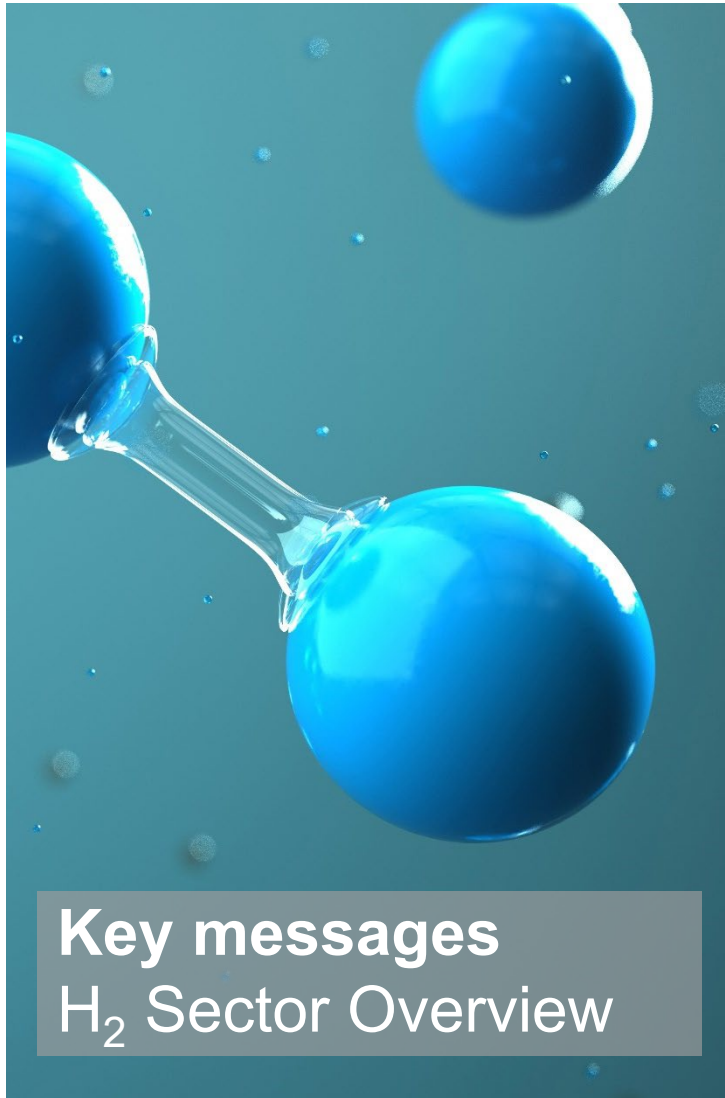


12 December 2024

# Greening Hydrogen

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# H<sub>2</sub> Sector Overview



**Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>)** is a gaseous energy molecule that functions as a fuel source to produce electricity and heat. It also serves as an input for chemical processes—for example, in refining.

**Global H<sub>2</sub> demand today remains low at ~100 Mt in 2022**, accounting for less than 1% of the global energy mix. And while there are three types of H<sub>2</sub>, most of this demand is met by grey H<sub>2</sub>, the most carbon-intensive option.

- **Grey H<sub>2</sub>** is produced using natural gas and therefore produces significant greenhouse gas emissions. It accounts for **~98% of current global H<sub>2</sub> production**.
- **Blue H<sub>2</sub>** is also generated using natural gas, incorporating carbon capture, utilization, and storage to cut emissions. It consists of **<1% of current global H<sub>2</sub> production**.
- **Green H<sub>2</sub>** is produced by electrolysis using water and renewable energy and has the potential to be a zero-carbon fuel. It makes up **<1% of the global H<sub>2</sub> supply**.

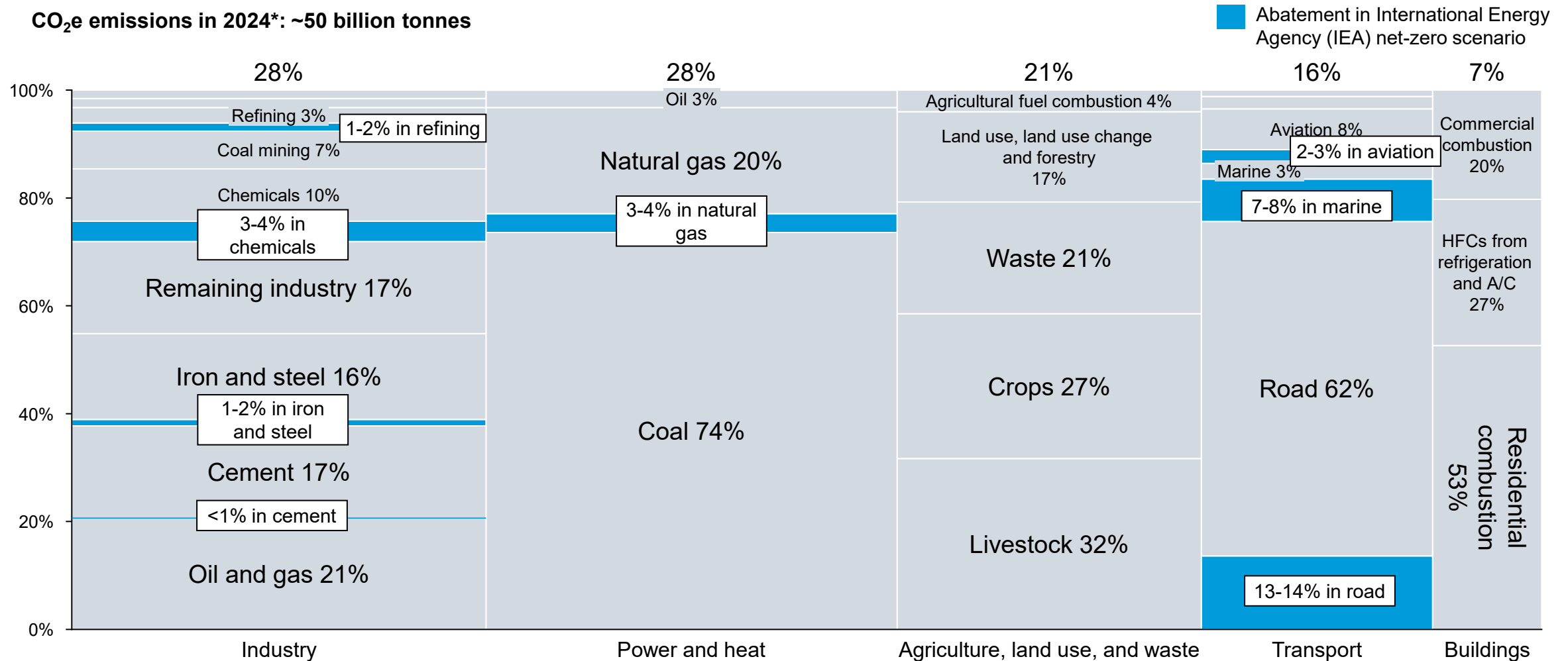
**Green hydrogen** holds significant potential as a **low-carbon energy source for the heat and power sector** and for **decarbonization of difficult-to-abate sectors**, including steel, cement, chemicals, and potentially transportation.

However, it currently faces **large-scale infrastructure and investment hurdles**.

For hydrogen using renewable energy to be truly green, **electricity generation** needs to be **additional, localized, and time aligned** to effectively reduce emissions.

# Green H<sub>2</sub> targets industry, power, and transport with an estimated emission abatement of ~3 billion tonnes by 2050








CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 2024\*: ~50 billion tonnes



Sources: Scope 1 emissions from [Rhodium Group ClimateDeck](#) (September 2024); Scope 2 iron and steel estimate from [IEA](#) (2023); abatement estimates from IEA [Net Zero Roadmap](#) (2023); BNEF [Energy Outlook](#) (2024); other industry sources \*2024 emissions based on projections  
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# Almost all existing H<sub>2</sub> production today uses fossil fuels, leaving green H<sub>2</sub> with <1% market share

Hydrogen ‘colors’ represent production method and indicate carbon intensity\*

	Grey hydrogen	Blue hydrogen	Green hydrogen
<b>Production process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced from natural gas <b>steam methane reforming (SMR)</b>, where CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated during the production are released.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced through <b>SMR of natural gas, but the carbon emissions are captured, utilized, or stored (CCUS)</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced by <b>electrolyzing water</b> (electrolysis) using <b>electricity generated from renewable energy sources</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Main inputs</b>	$\text{CH}_4$ +  Methane      Steam	$\text{CH}_4$ +  +  Methane      Steam      CCUS	$\text{H}_2\text{O}$ +  Water      Renewable power
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e per kg of H<sub>2</sub> (Scope 1)</b>	11.0 – 13.7 kg	0.2 – 3.2 kg	~0.0 kg
<b>Energy input per kg of H<sub>2</sub></b>	~ 60 kWh	~ 60 kWh	~ 50 kWh
<b>Current market share</b>	 ~98% (all fossil fuels)	 <1%	 <1%
<b>Production cost per kg of H<sub>2</sub></b>	~\$1-3/kg	~\$2-5/kg	~\$4-12/kg (High variation due to early-stage technologies and global differences in cost of renewable energy.)
<b>Observations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Demand for grey hydrogen is expected to decline</b> as demand for green hydrogen becomes cost competitive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some <b>question the effectiveness of blue hydrogen</b> for a net-zero economy, as carbon capture does not abate all carbon emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential challenges currently include <b>high costs, inability to scale</b>, and large ranges of demand forecasts.</li> </ul>

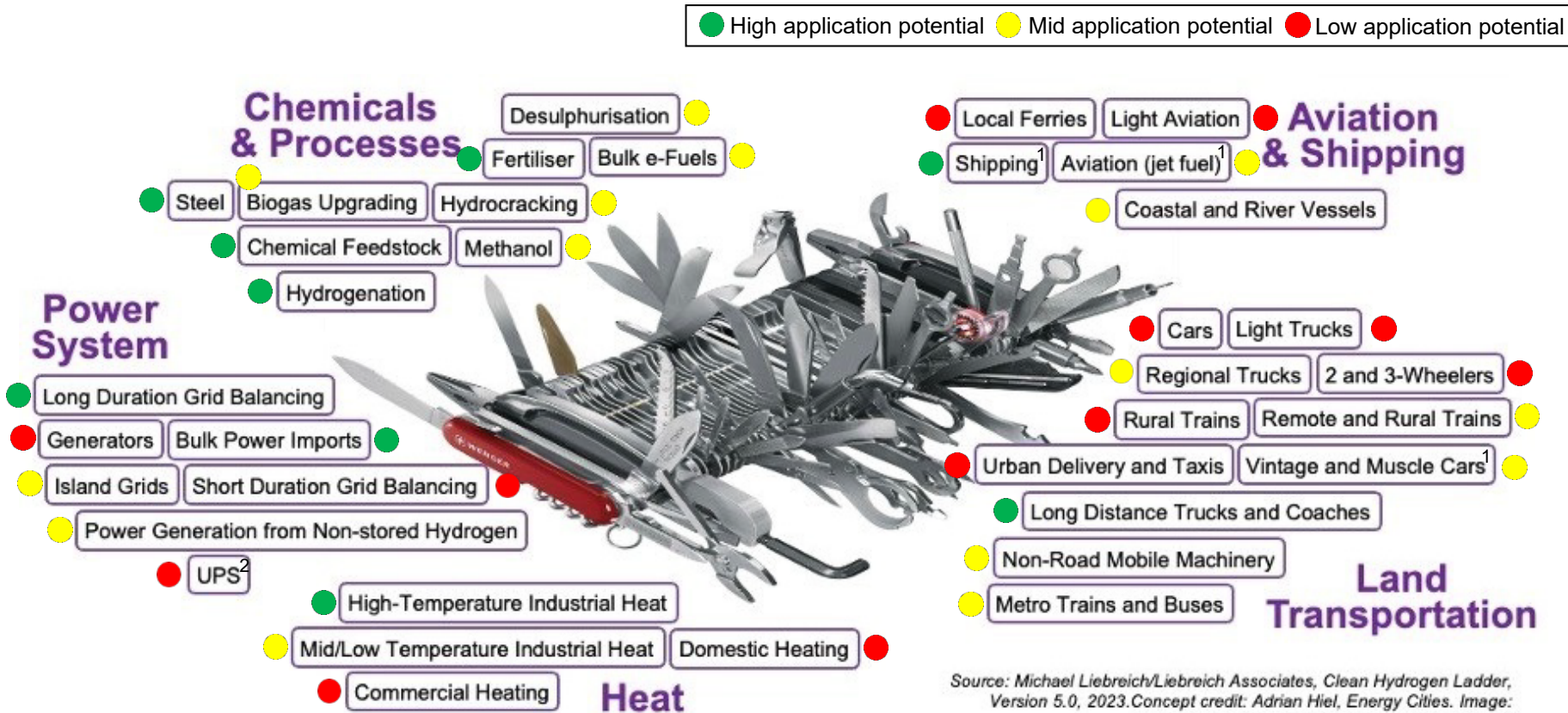
\*Other types of hydrogen include pink (electrolysis with nuclear electricity), yellow (electrolysis with mixed electricity, e.g. from grid) and turquoise (produced via pyrolysis of natural gas).

Sources: S&P Global Commodity Insights, [Atlas of Energy Transition](#) (2023); World Economic Forum, [Grey, blue, green—why are there so many colours of hydrogen?](#) (2021); IEA, [Global Hydrogen Review 2022](#) (2023); McKinsey, [Global Energy Perspective 2023: Hydrogen Outlook](#); various industry sources

Credit: Friedrich Sayn-Wittgenstein, Ellie Valencia, Nadine Palmowski, Hyae Ryung Kim, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (12 December 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# H<sub>2</sub> dubbed Swiss Army knife of decarbonization, but application potential varies significantly across sectors

## Varying levels of technical and economic potential



Source: Michael Liebreich/Liebreich Associates, *Clean Hydrogen Ladder*, Version 5.0, 2023. Concept credit: Adrian Hiel, Energy Cities. Image: Wenger (concept credit: Paul Martin). [CC-BY 4.0](#)

## Observations

- Some refer to hydrogen as the **Swiss Army knife of decarbonization** for its extensive applications across sectors.
- While the feasibility of theoretical technology has been proved for many H<sub>2</sub> applications, the **true potential varies significantly between sectors**.
  - Some technologies are more in prototype stage and have not yet been tested on large-scale applications.
  - Despite its many theoretical applications, hydrogen **can fall short on cost advantages and efficiency**.
- Hydrogen is **best utilized in hard-to-abate sectors**, e.g., in industry or certain subsectors of transportation, where applications come with a **large potential for future growth**.

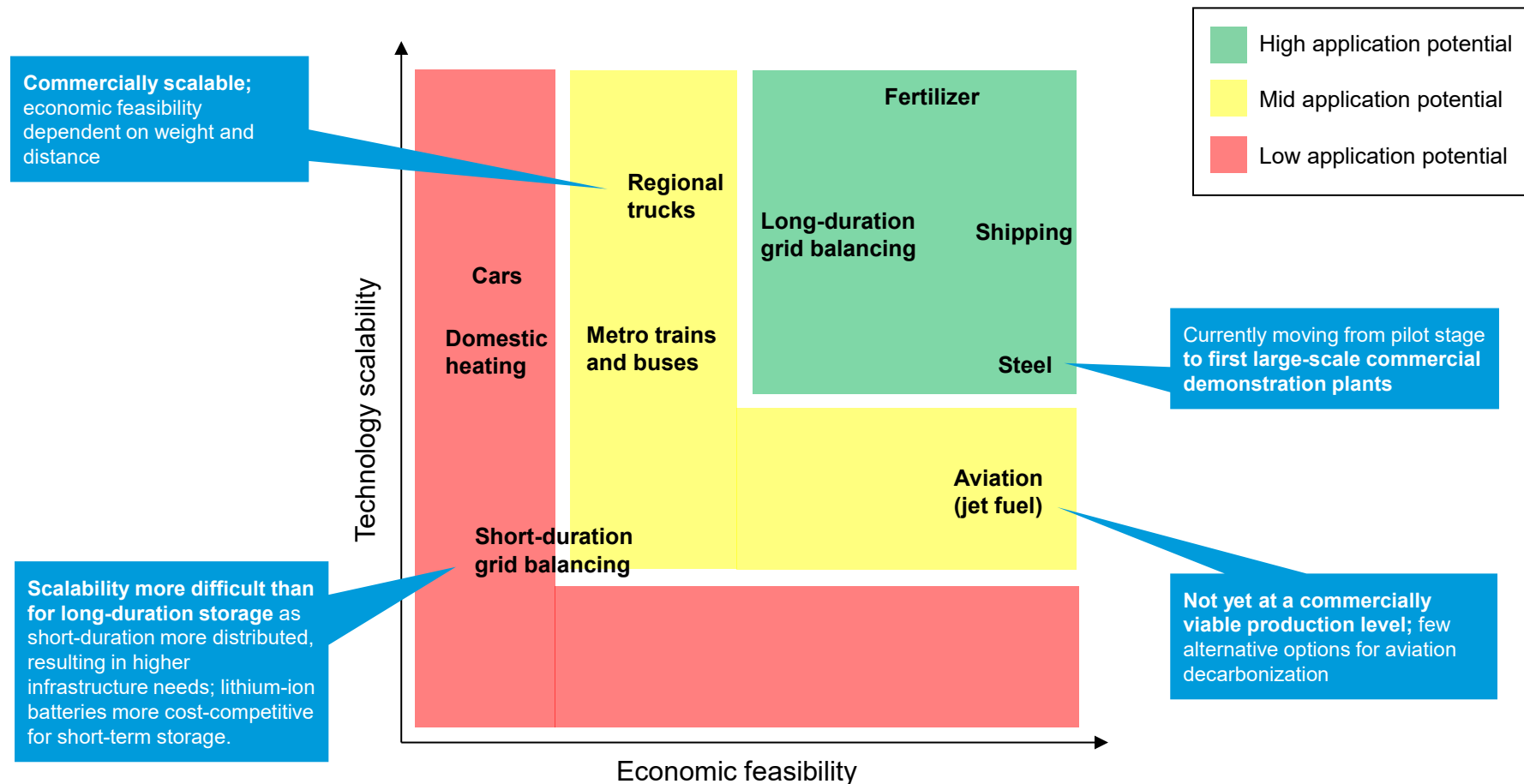
<sup>1</sup> Long-haul overseas shipping using ammonia or synthetic e-fuels as a clean energy source; <sup>2</sup> uninterruptible power supply

Sources: Liebreich & Associates (with concept credit to Paul Martin), [The Clean Hydrogen Ladder](#) (2021); Redefining Energy, [Hydrogen...it's complicated!](#) (2021)

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# True potential for green and blue H<sub>2</sub> determined by viability of use cases as well as economic feasibility

## Evaluation of selected H<sub>2</sub> technology use cases

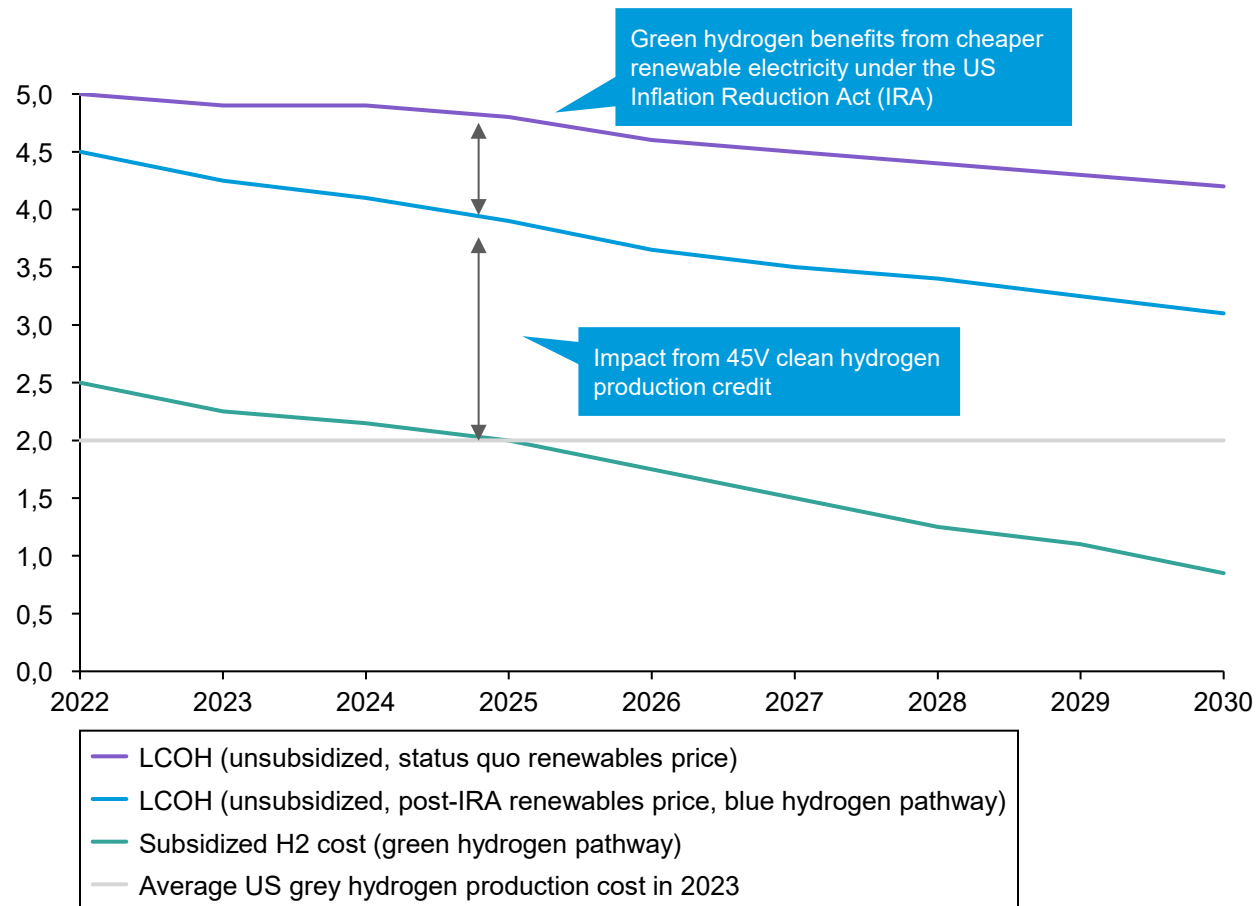


### Observations

- Beyond theoretical technological feasibility, **two main factors determine** whether blue and green H<sub>2</sub> are a **realistic decarbonization solution** for a specific use case
  - Technological scalability:** Is the technology sufficiently mature, scalable and viable for commercial application?
  - Economic feasibility:** Is H<sub>2</sub> the best available decarbonization technology? Are there other technologies that are more (cost-) efficient?
- Evaluation among the two metrics shows how **use case viability is in many cases driven by economic feasibility; i.e., the availability of better or cheaper alternative technologies** (electric vehicles for cars, heat pumps for heating)

# Potential of H<sub>2</sub> in technologically viable sectors requires political support to become economically competitive

## Expected levelized cost of green hydrogen (USD/kg)



### Three requirements for H<sub>2</sub> to be green

#### Additionality

Renewable electricity must be specifically built for H<sub>2</sub> production.

**Diverting power from existing clean plants increases dependence on conventional power sources and carbon emissions.**

#### Localized

**Dedicated local clean** energy sources are linked to electrolyzers.

The mere buying of "green" certificates is insufficient.

#### Time matching

H<sub>2</sub> production is **synchronized with clean electricity procurement.**

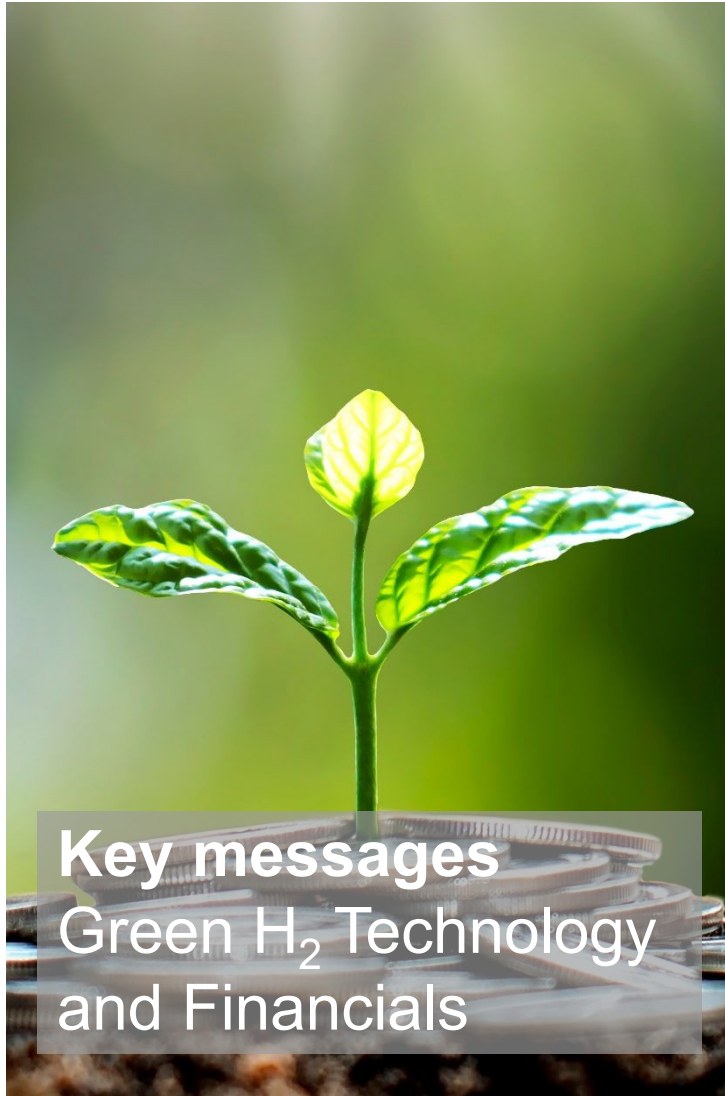
Some electrolyzer technologies (e.g., PEM) work with intermittent input.

### Observations

- **Integrating these production requirements with public support (tax credits, subsidies) enables the scale-up** of green hydrogen in technologically viable sectors.
- Although potentially delaying ramp-up, this **ensures effective allocation of public funds** and **avoids stranded assets** or lock-in of less ideal solutions.

# Green H<sub>2</sub> Technology and Financials





**Green H<sub>2</sub> production costs remain substantially higher** than those of grey and blue H<sub>2</sub>, presenting a major barrier to widespread adoption. The H<sub>2</sub> sector faces infrastructure and investment limitations. However, progress is underway through increased subsidy incentives, technological advancement, and expansion of renewable energy production.

- **Grey H<sub>2</sub>** costs an average of **\$1-3/kg**, driven by the low cost of fossil fuels and natural gas.
- **Blue H<sub>2</sub>**, while similarly benefiting from lower fossil fuel prices, incurs additional expenses due to carbon capture, utilization, and storage, raising its cost to **\$2-5/kg**.
- **Green H<sub>2</sub>**, in contrast, averages between **\$4-12/kg**, with the higher costs attributed to the development of electrolyzer technology and reliance on renewable energy sources.

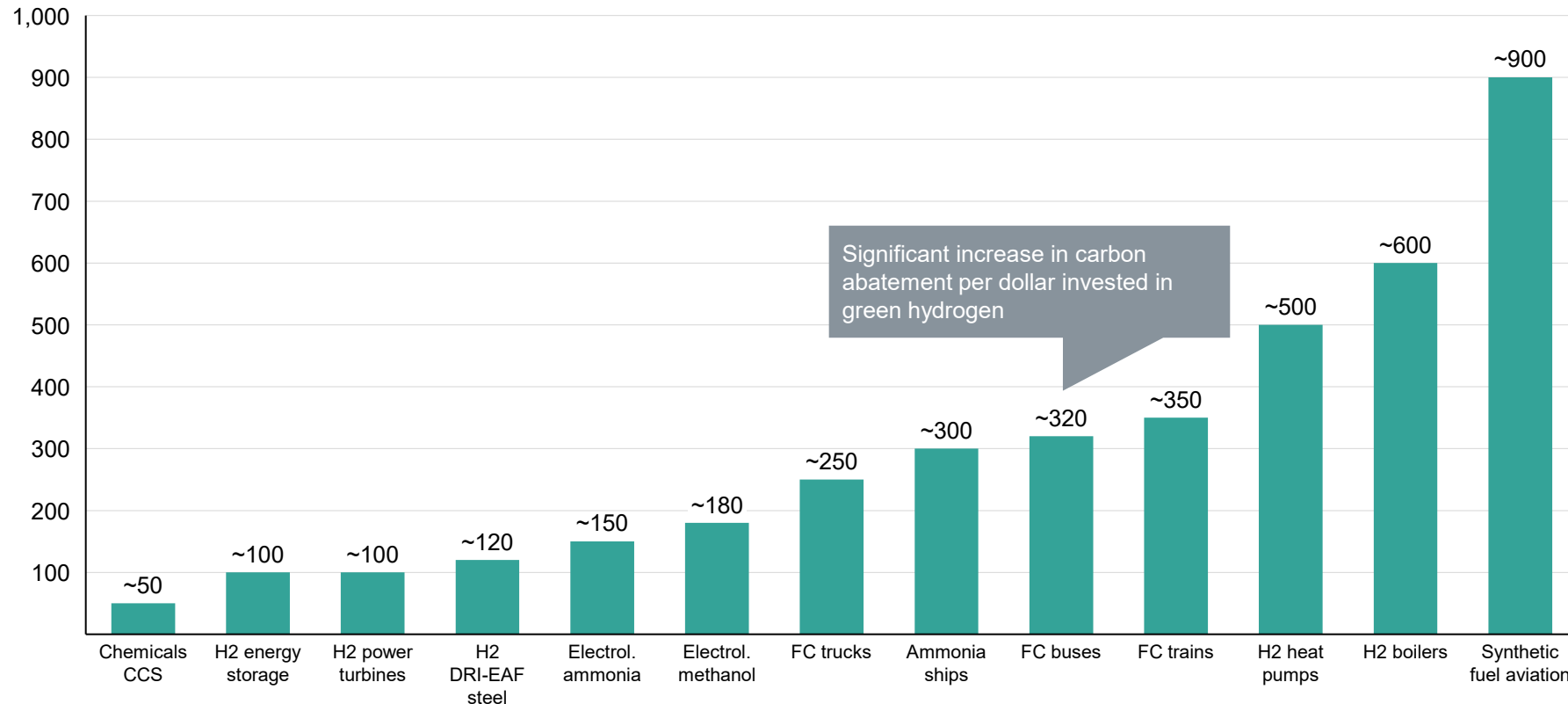
**Green H<sub>2</sub> remains significantly more expensive than H<sub>2</sub> from less sustainable sources**, with a cost premium of approximately **\$2-10/kg** as of 2023. These price variations are influenced by regional factors, levels of private investment, and the extent of government support.

Today, **alkaline water electrolysis (AWE) is the most widely used method for green H<sub>2</sub> production**, primarily due to its low cost. **Proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolysis, however, is also expected to play a significant role in the future**, as it is better suited to manage the variability of renewable energy inputs.

Research and development in electrolyzer technology could lead to **significant cost reductions and enable specialized applications**. For instance, solid oxide electrolyzers can leverage excess industrial heat for enhanced efficiency, while anion exchange membranes offer a compact solution for space-constrained environments.

# Primary challenge for green H<sub>2</sub> is balancing its high production cost with its significant emissions abatement potential

## Green hydrogen on a carbon abatement cost curve (\$/t CO<sub>2</sub>e)



### Observations

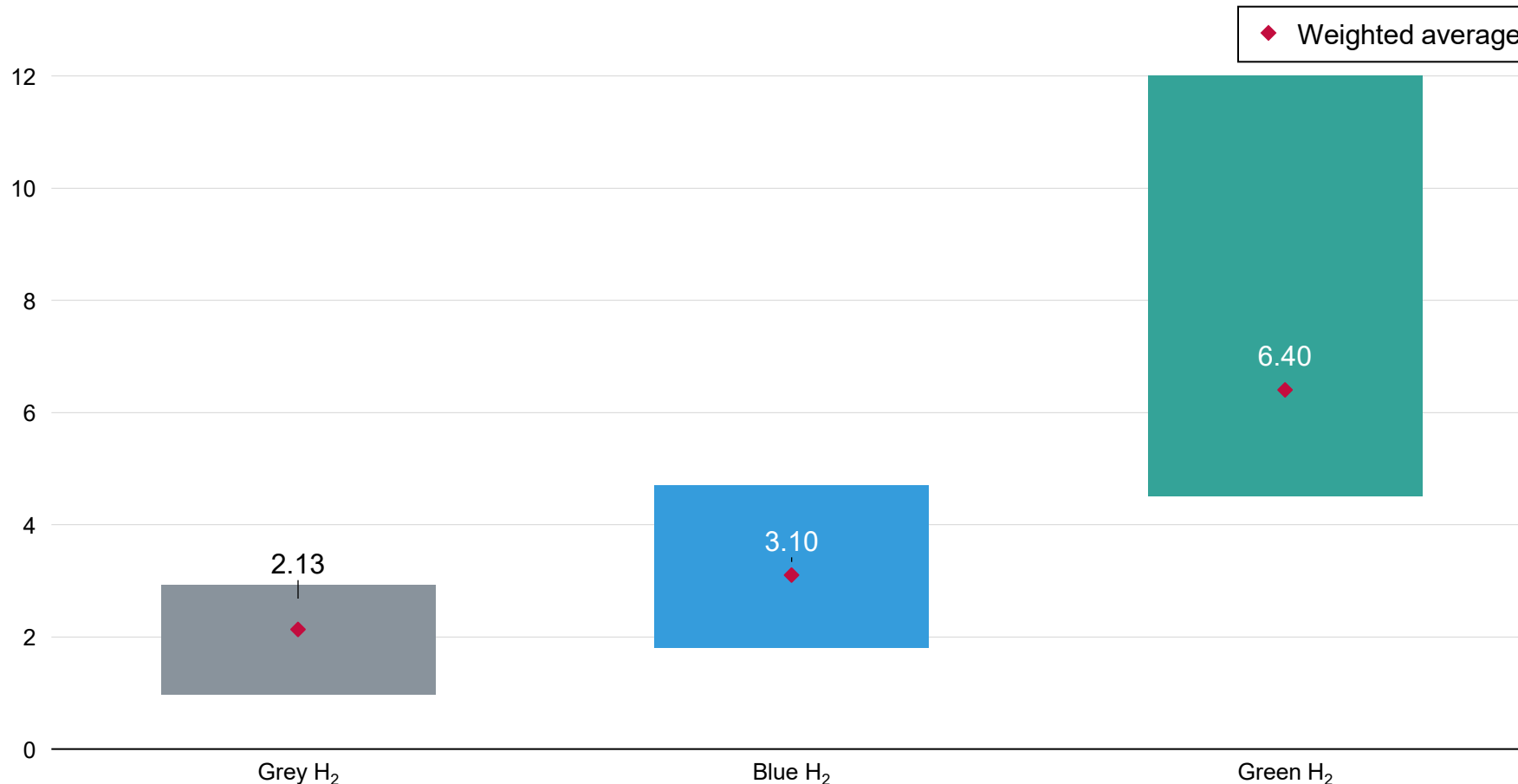
- The diverse applications for green H<sub>2</sub> provide **decarbonization solutions with varying cost implications**.
  - The use of H<sub>2</sub> for chemical production, energy storage, and power generation is currently cost efficient, with an abatement cost of 100 USD/t CO<sub>2</sub>e equivalent.
  - The use of H<sub>2</sub> for producing synthetic aviation fuels represents the highest price point of ~900 USD/t CO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Carbon abatement costs are expected to decrease in the future**, driven by reductions in the costs of electrolyzers and renewable energy.
- The adoption of H<sub>2</sub> applications will be determined not only by the cost per ton of carbon abatement but also by the **competitiveness of alternative decarbonization technologies**.

Source: Goldman Sachs, [Carbonomics: The clean hydrogen revolution](#) (2022)

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# Current production costs of green H<sub>2</sub> carry a substantial price premium over fossil-based alternatives

Average green hydrogen premium more than double that of grey hydrogen in 2023 (\$/kg)

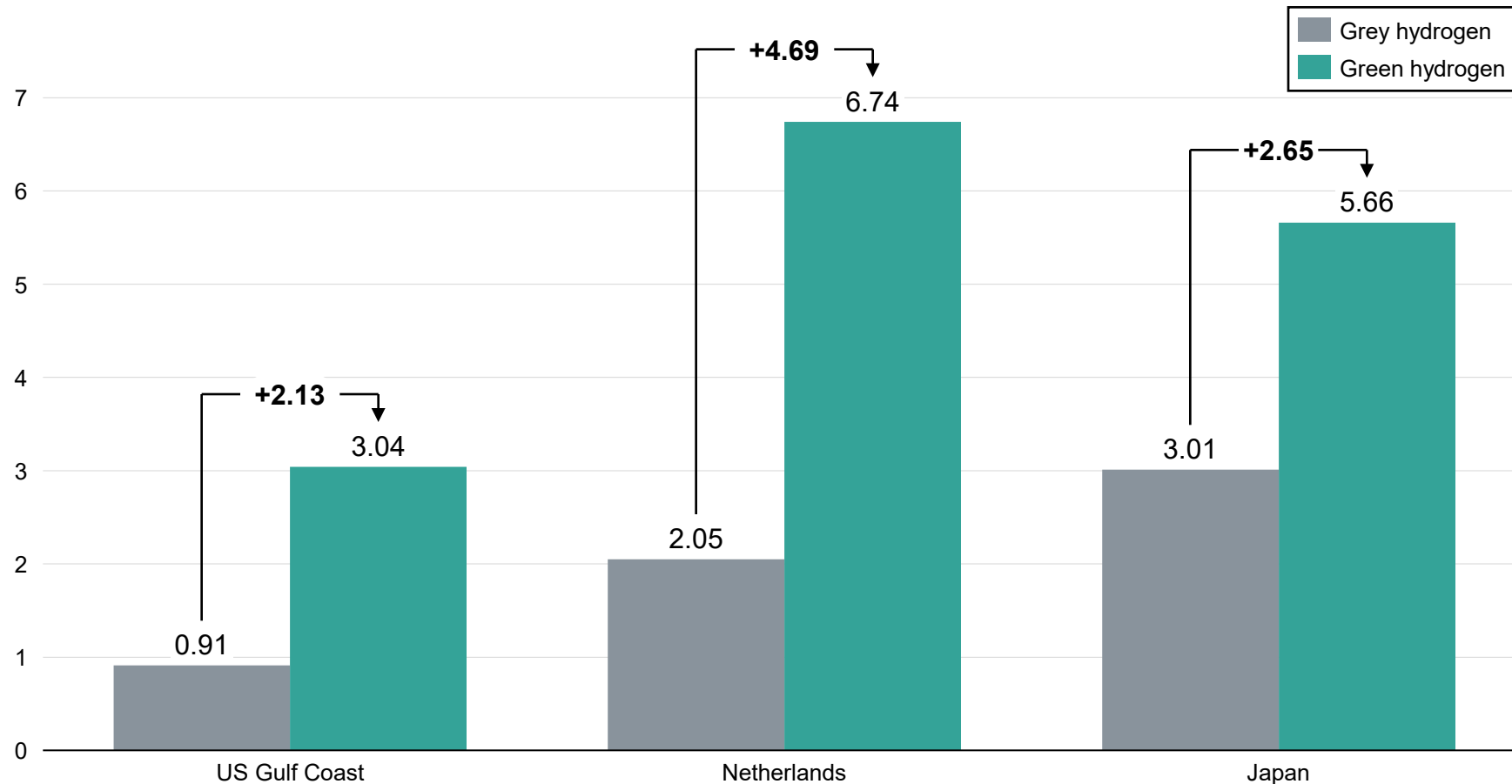


## Observations

- In 2023, **green H<sub>2</sub> production costs** ranged from \$4.50 to \$12.00/kg, **averaging \$6.40/kg**.
  - Blue hydrogen costs are lower, ranging from \$1.80 to \$4.70/kg.
  - Grey hydrogen is the least expensive, varying between \$0.98 to \$2.93/kg.
- The largest cost drivers for green H<sub>2</sub> are **electrolyzers** and the price of **renewable electricity**.
- Despite its current premium, **green H<sub>2</sub> could achieve cost parity with blue and grey H<sub>2</sub>** through economies of scale and advancements in technology.
- To enable hydrogen offtake, **infrastructure, transport, and storage costs must be added to production costs**.

# Relatively small green H<sub>2</sub> premium in US compared to EU and Japan

Green hydrogen premiums vary regionally, ranging from \$2-5/kg



## Observations

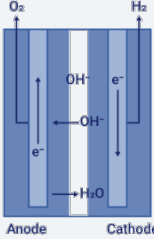
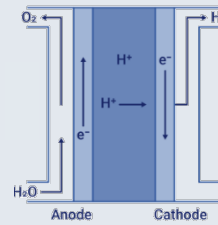
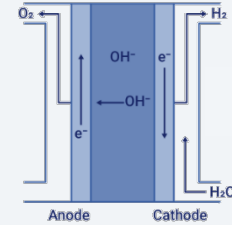
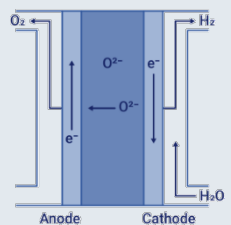


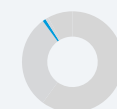





- **Green H<sub>2</sub> premiums** refer to the additional cost of green H<sub>2</sub> compared to more carbon-intensive alternatives, such as grey and blue H<sub>2</sub>.
- The **Gulf Coast** reported the lowest average price for green hydrogen among three major regions, reflecting the impact of **significant US government investments aimed at reducing costs**.
  - The US Department of Energy's Hydrogen Shot initiative targets a reduction in clean hydrogen production costs to **\$1/kg by 2031**.
- Key efforts to lower green H<sub>2</sub> hydrogen costs include **substantial investments in infrastructure and tax incentives**, such as the 45V tax credit.

Source: S&P, Global Commodity Insights Report (restricted)

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# Alkaline water electrolysis now dominant; proton exchange membrane costlier yet suitable for intermittent electricity

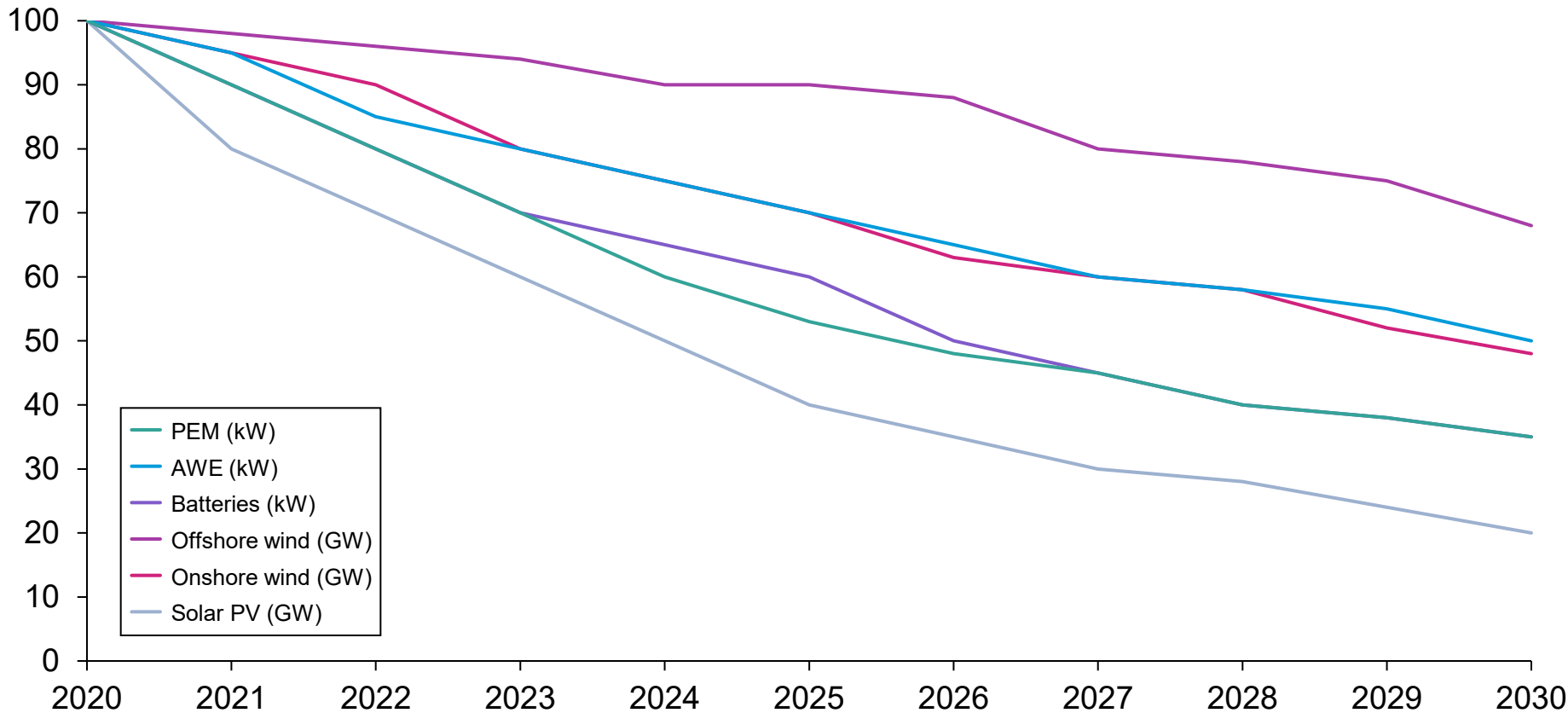
Scalability, cost, temperature, and use cases to shape future technology adoption

	Alkaline water electrolysis (AWE)	Proton exchange membrane (PEM)	Anion/ hydroxyl exchange membrane (AEM/HEM)	Solid oxide electrolyzer (SOEC)
<b>Description and schematic overview</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrolysis of alkaline water using nickel electrodes</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water electrolysis with solid polymer membrane and precious metal electrodes</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like PEM design; replaces precious metals and titanium with nickel and steel</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water steam electrolysis at high temperature (700-1000°C) via solid oxide or ceramic membrane</li> </ul> 
<b>Market share</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% market share, leading technology</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30% market share (higher in Europe and North America)</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small market share, future growth potential</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small market share, ideal for high waste-heat use cases</li> </ul> 
<b>Advantages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scalability of manufacturing, cost</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact size, controllability of production allows management of intermittent renewable energy input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compact size, potential cost reduction because made with more easily obtained materials than PEM</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More efficient than AWE and PEM due to lower voltage levels</li> </ul>
<b>Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous electricity supply needed for optimal operation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher cost, potential shortage of rare metals such as iridium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced durability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High capital investment, high temperatures required</li> </ul>
<b>Investment cost</b>	~\$600/kW	~\$800-1,250/kW	>\$930/kW	>\$1,850/kW
<b>Big players</b>				

Sources: Center on Global Energy Policy, [Demystifying Electrolyzer Production Costs](#) (2023); US Department of Energy, [Hydrogen Production: Electrolysis](#) (2022); IEA, [Electrolyzers](#) (2023); IRENA, [Green Hydrogen Cost Reduction](#) (2020); Hydrogen Council, [Hydrogen Insights May 2023](#) (2023); graphics by ID Tech Ex from Alex Holland at EE times; various industry sources  
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# Both AWE and PEM expected to follow renewables cost reductions and efficiency improvements

Clean tech CapEx for green hydrogen indexed to 2020 levels (\$/kW or GW)



## Observations

- The cost of acquiring and operating green hydrogen electrolyzers is expected to **decline significantly** over the next decade compared to 2020 levels.
  - Among the various renewable energy sources, **solar PV is projected to experience the fastest cost reductions**, while offshore wind is expected to take longer, to lower its capital expenditures.
  - **Clean H<sub>2</sub> electrolyzers are anticipated to follow a similar trend**, with a projected CAGR of -60% for both PEM and alkaline technologies.
- Green H<sub>2</sub>'s cost reductions will primarily be driven by **technology advancements, increased productivity** in PEM and alkaline electrolyzers, and **greater capital investments in the sector**.

# Green H<sub>2</sub> Industry Trends





**Global demand for green and blue H<sub>2</sub> is expected to grow substantially**, with estimates indicating an **increase from 125 million tonnes per annum in 2030 to 460 Mtpa by 2050**. This growth will be driven by both traditional industrial uses and emerging applications, particularly in commercial transport, which is projected to become the largest new demand driver by 2040.




**By 2050, green H<sub>2</sub> is forecasted to dominate global hydrogen production**, accounting for 50 to 65% of the total supply.

- Regional demand growth will initially be led by China and North America, while at the sector level, **industry will dominate with offtake agreements**, followed by transport, especially in long-haul shipping.
- **Green and blue H<sub>2</sub> trade is projected to expand fivefold between 2030 and 2050**, with North America emerging as the largest net exporter.
- The US and Canada are expected to lead green and blue H<sub>2</sub> exports, supported by robust policy frameworks. **Long-distance transportation of H<sub>2</sub> will be driven by its use in end products like ammonia and synthetic kerosene.**

**Key players in the fossil fuel, energy, and utility sectors are recognizing H<sub>2</sub>'s potential as a critical energy carrier.** They are incorporating H<sub>2</sub> into their strategies, acquiring large-scale hydrogen assets, and increasing investments in green and blue hydrogen projects.

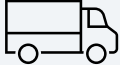
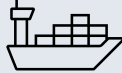

# H<sub>2</sub> currently used primarily in industrial processes and petroleum refining, with limited application in heat and power sectors

Large-scale use of grey H<sub>2</sub> in industry and refining, with some early green H<sub>2</sub> in heat and power

	Industry	Refining	Heat and power
			
<b>Role of H<sub>2</sub></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> is used as feedstock for <b>synthetic fuels</b> (e.g., methanol) or <b>fertilizers</b> (e.g., ammonia).</li> <li>Other industries such as steel and cement aim to adopt <b>H<sub>2</sub> to decarbonize their production processes</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The oil refining process uses H<sub>2</sub> for <b>hydrotreating and hydrocracking</b>, reducing sulfur content of oil to <b>produce cleaner fuels like diesel and jet fuel</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> can generate electricity through fuel cells or be blended into gas turbines for <b>power generation in internal combustion engines and heating applications</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Current market dynamics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>industry sector consumed 53 Mt of H<sub>2</sub> in 2022</b>, with 60% used for ammonia production, 30% for methanol production, and 10% for iron and steel production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> use in <b>refining reached 41 Mt in 2022</b>, driven to record levels by strong demand in North America and the Middle East.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 2023, H<sub>2</sub> accounted for only <b>0.2% of the global electricity mix</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Green H<sub>2</sub> adoption challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost reductions are crucial in the green H<sub>2</sub> sector to <b>compete with low natural gas and grey H<sub>2</sub> prices</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most H<sub>2</sub> used in refining is <b>produced on-site as a byproduct of catalytic reformers</b> or ethylene crackers, rather than sourced externally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> use in electricity generation faces <b>compatibility challenges</b> with existing <b>infrastructure and combustion systems</b>.</li> </ul>

# While commercial transport applications remain limited today, they are expected to play a bigger role in the future

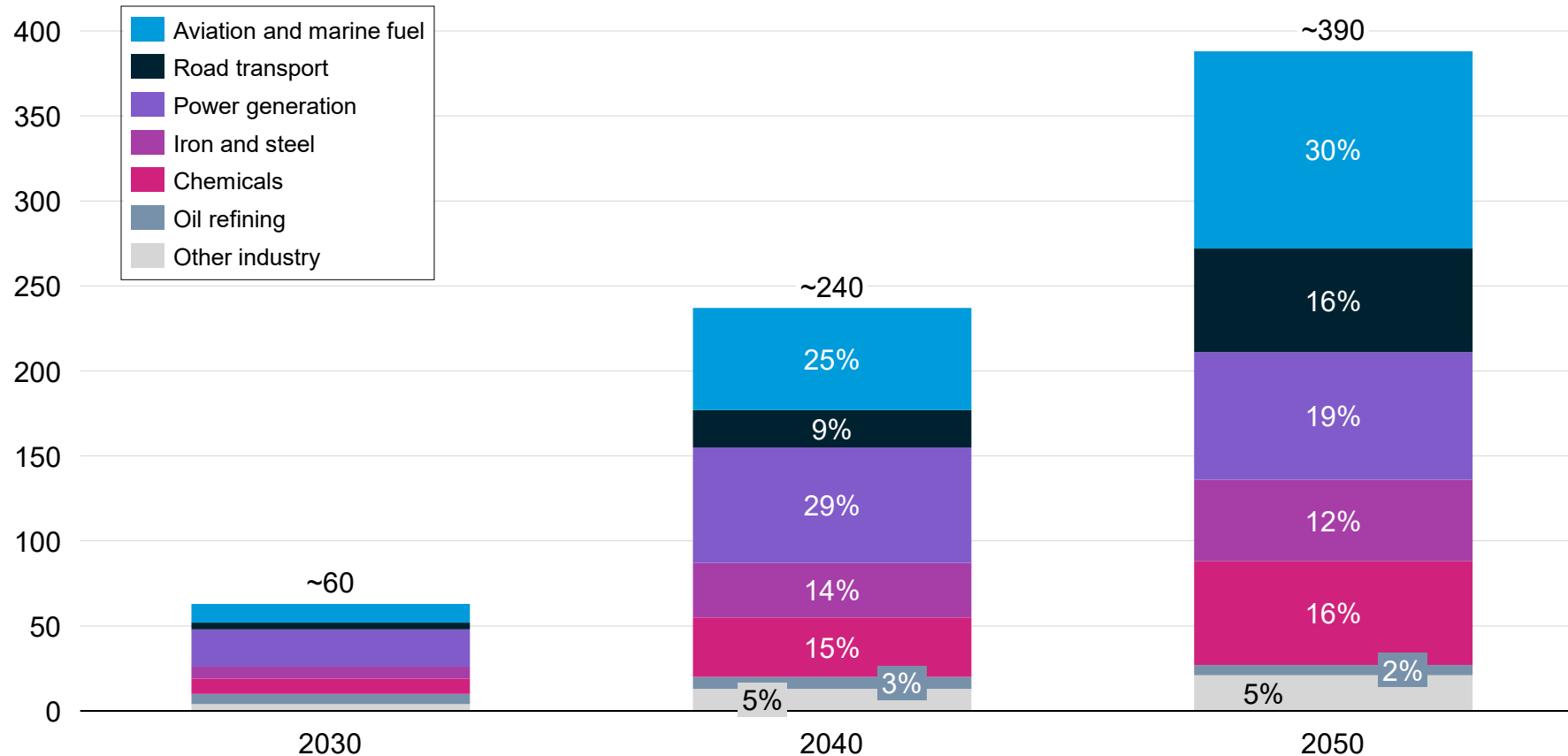
Green H<sub>2</sub> is expected to play a key role in decarbonizing the commercial transport sector

	Road transport	Shipping	Aviation
			
Role of hydrogen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) provide <b>faster refueling, longer ranges, and lighter fuel weight</b> compared to electric vehicles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> can power vessels either directly as liquid hydrogen or through synthetic fuels like ammonia and methanol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> fuel cells could power planes for short-haul flights.</li> <li>H<sub>2</sub>-based sustainable aviation fuel (H<sub>2</sub>-SAF) has the potential to replace traditional jet fuel.</li> </ul>
Current market dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, <b>China represented 95% of FCEV trucks globally</b>, while South Korea accounted for 50% of private FCEV cars.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2023, the <b>global shipping industry ordered 298 vessels</b> designed to operate on alternative fuels, including 138 on methanol, 11 on ammonia, and five on H<sub>2</sub>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2022, Rolls Royce and easyJet successfully ran an aircraft engine on H<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li><b>Airbus plans to introduce a H<sub>2</sub>-powered aircraft to market by 2035.</b></li> </ul>
Green hydrogen adoption challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCEVs face <b>limitations due to insufficient fueling infrastructure and competition with battery electric vehicles</b> for market share.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub>'s <b>lower energy density</b> compared to alternative marine fuels <b>makes transport on ships more challenging, necessitating carriers</b> like ammonia or liquid hydrogen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main challenge for H<sub>2</sub>-SAF is its high cost.</li> <li>Sustainable aviation fuel is an <b>existing drop-in fuel for aircrafts, requiring no retrofitting</b> of aircrafts or infrastructure.</li> </ul>

Sources: Airbus, [ZEROe](#); CSIS, [Hydrogen: The Key to Decarbonizing the Global Shipping Industry?](#) (2021); DNV, [Maritime decarbonization efforts propelled as orders for alternative-fueled vessels grow](#) (2024); European Maritime Safety Agency, [Potential of hydrogen as a fuel for shipping](#) (2023); Global Maritime Forum, [Ammonia as a shipping fuel](#) (2023); IEA, [Global Hydrogen Review 2023](#) (2023); International Air Transport Association, [Liquid hydrogen as a potential low-carbon fuel for aviation](#); Rolls Royce, [Rolls Royce and easyJet set new world first](#) (2022)  
Credit: Friedrich Sayn-Wittgenstein, Ellie Valencia, Nadine Palmowski, Hyae Ryung Kim, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (12 December 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# Under IEA's full decarbonization scenario, demand for green and blue H<sub>2</sub> is expected to increase to ~400 Mt by 2050

## Projected demand for green and blue hydrogen by sector (Mtpa)



### Observations

- **Green and blue H<sub>2</sub>** adoption across existing and emerging applications could **drive H<sub>2</sub> demand to ~240 Mt by 2030 and ~390 Mt by 2050**, compared to less than 1 Mt in 2023.
- **The transport sector will be the main driver** of demand, accounting for ~34% in 2040 (across aviation, marine, and road transport) and ~46% of total demand in 2050.
- **Industry** (including chemicals and iron and steel) **and power generation** will also be significant contributors to demand.
  - Industry demand will be driven by both conventional uses (replacing grey H<sub>2</sub> with green and blue H<sub>2</sub>) and new applications.
- **Oil refining will continue to have relatively low demand** for green and blue H<sub>2</sub>, as grey H<sub>2</sub> is a byproduct of refining and unlikely to be replaced by green or blue H<sub>2</sub> in the near term.

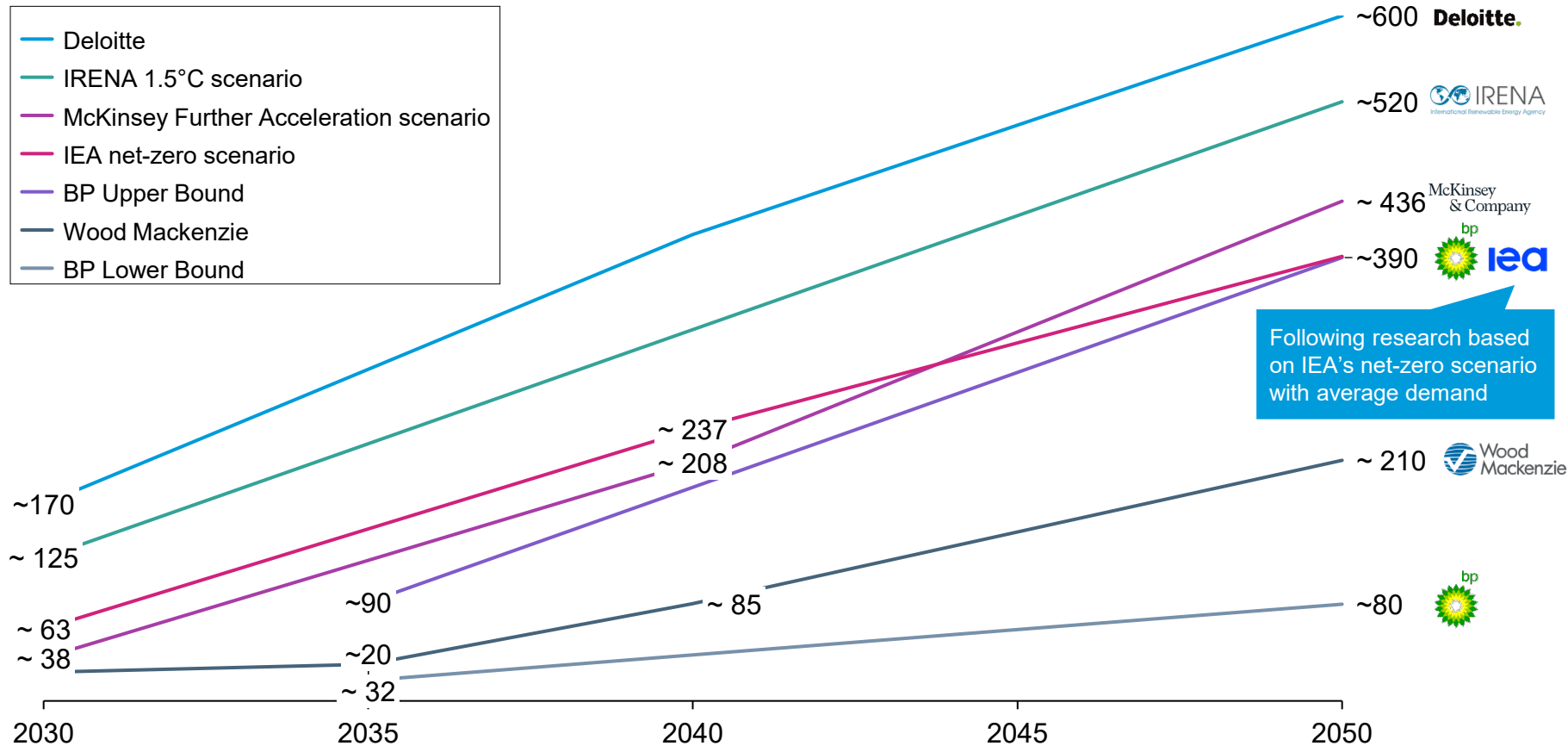
Note: Demand scenarios differ a lot; demand numbers derived from IEA's net-zero scenario

Sources: IEA, [Net-zero scenario hydrogen outlook](#) (2023); McKinsey, [Global Energy Perspective 2023: Hydrogen outlook](#) (2024)

Credit: Friedrich Sayn-Wittgenstein, Ellie Valencia, Nadine Palmowski, Hyae Ryung Kim, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (12 December 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# Green and blue H<sub>2</sub> industry demand projections vary widely around IEA's ~400 Mt per year by 2050

## Projected demand for green and hydrogen, 2030-2050 (Mtpa)



### Observations

- In nearly all scenarios, a **substantial increase in demand for green and blue H<sub>2</sub>** is expected.
  - Projections suggest total annual volumes could approach 400 Mt by 2050.
  - With 50 kWh/kg of green H<sub>2</sub>, this would require **~20,000 TWh of green electricity by 2050** (today: ~25,000 TWh).
- Meeting future demand will require a significant scale-up in production**; in 2022, demand for green and blue H<sub>2</sub> was ~1 Mt.
- At the same time, the IEA estimates the **demand for a 1.5°C pathway will be around ~390 Mt in 2050**, even under its ambitious net-zero scenario. This is much lower than several industry projections, such as Deloitte's estimate of ~600 Mt.

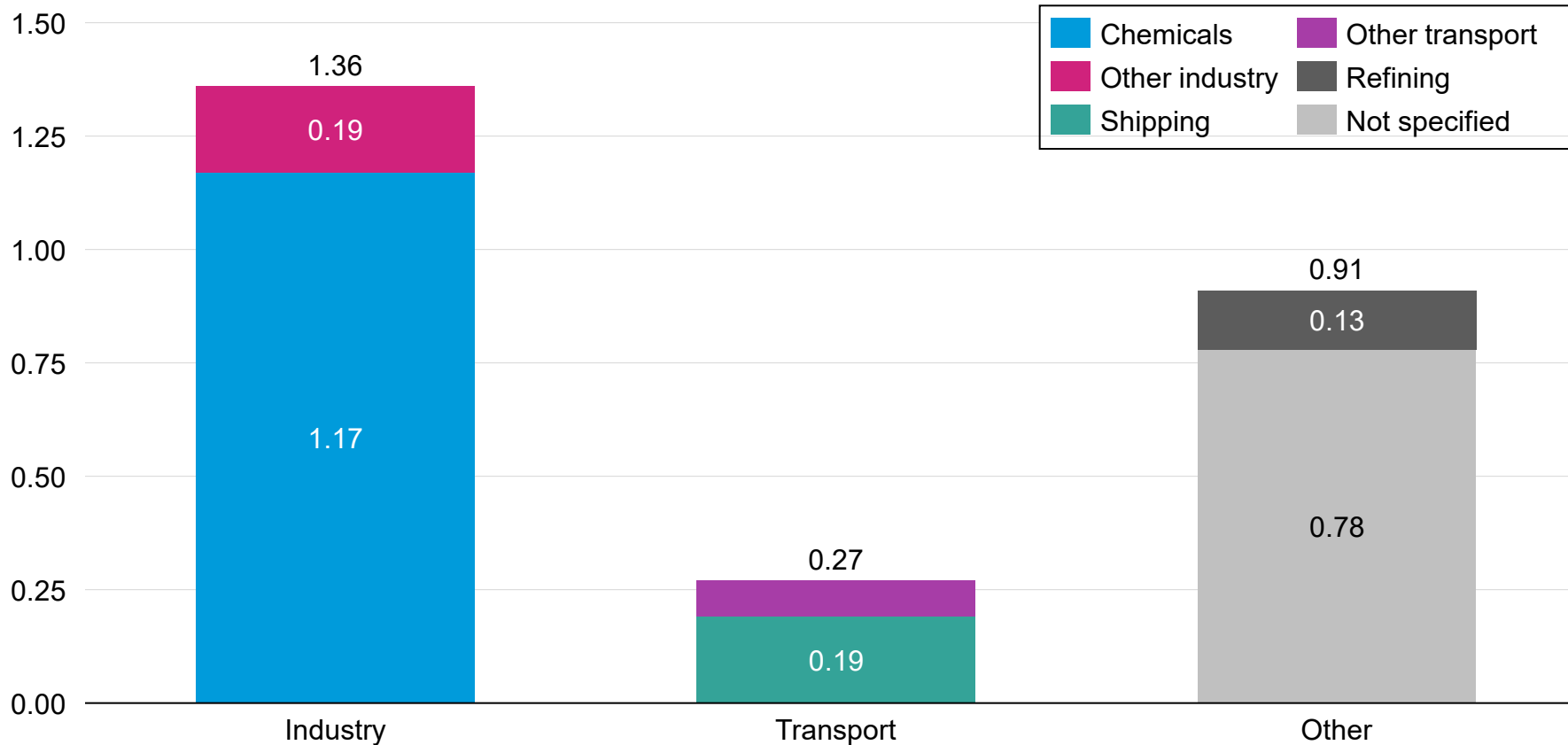
Note: Demand and abatement differ due to varying carbon intensities and emission proportions across sector. Clean H<sub>2</sub> includes both blue and green H<sub>2</sub>.

Sources: IEA, [Net-zero scenario hydrogen outlook](#) (2023), BP, [Hydrogen](#) (2023); Deloitte, [Green hydrogen: Energizing the path to net zero](#) (2023); McKinsey, [Global Energy Perspective 2023: Hydrogen outlook](#) (2023), IEA, [Hydrogen](#) (2023), IRENA, [World Energy Transition Outlook](#) (2023), Wood Mackenzie, [2050: The Hydrogen Possibility](#) (2024)

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# Chemicals industry dominates H<sub>2</sub> offtake agreements

Industrial sector expected to dominate hydrogen offtake agreements by 2030 (Mt)

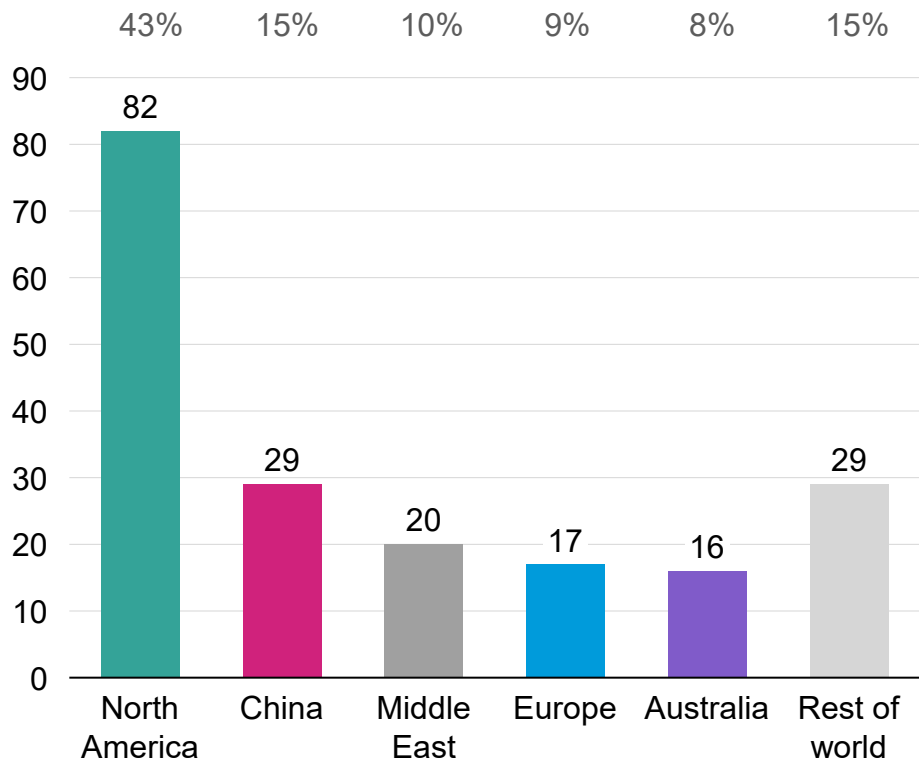


## Observations

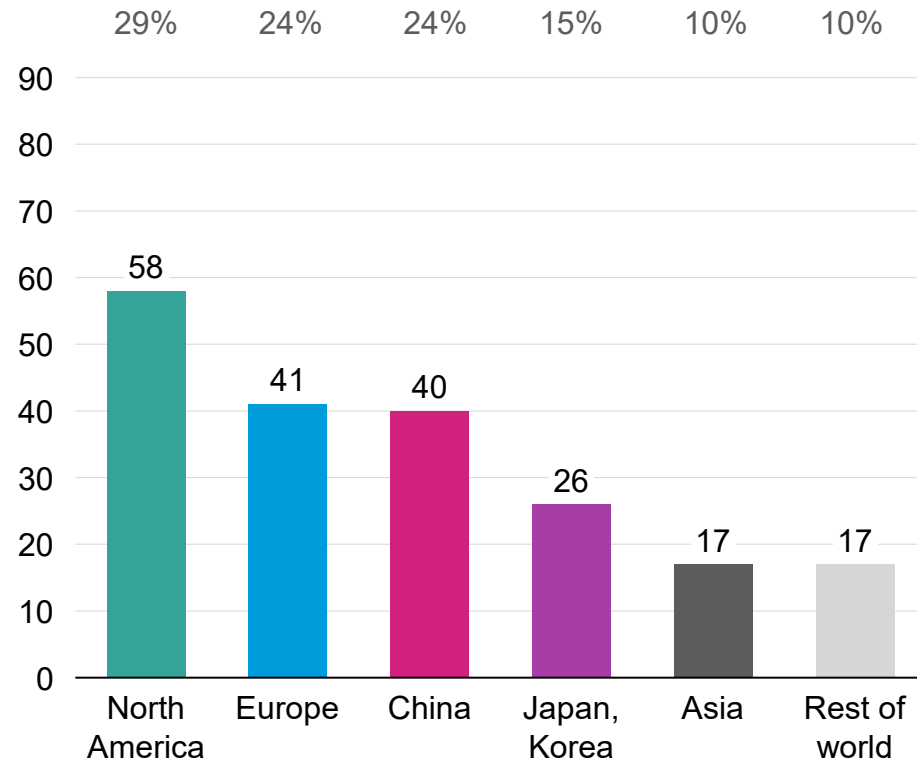
- The **industrial sector is leading in securing offtake agreements**, with ~1.3 Mt of demand, half of which has already been firmly implemented.
  - Within the industrial sector, the **chemicals** subsector accounts for 85% of the agreed volumes, largely driven by ammonia production.
- While progress in the **transport sector has been slower, significant agreements have been made**, particularly in shipping.
  - Major logistics companies have signed agreements for synthetic methanol and synthetic marine diesel.

# North America expected to become the largest green H<sub>2</sub> net exporter, while China and Europe lead as net importers

Long-distance green and blue H<sub>2</sub> supply projections, share by region (Mt, 2050)



Long-distance green and blue H<sub>2</sub> demand projections, share by region (Mt, 2050)

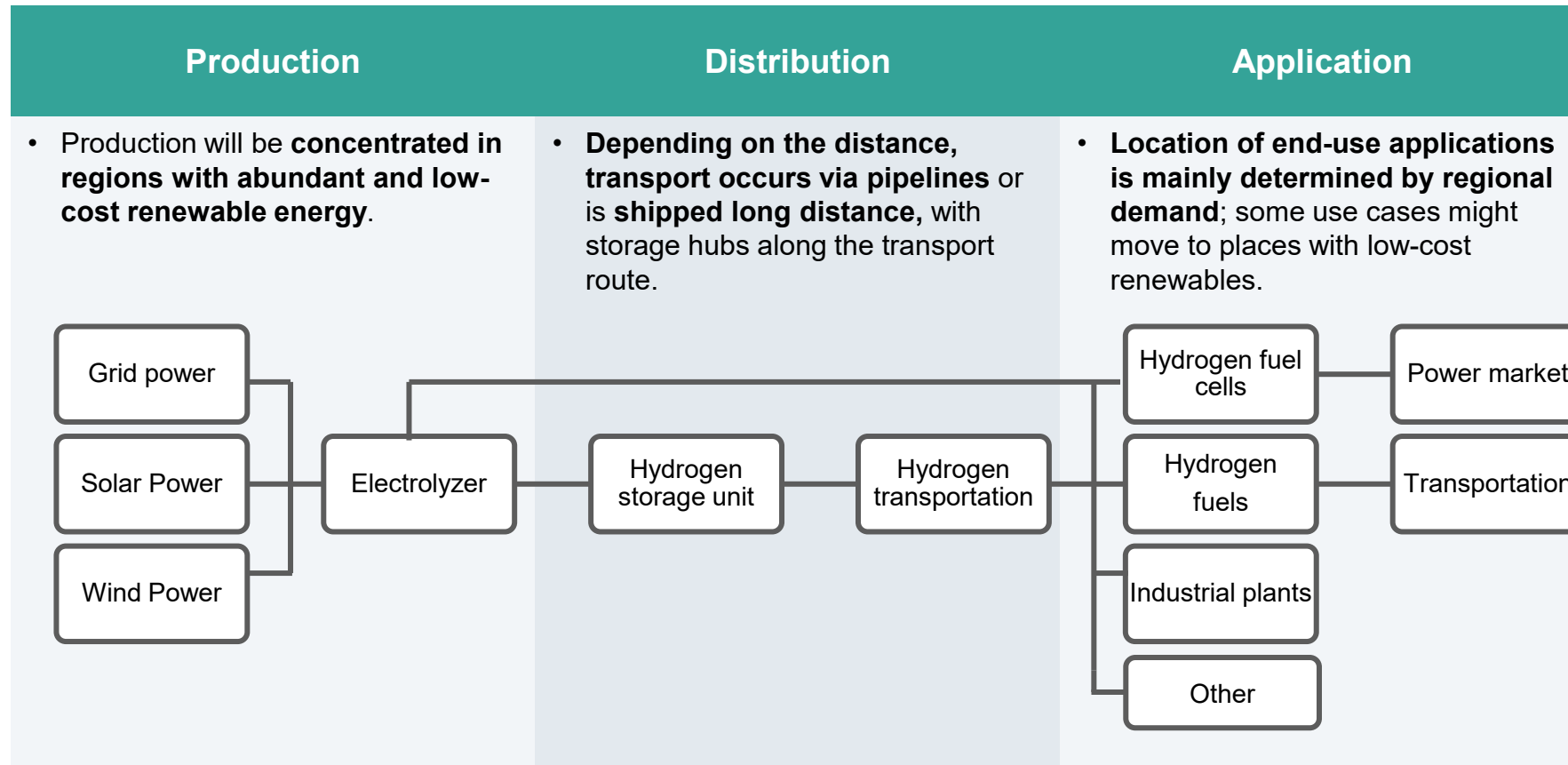


## Observations

- **North America** is anticipated to **lead in blue and green H<sub>2</sub> production**, driven by supportive policies in the US and Canada.
- By 2050, **North America and China** are projected to contribute **58% of global blue and green hydrogen supply** and **53% of demand**.
- **North America is expected to become a net exporter**, with ~30% of its blue and green H<sub>2</sub> supply transported over long distance.
- **Europe and China are projected to be net importers**, relying on importing for ~59% and ~25% of their hydrogen demand, respectively.
- In addition to long-distance trade, **robust inner-continental hydrogen transport** is anticipated, such as from Iberia and the Nordic countries to Central Europe.

# Green hydrogen value chain is global, with production and end-use applications often separated by significant distances

## Green hydrogen value chain spans three main fields



### Observations

- The H<sub>2</sub> value chain from **production to distribution and application** operates globally, as **supply and demand are often geographically distant**.
- Inner-continental H<sub>2</sub> transport is primarily conducted via pipelines**, with three options:
  - Blending into existing gas pipelines (up to ~5% of the mix can be H<sub>2</sub>)
  - Retrofitting old gas pipelines
  - Building new hydrogen-only pipelines
- Long-distance H<sub>2</sub> transport relies on marine shipping **technologies** such as:
  - Liquified hydrogen
  - Ammonia
  - Liquid organic hydrogen carriers
- H<sub>2</sub> **storage is essential at various points** along the value chain, including pre- and post-shipping as well as pre-industry use.

# Three potential H<sub>2</sub> carriers are suitable for marine transport

## Shipping technologies face significant adoption challenges at various stages

	Liquified hydrogen (LH <sub>2</sub> )	Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	Liquid organic hydrogen carriers (LOHC)
<b>Description</b>	Produced via extreme cooling, it can be used directly as fuel or converted back into gas at the destination.	Synthesized into ammonia for transport, enabling either direct use as green ammonia or conversion back into H <sub>2</sub> through racking.	Transported through hydrogenation and post-transport dehydrogenation by covalently bonding with liquid organic molecules, such as dibenzyl toluene.
<b>Energy density<sup>1</sup></b>	0.071 kg/L (at -253°C)	0.12 kg/L (at -33°C)	~0.05 kg/L (at 25°C)
<b>Process steps</b>	<pre> graph TD     A[Green H2] --&gt; B[Liquefaction]     B --&gt; C[Marine transport, storage]     C --&gt; D[Regasification]     D --&gt; E[Distribution and end use]           </pre>	<pre> graph TD     A[Green H2] --&gt; B[NH3 synthesis]     B --&gt; C[Marine transport, storage]     C --&gt; D[NH3-cracking to H2]     D --&gt; E[Distribution and end use]           </pre>	<pre> graph TD     A[Green H2] --&gt; B[Hydrogenation]     B --&gt; C[Marine transport, storage]     C --&gt; D[Dehydrogenation]     D --&gt; E[Distribution and end use]           </pre>
<b>Adoption challenges</b>	Energy intensive; liquefaction is expensive	Energy intensive and expensive cracking; health risks	Expensive hydrogenation; lack of technology readiness for scale-up
<b>Share of volume of announced projects<sup>2</sup></b>	~5%	~35%	~10%
<b>Market readiness</b>	Pilot stage, infrastructure not yet widely available	Established shipping, cracking at pilot stage	Pilot projects, infrastructure for some molecules available

### Observations

- Marine H<sub>2</sub> transport **requires cooling or carriers** due to H<sub>2</sub>'s low energy density.
- Different H<sub>2</sub> carriers face **bottlenecks related to infrastructure and costs**, with technology choices influenced by specific use cases:
  - Ammonia synthesis is relatively cost efficient but expensive to crack, making it ideal for direct use as green ammonia (e.g., fertilizers).
  - Liquid H<sub>2</sub> liquefaction is expensive but suitable where liquefaction is necessary for end use as fuel.
- The market's dominant shipping technology is still undecided:**
  - Half of announced shipping projects have yet to decide on a specific technology.
  - Among projects specifying a carrier, ammonia accounts for 35% of volume, followed by LOHC at 10% and liquid hydrogen at 5%.

<sup>1</sup>Energy density of gaseous H<sub>2</sub> at 1 atm. Temperature and pressure is 8.9E-10 kg/L; <sup>2</sup> only 50% of announced projects have already decided on technology.

Sources: Spotalisano et al., [Liquefied hydrogen, ammonia and liquid organic hydrogen carriers for harbour-to-harbour hydrogen transport](#) (2024); Hydrogen Council, [Global Hydrogen Flows-2023 Update](#) (2023), Hydrogen Council, [Hydrogen Insights](#) (2022)

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# As forecasts for clean H<sub>2</sub> demand increase, major oil companies and utilities are positioning themselves to capture market share

Multibillion-dollar investments and equity stakes are becoming increasingly popular

## Large-scale investment in M&A for blue H<sub>2</sub>



- In 2024, Aramco acquired a 50% equity stake in Blue H<sub>2</sub> Industrial Gases Company.
- Blue H<sub>2</sub> will be transported by pipeline through Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, with potential for regional exports.
- The investment aligns with Saudi Arabia's National Green Hydrogen Strategy, which aims to invest \$36 billion in green and blue hydrogen by 2030.

## \$36B investment in green and blue H<sub>2</sub> production and export hub



- In 2022, BP acquired a 40.5% equity stake worth \$36 billion in the Australia Renewable Energy Hub (AREH).
- Upon completion, AREH will produce 1.6 Mt of green H<sub>2</sub> or 9 Mt of green ammonia annually, supported by 26 GW of clean power.
- The H<sub>2</sub> and ammonia produced by AREH will supply both Australia and regional markets, including Japan and South Korea.

## Allocating significant funds to transition from gas to H<sub>2</sub> in power generation



- In 2023, the utility announced a commitment of \$20 billion to decarbonize its operations in the US.
- A key part of its decarbonization strategy is converting 16,000 MW of natural gas power plants to operate on green hydrogen
- Florida Power & Light, the largest utility in the US, established the Cavendish NextGen Hydrogen Hub to test hydrogen blends for turbines.

Sources: Air Products, [Air Products](#), [Aramco](#), [ACWA Power](#), and [Air Products Qudra Reach Financial Close](#) (2023); Aramco, [Aramco to acquire 50% stake in Air Products Qudra's Blue Hydrogen Industrial Gases Company](#) (2024); BP, [BP to lead and operate one of the world's largest renewables and green hydrogen energy hubs based in Western Australia](#); NextEra Energy, [Climate Change 2023](#) (2023); NextEra Energy, [Florida Power & Light company announces completion of clean hydrogen hub](#) (2023); NextEra Energy, [NextEra Energy sets industry-leading Real Zero goal](#) (2022)  
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# Green steel production possible key driver for green H<sub>2</sub> demand, with each tonne of Green H<sub>2</sub> DRI-EAF steel requiring ~50-60kg H<sub>2</sub>

Green H<sub>2</sub> direct reduced iron with decarbonization potential of ~90% compared to now dominant Blast Furnace-Basic Oxygen Furnace (BF-BOF)

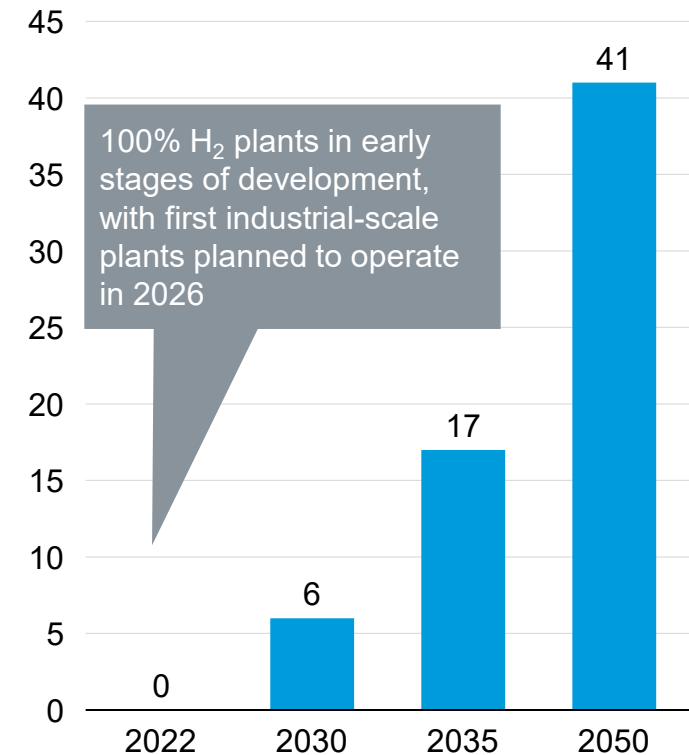
Green H<sub>2</sub> Direct Reduced Iron-Electric Arc Furnace (DRI-EAF) uses green hydrogen to replace natural gas as an iron ore reductant; byproduct is water instead of CO<sub>2</sub>

Iron ore

Iron

Steel

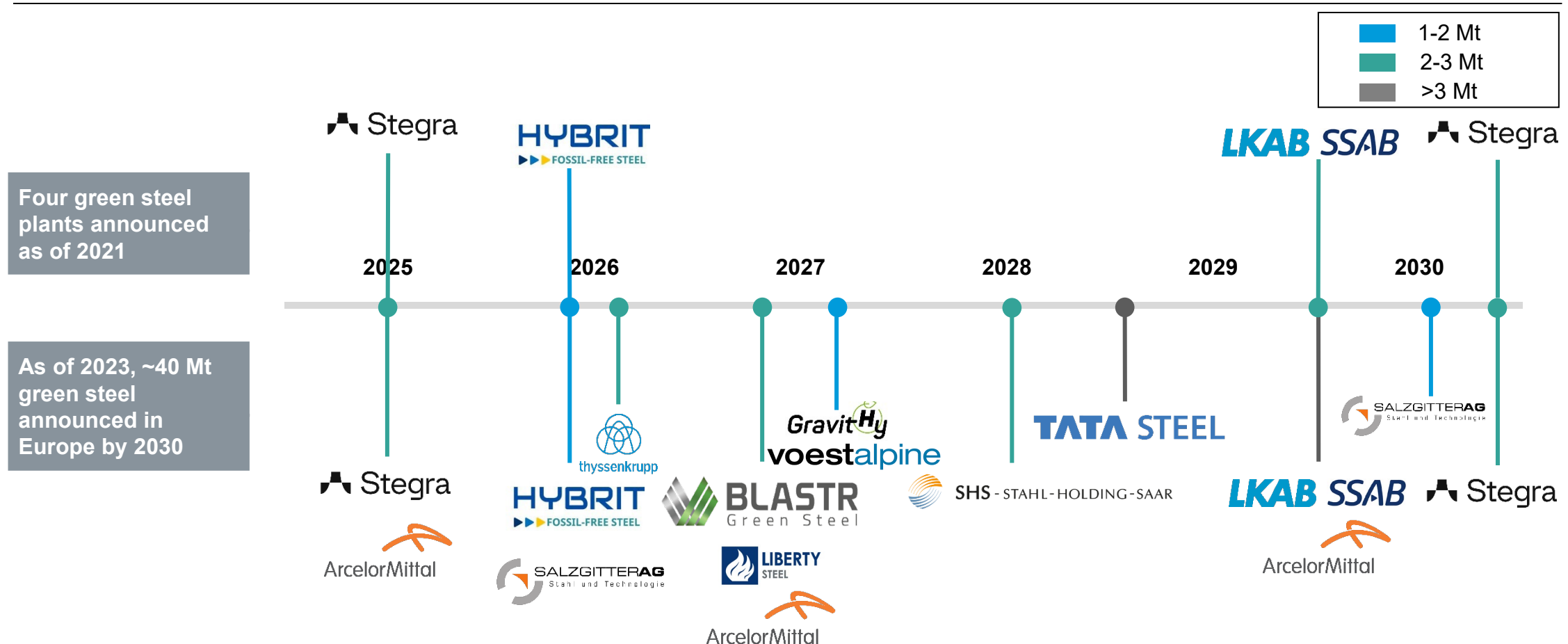
H<sub>2</sub> demand for steel (Mt)



Sources: Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, [Low-Carbon Production of Iron & Steel](#) (2021); IEA, [Iron and Steel Technology Roadmap](#) (2020); IEA, [Net-zero scenario hydrogen outlook](#) (2023); McKinsey, [Decarbonization challenge for steel](#) (2020); BNEF, [Scaling Up Hydrogen](#) (2024)  
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# ~40 Mt of green steel project announced in Europe by 2023, implying 2-2.4 Mt green H<sub>2</sub> demand

As of 2023, ~40 Mt of green steel projects announced in Europe alone



Source: Columbia Business School, [H2 Green Steel](#) (2024)

Credit: Friedrich Sayn-Wittgenstein, Ellie Valencia, Nadine Palmowski, Hyae Ryung Kim, and [Gernot Wagner](#) (12 December 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)



**Department of Energy**

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# Green H<sub>2</sub> Policy



## Key messages Green H<sub>2</sub> Policy

**Over 30 governments, representing ~80% of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, have adopted national green H<sub>2</sub> strategies.** The EU and US are at the forefront, supporting research, development, and demonstration projects, while deploying grants and tax incentives to mitigate investment risks and establish standards for large-scale hydrogen initiatives.

Financial incentives have significantly reduced electrolyzer costs and accelerated green hydrogen adoption. However, challenges such as **high initial investments, uncertainty in long-term returns, and the need for infrastructure and storage remain significant.**

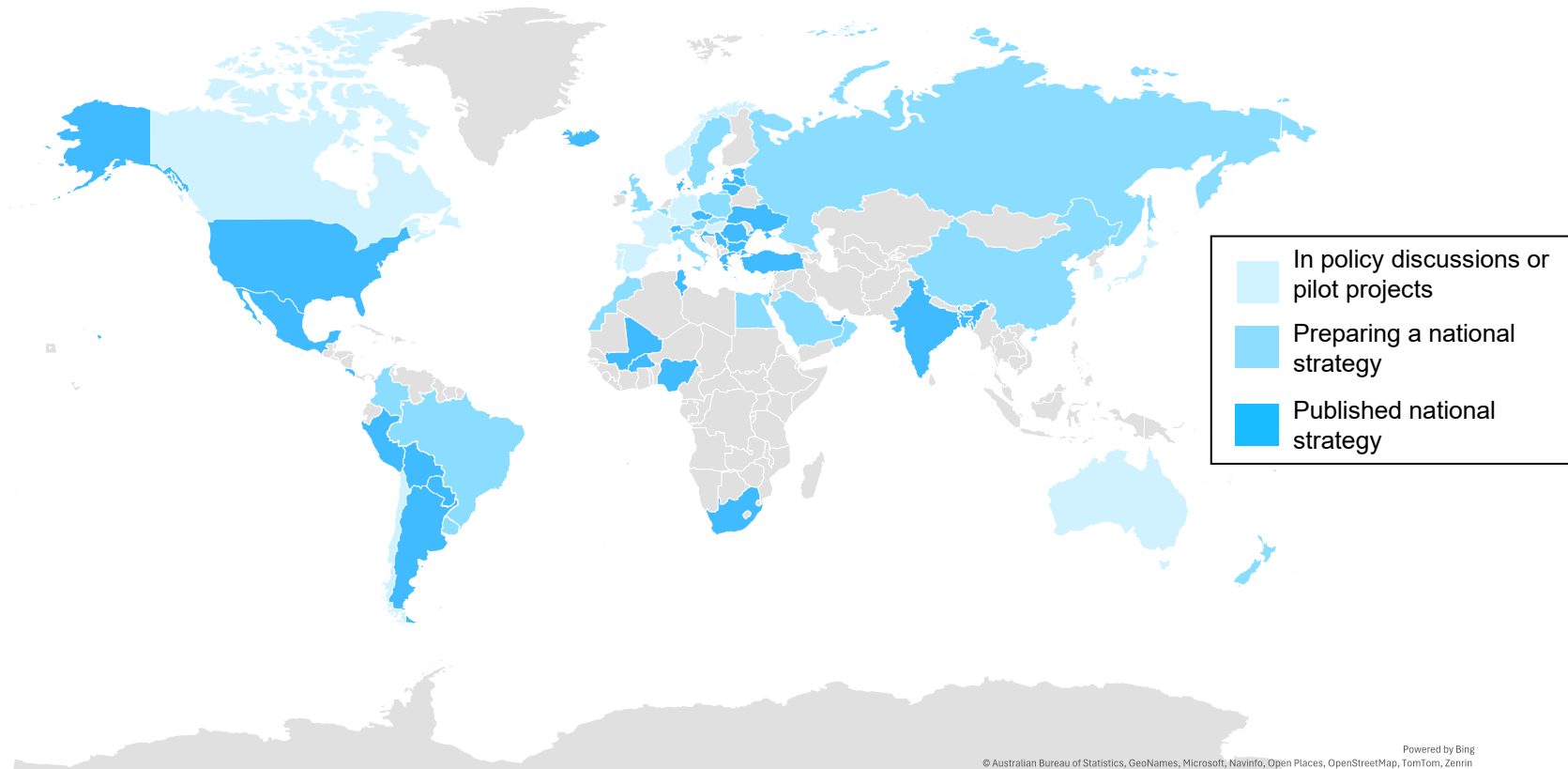
Additional **policy frameworks and collaborations** are required to **scale production and build efficient supply chains** despite legal and financial barriers.

- The EU, US, Australia, Japan, and other countries have set **ambitious electrolyzer capacity and hydrogen production goals**. The EU aims for 40 GW of electrolyzers by 2030, while the US aims to achieve a green H<sub>2</sub> price of \$1/kg within the next decade.
- Research initiatives, such as the **US Department of Energy's \$64 million H2@Scale program**, are **focused on reducing costs and advancing hydrogen technologies**. Infrastructure projects in the US include retrofitting natural gas pipelines and developing new hydrogen storage facilities.
- The **US Bipartisan Infrastructure Law dedicates \$8 billion to establish seven Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs**, targeting emissions reductions of 1 to 9 Mt/year. In addition, the Inflation Reduction Act introduces the Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit (45V), offering incentives up to \$3/kg for low-carbon-intensity projects.

**Government subsidies, tax credits, and financial initiatives are essential for making green H<sub>2</sub> cost competitive** with fossil-based grey H<sub>2</sub>, driving its adoption in the industrial sector and improving its scalability and economic viability.

# Over 30 governments, representing ~80% of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, have implemented green H<sub>2</sub> strategies

## Global adoption of hydrogen strategies

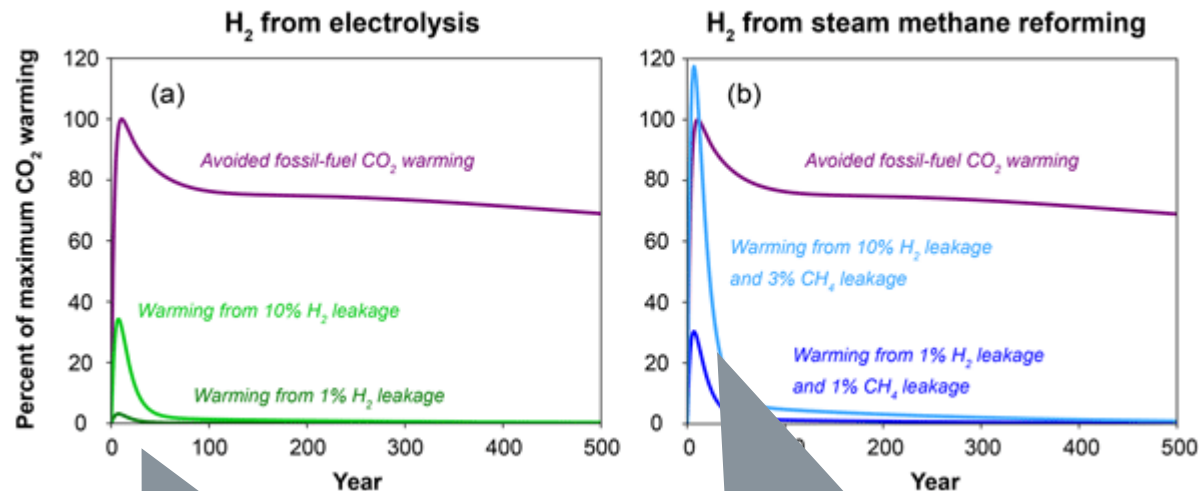


### Observations

- Around **30 countries** have **established national H<sub>2</sub> strategies**, with an additional 23 countries in the process of developing their own proposals.
- The **EU and US** are leading efforts to support the research, development, and demonstration of H<sub>2</sub> projects and technologies.
- Governments are introducing mechanisms such as grants, loans, and tax incentives to **mitigate investment risks**, alongside growing efforts to implement **standards and certification schemes for green H<sub>2</sub>**.
- Despite growing governmental involvement, **large-scale green H<sub>2</sub> projects remain underdeveloped in many emerging markets**.

# Methane and H<sub>2</sub> leakage a concern for the production of grey and blue H<sub>2</sub>, not for green H<sub>2</sub>

## Green hydrogen with less warming even with large H<sub>2</sub> leakage



Green H<sub>2</sub> is better than fossil alternative, even with 10% H<sub>2</sub> leakage

Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) leakage is a potential concern with grey or blue H<sub>2</sub> production, not with green H<sub>2</sub>

### Observations





- While H<sub>2</sub> production and transport play a crucial role in reducing carbon emissions, they can also **contribute to the greenhouse gas effect if not managed properly**.
  - Methane, a greenhouse gas 28x more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>, can leak into the atmosphere during blue and grey H<sub>2</sub> production.
  - H<sub>2</sub> itself is an indirect greenhouse gas and can contribute to global warming if significant leakages occur.
- Other potential environmental effects of H<sub>2</sub> production include **water and land use, though these effects appear small compared to the overall benefits in most regions**.
- Despite these challenges, H<sub>2</sub>'s potential to significantly reduce carbon emissions far outweighs the global warming impact of its potential leakage.

Sources: Ocko and Hamburg, [Climate Consequences of Hydrogen Emissions](#) (2022), Duan and Caldeira, [Comment on "Climate Consequences of Hydrogen Emissions" by Ocko and Hamburg](#) (2022)

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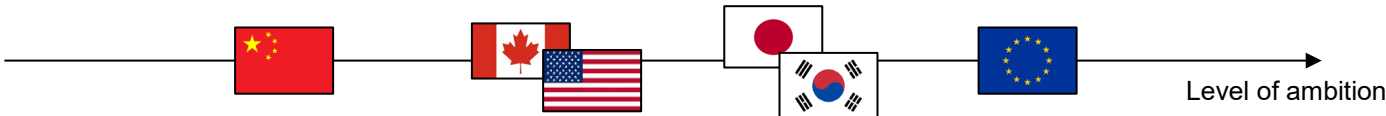
# Government incentives play a critical role in accelerating green H<sub>2</sub> adoption, with the EU, US, and other regions leading the charge

Countries are actively exploring various incentives to accelerate the adoption of green and blue H<sub>2</sub>

	Description	EU 	Australia 	Japan 	United States 
Financial incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary subsidies can boost <b>green H<sub>2</sub> production</b> by reducing investment risks and lowering costs.</li> <li>Public investment in <b>infrastructure</b>, such as pipelines and storage, is essential for the <b>rapid scaling of a H<sub>2</sub> economy</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure grants through the <b>Important Projects of Common European Interest</b> support investments in pipelines and storage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hydrogen Headstart</b> supports large-scale green and blue H<sub>2</sub> production with \$4 billion in grants.</li> <li>The country provides a <b>\$2 tax incentive</b> for each kg of clean H<sub>2</sub>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Contracts for Difference</b> program aims to bridge the price gap between clean H<sub>2</sub> (domestic and imported) and fossil fuels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Inflation Reduction Act and 45V tax incentives</b> promote the adoption of green and blue H<sub>2</sub> production.</li> </ul>
Policy and regulatory frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Government targets, strategies, and standards</b> such as criteria defining green H<sub>2</sub> can build market trust and <b>accelerate scaling efforts</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EU aims to <b>roll out 40 GW</b> of electrolyzer capacity <b>by 2030</b>.</li> <li>EU-wide <b>CertifHy</b> certification program is being implemented to standardize green and blue H<sub>2</sub>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Australian Renewable Hydrogen Hub</b> supports development of export routes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country has a <b>target of 3 Mt green and blue H<sub>2</sub> production</b> by 2030, increasing to 20 Mt by 2050.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hydrogen Energy Earthshot</b> initiative aims to <b>reduce the cost</b> of green and blue H<sub>2</sub> to <b>\$1/kg</b> within a decade.</li> </ul>
Education, research, and partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Investments in research and pilot projects</b> can drive technological advancement and facilitate scaling.</li> <li><b>Educational initiatives and international partnerships</b> can foster public support and global collaboration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU is forming <b>partnerships with North African countries</b> to import their green H<sub>2</sub> production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>H<sub>2</sub> Industry <b>Workforce Development Roadmap</b> focuses on upskilling workers for H<sub>2</sub> production and related industries.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Significant investments in H<sub>2</sub> technology research</b> have enabled Japan to account for 24% of global H<sub>2</sub>-related patent applications between 2011 and 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Department of Energy's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies office</b> focuses on advancing research, education, and project implementation.</li> </ul>

# Regulatory and economic factors are driving the transition from grey to green H<sub>2</sub>

Three scenarios outline potential shift from grey to green and blue H<sub>2</sub> through 2030

	Current scenario	Accelerated trajectory	Ambitious trajectory
Share of grey H <sub>2</sub> converted (% by 2030)	0-20% 	30% 	50% 
Required CO <sub>2</sub> price and policy (USD/ton CO <sub>2</sub> )	Low or zero CO <sub>2</sub> cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Industry commitments and consumer demand are key drivers of decarbonization efforts.</li></ul>	~50-100 USD/ton CO <sub>2</sub> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Most cost-optimal use cases convert grey H<sub>2</sub> (e.g., close to carbon storage).</li></ul>	100+ USD/ton CO <sub>2</sub> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Policy incentives (e.g., RED<sup>1</sup> and the phase-out of free allowances) further accelerate the transition.</li></ul>
Progress across focused regions			

## Observations

- The phase-out of grey H<sub>2</sub> will depend on carbon pricing and supportive policies such as blending mandates for clean fuels or ammonia.
- These measures are expected to drive industry commitments and amplify consumer demand for a green H<sub>2</sub> transition.
  - Current scenario: By 2030, around **10% of grey H<sub>2</sub> could shift to renewable or low-carbon alternatives**, primarily driven by industry pressure.
  - Accelerated trajectory: **Carbon costs of \$50 to \$100 per ton could result in around 30% of grey H<sub>2</sub> transitioning**, particularly in regions with lower green and blue H<sub>2</sub> costs and facilities that can be readily upgraded.
  - Ambitious trajectory: **High carbon pricing and additional incentives could enable a 50% conversion rate**. Examples include EU's RED II/III and California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

<sup>1</sup>Renewable Energy Directive

Source: McKinsey, [Global Energy Perspective 2023: Hydrogen outlook](#) (2023)



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# While the EU has established ambitious green H<sub>2</sub> targets, implementation efforts have fallen behind schedule

Companies like Air Liquide and Siemens have made significant progress in advancing green hydrogen projects

## EU regional overview

- By **setting clear objectives, providing financial incentives, and fostering collaboration**, the EU has accelerated the green H<sub>2</sub> transition.
- However, progress on **deployment of green and blue H<sub>2</sub> projects has not kept pace with these goals**.
- Achieving a sustainable hydrogen economy will require continued policy support, effective implementation, and stronger alignment between targets and execution.

	Pre-policy adoption (pre-2020)	Policy adoption phase (2020-2024)	Post-policy impact (as of mid-2024)
EU policy landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H<sub>2</sub> production has mainly relied on <b>fossil fuels, with fragmented national and regional policies, limited infrastructure, and low adoption</b> of hydrogen technologies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU launches <b>EU Hydrogen Strategy</b>, aiming for 6 GW of electrolyzer capacity by 2024 and 40 GW by 2030.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Electrolyzer supply has surpassed the targets</b> outlined in the Net Zero Industry Act.</li> <li>• However, progress <b>toward 2030 production goals remains slow</b>, with only 3.6% of 2030 projects having reached the FID* stage.</li> </ul>
 Air Liquide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Operated hydrogen production facilities but invested minimally in H<sub>2</sub> R&amp;D</b> due to regulatory uncertainty and high production costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased renewable H<sub>2</sub> production, expanded H<sub>2</sub> refueling stations</b>, and developed optimization tools within its infrastructure across the EU.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Became leader in green H<sub>2</sub> production</b> with established initial refueling network.</li> <li>• <b>Committed to investing €8 billion in low-emission H<sub>2</sub> by 2035</b> and targeting 3 GW of electrolysis capacity by 2030.</li> </ul>
 SIEMENS energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Focused on PEM electrolyzers with a few pilot projects</b>, like Hyflexpower, integrating H<sub>2</sub> into natural gas infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Expanded its H<sub>2</sub> activities with investment in large-scale projects</b>, including an 8.75 MW electrolyzer plant in east Germany and a 20 MW electrolyzer in partnership with Air Liquide.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increased production with large-scale projects</b>, such as Voestalpine in Austria, producing 1,200 cubic meters of green H<sub>2</sub>/hour to decarbonize steel production.</li> </ul>






\*Final Investment Decision

Sources: CGEP, [Low-Carbon Production of Iron & Steel](#) (2021); Energy Institute, [Statistical Review of World Energy](#) (2024); IEA, [Iron and Steel Technology Roadmap](#) (2020); Journal of Cleaner Production, [Towards fossil-free steel](#) (2023); The Oxford Institute of Energy Studies, [2024 State of the European Hydrogen Market Report](#) (2024); Air Liquide, [Air Liquide Hydrogen](#) (2024); Siemens Energy, [Siemens Hydrogen](#) (2024)

Credit: Friedrich Sayn-Wittgenstein, Ellie Valencia, Nadine Palmowski, Hyae Ryung Kim & [Gernot Wagner](#) (12 December 2024); share/adapt [with attribution](#). Contact: [gwagner@columbia.edu](mailto:gwagner@columbia.edu)

# In the US, the Inflation Reduction Act provides further support for green and blue H<sub>2</sub> with a production tax credit

Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit (45V) provides incentives up to \$3/kg

Eligibility for 45V tax credit				
Carbon intensity* (kg CO <sub>2</sub> /kg H <sub>2</sub> )	Hydrogen color	Percentage of full 45V tax credit (%)	Applicable credit value (\$/kg H <sub>2</sub> )	Additional requirements
< 4.0		20	0.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must start construction before 2034</li> <li>Cannot be combined with the Carbon Capture and Sequestration Tax Credit (45Q)</li> <li>Can be combined with the renewable energy production tax credit and the zero-emission nuclear credit</li> <li>Must promote well-paying jobs</li> </ul>
< 2.5		25	0.75	
< 1.5	 	33	1.00	
< 0.45		100	3.00	

## Observations

- The **Inflation Reduction Act's Clean Hydrogen Production Tax Credit** (Section 45V) is the largest tax credit for green H<sub>2</sub> to date.
  - Producers can collect a tax credit of up to **\$3/kg** for projects constructed by 2033.
  - Both green and blue H<sub>2</sub> are eligible, with subsidy values determined by greenhouse gas emissions as measured, as defined under the US Clean Air Act.
- Section 45V credit will be key in making the **levelized cost of blue and green H<sub>2</sub> competitive with grey H<sub>2</sub>**.
- Additional support includes the **Advanced Energy Project Credit**, offering a 30% tax credit for investments in fuel cells, electrolyzers, or hydrogen infrastructure.

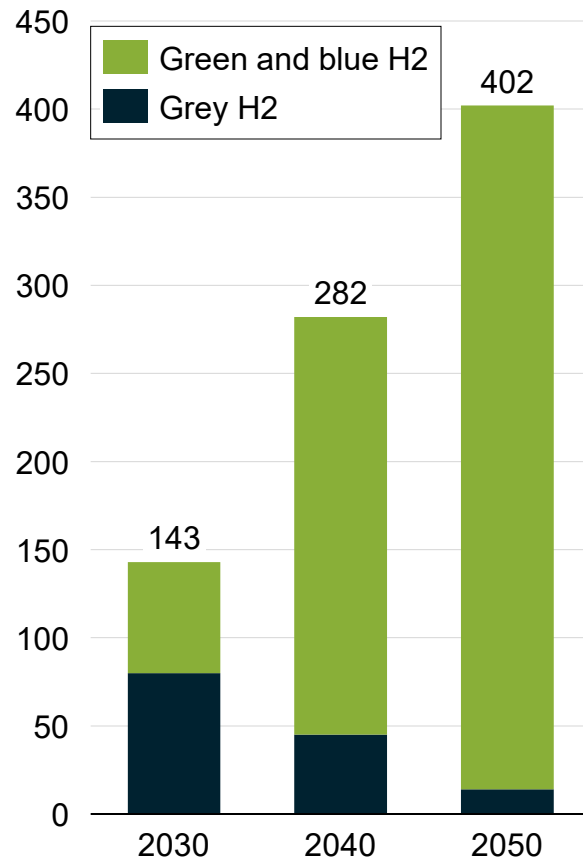
\*Scope 1-3 carbon intensity

Sources: PV Magazine, [The Hydrogen Stream](#) (2023); US Department of Energy, [Financial Incentives for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Projects](#); US Department of the Treasury, [U.S. Department of the Treasury, IRS Release Guidance on Hydrogen Production Tax Credit to Drive American Innovation and Strengthen Energy Security](#) (2023)

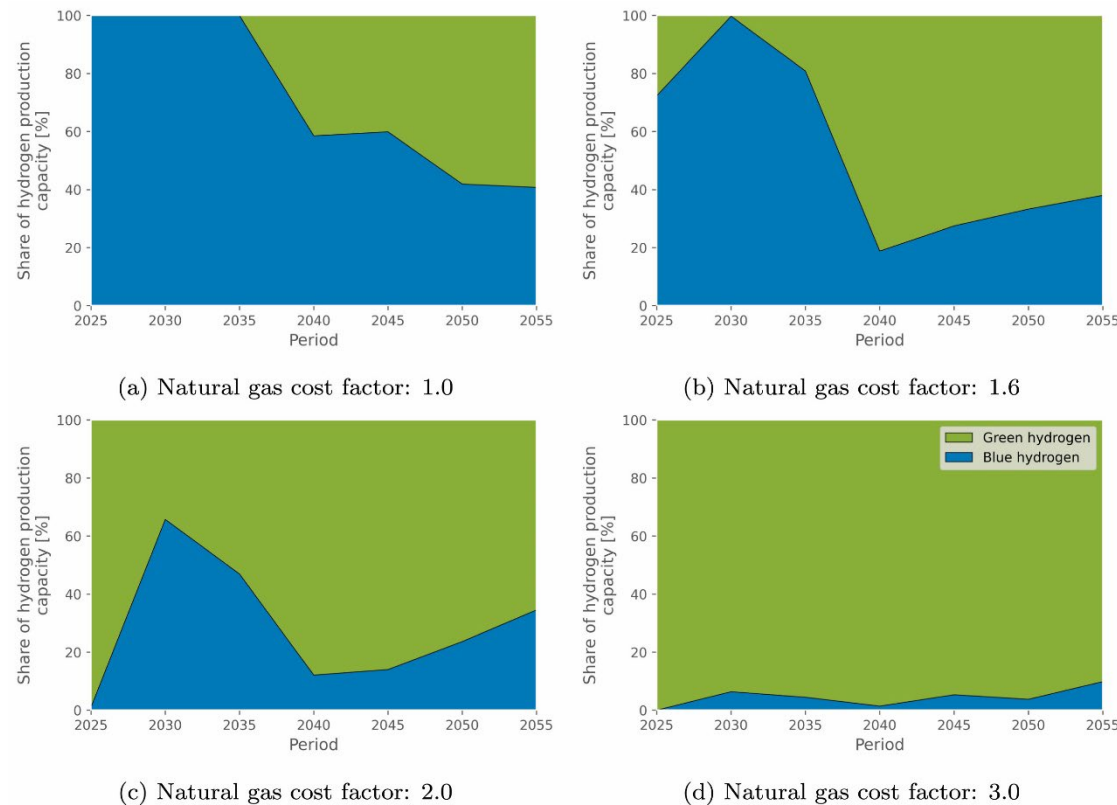
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# Policy a key driver for the shift away from grey H<sub>2</sub>, while gas prices determine the balance between blue and green H<sub>2</sub>

Projected H<sub>2</sub> demand (in Mt)



Green H<sub>2</sub> share depends on cost factors such as gas prices



## Observations

- Green and blue H<sub>2</sub> are expected to complement grey H<sub>2</sub> initially but will **almost completely replace it by 2050**.
  - Government policies and incentives are crucial** for rapidly scaling H<sub>2</sub> production to meet demand.
  - Economies of scale and declining CapEx** will accelerate the transition to green and blue H<sub>2</sub>.
- The future split between green and blue H<sub>2</sub> is **difficult to estimate**.
  - Green H<sub>2</sub> is expected to become competitive** as renewables and electrolyzer costs decline.
  - The share of blue H<sub>2</sub> is **highly sensitive to natural gas prices** due to its reliance on carbon capture, utilization, and storage.

Note: Natural gas price in base case is 31.3EUR/MWh in 2025-2030 and 39.0 EUR/MWh in 2050-2055 (Durakovic et al., 2023)

Sources: IEA, [Net-zero scenario hydrogen outlook](#) (2023); Durakovic et al., [Are blue and green hydrogen competitive or complementary?](#) (2023)

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# Appendix

# Glossary

<b>AWE</b>	Alkaline water electrolysis	<b>IRA</b>	Inflation Reduction Act
<b>BOS</b>	Balance of system	<b>kWh</b>	Kilowatt-hour
<b>CAPEX</b>	Capital expenditure(s)	<b>LCOH</b>	Levelized cost of hydrogen
<b>CAGR</b>	Compound annual growth rate	<b>LH<sub>2</sub></b>	Liquid hydrogen
<b>CCUS</b>	Carbon capture, utilization, and storage	<b>LOHC</b>	Liquid organic hydrogen carrier
<b>CH<sub>4</sub></b>	Natural gas	<b>Mt</b>	Million metric tonnes
<b>CO</b>	Carbon monoxide	<b>Mtpa</b>	Million metric tonnes per annum
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide	<b>MWh</b>	Megawatt-hour
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	CO2 equivalent, using global warming potential as conversion factor	<b>NH<sub>3</sub></b>	Ammonia
<b>DOE</b>	Department of Energy	<b>PEM</b>	Proton exchange membrane
<b>DRI-EAF</b>	Direct Reduced Iron-Electric Arc Furnace production process	<b>PGM</b>	Platinum group metals
<b>ETS</b>	Emissions Trading System	<b>PPM</b>	Parts per million
<b>Fe</b>	Iron	<b>R&amp;D</b>	Research and development
<b>FeO<sub>2</sub></b>	Iron oxide	<b>ROI</b>	Return on Investment
<b>FCEV</b>	Fuel cell electric vehicle	<b>SAF</b>	Sustainable aviation fuel
<b>FID</b>	Final Investment Decision	<b>SOEC</b>	Solid oxide electrolyzer cell
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse gas	<b>Tonne</b>	Metric ton
<b>Gt</b>	Gigatonne, equal to 1 billion metric tonnes	<b>TWh</b>	Terawatt-hour
<b>H<sub>2</sub></b>	Hydrogen		