

## Realizing a Clean Energy Future



**Stanford Graduate Summer Institute** 

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NREL is a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, operated by the Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.





## **Energy Context**

## **National Energy Imperatives**

### Security Economy Stimulating Reducing clean-energy dependence on companies and foreign sources job growth **Environment** Protecting resources and reducing global warming

## **A Profound Transformation is Required**

## Today's Energy

System

### Sustainable Energy

### System

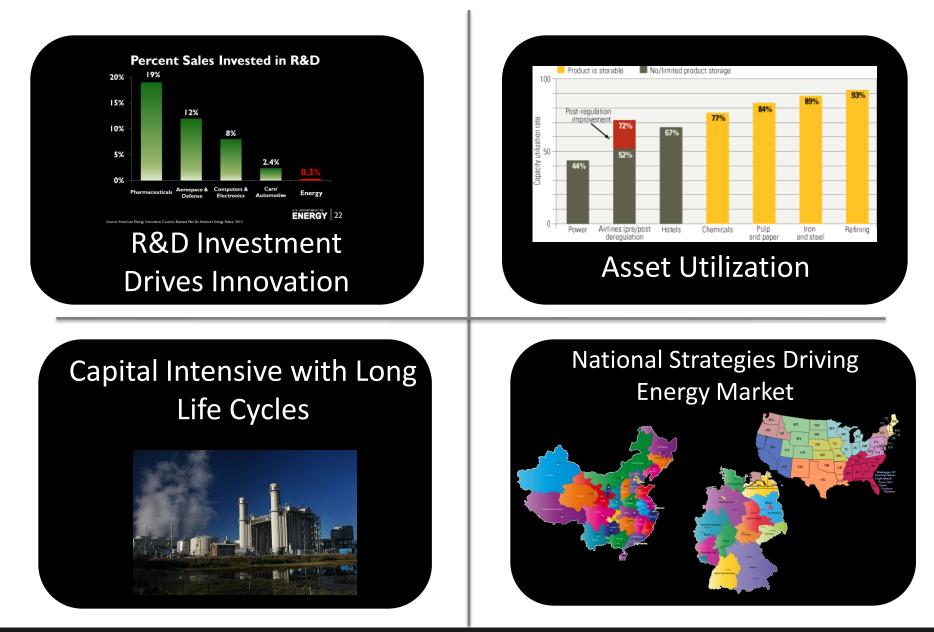
## TRANSFORMATION

- Dependent on non-domestic sources
- Subject to price volatility
- Increasingly vulnerable energy delivery systems
- 2/3 of source energy is wasted
- Significant carbon emissions
- Role of electricity increasing

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

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## **Energy Sector Challenges**



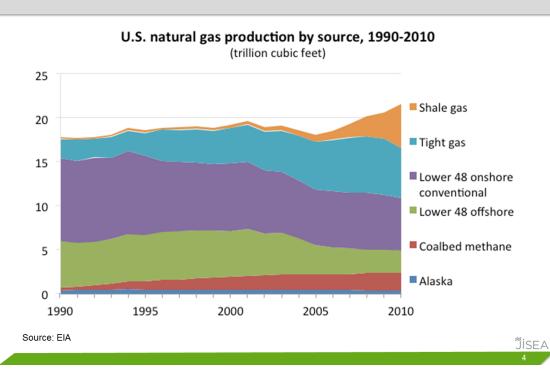
## The Role of Natural Gas?

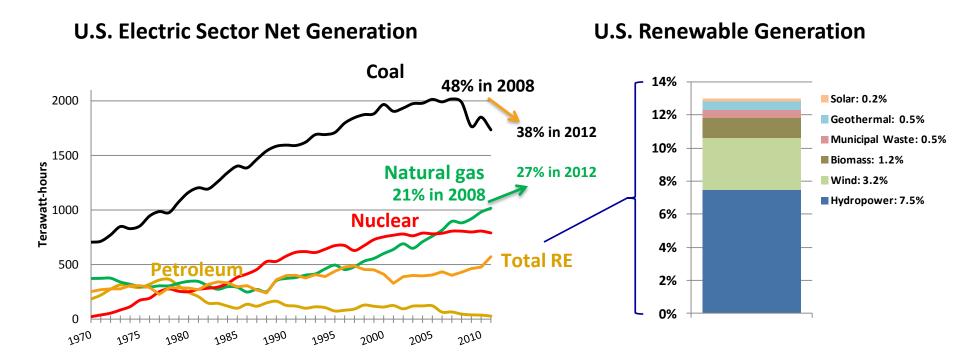
"We are in the midst of a natural gas revolution in America that is a potential game changer for the economy, environment and our national security—if we do it right."

—Tom Friedman

New York Times, August 4, 2012

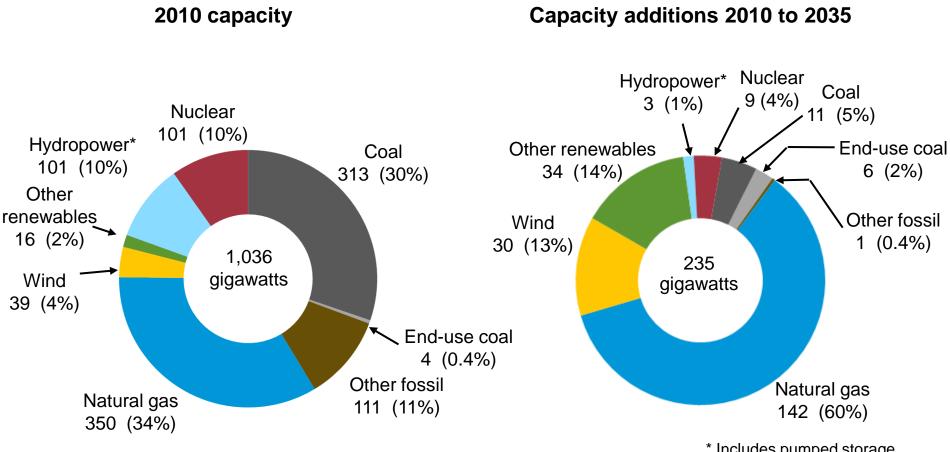
**Dramatic Change in US Gas Production** 





#### Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2012

### Natural gas, wind and other renewables account for the vast majority of capacity additions from 2010 to 2035

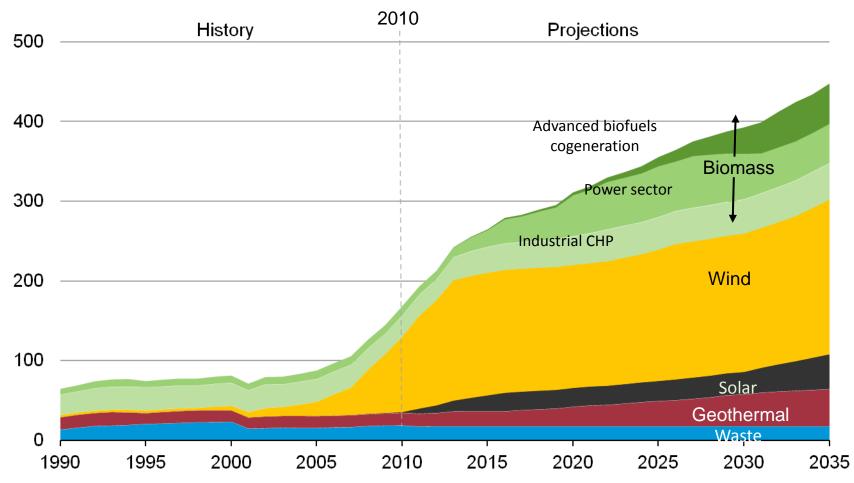


\* Includes pumped storage

Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2012

## Non-hydro renewable sources more than double between 2010 and 2035

Non-hydropower renewable generation Billion kilowatthours per year

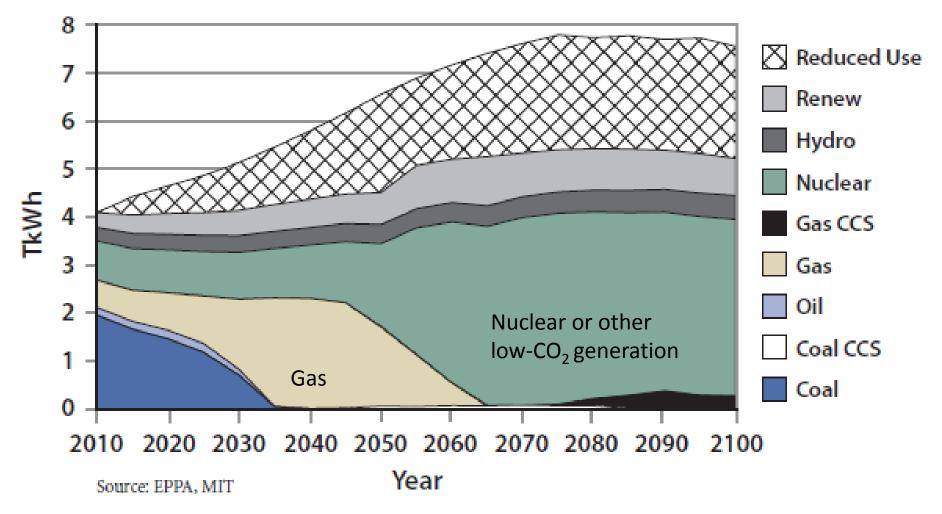


Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2012

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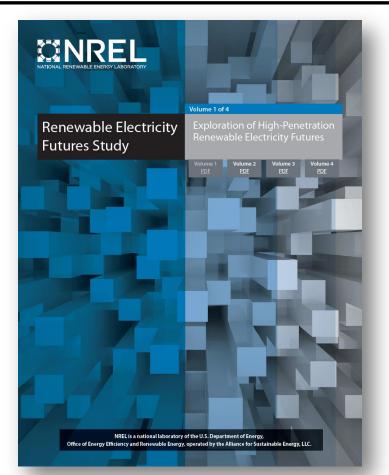
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## **MIT Future of Natural Gas Study\***



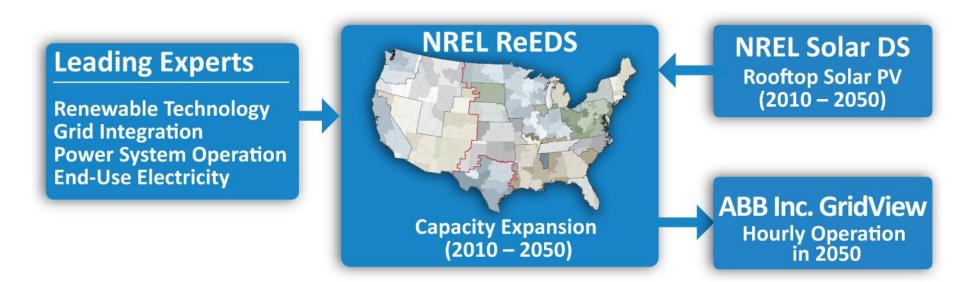
\* Fig. 3.12 Energy Mix in Electric Generation under a Price-Based Climate Policy, Mean Natural Gas Resources and Regional Natural Gas Markets (TkWh) [reduced GHG 80% below 2005]

## **Renewable Electricity Futures Study**



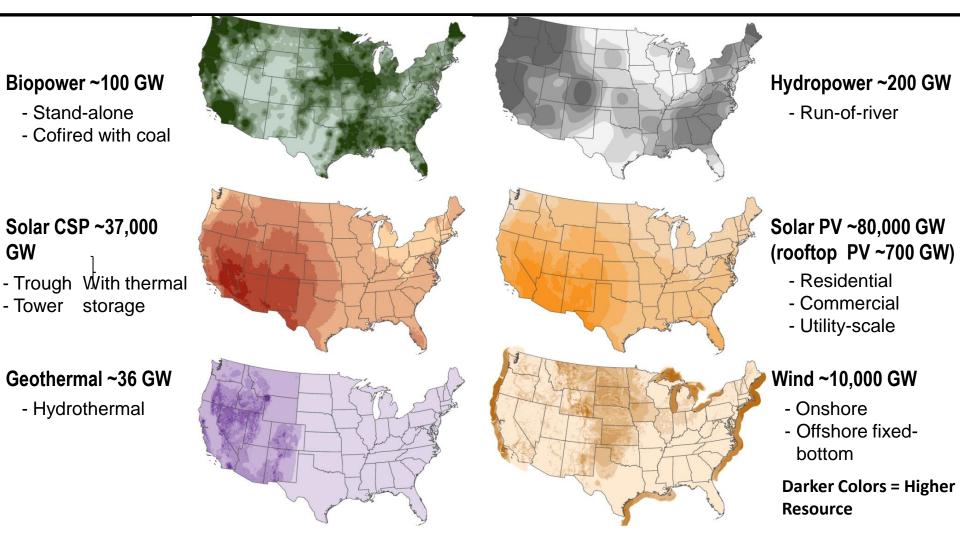
U.S. DOE-sponsored collaboration with over 110 contributors from about 35 organizations including national laboratories, industry, universities, and NGOs

## **State of the Art Electric System Models**



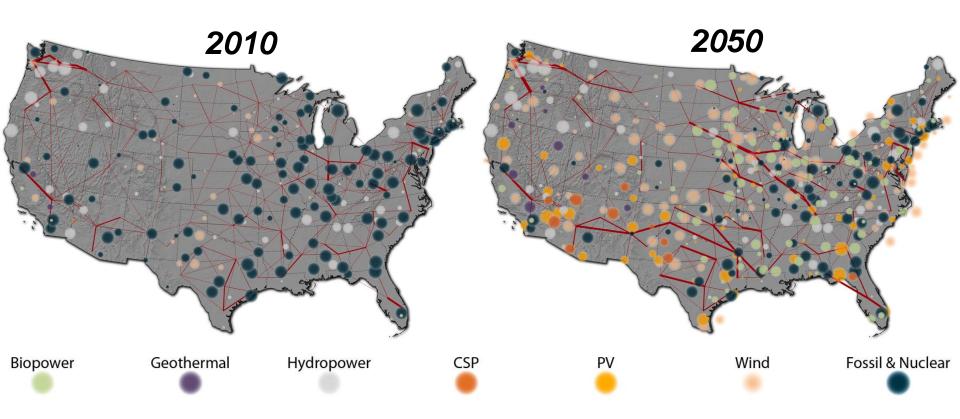
- Unprecedented <u>geographic</u> and <u>time resolution</u> for the <u>contiguous</u> United States
- Over two dozen scenarios of RE generation focused on 2050

## **Abundant Renewable Energy Resources**

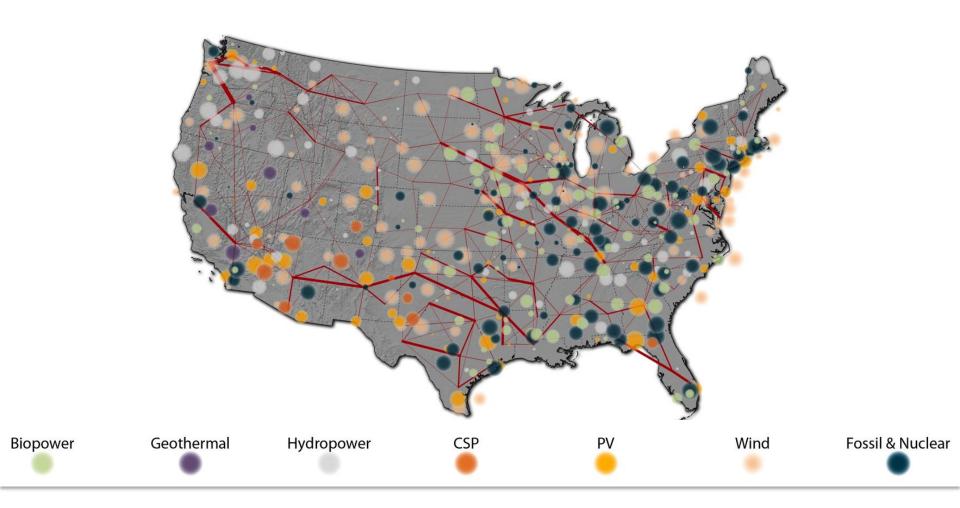


Geographic location, technical resource potential, and output characteristics are unique to each RE generation technology.

## A Transformation of the U.S. Electricity System



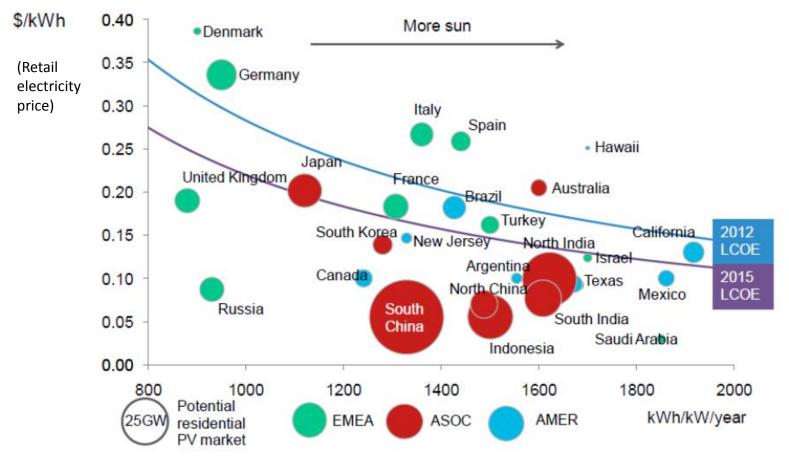
RE generation from technologies that are commercially available today, in combination with a more flexible electric system, is more than adequate to supply 80% of total U.S. electricity generation in 2050 while meeting electricity demand on an hourly basis in every region of the country



A future U.S. electricity system that is largely powered by renewable sources is possible, and further work is warranted to investigate this clean generation pathway.



## **Globally, PV Retail Competiveness is Spreading Fast**



### Countries above the 2012 line have already achieved grid parity.

Source: BNEF, 2012. Size of bubbles refers to market size. Assumptions: Parity defined as the installed price at which a household can make 5% or more return on investment in a PV system just by using the energy generated to replace household energy consumption. LCOE based on 6% weighted average cost of capital, 0.7%/year module degradation, 1% capex as O&M annually, \$3.01/W capex assumed for 2012, \$2.00/W for 2015.

## Innovation, Integration, & Adoption

### **Reducing Investment Risk**

- Enable basic and applied clean energy technology innovation
- Accelerate technology market introduction and adoption
- Integrate technology at scale
- Encourage collaboration in unique research and testing "partnering" facilities
- Provide analysis and expertise to inform decisions







## **Status of the Technologies**

## Solar Electricity: State of the Technology



### Photovoltaics (PV)

- Market: Residential; Commercial, Utility
- Geographically diverse
- kWs to MWs to GWs
- U.S. Capacity: 4.0 GW
- U.S. Forecast: 22+ GWs in pipeline
- Costs. \$3 to \$7/W: \*LCOE 7 to 16<sup>c</sup>/kWr
- Technologies: Conversion; thin-films, crystalline silicon. Storage; battery

### Solar Thermal Electric (CSP)

- Market: Commercial; Utility
- Geographically confined to "sun bowls"
- MWs to GWs
- U.S Capacity: 0.5 GW
- U.S. Forecast: ~6 GWs in pipeline
- Costs. \$4 to \$8/W: \*LCOE 12 to 20 <sup>c</sup>/kWr
- Technologies: Conversion; parabolic troughs, central receivers, dish. Storage; thermal, up to 15 hours.

\*With federal incentives; e.g. the FTC.

Updated: April 2012

Source: GTM/SEIA : U.S. Solar Market Insight Q4 2011 & 2011 Year-in-Review

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## **Multiple Promising PV Technologies**





c-Si ~ 180 um

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## Sunshot R&D Agenda

### CIGS/CZTS

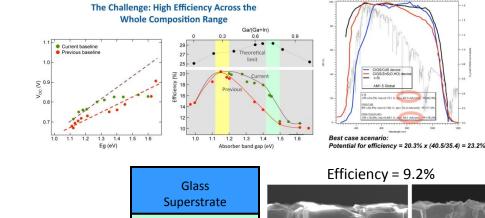
- Higher photovoltage
- Higher photocurrent
- Rapid growth rate
- Minimize electrical defects in PV quality

### CdTe

- Minority carrier lifetime
- Grain boundary structure and charge transport
- Correlation between TRPL lifetime and device performance
- Synthesize an effective set of samples

### Wafer-Si

- Multijunction device modeling
- Engineered (tailored material) for middle and top cell
- High quality middle Si cell around 1.5 eV
- High performance and understand the tunneling junction
- Surface and bulk passivation of c-Si
- Improved light management for component cell

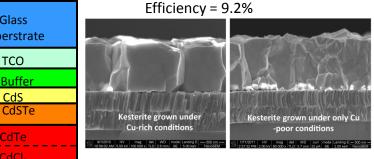


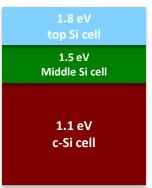
TCO

CdS

CdTe CdCl<sub>2</sub> Interface

Metal





## Sunshot R&D Agenda

### Film-Si

- Improved thin-film silicon cells at high growth rate
- Develop low-cost oriented crystal seeds for film c-Si
- Improve epitaxy quality and rates at low T
- Develop light-trapping for thin c-Si

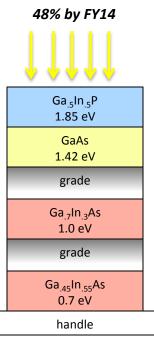
#### III-V

- Next-generation cells to increase power/lower LCOE
- Deeper reliability heritage for cells and systems
- Design cells for operation in real-time systems

#### OPV

- Lower band gap absorbers with appropriate HOMO/LUMO
- Stability >30,000 hours (intrinsic and extrinsic)
- Scalability of lab scale efficiencies to >100 cm<sup>2</sup> modules
- International coordination and standardization





## Wind energy: State of the Technology



- Costs: 7-10 cents/kWh LCOE\*
- Installed wind project cost = \$2,155/kW •
- 1.5-3.0 MW commercial turbines are typical
- 10 MW prototype machines in • development
- Direct drive generators more common ٠
- Variable speed and grid-friendly operation
- Technologies targeting offshore wind • markets

Updated: April 2012

\* Estimate for utility-scale wind, class 4 wind sites, no subsidies

- U.S. installed capacity = 46.9 GW (12/2011)•
- 38 of 50 states have utility-scale wind with 14 states > 1,000 MW installed
- Over 8.3 GW currently under construction
- U.S. wind capacity represents more than 20% of • the world's installed wind power
- U.S. wind percentage of electricity is over 2.3%
- Over 400 manufacturing facilities across the U.S. make components for wind turbines

2011

AWEA

## Wind Technology Innovation

- Modular large components blades, drivetrains, and tall towers
- Advanced drivetrain power conversion systems – superconducting direct drive generators
- Flexible, ultra-large rotors and systems
- Active controls for structural load reduction, improved wind plant performance, and grid-friendly operation
- Floating offshore wind turbines
- Airborne wind power systems



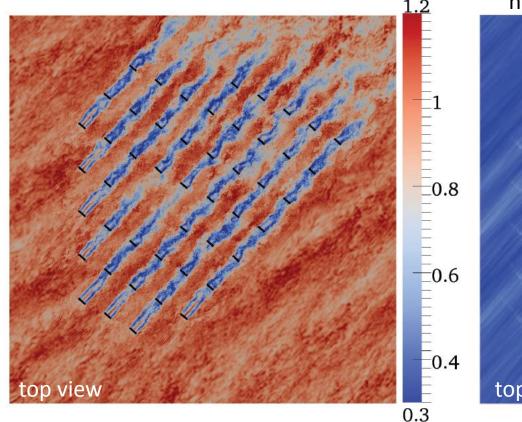




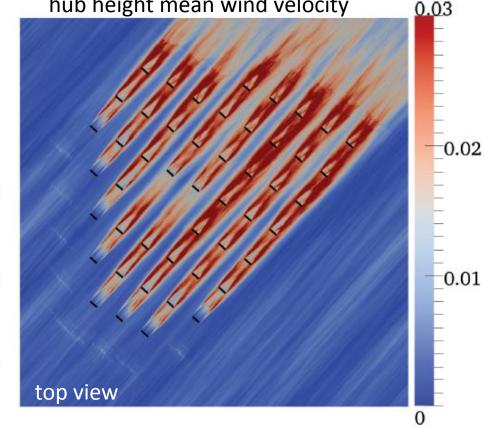


## **Wind Plant Simulation**

Instantaneous velocity normalized by hub height mean wind velocity



Resolved-scale turbulent kinetic energy normalized by square of hub height mean wind velocity



Meandering shows up in resolved turbulent kinetic energy

## Forward Progress: Wind at Half the Cost

## Computational Modeling of Turbine Wake Effects



## **Biofuels:** State of the Technology



### **Current Status:**

U.S. produced 13.5 billion gallons of ethanol and 1.1 billion gallons of biodiesel (2011)

### **Biorefineries:**

- 219 commercial corn ethanol plants
- 180 biodiesel refineries
- 28 cellulosic ethan

### Cost goal:

Cellulosic ethanol—cost parity with gasoline by 2012

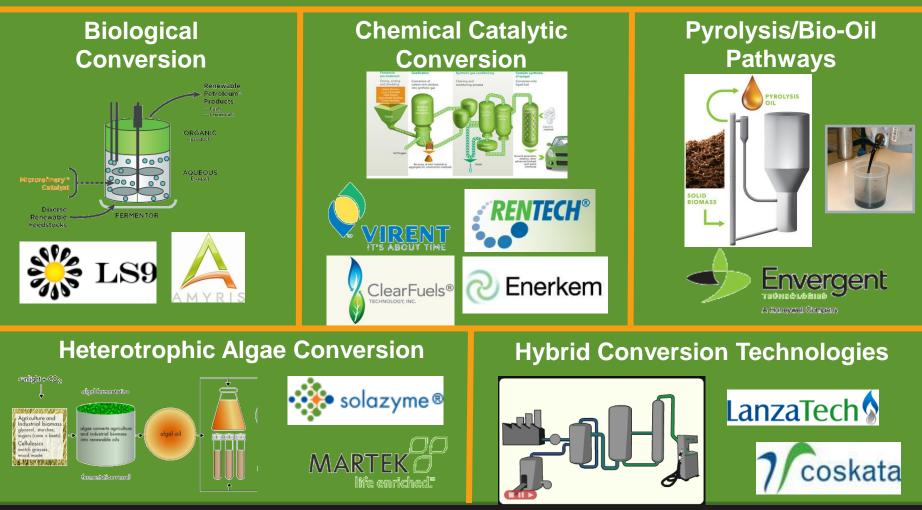
### **Major Technology Directions:**

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

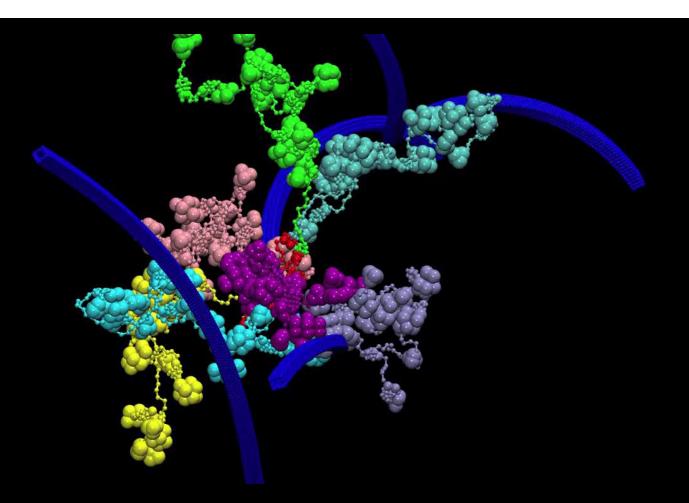
Updated: 4/2012

## **Biofuels Innovation**

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



### Forward Progress: Infrastructure-Compatible Biofuels



A computer simulation of the process used by some very efficient cellulose degrading bacteria to deconstruct plant cell walls.

## **Transportation Innovation**

### Portfolio of technologies leading to 54.5 mpg





Degree of electrification (power electronics & energy storage )

Start/stop



Regenerative braking



Low rolling resistance tires



**Electric infrastructure** 



Electric powered steering



Light weighting

8 speed transmissions







Variable cylinder mgmt



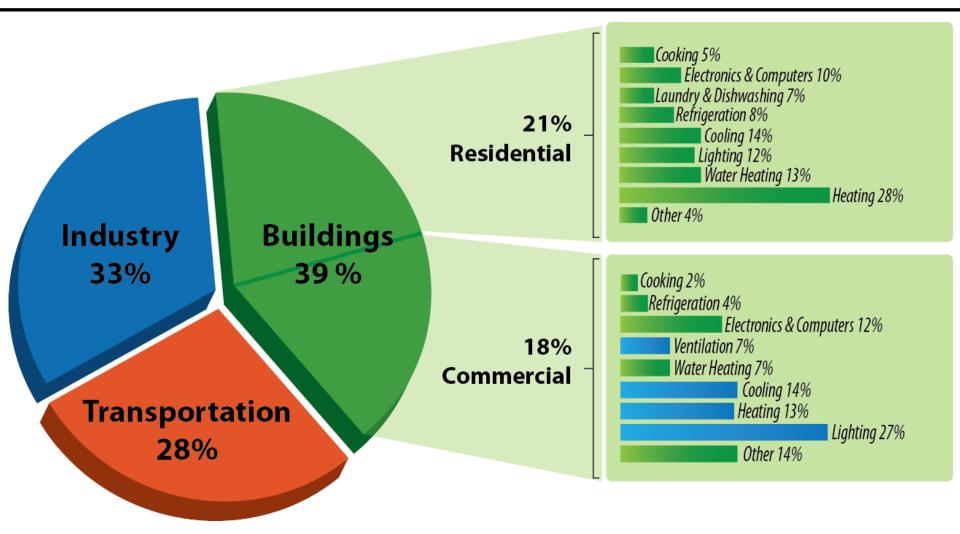
Improved aerodynamics



Diesel powered & or Alternative Fuels, H2

Turbocharging, direct fuel injection, advanced combustion

## **Energy Consumption in the U.S.**



Source: Buildings Energy Data Book, 2006

## **Buildings Innovation**



**High Performance Buildings** 



**BIPV Products & PV-T Array** 



**Compressorless Cooling** 



**Electrochromic Windows** 



**Polymer Solar Water Heaters** 



Computerized optimization & simulation Tools

## **NREL Research Support Facility**



## **Efficiency/Integration Innovation**

### Buildings

- Whole building systems integration
- Computerized building energy optimization tools
- Advanced HVAC (Heating Ventilating and air conditioning)
- Cost effective ultra energy efficient retrofits

### **Grid Integration**

### **Interconnection Standards**

- IEEE Standards Development
- Standards Testing and Validation

### Smart-Grid Data Hub

### **RE Grid Integration**

- Power Electronics for Interconnection monitoring and control
- Grid-to-vehicle interface

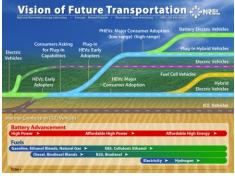
### **Advanced Vehicles**

- Fuels utilization
- Component technologies
- Electric vehicle-to-grid interface

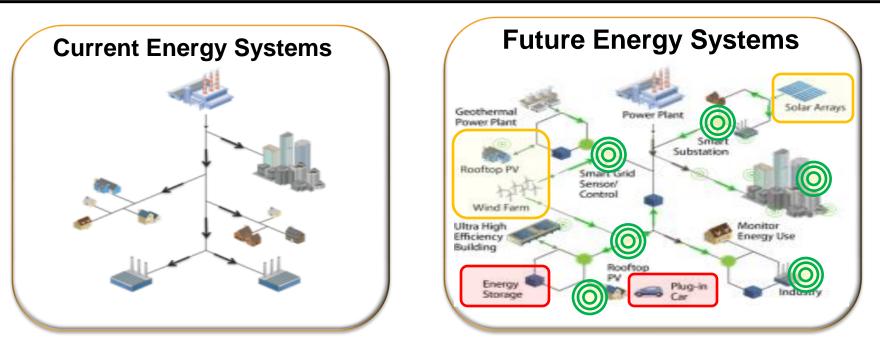








## Why Energy Systems Integration?



### **New Challenges – Need to tackle difficult problems**

- Increasing penetration of variable RE in grid
- New communications and control models
- Electrification of transportation
- New energy technologies and services integrating energy storage
- Increasing system flexibility
- Understanding interactions between electricity/thermal/fuels

## **Systems Integration Capabilities**

### • RE Grid Integration

- Power Electronics for Interconnection monitoring and control
- Grid-to-vehicle interface

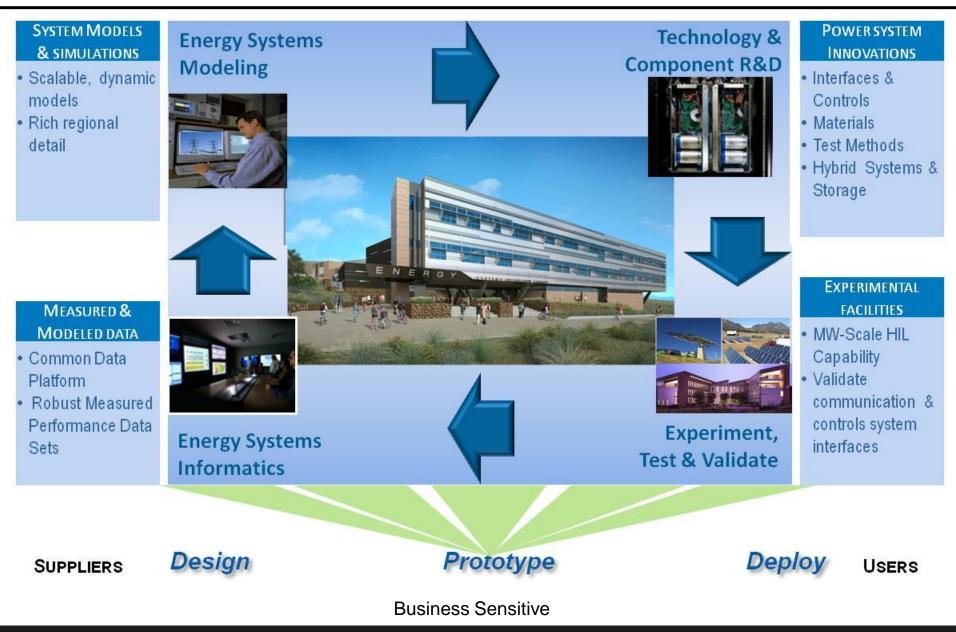
### DG Interconnection Standards

- IEEE Standards Development
- Standards Testing and Validation
- Smart-Grid Data Hub

LABORATORIES



## **Energy Systems Integration Concept**



## **NREL PV Grid Integration Activities**

NREL is working with Utilities, System Integrators, Universities and other National Laboratories to help integrate higher levels of PV into the electric power grid

### • Distribution Integration

- Monitoring real-world high penetration cases
- Developing and validating models and simulations
- Updating integration approaches and standards

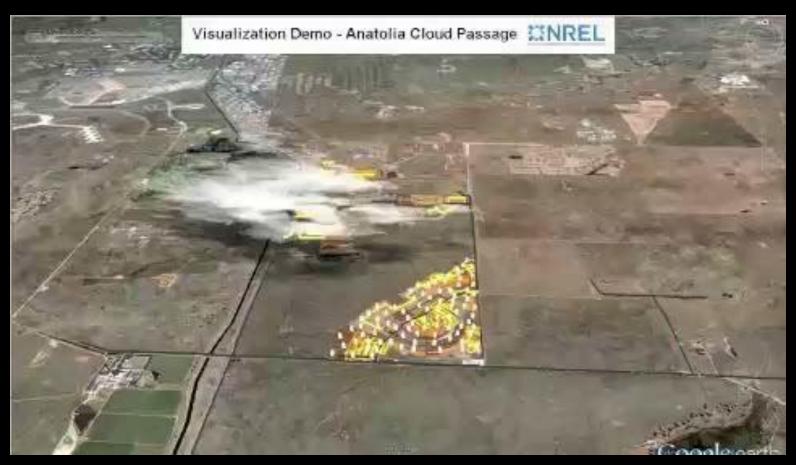
### • Transmission Integration

- Collecting and validating field data
- Conducting operational analysis and optimization
- Developing models for new technologies
- Integrating into transmission expansion planning

### **Utility Partners**

- Southern California Edison (SCE)
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)
- Xcel Energy (Colorado)
- CPS Energy (San Antonio)
- Arizona Public Service (APS)
- Kauai Island Electric Cooperative (KIUC)
- Maui Electric Company (MECO)
- FPL/NextEra
- Sempra Energy

## Forward Progress: Energy Systems Integration at All Scales



NREL is working with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District on visualizing impact of DG deployments.

## To achieve a clean energy vision, we must...

Invest in innovation

Invent the future we desire

Improve access to capital

Partner on a global scale

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1

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