

# Climate Risks and Opportunities

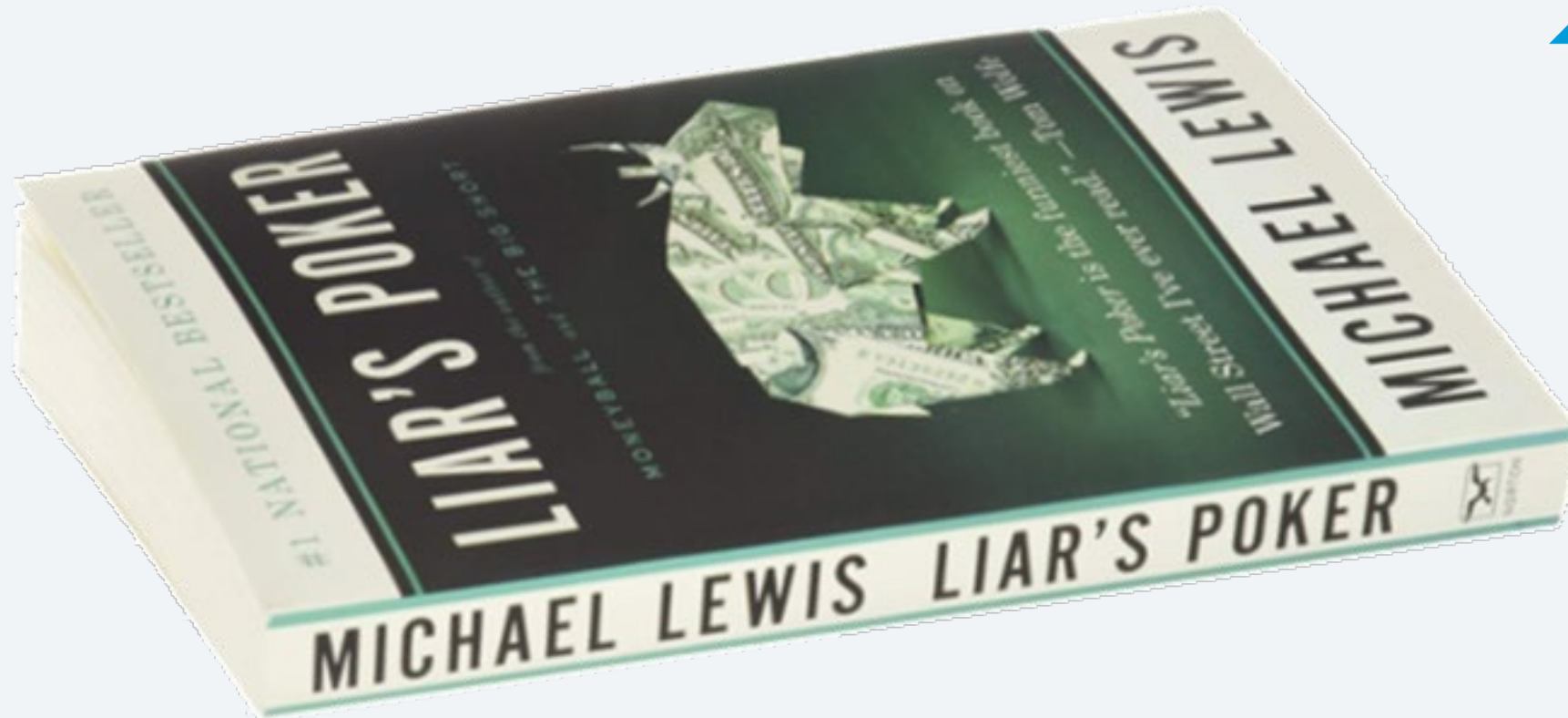
17 January 2025



**Gernot Wagner**

[gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

[gwagner.com](http://gwagner.com)



**Gernot Wagner**  
[gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)  
[gwagner.com](http://gwagner.com)

# Climate Risks and Opportunities

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- 1 **Climate risk is financial risk**
- 2 **We know what to do, and how to make it profitable**



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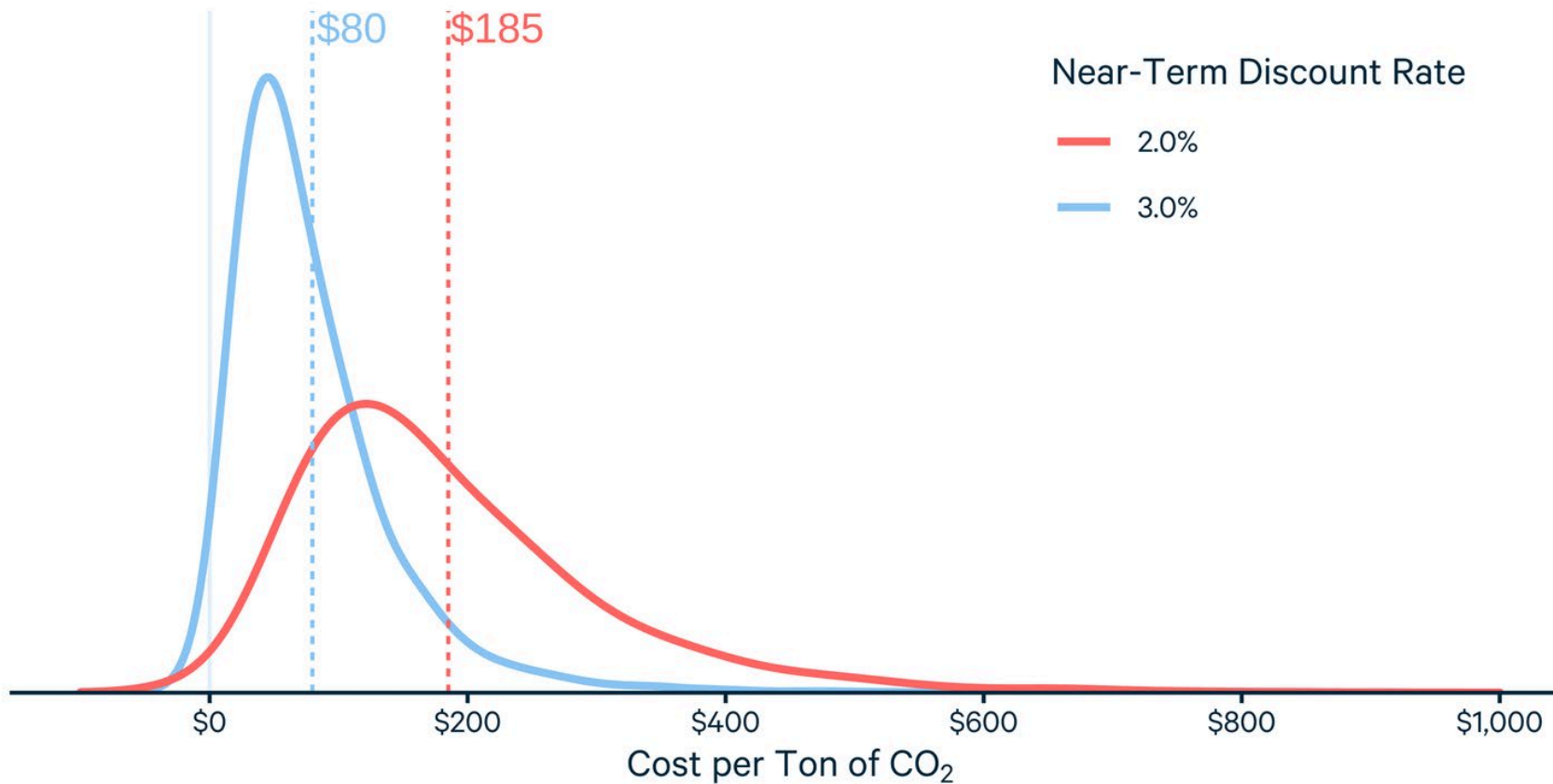
[gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

[gwagner.com](http://gwagner.com)

~\$200 / tCO<sub>2</sub>

# ~\$185 Social Cost of CO<sub>2</sub>

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

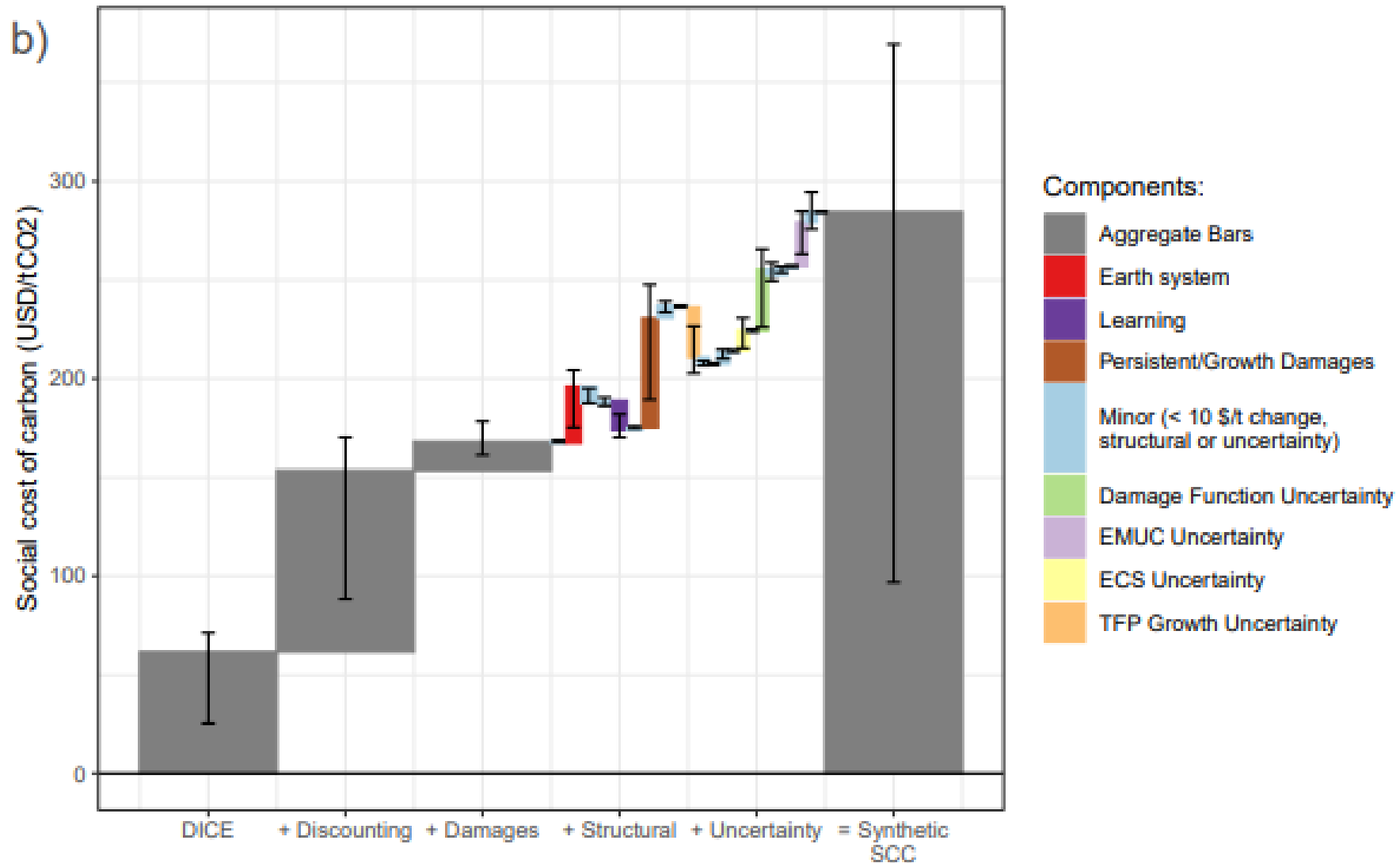


~\$50 to ~\$80 from updated damages,  
~\$80 to ~\$185 from discounting

$> \$200 / \text{tCO}_2$

# “Synthetic” Social Cost of Carbon with median = \$185 and mean = \$284

For 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted in 2020, in \$2020, with 5%–95% range of \$32–\$874(!)



~ \$200 / tCO<sub>2</sub>

=

~8-10% of  
*global* GDP



~ \$1,000 / tCO<sub>2</sub>

=

~50% (!! ) of  
*global* GDP

> \$150 /  
car entering NYC\*

\* Manhattan below 60<sup>th</sup> Street

# Climate Risks and Opportunities

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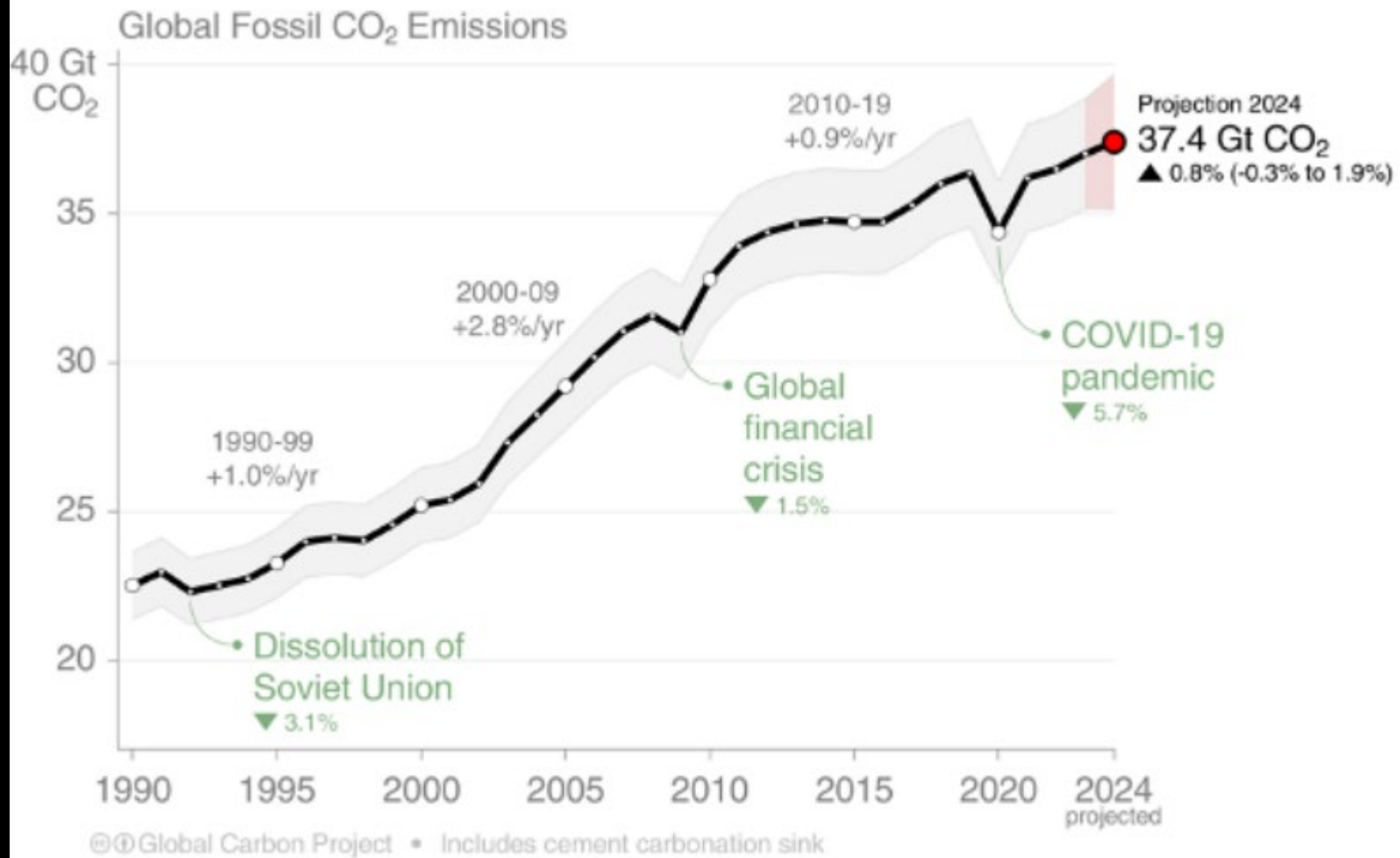
- 1 Climate risk is financial risk
- 2 We know what to do, and how to make it profitable



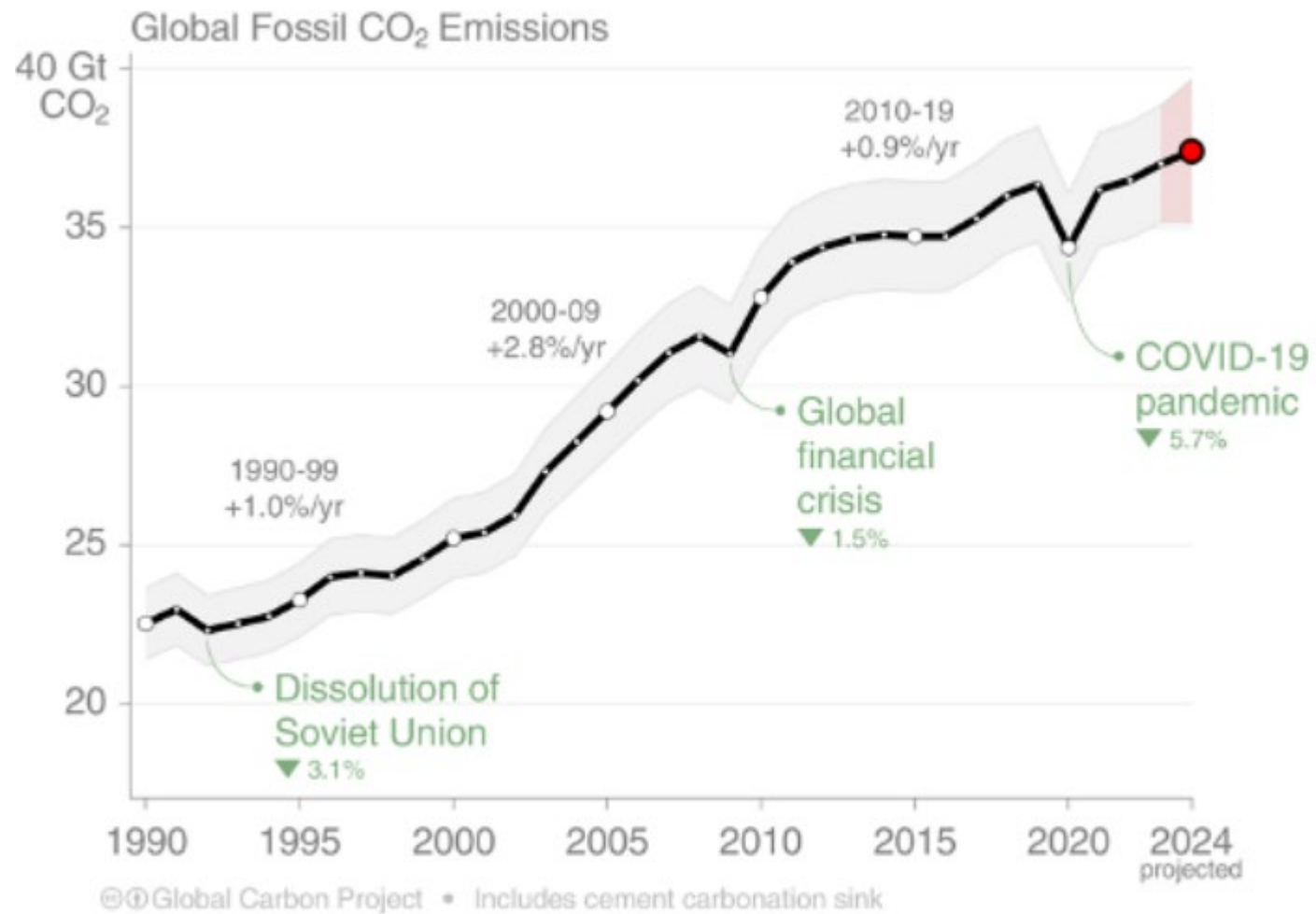
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[gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

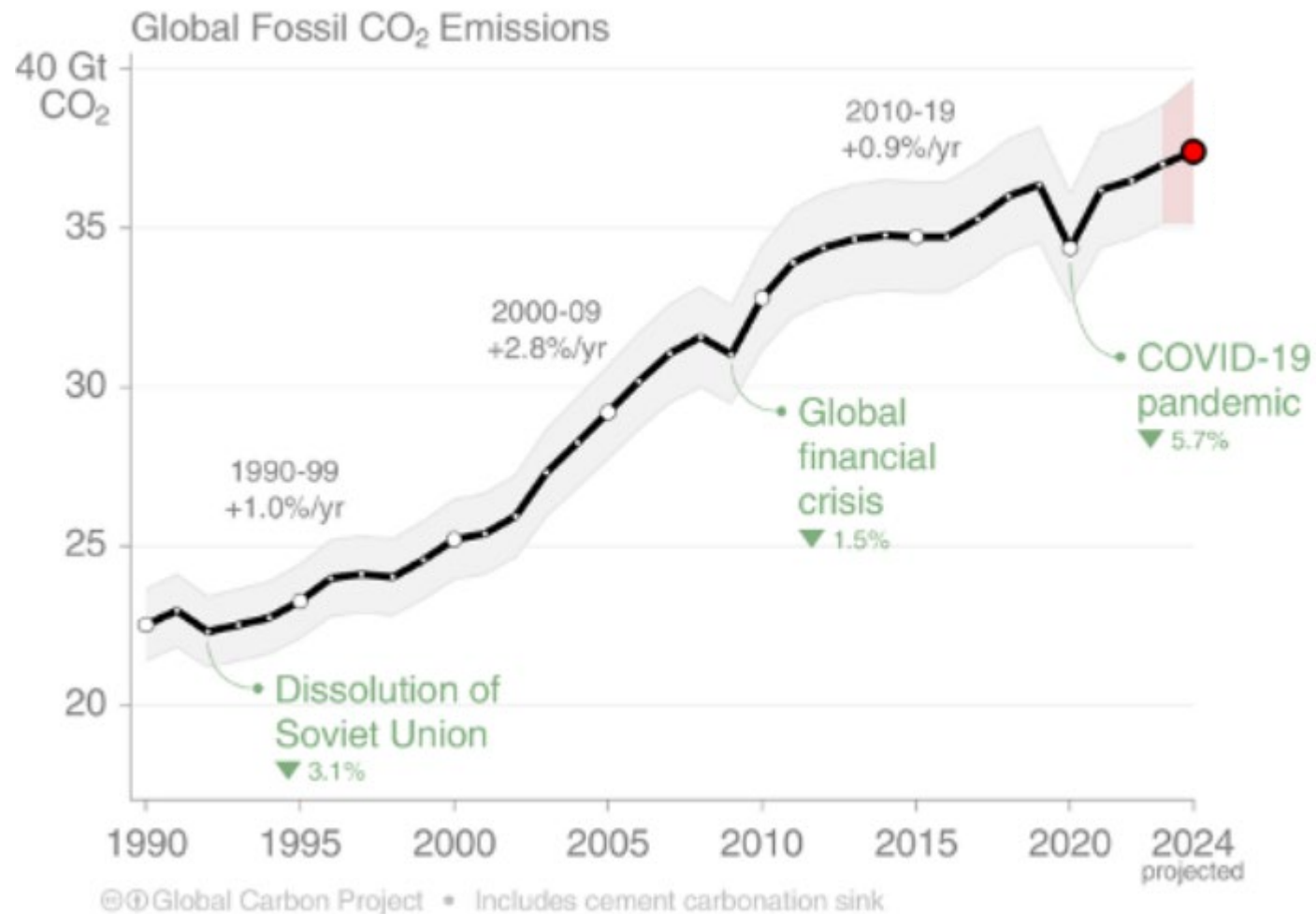
[gwagner.com](http://gwagner.com)



Source: Global Carbon Project (2024)



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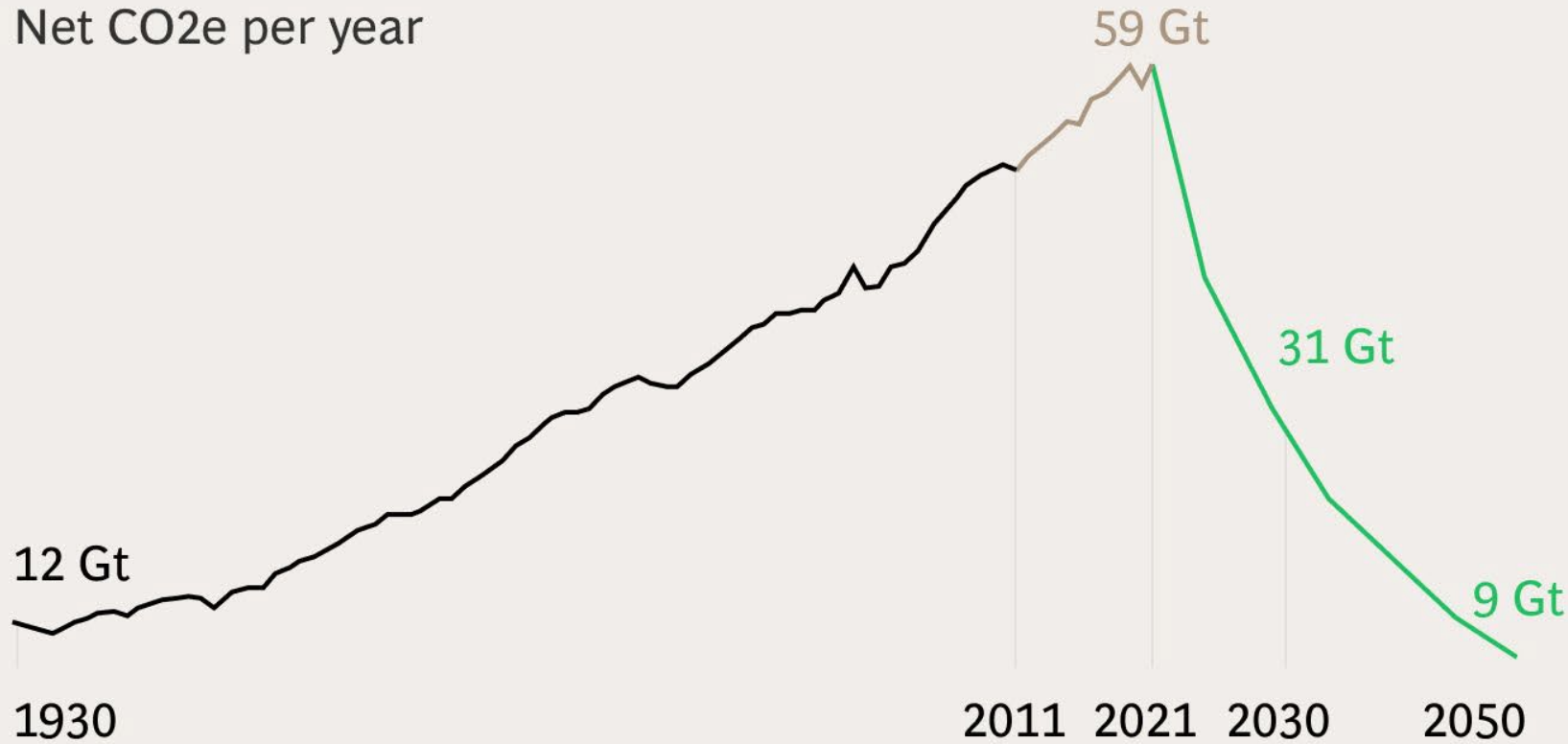


Source: Global Carbon Project (2024) + umpteen climate-economic model runs



## Major course correction needed to achieve the 1.5°C ambition

Net CO<sub>2</sub>e per year



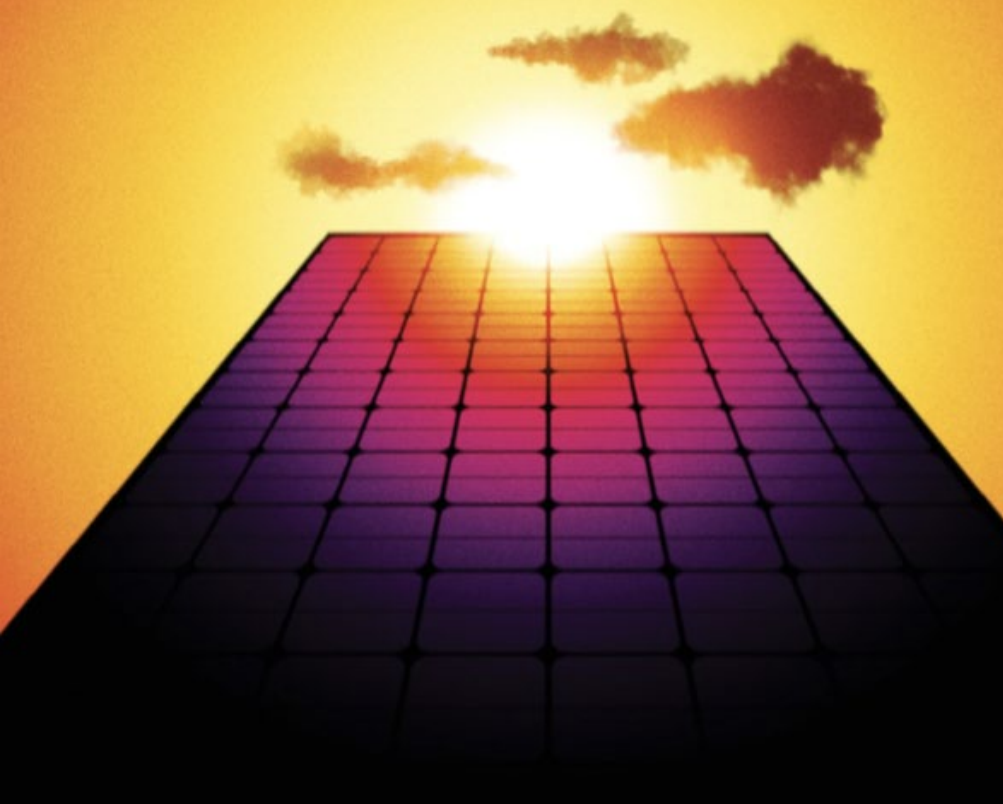
**-7%**  
annual reduction in emissions needed by 2030 to meet the 1.5°C pathway

**+1.5%**  
recent annual increase in emissions from 2011-2021

Sources: IPCC, PIK, BCG analysis

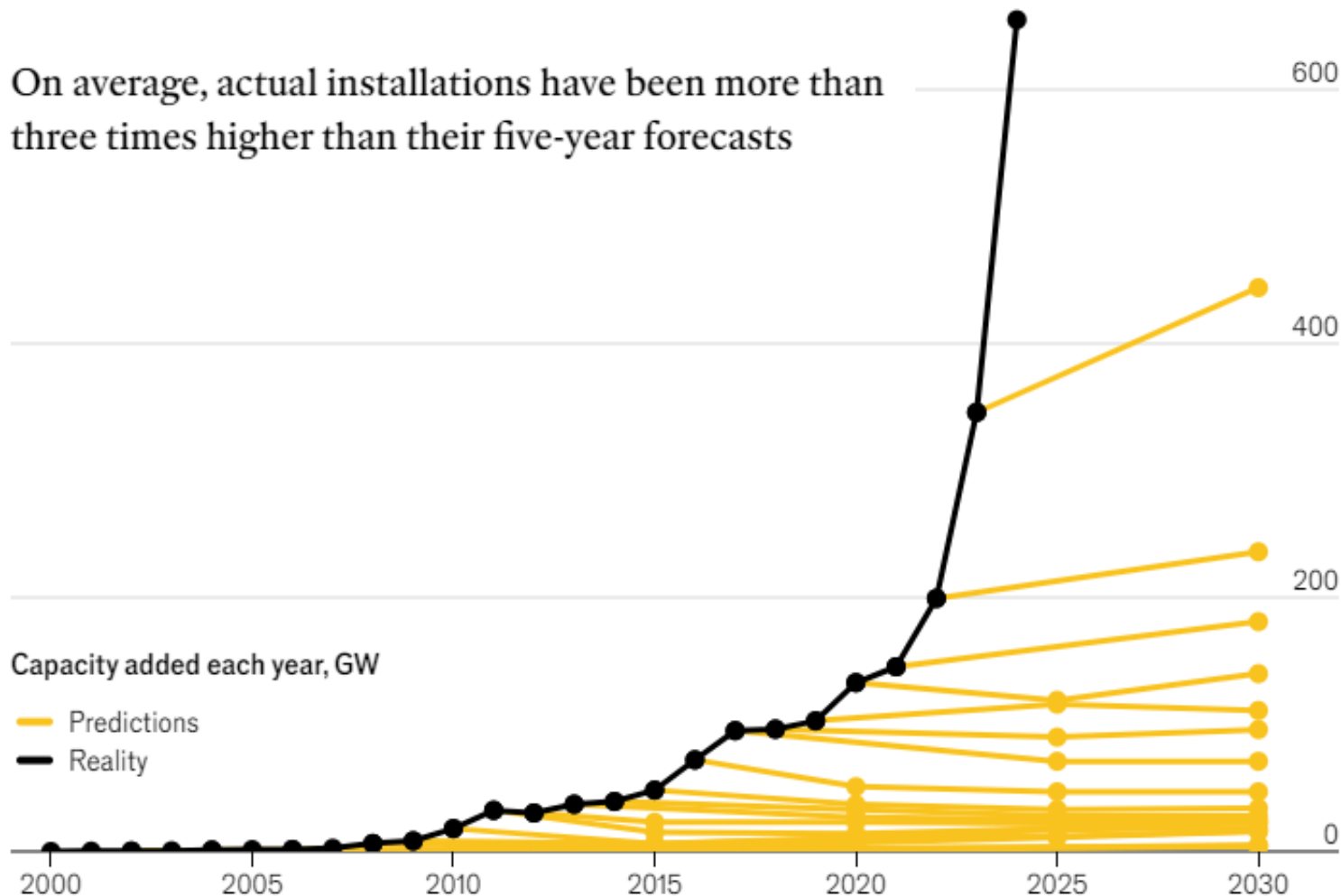
## DAWN OF THE SOLAR AGE

A SPECIAL ISSUE



### ↓ EASY PV *how solar outgrew expectations*

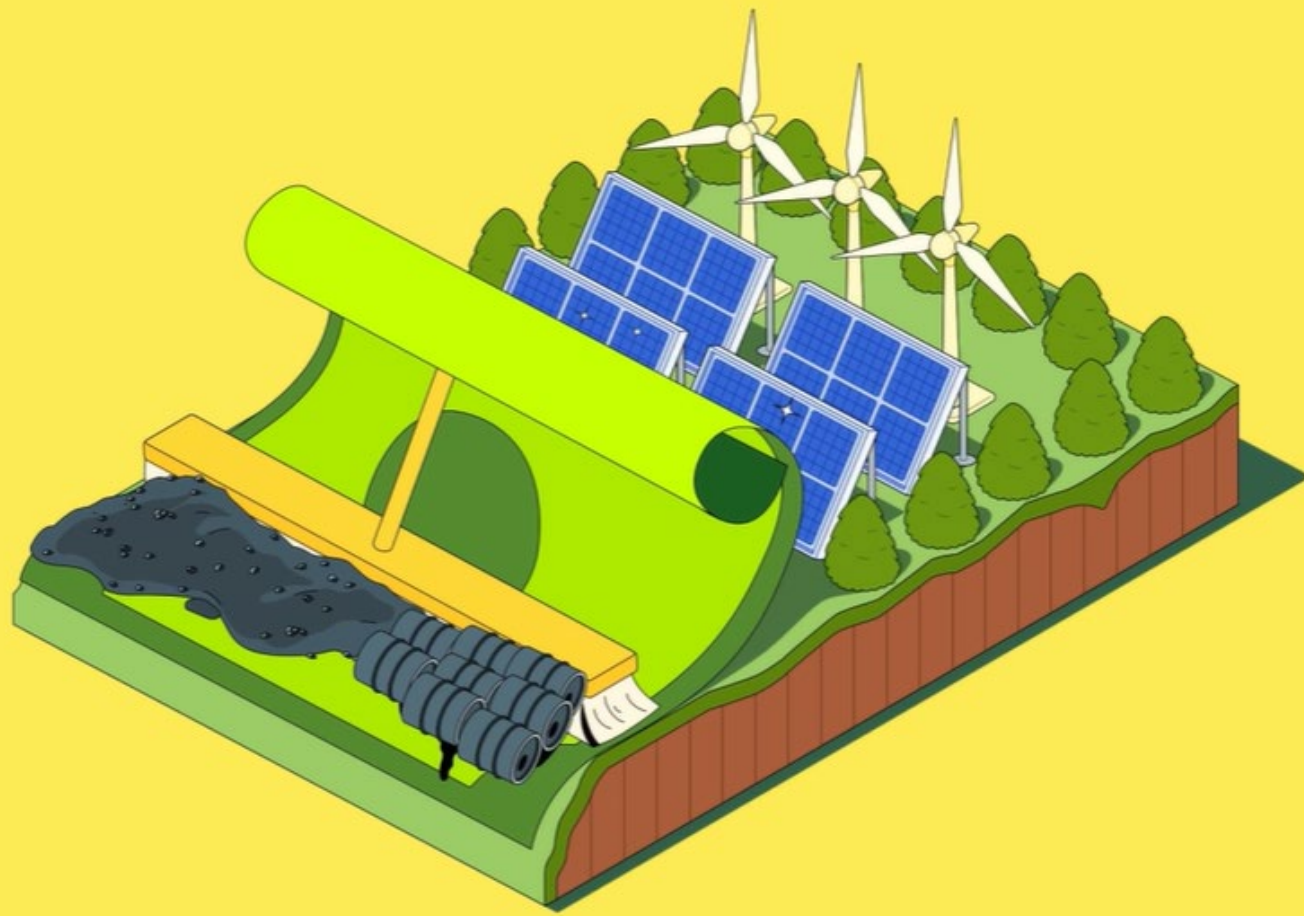
On average, actual installations have been more than three times higher than their five-year forecasts



Installations for 2024 are an estimate from BloombergNEF for direct current solar capacity

Sources: IEA; Energy Institute; BloombergNEF





Briefing | Carbon bargain

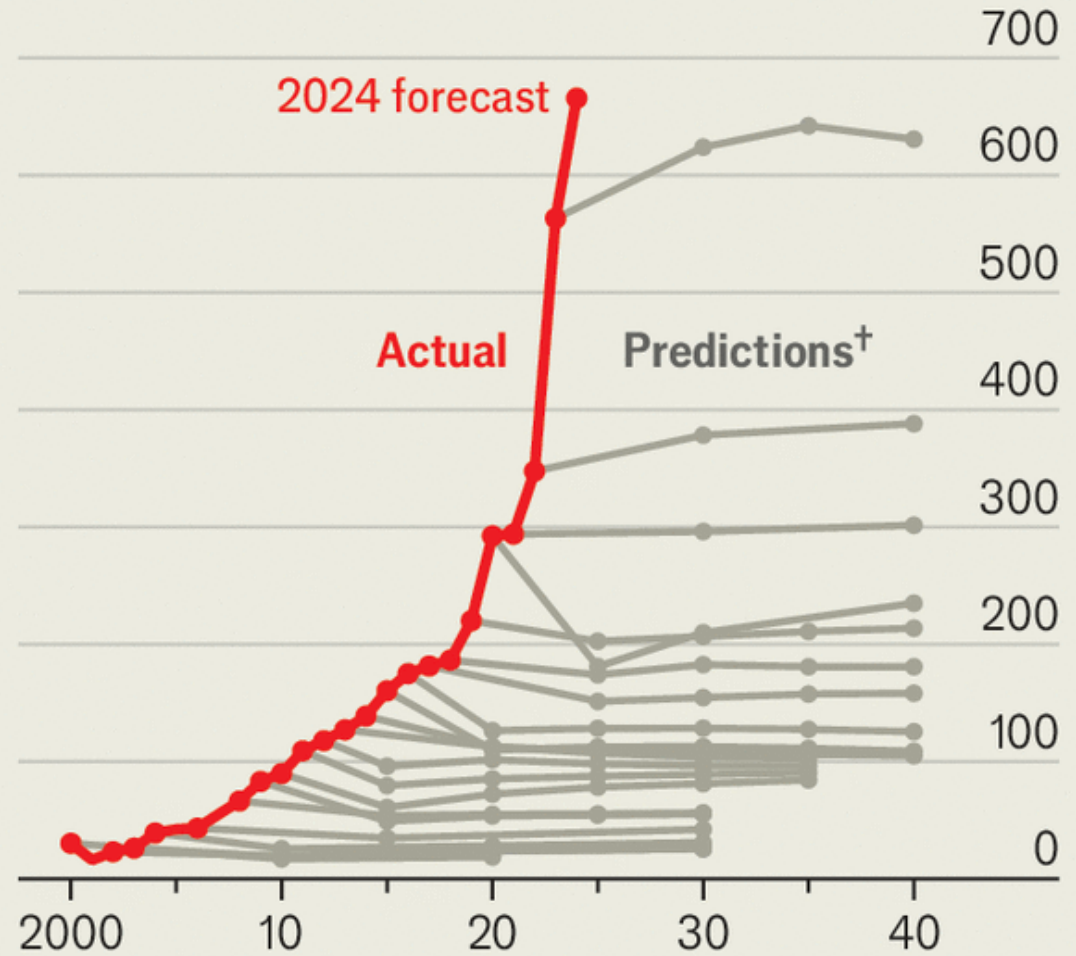
# The energy transition will be much cheaper than you think

Most analysts overestimate energy demand and underestimate technological advances

## Unshakable pessimism

2

Global renewable energy\*, capacity added each year, GW



\*Includes solar, wind, hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal and marine †Existing-policies scenario, lower-end estimates  
Source: IEA

**Renewables revolution  
unstoppable\***

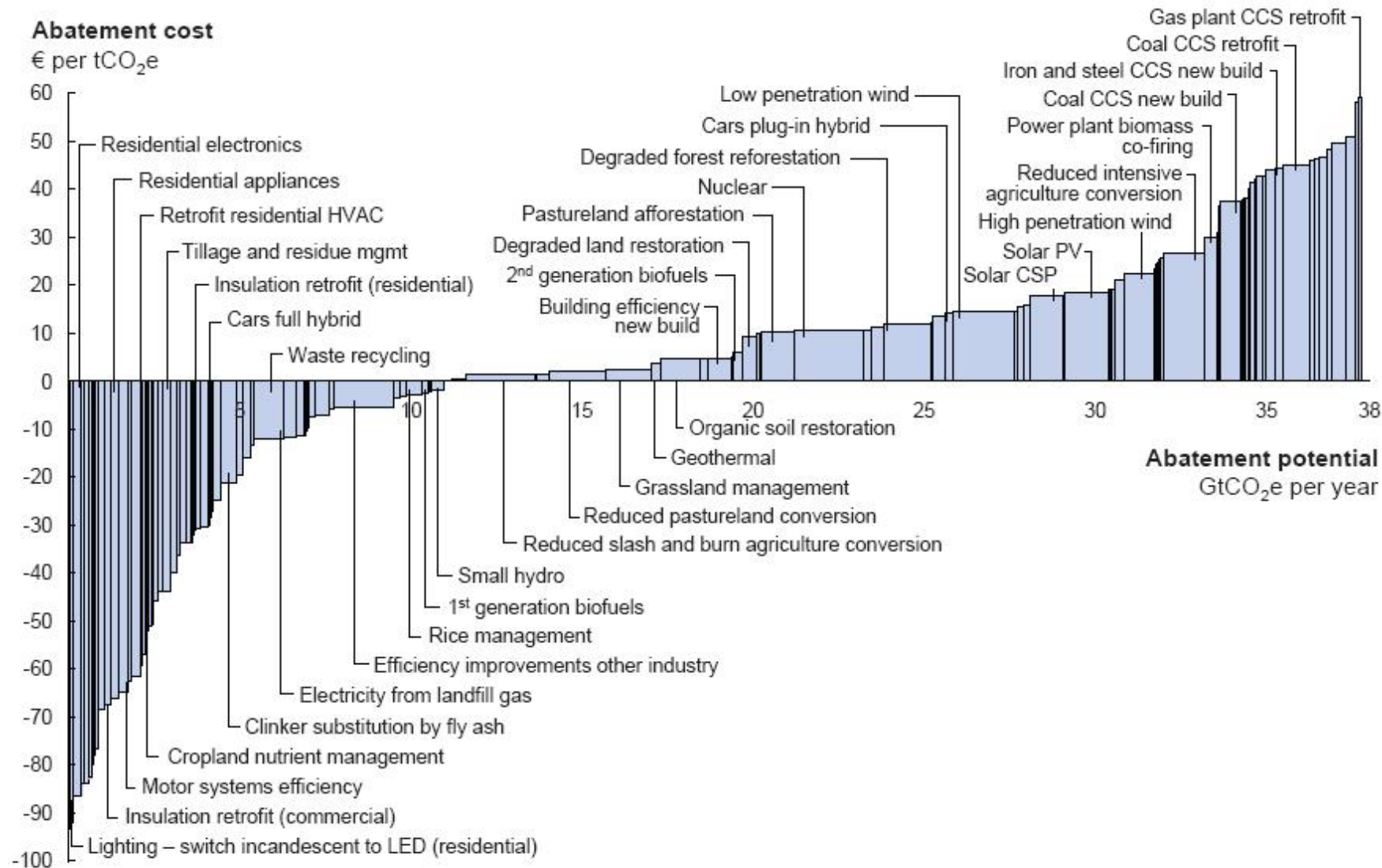
**and so are climate impacts**



\* “Trump can and will handicap domestic industries in jockeying for positions in [the global climate race], but he cannot halt it.” ([What Will Trump’s Victory Mean for the Climate?](#), 9 November 2024)

# Large abatement opportunities available at low or no cost

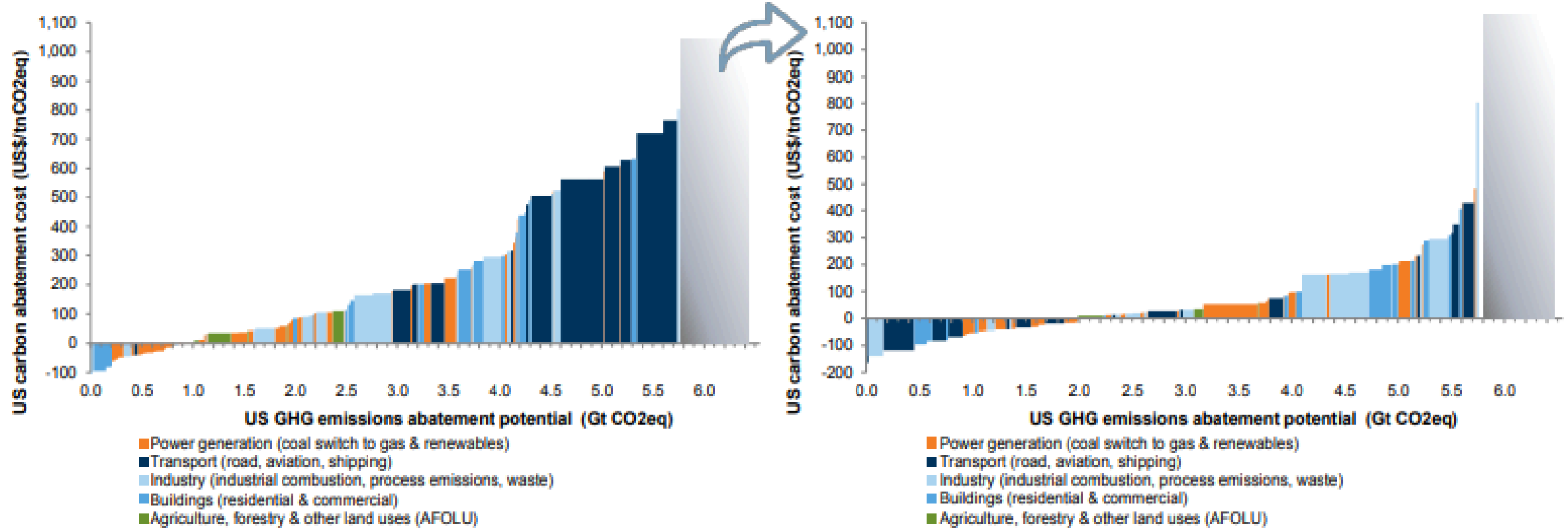
McKinsey Global v2.0 effort in 2009 identified 38 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e abatement potential in 2030



Note: The curve presents an estimate of the maximum potential of all technical GHG abatement measures below €60 per tCO<sub>2</sub>e 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

**Exhibit 46: The IRA has transformed the cost curve of the US bringing most technologies in the money, especially in the transportation and buildings sectors**

US carbon abatement cost curve for anthropogenic GHG emissions, based on current technologies and current costs, assuming economies of scale for technologies in the pilot phase prior and after IRA



Source: Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

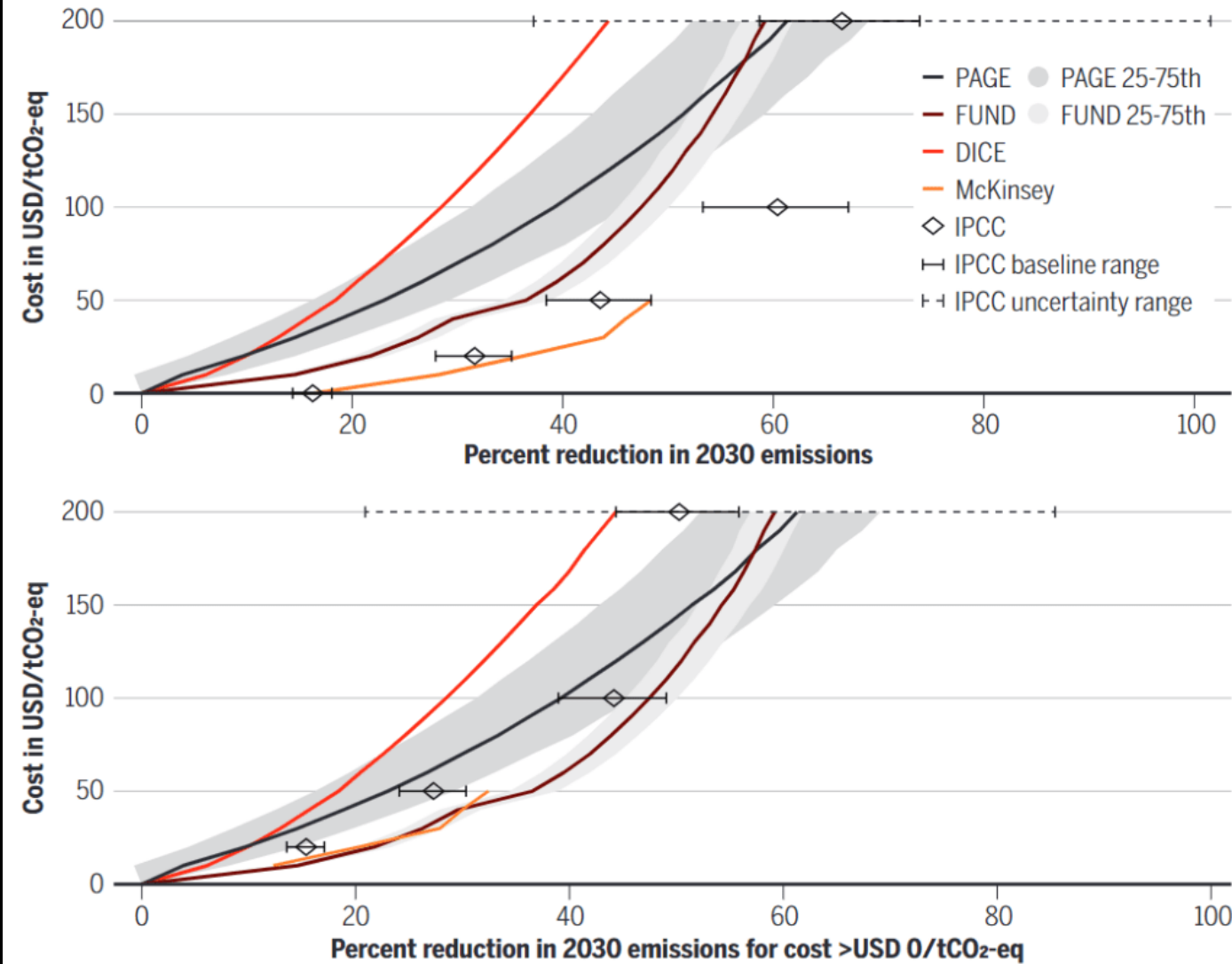


## How costly, or costless, is climate emissions mitigation? p. 1001



## Comparison of global mitigation potentials at different costs

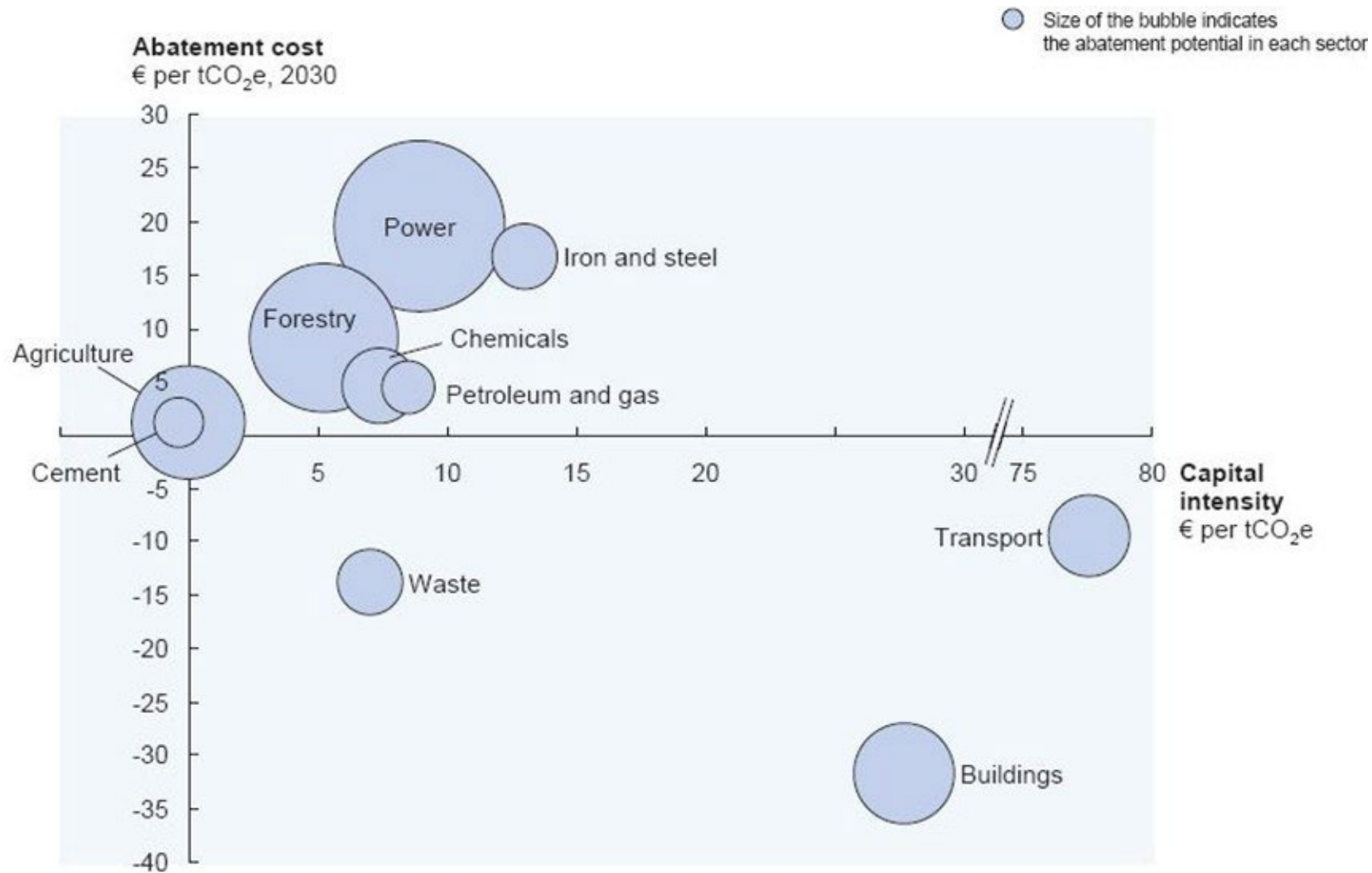
The IPCC results use different baseline emissions to calculate the range of mitigation potentials. The top panel reports the full set of results, and the bottom panel reports only the mitigation potentials with costs >\$0 per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>-eq). USD reported in 2020 dollars. See supplementary materials.



Source: Kotchen, Rising & Wagner. “The costs of “costless” climate mitigation.” *Science* (30 November 2023).

# Capital intensity varies widely across sectors

Transport and buildings with largest up-front capital expenditure requirements



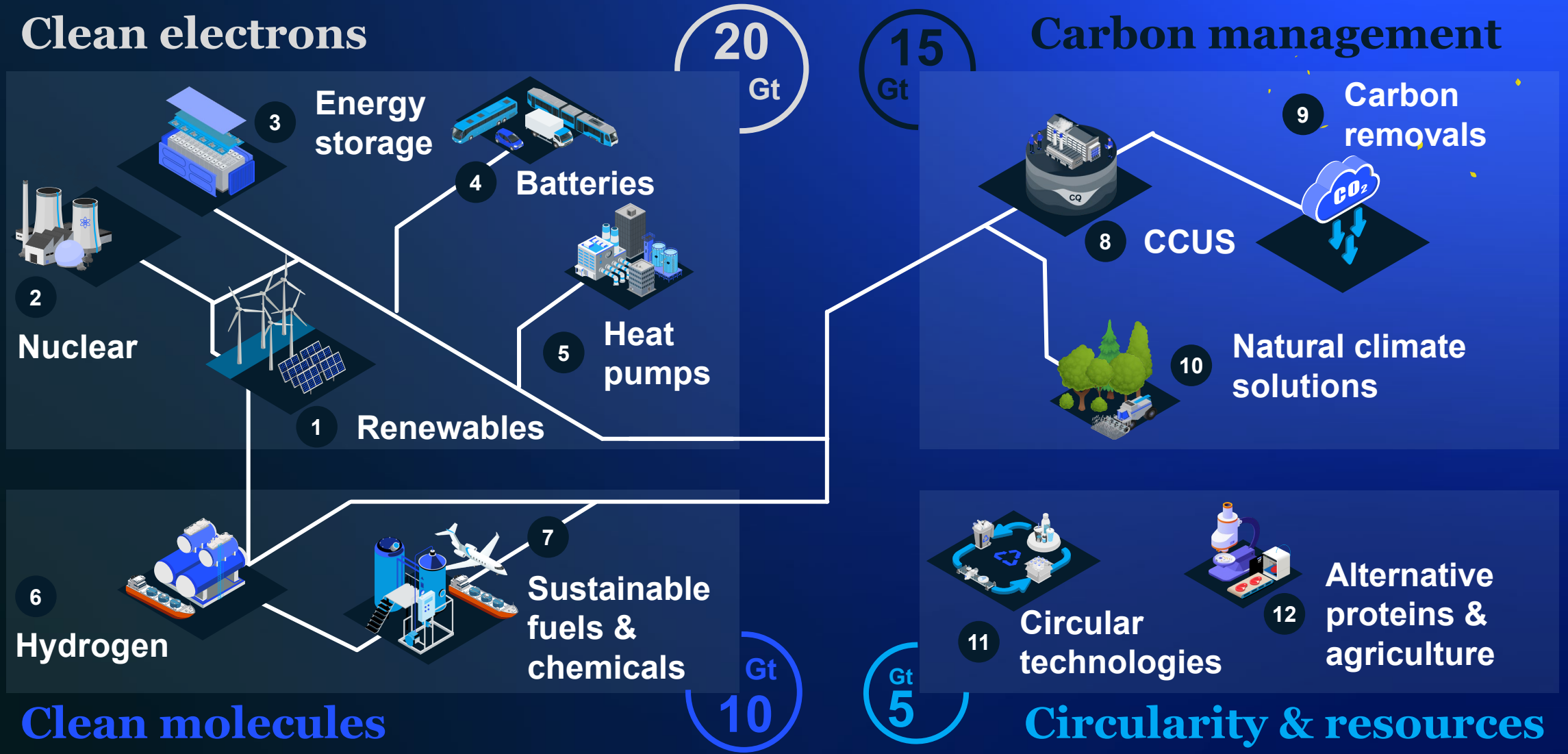




Bernd Heid, Senior Partner, McKinsey, at Columbia Business School, 18 November 2024



# 12 climate technologies needed to achieve abatement targets

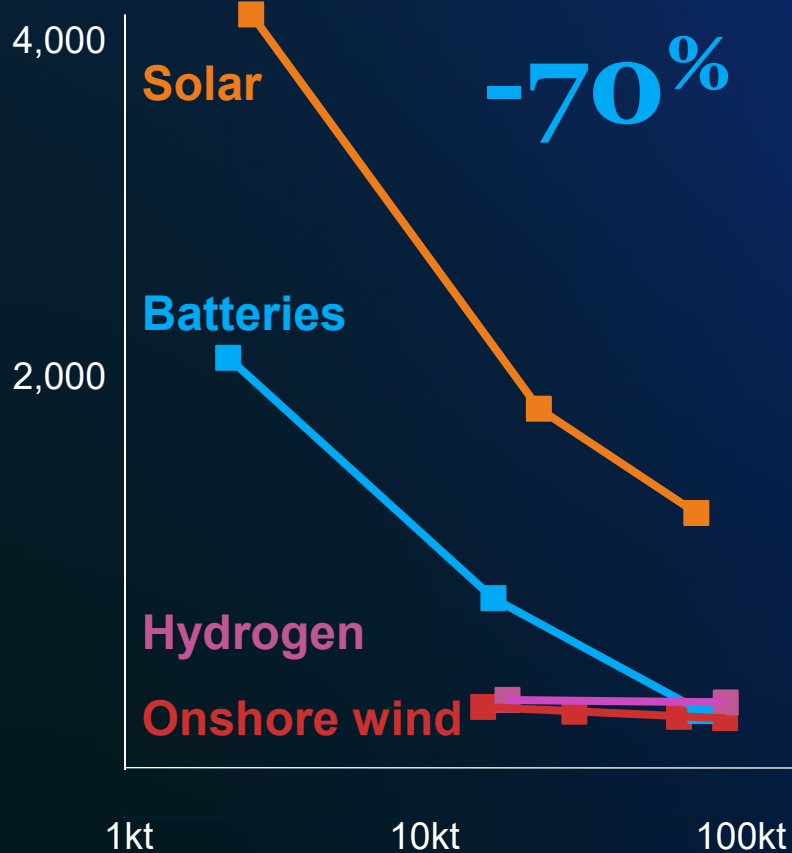




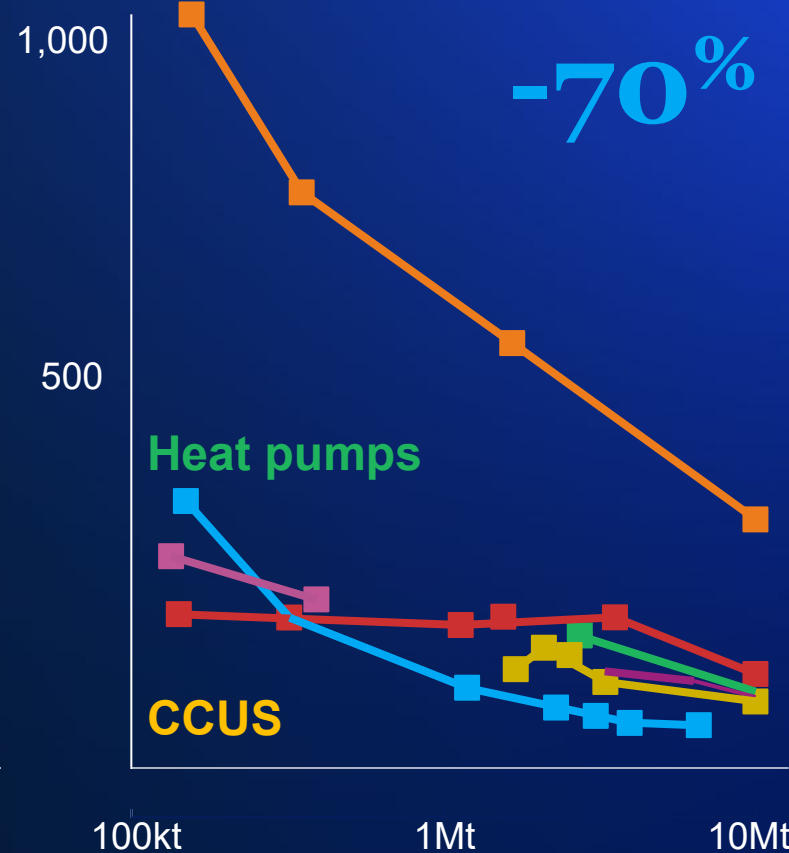
# “Moore’s Law” of climate technology: 100x scale-up drives 70%+ cost-down

Abatement cost, \$/tCO<sub>2</sub>

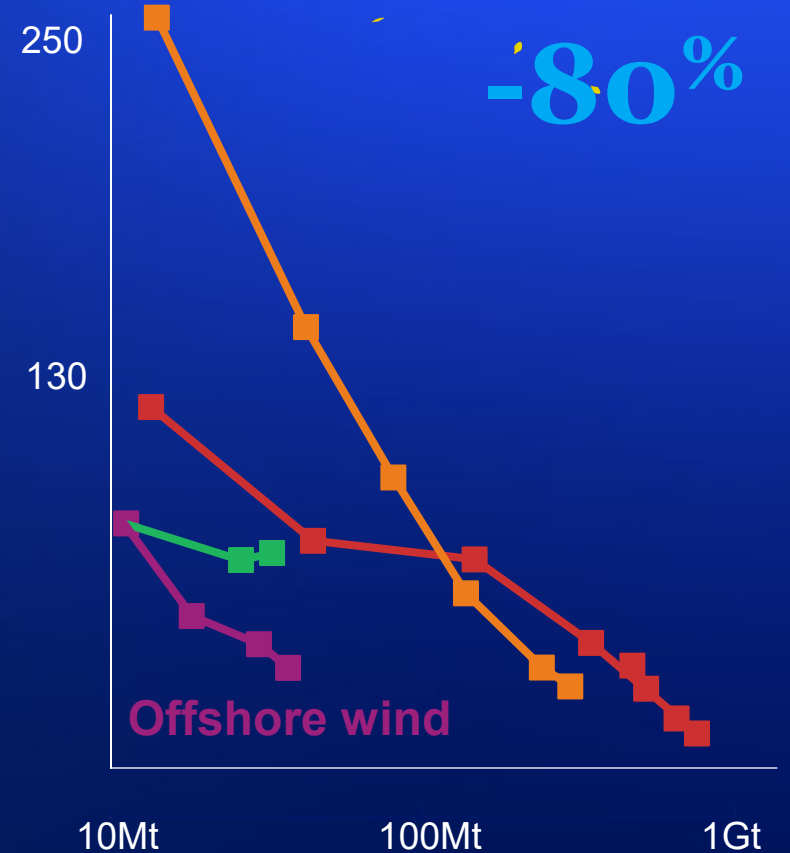
## Early innovation



## Commercialization



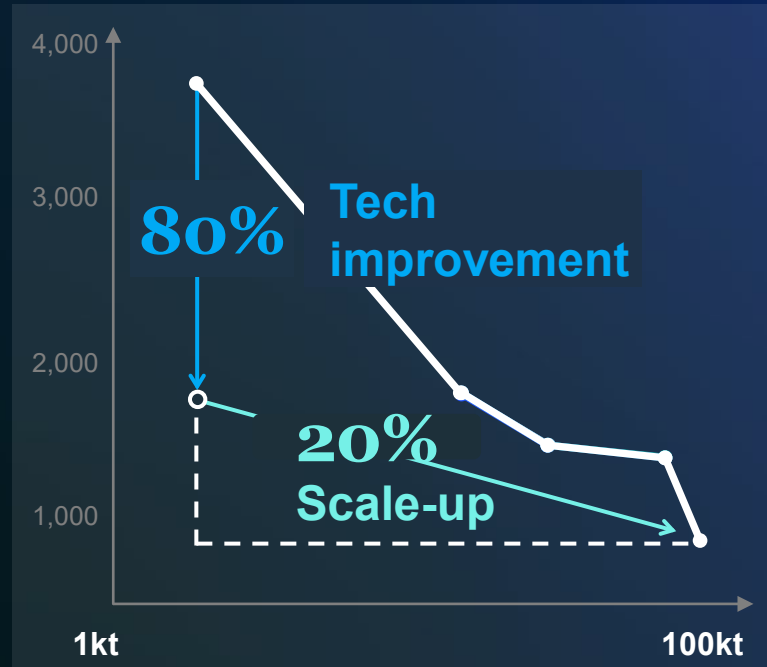
## Global deployment



# “2<sup>nd</sup> Moore’s Law of Climate Tech”: 80-20, 50-50, 20-80.

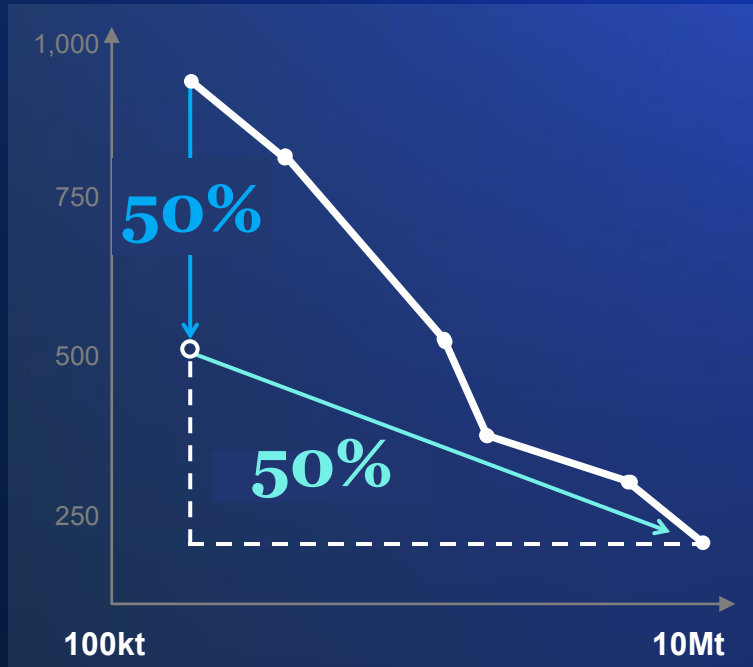
Cost degradation, equivalent \$/tCO<sub>2</sub>

## Early innovation



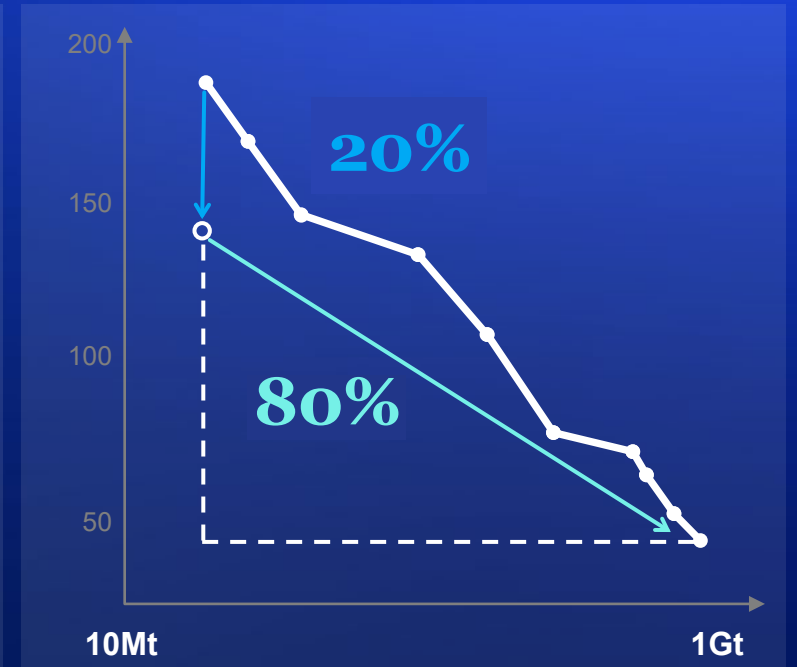
**100X**

## Commercialization



**100X**

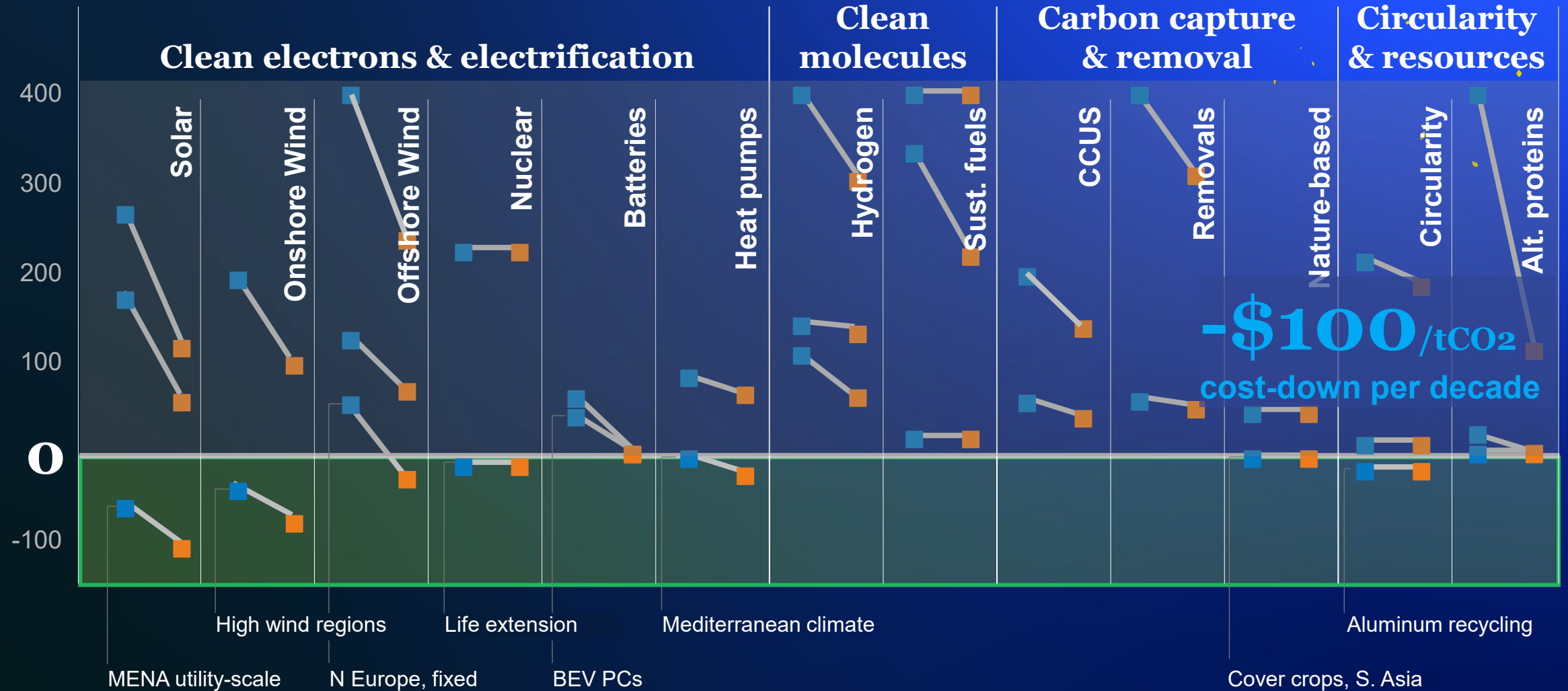
## Global deployment



**100X**

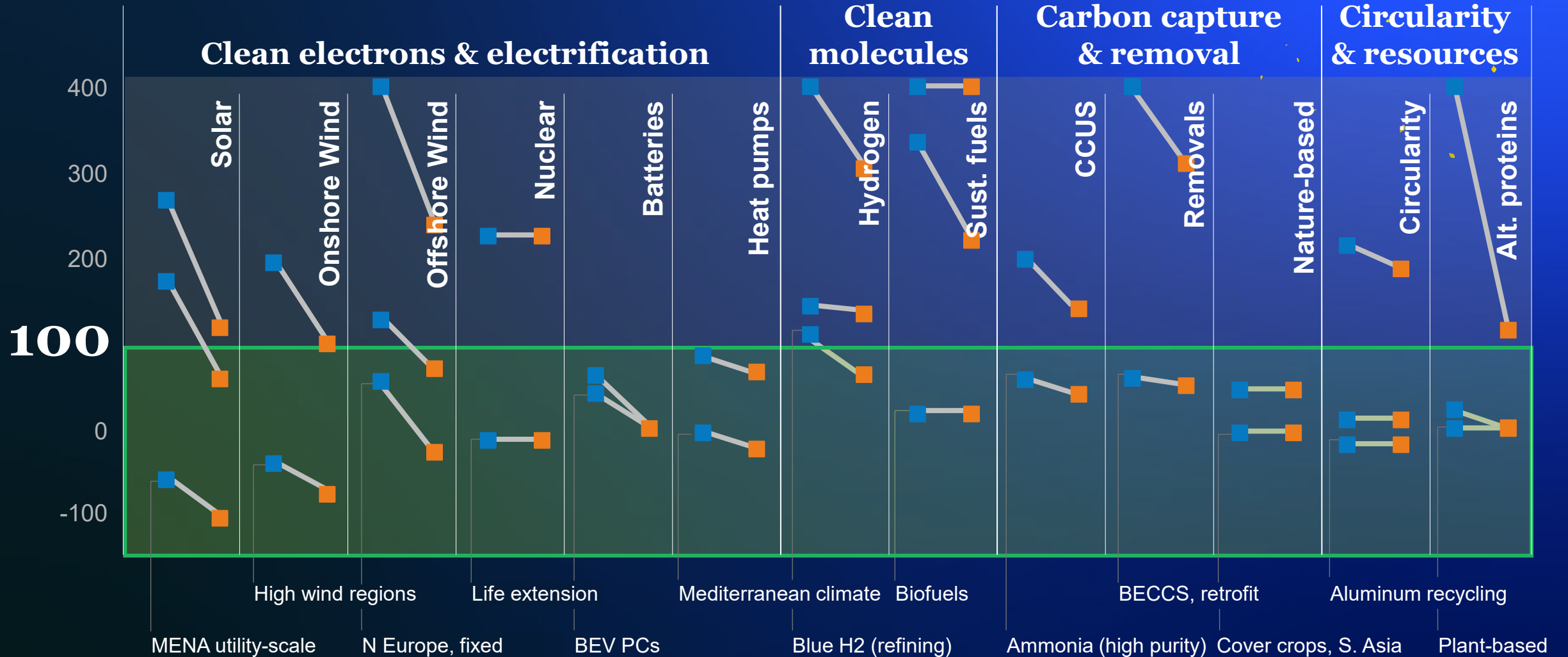
# 10 % of techs in the money today – steep cost-down to 2030

Estimated abatement costs, USD/tCO<sub>2e</sub>



# 100\$/tCO<sub>2</sub> carbon tax would make most techs competitive

Estimated abatement costs, USD/tCO<sub>2e</sub>



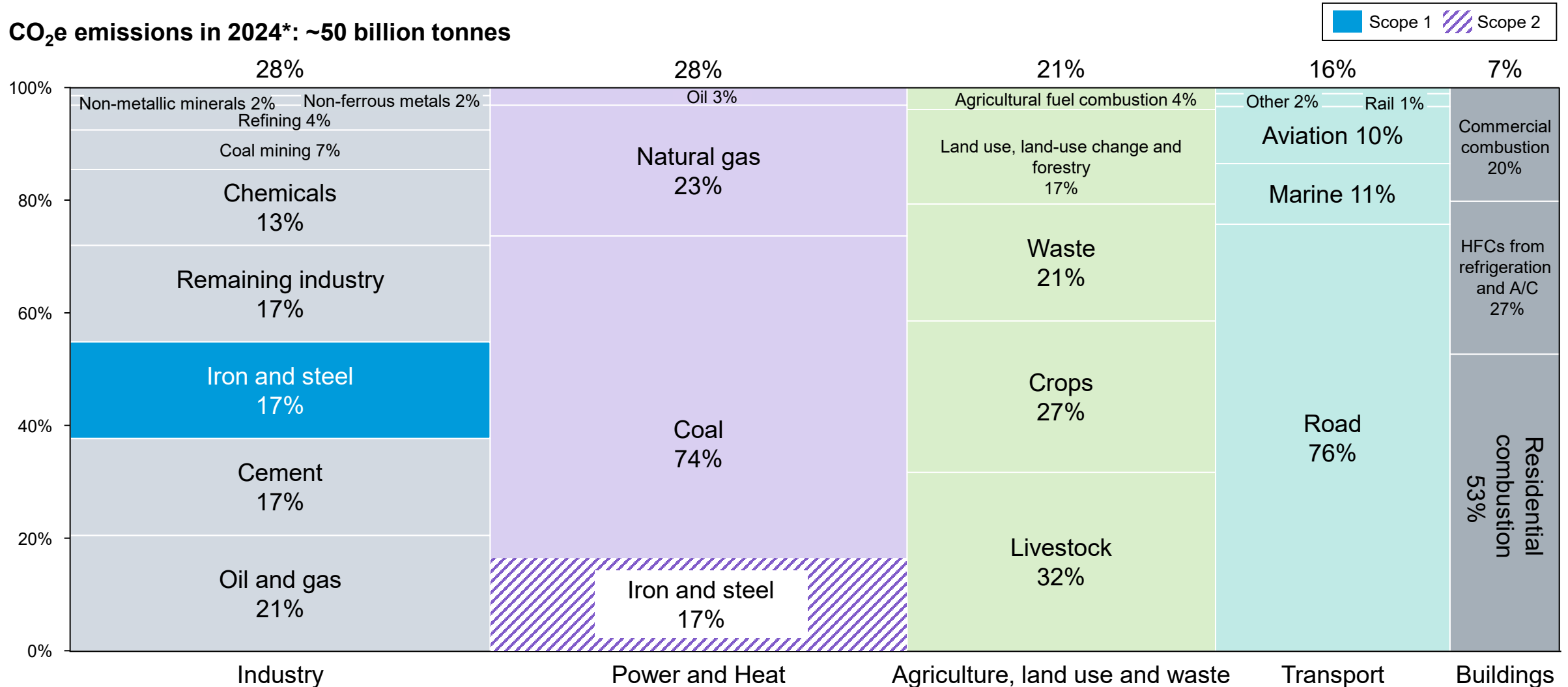




# Steel Sector Overview: The Problem






# Steel sector Scopes 1 and 2 around 10% of global CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions



Sources: Scope 1 emissions from [Rhodium Group ClimateDeck](#) (September 2024); Scope 2 iron and steel estimate from [IEA](#) (2023); \* 2024 emissions based on projections.

Credit: Theo Moers, Mimi Khawsam-ang, Max de Boer, Grace Frascati, Hyaee Ryung Kim, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (27 September 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# At present, crude steel is produced through three main methods that all emit CO<sub>2</sub>: BF-BOF, scrap EAF, and NG DRI-EAF

	1	2	3
	<b>Blast Furnace-Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF-BOF)</b>	<b>Scrap Electric Arc Furnace (Scrap EAF)</b>	<b>Natural Gas-Based Direct Reduced Iron – Electric Arc Furnace (NG DRI-EAF)</b>
Description	Iron ore, coke, and limestone produce pure iron in a blast furnace, which is turned into steel in an oxygen furnace	Scrap metal is melted in an EAF using electrical energy	Iron ore is turned into iron using natural gas, which is then melted in an EAF to produce steel
Main inputs	Iron ore, cooking coal	Scrap steel, electricity	Iron ore, natural gas
% of global steel production	 72%	 21%	 7%
CO <sub>2</sub> per tonne of crude steel	2.3 tonnes	0.7 tonnes	1.4 tonnes
Energy intensity per tonne of crude steel	~24 GJ	~10 GJ	~22 GJ
Average cost per tonne of crude steel	~\$390	~\$415	~\$455

Sources: [World Steel Association](#); [IEEFA](#) (2022); IEA, [Iron and Steel Technology Roadmap](#) (2020); Steel Technology, [Basic Oxygen Furnace Steelmaking](#); Recycling Today, [Growth of EAF Steelmaking](#); Wildsight, [Do We Really Need Coal to Make Steel](#). Credit: Mimi Khawsam-ang, Max de Boer, Grace Frascati, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (16 September 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# Green H<sub>2</sub>, electrolysis, and CCUS could reduce steelmaking CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by over 85% if implemented at scale

	1	2	3
<b>Description</b>	<p><b>100% Green Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) DRI-EAF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green hydrogen replaces natural gas as an iron ore reductant in DRI shaft; the rest of the process remains the same</li> <li>Generates water as a byproduct instead of CO<sub>2</sub></li> </ul>	<p><b>Iron Ore Electrolysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two different processes are possible:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Molten oxide electrolysis:</b> High current runs through mixture of iron ore and liquid electrolyte to split ore into pure molten iron</li> <li><b>Electrowinning-EAF:</b> Iron from iron ore is dissolved in acid. Iron-rich solution is then electrified to form pure solid iron</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCUS equipment can be added to existing steel-producing infrastructure to capture emitted CO<sub>2</sub></li> <li>Captured CO<sub>2</sub> is then sequestered underground or reused</li> </ul>
<b>Real-time sector initiatives</b>	<p><a href="#">HYBRIT/Stegra</a> 100% fossil fuel-free DRI-EAF production with green H<sub>2</sub> used for DRI</p>	<p><a href="#">Electra</a> Electrowinning to produce high-purity iron plates ready for EAF input (no DRI or MOE step)</p>	<p><a href="#">ArcelorMittal</a> Carbalyst® captures carbon from a blast furnace and reuses it as bio-ethanol. However, technology not proven at scale</p>
<b>Applicability to conventional routes</b>	<p>Applicable to existing DRI-EAF route, with minor retrofitting</p>	<p>Full overhaul of BF-BOF equipment required; replacement of DRI shaft in DRI-EAF</p>	<p>Retrofitting of capture technology is possible on conventional BF-BOF and DRI-EAF</p>
<b>Decarbonization potential (vs. BF-BOF)</b>	<p>~90%</p>	<p>~97%</p>	<p>~90% <span style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; padding: 2px 5px; font-weight: bold;">Hypothetical best-case scenario</span></p>
<b>Estimated production cost (excl. CapEx)</b>	<p>&lt;\$800 per tonne of steel</p>	<p>~\$215 per tonne of iron + cost of 'stranded' iron ore</p>	<p>~\$380 – 400 per tonne</p>





**New energy supply chains need to be established to link energy-abundant regions and industrial centers**

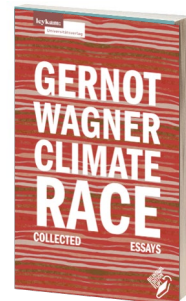
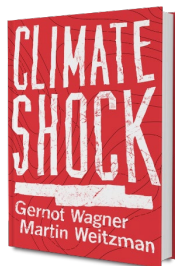
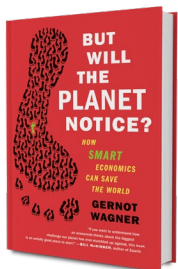


Source: Rich Lesser, Global Chair, Boston Consulting Group (2023)

**BlackRock.**

**Managing  
the net-zero  
transition**





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gwagner@columbia.edu  
gwagner.com