

Potential and risks of hydrogen-based e-fuels in climate change mitigation

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Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
HEC WEBINAR, January 10th, 2022

Based on:

1) Ueckerdt, F., Bauer, C., Dirnaichner, A., Everall, J., Sacchi, R., Luderer, G. (2021).

***Nature Climate Change*, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-021-01032-7>**

2) Ariadne Project Scenario Report for Germany, „Deutschland auf dem Weg zur Klimaneutralität 2045.“

<https://ariadneprojekt.de/publikation/deutschland-auf-dem-weg-zur-klimaneutralitat-2045-szenarienreport/>

3) Ariadne Project Policy Brief: „Cornerstones of an adaptable hydrogen strategy“

<https://ariadneprojekt.de/publikation/eckpunkte-einer-anpassungsfaehigen-wasserstoffstrategie/>

4) Odenweller, A., Ueckerdt, F., Nemet, G.F., Jensterle, M., Luderer, G., in preparation. Growth of electrolysis required to make green hydrogen a substantial climate change mitigation option

Overview

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- Background: climate targets

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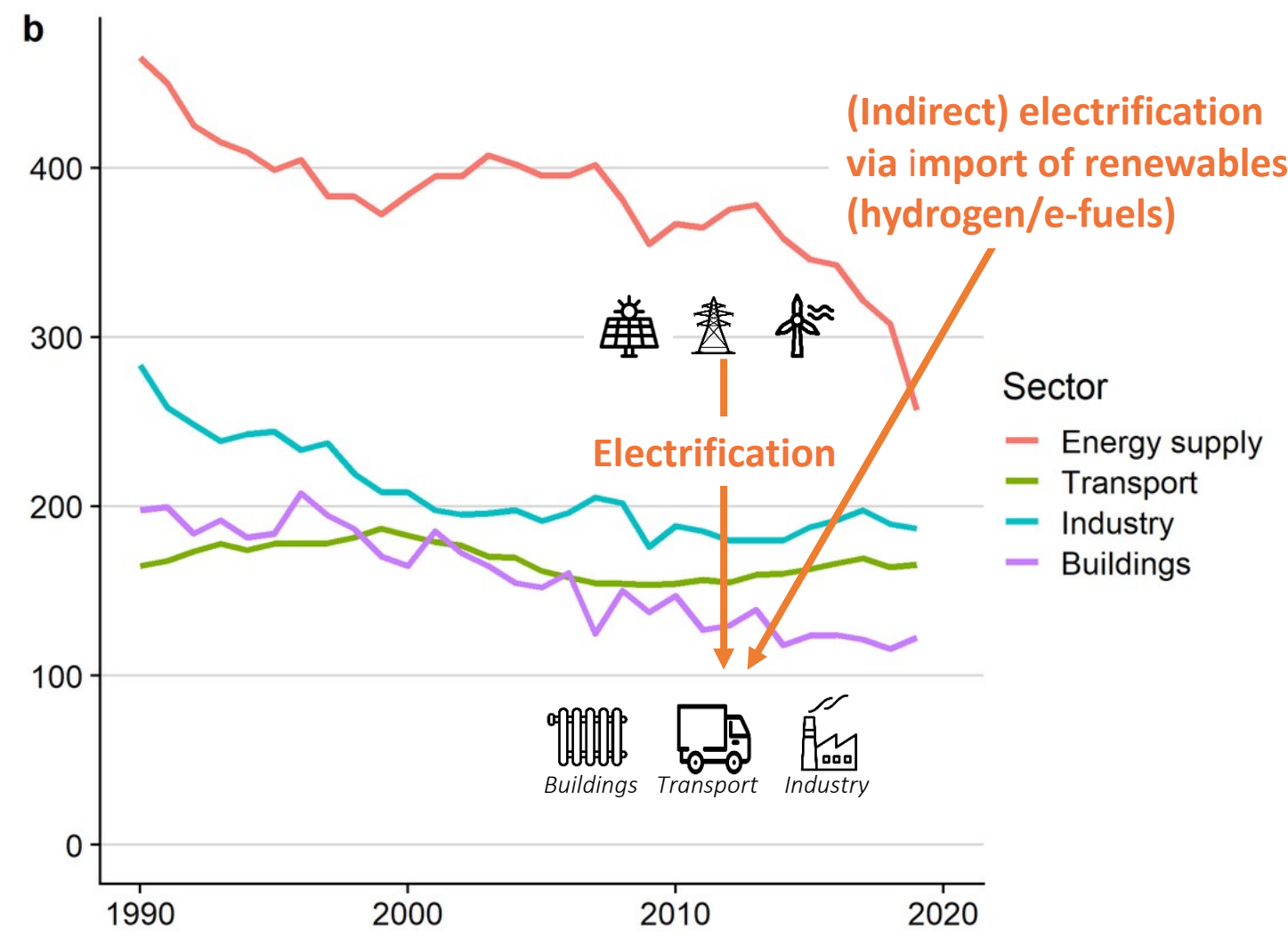
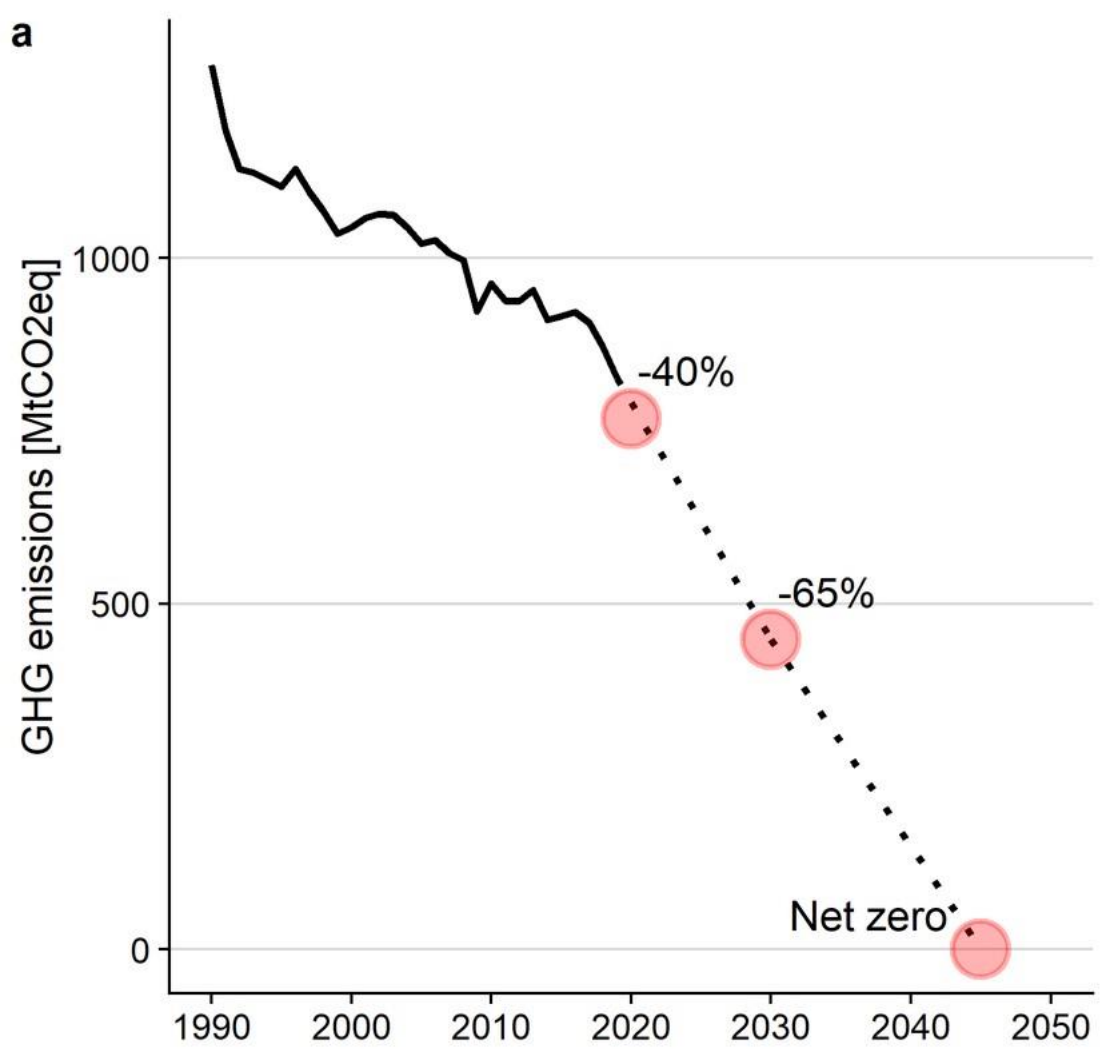
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strategy

4. Q&A, joint discussion

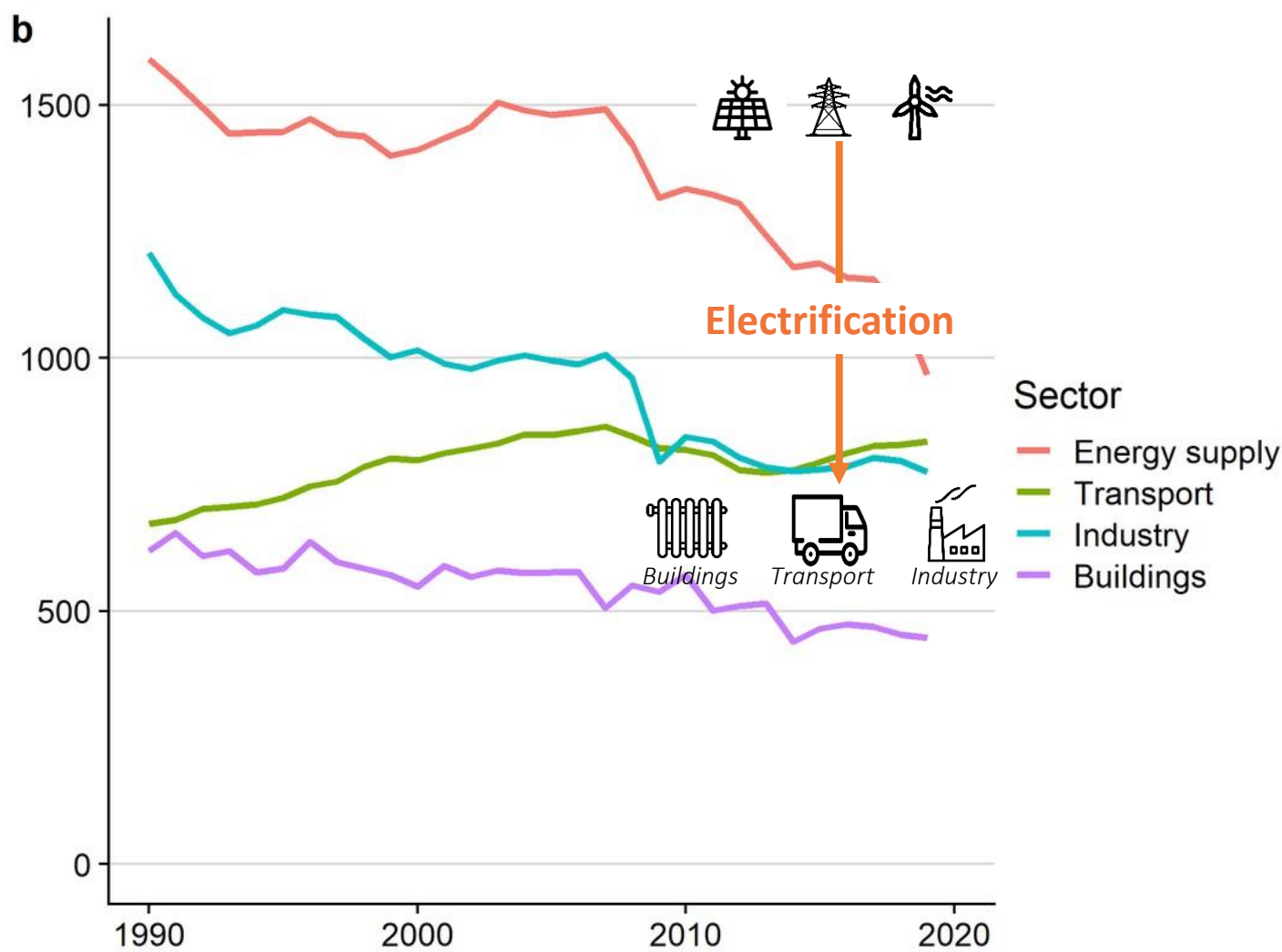
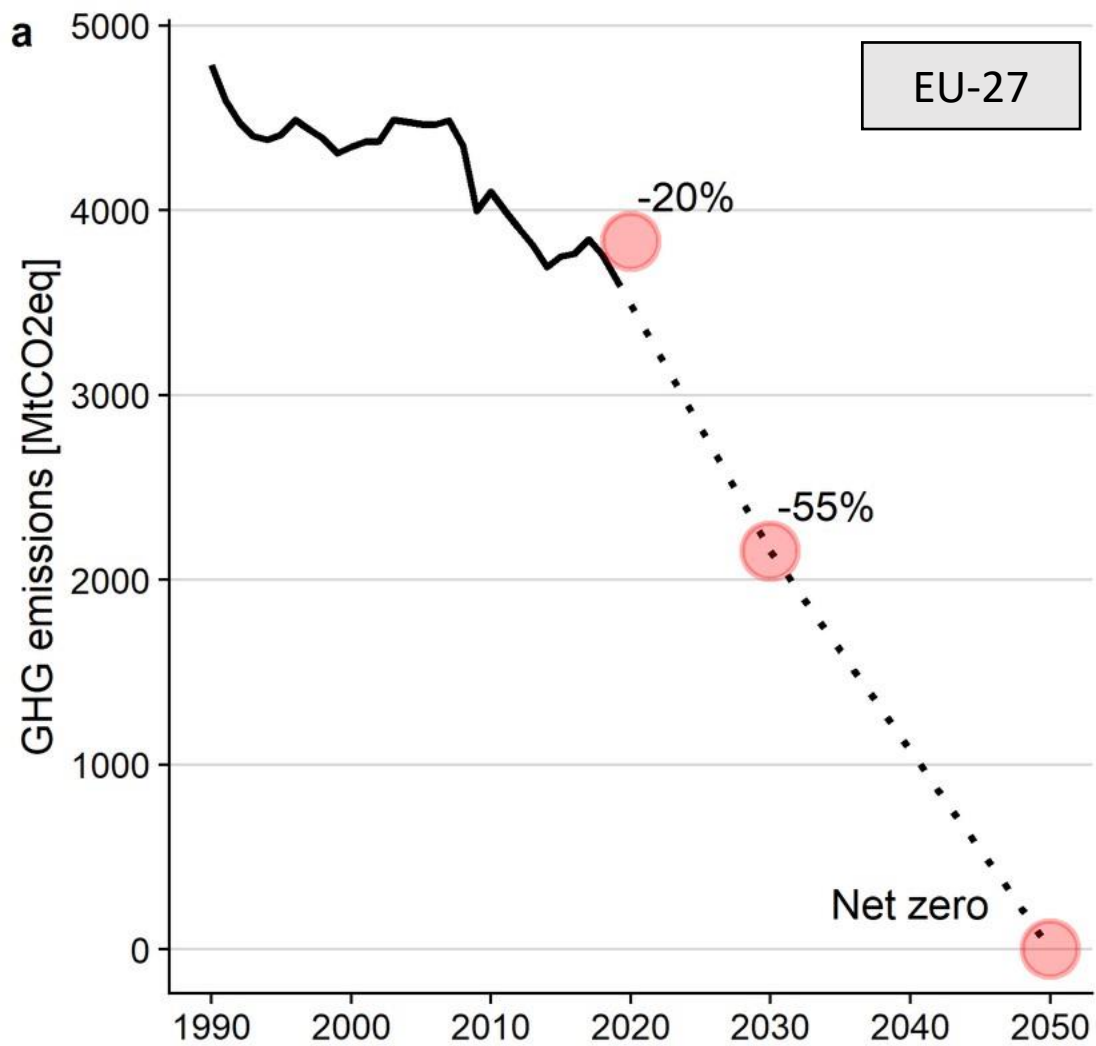
transfer to Quebec/Canada

Next phase of the energy transition: rapid and deep.



New consensus on main strategy (at least in Germany/EU):
renewable electricity and electrification

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- **Competing visions of the energy system**

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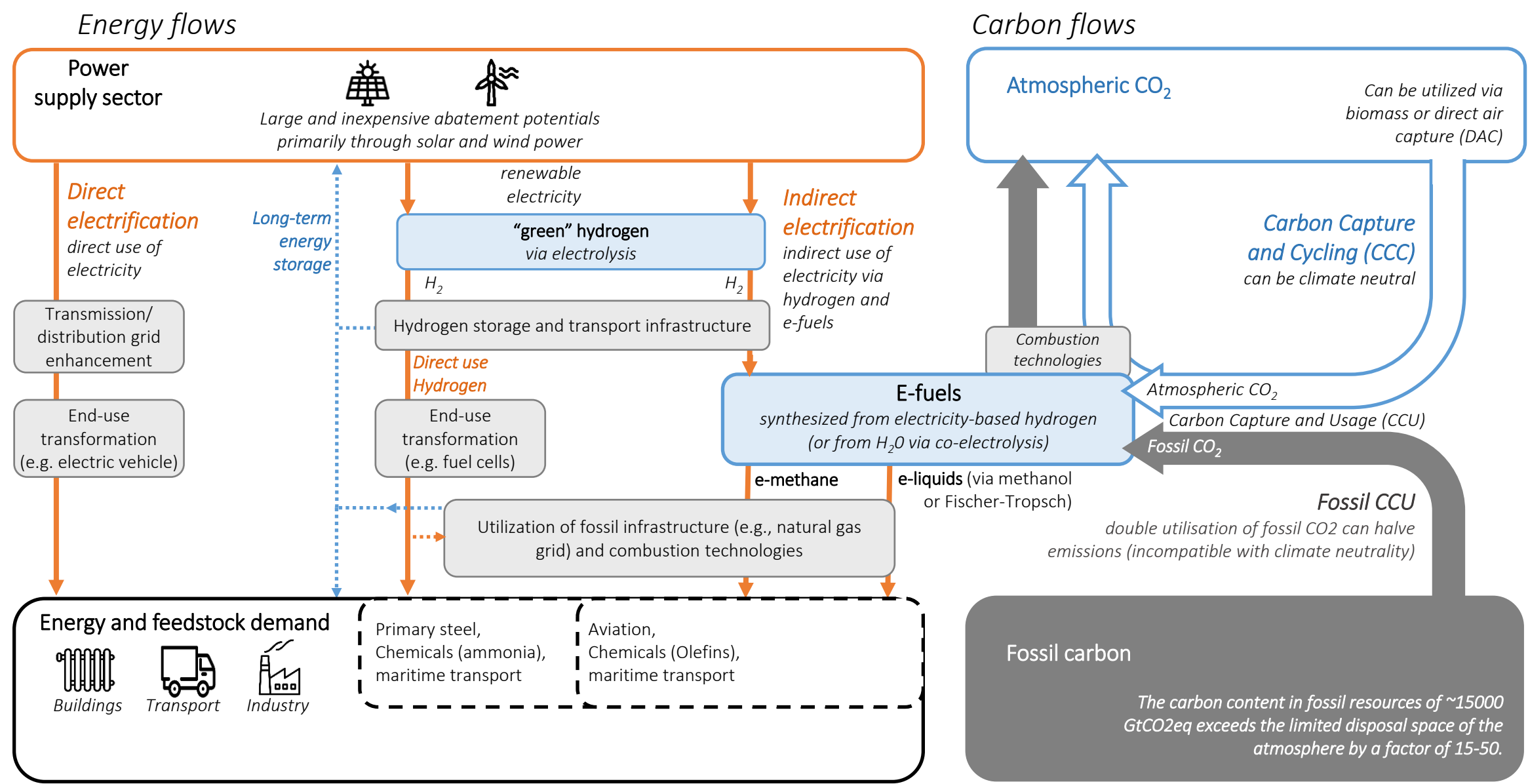
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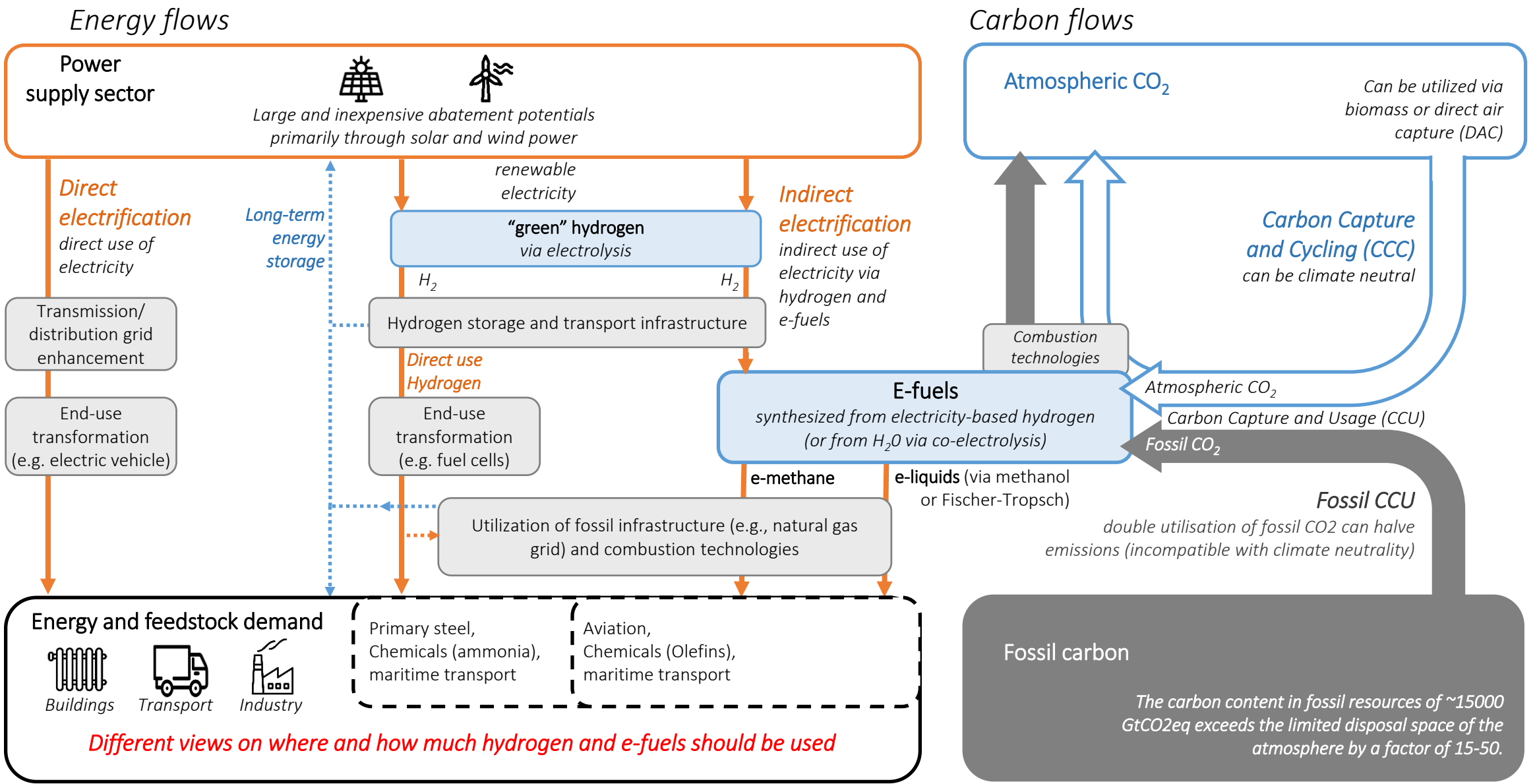
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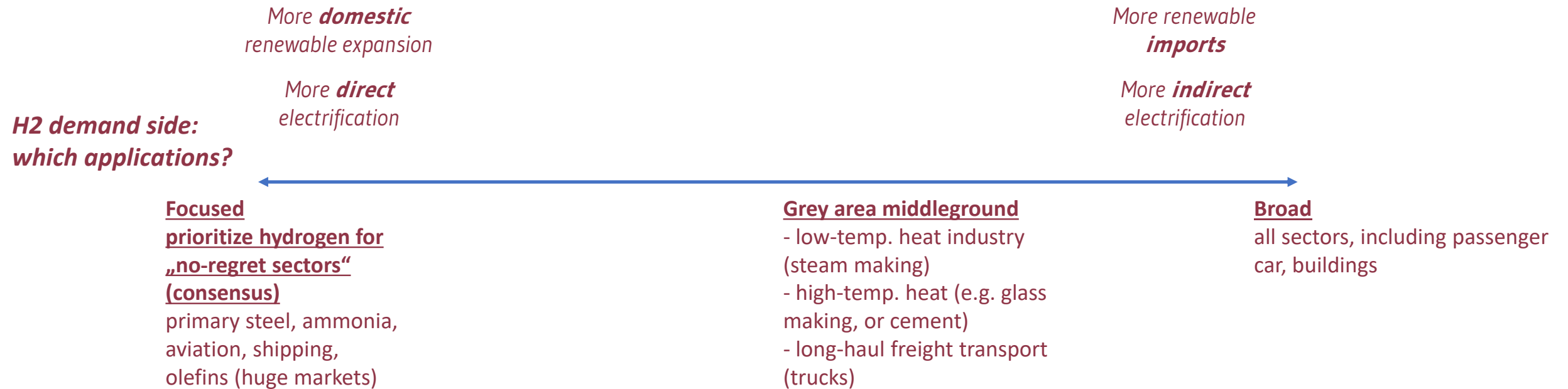
German/EU debate: New consensus “renewables and electrification”, and old conflicts



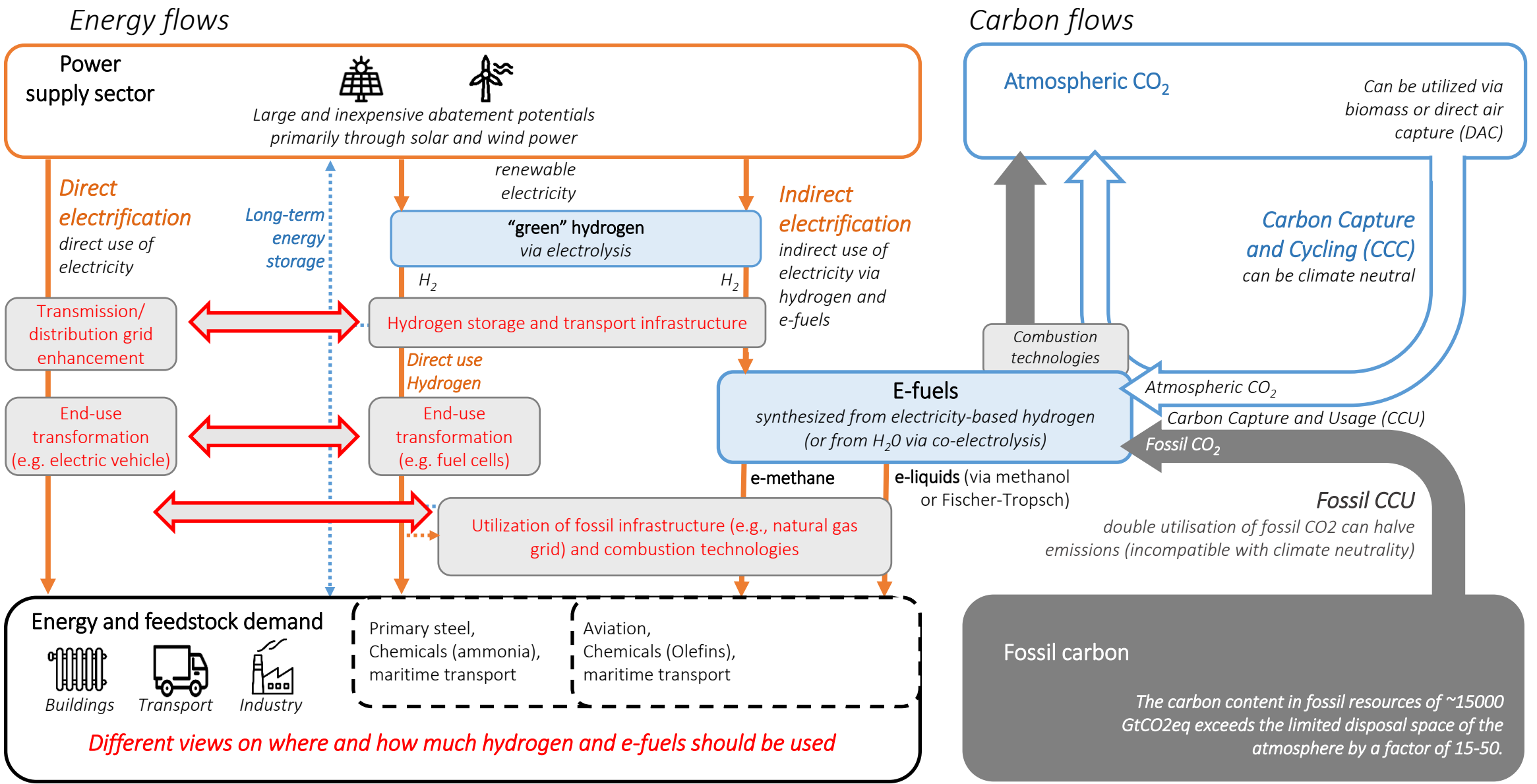
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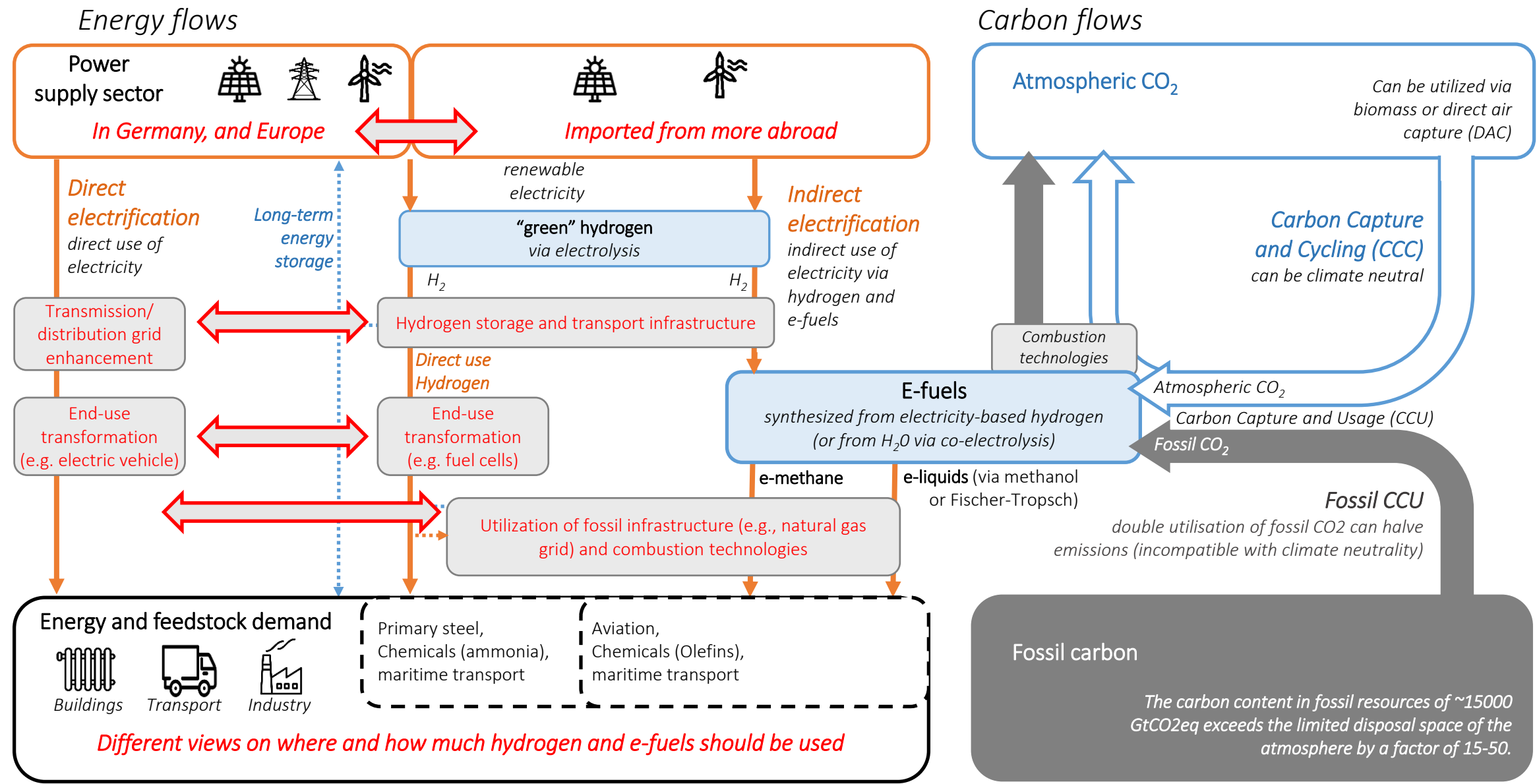
Two dimensions in the debate



German/EU debate: New consensus “renewables and electrification”, and old conflicts



Underneath the hydrogen debate: Competing visions of the future energy system



Two dimensions in the debate

2nd dimension of the debate?

*H2 demand side:
which applications?*

Focused
prioritize hydrogen for
„no-regret sectors“
(consensus)

primary steel, ammonia,
aviation, shipping,
olefins (huge markets)

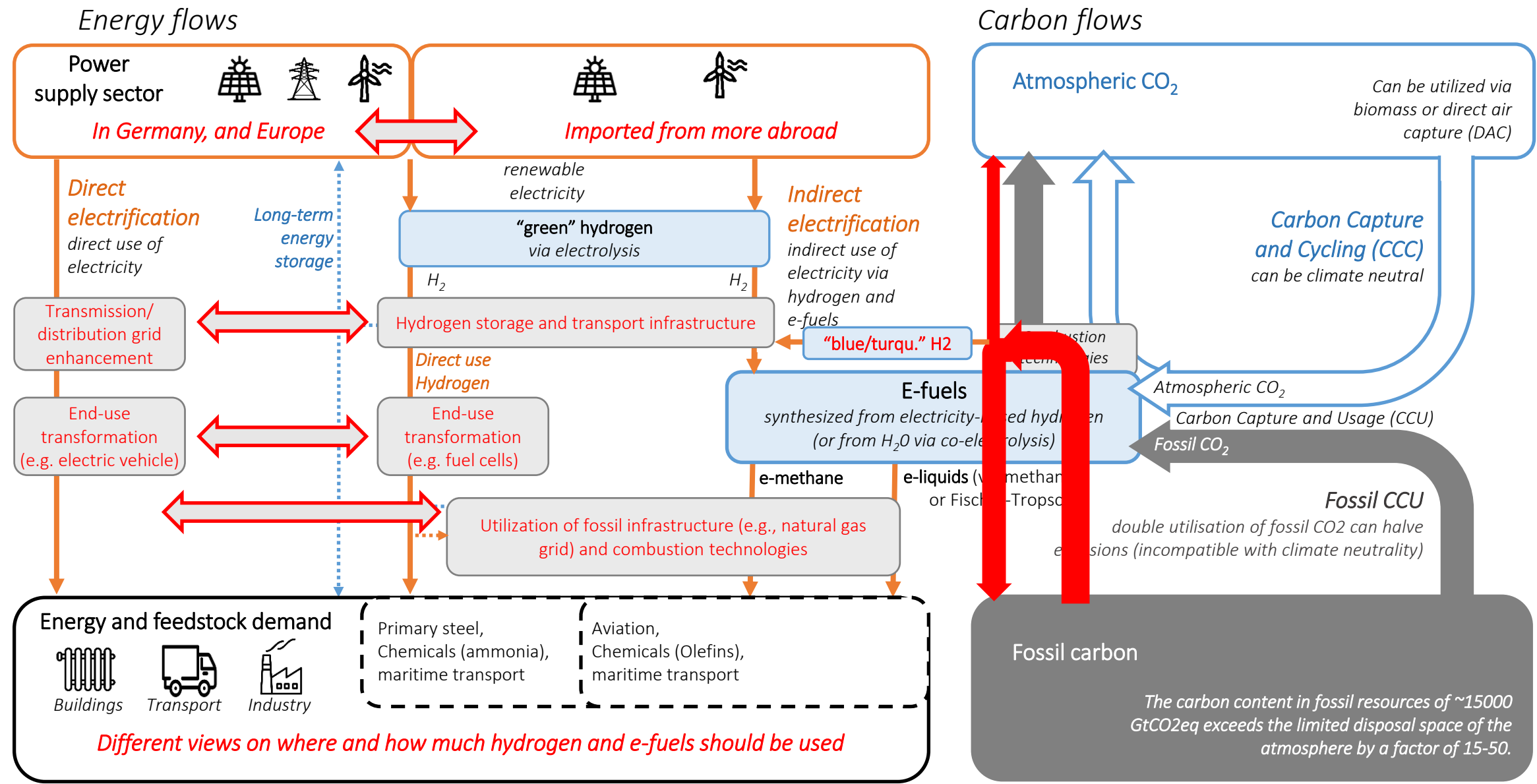
Grey area middleground

- low-temp. heat industry (steam making)
- high-temp. heat (e.g. glass making, or cement)
- long-haul freight transport (trucks)

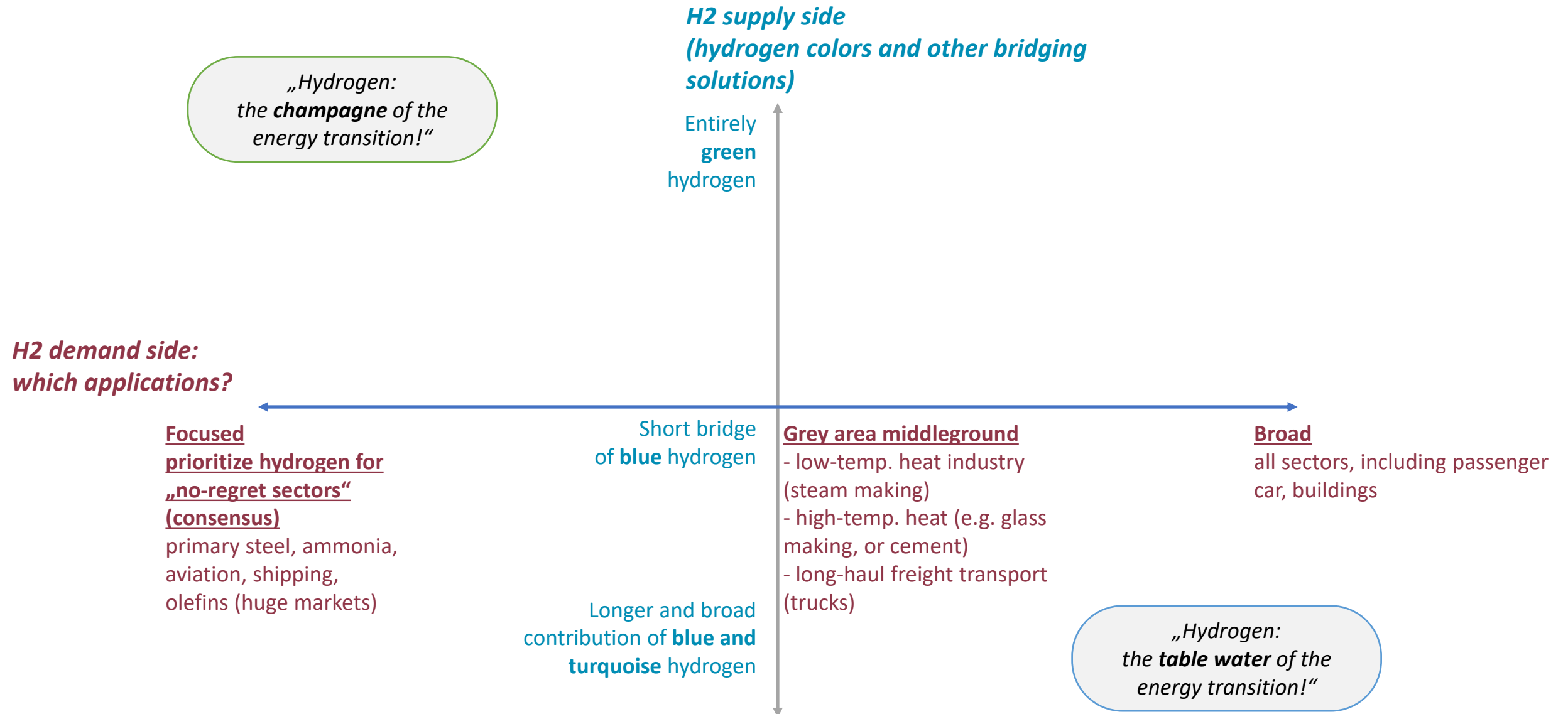
Broad

all sectors, including passenger car, buildings

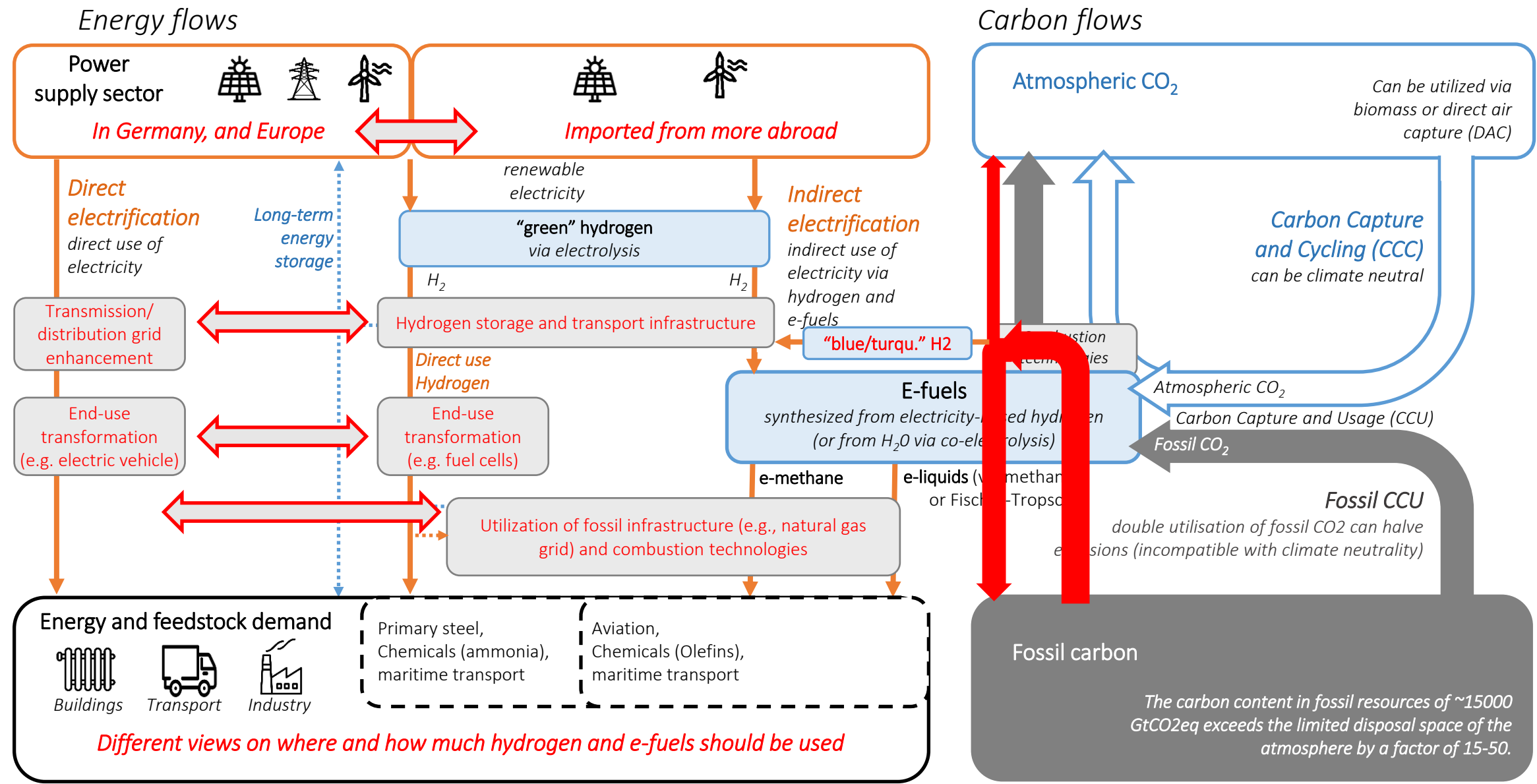
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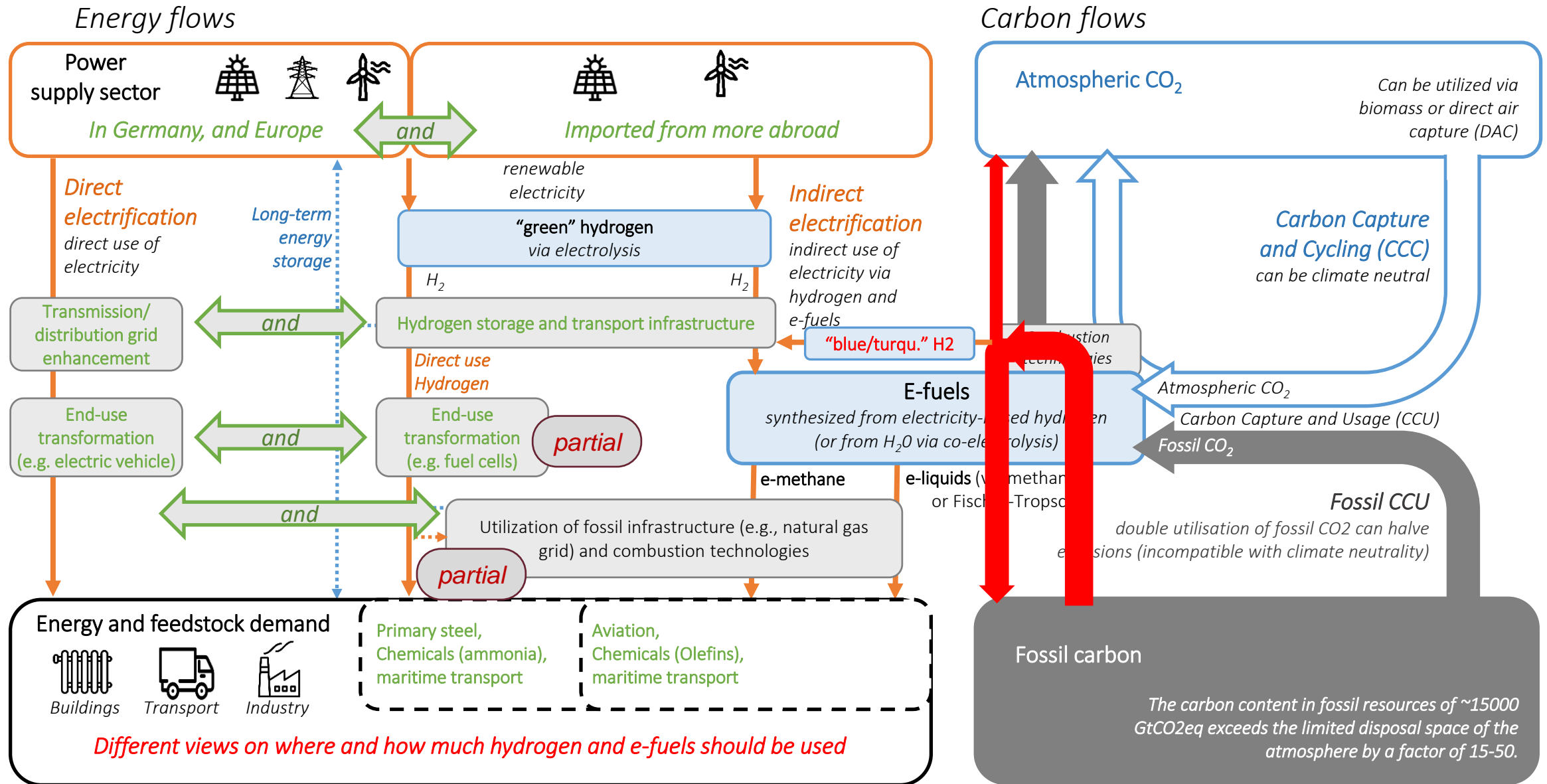
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Many robust “no-regret” options. How to make decisions on competing options?



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- Range of climate neutrality scenarios (for Germany)

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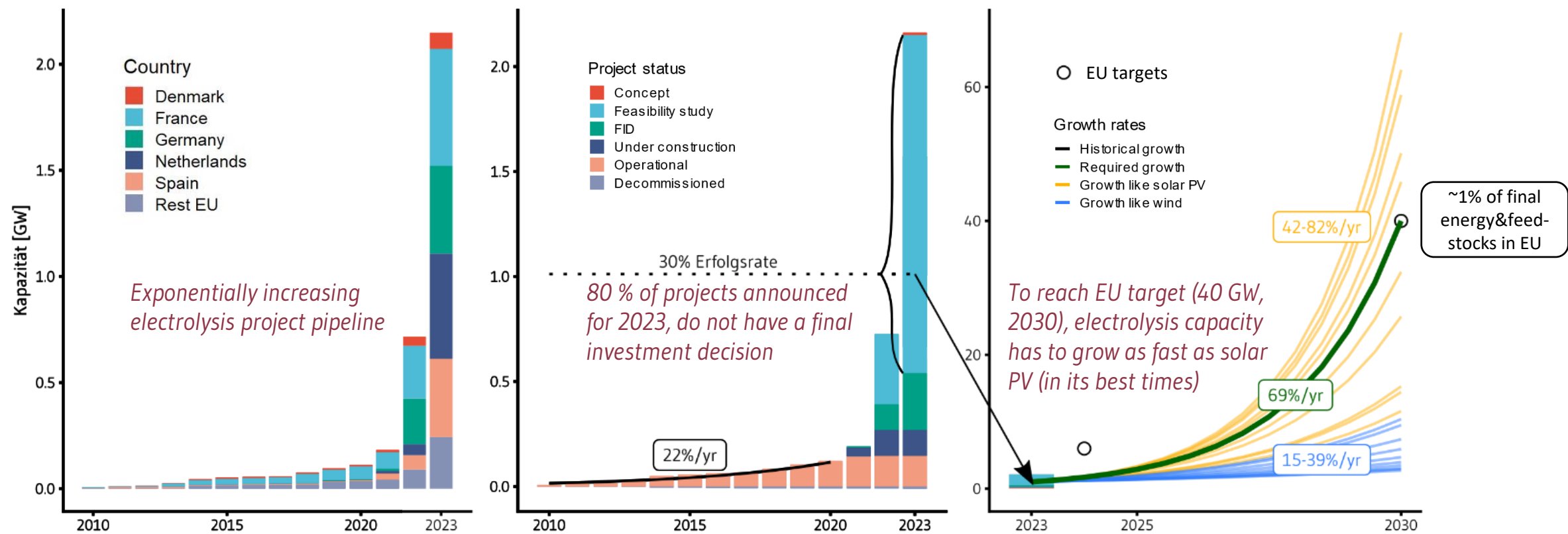
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transfer to Quebec/Canada

Bottleneck and indicator: Electrolysis capacity expansion

EU electrolysis capacity (per region) EU electrolysis capacity (per status) EU electrolysis capacity: required growth



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Growth of electrolysis required to make green hydrogen a substantial climate change mitigation option

@FalkoUeckerdt



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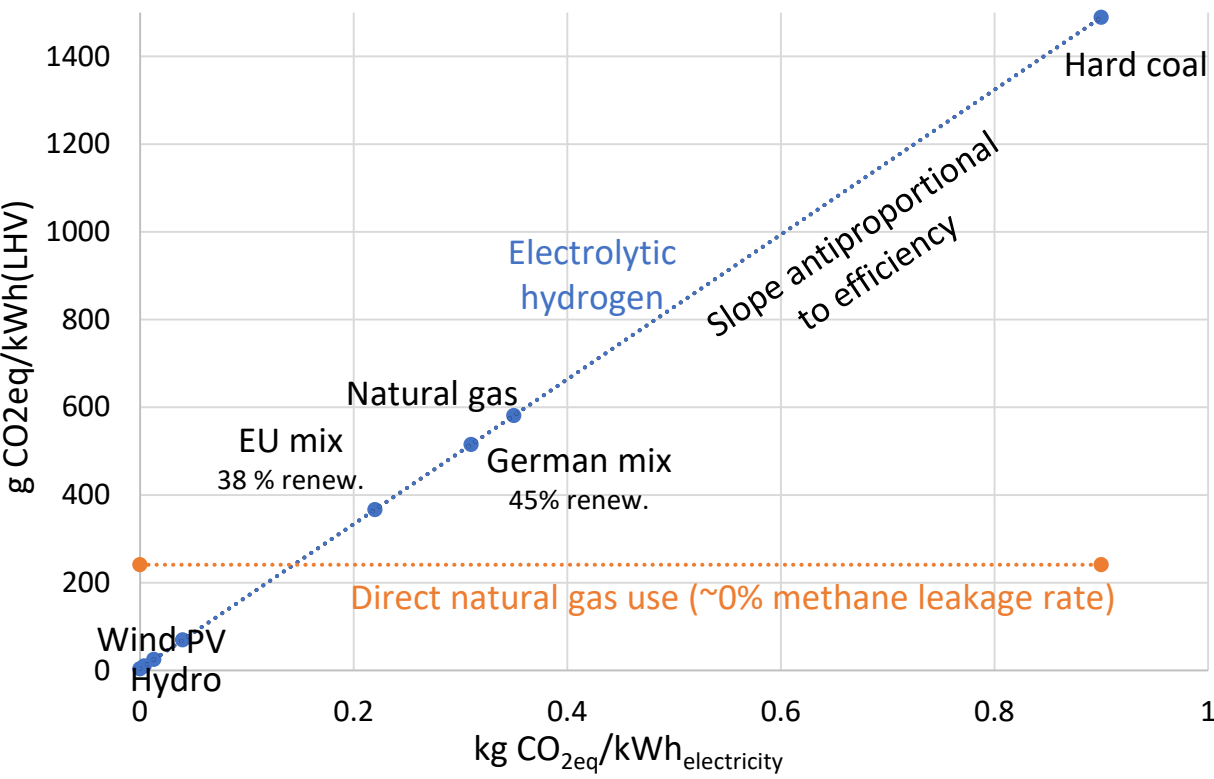
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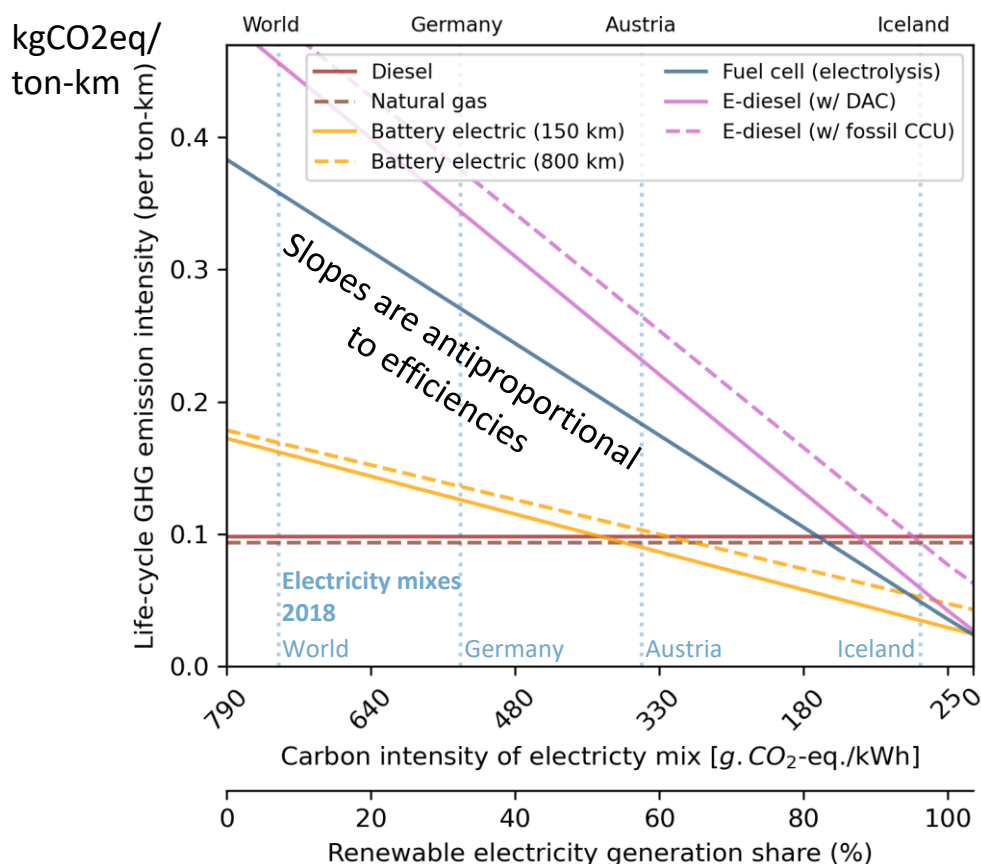
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Climate effectiveness of hydrogen highly depends on the CO2 intensity of electricity

>80 % renewable electricity required to reduce emissions with hydrogen compared to natural gas
(based on LHV for e.g. heating applications)



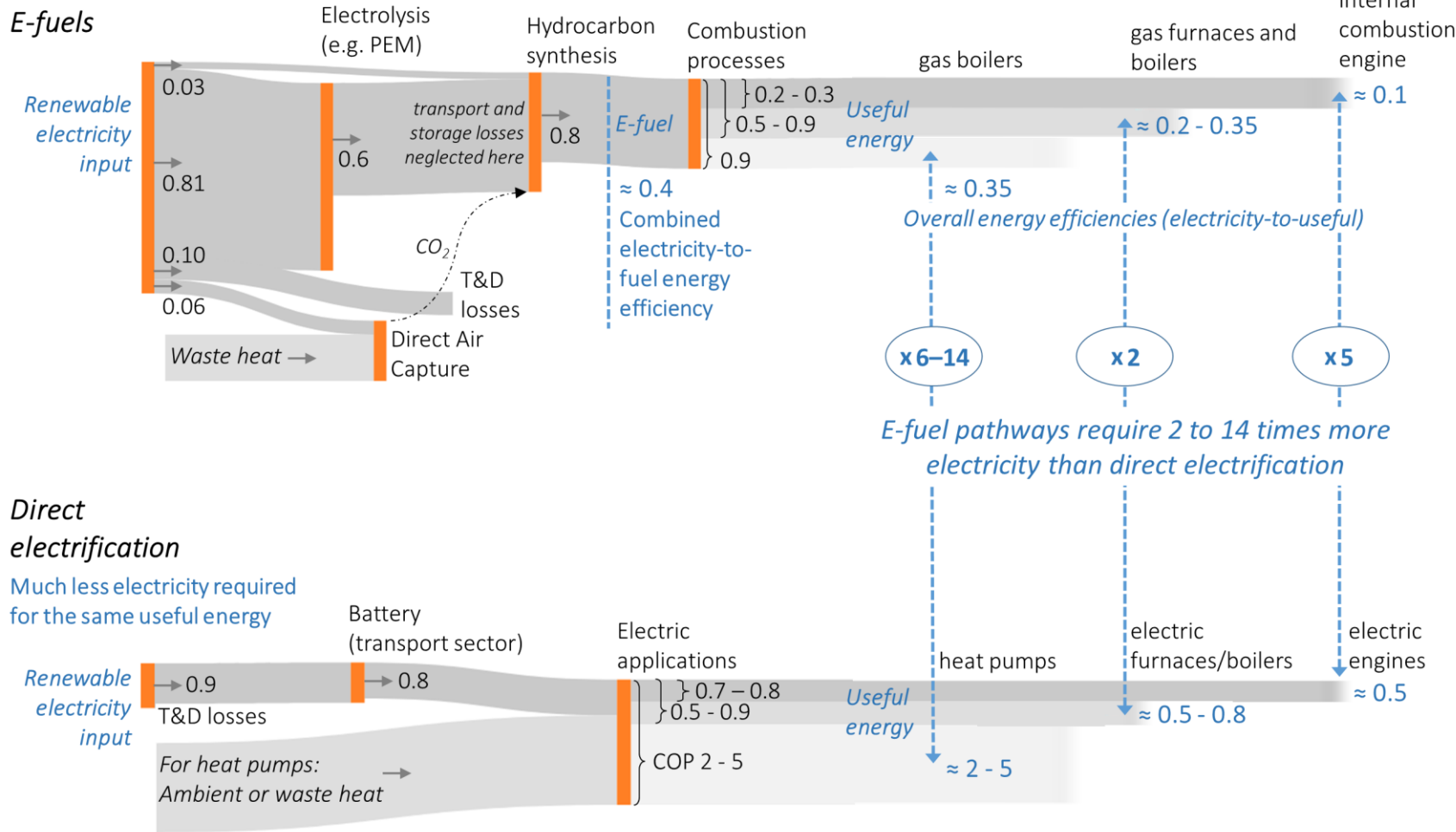
>80 % renewable electricity required to reduce emissions with a fuel-cell truck compared to diesel
(semi-trailer trucks, 40t weight, 10t load)



E-fuels require two to fourteen times more electricity than a direct electrification

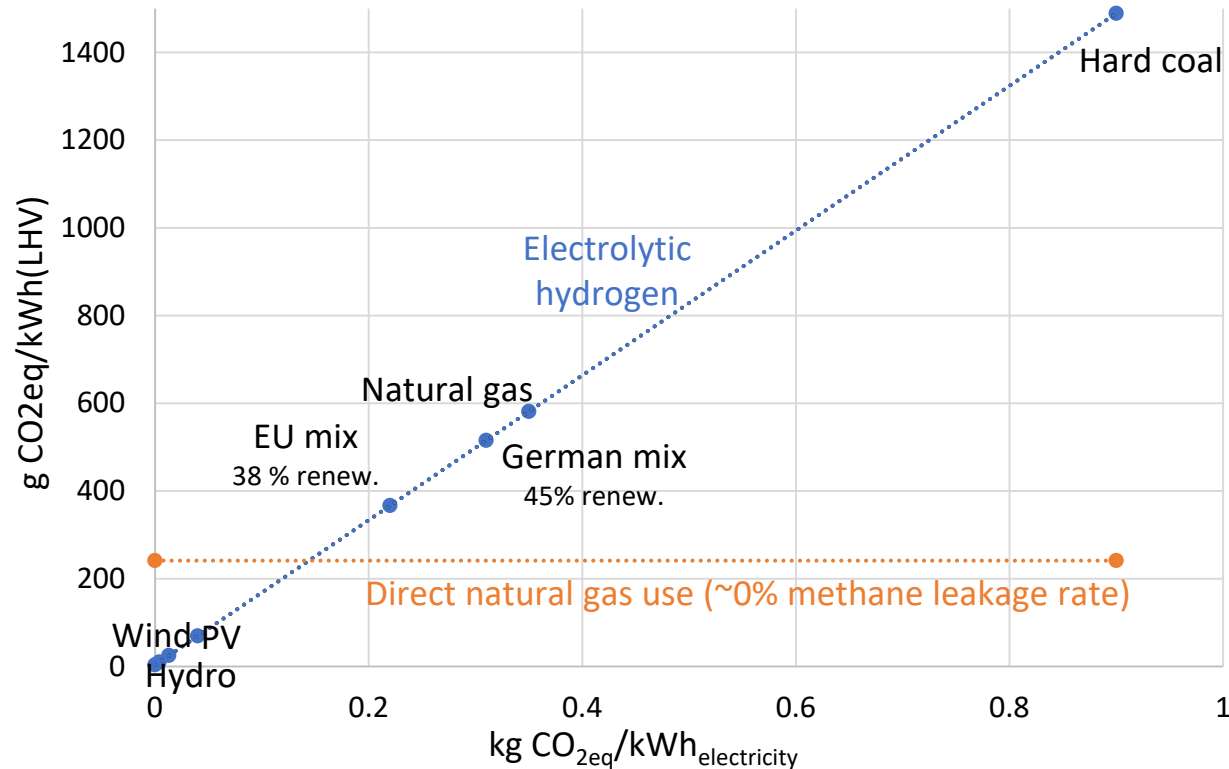
Electricity-to-useful energy efficiencies

Black: individual efficiencies
Blue: combined efficiencies

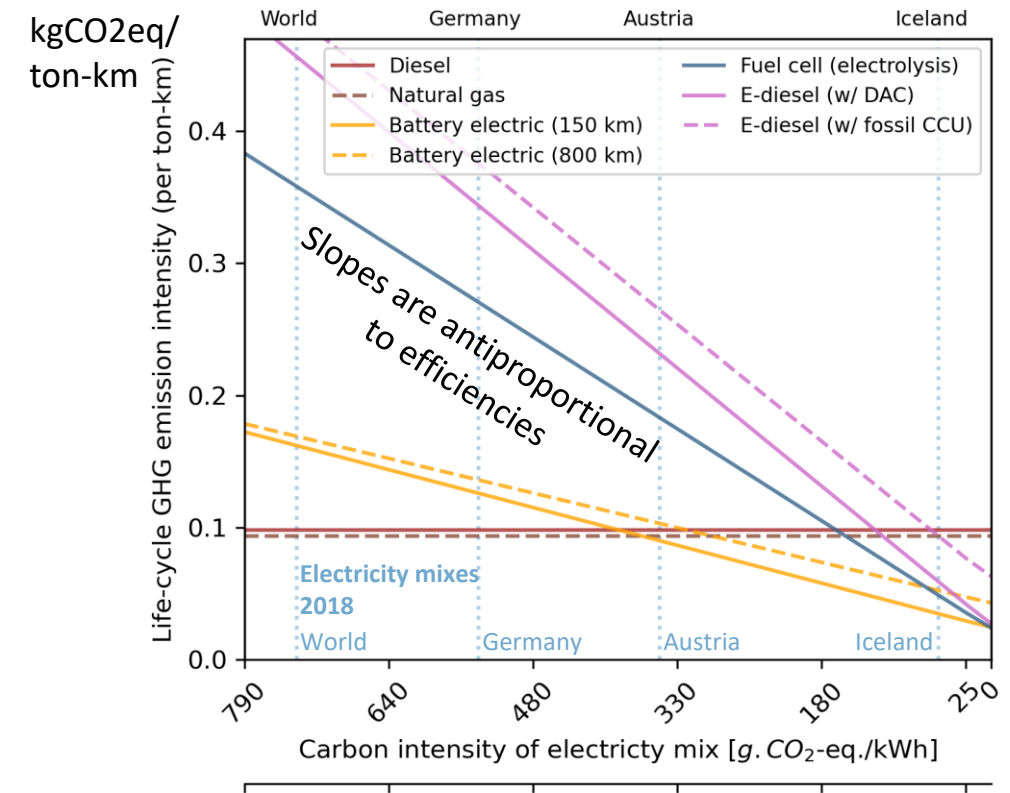


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Fierce debate around EU delegated act on RFNBOs. Environmentalists: „Additionality of renewables is required because“

i) despite substantial shares, renewable electricity is and will remain scarce

ii) diverting renewable electricity away from more efficient and thus more effective direct use increases emissions

→ **trade-off between short-term mitigation and (green) hydrogen scale up. What phase-in period of strict criteria?**

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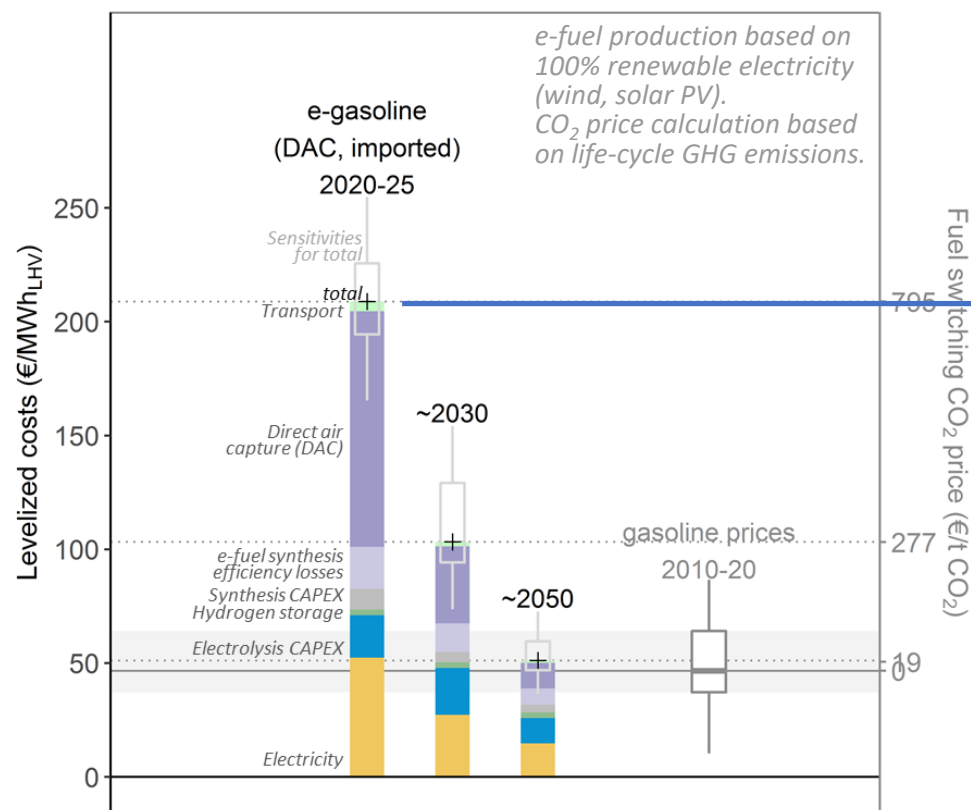
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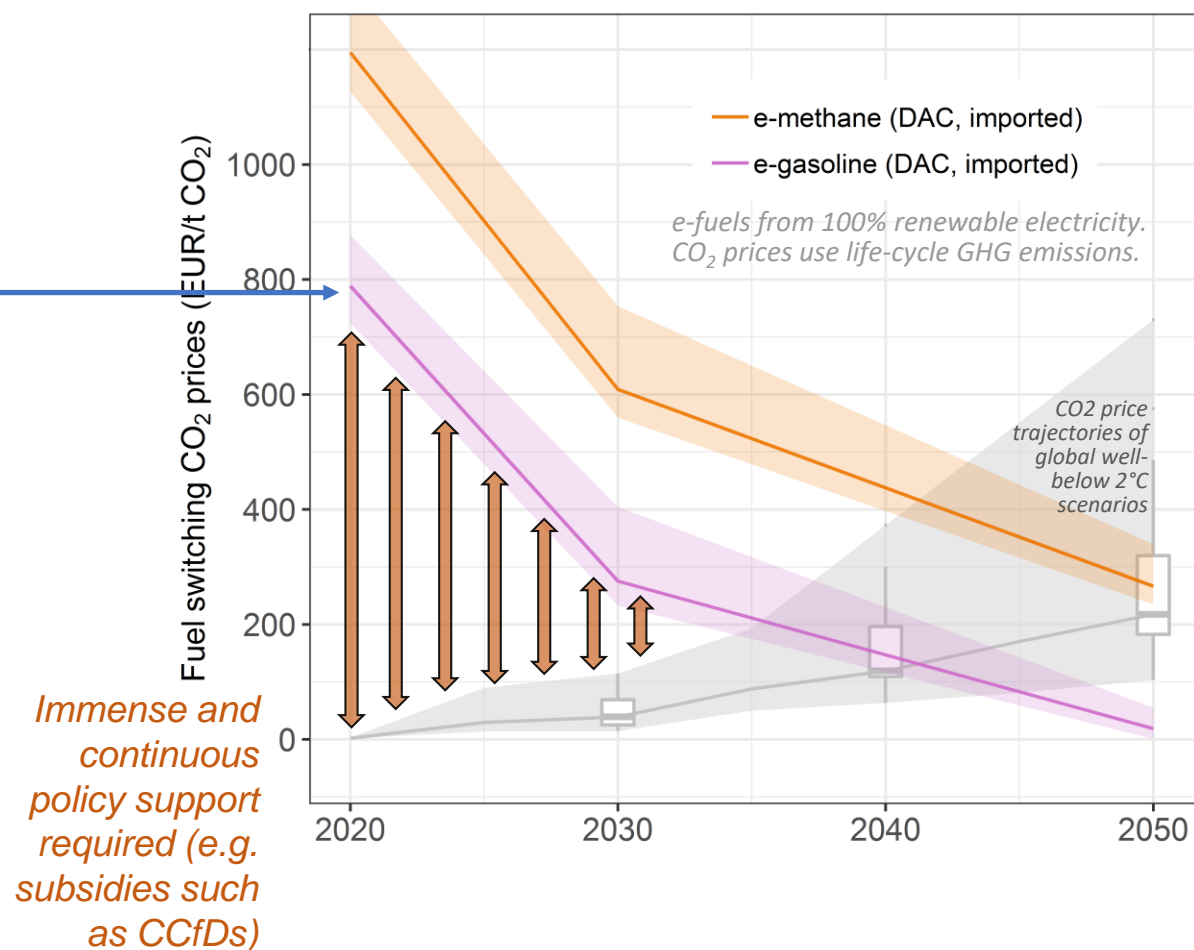
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E-fuels not competitive in the next 1-2 decades. Immense policy support required.

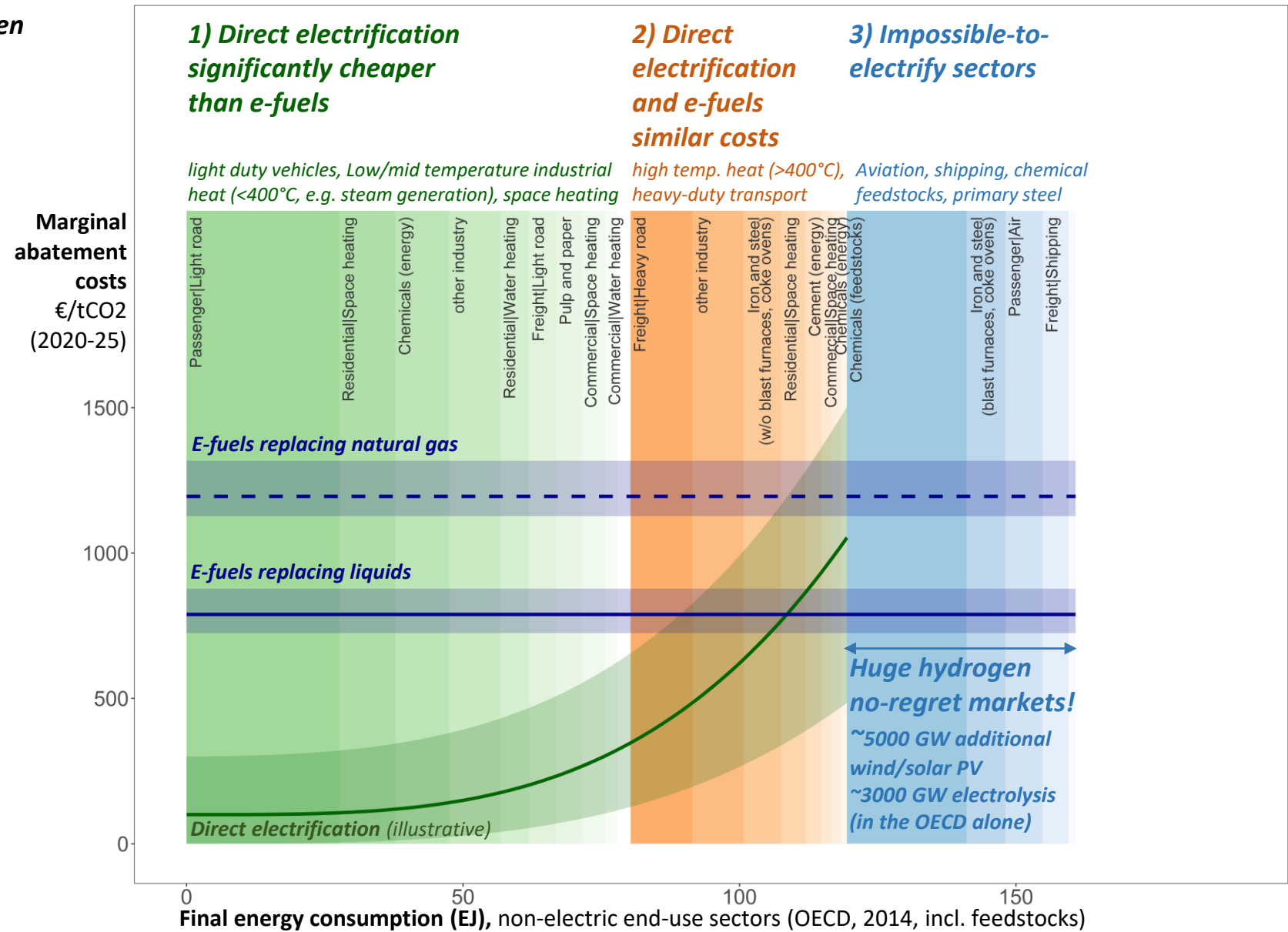
High today's costs, high CO₂ prices required.
Future innovation possible in case of massive scaling.



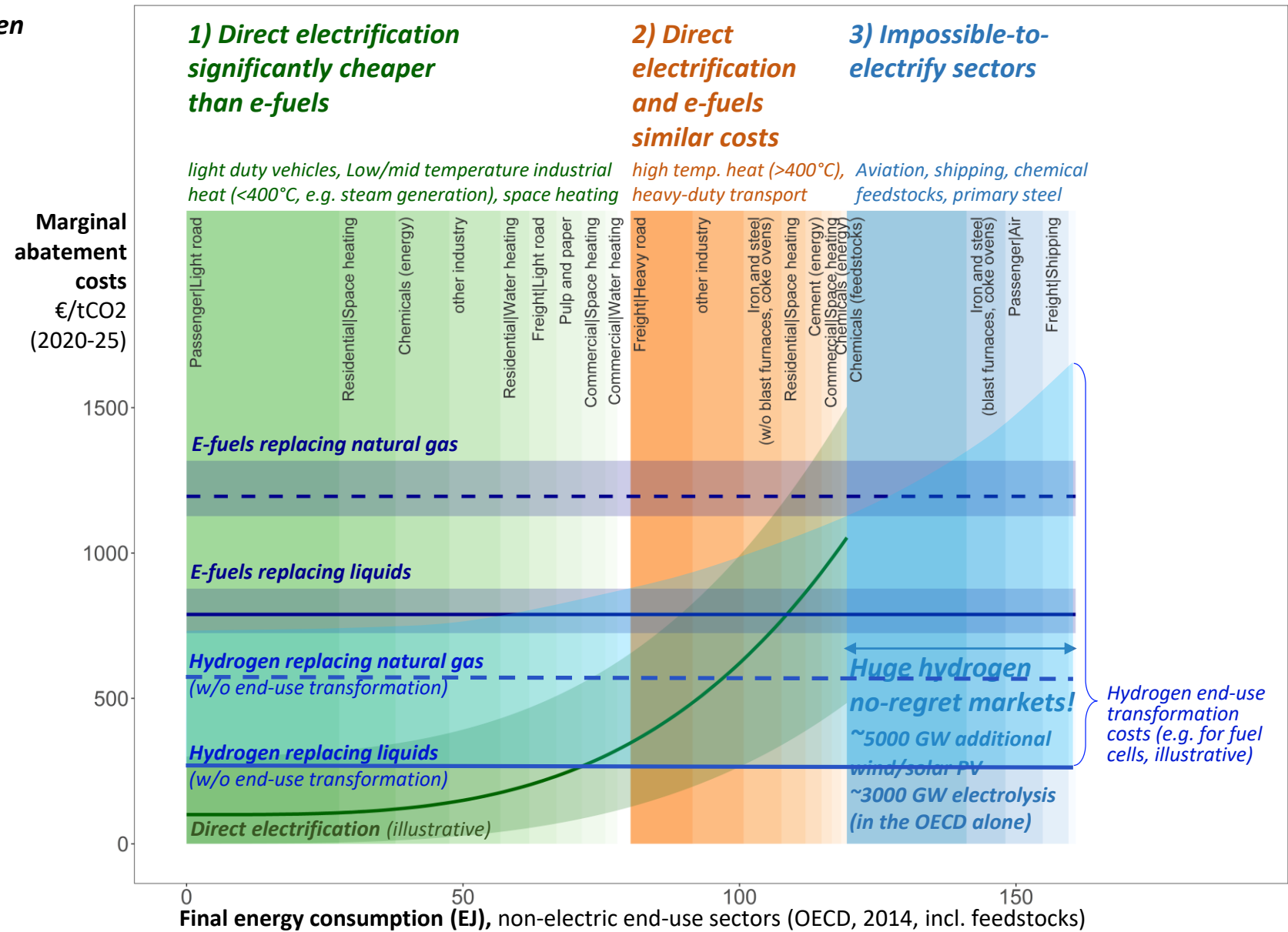
Competitiveness of e-fuels only ~2040
Massive subsidies required until then.



Merit order of hydrogen and e-fuel demands



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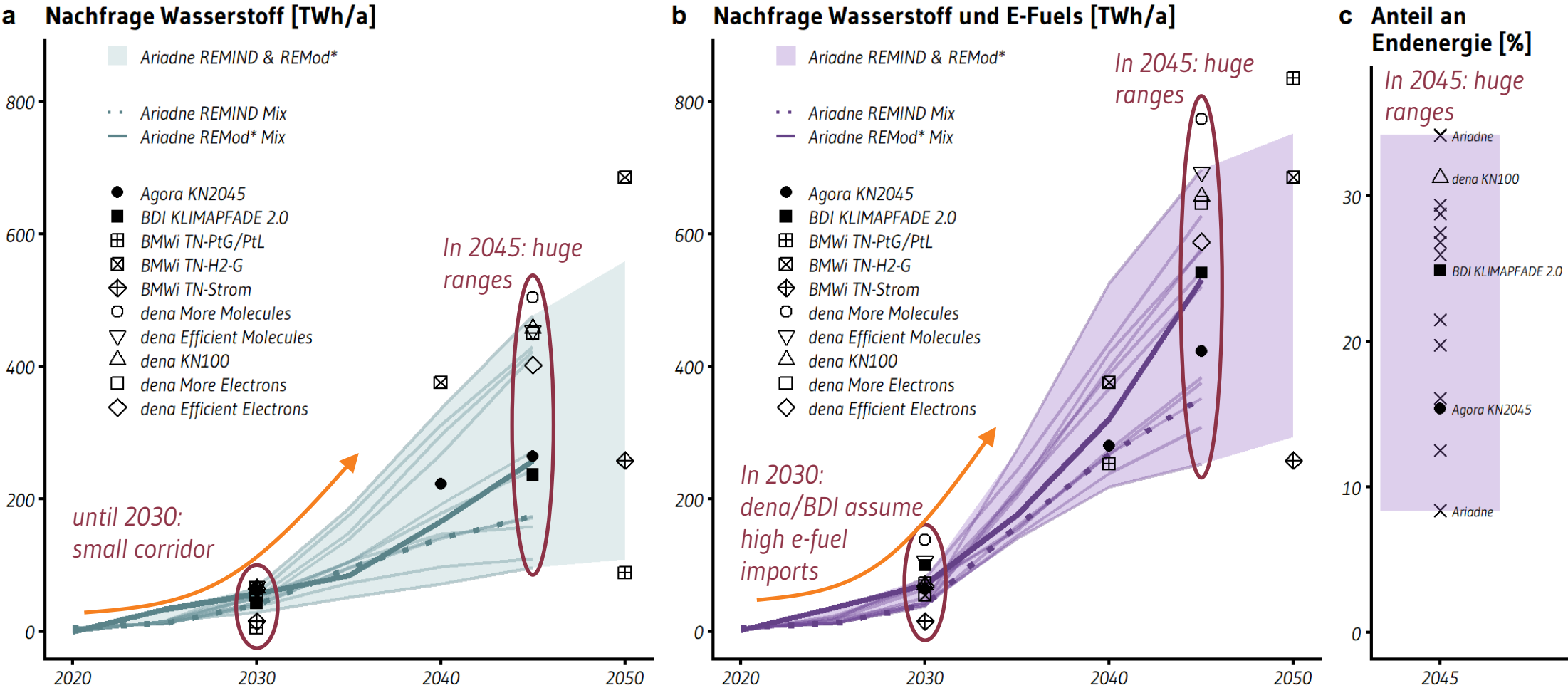
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Scenarios: What do the “big 5” say about hydrogen and e-fuels?



HYDROGEN SUPPLY EXPANSION?

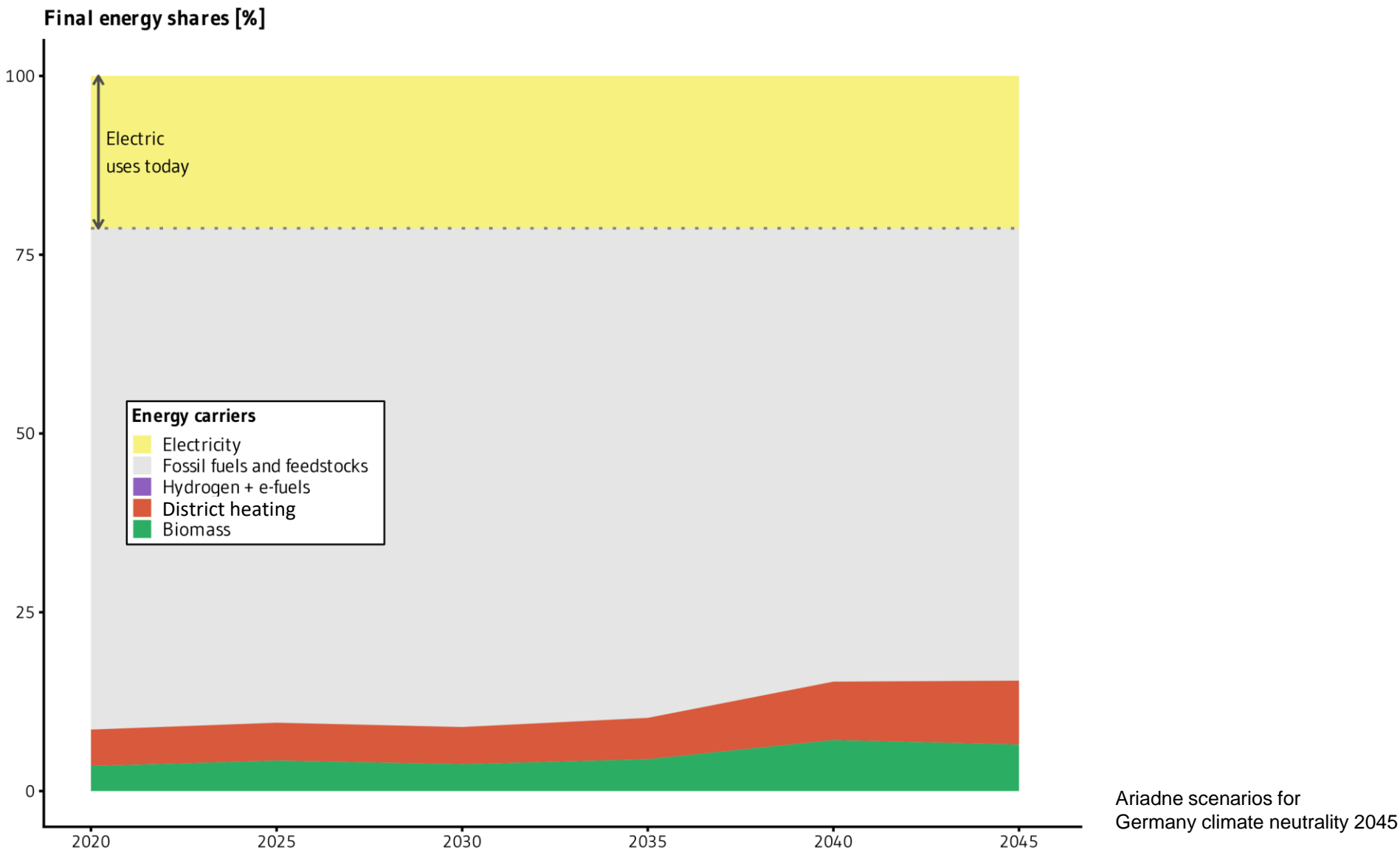
SCENARIO RANGES ? ≠ POLITICAL OPTION SPACE

TECHNO-ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES!
WITH BOTH INDIRECT AND DIRECT ELECTRIFICATION



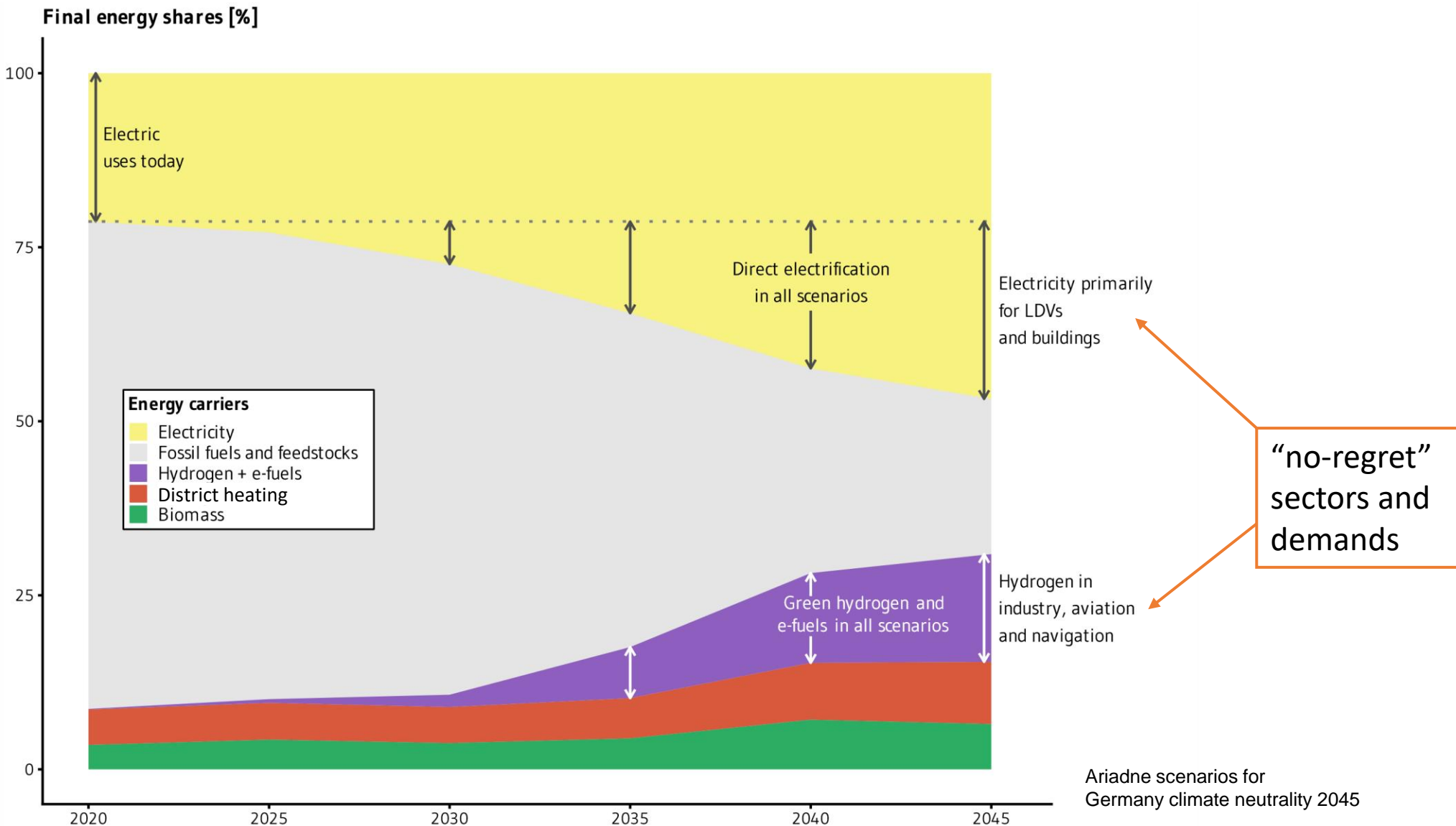
Scenarios climate neutrality Germany:

Significant techno-economic uncertainties → Do not pick and impose one pathway



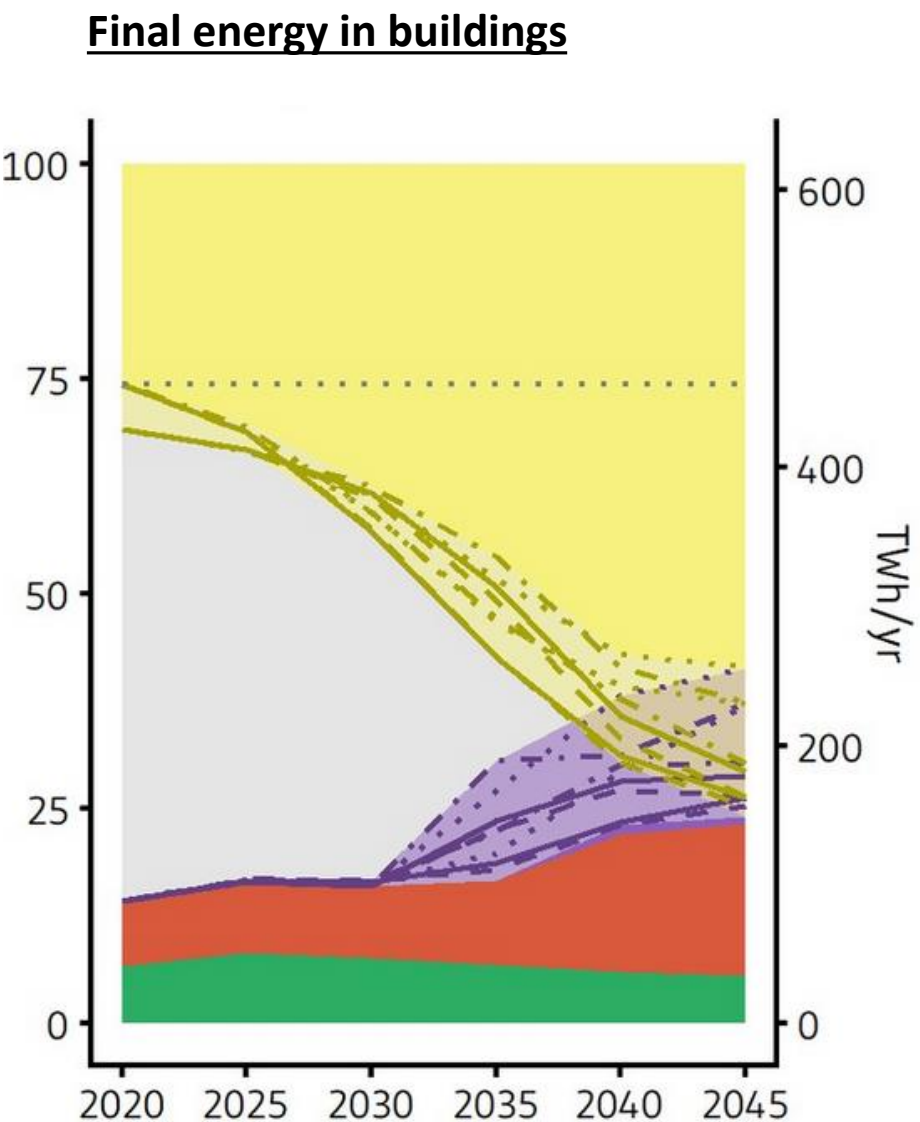
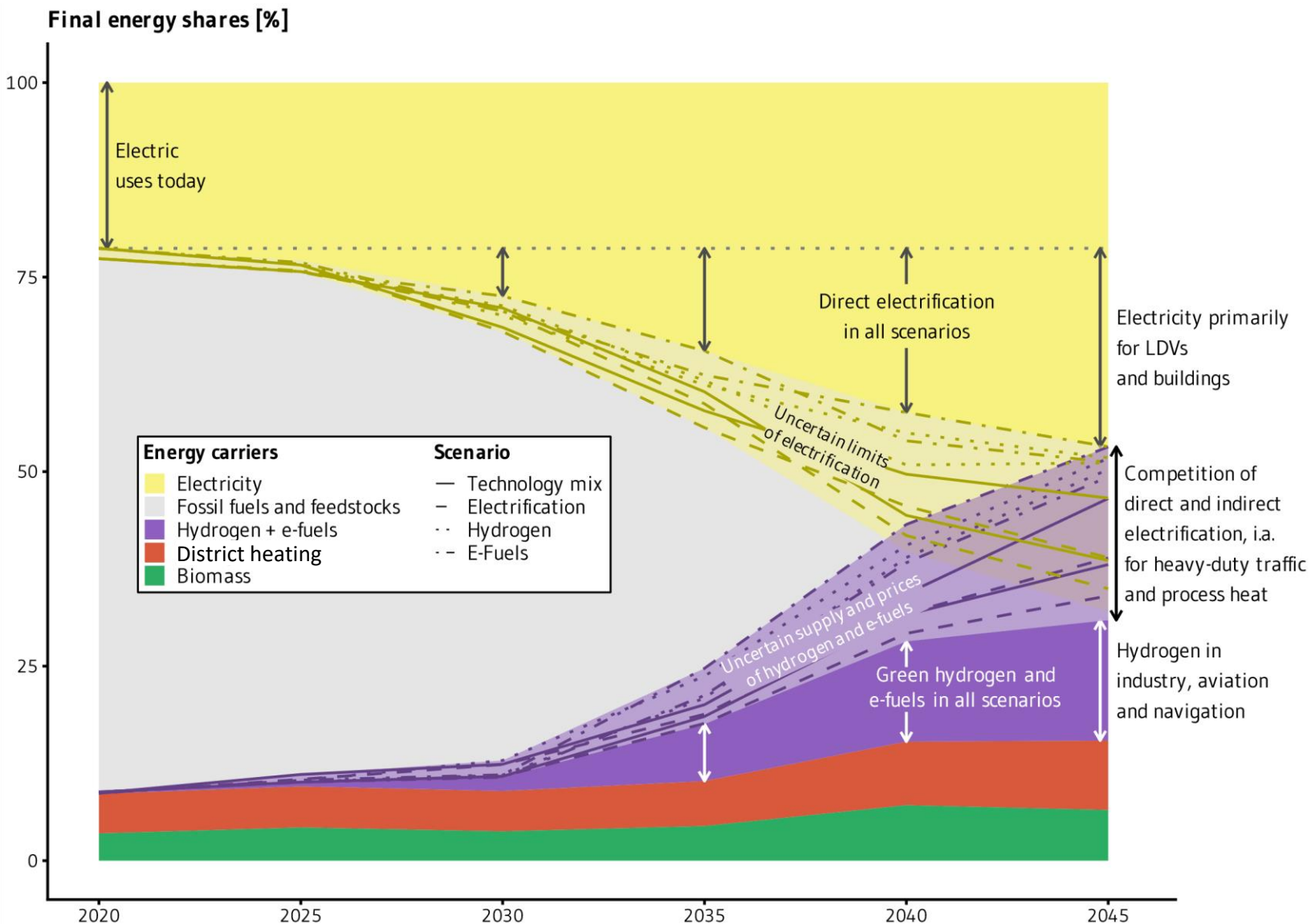
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Ariadne scenarios for Germany climate neutrality 2045



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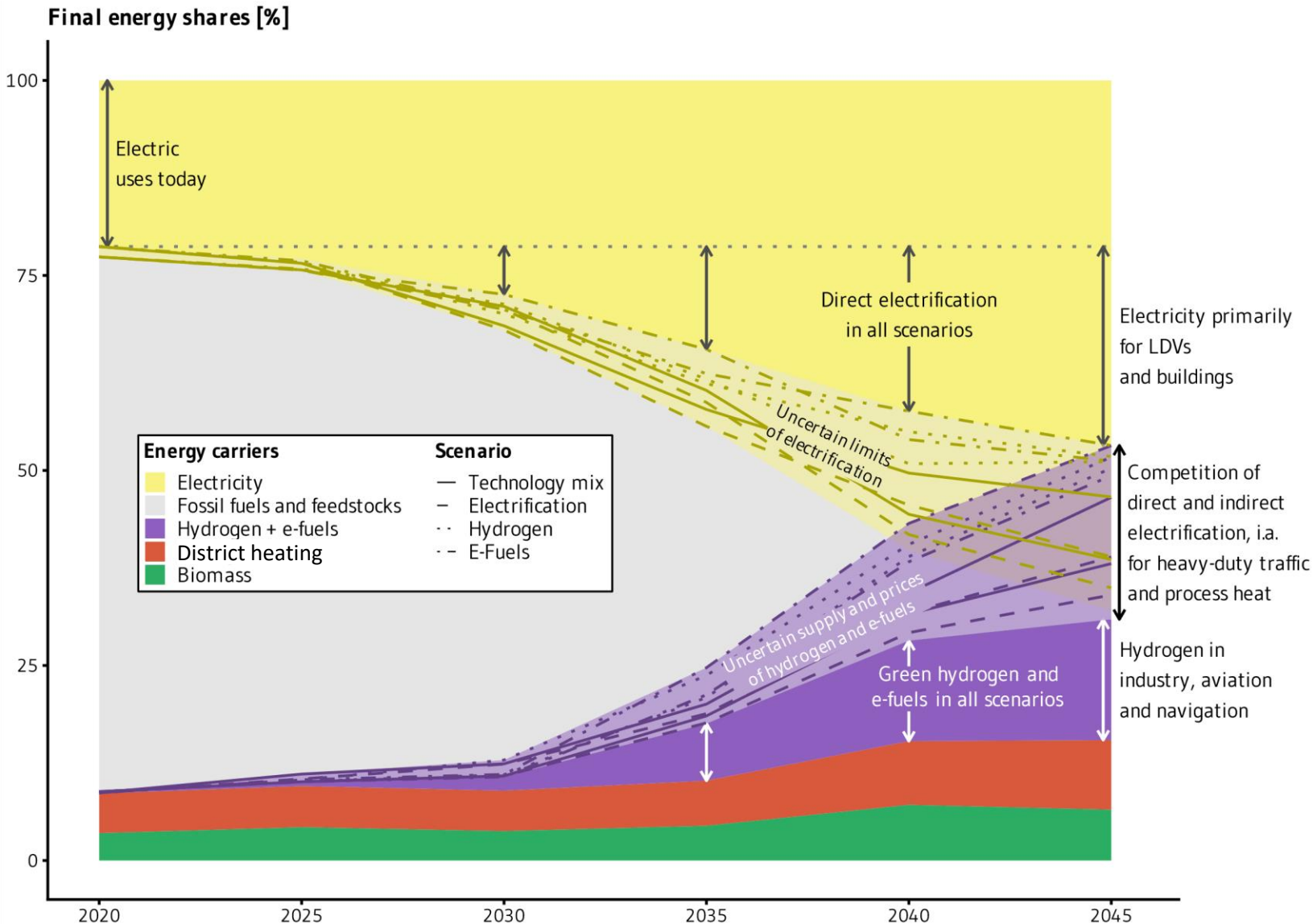
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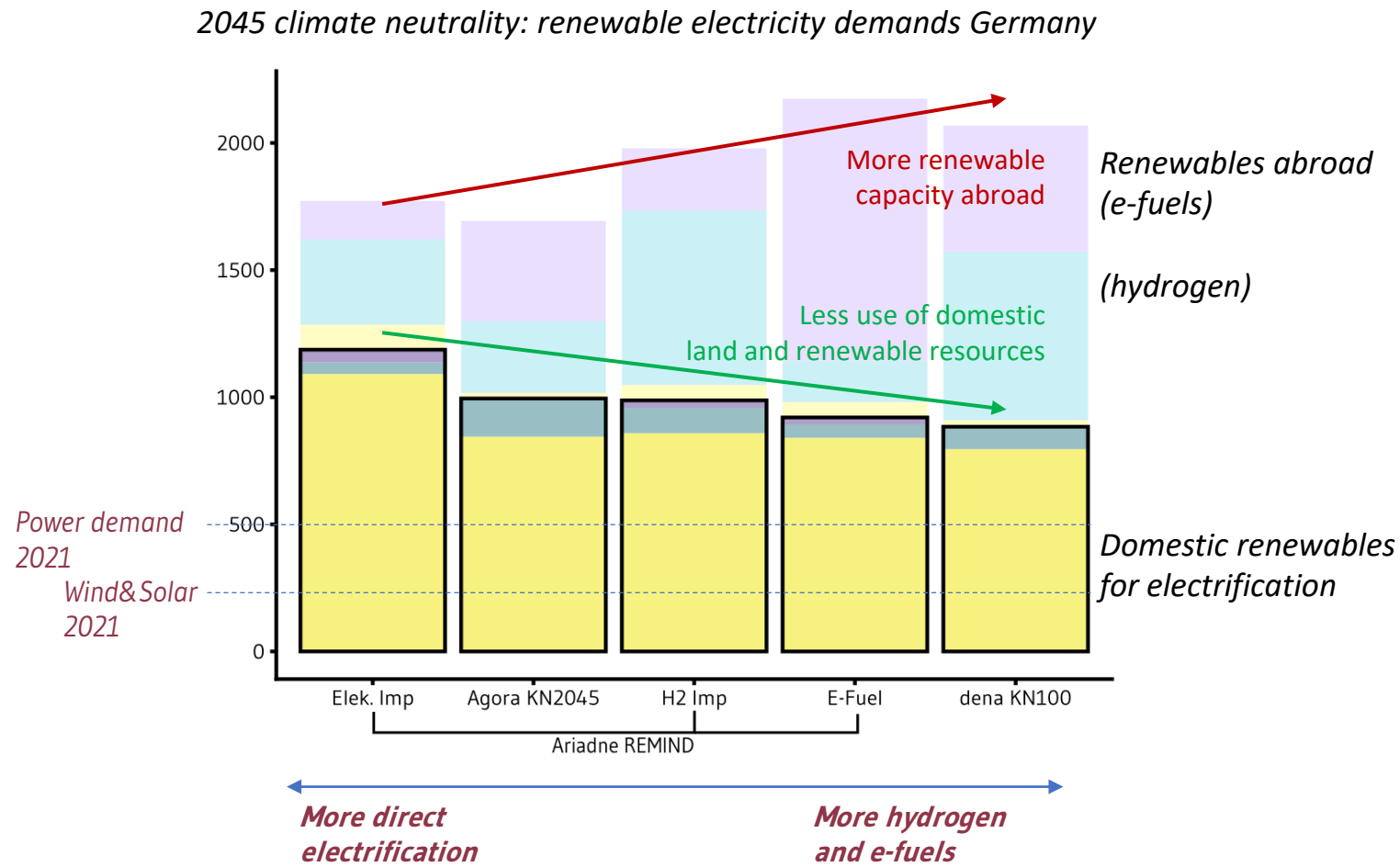


An adaptive hydrogen strategy

1. Do not pick and impose one pathway. e.g. no betting on broad availability of low-cost hydrogen, as it risks to lock in fossil fuel dependence
2. Foster robust options: efficiency/electrification, domestic renewables, hydrogen supply (imports) and backbone infrastructure for least-regret applications

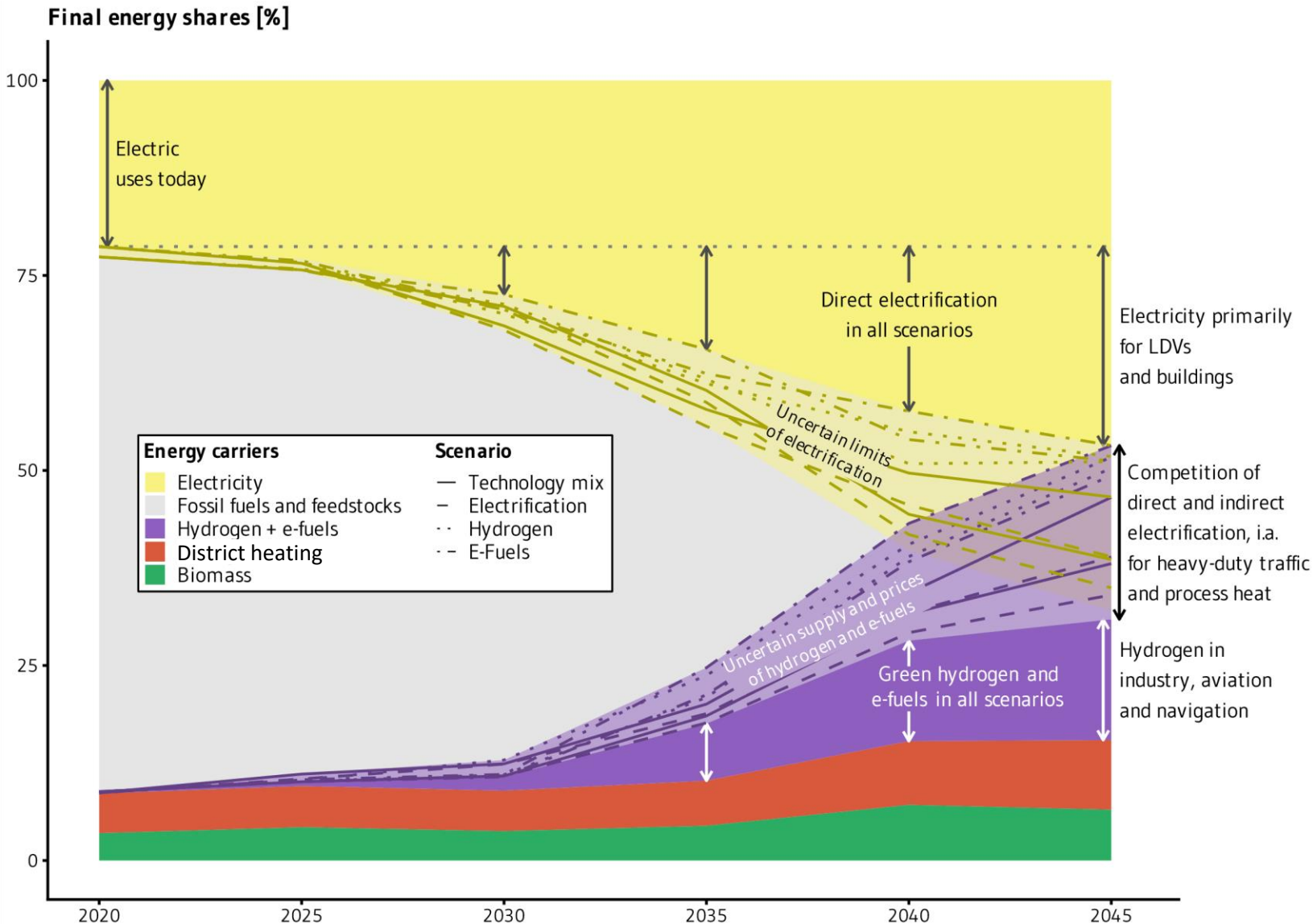
Ariadne scenarios for
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No-regrets: all scenarios show 1) dramatic expansion of domestic renewables & 2) substantial hydrogen/e-fuel imports



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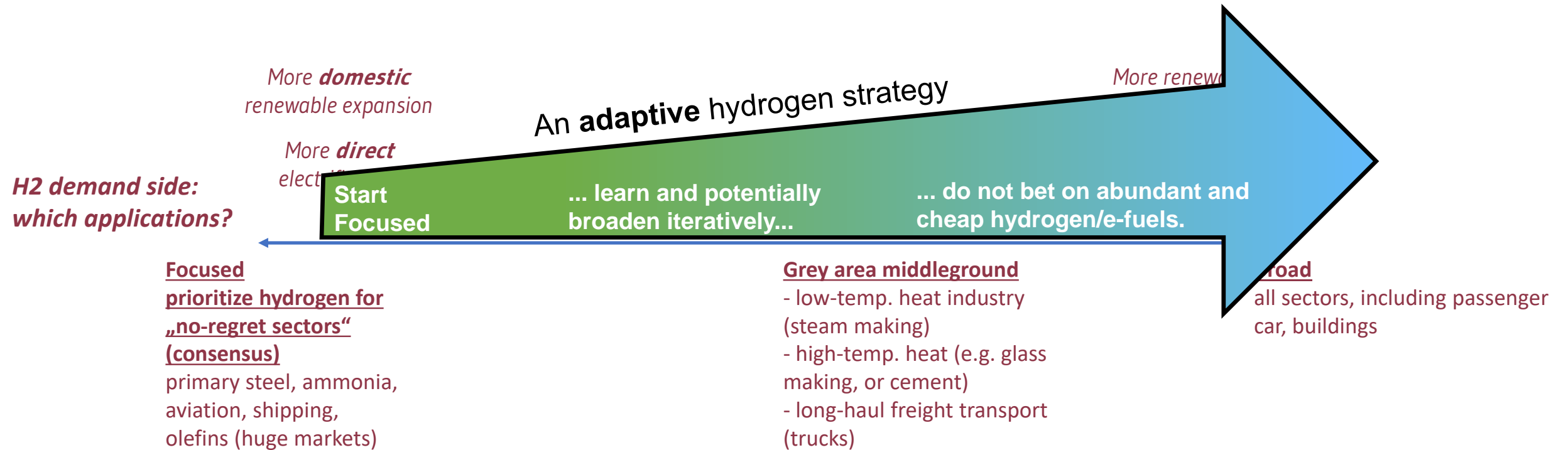


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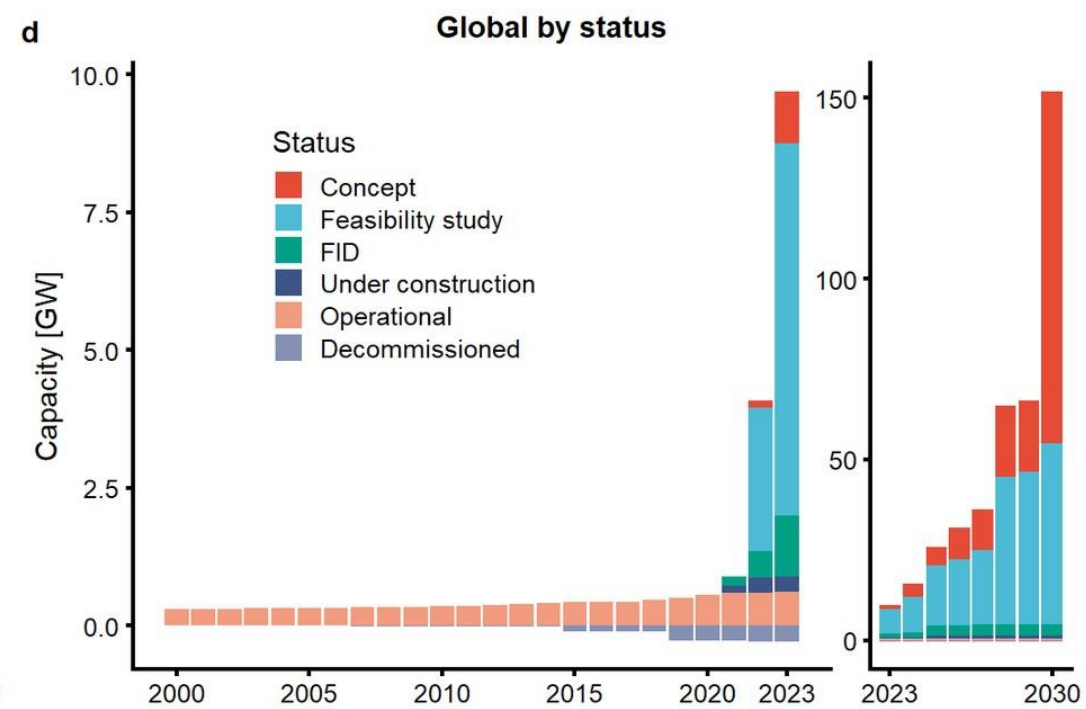
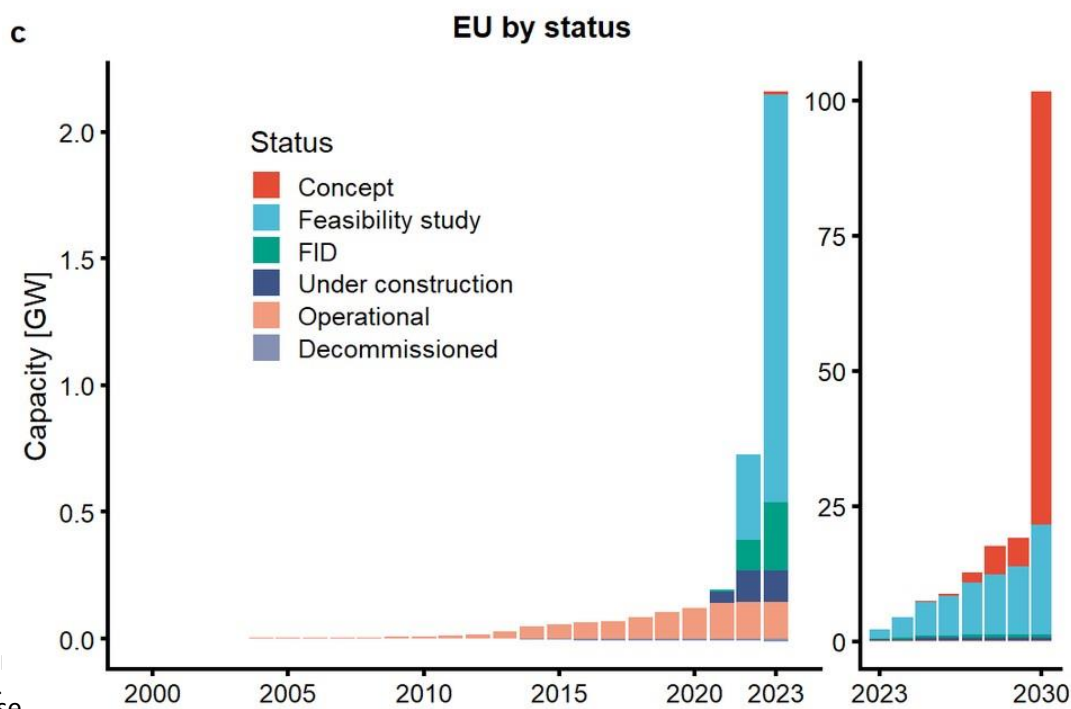
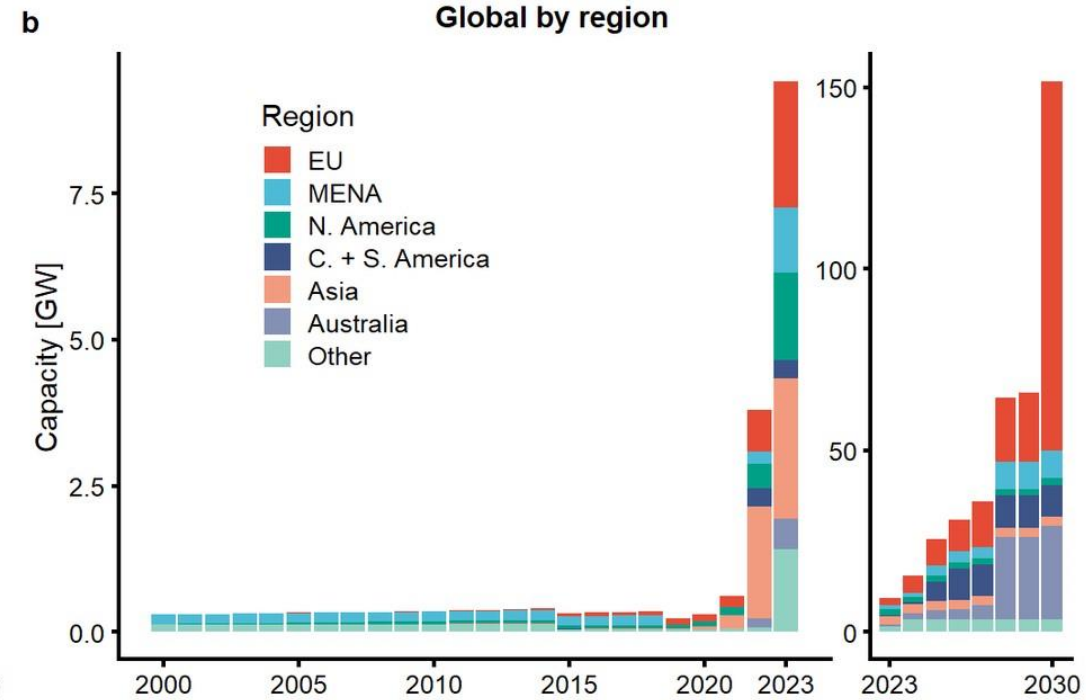
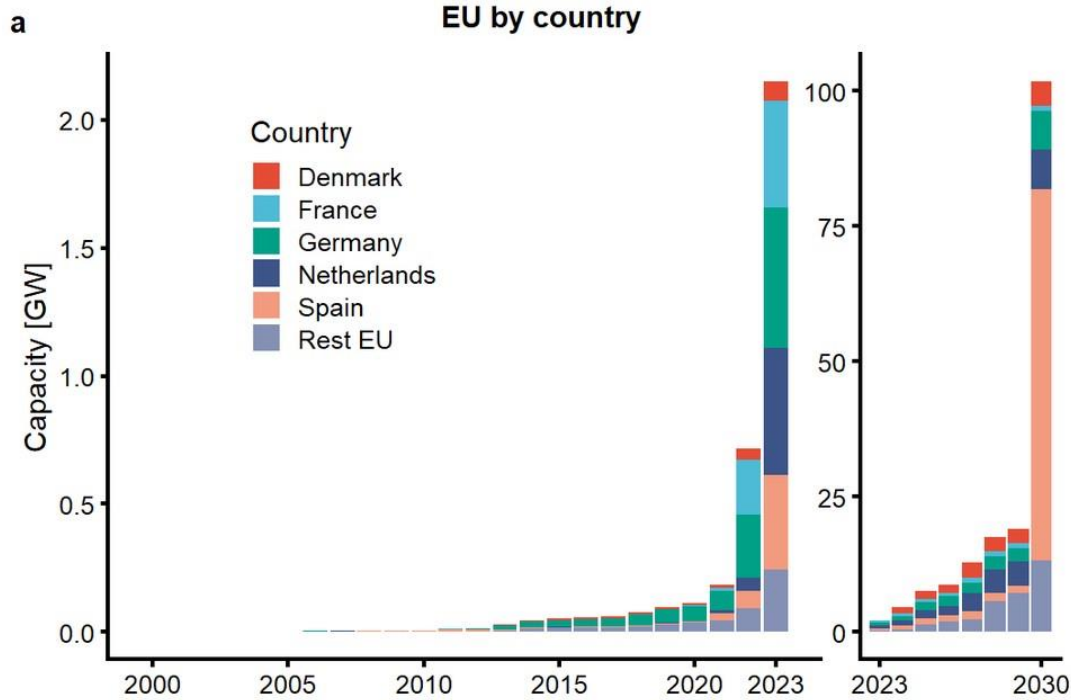
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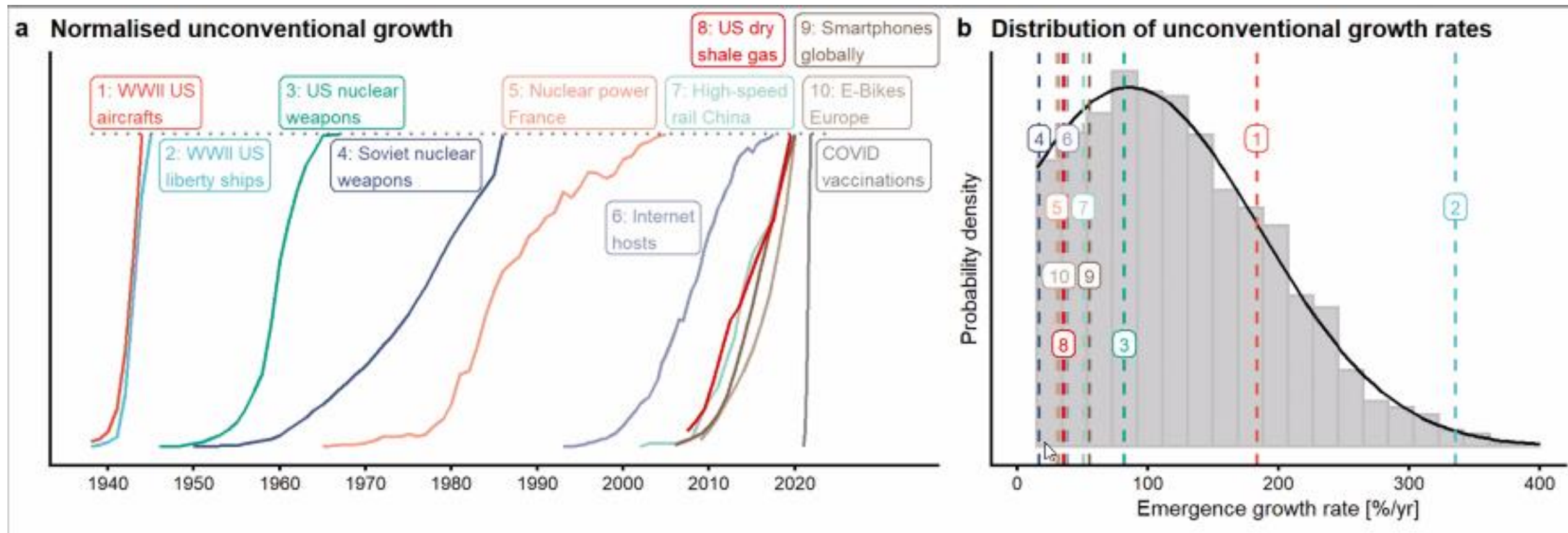
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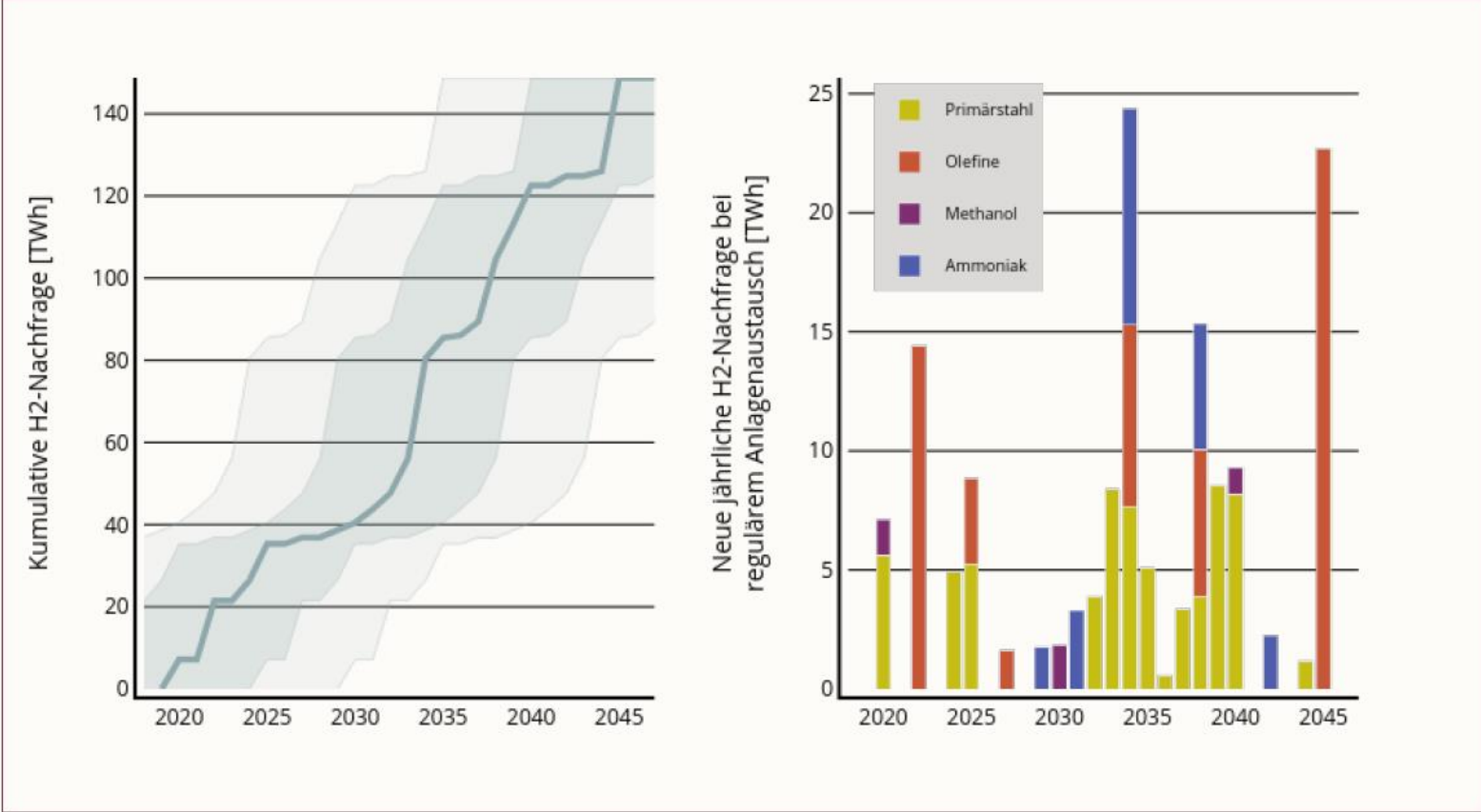
› BACKUP SLIDES





NACHFRAGE IN INDUSTRIE UND FLUGVERKEHR IST BIS MINDESTENS 2030/35 GRÖßER ALS DAS ANGEBOT AN GRÜNEM WASSERSTOFF

Abbildung 8: Kumulativer Wasserstoffbedarf aus Produkten der Grundstoffindustrie (links) und zusätzlicher jährlicher Wasserstoffbedarf (rechts) aus der Produktion von Primärstahl, Olefinen (wie Ethylen), Ammoniak und Methanol bei regulärem Anlagenaustausch, gemäß Alter und Modernisierungszyklus bestehender Anlagen.



Industrie: Bei regulären Anlagenaustausch entstehen Wasserstoffbedarfe von **40 TWh in 2030 und 80 TWh in 2035**.

Um 5 bis 10 Jahre vorgezogene Investitionen erhöhen diese Menge auf **80 bis 120 TWh in 2030**

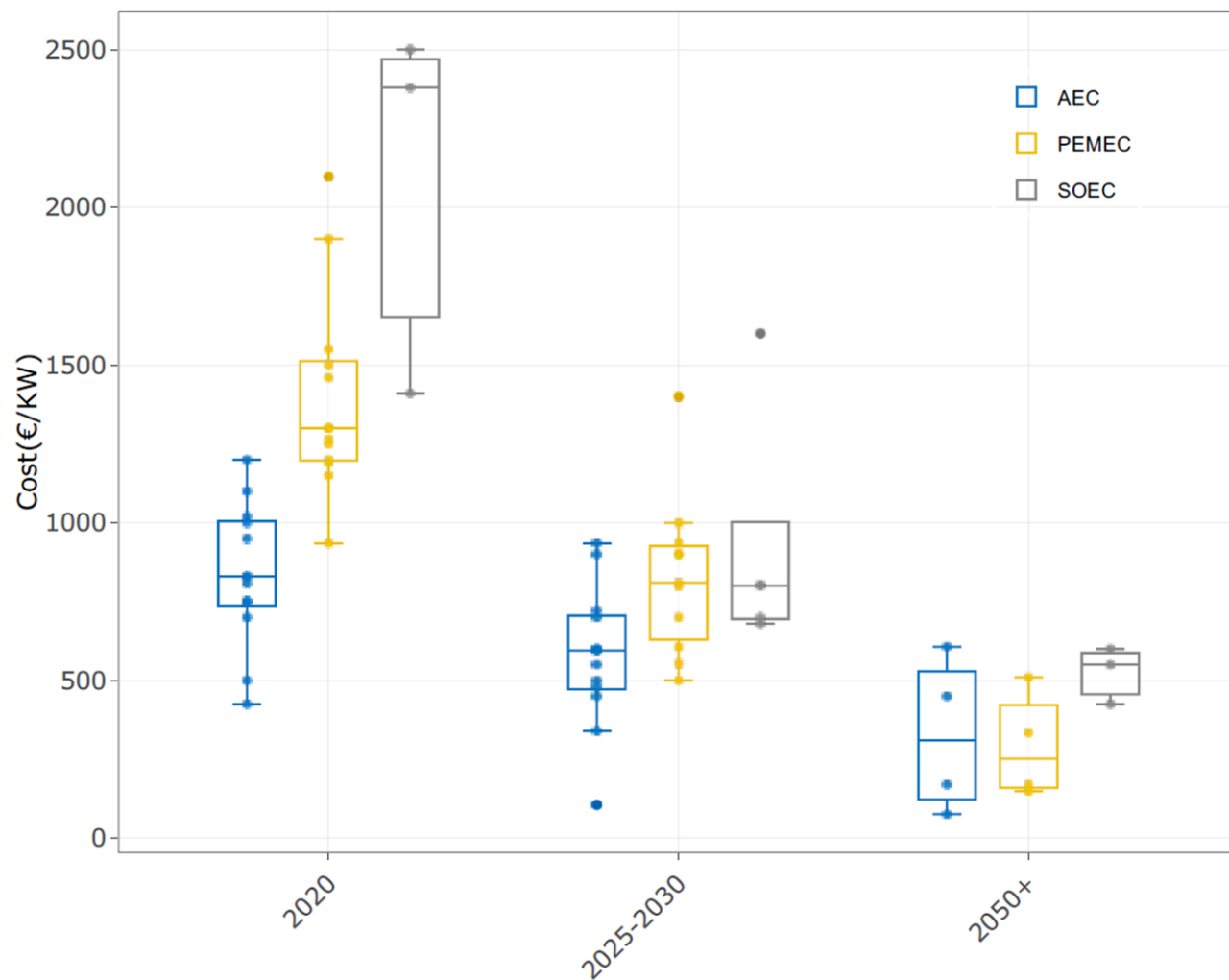
Instrumente: IPCEI + CCfDs (nur für Industrie)

Im Fernflugverkehr können bis zu **120 TWh E-Kerosin** verwendet werden. Dafür können E-Fuel-Quoten angehoben werden.

Instrumente: (erhöhte) E-Fuel-Quoten im Flugverkehr

Betrachtet werden jährliche Gesamtkapazitäten von 30,7 Mt Primärstahl, 5,2 Mt Ethylen (und daran gekoppelt 6,2 Mt weitere Olefine) sowie 1,8 Mt Methanol und 3,1 Mt Ammoniak. Weitere Annahmen: 60 Jahre Lebensdauer für chemische Anlagen, Modernisierungszyklus Hochöfen 25 Jahre (ähnlich Agora, 2020). Schattierter Bereich links: Änderung bei Verschiebung des Anlagenaustausches (früher/später) um 5/10 Jahre.

Literature: Electrolyser CAPEX 2020-2050



Literature: Electrolysis Efficiency 2020-2050

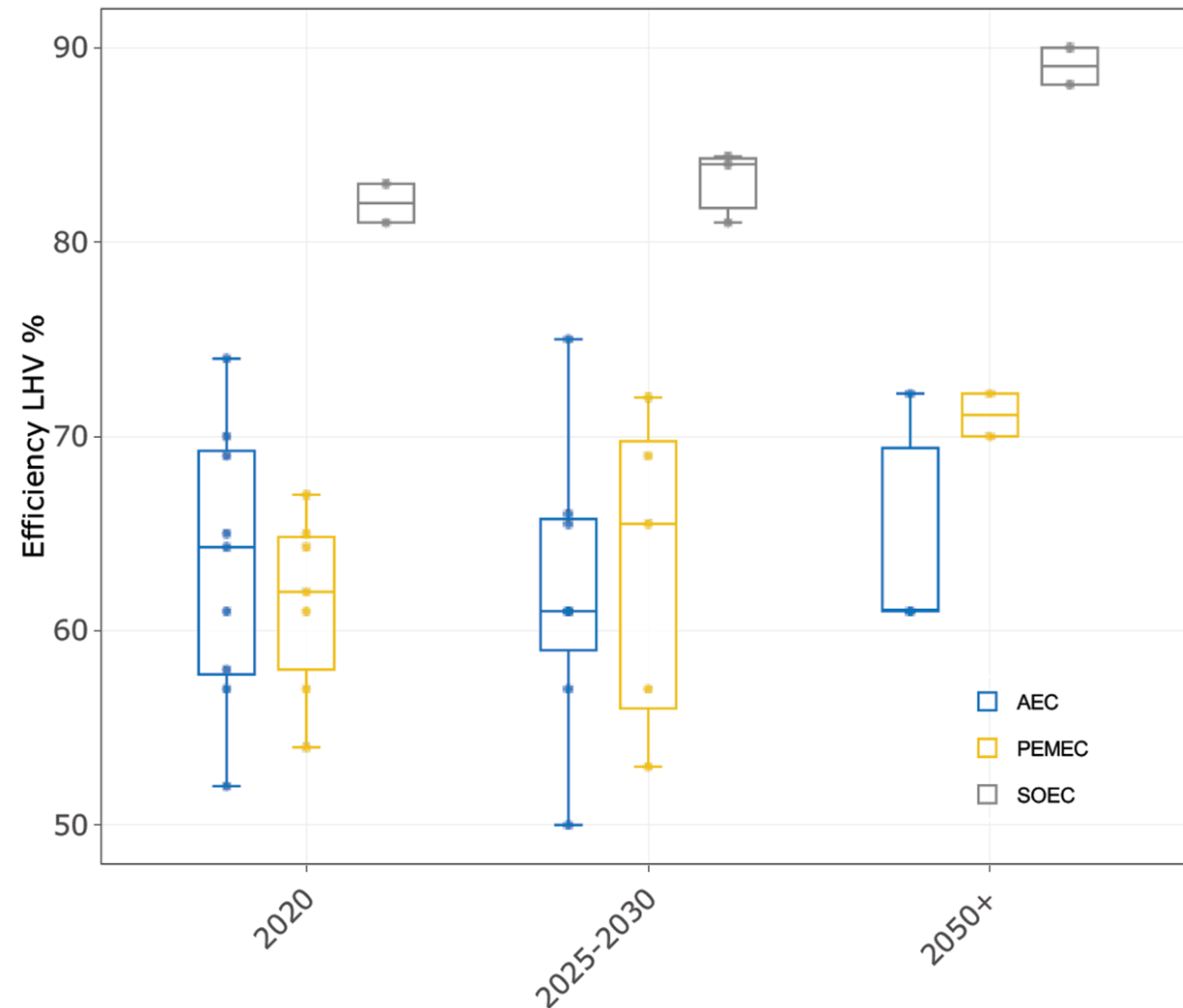
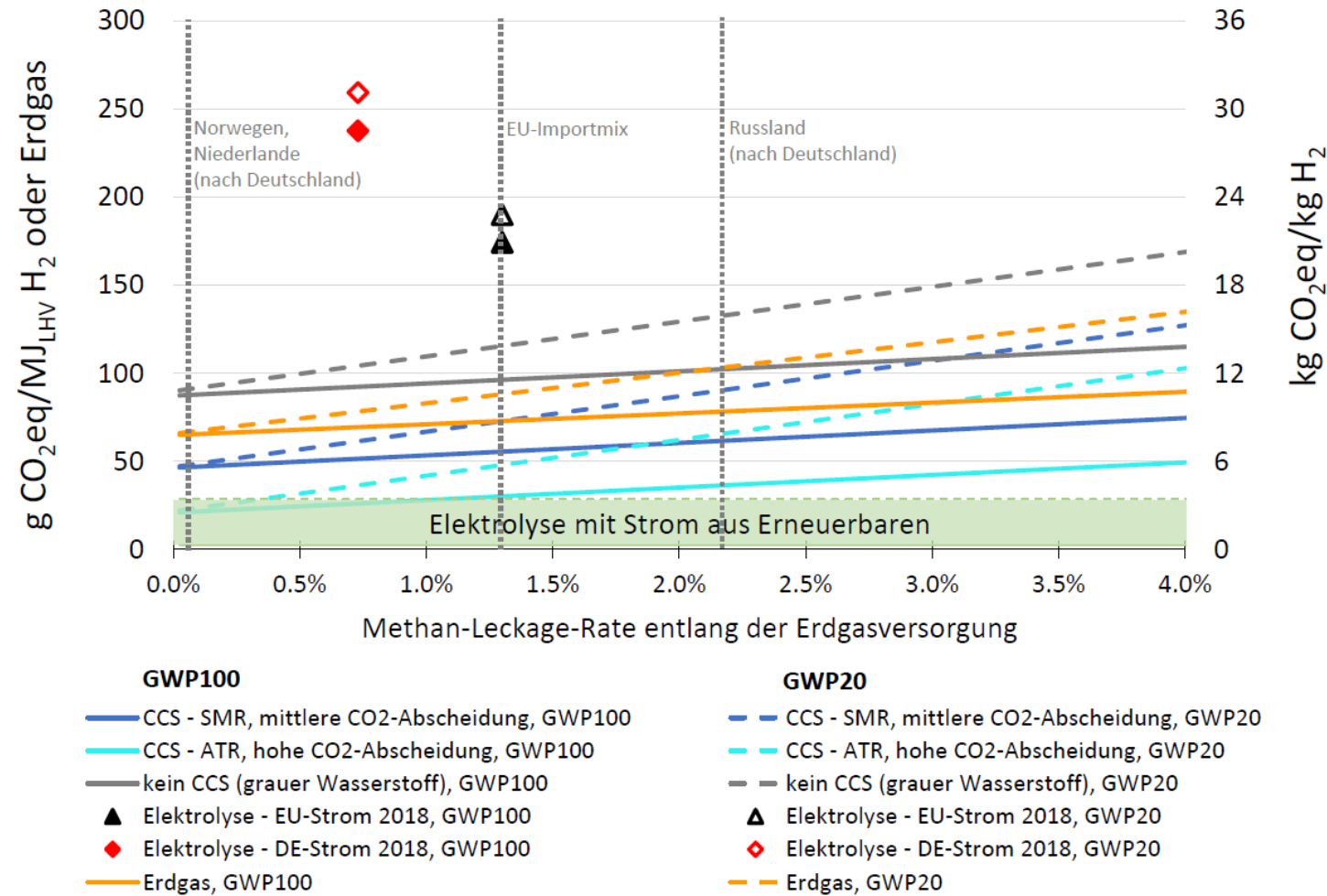


Abbildung 9: Lebenszyklus-THG-Emissionen von blauem, grünem und grauem Wasserstoff im Vergleich zu Erdgas - als Funktion der Methan-Leckage-Rate bei Extraktion und Transport von Erdgas, und für GWP100 und GWP20²⁵.



Für blauen Wasserstoff werden zwei Technologien gezeigt: 1) CCS – SMR (CO₂-Abscheideraten insgesamt 55 %, im Capture-Schritt 90 %) und 2) CCS – ATR (CO₂-Abscheideraten insgesamt 93 %, im Capture-Schritt 98 %). Adaptiert von Bauer et al., 2021