

# The Role of Renewables in a Sustainable Energy Economy



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**Laboratory Director**

**Clean-tech**  
**Investor's Summit**

**Palm Springs, CA**  
**January 20, 2010**

# Energy Challenges

## Security

- Secure supply
- Reliable Infrastructure

## Economy

- Economic Development
- Energy price volatility
- Affordability

All three imperatives  
must be  
simultaneously  
addressed

## Environment

- Carbon mitigation
- Land and water use

# Achieving a Sustainable Energy Economy *Requires a National Energy Grand Challenge\**



Lead Coordinated R  
Strategy in Sustainable  
Energy



Support Education  
Workforce Developm

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

August 3, 2009

National Science Board



Construct Essential  
Policies & Market  
Conditions



Promote Public  
Awareness & Action

\* Recommendations of the National Science Board Task Force on Sustainable Energy

# The New National Priorities

- Invest \$150B in alternative energy over 10 years
- Create green jobs with clean, efficient American energy
- Double production of alternative energy in three years – enough to power 6 million homes
- Upgrade the efficiency of more than 75% of federal buildings and two million private homes
- Put one million PHEVs on U.S. roads by 2015
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050
- Transform our economy with science and technology



G8Website/ANSA Photo: Alessandro Di Meo

# Our Energy System

## Supply & Conversion



Oil 40%  
Coal 23%  
Natural Gas 23%

## Transmission & Distribution



61%



39%



## Utilization



27%



40%



33%

100 Quads



Nuclear 8%



Hydro  
Wind  
Solar 6%  
Biomass  
Geothermal

Lost energy as inefficiencies – 62%



# Energy is a means to an end, not an end in itself

Heat and power  
for where we live  
and work



**Sustainable  
Electricity System**

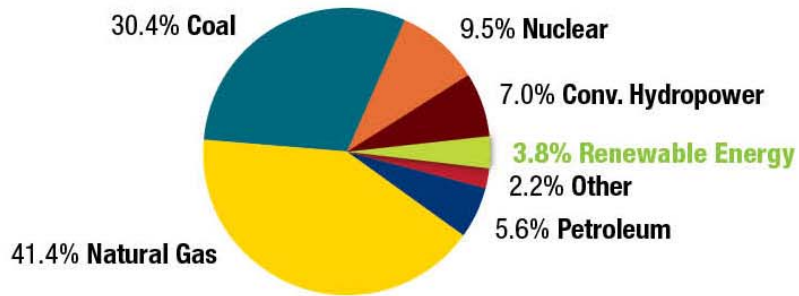
Fuel and power for  
mobility and  
access



**Sustainable  
Transportation  
System**

# U.S. Nameplate Capacity and Generation

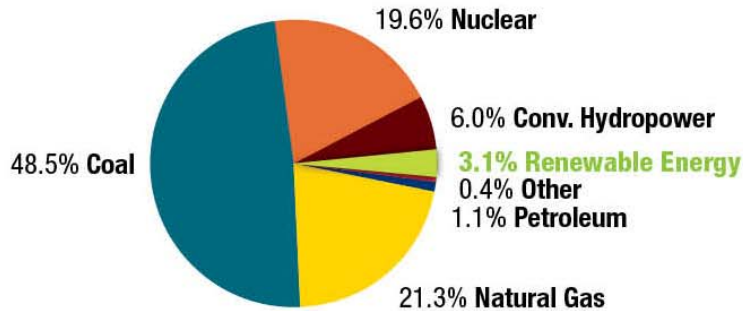
**U.S. Electric Nameplate Capacity (2008): 1,109 GW**



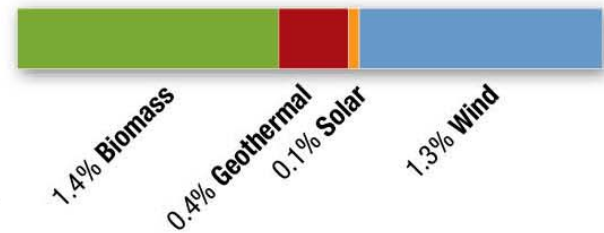
**U.S. Renewable Capacity: 42 GW**



**U.S. Electric Net Generation (2008): 4,112 billion kWh**



**U.S. Renewable Generation: 125 billion kWh**



Source: EIA

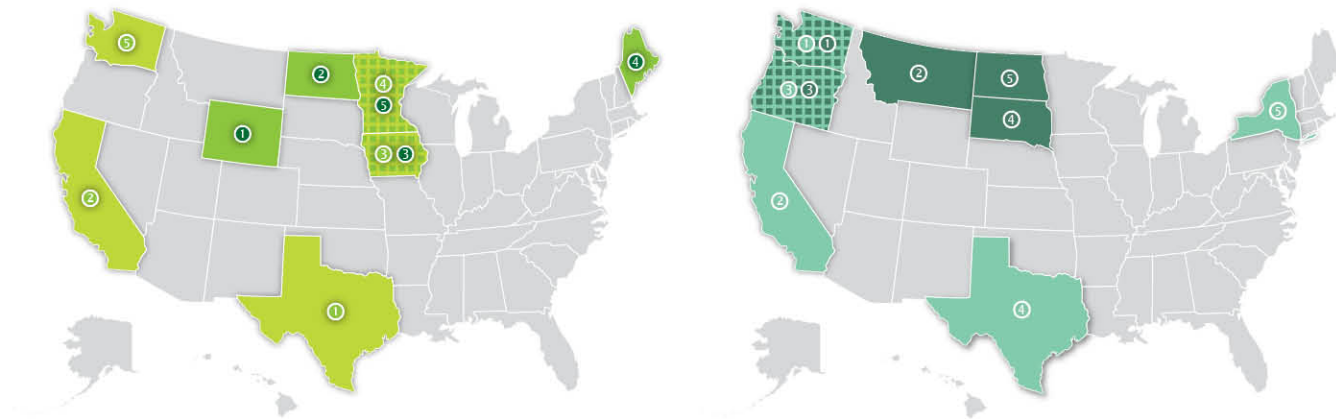
Other includes: pumped storage, batteries, chemicals, hydrogen, pitch, purchased steam, sulfur, tire-derived fuels, and miscellaneous technologies.

\* Includes on- and off-grid capacity.

EERE 2008 Renewable Energy Data Book

U.S. Energy Background Information | July 2009

# Top States for Renewable Electricity Installed Nameplate Capacity



Total Renewables (excluding hydropower)
1 Texas
2 California
3 Iowa
4 Minnesota
5 Washington

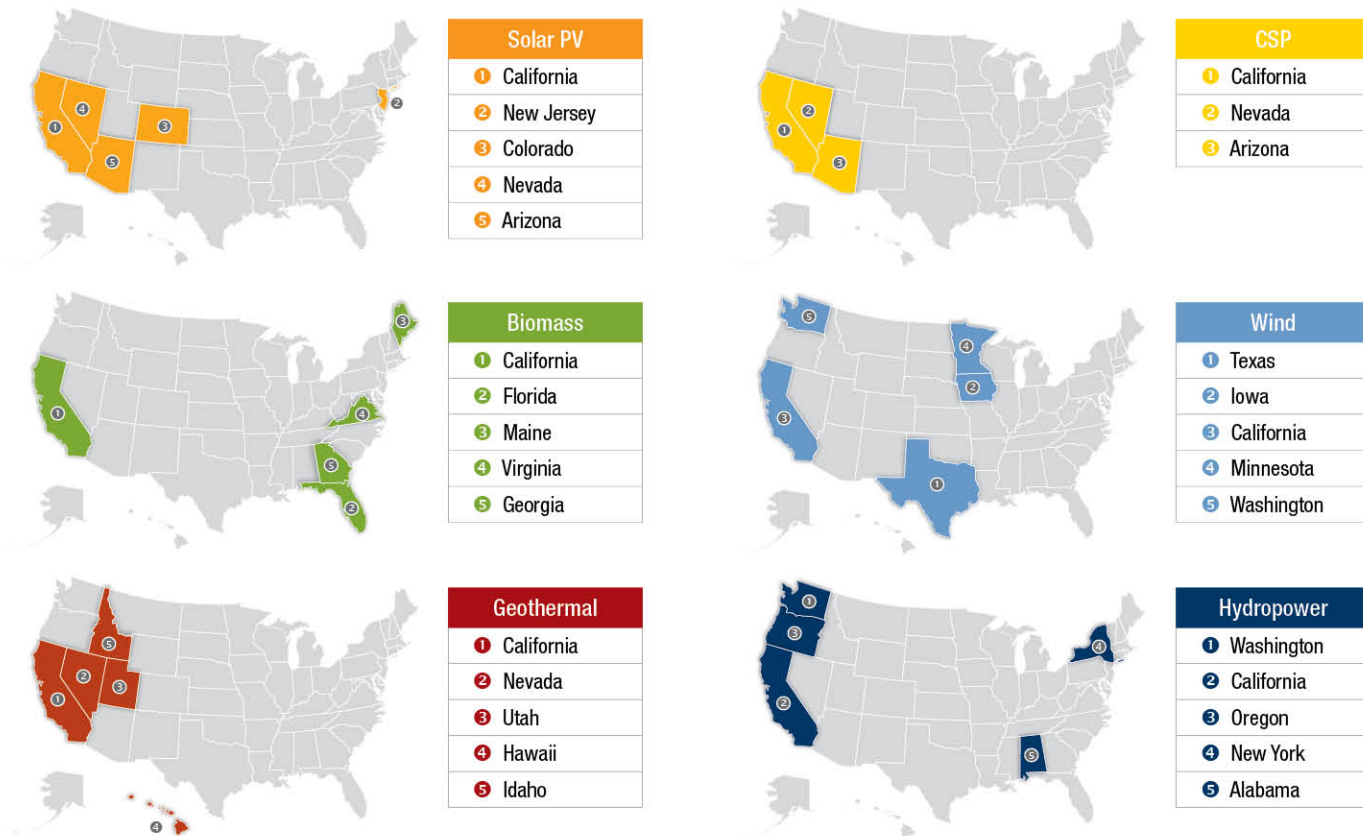
Per Capita Renewables (excluding hydropower)
1 Wyoming
2 North Dakota
3 Iowa
4 Maine
5 Minnesota

Total Renewables (including hydropower)
1 Washington
2 California
3 Oregon
4 Texas
5 New York

Per Capita Renewables (including hydropower)
1 Washington
2 Montana
3 Oregon
4 South Dakota
5 North Dakota



# Top States for Renewable Electricity Installed Nameplate Capacity

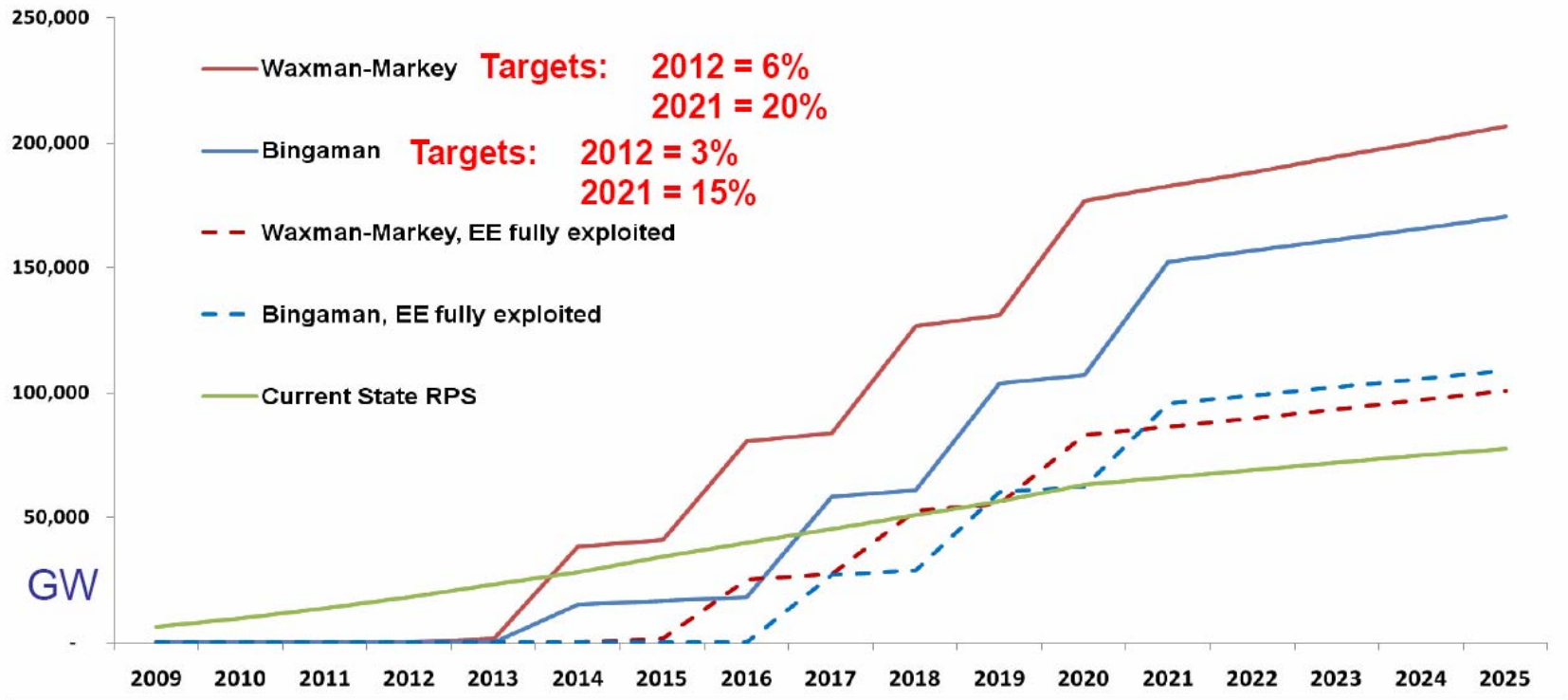


Sources: EIA, Navigant, AWEA, GEA, NREL, EERE, Larry Sherwood/IREC

EERE 2008 Renewable Energy Data Book  
Renewable Electricity in the U.S. | July 2009

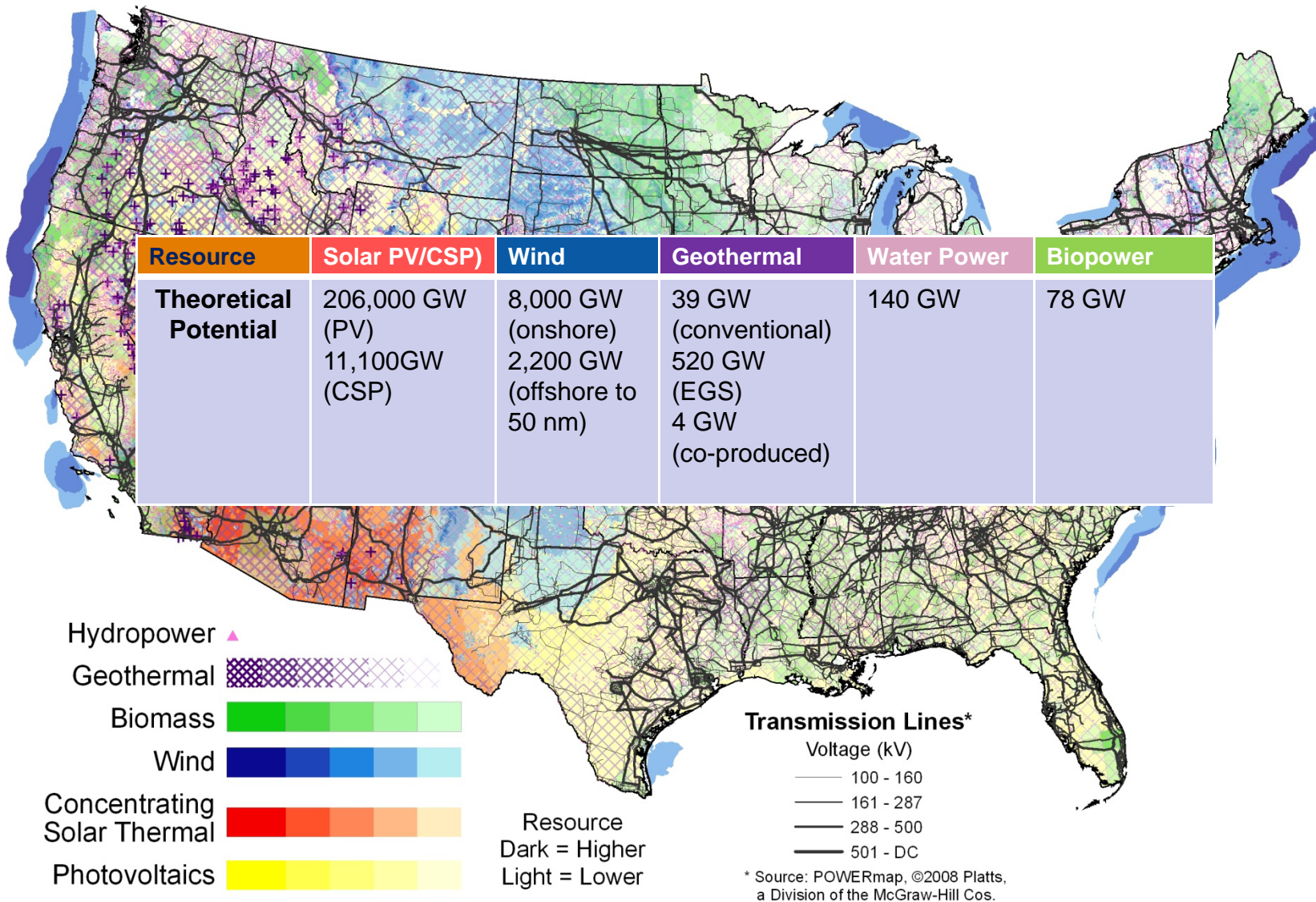
p.33

# Federal RES vs. State Requirements: Mandated New MW Capacity



Source: Global Environment Fund

# U.S. Renewable Resources



# Evolution of U.S. Renewable Energy Sector:

## *the 2009 transition...*

### Pre 2009 — The Big Easy

Plentiful finance  
Constrained equipment supply,  
high costs  
Manufacturers with leverage and  
pricing power  
Sporadic government support  
via subsidies

2009

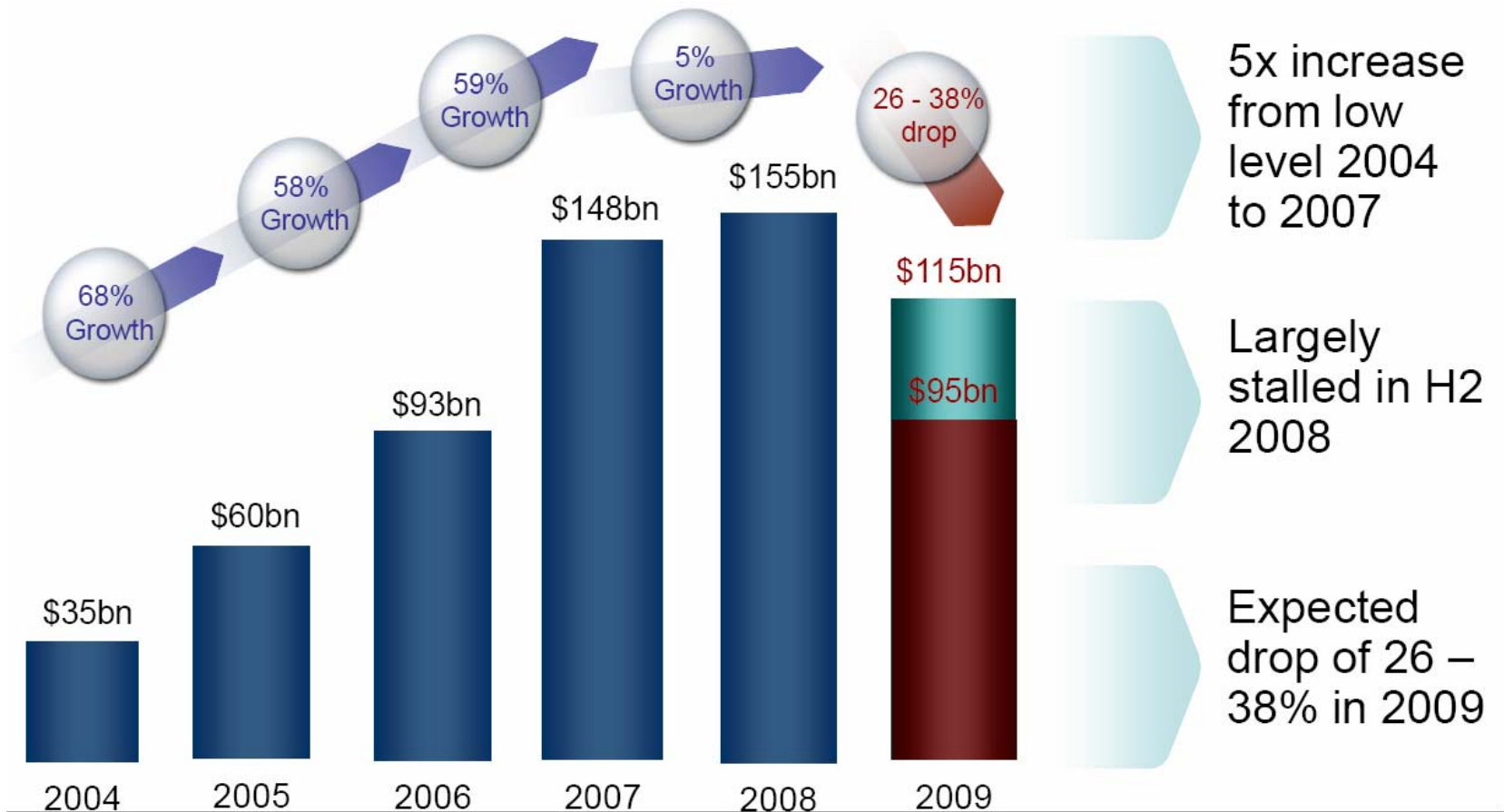
### Post 2009 — A New Competitive Climate

Finance constrained  
Surplus equipment supply, falling prices  
(i.e. PV modules, wind turbines?)  
Consumers with leverage and bargaining power  
Increased government support via subsidies  
and **direct stimulus investment**



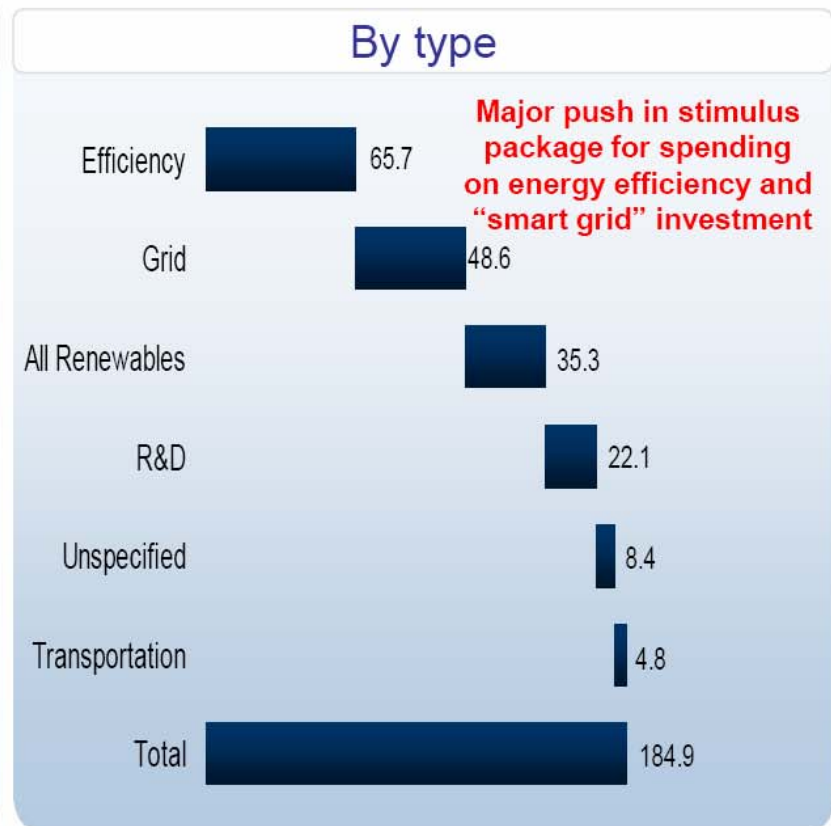
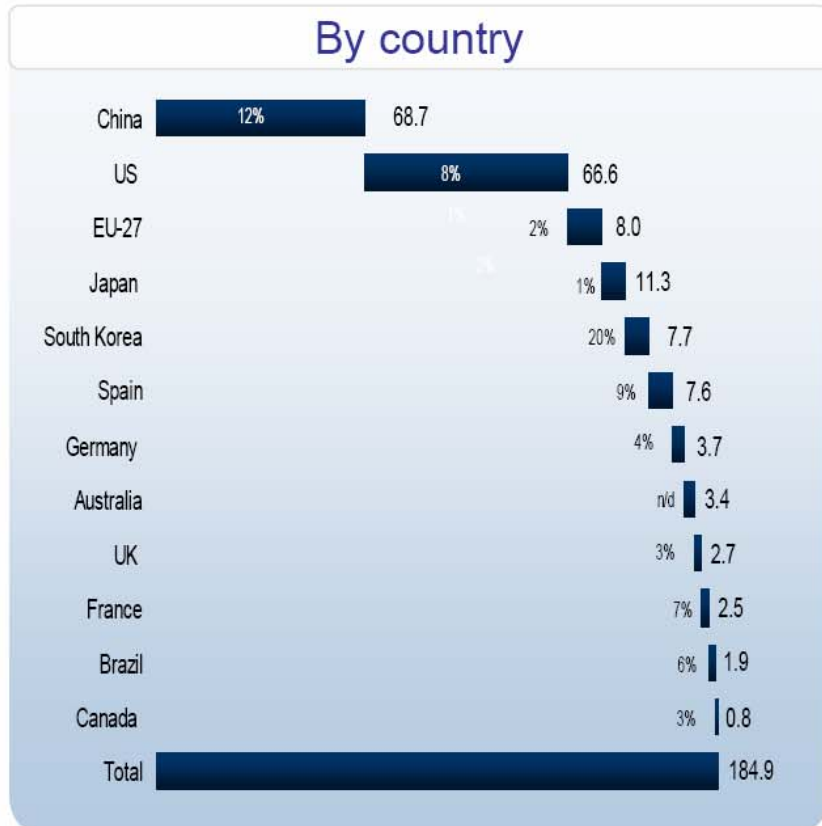
Source: Global Environment Fund

# Global New Investment in Clean Energy 2004-2009



Source: New Energy Finance

# Stimulus Components Targeted at Clean Energy (\$ billions)



Source: New Energy Finance

# DOE Strategic Technologies-for-Energy Plan (STEP)

Kristina Johnson – 9/2/09

- Previous roadmap re-scoped
- Objectives: set strategic priorities, align S-3 R&D budget with priorities
- Big question: what is the impact on important national goals of “research/science” investment



# Driving a New National Strategy *NREL at the Forefront*



Technology Cooperation & Deployment for  
Energy Security & Sustainability



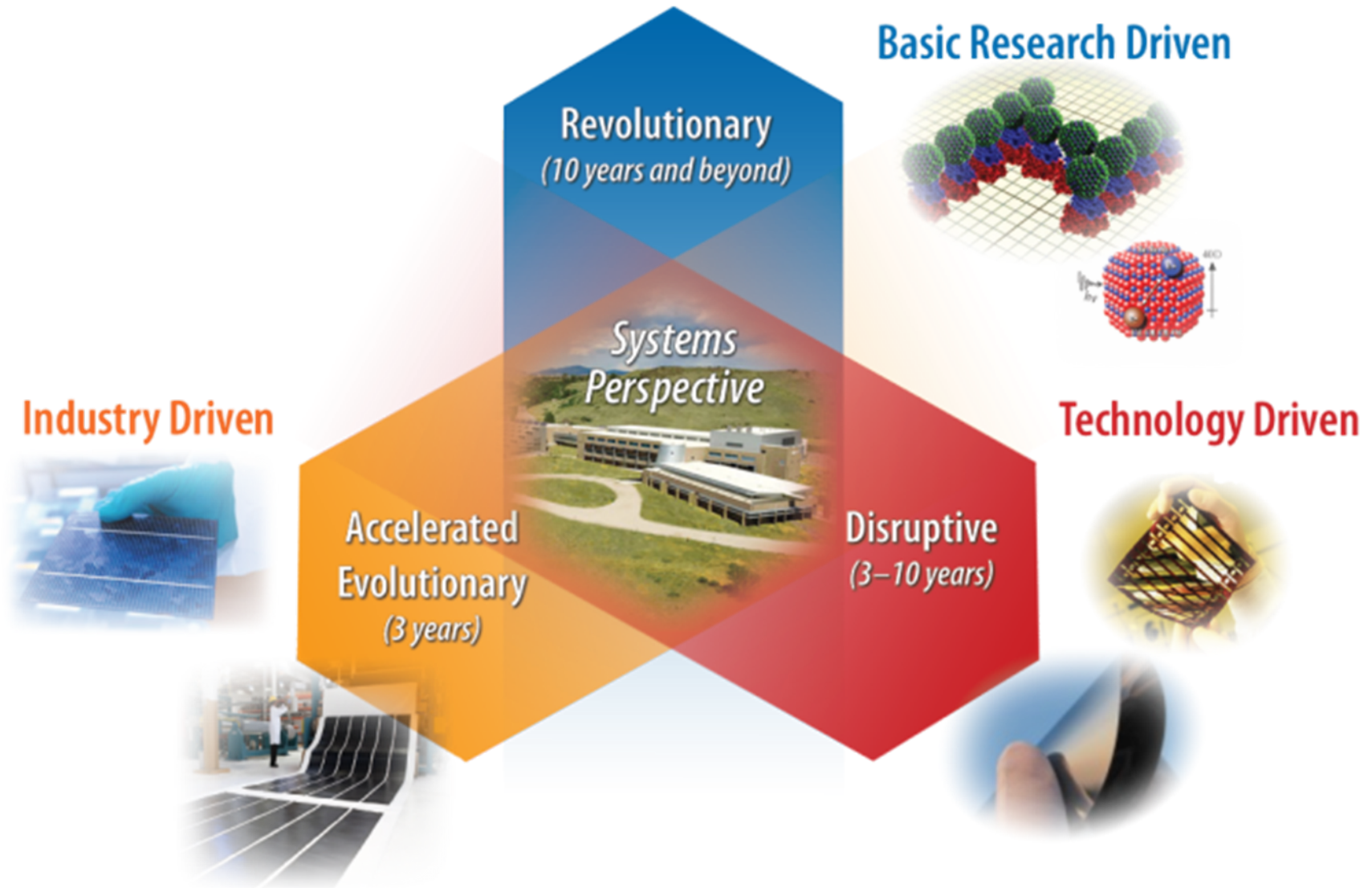
## ABOUT THIS VIDEO

Tim Wirth, Dan Avizi, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and Ted Turner discuss the role technology can play in achieving sustainability and competitiveness through alternative energy sources.





# Achieving the Potential Requires A Balanced Portfolio



# Near-Term Impact: Harvest Past R&D Energy Investments

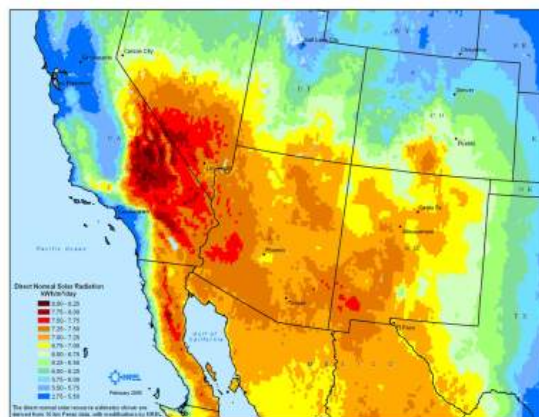
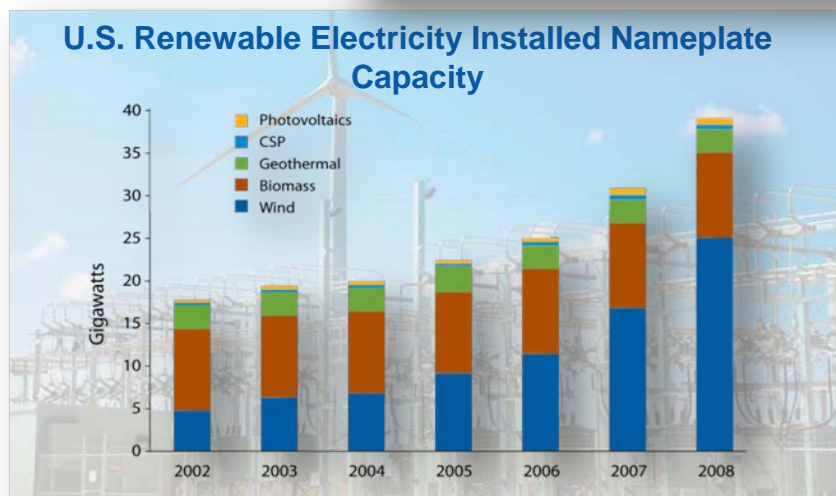
## Remove Barriers to Broad Deployment

- Fuels Economic Recovery
- Creates Jobs



## NREL Provides Data, Tools and Technical Assistance to:

- Educate and inform
- Develop codes and standards
- Inform policy options, program design, and investment choices
  - Resource Assessment
  - Technology Analysis
  - Policy Analysis



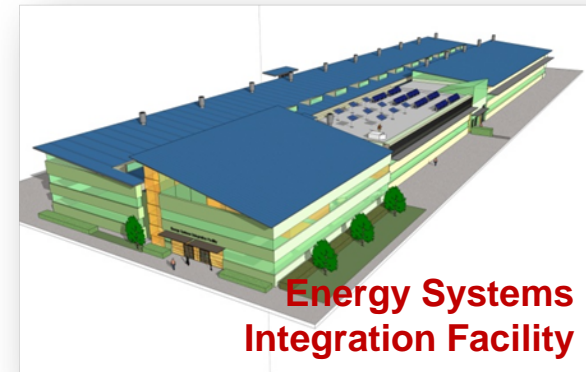
Source: EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2009 Early Release

# Mid-Term Impact: Accelerate Next-Generation Technology to Market

NREL Focus on Technology and Systems Development  
Unique Partnering Facilities  
Testing and Validation Capabilities



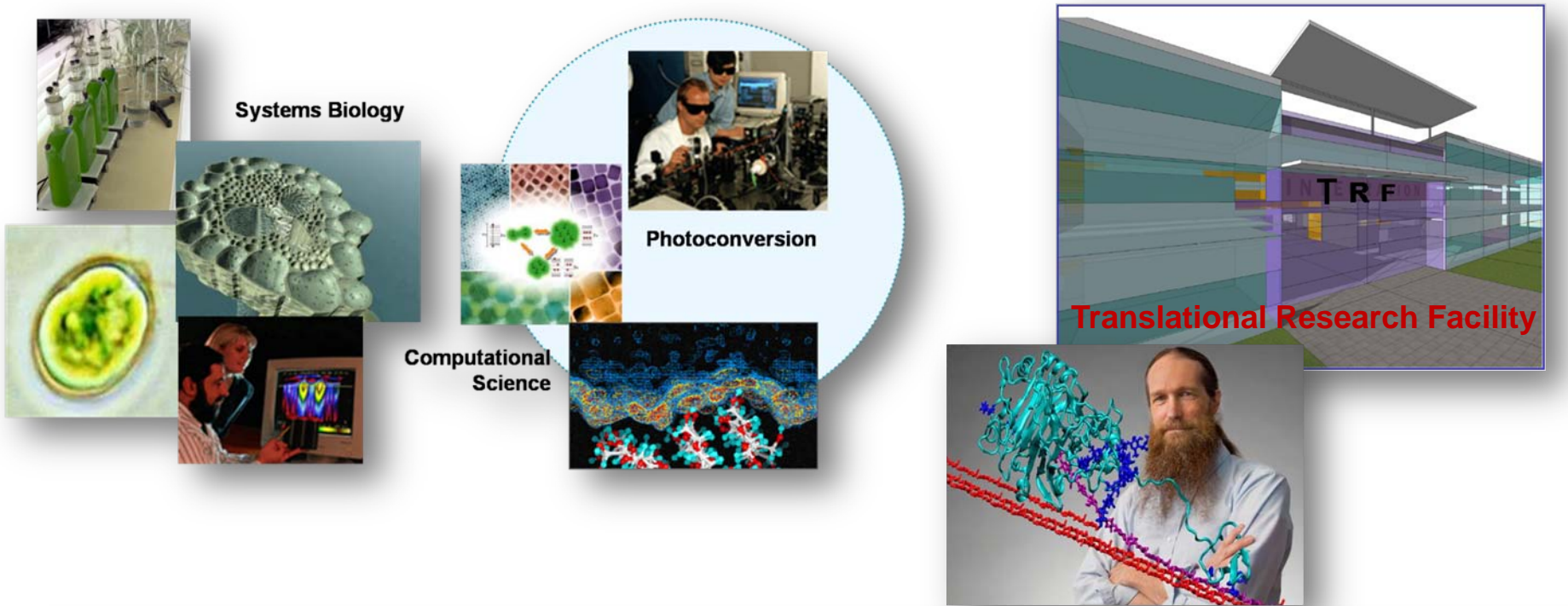
**Integrated Biorefinery  
Research Facility**



**Energy Systems  
Integration Facility**



# Long-Term Impact: Requires Breakthrough/Translational Science



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

# The Latest Renewables Integrations Studies Will Drive RD&D

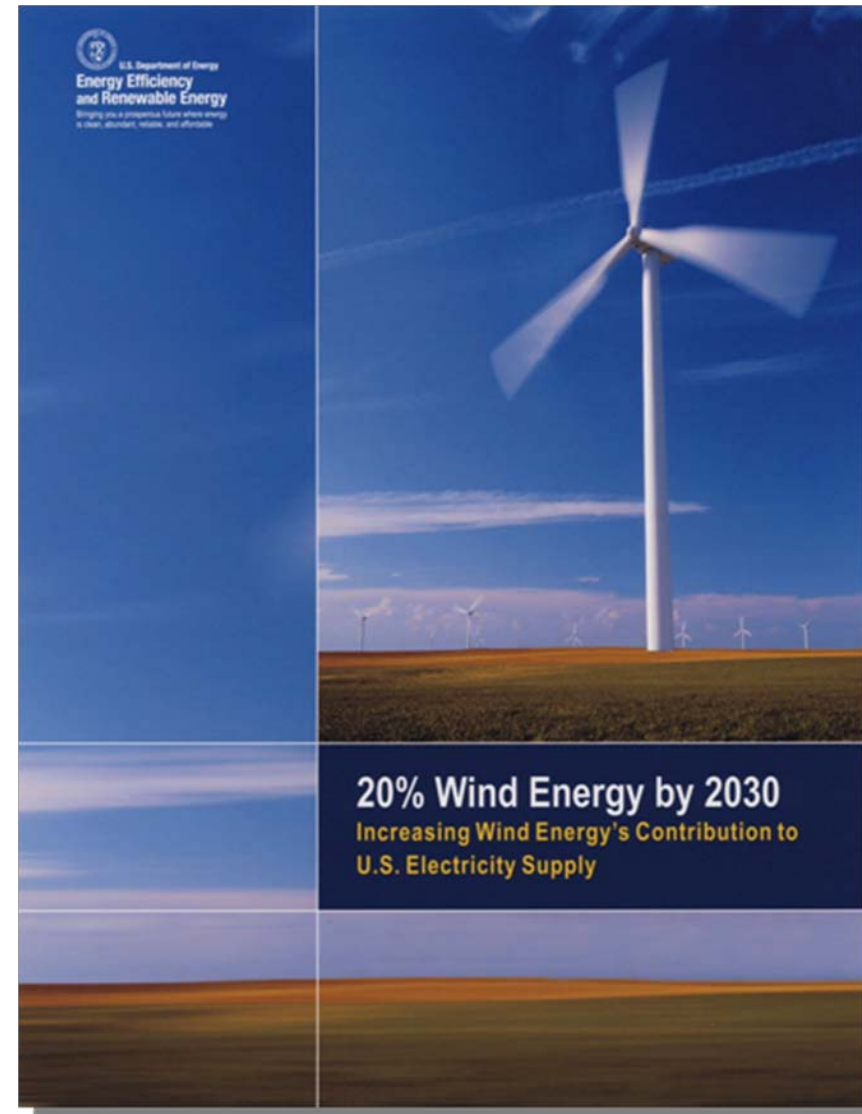
## The 20% Wind Energy by 2030 Scenario

### Primary Assumptions:

- U.S. electricity consumption grows 39% from 2005 to 2030—to 5.8 billion MWh (Source: EIA)
- Wind turbine energy production (capacity factor) increases about 15% by 2030
- Wind turbine costs decrease about 10% by 2030
- No major breakthroughs in wind technology

### Primary Findings:

- 20% wind electricity would require about 300 GW (300,000 MW) of wind generation
- Affordable, accessible wind resources available across the nation
- Cost to integrate wind modest
- Emissions reductions and water savings
- Transmission a challenge



[www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro](http://www.eere.energy.gov/windandhydro)

# Western Wind and Solar Integration Study

## Goal

- To understand the costs and operating impacts due to the **variability** and **uncertainty** of wind, PV and concentrating solar power (CSP) on the WestConnect grid

## Utilities

- Arizona Public Service
- El Paso Electric
- NV Energy
- Public Service of New Mexico
- Salt River Project
- Tri-State G&T
- Tucson Electric Power
- Xcel Energy
- WAPA



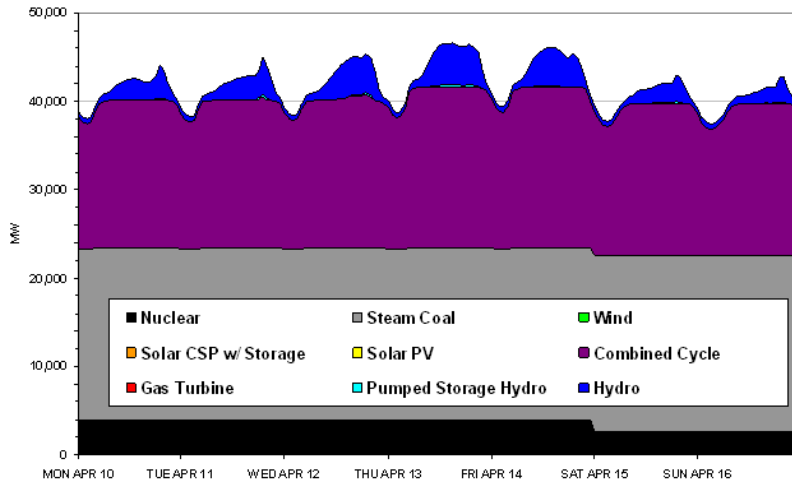
***Can we integrate 35% renewables in the West?***

# Dispatch during the worst week (April)

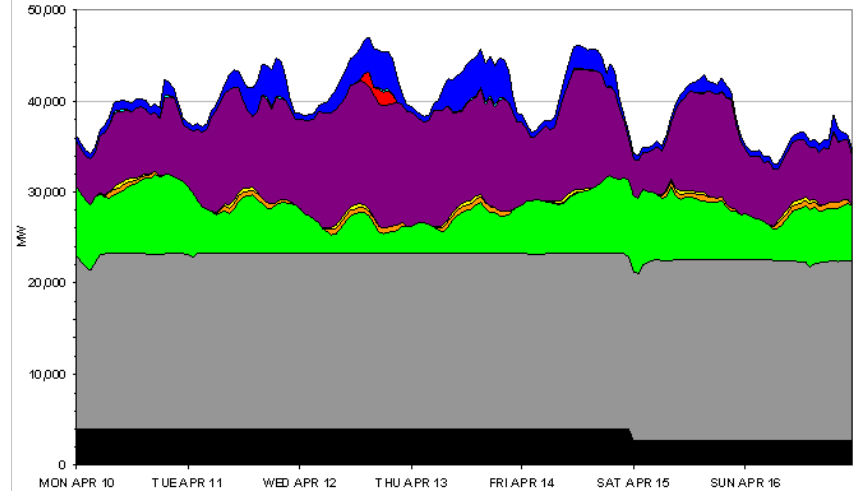
## No wind

## 10% wind

Study Area Dispatch - Week of April 10th - No Wind



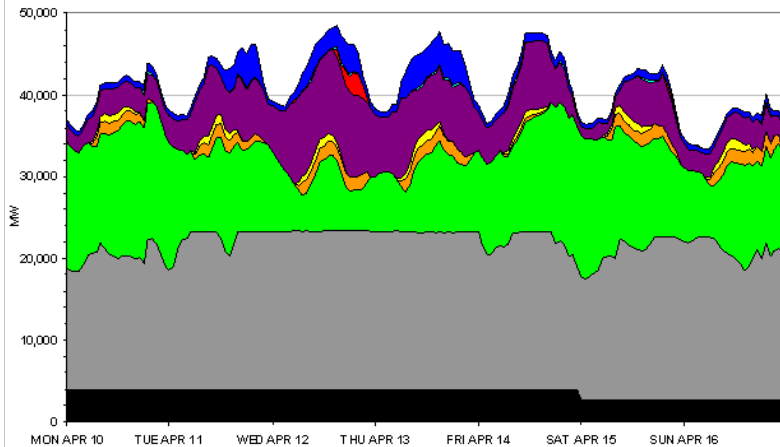
Study Area Dispatch - Week of April 10th - 10% R



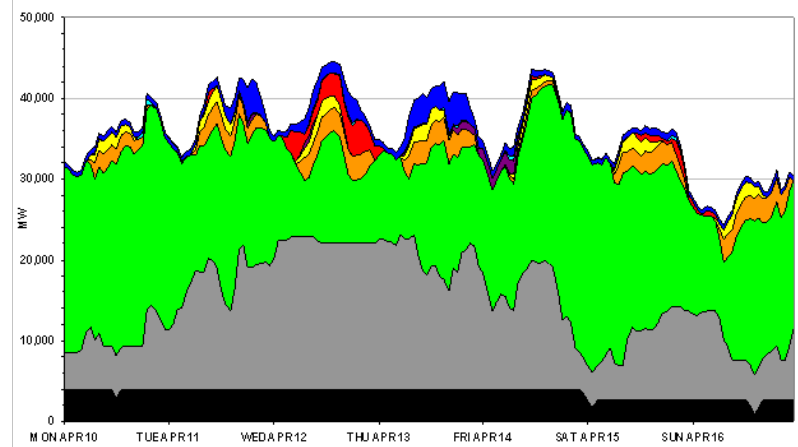
## 20% wind

## 30% wind, 5% solar

Study Area Dispatch - Week of April 10th - 20%R



Study Area Dispatch - Week of April 10th - 30%R



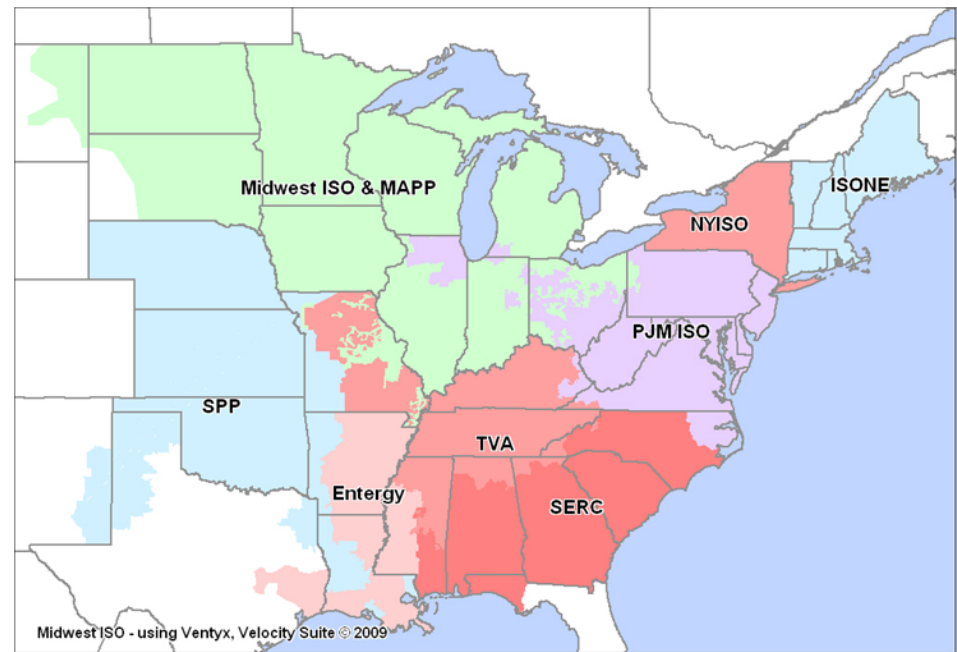
# Eastern Wind Integration and Transmission Study



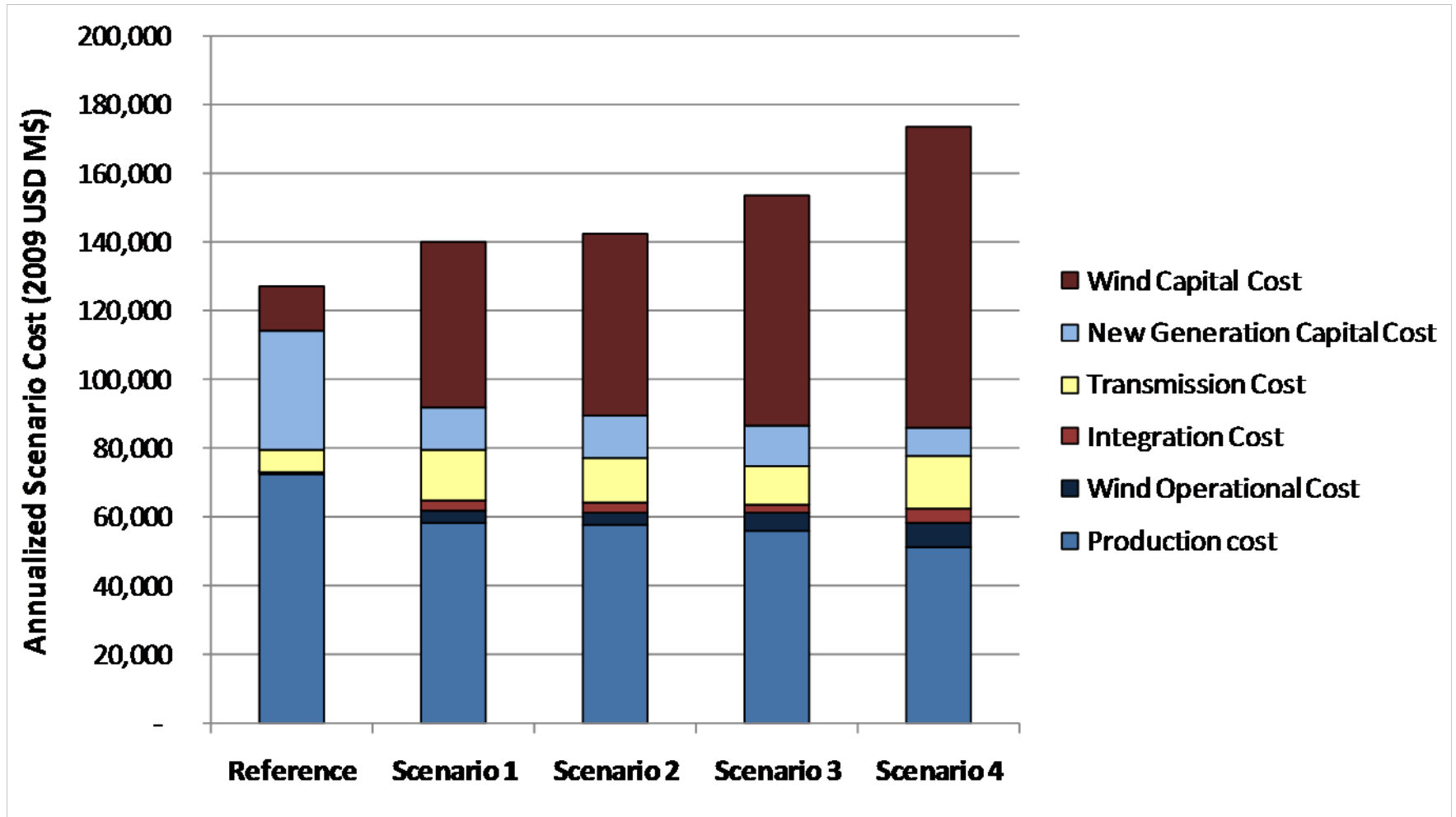


# What is Needed to Integrate 20% Wind in the Eastern Interconnect?

- Evaluate the power system operating impacts and transmission associated with increasing wind energy to 20% and 30%
  - Impacts include operating due to variability and uncertainty of wind; reliability
- Build upon prior wind integration studies and related technical work;
- Coordinate with current regional power system study work;
- Produce meaningful, broadly supported results
  - Technical Review Committee



# Total Scenario Costs



# The results of this study pose some interesting policy and technology development questions

- Could the levels of transmission, including the Reference Case, ever be permitted and built, and if so, what is a realistic time frame?
- Could the level of offshore wind energy infrastructure be ramped up fast enough to meet the aggressive offshore wind assumption in the EWITS scenarios?
- Would a different renewable profile or transmission overlay arise from a bottom-up planning process?
- How can states and the federal government best work together on regional transmission expansion and the massive development of onshore and offshore wind infrastructure?
- What is the best way for regional entities to collaborate to make sure wind is integrated into the bulk electrical grid optimally and reliably ?
- What is the difference between applying a carbon price versus mandating and giving incentives for additional wind?

# EWITS Conclusions

- High penetrations of wind generation—providing 20% to 30% of the electric energy requirements of Eastern Interconnection—are technically feasible with significant expansion of the transmission infrastructure.
- New transmission will be required for all the future wind scenarios in the Eastern Interconnection, including the reference case. Planning for this transmission, then, is imperative because it takes longer to build new transmission capacity than it does to build new wind plants.
- Without transmission enhancements, substantial curtailment of wind generation would be required for all of the 20% scenarios.
- Interconnection-wide costs for integrating large amounts of wind generation are manageable with large regional operating pools, where benefits of load and wind diversity can be exploited and large numbers of supply resources are efficiently committed and dispatched.

# An Integrated Approach is Required



# Making Transformational Change



The opportunity for making renewable energy transformational change is now before us as a solution to a global crisis.

**We must seize the moment.**



**NREL**

**National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

*Innovation for Our Energy Future*







# Renewable Electricity Supply



# Wind

## Today's Status in U.S.

- 25,300 MW installed capacity
- Cost 6-9¢/kWh at good wind sites\*

## DOE Cost Goals

- 3.6¢/kWh, onshore at low wind sites by 2012
- 7¢/kWh, offshore in shallow water by 2014

## Long Term Potential

20% of the nation's electricity supply

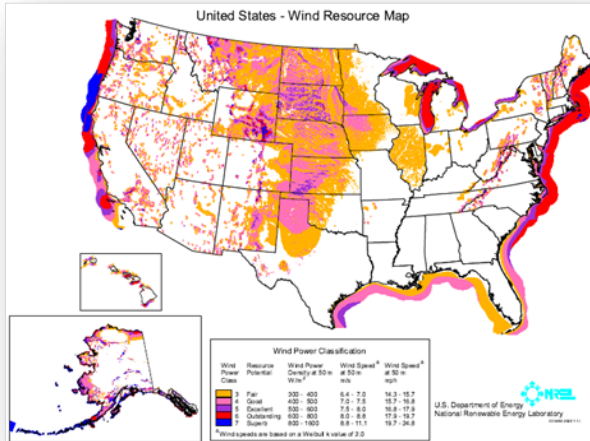


\* With no Production Tax Credit

Updated May 8, 2009

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, American Wind Energy Association

# Wind Energy Technology



**US Wind Resource Exceeds Total Electrical Demand**



**Offshore Wind**



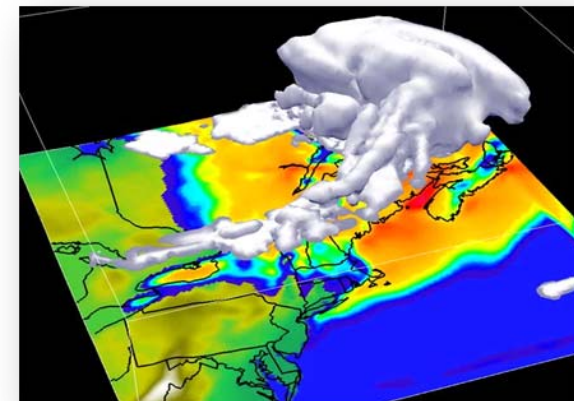
**Advanced Blades**



**Innovative Tall Towers**



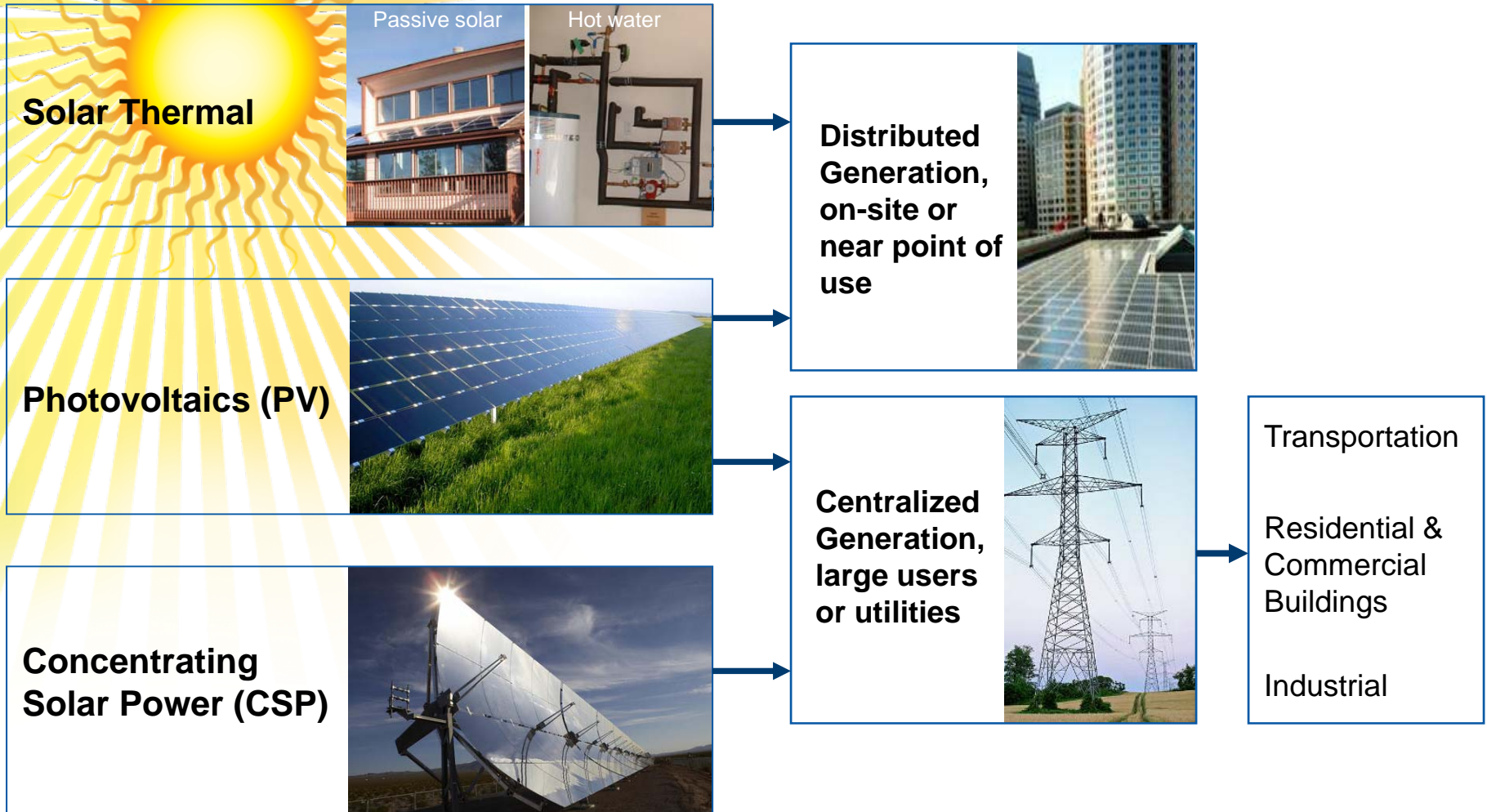
**Giant Multi-megawatt Turbines**



Courtesy: WindLogics, Inc. St. Paul, MN

**Wind Forecasting**

# Applications of Solar Heat and Electricity



# Solar – Photovoltaics and CSP

## Status in U.S.

### PV

- 1,000 MW installed capacity
- Cost 18-23¢/kWh

### CSP

- 419 MW installed capacity
- Cost 12¢/kWh

### Potential:

### PV

- 11-18¢/kWh by 2010
- 5-10 ¢/kWh by 2015

### CSP

- 8.5 ¢/kWh by 2010
- 6 ¢/kWh by 2015



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, IEA  
Updated January 1, 2009

# Solar Research Thrusts

## Photovoltaics

Higher performance cells/modules

New nanomaterials applications

Advanced manufacturing techniques

## Concentrating Solar Power

Low cost high performance storage for baseload markets

Advanced absorbers, reflectors, and heat transfer fluids

Next generation solar concentrators



8.22-megawatt Alamosa, Colo.,

# PV Conversion Technology Portfolio

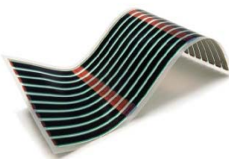
## Market-Competitive Targets

Market Sector	Current U.S. Market Price Range (¢/kWh)	Cost (¢/kWh) Benchmark 2005	Cost (¢/kWh) Target 2010	Cost (¢/kWh) Target 2015
Residential	5.8-16.7	23-32	13-18	8-10
Commercial	5.4-15.0	16-22	9-12	6-8
Utility	4.0-7.6	13-22	10-15	5-7



### Thin Films (aSi)

Advancing amorphous and wafer replacement crystal silicon film solar cells on low-cost substrates



### Organic PV

Customizing molecules, substrates, and deposition techniques to yield ultra low-cost modules



### Next Generation

Investigating advanced concepts aimed at delivering revolutionary performance improvements



### Crystalline Silicon

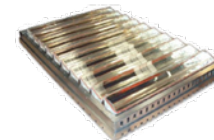
Developing higher efficiency devices and lower cost processing methods for traditional silicon cells

### Crosscut

Synergistic technologies, evaluation approaches, and process engineering approaches applicable across multiple absorber materials and processes

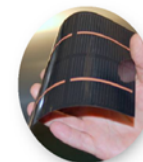
### Concentrating PV

Combining new, lower cost multijunction cells and innovative optical packages



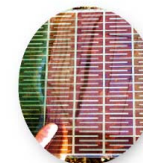
### Thin Films (CIGS)

Supporting the manufacture of non-vacuum processes and transferring record efficiency device performance into large area commercial modules



### Dye-Sensitized Cells

Advancing the efficiency and stability of inexpensive dye-based solar cells with novel nanostructures



### Building Integrated PV

Creating module form factors aimed at dramatically reducing or eliminating solar installation costs



# Geothermal

## Today's Status in U.S.

- 2,800 MWe installed, 500 MWe new contracts, 3000 MWe under development
- Cost 5-8¢/kWh with no PTC
- Capacity factor typically > 90%, base load power

## DOE Cost Goals:

- <5¢/kWh, for typical hydrothermal sites
- 5¢/kWh, for enhanced geothermal systems with mature technology

## Long Term Potential:

- Recent MIT Analysis shows potential for 100,000 MW installed Enhanced Geothermal Power systems by 2050, cost-competitive with coal-powered generation



## NREL Research Thrusts:

- Analysis to define pathways to commercialization of enhanced geothermal systems (EGS)  
Systems engineering/integration to enable fast track development of EGS and other Program goals  
Geothermal energy conversion RD&D  
Low temperature geothermal, direct use, and ground source heat pump RD&D



# Biomass Power

## Biopower status in U.S.

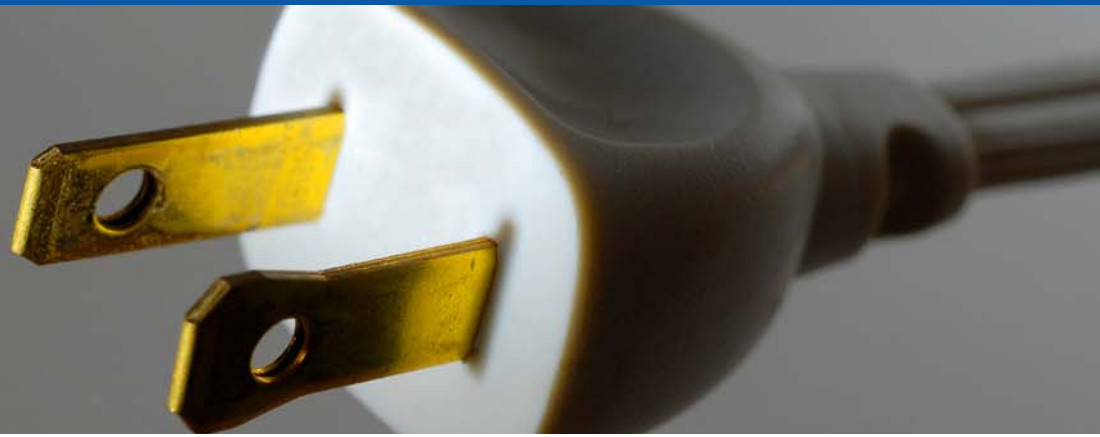
- 2007 capacity – 10.5 GWe
  - 5 GW Pulp and Paper
  - 2 GW Dedicated Biomass
  - 3 GW MSW and Landfill Gas
  - 0.5 GW Cofiring
- 2004 Generation – 68.5 TWh
- Cost – 8-10¢/kWh

## Potential

- Cost – 4-6¢/kWh (integrated gasification combined cycle)
- 2030 – 160 TWh (net electricity exported to grid from integrated 60 billion gal/yr biorefinery industry)



# New Directions

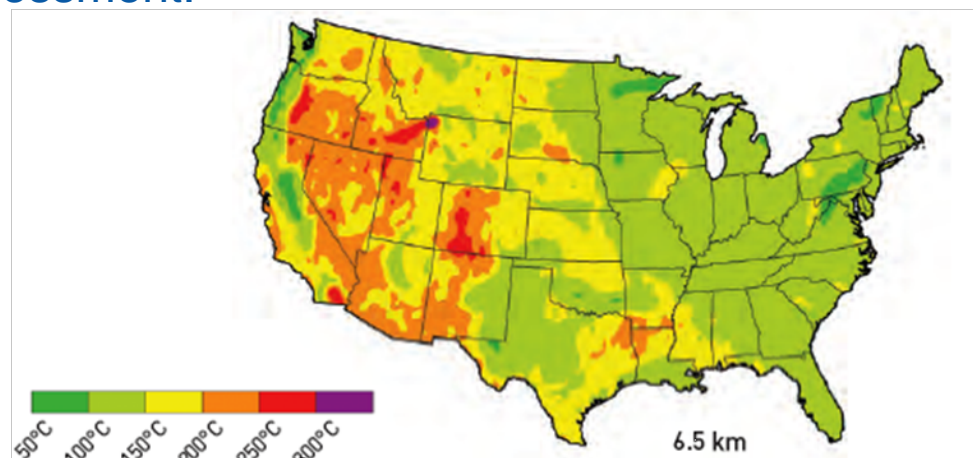
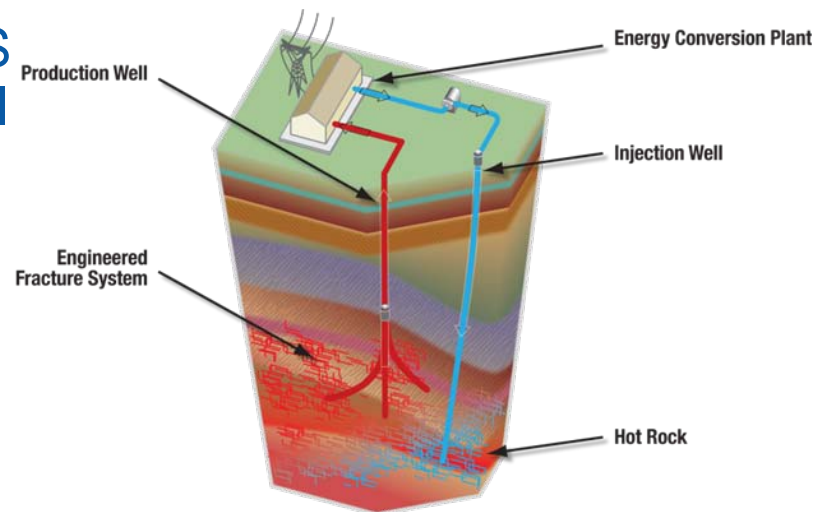


# Geothermal: Beyond 2015

- Enhanced Geothermal Systems

- Enable a massive increase of the US geothermal “footprint” through critical R&D to reduce risk and improve economics

- Reservoir creation, characterization, and modeling
    - Drilling, tools and sensors
    - Advanced energy conversion technologies
    - Techno-economic and policy analysis
    - Next-generation resource assessment: beyond hydrothermal regions



# FY09 NREL Water Program

## Market Development and Transformation

- International Collaborations and Standards
- Technical Support
- Industry Technology Support

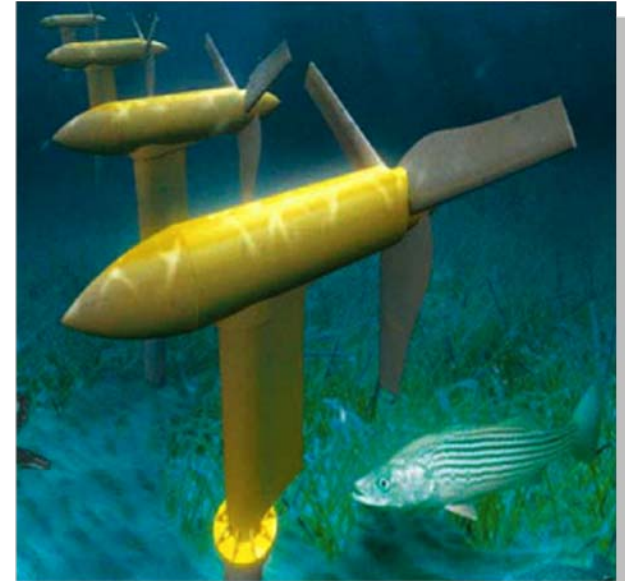
## Industry Status

- New industry extracting power from natural Ocean and River Currents, Tidal, Wave, and Thermal energy

## Water Power Mission

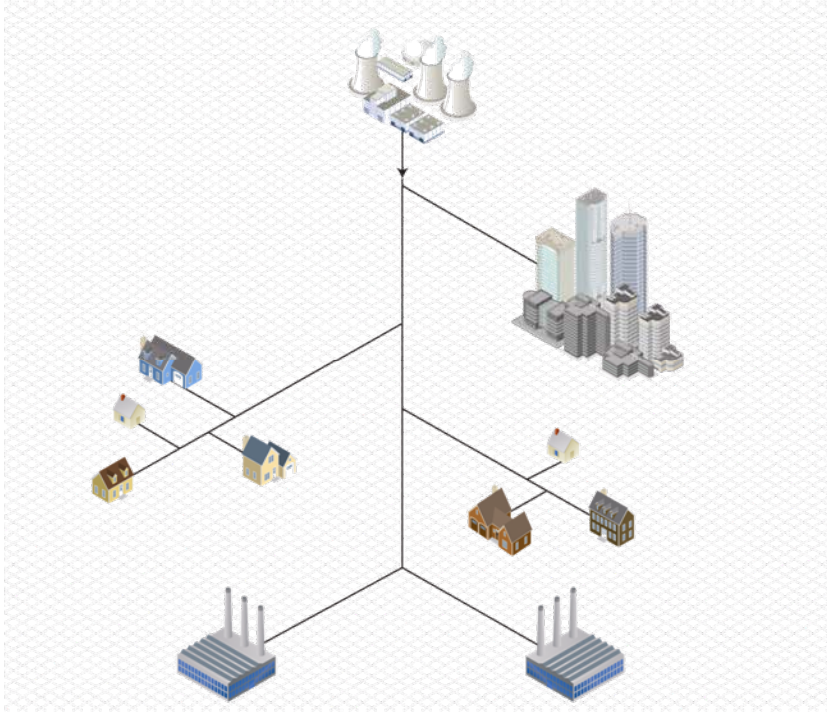
Assess the potential of extractable energy from water resources and facilitate the development and deployment of renewable, environmentally-friendly, and cost-effective energy systems from domestic rivers, estuaries and coastal waters

Include R&D for economic and environmental improvements to existing hydroelectric facilities and dams

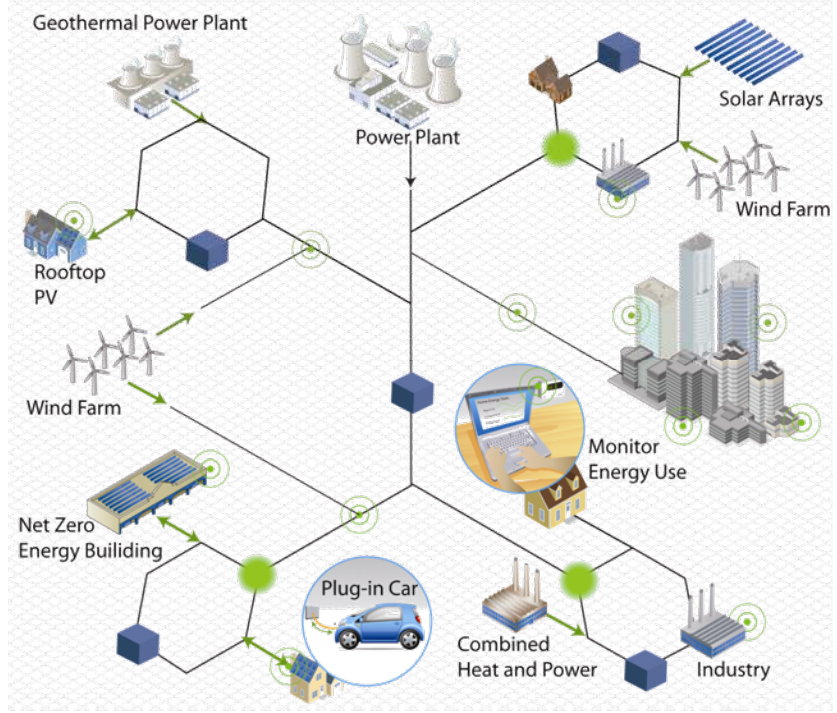


# Smart Grid – Renewable Energy Integration in Systems at All Scales

Today



Future



-  Smart Grid Energy Sensors
-  Smart Substation
-  Energy Pulled From or Added to the Grid
-  Energy Storage

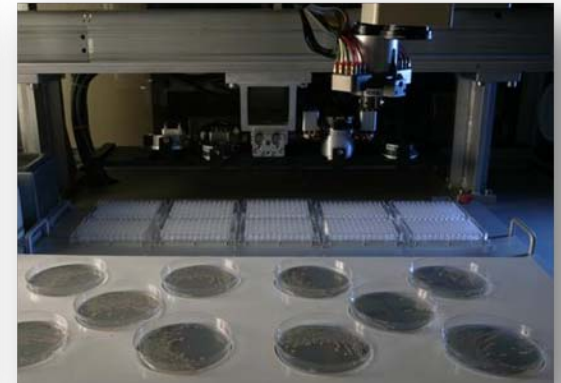
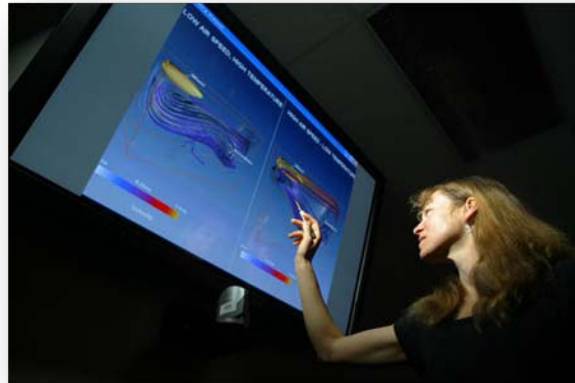
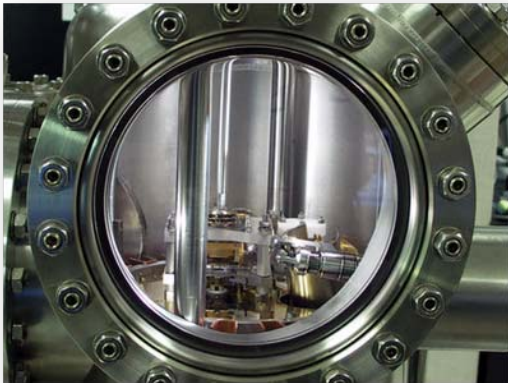
# Energy Solutions Require a New Approach

## Multi-disciplinary/multi-institutional collaboration

- Chemistry, materials science
- Computational modeling
- Biology

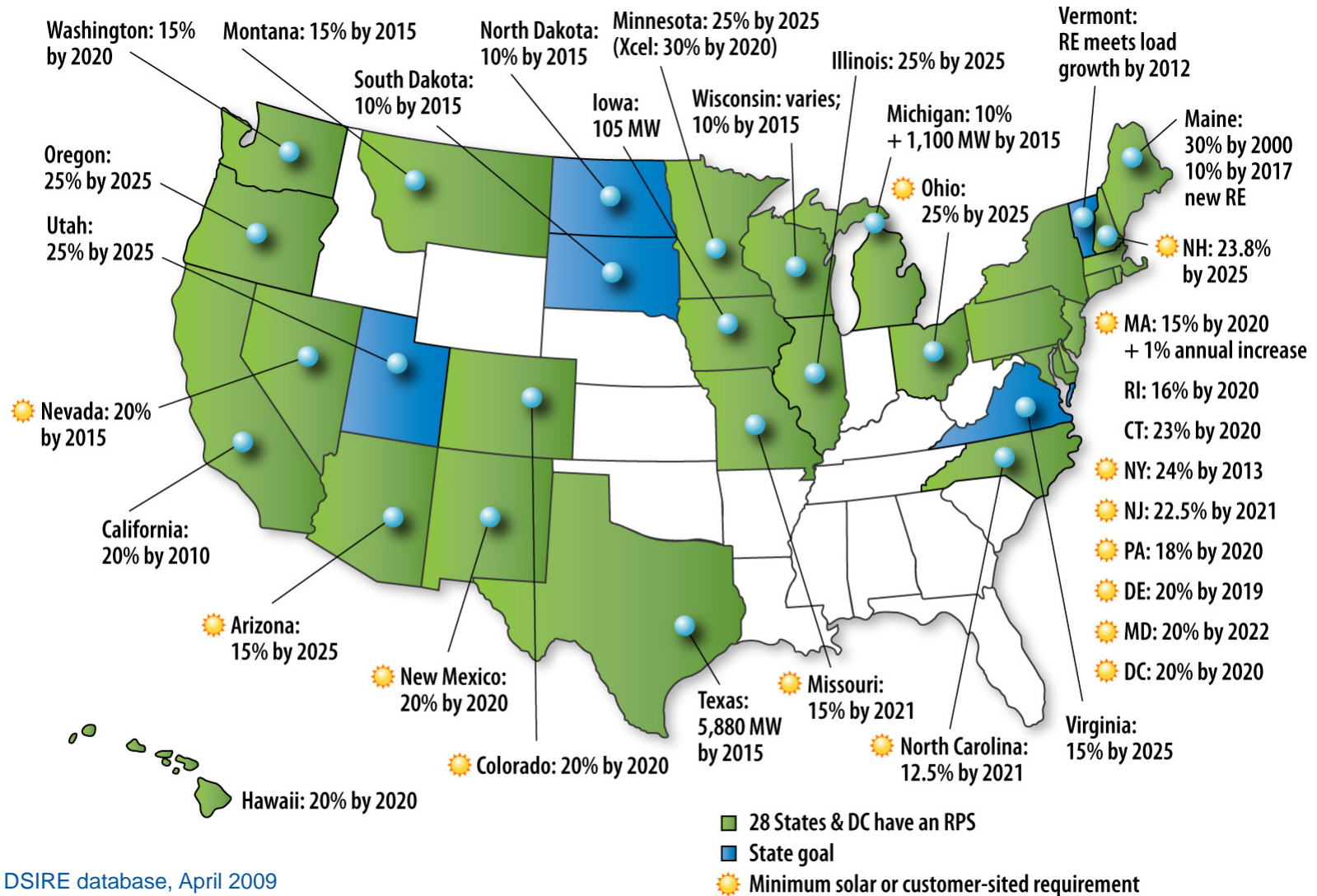
Translational science—bridge basic to applied

Revolutionary opportunities at the nano-scale



# State Policy Framework

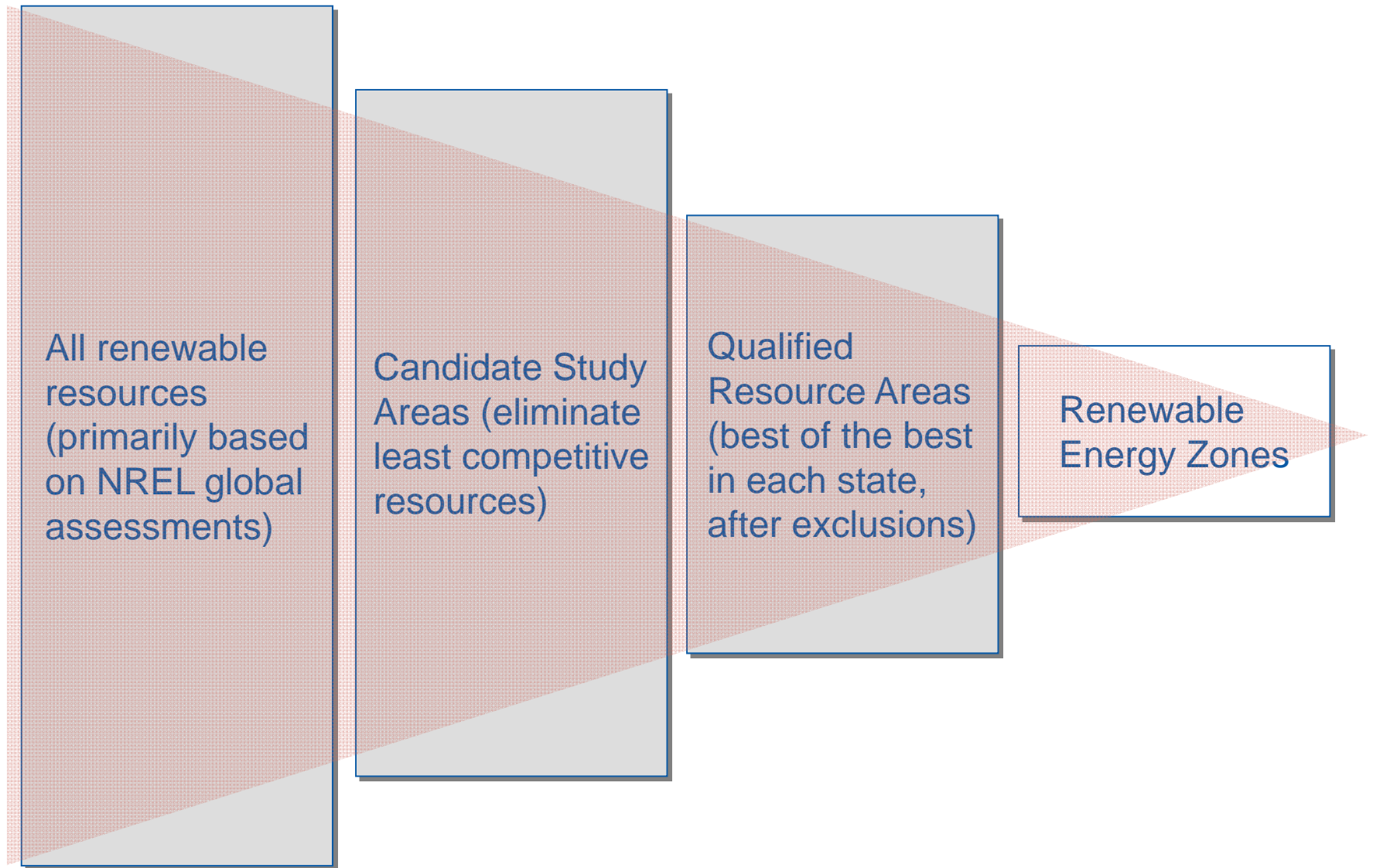
## Renewable Portfolio Standards



Source: DSIRE database, April 2009

042409

# The Western Renewable Energy Zone Initiative





# WREZ objectives for Phase 1

- Evaluate *regional* transmission options for renewable energy, on the assumption that in-state evaluations can be done by states themselves
  - Purpose is *not* to identify all developable renewable resources
- Identify the highest concentrations of the least-cost renewable resources, in sufficient quantity to sustain competition among potential developers
- Identify in advance the environmental and other land use issues that may limit development



**NREL**

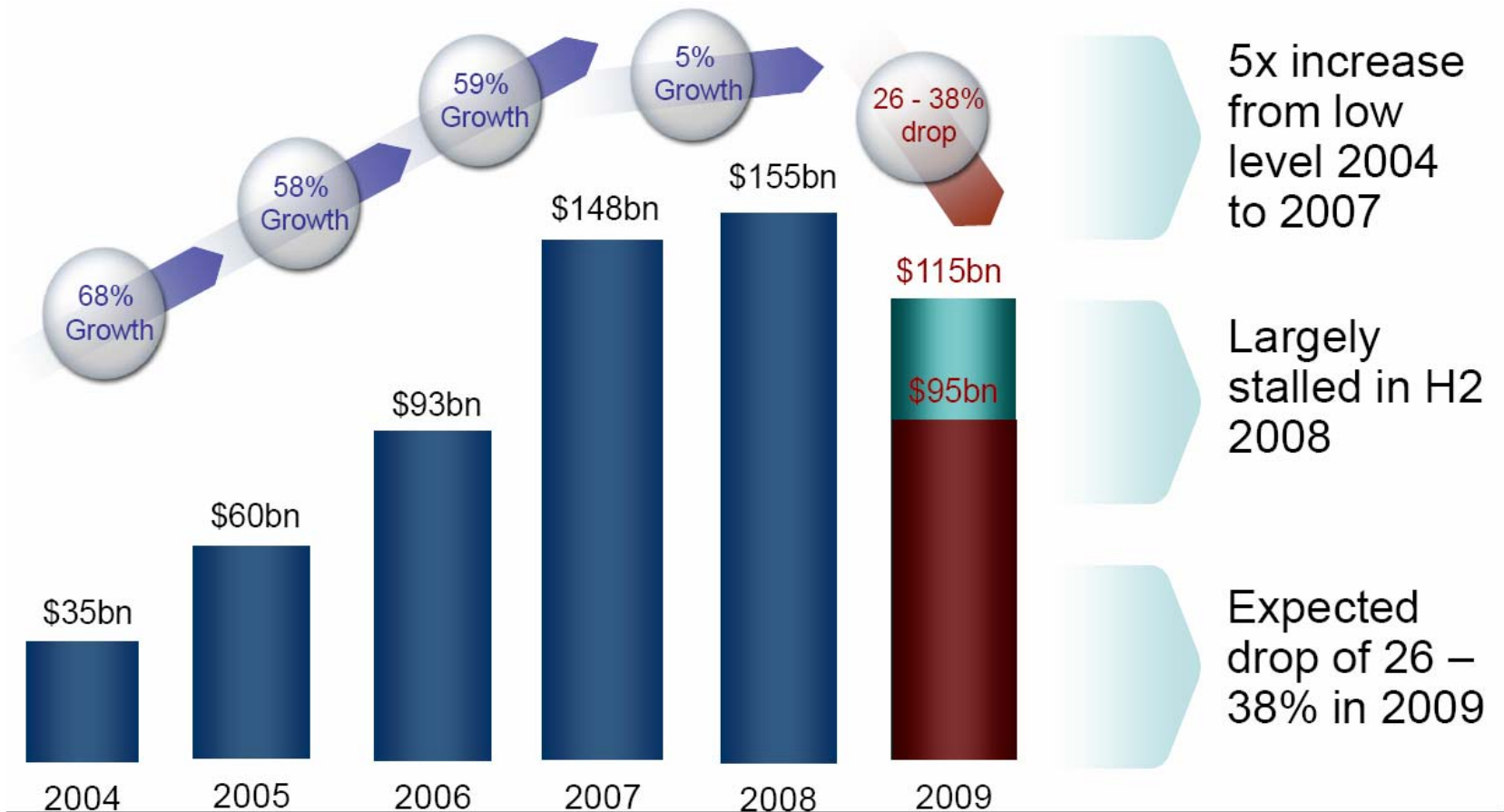
**National Renewable Energy Laboratory**

*Innovation for Our Energy Future*



Visit us online at [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

# Global New Investment in Clean Energy 2004-2009



Source: New Energy Finance