

# The Global Energy Transformation

Adnan Z. Amin

Senior Research Fellow

Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs

Harvard Kennedy School



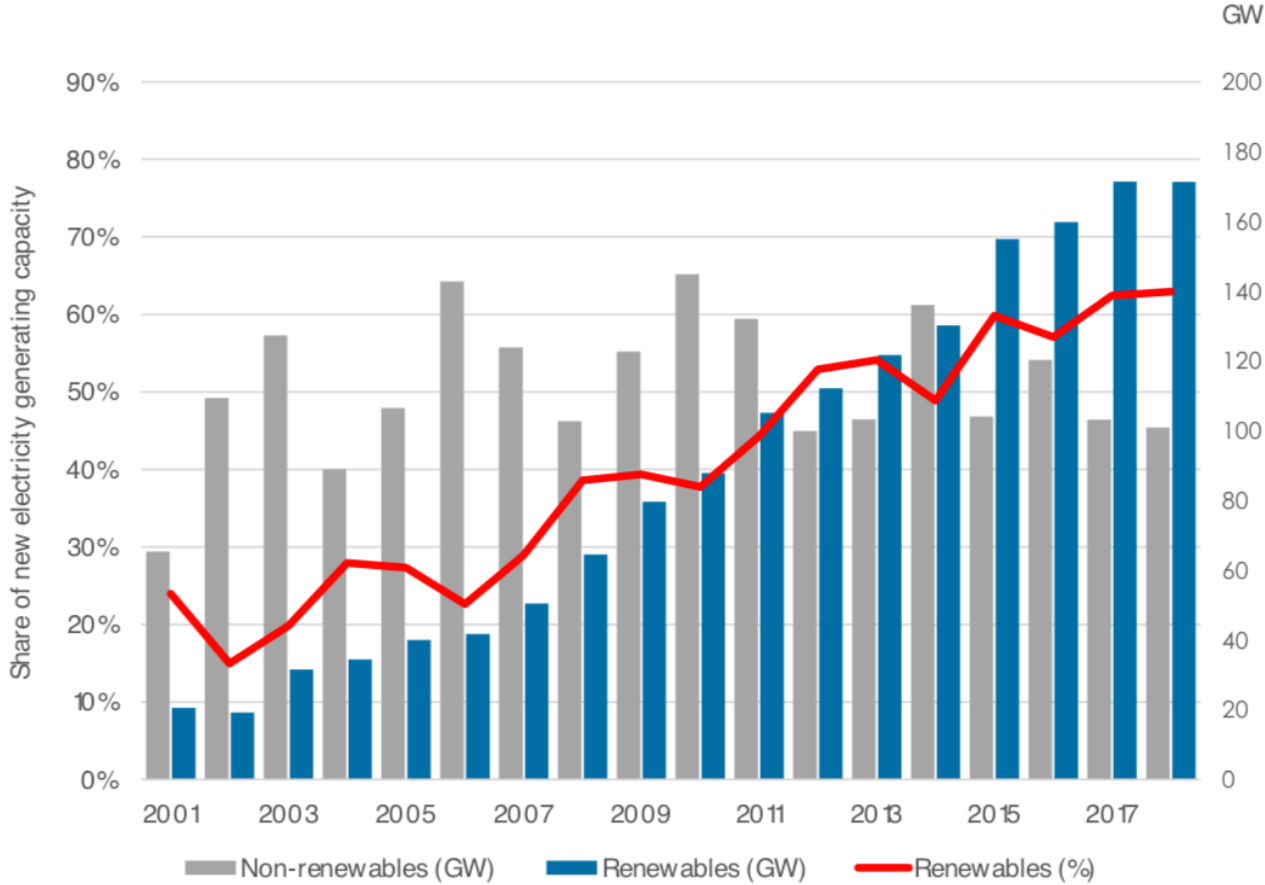
HARVARD Kennedy School

**BELFER CENTER**

for Science and International Affairs



# Electricity Sector: Renewables are leading the global power capacity additions



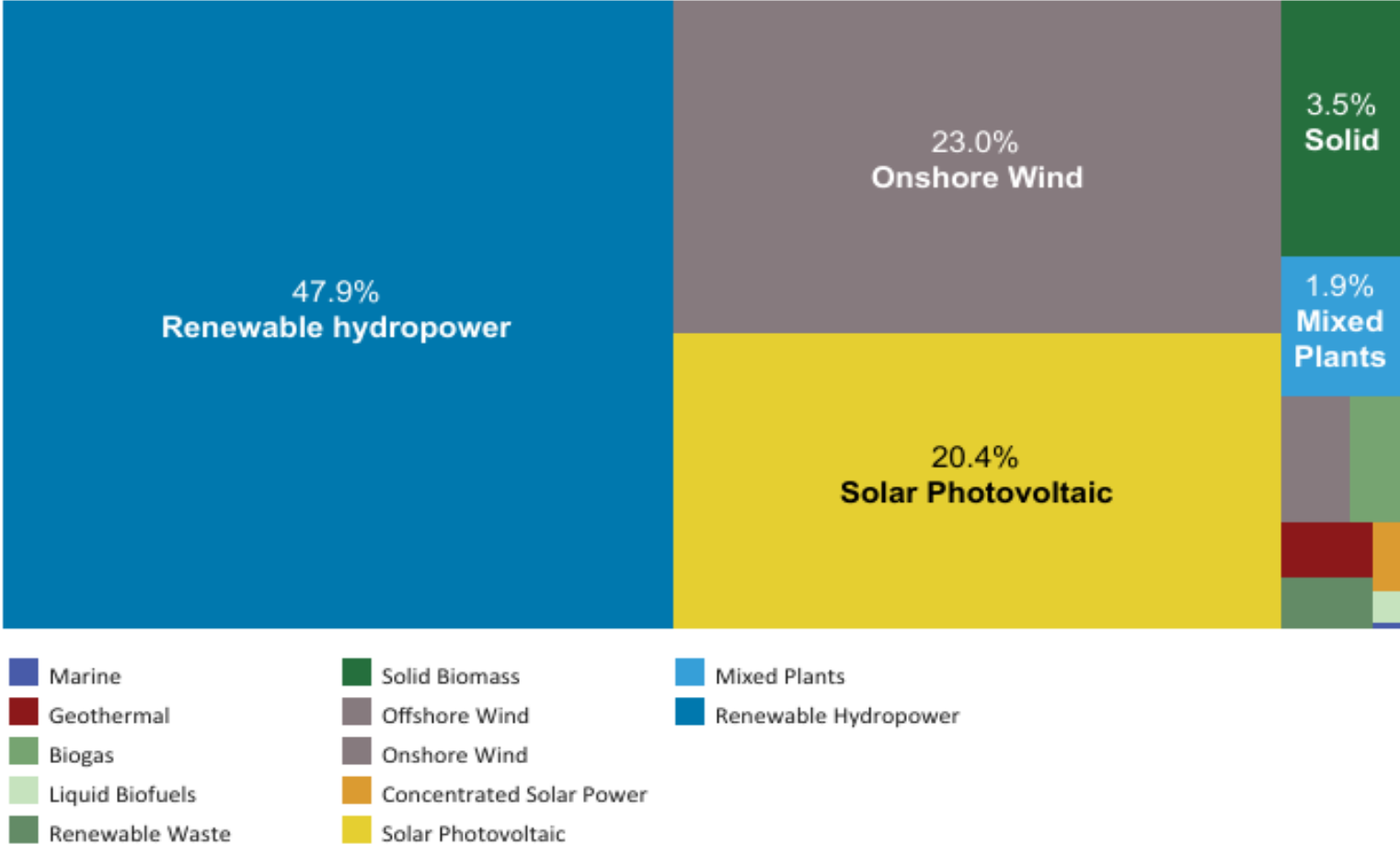
Global electricity capacity additions and share of renewables, 2001 – 2018 (source: IRENA, 2019)

- Renewables (incl. hydro) make up around 26.3% of global electricity generation (source: UNEP)





# Hydropower is leading, solar and wind are catching up



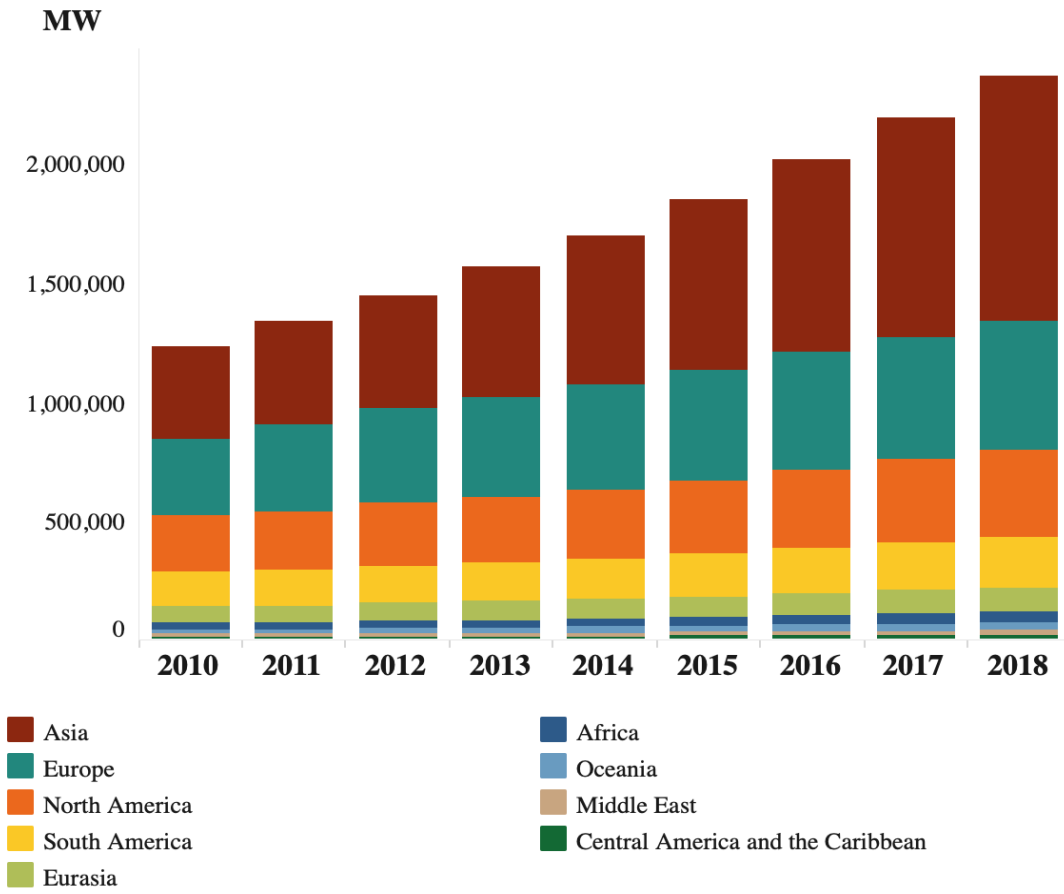
Breakdown of total renewable energy generation capacity, 2018 (source: IRENA, 2019)

- Globally, total renewable energy generation capacity reached 2,351 GW in 2018





# Fastest renewables capacity growth happens in Asia and Europe



Source: IRENA Statistics, 2019

## Case study: Morocco

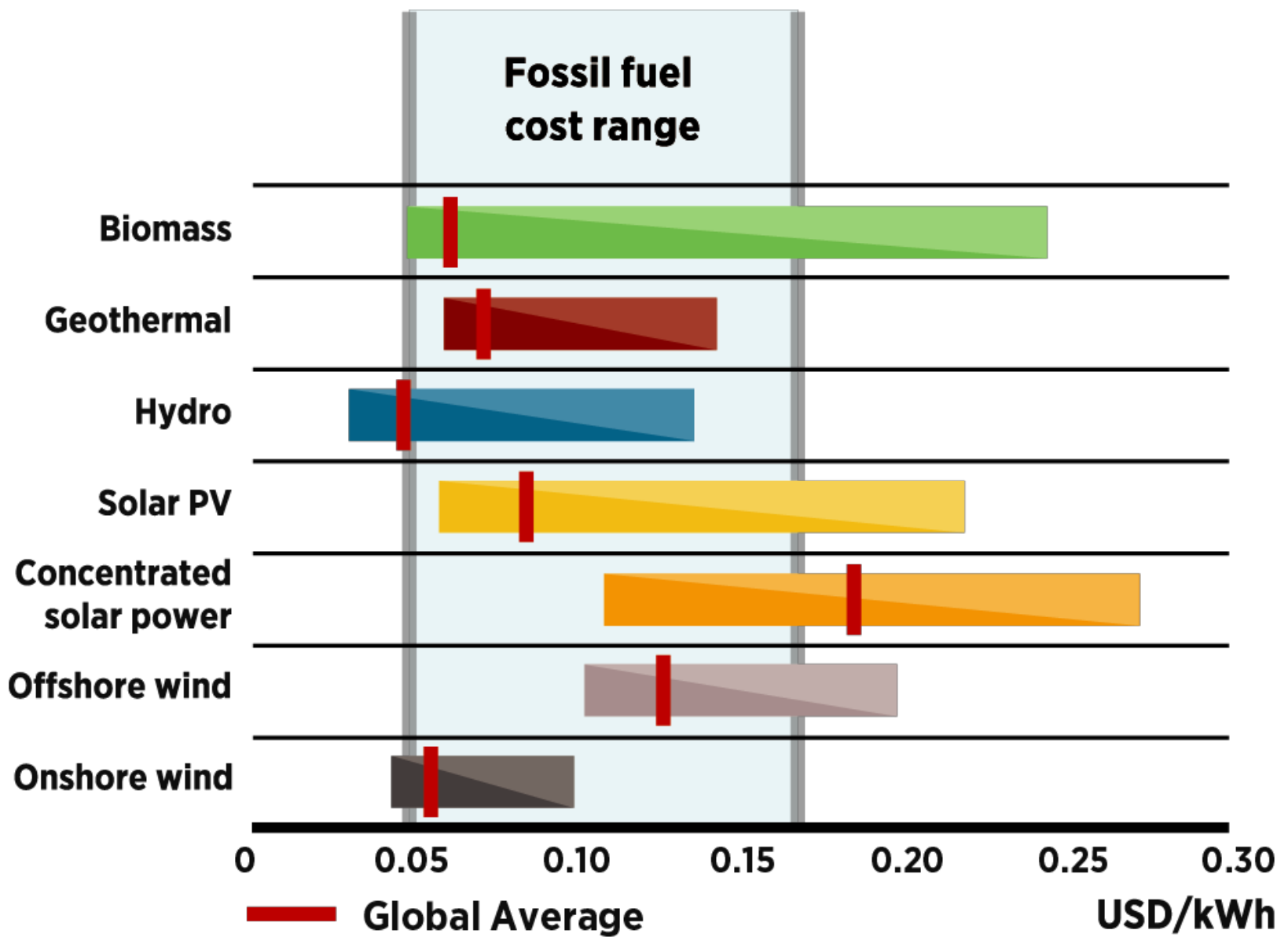


- In 2018, 711 MW solar capacity and 1.22 GW wind capacity (35% renewables share in total)
- National goals for generating 42% of its electricity from renewables by 2020, and 52% by 2030
- Plan: 2,000 MW wind and 2,000 MW solar capacity by 2020 (adding 1.5GW renewable capacity annually)
- E.g. 580-MW Noor Ouarzazate PV-CSP solar complex





# The strong business case of renewables continues to solidify



## Cost of Electricity

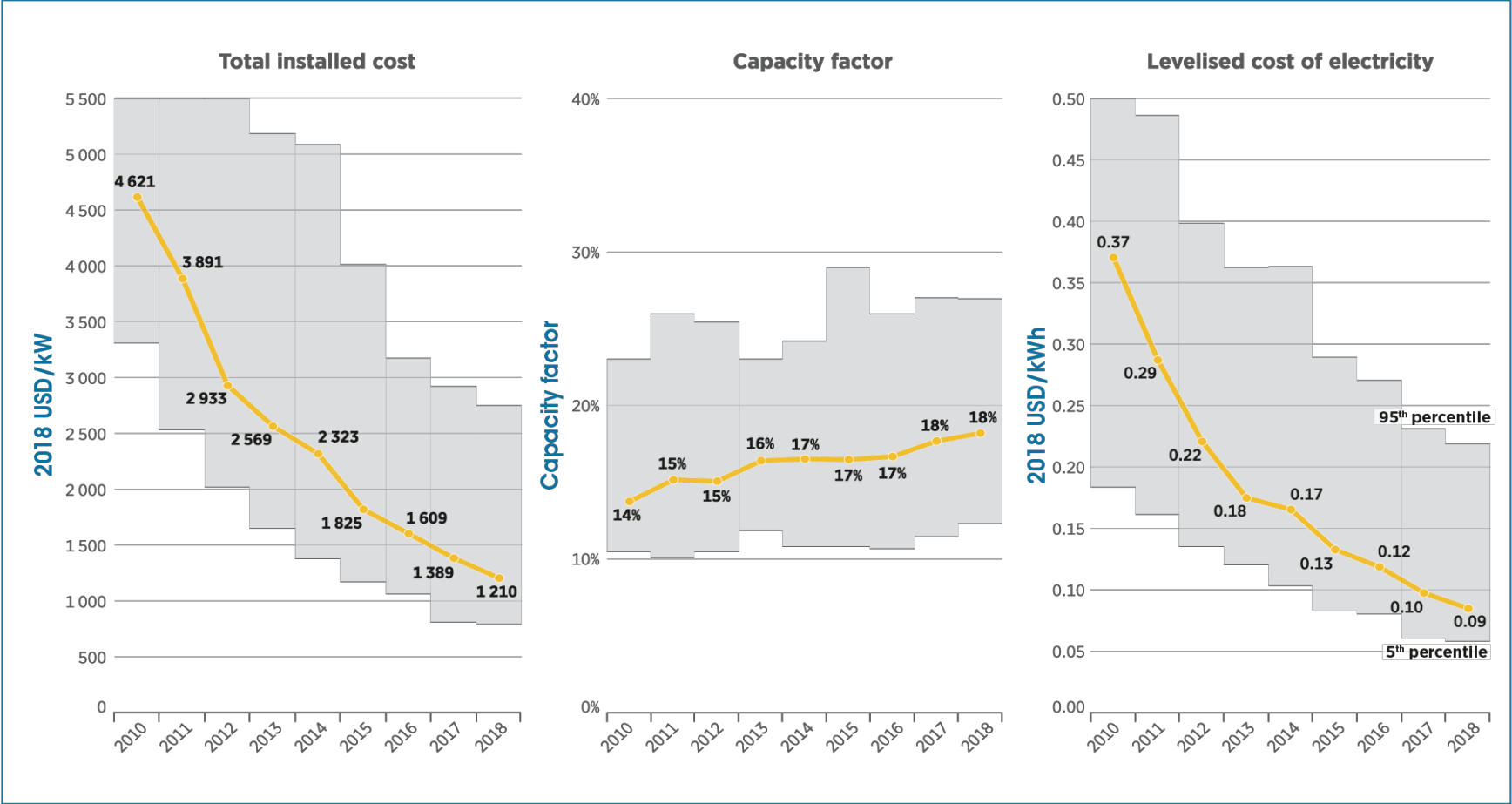
Global LCOE from utility-scale renewable power generation technologies (2010-2018)

- **Bioenergy** 0.062 USD/kWh
- **Geothermal** 0.072 USD/kWh
- **Hydro** 0.047 USD/kWh
- **Solar PV** 0.085 USD/kWh
- **CSP** 0.185 USD/kWh
- **Onshore wind** 0.056 USD/kWh

Global LCOE of utility-scale renewable power generation technologies, 2010–2018 (Source: IRENA Cost Database, 2019)



# Solar PV: technology cost and LCOE are continuously decreasing, while technology performance improves

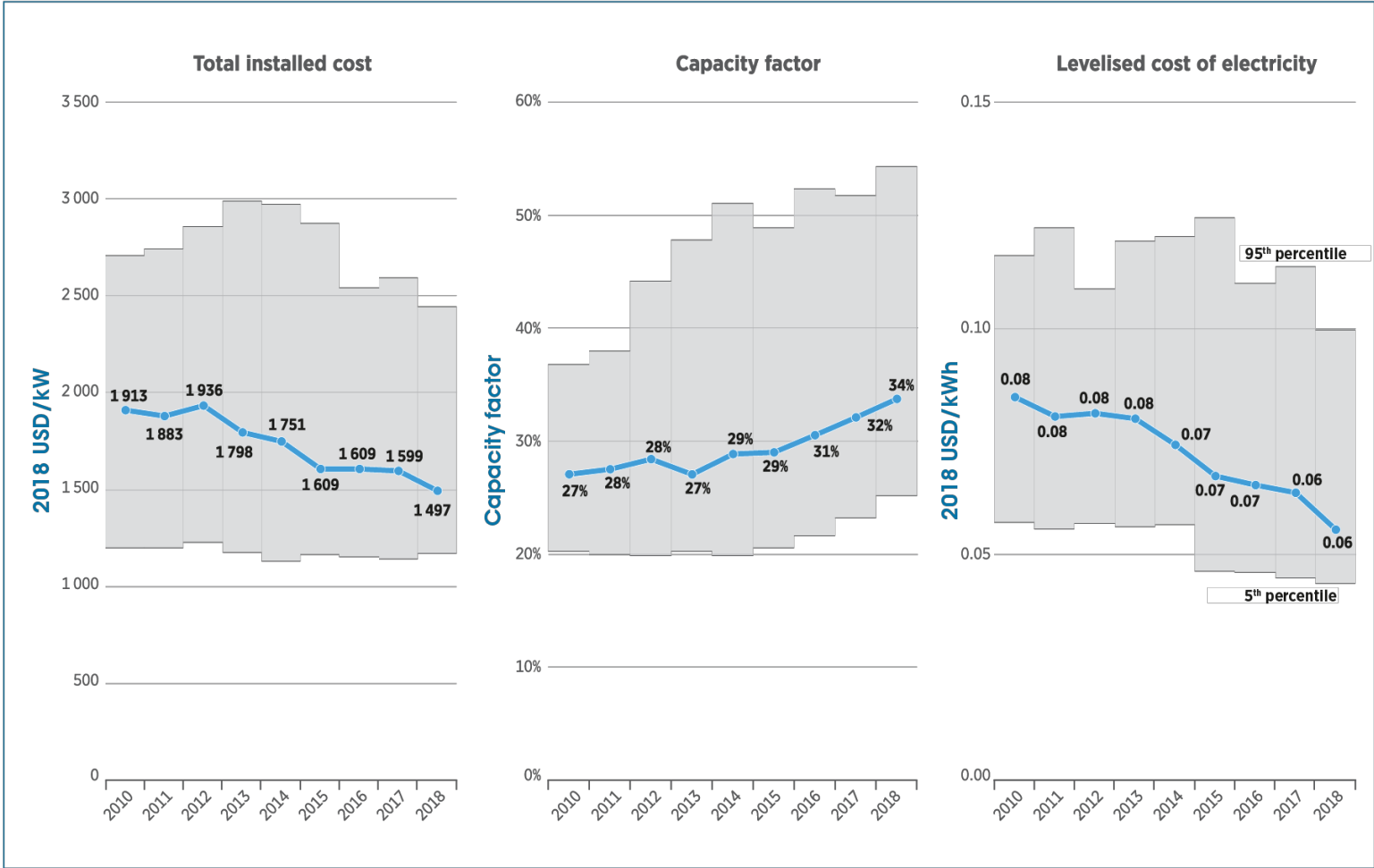


Global utility scale solar PV cost trends, 2010 – 2018 (Source: IRENA Renewable Cost Database, 2019)





# Wind: same story as solar PV (while to a slightly lesser degree)



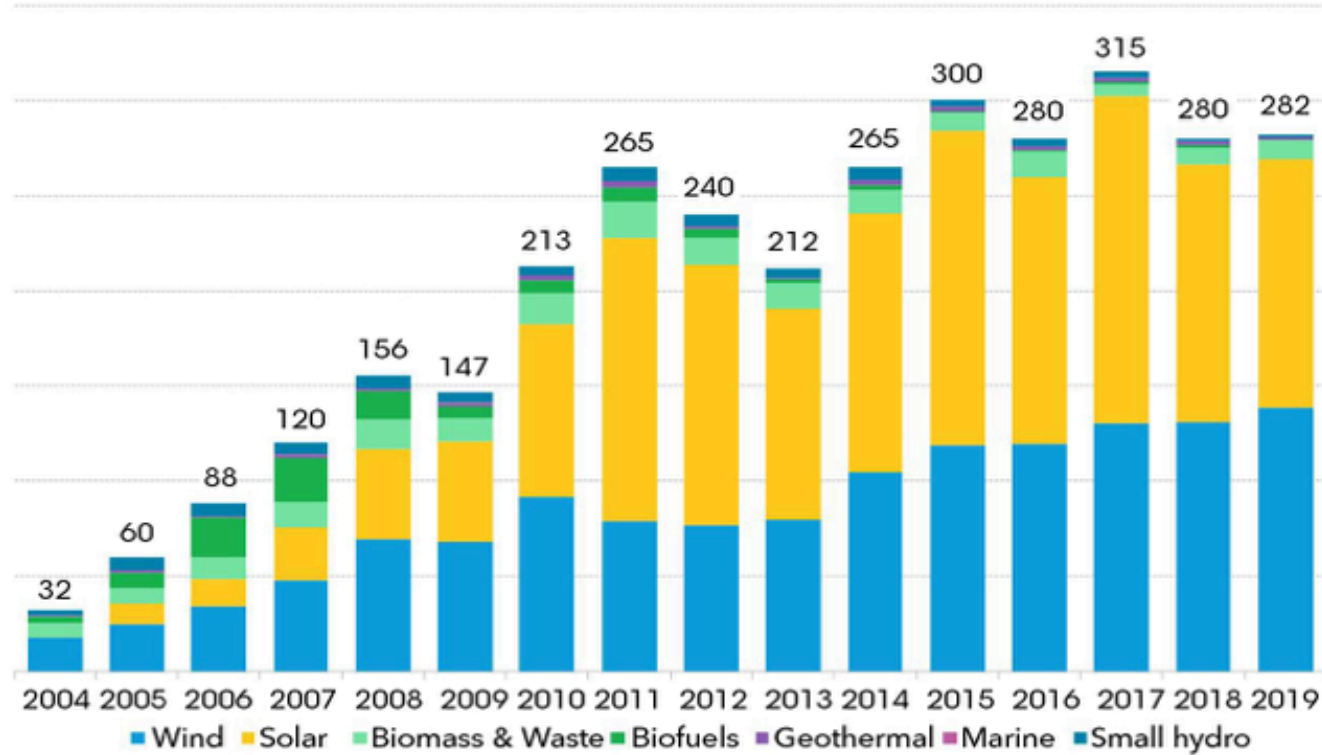
Global utility scale wind cost trends, 2010 – 2018 (Source: IRENA Renewable Cost Database, 2019)



# Strong global renewable energy capacity investment

## Global renewable energy capacity investment, 2004 to 2019

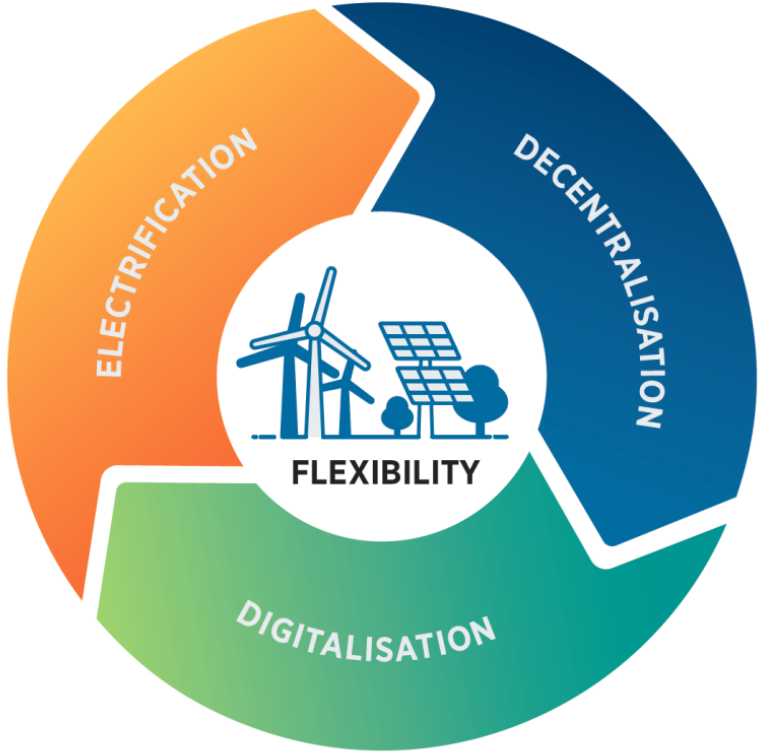
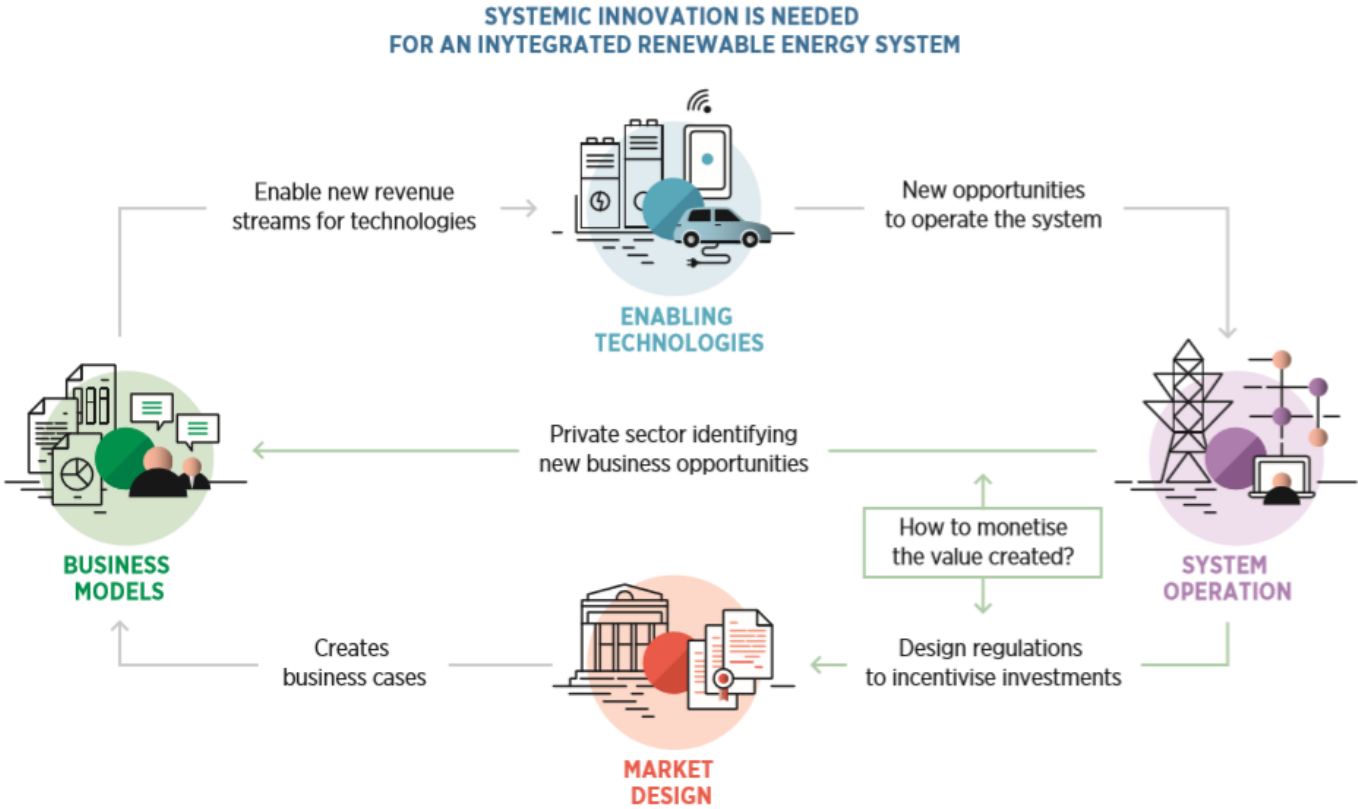
\$ billion



Source: BloombergNEF. Note: The figures represent utility-scale asset finance of new wind, solar, biomass and waste-to-energy, geothermal, small hydro and marine power projects, plus small-scale solar systems. Prior years' totals have been revised in this round, to reflect new information. Totals are rounded to nearest billion dollars



# Innovation is the other key driver of the power sector transformation



Source of graphics: IRENA Landscape report, 2019





# Spotlight: Digitalisation as driver of operational flexibility

- Improved & early forecasting enables smart response (e.g. reduced curtailment)
- Artificial Intelligence: learning algorithms (day-ahead forecasts with 94% accuracy)



Source of graphics: IRENA Landscape report, 2019

## Case studies: Germany and China

- **Germany: EWeLiNE** (new forecast product, focusing on grid stability)
- **China: Envision** (cloud-based platform, that helps manage over 100GW energy assets globally, connecting over 50 million sensors and smart devices)



Source: Envision website



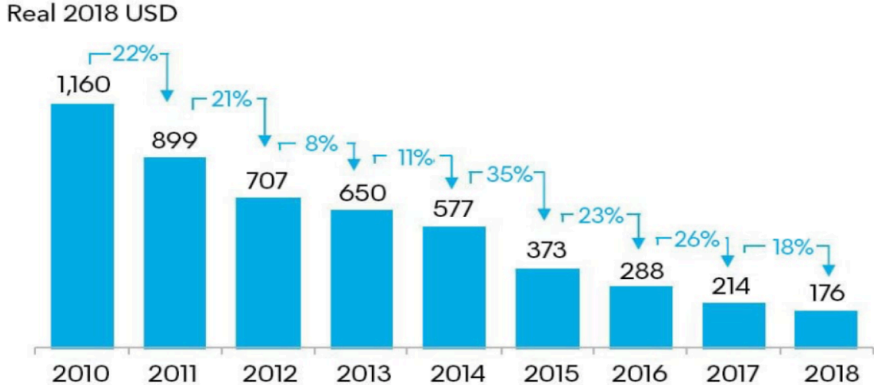
# Systems are increasingly moving to flexible solutions: focus on electricity storage

- In 2017, around **4,700 GWh** of electricity storage existed, **96%** of which from pumped hydro.
- Trend: IRENA expects up to **11,900 – 15,300 GWh** of electricity storage by 2030 (only 51% of which pumped hydro)
- Battery storage has witnessed rapid cost reductions (due to wider deployment and commercialization).
- Battery storage in stationary applications is set to grow from only **2 GW** in 2017 to around **175 GW** in 2030.
- Electric cars offer an additional source of flexibility (i.e. could provide about **8,000 GWh** of battery storage by 2030)



Source of graphics: IRENA Landscape report, 2019

Volume weighted average lithium-ion pack price



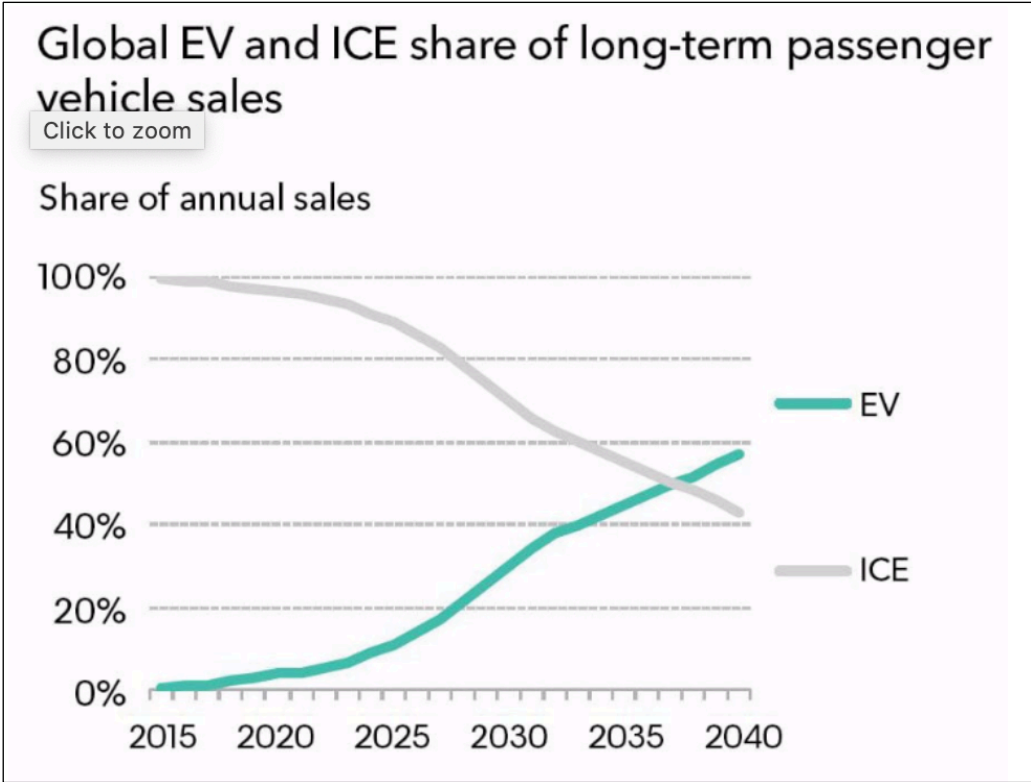
Source: BNEF, 2019



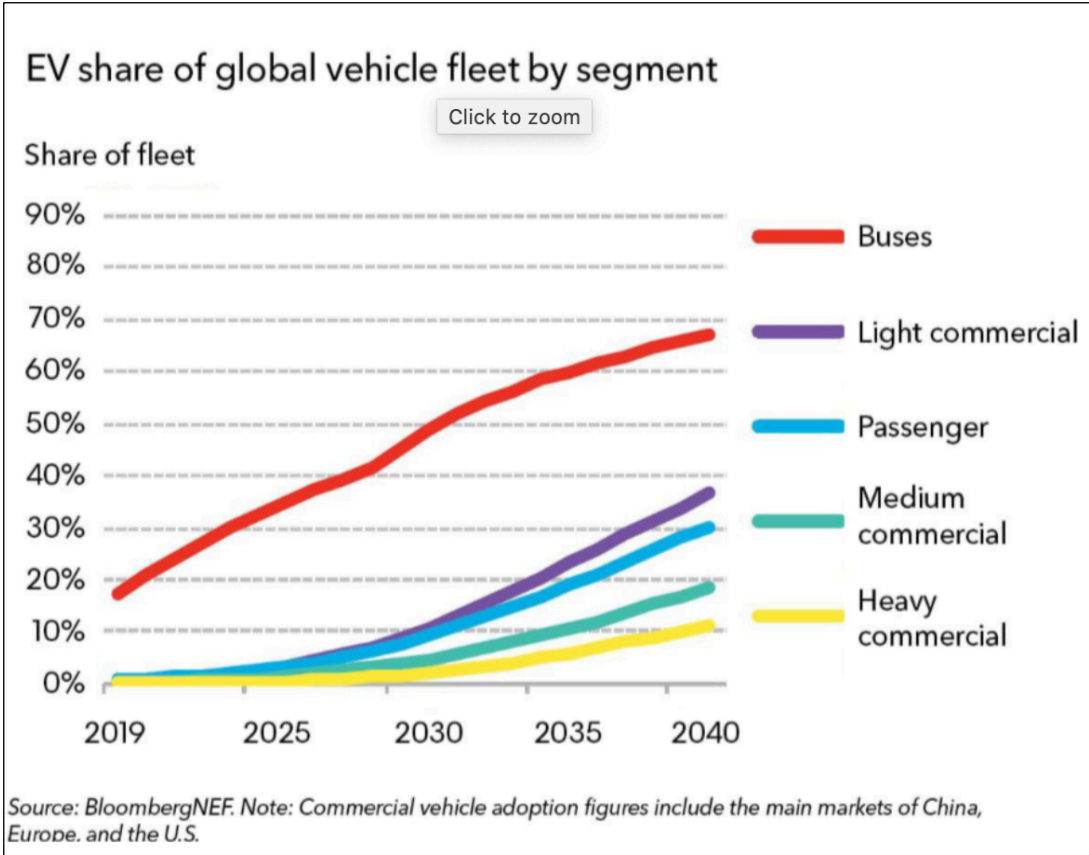


# Transportation Sector: electric cars are spreading in global markets

- **Passenger cars:** By June 2018, already **4 million** passenger EVs were on the road worldwide
- Annual passenger EV sales to rise to **10 million** in 2025, **28 million** in 2030 and **56 million** by 2040 (Source: BNEF)
- By 2040, **57%** of all passenger vehicle sales, and over **30%** of the global passenger vehicle fleet, will be electric



Source: BNEF, 2019







# Electrification is also spreading in other segments of road transportation

- **Electric buses:** Overall, more than 400,000 electric buses are on the road
- **Ride hailing:** Ola (India) raised \$250 million for “electric mass transport projects” (build charging infrastructure, bring electric vehicles on to its app)
- **Small trucks:** The cost/kWh capacity of battery packs for trucks fell from \$500 in 2013 to \$200 in 2019. Uptake is set to accelerate in 2020s (Source: BNEF)
  - Examples: Tesla Semi; Ford invested \$500 million in an electric truck



## Case study: DHL

- In 2014, DHL acquired StreetScooter to electrify its own fleet
- This enabled it to vastly cut costs and meet emissions regulations
- In 2020, DHL will debut a fully electric delivery van in the US
- Other logistics companies follow (UPS, FedEx, Amazon)

### 10.000TH STREETSCOOTER DEPLOYED BY DEUTSCHE POST DHL GROUP



**36,000** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved per year



**100%** green electricity



**100 million** kilometers traveled



**12,000** e-bikes and e-trikes used for postal deliveries



**13,500** charging stations installed



**20,000** unit production capacity per year Aachen and Düren plants



Deutsche Post DHL Group





# Various countries have made commitments to phasing out fossil-fuel cars

## Country commitments for banning the sale of all (semi-)fossil fuel-powered cars

- **UK:** phase out new petrol, diesel and hybrid cars (ICE) by 2035 (likely already in 2032)
- **Japan** (# 3 global auto market) has comprehensive plans for a "hydrogen economy" by 2040
- **China:** eventually ban the sale of all fossil fuel-powered cars, researching a timeline



## Spotlight electric mobility: China



- Chinese e-vehicles account for 60% of global sales: 876,000 vehicles were produced in 2018
- China accounts for about 99% of the world's total electric bus fleet
- Shenzhen (population: 12.5 million people) runs a 100% electric bus fleet and 22,000 e-taxis
- China has the largest high-speed railway in the world (19,000 miles of track; all major cities)





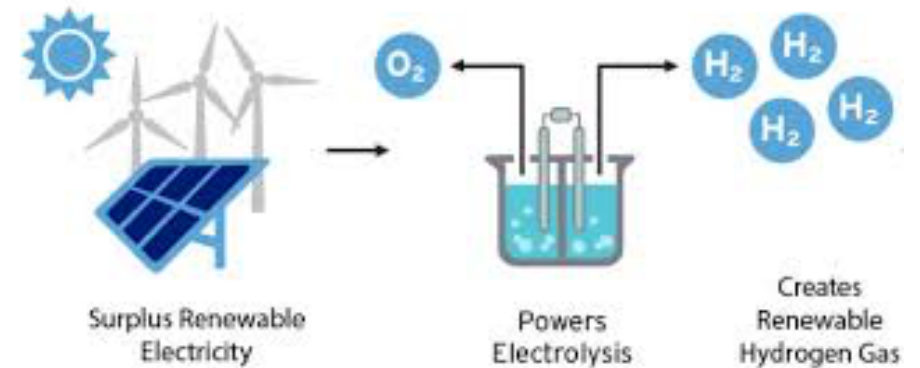
## Transportation: Hard-to-electrify segments

- **Large Trucks** (long-haul, heavy duty): electricity, natural gas and hydrogen fuel cells will play a role (BNEF, 2019)
- **Ships**: huge challenge is to power the more than 50,000 tankers, freighters and cargo carriers
  - Success: Fleet of fully operational e-powered ferries for light, short-range travel in Norway
- **Airplanes**: more than 200 start-ups are working on building some sort of electric aircraft
  - Short-distance air taxis, passenger drones and other small applications are ready
  - Firm magniX: first fully electric commercial aircraft flew for 15 minutes (Canada in 2019)
  - Ampaire (California): will build 19-seater electric hybrid plane for commercial distance by 2021



# Spotlight: Hydrogen

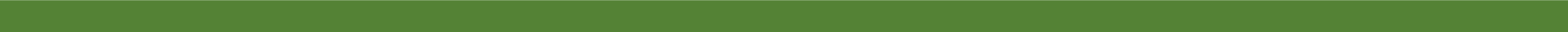
- **Blue Hydrogen:** fossil fuel-based hydrogen production combined with carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS)
- **Green Hydrogen:** hydrogen from renewables; electrolysis of water ( $H_2O$ ) is a simple method of producing hydrogen
- Key constraints for low-carbon hydrogen production
  - Cost & availability of electrolysers
  - Infrastructure (distribution and storage)
- Potential:
  - Green hydrogen costs are projected to decrease by up to **60%** by 2030
  - Global economic potential for **19 exajoules (EJ)** of green hydrogen in TPEC by 2050 (IRENA, 2018)
- E.g. Germany has target of 20% hydrogen from renewables by 2030. For this, 3-5 GW of electrolysers are to be built.





# Larry Fink (CEO of BlackRock): unlikely environmentalists

- “Climate change has become a defining factor in companies’ long-term prospects”
- “Awareness is rapidly changing, and I believe we are on the edge of a fundamental reshaping of finance.”
- “In the near future – and sooner than most anticipate – there will be a significant reallocation of capital.”
- “sustainability- and climate-integrated portfolios can provide better risk-adjusted returns to investors.”





# Market valuations race to bottom and (some) industry responds

- **Market valuation of companies: examples**

- **ExxonMobil**: market valuation fell by \$210 billion since 2014 (\$448 billion → \$238 billion)
- **Shell**: \$190.6 billion (down from \$315 billion in mid-2018)
- **BP**: \$115.6 billion (down from \$157 billion in 2018)
- **Schlumberger**: share prices have fallen from \$117 in mid-2014 to \$33 currently

→ Oil companies have a **collective \$654 billion in debt**

→ **Fracking industry**: rising bankruptcy risk (\$86 billion in debt maturities start to come due)

- **What is the industry response to the changing landscape?**

- **Shell**: committed to reduce its emission intensity by 3% by 2021, and by around 50% by 2050
- **Repsol** (Spanish): committed to being carbon-neutral by 2050 and wrote down many of its oil assets
- **BP**: announced to be net zero by 2050, progressive – but: details of plan not yet clear
- **ExxonMobil** and **Chevron**: staying the course, hoping to outlast their competitors





# The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation

- Project led by the Global Commission on the Geopolitics of Energy Transformation
- **Selected key insights:**
  - Shift in economic model from stocks (fossil fuels) to flows (renewable energy)
  - The new 'resources' are technology and innovation (not location-dependent)
  - AI and digitalisation play a major role (e.g. China: massive web of smart meters)
  - Vulnerability of oil exporters (peak demand; volatile markets)
  - Decentralisation and democratisation of energy systems (e.g. prosumers)
  - Value chains will be heavily disrupted (e.g. automobile sector)



Source: IRENA, 2019

**Thank You**



HARVARD Kennedy School

**BELFER CENTER**

for Science and International Affairs