1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

1.1. Introduction

The *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program* (CCSP 2003) calls for the preparation of 21 synthesis and assessment products. Noting that “sound, comprehensive emissions scenarios are essential for comparative analysis of how climate might change in the future, as well as for analyses of mitigation and adaptation options,” the plan includes Product 2.1, Scenarios of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Atmospheric Concentrations and Review of Integrated Scenario Development and Application. This report presents the results from the scenario development component of this product; the review of scenario methods is the subject of a separate report. The guidelines for the development of these scenarios are largely set forth in the *Final Prospectus for Synthesis and Assessment Product 2.1* (“the Prospectus”; CCSP 2005).

This report discusses the overall design of scenarios (this chapter), describes the key features of the participating models (Chapter 2), presents the new scenarios that have been prepared and reports the main results comparatively (Chapters 3 and 4), and reflects in conclusion on the uses of these scenarios, their limitations, and avenues for further research (Chapter 5). Scenario details are available in a separate data archive.

As set forth in the Prospectus, the primary purpose of these scenarios is to serve as one of many inputs to decision-making for climate change. The intended audience includes decision-makers and analysts who might benefit from enhanced understanding of the potential implications of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations at various levels. For example, technology planners such as those at the Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP) need to take account of the possible energy systems implications of stabilization levels. The Prospectus for this product highlighted three areas in particular in which the scenarios might provide valuable insights:

1. Emissions Trajectories: What emissions trajectories over time are consistent with meeting the four stabilization levels, and what are the key factors that shape them?

2. Energy Systems: What energy system characteristics are consistent with each of the four alternative stabilization levels, and how do they differ from one another?

3. Economic Implications: What are the possible economic consequences of meeting the four alternative stabilization levels?

The scenarios may also serve as a point of departure for further CCSP and other analyses, such as exploring the implications for future climate or examining the costs and feasibility of mitigation and adaptation options. Finally, this effort will enhance the capabilities for future scenario analysis that might be conducted by the CCSP or related U.S. government offices such as the CCTP.

It should be emphasized that there are issues of climate change decision-making that these scenarios do not address. For example, they were not designed for use in exploring the role of aerosols in climate change. And they lack the level of detail that may be desired for local or regional decision-making, such as state or city planning or the decision-making of individual firms or members of the public.

Three analytical models, all meeting the criteria set forth in the Prospectus, were used in preparing the new scenarios. As directed in the Prospectus, fifteen scenarios are presented in this document, five from each of the three modeling teams. First, each team produced a unique reference scenario based on the assumption that no climate policy would be implemented either nationally or globally beyond the current set of policies in place (e.g., the Kyoto Protocol and the President's carbon intensity target for the U.S.). These reference scenarios were developed independently by the modeling teams, so they provide three separate visions of how the future might unfold without additional climate policies.[1]

Each team then produced four additional stabilization scenarios, which are departures from each team's reference case. The Prospectus specified that stabilization levels, common across the teams, be defined in terms of the total long-term radiative impact of the suite of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that includes carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6).

Although stabilization is defined in terms of radiative forcing, the Prospectus also directed that levels be chosen to provide results easily compared with those from previous scenario exercises based only on CO_2 concentrations. That is, forcing levels were constructed so that the resulting CO_2 concentrations, after accounting for radiative forcing from the non-CO_2 GHGs, would be roughly 450 ppmv, 550 ppmv, 650 ppmv, and 750 ppmv. Based on this requirement, the four stabilization levels were chosen as 3.4 W/m^2 (Level 1), 4.7 W/m^2 (Level 2), 5.8 W/m^2 (Level 3), and 6.7 W/m^2 (Level 4). In comparison, radiative forcing relative to pre-industrial levels for this suite of gases stood

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[1] Although there are many reasons to expect that the three reference scenarios would be different, it is worth noting that the modeling teams met periodically during the development of the scenarios to review progress and to exchange information. Thus, while not adhering to any formal protocol of standardization, the three reference scenarios are not entirely independent.

at roughly 2.2 W/m^2 in 2000. Details of these stabilization assumptions are elaborated in Section 4.

The production of emissions scenarios consistent with these stabilization goals required analysis beyond study of the emissions themselves because of physical, chemical, and biological feedbacks within the Earth system. Scenarios focused only on emissions of GHGs and other substances generated by human activity (anthropogenic sources) can rely exclusively on energy-agriculture-economic models that project human activity and the emissions that result. However, relating emissions paths to concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere requires models that account for both anthropogenic and natural sources as well as the sinks for these substances.

Models that attempt to capture these complex interactions and feedbacks must, because of computational limits, use simplified representations of individual components of the Earth system. These simplified representations are typically designed to mimic the behavior of more complex models but cannot represent all of the elements of these systems. Thus, while the scenario exercise undertaken here uses models that represent both the anthropogenic sources (the global energy-industrial-agricultural economy) and the Earth system processes (ocean, atmosphere, terrestrial systems), it is not intended to supplant detailed analysis of these systems using full scale, state-of-the-art models and analytic techniques. Rather, these scenarios provide a common point of departure for more complex analyses of individual components of the Earth's system as it is affected by human activity. These might include, for example, detailed studies of sub-components of the energy sector, regional projections of climate change using three-dimensional general circulation models and further downscaling techniques, and assessment of the implications for economic activity and natural ecosystems of climate change under various stabilization goals.

The remainder of this chapter is organized into four sections. Section 1.2 provides an overview of scientific aspects of the climate issue as background for interpretation of these scenarios. Section 1.3 then presents the study design with a focus on the characteristics of the stabilization cases to be investigated in Chapter 4. Section 1.4 briefly discusses how scenarios of this type have been used to examine the climate change issue and the intended uses and limits of the new scenarios, focusing on interpretation of these scenarios under conditions of uncertainty. Section 1.5 provides a guide to the structure of the remaining chapters and the associated data archive.

1.2. Background: Human Activities, Emissions, Concentrations, and Climate Change

Materials that influence the Earth's radiation balance come in various forms, and most have natural as well as anthropogenic sources. Some are gases which remain in the atmosphere for periods ranging from days to millennia, trapping heat while they are there. They are known as GHGs because, while transparent to incoming short-wave radiation (the visible spectrum that people commonly perceive as light), they capture and reflect back to earth long-wave radiation, thus increasing the temperature of the lower atmosphere from what it otherwise would be. These naturally occurring GHGs, plus clouds and the effect of water vapor (the most important GHG of all), are responsible for creating a habitable climate on earth. Without them, the average temperature at the Earth's surface would be colder than it is today by roughly 55°F (31°C).

GHGs are not the only influences on the Earth's radiative balance. Other gases like oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) have no direct greenhouse effect, but they are components of the atmospheric chemistry that determine the lifetime of some of the heat-trapping GHGs and are involved in the reactions that produce tropospheric ozone, another GHG. Aerosols (non-aqueous particles suspended in air) may have positive or negative effects, depending on their relative brightness. Some present a white surface and reflect the sun's energy back to space; others are black and absorb solar energy, adding to the solar warming of the atmosphere. Aerosols also have an indirect effect on climate in that they influence the density and lifetime of clouds, which have a strong influence on the radiation balance and on precipitation. Humans also alter the land surface, changing its reflective properties, and these changes can have climate consequences with effects most pronounced at a local scale (e.g., urban heat islands) and regional levels (e.g., large-scale changes in forest cover). In addition, the climate itself has positive and negative feedbacks, such as the decrease in global albedo that would result from the melting of the ice cover or the potential release of GHGs such as methane from warming soils.

Climate policy concerns are driven by the fact that emissions from human activities (mainly combustion of fuels and biomass, industrial activities, and agriculture) are increasing the atmospheric concentrations of these substances. Climate policy discussions have focused heavily on CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, and a set of fluorine-containing industrial chemicals – SF_6 and two families of substances that do not exist naturally, hydrogenated halocarbons (including hydrochlorofluorocarbons [HCFCs] and HFCs)[2] and PFCs. These substances remain in the atmosphere on the order of decades (CH_4, most HFCs), from the order of 100 years (CO_2, N_2O) to thousands of years (PFCs, SF_6).

Other naturally occurring substances whose levels have also been greatly enhanced by human activities remain in the atmosphere for days to months. With such short lifetimes they are not well mixed in the atmosphere and so their effects have a regional pattern as well as global consequences. These substances include aerosols such as black carbon and other particulate matter; sulfur dioxide, which is the main precursor of the reflecting aerosols; and other gases such as volatile organic compounds, nitrogen dioxide, other oxides of nitrogen, and carbon monoxide. All are important components of atmospheric chemistry.

This suite of substances with different radiative potency and different lifetimes in the atmosphere presents a challenge in defining what is meant by atmospheric "stabilization." Specification in terms of quantities of the gases themselves is problematic because there is no simple way to add them together in their natural units such as tons or parts per million by volume. Thus, a meaningful metric is needed in order to combine the effects of different GHGs.

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[2] For simplicity, all hydrogenated halocarbons will be referred to as HFCs in the subsequent text. The greenhouse gas methyl chloroform is often also grouped along with HFCs and HCFCs.

One approach is to define stabilization in terms of some ultimate climate measure, such as the change in the global average temperature. One drawback of such measures is that they interject large uncertainties into the consideration of stabilization because the ultimate climate system response to added GHGs is uncertain. Climate models involve complex and uncertain interactions and feedbacks, such as increasing levels of water vapor, changes in reflective Arctic ice, cloud effects of aerosols, and changes in ocean circulation that determine the ocean's uptake of CO_2 and heat.

For the design of these scenarios, the Prospectus called for an intermediate, less uncertain measure of climate effect, the direct heat-trapping (or, in case of cooling aerosols, light-reflecting) impact of a change in the concentration of such substances. It is constructed to represent the change in the net balance of the Earth with the sun (energy in *vs*. energy out) where the units are watts per square meter (W/m^2) of the Earth's shell. A positive value means a warming influence and is referred to as radiative "forcing" (see Box 1.1). This measure is widely used to compare the climate effects of different substances, although calculation of the net forcing of a group of gases, where there may be chemical interaction among them or saturation of the infrared spectrum, requires specialized models of atmospheric chemistry and radiation.

--- BOX 1.1: RADIATIVE FORCING ---

Most of the Sun's energy that reaches the Earth is absorbed by the oceans and land masses and radiated back into the atmosphere in the form of heat or infrared radiation. Some of this infrared energy is absorbed and re-radiated back to the Earth by atmospheric gases, including water vapor, CO_2, and other substances. As concentrations of these so-called greenhouse gases (GHGs) increase, the warming effect is augmented. The National Research Council (2005) defines direct radiative forcing as a climate-forcing that directly affects the radiative budget of the Earth's climate system, which may result from a change in concentration of radiatively active gases, a change in solar radiation reaching the Earth, or changes in surface albedo. The increase is called radiative "forcing" and is typically measured in watts per square meter (W/m^2). Increases in radiative forcing influence global temperature by indirect effects and feedback from a variety of processes, which are effects that are subject to considerable uncertainty. Together, they affect, for example, the level of water vapor, the most important of the GHGs.

--- END BOX 1.1 ---

Comment: Can you find a word other than "forcing" to define "forcing"?

Figure 1.1 shows estimates of how increases in GHGs and aerosols and other changes have influenced radiative forcing since 1850. The main GHGs together have had the biggest effect, and CO_2 is the largest of these. Increased tropospheric ozone has also had a substantial warming effect. The reduction in stratospheric ozone has had a slight cooling effect. Changes in aerosols have had both warming and cooling effects. Aerosol effects are highly uncertain because they depend on the nature of the particles, how the particles are distributed in the atmosphere, and their concentrations, which are not as well estimated as the GHGs. Land-use change and its effect on the reflectivity of the Earth's surface, jet contrails and changes in high-level (cirrus) clouds, and the natural change in intensity of the sun have also had effects.

[Insert Figure 1.1]

Comment: The figure should have a title (currently, it does not).

Another important aspect of the climate effects of these substances, not captured in the W/m^2 measure, is the persistence of their influence on the radiative balance—a characteristic discussed in Box 1.2. The W/m^2 measure of radiative forcing measures only the effect of a concentration in the atmosphere at a particular instant. The GHGs considered here have influences that may last from a decade or two (e.g., the influence of CH_4) to millennia (e.g., the fluorinated gases).

--- BOX 1.2: ATMOSPHERIC LIFETIMES OF GREENHOUSE GASES ---

The atmospheric lifetime concept is more appropriate for CH_4, N_2O, HCFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 than it is for CO_2. These non-CO_2 gases are actually destroyed via chemical processes after some time in the atmosphere. In contrast, CO_2 is constantly cycled between pools in the atmosphere, the surface layer of the ocean, and vegetation, so it is (for the most part) not destroyed. Very slow processes lead to some removal of carbon from oceans, vegetation, and atmosphere as calcium carbonate; also, over long geological periods, carbon from vegetation is stored in fossil fuels, which is a permanent removal process if such fuels are not burned to produce energy.

Although the lifetime concept is not strictly appropriate for CO_2 (see Box 2.2 in Chapter 2), for comparison purposes CO_2 can be thought of as having a lifetime of about 120 years. This approximation allows comparison with the other gases: CH_4 at 12 years, N_2O at 114 years, and SF_6 at 3200 years. Hydrogenated halocarbons, such as HCFCs and HFCs, are a family of gases with varying lifetimes from less than a year to over 200 years; those predominantly in use now have lifetimes mostly in the range of 10 to 50 years. Similarly, the PFCs have various lifetimes, ranging from 2,600 to 50,000 years.

The lifetimes are not constant, as they depend to some degree on other Earth system processes. The lifetime of CH_4 is the most affected by the levels of other pollutants in the atmosphere.

--- END BOX 1.2 ---

An important difference between GHGs and most of the other substances in Figure 1.1 is their long lifetime. In contrast to GHGs, aerosols remain in the atmosphere only for a few days to a couple of weeks. Once an aerosol emission source is reduced, the effect on radiative forcing occurs very quickly. Tropospheric ozone lasts for a few months. Moreover, relatively short-lived substances are not well-mixed in the atmosphere. Levels are very high near emissions sources and much lower in other parts of the world, so their climate effect has a different spatial pattern than that of long-lived substances. The regional differences and much shorter lifetimes of non-GHG substances make comparisons among them more difficult than among GHGs. The radiative effects of these substances also subject to more uncertainty, as shown in Figure 1.1.

1.3. Study Design

The broad elements of the study design for these scenarios are set forth in the Prospectus, including (1) selection of models, (2) guidance to the model teams for development of a reference scenario, and (3) guidance for the development of stabilization scenarios.

1.3.1. Model Selection

The Prospectus sets forth the types of analysis-model capabilities that would be required to carry out the desired stabilization analyses. As stated in the Prospectus, participating models must

1. Be global in scale
2. Be capable of producing global emissions totals for, at a minimum, CO_2, N_2O, CH_4, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6, that may serve as inputs to global general circulation models (GCMs), such as the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Community Climate System Model (CCSM) and the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) climate model
3. Be capable of simulating the radiative forcing from these GHGs
4. Represent multiple regions
5. Have technological resolution capable of distinguishing among major sources of primary energy (e.g., renewable energy, nuclear energy, biomass, oil, coal, and natural gas) as well as between fossil fuel technologies with and without carbon capture and storage systems
6. Be economics-based and capable of simulating macroeconomic cost implications of stabilization
7. Look forward to the end of the century or beyond.

In addition, the Prospectus required that the modeling teams have a track record of publications in professional, refereed journals, specifically in the use of their models for the analysis of long-term GHG emission scenarios.

Selection by these criteria led to the three models used in this exercise: (1) The Integrated Global Systems Model (IGSM) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change; (2) the Mini-Climate Assessment Model (MiniCAM) of the Joint Global Change Research Institute, which is a partnership between the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the University of Maryland; and (3) the Model for Evaluating the Regional and Global Effects [of greenhouse gas reduction policies] (MERGE), developed jointly at Stanford University and the Electric Power Research Institute.

Each of these models has been used extensively for climate change analysis. The roots of each extend back more than a decade, during which time features and details have been added. Results of each have appeared widely in peer-reviewed publications. The features of the models are described in Chapter 2 with references to the publications and reports that provide complete documentation.

These models fall into a class that have come to be known as Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs). There are many ways to define IAMs and to characterize the motivations for developing them (IPCC 1996). However, a particularly appropriate definition of their primary purposes, provided by Parson and Fisher-Vanden (1997), is "evaluating potential responses to climate change; structuring knowledge and characterizing uncertainty; contributing to broad comparative risk assessments; and contributing to scientific research."

1.3.2. Development of Reference Scenarios

As required by the Prospectus, each participating modeling team first produced a "reference" scenario that assumes no policies specifically intended to address climate change beyond the implementation of any existing policies to their end of their commitment periods. The Kyoto Protocol and U.S. President Bush's strategy to improve energy intensity by 18 percent during 2002-2012 are both existing policies. For purposes of the reference scenario (and for each of the stabilization scenarios), it was assumed that these policies are successfully implemented through 2012 and their goals are achieved. (This assumption could only be approximated within the models because their time–steps did not coincide exactly with the period from 2002 to 2012. However, this was not perceived to be a serious problem given the focus of the current exercise.) As directed by the Prospectus, after 2012, all climate policies are removed. It should be emphasized that this is not a prediction but a scenario designed to provide a clearly defined case to serve as a basis for illuminating the implications of alternative stabilization goals. As will be discussed in the following section, the paths toward stabilization are implemented to start after 2012. The reference scenario projections and assumptions underlying them are discussed in more detail in Chapter 3.

The reference scenarios serve several purposes. First, they provide insight into how the world might evolve without additional efforts to constrain greenhouse gas emissions, given various assumptions about principal drivers of the economy, energy use, and emissions. These assumptions include those concerning population increase, land and labor productivity growth, technological options, and resource endowments. These forces govern the supply and demand for energy, industrial goods, and agricultural products—the production and consumption activities that lead to GHG emissions. The reference scenarios are a form of thought experiment in that they are treated as invariant to what might happen to the climate under the projected emissions. The specific level of GHG emissions and concentrations is not predetermined but results from the combination of assumptions made.

Comment: Not clear what this sentence means.

Second, the reference scenarios serve as points of departure against which the changes required for stabilization may be compared, and the underlying assumptions also have a large bearing on the characteristics of the stabilization scenarios. For example, all other things being equal, the lower the economic growth and the higher the availability and competitiveness of low-carbon energy technologies in the reference scenario, the lower will be the GHG emissions and the easier it will be to reach stabilization. On the other hand, if a reference scenario assumes that fossil fuels are abundant, fossil-fuel technologies will become cheaper over time, and low- or zero-carbon alternatives remain expensive, the scenario will show consumers having little reason to conserve, adopting more efficient energy-equipment, or switching to non-fossil sources. In such a reference scenario, emissions would grow rapidly, and stronger economic incentives would be required to achieve stabilization.

Finally, the Prospectus specified that the modeling teams develop their reference scenarios independently, applying “plausible” and “meaningful” assumptions for key drivers.[3] Similarities and differences among the reference scenarios are useful in illustrating the uncertainty inherent in long-run treatment of the climate challenge. At the same time, with only three participating models, the range of scenario assumptions produced is unlikely to span the full range of possibilities.

1.3.3. Development of the Stabilization Scenarios

Whereas the model teams were required to independently develop their modeling assumptions, the Prospectus required that a common set of four stabilization targets be used across the participating models. Whereas much of the literature on atmospheric stabilization focuses on concentrations of CO_2 only, an important objective of this exercise was to expand the range of coverage to include other GHGs.

For this reason, the Prospectus required that the stabilization levels be defined in terms of the radiative forcing resulting from the long-term combined effects of CO_2, N_2O, CH_4, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6. This suite of GHGs forms the basis for the United States GHG intensity reduction policy, announced by the President on February 14, 2002; it is the same set subject to control under the Kyoto Protocol. (Thus, the stabilization levels specified in the Prospectus explicitly omit the aerosol effects shown in Figure 1.1, which may be influenced by the measures taken to achieve the stabilization goal.) Table 1.1 shows the change in concentration levels for these gases from 1750 to the present and the estimated increase in radiative forcing. These are the data from Figure 1.1 in tabular form, with one important difference. Not shown in the table is the forcing from chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) that has been historically significant. CFCs are already being phased out under the Montreal Protocol because of their stratospheric ozone-depleting properties, and so they are not expected to be a significant source of additional increased forcing in the future. In fact, the HFCs, which do not contribute to stratospheric ozone depletion, were developed as substitutes for the CFCs, but concern has arisen because of their radiative properties. Table 1.2 shows the specific radiative forcing targets chosen.

As noted earlier, the Prospectus instructed that the stabilization levels be constructed so that the CO_2 concentrations resulting from stabilization of total radiative forcing, after accounting for radiative forcing from the non-CO_2 GHGs, would be roughly 450 ppmv, 550 ppmv, 650 ppmv, and 750 ppmv. This correspondence was achieved by (1) calculating the increased radiative forcing from CO_2 at each of these concentrations, (2) adding to that amount the radiative forcing from the non-CO_2 gases from 1750 to present, and then (3) adding an initial estimate of the increases in radiative forcing from the non-CO_2 GHGs under each of the stabilization levels. Each of the models represents the emissions and abatement opportunities of the non-CO_2 gases somewhat differently and

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[3] See footnote 1.

takes a different approach to making tradeoffs among gases. Because it was not possible to set the radiative forcing CO_2 targets to allow teams to achieve them exactly, the resulting CO_2 concentrations differ across models. Relating the radiative forcing target to CO_2 concentration targets makes it possible to relate new scenarios to previous work that has examined CO_2 concentrations with targets ranging from 450 to 750 ppmv.

The Prospectus also specified that, beyond the implementation of any existing policies to their end of their commitment periods, the stabilization scenarios should be based on universal participation by the world's nations. This guidance was implemented by assuming a climate regime with simultaneous global participation in emissions mitigation where the marginal costs of emission controls are equalized across countries and regions. The implications of this assumption, known as " where" flexibility, is that emissions will be reduced where it is cheapest to do so regardless of their geographical location. The potential impact of this assumption on the costs of emissions abatement will be discussed in Chapter 4.

Comment: "beyond…periods": Does this mean "past the commitment period"? Or "regardless of other parameters concerning implementation"? Not clear.

In addition, the Prospectus required that stabilization be defined as long-term. Because of the inertia in the Earth system, largely attributable to the ocean, perturbations to the climate and atmosphere have effects for thousands of years. Economic models would have little credibility over such time-frames. The Prospectus, therefore, instructed that the participating modeling teams report scenario information only up through 2100. Each group then had to address how to relate the level in 2100 to the long-term goal. The chosen approaches were generally similar, but with some differences in implementation. This and other details of the stabilization scenario design are addressed more completely in Chapter 4.

1.4. Interpreting Scenarios: Uses, Limits, and Uncertainty

Emissions scenarios have proven to be useful aids to understanding climate change, and there is a long history of their use (see Box 1.3). Scenarios are descriptions of future conditions, often constructed by asking "what if" questions: i.e, what if events were to unfold in a particular way? Informal scenario analysis is part of almost all decision-making. Families making decisions about big purchases, like a car or a house, might plausibly construct a scenario in which changes in employment forces them to move. Scenarios developed for major public-policy questions perform the same purpose, helping decision-makers and the public to understand the consequences of actions today in the light of plausible future developments.

--- BOX 1.3: EMISSIONS SCENARIOS AND CLIMATE CHANGE ---

Emissions scenarios that describe future economic growth and energy use have been important tools for understanding the long-term consequences of climate change. They were used in assessments by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1983 and by the Department of Energy in 1985 (NAS 1983, USDOE 1985). Previous emissions scenarios have evolved from simple projections doubling CO_2 emissions in the atmosphere to scenarios that incorporate assumptions about population, economic growth, energy supply, and controls on GHG emissions and CFCs (Leggett et al. 1992, Pepper et al. 1992). They played an important role in the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC 1991, 1992, 1996). The IPCC *Special Report on Emissions Scenarios* (Nakicenovic et al. 2000) was the most recent major effort undertaken by the IPCC to expand and update earlier scenarios. This set of scenarios was based on story lines of alternative futures, updated with regard to the variables used in previous scenarios, and with additional detail on technological change and land use.

The Energy Modeling Forum (EMF) has been an important venue for intercomparison of emissions and integrated assessment models. The EMF, located at Stanford University, includes participants from academic, government, and other modeling groups. It has served this role for the energy-modeling community since the 1970s. Individual EMF studies run over a course of about two years, with scenarios designed by the participants to provide insight into the behavior of the participating models. Results are often published in the peer-reviewed literature. A recent study, EMF 21, focused on multi-gas stabilization scenarios (Weyant and de la Chesnaye 2005). The scenario exercise reported here adheres closely to the scenario protocol established in EMF 21.

--- END BOX 1.3 ---

Models assist in creating scenarios by showing how assumptions about key drivers, such as economic and population growth or policy options, lead to particular levels of GHG emissions. Model-based scenario analysis is designed to provide quantitative estimates of multiple outcomes and to assure consistency among them that is difficult to achieve without a formal structure. Thus, a main benefit of such model simulation of scenarios is that they ensure basic accounting identities: the quantity demanded of fuel is equal to the quantity supplied; imports in one region are balanced by exports from other regions; cumulative fuel used does not exceed estimates of the resource available; and expenditures for goods and services do not exceed income. The approach complements other ways of thinking about the future, ranging from formal uncertainty analysis to narratives. Also, such model analyses offer a set of macro-projections that users can build on, adding more detailed assumptions about variables and decisions of interest to them.

Possible users of emissions scenarios include climate modelers and the science community; those involved in national public policy formulation; managers of Federal research programs; individual firms, farms, and members of the public; as well as state and local government officials who face decisions that might be affected by climate change and mitigation measures. A single scenario exercise cannot hope to provide the details needed by all potential users or address their specific questions. Thus these scenarios are an initial set offered to potential user communities. If successful, they will generate further questions and the demand for more detailed analysis, some of which might be satisfied by further scenario development from models like those used here but more often demanding detail that can only be provided with other modeling and analysis techniques. As such, this effort is one step in the ongoing and iterative international process of producing and refining climate-related scenarios and scenario tools.

Although the required long-term perspective demands scenarios that stretch into the distant future, any such projections carry with them considerable uncertainty. Inevitably the future will hold surprises. Scientific advances will be made, new technologies will be developed, and the direction of the economy will change, making it necessary to reassess the issues examined here. The Prospectus called for development of a limited number of scenarios, without a formal treatment of likelihood or uncertainty, requiring as noted earlier only that the modeling teams use assumptions that they believe to be "plausible" and "meaningful". Formal uncertainty analysis has much to offer and could be a useful additional follow-on or complementary exercise. Here, however, the range of outcomes from the different modeling teams help to illustrate, if incompletely, the range of possibilities.

The scenarios developed here take the best information available now and assess what that may mean for the future. Any such exercise, however, will necessarily be incomplete and will not foresee all possible future developments. The best planning must, of course, prepare to change course later.

1.5. Report Outline

Chapter 2 of this report provides an overview of the three models used in development of the scenarios. Chapter 3 describes the assumptions about key drivers in each of the models and reports reference scenario results. Chapter 4 provides greater detail on the design of the stabilization scenarios and presents their results. Chapter 5 provides concluding observations, including possible avenues for additional research.

The chapters seek to show how the models differ and, to the degree possible, relate where these differences matter and how they shape the results. The models have their own respective strengths and each offer their own reasonable representations of the world. The authors have been at pains to distill the common conclusions while recognizing that the various plausible representations, taken individually, could well lead to quite different results. The major results are presented primarily in the figures. Associated with the report is a database with the quantitative results available for those who wish to further analyze and use these projections. A description of the database, directions for use, and its location can be found in the appendix.

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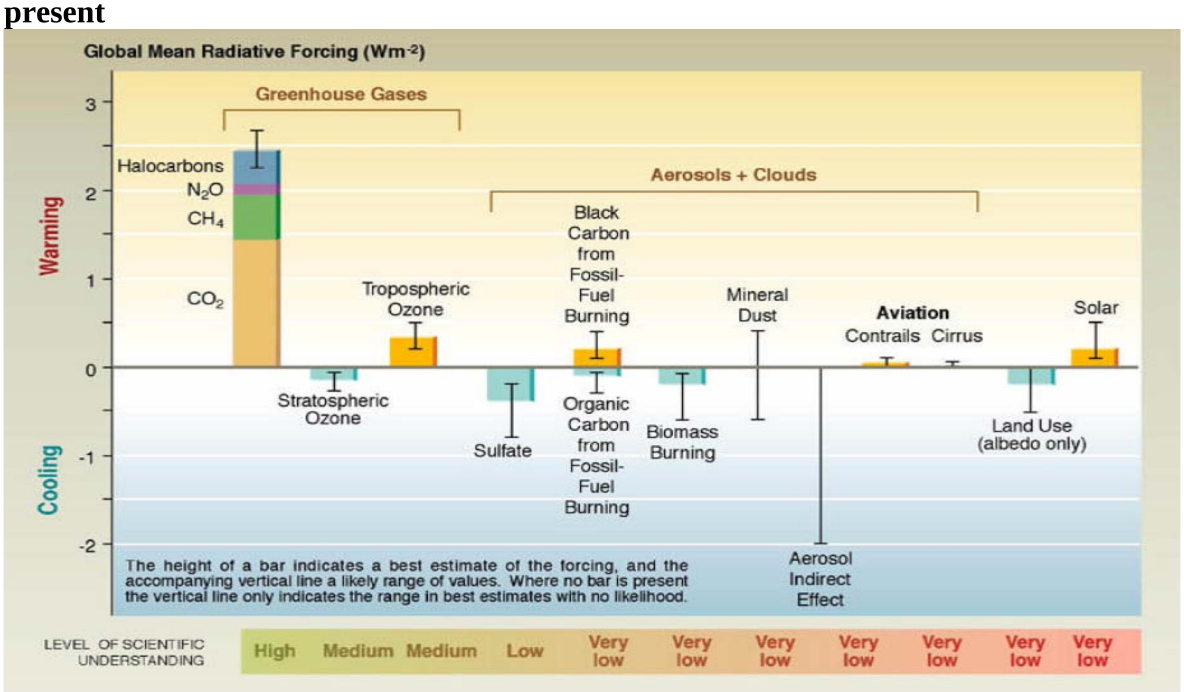
Table 1.1: Greenhouse Gas Concentrations & Forcing

	Preindustrial Concentration (1750)	Current Concentration (2000)	Increased Forcing W/m^2 (1750-2000)
CO_2	280 ppmv	369 ppmv	1.52
CH_4	700 ppbv	1760 ppbv	0.517
N_2O	270 ppbv	316 ppbv	0.153
HFCs	0	NA	0.005
PFCs	0	NA	0.014
SF_6	0	4 ppt	0.0025

Table 1.2: Radiative Forcing Stabilization Levels (W/m^2) and Approximate CO_2 Concentrations (ppmv)

	(1) From Preindustrial (1750)	(2) From Current (2000)	(3) Approximate CO_2 Level (2100)	(4) Increase in CO_2 from Preindustrial	(5) Increase in CO_2 from Current
Level 1	3.4	1.2	450	172	81
Level 2	4.7	2.5	550	272	181
Level 3	5.8	3.5	650	372	281
Level 4	6.7	4.5	750	472	381

Figure 1.1. Estimated influences of atmospheric gases on radiative forcing, 1850-present



2. MODELS USED IN THIS STUDY

2.1. Overview of the Models

The analysis facilities used in this exercise are referred to as integrated assessment models (IAMs) in that they combine, in an integrated framework, the socio-economic and physical processes and systems that define the human influence on, and interactions with, the global climate. They integrate computer models of socio-economic and technological determinants of the emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and other substances influencing the Earth’s radiation balance with models of the natural science of Earth system response, including those of the atmosphere, oceans, and terrestrial biosphere. Although they differ in their specific design objectives and details of their mathematical structures, each of these IAMs was developed for the purpose of gaining insight into economic and policy issues associated with global climate change.

To create scenarios of sufficient depth, scope, and detail, a number of model characteristics were deemed critical for development of these scenarios. The criteria set forth in Chapter 1 led to the selection of three IAMs:

- The Integrated Global Systems Model (the IGSM) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change. The IGSM (Sokolov et al. 2005) is an Earth system model that comprises a multi-sector, multi-region economic component and a science component, including a two-dimensional atmosphere, a three-dimensional ocean, and a detailed biogeochemical model of the terrestrial biosphere. Because this study focuses on new emissions scenarios, results from the economic model component of the IGSM, the Emissions Prediction and Policy Analysis (EPPA) model (Paltsev et al. 2005), are featured in the discussion below. EPPA is a recursive-dynamic computable general equilibrium (CGE) model of the world economy and greenhouse-relevant emissions. Previous applications of the IGSM and its EPPA component system can be found at http://web.mit.edu/globalchange.

- The Model for Evaluating the Regional and Global Effects of GHG reduction policies (MERGE) was developed jointly at Stanford University and the Electric Power

Research Institute. MERGE (Manne and Richels 2005) is an intertemporal general equilibrium model of the global economy in which the world is divided into nine-geopolitical regions. MERGE is a hybrid model combining a bottom-up representation of the energy supply sector, together with a top-down perspective on the remainder of the economy.[1] Savings and investment decisions are modeled as if each region maximizes the discounted utility of its consumption, subject to an intertemporal wealth constraint. Embedded within this structure is a reduced-form representation of the physical earth system. MERGE has been used to explore a range of climate-related issues, including multi-gas strategies, the value of low-carbon-emitting energy technologies, the choice of near-term hedging strategies under uncertainty, the impacts of learning-by-doing, and the potential importance of "when" and "where" flexibility. To support this analysis of stabilization scenarios, the multi-gas version has been revised by adjustments in technology and other assumptions. The MERGE code and publications describing its structure and applications can be found at http://www.stanford.edu/group/MERGE/.

- The Mini Climate Assessment Model (MiniCAM) was developed by the Joint Global Change Research Institute, a partnership between the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the University of Maryland. MiniCAM (Brenkert et al. 2003) combines a technologically detailed partial equilibrium model of the global energy and agricultural systems with a suite of coupled gas-cycle, climate, and ice-melt models, integrated in the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse-gas Induced Climate Change (MAGICC). MiniCAM has been used extensively for energy, climate, and other environmental analyses conducted for organizations that include the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and several major private sector energy companies. Its energy sector is based on a model developed by Edmonds and Reilly (1985). The model is designed to examine long-term, large-scale changes in global and regional energy systems, focusing on the impact of energy technologies. Documentation for MiniCAM can be found at http://www.globalchange.umd.edu/models/MiniCam.pdf/.

Comment: This is Brenkert in the reference list. Which is right?

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[1] It differs from the pure "bottom-up" approach described in the box in that demands for energy are price-responsive.

These three are among the most detailed models of this type of IAM, and the roots of each extend back more than a decade.

Because these models were designed to address an overlapping set of climate-change issues, they are similar in many respects. All three have both social science-based components that capture the socio-economic and technology interactions underlying the emissions of GHGs. And each incorporates models of physical cycles for GHGs and other radiatively important substances and other aspects of the natural science of the global climate. The differences among them lie in the detail and construction of these components and in the ways they are modeled to interact. Each was designed with somewhat different aspects of the climate issue as a main focus. IGSM includes the most detailed representation of the chemistry, physics, and biology of the atmosphere, oceans, and terrestrial biosphere; thus, its EPPA component is designed to provide the emissions detail that these natural science components require. MERGE has its origins in an energy-sector model that was initially designed for energy technology assessment. It was subsequently modified to explore the influence of expectations (and uncertainty regarding expectations) about future developments related to climate policy on the economics of current investment and the cost-minimizing allocation of emissions mitigation over time. Its focus requires a forward-looking structure, which in turn requires simplification of the non-energy components of the economy. MiniCAM concentrates on a detailed representation of energy technologies and the influence of land use change—features that are conveniently represented in a partial equilibrium framework.

Each of these IAMs thus has its unique strengths and areas of special insight. In this scenario study, the simultaneous application of different model structures is useful in revealing different aspects of the task of atmospheric stabilization. The differences among their results, presented in Chapters 3 and 4, remind us a) of the limits of our knowledge about future GHG emissions in the absence of a mitigation policy and b) of the challenges in stabilizing atmospheric conditions. Indeed, differences among the reference forecasts and in the implications of various stabilization targets are likely within the range that would be realized from an uncertainty analysis applied to any one of the three, as indicated by the analysis of the EPPA model by Webster et al. (2003).

Table 2.1 provides a cross-model overview of some of the key characteristics to be compared in the following sections of Chapter 2. Section 2.2 focuses on social science components, describing similarities and differences and highlighting the assumptions that have the greatest influences on the resulting scenarios. Section 2.3 does the same for the natural science sub-models of each IAM, which in this study make the connection between the emissions of GHGs and other radiatively important substances and the resulting atmospheric conditions.

Table 2.1. Characteristics of the Models

2.2. Socio-Economic and Technology Components

2.2.1. Equilibrium, Expectations, and Trade

As can be seen in Table 2.1, the models represent economic activity and associated emissions in a similar way; each divides the world economy into several regions, and further divides each region into economic sectors. In all three, the greatest degree of disaggregation is applied to the various components of energy supply and demand.

The models differ, however, in the structural equilibria assumed, in the ways that solutions are assumed to be implemented, and in the goods and services traded.

MERGE and the EPPA component of the IGSM are CGE models, which solve for a consistent set of supply-demand and price equilibria for each good and factor of production that is distinguished in the analysis. In the process, CGE models ensure a balance in each period of income and expenditure and of savings and investment for the economy, and they maintain a balance in international trade in goods and emissions permits. MiniCAM is a partial equilibrium model, focusing on solving for supply-demand and price equilibria within linked energy and agricultural markets. Other economic sectors that influence the demand for energy and agricultural products and the costs of factors of production in these sectors are represented through exogenous assumptions.

Also, the models differ in the way solutions are implemented and in particular in the degree of foresight implied in economic decisions. The EPPA component of the IGSM and MiniCAM are recursive-dynamic models, meaning they are solved one period at a time with economic agents modeled as responding to conditions in that period. This behavior is also referred to as “myopic” because these agents do not consider expected future market conditions in their decisions. The underlying behavioral assumption is that consumers and producers maximize their individual utilities or profits. In MiniCAM this process is captured implicitly through the use of demand and supply functions that evolve over time as a function of evolving economic activity and regional economic development; in IGSM explicit representative-agent utility and sector production functions ensure that consumer and producer decisions are consistent with welfare and profit maximization. In both of these models, the pattern of emissions mitigation over time are imposed by assumptions intended to capture the features of a cost-efficient strategy, as explained in Section 2.4. MERGE, on the other hand, is an intertemporal optimization model where all periods are solved simultaneously such that resources and mitigation effort are allocated optimally over time as well as among sectors. Intertemporal models of this type are often referred to as “forward-looking” or “perfect foresight” models because actors in the economy base current decisions not only on current conditions but on future ones which are assumed to be known with certainty. Simultaneous solution of all periods ensures that agents’ expectations about the future are realized in the model solution. MERGE’s forward-looking structure allows it to explicitly solve for cost-minimizing emissions pathways, in contrast to MiniCAM and IGSM which impose emissions mitigation over time by assumption.

Although all three models also represent international trade in goods and services and include exchange in emissions permits, they differ in the combinations of goods and services traded. In IGSM, all goods and services represented in the model are traded, with electricity trade limited to geographically contiguous regions to the extent that it occurs in the base data. MiniCAM models international trade in oil, coal, natural gas, agricultural goods, and emission permits. MERGE models trade in oil and natural gas, emissions permits, energy-intensive industrial goods, and a single non-energy good representing all other tradeable goods and services.

2.2.2. Population and Economic Growth

A projected increase in the overall scale of economic activity is among the most important drivers of GHG emissions. However, economic growth depends, in part, on growth in population, which in all three models, is an exogenously determined model input. Although economic activity is ostensibly a projected output of the models, its level is largely determined by assumptions about labor productivity and labor force growth, which are also model inputs. Policies to reduce emissions below those in reference projections also affect economic activity, which may be measured as changes in GDP or in national consumption (see the assessment of stabilization scenarios in Chapter 4, which provides a discussion of the interpretation and limitations of GDP and other welfare measure more generally).

Comment: When all chapters are availabe, check to make sure the Chapter 4 definitions are consistent with this sentence.

In MiniCAM, labor productivity and growth in the labor force are the main drivers of GDP growth. GDP is calculated as the product of labor force and average labor productivity modified by an energy-service price elasticity. The labor force and labor productivity are both exogenous inputs to MiniCAM, but were developed for these scenarios from detailed demographic analysis. Starting with the underlying population scenario, the labor force was estimated from age and gender-specific labor force participation rates applied to the relevant cohorts, and then summed and adjusted by a fixed unemployment rate. Trends were explicitly considered, such as the increasing rate of labor force participation by females in the U.S. economy, the aging of the “baby boomers,” and evolving labor participation rates in older cohorts, reflecting the consequences of changing health and survival rates. Labor force productivity growth rates vary over time and across region to represent these evolving demographics.

In MERGE and the EPPA component of the IGSM the labor force and its productivity, while extremely important, are not the only factors determining GDP. Savings and investment and productivity growth in other factors (e.g., materials, land, labor, and energy) variously contribute as well. IGSM and MERGE use population directly as a measure of the labor force and apply assumptions about labor productivity change that are appropriate for that definition.

2.2.3. Energy Demand

In all three models, energy demands are represented regionally and driven by regional economic activity. As a region’s economic activity increases, its corresponding demand for energy services rises. Also, the calculation in each model of energy demand as a function of economic activity includes an estimate of the change in the efficiency of energy use over time and in varying economic conditions (see Section 2.2.5). Similarly, all the models represent the way demand will respond to changes in price. The formulation of price response is particularly important in the construction of stabilization scenarios because the imposition of a constraint on carbon emissions will require the use of more expensive energy sources with lower emissions and will, therefore, raise the price of all forms of energy.

All three IAMs calculate energy demand at the level of each model's aggregated sectors. None further disaggregates to engineering-process representations of specific energy-demand technologies (e.g., cars, air conditioners). However, the models differ in the way they disaggregate energy demand. In the IGSM each good- or service-producing sector demands energy. The production sector is an input-output structure where every industry (including the energy sector) supplies its outputs as inputs to intermediate production in other industries and for final consumption. Households have separate demands for automobile fuel and for all other energy services. Each final demand sector can use electricity, liquid fuels (petroleum products or biomass liquids), gas, and coal; fuel for automobiles is limited to liquids. MiniCAM represents demands for solid fuels, liquid fuels, electricity, and gaseous fuels across three demand sectors: buildings, transportation, and industry. MERGE has a single non-energy production sector for each region that is the sole source of demand for fuels and electricity.

2.2.4. Energy Resources

Because the future availability of energy resources, particularly of exhaustible fossil fuels, is a fundamental determinant of human influence on climate, the models provide explicit treatments of the underlying resource base. All three include empirically based estimates of in-ground resources of oil, coal, and natural gas that might ultimately be available, along with a model of the costs of extraction. The levels of detail in the different models are shown in Table 2.1. Each of the models includes both conventional and unconventional sources in its resource base and represents the process of exhaustion of resources by an increasing cost of exploitation. That is, lower-cost resources are utilized first so that the costs of extraction rise as the resources are depleted. The models differ, however, in the way they represent the increasing costs of extraction. MiniCAM divides the resource base for each fossil fuel into discrete grades with increasing costs of extraction, along with an exogenous technical change that lowers resource extraction costs over time. MERGE has similar differential grades for oil and gas, but assumes that the coal base is more than sufficient to meet potential demand and that exogenous technological improvements in extraction will be minimal. For these reasons, MERGE represents coal as having a constant cost over time irrespective of utilization. IGSM models resource grades with a continuous function and treats conventional oil, shale oil, natural gas, and coal with a common functional form. Fuel-producing sectors are subject to economy-wide technical progress (e.g., increased labor productivity growth), which offsets the rise in extraction costs. The models all incorporate tar sands and unconventional gas (e.g., tight gas, coal-seam gas) in the grade structure for oil and natural gas, and each also includes the potential development of shale oil.

The models seek to represent all resources that could be available as technology and economic conditions vary over time and across simulations. Thus, they reflect judgments that technology will advance to the point where currently unused resources can be economically exploited. Generally, then, they define a resource base that is more expansive than, for example, that of the U.S. Geological Survey, which estimates technological and economic feasibility only at current technology and prices. However, differences exist in the treatments of potentially available resources. MiniCAM includes a detailed representation of the nuclear power sector, including uranium resources and multiple fuel-cycle approaches. IGSM and MERGE assume that the uranium resources used for nuclear power generation are sufficient to meet likely use and, therefore, do not explicitly model their depletion.

The treatment of wind and solar resources also differs among the models. IGSM represents the penalty for intermittent supply by modeling wind and solar as imperfect substitutes for central station generation, where the elasticity of substitution implies a rising cost as more of the resource is used. Land is also an input, and the regional cost of wind/solar is based on estimates of regional resource availability and quality. MERGE represents these resources as having a fixed cost that improves over time, but it applies upper limits on the proportion of these resources, representing limits on the integration of these resources into the grid. MiniCAM represents wind and solar technologies that incorporate the incremental needs for energy storage and ancillary power associated with intermittency, and these resources are available without a limit.

IGSM and MiniCAM model biomass production as competing for agricultural land. Increasing production leads to an increasing land rent, representing the scarcity of agricultural land, and, thus, to an increasing cost of biomass as production expands. MiniCAM also has a separate set of regional supply functions for biomass supplied from waste and residue sources. MERGE places an upper limit on the amount of biomass energy that might supply the electric and non-electric energy sectors, but otherwise assumes a fixed cost for biomass energy and allows biomass to compete unhindered in the market.

2.2.5. Technology and Technological Change

In most studies of energy and greenhouse gas emissions, “technology” is represented by some form of economic production function which specifies the quantities of inputs required to produce a unit of energy or some other good, or to supply a particular consumer demand using energy and other inputs. Models differ substantially, however, depending on their overall design objectives because data limitations and computational feasibility force tradeoffs between the inclusion of engineering detail and the representation of the interaction among the segments of a modern economy that determines supply, demand, and prices (see Box 2.1).

Though all three of the models applied here follow a "hybrid" approach to the representation of energy technology, involving substantial detail in some areas and more aggregate representations in others, some of the choices that flow from the distinct design of each can be seen in Table 2.1. They represent energy demand, as described in Section 2.2.3, with the application of an autonomous energy efficiency improvement (AEEI) factor to represent non-price-induced trends in energy use. However, AEEI parameter values are not directly comparable across the models because each has a unique representation of the processes that together explain the multiple forces that have contributed historically to changes in the energy intensity of economic activity. In IGSM and MERGE, the AEEI captures non-price changes (including structural change not accounted for in the models) that can be energy-using rather than energy-saving. MERGE represents the AEEI as a function of GDP growth in each region. MiniCAM captures shifts among fuels through differing income elasticities, which change over time, and separately represents AEEI efficiency gains.

--- BOX 2.1: Top-Down, Bottom-Up and Hybrid Modeling ---

The models used in energy and environmental assessments are sometimes classified as top-down, as opposed to bottom-up, in structure, a distinction that refers to the way they represent technological options. A top-down model uses an aggregate representation of how producers and consumers can substitute non-energy inputs for energy inputs, or relatively energy-intensive goods for less energy-intensive goods. Often, these tradeoffs are represented by aggregate production functions or by utility functions that describe consumers' willingness and technical ability to substitute among goods. The bottom-up approach begins with explicit technological options, and fuel substitution or changes in efficiency occur as a result of a discrete change from one specific technology to another. The bottom-up approach has the advantage of being able to represent explicitly the combination of outputs, inputs, and emissions of types of capital equipment used to provide consumer services (e.g., a vehicle model or building design) or to perform a particular step in energy supply (e.g., a coal-fired powerplant or wind turbine). However, a limited number of technologies are typically included, which may not well represent the full set of possible options that exist in practice. Also, in a pure bottom-up approach, the demands for particular energy services are often characterized as fixed (unresponsive to price), and the prices of inputs such as capital, labor, energy and materials are exogenous. On the other hand, the top-down approach explicitly models demand responsiveness and input prices, which usually require the use of continuous functions to model at least some parts of the available technology set. The disadvantage of the latter approach is that production functions of this form will poorly represent switch points from one technology to another—as from one form of electric generation to another, or from gasoline to biomass blends as vehicle fuel. In practice, the vast majority of models in use today, including those applied in this study, are hybrids in that they include substantial technological detail in some sectors and more aggregate representations in others.

--- END BOX ---

Other areas shown in the table where there are significant differences among the models are in energy conversion—from fossil fuels or renewable sources to electricity, and from solid fossil fuels or biomass to liquid fuels or gas. In the IGSM, energy supply sectors are contained within the input-output structure of the economy. Those sources of fuels and electricity that now dominate supply are represented as production functions with the same basic structure as the other sectors of the economy. Technologies that may play a large role in the future (e.g., power plants with carbon capture and storage or oil from shale) are introduced using this same structure, calibrated to current engineering estimates of required inputs. They are subject to economy-wide productivity improvements (e.g., labor, land, and energy productivity), whose effect on cost depends on the share of each factor in the technology production function. MERGE and MiniCAM characterize energy-supply technologies in terms of discrete technologies. In MERGE, technological improvements are captured by allowing for the introduction of more advanced technologies in future periods; in MiniCAM, the cost and performance of technologies are assumed to improve over time and new technologies become available in the future. Similar differences among the models hold for other conversion technologies, such as coal gasification or liquefaction or liquids from biomass.

The entry into the market of new sources and their levels of production by region are determined endogenously in all three models and depend on relative costs of supply. It should be emphasized that the models do not explicitly represent the research and development (R&D) process and how it leads to technical change through, for example, public and private R&D, spillovers from innovation in other economic sectors, and learning-by-doing. A number of recent efforts have been made to incorporate such processes and their effects as an endogenous component of modeling exercises. However, generally these studies have not been applied to models of the complexity needed to meet the requirements of this scenario product.

Because of the differences in structure among these models, there is no simple technology-by-technology comparison of performance and cost across particular sources of supply or technical options. Not only do specifications differ somewhat in the base year, but costs and performance evolve over time in different ways, for example, because of changes in input prices in the IGSM model or exogenous assumptions about technological progress in MERGE or MiniCAM.

The influence of differing technology specifications and assumptions is evident in the results shown in Chapters 3 and 4, with several of these features being particularly notable. In the absence of any greenhouse gas policy, motor fuel is drawn ever more heavily from high-emitting sources—for example, oil from shale comes in under IGSM's resource and technology assumptions, but liquids from coal enter in MERGE and MiniCAM. When stabilization conditions are imposed, all models show carbon capture and storage taking a key role over the study period. Nuclear power contributes heavily in MERGE and in MiniCAM, whereas the potential role of this technology is overridden in the IGSM results by a scenario assumption of political restraints on expansion. Finally, although differences in emissions in the no-policy scenario contribute to variation in the projected difficulty of achieving stabilization, alternative assumptions about rates of technical change in supply technologies also play a prominent role.

2.2.6. Land Use and Land Use Change

The models used in this study were developed originally with a focus on energy and fossil carbon emissions. The integration of the terrestrial biosphere, including human activity, into the climate system is less highly developed. Each model represents the global carbon cycle, including exchanges with the atmosphere of natural vegetation and soils, the effects of human land-use and responses to carbon policy, and feedbacks to global climate. But none represents all of these possible responses and interactions, and the level of detail varies substantially among the models. For example, they differ in the handling of natural vegetation and soils and in their responses to CO_2 concentration and changed climate. Furthermore, land-use practices (e.g., low- or no-till agriculture, or biomass production) and changes in land use (e.g., afforestation, reforestation, or deforestation) that influence GHG emissions and the sequestration of carbon in terrestrial systems are handled at different levels of detail. Indeed, improved two-way linking of global economic and climate analysis with models of physical land use (land use responding to climate and economic pressures and to climate response changes in the terrestrial biosphere) is the subject of ongoing research in these modeling groups.

In IGSM, land is input to agriculture, biomass production, and wind/solar energy production. Agriculture is a single sector that aggregates crops, livestock, and forestry. Biomass energy production is modeled as a separate sector, which competes with agriculture for land. Markets for agricultural goods and biomass energy are international, and demand for these products determines the price of land in each region and its allocation among uses. In other sectors, returns to capital include returns to land, but the land component is not explicitly identified. Anthropogenic emissions of GHGs (importantly including CH_4 and N_2O) are estimated within the IGSM model as functions of agricultural activity and assumed levels of tropical deforestation. The response of terrestrial vegetation and soils to climate change and CO_2 increase is captured in the Earth system component of the model, which provides a detailed treatment of biogeochemical and land-surface properties of terrestrial systems. However, the biogeography of natural ecosystems and human uses remains unchanged over the simulation period, with the area of cropland fixed to the pattern of the early 1990s. By this procedure, the emissions associated with deforestation are included in the year the clearing occurs, but the associated land use is not corrected to reflect the replacement activity. IGSM does not simulate carbon; price-induced changes in carbon sequestration (e.g., reforestation, tillage) and change among land-use types in EPPA is not fed to the terrestrial biosphere component of the IGSM.

The version of MERGE used here incorporates a neutral terrestrial biosphere across all scenarios. That is, it is assumed that the net CO_2 exchange with the atmosphere by natural ecosystems and managed systems—the latter including agriculture, deforestation, aforestation, reforestation and other land-use change—sums to zero.

MiniCAM includes a model that allocates the land area in a region among various components of human use and unmanaged land—with changes in allocation over time in relation to income, technology and prices—and estimates the resulting CO_2 emissions (or sinks) that result. Land conditions and associated emissions are parameterized for a set of regional sub-aggregates. The supply of primary agricultural production (four food crop types, pasture, wood, and commercial biomass) is simulated regionally with competition for a finite land resource based on the average profit rate for each good potentially produced in a region. In stabilization scenarios, the value of carbon stored in the land is added to this profit, based on the average carbon content of different land uses in each region. This allows carbon mitigation policies to explicitly extend into land and agricultural markets. The model is solved by clearing a global market for primary agricultural goods and regional markets for pasture. The biomass market is cleared with demand for biomass from the energy component of the model. Exogenous assumptions are made for the rate of intrinsic increase in agricultural productivity although net productivity can decrease in the case of expansion of agricultural lands into less productive areas (Sands and Leimbach 2003). Unmanaged land can be converted to agro-forestry, which in general results in net CO_2 emissions from tropical regions in the early decades. Emissions of non-CO_2 GHGs are tied to relevant drivers, for example, with CH_4 from ruminant animals related to beef production. MiniCam thus treats the effects on carbon emissions of gross changes in land use (e.g., from forests to biomass production) using an average emission factor for such conversion. The pricing of carbon stocks in the model provides a counterbalance to increasing demand for biomass crops in stabilization scenarios.

2.2.7. Emissions of CO_2 and Non-CO_2 Greenhouse Gases

In all three models, the main source of CO_2 emissions is fossil fuel combustion, which is computed on the basis of the carbon content of each of the underlying resources: oil, natural gas, and coal. Special adjustments are made to account for emissions associated with the additional processing required to convert coal, tar sands, and shale sources into products equivalent to those from conventional oil. Other industrial CO_2 emissions also are included, primarily from cement production.

As required for this study, all three models also include representations of emissions and abatement of CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 (plus other substances not considered in this study). The models use somewhat different approaches to represent abatement of the non-CO_2 GHGs. IGSM includes the emissions and abatement possibilities directly in the production functions of the sectors that are responsible for emissions of the different gases. Abatement possibilities are represented by the substitution elasticity (i.e., the degree to which one factor of production can be substituted for another) in a nested structure that encompasses gas emissions and other inputs, benchmarked to reflect bottom-up studies of abatement potential. This construction is parallel to the representation of fossil fuels in production functions, where abatement potential is similarly represented by the substitution elasticity between fossil fuels and other inputs, with the specific set of substitutions governed by the nest structure. Abatement opportunities vary by sector and region.

In MERGE, methane emissions from natural gas use are tied directly to the level of natural gas consumption, with the emissions rate decreasing over time to represent reduced leakage during the transportation process. Non-energy sources of CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 are based largely on the guidelines provided by the Energy Modeling Forum (EMF) Study No. 21 on Multi-Gas Mitigation and Climate Change (Weyant and de la Chesnaye 2005). The EMF developed baseline projections from 2000 through 2020. For all gases but N_2O and CO_2, the baseline for beyond 2020 was derived by extrapolation of these estimates. Abatement cost functions for these two gases are also based on EMF 21, which provided estimates of the abatement potential for each gas in each of 11 cost categories in 2010. These abatement cost curves are directly incorporated in the model and extrapolated after 2010 following the baseline. There is also an allowance for technical advances in abatement over time.

MiniCAM calculates emissions of CH_4, N_2O, and seven categories of industrial sources for HFCFCs, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 (plus other substances not considered in this study). Emissions are determined for over 30 sectors, including fossil fuel production, transformation, and combustion; industrial processes; land use and land-use change; and urban emissions. For details, see Smith (2005) and Smith and Wigley (2006). Emissions are proportional to driving factors appropriate for each sector, with emissions factors in many sectors decreasing over time according to an income-driven logistic formulation. Marginal abatement cost (MAC) curves from the EMF-21 exercise are applied, including shifts in the curves for methane due to changes in natural gas prices. Any “below zero” reductions in MAC curves are assumed to apply in the reference scenario.

2.3. Earth Systems Component

The earth system components of the models serve to compute the response of the atmosphere, ocean, and terrestrial biosphere to emissions and increasing concentrations of GHGs and other substances. Representation of these processes, including the carbon cycle (see Box 2.2), is necessary to determine emissions paths consistent with stabilization because these systems determine how long each of these substances remains in the atmosphere and how it interacts in the modification of the earth’s radiation balance. Each of the models includes such physical-chemical-biological components, but differs from the other models in the level of detail incorporated. The most elaborated Earth system components are found in the IGSM (Sokolov et al. 2005), which falls in a class of models classified as Earth System Models of Intermediate Complexity, or EMICs (Claussen et al. 2002, Harvey et al. 1997). These are models that fall between the full three-dimensional atmosphere-ocean general circulation models (AOGCMs) and energy balance models with a box model of the carbon cycle. The Earth system components of MERGE and MiniCAM fall in the class of energy balance/carbon cycle box models. Table 2.1 shows how each of the models treat different components of the Earth systems.

Comment: I see only a Harvey et al. 2002 in the reference list.

--- BOX 2.2: The Carbon Cycle ---

Although an approximate atmospheric “lifetime” is sometimes calculated for CO_2, the term is potentially misleading because it implies that CO_2 put into the atmosphere by human activity always declines over time by some stable process, such as that associated with radioactive materials. In fact, the calculated concentration of CO_2 is not related to any mechanism of destruction, or even to the length of time an individual molecule spends in the atmosphere, because CO_2 is constantly exchanged between the atmosphere and the surface layer of the ocean and with vegetation. Instead, it is more appropriate to think about how the quantity of carbon that the Earth contains is partitioned between stocks of in-ground fossil resources, the atmosphere (mainly as CO_2), surface vegetation and soils, and the surface and deep layers of the ocean. When stored CO_2 is released into the atmosphere, either from fossil or terrestrial sources, atmospheric concentrations increase, leading to disequilibrium with the ocean, and more carbon is taken up than is cycled back. For land processes, vegetation growth may be enhanced by increases in atmospheric CO_2, and this change could augment the stock of carbon in vegetation and soils. As a result of the ocean and terrestrial uptake, only about half of the carbon currently emitted remains in the atmosphere. But this large removal only occurs because current levels of emissions lead to substantial disequilibrium between atmosphere and ocean. Lower emissions would lead to less uptake, as atmospheric concentrations come into balance with the ocean and interact with the terrestrial system.

An important policy implication of these carbon-cycle processes as they affect stabilization scenarios is that stabilization of emissions will not lead to stabilization of atmospheric concentrations. CO_2 concentrations were increasing in the 1990s at just over 3 ppmv per year, an annual increase of 0.8 percent. Thus, even if societies were able to stabilize emissions at current levels, atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 would continue to rise. As long as emissions exceed the rate of uptake, even very stringent abatement will only slow the rate of increase.

--- END BOX ---

The IGSM has explicit spatial detail, resolving the atmosphere into multiple layers and by latitude, and includes a terrestrial vegetation model with multiple vegetation types that are also spatially resolved. A version of the IGSM with a full three-dimensional ocean model was used for this study. The IGSM models atmospheric chemistry, resolved separately for urban (i.e., heavily polluted) and background conditions. Processes that move carbon into or out of the ocean and vegetation are modeled explicitly. IGSM also models natural emissions of CH_4 and N_2O, which are weather/climate-dependent. The model includes a radiation code that computes the net effect of atmospheric concentrations of the GHGs studied in the scenarios considered below. Also included in the global forcing is the effect of changing ozone levels, which result from projected emissions of methane and non-GHGs, such as NO_x and volatile organic hydrocarbons.

MERGE's physical Earth system component is embedded in the intertemporal optimization framework, thus allowing solution of an optimal allocation of resources through time, accounting for damages related to climate change, or optimizing the allocation of resources with regard to other constraints such as concentrations, temperature, or radiative forcing. In this study, the second of these capabilities is applied, with a constraint on radiative forcing (see Chapter 4). In contrast, the IGSM and MiniCAM Earth system models are driven by emissions as simulated by the economic components. In that regard, they are simulations rather than optimization models.

The carbon cycle in MERGE relates emissions to concentrations using a convolution ocean carbon-cycle model and assuming a neutral biosphere (i.e., no net CO_2 exchange). It is a reduced-form carbon cycle model developed by Maier-Reimer and Hasselmann (1987). Carbon emissions are divided into five classes, each with different atmospheric lifetimes. The behavior of the model compares favorably with atmospheric concentrations provided in the IPCC's Third Assessment Report (2001) when the same SRES scenarios of emissions are simulated in the model (Nakicenovic et al. 2000). MERGE models the radiative effects of GHGs using relationships consistent with summaries by the IPCC, and applies the median aerosol forcing from Wigley and Raper . The aggregate effect is obtained by summing the radiative forcing effect of each gas.

Comment: 2001 or 2002 or both?

MiniCAM uses the MAGICC model (Wigley and Raper 2001, 2002) as its biophysical component. MAGICC is an energy-balance climate model that simulates the energy inputs and outputs of key components of the climate system (sun, atmosphere, land surface, ocean) with parameterizations of dynamic processes such as ocean circulations. It operates by taking anthropogenic emissions from the other MiniCAM components, converting these to global average concentrations (for gaseous emissions), then determining anthropogenic radiative forcing relative to pre-industrial conditions, and finally computing global mean temperature changes. The carbon cycle is modeled with both terrestrial and ocean components: the terrestrial component includes CO_2 fertilization and temperature feedbacks; the ocean component is a modified version of the Maier-Reimer and Hasselmann (1987) model. Net land-use change emissions from the MiniCAM land-use change component are fed into MAGICC so that the global carbon cycle is consistent with the amount of natural vegetation. Reactive gases and their interactions are modeled on a global-mean basis using equations derived from results of global atmospheric chemistry models (Wigley et al. 2002).

Comment: No Wigley et al. in the reference list.

In MiniCAM, global mean radiative forcing for CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O are determined from GHG concentrations using analytic approximations. Forcings for other GHGs are taken to be proportional to concentrations. Forcings for aerosols (for sulfur dioxide and for black and organic carbon) are taken to be proportional to emissions. Indirect forcing effects, such as the effect of CH_4 on stratospheric water vapor, are also included. Given radiative forcing, global mean temperature changes are determined by a multiple box model with an upwelling-diffusion ocean component. The climate sensitivity is specified as an exogenous parameter. MAGICC's ability to reproduce the global mean temperature change results of atmosphere-ocean general circulation models has been demonstrated (Cubasch et al. 2001, Raper and Gregory 2001).

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Table 2.1 Characteristics of the Integrated Assessment Models

Feature	**IGSM & EPPA economics component**	**MiniCAM**	**MERGE**
Regions	16	14	9
Time Horizon, Time Steps	2100, 5-year steps	2095, 15-year steps	2200, 10-year steps
Model Structure	General Equilibrium	Partial Equilibrium	General Equilibrium
Solution	Recursive Dynamic	Recursive Dynamic	Intertemporal Optimization
Final Energy Demand Sectors in Each Region	Households, private transportation, commercial transportation, service sector, agriculture, energy-intensive industries, other industry	Buildings, transportation, industry (including agriculture)	A single non-energy production sector
Capital Turnover	Five vintages of capital with a depreciation rate	Vintages with constant deprecation rate for all electricity-sector capital; capital structure not explicitly modeled in other sectors	A “putty clay” approach wherein the input-output coefficients for each cohort are optimally adjusted to the future trajectory of prices at the time of investment
Goods in International Trade	All energy and non-energy goods, emissions permits	Oil, coal, natural gas, biomass, agricultural goods, emissions permits	Energy, energy-intensive industry goods, emissions permits, representative tradeable goods
Emissions	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, SF_6, CO, NO_x, SO_x, NMVOCs, BC, OC, NH_3	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, CO, NO_x, SO_2, NMVOCs, BC, OC, HFC245fa, HFC134a, HFC125, HFC143a, SF_6, C_2F_6, CF_4	CO_2, CH_4, N_2O, long-lived F-gases, short-lived F-gases, SO_x
Land use	Agriculture (crops, livestock, forests), biomass land use, land use for wind/solar	Agriculture (crops, pasture, forests) and biomass land use and unmanaged land	Reduced-form emissions from land use; no explicit land-use sector; assumes no net terrestrial emissions of CO_2
Population	Exogenous	Exogenous	Exogenous
GDP Growth	Exogenous productivity growth assumptions for labor, energy, land; exogenous labor force growth determined from population growth; endogenous capital growth through savings and investment	Exogenous productivity growth assumptions for labor; exogenous labor-force growth based on population demographics	Exogenous productivity growth assumptions for labor, energy; exogenous labor-force growth determined from population growth; endogenous capital growth through savings and investment
Energy Efficiency Change	Exogenous	Exogenous	Proportional to the rate of GDP growth in each region
Energy Resources	Oil (including tar sands), shale oil, gas, coal, wind/solar, land (biomass), hydro, nuclear fuel	Conventional oil, unconventional oil (including tar sands and shale oil), gas, coal, wind, solar, biomass (waste/residues, and crops), hydro, nuclear fuel	Conventional oil, unconventional oil (coal-based synthetics, tar sands and shale oil), gas, coal, wind, solar, biomass, hydro, nuclear fuel

Electricity Technologies	Conventional fossil (coal, gas, oil); nuclear, hydro, natural gas combined cycle with and without capture, integrated coal gasification with capture, wind/solar, biomass	Conventional fossil (coal, gas, oil) with and without capture; IGCCs with and without capture; natural gas combined cycle (NGCC) with and without capture; Gen II, III, and IV reactors and associated fuel cycles, hydro, wind, solar, biomass (conventional and advanced)	Conventional fossil (coal, gas, oil); nuclear, hydro, natural gas combined cycle integrated coal gasification with capture, wind, solar, biomass, fuel cells
Conversion Technologies	Oil refining, coal gasification, bio-liquids	Conversion of oil, natural gas, coal, and biomass, to synthetic liquids, gases, and hydrogen; direct hydrogen production from wind, solar, nuclear	Oil refining, coal gasification and liquefaction, bio-liquids, electrolysis
Atmosphere-Ocean	Two-dimensional atmosphere with a three-dimensional ocean general circulation model, resolved at 20-minute time steps, 4º latitude, 4 surface types, 12 vertical layers in the atmosphere	Global multi-box energy balance model with upwelling-diffusion ocean heat transport	Parameterized ocean thermal lag
Carbon Cycle	Biogeochemical models of terrestrial and ocean processes; depend on climate/atmospheric conditions with 35 terrestrial ecosystem types	Globally balanced carbon-cycle with separate ocean and terrestrial components, with terrestrial response to land-use changes	Convolution ocean carbon-cycle model, assuming a neutral biosphere
Natural Emissions	CH_4, N_2O, weather/climate-dependent as part of biogeochemical process models	Fixed natural emissions over time	Fixed natural emissions over time
Atmospheric Fate of GHGs, Pollutants	Process models of atmospheric chemistry resolved for urban and background conditions	Reduced form models for reactive gases and their interactions	Single box models with fixed decay rates; no consideration of reactive gases
Radiation Code	Radiation code accounting for all significant GHGs and aerosols	Reduced form, top-of-the-atmosphere forcing, including indirect forcing effects	Reduced form, top-of-the-atmosphere forcing

3. REFERENCE SCENARIOS

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Reference scenarios for all three models show significant growth in energy use and continued reliance on fossil fuels, leading to an increase in CO_2 emissions 3½ times the present level by 2100. When combined with increases in the non-CO_2 greenhouse gases and net uptake by the ocean and terrestrial biosphere, the result is radiative forcing of 4 to 6 W/m^2 above the current level, which is 2.2 W/m^2 above pre-industrial.

3.1. Introduction

This chapter introduces the reference scenarios developed by the three modeling groups. These scenarios are starting points, not predictions. By the nature of their construction, they are not intended to be accurate forecasts; for example, they assume that in the post-2012 period, existing measures to address climate change expire and are never renewed or replaced–an unlikely occurrence. Rather, they have been developed as points of departure to highlight the implications for energy and other human activities of the stabilization of radiative forcing. Each of the modeling teams could have created a range of other plausible reference scenarios by varying assumptions about rates of economic growth, the cost and availability of alternative energy options, assumptions about non-climate environmental regulations, and so forth.

Other than to standardize reporting conventions and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigation policies (or lack thereof), the three modeling teams developed their reference scenarios independently and as each judged most appropriate. Based on this independence, there are a variety of reasons why important aspects of the reference scenarios should be expected to differ among the modeling teams.

As noted in Chapter 2, the three models were developed on the basis of somewhat different original design objectives. They differ in (a) their inclusiveness, (b) their specifications of key aspects of economic structure, and (c) their estimations of parameters. These independent choices lead to different characterizations of the underlying economic and physical systems that these models represent.

Moreover, even if the models were identical in structure, the independent choice of key assumptions should lead to differences among scenarios. For example, as will be discussed, the reference scenarios differ in their specification of the technical details of virtually every aspect of the future global energy system, ranging from the cost and availability of oil and natural gas to the prospects for nuclear power. These differences can profoundly affect future reference emissions and the nature and cost of stabilization regimes.

Finally, the modeling teams did not attempt to harmonize assumptions about non-climate-related policies. Such differences matter both in the reference and stabilization scenarios. For example, the MiniCAM reference assumes a larger effect of methane emission-control technologies deployed for economic reasons, which results in lower reference scenario methane emissions than the other models. Similarly, the IGSM modeling team assumed that non-climate policies would limit the deployment of nuclear power, while the MERGE and MiniCAM models assumed that nuclear power would be allowed to participate in energy markets on the basis of energy cost alone.

The variation in modeling approach and assumptions is one of the strengths of this exercise, for the resulting differences across scenarios can help shed light on the implications of differing assumptions about how key forces may evolve over time; it also provides three independent starting points for consideration of stabilization goals.

Although there are many reasons to expect that the three reference scenarios would be different, it is worth noting that the modeling teams met periodically during the development of the scenarios to review progress and to exchange information. Thus, while not adhering to any formal protocol of standardization, the three reference scenarios are not entirely independent either.

A reference scenario is uncertain, a fact that is painfully obvious to those who produce scenarios and hardly news to anyone who has thought seriously about the wide range of possible futures. Thus, it should be further emphasized that the three reference scenarios were not designed in an attempt to span the full range of potential future conditions or to shed light on the probability of the occurrence of future events. That is a much more ambitious undertaking than the one reported here. The uncertainty of potential future reference scenarios of fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions are discussed later in this chapter.

The remainder of this chapter describes the reference scenarios developed by the three modeling teams. The approach of this chapter is to work forward from underlying drivers to implications for radiative forcing; Chapter 4 then works backwards, imposing the stabilization levels on radiative forcing and exploring the impacts. Section 3.2 begins with a summary of the underlying socio-economic assumptions, most notably for population and economic growth. Section 3.3 discusses the evolution of the global energy system over the twenty-first century in the absence of additional GHG controls and discusses the associated prices of fuels. The energy sector is the largest but not the only source of anthropogenic GHG emissions. Also important is the net uptake or release of CO_2 by the oceans and the terrestrial biosphere. Section 3.4 shows how the three models handle this aspect of the interaction of human activity with natural Earth systems. Section 3.5 then shows the estimates of anthropogenic emissions, taking into account both the energy sector and other sectors, such as agriculture and various industrial activities. The section draws together all these various components to present reference scenarios of the consequences of anthropogenic emissions and the processes of CO_2 uptake and non-CO_2 gas destruction for the ultimate focus of the study: atmospheric concentrations and global radiative forcing.

3.2. Socio-Economic Assumptions

> *GHGs are a product of modern life. Population increase and economic activity are major determinants of the scale of human activities and ultimately of anthropogenic GHG emissions. The reference scenarios are similar in that both population and economic activity are assumed to continue to grow substantially by the end of the century. Global population is projected to rise from 6 billion people in the year 2000 to between 8.6 and 9.9 billion people in 2100 in the three reference scenarios. Developed nations are assumed to continue to expand their economies at historical rates, and some, but not all, developing nations are assumed to make significant progress toward improved standards of living.*

Reference scenarios are grounded in a larger demographic and economic story. Each uses population as the basis for developing estimates of the scale and composition of economic activity for each region. For population assumptions, the IGSM modeling team adopted one U.N. projection for the period 2000-2050 (United Nations 2001) and then extended this projection to 2100 using information from a longer-term U.N. study (United Nations 2000). The MiniCAM assumptions are based on a median scenario by the United Nations (United Nations 2004) and a Millennium Assessment Techno-Garden Scenario from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (O'Neal 2005). Near-term population assumptions for MERGE come from the Energy Information Administration's International Energy Outlook. Over the remainder of the century, regional populations converge toward a set of long-term equilibrium levels some countries reach these levels earlier than others. Regional populations are given in Table 3.1.

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Table 3.1. Population by Region across Models, 2000-2100

The projected levels of global population are shown in the left panel of Figure 3.1. Population increases substantially across the reference scenarios by the end of the century, but in none of the scenarios does population continue exponential growth unabated. Most of the population growth occurs in the next four to five decades in all three scenarios. By 2050, more than 75% of all the change between the year 2000 and

2100 has occurred. A demographic transition from high birth and death rates to low death rates and eventually to low birth rates is a feature of most demographic projections, reflecting assumptions that birth rates will decline to replacement levels or below. For some countries, birth rates are already below replacement levels, and just maintaining these levels will result in population decline for these countries. An uncertainty in demographic projections is whether a transition to less than replacement levels is a more or less permanent feature of those countries where it has occurred and whether such a pattern will be repeated in other countries.

The differences between the scenarios lie in nuances of this pattern. The MiniCAM reference scenario exhibits a peak in global population around the year 2070 at slightly more than 9 billion people, after which the population declines to 8.6 billion. MERGE and IGSM, on the other hand, both employ demographic scenarios in which global population stabilizes but does not decline during this century. Across the scenarios, by the year 2100 populations range from 8.6 to 9.9 billion people, an increase of 42 to 64% from the 6 billion people on Earth in 2000. Taken in total, the difference between the demographic scenarios is relatively small: they differ by only 3% in 2030 and by less than 10% until after 2080.

Figure 3.1. World and U.S. Population across Reference Scenarios

The variance in total population is greater for the U.S. than for the globe. The U.S. population, in the right panel of Figure 3.1, increases from about 280 million in the year 2000 to between 335 million and 425 million by 2100 among the three reference scenarios. Interestingly, although the MiniCAM global population is lowest of the three scenarios in 2100, it is the highest for the U.S. The higher U.S. population in MiniCAM compared to the other models can be traced to different assumptions about net migration.

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As discussed in Chapter 2, gross domestic product (GDP), while ostensibly an output of all three of the participating models, is in fact largely determined by assumptions about labor productivity and labor force growth, which are model inputs. None of the three modeling teams began with a GDP goal and derived sets of input factors that would generate that level of activity. Rather, each modeling team began with assessments about potential growth rates in labor productivity and labor force and used these, through differing mechanisms, to compute GDP. In MiniCAM, labor productivity and labor force growth are the main drivers of GDP growth. In MERGE and IGSM, savings and investment and productivity growth in other factors (e.g., materials, land, and energy) variously contribute as well. All three models derive labor force growth from the underlying assumptions about population.

The alternative scenarios of population and productivity growth lead to differences among the three reference scenarios in U.S. GDP growth, as shown in Figure 3.2. There is relatively little difference among the three trajectories through the year 2020. After 2020, however, a large divergence develops, with the lowest scenario (MERGE) having roughly half of that of the highest scenario (IGSM) by the end of the century. The IGSM labor productivity growth assumptions for the U.S. were the highest of the three and its

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U.S. population was also relatively high, as seen in Figure 3.1. The relatively lower labor productivity growth assumptions used in the MERGE and MiniCAM reference scenarios lead to lower levels of GDP. The lower population growth assumptions employed in the MERGE reference scenario give it the lowest GDP level in 2100.

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Figure 3.2. U.S. Economic Growth across Reference Scenarios

Table 3.2 shows GDP across regions in the three reference scenarios. The absolute levels of GDP increase are the result of relatively small differences in rates of per capita growth. Although difficulties arise in comparisons of growth across countries (see Box 3.1), the growth rates underlying these projections are usefully compared with historical experience. Table 3, presents long-term growth rates from reconstructed data showing that consistent rapid growth is a phenomenon of industrialization, starting in the 1800s in North America and Europe and gradually spreading to other areas of the world. By the end of the period 1950 to 1973, it appeared that the phenomenon of rapid growth had taken hold in all major regions of the world. Since 1973, it has been less clear to what degree that conclusion holds. Growth slowed in the 1970s in most regions, the important exceptions being China, India, and several South and East Asian economies. In Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union, growth slowed in this period to rates more associated with pre-industrial times.

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Table 3.2. Reference GDP for Key Regions

Table 3.3. Historical Annual Average Per Capita GDP Growth

--- BOX 3.1: Exchange Rates and Comparisons of Real Income among Countries ---

Models used in this type of exercise typically represent the economy in real terms, following the common assumption that inflation and exchange-rate changes are purely monetary phenomena that do not have real effects. The models include none of the phenomena that govern exchange rate determination and so cannot project changes. However, modeling international trade in goods requires either an exchange rate or a common currency. Rather than separately model economies in native currencies and use a fixed exchange to convert currencies for trade, the equivalent and simpler approach is to convert all regions to a common currency at average market exchange rates (MER) for the base year of the model.

At the same time, it is widely recognized that using market exchange rates to compare countries can have peculiar implications. In historical data, country A might start with a larger GDP than country B when converted to a common currency using that year's exchange rates, and grow faster in real terms than B, yet could later have a lower GDP than B using exchange rates in that year. This paradoxical result can occur if A's currency depreciated relative to B's. Depreciation and appreciation of currencies by 20 to 50% over just a few years is common, and so the example is not rare. Interest in making cross-country comparisons that are not subject to such apparent peculiarities has led to development of indices of international purchasing power. A widely used index is purchasing power parity (PPP), whose development was sponsored by the World Bank.

PPP-type indices have the advantage of being more stable over time and are thought to better reflect relative living standards among countries than MER. Thus, research that draws comparisons among countries to understand development and growth has found it preferable to use PPP-type indices rather than MER. Although the empirical foundation for the indices has been improving, the theory for them remains incomplete, and thus there is a limited basis on which changes in PPP can be projected into the future. Some hypothesize that differences close as real income gaps narrow, but the evidence for this outcome is weak, in part due to data limitations.

Controversy regarding the use of MER arose around the IPCC's Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES, Nakicenovic and Swart, 2001) scenarios because they were reported to model economic convergence among countries, yet reported results in MER. Assessing convergence implies a cross-country comparison, but that would only be strictly meaningful if MER measures were corrected for a country's real international purchasing power. In developing the scenarios for this exercise, there were no specific assumptions made regarding convergence. Growth prospects and other parameters for the world's economies were assessed relative to their own historical performance. The models are parameterized and simulated in MER, as this is consistent with modeling of trade in goods. To avoid potential misinterpretation of reported GDP levels, only GDP for the U.S. is reported (as the U.S. dollar is typically the numeraire in purchasing power indices). Users who wish to assess the size of the world economy in terms of market exchange rates can find those values reported in Table 3.3.

Comment: What does SRES stand for?

-- END BOX --

With this historical experience as background, the differences among the models in per capita income growth can be explained. With respect to the developed countries, the IGSM growth rate for the U.S. is about the average for North America for the period 1950-2000. The MiniCAM reference scenario assumes a constant labor productivity growth rate for the U.S., which is consistent with post World War II historical patterns, and combines that with demographic trends that include an aging population pattern. When the constant labor productivity growth assumption is combined with demographic maturation, the result is a lower future rate of growth of GDP compared to history. U.S. GDP growth rates in the MERGE reference scenario are similar to those of the MiniCAM reference scenario.

GDP growth patterns for Western Europe and Japan are similar to one another within reference scenarios, but vary across models. The IGSM reference scenario follows the post World War II trend in per capita GDP growth, but MiniCAM and MERGE anticipate a break from the trend, that is, with lower per capita growth in GDP as a consequence of changes in underlying demographic trends. The MiniCAM demographic scenario exhibits rapidly aging populations and a consequent decline in average labor force participation, which, combined with a long-term trend in labor productivity growth (similar to that of the U.S.), yields lower growth in GDP per capita compared to the IGSM reference scenario. The MERGE per capita GDP growth pattern is similar to that of MiniCAM.

The scenarios for developing regions show greater differences from historical experience. Notably, all three modeling groups show consistent growth in many non-OECD regions at rates experienced by "industrializing" countries. However, growth rates are not homogeneous. There is consistently more optimism in all three reference scenarios regarding the prospects for China and India than for regions such as Latin America and Africa. The IGSM results for non-OECD regions show somewhat less growth compared to the MiniCAM and MERGE scenarios. These are just one set of judgments about growth prospects from each group and are not intended to be expressions of what the groups view as desirable growth rates. Clearly, more rapid growth in developing countries, if evenly distributed among income groups, could be the basis for improving the outlook for people in these areas.

3.3. Energy Use, Prices, and Technology

Global primary energy consumption expands dramatically over the century in all three reference scenarios, growing to between 3 and 4 times its 2000 level of roughly 400 EJ. This growth is the net result of a range of forces, including rising economic activity, increasing efficiency of energy use, and changes in energy consumption patterns. Growth in per-capita energy consumption occurs despite a continuous decline in the energy intensity of economic activity. This improving energy intensity reflects, in part, assumptions of substantial technological change in all three reference scenarios.

Fossil fuels provided almost 90% of the energy supply in the year 2000 and remain the dominant energy source in all three scenarios throughout the twenty-first century, despite a phase-out of conventional petroleum resources. In all three reference scenarios, a range of alternative fossil resources are available to supply the bulk of the world's increasing demand for energy. Differing among the scenarios, however, is the mix of fossil fuels. The IGSM reference scenario has relatively more oil, and this oil is derived from shale; the MERGE scenario has relatively more coal, with a substantial amount of the increase used to produce liquid fuels; and the MiniCAM scenario has relatively more natural gas.

In all three cases, the production from non-fossil fuel resources grows substantially in comparison to today's levels, reaching levels roughly 65 to 150% of the total global level of energy consumption in 2000. The scenarios differ in the mix of non-fossil resources that emerges. In all reference scenarios, however, the growth in non-fossil fuel use does not forestall substantial growth in fossil fuel consumption.

3.3.1. The Evolving Structure of Energy Use

Energy production is closely associated with emissions of GHGs, particularly CO_2, because of the dominant role of fossil fuels. Figure 3.3 shows global primary energy use over the century and its composition by fuel type in the three reference scenarios. Not surprisingly, given the assumptions about economic growth, all of the reference scenarios

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show substantial growth in primary energy use: from approximately 400 EJ/y in the year 2000 to between 1300 EJ/y and 1550 EJ/y by the end of this century. Total primary energy use grows faster than population growth, as shown in Figure 3.4, leading to a tripling in the average energy use per person in the world. The U.S. sees a somewhat slower growth in per capita energy use in all three reference scenarios although by the end of the century it is still approximately three times the global average.

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Figure 3.3. Global Primary Energy Use by Fuel across Reference Scenarios

Figure 3.4. Global and U.S. Primary Energy Consumption Per Capita across Reference Scenarios

The growth in total and per capita primary energy consumption arises despite substantial improvements in energy technology assumed in all three scenarios. Figure 3.5 displays the ratio of U.S. energy to GDP (energy intensity) computed for each of the three reference scenarios. The ratio declines throughout the century in all three reference scenarios. The important point here is that these reference scenarios already incorporate substantial technological improvements. In the year 2100, each dollar of real GDP can be produced with only half the energy used in the year 2000 in the MERGE reference scenario, and only 30% of the energy in the IGSM and MiniCAM reference scenarios.

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Figure 3.5. U.S. Primary Energy Intensity: Consumption per Dollar of GDP across Reference Scenarios

As shown later in this chapter, this decline in U.S. fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions intensity is insufficient to keep U.S. total CO_2 emissions from rising. Without these assumed improvements in energy technology, however, energy demands and U.S. fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions would be substantially higher in the reference scenarios. These same forces are at work in other regions as well. Improvements in energy-related technologies and shifts in the sectoral composition of national economies play an important role in limiting the growth of fossil fuel use and CO_2 emissions in all three reference scenarios.

For the global total, as for the U.S., energy consumption over the century remains dominated by fossil fuels. In this sense, the three scenarios tell a consistent story about future global energy, and all three run counter to the viewpoint that the world is running out of fossil fuels. Although reserves and resources of conventional oil and gas are limited in all three reference scenarios, the same cannot be said of coal and unconventional liquids and gases. All three reference scenarios project that, in the absence of constraints on GHG emissions, the world economy will move from current conventional fossil resources to increased exploitation of the extensive (if more costly) global resources of heavy oils, tar sands, and shale oil, and to synfuels derived from coal. The three scenarios project different visions of the ultimate mix of these sources. The IGSM reference scenario exhibits a relatively higher share of oil production; the MERGE reference scenario exhibits a relatively higher coal share; and the MiniCAM projects a higher share for natural gas.

The relative contribution of oil to the primary energy supply differs across the reference scenarios, but all three include a decline in the share of conventional oil. In the IGSM that decline is more modest and in the MERGE scenario it is more pronounced, but the decline occurs in all of the reference scenarios. Thus, these scenarios represent three variations on a theme of energy transition precipitated by limited availability of conventional oil and continued expansion of final demands for liquid fuels, mainly to fuel passenger and freight transport.

In the IGSM reference scenario, limits on the availability of conventional oil resources lead to the development of technologies that access unconventional oil, i.e., oil sands, heavy oils, and shale oils. These resources are large and impose no meaningful constraint on production during the twenty-first century. Thus, despite the fact that production costs are higher than for conventional oil, total oil production (conventional plus shale) expands throughout the century although oil as a primary energy source declines as a share of total energy with the passage of time.

The transition plays out differently in the MERGE reference scenario. Although it begins the same way (that is, the transition is initiated by limits on conventional oil resources), declining production of conventional oil leads to higher oil prices and makes alternative fuels, especially those derived from coal liquefaction, economically competitive. Thus, there is a transition away from conventional oil (and gas) and a corresponding expansion of coal production. The large difference between MERGE and IGSM on primary oil thus reflects the role of coal liquefaction rather than a fundamentally different projection of the need for liquid fuels.

The MiniCAM reference scenario depicts yet a third possible transition. Again, it begins with limited conventional oil resources leading to higher oil prices. And, just as in the IGSM reference scenario, the MiniCAM reference scenario has higher oil prices leading to the development and deployment of technologies that access unconventional oil, such as oil sands, heavy oils, and shale oils. However, it also leads to expanded production of natural gas and (just as in the MERGE scenario) to expanded production of coal to produce synthetic liquids.

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Figure 3.3 also reflects assumptions about the availability of low-cost alternatives to conventional fossil fuels. In all three scenarios, non-fossil supplies increase both their absolute and relative roles in providing energy to the global economy, with their share growing to between 20 and 40% of total supply by 2100. The growth is substantial. In IGSM, the scenario with the lowest consumption of non-fossil resources, the magnitude of total consumption of these resources in 2100 is 65% the size of the total global primary energy production in 2000, which is a 350% increase in the level of production of non-fossil energy. In MERGE, the scenario with the highest contribution from non-fossil resources, total consumption from these resources in 2100 is 150% of total primary energy consumption in 2000. Despite this growth, the continued availability of relatively low-cost fossil energy supplies, combined with continued improvements in the efficiency with which they are used, results in fossil energy forms remaining competitive throughout the century.

The three reference scenarios tell different stories about non-fossil energy (much of which is covered below in the discussion of electricity generation). The IGSM reference scenario assumes political limits on the expansion of nuclear power, so it grows only to about 50 percent above of the 2000 level by 2100. However, growing demands for energy and for liquid fuels in particular lead to the development and expansion of bioenergy, both absolutely and as percentage of total primary energy. Other non-biomass renewable energy forms are assumed to lose their competitive edge to competing technologies.

In contrast, the MERGE scenario assumes that a new generation of nuclear technology becomes available and that societies do not limit its market penetration, so the share of nuclear power in the economy grows with time. In addition, renewable energy forms, both commercial biomass and other forms such as wind and solar, expand production during the century.

The MiniCAM reference scenario also assumes the availability of a new generation of nuclear energy technology that is both cost-competitive and unrestrained by public policy. Nuclear power, therefore, increases market share although not to the extent found in the MERGE scenario. Non-biomass renewable energy supplies become increasingly competitive as well. In MiniCAM, bioenergy production expansion in the reference scenario is limited to the use of recycled wastes and relatively little commercial biomass farming.

The three scenarios for the U.S. are similar in character to the global ones, as also shown in Figure 3.3. The transition from inexpensive and abundant conventional oil to alternative sources of liquid fuels and electricity affects energy markets and patterns in the U.S. However, energy demands grow somewhat more slowly in the U.S. than in the world in general. As with the world total, the U.S. energy system remains dominated by fossil fuels in all three reference scenarios. Non-fossil energy forms expand their markets both absolutely and as a fraction of total primary energy in the MERGE and MiniCAM reference scenarios, but do not overtake fossil energy as the major provider of primary energy. In the IGSM reference scenario, non-fossil energy use remains roughly constant and, thus, declines as a fraction of total primary energy consumption. This result follows from a combination of assumptions about the social acceptability of expanded nuclear energy use and assessments about the relative cost and performance of competitors to fossil fuels.

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The result of a combination of the population growth and the developments in energy structure is a pattern of rising energy consumption per capita, as shown in Figure 3.4. All three models project a growing per capita use, with the MiniCAM showing the greatest increase over time in the global total, and the IGSM model showing the least change. For the U.S., because of differences in population projections and growth rates, the relative

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ranking of these growth rates is changed, with MERGE showing the greatest increase and MiniCAM the least.

Although per capita energy use is increasing in all three reference scenarios, the combination of GDP growth and changes in energy patterns lead to continuing improvement in the energy intensity of economic activity, shown in Figure 3.5. These patterns are a continuation of the experience of energy-intensive change in recent decades in the U.S., and a similar pattern applies across other regions in the three models.

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3.3.2. Trends in Fuel Prices

From the late nineteenth century until the 1970s, world oil prices (in year 2004 dollars) ranged between $15 and $20 per barrel. Figure 3.6 plots the experience from 1947 forward and clearly shows the big price increases in the 1970s and early 1980s as a result of disruptions in the Middle East. In inflation-adjusted terms, prices declined to the earlier levels of $15 to $20 in the latter half of the 1980s and 1990s. The period 2000 to 2005 has again seen rising prices of oil and other fossil energy sources. Adding the past few years of data to the series suggests the possibility of a long-term trend toward rising prices. Depletion alone would suggest rising prices because of a combination of rents associated with a limited resource and the exhaustion of easily recoverable grades of oil. Global demand continues to grow, putting increasing pressure on supply. Opposing these forces toward higher prices has been improving technology that reduces the cost of recovering known deposits and facilitates discovery and that makes recovery of previously unrecoverable deposits economical.

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Figure 3.6. Long-Term Historical Crude Oil Prices

The models employ time steps of 5 to 15 years (see Chapter 2) so that projections for a given year should be interpreted as a multi-year average and, thus, are not set up to project short-term variability in prices. The long-term trends they project are thus best seen as multi-year averages. Though the multi-year averaging includes the phenomena responsible for the kinds of fuel price spikes that occurred in the 1970s, 1980s, and 2005.

The three scenarios paint similar but by no means identical pictures of future energy prices. Figure 3.7 shows mine-mouth coal prices, electricity producer prices, natural gas producer prices for the U.S., and the world oil price. The projections by each model for all four energy markets – oil, natural gas, coal and electricity – are shaped by the supply of and demand for these commodities. They also are interconnected. Oil markets are driven by the rising cost of conventional oil and a burgeoning demand for liquid fuels to provide transportation and other energy services. This demand can be met in a variety of ways in the three models. In addition to limited conventional oil resource grades, there also are grades of oil, currently considered to be “unconventional,” that are available in quantities that put no meaningful limit on oil supply although they are more costly than conventional oil supplies. Other supply options include liquids derived from natural gas, coal, and/or biological resources. These options are also more expensive than conventional oil. The oil price scenarios in the three models are, thus, the result of the

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interplay between increasing the demands for liquid fuels, the available technology, and the availability of liquids derived from these other sources.

Figure 3.7. Indices of Energy Prices across Reference Scenarios

Natural gas prices tell a similar story. Estimates of the ultimately recoverable natural gas resource vary, as does the cost structure of the resource, and this drives differences among the models. Like the demand for oil, the demand for natural gas grows, driven by increasing population and per capita incomes. And, like the price of oil, the price of gas tends to be driven higher in the transition from inexpensive, abundant conventional resources to less easily accessible grades of the resource and to substitutes, such as gas derived from coal or biological sources. The different degrees and rates of escalation reflect different technology assumptions in the three reference scenarios.

Coal prices do not rise as fast as oil and natural gas prices in any of the three reference scenarios. The reason is the abundance of the coal resource base. The different patterns of coal price movement with time in the three scenarios reflect differences in assumptions about the rate of resource depletion and technological improvement in extraction. In the MERGE reference scenario the race is won by technology and in the IGSM reference scenario by depletion of the highest quality resource grades; in the MiniCAM scenario, however, the race is a draw.

The stability of electricity prices compared with oil and natural gas prices is a reflection of the variety of technologies, of their improvements, and of fuels available to produce electricity. The fraction of electricity produced by coal is largest, and the fraction from oil and natural gas is approximately one-quarter of the total. Nuclear power and renewable power provide significant shares of total power generation. This ability of power generators to substitute less-expensive sources of power for more-expensive sources over time contributes to the relative stability of electricity prices.

3.3.3. Electricity Production and Technology

The production of electricity results in more fossil CO_2 emissions than any other activity in the economy. Figure 3.8 shows electricity production – in units of electrical output, not units of energy input – by generation type in the U.S. and the world. (For the world, total production necessarily equals consumption. U.S. consumption exceeds production, however, because it is a net importer from Canada.) The three scenarios exhibit a steadily increasing production of electricity in both the U.S. and the world although the scale and generation mix differ among them. All depict a growing role for coal. Interestingly, the three show a similar use of coal in the global economy despite almost a factor-of-two difference in coal use in the U.S. None has a major role for oil.

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Figure 3.8. Global and U. S. Electricity Production by Source across Reference Scenarios

There are, however, major differences across the scenarios in the use of other energy forms. The IGSM scenario is dominated by coal, which accounts for more than half of all power production by the end of the twenty-first century, a result consistent with its limited growth in nuclear power. In contrast, the MERGE scenario assumes that nuclear energy penetrates the market based on economic performance, and non-biomass renewable energy gains market share. Limits in natural gas lead to a peak and decline in gas use in the first half of the century. The MiniCAM scenario shows yet another possible development in power generation. Although coal supplies the largest share of power, natural gas is relatively abundant and provides a significant portion, as do nuclear and non-biomass renewable energy forms.

3.3.4. Non-Electric Energy Use

Figure 3.9 shows the reference scenario non-electric energy use, and Figure 3.10 shows the energy loss from conversion from fuel to electricity. Note that Figure 3.8 shows electricity production resulting from a specific fuel, not the energy content of the fuel used to produce the energy. The difference between the two measures is conversion losses. In Figure 3.10, the energy loss in the conversion from fuel to electricity is shown to be 28.1 Quads (1 Quad is equal to 1.055 Exajoules) for the U.S., while the energy content of the electricity is 12.3 Quads. Energy not going into power generation goes directly to final uses.

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Figure 3.9. Global and U.S. Primary Energy Consumed In Non-Electric Applications across Reference Scenarios

Figure 3.10. U.S. Energy Flow Diagram and Non-Electrical Energy Use for the Year 2000

In the future, other transformation sectors may become important and fundamentally change energy-flow patterns. As already discussed, the potential exists for coal and commercial biomass to be converted to liquids and gases—a technology yet implemented only at a small scale. Furthermore, fuels and electricity may be transformed into hydrogen, creating fundamentally new branches of the system. Like electricity, these new branches will have conversion losses and those losses can be important. As a result, it is important to realize that future projections of non-electricity energy use, shown in Figure 3.9, can involve significant conversion losses from non-electric fuel transformations. For current years, almost all conversion losses are in electricity so that non-electricity fuel use is almost completely final energy use. This is particularly important to keep in mind when examining non-electric energy use in the MERGE reference scenario, in which coal and biomass goes into liquefaction and gasification plants. To a lesser extent, these conversions are also present in the MiniCAM and IGSM scenarios. Also, in the MiniCAM and MERGE reference scenarios, some nuclear energy appears in non-electricity uses to produce hydrogen. In the IGSM and MiniCAM scenarios, oil use is the largest single non-electric energy use, reflecting a continuing growth in demand for liquids by the transportation sectors. In the MERGE reference scenario, increasingly expensive conventional oil is supplanted by coal-based liquids.

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This phenomenon also has implications for energy intensity in that improvements in end-use energy intensity can be offset in part by losses in converting primary fuels to end-use liquids or gases.

3.4. Land Use and Land-Use Change

> *The three reference scenarios take different approaches to emissions from land use and land-use change. The MERGE reference scenario assumes that the biosphere makes no net contribution to the carbon cycle. IGSM and MiniCAM assume that the net contribution of the terrestrial biosphere is to remove carbon from the atmosphere, which results from the countervailing forces of land-use change emissions from deforestation and other human activities and the net uptake from unmanaged systems.*

All of the modeling groups consider the production of biofuels for energy. Both IGSM and MiniCAM take account of the competition for scarce land resources. MERGE takes the availability of biofuels as an exogenous input based on extra-model analysis. Production of these crops is displayed in Figure 3.11. The IGSM and MiniCAM figures are based on somewhat different definitions, which account for the difference in 2000. IGSM reports only the production of modern energy crops grown explicitly for their energy content and sold in a formal market. MiniCAM accounts for traditional biofuels production, waste and residue-derived biofuels, and energy crops grown explicitly for their energy content. The waste-derived fuels do not always pass through formal markets, as occurs in the pulp and paper industry when wood waste is used for its energy content.

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Figure 3.11. Global and U.S. Production of Biomass Energy across Reference Scenarios

Some of the apparent differences between these two outputs disappear when these distinctions are taken into account. For example, IGSM projects no commercial biofuels use in the U.S. in the reference scenario, while MiniCAM reports significant reference biofuels use in both the year 2000 and throughout the reference scenario. However, MiniCAM deploys no commercial biomass production in the U.S. in the form of energy crops grown explicitly for their energy content in the reference scenario. Outside the U.S., the two models show different patterns. The IGSM reference scenario exhibits a growing production of biofuels beginning after the year 2020 to levels similar to those in the MERGE case. The IGSM deployment is driven primarily by a real-world oil price that in the year 2100 is 4.5 times the price in the year 2000. In contrast, MiniCAM, with its lower long-term world oil price, provides insufficient incentive to grow bio-crops in the reference scenario. However, MiniCAM does utilize an increasing share of the potentially recoverable bio-waste as a source of energy.

Land use has implications for the carbon cycle as well. IGSM applies its component Terrestrial Ecosystem Model with a prescribed scenario of net land-use change to generate net emissions, and this land-use pattern is employed in all scenarios. Thus, in the IGSM scenarios, commercial biomass production must compete with other agricultural activities for cultivated land, but the extent of cultivated land does not change from scenario to scenario. Because the IGSM net flux of land-use change is fixed, changes in the net flux of carbon to the atmosphere reflect the behavior of the terrestrial ecosystem in response to changes in CO_2 fertilization and climatic effects that are considered within IGSM's Earth-system component. Taken together, these effects lead to the negative net emissions from the terrestrial ecosystem shown in Figure 3.12, which contrasts with the neutral biosphere assumed by the MERGE model.

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Figure 3.12. Global Net Emissions of CO_2 from Terrestrial Systems Including Net Deforestation across Reference Scenarios

MiniCAM uses the terrestrial carbon cycle model of MAGICC (Wigley 1993) to determine the aggregate net carbon flux to the atmosphere. However, unlike either IGSM or MERGE, MiniCAM determines terrestrial emissions as an output from an integrated agriculture/land-use module rather than as the product of a terrestrial model with fixed land use. Thus, MiniCAM exhibits the same types of CO_2 fertilization effects as the IGSM, but it also represents interactions between the agriculture sector and the distribution of natural terrestrial carbon stocks.

3.5. Emissions, Concentrations, and Radiative Forcing

The growth in the global economy that is assumed in the reference scenarios and the changes in the composition of the global energy system lead to growing emissions of GHGs over the century. Fossil fuel and cement emissions more than triple over the study period in the reference scenarios. With growing emissions, GHG concentrations are projected to rise substantially over the twenty-first century, with CO_2 *rising to more than twice the year 2000 level (2-1/2 to 3 times the pre-industrial concentration). Increases in the concentrations of the non-*CO_2 *GHGs are less dramatic but substantial nonetheless. The increase in radiative forcing ranges from 6.5 to 8.5* W/m^2 *from the year 2000 level with the non-*CO_2 *GHGs accounting for about 20 to 30% of the instantaneous forcing in 2100.*

Moderating the effect on the atmosphere of anthropogenic CO_2 *emissions is the net uptake by the ocean and the terrestrial biosphere. As atmospheric* CO_2 *grows under reference emissions projections, the rate of net uptake by the ocean increases as well. Also, mainly through the effects of* CO_2 *fertilization, increasing atmospheric levels of* CO_2 *spur plant growth and net carbon uptake by the terrestrial biosphere. Differences in projections of these effects in these models are in part a reflection of variation among their sub-models of the carbon cycle.*

3.5.1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

3.5.1.1. Calculating Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions of CO_2 are the sum of emissions from each of the different fuel types, and, for each type, emissions are the product of a fuel-specific emissions coefficient and the total combustion of that fuel. Exceptions to this treatment occur if a fossil fuel is used in a non-energy application (e.g., as a feedstock for plastic), in which case an adjustment is made to the accounts, or if the carbon is captured and stored in isolation from the atmosphere. All three of the models assume the availability of carbon-capture/storage technology and treat the leakage from such storage as zero during the study period. The capture and storage of CO_2 incur costs additional to the generation process, so they are not undertaken in the reference scenarios.

Although bioenergy such as wood, organic waste, and straw are hydrocarbons like the fossil fuels (only much younger), they are treated as if their use had no net carbon release to the atmosphere. Of course, any fossil fuels used in their cultivation, processing, transport, and refining are accounted for. Nuclear and non-biomass renewables, such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric power, have no direct CO_2 emissions and are given a zero coefficient. Like bioenergy, emissions associated with the construction and operation of facilities are accounted with the associated emitting source.

However, the calculation of net emission from terrestrial ecosystems, including land-use change, is more complicated, and each model employs its own technique. The IGSM model employs the Terrestrial Ecosystem Model, which is a state-of-the-art terrestrial carbon-cycle model with a detailed, geographically disaggregated representation of terrestrial ecosystems and associated stocks and flows of carbon on the land. The IGSM scenario, therefore, incorporates fluxes to the atmosphere as a dynamic response of managed and unmanaged terrestrial systems to the changes in the climate and atmospheric composition.

MiniCAM builds its net terrestrial carbon flux by summing both emissions from changes in the stocks of carbon from land-use change associated with human activities and the natural system response, represented in the reduced-form terrestrial carbon module of MAGICC. As noted above, the MiniCAM model employs a simpler reduced-form representation of terrestrial carbon reservoirs and fluxes; however, its scenario is fully integrated with its agriculture and land-use module, which in turn is directly linked to energy and economic activity in the energy portion of the model.

Fossil fuel CO_2 emissions are relatively simple to calculate and are fully endogenous to all three models, but non-CO_2 GHG emissions are more difficult. CO_2 emissions are determined by energy use, which in turn is systematically coupled to the rest of the economy. In contrast, non-CO_2 GHGs often have some more narrowly defined human activity with which they are associated, e.g., the use of solvents, which does not necessarily move in a well-defined relationship with the rest of the economy. Non-CO_2 GHGs can also be associated with highly variable emissions coefficients, as, for example, in the case with methane release from incomplete combustion. Emissions of other GHGs are thus developed using a variety of techniques. In some instances, emissions are determined by endogenously computing some specific anthropogenic activity, for example, ruminant livestock herds, along with the rest of the core elements of the scenario and applying an emissions coefficient to yield the scenario's reference emission. In other instances, a scenario is developed "off-line" and is computationally independent of the model although directly linked to the reference scenario. Details on these approaches are included in the earlier referenced papers that document these models.

3.5.1.2. Reference Scenarios of Fossil Fuel CO_2 Emissions

All three reference scenarios foresee a transition from conventional oil production to some other source of liquid fuels, based primarily on other fossil sources, either unconventional liquids or coal. As a consequence, carbon-to-energy ratios cease their historic pattern of decline, as can be seen in Figure 3.13. While the particulars of each model differ, none shows a dramatic reduction in carbon intensity over this century.

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Figure 3.13. CO_2 Emissions Intensity of Primary Energy Consumption across Reference Scenarios

Substantial increases in total energy use with no decline in carbon intensity (Figure 3.14) lead to the substantial increases in CO_2 emissions (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel use and industrial processes increase from roughly 7 GtC/y to between 22 and 24 GtC/y by 2100. This set of emissions is higher than in many earlier studies such as IS92a, where emissions were 20 GtC/y (Leggett et al. 1992). The model scenarios are closer in their emissions estimates to the higher scenarios in the IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (Nakicenovic and Swart 2000), particularly those included under the headings A1f and A2.

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Figure 3.14. World and U.S. CO_2 Emissions per Capita

Figure 3.15. Global and U.S. Emissions of CO_2 from Fossil Fuels and Industrial Sources across Reference Scenarios

These three scenarios display a larger share of emissions growth outside of the Annex I nations (the developed nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development [OECD], plus Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union[1]) as shown in Figure 3. Annex I emissions are highest and non-Annex I emissions lowest in the IGSM reference. At least in part, this is because of two assumptions underlying the IGSM scenarios. First, the demand for liquids is satisfied by expanding production of unconventional oil, which has relatively high carbon emissions at the point of production. The US, with major resources of shale oil, switches from being an oil importer to an exporter but is responsible for CO_2 emissions associated with shale oil production.

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[1] Annex I is defined in the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC). However, since the FCCC entered into force, the Soviet Union has broken up. As a consequence, some of the republics of the former Soviet Union are now considered developing nations and do not have the same obligations as the Russian Federation under the FCCC. Thus, strictly speaking, the aggregations employed by the three modeling teams may not precisely align with the present partition of the world's nations. However, the quantitative implications of these differences are relatively modest.

Second, assumed rates of productivity growth in non-Annex I nations are lower in the IGSM scenario than in those of the other two models.

Figure 3.14 Global Emissions of Fossil Fuel and Industrial CO_2 by Annex I and Non-Annex I Countries across Reference Scenarios

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In contrast, the MERGE scenario assumes that liquids come primarily from coal, a fuel that is more broadly distributed around the world than unconventional oils. MERGE also exhibits higher rates of labor productivity in the non-Annex I nations than the IGSM reference scenario. Finally, MERGE has a greater deployment of nuclear generation, leading to generally lower carbon-to-energy ratios overall. These three features combine to produce lower Annex I emissions and higher non-Annex I emissions than in the IGSM reference scenario.

The MiniCAM reference scenario has Annex I emissions similar to those of MERGE, but higher non-Annex I fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions, at least in part because MiniCAM has an aggregate carbon-to-energy ratio that rises steadily over time.

The range of global fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions across the three reference scenarios is relatively narrow compared with the uncertainty inherent in such projections. While it is beyond the scope of this exercise to conduct a formal uncertainty or error analysis, both higher and lower emissions trajectories could be constructed.

There are at least two approaches to developing a sensible context in which view these scenarios. One is to compare them with others produced by analysts who have taken on the same or a largely similar task. The literature on emissions scenarios is populated by hundreds of scenarios of future fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions. Figure 3 gives some sense of what earlier efforts have produced although they should be used with care. First, many were developed at earlier times and may be significantly at variance with events as they have already unfolded. Also, no effort was undertaken in this collection to weight scenarios for the quality of underlying analysis. Scenarios for which no underlying trajectories of population or GDP are available are mixed in with efforts that incorporate the combined wisdom of a large team of interdisciplinary researchers working over the course of years. Moreover, it is not clear that the observations are independent. The clustering of year 2100 fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions around 20 PgC/y (20 GtC/y) in both the pre- and post-IPCC Third Assessment Report (TAR) time-frames coincides closely with the IPCC IS92a scenario (Leggett et al. 1992). Many later scenarios were simply tuned to it, and so are not independent assessments. For these reasons and others, looking to the open literature can provide some information, but that information is limited and blurred.

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Figure 3.15 Global Fossil Fuel and Industrial Carbon Emissions: Historical Development and Scenarios

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Another approach to provide a context is systematic uncertainty analysis. There have now been many such analyses, including efforts by Nordhaus and Yohe (1983), Reilly et

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al. (1987), Manne and Richels (1994), Scott et al. (2000), and Webster et al. (2002). These studies contain many valuable lessons and insights. For the purposes of this exercise, one useful outcome is an impression of the position of any one scenario within the window of futures that might pass a test of plausibility. Also useful is the way that the distribution of outcomes is skewed upwards—an expected outcome when one considers that many model inputs, and indeed emissions themselves, are constrained to be greater than zero. Naturally, these uncertainty calculations present their own problems as well (Webster 2003).

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3.5.1.3. Future Scenarios of Anthropogenic CH_4 and N_2O Emissions

The range of projections for CH_4 and N_2O is wider than for CO_2, as can be see in Figure 3. The MERGE and MiniCAM base-year emissions are similar. In the IGSM reference scenario, methane emissions are higher in the year 2000 than in the other two, reflecting an independent assessment of historical emissions and uncertainty in the scientific literature regarding even historic emissions. Note that the IGSM has a correspondingly lower natural methane source (from wetlands, termites, etc.) that is not shown in Figure 3.17, balancing the observed concentration change, rate of oxidation, and natural and anthropogenic sources.

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Figure 3.16. Global Non-CO_2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions across Reference Scenarios

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Both IGSM and MERGE exhibit steadily growing methane emissions throughout the twenty-first century as a consequence of the growth of methane-producing activities such as ruminant livestock herds, natural gas use, and landfills. Unlike CO_2, for which the combustion of fossil fuels leads inevitably to emissions without capture and storage, slight changes in activities can substantially reduce emissions of the non-CO_2 gases (Reilly et al. 2003). The MiniCAM reference scenario assumes that despite the expansion of human activities traditionally associated with methane production, emissions control technologies will be deployed in the reference scenario in response to local environmental controls. This leads the MiniCAM reference scenario to exhibit a peak and decline in CH_4 emissions in the reference scenario.

3.5.1.4. Future Scenarios of Anthropogenic F-Gas Emissions

A set of industrial products that act as GHGs are combined under the term "F-gases," which refers to a compound that is common to them, fluorine. Several are replacements for the chlorofluorcarbons that have been phased out under the Montreal Protocol. They are usefully divided into two groups: a group of hydroflurocarbons (HFCs), most of which are shorter-lived, and the long-lived perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). Figure 3.19 presents the reference scenarios for these gases. IGSM and MiniCAM show strong growth in the short-lived species, while MERGE projects about half as much growth over the century. The models also differ in their expectations for the long-lived gases. PFCs are used in semiconductor production and are emitted as a byproduct of aluminum smelting; they can be avoided relatively cheaply. Emissions from the main use of SF_6 in electric switchgear can easily be abated by recycling to minimize venting to the atmosphere. Since these long-lived gases can be avoided, IGSM and MiniCAM project limited growth even in the absence of climate policy. However, MERGE sees a strong increase, driven in part by its growing electric sector.

Figure 3.19. Global Emissions of Short-Lived and Long-Lived F-Gases across Reference Scenarios

3.5.2. The Carbon Cycle: Net Ocean and Terrestrial CO_2 Uptake

The stock of carbon in the atmosphere at any time is determined from an initial concentration of CO_2, to which is added anthropogenic emissions from fossil fuel and industrial sources, and from which is subtracted net CO_2 transfer from the atmosphere to the ocean and terrestrial systems. These three processes are differently represented in the three models, yet their results show a remarkably similar relationship between cumulative fossil fuel and CO_2 concentrations in the atmosphere.

The reference scenarios display increasing ocean uptake of CO_2, shown in Figure 3.20 for MiniCAM and IGSM. Ocean uptake reflects model mechanisms that become increasingly active as CO_2 accumulates in the atmosphere. The IGSM reference scenario has the least active ocean, reflecting a three-dimensional representation of the ocean that displays saturation effects in its surface ocean layer and slow mixing of carbon into the deep ocean. MiniCAM shows a less pronounced saturation effect.

Figure 3.20. CO_2 Uptake from Oceans across Reference Scenarios

As discussed above, the net transfer of CO_2 from the atmosphere to terrestrial systems includes many processes such as deforestation (which transfers carbon from the land to the atmosphere), uptake from forest re-growth, and the net effects of atmospheric CO_2 and climate conditions on vegetation. As noted earlier, MERGE employs a neutral biosphere: by assumption its net uptake is zero with processes that store carbon, assumed to just offset those that release it. IGSM and MiniCAM employ active terrestrial biospheres, which on balance remove carbon from the atmosphere, as shown in Figure 3.12. Both the MiniCAM and the IGSM reference scenarios display the net effects of deforestation, which declines in the second half of the century, combined with terrestrial processes that accumulate carbon in existing terrestrial reservoirs. The IGSM reference scenario also includes feedback effects of changing climate.

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3.5.3. Greenhouse Gas Concentrations

Radiative forcing is related to the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere and not their annual emissions rates. The relationship between emissions and concentrations of GHGs is discussed in Box 3.2. The concentration of gases that reside in the atmosphere for long periods of time, decades to millennia, is thus more closely related to cumulative emissions than to annual emissions. In particular, this is true for CO_2, the gas responsible for the largest contribution to radiative forcing. This relationship can be seen for CO_2 in Figure 3, where cumulative emissions over the period 2000 to 2100, from both the reference scenario and the four stabilization scenarios, are plotted against the CO_2 concentration in the year 2100. The resulting plot is roughly linear and similar across the models, despite the fact that the underlying processes that govern the relationship between emissions and concentrations are far more complex, involving both terrestrial and ocean non-linear processes, and are represented differently in the three modeling systems. This basic linear relationship also holds for other long-lived gases such as N_2O and SF_6 and the long-lived F-gases.

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Figure 3.21. Relationship between Cumulative CO_2 Emissions from Fossil and Industrial Sources, 2000-2100, and Atmospheric Concentrations across All Scenarios

GHG concentrations rise substantially in all three reference scenarios. As shown in Figure 3, CO_2 concentrations increase from 370 ppm in year 2000 to somewhere in the range of 700 to 875 ppm in 2100. The pre-industrial concentration of CO_2 was approximately 280 ppm. While all three reference scenarios display the same increasing pattern, by the year 2100 there is a difference of approximately 175 ppm among the three scenarios. This difference has implications for radiative forcing and emissions mitigation (discussed in Chapter 4).

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Figure 3.22. Concentrations of Greenhouse Gases across Reference Scenarios

Projected increases in the concentrations of the non-CO_2 GHGs are substantial even though more varied across the models. The MiniCAM reference concentrations of CH_4 and N_2O are on the low end of the range, reflecting assumptions discussed above about use of methane for energy. The IGSM reference scenario projects the highest concentration levels for all of the substances. The differences mainly reflect the anthropogenic emissions of the three reference scenarios although they also result in part from the way each model treats natural emissions and sinks for the gases. IGSM includes climate and atmospheric feedbacks to natural systems, which tend to result in an increase in natural emissions of CH_4 and N_2O. Also, increases in other pollutants generally lengthen the lifetime of CH_4 in IGSM because the other pollutants deplete the atmosphere of the hydroxyl radical (OH), which is the removal mechanism for CH_4. These feedbacks tend to amplify the difference in anthropogenic emissions exhibited by the models.

The projected concentrations of the short-lived and long-lived F-gases are also presented in Figure 3. MERGE projects slightly higher emissions than IGSM for the short-lived gases, with the roles of the two models reversed in their projections of the long-lived species. These differences then appear in the relative estimates of the resulting atmospheric concentrations. Indeed, for the long-lived species, even a very small addition to emissions in the period 2020 to 2080 leads the IGSM concentration to rise far above that projected by MERGE over a 100-year time horizon.

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3.5.4. Radiative Forcing from Greenhouse Gases

Contributions to radiative forcing are a combination of the abundance of the gas in the atmosphere and its heat-trapping potential (radiative efficiency). Of the directly released anthropogenic gases, CO_2 is the most abundant, measured in parts per million; the others are measured in parts per billion. However, the other GHGs are about 24 times (CH_4), to 200 times (N_2O), to thousands of times (SF_6, PFCs) more radiatively efficient than CO_2. Thus, what they lack in abundance, they make up for, in part, with radiative efficiency. However, among these substances, CO_2 is still the main contributor to increased radiative forcing from pre-industrial times and is projected to remain so by all three models.

The three models display essentially the same relationship between GHG concentrations and radiative forcing. However, the three reference scenarios also all exhibit higher radiative forcing, growing from 2.2 W/m^2 to between 6.6 and 8.6 W/m^2 between the years 2000 and 2100. (See Chapter 4 for a discussion of the consequences of limiting radiative forcing.) Given that radiative forcing is fixed at four different levels in the scenarios, the differences carry implications that will reverberate throughout the analysis.

All three reference scenarios show that the relative contribution of CO_2 will increase in the future, as shown in Figure 3. From pre-industrial times to the present, the non-CO_2 gases examined here contribute about 32% of the estimated forcing. In the IGSM reference scenario, the contribution of the non-CO_2 gases falls slightly to about 26% by 2100. The MiniCAM reference scenario includes little additional increase in forcing for non-CO_2 gases, largely as a result of assumptions regarding the control of methane emissions for non-climate reasons, and thus has their share falling to about 18% by 2100. The MERGE reference scenario is intermediate, with the non-CO_2 contribution falling to about 24%.

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Figure 3.23. Radiative Forcing by Gas across Reference Scenarios

We have thus seen that the three reference scenarios contain many large-scale similarities. All have expanding global energy systems, all remain dominated by fossil fuel use throughout the twenty-first century, all generate increasing concentrations of GHGs, and all produce substantial increases in radiative forcing. Yet these scenarios differ in many of details, ranging from demographics to labor productivity growth rates to the composition of energy supply to treatment of the carbon cycle. These scenario differences shed light on important points of uncertainty that arise for the future. In Chapter 4, they will also be seen to have important implications for the technological response to limits on radiative forcing.

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Figure 3.1. World and U.S. Population across Reference Scenarios. Assumed growth in global and U.S. population is similar among the three models. The global population level in 2100 spans a range from about 8.5 to 10 billion. The U.S. population level in 2100 spans a range from about 350 to 425 million.

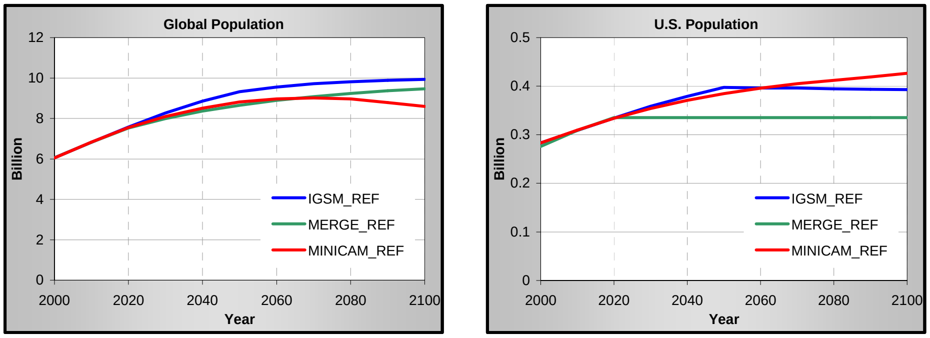

Figure 3.2. U.S. Economic Growth across Reference Scenarios. U.S. economic growth is driven in part by labor force growth, and in part by assumptions about productivity growth of labor and other factors such as by savings and investment. Projected annual average growth rates are 1.4% for MERGE, 1.7% for MiniCAM, and 2.0% for IGSM. By comparison, U.S. real GDP grew at an annual average rate of 3.4% from 1959-2004 (2005 Economic Report of the President).

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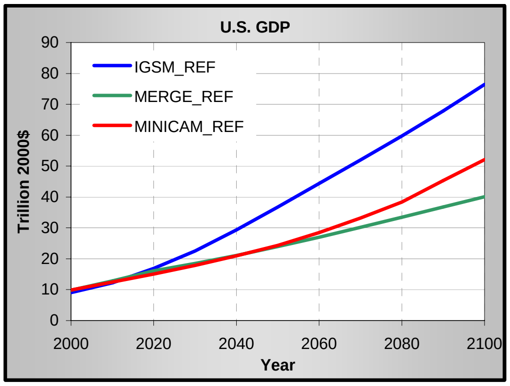

Figure 3.3. Global Primary Energy by Fuel across Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). Global total primary energy use is projected in the reference to grow by 3.5 to 4 times, while U.S. primary energy use is projected to grow by 2 to 2.5 times. Fossil fuels remain a major source. Note that oil includes that derived from tar sands and shale, and that coal use includes that used to produce synthetic liquid and gaseous fuels.

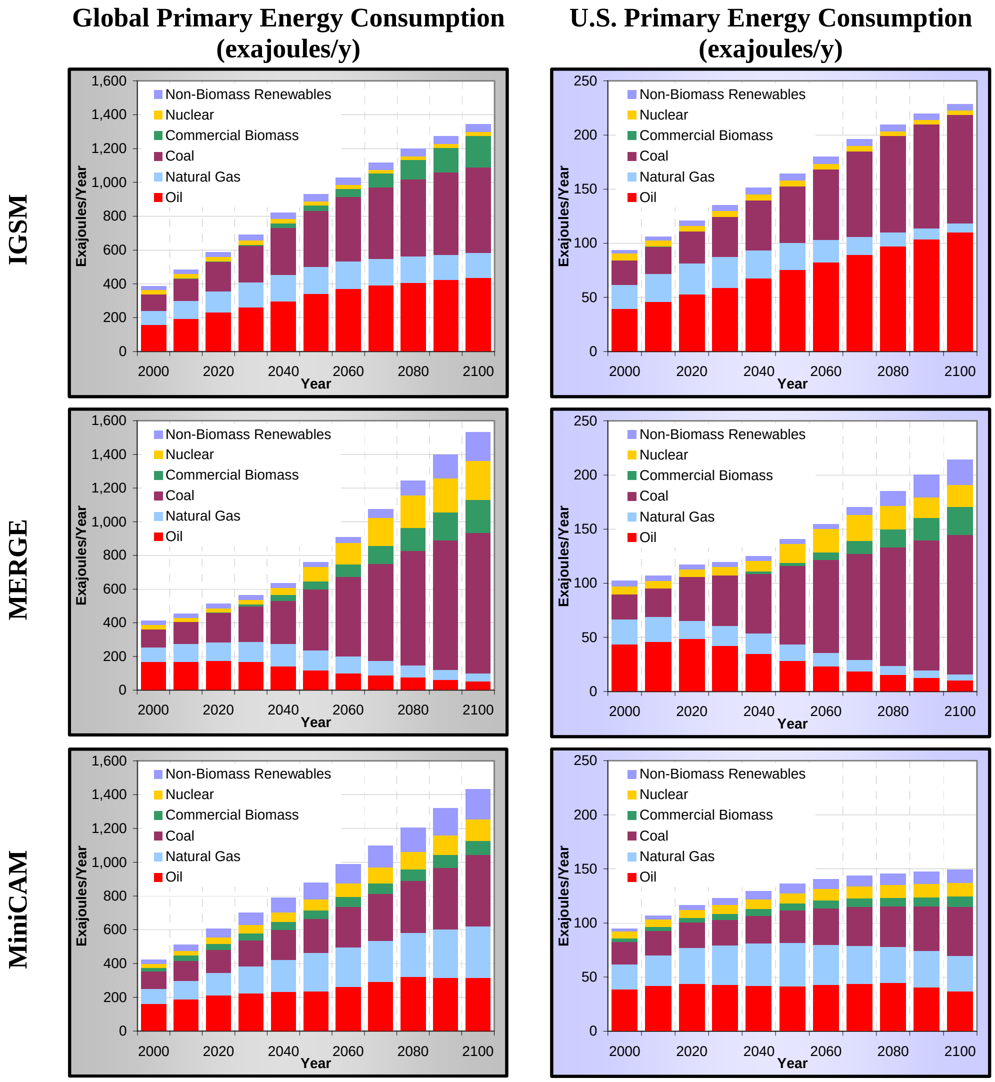

Figure 3.4. Global and U.S. Primary Energy Consumption per Capita across Reference Scenarios (gigajoules per capita). All three models project growing per capita use of energy for the world as whole and for the U.S. However, even after 100 years of growth, global per capita energy use is projected to be about ½ of the current U.S. level.

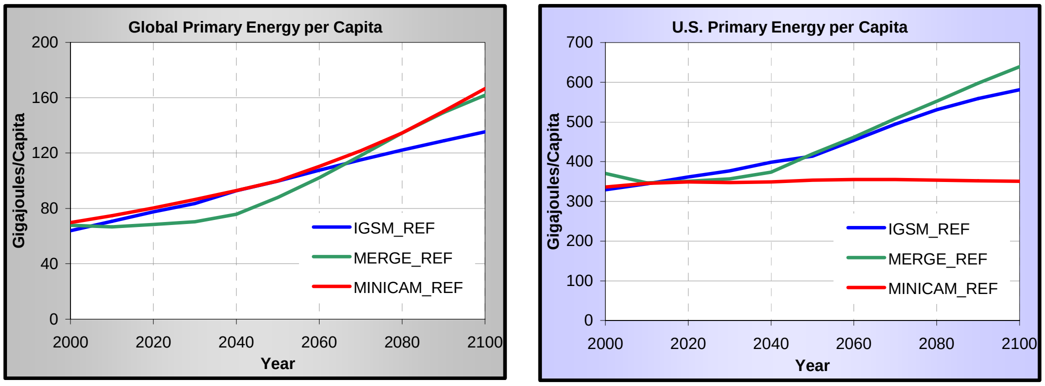

Figure 3.5. U.S. Primary Energy Intensity: Consumption per Dollar of GDP across Reference Scenarios (Index, Year 2000 Ratio = 1.0). United States total primary energy consumption per dollar of GDP is projected to continue to decline. Recent experience is a rate of decline of about 14% per decade. IGSM projects a rate of decline of about 12%, MiniCAM about 8%, and MERGE about 6.5% per decade.

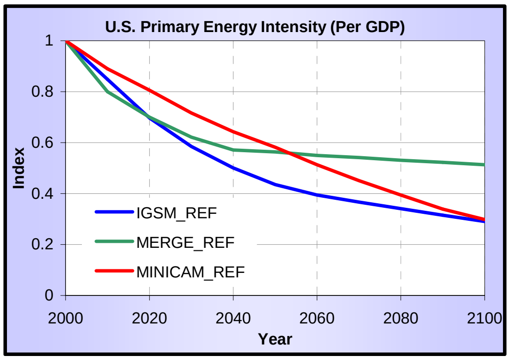

Figure 3.6. Long-term Historical Crude Oil Prices. Crude oil prices have historically been highly variable, but over the period 1947-2004 there appeared to be a slight upward trend.

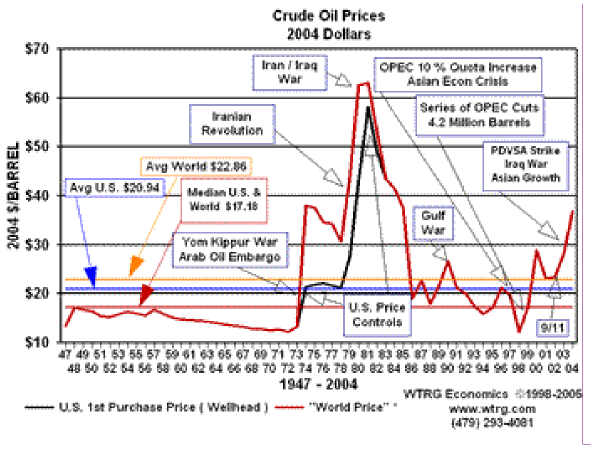

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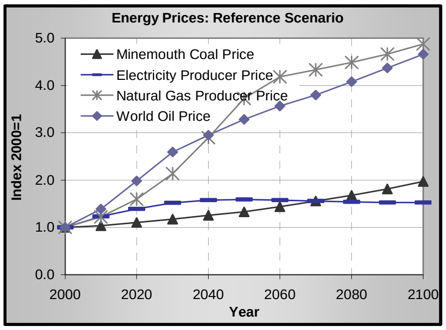
Figure 3.7. Indices of Energy Prices across Reference Scenarios (Indexed to 2000 = 1). Projected energy prices through 2100, indexed so that 2000=1.0, show a wide range among the models but generally show a rising trend relative to recent decadal averages. MERGE price projections are intermediate—by 2100 the crude oil price is about that observed in 2005 (3 times the 2000 level). MiniCAM generally projects the lowest prices, with the projected crude oil price about 2.5 times 2000 levels in 2100, somewhat below the level reached in 2005. IGSM projects the highest prices, which for crude oil, would be about 50 to 60% higher in 2100 than the price level of 2005.

IGSM



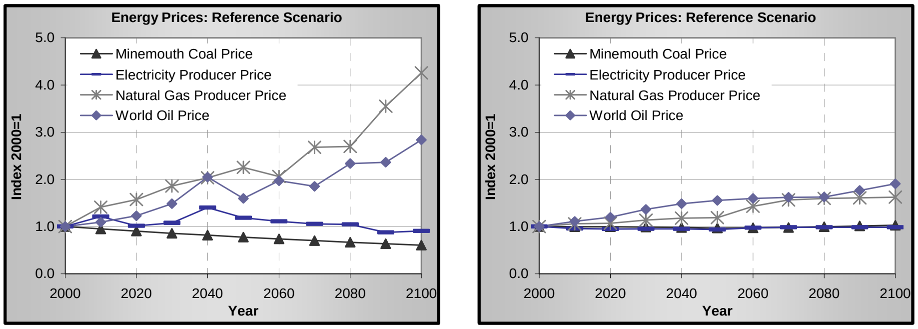

MERGE **MiniCAM**

Figure 3.8. Global and U.S. Electricity Production by Source across Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). Global and U.S. electricity production show continued reliance on coal, especially in the IGSM projections, which limits nuclear production because of policy and siting issues. MERGE and MiniCAM find that nuclear is economically competitive; they also project a larger role for other non-carbon sources and greater use of electricity overall compared with IGSM. Differences among the models for the world are mirrored in differences for the U.S.

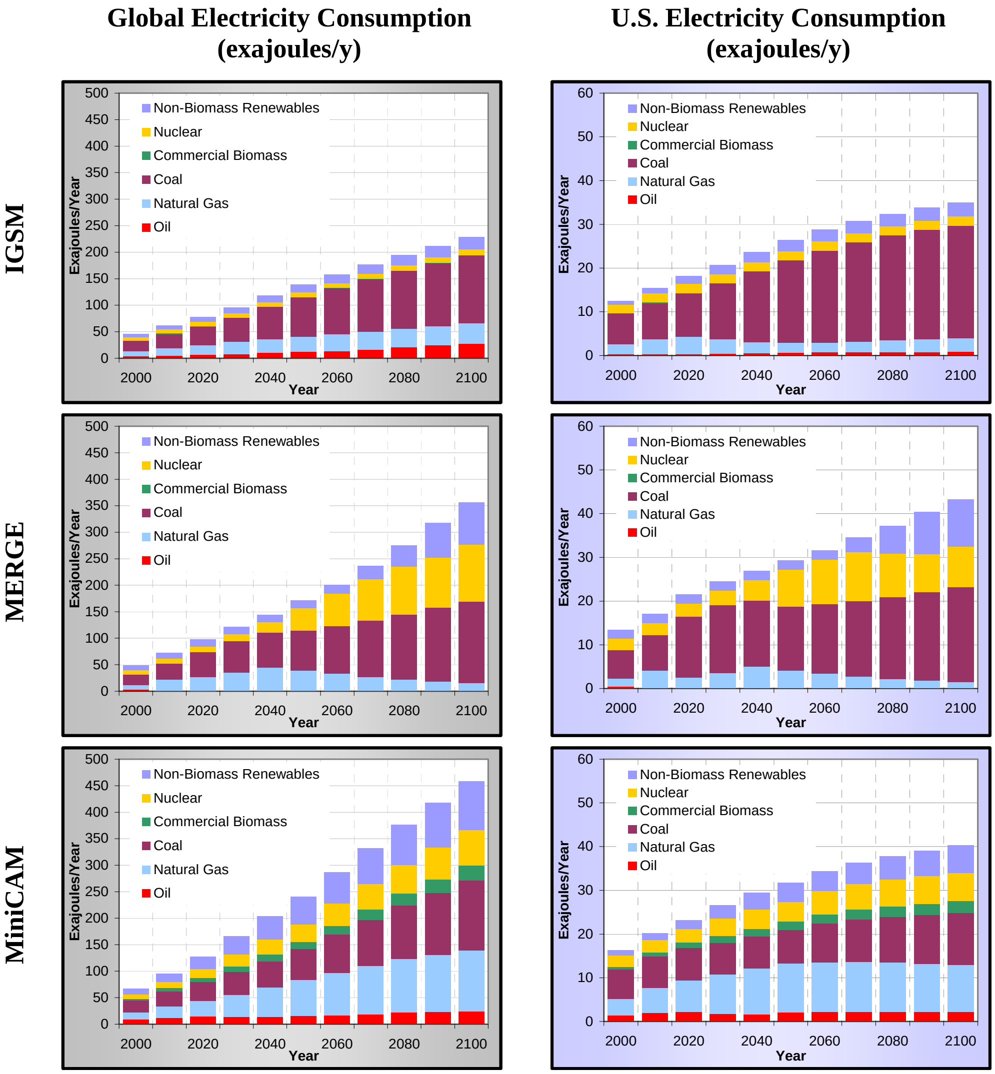
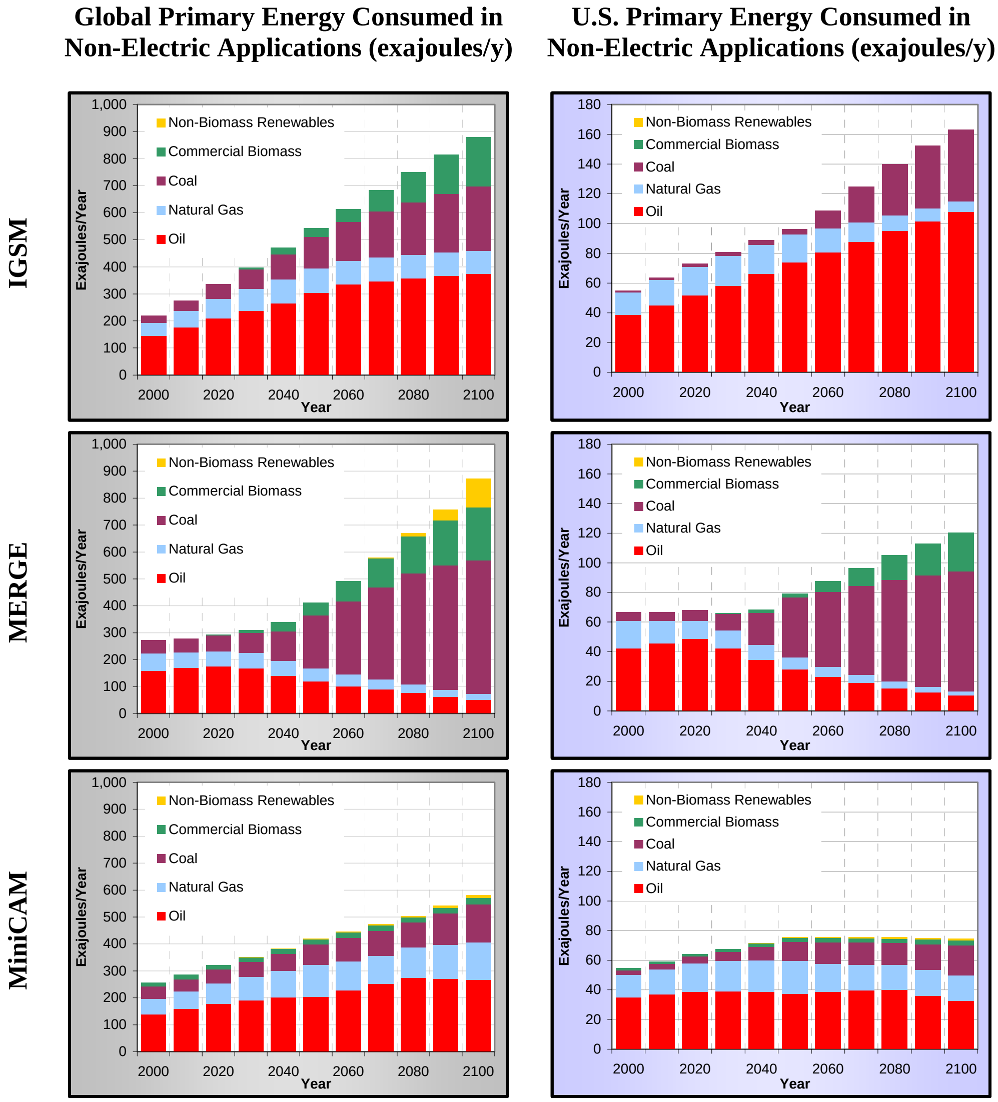


Figure 3.9. Global and U.S. Primary Energy Consumed in Non-Electric Applications across Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). Non-electric energy use also remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels with some penetration of biomass energy. Primary energy is reported here, and the resurgence of coal in the projections is because of its use to produce synthetic liquids or gas.


Global Primary Energy Consumed in Non-Electric Applications (exajoules/y)

U.S. Primary Energy Consumed in Non-Electric Applications (exajoules/y)

Figure 3.10. U.S. Energy Flow Diagram and Non-Electrical Energy Use for the Year 2000. Primary energy is transformed into different energy carriers that can easily be used for specific applications (e.g., space conditioning, light, and mechanical energy), but in the process losses occur. Of the 98.5 quads of primary energy used in the U.S. in the year 2000, only an estimated 34.3 quads were actually useful. Each of the models used in the study represents such conversion processes. Assumptions about efficiency improvements in conversion and end-use are one of the reasons why energy intensity per dollar of GDP is projected to fall.

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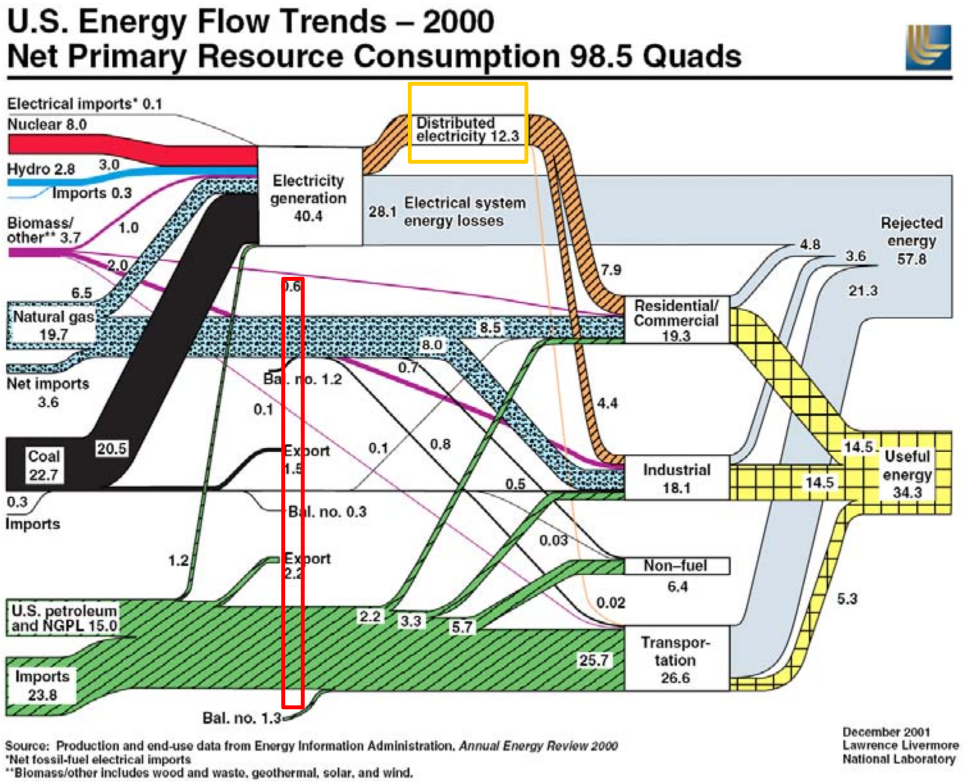


U.S. Energy Flow Trends – 2000
Net Primary Resource Consumption 98.5 Quads

Source: Production and end-use data from Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 2000*
*Net fossil-fuel electrical imports
**Biomass/other includes wood and waste, geothermal, solar, and wind.

December 2001
Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory

Figure 3.11. Global and U.S. Production of Biomass Energy across Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). The MiniCAM scenario includes traditional as well as commercial biomass and thus shows significant use in 2000. IGSM and MERGE explicitly model only commercial biomass energy beyond that already used. IGSM projects little biomass production in the U.S. in the reference. Globally, both IGSM and MERGE show more biomass than does MiniCAM toward the end of the century. In some cases, biomass is reported as a liquid fuel equivalent so that the total biomass production would be 2.5 to 3 times this level, accounting for conversion losses.

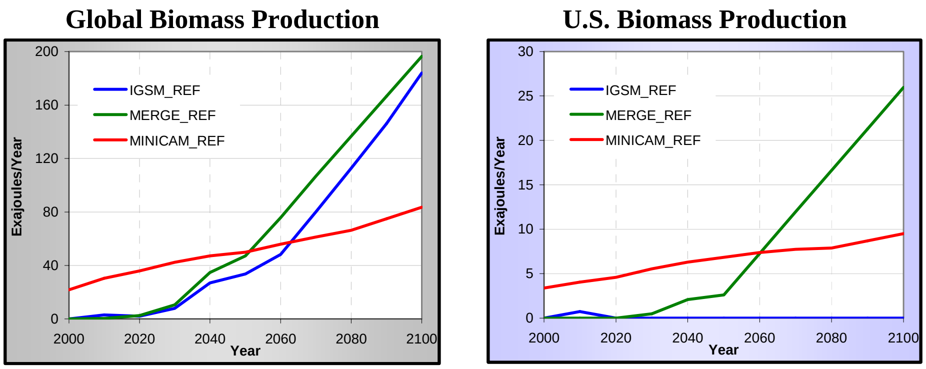


Figure 3.12. Global Net Emissions of CO_2 from Terrestrial Systems Including Net Deforestation across Reference Scenarios (GtC/y). Global net emissions of CO_2 from terrestrial systems, including net deforestation, show that MiniCAM and IGSM have a slight net sink in 2000 that grows over time due to reduced deforestation and carbon dioxide fertilization of plants. MERGE assumes a neutral terrestrial system.

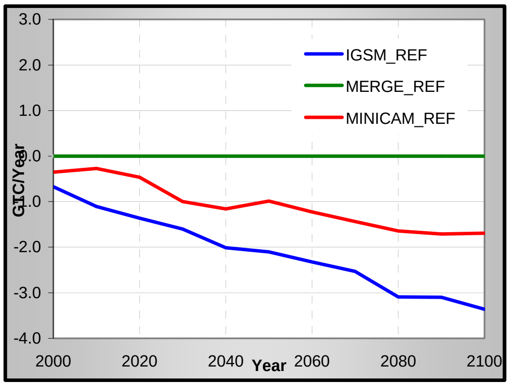
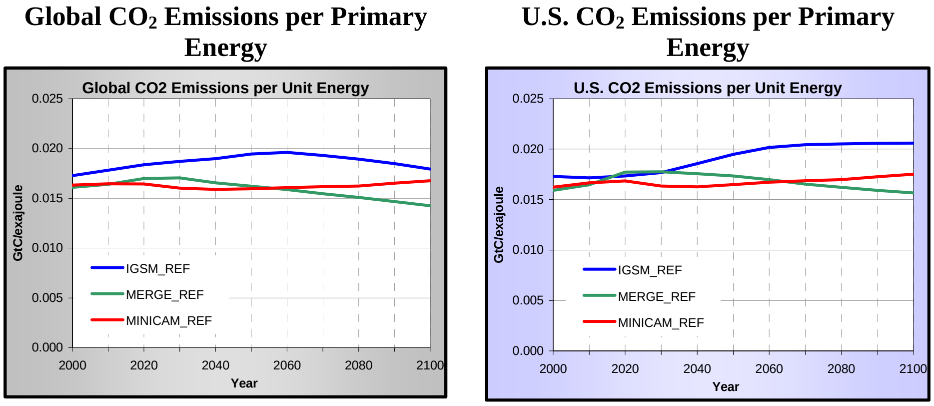


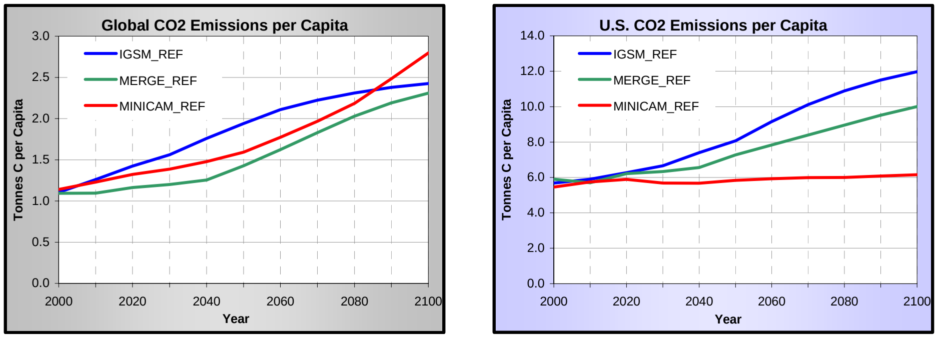
Figure 3.13. Global Fossil and U.S. and Industrial CO_2 Emissions Relative to Primary Energy Consumption (GtC/exajoule). CO_2 intensity of energy use shows relatively little change in all three models, reflecting the fact that fossil fuels remain important sources of energy. Potential reductions in the CO_2 intensity of energy from more carbon-free or low-carbon energy sources is offset by a move to more carbon-intensive shale oil or synthetics from coal.



Global CO_2 Emissions per Primary Energy

U.S. CO_2 Emissions per Primary Energy

Figure 3.14. World and U.S. CO_2 Emissions per Capita (Metric Tonnes per Capita). All three models project growing per capita fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 emissions for the world as a whole and for the U.S. However even after 100 years of growth, global per capita CO_2 emissions are slightly less than ½ of the current U.S. level in the three scenarios.



Global CO_2 Emissions per Capita **U.S. CO_2 Emissions per Capita**

Figure 3.15. Global Emissions of CO_2 from Fossil Fuels and Industrial Sources (CO_2 from land use change excluded) across Reference Scenarios (GtC/y). In the absence of climate policy, all three models project increases in global emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion and other industrial sources, mainly cement production. By 2100, reference emissions reach nearly 25 GtC. Note that CO_2 from land-use change is excluded from this figure.

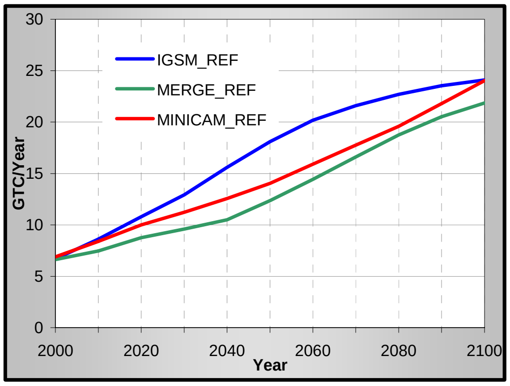
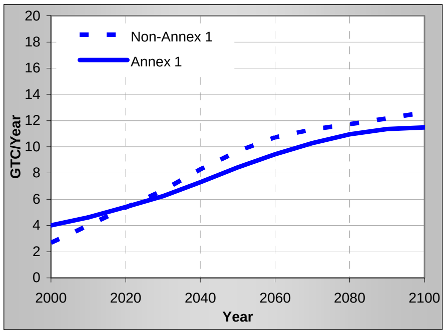
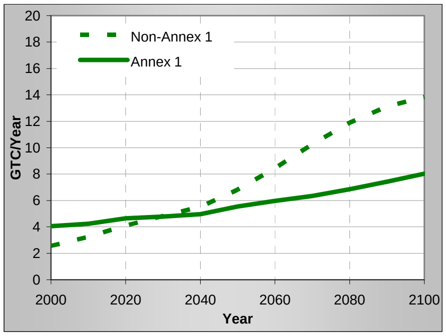


Figure 3.16. Global Emissions of Fossil Fuel and Industrial CO_2 by Annex I and Non-Annex I Countries across Reference Scenarios (GtC/y). Emissions of fossil fuel and industrial CO_2 in the reference scenarios show Non-Annex I emissions exceeding Annex I emissions for all three models by 2030 or earlier. MERGE and MiniCAM show continued relative rapid growth in emissions in Non-Annex I regions after that, so that their emissions are on the order of twice the level of Annex I by 2100. IGSM does not show continued divergence, due in part to relatively slower economic growth in Non-Annex I regions and faster growth in Annex I than the other models. IGSM also shows increased emissions in Annex I as those nations become producers and exporters of shale oil, tar sands, and synthetic fuels from coal.

IGSM



MERGE



MiniCAM

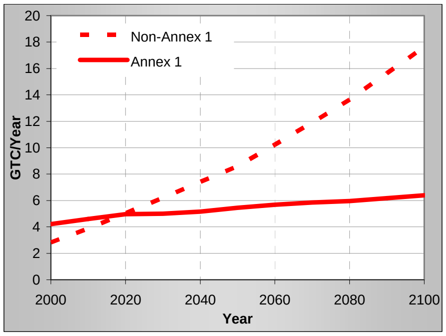
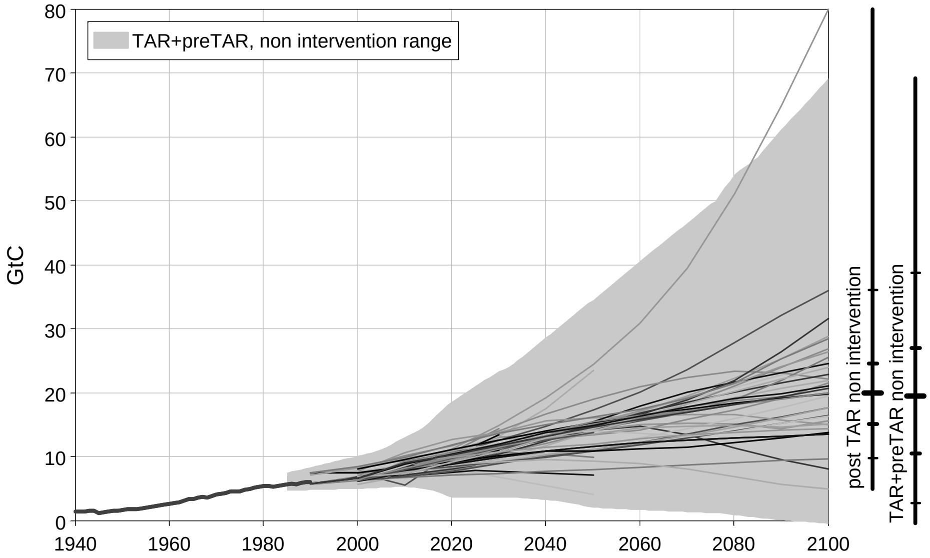


Figure 3.17. Global Fossil Fuel and Industrial Carbon Emissions: Historical Development and Scenarios (GtC/y). The 284 non-intervention scenarios published before 2001 are included in the figure as the gray-shaded range. The “spaghetti” lines are an additional 55 non-intervention scenarios published since 2001. Two vertical bars on the right-hand side indicate the ranges for scenarios since 2001 (labeled “post TAR non-intervention”) and for those published up to 2001 (“TAR+preTAR non-intervention”). Sources: Nakicenovic et al. (1998), Morita and Lee (1998) and http://www-cger.nies.go.jp/cger-e/db/enterprise/scenario/scenario_index_e.html, and http://iiasa.ac.at/Research/TNT/WEB/scenario_database.html.



Source: Nakicenovic et al. (2006).

Figure 3.18. Global CH_4 and N_2O Emissions across Reference Scenarios (Mtonnes/y). Projections of global anthropogenic emissions of CH_4 and N_2O vary widely among the models. There is uncertainty in year 2000 CH_4 emissions, with IGSM ascribing more of the emissions to human activity and less to natural sources. Differences in projections reflect, to a large extent, different assumptions about whether current emissions rates will be reduced significantly for other reasons, for example, whether higher natural gas prices will stimulate capture of CH_4 for use as a fuel.

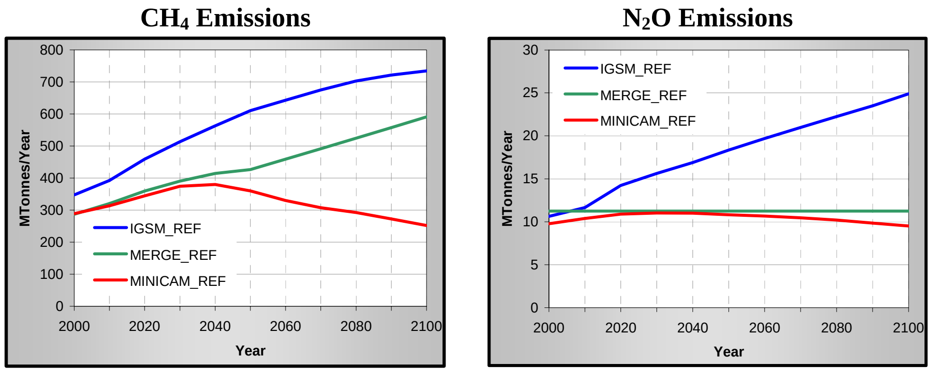

CH_4 Emissions **N_2O Emissions**

Figure 3.19. Global Emissions of Short-Lived and Long-Lived F-Gases (ktonnes/y). Global Emissions of High HFCs and others (PFCs and SF_6 aggregated)

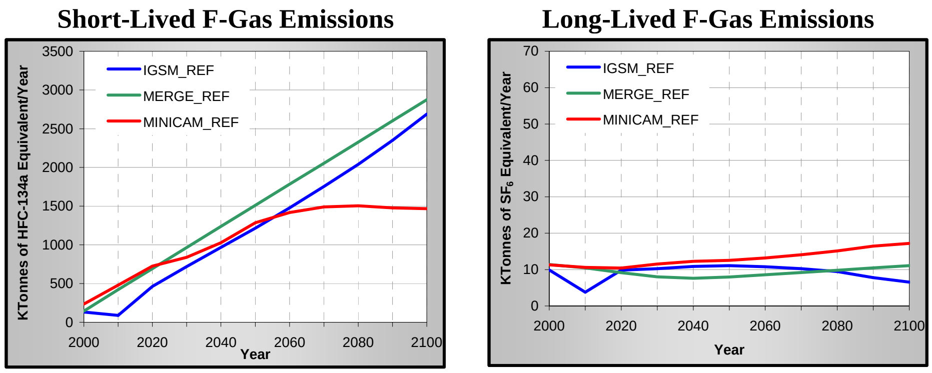

Short-Lived F-Gas Emissions **Long-Lived F-Gas Emissions**

Figure 3.20. CO_2 Uptake from Oceans across Reference Scenarios (GtC/y, Expressed in Terms of Net Emissions). The ocean is a major sink for CO_2. In general, as concentrations rise, the ocean sink rises, but the IGSM results that include a three-dimensional ocean suggest less uptake and, after some point, little further increase in uptake even though concentrations are rising. The MiniCAM results show some slowing of ocean uptake although not as pronounced. Overall uptake is greater even though concentrations (see Figure 3.20) for MiniCAM are somewhat lower than for the IGSM.

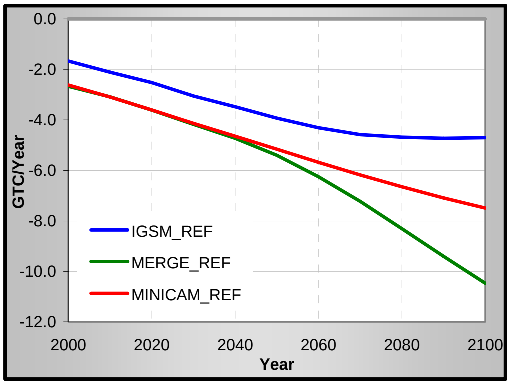


Figure 3.21. Relationship between Cumulative CO_2 Emissions from Fossil and Industrial Sources, 2000-2100, and Atmospheric Concentrations of CO_2 across All Scenarios. The relationship between cumulative carbon emissions and atmospheric concentration shows that, despite differences in how the carbon cycle is handled in each model, the models have a very similar response in terms of concentration level for a given level of cumulative emissions, as all models lie on essentially a single line. (Note that the cumulative emissions do not include emissions from land use and land-use change.)

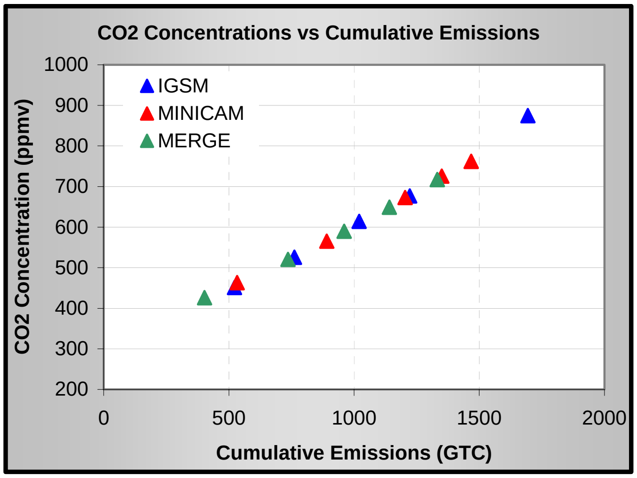
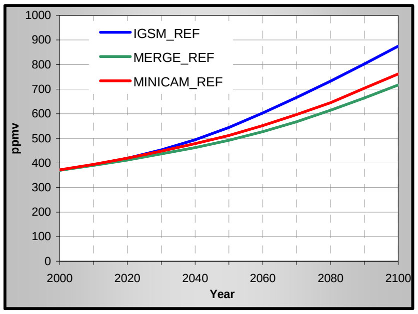
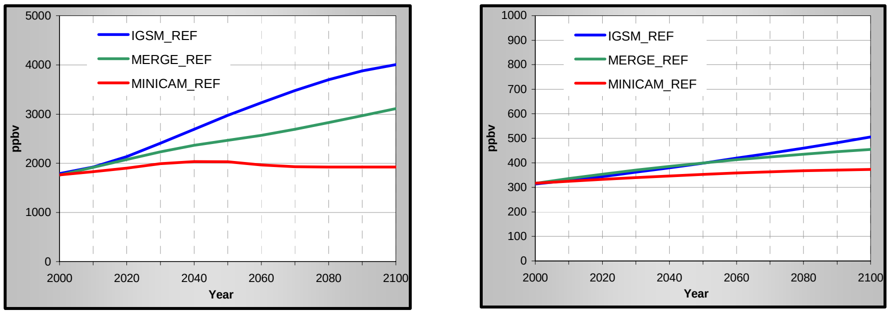


Figure 3.22. Greenhouse Gas Concentrations for CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O in the Reference Scenarios (Units Vary). Differences in concentrations for CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O across the three models' reference projections reflect differences in emissions and treatment of removal processes. By 2100, projected CO_2 concentrations range from about 700 to 900 ppmv; projected CH_4 concentrations range from 2000 to 4000 ppbv; projected N_2O concentrations range from about 380 to 500 ppbv. These concentrations are on the order of 1½ to 2 times the 2000 levels.

CO_2



CH_4 **N_2O**



Short-Lived F-Gases **Long-Lived F-Gases**

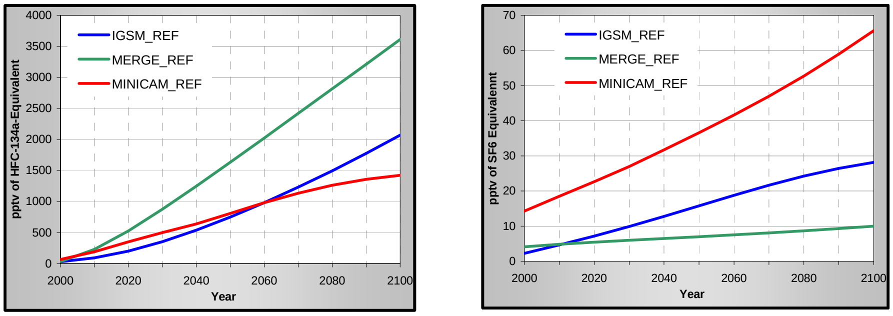


Figure 3.23. Radiative Forcing by Gas across Reference Scenarios (W/m^2). The contributions of different greenhouse gases to increased radiative forcing through 2100 show CO_2 accounting for more than 80% of the increased forcing from preindustrial for all three models. The total increase ranges from about 6.5 to 8.5 W/m^2 above pre-industrial levels.

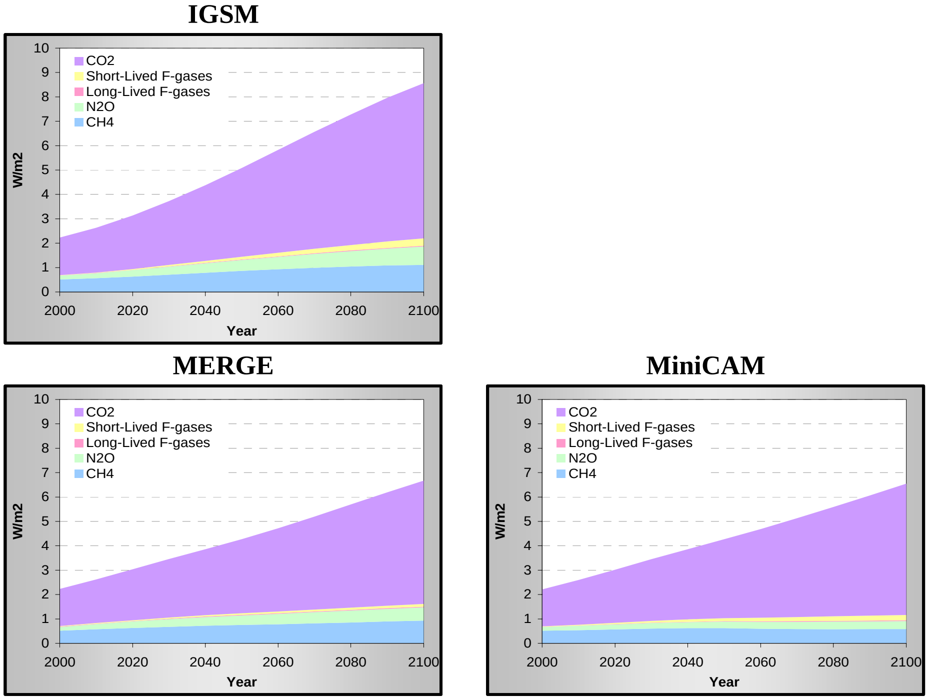


Table 3.1. Population by Region across Models, 2000-2100 (millions)

IGSM Population by Region (million)

	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
USA	283	334	379	396	395	393
Western Europe	390	388	368	331	302	289
Japan	127	126	116	113	118	119
Former Soviet Union	291	278	260	243	234	230
Eastern Europe	97	91	83	74	67	64
China	1282	1454	1500	1429	1365	1334
India	1009	1291	1503	1610	1635	1643
Africa	793	1230	1749	2163	2390	2500
Latin America	419	538	627	678	701	713
Rest of the World	1366	1848	2269	2521	2614	2652

MERGE Population by Region (millions)

Region	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
U.S.A	276	335	335	335	335	335
Western Europe	390	397	397	397	397	397
Japan	127	126	126	126	126	126
Eastern Europe Former Soviet Union	411	393	393	393	393	393
China	1275	1429	1478	1493	1498	1499
India	1017	1312	1427	1472	1489	1496
Africa Latin America Rest of World	2566	3538	4209	4677	5003	5228

MiniCAM Population by Region (millions)

Region	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
U.S.A	283	334	371	396	412	426
Western Europe	457	486	481	456	421	399
Japan	127	127	121	113	103	95
Eastern Europe	124	119	111	100	87	80
Former Soviet Union	283	284	283	275	261	253
China	1385	1578	1591	1506	1407	1293
India	1010	1312	1472	1513	1443	1300
Africa	802	1197	1521	1763	1893	1881
Latin America	525	670	786	869	929	952
Rest of World	1055	1454	1779	1976	2012	1918

Table 3.2. Reference GDP for Key Regions (trillions of 2000 U.S. $, MER), 2000-2100. This table reports GDP for all regions of the globe, but accounts for inconsistency in regional aggregations across models. Note that while regions are generally comparable, slight differences exist in regional coverage, particularly in aggregate regions.

IGSM GDP by Region (trillions of 2000 U.S. $, MER)

	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
USA	9.1	16.9	29.3	44.4	59.8	76.4
Western Europe	9.2	15.8	27.0	41.5	57.2	74.2
Japan	4.4	7.5	13.8	21.8	30.0	38.6
Former Soviet Union	0.6	1.4	2.9	4.8	7.2	10.2
Eastern Europe	0.3	0.6	1.2	2.1	3.3	4.9
China	1.2	3.3	6.9	12.8	19.9	28.9
India	0.5	1.1	2.0	3.3	5.2	8.0
Africa	0.6	1.3	2.0	3.3	5.0	7.4
Latin America	1.6	3.0	6.3	11.5	18.0	25.9
Rest of the World	4.4	8.6	14.9	23.9	35.3	49.9

MERGE GDP by Region (trillions of 2000 U.S. $, MER)

Region	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
U.S.A	9.8	16.1	21.0	26.8	33.1	39.6
Western Europe	9.8	14.4	19.9	26.9	35.0	43.6
Japan	4.6	6.0	7.7	9.6	11.7	13.9
Eastern Europe	1.0	1.9	3.6	6.6	12.0	20.4
Former Soviet Union						
China	1.2	3.1	7.4	17.3	38.5	78.7
India	0.5	1.5	3.6	8.3	18.5	39.2
Africa	5.2	12.4	24.5	45.3	79.8	135.2
Latin America						
Rest of World						

MiniCAM GDP by Region (trillions of 2000 U.S. $, MER)

	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
USA	9.9	15.1	21.2	29.0	39.1	53.0
Western Europe	11.4	14.8	17.8	21.6	25.9	31.6
Japan	4.4	5.4	6.5	7.9	9.4	11.1
Former Soviet Union	0.6	1.3	2.3	3.9	6.2	9.8
Eastern Europe	0.4	0.6	1.1	1.9	3.1	5.2
China	1.3	4.1	10.0	17.9	29.5	43.1
India	0.6	2.0	5.8	12.8	23.4	38.4
Africa	0.7	1.3	2.2	4.1	8.0	14.2
Latin America	2.0	3.3	5.1	9.0	16.3	27.4
Rest of the World	3.8	7.5	14.2	25.1	40.7	60.8

Table 3.3. Historical Annual Average Per Capita GDP growth

Comment: Need to indicate PPP or MER

Comment: What are the units here?

	1500-1820	1820-1870	1870-1913	1913-1950	1950-1973	1973-2001
North America	0.34	1.41	1.81	1.56	2.45	1.84
Western Europe	0.14	0.98	1.33	0.76	4.05	1.88
Japan	0.09	0.19	1.48	0.88	8.06	2.14
Eastern Europe	0.10	0.63	1.39	0.60	3.81	0.68
Former U.S.SR	0.10	0.63	1.06	1.76	3.35	-0.96
Africa	0.00	0.35	0.57	0.92	2.00	0.19
Latin America	0.16	-0.03	1.82	1.43	2.58	0.91
China	0.00	-0.25	0.10	-0.62	2.86	5.32
India	-0.01	0.00	0.54	-0.22	1.40	3.01
Other Asia	0.01	0.19	0.74	0.13	3.51	2.42
World	0.05	0.54	1.30	0.88	2.92	1.41
Source:						

Comment: Need to provide source.

4. STABILIZATION SCENARIOS

Stabilizing radiative forcing at levels ranging from 3.4 to 6.7 W/m^2 above pre-industrial levels (Level 1 to Level 4) implies significant changes to the world's energy, agriculture, land-use, and economic systems relative to a reference scenario. Such limits would shape technology deployment throughout the century and have important economic consequences, but, as these scenarios illustrate, there are many pathways to the same end.

Comment: What does this part of the sentence mean: "relative to a non-climate policy reference scenario"? That policy scenarios would change if climate were factored in?

4.1. Introduction

In Chapter 3, each modeling team developed scenarios of long-term greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with changes in key economic characteristics, such as demographics and technology. This chapter describes how such developments might be modified in response to limits to changes in radiative forcing. It illustrates that society's response to a stabilization goal can take many paths, reflecting factors shaping the reference scenario and the availability and performance of emission-reducing technologies. It should be emphasized that there has been no international agreement on a desired stabilization target; the four levels analyzed below and detailed in Table 4.1 were chosen for illustrative purposes only. They reflect neither a preference nor a recommendation. However, they correspond roughly to four of the frequently analyzed levels of CO_2 concentrations.

Table 4.1. Long-Term Radiative Forcing Limits by Stabilization Level and Corresponding Approximate CO_2 Concentration Levels

Control of GHG emissions requires changes in the global energy, economic, agriculture, and land-use system. Thus, each modeling group had to make decisions regarding the means of limitation. The Section 4.2 compares the approaches of the three modeling teams. Section 4.3 shows the effect of the three strategies on GHG emissions, concentrations, and radiative forcing. The implications for global and U.S. energy and industrial systems are explored in Section 4.4 and for agriculture and land-use change in Section 4.5. Section 4.6 discusses economic consequences of measures to achieve the various stabilization levels.

4.2. Stabilizing Radiative Forcing: Model Implementations

Some features of scenario construction were coordinated among the three modeling groups and others were left to their discretion. In three areas, a common set of approaches was adopted:

- Reference scenario climate policies (Section 4.2.1)
- The timing of participation in stabilization scenarios (Section 4.2.2)
- Policy instrument assumptions in stabilization scenarios (Section 4.2.3).

In two areas the teams employed different approaches:

- The timing of CO_2 emissions mitigation (Section 4.2.4)
- Non-CO_2 emissions mitigation (Section 4.2.5).

4.2.1. Reference Scenario Climate Policies

Each group assumed that, as in the reference scenario, the U.S. will achieve its goal of reducing GHG emissions intensity (the ratio of GHG emissions to GDP) by 18% in the period to 2012 although implementation of this goal was left to the judgment of each group. Also, the Kyoto Protocol participants were assumed to achieve their commitments through the first commitment period, 2008 to 2012. In the reference scenario, these policies were modeled as not continuing after 2012. In the stabilization scenarios, these initial period policies were superseded by the long-term control strategies imposed by each group.

4.2.2. Timing of Participation in Stabilization Scenarios

There has been no international agreement on the desired level at which to stabilize radiative forcing or the path to such a goal, nor is there any consensus about the relative sharing of burdens other than a general call for "common but differentiated responsibilities" by the United Nations Framework Convention on Cliamte Change (United Nations, 1992)s. For the stabilization scenarios, it was assumed that policies to limit the change in radiative forcing would be applied globally, as directed by the

Comment: What's the source of this quotation?

Prospectus. Although it seems unlikely that all countries would simultaneously join a global agreement to limit the change in radiative forcing, and the economic implications of stabilization would be greater with less-than-universal participation, the assumption that all countries participate provides a useful benchmark. Indeed, analyses using alternative burden sharing schemes suggest that the costs can be an order of magnitude higher without the involvement of nonAnnex B emitters.

4.2.3. Policy Instrument Assumptions in Stabilization Scenarios

Note that the issue of economic efficiency applies across space and across time. All three models assume an economically efficient allocation of reductions among nations in each time period, that, is across space. Thus, each model controls GHG emissions in all regions and across all sectors of the economy by imposing a single price for each GHG at any point in time. That set of prices is the same across all regions and sectors. As will be discussed in detail in Section 4.5, the prices of emissions for the individual GHGs were different for each model. The implied ability to access emissions reduction opportunities wherever they are cheapest is sometimes referred to as “where flexibility” (Richels et al. 1996).

4.2.4. Timing of CO_2 Emissions Mitigation

The cost of limiting radiative forcing to any given level depends importantly on the timing of the associated emissions mitigation. The stabilization goal of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC; United Nations 1992) is incompletely defined. Neither the FCCC nor subsequent agreements specify the level of stabilization, how to balance reductions in the near-term against reductions later, or how to address the multiple substances that contribute to radiative forcing. There is a strong economic argument to start slowly and then progressively ramp up abatement efforts, particularly for CO_2. Distributing emissions mitigation over time, such that larger efforts are undertaken later, reduces the current cost as a consequence of such effects as discounting, the preservation of energy-using capital stock over its natural lifetime, and the potential for the development of increasingly cost-effective technologies.

What constitutes such a cost-effective “slow start” depends on the concentration target and the ability of economies to make strong reductions later. While 100 years is a very long time-horizon for economic projections, it is not long enough to fully evaluate stabilization goals. In most instances, the scenarios are only approaching stabilization in 2100. Concentrations are below the targets and still rising, but the rate of increase is slowing substantially. Long-run stabilization requires that any emissions be completely offset by uptake/destruction of the gas. Because ocean and terrestrial uptake of CO_2 is subject to saturation and system inertia, at least for the CO_2 concentration limits considered in this analysis, emissions need to peak and subsequently decline during the twenty-first century. In the very long term (many hundreds to thousands of years), emissions must decline to virtually zero for any CO_2 concentration to be maintained. Thus, while there is some flexibility available to the modelers in the inter-temporal allocation of emissions, that flexibility is inherently constrained by the carbon cycle.

Given that anthropogenic CO_2 emissions rise with time in all three of the unconstrained reference scenarios, the stringency of CO_2 emissions mitigation also increases steadily with time.

The models differ in the way they determine the profile of emissions reduction and how the different GHGs contribute to meeting radiative forcing targets. A major reason for the difference was the nature of the models. MERGE is an inter-temporal optimization model and is able to set a radiative forcing target and solve for the cost-minimizing allocation of abatement across gases and over time. It thus offers insights regarding the optimal path of emissions abatement. A positive discount rate will lead to a gradual phase-in of reductions, and the tradeoff among gases is endogenously calculated, based on the contribution each makes toward the long-term goal (Manne and Richels 2001). Given the stabilization target, the changing relative prices of gases over time can be interpreted as an optimal trading index for the gases that combines economic considerations with modeled physical considerations (lifetime and radiative forcing). The resulting relative weights are different from those derived using Global Warming Potential (GWP) indices, which are based purely on physical considerations (see IPCC 2001). Furthermore, economically efficient indices for the relative importance of GHG emissions mitigation will vary over time and across policy regimes.

IGSM and MiniCAM are simulation models and do not endogenously solve for optimal allocations over time and by type of gas. However, their choice of price path over time takes account of insights from economic principles that lead to a pattern similar to that computed by MERGE. The pattern was anticipated by Peck and Wan (1996) using a simple optimizing model with a carbon cycle and by Hotelling (1931) in a simpler context.

The MiniCAM team set the rate of increase in the price of carbon equal to the rate of interest plus the average rate of removal of carbon from the atmosphere by natural systems. This approach follows Peck and Wan (1996) and yields a resulting carbon price path qualitatively similar to that obtained by the MERGE team. This carbon price path insures that the present discounted marginal cost of having one tonne of carbon less in the atmosphere during one period in the future is exactly the same regardless of whether the removal takes place today or one period later. When marginal costs are equal over time, there is no way that total costs can be reduced by making emissions mitigation either earlier or later.

As with MERGE, the exponential increase in the price of CO_2 continues until such time as radiative forcing is stabilized. Thereafter the price is set by the carbon cycle. That is, once radiative forcing has risen to its stabilization level, additional CO_2 can only enter the atmosphere to the extent that natural processes remove it, otherwise CO_2 radiative forcing would be increasing. This is relevant in the Level 1 stabilization scenario and, to a lesser extent, in the Level 2 stabilization scenario. However, it is not present in the Level 3 or Level 4 scenarios because stabilization is not reached until after the end of the twenty-first century.

IGSM uses an iterative process in which a carbon price is set rising at an annual discount rate of 4% and the resulting CO_2 concentration and total radiative forcing over the century are estimated. The initial carbon price is then adjusted to achieve the required concentrations and forcing. Thus, the rate of increase in the CO_2 price paths are identical for all stabilization scenarios, but the initial value of carbon is different. The lower the concentration of CO_2 allowed, the higher the initial price. The insight behind this approach is that an entity faced with a carbon constraint and a decision to abate now or later would compare the expected return on that abatement investment with the rate of return elsewhere in the economy. If the carbon price were rising more rapidly than the rate of return, abatement investments would yield a higher return than those elsewhere in the economy, so that the entity would thus invest more in abatement now (and possibly bank emissions permits to use them later). By the same logic, an increase in the carbon price lower than the rate of return would lead to a decision to postpone abatement. It would lead to a tighter carbon constraint and a higher carbon price in the future. Thus, this approach is intended to be consistent with a market solution that would allocate reductions through time.

4.2.5. Non-CO_2 Emissions Mitigation

Like CO_2, the contribution of non-CO_2 greenhouse gases to radiative forcing depends on their concentrations. However, these gases are dissociated in the atmosphere over time so that the relationship between emissions and concentrations is different from that for CO_2, as are the sources of emissions and opportunities for abatement. Each of the three modeling teams used its own approach to model their control. As noted above, the MERGE modeling team employed an inter-temporal optimization approach. The price of each GHG was determined so as to minimize the social cost of limiting radiative forcing to each level. Thus, the price of each gas was constant across regions at any point in time, but varied over time so as to minimize the social cost of achieving each level.

The MiniCAM team tied non-CO_2 GHG prices to the price of CO_2 using the GWPs of the gases. This procedure is adopted by parties to the Kyoto Protocol and applied in the definition of the U.S. emissions intensity goal. IGSM used the same approach as MiniCAM to determine the prices for HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6, pegging the prices to that of CO_2 using GWP coefficients. For CH_4 and N_2O, however, independent emission stabilization levels were set for each gas because GWPs poorly represent the full effects of CH_4 and emissions trading at GWP rates leads to problems defining what stabilization means when CH_4 and N_2O are involved (Sarofim et al. 2005). The relatively near-term stabilization for CH_4 specified in the IGSM analysis implies that near-term reductions in climate change result in economic benefit. This approach is consistent with a view that there are risks associated with lesser amounts of radiative forcing. This is quite different than the MERGE approach, where any value of abatement derives only from the extent to which it contributes to avoiding the long-term stabilization level. In that approach, early abatement of short-lived species like CH_4 have very little consequence for a target that will not be reached for many decades, and the optimized result places little value on abating short-lived species until the target is approached. Without a full analysis of the economic effects of climate change that occurs along these different stabilization paths, these two approaches provide some bounds on possible reasonable paths for non-CO_2 GHG stabilization, with the MiniCAM result representing an intermediate approach.

4.3. Stabilization Implications for Radiative Forcing, Greenhouse Gas Concentrations, and Emissions

> *Despite significantly different levels of radiative forcing in their reference scenarios the modeling teams reported very similar levels of radiative forcing relative to pre-industrial levels for the year 2100 in all four stabilization scenarios. Nevertheless, the teams produced stabilization scenarios with different combinations of GHG concentrations. Differences in year 2100 CO_2 concentrations could be as much as 75 ppmv, and year 2100 fossil fuel* CO_2 *emissions could vary by up to 8 GtC/year. Of necessity, models that had high CO_2 concentrations for a given stabilization level had lower concentrations and emissions of non-CO_2 greenhouse gases. These differences in stabilization results highlight the fact that there are many different pathways to stabilizing radiative forcing..*

As a result of the economic assumptions imposed in the solutions, all of the modeling teams produced results in which the reduction in emissions below reference levels was much smaller in the period between 2000 and 2050 than between 2050 and 2100. All of the stabilization scenarios were characterized by a peak and decline in global CO_2 emissions in the twenty-first century.

4.3.1. Implications for Radiative Forcing

Given that all were constrained by the same atmospheric targets, the modeling teams reported very similar levels of radiative forcing relative to pre-industrial levels for the year 2100 although the time-scale for stabilization exceeds the 2100 horizon of the analysis. Table 4.2 shows the long-term RF target level and the level of radiative forcing reported by each of the three modeling teams in the year 2100. All the teams successfully constrained radiative forcing not to exceed target levels. A minor exception is that for Level 1 for which the IGSM team's approximation reports a slightly higher radiative forcing level than the long-term target. The implication of this slightly higher radiative forcing is that the IGSM Level 1 scenario has less non-emitting technology and lower economic costs than would be the case if the constraint were met precisely. In general, the differences between the long-term target and the modeled radiative forcing levels are smaller for Levels 1 and 2 than for Levels 3 and 4 because the latter allow a greater accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere than do Levels 1 and 2. For Levels 3 and 4 each modeling team required radiative forcing to be below the long-term limits in 2100 to allow for subsequent emissions to fall gradually toward levels required for stabilization.

Table 4.2. Radiative Forcing in the Year 2100 across Scenarios

The radiative forcing stabilization paths for the three models are shown in Figure 4.1. Even though the paths reflect different criteria used to allocate abatement over time, the paths are very similar. The radiative forcing path is dominated by forcing associated with CO_2 concentrations, which in turn are driven by cumulative, not annual, emissions. Thus, even fairly different time-profiles of CO_2 emissions can yield relatively little difference in concentrations and radiative forcing.

Figure 4.1. Total Radiative Forcing by Year across Scenarios

Although their totals are similar, the GHG composition of radiative forcing is different among the three modeling teams. Figure 4.2 plots the breakdown among gases in 2100 for the reference scenario along with all four stabilization levels. Forcing is dominated by CO_2 for all modeling teams at all target levels, but there are variations among models. For example, the MiniCAM scenario has larger contributions from CO_2 and lower contributions from CH_4 than the other modeling teams. Conversely, the MERGE scenarios have higher contributions from CH_4 and lower contributions from CO_2 relative to the other modeling teams. In the case of the latter, the tighter the target, the greater the reduction in CH4. This is because the price of CH4 relative to CO2 increases with the proximity to the goal.

Figure 4.2. Total Radiative Forcing by Gas in 2100 across Scenarios

4.3.2. Implications for Greenhouse Gas Concentrations

The relative GHG composition of radiative forcing across models in any scenario reflects differences in concentrations of the GHGs. Thus, consistent with the higher CO_2 role in Figure 4.1 and Figure 4.2, the CO_2 concentrations projected by MiniCAM are systematically higher than for the other modeling teams, as plotted in Figure 4.3, and its methane and N_2O concentrations are systematically lower in Figure 4.4 (see also Figure 4.21). Differences in the gas concentrations among the three models reflect differences in the way the models make tradeoffs among gases, differences in assumed mitigation opportunities for non-CO_2 GHGs compared to CO_2 GHGs. MiniCAM assumes that methane abatement technologies are available that lead to abatement even when the value of emissions is zero, thus leading to a lower methane emissions trajectory than either MERGE or IGSM. Further methane emissions mitigation is induced in MiniCAM as the price on methane emissions rises.

Figure 4.3. CO_2 Concentrations across Scenarios

Figure 4.4. CH_4 Concentrations across Scenarios

Tradeoffs among GHG emissions mitigation opportunities lead to differences in year 2100 CO_2 concentrations associated with the four target levels (see Table 4.3). All three models yield CO_2 concentrations that are close to the reference value for the Level 4 scenario. While the MiniCAM value slightly exceeds the reference CO_2 concentration in 2100, the CO_2 concentration is falling, as can be seen in Figure 4.3.

Table 4.3. CO_2 Concentrations in the Year 2100 across Scenarios

Approximate stabilization of CO_2 concentrations for Levels 1 and 2 occur by 2100 for all three models, but for Levels 3 and 4 concentrations are still increasing although at a slowing rate. An important implication of the latter paths is that substantial emissions reductions would be required after 2100. Sometime within the next century, all the stabilization paths would require emissions levels nearly as low as that for Level 1. Higher stabilization targets do not change the nature of long-term changes in emissions required in the global economy; they only delay when the abatement must be achieved.

Natural removal processes are uncertain, and this uncertainty is reflected in differences in results from three modeling teams, as shown in Figure 4.5. The IGSM model projects saturation of the rate of uptake at very high concentrations under the reference scenario, and all models show ocean uptake to be reduced at the more stringent stabilization levels because the rate of uptake is strongly influenced by the CO_2 concentration in the atmosphere. The IGSM uptake is systematically smaller than shown in the MERGE and MiniCAM models. As a consequence, the IGSM control scenarios must achieve lower anthropogenic emissions for a comparable CO_2 concentration. All three ocean-uptake regimes are within the present range of carbon-cycle uncertainty, which points up the importance of improved understanding of carbon-cycle processes for future stabilization investigations.

Figure 4.5. Ocean CO_2 Emissions across Scenarios

4.3.3. Implications for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

4.3.3.1. Implications for Global CO_2 Emissions

For the Level 1 target, global CO_2 emissions begin declining nearly immediately in all three modeling efforts (see Figure 4.6). The constraint is so tight that there is relatively little latitude for variation. Only in the second half of the century do some modest differences emerge among the scenarios.

Figure 4.6. Fossil Fuel and Industrial CO_2 Emissions across Scenarios

All three modeling teams show continued emissions growth throughout the first half of the twenty-first century for Level 4, the loosest constraint. Near-term variation in emissions largely reflects near-term differences in the reference scenarios. Importantly, global emissions peak before the end of the twenty-first century and begin a long-term decline for all three groups.

The projections of all three teams exhibit more emissions reduction in the second half of the twenty-first century than in the first half, as noted earlier, so the mitigation challenge grows with time. The precise timing and degree of departure from the reference scenario depend on many aspects of the scenarios and on each model’s representation of Earth system properties, including the radiative forcing limit, the carbon cycle, atmospheric chemistry, the character of technology options over time, the reference scenario CO_2 emissions path, the non-climate policy environment, the rate of discount, and the climate policy environment. For Level 4, more than 85% of emissions mitigation occurs in the second half of the twenty-first century in the scenarios developed here. For Level 1, where the limit is the tightest and near-term mitigation most urgent, more than 75% of the emissions mitigation occurs in the second half of the century.

All three of the modeling teams constructed reference scenarios in which Non-Annex 1 emissions were a larger fraction of the global total in the future than at present (see Figure 3.15). Because the stabilization scenarios are based on the assumption that all regions of the world face the same price of GHG emissions and have access to the same general set of technologies for mitigation, the resulting distribution of emissions mitigation between Annex I and Non-Annex I regions generally reflects the distribution of reference scenario emissions among them. So, when radiative forcing is restricted to Level I, all three models find that more than half of the emissions mitigation occurs in Non-Annex I regions by 2050 because more than half of reference-case emissions occur in Non-Annex I regions. Note that where abatement occurs separately from, and mostly independent of, the distribution of the economic burden of reduction, if the global policy is specified so that a common carbon price occurs in all regions at any one time.

4.3.3.2. Implications for Non-CO_2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The stabilization properties of the non-CO_2 greenhouse gases differ due to their lifetimes (as determined by chemical reactions in the atmosphere), abatement technologies, and natural sources. Methane has a relatively short lifetime, and anthropogenic sources are a big part of methane emissions. If anthropogenic emissions are kept constant, an approximate equilibrium between oxidation and emissions will be established relatively quickly and concentrations will stabilize. The same is true for the relatively short-lived HFCs.

Emissions under stabilization are systematically lower the more stringent the target, as can be seen in Figure 4.7. The MiniCAM modeling team, with its relatively lower reference scenario, has the lowest CH_4 emissions in stabilization scenarios. The assumed policy environment for CH_4 control is also important. Despite the fact that the IGSM modeling team has higher reference CH_4 emissions than MERGE, the latter group's scenarios have the higher emissions under stabilization. The reason is that the MERGE inter-temporal optimization leads to a low relative price for CH_4 emissions in the near-term, which grows rapidly relative to CO_2, whereas IGSM controls CH_4 emissions through quantitative limits.

Figure 4.7. CH_4 Emissions across Scenarios

The very long-lived gases are nearly indestructible and, thus, for stabilization their emissions must be very near zero. Assessments of abatement possibilities, as represented in these models, show that it is possible, at reasonable cost, for this to be achieved, as seen in the 2100 results in Figure 4.2. While these are useful substances, their emissions are not as difficult to abate as those from fossil energy.

However, N_2O is more problematic. A major anthropogenic source is from use of fertilizer for agricultural crops–an essential use. Moreover, its natural sources are important, and they are augmented by terrestrial changes associated with climate change. It is fortunate that N_2O is not a major contributor to radiative forcing because the technologies and strategies needed to achieve its stabilization are not obvious at this time. Nevertheless, differences in the control of N_2O are observed across models, as revealed in Figure 4.8.

Figure 4.8. N_2O Emissions across Scenarios

4.4. Implication for Energy Use, Industry, and Technology

Stabilization of radiative forcing at the levels examined in this study will require substantial changes in the global energy system, including some combination of improvements in energy efficiency, the substitution of low-emission or non-emitting energy supplies for fossil fuels, the capture and storage of CO_2, and reductions in end-use energy consumption.

4.4.1. Changes in Global Energy Use

The degree and timing of change in the global energy system depends on the level at which radiative forcing is stabilized. Figure 4.9 reports the reference scenario from Chapter 3 and then adds a plot of the net changes in the various primary energy sources for each stabilization level. While differences in the reference scenarios developed by each of the three modeling teams led to different patterns of response, some important similarities emerged. The lower the radiative forcing limit, the larger the change in the global energy system relative to the reference scenario; moreover, the scale of this change is larger, the further into the future the scenario looks. Also, significant fossil fuel use continues in all four stabilization scenarios. This pattern can be seen in Figure 4.10**,** which shows the same case as Figure 4.9 but in terms of total energy consumption.

Figure 4.9. Change in Global Primary Energy by Fuel across Scenarios, Stabilization Scenarios Relative to Reference Scenarios

Figure 4.10. Global Primary Energy by Fuel across Scenarios

Although atmospheric stabilization would take away much of the growth potential of coal over the century, all three models project coal usage to expand under stabilization Levels 2, 3, and 4. However, under the most stringent target, Level 1, the global coal industry declines in the first half of the century before recovering by 2100 to levels of production somewhat larger than today.

Oil and natural gas also continue as contributors to total energy over the century although at the tighter limits on radiative forcing, they are progressively squeezed out of the mix. One reason that fossil fuels continue to be utilized despite constraints on GHG emissions is that CCS technologies are available. Figure 4.10 shows that as the carbon values rise, CCS technology takes on an increasing market share. Section 4.4.2 addresses this, as well as the contribution of non-biomass renewable energy forms in greater detail.

Changes in the global energy system in response to constraints on radiative forcing reflect an interplay between technology options and the assumptions that shaped the reference scenarios. For example, the MERGE reference assumes a relatively limited ability to access unconventional oil and gas resources and the evolution of a system that increasingly employs coal as a feedstock for the production of liquids, gases, and electricity. Because there is little oil and gas in the system, fossil CO_2 emissions come predominantly from coal. Against this background, a constraint on radiative forcing results in reductions in coal use and end-use energy consumption. As the price of carbon rises, nuclear and non-biomass renewable energy forms and CCS augment the response.

The IGSM reference scenario assumes greater availability of unconventional oil and gas than in the MERGE scenarios. Thus, the stabilization scenarios involve less reduction in coal use but a larger decline in oil and gas than in the MERGE scenarios. To produce liquid fuels for the transportation sector, the IGSM model responds to a constraint on radiative forcing by growing biomass energy crops both earlier and more extensively than in the reference scenario. Also, the IGSM model projects larger reductions in energy demand than either of the other two models. The MiniCAM model produces the smallest reductions in energy consumption of any of the modeling groups. The imposition of constraints on radiative forcing leads to reductions in oil, gas, and coal, as do the other models, but also involves considerable expansion of nuclear and renewable supplies. The largest supply response is in commercial bio-derived fuels. Commercial bio-derived fuels are largely limited to traditional and bio-waste recycling in the reference scenario, leaving a level of bio-derived energy in the year 2100 similar to those of the other two modeling teams. As the price on CO_2 rises, bio-energy becomes increasingly attractive. As will be discussed in Section 4.5, the expansion of the commercial biomass industry to produce hundreds of exajoules of energy per year has implications for crop prices, land-use, land-use emissions, and unmanaged ecosystems that are of concern.

Comment: I deleted this—its been said several times before.

The relative role of nuclear differs in each of the three analyses. The MERGE reference scenario deploys the largest amount of nuclear power, contributing 231 EJ/y of primary energy in the year 2100. In the Level 1 stabilization scenario, deployment expands to 306 EJ/y of primary energy in 2100. Nuclear power in the MiniCAM reference scenario produces 129 EJ/y in the year 2100, which in the Level 1 stabilization scenario expands to more than 234 EJ/y of primary energy in the year 2100. The IGSM scenarios maintain a fleet of power reactors throughout the century that about 50% of year 2000 levels in the reference scenario. In part, this lower level is determined by the assumption about limits on political acceptability of this option. None of the scenarios report a detailed technology characterization, implications for uranium and thorium resources, or information on reprocessing and disposal that would accompany continued expansion of the nuclear industry. However, some models, such as MiniCAM, include explicit descriptions of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Reductions in total energy demand play an important role in all of the stabilization scenarios. In the IGSM stabilization scenarios, this is the largest single change in the global energy system. While not as dramatic as in the case of the IGSM stabilization scenarios, MERGE and MiniCAM stabilization scenarios also exhibit changes in energy demand under stabilization.

4.4.2. Changes in Global Electric Power Generation

The three models project substantial changes in electricity-generation technologies as a result of stabilization but relatively little change in electricity demand. Electricity price increases as a result of climate policy are small relative to those for direct fuel use because the fuel input, while important, is only part of the cost of electricity supply to the consumer. Also, the long-term cost of transitioning to low and non-carbon-emitting sources in electricity production is relatively smaller than in the economy on average.

There are substantial differences in the scale of global power generation across the three reference scenarios, as shown in Chapter 3 and repeated at the top of Figure 4.11. Power generation increases from about 50 EJ/y in the year 2000 to between 229 EJ/y (IGSM) to 458 EJ/y (MiniCAM) by 2100. In all three reference scenarios, electricity becomes an increasingly important component of the global energy system, fueled by growing quantities of fossil fuels. Despite differences in the relative contribution of different fuel modes across the three reference scenarios, total fossil fuel use rises from about 30 EJ/y in 2000 to between 170 EJ/y and 270 EJ/y in 2100. Thus, the difference in total power generation largely reflects differences in the deployment of non-fossil energy forms: biofuels, nuclear power, fuel cells, and other renewables such as wind, geothermal, and solar power.

Figure 4.11. Global Electricity Generation by Fuel across Scenarios

Figure 4.12. Changes in Global Electricity by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios , Relative to Reference Scenarios

The imposition of radiative forcing limits dramatically changes the electricity sector. The IGSM model responds to the stabilization scenario by reducing the use of coal and oil relative to the reference scenario, expanding the deployment of gas and coal with CCS, and reducing demand. However, at low carbon prices, substitution of natural gas for coal occurs in the IGSM scenarios. MERGE reduces the use of coal in power generation, while expanding the use of non-biomass renewables and coal with CCS. The MiniCAM model reduces the use of coal without CCS, and expands deployment of oil, gas, and coal with CCS technology. In addition, nuclear and non-biomass renewable energy technologies capture a larger share of the market. At the less-stringent levels of stabilization, i.e., Levels 3 and 4, additional biofuels are deployed in power generation, and total power generation declines. At the more-stringent stabilization levels, commercial bio-fuels are diverted to the transportation sector, and use actually declines relative to the reference.

All modeling groups assumed that CO_2 could be captured and stored in secure repositories, and in all cases CCS becomes a large-scale activity. Annual capture rates are shown in Table 4.4. It is always one of the largest single changes in the power-generation system in response to stabilization in radiative forcing, as can be seen in Figure 4.12. As with mitigation in general, CCS starts relatively modestly in all the scenarios, but grows to large levels. The total storage over the century is recorded in Table 4.5, spanning a range from 27 GtC to 92 GtC for Level 4 and 160 GtC to 328 GtC for Level 1. The modeling groups made no attempt to report either location of storage sites for CO_2 or the nature of the storage reservoirs, but these scenarios are within the range of the estimates of global geologic reservoir capacity.

Table 4.4. Global Annual CO_2 Capture and Storage in 2030, 2050, and 2100 for Four Stabilization Levels

Table 4.5. Global Cumulative CO_2 Capture and Storage in 2050 and 2100 for Four Stabilization Levels

Deployment rates in the models depend on a variety of circumstances, including capture cost, new plant construction versus retrofitting for existing plants, the scale of power generation, the price of fuel inputs, the cost of competing technologies, and the level of the CO_2 price. It is clear that the constraints on radiative forcing considered in these scenarios are sufficiently stringent that, if CCS is available at a cost and performance similar to that considered in these scenarios, it would be a crucial component of future power generation.

Yet capture technology is hardly ordinary. Geologic storage is largely confined to experimental sites or enhanced oil and gas recovery. There are as yet no clearly defined institutions or accounting systems to reward such technology in emissions control agreements, and long-term liability for stored CO_2 has not been determined. All of these issues and more must be resolved before CCS could deploy on the scale envisioned in these stabilization scenarios. If CCS were unavailable, the effect on cost would be adverse. Other more costly emissions would have to be deployed. We have not attempted to quantify the increase in costs or the reorganization of the energy system in stabilization scenarios without CCS. This sensitivity is an important item in the agenda of future research.

CCS is not the only technology that is advantaged in stabilization scenarios. Renewable energy technologies clearly benefit, and their deployment expands in both the MERGE and MiniCAM scenarios. Nuclear power also obtains a cost advantage in stabilization scenarios and experiences increased deployment, particularly in the MiniCAM stabilization scenarios. The fact that no clear winner emerges from among the suite of non-fossil power-generating technologies reflects the differences among the modeling teams regarding expectations for future technology performance, market and non-market factors affecting deployment, and the ultimate severity of future emissions mitigation regimes.

4.4.3. Changes in Energy Patterns in the United States

Changes for the U.S. are similar to those observed for the world in general. This pattern reflects the facts that the mitigation policy is implemented globally, there are international markets in fuels, each model makes most technologies globally available over time, and the U.S. is roughly a quarter of the world total.

Energy-system changes are modest for stabilization Level 4, as shown in Figure 4.13, but even with this loose constraint, significant changes begin in the first decade of the twenty-first century. At more stringent stabilization levels, the changes are more substantial. With Level 1 stabilization, the U.S. energy system net changes range from 11 to almost 26 exajoules per year in 2020. Furthermore, these changes are net and do not reflect changes in the composition of the energy system.

Figure 4.13. Change in U.S. Primary Energy by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios

Near-term changes in the U.S. energy system are more complex than in the long term. While oil consumption always declines at higher carbon tax rates for all the modeling teams and all stabilization regimes, near-term changes in oil consumption can be ambiguous at lower tax rates. There is no ambiguity regarding the effect on coal consumption, which declines relative to the reference scenario in all stabilization scenarios for all models in all time periods. Similarly, total energy consumption declines along all scenarios. While nuclear power, commercial biomass, and other renewable energy forms are advantaged, and at least one of them always deploys to a greater extent in stabilization scenarios than in the reference scenario, the particular form and timing of expanded development varies from model to model.

The three models exhibit different responses reflecting differences in underlying reference scenarios and technology assumptions. The largest change in the U.S. energy system for the IGSM modeling team is always the reduction in total energy consumption augmented by an expansion in the use of commercial biomass fuels and deployment of CCS at higher carbon tax rates. Similarly, the largest change in the MERGE model is the reduction in total energy consumption augmented by deployment of CCS. Unlike the IGSM stabilization scenarios, however, it augments those changes with increased deployment of nuclear power and renewable energy forms rather than commercial biofuels. The MiniCAM model also exhibits reductions in total energy consumption and increasingly deploys nuclear power, commercial biomass, and other renewable energy forms.

Figure 4.14. U.S. Primary Energy by Fuel across Scenarios

The adjustment of the U.S. electric sector to the various stabilization levels shown in Figure 4.15 is similar to the world totals in Figure 4.12.

Figure 4.15. Change in U.S. Electricity by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios

It is worth re-emphasizing that reductions in energy consumption are an important component of response at all stabilization levels in all scenarios reflecting a mix of three responses:

- Substitution of technologies that produce the same energy service with lower direct-plus-indirect carbon emissions,
- Changes in the composition of final goods and services, shifting toward consumption of goods and services with lower direct-plus-indirect carbon emissions, and
- Reductions in the consumption of energy services.

This report does not attempt to quantify the relative contribution of each of these responses. Each of the models has a different set of technology options, different technology performance assumptions, and different model structures. Furthermore, no well-defined protocol exists that can provide a unique attribution among these three general processes. We simply note that all three are at work.

4.5. Stabilization Implications for Agriculture, Land-Use, and Terrestrial Carbon

The three modeling teams employ three distinctly different approaches to addressing the production of biofuels from land. Two of the modeling teams employed explicit agriculture-land-use models to determine production of bioenergy crops. They found that stabilization scenarios lead to expanded deployment of biofuels relative to the reference scenarios, with attendant implications for land use and land cover.

Similarly, all three modeling teams employ distinctly different approaches to the treatment of the terrestrial carbon cycle, ranging from a simple “neutral biosphere” model to a state-of-the-art terrestrial carbon-cycle model. In two of the models, a “CO_2 fertilization effect” plays a significant role. As stabilization levels become more stringent, CO_2 concentrations decline and terrestrial carbon uptake declines, with implications for emissions mitigation in the energy sector.

Despite the dramatic differences across the modeling teams’ treatments of the terrestrial carbon cycle, aggregate behavior of the carbon cycles are similar.

In stabilization regimes, the cost of fossil fuels rises, providing an increasing motivation for the production and transformation of bio-energy, as shown in Figure 4.16. In the IGSM modeling system, production begins earlier and produces a larger share of global energy as the stabilization limit becomes more stringent. The same is true in the United

States for the IGSM stabilization scenarios although competition with other land uses limits deployment. Similarly, in the MiniCAM scenarios, deployment begins earlier and production grows larger the more stringent the stabilization target. In the presence of less-stringent stabilization limits, production of bio-crops is lower in the MiniCAM scenarios than in IGSM. Production reaches higher levels when stabilization limits are more stringent in Levels 1 and 2. These differences between the models are not simply due to different treatments of agriculture and land use but also reflect the full suite of technology and behavior assumptions.

Although total land-areas allocated to bioenergy crops are not reported in these scenarios, the extent of land area engaged in the production of energy becomes substantial. For example, in the Level 1 stabilization scenario, bioenergy corps are the largest activity conducted on the land in the MiniCAM scenario. This is possible only if appropriate land is available, which hinges on future productivity increases for other crops and the potential of bioenergy crops to be grown on lands that are less suited for food, pasture, and forests.

Figure 4.16. Global and U.S. Commercial Biomass Production across Scenarios

Stabilization scenarios limit the rise in CO_2 concentrations and reduce the CO_2 fertilization effect below that in the reference scenario, which in turn leads to smaller CO_2 uptake by the terrestrial biosphere. The effect is larger and begins earlier the more stringent the stabilization level. For example, Figure 4.17 shows that in the IGSM Level 4 scenario, the effect is largest in the post-2050 period and amounts to about 0.8 GtC/y in 2100. The IGSM Level 1 scenario begins to depart markedly from the reference before 2050, and the difference grows to approximately 3.0 GtC/y by 2100. The effect of the diminished CO_2 fertilization effect is to require emissions mitigation in the energy-economy system to be larger by the amount of the difference between the reference aggregate net terrestrial CO_2 uptake and the uptake in the stabilization scenario.

Figure 4.17. Net Terrestrial Carbon Flux to the Atmosphere across Scenarios

The MiniCAM model uses the terrestrial carbon-cycle model of MAGICC as one component to determine the aggregate net carbon flux to the atmosphere. However, unlike either the IGSM or the MERGE models, MiniCAM determines land-use change emissions (e.g., deforestation) from an interaction between the choice of land use and associated carbon stocks and flows. Thus, economic competition among alternative human activities, crops, pasture, managed forests, bioenergy crops, and unmanaged ecosystems determine land use, which in turn (along with its associated changes) determines land-use change emissions. Thus, not only does MiniCAM exhibit the same types of CO_2 fertilization effects as IGSM, but also there are significant interactions between the agriculture sector and the unmanaged terrestrial carbon stocks in both the reference and stabilization scenarios. MERGE maintains its neutral biosphere in the stabilization scenarios.

One implication of the MiniCAM approach is that unless a value is placed on terrestrial carbon emissions as well as on fossil fuel emissions, stabilization scenarios can lead to increased pressure to deforest. MiniCAM results reported here, in Figure 4.17, assume that both fossil fuel and terrestrial carbon are priced. Thus, there is an economic incentive to maintain and/or expand stocks of terrestrial carbon as well as an incentive to bring more land under cultivation to grow bioenergy crops. Carbon value exerts an important counter-pressure to deforestation and other land-use changes that generate increased emissions.

To illustrate the importance of valuing terrestrial carbon, especially in more stringent stabilization scenarios, sensitivity cases were run using MiniCAM in which no price was applied to terrestrial carbon emissions. These sensitivity results showed dramatically increased levels of land-use change emissions when terrestrial carbon was not valued. The reason was that the value of carbon in the energy system created an incentive to expand bioenergy production. In turn, that expansion led to increased demand for land for biomass energy crops. But the resultant deforestation increased terrestrial CO_2 emissions, requiring even greater reductions in fossil fuel CO_2 emissions and even higher prices on fossil fuel carbon. This increased the demand for bioenergy and led to even more deforestation. Thus, without a value on terrestrial carbon, a vicious cycle can emerge in which accelerated deforestation (which occurs when terrestrial carbon is not valued) leads to a higher emissions mitigation requirement in the energy sector, which in turn leads to higher carbon prices, and then to an increased demand for biomass fuels. and thus, is a positive feedback to land-use change emissions. Of course, the MiniCAM results reported here assume a policy architecture that places a value on terrestrial carbon, avoiding the vicious cycle described above.

Despite the significant differences in the treatment of terrestrial systems in the three models, it is interesting to recall from Figure 3.20 that the overall behavior of the three carbon-cycle models is similar.

4.6. Economic Consequences of Stabilization

The carbon price paths needed to achieve the stabilization targets are of similar character across the three models but show differences in the magnitude of the effort needed in the near- and long-term. All three modeling teams show that Level 1 requires much higher carbon prices than the other three stabilization levels, as can be seen in Figure 4.18. All three models implemented prices or constraints that provided economic incentives to abate emissions, and instruments used can be interpreted as the carbon value that would be consistent with either a universal cap-and-trade system or a harmonized carbon tax.

Figure 4.18. Carbon Price across Stabilization Scenarios

The similarity of the price paths, rising over time, reflects the similarity of an economic approach employed by the three modeling teams, discussed in Section 4.2. The carbon cycle requires all stabilization paths eventually to reach an emissions peak and thereafter to reduce emissions to ever lower levels – a pattern that tends to generate a rising carbon price over time.

Stabilization Levels 2, 3, and 4 also require emissions levels to eventually fall to levels as low or lower than Level 1 stabilization scenario emissions in 2100. Thus, stabilization of concentrations at these higher levels merely displaces the emissions limitation task in time.

4.6.1. Variation in Carbon Prices across Models

IGSM shows the highest marginal costs in all of four stabilization scenarios. Yet the marginal abatement curves of the IGSM, MERGE, and MiniCAM models are very similar when plotted in terms of percentage reduction from reference, seen in Figure 4.19. They are particularly close for 2050. The models' behaviors diverge in the post-2050 period, reflecting differences in long-term technology expectations among the three reference scenarios.

Figure 4.19. Relationship between Carbon Price and Percentage Abatement in 2050 and 2100

The implication is that the carbon-price variation among the models mainly reflects a difference in required emissions mitigation. This in turn is largely a function of the reference scenario, but it is also importantly linked to other scenario components, such as interactions with land-use emissions and non-CO_2 GHGs. Recall that the MiniCAM model has higher CO_2 emissions and higher CO_2 concentrations than the other models as a direct consequence of its expectations for emissions mitigation opportunities in the non-CO_2 GHGs, in particular for CH_4.

With a larger mitigation burden, the IGSM scenarios require larger percentage cuts in CO_2 emissions, thus moving IGSM further up the mitigation supply schedule than the other two models. Also note that the marginal abatement curves are convex to the quantity axis, implying that the marginal cost of additional cuts rises rapidly. This result becomes particularly relevant in the post-2050 period. The MERGE carbon prices are lowest reflecting the relatively smaller emissions mitigation challenge, particularly in the pre-2050 period.

Prior to 2050, absolute differences in carbon prices across the scenarios are smaller than in 2100 (see Table 4.6**)**, while relative differences are far larger. Of note, the carbon price levels out in the most stringent case at $1000/tC in MERGE. This result is a function of an assumption in MERGE that at this price actors in the economy can purchase emissions rights in lieu of reducing their emissions further. This assumption limits the level of emissions reduction in MERGE to that which is economically efficient at $1000/tC. Note that MERGE still reaches the Level 1 radiative forcing target even with this assumption.

Table 4.6. Carbon Prices in 2020, 2030, 2050, and 2100, Stabilization Scenarios

4.6.2. Stabilization and Non-CO_2 Greenhouse Gases

Each of the three models employs a different approach to the non-CO_2 GHGs. After CO_2, CH_4 is the next largest component of reference scenario radiative forcing. The three models project different reference scenario emissions (see Figures 3.17 and 3.18). The IGSM reference scenario starts in the year 2000 at about 350 MtC/y and rises to more than 700 MtC/y (Figure 4.7), while the MERGE and MiniCAM models begin the year 2000 with 300 MtC/y in the year 2000. MERGE CH_4 emissions grow to almost 600 MtC/y in the reference scenario. Like the MERGE reference, the MiniCAM projection begins with emissions in the year 2000 at approximately 300 MtC/y, but the MiniCAM reference scenario is characterized by a peak in CH_4 emission at less than 400 MtC/y, followed by a decline to about 250 MtC/y.

Each of the groups took a different approach to setting the price of CH_4. The MiniCAM scenarios employ GWP coefficients, so the price of CH_4 is simply the price of CO_2 multiplied by the GWP. And the ratio of the price of CH_4 to CO_2 is simply a constant–7.56–as seen in Figure 4.20.

Figure 4.20. Relative Prices of CH_4 and N_2O to Carbon across Stabilization Scenarios

In contrast, the MERGE model determines the relative price of CH_4 to carbon in the inter-temporal optimization. The ratio of CH_4 to carbon prices begins very low although it is higher the more stringent the stabilization goal. The relative price then rises at a constant exponential rate of 9% per year in the Level 2, 3, and 4 stabilization scenarios. The Level 1 stabilization regime begins from a higher initial price of CH_4 and grows at 8% per year until is approaches a ratio of between 9 and 10 to 1, where it remains relatively constant. These results are the product of an inter-temporal optimization for which a constraint in the terminal value of radiative forcing is the only goal. Manne and Richels (2001) have shown that different patterns, such as limiting the rate of change of radiative forcing, are possible if additional considerations are taken into account.

IGSM employs a third approach. Methane emissions are limited to a maximum value in each stabilization scenario: Level 4 at 425 MtC/y; Level 3 at 385 MtC/y; Level 2 at 350 MtC/y; and Level 1 at 305 MtC/y. As a consequence, the ratio of the price of CH_4 to carbon initially grows from one-tenth to a maximum of between 3 and 14 between the years 2050 and 2080 and then declines thereafter.

As with CH_4, reference emissions of N_2O vary across the three modeling groups (see Figure 3.17). The IGSM reference trajectory roughly doubles from approximately 11 MtC/y to approximately 25 MtC/y. In contrast, the MERGE and MiniCAM reference scenarios are roughly constant over time.

The MERGE model also sets the price of N_2O as part of the inter-temporal optimization process, as shown in Figure 4.20. Note that the relative price trajectory has a value that begins at roughly the level of the GWP-based relative price used in the MiniCAM scenarios and then rises, roughly linearly with time. The relative price approximately doubles in the Level 4 stabilization scenario, but is almost constant in the Level 1 stabilization scenario. Thus, in the Level 1 scenario the relative price path of the MERGE scenario and the MiniCAM scenarios are virtually the same.

In contrast, IGSM stabilization sets a path to a pre-determined N_2O concentration for each stabilization level, and the complexity of the price paths in Figure 4.20 shows the difficulty of stabilizing the atmospheric level of this gas. Natural emissions of N_2O are calculated, which vary with the climate consequences of stabilization. The main anthropogenic source, agriculture, has a complicated relationship with the rest of the economy through the competition for land use.

The approaches employed here do not necessarily lead to the stabilization of the concentrations of these gases before the end of the twenty-first century (see Figures 4.6 and 4.21). In fact, the levels at which concentrations ultimately stabilize are determined by the approach each modeling team employed. It was not a scenario assumption.

Figure 4.21. N_2O Concentrations Across Scenarios

4.6.3. Stabilization and Energy Markets

The carbon price drives a wedge between the producer price of fuels and the cost to the user. Table 4.7 provides an approximation of that of the relationship.

Table 4.7. Relationship Between a $100/ton Carbon Tax and Energy Prices

One of the clearest results to emerge from the stabilization scenarios is their depressive effect on the world price of oil (Figure 4.22). Although Level 4 stabilization scenarios have a relatively modest effect on the oil price, the world oil price is lower the more stringent the level of stabilization. The three models give different degrees of oil price reduction, which in turn depends on many factors, including the supply of oil, the carbon price, and the availability of substitute technologies for providing transportation liquids, such as biofuels or hydrogen.

Figure 4.22. World Oil Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios

Figure 4.23. United States Mine-mouth Coal Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios

Figure 4.24. United States Natural Gas Producers' Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios

Figure 4.25. United States Electricity Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios

Coal prices are similarly depressed in stabilization scenarios (see Figure 4.23). The effect is mitigated by two features: the assumed availability of CCS technology, which allows the continued large-scale use of coal in power generation in the presence of a positive price of carbon, and a coal supply schedule that is highly elastic. That is, demand for coal can exhibit large increases or decreases without much change in price.

The impact on the natural gas producer price is more complex (see Figure 4.24). Natural gas has roughly one-half the carbon-to-energy ratio of coal. Thus, emissions can be reduced without loss of available energy simply by substituting natural gas for coal or oil. As a consequence, two effects on the natural gas producer price work in opposite directions. First, as the price of carbon rises, natural gas tends to be substituted for other fuels, increasing its demand. But natural gas substitutes, such as electricity, bioenergy, or energy-efficiency technologies, will tend to displace it from markets, as happens for the more carbon-intensive fuels. Thus, depending on the strength of these two effects, the producer price of gas can either rise or fall.

The behavior of the natural gas price is most volatile in the IGSM stabilization scenarios, reflecting the greater substitution of natural gas for coal in IGSM stabilization Levels 2, 3, and 4, particularly in the pre-2050 period. At Level 1 stabilization, even natural gas demand is affected throughout. On balance, the price is more stable in the MERGE and MiniCAM models when the substitution and conservation effects are roughly offsetting. Thus, while the models agree that stabilization will tend to depress oil prices, they show different pictures of the effect on natural gas and coal prices.

While the price the sellers receive for fossil fuels tends to be either stable or depressed, that is not the same as the price buyers pay. Buyers pay the market price, plus the price of carbon times the fuel’s carbon-to-energy ratio.

The effect on the price of electricity is another unambiguous result (see Figure 4.25). Because power generators are fossil fuel consumers, the price of electricity contains the implicit price of carbon in the fuels used for generation. All of the scenarios exhibit upward pressure on electricity prices, and the more stringent the stabilization level, the greater the upward pressure. The pressure is mitigated by the fact that there are many options available to electricity producers to lower emissions. These options include, for example, the substitution of natural gas for coal, the use of CCS, the expanded use of nuclear power, the use of bioenergy, and the expanded use of wind, hydro, and other renewable energy sources.

4.6.4. Total Cost of Stabilization

It would seem to be the simplest of questions: What is the cost of emissions stabilization? Yet, total cost is a concept that leads to enormous confusion. From an economic perspective, cost is the value of the loss in welfare associated with undertaking the stabilization. In principle, one must ask, what is the value of activities that society could not undertake as a consequence of pursuing stabilization? While the concept is easy enough to articulate, defining an unambiguous measure is anything but easy. There are any number of problems, as anticipated by Arrow's Possibility Theorem (Arrow 1950), which states that unless we are very lucky and it turns out that we all have the same preferences, it is impossible to construct a function to measure society's welfare. Stabilization is further complicated by the need to aggregate the welfare of individuals who have not yet been born and who may or may not share present preferences. Even if these problems were not difficult enough, economies can hardly be thought to be at a maximum of potential welfare. Preexisting market distortions exist and, thus, some climate measures may interact with other policies so as to reduce or exacerbate these distortions and, in effect, create a situation in which the concept of cost is unclear. Finally, climate change is not the only problem involving the public good, and measures to address other public goods can either increase or decrease cost. In order to create a metric to report that is consistent and comparable across the three modeling platforms, all of these issues would have to be addressed in some way.

Setting these considerations aside, a variety of measures of costs have been developed. One measure if the sum on net sales of permits (if a cap-and-trade policy architecture is employed), plus the integral of the marginal abatement cost schedule, which is constructed by mapping the cost of each tonne mitigated and the level of emissions mitigation. Another is loss of GDP. Another approach is to measure the change in the consumption component of GDP. Yet another is the change in welfare after net sale of permits.

However, even with all of these metrics, costs are meaningless without context. They are inherently relative. They depend importantly on such features of the scenario as participation by countries of the world, the terms of the emissions limitation regime, assumed efficiencies of markets, and technology availability—for energy technologies, non-CO_2 gas technologies, and related technologies, e.g., crop productivity that strongly influences the availability and cost of producing commercial biomass energy. In almost every instance, the three modeling teams have tended to employ idealized representations of the world, i.e., conditions that it would be impossible for the real world to replicate. This does not necessarily make the costs reported here meaningless; instead, these costs represent lowest potential cost estimates consistent with the assumed technology availabilities and the scales of economic activities. Of course, if society were to produce and deploy more cost-effective technology options than those assumed here, these costs could be lower. On the other hand, if society does not deliver the cost and performance for the technologies assumed in these scenarios, costs could be higher.

While real-world costs could be expected to be higher (given technologies assumed in these scenarios), there is no limit to how much higher these costs could climb. Richels et al. (1996) showed that for a simple policy regime, eliminating international "where" and "when" flexibility, while assuming perfect "where" flexibility within countries, could potentially raise costs by an order of magnitude compared to a policy that employed "where" and "when" flexibility in all mitigation activities. Richels and Edmonds (1995) showed that stabilizing CO_2 emissions could be twice as expensive as stabilizing CO_2 concentrations and leave society with higher CO_2 concentrations.

With that prologue, Figure 4.26 reports the change of Gross World Product during the twenty-first century in the year in which they occur measured at market exchange rates. This information is also displayed in Table 4.8. The choice of market exchange rates is but one possible choice (see the Box in Chapter 3). While change in Gross World Product is not the intellectually most satisfying measure, GDP and its global sibling Gross World Product are common reference points.

Figure 4.26. Global GDP Impacts of Stabilization across Stabilization Levels

Table 4.8. Percentage Change in Gross World Product in Stabilization Scenarios

For each model, Gross World Product is lower in stabilization scenarios than in the reference scenario. That is, there is always a Gross World Product cost to stabilization. Furthermore, the more stringent the constraint is, the greater the decline in GDP. For any stabilization case, however, the change in Gross World Product is greatest in the IGSM scenarios than in MERGE scenarios, which in turn is higher than in the MiniCAM scenarios. However, the MERGE scenario tends to be somewhat closer to the corresponding MiniCAM scenario than to the IGSM scenario. There is roughly an order of magnitude difference between the lowest-cost estimate and highest-cost estimate in any period. This variation was also seen in the price of carbon (Table 4.6) although the percentage of Gross World Product decline is generally not proportional to carbon prices. The wide variation in estimates from these models should serve as a warning to those wanting to use precise figures on cost.

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Table 4.1. Long-Term Radiative Forcing Limits by Stabilization Level and Corresponding Approximate CO_2 Concentration Levels

Stabilization Level	Long-Term Radiative Forcing Limit (Wm^{-2} relative to pre-industrial)	Approximate 2100 CO_2 Limit (ppmv)
Level 4	6.7	750
Level 3	5.8	650
Level 2	4.7	550
Level 1	3.4	450

Table 4.2. Radiative Forcing in the Year 2100 across Scenarios

		Radiative Forcing in 2100 (Wm^{-2} relative to pre-industrial)		
Stabilization Level	Long-Term Radiative Forcing Limit (Wm^{-2} relative to pre-industrial)	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Ref	No Constraint	8.6	6.7	6.5
Level 4	6.7	6.1	6.1	6.0
Level 3	5.8	5.4	5.5	5.5
Level 2	4.7	4.4	4.6	4.5
Level 1	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.4

Table 4.3. CO_2 Concentrations in the Year 2100 across Scenarios (ppmv)

		CO_2 Concentration in 2100 (ppmv)		
Level	Approximate Long-term CO_2 Concentration Limit (ppmv)	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Ref	--	875	717	762
Level 4	750	677	649	725
Level 3	650	614	590	673
Level 2	550	526	520	565
Level 1	450	451	426	463

Table 4.4. Global Annual CO_2 Capture and Storage in 2030, 2050, and 2100 for Four Stabilization Levels

		Annual Global Carbon Capture and Storage (PgC/y)		
Stabilization Level	Year	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Level 4	2030	0.01	0.03	0.09
	2050	0.44	0.22	0.18
	2100	4.12	2.48	0.95
Level 3	2030	0.05	0.03	0.10
	2050	0.83	0.38	0.22
	2100	4.52	3.66	3.03
Level 2	2030	0.12	0.10	0.13
	2050	1.96	1.37	0.62
	2100	4.97	4.40	6.47
Level 1	2030	0.37	0.18	0.72
	2050	2.76	1.60	3.12
	2100	4.44	3.38	7.77

Table 4.5. Global Cumulative CO_2 Capture and Storage in 2050 and 2100 for Four Stabilization Levels

		Cumulative Global Carbon Capture and Storage (PgC)		
Stabilization Level	Year	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Level 4	2050	4	3	4
	2100	92	50	27
Level 3	2050	8	5	4
	2100	153	118	58
Level 2	2050	19	13	8
	2100	208	199	179
Level 1	2050	37	17	42
	2100	231	160	328

Table 4.6. Carbon Prices in 2020, 2030, 2050, and 2100, Stabilization Scenarios

	2020 ($/tonne C)			2030 ($/tonne C)		
Stabilization Level	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Level 4	$18	$1	$1	$26	$2	$2
Level 3	$30	$3	$4	$44	$5	$7
Level 2	$75	$8	$17	$112	$13	$29
Level 1	$259	$112	$94	$384	$196	$166

	2050 ($/tonne C)			2100 ($/tonne C)		
Stabilization Level	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM	IGSM	MERGE	MiniCAM
Level 4	$58	$7	$6	$415	$72	$72
Level 3	$97	$14	$18	$686	$160	$217
Level 2	$245	$37	$99	$1,743	$440	$330
Level 1	$842	$589	$435	$6,053	$1,000	$676

Table 4.7. Relationship Between a $100/ton Carbon Tax and Energy Prices

Fuel	**Base Cost ($1990)**	**Added Cost ($)**	**Added Cost (%)**
Crude Oil ($/bbl)	$16.0	$12.2	76%
Gasoline ($/gal)	$0.98	$0.26	27%
Heating Oil ($/gal)	$0.89	$0.29	33%
Wellhead Natural Gas ($/tcf)	$1.81	$1.49	82%
Residential Natural Gas ($/tcf)	$5.87	$1.50	26%
Mine-mouth Coal ($/short ton)	$23.0	$55.3	240%
Utility Coal ($/short ton)	$33.5	$55.3	165%
Electricity (c/kWh)	6.5	1.76	27%

Source: Bradley et al. (1991).

Table 4.8. Percentage Change in Gross World Product in Stabilization Scenarios

Level 1

	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
IGSM	2.1%	4.1%	6.7%	10.1%	16.1%
MERGE	0.7%	1.4%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%
MiniCAM	0.2%	0.7%	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%

Level 2

	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
IGSM	0.5%	1.2%	2.3%	3.9%	6.8%
MERGE	0.0%	0.1%	0.4%	0.6%	0.8%
MiniCAM	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%

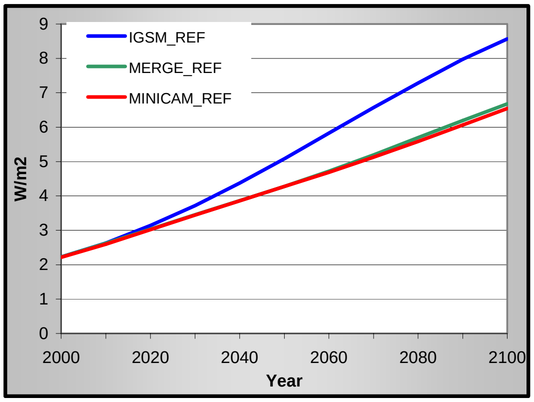
Level 3

	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
IGSM	0.2%	0.4%	0.9%	1.8%	3.1%
MERGE	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%
MiniCAM	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%

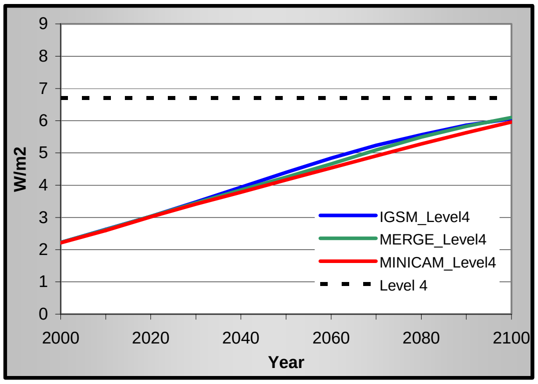
Level 4

	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100
IGSM	0.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.9%	1.7%
MERGE	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
MiniCAM	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

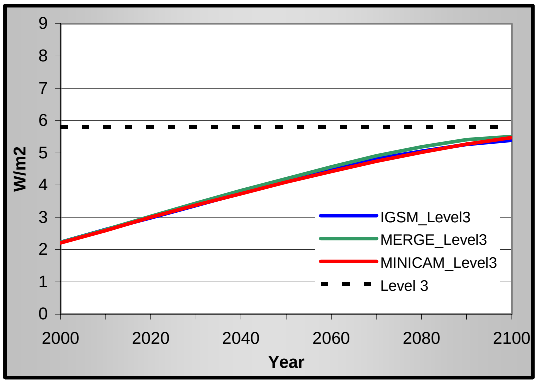
Figure 4.1. Total Radiative Forcing by Year across Scenarios (W/m^2). Results for radiative forcing (W/m^2; increase from preindustrial) for the reference and four stabilization levels show differences among the models for the reference case but essentially identical results for all three models in each of the stabilization scenarios reflecting their design. Models remain below the Levels 3 and 4 targets in 2100, allowing for a gradual approach to the target levels in the following century.



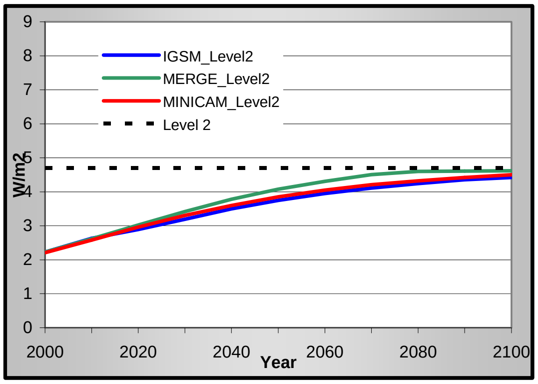
Reference Scenarios



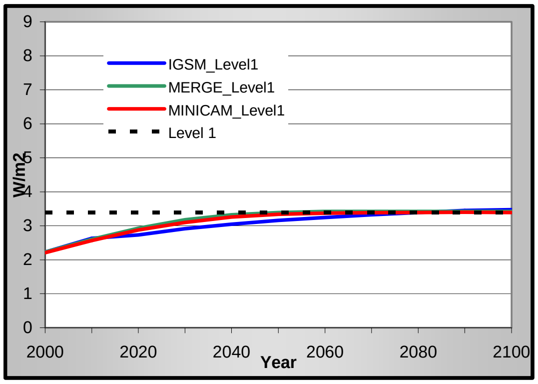
Level 4 Scenarios



Level 3 Scenarios



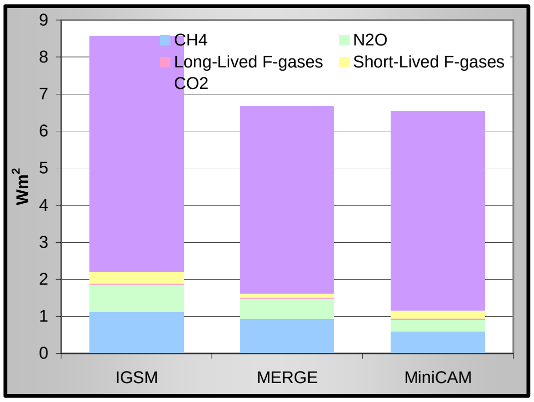
Level 2 Scenarios



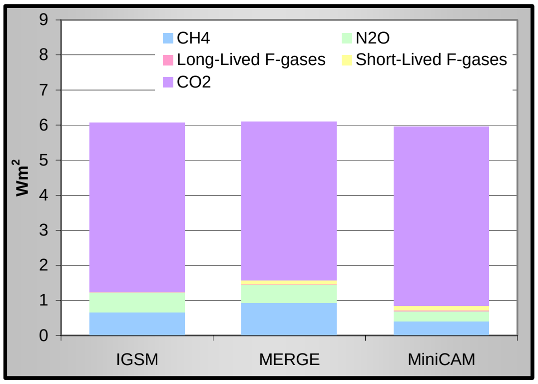
Level 1 Scenarios

Figure 4.2. Total Radiative Forcing by Gas in 2100 across Scenarios (W/m^2 relative to preindustrial). Results for radiative forcing in the year 2100 by GHG show CO_2 to be the main contributor. Contributions from non-CO_2 gases are relatively higher in the reference in the IGSM results, and relatively lower for the MiniCAM results, with MERGE intermediate.

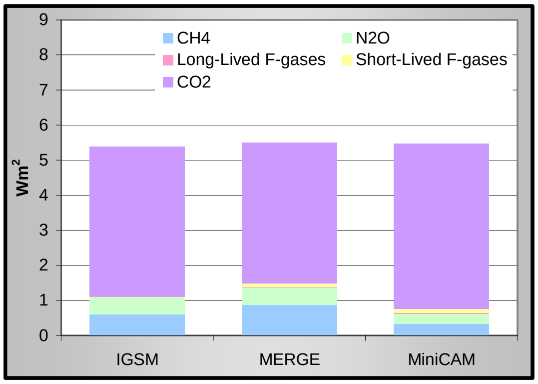
Reference Scenarios



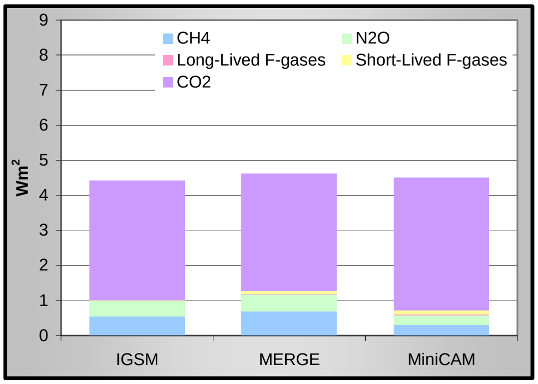
Level 4 Scenarios



Level 3 Scenarios



Level 2 Scenarios



Level 1 Scenarios

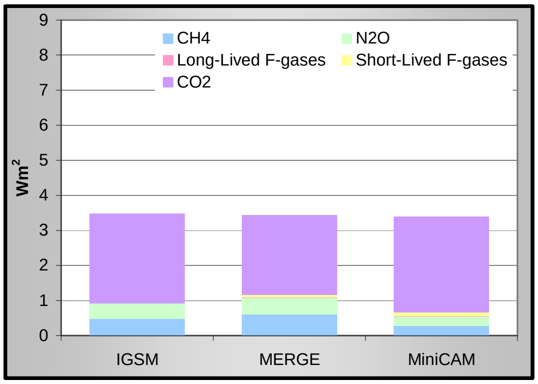
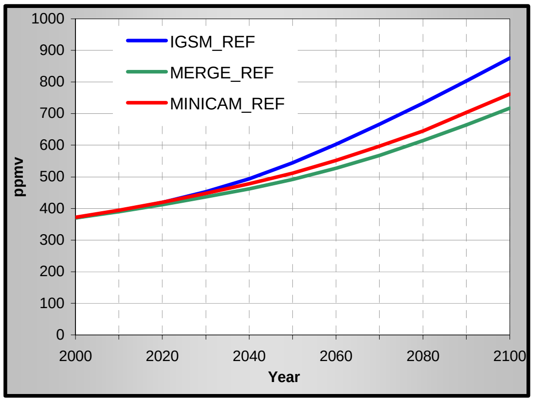
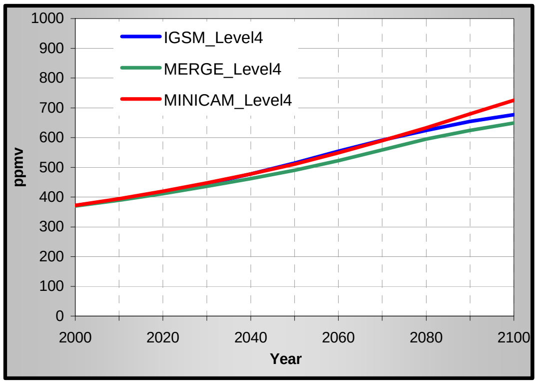


Figure 4.3. CO_2 Concentrations across Scenarios (ppmv). Atmospheric concentrations of CO_2 range from about 715 ppmv to 875 ppmv in 2100 across the models, with no sign of slowing in the reference. Radiative forcing targets were chosen so that CO_2 concentration levels would be approximately 450, 550, 650, and 750 ppmv at stabilization for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively. Some differences among models occur because of the relative contribution of other GHGs to meeting the radiative forcing targets, and because for Levels 3 and 4 the models simulated a gradual approach to the stabilization level that will occur in the following century.

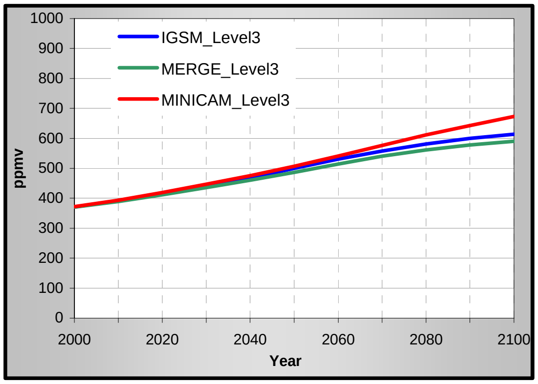
Reference Scenarios



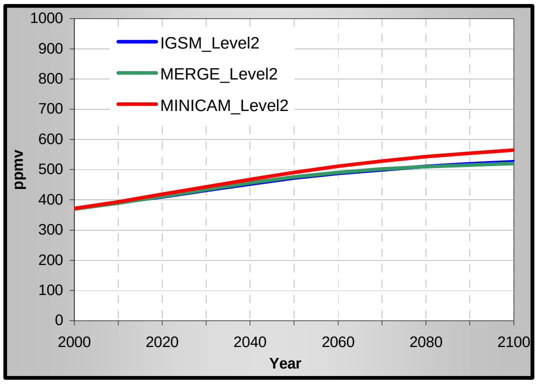
Level 4 Scenarios



Level 3 Scenarios



Level 2 Scenarios



Level 1 Scenarios

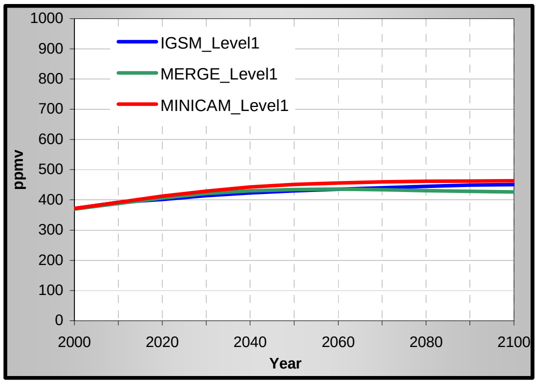
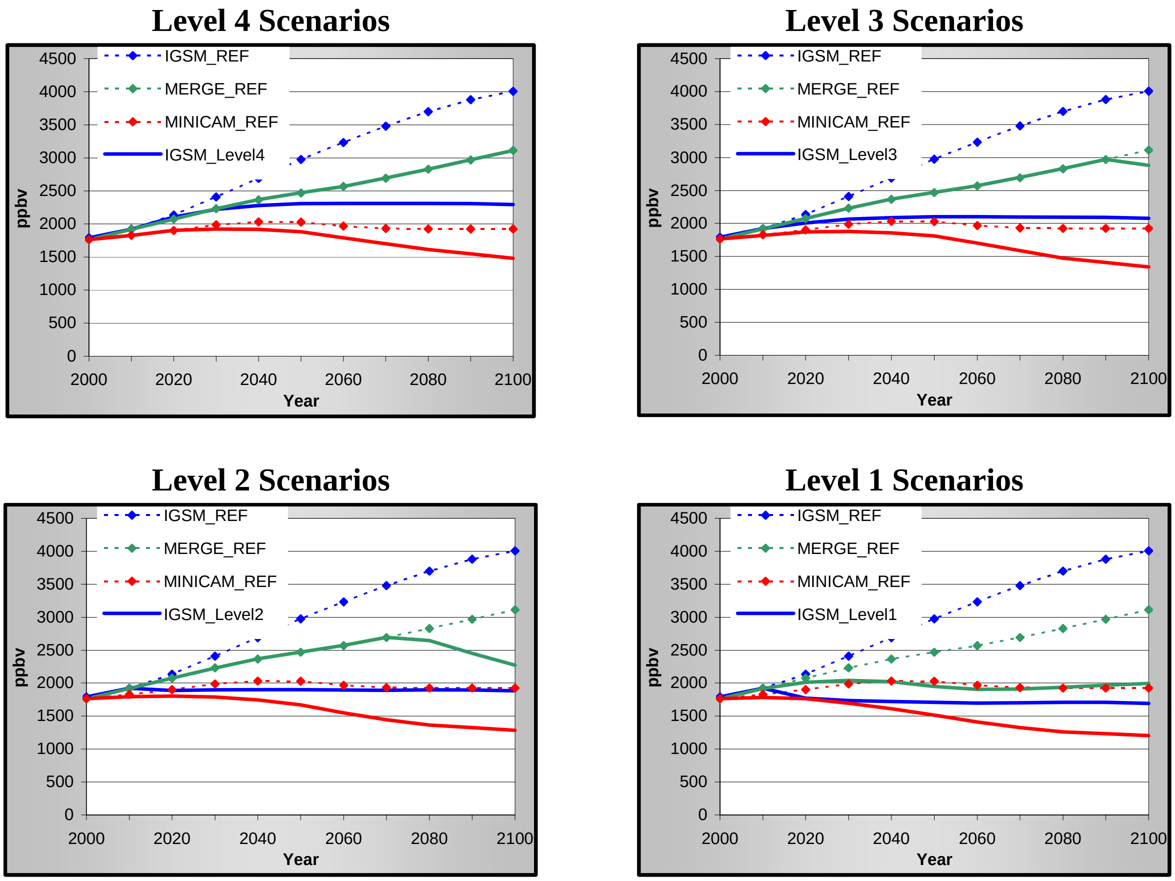


Figure 4.4. CH$_4$ Concentrations across Scenarios (ppbv). There are larger differences among the models for CH$_4$ concentrations than for CO$_2$. These differences stem from different reference projections, abatement potentials, and methods of inter-gas comparisons that determined abatement levels. MiniCAM used 100-year GWPs. MERGE endogenously valued abatement as it contributed to the stabilization target, leading to relatively little value for controlling CH$_4$ until the target was approached due to the gas's relatively short lifetime. IGSM stabilized CH$_4$ concentrations independently, requiring constant emissions.



Level 4 Scenarios

Level 3 Scenarios

Level 2 Scenarios

Level 1 Scenarios

Figure 4.5. Ocean CO_2 Emissions across Scenarios (GtC/y). Oceans have taken up approximately one-half of anthropogenic emissions of CO_2 since pre-industrial times. Thus, ocean behavior in the future is an important determinant of atmospheric concentrations. The three-dimensional ocean used for the IGSM simulations shows the least ocean carbon uptake and considerable slowing of carbon uptake even in the reference when carbon concentrations are continuing to rise. MERGE shows the largest uptake in the reference, and greatest reduction from reference in the stabilization scenarios. MiniCAM results are intermediate.

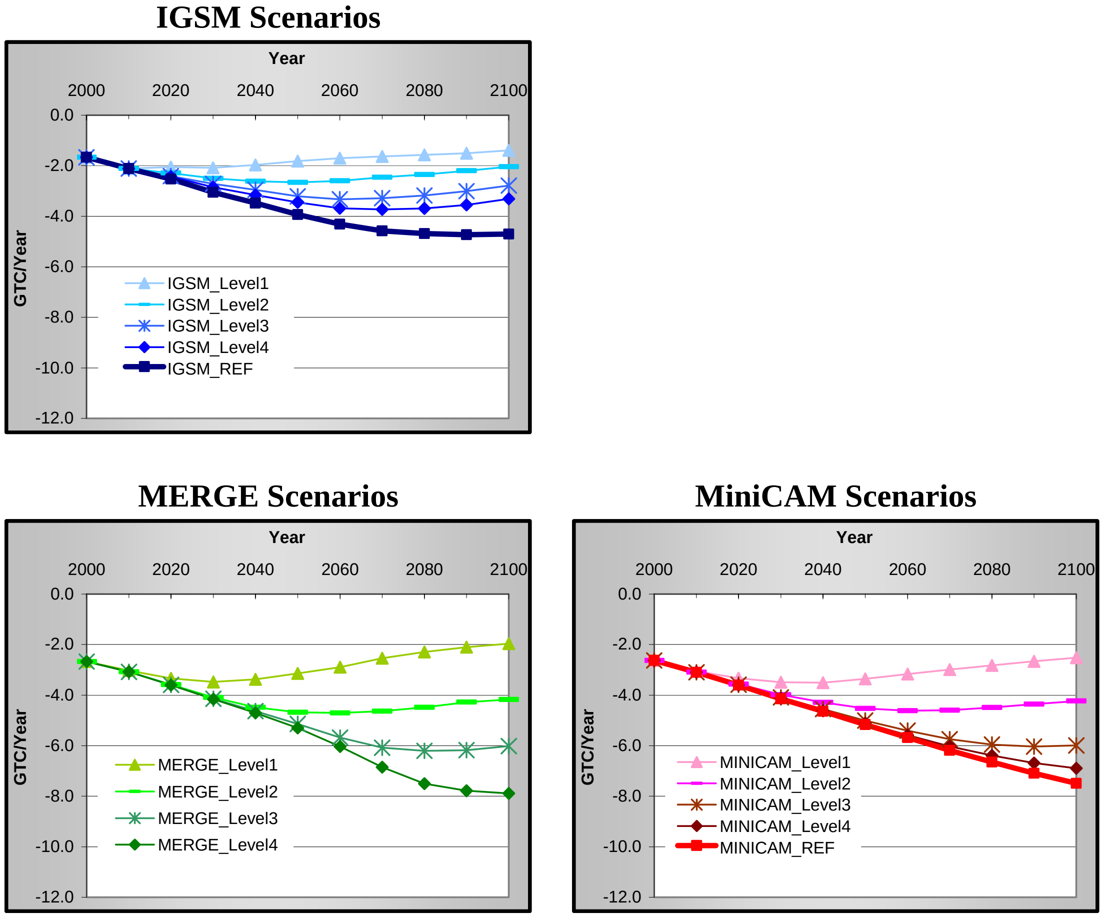
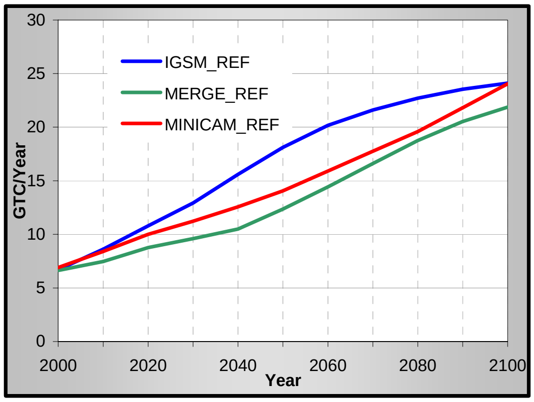
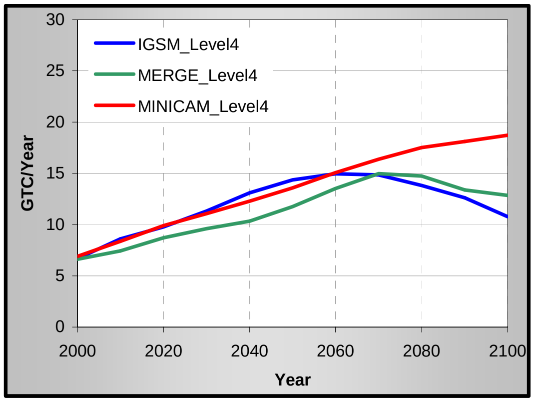


Figure 4.6. Fossil Fuel and Industrial CO_2 Emissions across Scenarios (GtC/y). Oceans have taken up approximately one-half of anthropogenic emissions of CO_2 since pre-industrial times. Thus, ocean behavior in the future is an important determinant of atmospheric concentrations. The three-dimensional ocean used for the IGSM simulations show the least ocean carbon uptake and considerable slowing of carbon uptake even in the reference when carbon concentrations are continuing to rise. MERGE shows the largest uptake in the reference, and greatest reduction from reference in the stabilization scenarios. MiniCAM results are intermediate. [** Should this set of figures be done in the same way as those for methane and N_2O, with the reference case a part of all the stabilization case figures?]

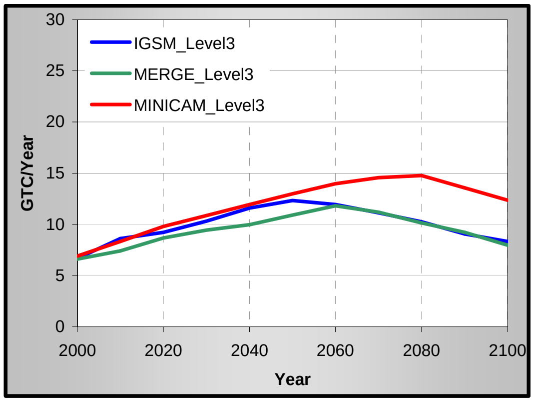
Reference Scenarios



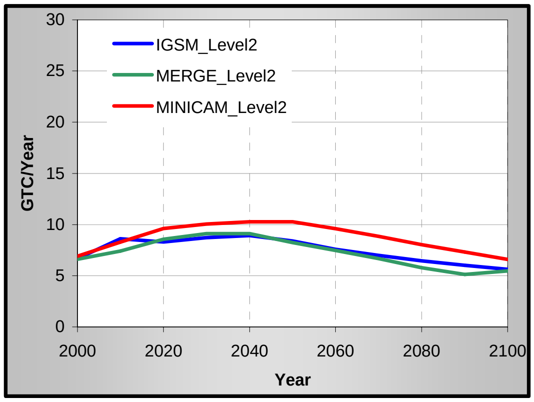
Level 4 Scenarios



Level 3 Scenarios



Level 2 Scenarios



Level 1 Scenarios

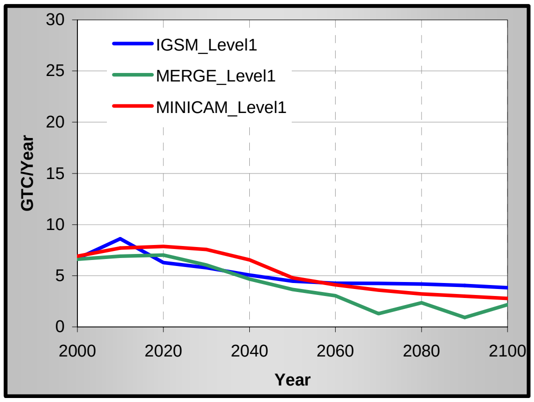
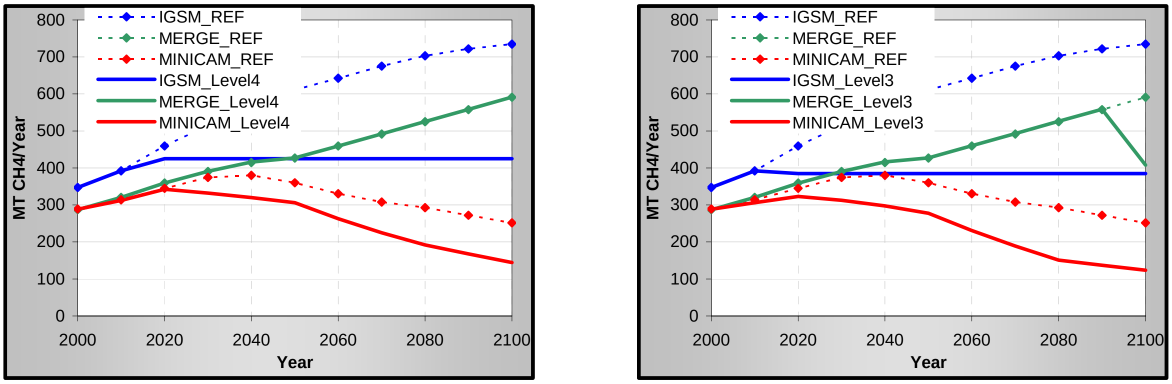


Figure 4.7. CH_4 Emissions across Scenarios (MT CH_4/y). Emissions of anthropogenic CH_4 vary widely among the models, reflective of uncertainty even in the current anthropogenic emissions. With current concentrations and destruction rates relatively well-known, the difference in current levels means that IGSM ascribes relatively more to anthropogenic sources and relatively less to natural sources than do MERGE and MiniCAM. Wide differences in projections for the future reflect differing modeling approaches, outlooks for activity levels that lead to abatement, and assessments of whether emissions will be abated in the absence of climate policy.


Level 4 Scenarios **Level 3 Scenarios**

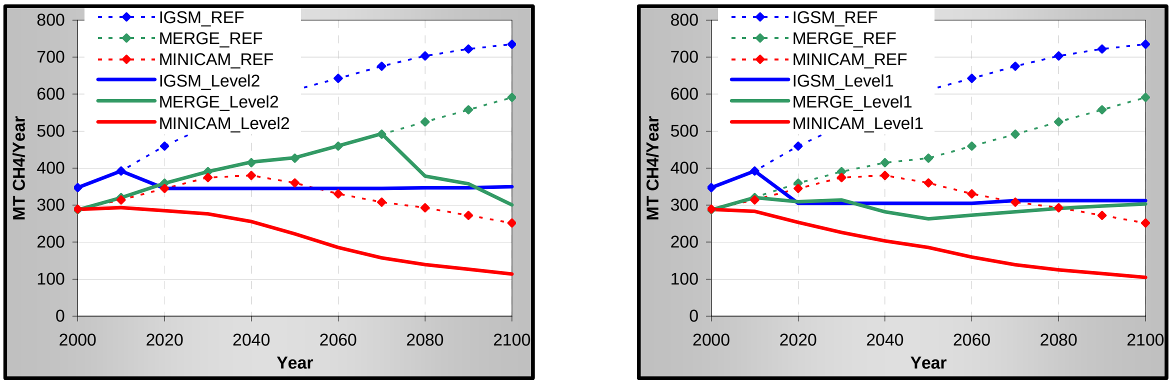
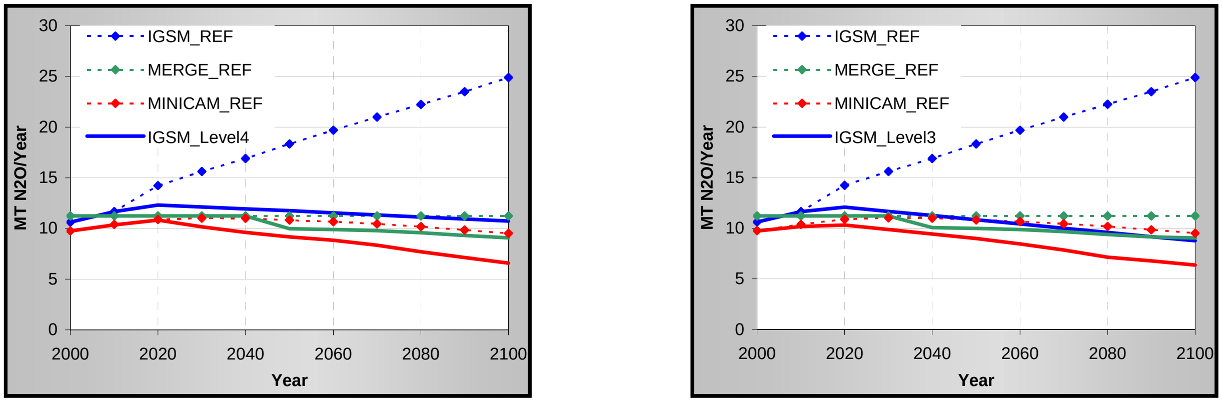

Level 2 Scenarios **Level 1 Scenarios**

Figure 4.8. N_2O Emissions across Scenarios (MT N_2O/y). Anthropogenic emissions of N_2O in stabilization scenarios show similarity among the models despite a large difference in reference emissions projections.

Level 4 Scenarios Level 3 Scenarios



Level 2 Scenarios Level 1 Scenarios

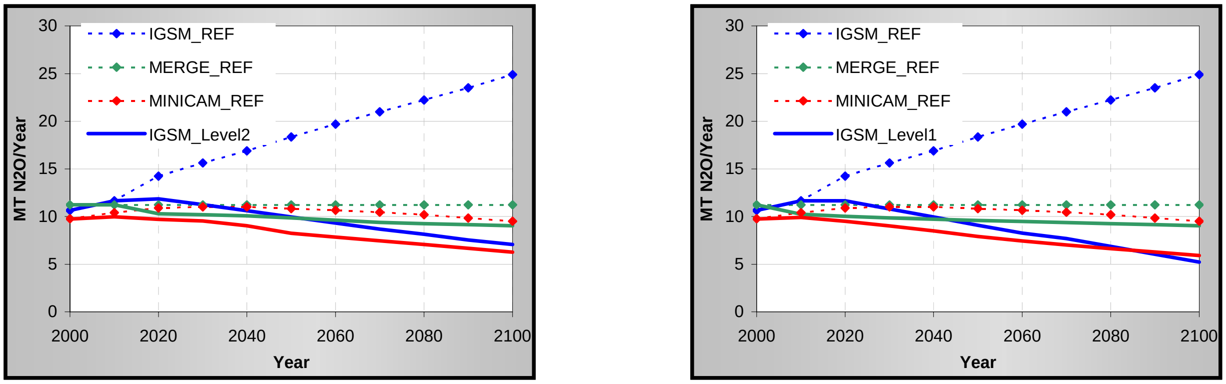
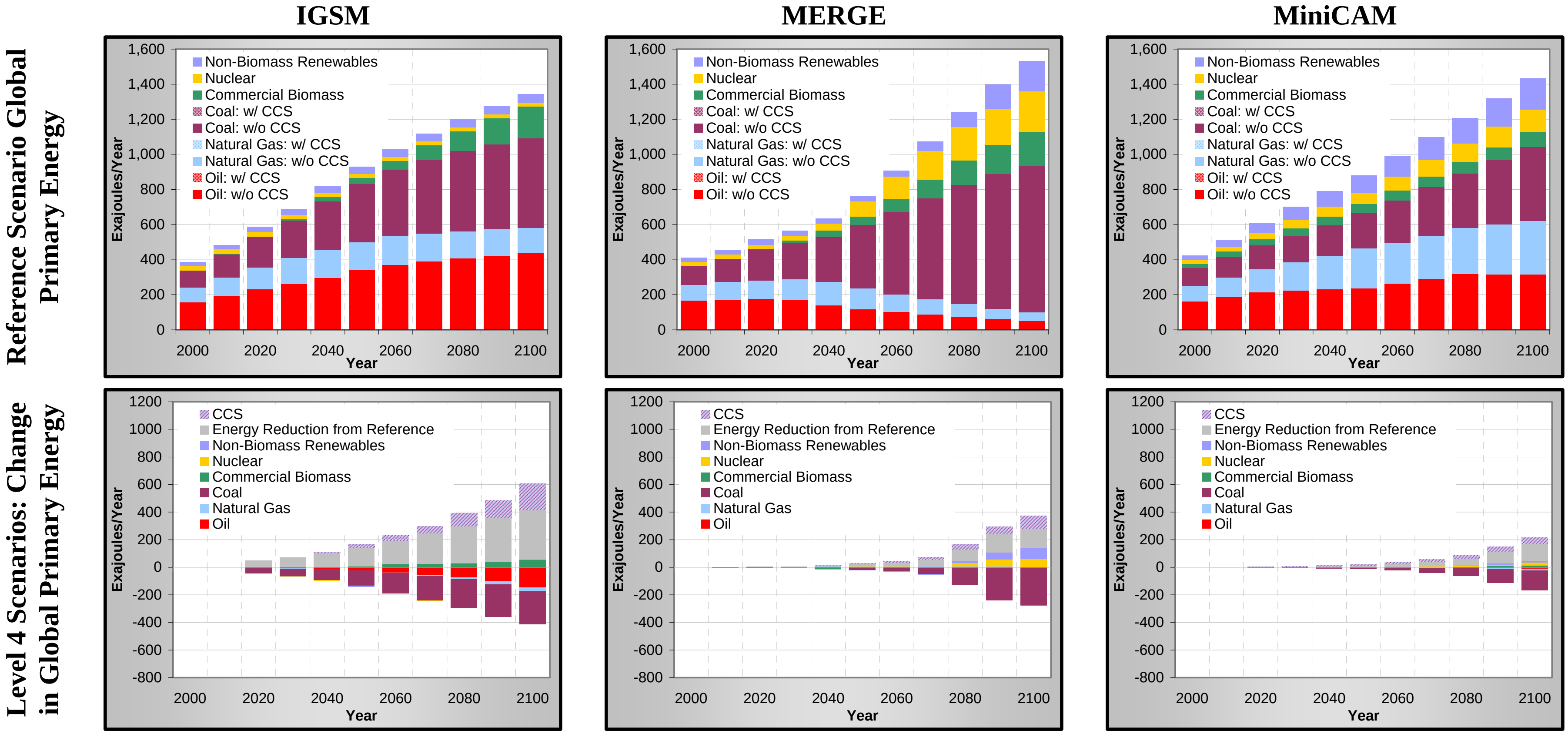


Figure 4.9. Change in Global Primary Energy by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y): Fuel-source changes from the reference to the stabilization scenarios show significant transformation of the energy system for all three models. The transformation can begin later under the Levels 3 and 4 targets, but would need to continue into the following century. The transformation includes reduction in energy use, increased use of carbon-free sources of energy (biomass, other renewables, nuclear), and addition of carbon capture and sequestration. The contribution of each varies among the models, reflecting different assessments of the economic viability, policy assumptions, and resource limits.



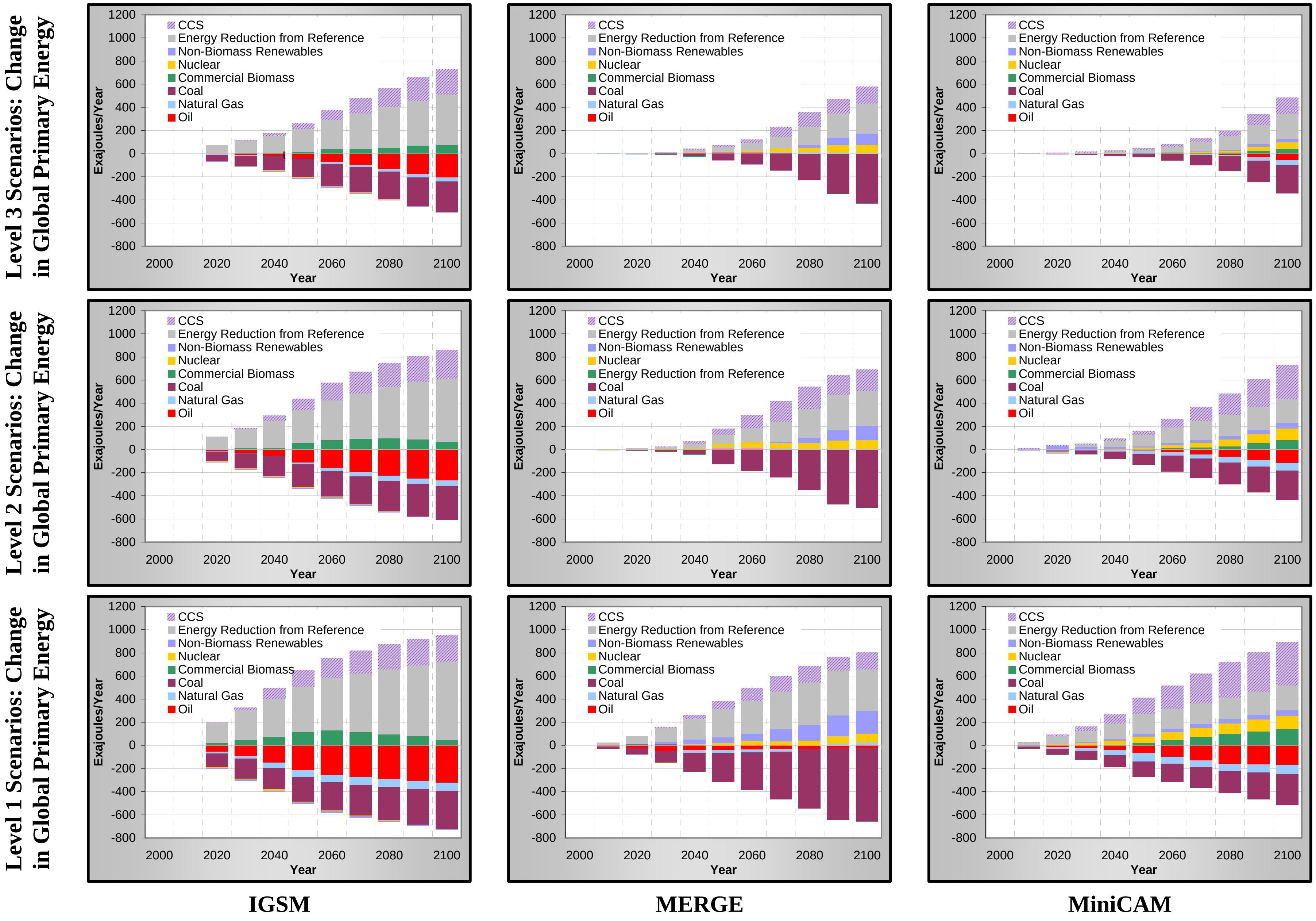
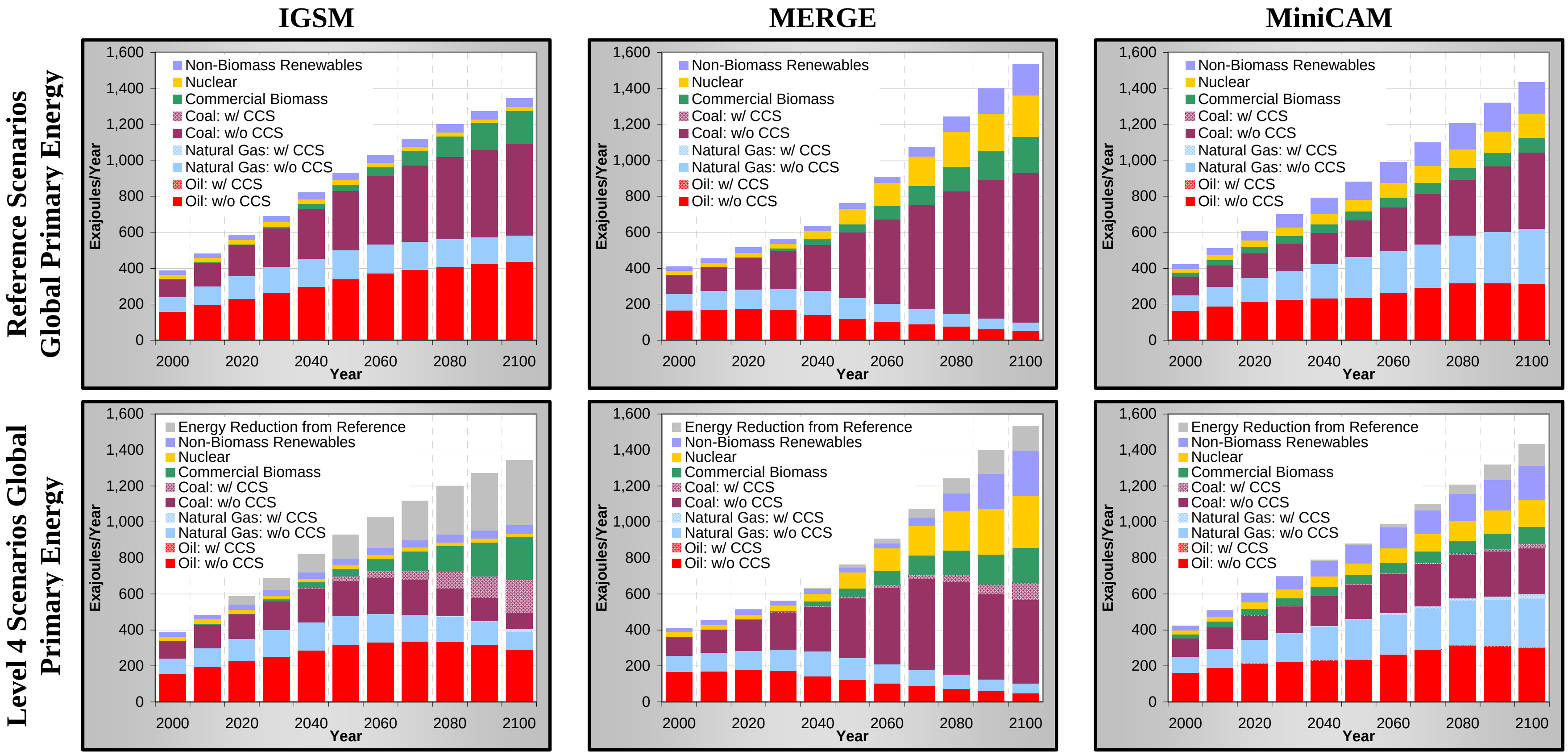

Level 3 Scenarios: Change in Global Primary Energy
Level 2 Scenarios: Change in Global Primary Energy
Level 1 Scenarios: Change in Global Primary Energy
CCS
Energy Reduction from Reference
Non-Biomass Renewables
Nuclear
Commercial Biomass
Coal
Natural Gas
Oil
Exajoules/Year
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
-200
-400
-600
-800
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100
Year
IGSM
MERGE
MiniCAM

Figure 4.10. Global Primary Energy by Fuel across Scenarios (exajoules/y). The transition to stabilization, reflected most fully in the Level 1 scenario, means nearly complete phase-out of fossil fuel use unless carbon capture and sequestration is employed. MiniCAM and MERGE simulations suggest a 35- to 40-fold increase in non-carbon fuels from present levels of production. IGSM simulations indicate more of the carbon reduction is met through demand reductions, with energy use cut by more than one-half from reference in 2100. Levels 2, 3, and 4 require progressively less transformation compared with the reference in the coming century, delaying these changes until the following century (beyond the simulation horizon).



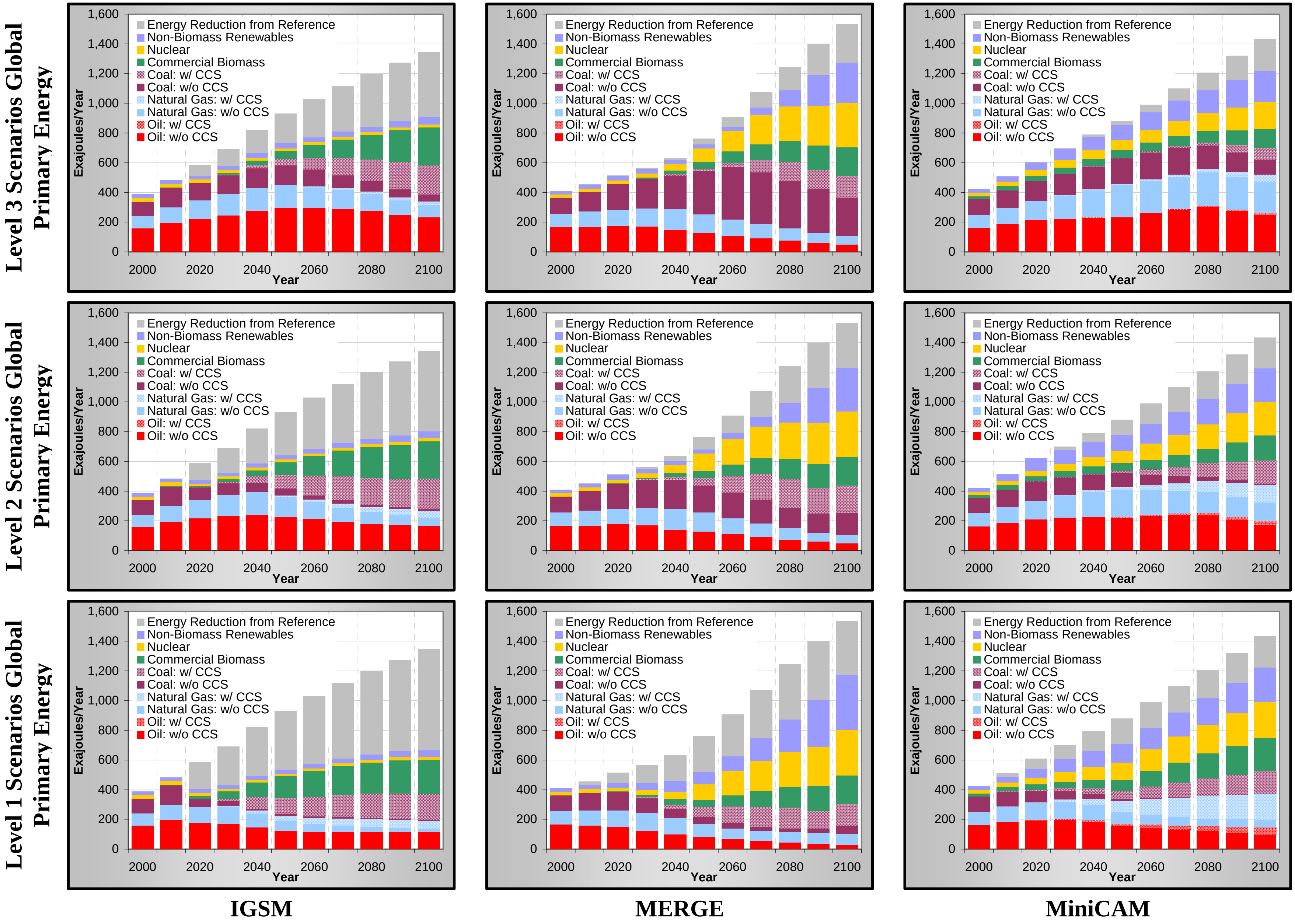


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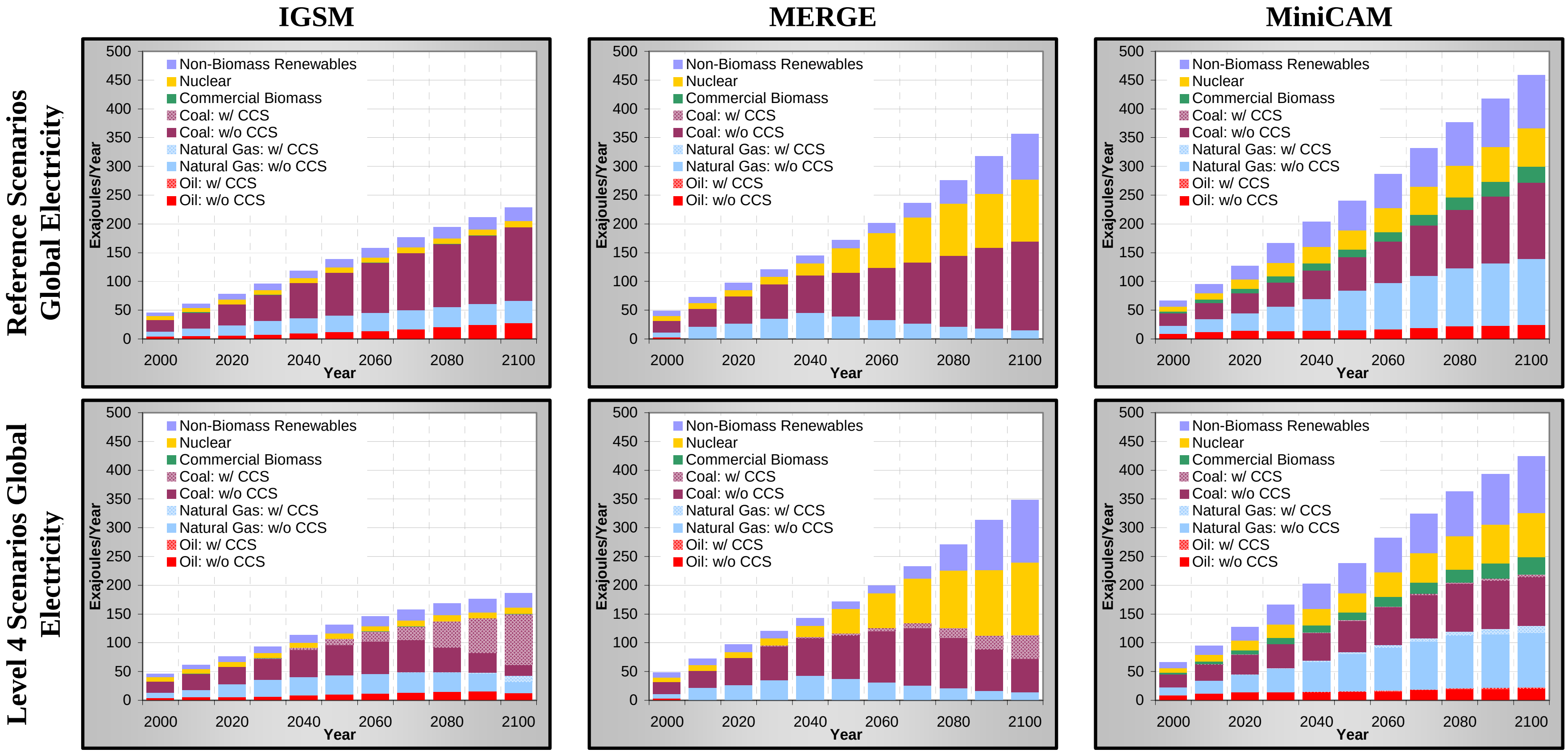
Figure 4.11. Global Electricity by Fuel across Scenarios (exajoules/y). Global electricity sources would need to be transformed to meet stabilization goals. Carbon capture and sequestration are important in all three models; thus, while coal use is reduced, it remains an important electricity fuel. Use of CCS is the main supply response in IGSM, in part because nuclear power was limited due to policy/safety concerns. Nuclear and renewable electricity sources play a larger role in MERGE and MiniCAM simulations.



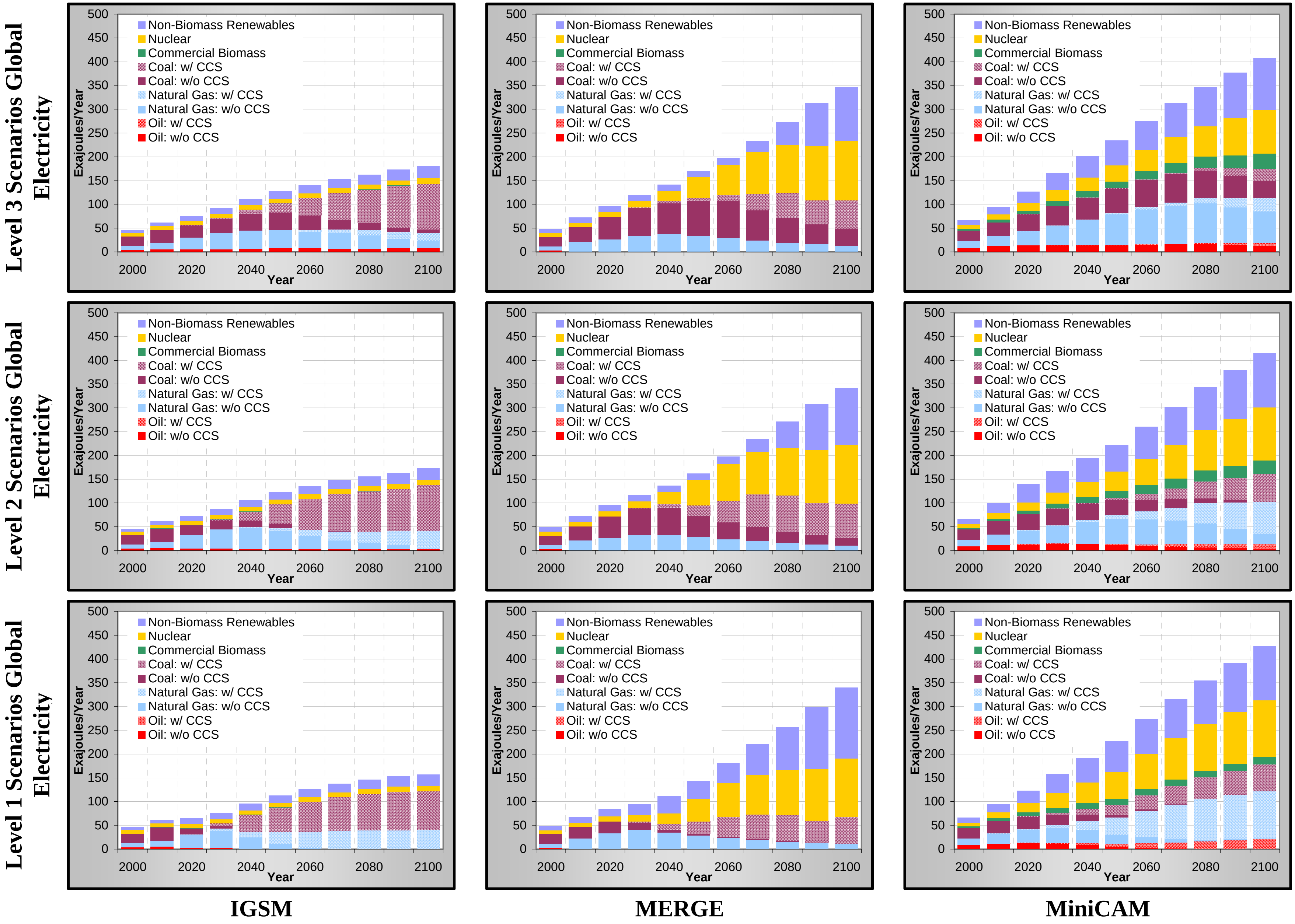


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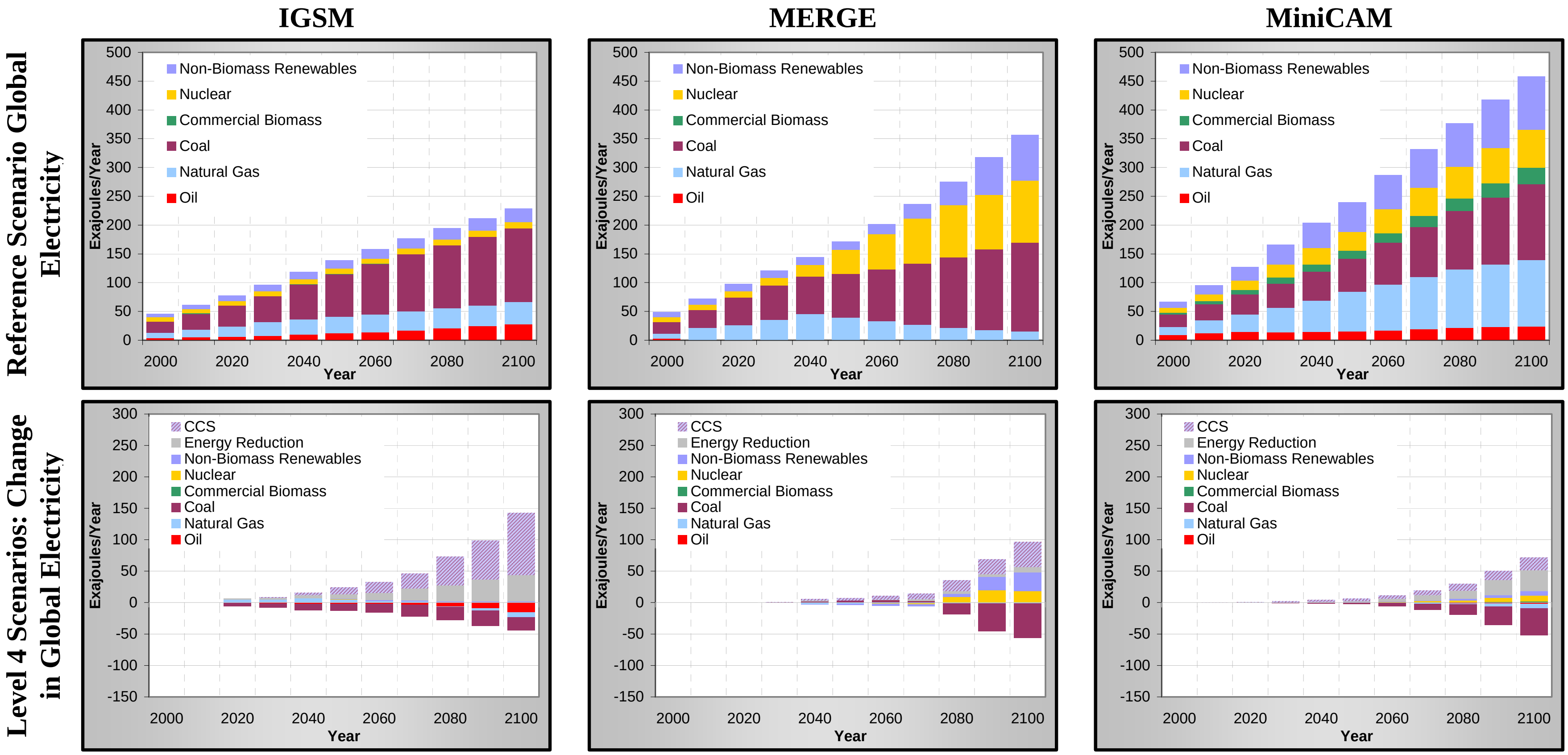
Figure 4.12. Changes in Global Electricity by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). There are various electricity technology options that could be competitive in the future, and different assessments of their relative economic viability, reliability, and resource availability lead to considerably different projections for the global electricity sector in reference and stabilization scenarios across the models. IGSM simulations project relatively little change in the electricity sector in the reference, with continued reliance on coal. MERGE and MiniCAM project large transformations from current in the reference. All 3 forecast large changes from reference to meet the stabilization targets.



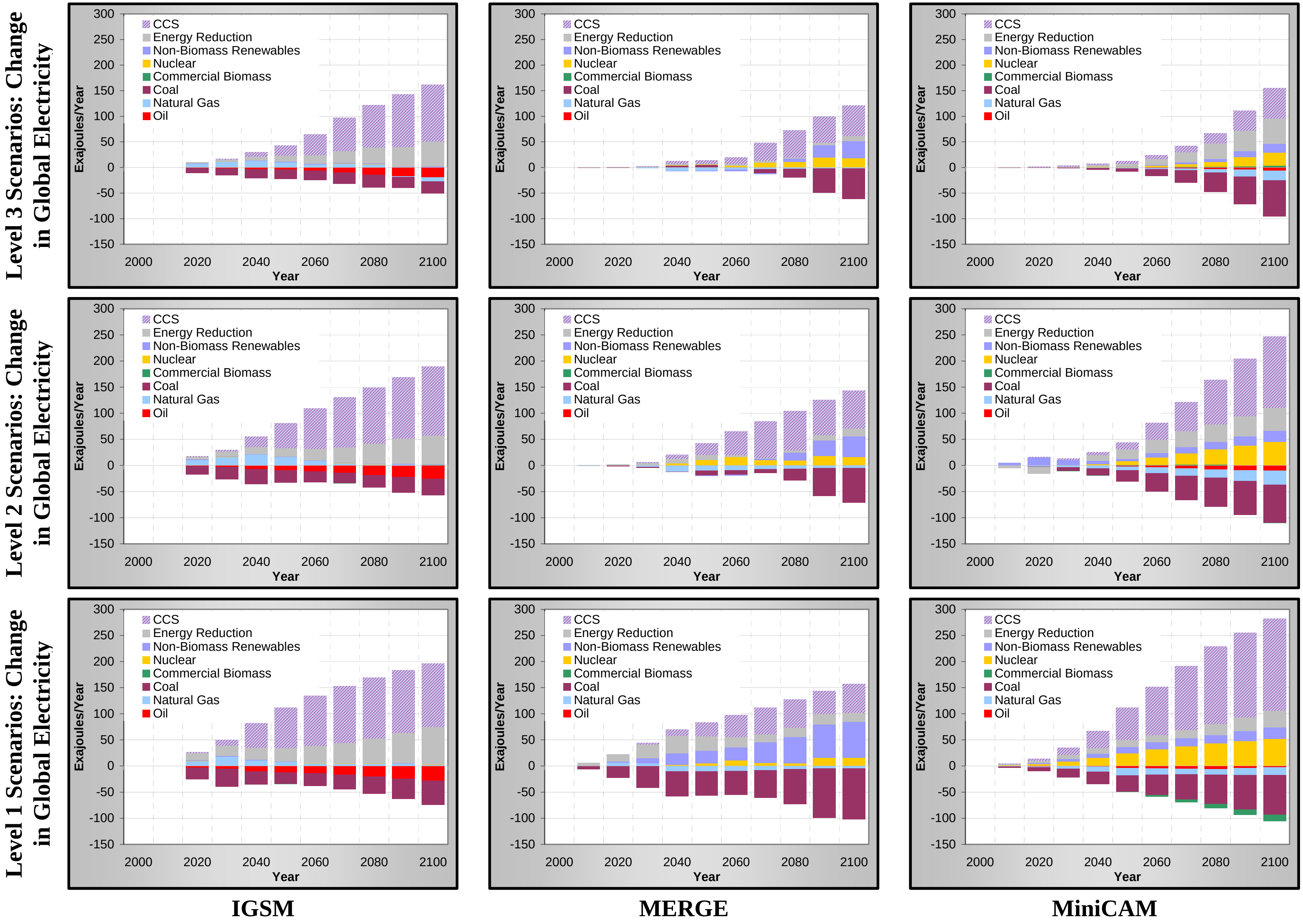
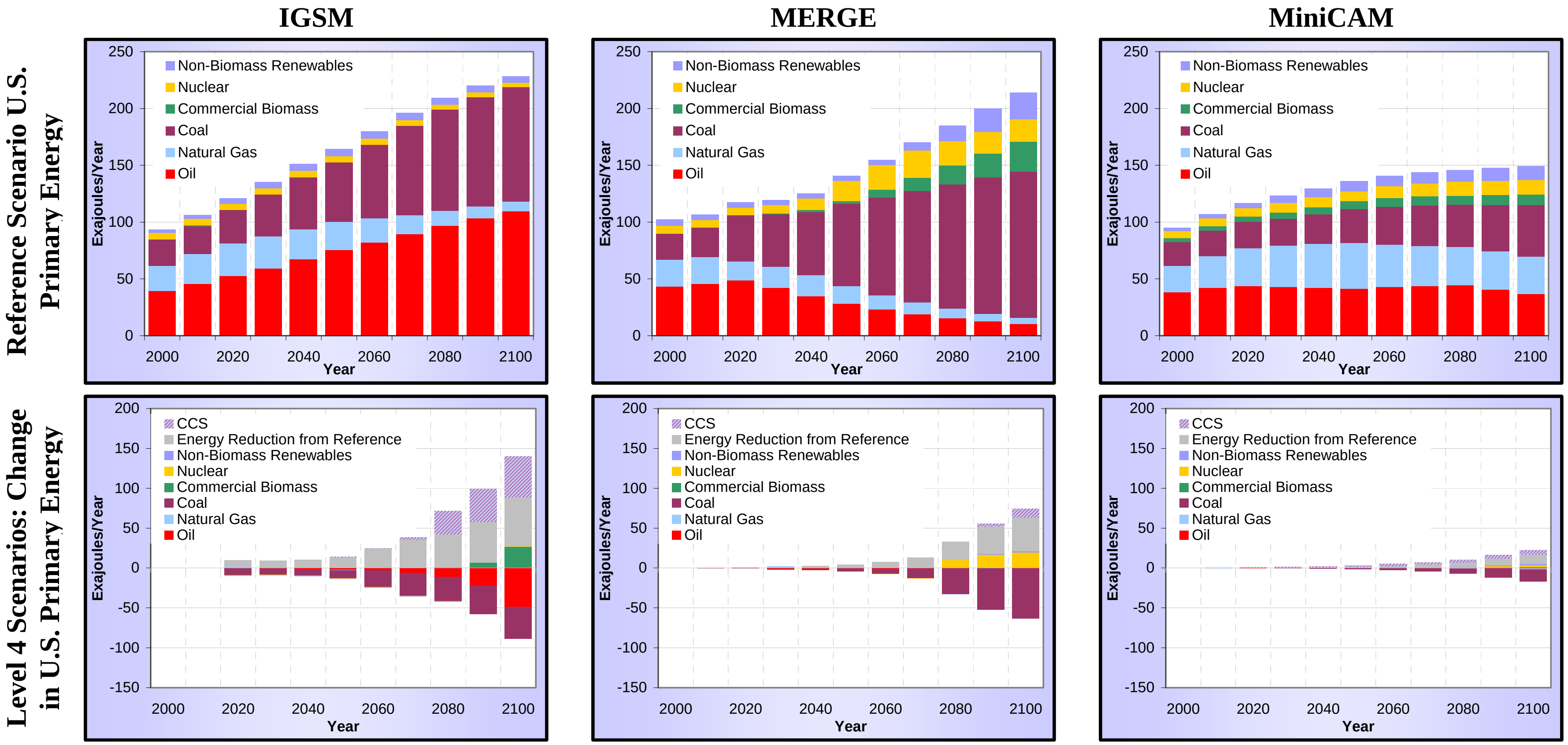

Level 3 Scenarios: Change in Global Electricity
Level 2 Scenarios: Change in Global Electricity
Level 1 Scenarios: Change in Global Electricity
▨ CCS
■ Energy Reduction
■ Non-Biomass Renewables
■ Nuclear
■ Commercial Biomass
■ Coal
■ Natural Gas
■ Oil
Exajoules/Year
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
-50
-100
-150
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100
Year
IGSM
MERGE
MiniCAM

Figure 4.13. Changes in U.S. Primary Energy by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). Projections for the United States energy system under reference and the changes needed under the stabilization scenarios involve transformations similar to those reported for the global system (Figure 4.10). One difference not obvious from these primary fuel data is the transformation from conventional oil and gas to synthetic fuel production derived from shale oil or coal. IGSM projects heavy use of shale oil in the reference with some coal gasification, whereas MERGE simulates synthetic liquid and gaseous fuels derived from coal.



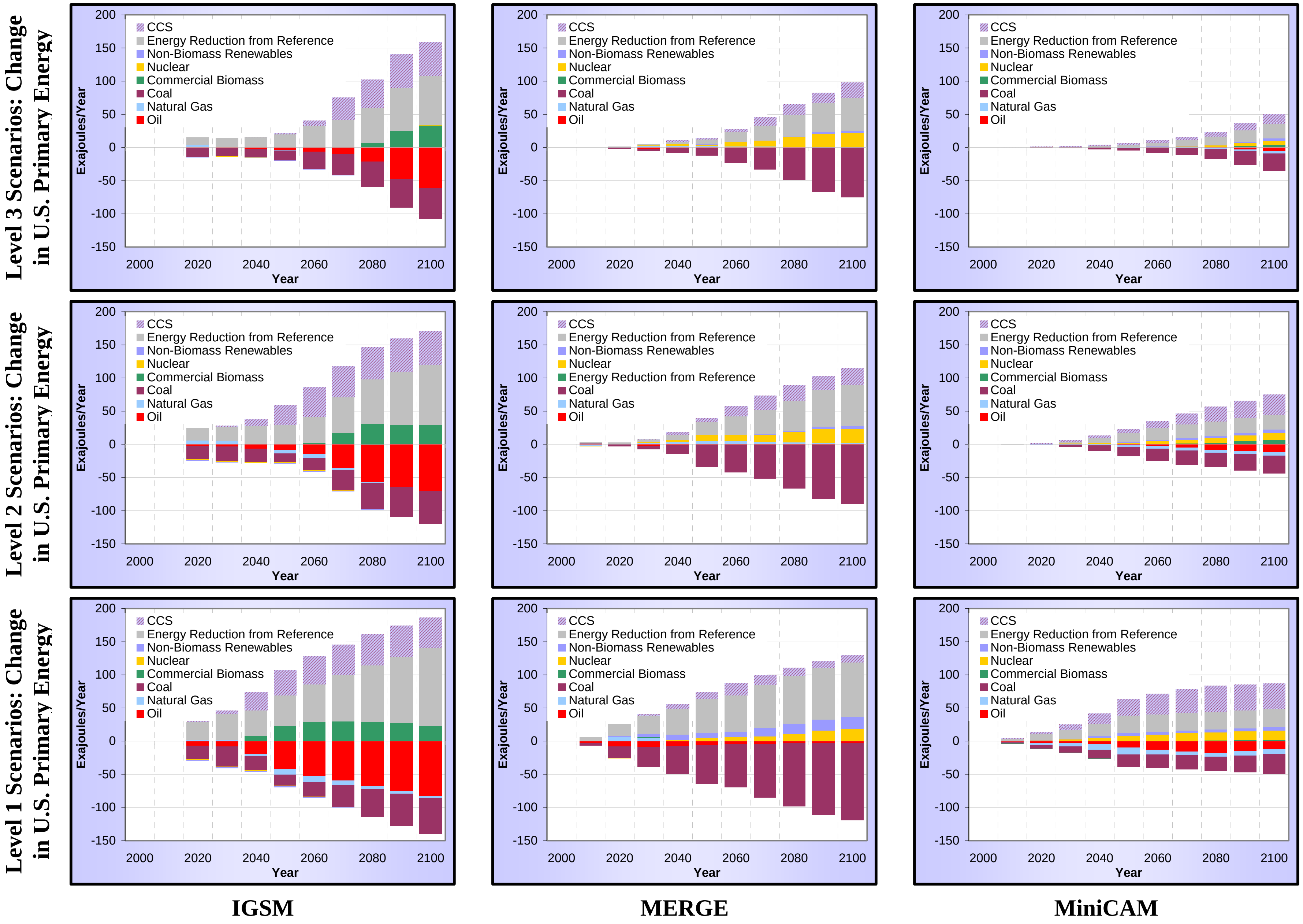
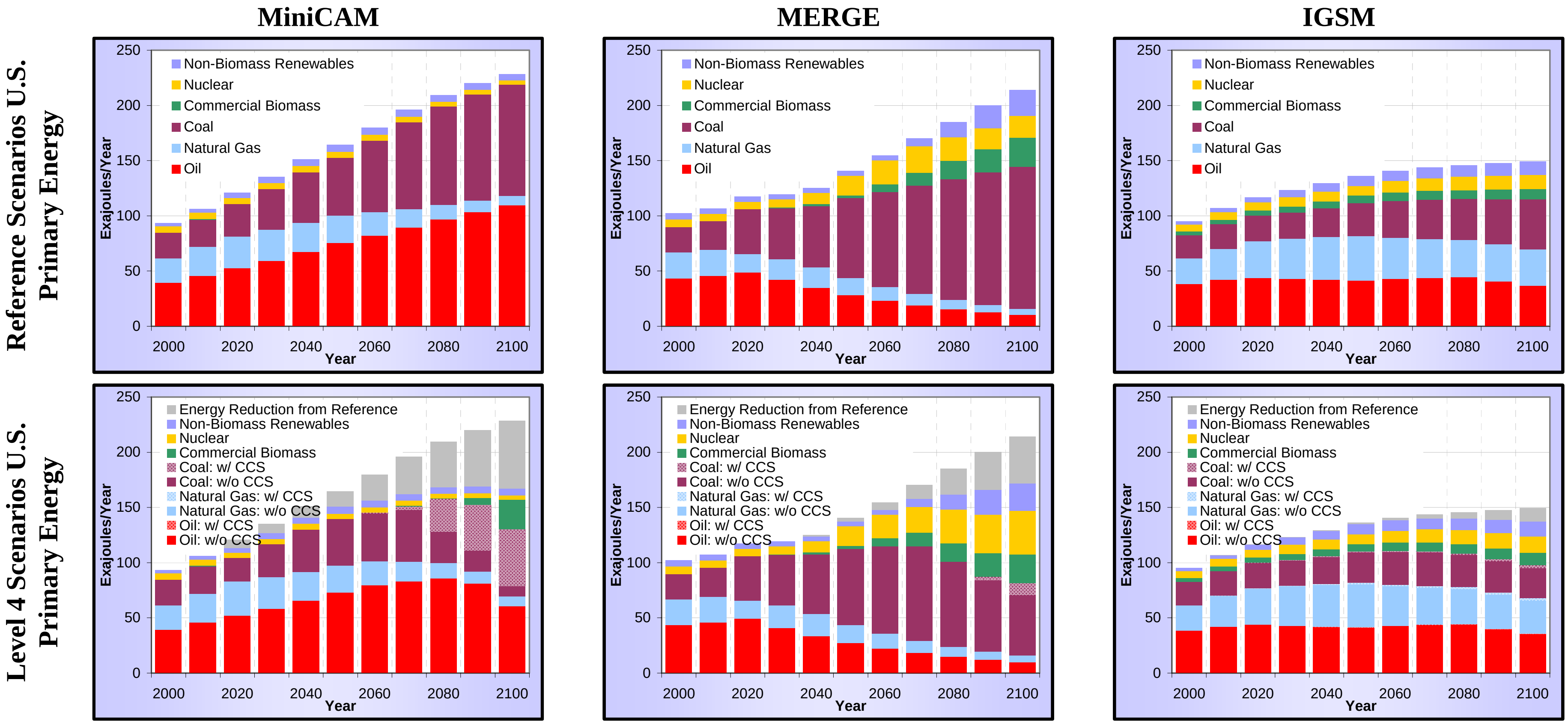

Level 3 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Primary Energy
Level 2 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Primary Energy
Level 1 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Primary Energy
IGSM
MERGE
MiniCAM
▨ CCS
■ Energy Reduction from Reference
■ Non-Biomass Renewables
■ Nuclear
■ Commercial Biomass
■ Coal
■ Natural Gas
■ Oil
■ Energy Reduction from Reference
Exajoules/Year
200
150
100
50
0
-50
-100
-150
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100
Year

Figure 4.14. U.S. Primary Energy by Fuel across Scenarios (exajoules/y). Simulated United States primary energy use under the four stabilization levels shows considerable difference among the three models. MiniCAM shows the greatest diversity of supply technologies, whereas IGSM tends to project dominant "winners" for different energy carriers. Which technologies would win likely depends on specific assumptions about cost and availability of individual technologies–assumptions that are highly uncertain. In terms of R&D, then, a broad investment portfolio, including many different technologies, is likely needed.



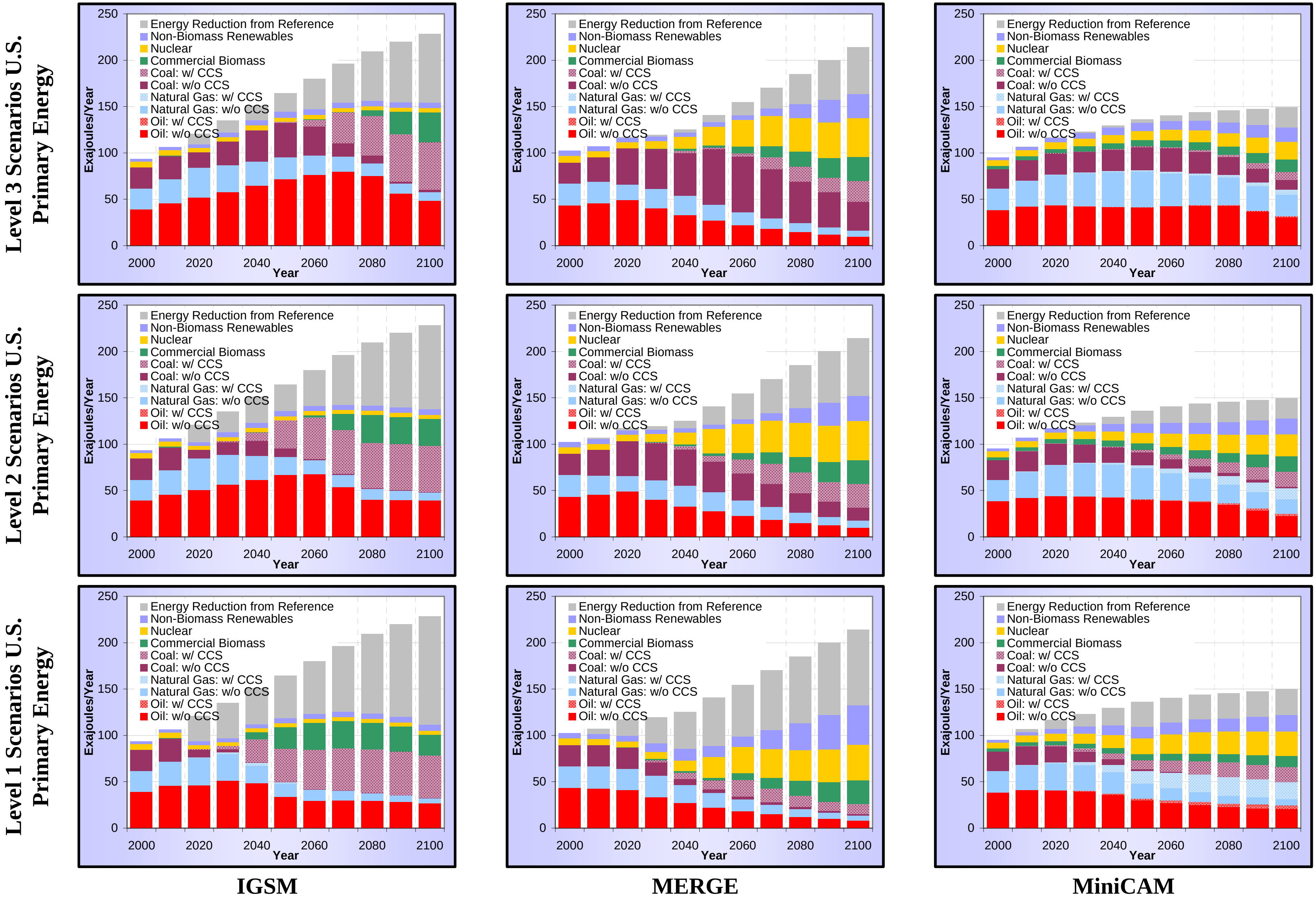
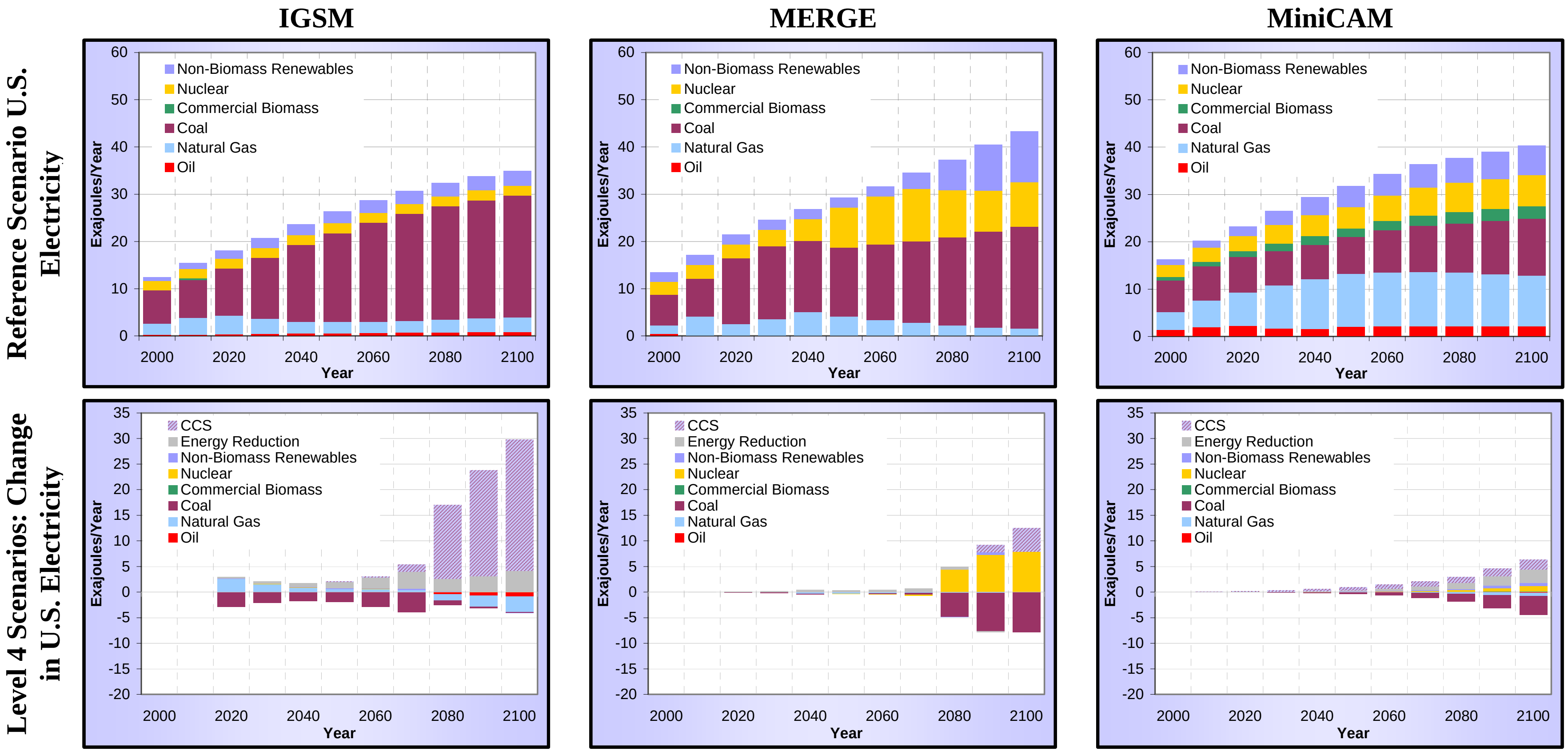

Level 3 Scenarios U.S. Primary Energy
Level 2 Scenarios U.S. Primary Energy
Level 1 Scenarios U.S. Primary Energy
IGSM
MERGE
MiniCAM
Energy Reduction from Reference
Non-Biomass Renewables
Nuclear
Commercial Biomass
Coal: w/ CCS
Coal: w/o CCS
Natural Gas: w/ CCS
Natural Gas: w/o CCS
Oil: w/ CCS
Oil: w/o CCS
Exajoules/Year
0
50
100
150
200
250
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100
Year

Figure 4.15. Change in U.S. Electricity by Fuel across Stabilization Scenarios, Relative to Reference Scenarios (exajoules/y). United States electricity generation sources and technologies will need to be substantially transformed to meet stabilization targets. Carbon capture and sequestration figure in all three models under stabilization scenarios, but the contribution of other sources and technologies and the total amount of electricity used differ substantially.



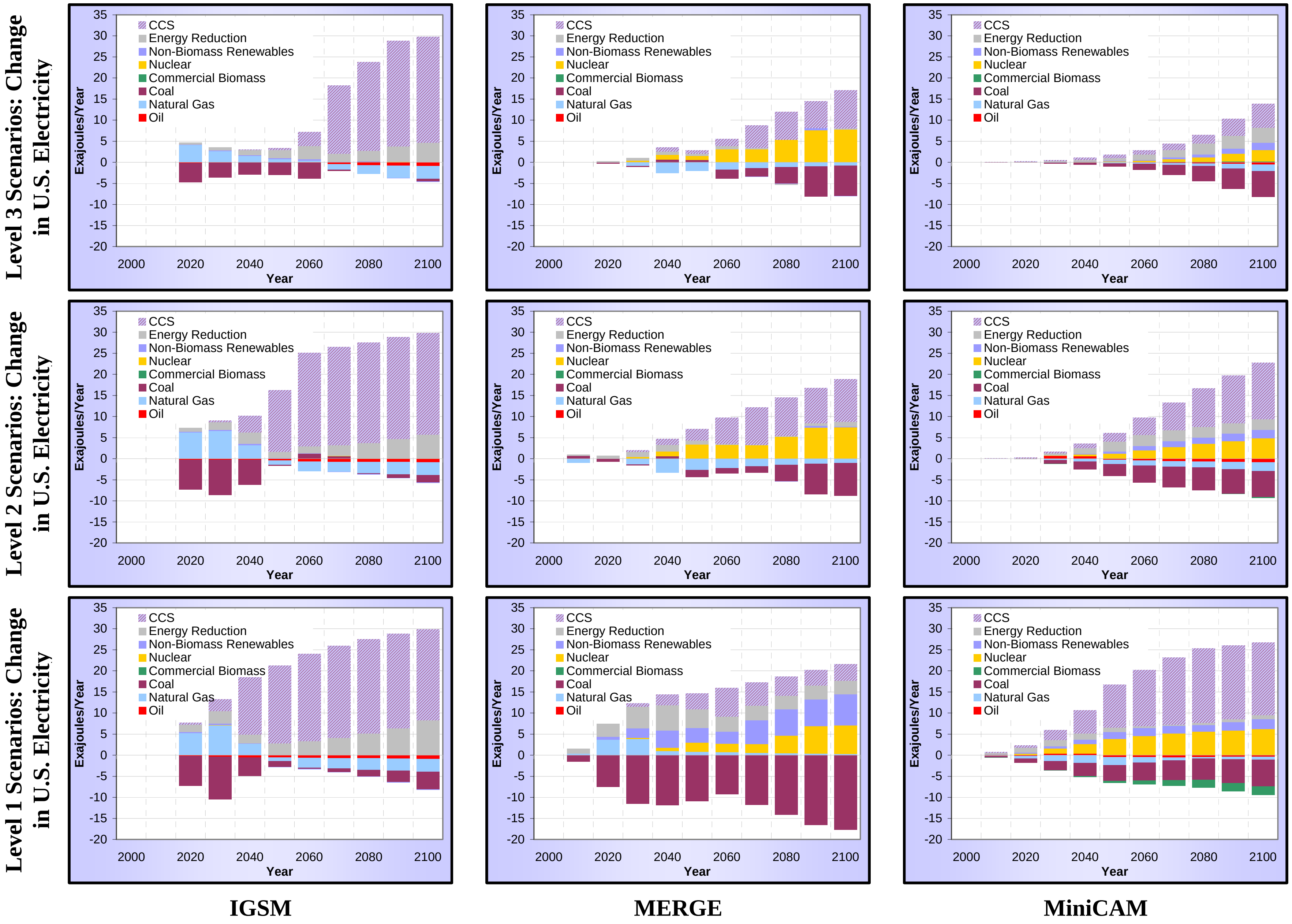

Level 3 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Electricity
Level 2 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Electricity
Level 1 Scenarios: Change in U.S. Electricity
IGSM
MERGE
MiniCAM
CCS
Energy Reduction
Non-Biomass Renewables
Nuclear
Commercial Biomass
Coal
Natural Gas
Oil
Exajoules/Year
Year
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
-5
-10
-15
-20
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100

Figure 4.16. Global and U.S. Commercial Biomass Production across Scenarios. Projections of the potential for commercial biomass production for the world and the U.S. are similar in magnitude among the models although the response of biomass production under the stabilization targets differs. In MERGE, there is a maximum biomass potential that is achieved in the reference case, and so no more is forthcoming under the stabilization scenarios. IGSM biomass production increases relative to reference for Levels 2, 3, and 4, but little additional increase occurs for Level 1 because of competition for agricultural land. MiniCAM biomass competes with agricultural land, but that competition does not place as strong a limit on production as for IGSM.

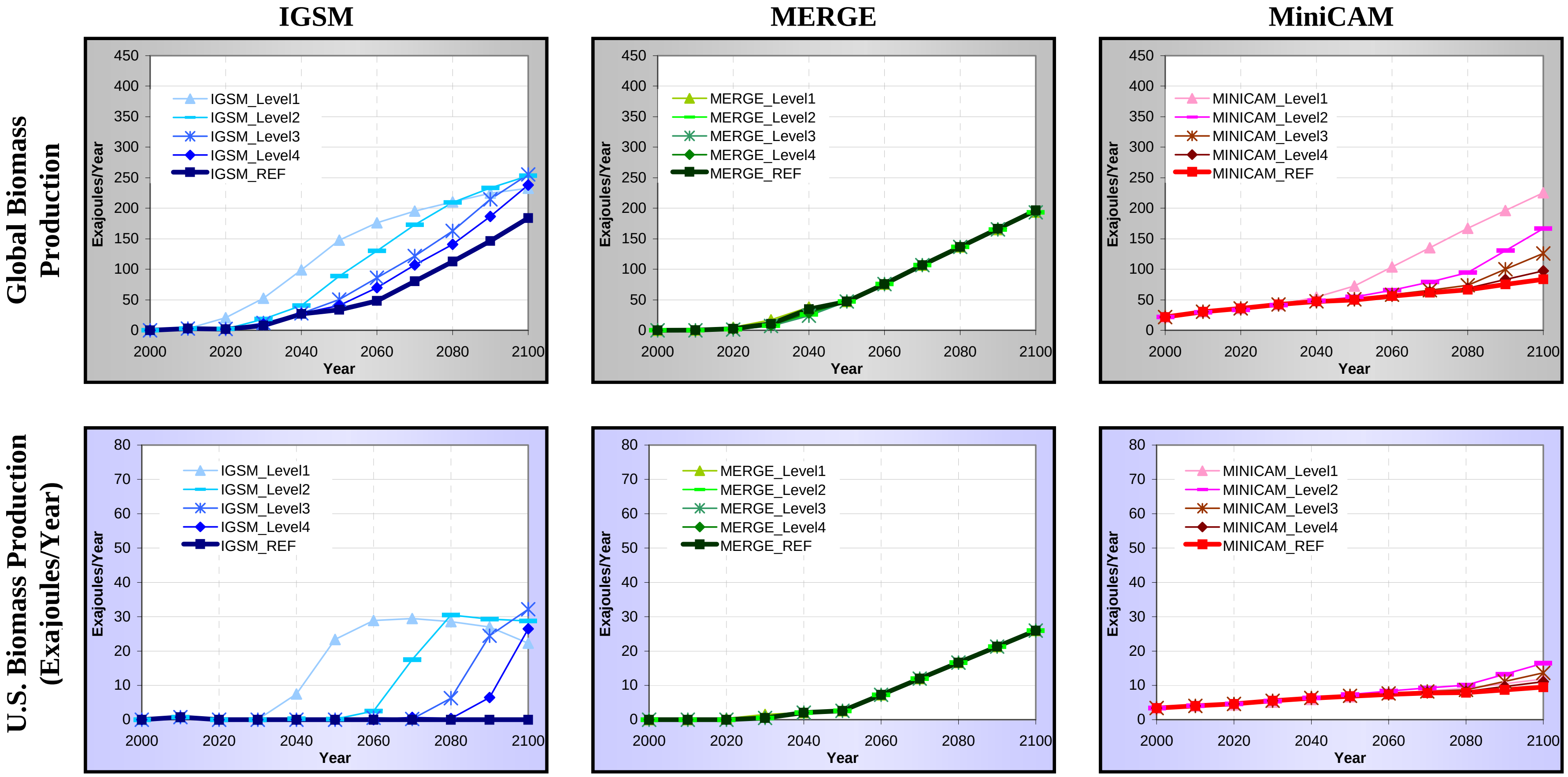


Figure 4.17. Net Terrestrial Carbon Flux to the Atmosphere across Scenarios (GtC/y). Simulated net terrestrial carbon flux to the atmosphere, under reference and stabilization levels, as simulated by the three models reflect differences in the model structures for processes that remain highly uncertain. MERGE assumes a neutral biosphere. IGSM and MiniCAM generally represent the land as a growing carbon sink, with the exception of the Level 1 MiniCAM simulation, in which increased demand for land for biomass production leads to conversion and carbon loss.

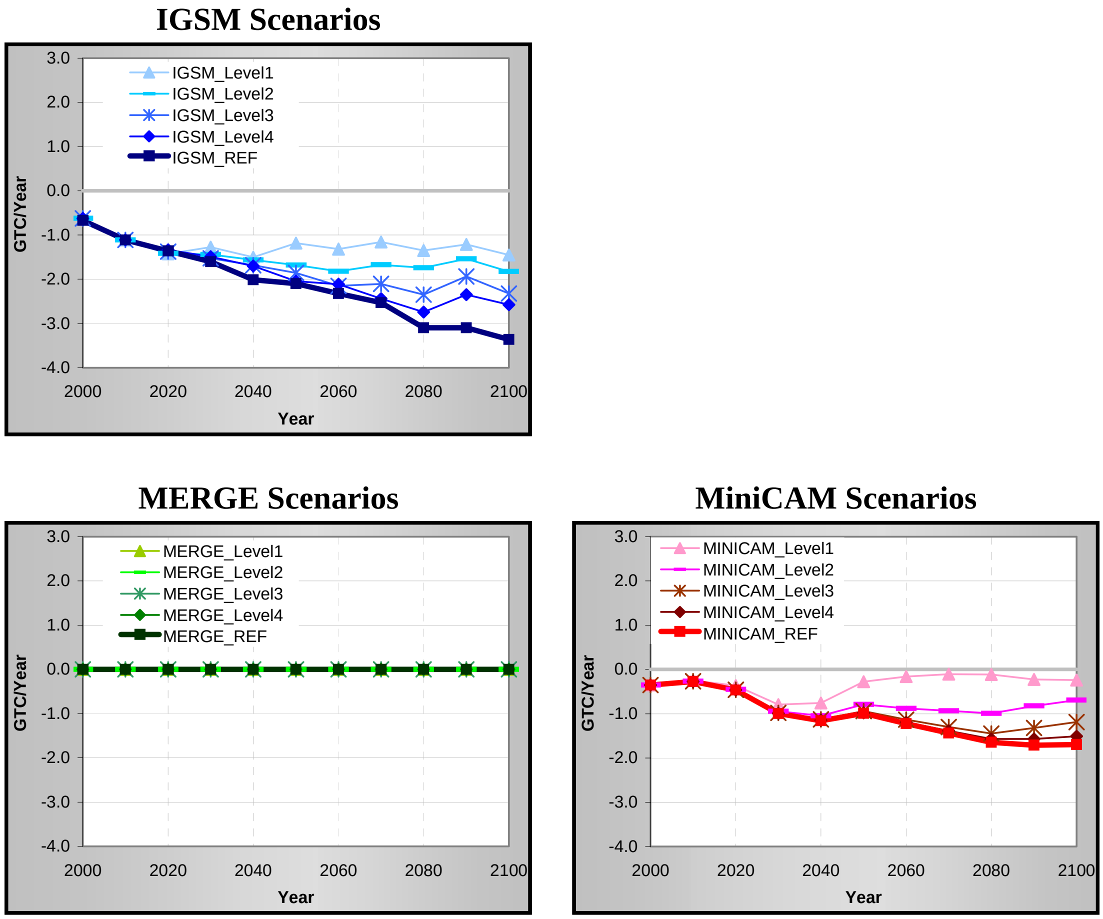


Figure 4.18. Carbon Prices across Stabilization Scenarios ($/tonne C). IGSM projects relatively higher carbon prices for all levels of stabilization than the other models, exceeding $6000/tC by 2100 in the Level 1. The MERGE price is capped at in the Level 1 scenario at $1000 after 2070. MiniCAM prices reach about $800/tC by 2100 under the Level 1 targets. Given how the path of emissions reductions were designed, near-term prices are driven by the price required at stabilization, dependent as it is on highly uncertain characterizations of future technology options.

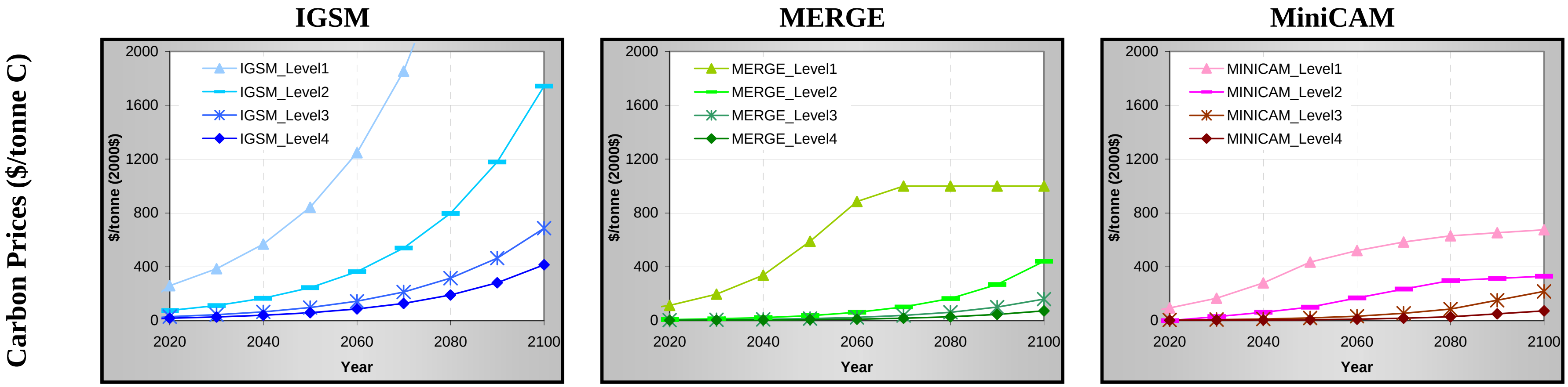
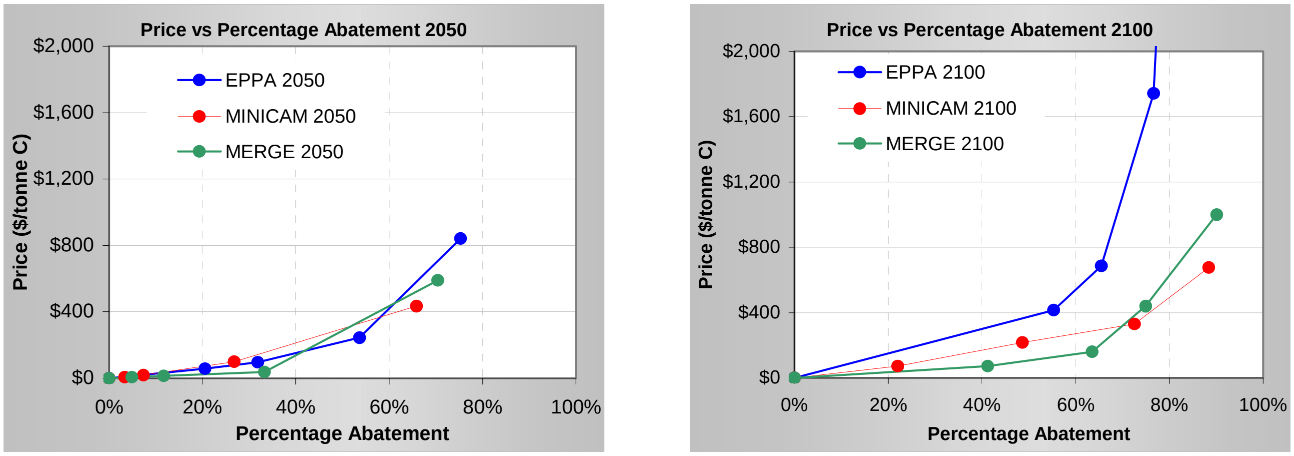


Figure 4.19. Ratio of Relationship Between Carbon Price and Percentage Abatement in 2050 and 2100. The relationship between carbon price and percentage abatement in 2050 and 2100 is similar among the models in 2050 but diverges in 2100. IGSM approaches an infeasibility for emissions reductions greater than 80%, whereas MERGE and MiniCam can achieve 90 and 95% reduction from reference at prices of $1000 or below.



2050

2100

Figure 4.20. Relative Prices of CH_4 and N_2O to Carbon across Scenarios (CH_4 in log scale). Differences in the relative prices of CH_4 and N_2O to carbon reflect different model treatments of this tradeoff. MiniCAM set the tradeoff at the CH_4 global warming potential, a constant ratio. MERGE optimized the relative price with respect to the long-run stabilization target. IGSM forced stabilization of each gas independently. IGSM set emissions so that concentrations of CH_4 would stabilize and allowed the CH_4 price path to be determined by changing abatement opportunities. Given N_2O emissions from agriculture, the relative price of N_2O is very high, in part because reference emissions were high. Lower reference emissions of N_2O for MERGE and MiniCAM allowed them to achieve relatively low emissions at lower N_2O prices.

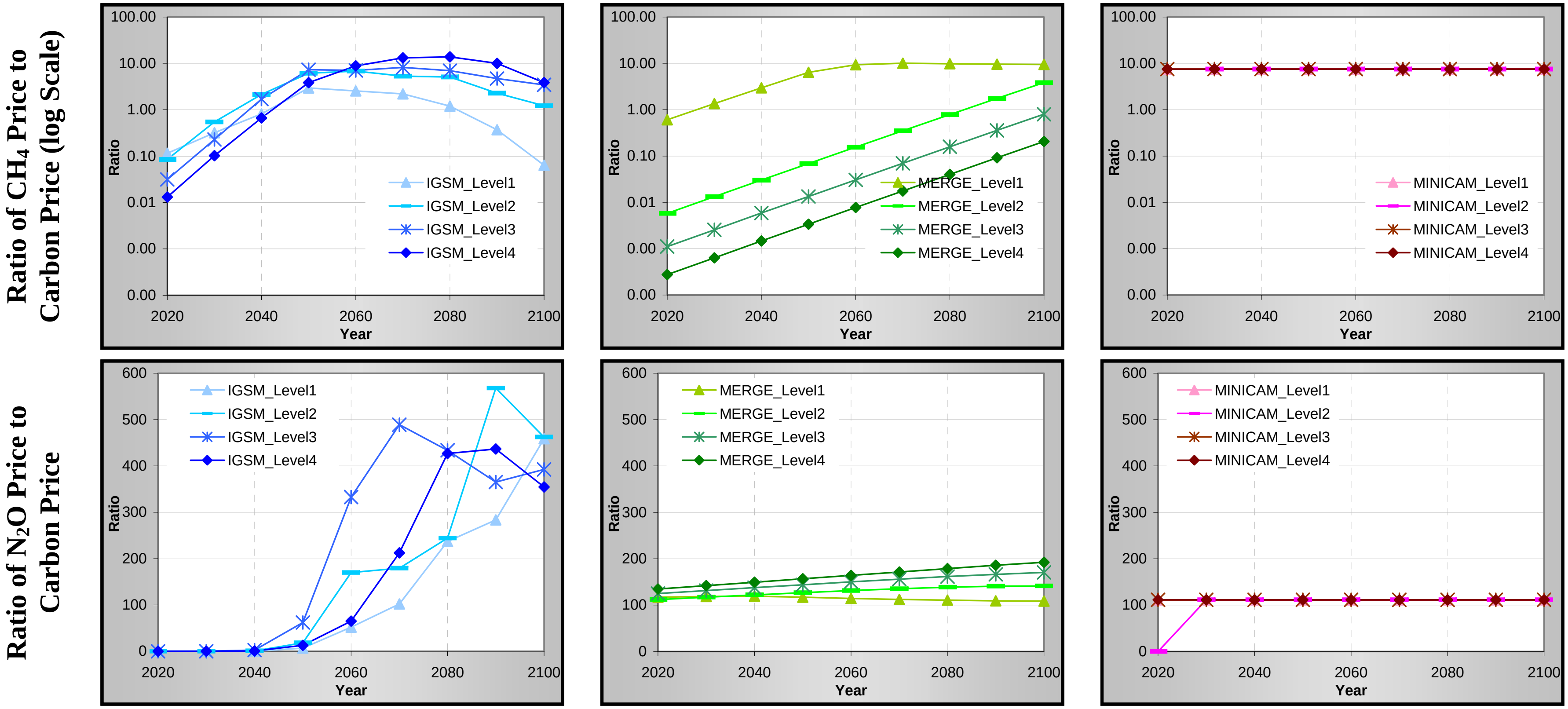
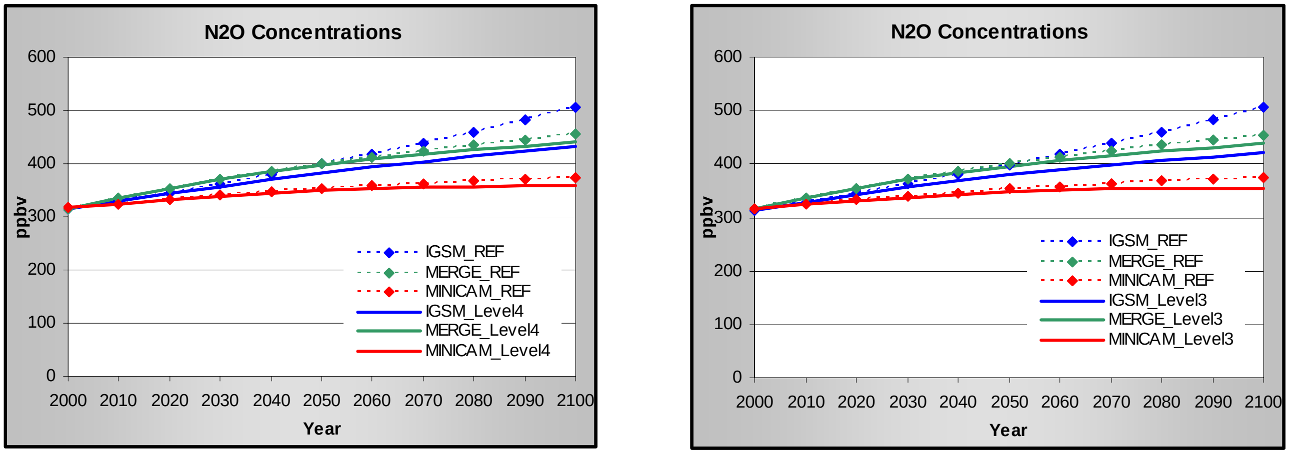


Figure 4.21. N_2O Concentrations across Scenarios (ppbv). Atmospheric concentrations of N_2O range from about 375 ppbv to 505 ppbv in 2100 across the models and with concentrations continuing to rise in the reference. Each modeling team employed a different approach to emissions limitations on N_2O, leading to differences in concentrations between the reference and stabilization cases. The largest differences between reference and stabilization cases occur in the IGSM results.

Level 4 Scenarios **Level 3 Scenarios**



Level 2 Scenarios **Level 1 Scenarios**

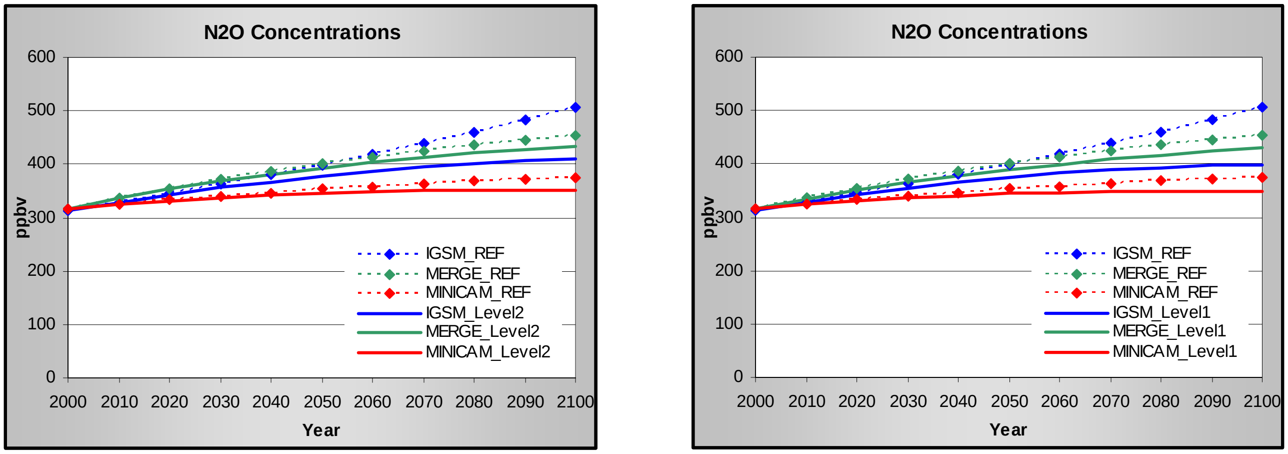


Figure 4.22. World Oil Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios. World oil price projections (producer prices) vary considerably in the reference, and reflect the highly uncertain nature of such projections, but all three models show that policies to stabilize emissions would depress oil prices relative to the reference. Producer prices do not include any cost of carbon permits related to combustion and release of carbon from petroleum products.

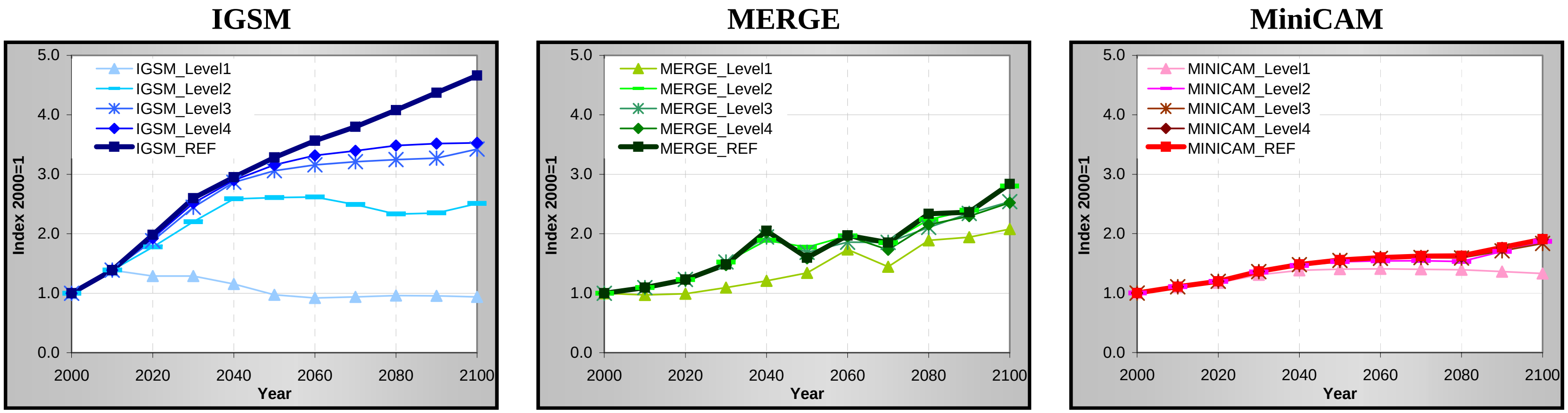


Figure 4.23. United States Mine-mouth Coal Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios. United States mine-mouth coal price varies in the reference across the models. IGSM and MiniCAM project coal prices to be depressed by stabilization scenarios, whereas MERGE projects no impact reflecting characterization of coal supply as an inexhaustible single grade such that there is no rent associated with the resource. Prices thus reflect the cost capital, labor, and other inputs that are little affected by the stabilization policy.

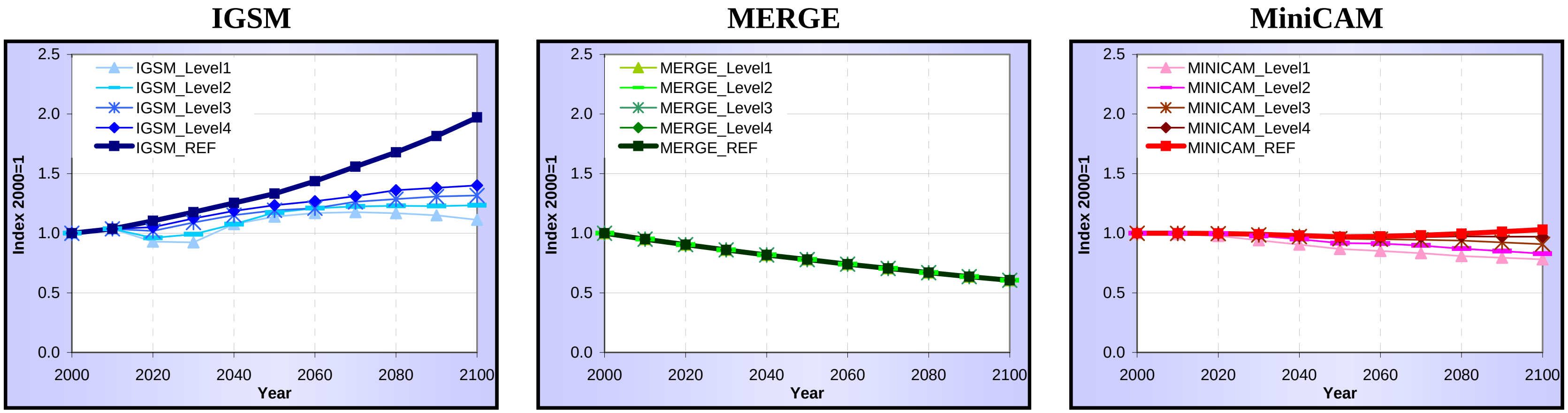


Figure 4.24. United States Natural Gas Producers' Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios. United States natural gas producers' price projections vary in the reference across the models. MiniCAM and MERGE show little or no effect on the gas price for stabilization scenarios. IGSM projects that stabilization at Levels 2, 3, and 4 increase the price of gas because of substitution toward gas and away from coal and oil. Gas prices fall relative to reference for Level 1 stabilization because gas demand is depressed because of the tight carbon constraint.

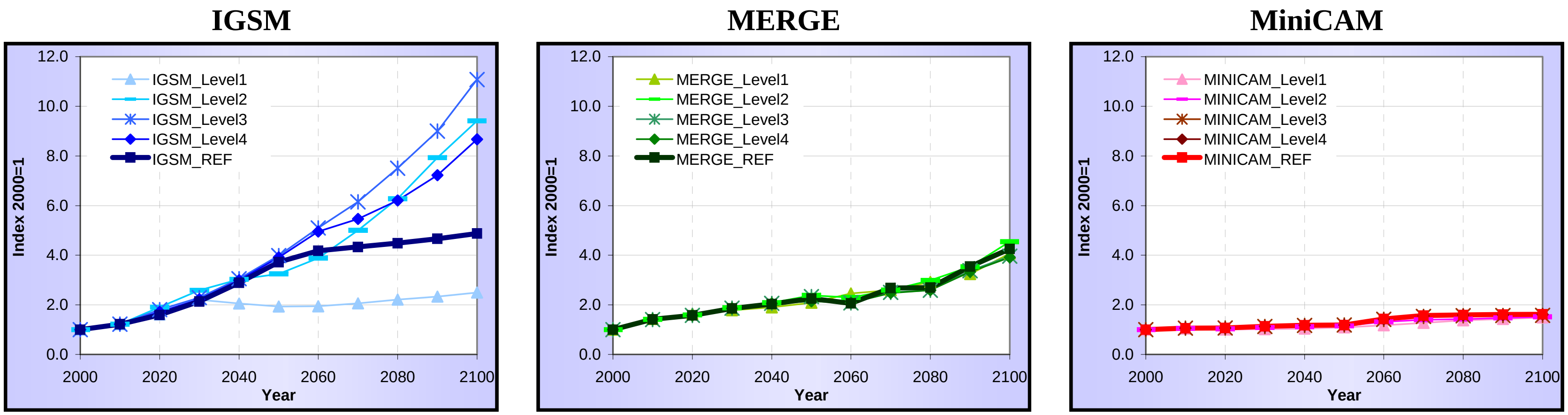


Figure 4.25. United States Electricity Price, Reference and Stabilization Scenarios. United States electricity prices as projected in the reference range from little change (MiniCam) or even a slight fall by 2100 (MERGE) to about a 50% increase from present levels (IGSM). Fuel prices affect electricity prices, but improving efficiency of electricity is an offset tending to reduce electricity prices. IGSM and MERGE show sharp increases in the near-term under those stabilization scenarios that require significant near-term action, reflecting adjustment costs associated with fixed capital.

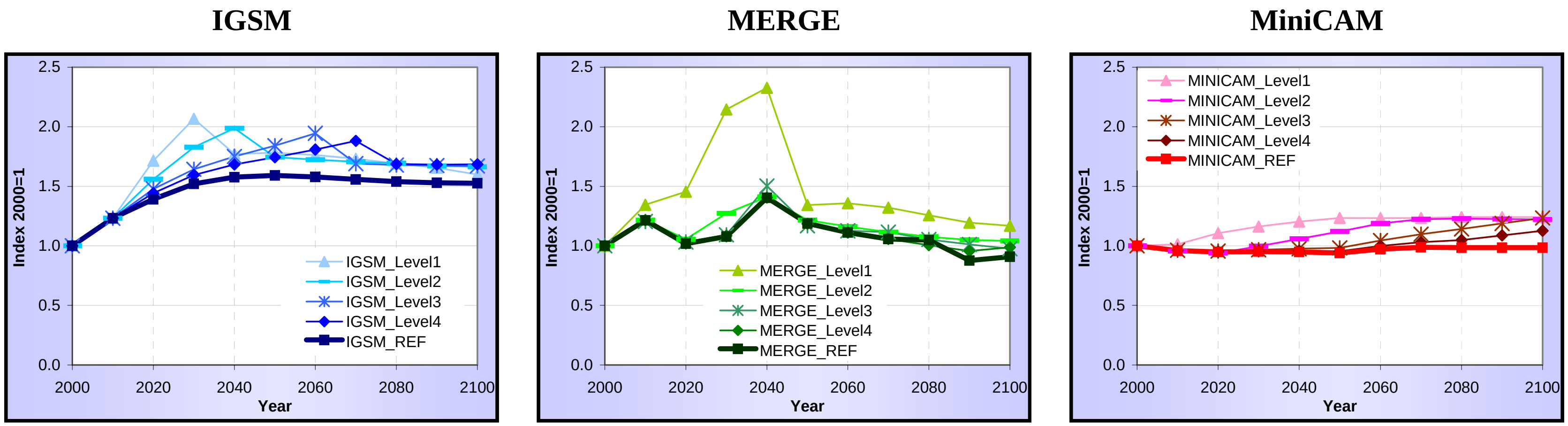
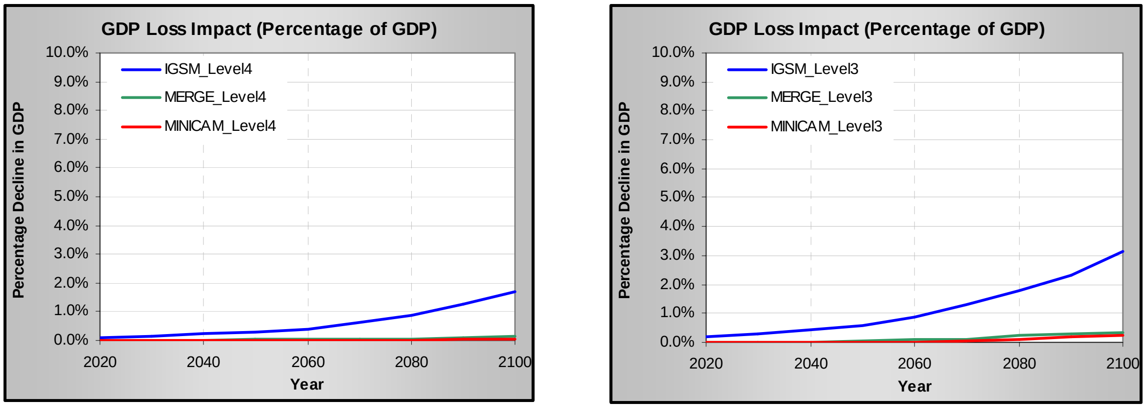
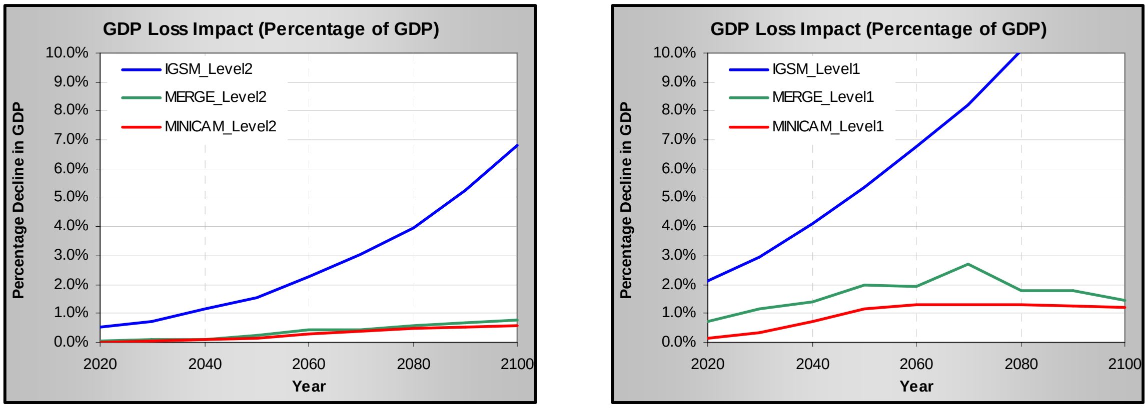


Figure 4.26. Global GDP Impacts of Stabilization across Stabilization Levels (percentage)



Level 4 Scenarios

Level 3 Scenarios



Level 2 Scenarios

Level 1 Scenarios

5. CCSP EMISSIONS SCENARIOS: SCENARIOS, FINDINGS, USES, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Emissions scenarios that describe future economic growth and energy use have been important tools for understanding the long-term implications for climate change. Such scenarios have been part of U.S. and international assessments of climate change that date back at least to the early 1980s. The process traces its roots back through numerous other efforts, among others, efforts undertaken by the National Academy of Science, the IPCC, the CCTP, and non-governmental forums such as the Energy Modeling Forum.

Scenarios based on formal, computer-based models, such as those used in this exercise, can help to illustrate how key drivers such as economic and population growth or policy options lead to particular levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. A main benefit of using models such as these to simulate future scenarios is that they ensure basic accounting identities and consistent application of behavioral assumptions. However, model simulation is only one approach to scenario development, and models designed for one set of purposes are not the most appropriate tools for other purposes. The scenarios developed here should thus be viewed as complementary to other ways of thinking about the future: e.g., formal uncertainty analyses, verbal story lines, baselines for further simulation, and analyses using other types of models. The scenarios developed here must also be seen as building on and contributing to past and ongoing scenario development work occurring elsewhere in the world and by other modeling groups.

The possible users of emissions scenarios are many and diverse and include climate modelers and the science community, those involved in national public policy formulation, managers of Federal research programs, state and local government officials who face decisions that might be affected by climate change and mitigation measures, and individual firms, farms, and members of the public. Such a diverse set of possible users implies an equally diverse set of possible needs from scenarios. No single scenario exercise can hope to satisfy all needs. Scenario analysis is most effective when scenario-developers can work directly with users, and initial scenarios lead to further “what if” questions that can be answered with additional simulations or by probing more deeply into particular issues.

However, the Prospectus does not prescribe such an interactive approach with a focused set of users. Instead, it focuses on creating a set of scenarios providing broad insights into the energy, economic, and emissions implications of stabilization of GHGs. For the issue of stabilization, these scenarios are an initial offering to potential user communities that, if successful, will generate further questions and more detailed analysis. The outcome might be further scenario development from models like those used here but as likely will involve other modeling and analysis techniques.

This exercise focuses on a reference case and four stabilization levels to provide decision-makers the technical and economic implications of different levels of future GHG stabilization. What is described, then, is a range of possible long-term targets for global climate policy. The stabilization levels require a range of policy efforts and urgencies, from relatively little deviation from reference scenarios in this century to major deviations from reference scenarios starting very soon. Although the Prospectus did not mandate a formal treatment of likelihood or uncertainty, formal uncertainty analysis could be a useful follow-on or complementary exercise. Here, however, the range of outcomes from the different modeling teams helps to illustrate, if incompletely, the range of possibilities.

For this exercise, a “scenario” is an illustration of future developments based on a model of the economy and the Earth system, applying a plausible set of model parameters and providing a basis for future work. None of the reference scenarios is the correct “prediction” of the future; none could be said to have the highest probability of being right. Nor is any single stabilization scenario the most correct “prediction” of the changes to energy and other systems that would be required for stabilization. Indeed, each scenario in this report is a “thought experiment” that helps illuminate the implications of different long-term policy goals. The reference scenarios assume no alteration in the policy path to 2100, no matter what happens to the climate along the way; the stabilization scenarios assume full global participation in addressing climate change beginning by 2012.

5.1 Key Findings

The difficulty in achieving any specified level of atmospheric stabilization depends heavily on the emissions that would occur otherwise: i.e., the “no-climate-policy” reference strongly influences the stabilization cases. If a no-policy world has cheap fossil fuels and high economic growth, then dramatic changes to the energy sector and other parts of the economy may be required to stabilize the atmosphere. On the other hand, if the reference case shows lower growth and emissions, and perhaps increased exploitation of non-fossil sources even in the absence of climate policy, then the effort will not be as great.

Thus, we conclude this report by reviewing the models’ reference cases and summarize their characteristics, turning then to the four stabilization cases, which have meaning not only in relation to the underlying reference case but also in their implications for the comparative efforts required for economies to shift away from GHG-emitting activities.

5.1.1 Reference Scenarios

Energy production, transformation, and consumption are central features in all of these scenarios, although non-CO_2 gases and changes in land use also make a significant contribution to net emissions. Demand for energy over the coming century will be driven by economic growth but will also be strongly influenced by the way that energy systems respond to depletion of resources, changes in prices, and technology advance. The projected demand for energy in developed countries remains strong in all scenarios but is even stronger in developing countries, where millions of people seek greater access to commercial energy. These developments determine the emissions of GHGs, their disposition, and the resulting change in radiative forcing under reference conditions.

The three reference scenarios show the implications of this increasing demand and the improved access to energy, with the ranges reflecting the variation in results from the different models:

- *Global primary energy production rises substantially in all three reference scenarios, from about 400 EJ/y in 2000 to between 1300 and 1550 EJ/y in 2100. U.S. primary energy production also grows substantially, about 1½ to 2½ times present levels by 2100. This growth occurs despite continued improvements in the efficiency of energy use and production. For example, the U.S. energy intensity declines 50 to 70% between 2000 and 2100.*

- *All three reference scenarios include a gradual reduction in the dependence on conventional oil resources. However, in all three reference scenarios, a range of alternative fossil-based resources, such as synthetic fuels from coal and unconventional oil resources (e.g., tar sands, oil shales) are available and become economically viable. Fossil fuels provided almost 90% of global energy supply in the year 2000, and they remain the dominant energy source in the three reference scenarios throughout the twenty-first century, supplying between 60 and 80% of total primary energy in 2100.*

- *Non-fossil fuel energy use grows over the century in all three reference scenarios. The range of contributions in 2100 is from 250 EJ to 600 EJ—between roughly half to a level equivalent to total global energy consumption today. Even with this growth, however, these sources never supplant fossil fuels although they provide an increasing share of the total, particularly in the second half of the century.*

- *Consistent with the characteristics of primary energy, global and U.S. electricity production shows continued reliance on coal although this contribution varies among the reference scenarios. The contribution of renewables and nuclear energy varies considerably in the different reference cases, depending on resource availability, technology, and non-climate policy considerations. For example, projections of global nuclear generation range from an increase over current levels of around 50%, if political considerations constrain its growth, to an expansion by more than an order of magnitude, assuming economically driven growth.*

- *Oil and natural gas prices are projected to rise through the century relative to year 2000 levels, whereas coal and electricity prices remain relatively stable. The models used in the exercise were not designed to project short-term fuel price spikes, such as those that occurred in the 1970s and early 1980s, and more recently in 2005. Thus, the projected price trends should be interpreted as long-term average price trends.*

- *As a combined result of all these influences, emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes increase from approximately 7 GtC/y in 2000 to between 22 and 24 GtC/y in 2100; that is, anywhere from three to four times current levels.*

The non-CO_2 greenhouse gases—CH_4, N_2O SF_6, PFCs, and HFCs—are emitted from various sources including agriculture, waste management, biomass burning, fossil fuel production and consumption, and a number of industrial activities:

- *Projected future global anthropogenic emissions of CH_4 and N_2O vary widely among the reference scenarios, ranging from flat or declining emissions to an increase of 2 to 2½ times present levels. These differences reflect alternative views of technological opportunities and different assumptions about whether current emissions rates will be reduced significantly for other reasons, such as air pollution control and/or higher natural gas prices, stimulating the capture of CH_4 emissions for its fuel value.*

Projected increases in emissions from the global energy system and other human activities lead to higher atmospheric concentrations and radiative forcing. This increase is moderated by natural biogeochemical removal processes:

- *The ocean is a major sink for CO_2 that generally increases as concentrations rise early in the century. However, processes in the ocean can slow this rate of increase at high concentrations late in the century. The scenarios have ocean uptake in the range of 2-3 GtC/y in 2000, rising to about 5-8 GtC/y by 2100.*

- *Two of the three models include a sub-model of the exchange of CO_2 with the terrestrial biosphere, including the net uptake by plants and soils and the emissions from deforestation, which is modeled as a small annual net sink (less than 1 Gt of carbon) in 2000, increasing to an annual net sink of 2 to 3 GtC/y by the end of the century. The third model assumes a zero net exchange. In part, the change reflects human activity (including a decline in deforestation), and, in part, it is the result of increased uptake by vegetation largely due to the positive effect of CO_2 on plant growth. The range of estimates is an indication of the substantial uncertainty about this carbon fertilization effect and its evolution under climate change.*

- *GHG concentrations are projected to rise substantially over the century under reference projections. By 2100, CO_2 concentrations range from about 700 to 900 ppmv, up from 370 ppm in 2000. Projected CH_4 concentrations range from 2000 to 4000 ppbv, up from 1750 ppb in 2000; projected N_2O concentrations range from about 375 to 500 ppbv, up from 317 ppbv in 2000.*

- *The resultant increase in radiative forcing ranges from 6.5 to 8.5 W/m^2 relative to preindustrial levels (zero by definition) and compares to approximately 2 W/m^2 in* *the year 2000, with non-CO_2 GHGs accounting for about 20 to 30% of this at the end of the century.*

5.1.2 Stabilization Scenarios

An important assumption underlying the stabilization cases is the relative role played by different nations in achieving the required reductions in GHG emissions and the flexibility available to ensure that the restrictions are applied in a cost-minimizing way. Here, for purposes of clarity in presentation of results, two assumptions are made that have an important influence on the results. First, it is assumed that all nations proceed together in restricting GHG emissions from 2012 and continuing together throughout the century. Second, it is assumed that the same marginal cost is applied across sectors, imposing so-called "where" flexibility.[1] Although these assumptions are convenient for analytical purposes, to gain an impression of the implications of stabilization, neither is likely to hold in practice and violation of either would have a substantial effect on the difficulty of achieving any of the targets studied. For example, a delay of many years in the participation of developing countries would require a much greater effort by the richer ones, and policies that impose differential burdens on different sectors can result in a many-fold increase in the cost of any environmental gain. Therefore, it is important to view these result as scenarios under specified conditions, not as forecasts of the most likely outcome within the national and international political system.

If the developments projected in these reference scenarios were to occur, concerted efforts to reduce GHG emissions would be required to meet the stabilization targets analyzed here. Such limits would shape technology deployment throughout the century and have important economic consequences. The stabilization scenarios demonstrate that there is no single technology pathway consistent with a given level of radiative forcing; furthermore, there are other possible pathways than are modeled in this exercise. Nevertheless, some general conclusions are possible.

- *Stabilization efforts are made more challenging by the fact that in two of the modeling teams' formulations, both terrestrial and ocean CO_2 uptake decline as the stringency of emissions mitigation increases.*

- *Stabilization of radiative forcing at the levels examined in this study will require a substantially different energy system globally, and in the U.S., than what emerges in the reference scenarios in the absence of climate change considerations. The degree and timing of change in the global energy system depends on the level at which radiative forcing is stabilized.*

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the energy system relies more heavily on non-fossil energy sources, such as nuclear, solar, wind, biomass, and other renewable*

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[1] The handling of "what" flexibility, importantly including trading among the gases and sinks, was handled differently among the models. One solves for the inter-gas exchange endogenously and one applied global warming potentials as inter-gas exchange rates and applies all-gas trading; the other applied a separate gas-by-gas stabilization approach.

energy forms. Importantly, end-use energy consumption is lower. Carbon dioxide capture and storage is widely deployed because each model assumes that the technology can be successfully developed and that concerns about storing large amounts of carbon do not impede its deployment. Removal of this assumption would make the stabilization levels much more difficult to achieve.

- *Significant fossil fuel use continues across the stabilization scenarios, both because stabilization allows for some level of carbon emissions in 2100 depending on the stabilization level and because of the presence in all the stabilization scenarios of carbon dioxide capture and storage technology.*

- *Emissions of non-*CO_2 *GHGs, such as* CH_4*,* N_2O*, HFCs, PFCs, and* SF_6*, are all substantially reduced in the stabilization scenarios.*

- *Increased use is made of biomass energy crops whose contribution is ultimately limited by competition with agriculture and forestry. One model examined the importance of valuing terrestrial carbon similarly to the way fossil fuel carbon is valued in stabilization scenarios. It found that in stabilization scenarios important interactions between large-scale deployment of commercial bioenergy crops and land use occurred to the detriment of unmanaged ecosystems when no economic value was placed terrestrial carbon.*

- *The lower the radiative forcing limit, the larger the scale of change in the global energy system, relative to the reference scenario, required over the coming century and the sooner those changes would need to occur.*

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the scale of the emissions reductions required relative to the reference scenario increases over time. The bulk of emissions reductions take place in the second half of the century in all the stabilization scenarios. But near-term emissions reductions occurred in all models in all stabilization scenarios.*

- *Ultimately, atmospheric stabilization at any of the levels studied requires human emissions of* CO_2 *to be essentially halted altogether because, as the ocean and terrestrial biosphere approach equilibrium with the target concentration level, their rate of uptake falls toward zero. Only capture and storage of* CO_2 *could allow continued burning of fossil fuels. Higher radiative forcing limits can delay this result beyond the 2100 year horizon, but do not avoid the ultimate limit.*

Fuel sources and electricity generation technologies change substantially, both globally and in the U.S., under stabilization scenarios compared to the reference scenarios. There are a variety of technological options in the electricity sector that reduce carbon emissions in these scenarios:

- *Nuclear, renewable energy forms, and carbon dioxide capture and storage all play important roles in stabilization scenarios. The contribution of each can* *vary, depending on assumptions about technological improvements, the ability to overcome obstacles such as intermittency, and the policy environment surrounding them, for example, the acceptability of nuclear power.*

- *By the end of the century, electricity produced by conventional fossil technology, where* CO_2 *from the combustion process is emitted freely, is reduced from the reference scenarios in the stabilization scenarios. The level of production from these sources varies substantially with the stabilization level; in the lowest stabilization level, production from these sources is reduced toward zero.*

The economic effects of stabilization could be substantial although much of this cost is borne later in the century if the mitigation paths assumed in these scenarios are followed. As noted earlier, each of the modeling teams assumed that a global policy was implemented beginning after 2012, with universal participation by the world's nations, and that the time path of reductions approximated a "cost-effective" solution. These assumptions of "where" and "when" flexibility lower the economic consequences of stabilization relative to what they might be with other implementation approaches:

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the carbon price follows a pattern that, in most cases, gradually rises over time, providing an opportunity for the energy system to change gradually. Two of the models show prices $10 or below per ton of carbon at the outset for the less stringent cases, with their prices rising to $100 per ton in 2020 for the 450 ppmv case. IGSM shows higher initial carbon prices in 2020, ranging from around $20 for 750 ppmv to over $250 for the 450 ppmv target.*

- *While the general shape of the carbon value trajectory is similar across the models, the specific carbon prices required vary substantially for reasons that reflect the underlying uncertainty about the effort that would be required. Differences among the reference cases has a big effect, as noted earlier. Also very important are differences among models about the cost and performance of technologies that may become available in future decades. Other differences modeling approach also contribute to the inter-model variation.*

- *Non-*CO_2 *gases play an important role in shaping the degree of change in the energy system. Scenarios that assume relatively better performance of non-*CO_2 *emissions mitigating technologies require less stringent changes in the energy system to meet the same radiative forcing goal.*

- *These differences in carbon prices and other model features also lead to a wide range of changes in model estimates of Gross World Product in terms of the various stabilization targets. For example, for the 450-ppmv scenario estimates of the reduction in Gross World Product (aggregating country figures using market exchange rates) in 2100 range from less than 2% in two of the models to over 16% in the third. This difference among models is a product of the variation in model structure and reference case assumptions noted earlier. Also, the* *overall levels are strongly influenced by the burden-sharing conditions that all models imposed, the assumption of "where" flexibility, and an efficient pattern of increasing stringency over time. Any variation in assumptions regarding burden-sharing and flexibility would lead to higher costs, and use of exchange rates based on purchasing power parity could lead to different global results. Thus, these projections should not be interpreted as applying beyond the particular conditions assumed.*

- *Such carbon constraints would also affect fuel prices. Generally, the producer price for fossil fuels falls as demand for them is depressed. Users of fossil fuels pay for the fuel plus a carbon price if the CO_2 emissions were freely released to the atmosphere.*

Achieving stabilization of atmospheric GHGs poses as substantial technological and policy challenge for the world. It would require important transformations of the global energy system. Assessments of the cost and feasibility of such a goal depends importantly on judgments about how technology will evolve to overcome existing limits and barriers to adoption and on the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy instruments for achieving stabilization. These scenarios provide a means to gain insights into the challenge of stabilization and the implications of technology.

5.2 The Scenarios as a Basis for Further Analysis

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The review process for this scenario product is the start of a dialogue among scenario-developers and the user community. That dialogue has already suggested the need for better-quantified estimates of uncertainty and further sensitivities to help understand differences among the models and the affects of different factors on outcomes. Each of these requests stems from a particular interest of a user and each is very reasonable, but it is not possible to provide insights into all these questions with a limited number of scenarios.

These scenarios, supported by the accompanying database, can be used as the basis of further analysis of these stabilization cases and the underlying reference scenario. There are a variety of possible applications. For example, the scenarios could be used as the basis for analysis of the climate implications. Such studies might begin with the radiative forcing levels of each, with the individual gas concentrations (applying separate radiation codes) or with the emissions (applying separate models of the carbon cycle and of the atmospheric chemistry of the non-CO_2 GHGs). Such applications could be made directly in climate models that do not incorporate a three-dimensional atmosphere and detailed biosphere model. For the larger models, some approximation would need to be imposed to allocate the short-lived gases by latitude or grid cell. Such an effort would need to be made to approximate the emissions (or concentrations) of the reflecting and absorbing aerosols. This could be done by the use of sub-models linked to the energy use by fuel calculated in each of the models applied here.

The scenarios could also be used as a jumping off point for partial equilibrium analysis of technology penetration. Because these models compute the prices of fossil fuels under the various scenarios, the results can be used for analysis of the target cost performance of new technologies and to serve as a basis for analysis of rates of market penetration. Differences in results between the three models give an impression of the types of market challenges that new options will face.

In addition, these studies could form the foundation of analysis of the non-climate environmental implications of implementing potential new energy sources at a large scale. Such analysis was beyond the scope of the present study, but information is provided that could form a basis for such analysis, e.g., the potential effects on the U.S. and the globe of implied volumes of CCS and biomass production, or of nuclear expansion that results in some of the scenarios.

Of course, the scenarios can also be used in comparative mode. That is, just as many lessons were learned by comparing the differences between the three modeling teams' scenarios, still more could be learned by extending the comparison to scenarios that either pre-date these or come after, including scenarios developed using entirely different approaches. Some scenario exercises do not apply an economic model with detailed analysis of energy markets of the type used here. Rather, they build up estimates from engineering descriptions of particular technologies and assumptions about low- or no-cost emissions reductions that result from market failures of one kind or another. These scenarios provide descriptions of energy-market behavior and, in particular, of energy prices that can be used as a structure for assessing and calibrating scenarios developed by other means.

Finally, we could imagine the scenarios being used to analyze of the welfare effects of the different stabilization targets. Such work was beyond the scope of the analysis specified in the Prospectus. However, the results do contain information that can be used to calculate indicators of consumer impact in the U.S., e.g., by using the changes in prices and quantities of fuels in moving from one stabilization level to another.

5.3 Moving Forward

As noted earlier, this work is neither the first nor the last of its kind. Throughout the report, we have highlighted a range of limitations to the approach and to the participating models. All of them would benefit from further research. Such work would be valuable for future scenario development. This section discusses some of these limitations and the associated avenues for future research and model development.

5.3.1 Technology Sensitivity Analysis

Many reasonable questions have been raised during the development process for these scenarios, often focused on questions of technology: What if, in the model that constrained nuclear because of policy considerations, nuclear were allowed to penetrate solely on economic grounds? What were the various cost assumptions underlying different technologies, and, implicitly, if nuclear, wind, natural gas combined cycle generation, biomass were somewhat more or less expensive, how would that affect penetration or policy cost? If costs of these technologies were different, would that affect the conclusion that fossil fuels remained very dominant in the reference? Interest was also expressed in creating conditions wherein the behavior of the three models could be compared under more controlled circumstances. What if they each made the same assumptions about population and GDP growth—would the results be very similar or very different?

5.3.2 Consideration of Less Optimistic Policy Regimes

Other questions concerned the economic cost of these stabilization targets. In particular, what is the economic cost to the U.S. in terms of lost GDP or consumption? This question, seemingly an obvious one to answer, depends critically on how the economic burden of emissions reduction is shared among countries. If the U.S. and other developed countries take disproportionate emissions cuts then, even with a cost-effective instrument like emissions trading, the cost will be very high in the U.S. because we will purchase emissions allowances from elsewhere in the world.

The results also depend importantly on international trade and changes in the terms of trade, and so some allocations of allowances can lead to the U.S. benefiting from the policy. Not so surprisingly, a carbon policy would suppress energy use around the world and that means that the world price of oil would fall. The result is that carbon policy can be an instrument by which the world appetite for oil is held back and, as a result, the U.S. would gain substantially by being able to import oil at much less cost than it otherwise would. In some cases, this gain can be greater than the direct cost of the emissions reductions in the U.S. Of course, this depends on other countries actually reducing emissions, which is an assumption that calls into question the simple case we have constructed in which all countries join and act together in 2015.

Equally important, the highly stylized policy—with a broad cap and trade system with international flexibility, and approximated or applied with "when" flexibility—represents no policy that has actually been proposed by any legislature that has seriously taken up the issue of GHG mitigation. Some sectors are inevitably exempted, others enter through a cumbersome crediting system, and still other policies, such as renewable portfolio standards for electricity or higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, are inevitably part of the policy mix. Some of this mix of policy or exemptions may make sense, correcting other problems in the economy or reflecting the fact that measuring and monitoring very small sources of emissions may involve great cost per unit of reduction likely in those sectors. Thus, realistic estimates of costs for the U.S. need to address these realistic aspects of the formulation of real policies, and would require multiple scenarios to illustrate clearly why one approach looked inexpensive and another expensive. The simple policy architecture assumed here, with U.S. costs dependent as they are on the allocation of burden among regions, leads to cost estimates that by themselves are likely to be misleading rather than helpful.

5.3.3 Expansion/Improvement of the Land Use Components of the Models

Finally, a significant gap in this analysis is the role of forest and agricultural sinks and sources. The major reason for this gap is that the models employed here were not well-suited to analyze this issue. Even more so than for energy, the idea of a broad cap and trade system applied to agriculture and forest sinks seems particularly unrealistic because no legislation anywhere has proposed such a system. Instead, incentives for agriculture and forest sinks have been proposed as a crediting system or through more traditional agriculture and forestry programs. The efficacy and effectiveness of such policies and the potential contribution from forestry and agriculture deserve greater attention than was possible here.

5.3.4 Inclusion of other Radiatively-Important Substances

There are obviously a number of cautions and limitations to any scenario analysis. In this case, the focus has been on the relatively long-lived GHGs. Tropospheric ozone and aerosols also have strong climatic effects, but no projections of these substances have been reported here nor was any effort made to study the economics of limiting emissions of aerosols and ozone precursors.

5.3.5 Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

Finally, the problem of deciding what to do about climate change is ultimately a problem of decision-making under uncertainty that requires an assessment of the risks and how a policy might reduce the odds of extremely bad outcomes. One would like to compare the expected benefits of a policy against the expected cost of achieving that reduction. By focusing only on emission paths that would lead to stabilization, we are able to report the costs of achieving that goal without an assessment of the benefits. Moreover, given the direction provided in the Prospectus, the focus was on scenarios and not an uncertainty analysis. Thus, the scenarios provided are just that—scenarios which were considered plausible by the analysts who constructed them. It is, of course, not possible to attach probabilities to scenarios—formal probabilities can only be attached to a range. That is, it is in principle possible to assign some likelihood that emissions will not be greater than a particular level or that they will fall between two levels. However, the analysis needed to make such statements was not, by the design dictated by the Prospectus, a part of this exercise.

Scenarios of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Atmospheric Concentrations: CCSP Product 2.1 A

ES. Executive Summary

ES.1. Background

The *Strategic Plan for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program* (CCSP 2003) noted that "sound, comprehensive emissions scenarios are essential for comparative analysis of how climate might change in the future, as well as for analyses of mitigation and adaptation options." The *Plan* included Product 2.1, which consists of two parts: *Scenarios of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Atmospheric Concentrations* and *Review of Integrated Scenario Development and Application*. This report presents the results from the scenario development component; the review of scenario methods is the subject of a separate report. Guidelines for producing these scenarios were set forth in a Prospectus, which specified that the new scenarios focus on alternative levels of atmospheric stabilization of the radiative forcing from the combined effects of a suite of the main anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs). The Prospectus also set forth criteria for the analytical facilities to be used in the analysis, and the results from three models that meet these conditions are reported here.

Scenarios such as those developed here serve as one of many inputs to public and private discussions regarding the threat of climate change, and the goal of this report is to contribute to the ongoing and iterative process of improvement. The intended audience includes analysts, decision-makers, and members of the public who may be concerned with the energy system and economic effects of policies leading to stabilization of human influence on the atmosphere. For example, these scenarios may provide a point of departure for further studies of mitigation and adaptation options, or enhance the capability for studies by the U.S. Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP) of alternative patterns of technology development.

Each of the three participating analytical models was used to develop a "no stabilization policy" or reference scenario to serve as baseline for comparing the cases with emissions control, and then each was applied to an exploration of paths that led to alternative levels of radiative forcing. Results of these calculations were selected to provide insight into questions, such as the following:

- *Emissions trajectories*. What emissions trajectories over time are consistent with meeting the four alternative stabilization levels? What are the key factors that shape the emissions trajectories that lead toward stabilization?

- *Energy systems*. What energy system characteristics are consistent with each of the four alternative stabilization levels? How might these characteristics differ among stabilization levels?

- *Economic implications*. What are the possible economic implications of meeting the four alternative stabilization levels?

Although each of the models simulates the world as a set of interconnected nations and multi-nation regions, the results shown here are for the U.S. and the global total only.

With the exception of the stabilization targets themselves and a common hypothesis about international burden-sharing, there was no direct coordination among the modeling groups either in the assumptions underlying the no-policy reference or the precise path to stabilization. Although the scenarios were not designed to span the full range of possible futures and no explicit uncertainty analysis was called for, the variation in results among the three models nevertheless give an impression of the unavoidable uncertainty that attends projections many decades into the future.

ES.2. Models Used in the Scenario Exercise

The Prospectus set out the criteria for participating models: they must (1) be global in scale, (2) be capable of producing global emissions totals for designated GHGs, (3) represent multiple regions, (4) be capable of simulating the radiative forcing from these GHGs and substances, (5) have technological resolution capable of distinguishing among major sources of primary energy (e.g., renewable energy, nuclear energy, biomass, oil, coal, and natural gas) as well as between fossil fuel technologies with and without carbon capture and storage systems, (6) be economics-based and capable of simulating macroeconomic cost implications of stabilization, and (7) look forward to the end of the twenty-first century or beyond. In addition, modeling teams were required to have a track record of publications in professional, refereed journals, specifically in the use of their models for the analysis of long-term GHG emission scenarios.

Application of these criteria led to the selection of three models:

- the Integrated Global Systems Model (IGSM) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change
- the MiniCAM Model of the Joint Global Change Research Institute, which is a partnership between the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the University of Maryland
- the Model for Evaluating the Regional and Global Effects (MERGE) of GHG reduction policies developed jointly at Stanford University and the Electric Power Research Institute.

Each of these models has been used extensively for climate change analysis. The roots of each extend back more than a decade, during which time features and details have been added. Results of each have appeared widely in peer-reviewed publications.

ES.3. Approach

As directed by the Prospectus, a total of 15 separate scenarios were developed, 5 from each of the three modeling teams. First, reference scenarios were developed on the assumption that no climate policy would be implemented beyond the set of policies currently in place (e.g., the Kyoto Protocol and the U.S. carbon intensity target, each terminating in 2012 because targets beyond that date have not been identified). Reference scenarios were developed independently, with the Prospectus requiring only that each modeling team apply assumptions that they believed were “meaningful” and “plausible.” Thus, each of the three reference scenarios provided a different view of how the future might unfold without additional climate policies.

Each team then produced four stabilization scenarios by constraining the models to achieve the radiative forcing targets. Stabilization was defined in terms of the total long-term radiative impact of a suite of GHGs including carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6).[1] The four stabilization scenarios were developed so that the increased radiative forcing from these gases was constrained at no more than 3.4 W/m^2 for Level 1, 4.7 W/m^2 for Level 2, 5.8 W/m^2 for Level 3, and 6.7 W/m^2 for Level 4. These levels were defined as increases above the preindustrial level, so they include the roughly 2.2 W/m^2 increase that had already occurred as of the year 2000. To facilitate comparison with previous work focused primarily on CO_2 stabilization, these levels were chosen so that the associated CO_2 concentrations, accounting for radiative forcing from the non-CO_2 GHGs, would be roughly 450 ppmv, 550 ppmv, 650 ppmv, and 750 ppmv. Assessment of the consequences for climate and ecosystems of these levels of human influence on the Earth’s radiation balance lay beyond the mandate of this scenario study.

A scenario exercise such as this continues climate research and analysis that has gone on for over 20 years. Also, this work will necessarily be continued and refined as the field advances, new information becomes available, and decision-makers raise new questions and issues. Similar work is being conducted by modeling teams in Europe and Asia, and scenarios developed here add to this larger body of work.

ES.4. Findings

The difficulty in achieving any specified level of atmospheric stabilization depends heavily on the emissions that would occur otherwise: i.e., the “no-climate-policy” reference strongly influences the stabilization cases. If a no-policy world has cheap fossil fuels and high economic growth, then dramatic changes to the energy sector and other

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[1] These are the gases enumerated in the Kyoto Protocol and in the U.S. goal to reduce the intensity of GHG emissions relative to GDP. Other substances with radiative impact, such carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O_3), and aerosols were not included in the scenario design.

parts of the economy may be required to stabilize the atmosphere. On the other hand, if the reference case shows lower growth and emissions, and perhaps increased exploitation of non-fossil sources even in the absence of climate policy, then the effort will not be as great.

Thus, we conclude this report by reviewing the models' reference cases and summarize their characteristics, turning then to the four stabilization cases, which have meaning not only in relation to the underlying reference case but also in their implications for the comparative efforts required for economies to shift away from GHG-emitting activities.

ES.4.1. Reference Scenarios

Energy production, transformation, and consumption are central features in all of these scenarios, although non-CO_2 gases and changes in land use also make a significant contribution to net emissions. Demand for energy over the coming century will be driven by economic growth but will also be strongly influenced by the way that energy systems respond to depletion of resources, changes in prices, and technology advance. The projected demand for energy in developed countries remains strong in all scenarios but is even stronger in developing countries, where millions of people seek greater access to commercial energy. These developments determine the emissions of GHGs, their disposition, and the resulting change in radiative forcing under reference conditions.

The three reference scenarios show the implications of this increasing demand and the improved access to energy, with the ranges reflecting the variation in results from the different models:

- *Global primary energy production rises substantially in all three reference scenarios, from about 400 EJ/y in 2000 to between 1300 and 1550 EJ/y in 2100. U.S. primary energy production also grows substantially, about 1½ to 2½ times present levels by 2100. This growth occurs despite continued improvements in the efficiency of energy use and production. For example, the U.S. energy intensity declines 50 to 70% between 2000 and 2100.*

- *All three reference scenarios include a gradual reduction in the dependence on conventional oil resources. However, in all three reference scenarios, a range of alternative fossil-based resources, such as synthetic fuels from coal and unconventional oil resources (e.g., tar sands, oil shales) are available and become economically viable. Fossil fuels provided almost 90% of global energy supply in the year 2000, and they remain the dominant energy source in the three reference scenarios throughout the twenty-first century, supplying between 60 and 80% of total primary energy in 2100.*

- *Non-fossil fuel energy use grows over the century in all three reference scenarios. The range of contributions in 2100 is from 250 EJ to 600 EJ—between roughly half to a level equivalent to total global energy consumption today. Even with this growth, however, these sources never supplant fossil fuels although they* *provide an increasing share of the total, particularly in the second half of the century.*

- *Consistent with the characteristics of primary energy, global and U.S. electricity production shows continued reliance on coal although this contribution varies among the reference scenarios. The contribution of renewables and nuclear energy varies considerably in the different reference cases, depending on resource availability, technology, and non-climate policy considerations. For example, projections of global nuclear generation range from an increase over current levels of around 50%, if political considerations constrain its growth, to an expansion by more than an order of magnitude, assuming economically driven growth.*

- *Oil and natural gas prices are projected to rise through the century relative to year 2000 levels, whereas coal and electricity prices remain relatively stable. The models used in the exercise were not designed to project short-term fuel price spikes, such as those that occurred in the 1970s and early 1980s, and more recently in 2005. Thus, the projected price trends should be interpreted as long-term average price trends.*

- *As a combined result of all these influences, emissions of CO_2 from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes increase from approximately 7 GtC/y in 2000 to between 22 and 24 GtC/y in 2100; that is, anywhere from three to four times current levels.*

The non-CO_2 greenhouse gases—CH_4, N_2O SF_6, PFCs, and HFCs—are emitted from various sources including agriculture, waste management, biomass burning, fossil fuel production and consumption, and a number of industrial activities:

- *Projected future global anthropogenic emissions of CH_4 and N_2O vary widely among the reference scenarios, ranging from flat or declining emissions to an increase of 2 to 2½ times present levels. These differences reflect alternative views of technological opportunities and different assumptions about whether current emissions rates will be reduced significantly for other reasons, such as air pollution control and/or higher natural gas prices, stimulating the capture of CH_4 emissions for its fuel value.*

Projected increases in emissions from the global energy system and other human activities lead to higher atmospheric concentrations and radiative forcing. This increase is moderated by natural biogeochemical removal processes:

- *The ocean is a major sink for CO_2 that generally increases as concentrations rise early in the century. However, processes in the ocean can slow this rate of increase at high concentrations late in the century. The scenarios have ocean uptake in the range of 2-3 GtC/y in 2000, rising to about 5-8 GtC/y by 2100.*

- *Two of the three models include a sub-model of the exchange of CO_2 with the terrestrial biosphere, including the net uptake by plants and soils and the emissions from deforestation, which is modeled as a small annual net sink (less than 1 Gt of carbon) in 2000, increasing to an annual net sink of 2 to 3 GtC/y by the end of the century. The third model assumes a zero net exchange. In part, the change reflects human activity (including a decline in deforestation), and, in part, it is the result of increased uptake by vegetation largely due to the positive effect of CO_2 on plant growth. The range of estimates is an indication of the substantial uncertainty about this carbon fertilization effect and its evolution under climate change.*

- *GHG concentrations are projected to rise substantially over the century under reference projections. By 2100, CO_2 concentrations range from about 700 to 900 ppmv, up from 370 ppm in 2000. Projected CH_4 concentrations range from 2000 to 4000 ppbv, up from 1750 ppb in 2000; projected N_2O concentrations range from about 375 to 500 ppbv, up from 317 ppbv in 2000.*

- *The resultant increase in radiative forcing ranges from 6.5 to 8.5 W/m^2 relative to preindustrial levels (zero by definition) and compares to approximately 2 W/m^2 in the year 2000, with non-CO_2 GHGs accounting for about 20 to 30% of this at the end of the century.*

ES.4.2. Stabilization Scenarios

An important assumption underlying the stabilization cases is the relative role played by different nations in achieving the required reductions in GHG emissions and the flexibility available to ensure that the restrictions are applied in a cost-minimizing way. Here, for purposes of clarity in presentation of results, two assumptions are made that have an important influence on the results. First, it is assumed that all nations proceed together in restricting GHG emissions from 2012 and continuing together throughout the century. Second, it is assumed that the same marginal cost is applied across sectors, imposing so-called “where” flexibility.[2] Although these assumptions are convenient for analytical purposes, to gain an impression of the implications of stabilization, neither is likely to hold in practice and violation of either would have a substantial effect on the difficulty of achieving any of the targets studied. For example, a delay of many years in the participation of developing countries would require a much greater effort by the richer ones, and policies that impose differential burdens on different sectors can result in a many-fold increase in the cost of any environmental gain. Therefore, it is important to view these result as scenarios under specified conditions, not as forecasts of the most likely outcome within the national and international political system.

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[2] The handling of “what” flexibility, importantly including trading among the gases and sinks, was handled differently among the models. One solves for the inter-gas exchange endogenously and one applied global warming potentials as inter-gas exchange rates and applies all-gas trading; the other applied a separate gas-by-gas stabilization approach.

If the developments projected in these reference scenarios were to occur, concerted efforts to reduce GHG emissions would be required to meet the stabilization targets analyzed here. Such limits would shape technology deployment throughout the century and have important economic consequences. The stabilization scenarios demonstrate that there is no single technology pathway consistent with a given level of radiative forcing; furthermore, there are other possible pathways than are modeled in this exercise. Nevertheless, some general conclusions are possible.

- *Stabilization efforts are made more challenging by the fact that in two of the modeling teams' formulations, both terrestrial and ocean CO_2 uptake decline as the stringency of emissions mitigation increases.*

- *Stabilization of radiative forcing at the levels examined in this study will require a substantially different energy system globally, and in the U.S., than what emerges in the reference scenarios in the absence of climate change considerations. The degree and timing of change in the global energy system depends on the level at which radiative forcing is stabilized.*

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the energy system relies more heavily on non-fossil energy sources, such as nuclear, solar, wind, biomass, and other renewable energy forms. Importantly, end-use energy consumption is lower. Carbon dioxide capture and storage is widely deployed because each model assumes that the technology can be successfully developed and that concerns about storing large amounts of carbon do not impede its deployment. Removal of this assumption would make the stabilization levels much more difficult to achieve.*

- *Significant fossil fuel use continues across the stabilization scenarios, both because stabilization allows for some level of carbon emissions in 2100 depending on the stabilization level and because of the presence in all the stabilization scenarios of carbon dioxide capture and storage technology.*

- *Emissions of non-CO_2 GHGs, such as CH_4, N_2O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6, are all substantially reduced in the stabilization scenarios.*

- *Increased use is made of biomass energy crops whose contribution is ultimately limited by competition with agriculture and forestry. One model examined the importance of valuing terrestrial carbon similarly to the way fossil fuel carbon is valued in stabilization scenarios. It found that in stabilization scenarios important interactions between large-scale deployment of commercial bioenergy crops and land use occurred to the detriment of unmanaged ecosystems when no economic value was placed terrestrial carbon.*

- *The lower the radiative forcing limit, the larger the scale of change in the global energy system, relative to the reference scenario, required over the coming century and the sooner those changes would need to occur.*

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the scale of the emissions reductions required relative to the reference scenario increases over time. The bulk of emissions reductions take place in the second half of the century in all the stabilization scenarios. But near-term emissions reductions occurred in all models in all stabilization scenarios.*

- *Ultimately, atmospheric stabilization at any of the levels studied requires human emissions of CO_2 to be essentially halted altogether because, as the ocean and terrestrial biosphere approach equilibrium with the target concentration level, their rate of uptake falls toward zero. Only capture and storage of CO_2 could allow continued burning of fossil fuels. Higher radiative forcing limits can delay this result beyond the 2100 year horizon, but do not avoid the ultimate limit.*

Fuel sources and electricity generation technologies change substantially, both globally and in the U.S., under stabilization scenarios compared to the reference scenarios. There are a variety of technological options in the electricity sector that reduce carbon emissions in these scenarios:

- *Nuclear, renewable energy forms, and carbon dioxide capture and storage all play important roles in stabilization scenarios. The contribution of each can vary, depending on assumptions about technological improvements, the ability to overcome obstacles such as intermittency, and the policy environment surrounding them, for example, the acceptability of nuclear power.*

- *By the end of the century, electricity produced by conventional fossil technology, where CO_2 from the combustion process is emitted freely, is reduced from the reference scenarios in the stabilization scenarios. The level of production from these sources varies substantially with the stabilization level; in the lowest stabilization level, production from these sources is reduced toward zero.*

The economic effects of stabilization could be substantial although much of this cost is borne later in the century if the mitigation paths assumed in these scenarios are followed. As noted earlier, each of the modeling teams assumed that a global policy was implemented beginning after 2012, with universal participation by the world's nations, and that the time path of reductions approximated a "cost-effective" solution. These assumptions of "where" and "when" flexibility lower the economic consequences of stabilization relative to what they might be with other implementation approaches:

- *Across the stabilization scenarios, the carbon price follows a pattern that, in most cases, gradually rises over time, providing an opportunity for the energy system to change gradually. Two of the models show prices $10 or below per ton of carbon at the outset for the less stringent cases, with their prices rising to $100 per ton in 2020 for the 450 ppmv case. IGSM shows higher initial carbon prices in 2020, ranging from around $20 for 750 ppmv to over $250 for the 450 ppmv target.*

- *While the general shape of the carbon value trajectory is similar across the models, the specific carbon prices required vary substantially for reasons that reflect the underlying uncertainty about the effort that would be required. Differences among the reference cases has a big effect, as noted earlier. Also very important are differences among models about the cost and performance of technologies that may become available in future decades. Other differences modeling approach also contribute to the inter-model variation.*

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- *These differences in carbon prices and other model features also lead to a wide range of changes in model estimates of Gross World Product in terms of the various stabilization targets. For example, for the 450-ppmv scenario estimates of the reduction in Gross World Product (aggregating country figures using market exchange rates) in 2100 range from less than 2% in two of the models to over 16% in the third. This difference among models is a product of the variation in model structure and reference case assumptions noted earlier. Also, the overall levels are strongly influenced by the burden-sharing conditions that all models imposed, the assumption of "where" flexibility, and an efficient pattern of increasing stringency over time. Any variation in assumptions regarding burden-sharing and flexibility would lead to higher costs, and use of exchange rates based on purchasing power parity could lead to different global results. Thus, these projections should not be interpreted as applying beyond the particular conditions assumed.*

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The scenarios could also be used as a jumping off point for partial equilibrium analysis of technology penetration. Because these models compute the prices of fossil fuels under the various scenarios, the results can be used for analysis of the target cost performance of new technologies and to serve as a basis for analysis of rates of market penetration. Differences in results between the three models give an impression of the types of market challenges that new options will face.

In addition, these studies could form the foundation of analysis of the non-climate environmental implications of implementing potential new energy sources at a large scale. Such analysis was beyond the scope of the present study, but information is provided that could form a basis for such analysis, e.g., the potential effects on the U.S. and the globe of implied volumes of CCS and biomass production, or of nuclear expansion that results in some of the scenarios.

Of course, the scenarios can also be used in comparative mode. That is, just as many lessons were learned by comparing the differences between the three modeling teams' scenarios, still more could be learned by extending the comparison to scenarios that either pre-date these or come after, including scenarios developed using entirely different approaches. Some scenario exercises do not apply an economic model with detailed analysis of energy markets of the type used here. Rather, they build up estimates from engineering descriptions of particular technologies and assumptions about low- or no-cost emissions reductions that result from market failures of one kind or another. These scenarios provide descriptions of energy-market behavior and, in particular, of energy prices that can be used as a structure for assessing and calibrating scenarios developed by other means.

Finally, we could imagine the scenarios being used to analyze of the welfare effects of the different stabilization targets. Such work was beyond the scope of the analysis specified in the Prospectus. However, the results do contain information that can be used to calculate indicators of consumer impact in the U.S., e.g., by using the changes in prices and quantities of fuels in moving from one stabilization level to another.

ES.6. Moving Forward

As noted earlier, this work is neither the first nor the last of its kind. Throughout the report, we have highlighted a range of limitations to the approach and to the participating models. All of them would benefit from further research. Such work would be valuable for future scenario development. This section discusses some of these limitations and the associated avenues for future research and model development.

ES.6.1. Technology Sensitivity Analysis

Many reasonable questions have been raised during the development process for these scenarios, often focused on questions of technology: What if, in the model that constrained nuclear because of policy considerations, nuclear were allowed to penetrate solely on economic grounds? What were the various cost assumptions underlying different technologies, and, implicitly, if nuclear, wind, natural gas combined cycle generation, biomass were somewhat more or less expensive, how would that affect penetration or policy cost? If costs of these technologies were different, would that affect the conclusion that fossil fuels remained very dominant in the reference? Interest was also expressed in creating conditions wherein the behavior of the three models could be compared under more controlled circumstances. What if they each made the same assumptions about population and GDP growth—would the results be very similar or very different?

ES.6.2. Consideration of Less Optimistic Policy Regimes

Other questions concerned the economic cost of these stabilization targets. In particular, what is the economic cost to the U.S. in terms of lost GDP or consumption? This question, seemingly an obvious one to answer, depends critically on how the economic burden of emissions reduction is shared among countries. If the U.S. and other developed countries take disproportionate emissions cuts then, even with a cost-effective instrument like emissions trading, the cost will be very high in the U.S. because we will purchase emissions allowances from elsewhere in the world.

The results also depend importantly on international trade and changes in the terms of trade, and so some allocations of allowances can lead to the U.S. benefiting from the policy. Not so surprisingly, a carbon policy would suppress energy use around the world and that means that the world price of oil would fall. The result is that carbon policy can be an instrument by which the world appetite for oil is held back and, as a result, the U.S. would gain substantially by being able to import oil at much less cost than it otherwise would. In some cases, this gain can be greater than the direct cost of the emissions reductions in the U.S. Of course, this depends on other countries actually reducing emissions, which is an assumption that calls into question the simple case we have constructed in which all countries join and act together in 2015.

Equally important, the highly stylized policy—with a broad cap and trade system with international flexibility, and approximated or applied with "when" flexibility—represents no policy that has actually been proposed by any legislature that has seriously taken up the issue of GHG mitigation. Some sectors are inevitably exempted, others enter through a cumbersome crediting system, and still other policies, such as renewable portfolio standards for electricity or higher fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, are inevitably part of the policy mix. Some of this mix of policy or exemptions may make sense, correcting other problems in the economy or reflecting the fact that measuring and monitoring very small sources of emissions may involve great cost per unit of reduction likely in those sectors. Thus, realistic estimates of costs for the U.S. need to address these realistic aspects of the formulation of real policies, and would require multiple scenarios to illustrate clearly why one approach looked inexpensive and another expensive. The simple policy architecture assumed here, with U.S. costs dependent as they are on the allocation of burden among regions, leads to cost estimates that by themselves are likely to be misleading rather than helpful.

ES.6.3. Expansion/Improvement of the Land Use Components of the Models

Finally, a significant gap in this analysis is the role of forest and agricultural sinks and sources. The major reason for this gap is that the models employed here were not well-suited to analyze this issue. Even more so than for energy, the idea of a broad cap and trade system applied to agriculture and forest sinks seems particularly unrealistic because no legislation anywhere has proposed such a system. Instead, incentives for agriculture and forest sinks have been proposed as a crediting system or through more traditional agriculture and forestry programs. The efficacy and effectiveness of such policies and the potential contribution from forestry and agriculture deserve greater attention than was possible here.

ES.6.4. Inclusion of other Radiatively-Important Substances

There are obviously a number of cautions and limitations to any scenario analysis. In this case, the focus has been on the relatively long-lived GHGs. Tropospheric ozone and aerosols also have strong climatic effects, but no projections of these substances have been reported here nor was any effort made to study the economics of limiting emissions of aerosols and ozone precursors.

ES.6.5. Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

Finally, the problem of deciding what to do about climate change is ultimately a problem of decision-making under uncertainty that requires an assessment of the risks and how a policy might reduce the odds of extremely bad outcomes. One would like to compare the expected benefits of a policy against the expected cost of achieving that reduction. By focusing only on emission paths that would lead to stabilization, we are able to report the costs of achieving that goal without an assessment of the benefits. Moreover, given the direction provided in the Prospectus, the focus was on scenarios and not an uncertainty analysis. Thus, the scenarios provided are just that—scenarios which were considered plausible by the analysts who constructed them. It is, of course, not possible to attach probabilities to scenarios—formal probabilities can only be attached to a range. That is, it is in principle possible to assign some likelihood that emissions will not be greater than a particular level or that they will fall between two levels. However, the analysis needed to make such statements was not, by the design dictated by the Prospectus, a part of this exercise.