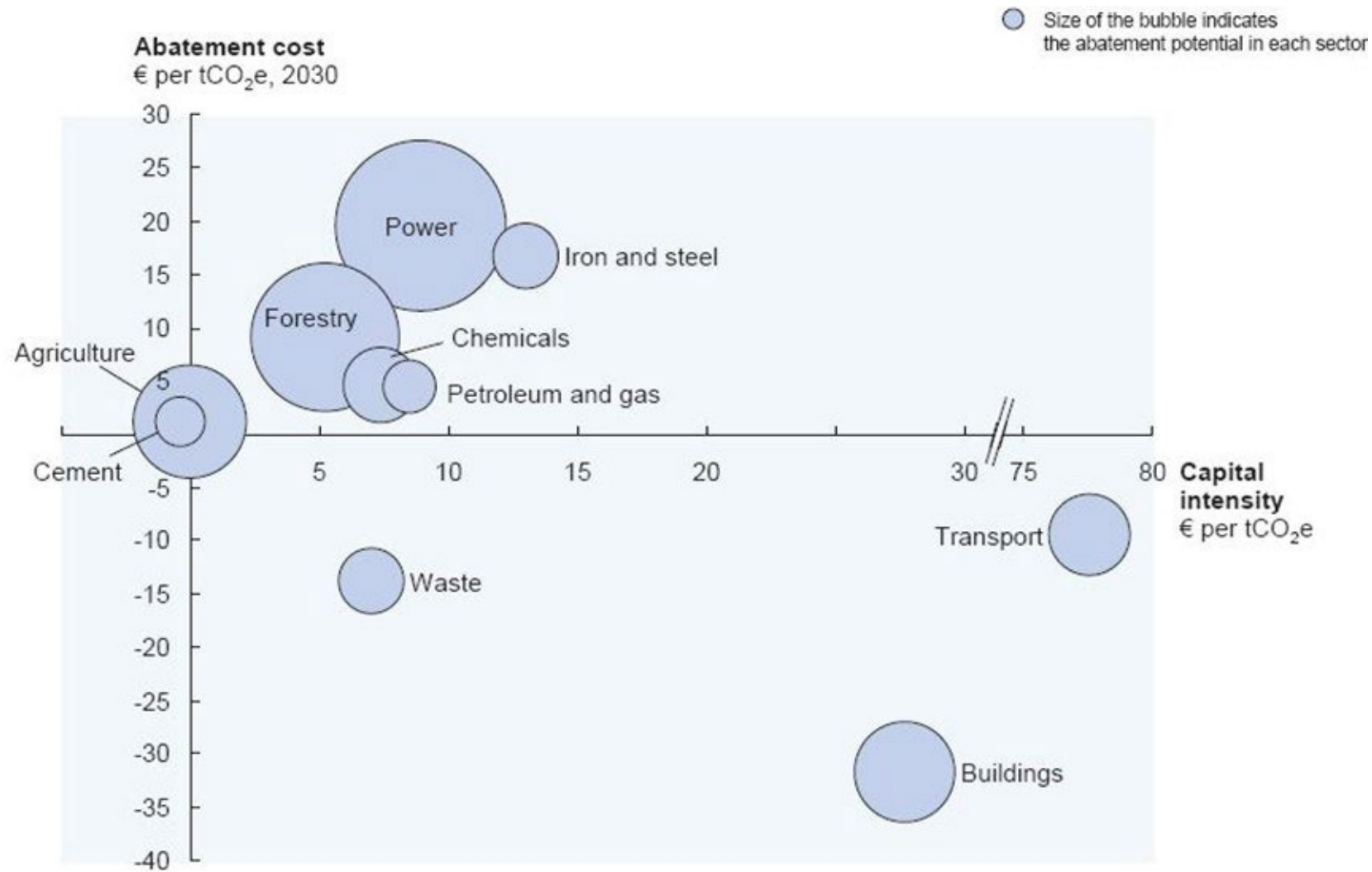
Many options available now in all sectors are estimated to offer substantial potential to reduce net emissions by 2030. Relative potentials and costs will vary across countries and in the longer term compared to 2030.



Figure SPM.7: Overview of mitigation options and their estimated ranges of costs and potentials in 2030.

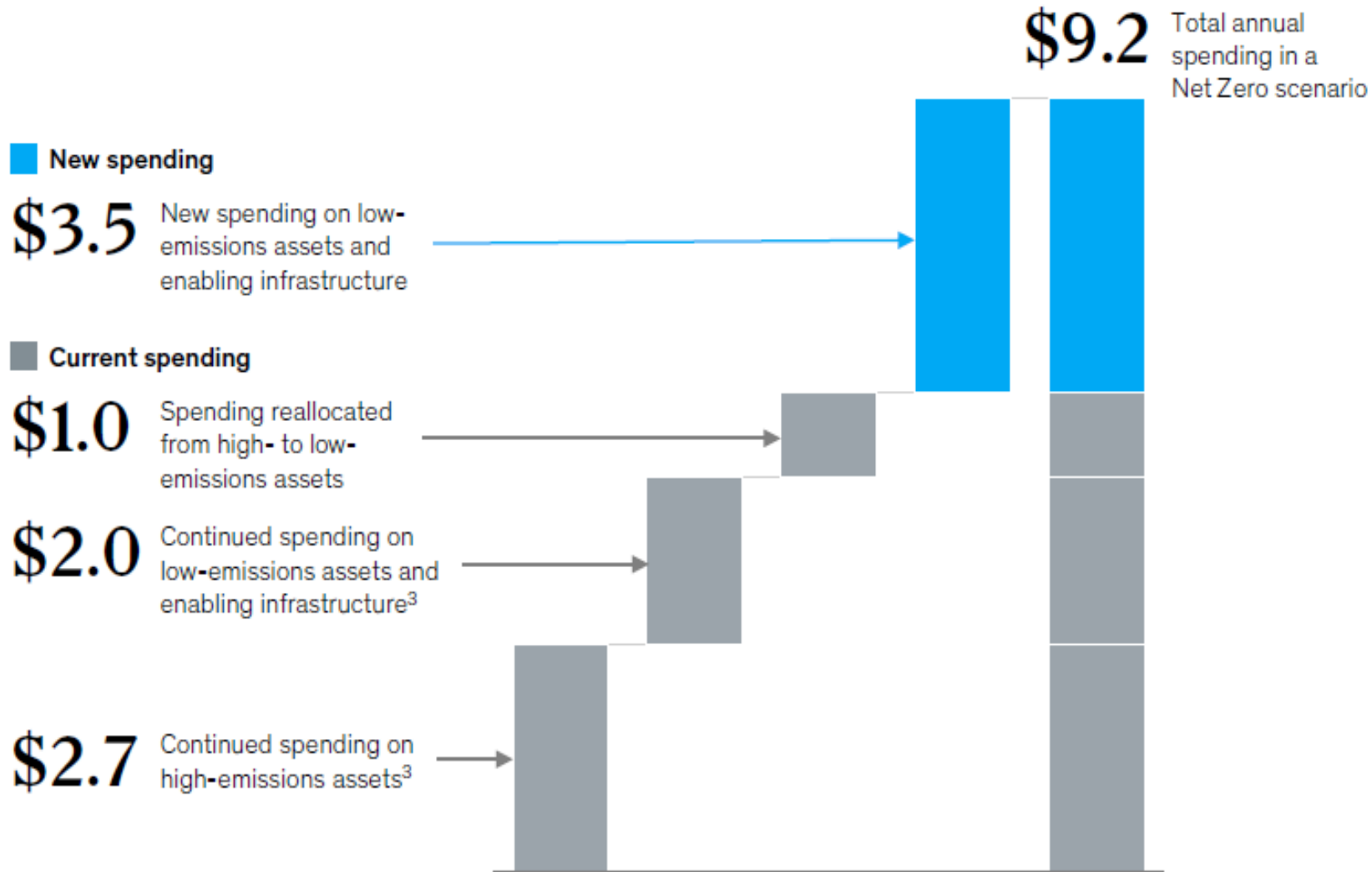
Capital intensity varies widely across sectors

Transport and buildings with largest up-front capital expenditure requirements



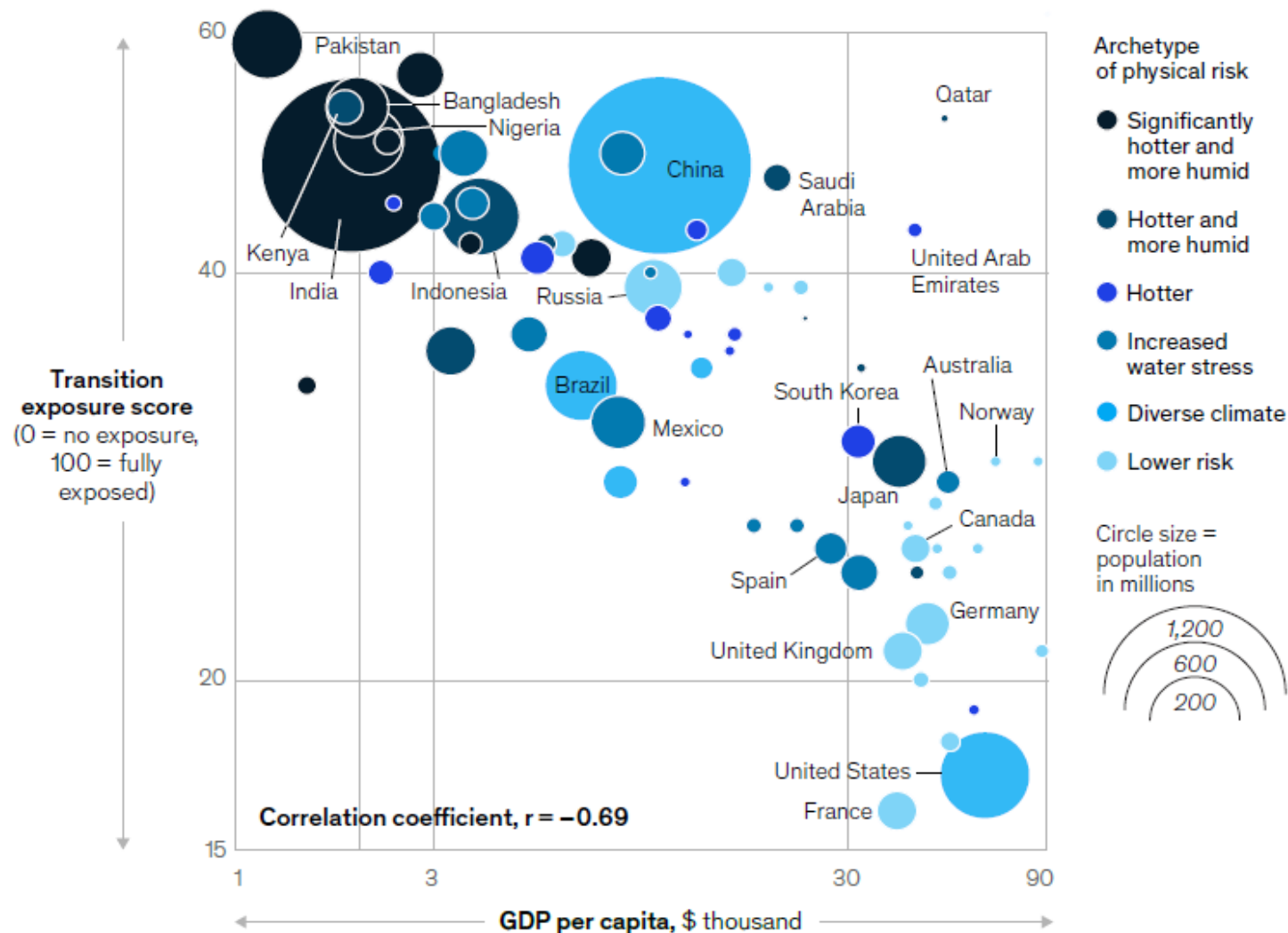
Spending on physical assets for energy and land-use systems in the NGFS Net Zero 2050 scenario would rise to about \$9.2 trillion annually, or about \$3.5 trillion more than today.

Annual spending on physical assets for energy and land-use systems¹ in a Net Zero 2050 scenario,² average 2021–50, \$ trillion



Countries with lower GDP per capita and fossil-fuel resource producers have higher transition exposures.

Archetype of physical risk¹ through transition exposure vs GDP per capita by country² (logarithmic scale)

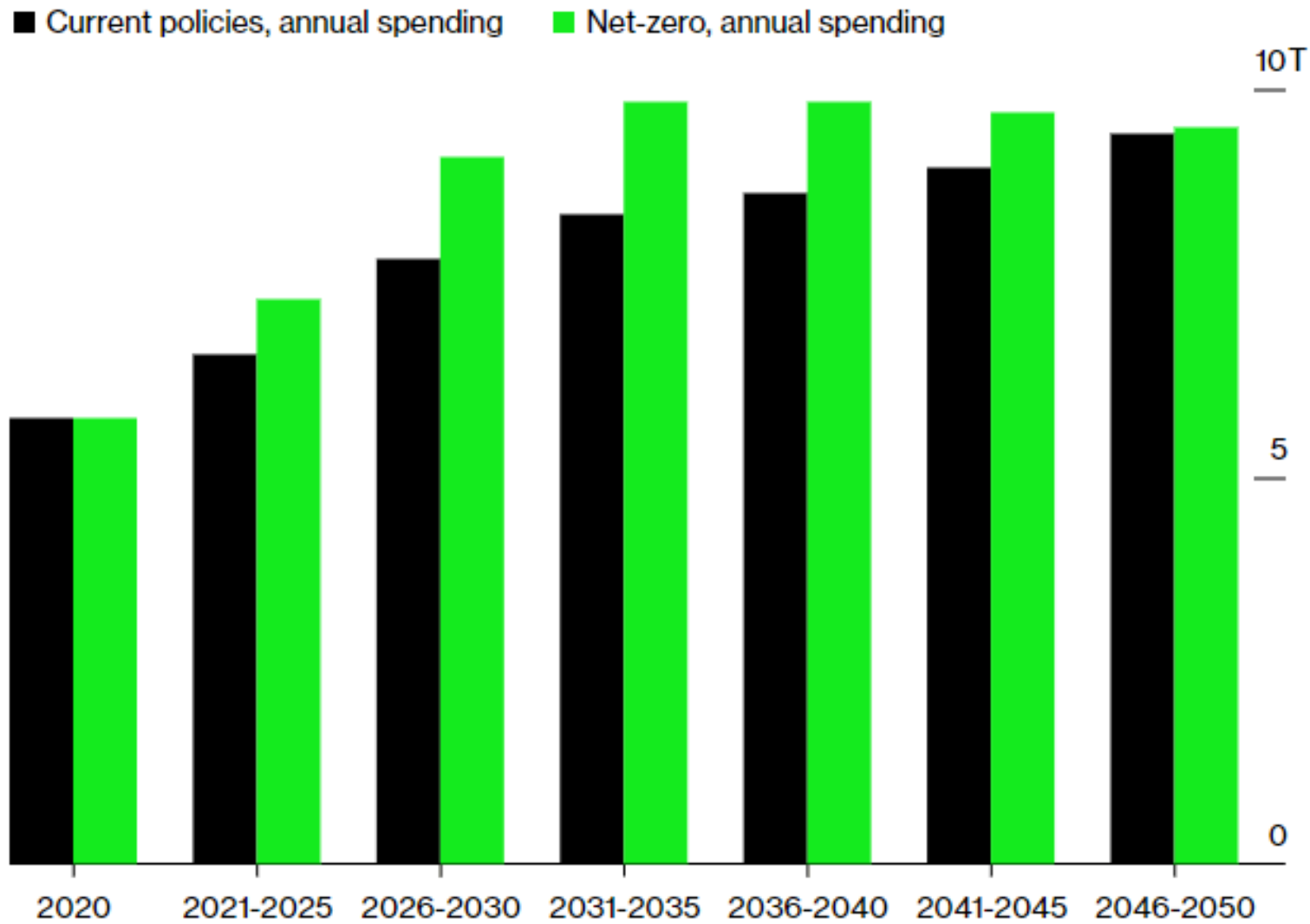


1. For further details, see *Climate risk and response: Physical hazards and socioeconomic impacts*, McKinsey Global Institute, January 2020.

2. Based on average share of jobs, GDP, and capital stock in exposed sectors. These sectors are identified based on their scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions intensity. For further details, see technical appendix.

An Affordable Path to Safety

Current policies would cost \$250 trillion by 2050. A net-zero scenario costs 9% more.



Source: "The Net-Zero Transition," McKinsey & Company

Wagner, "[The Cost to Reach Net Zero By 2050 Is Actually a Bargain,](#)" *Bloomberg Green Risky Climate* (28 January 2022)

**Transition costs ~\$3.5T / yr,
shifting ~\$10T / yr**

**3 U.S. laws alone ~\$1T / 10 yr,
leveraging >\$1T in private capital**

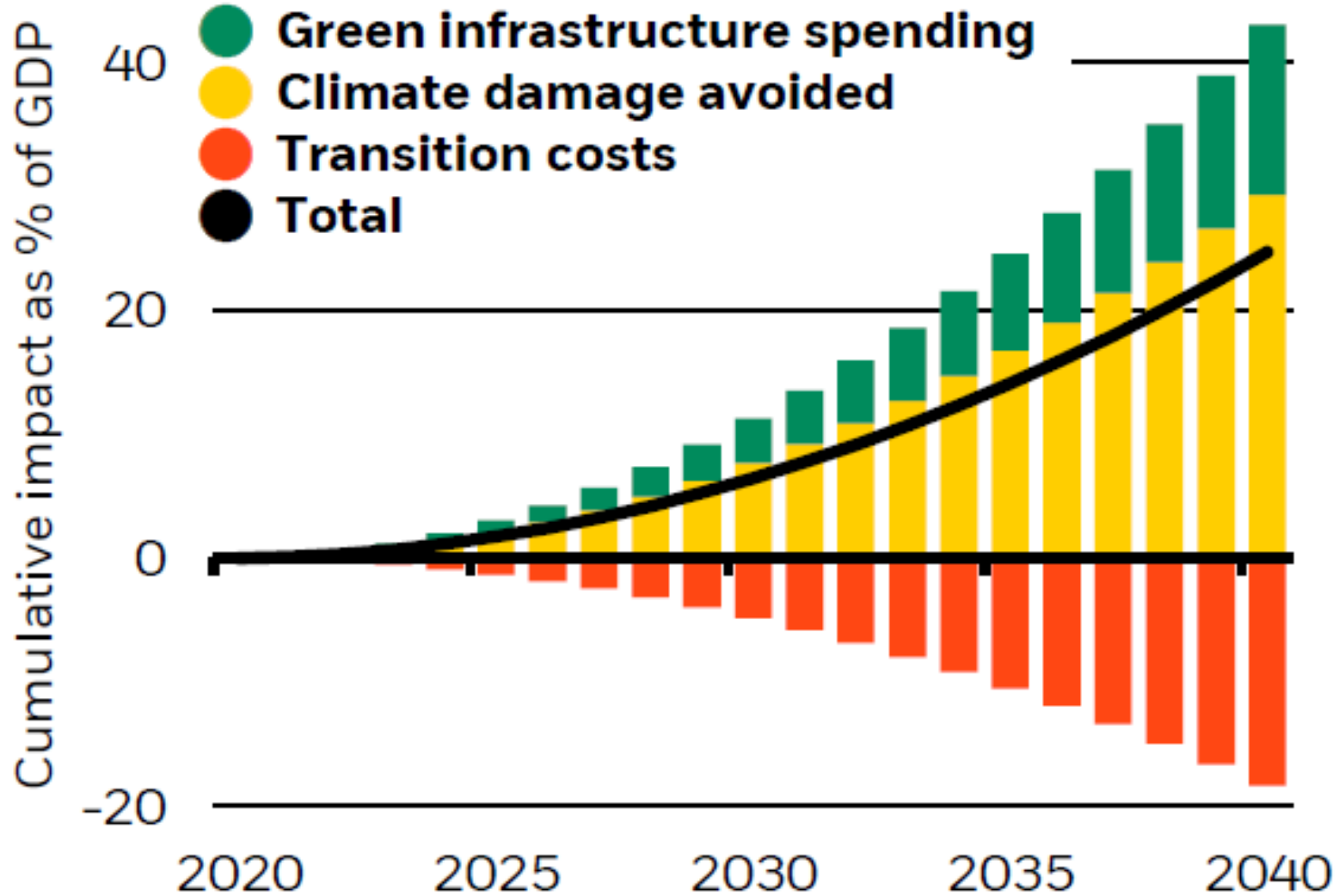


BlackRock.

**Managing
the net-zero
transition**

Transition results in net economic gain

Estimated cumulative GDP impact of transition, 2020-40



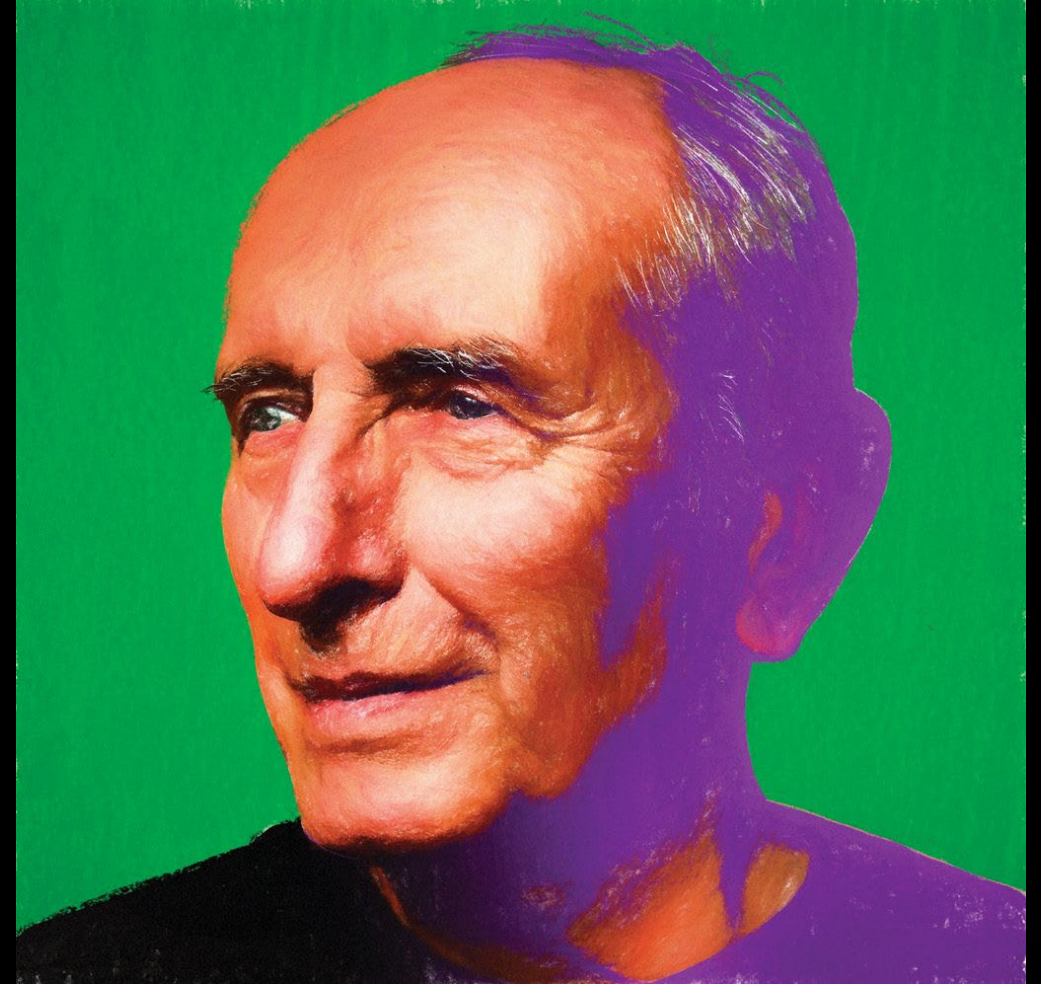


Rich Lesser, Global Chair, Boston Consulting Group, at Columbia Business School, 2022



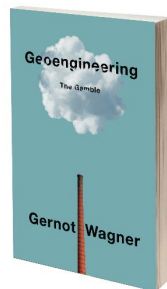
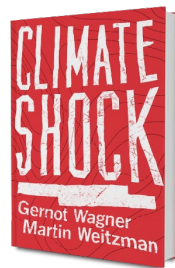
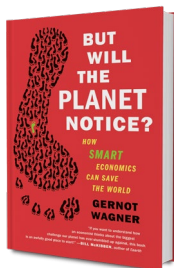
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