

Why the carbon neutral energy transition will imply the use of lots of carbon

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UCL Alumni event, 17 November 2021

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Context: what does the 2 Degree Scenario mean?



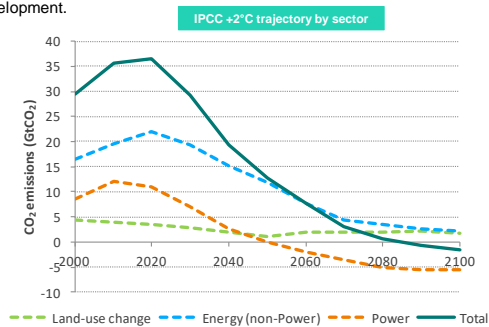
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In December 2015 (@ CoP21 in Paris), 161 member states agreed upon the 2DS

- For the first time in December 2015, 161 states officially adopted in Paris at the CoP 21 the target of max temperature increase 2°C by 2100.
- The CoP 21 agreement includes **three goals** :
 - Containing the rise of global mean temperatures “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts” to limit the warming to 1.5°C.
 - “Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change” by promoting resilient and low-carbon development.
 - Making financial flows “consistent” with a low-carbon development.

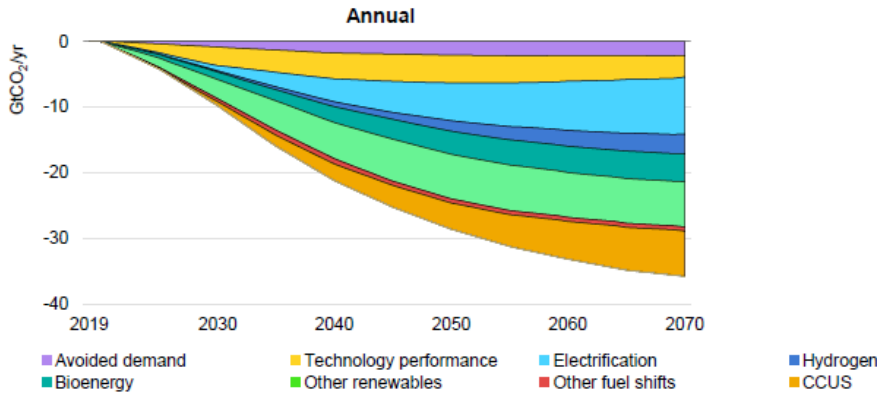
Source: ENGIE Corporate Strategy CODIR 20/07/2015 scenario for a +2°C target - Adapted from IPCC, AR5-WG1 and AR5-WG3

- Scenario from the IPCC shows that the power sector should become CO₂ negative by 2050 if we are to achieve the 2°C target



Electrification, CCUS, bioenergy and hydrogen-derived fuels contribute to more than half of cumulative emissions reductions

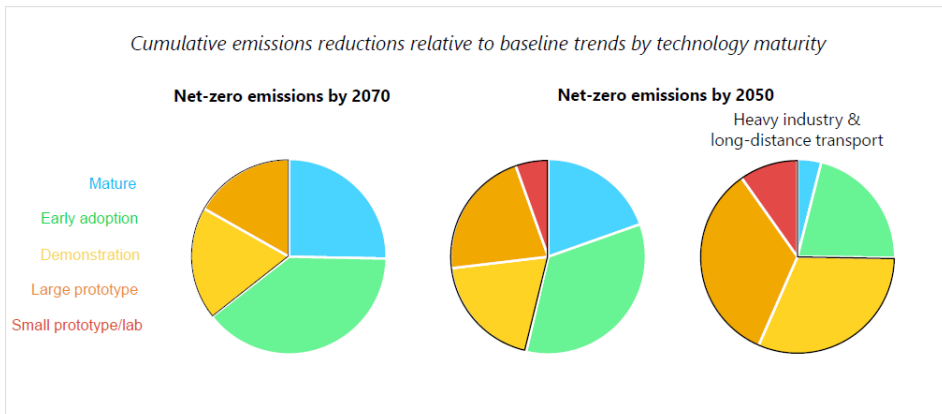
Figure 2.2 Global energy sector CO₂ emissions reductions by measure in the Sustainable Development Scenario relative to the Stated Policies Scenario, 2019-70



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More than half of the emission reduction will have to come that are today not mature: Innovation and R&D are crucial and need to speed up!


Clean energy technology progress hinges on innovation



Almost half of the emissions reductions required to reach net-zero by 2050 rely on technologies that are not yet commercial today. The share jumps to three-quarters for heavy industry and long-distance transport.


Fatih Birol, IEA September 2020: 'CCUS, Batteries and H₂ are today where PV was 10 years ago. GOVERNMENT need to support their development now!'




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ENGIE has 900 researchers, ENGIE Research organized in 23 Thematic Labs

New Energies




Biomass, Biogas and Biowaste
Solar
Wind, Hydro & Marine
Hydrogen
Small Scale Liquefaction
Geo Energy
Green Thermal Generation (NEW)

Enabling Technologies



Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence
Nanotech, Sensors & Wireless
Environment & Society
Energy System Simulations
Robots & Drones
Advanced Materials Technologies (NEW)

New Uses of Energy



Future Collectivities & Homes
Future Building & Cities
Future Industry
Energy Storage
Smart Grids & Industrial Cybersecurity
Green Mobility
CO ₂ as a resource
Air Quality
Lighting
Water & Chemistry Lab (NEW)

Pilot projects with academic, industrial and government partners are important to co-develop, test and demonstrate new solutions

Pilots are key for ENGIE and a large part of the research budget

<p>Biomass gasification Gaya</p> <p>gaya</p> <p>France</p>	<p>Battery Storage</p> <p>Belgium</p>	<p>Bifacial Solar testing</p> <p>Chile</p>	<p>Decentralized Energy System for Islands</p> <p>Singapore</p>	<p>H₂ co-combustion in gas turbine</p> <p>Belgium</p>	<p>High temperature SOEC/SOFC</p> <p>France</p>	<p>Supercritical CO₂ cycle</p> <p>US</p>
<p>Solar-H₂ panels</p> <p>France</p>	<p>OPV for Buildings Heliatek</p> <p>Global</p>	<p>Floating Wind turbine</p> <p>Portugal</p>	<p>High Altitude Airborne Wind</p> <p>Germany</p>	<p>H₂ injection in natural gas grid</p> <p>France</p>	<p>Power to methane</p> <p>France</p>	<p>Solar cooling</p> <p>France</p>

3

3 pathways towards Carbon neutrality



3 pathways towards Carbon neutrality

(i) Increase energy efficiency and increase circularity where waste becomes a feedstock

From waste TO green GAS : clean, local, circular... ...but the challenge is to achieve volume production at scale





3 pathways towards Carbon neutrality

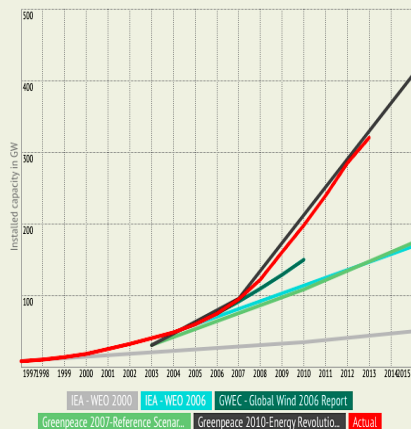
- (i) Increase energy efficiency and increase circularity where waste becomes a feedstock
- (ii) Electrify as much as possible (far beyond electric cars)**



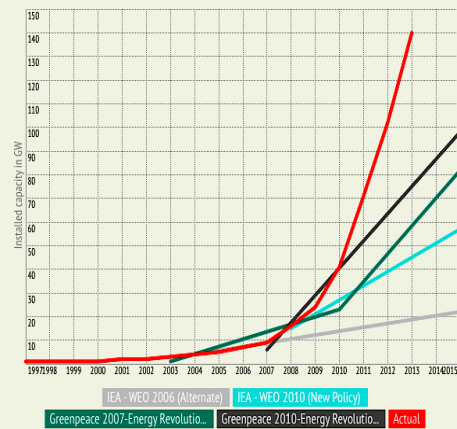
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We have proven the roadmaps wrong...

Cumulative installed wind capacity: Global



Cumulative installed solar PV capacity: Global



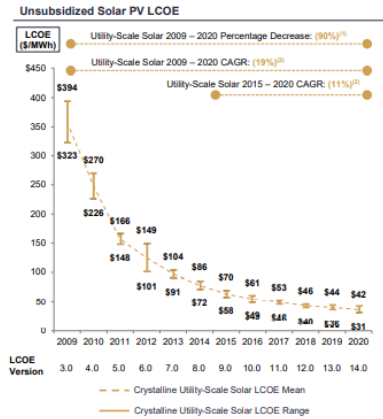
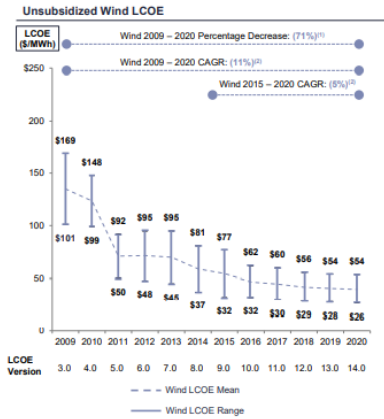
Price of PV and Wind coming down at speed which was not foreseen!

LAZARD

LAZARD'S LEVELIZED COST OF ENERGY ANALYSIS—VERSION 14.0

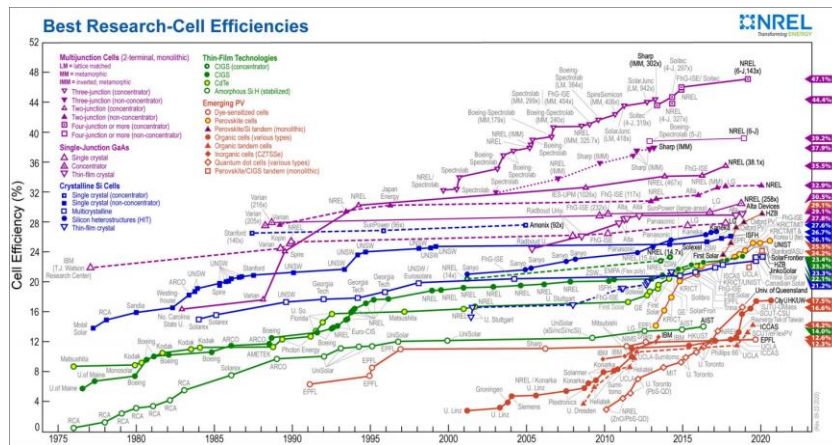
Levelized Cost of Energy Comparison—Historical Renewable Energy LCOE Declines

In light of material declines in the pricing of system components and improvements in efficiency, among other factors, wind and utility-scale solar PV have exhibited dramatic LCOE declines; however, as these industries have matured, the rates of decline have diminished




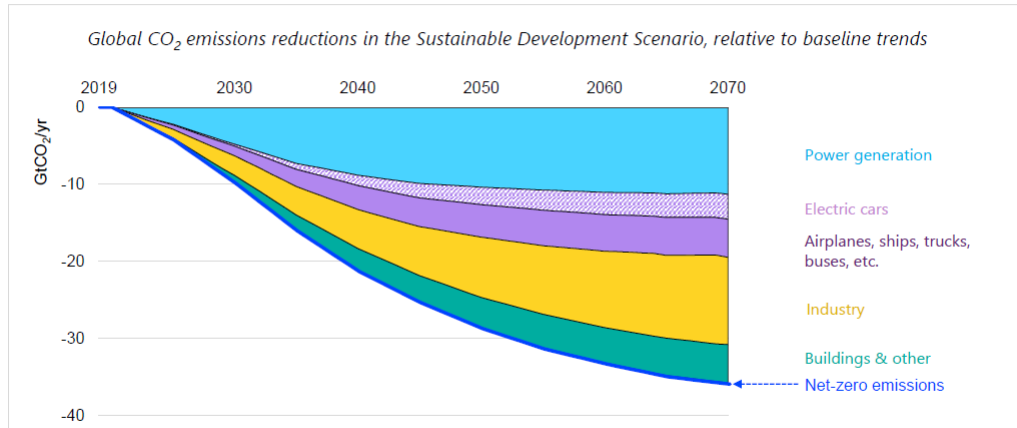
PV efficiency will continue to increase, thanks to the industry's continuing R&D efforts

- Over the last 4 decades, the PV industry has continued to find ways to increase the efficiency of the photovoltaic effect and this will not stop. But the real challenge is the cost: even for Silicon-based PV, significant R&D is necessary to reach the efficiencies between 24 and 26% in a cost-effective way.



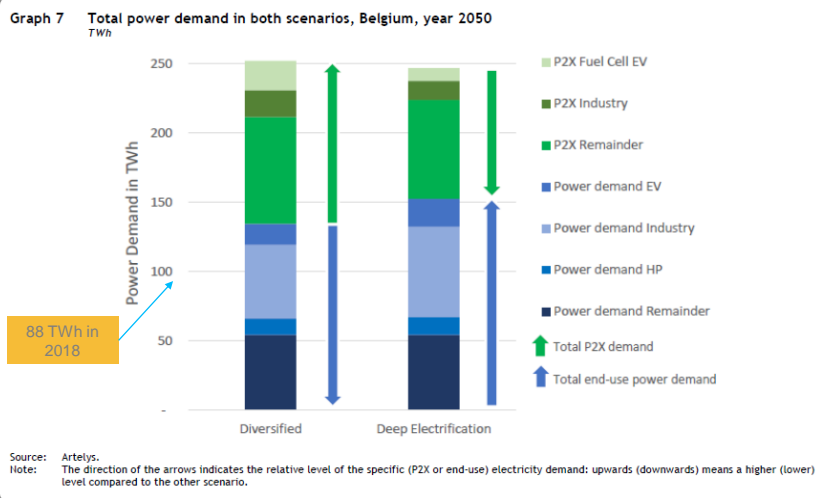
Making sure all our electricity generation is green is crucial but is not sufficient as it will only reduce our overall emissions by 38 %.
Industry, transport and building account for half of emissions today! (IEA, ETP 2020)

Focusing on the power sector is not enough to reach climate goals 



Clean energy technology progress in the power sector and with electric cars is encouraging, but alone not sufficient to reach climate goals. About half of all CO₂ emissions today are from industry, transport and buildings.

Belgian's federal planning bureau estimated that even in the deep electrification scenario (electrify as much as possible also in industry), molecules and import of renewable Energy will be important and need new emerging technologies (P2X)



Both scenarios do not diverge (much) in terms of their annual net import position in 2050: 29.4 TWh in 'Diversified Energy Supply' and 29.0 TWh in 'Deep Electrification'



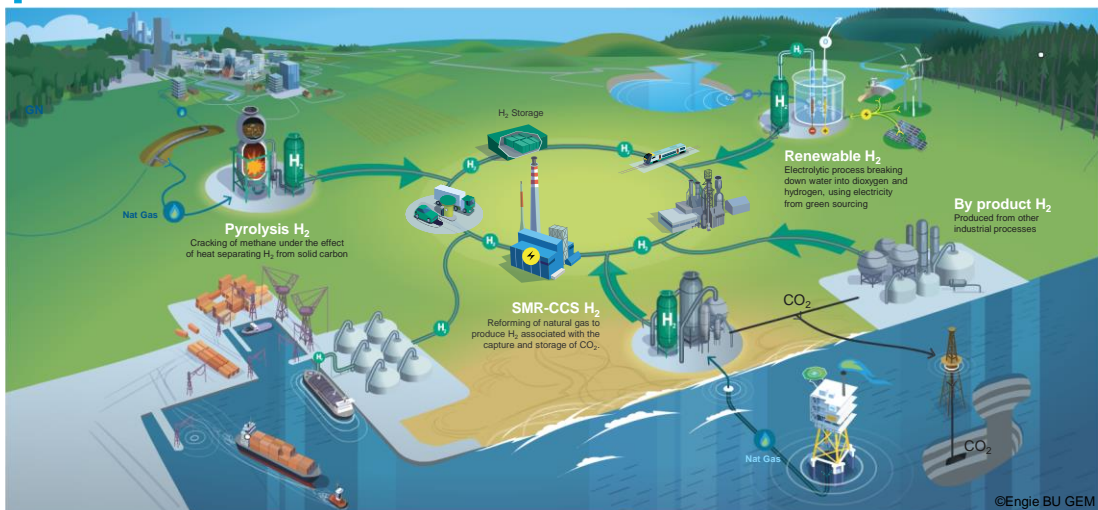
3 pathways towards Carbon neutrality

- (i) Increase energy efficiency and increase circularity where waste becomes a feedstock
- (ii) Electrify as much as possible (far beyond electric cars)
- (iii) The need for molecules: (green) hydrogen and synthetic hydrocarbons**



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Hydrogen is a low carbon energy solution with a lot of potential but ...

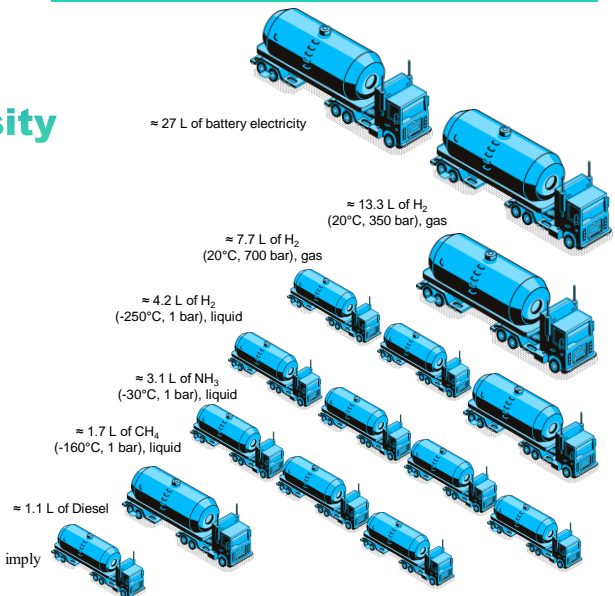


but

Has a very low energy density and is thus extremely hard and expensive to store and move around

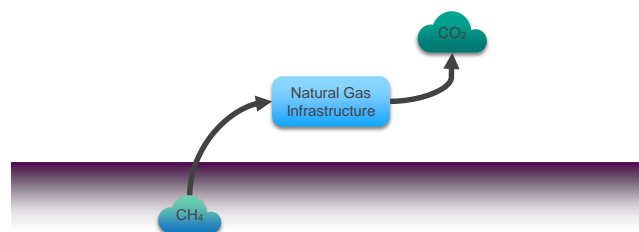
→ Need for synthetic hydrocarbons!*

How to transport or store 10kWh of energy?

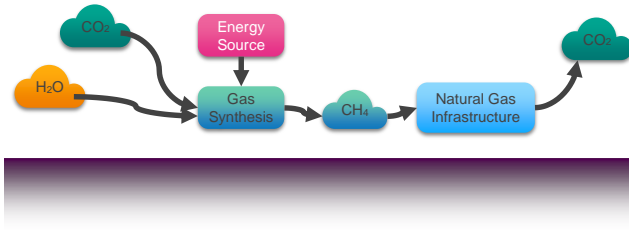


* Mertens, J., R. Belmans and M. Webber, 2020. Why the carbon neutral transition will imply the use of lots of carbon. *C-Journal of Carbon research*, 6 (39), 1-8

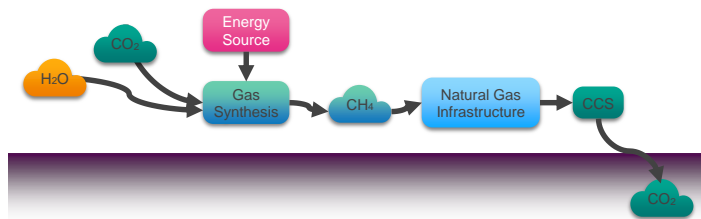
Today's Gas System Takes Carbon From The Earth's Crust and Puts It Into the Atmosphere



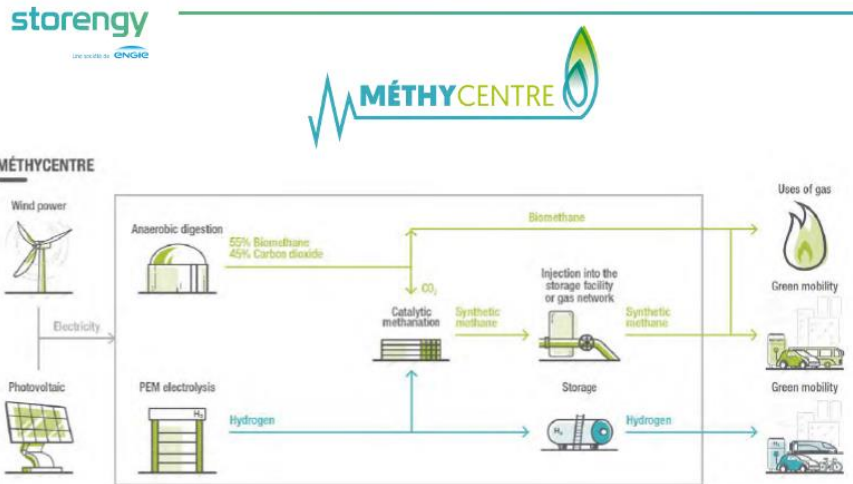
Tomorrow's Gas System Could Take Carbon From The Atmosphere To Make The Gas



The Day After Tomorrow's Gas System Could Take Carbon From The Atmosphere And Put It Into Products Or The Crust

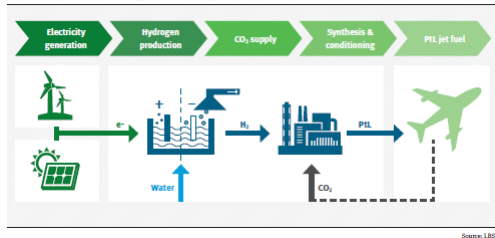


Power – to – Gas : example of Methycentre



Real challenge for aviation is the 'queste' for 'sustainable' fuel...

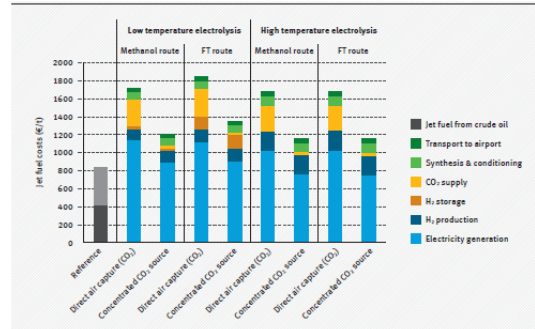
Power-to-liquids production (generic scheme)



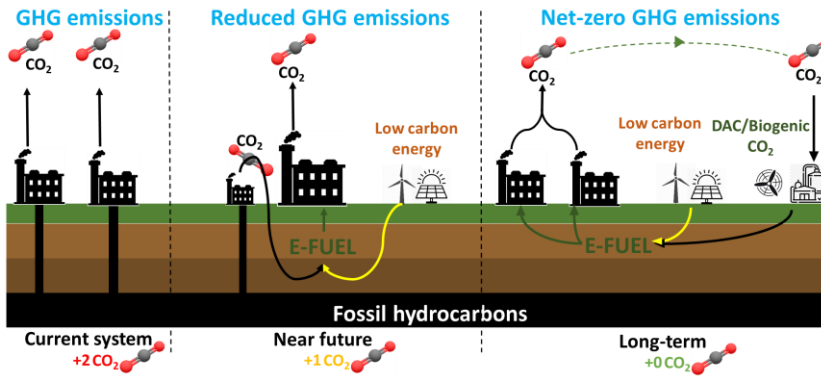
Too expensive **today** but highly dependent on electricity price for electrolysis...

Environmental and social impact better than most bio-fuels...

Jet fuel costs projected for future PTL plants in 2050 (jet fuel reference price: 42–95 US\$/bbl; renewable electricity costs: 40 €/MWh.; equivalent full-load period: 3750 h_{full}/yr)



So we should love CO₂:



Take-aways

- In a first step, we must increase **energy efficiency** and think **circular!**
- **Electrification** of as much as possible is a good idea and for electricity, we have a good fossil free alternatives!
- **Molecules** will be needed for processes where energy density is crucial, e.g. in industry, aviation, storage of energy, transport of energy over long distances

Want to know more : download our latest version of our emerging sustainable technologies document:

<https://www.engie.com/en/news/report-emerging-sustainable-technologies>

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