



# Innovation in the Energy Sector: the Role of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy



**NSF CMMI Research  
and Innovation  
Conference 2011**

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# Energy Challenges





# Consensus...

REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON  
ACCELERATING THE PACE OF  
CHANGE IN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES  
THROUGH AN INTEGRATED  
FEDERAL ENERGY POLICY

Executive Office of the President  
President's Council of Advisors  
on Science and Technology

NOVEMBER 2010



**Building a Sustainable  
Energy Future:**  
U.S. Actions for an Effective  
Energy Economy Transformation

National Science Board

August 3, 2009



**ENERGY  
FUTURE**



**Real Prospects for  
Energy Efficiency in  
the United States**



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING, AND  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADemies

**ENERGY  
FUTURE**



**America's  
Energy Future**

TECHNOLOGY AND  
TRANSFORMATION

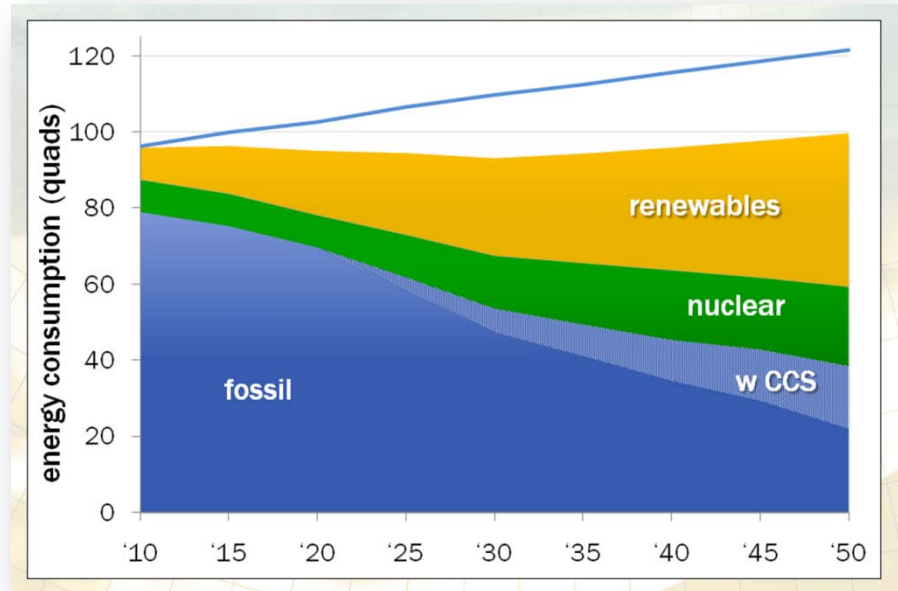
SUMMARY EDITION

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING  
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL  
OF THE NATIONAL ACADemies

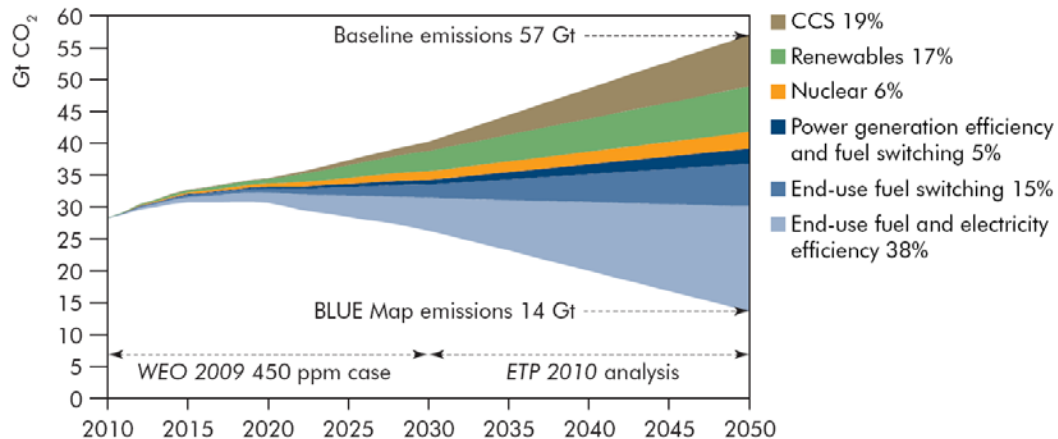
- **Increase R&D Investment**
- **Align Public Policy with Nat'l Priorities**
- **Accelerate Adoption and Diffusion**

# And a Path Forward

## STEP—Medium Case Total Energy



## Key Technologies for Reducing CO2 Emissions Under the BLUE Map Scenario



**2050 national goal:**  
 Oil use reduced to <15% of current levels,  
 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions cut by >80%

Source: International Energy Agency, *Energy Technologies Perspectives 2010*

# A Profound Transformation is Required

## Today's U.S. Energy System

- Dependent on foreign sources
- Subject to price volatility
- Increasingly vulnerable energy delivery systems
- 2/3 of source energy is wasted
- Produces 25% of the world's carbon emissions
- Role of electricity increasing

## Sustainable Energy System

- Carbon neutral
- Efficient
- Diverse supply options
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Creates American jobs
- Accessible, affordable and secure

**TRANSFORMATION**

# Reaching This Goal Will Require a Sustainable Energy System

## Community & Industrial Systems

The Built Environment



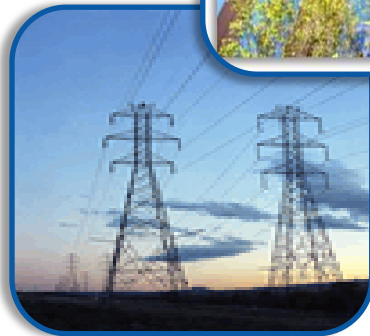
Transportation Systems



*Integrated Systems  
Sustainable Design*

*Highly Efficient •  
Integrated Renewables*

*Highly Efficient • Fuel  
Flexible*



*Distributed & Utility-Scale Renewable Power*

Electricity Generation & Delivery Systems



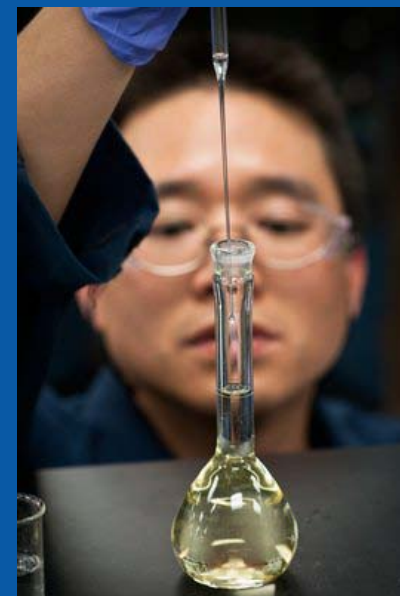
*Renewable Fuels*

Fuel Production Systems

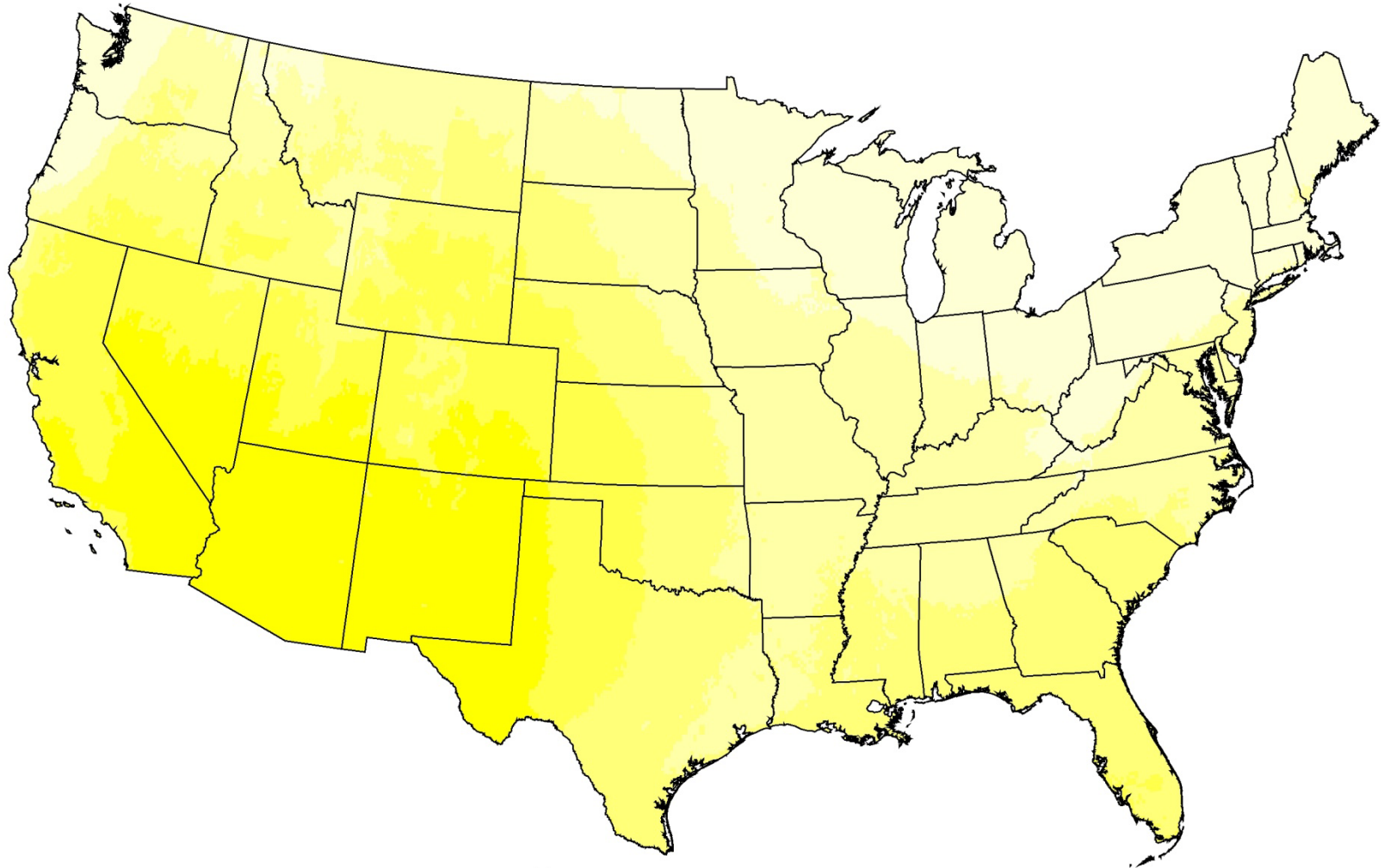




# Renewable Energy Innovation



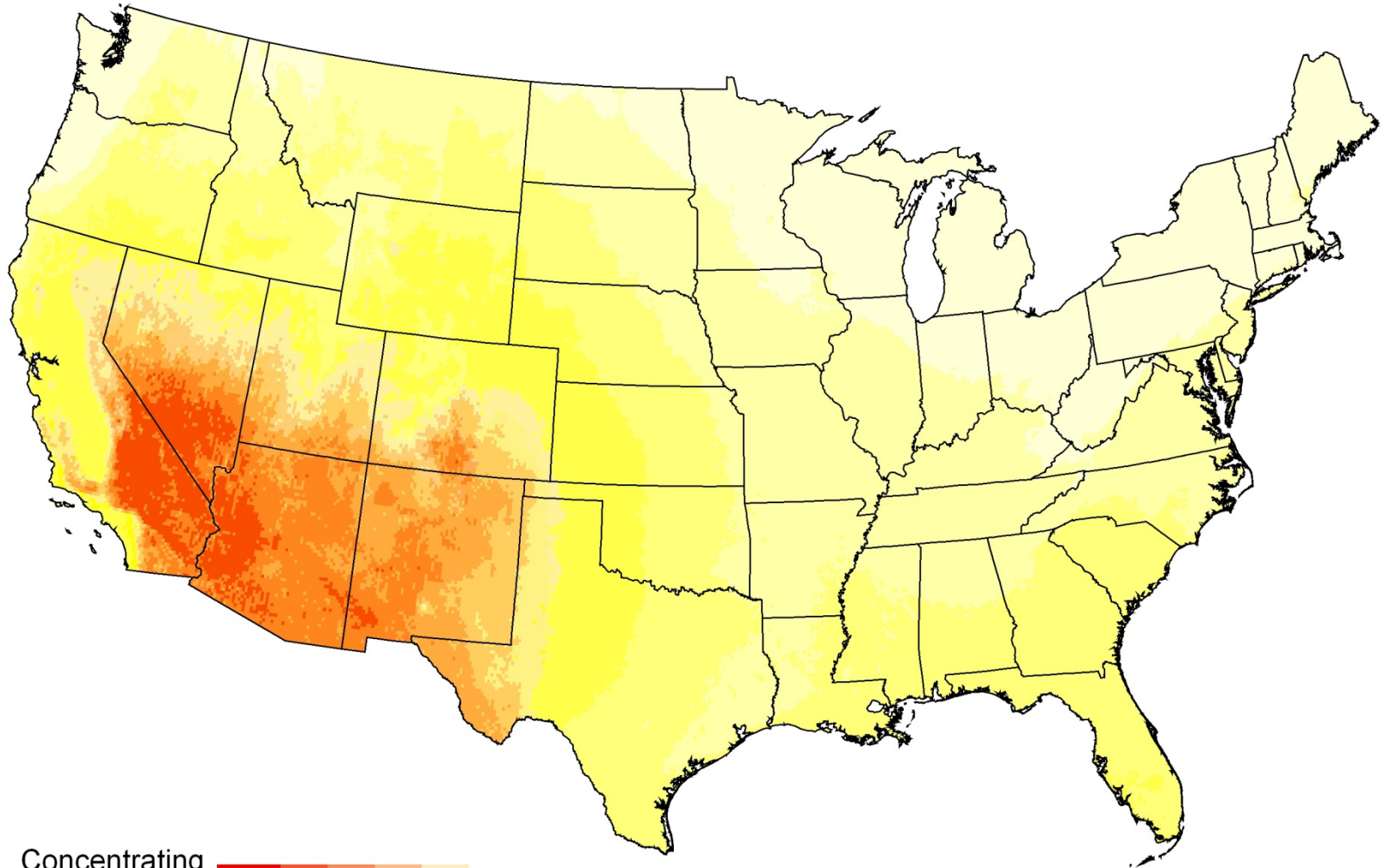
# U.S. Renewable Resources



Photovoltaics  Resource  
Dark = Higher  
Light = Lower



# U.S. Renewable Resources



Concentrating  
Solar Thermal

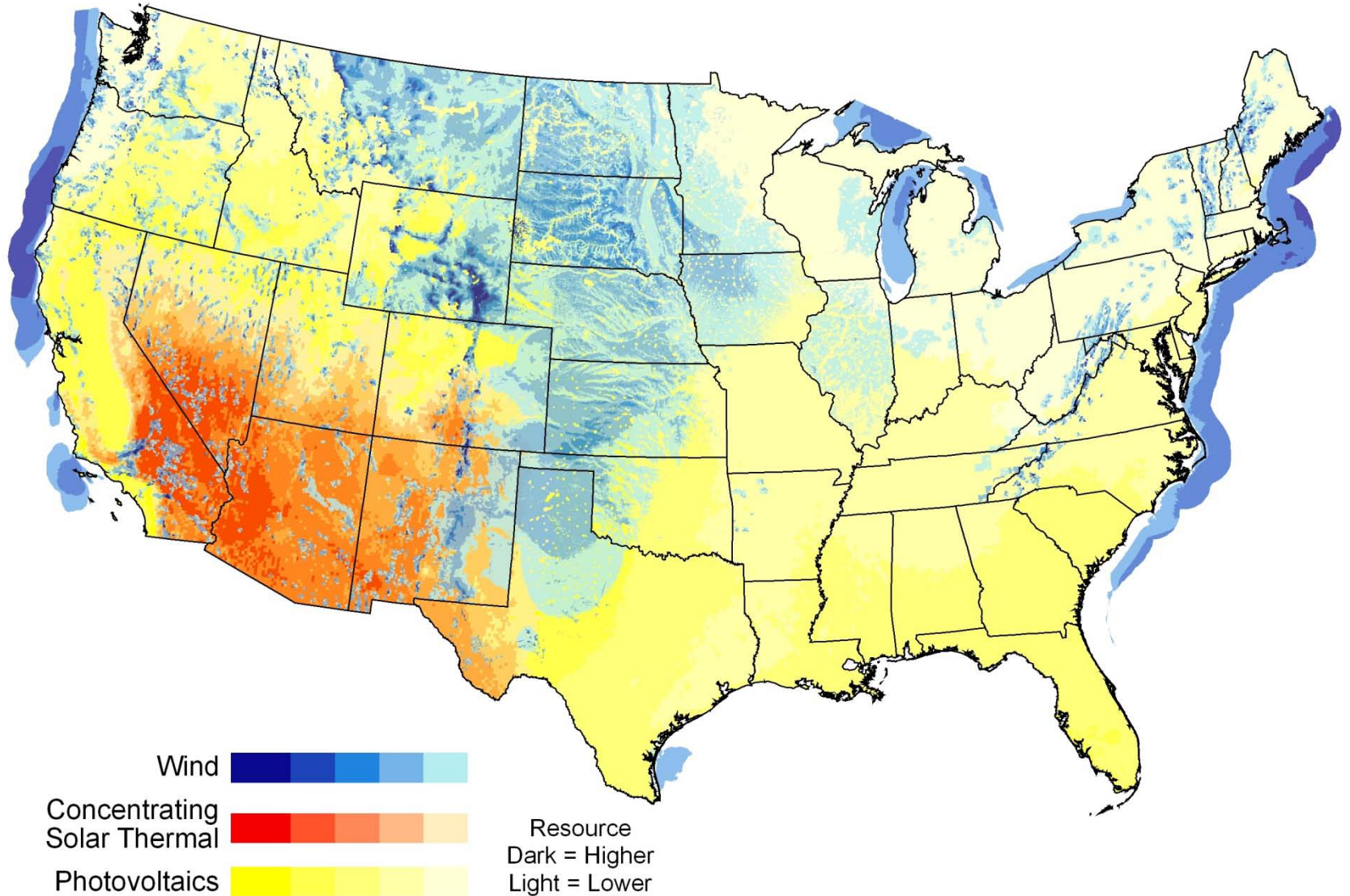


Photovoltaics



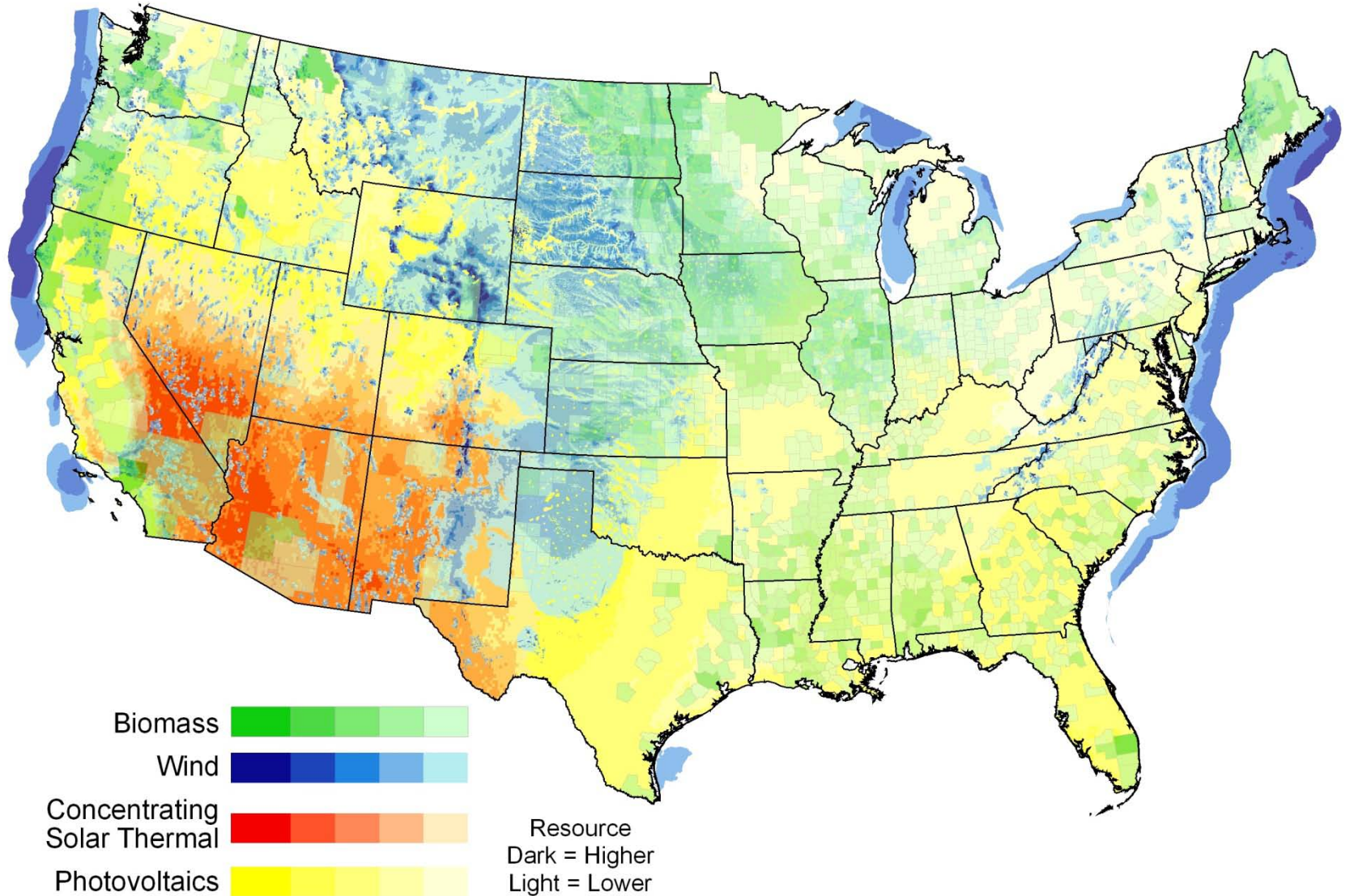
Resource  
Dark = Higher  
Light = Lower

# U.S. Renewable Resources



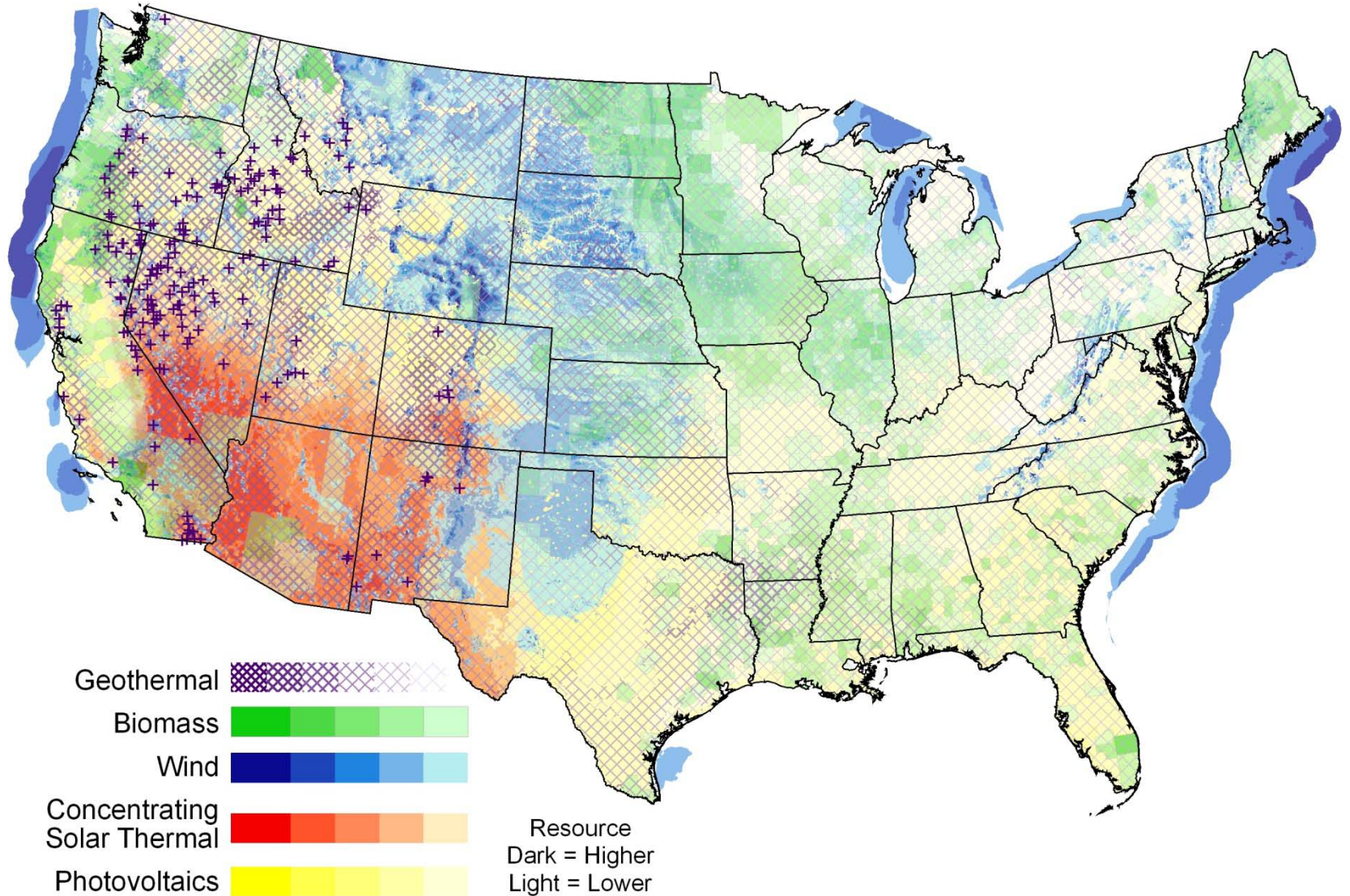


# U.S. Renewable Resources



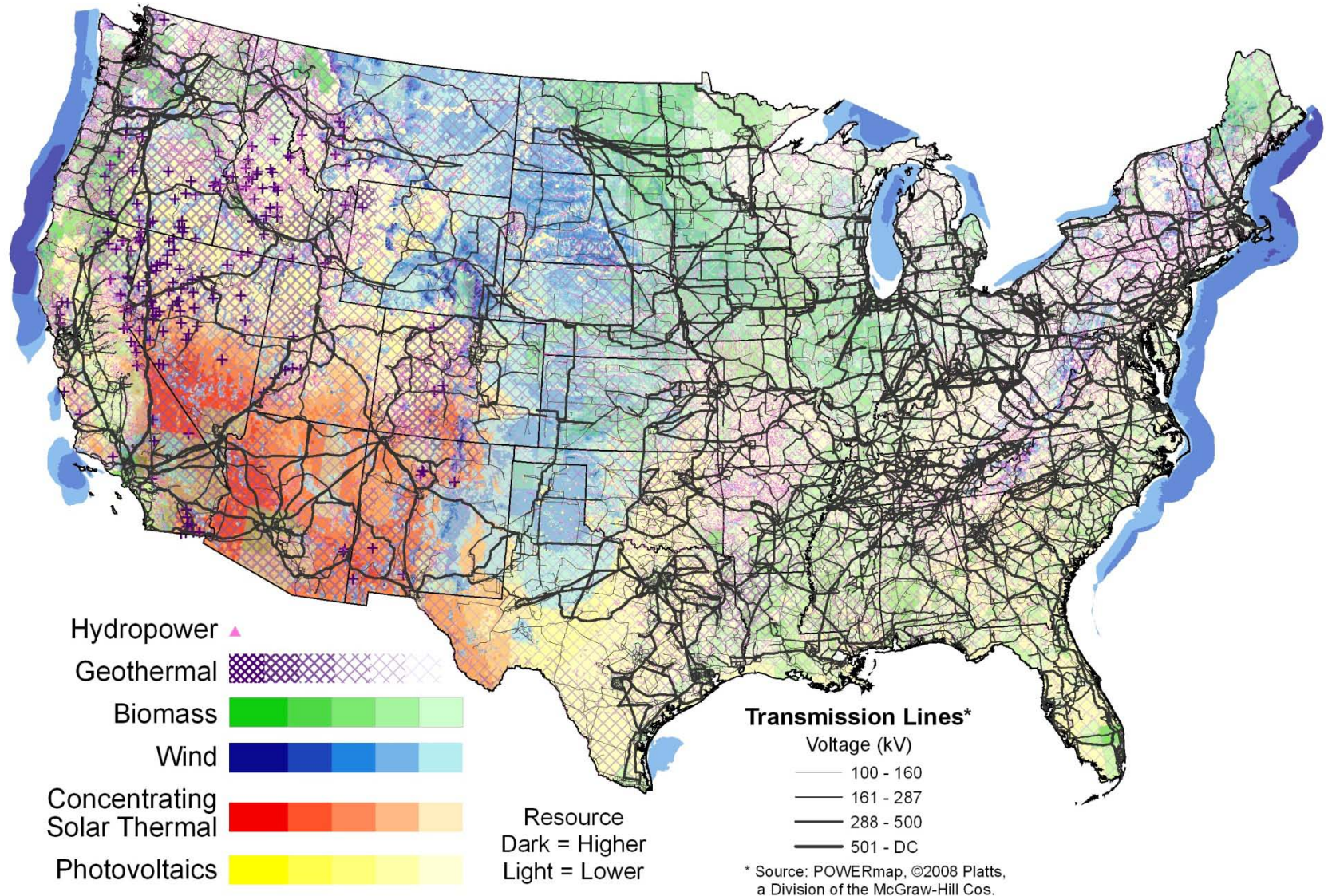


# U.S. Renewable Resources



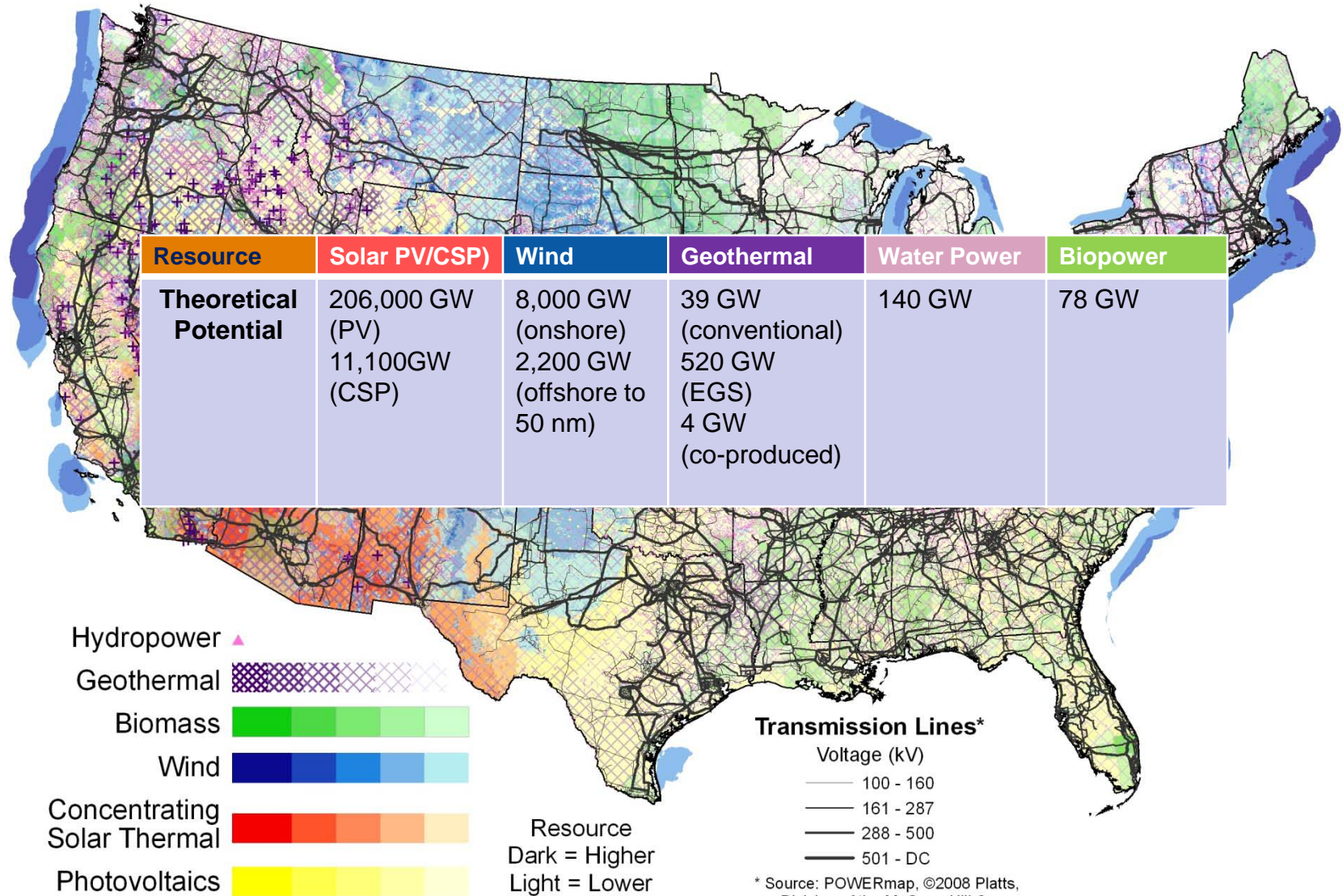


# U.S. Renewable Resources





# U.S. Renewable Resources



\* Source: POWERmap, ©2008 Platts, a Division of the McGraw-Hill Cos.



# A Decade of Real Progress

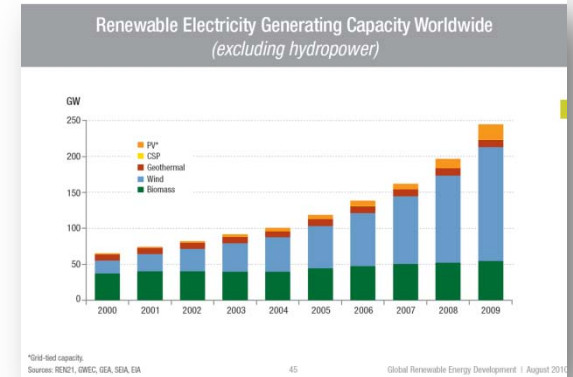
Wind power increased from **1,000 MW** to **10,000 MW/year**

Solar PV went from **25 MW** to **500 MW/year**

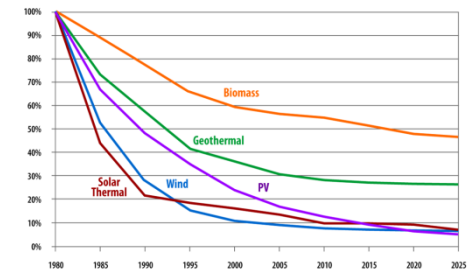
Biofuels emerged as a **major national and global industry**

**Costs** have been significantly reduced and are **approaching grid parity**

Renewable energy grew from \$1B/year to a **\$20B/year market** in the U.S.



History of R&D builds confidence in continued investment



Global New Financial Investment in Clean Energy—Q1 2004-Q1 2010 (\$bn)



# Energy Efficiency



# Buildings

## Status U.S. Buildings:

- 39% of primary energy
- 71% of electricity
- 38% of carbon emissions

## DOE Goal:

- Cost effective, marketable zero energy buildings by 2025
- Value of energy savings exceeds cost of energy features on a cash flow basis

## NREL Research Thrusts

- Whole building systems integration of efficiency and renewable features
- Computerized building energy optimization tools
- Building integrated PV

Updated 7/09





# Buildings Innovation



High Performance Buildings



BIPV Products & PV-T Array



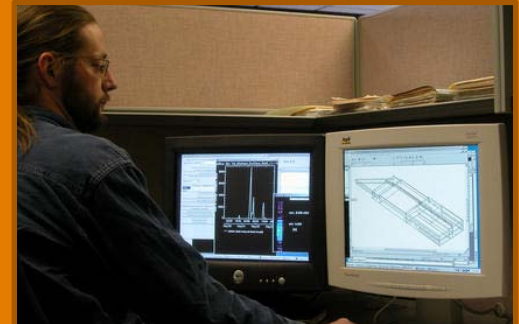
Compressorless Cooling



Electrochromic Windows



Polymer Solar Water Heaters



Computerized optimization & simulation Tools

# Advanced Vehicles

## Current U.S. Status

- 129 million light duty gas/diesel vehicles
- 98 million heavy duty gas/diesel trucks
- 1 million hybrid electric vehicles

## NREL Research Thrusts

- **Fuels utilization**
  - Advanced fuels chemistry and testing
  - Engine-fuels interactions
- **Component technologies**
  - Advanced lithium ion batteries
  - Battery thermal management
- **Advanced power electronics**
- **Vehicle ancillary loads reduction**
  - Advanced heating & cooling
  - Vehicle thermal management
- **Electric vehicle-to-grid interface**



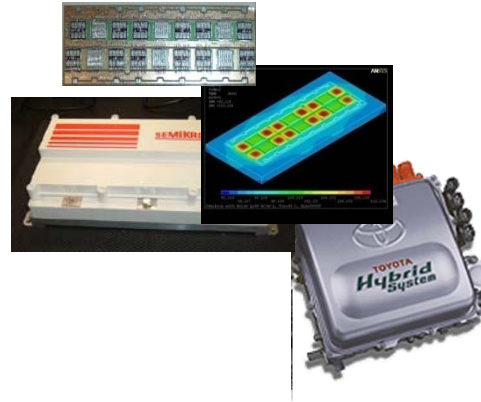
# Advanced Vehicles Innovation

## Energy Storage



Batteries & UltraCaps

## Advanced Power Electronics



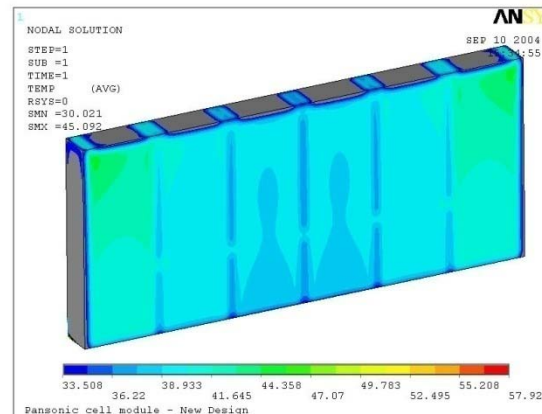
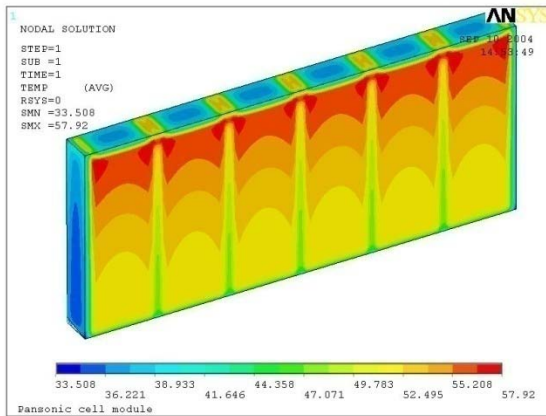
## Vehicle Ancillary Loads Reduction



Before



After





# Wind Energy



# Wind Energy



The Siemens 2.3 MW turbine at NREL is among the largest land-based turbines deployed in the United States

## Current Status (2009)

- 35 GW of installed capacity
- 1.8% of total U.S. electricity generation
- 10 GW added in 2009, representing over 39% of new domestic electricity generation capacity
- Cost 6-9¢/kWh at good wind sites

## Cost goals by 2020

- Utility-scale, low-wind-speed, land-based, Class 4 wind regimes— reduce unsubsidized cost to 8.0 cents/kWh
- Shallow water, offshore, Class 6 wind regimes—reduce unsubsidized cost to 13.0 cents/kWh.

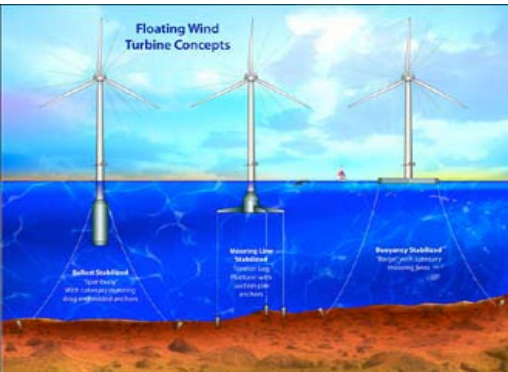
## Major Technology Directions

- Wind Turbine System and Component Reliability
- Wind Resource Modeling and Forecasting
- Grid Integration
- Offshore Wind /Small Wind Siting and Testing

Updated 10/10

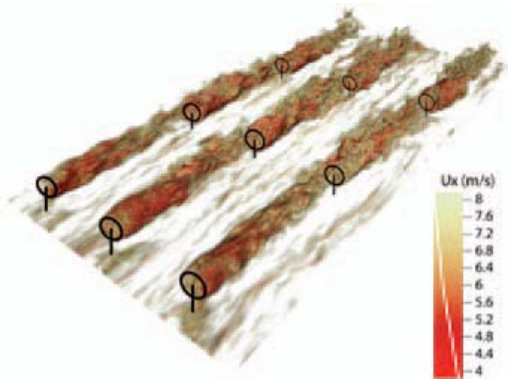


# Wind Innovation



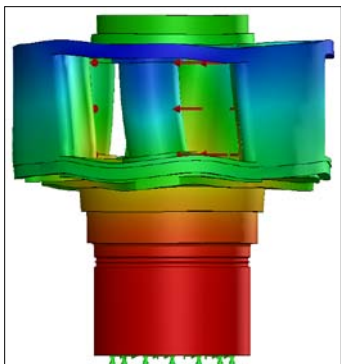
**What:** New complex modeling and analysis tool for offshore floating wind turbine concepts.

**Impact:** Will enable wind turbine designers to develop competitive offshore technologies capable of harvesting the vast offshore wind resources found farther from shore.



**What:** High-fidelity large-eddy simulation model that predicts the performance of large wind plants with a high degree of accuracy.

**Impact :** Will increase the performance of large wind plants, reduce the cost of wind energy, and save wind plant developers millions of dollars in lost revenue.



**What:** Improve gearbox reliability and find process gaps.

**Impact :** Will provide industry with broad analytical and reliability testing for optimum compliant wind turbine designs, saving money and increasing capacity.

# Solar Energy





# Solar Energy



## Current U.S. Status:

### Photovoltaics

- 1,677 MW installed solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity
- Cost 16.5¢/kWh\*

### Concentrating Solar Power

- 431 MW installed capacity
- Cost 13.5¢/kWh\*

## Cost goals:

- PV: 7-13 ¢/kWh by 2020, 6-10 ¢/kWh by 2030
- CSP: 8-14 ¢/kWh by 2020, 6-12 ¢/kWh by 2030\*\*

## Major Technology Directions

### Photovoltaics

- Thin-film cells/modules & scale-up
- Nanomaterials enabled technologies
- Advanced manufacturing techniques
- Improved reliability
- Closing gaps between cell & module efficiencies

### Concentrated Solar Power

- Low-cost, high-performance thermal storage
- Advanced absorbers, reflectors, and heat transfer fluids
- Next generation solar concentrators

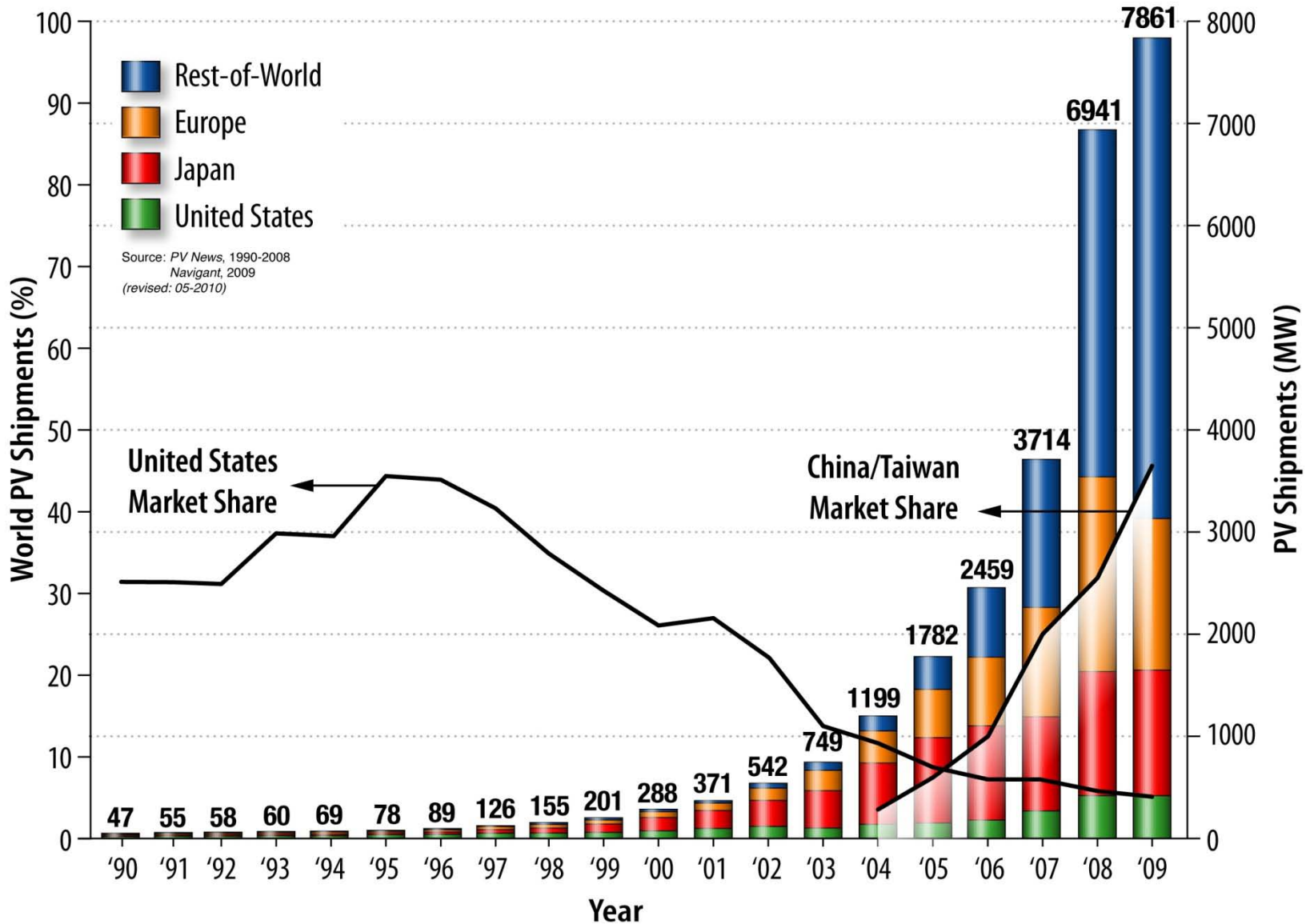
Grid integration, systems performance and reliability

Updated 1/11

\*Source: Navigant Consulting Inc, July 2010. Assumes federal & state incentives.

\*\*CSP assumes trough technology.

# Manufacturing Shifts to Asia



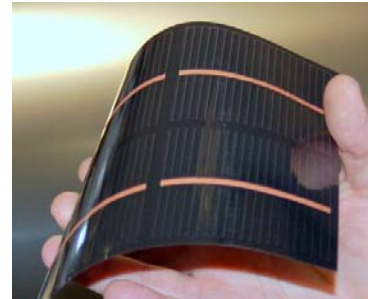
# Pursuing a Range of Promising PV Technologies



20x-100x



500x



$\text{Cu(In,Ga)Se}_2 \sim 1\text{-}2 \mu\text{m}$



c-Si  $\sim 180 \mu\text{m}$



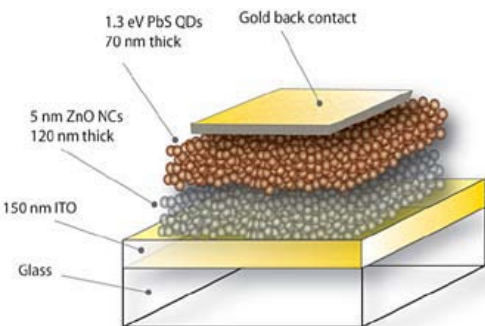


# Solar Innovation



**What:** Improved Transparent Conducting Oxides Boost Performance of Thin-Film Solar Cells

**Impact:** These coatings improve the commercial prospects of thin-film PV.



**What:** First All Quantum Dot Photovoltaic Cell; Demonstrates Stability, Performance in QDs

**Impact :** The two-electrons-from-one-photon bonus exhibited by a stable quantum dot device could lead to a dramatic increase in the conversion efficiency into electricity in solar cells.

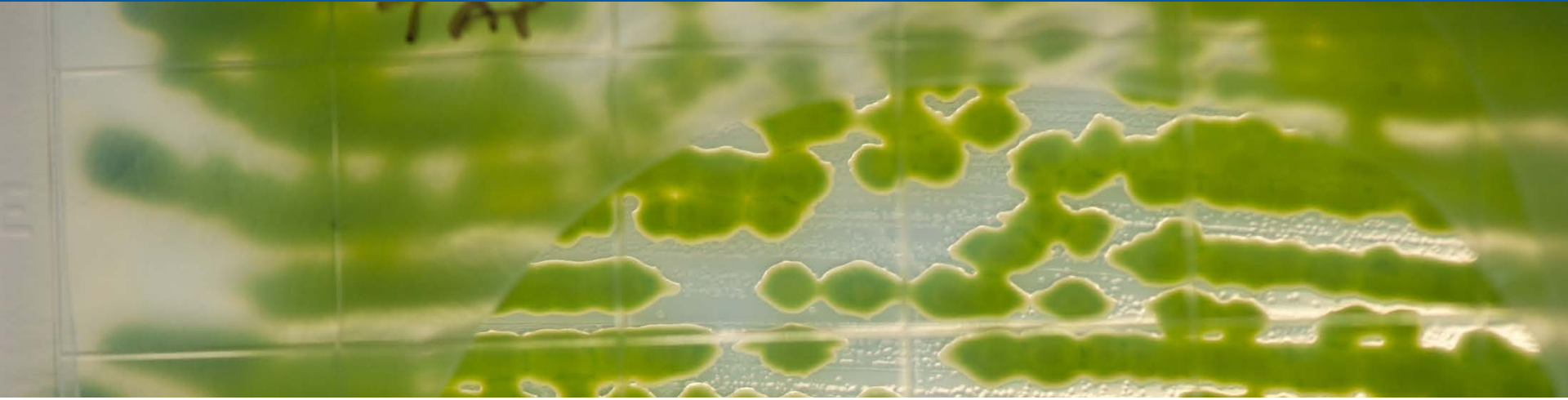


**What:** Using thin-film PV to generate lower-cost PV electricity (in dollars per watt).

**Impact :** Development of cadmium telluride (CdTe) and other thin-film photovoltaic (PV) technologies will enable the U.S. to capture a significant share of the worldwide PV market.



# Biofuels



# Biofuels



## Current Status (2009):

U.S. produced 10.8 billion gallons of ethanol and 0.5 billion gallons of biodiesel

- 210 commercial corn ethanol plants
- 150 biodiesel refineries
- 26 cellulosic ethanol demonstration plants

## Cost goal:

Cellulosic ethanol—cost parity with gasoline by 2012

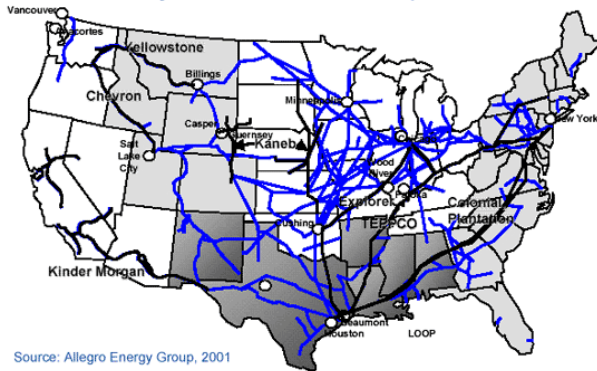
## Major Technology Directions:

- **Foundational Science:** Enzymes, fermentation, understanding biomass and cell composition
- **Feedstocks:** Sustainable feedstock production systems
- **Pretreatment & Conversion R&D:** Biochemical and thermochemical conversion processes
- **Advanced Biofuels and Algae:** Broadening RD&D beyond cellulosic ethanol to address “drop in” and high-energy content fuels from algae and other biomass resources

Updated 10/10

# Why Follow-On Generations?

Major Refined Products Pipelines



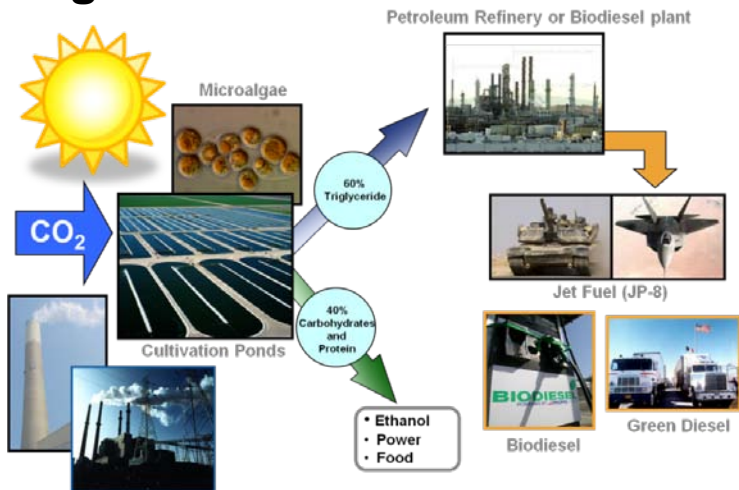
Source: Allegro Energy Group, 2001



## Advanced Biofuels – “beyond ethanol”

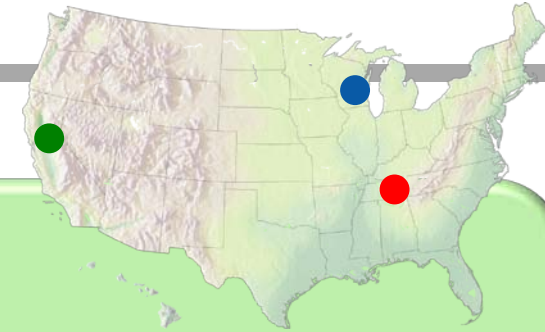
- Higher energy density/suitability
- Better temp and cold start ability
- Energy and tailored feedstocks
- Infrastructure compatibility

## Algae





# Bioenergy Research Centers



## ● University of Wisconsin



- Plant fiber breakdown
- Increase plant production of starches and oils
- Biofuels sustainability

## ● Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory



- “Model” crops of rice and *Arabidopsis*,
- Microbial-based synthesis of fuels beyond ethanol.

## ● Oak Ridge National Laboratory

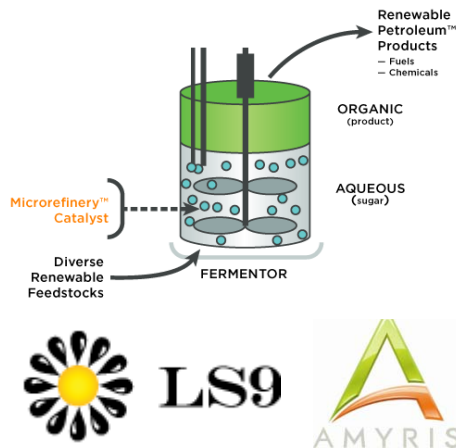


- Resistance of plant fiber to breakdown into sugars
- Potential energy crops poplar and switchgrass.

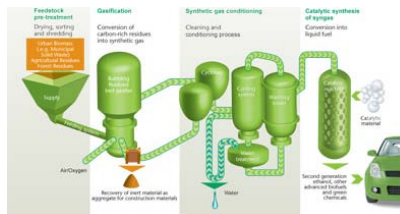
# Biofuels Innovation

New conversion technologies are being developed, offering the possibility of revolutionary, high volume methods for producing biofuel hydrocarbon fuels for our trucks, trains, ships, and aircraft . . .

## Biological Conversion



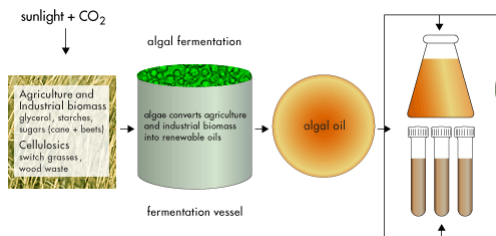
## Chemical Catalytic Conversion



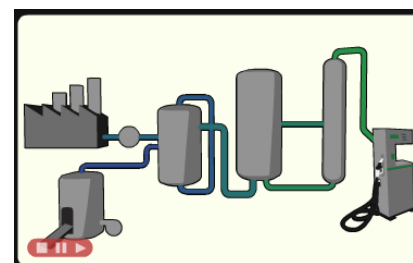
## Pyrolysis/Bio-Oil Pathways



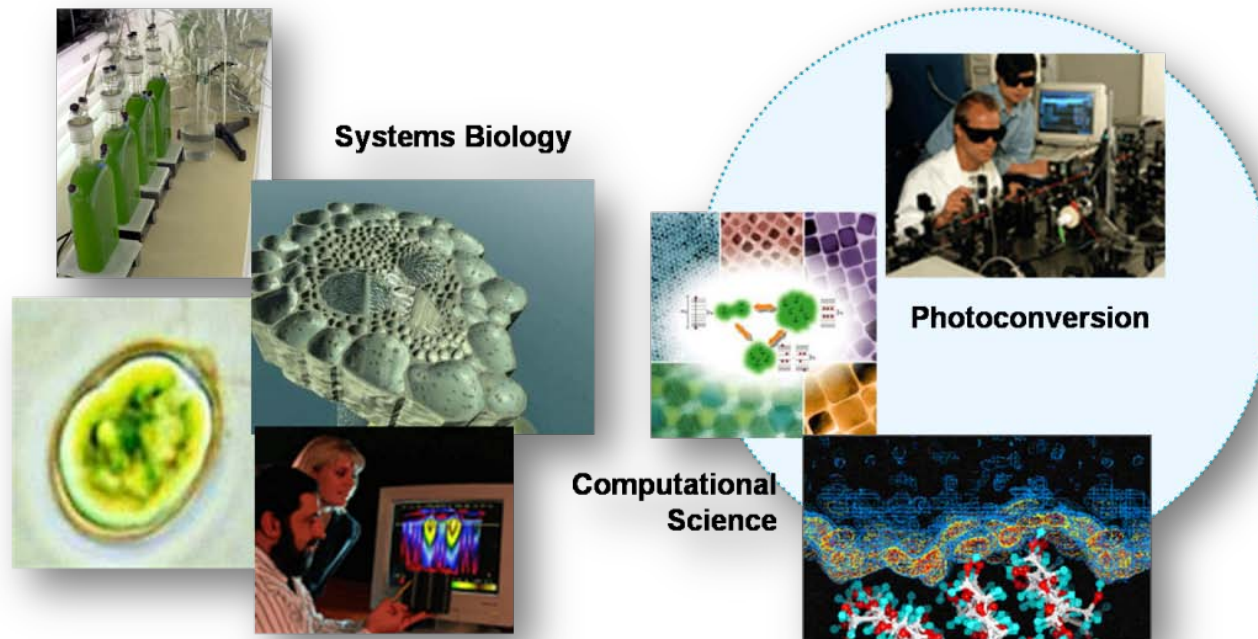
## Heterotrophic Algae Conversion



## Hybrid Conversion Technologies



# Commitment to Breakthrough Innovation



MARKET  
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AND  
DEVELOPMENT

***Managing the science-to-technology interface***





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