

# Renewable Energy Potential in the USA and Mexico

Ralph P. Overend

## *Building the Renewable Energy Market in North America*

North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
28–29 October 2004, Montréal, PQ, Canada



# Outline

- Actual Renewable Energy Contribution
  - USA, Canada and Mexico
- Forecasts
- Issues
  - Resource Assessment
  - Technology
  - Growth rates

# North America – 3 Nations Statistics

Country	Pop'n	GDP	TPES	Electric	CO <sub>2</sub>
Units	Million	T\$ PPP	EJ	TWh	Mt
Canada	31.4	843.1	10.5	532	532
Mexico	100.4	819.8	6.6	184	365
USA	287.5	9196	95.9	3802	5652

TPES = Total Primary Energy Supply

PPP = Purchasing Power Parity

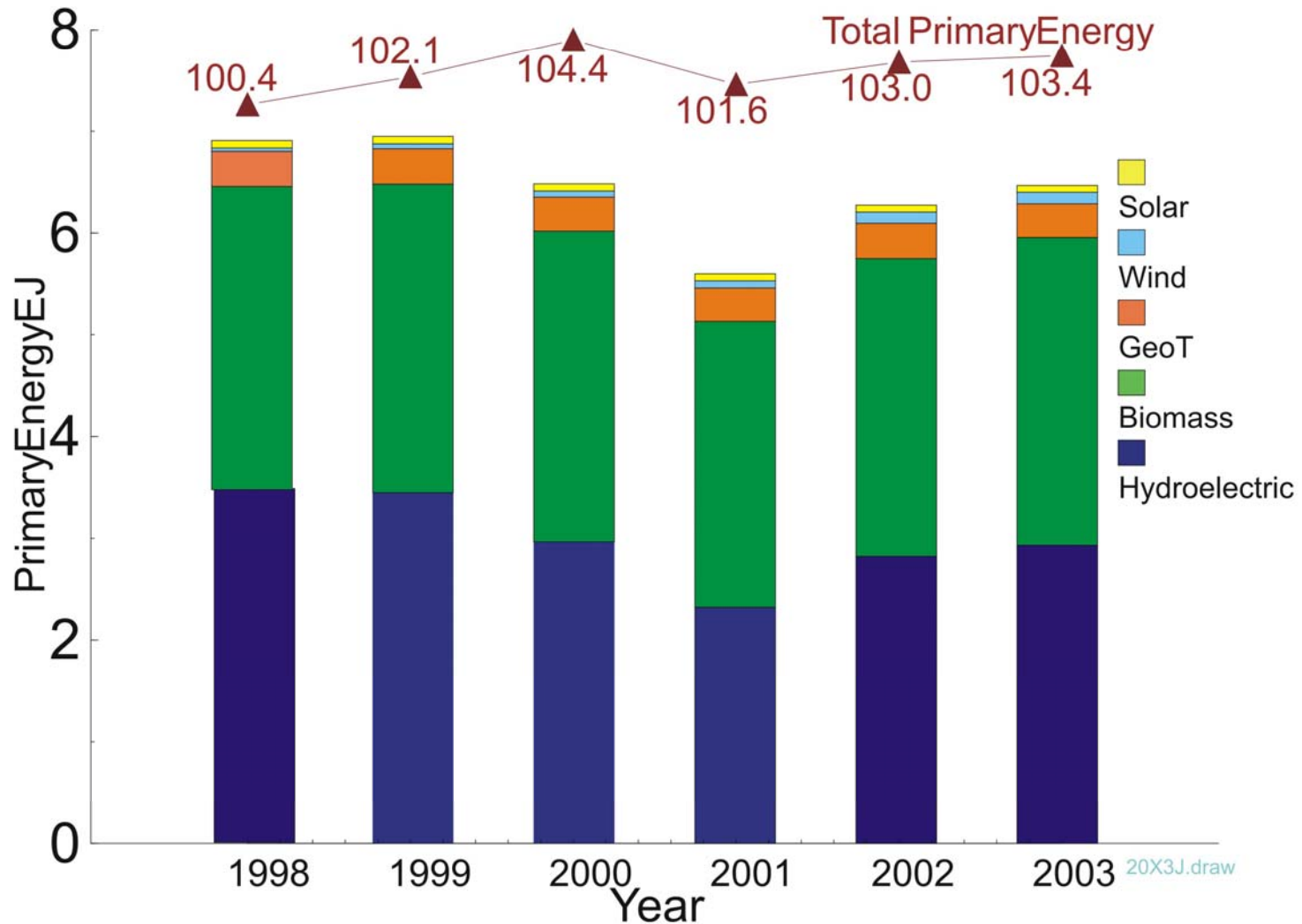
Source: IEA Key World Energy Statistics 2004 with data from 2002

# North America – 3 Nations Statistics

Country	Energy/ person	Energy unit GDP	Renewable Share	
Units	GJ/cap	kJ/ \$PPP	TPES	Electric
Canada	333	12.4	17	57
Mexico	66	8	12.2	15.1
USA	333	10.4	6	8.9

**Sources:** IEA *Key World Energy Statistics 2004* with data from 2002, DOE/IEA *Renewable Energy Trends 2003*, DOE/EIA *Mexico Country Analysis Brief (2004)*, *Renewable Energy in Canada Status Report 2002 - A National Report* prepared for the Renewable Energy Working Party (REWP) of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Office of Energy Research and Development  
Natural Resources Canada

# USA – Renewables History



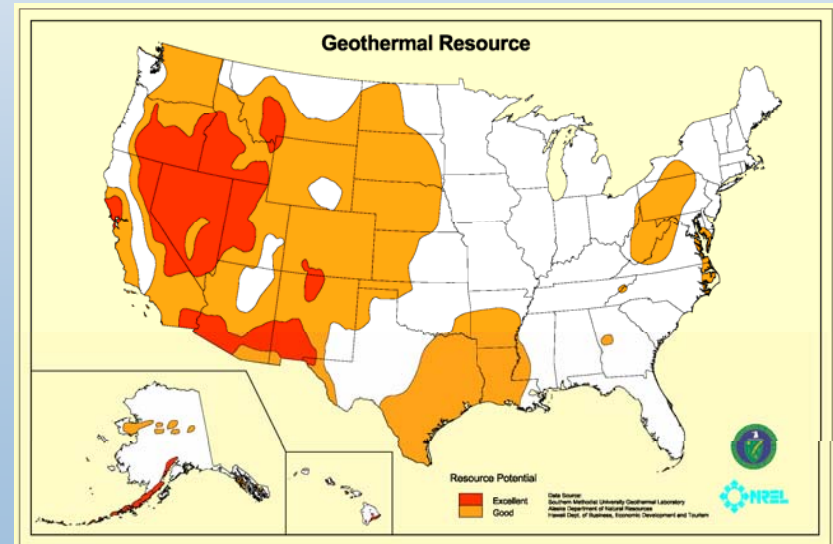
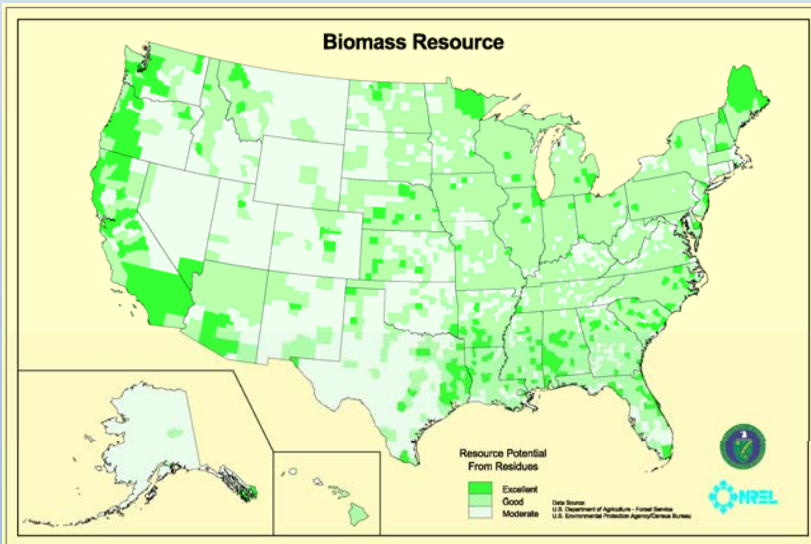
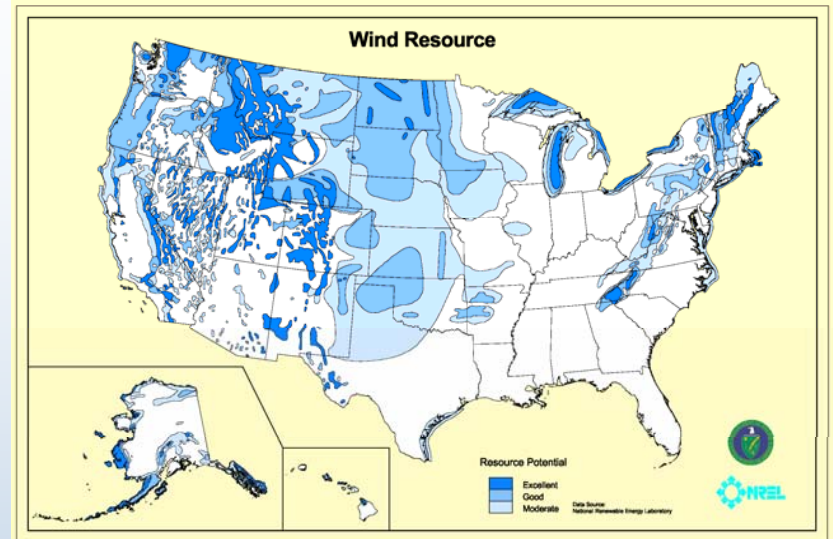
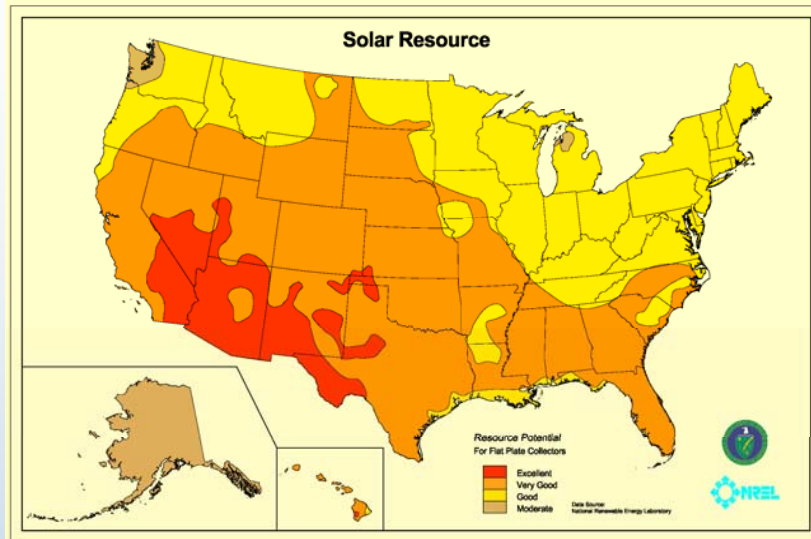
# Renewables can meet the Global Need

REN Wm <sup>-2</sup>	Flux	Capture
<b>Solar</b>	230	20
<b>Wind</b>	25	5
<b>Biomass</b>		0.5-1

Year	2002	2050	
TPES TW	Total	Total	NonC
350 ppm	12	30-50	>30
450ppm			25
550 ppm			15

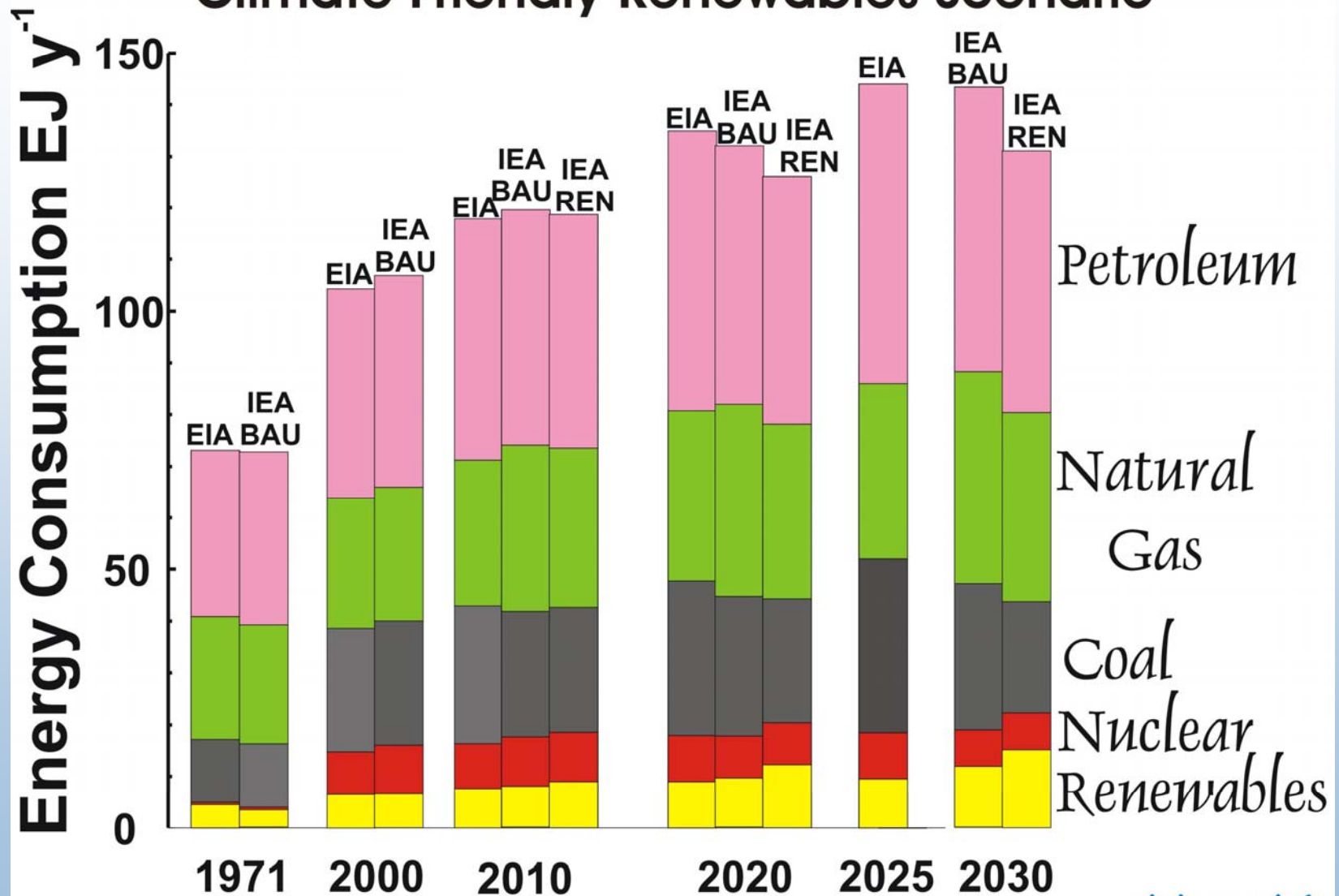
- Solar – 10 TW = 220,000 km<sup>2</sup>
  - 500 km rectangle e.g. 1/3 Alberta, or Minnesota
- Wind – 10 TW = 2,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> (Class IV)
  - Large areas of local concentration > Class IV
- Biomass 10 TW = 10 – 15 M km<sup>2</sup> or
  - 10% of world land area 131 M km<sup>2</sup> = Today's agriculture
  - CAN + USA + MEX = 16% of world land area at 21 M km<sup>2</sup>

# U.S. Renewable Energy Resources





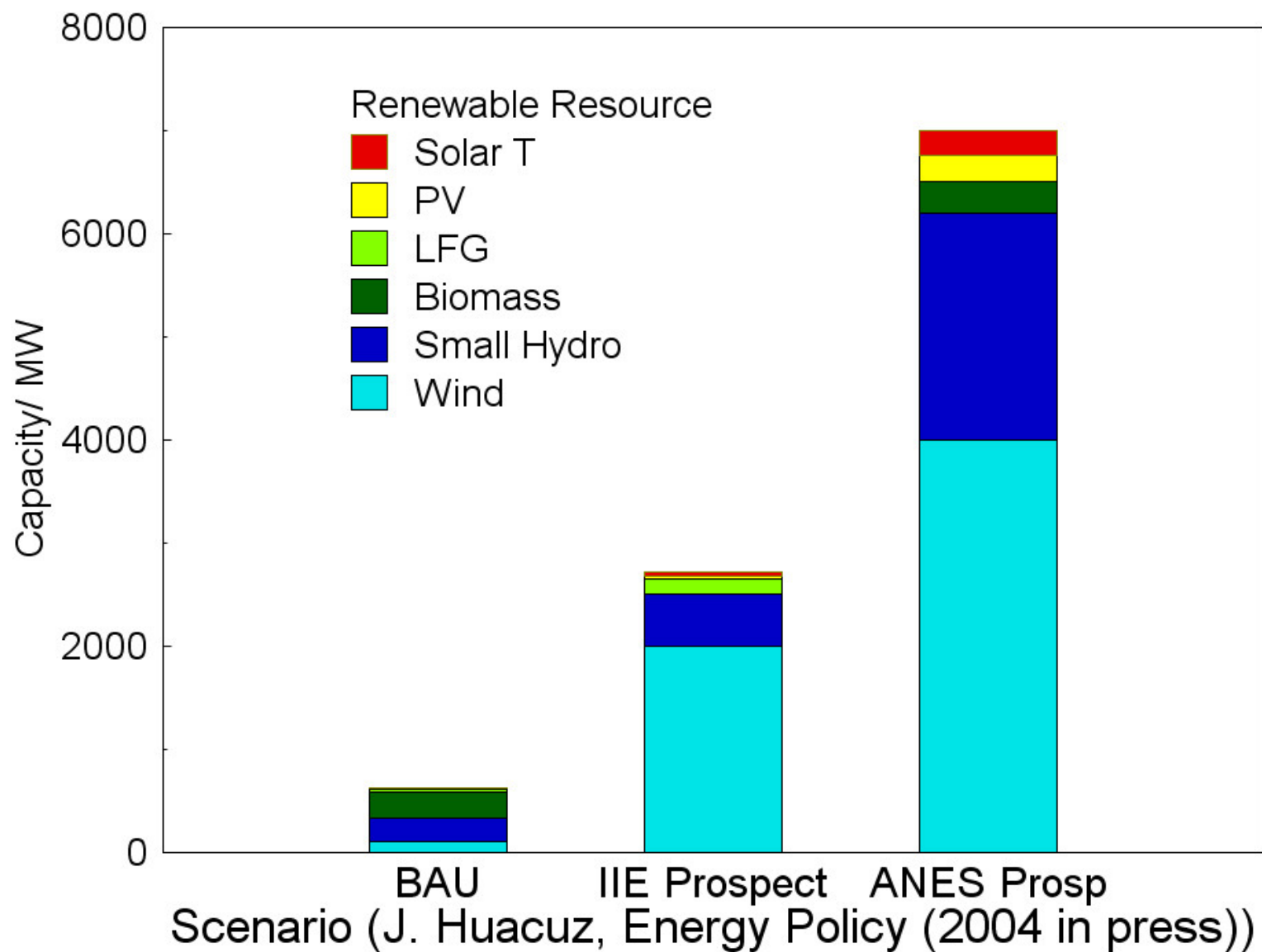
# Energy Futures - Two Business as Usual and a Climate Friendly Renewables Scenario



Source: AEO 2004, and World Energy Investment Outlook 2003 insights

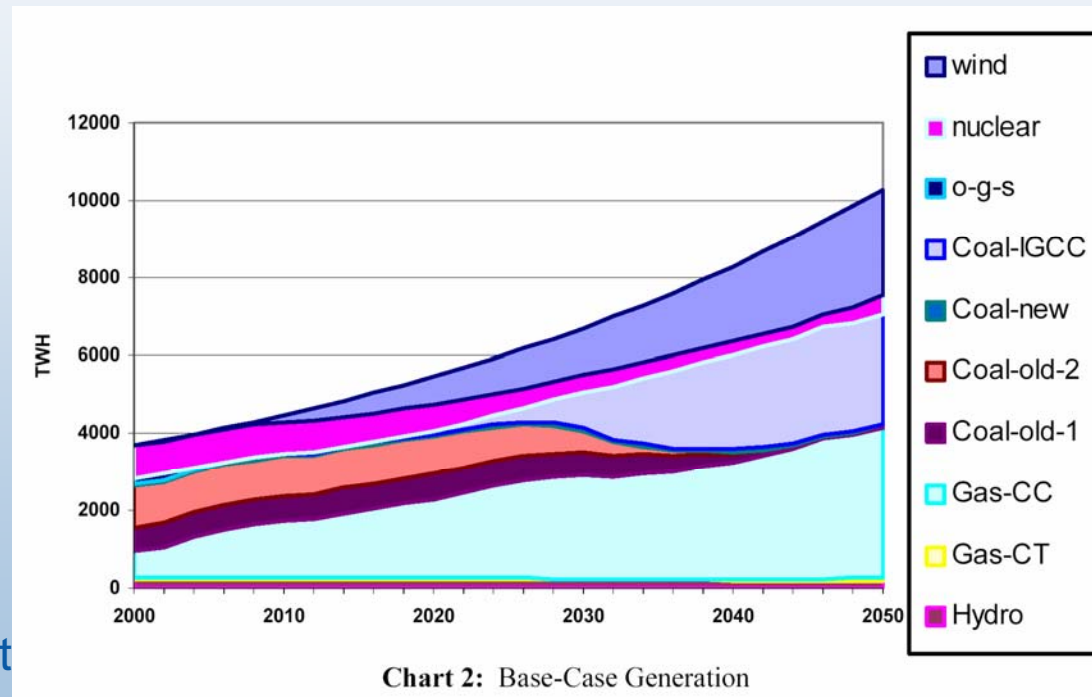
[eiaieaproj.cdr](http://eiaieaproj.cdr)

# Mexico Decade Projections



# Wind Expansion

- US Resource
  - Class IV (50 States)
  - 812 GW
  - Equivalent to USA 2000
- WinDS Model
  - Installs T&D & Generation according to least cost.
  - Incorporates
    - AEO cost forecasts
    - Technology Improvement



# Wind Energy

GE Wind's 1.5 megawatt wind turbine installed in Tehachapi, California



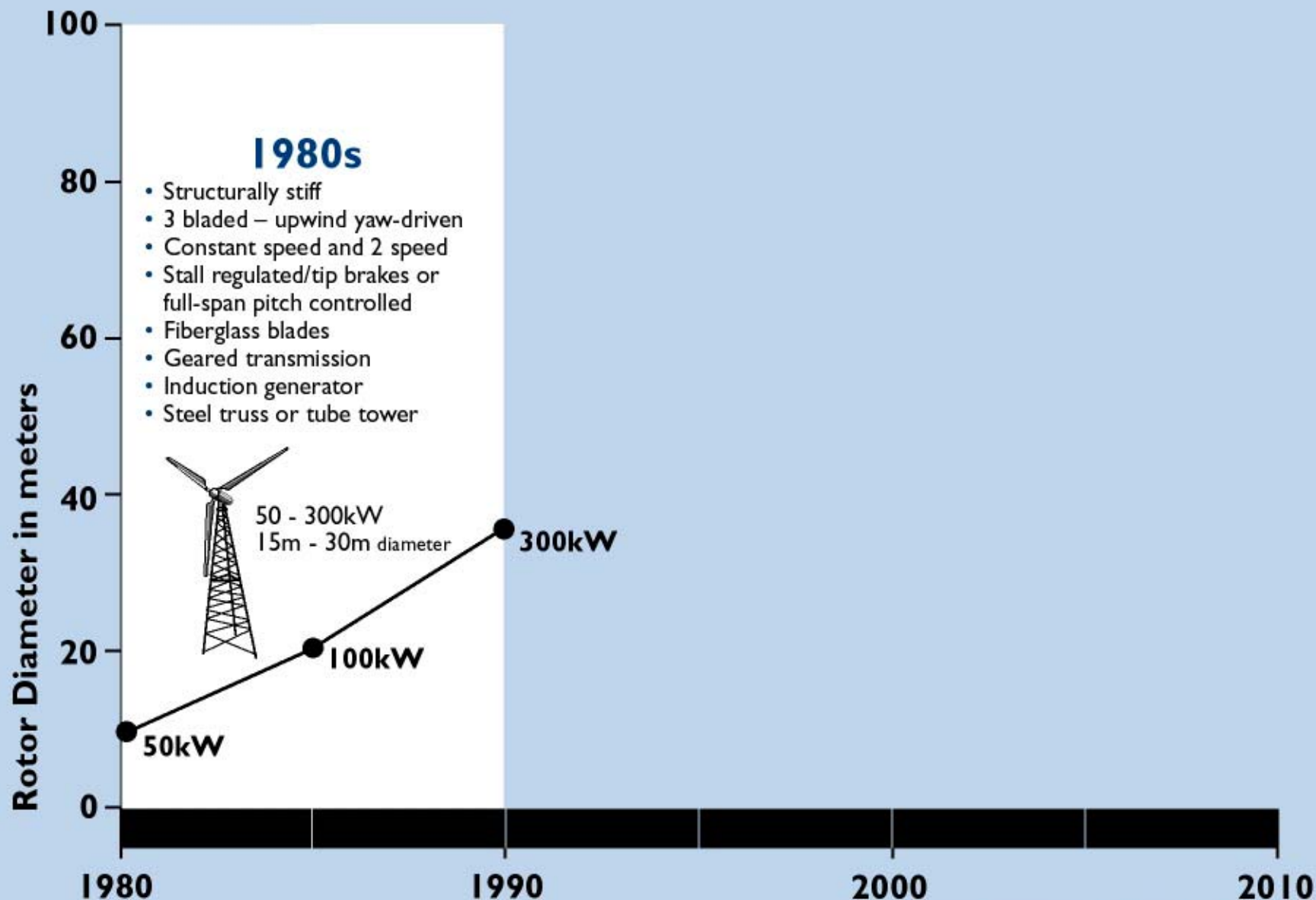
Vestas V-47 Turbines on wind farm in Kansas

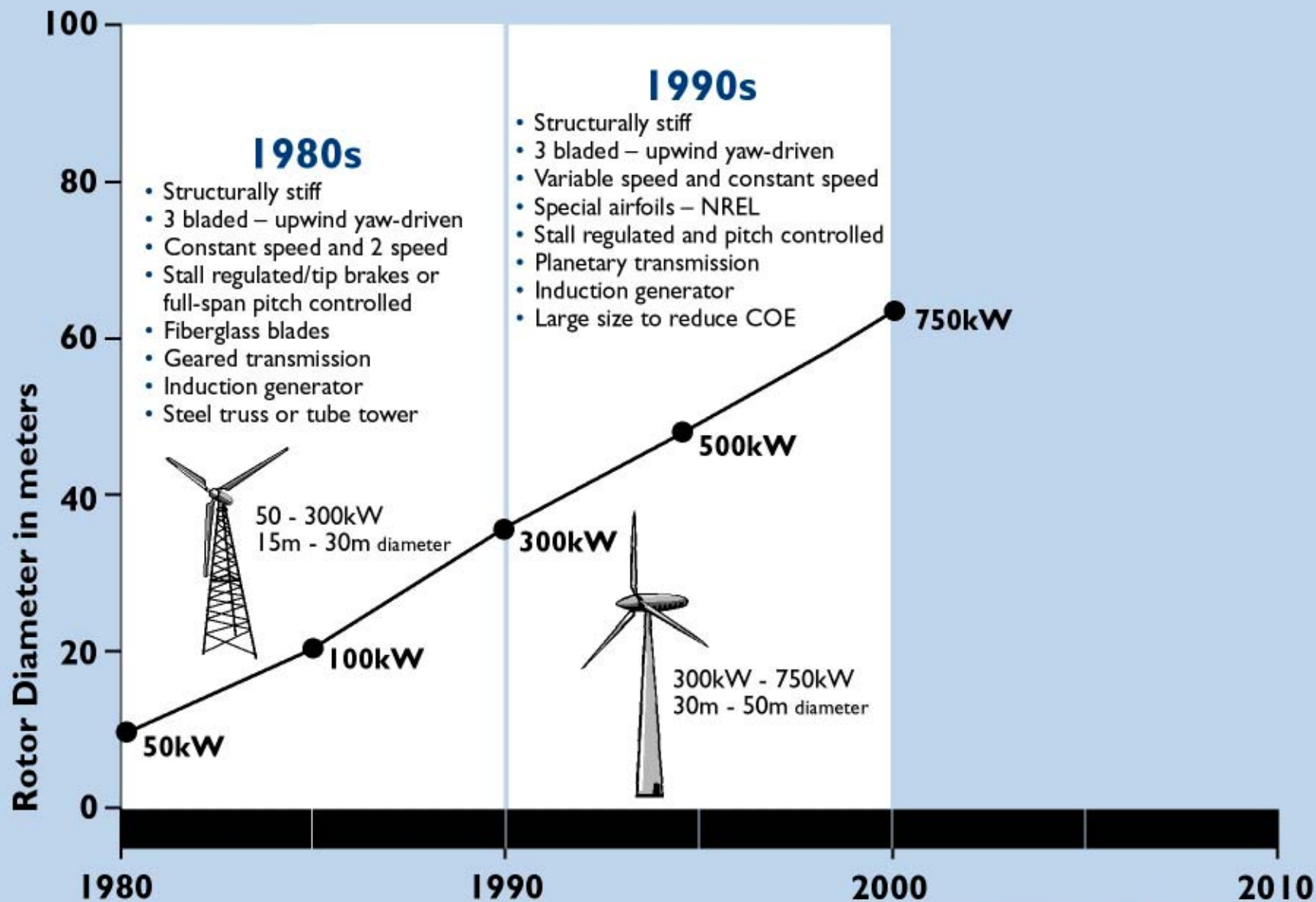


Brazilian hybrid power system



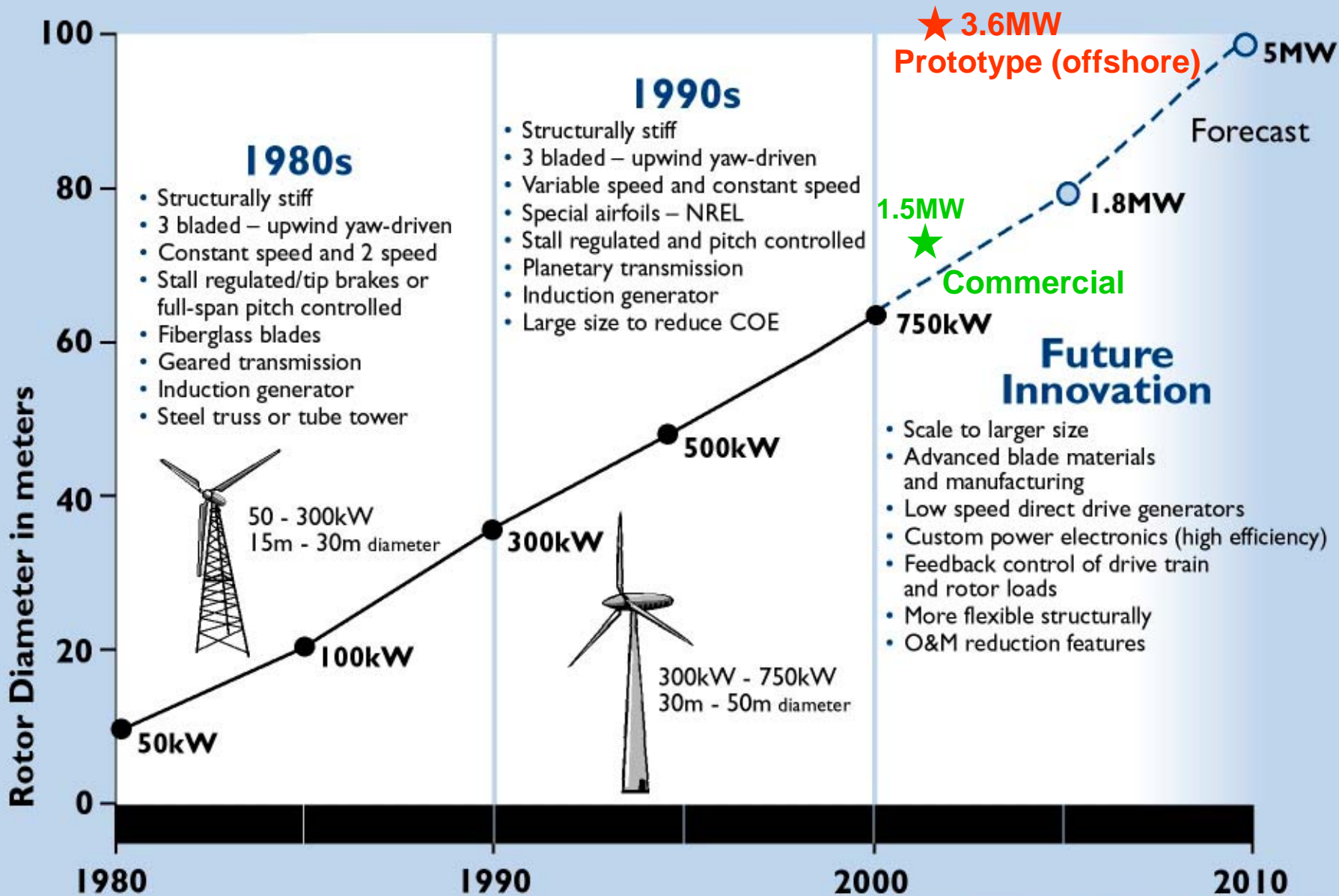
Palm Springs, CA, wind farm







# THE EVOLUTION OF COMMERCIAL U.S. WIND TECHNOLOGY



# A Future Vision for Wind Energy

**2003**



**Bulk Power Generator**  
**3-5¢ at 15mph**

- Land Based
- Bulk Electricity
- Wind Farms

**Potential 20% of Electricity Market**

**Land Based Electricity Path**



**Land Based LWST**  
**Large-Scale**  
**2 – 5 MW**

**Transmission Barriers**



**Future**

**LWST Turbines:**

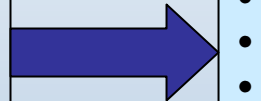
- >3¢/kWh at 13mph
- Electricity Market **2012**

**Offshore Electricity Path**



**Offshore Turbines**  
**5 MW and Larger**

**Cost and Regulatory Barriers**



**Offshore LWST Turbine:**

- >5¢/kWh
- Shallow/**Deep** Water
- Electricity Market
- Higher Wind Sites
- 2012 and Beyond**

**Advanced Applications Path**



**Land or Sea Based:**

- Hydrogen
- Clean Water

**Cost and Infrastructure Barriers**



**Custom Turbines:**

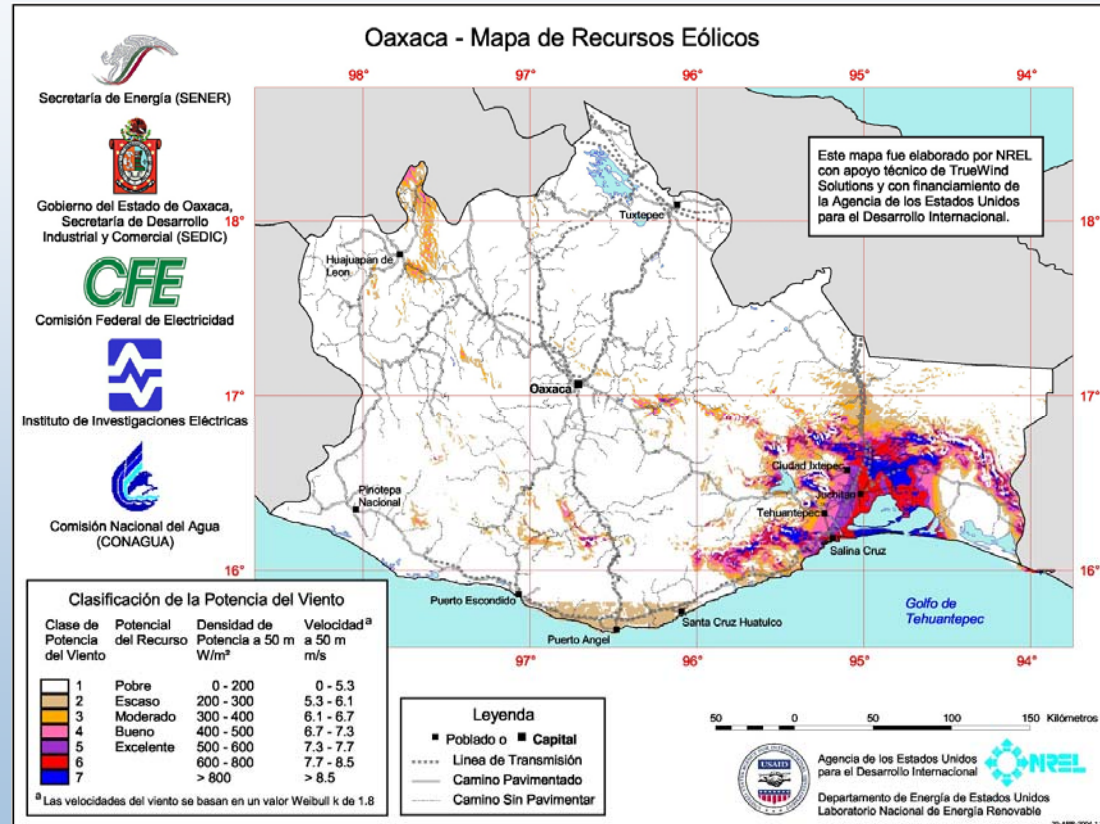
- Electricity
- H2 production
- Desalinate water
- ? Cost
- Multi-Market
- 2030 and Beyond**

**LWST = Low wind speed turbine**



# US-Mexico Cooperation in Resource Assessment

- Resource Assessment
  - Critical first step
  - Increasing use of satellite data and GPS in GIS data bases



[http://www.nrel.gov/international/rr\\_assessment.html](http://www.nrel.gov/international/rr_assessment.html)

# Solar Energy



04566

PV roofing shingles

PV panels

03498



04876

Indo-US Cooperative  
PV Project



01026

210 kW PV system at  
SMUD's Hedge substation



03396

PV-powered water pumping

# Moving to 3<sup>rd</sup>-Generation Solar Cells

## I. 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

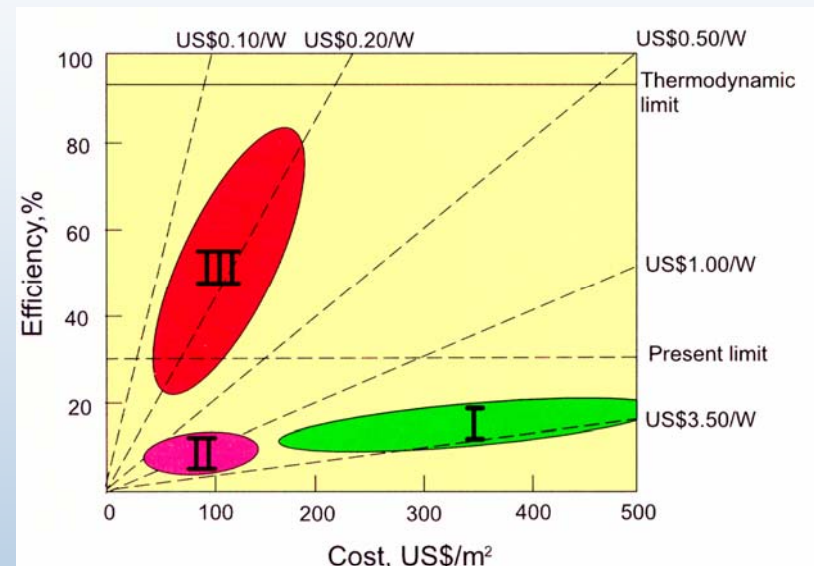
- Single crystal Si
- Poly-grain Si

## II. 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation (Polycrystalline Thin Film)

- Amorphous Si
- Thin film Si
- $\text{CuInSe}_2$
- CdTe
- Organic

## III. 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation ( $n_{\text{theor}} > 31\%$ ; Queisser-Schockley limit)

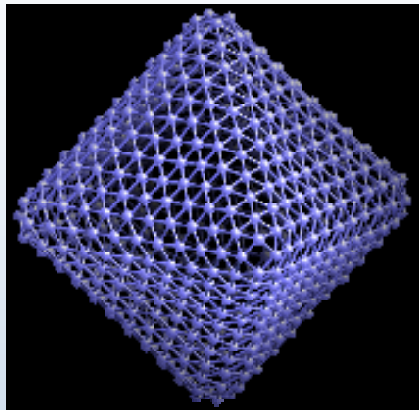
- Tandem cells
- Hot electron converters
- Intermediate band



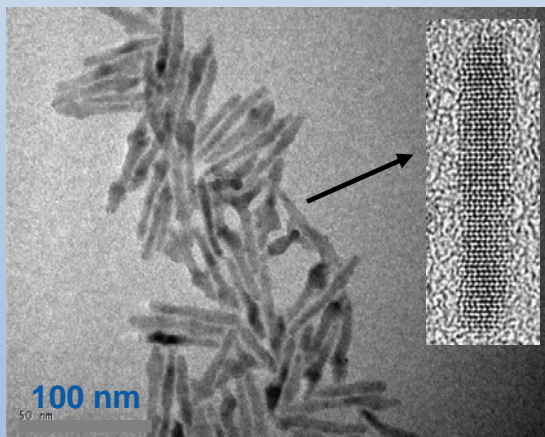
Region III indicates efficiencies higher than previous theoretical limits, at lower costs, made possible by nanostructures such as quantum dots

# Next-Generation Devices and Materials

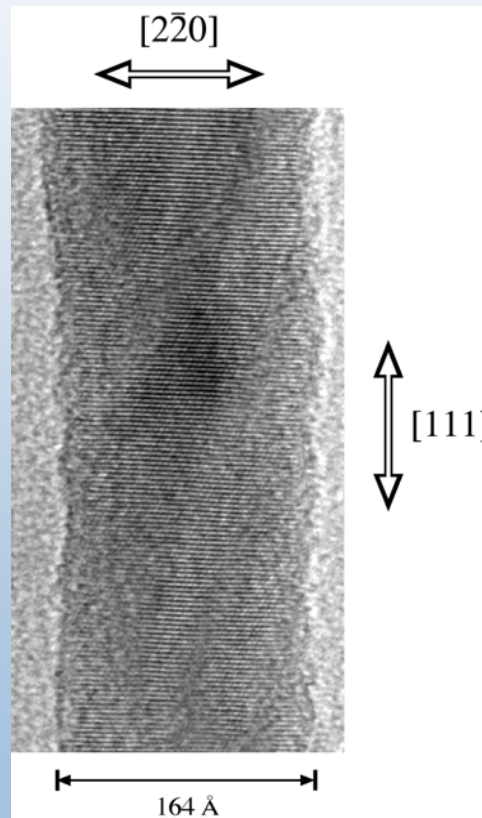
- Quantum dots and rods
- Organic polymers
- Solar hydrogen



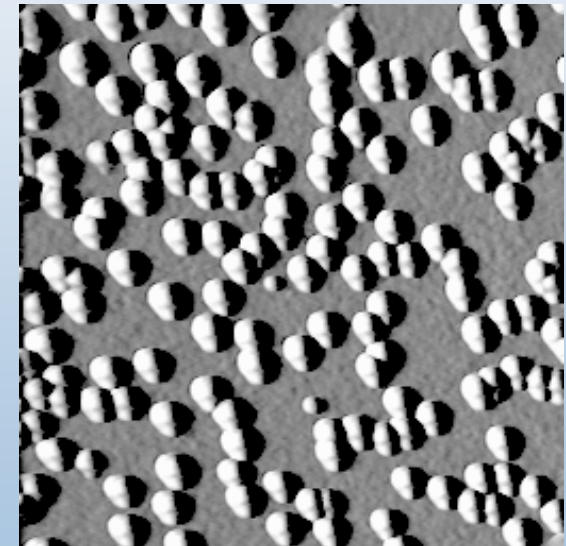
MoX<sub>2</sub> (X = S, Se)



CdSe nanorods in polymer



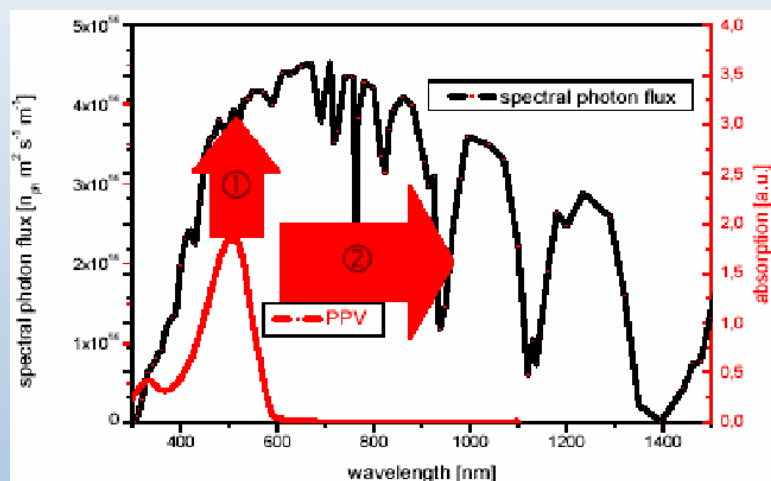
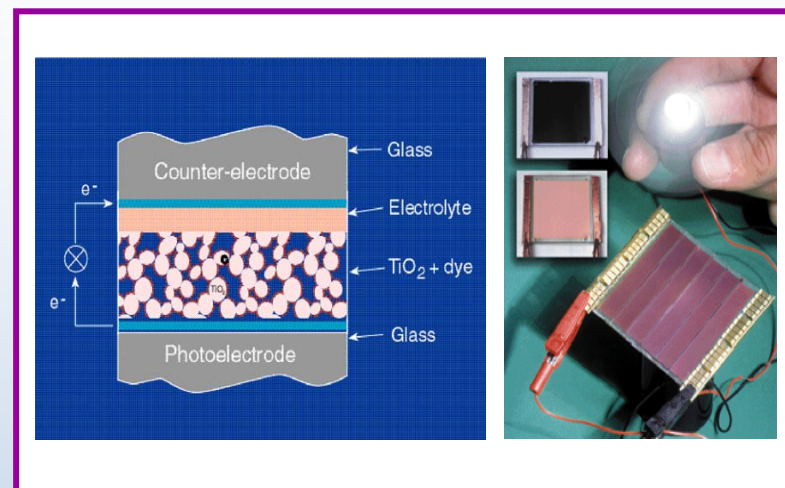
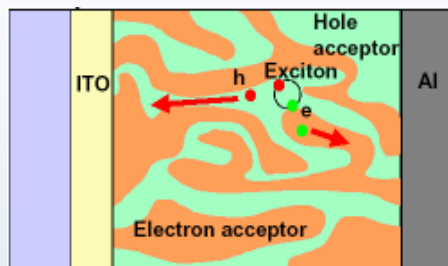
InP Quantum rods



InP Quantum dots

# Novel Concepts, Excitonic Devices and New Materials

Key Companies:  
GE, Kodak, Konarka,  
NanoSolar, NanoSys,  
Luna, UltraDots ...



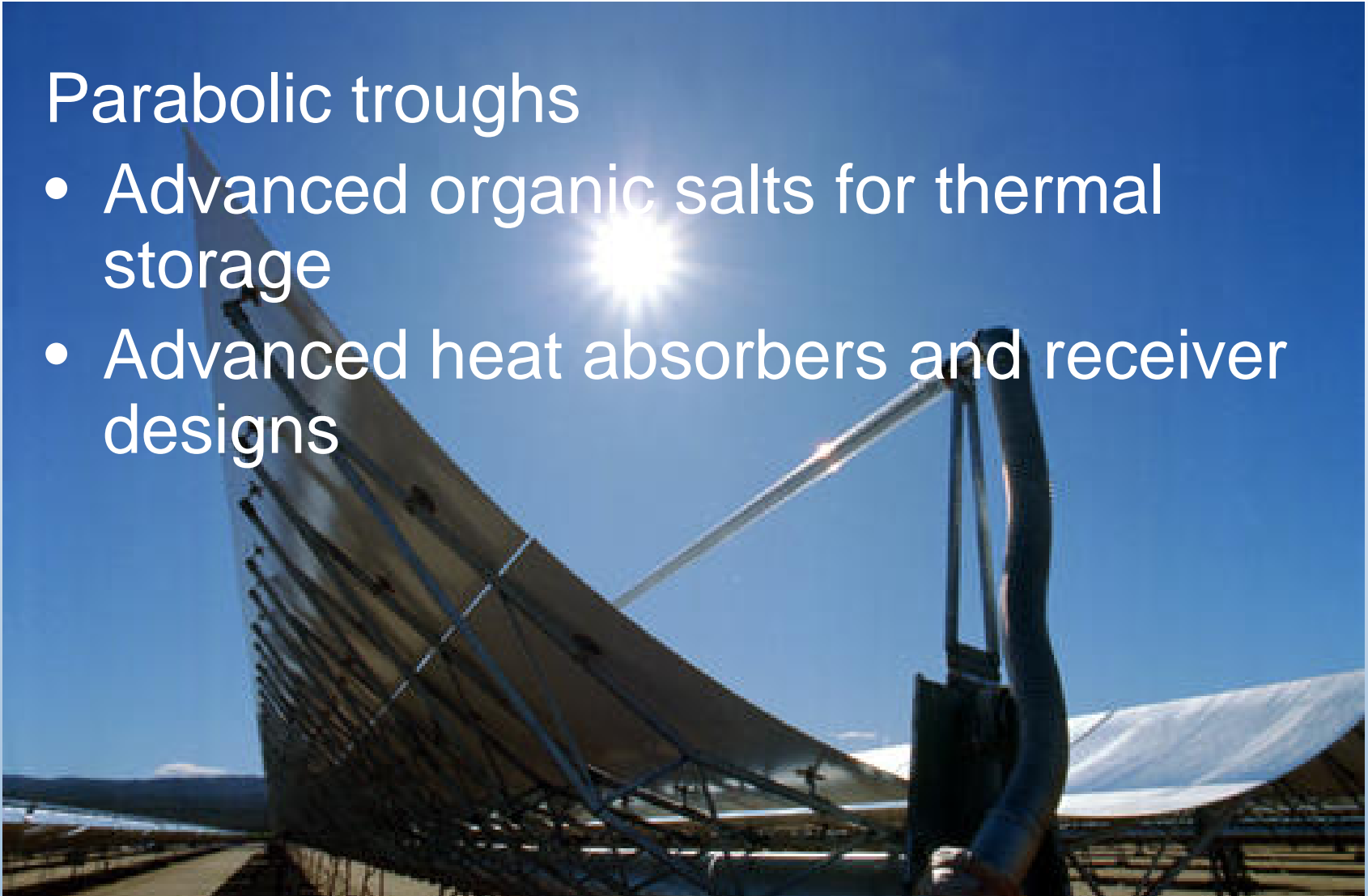
Light management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced absorptivity of dyes</li> <li>Low bandgap polymers</li> </ul>
Reduce series resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher mobility polymers</li> <li>Enhanced TCOs</li> <li>Electrolyte formulations</li> <li>Polymer morphology</li> </ul>

- Dye-sensitized  $\text{TiO}_2$  photochemical cells
- Potential for very low cost
- Nanocrystalline  $\text{TiO}_2$ , with monolayer dye sensitizer, in liquid electrolyte
- 11%-efficient cell; scale-up for consumer products underway
- Dye stability issue
- Gel or solid-state electrolytes in research
- Photoelectrochromic window (with  $\text{WO}_3$ )

# Concentrating Solar Power

## Parabolic troughs

- Advanced organic salts for thermal storage
- Advanced heat absorbers and receiver designs



# Geothermal Energy

Geothermal power plant at The Geysers



00060

00412

Power production from concentrated brines



03694

Heat exchangers and circulation pumps

# Geothermal Technology



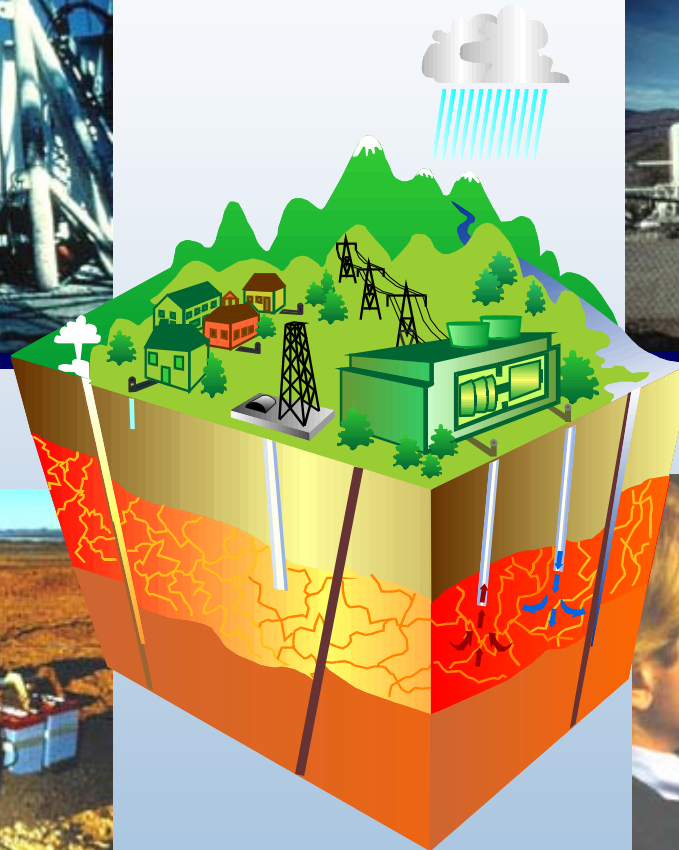
Drilling



Energy Conversion



Exploration

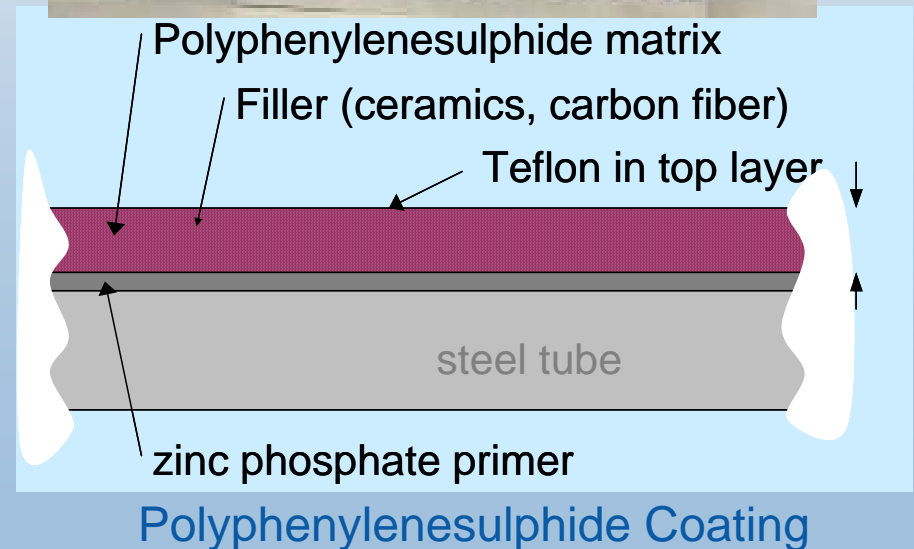
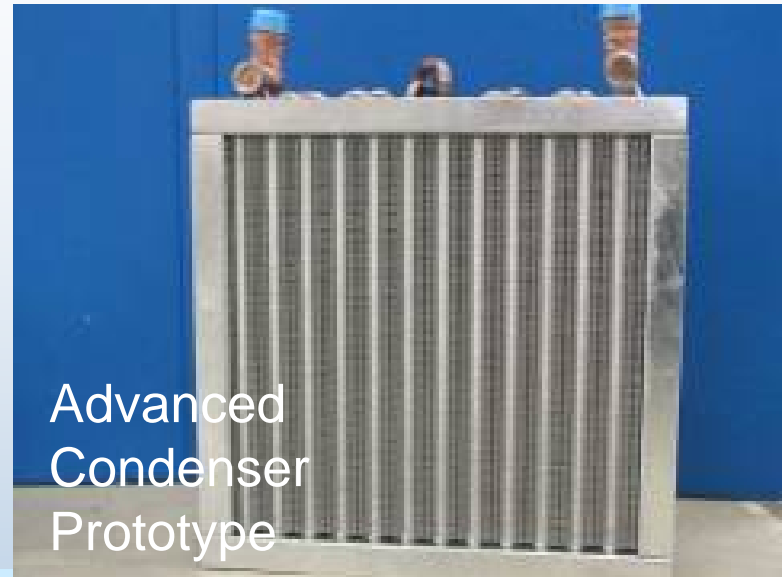


Reservoir Technology



# Next-Generation Engineered Geothermal Systems

- Improved heat exchangers
- Hybrid air/water cooling
- Improved materials
- Advanced power cycles
- Better turbines
- O&M cost reductions



# Biomass Sources

Wood chips



Switch grass



Poplars



Sugar cane residue



Municipal solid waste



Alfalfa

# The Unique Role of Biomass

*While the growing need for sustainable electric power can be met by other renewables...*



*Biomass is our only renewable source of carbon-based fuels and chemicals*

# Biomass Chemistry

Lignin: 15-25%

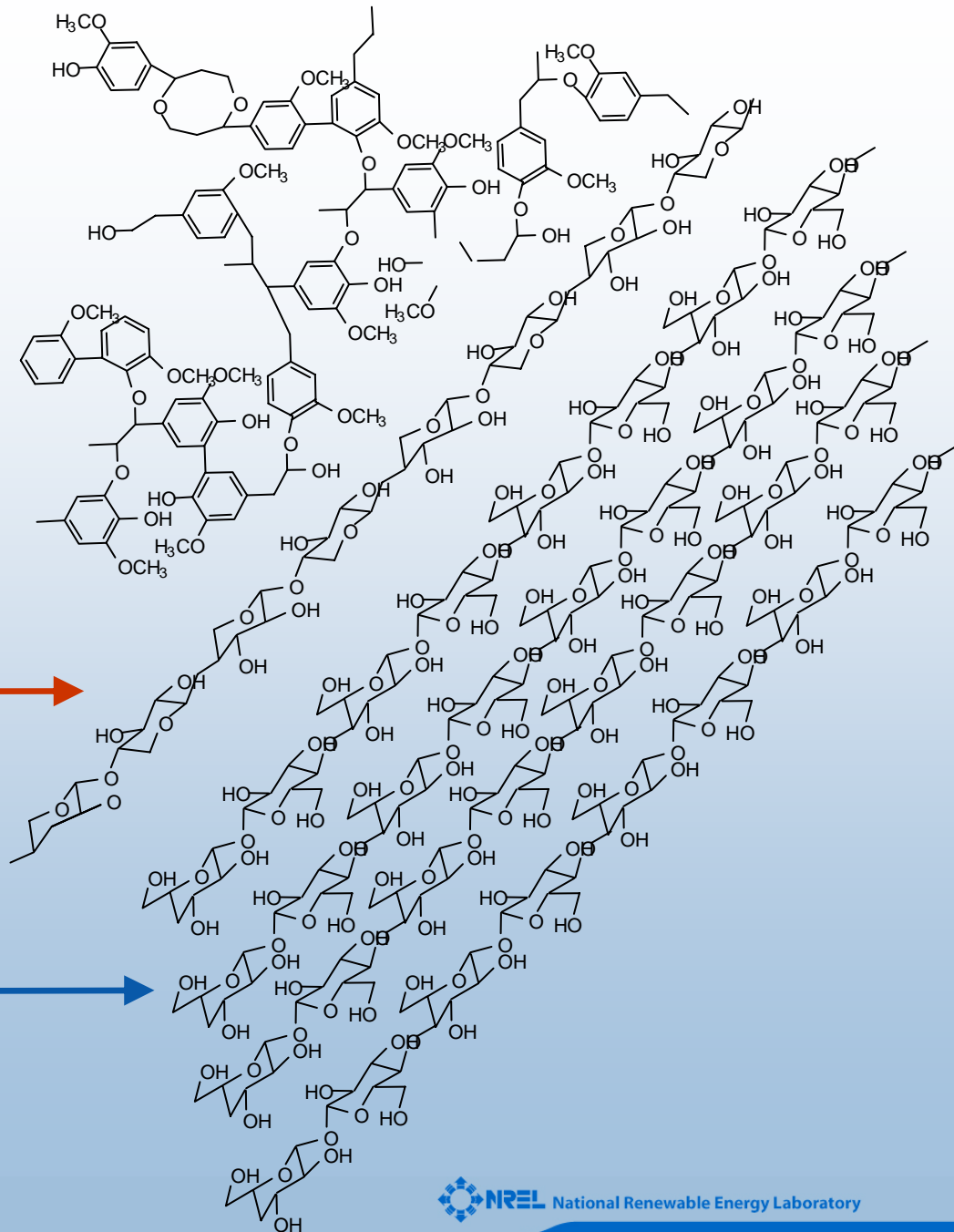
- Complex aromatic structure
- Resists biochemical conversion
- Requires high temperatures to convert

Hemicellulose: 23-32%

- Polymer of 5- and 6-carbon sugars
- Easily depolymerization
- 5-carbon sugars hard to metabolize

Cellulose: 38-50%

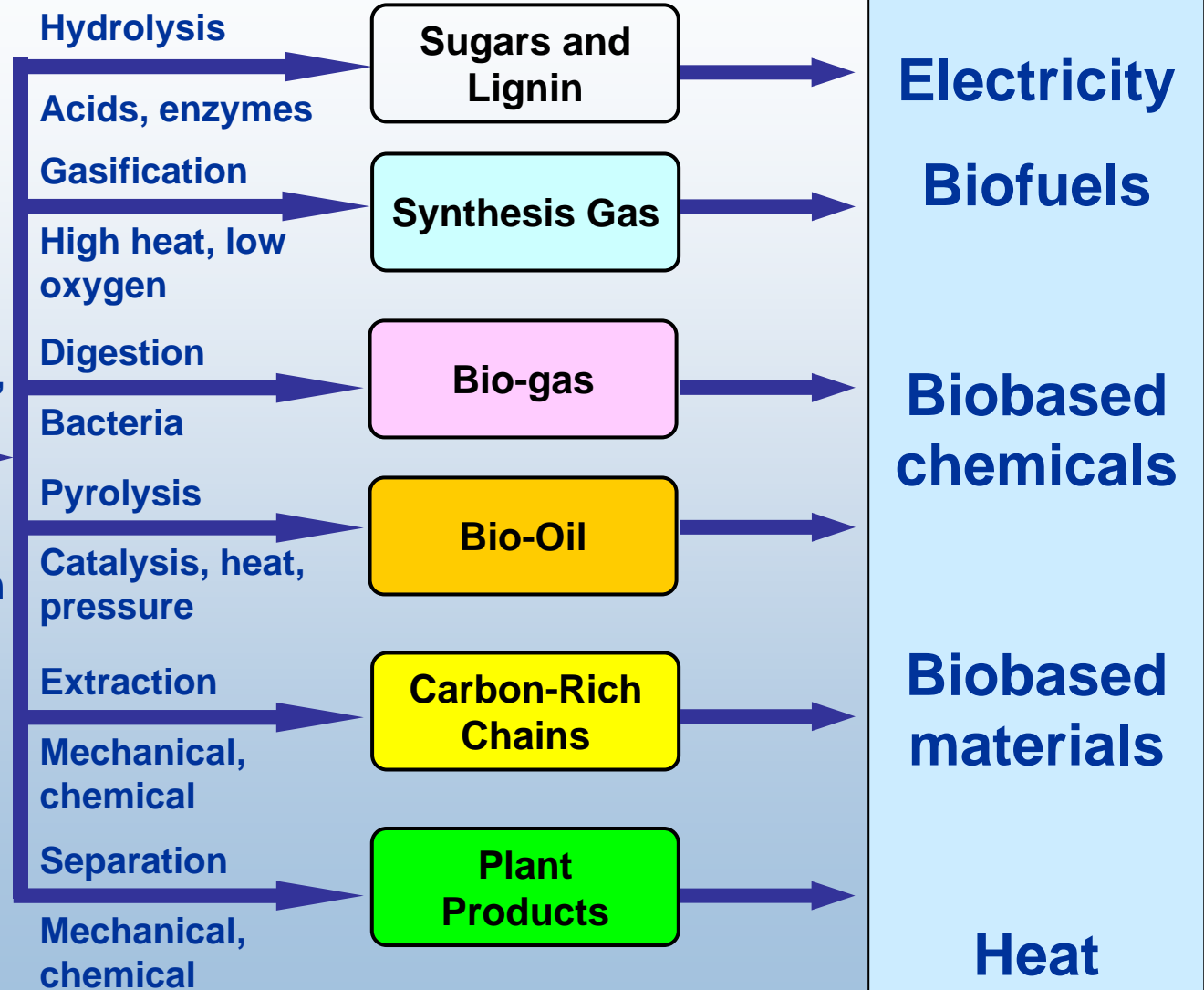
- Polymer of glucose
- Susceptible to enzymatic attack
- Glucose easy to metabolize



# Bioenergy “Platforms”



Feedstock production, collection, handling and preparation



# The New Bio-Industry



## Biomass Feedstock

- Trees
- Grasses
- Agricultural Crops
- Agricultural Residues
- Animal Wastes
- Municipal Solid Waste

## Conversion Processes

- Enzymatic Fermentation
- Gas/liquid Fermentation
- Acid Hydrolysis/Fermentation
- Gasification
- Combustion
- Co-firing

## USES

### Fuels:

- Ethanol
- Renewable Diesel

### Power:

- Electricity
- Heat

### Chemicals

- Plastics
- Solvents
- Chemical Intermediates
- Phenolics
- Adhesives
- Furfural
- Fatty acids
- Acetic Acid
- Carbon black
- Paints
- Dyes, Pigments, and Ink
- Detergents
- Lubricants
- Etc.

### Food and Feed and Fiber

... and new concepts from plants to products

# Mexico Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Market Development

- DOE has supported work with Mexico since 1995 on technology transfer, capacity building, resource assessment, renewable energy and energy efficiency project identification and development, standards and labeling activities, and hybrid system installations
- DOE has developed close relationships with key energy and environment ministries and strong private sector partnerships.
- Rural Electrification:
  - DOE's laboratories and other partners have supported development of pilot hybrid power systems projects and promoted project replication throughout rural Mexico in collaboration with the Mexico Renewable Energy Program (MREP) *More than 400 cost-shared pilot or demonstrative systems have been installed*
  - DOE's laboratories assisting Mexico's Secretary of Energy in implementation of rural electrification program and GVEP state action plans through HOMER and options analysis training and capacity building
- Energy Efficiency:
  - LBNL through CLASP has supported APEC and NAEWG, and provided technical assistance in evaluating the impact of Mexico's standards and labeling program. *Mexico reported estimated energy savings of 2500 GWh, ~7% of Mexico's residential electricity as impact from S&L program.*
  - NREL and CONAE ESCO Program for Hotel and Industrial Sectors helped facilitate 3 US/Mexico partnerships with a total value of \$60 Million USD, conducted over a dozen facility audits, and provided training to 20 US and Mexican ESCOs and more than 80 energy end-users
- Key to success has been focus on public-private partnerships, staying engaged in specific market niche for several years, and transfer of key knowledge and technology to support the market needs



# Renewable Energy Costs – Electricity

Costs (¢/ kWh)

<u>Technology</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Wind	3–5¢ @ 15 mph	3¢ (2012) @ 13 mph	5¢ (> 2012) offshore
Solar			
PV	24–30¢	12–14¢	6–8¢
CSP	10¢	6¢	4–5¢
Geothermal	5–8¢	3–5¢ (2007)	–

# Renewable Energy Costs – Fuels

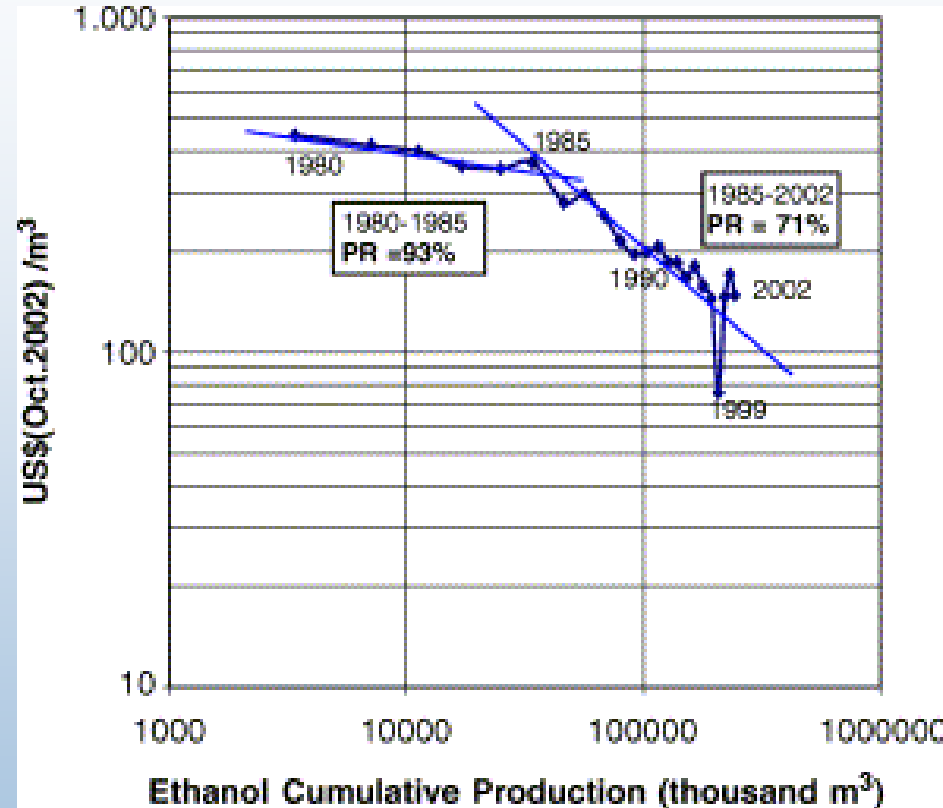
Costs c/L (\$/ USgal ethanol)

<u>Technology</u>	<u>Today</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>
Biomass	64.5 (2.50)	46.4 (1.80)	27.6 (1.07)



# Learning by Doing

- Progress and learning curves
  - As important to the diffusion of technology as RD&D
  - Key outcome of initial incentives – that is... if it is a *Wise subsidy*



J Goldemberg, ST Coelho, PM Nastaric, O Lucon. *Ethanol learning curve the Brazilian experience*  
Biomass and Bioenergy 26(3) pp 301-304

# Final remarks

- The global and CANUSAMEX technical resources >> projected global/regional energy demand
- Technology progress continues to be rapid
  - Learning curve effects for PV, Wind and Ethanol are significant sources of cost reduction
- Economic Potential is a function of policy and pricing of fossil fuels – annual growth rate?
  - BAU forecasts (ex Hydro) are for 2.6% growth
  - IEA-Ren forecast has a growth rate of 3.6%
  - Needed global growth rate depends on final CO<sub>2</sub> equilibrium min = 4.6% (for 550 ppm) and > 6% (for 350 ppm)

# The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Ralph P. Overend  
Research Fellow  
303-384-7787  
[ralph\\_overend@nrel.gov](mailto:ralph_overend@nrel.gov)

Golden, Colorado