

Act 1.
The possibility

This may be a pivotal moment
in our nation's history



Scientific American  @sciam · 6h

The outcome of today's election may determine Canada's actions to combat climate change bit.ly/1RRZbmv #climateaction

  30  8 



Foreign Policy  @ForeignPolicy · Oct 16

How Canada's election will decide the fate of the world. atfp.co/1PkRGWW



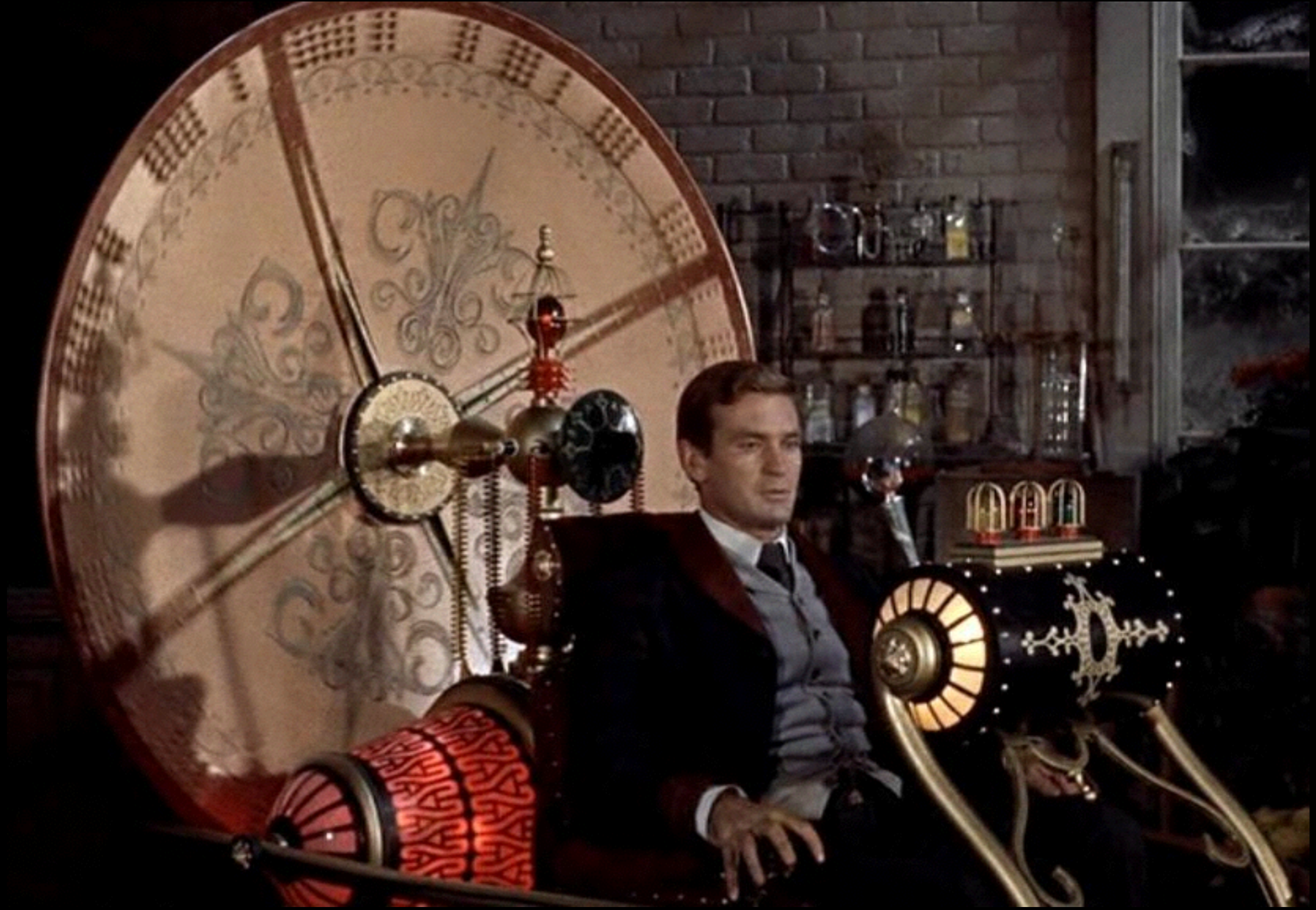
  40  19 

~~This may be a pivotal moment
in our nation's history~~

This **is** a pivotal moment
in the **world's** history



Danielle Fong, Cofounder and Chief Scientist, LightSail Energy



“The Time Machine”

If you could travel through time...

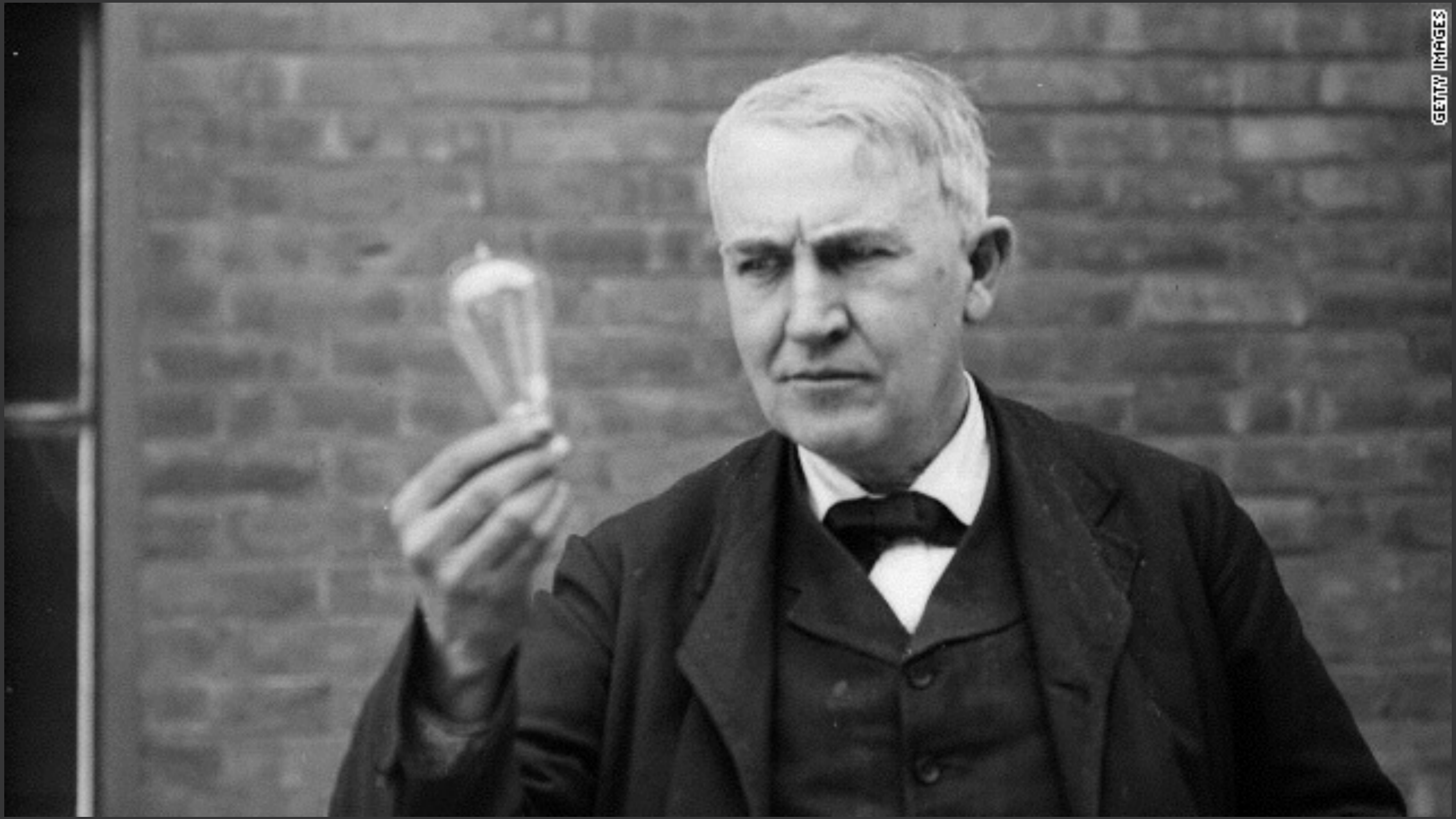
into the past...

carrying only your **knowledge** with you,

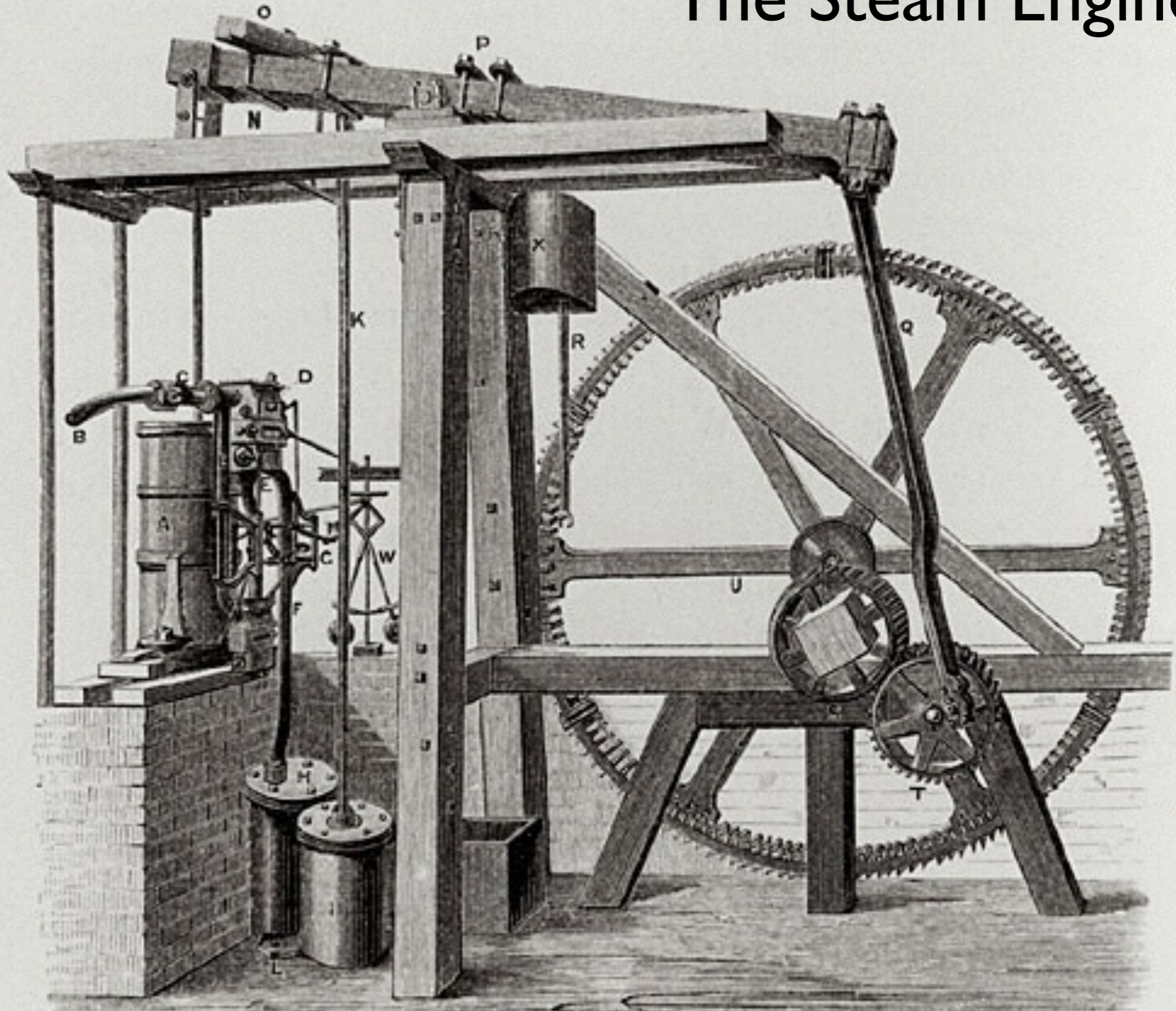
How far could you bring civilization forward?

How much could you change history?





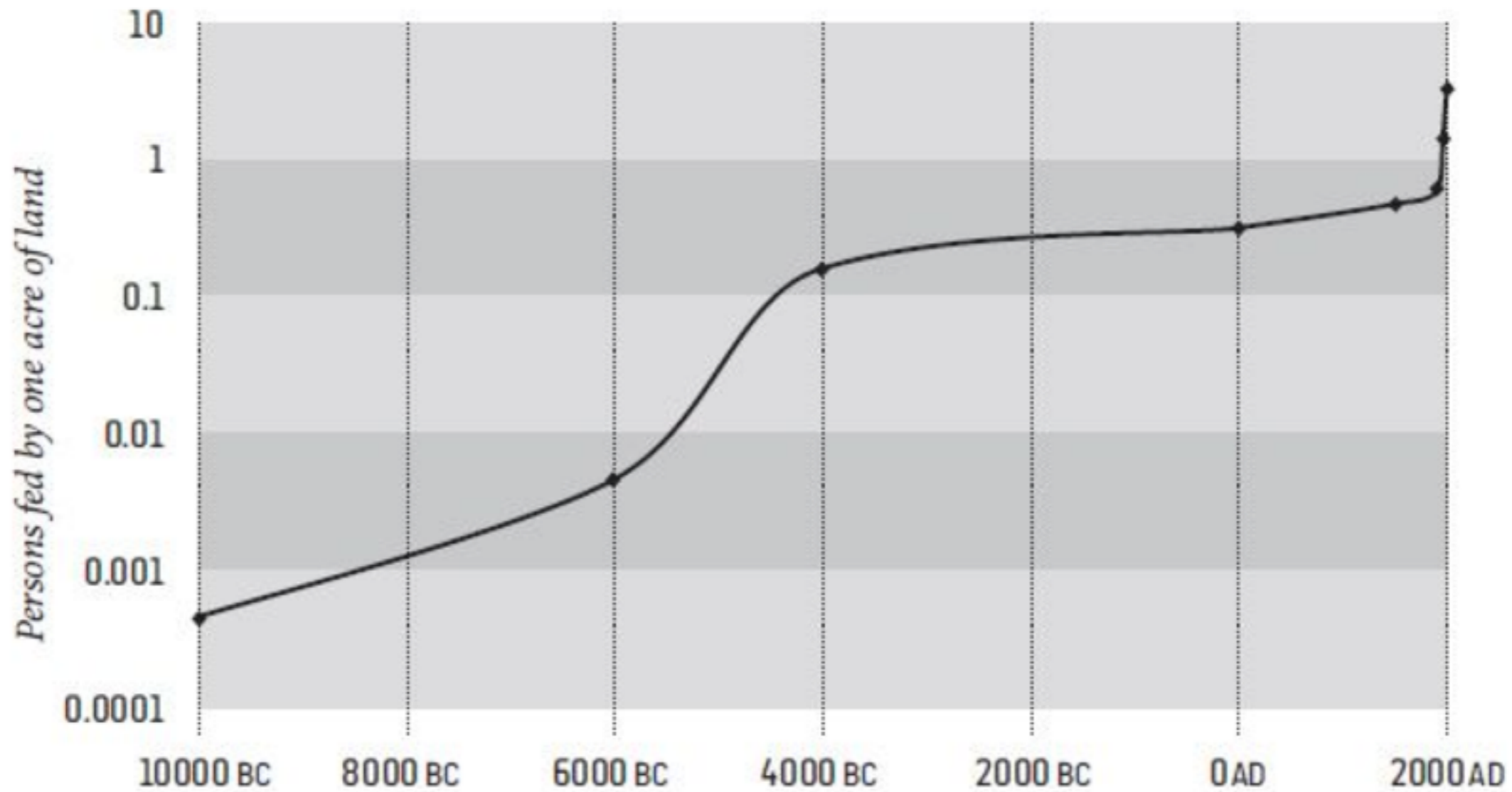
The Steam Engine







Agriculture is the enabling technology of civilization



Agriculture was the efficient power of its day

Hunting and Gathering



Solar energy,
processed through plants and animals

Limited by biology and ecology

Diffuse

Agriculture



Solar energy,
More directly harnessed

Limited by technology

Distributed

Agriculture



Brought us from diffuse bands of hundreds
and populations of few millions

To connected, urban, technological communities of billions

We overcame our constraints
It unlocked the potential of humanity

Fossil Fuels



Solar energy,
processed through plants and animals
...and geologic processes

Limited resources

You have to go find it

Diffuse and poorly distributed

Renewables



Solar energy,
More directly harnessed

Limited only by technology

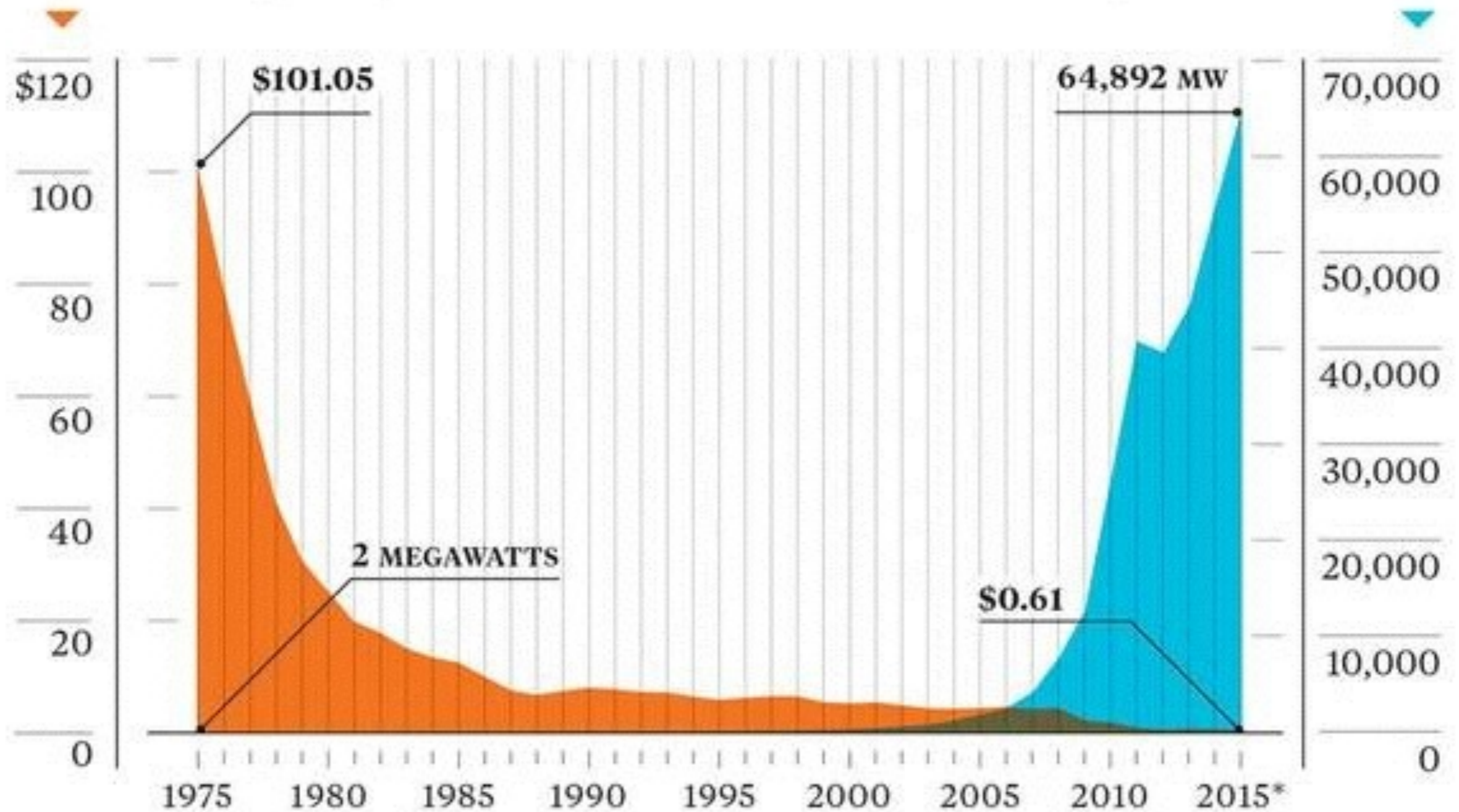
Distributed everywhere

You need **storage**

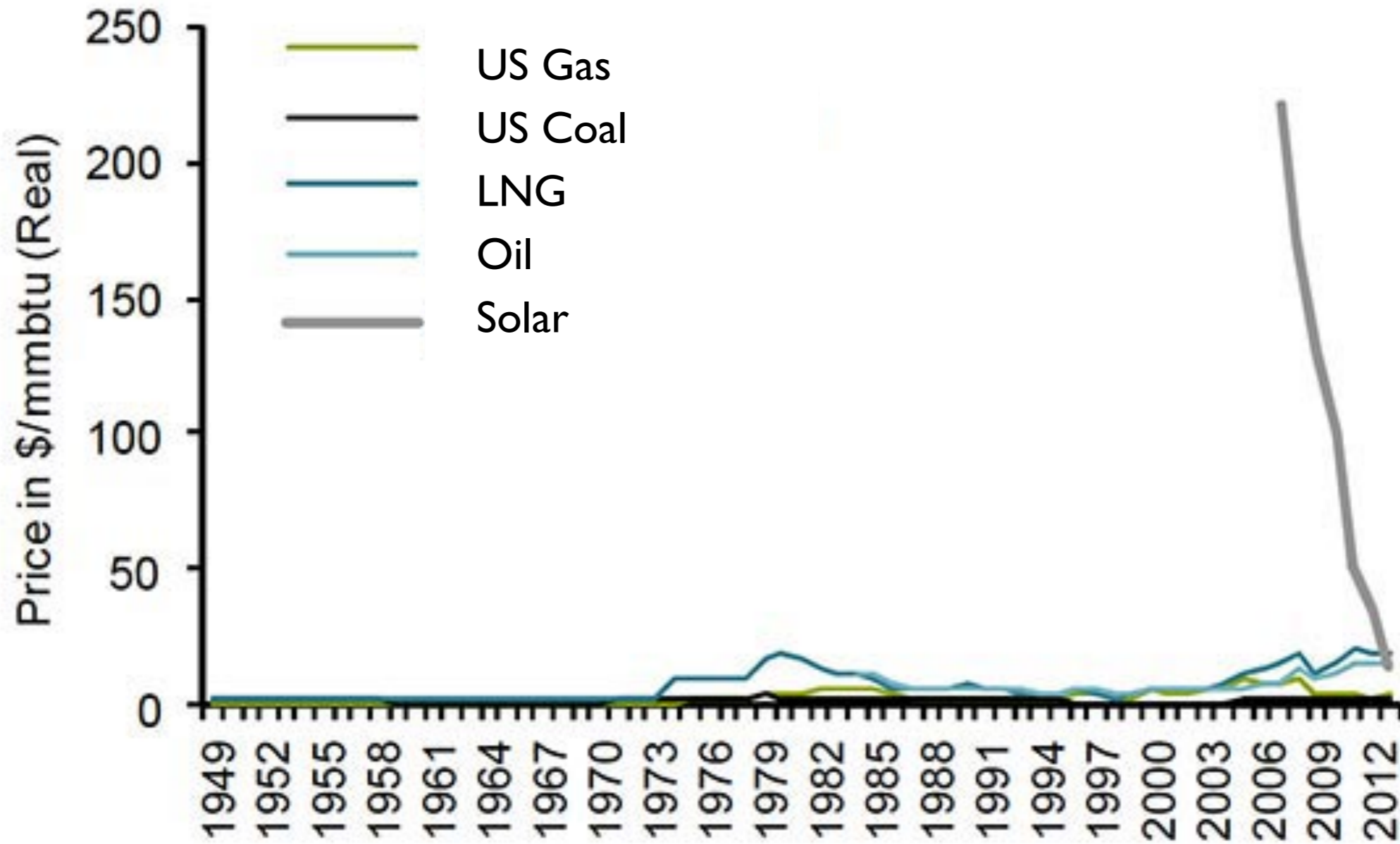
We may be at a similar time in history

Price of a solar panel per watt

Global solar panel installations

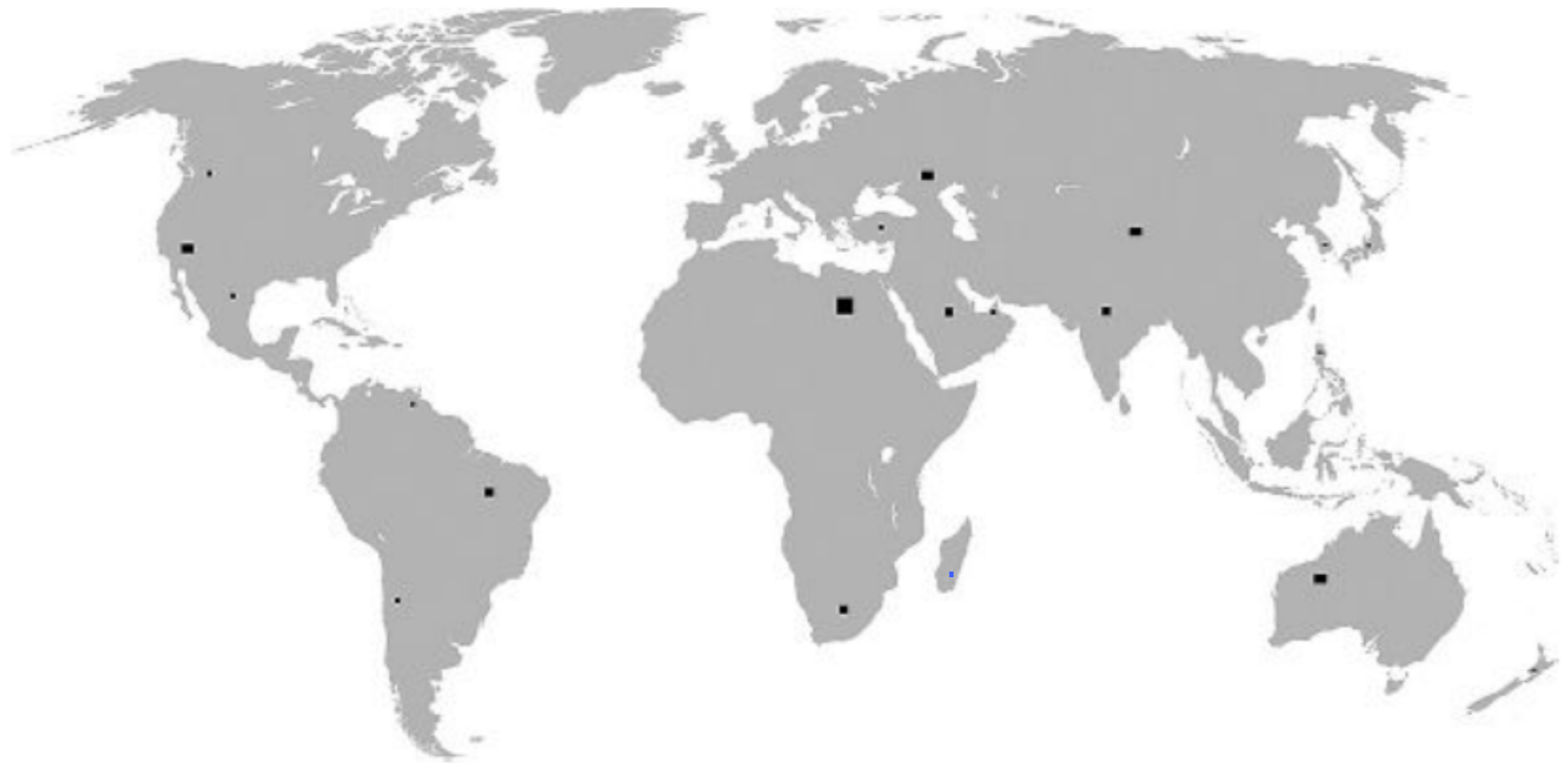


The price of solar power has fallen meteorically.



The Price of Solar versus Fossil Fuels

Only 0.5% of our land would be required
to power all our energy needs
less than 2% of our agricultural land use



We could transcend our past energetic limitations
And power amazing futures

Act 2.
The challenges



the powerplants being built now will define the biosphere for the next 5000 years

How Many Gigatons of Carbon Dioxide...?

have we released
to date*?

1565 GtCO₂

fossil fuel burning
and land use change

added
1850-2000

more can we
"safely" release**?

405

added
since
2000

860

our
'carbon
budget'

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added
since
2000

more can we
"safely" release**?

860

our
'carbon
budget'

are left to release?

760

in fossil fuel
reserves
of energy
companies

780

remaining
company
reserves
that could
be developed

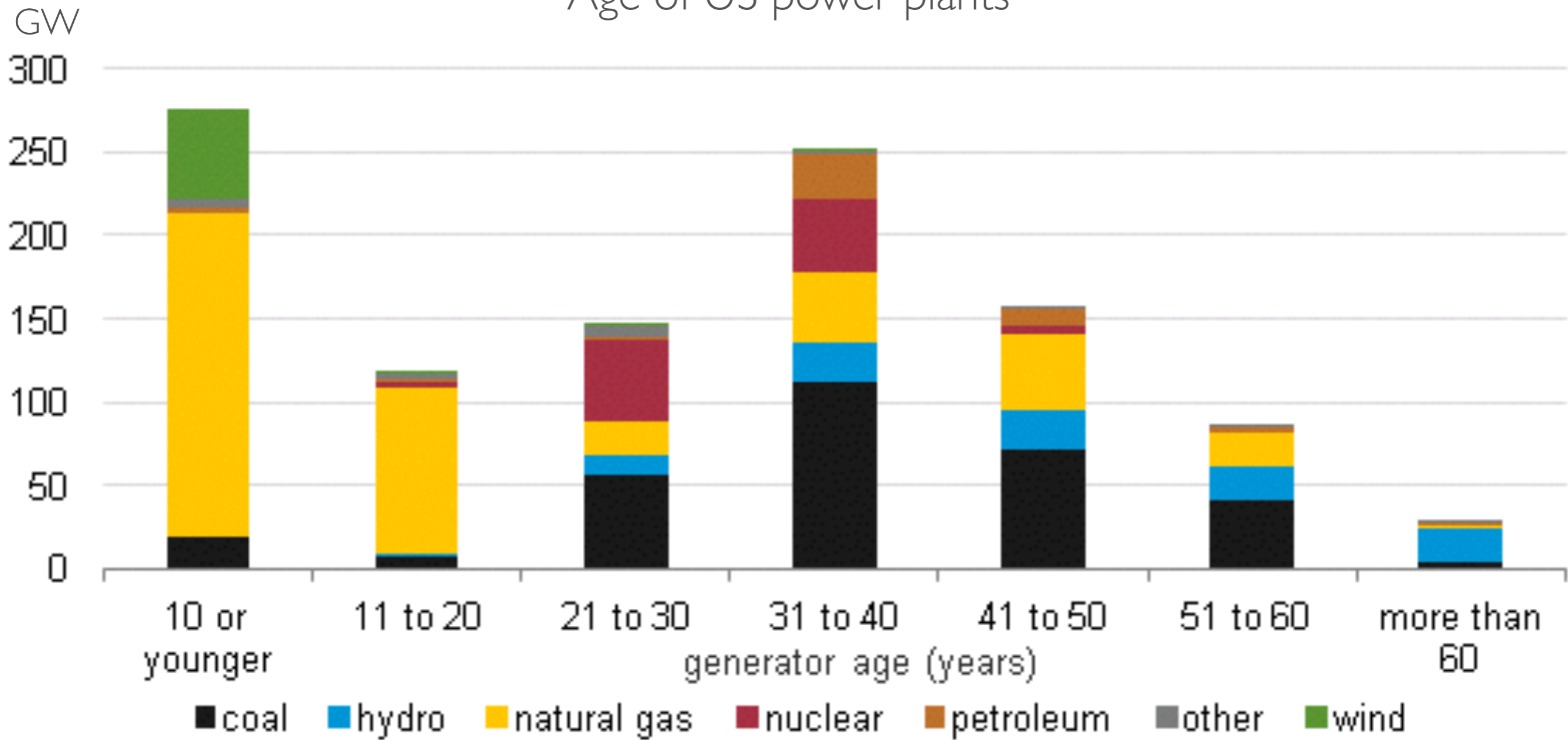
2860

1,320

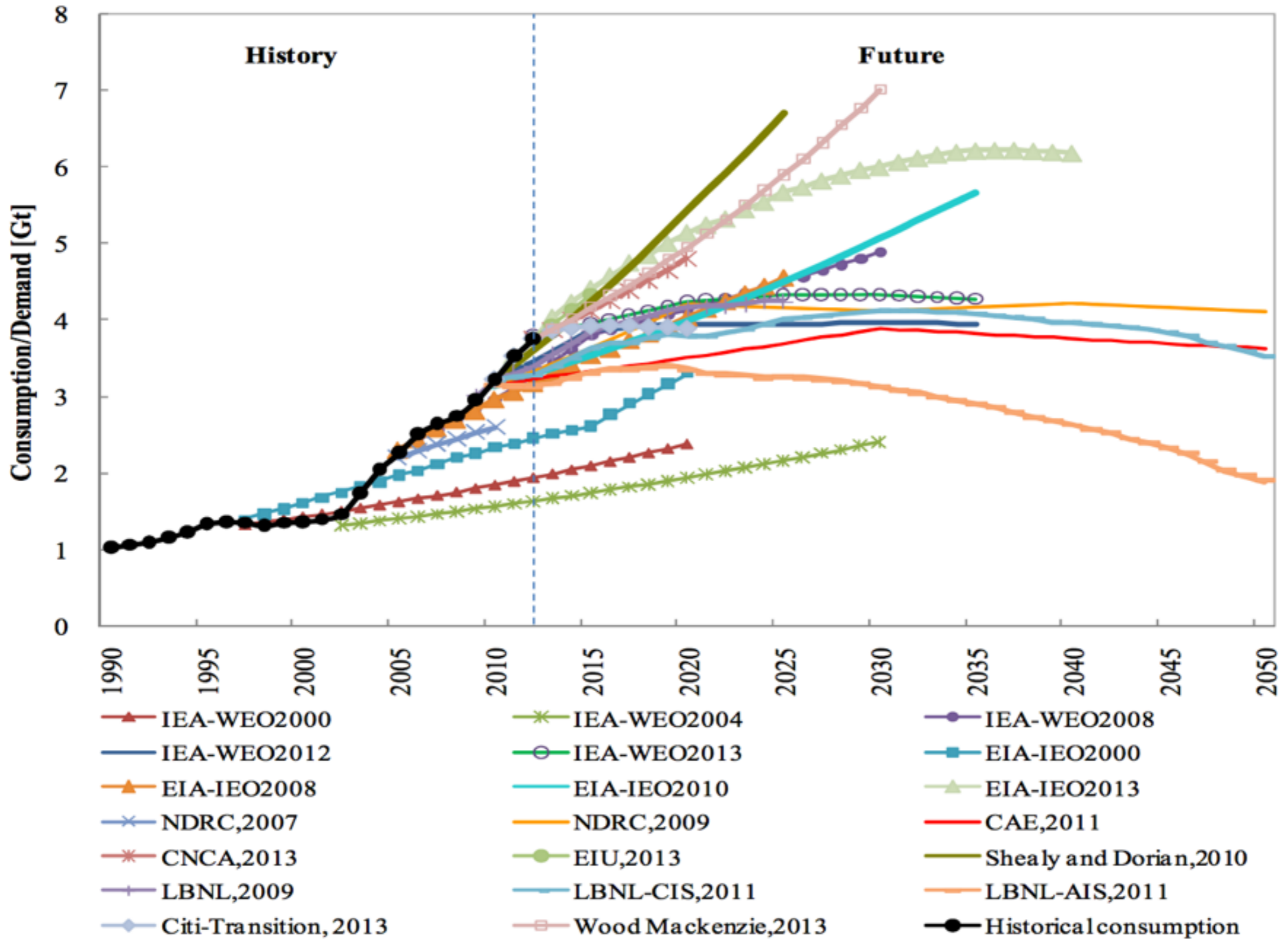
other reserves
including state-owned

Power Plants Last 60+ Years

Age of US power plants



Chinese Coal Demand is Growing Tremendously



If the Chinese Coal Plants Built since 2000 by 2030
last for 50 more years
we **burn through** $\approx 3/4$ of our carbon budget

We do not lack for coal
Even we are unwilling to shut coal plants down

≈ 2 Gigatonne increase in Chinese Coal Demand 2005-2030
1 Gigatonne Coal ≈ 2.1 Gigatonne CO₂



as the world lights up, where will the power come from?

...Just in time...

We are rapidly approaching climatic limitations

How Many Gigatons of Carbon Dioxide...?

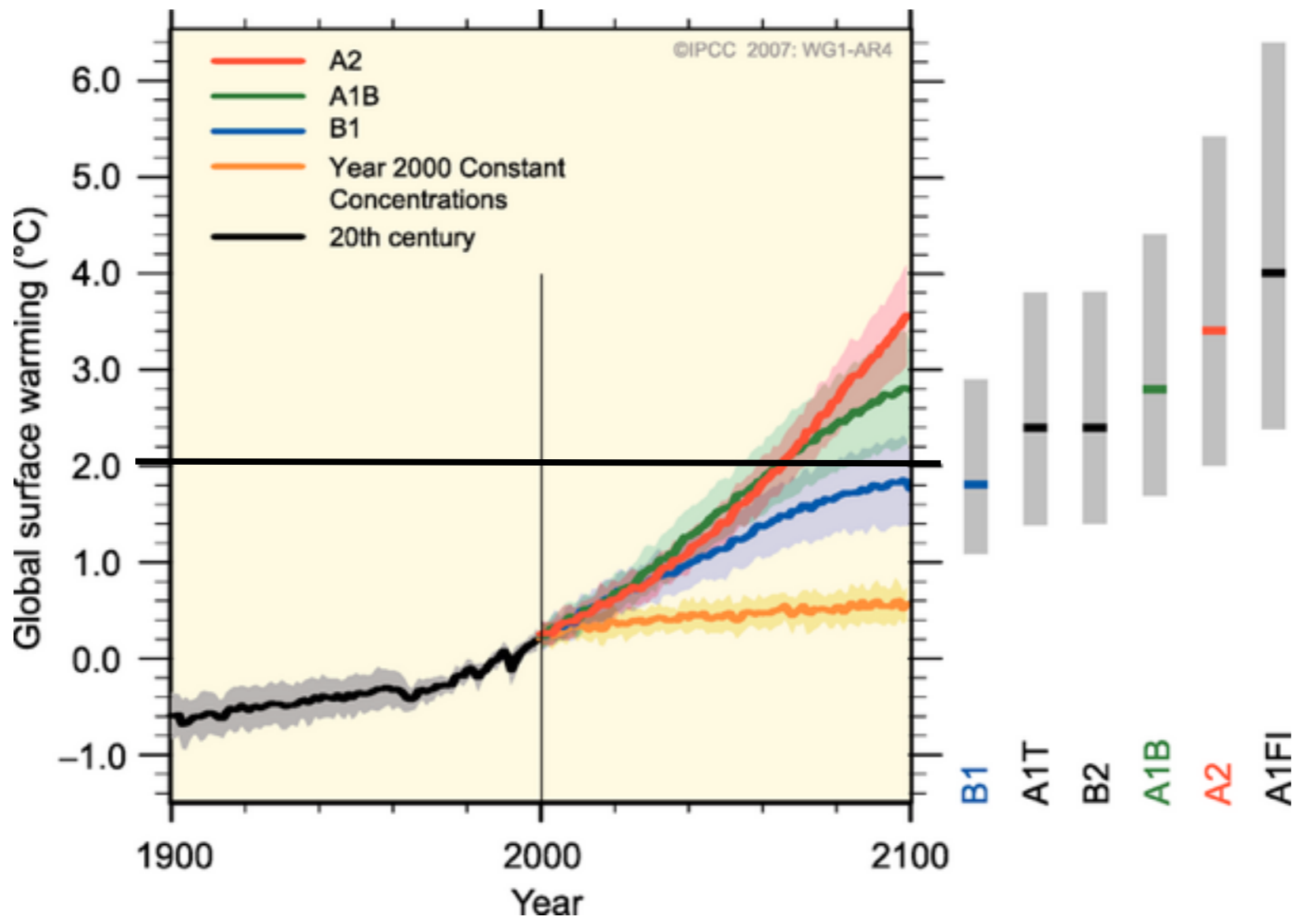
CURRENT HUMAN
EMISSIONS PER YEAR

39 gigatons

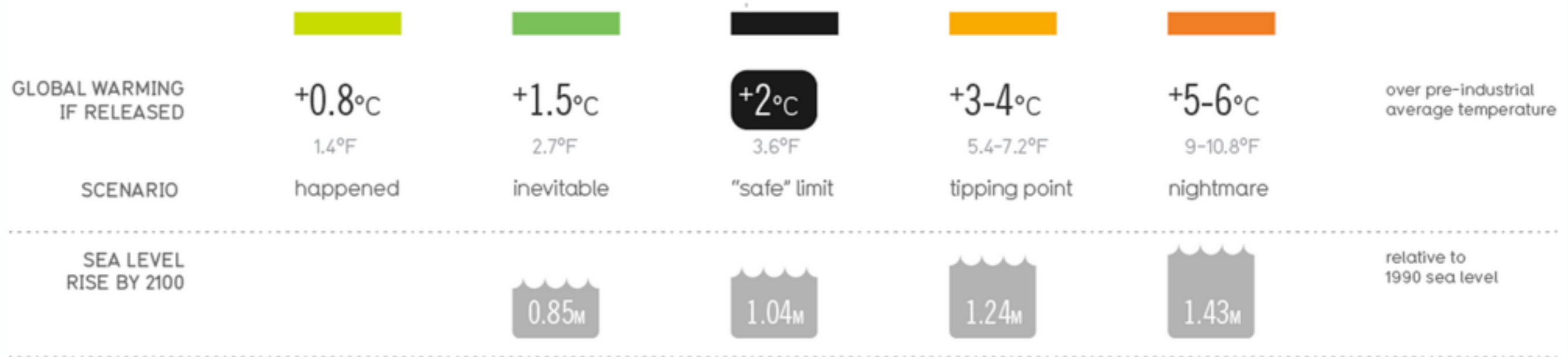
TIME BEFORE WE BREAK
OUR 'CARBON BUDGET'
if emissions continue to increase

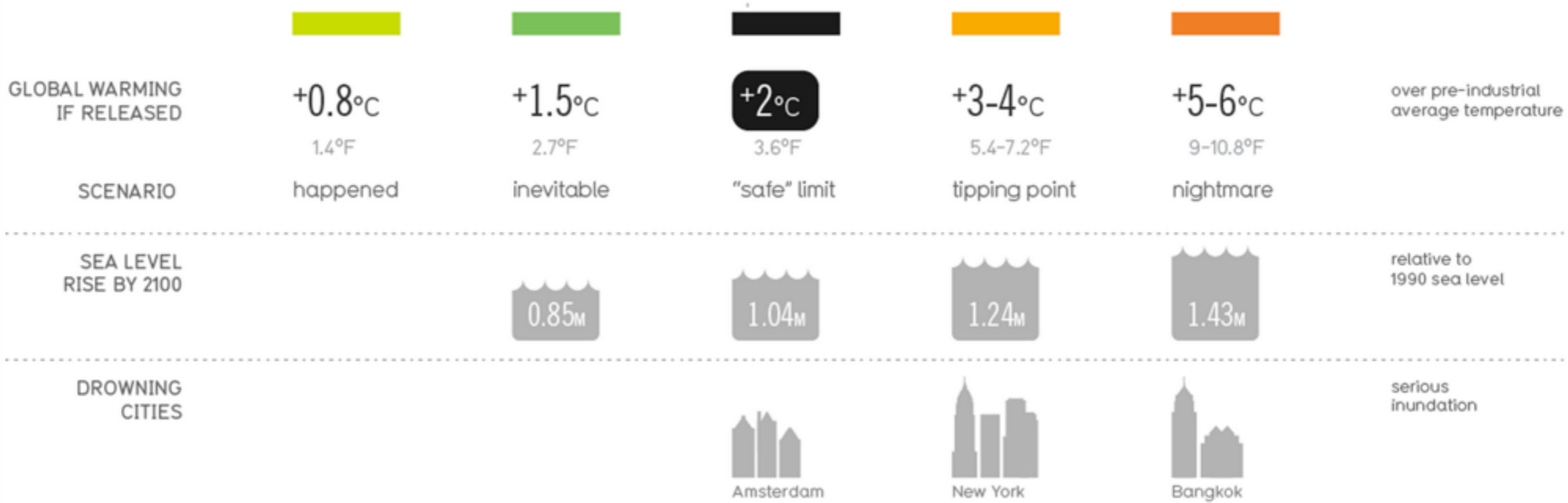


16 YEARS
average yearly emissions increase: 2.2%

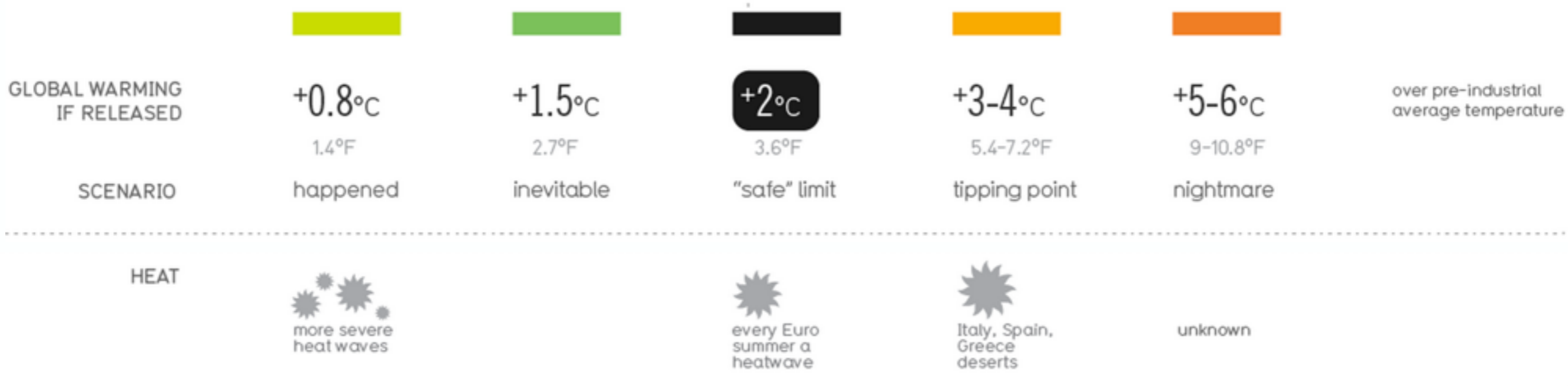


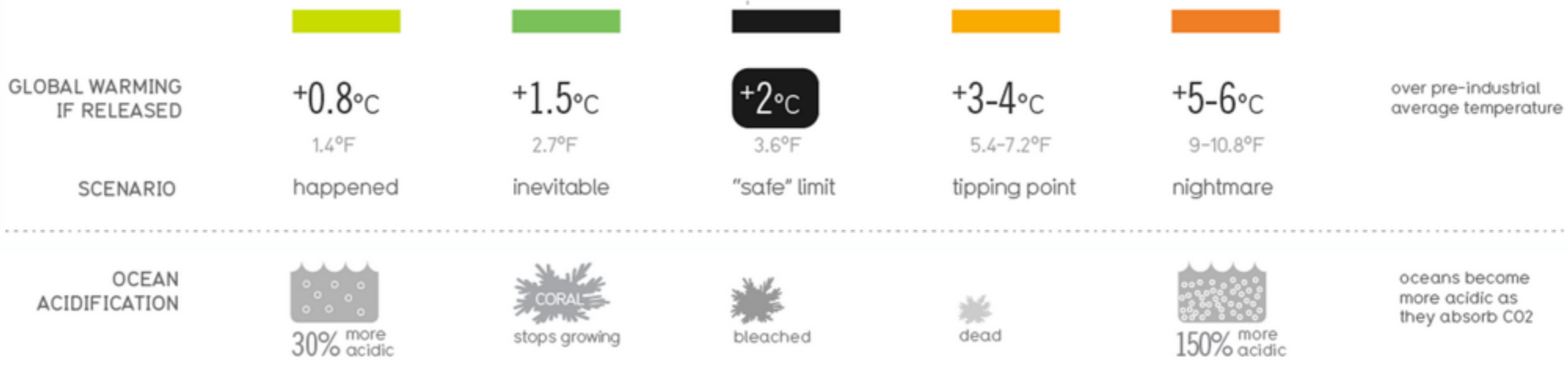
Climate Effects



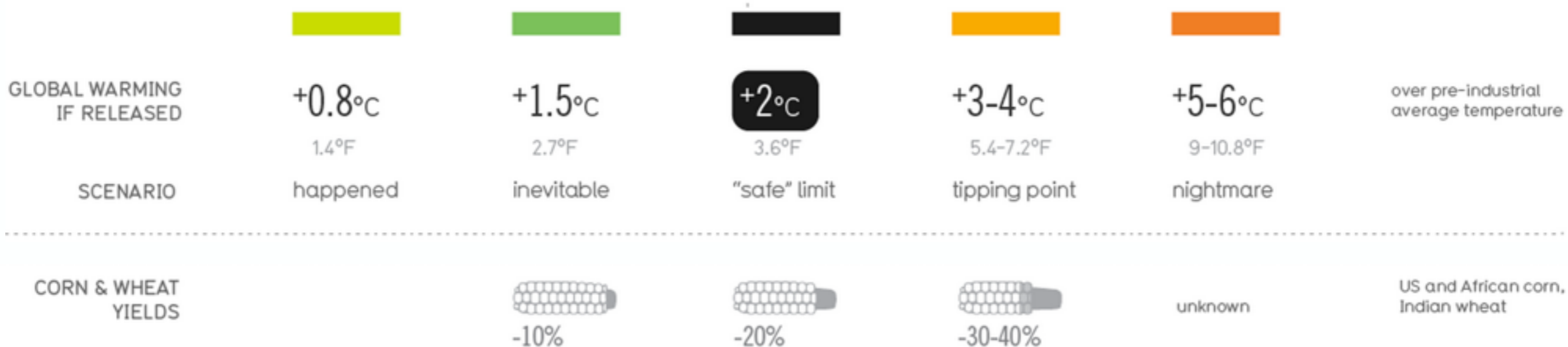


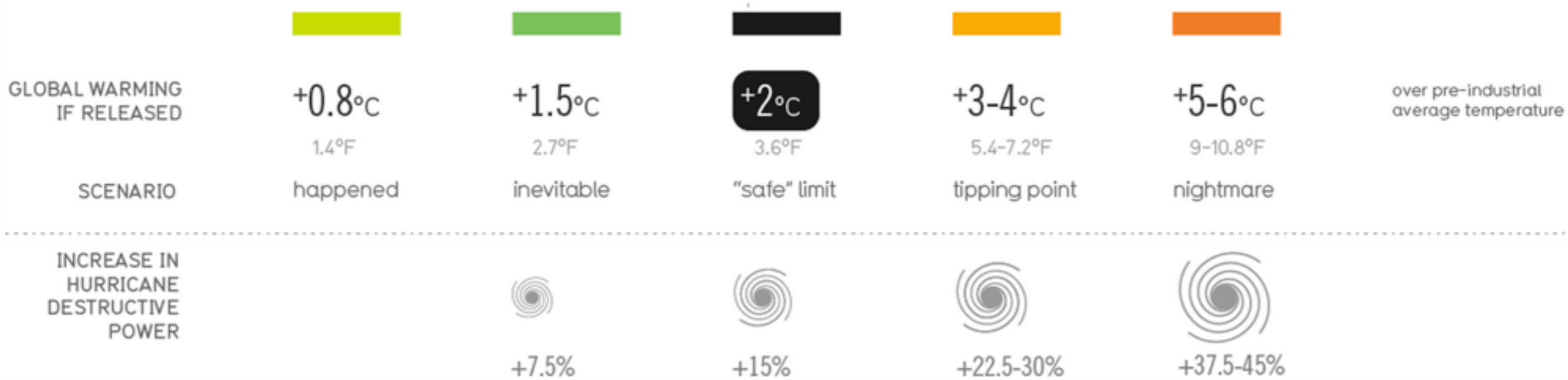
Source: Carbon Tracker Project; <http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/how-many-gigatons-of-co2/>





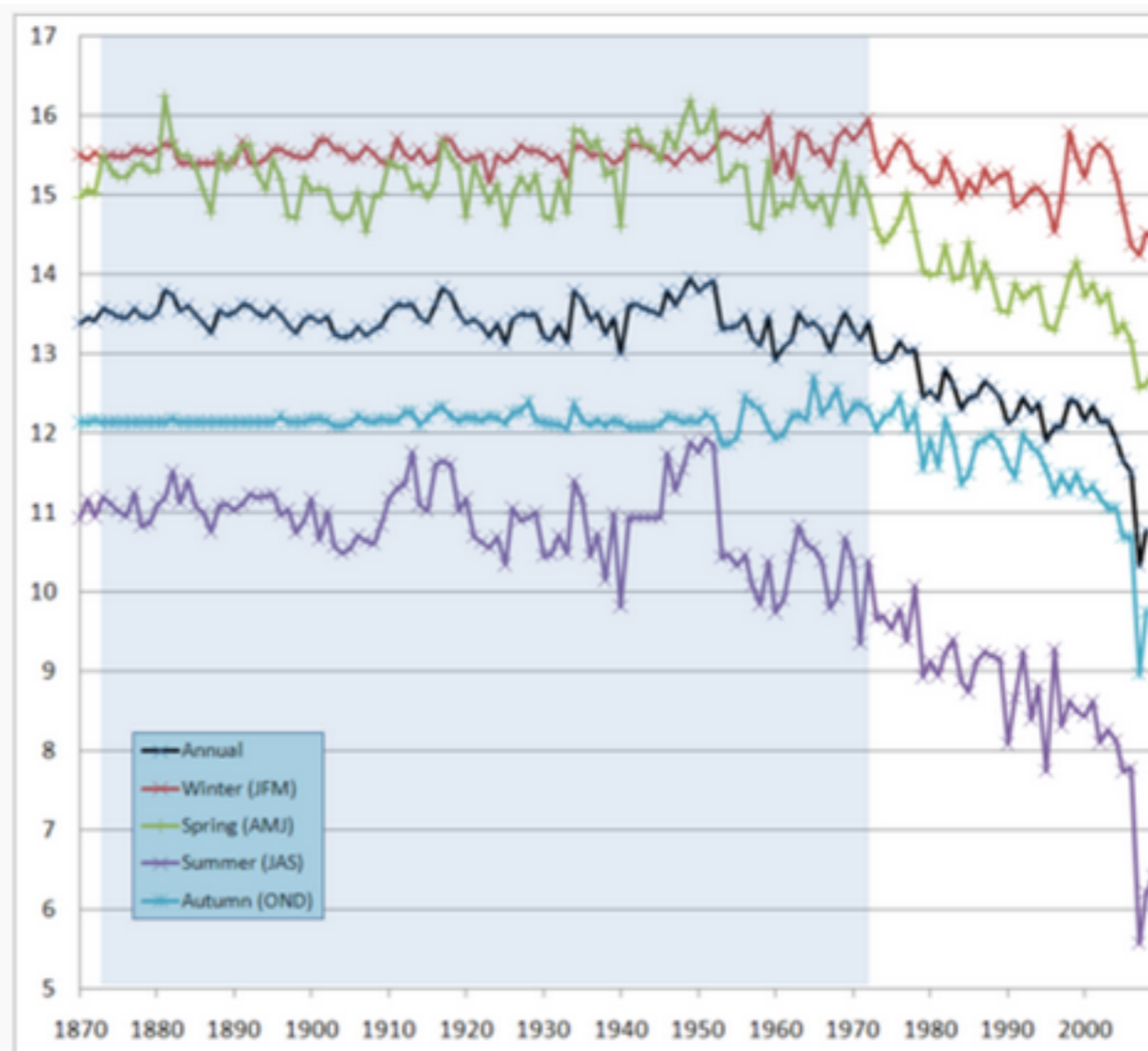
Source: Carbon Tracker Project; <http://www.informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/how-many-gigatons-of-co2/>








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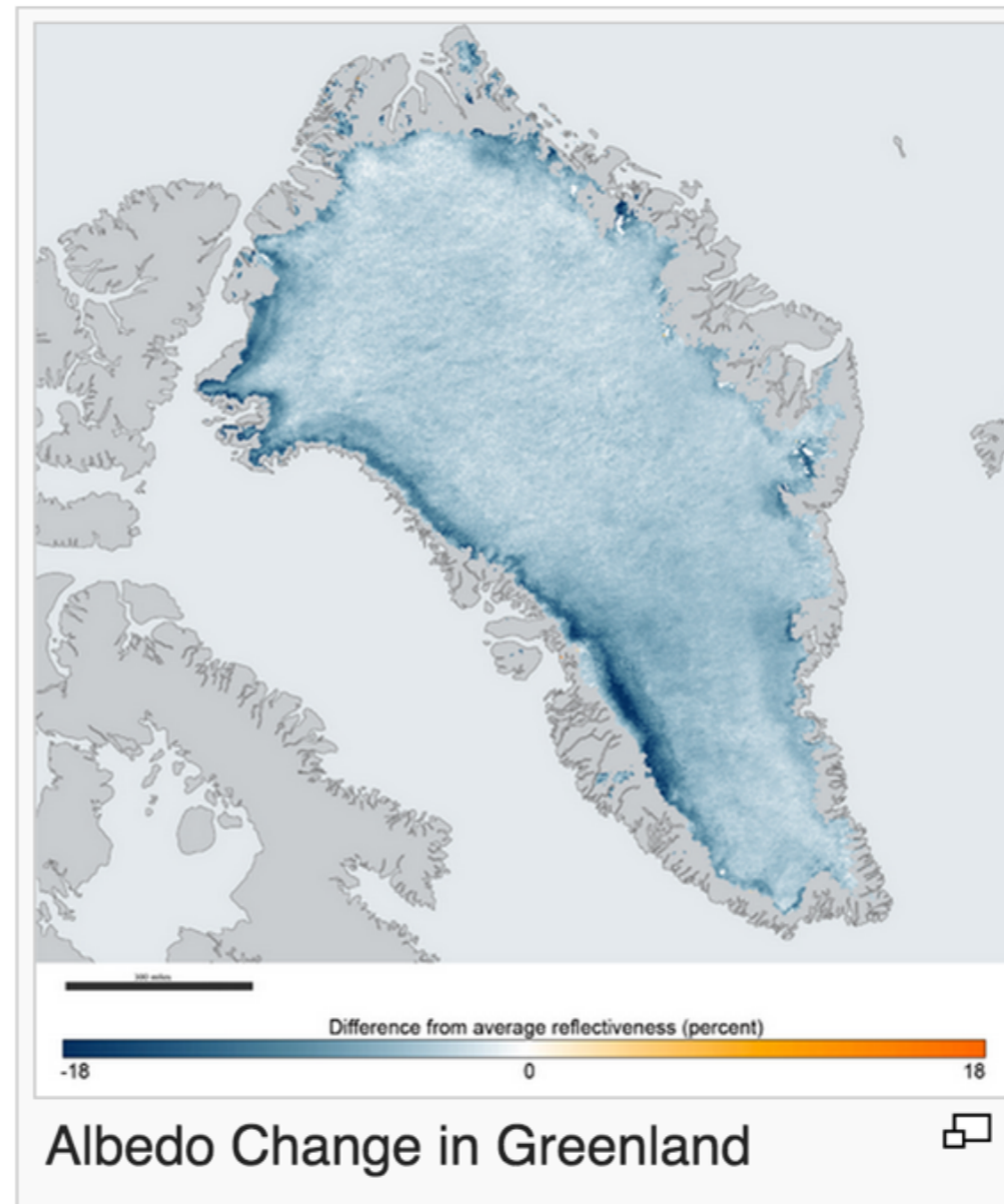
1870-2009 Northern hemisphere 
sea ice extent in million square
kilometers. Blue shading indicates the
pre-satellite era; data then is less
reliable. In particular, the near-constant
level extent in Autumn up to 1940
reflects lack of data rather than a real
lack of variation.

Ice-albedo feedback

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ice-albedo feedback

(or **snow-albedo feedback**) is a **positive feedback** climate process where a change in the area of snow-covered land, **ice caps**, **glaciers** or **sea ice** alters the **albedo**. This change in albedo acts to reinforce the initial alteration in ice area.



Permafrost Thaw Pools in Canada

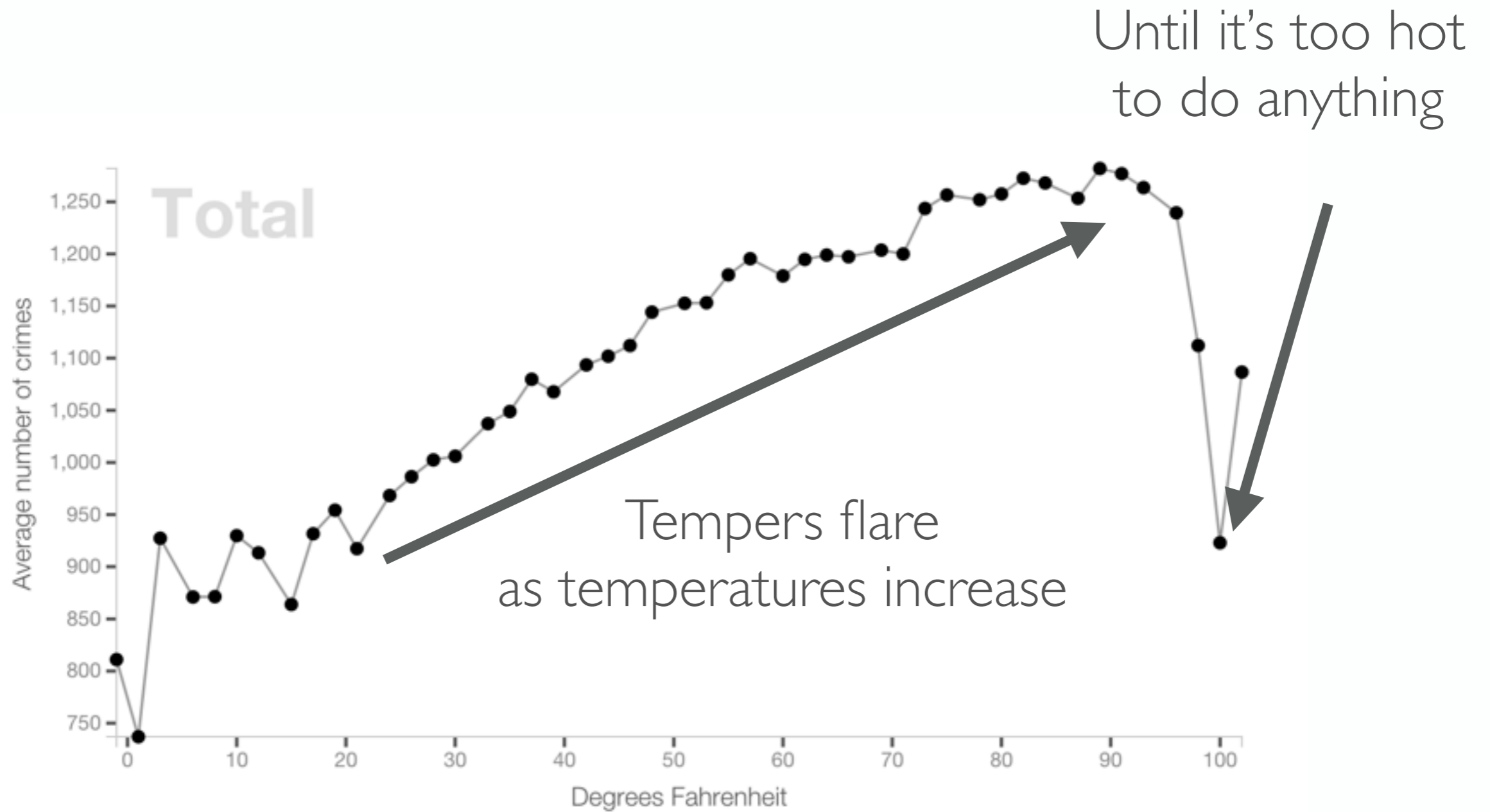




A hidden danger lurking underground and undersea.
No, it's not Godzilla.
It's methane clathrate.

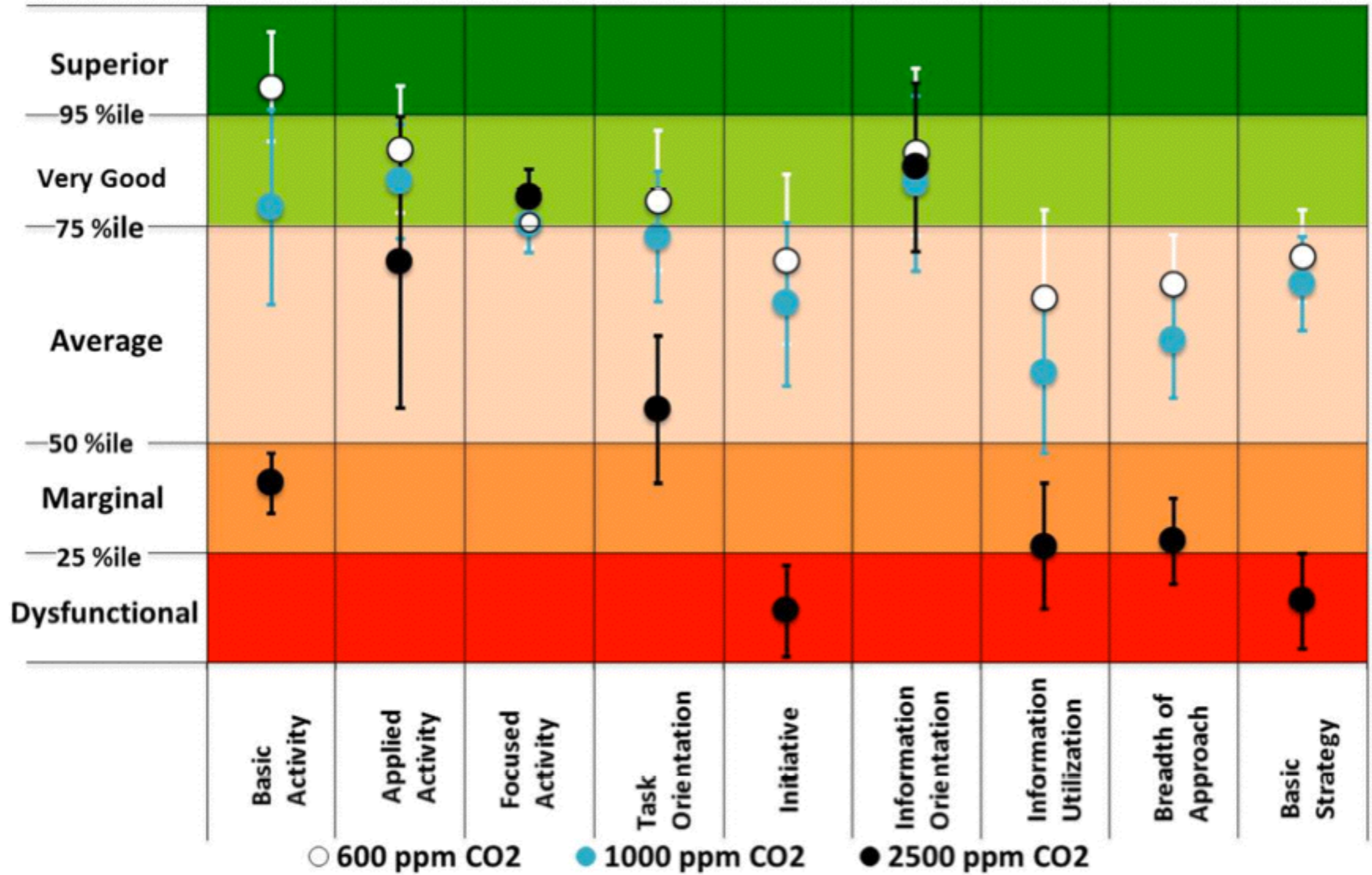
To which, I must add...

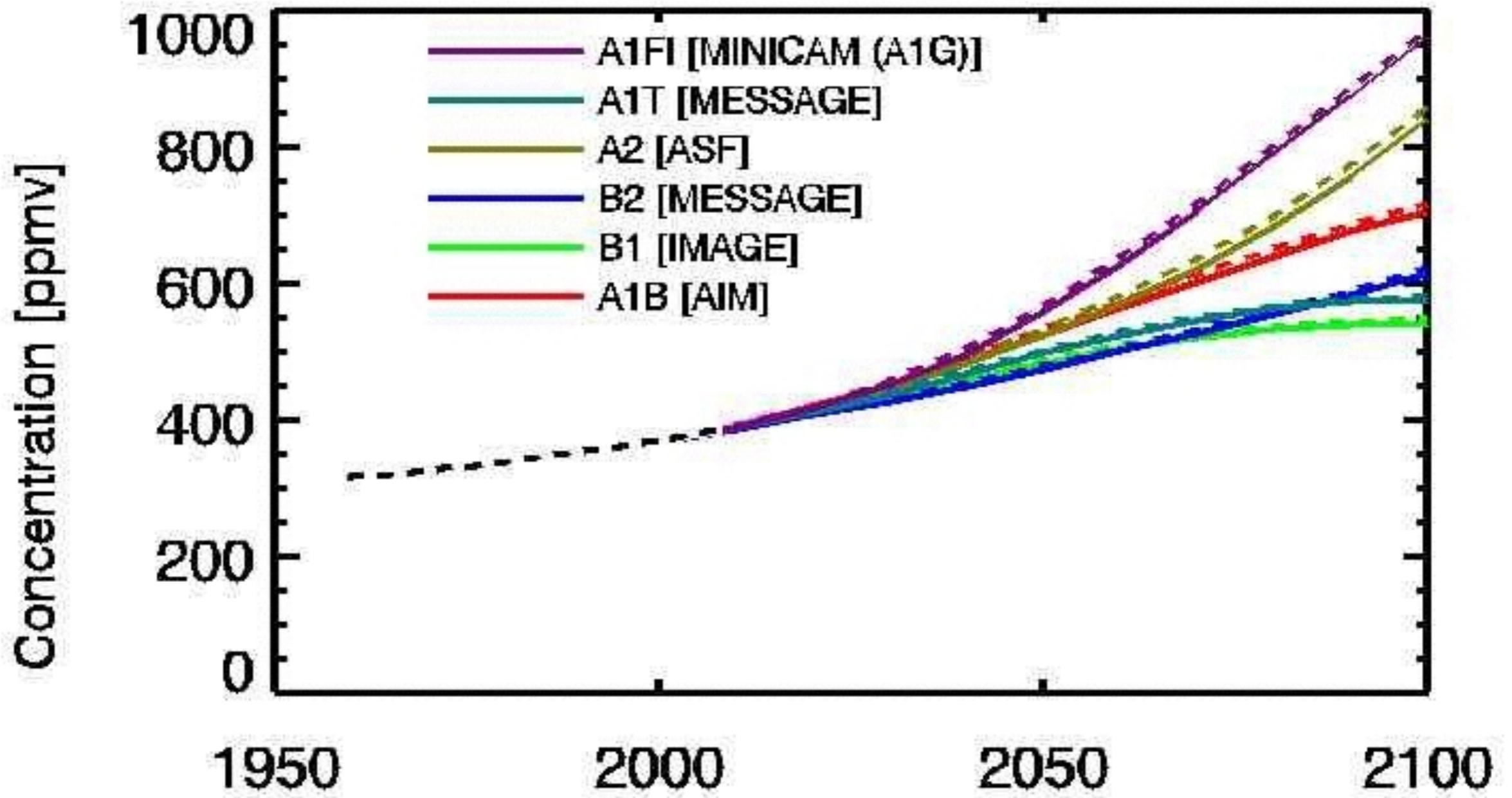
Crimes versus temperature



Data from Chicago

Impact of CO₂ On Human Decision Making Performance

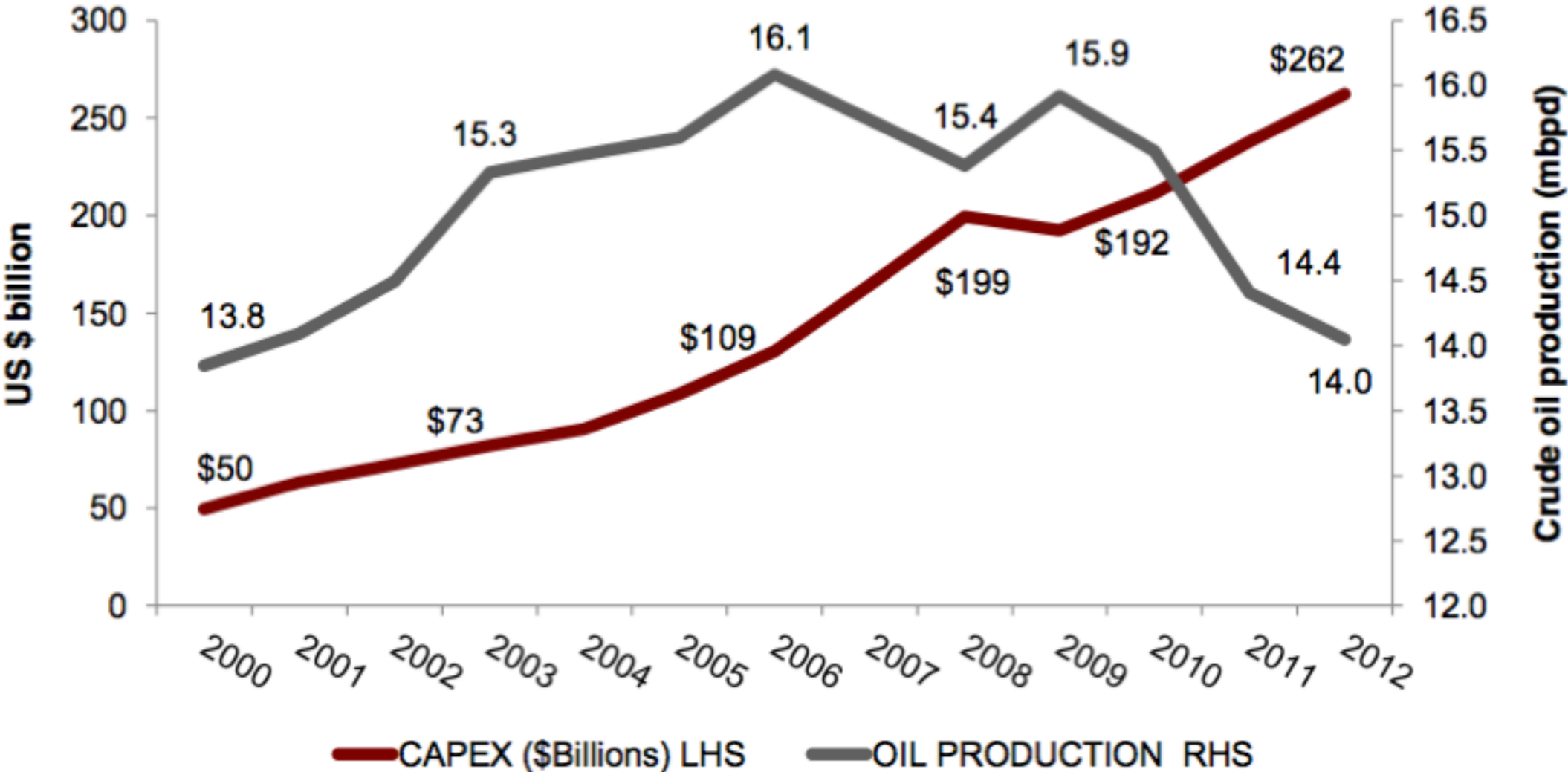




But perhaps more important,
we are quickly encountering supply limits

The world needs so much more energy
And we have been running out of fossil fuels

Listed Oil Majors: Capex and Crude Oil Production



Crude Oil Production and Capex

Combined data for BG, BP, COP, CVX, ENI, OXY, PBR, RDS, STO, TOT, XOM
 Source: Bloomberg via Phibro Trading LLC

- Oil production has faltered, even as capex has soared
- Capex productivity has fallen by a factor of five since 2000
- Observed decline trend now approaching 5% per year

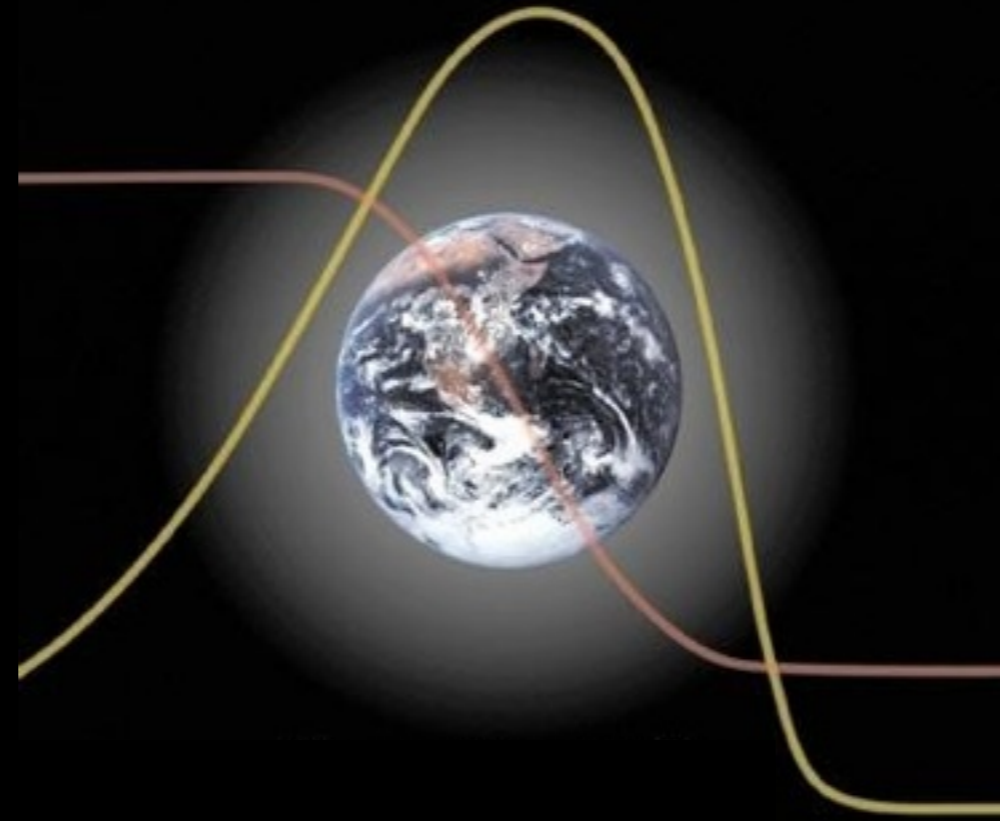
We have never before spent so much searching and found
so little

We spent a record \$700 billion search for oil last year

Replacing only 4.5 months of production in 12 months

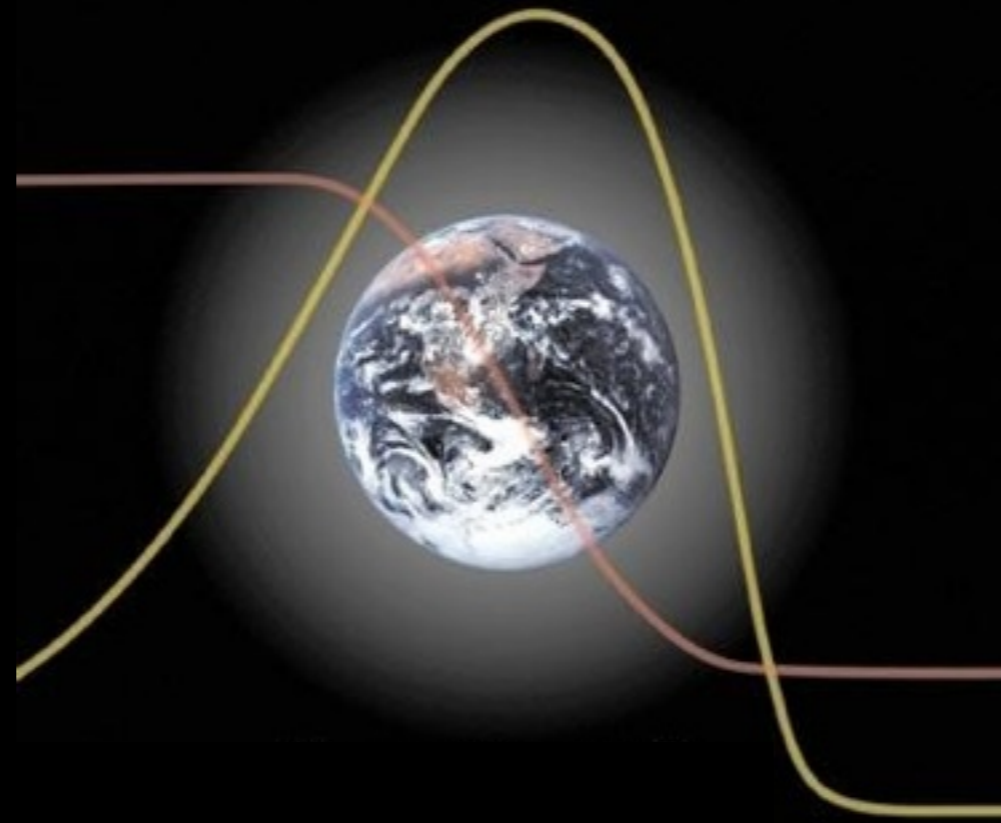
Oil is half the world's commodity trade and half the cost
structure of the other half

LIMITS TO GROWTH



“Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist” - Kenneth Boulding

LIMITS TO GROWTH

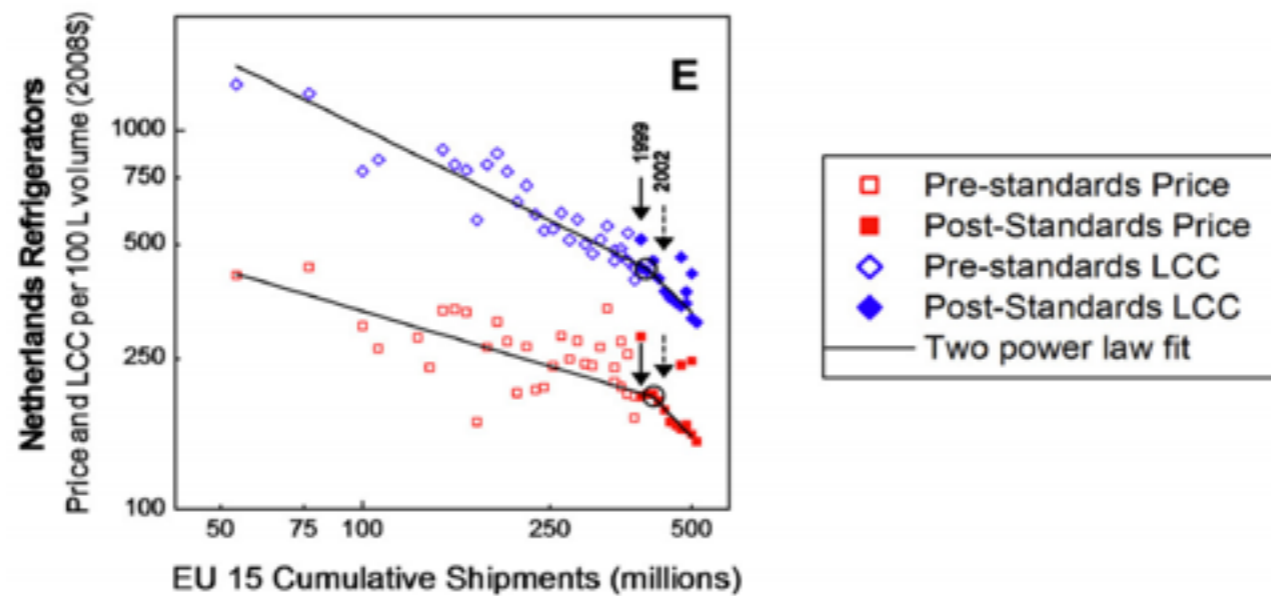
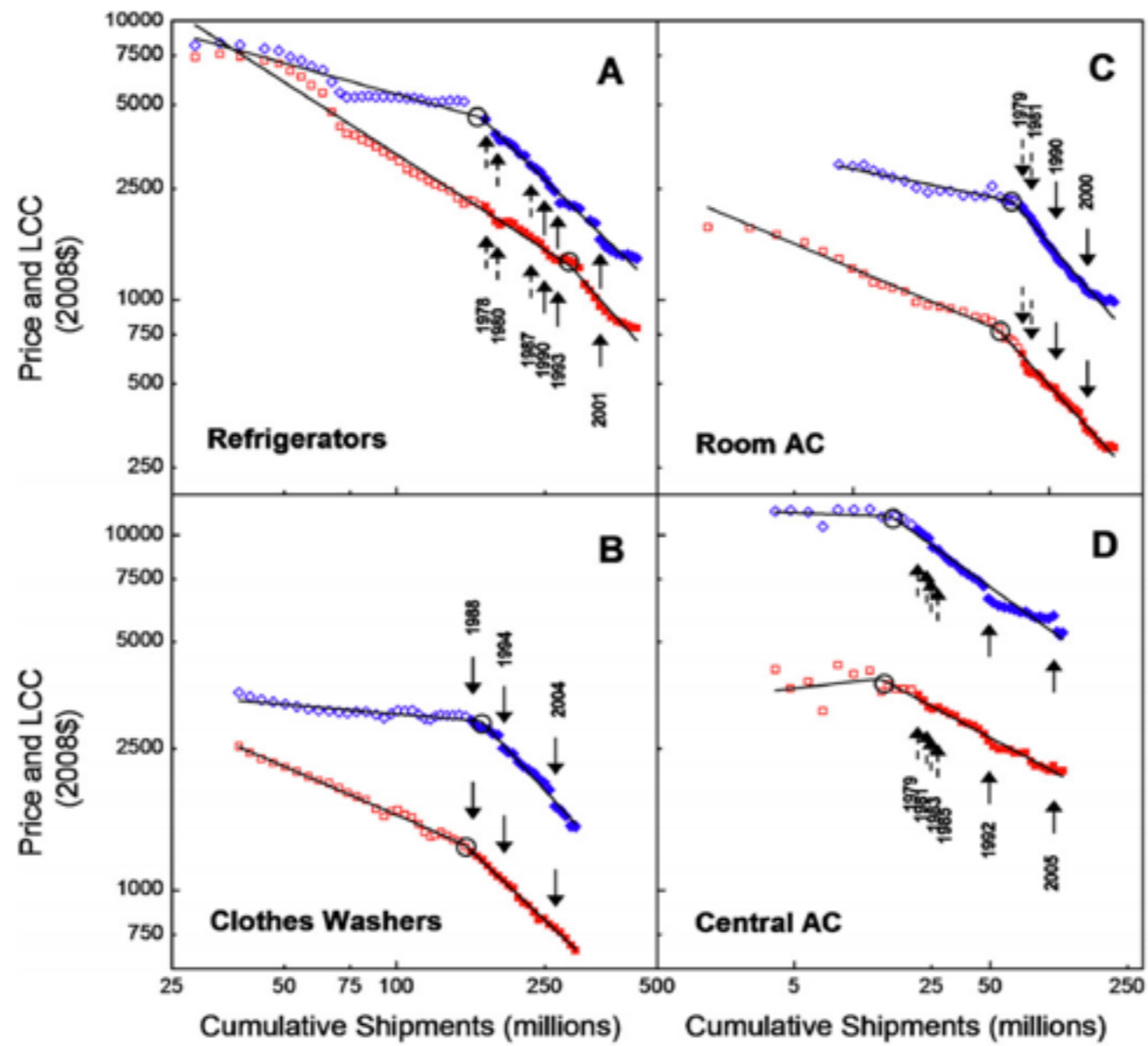


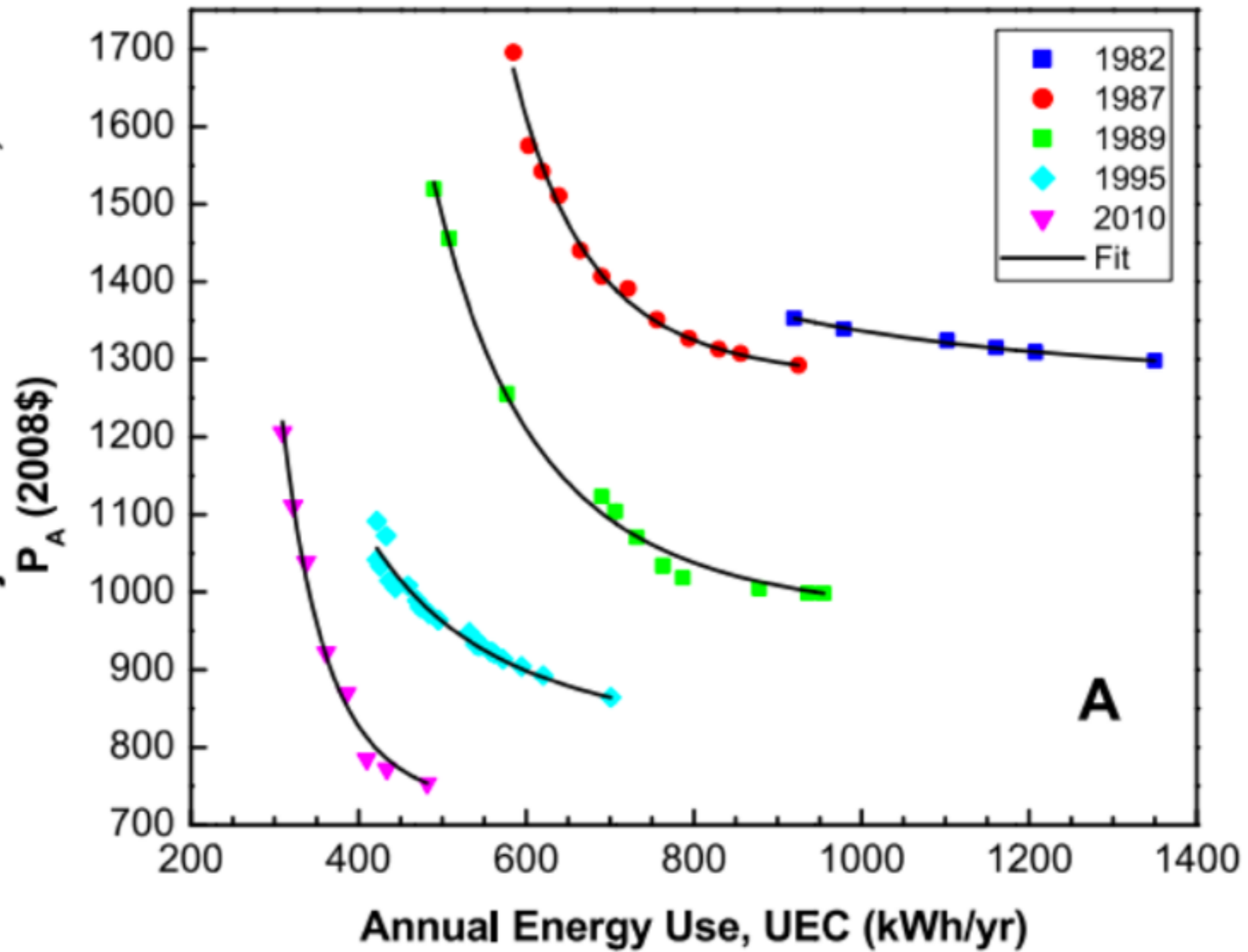
“Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist” - Kenneth Boulding

“...or a technologist, who sees how technology can transcend our past limitations” - Danielle Fong

Act 3.
Getting to work

Won't all this efficiency be awfully
expensive?





~~There is no free lunch~~

This lunch will buy you dinner

Thomas Edison's First Powerplant

Pearl Street Station

In a sense more efficient
Than most modern
power plants

Don't just waste the heat,
harness it

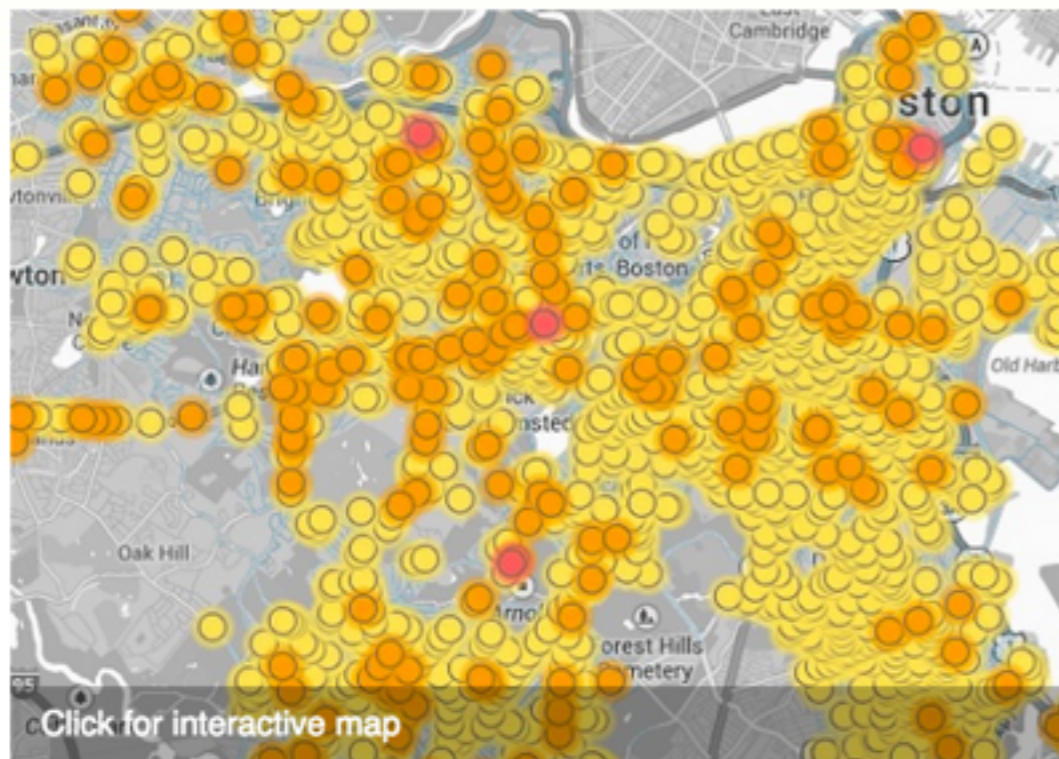


Natural gas: Local leaks impact global climate

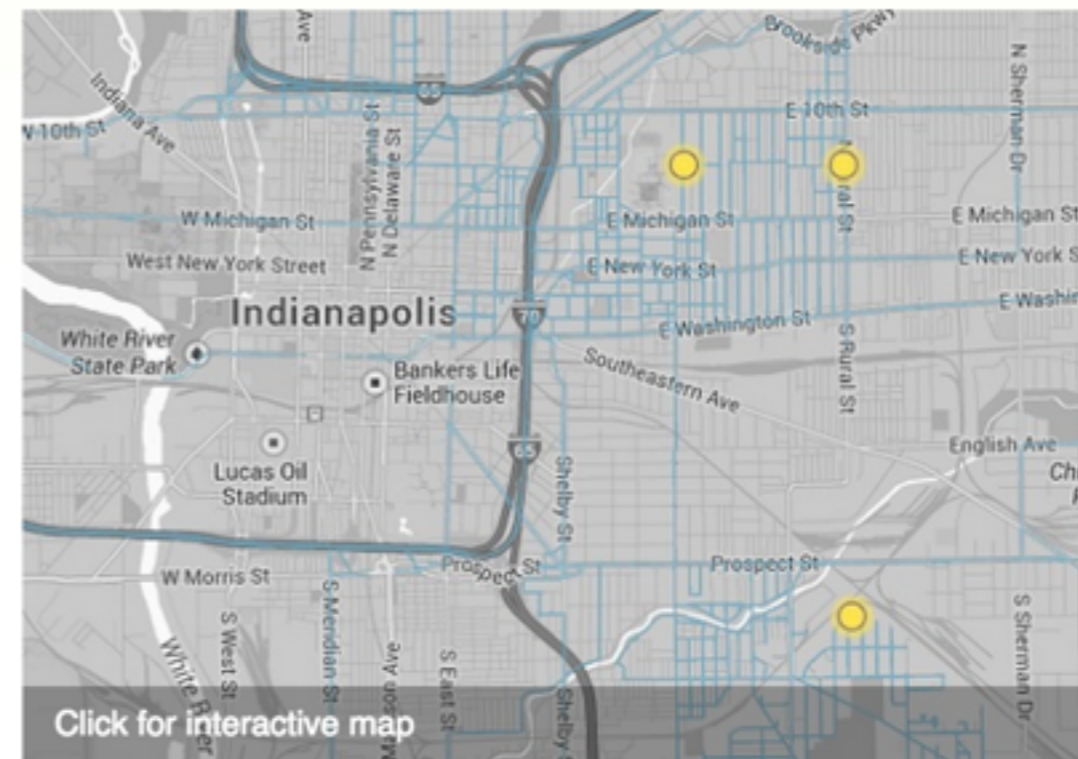
EDF and Google Earth Outreach use new approach to pinpoint climate pollution

Natural gas heats our homes and cooks our dinner. But when natural gas—mostly methane—leaks into the air, it's a big problem for the climate. So EDF and Google Earth Outreach teamed up to build a faster, cheaper way to find and assess leaks under our streets and sidewalks. We tested it as part of a pilot mapping program, and here's what we found.

Boston: Older pipes, more leaks



Indianapolis: Newer pipes, fewer leaks



Alberta's Oil Sands Raise Flaring Emissions as Rules

Lag

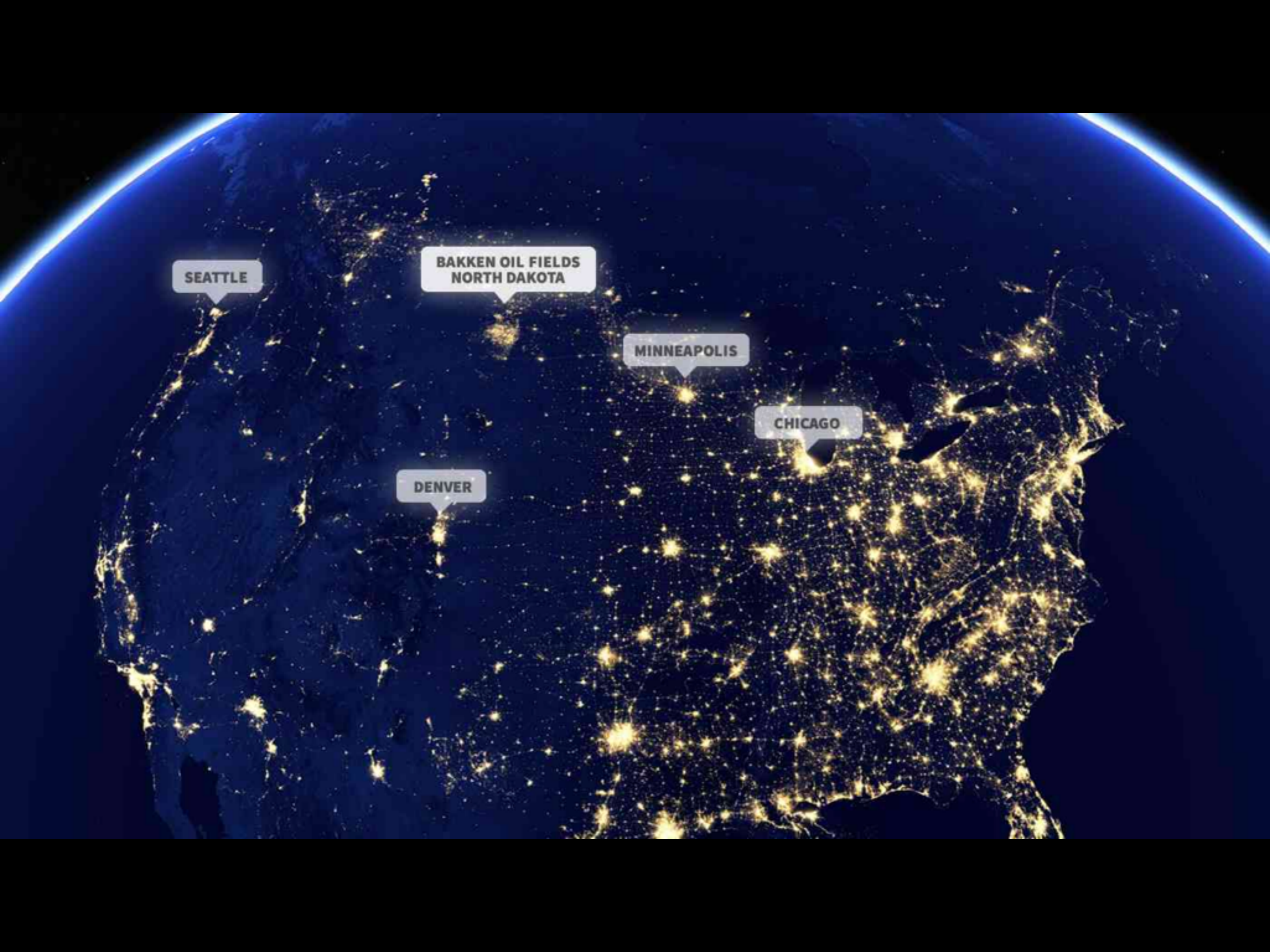
by Jeremy van Loon

June 17, 2013 – 9:00 PM PDT

The [World Bank](#) estimates that over 150 billion cubic metres of natural gas are flared or vented annually. This amount of gas is worth approximately 30.6 billion dollars and is equivalent to 25 percent of the United States's yearly gas consumption or 30 percent of the European Union's annual gas consumption.^[10]



■ Emissions from flaring, or burning of natural gas, methane and hydrogen sulphide associated with oil production, have risen in each of the last three years. Photographer: Lucas Schifres/Bloomberg



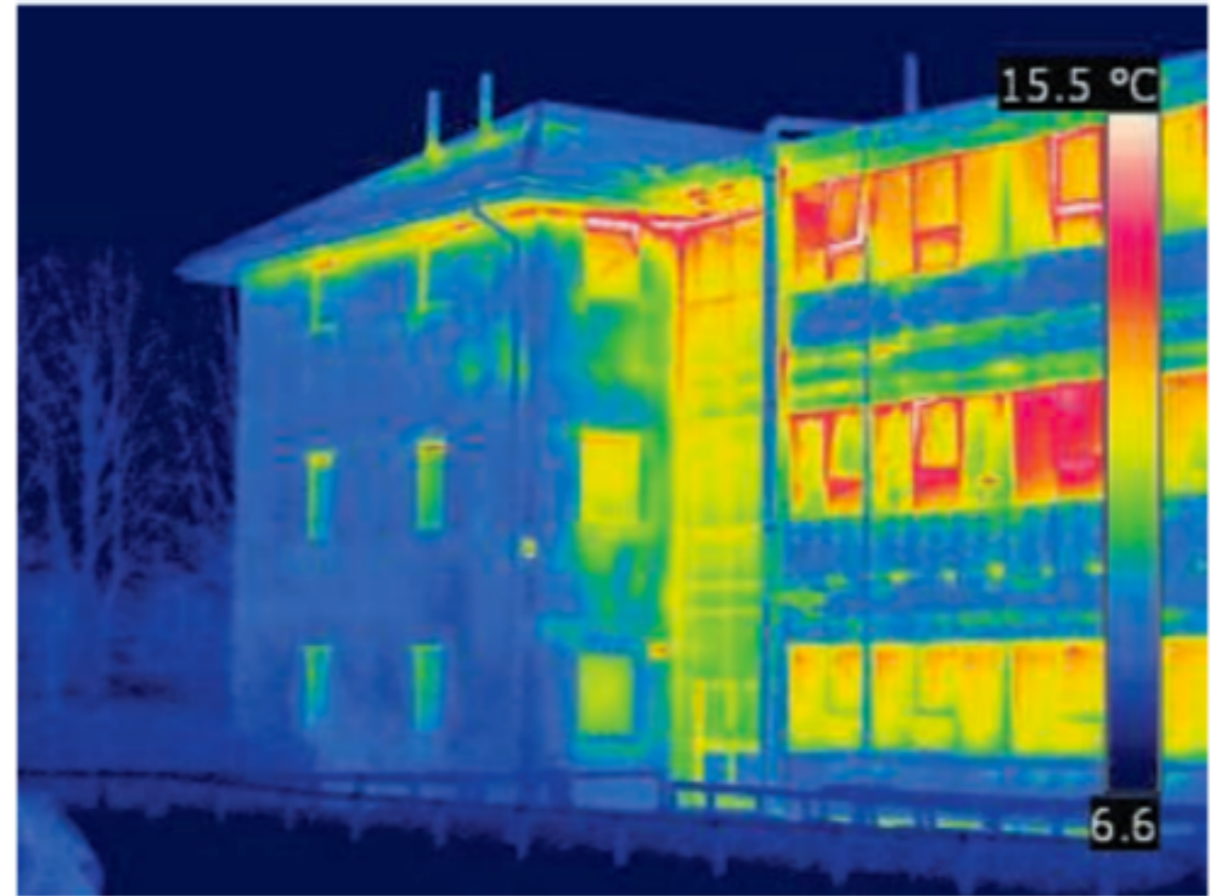
SEATTLE

BAKKEN OIL FIELDS
NORTH DAKOTA

MINNEAPOLIS

CHICAGO

DENVER



Snapshot of waste. Infrared cameras quickly show where heat is escaping from a building. The older building on the right, for instance, has leaky windows.

If you could travel through time...
from the **future** into the **present**...
carrying only your **knowledge** with you,

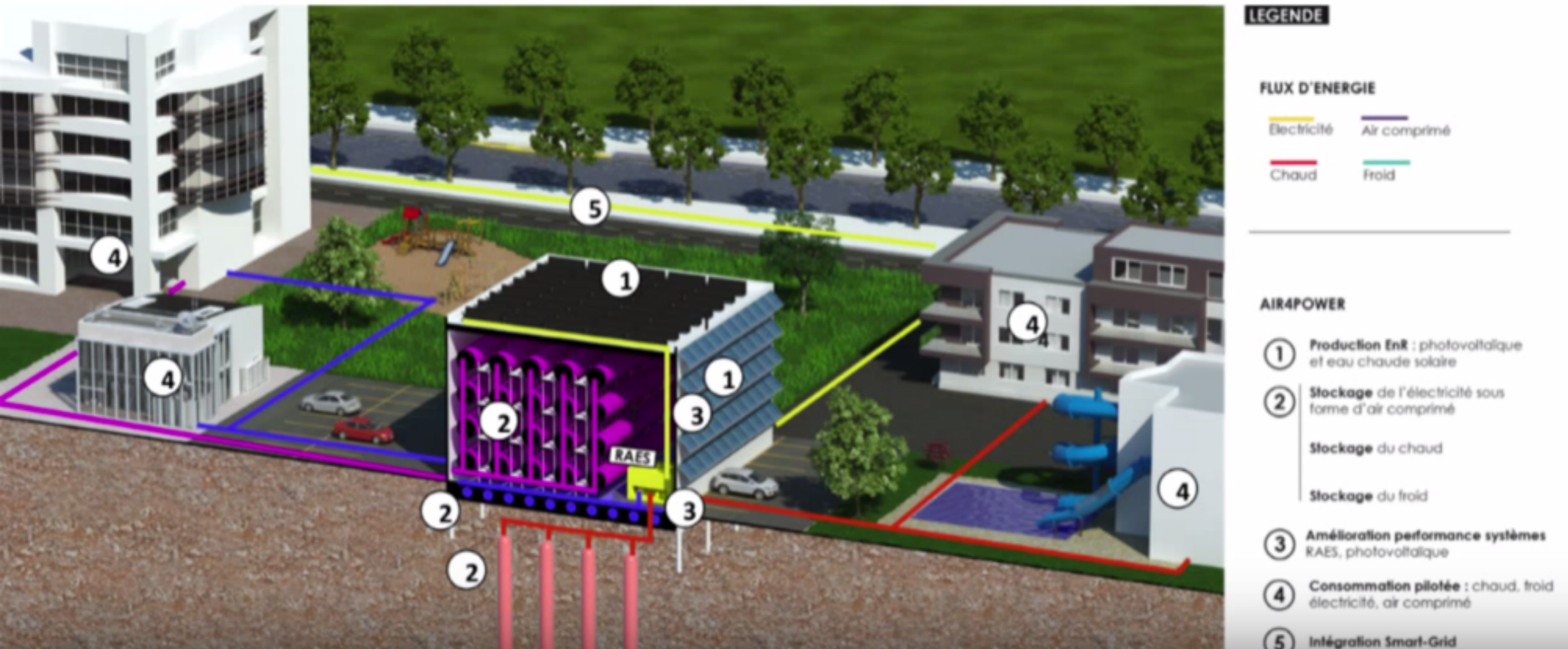
You would already know what could work

What would you build?

How far could you bring civilization forward?

And what would you need to know?

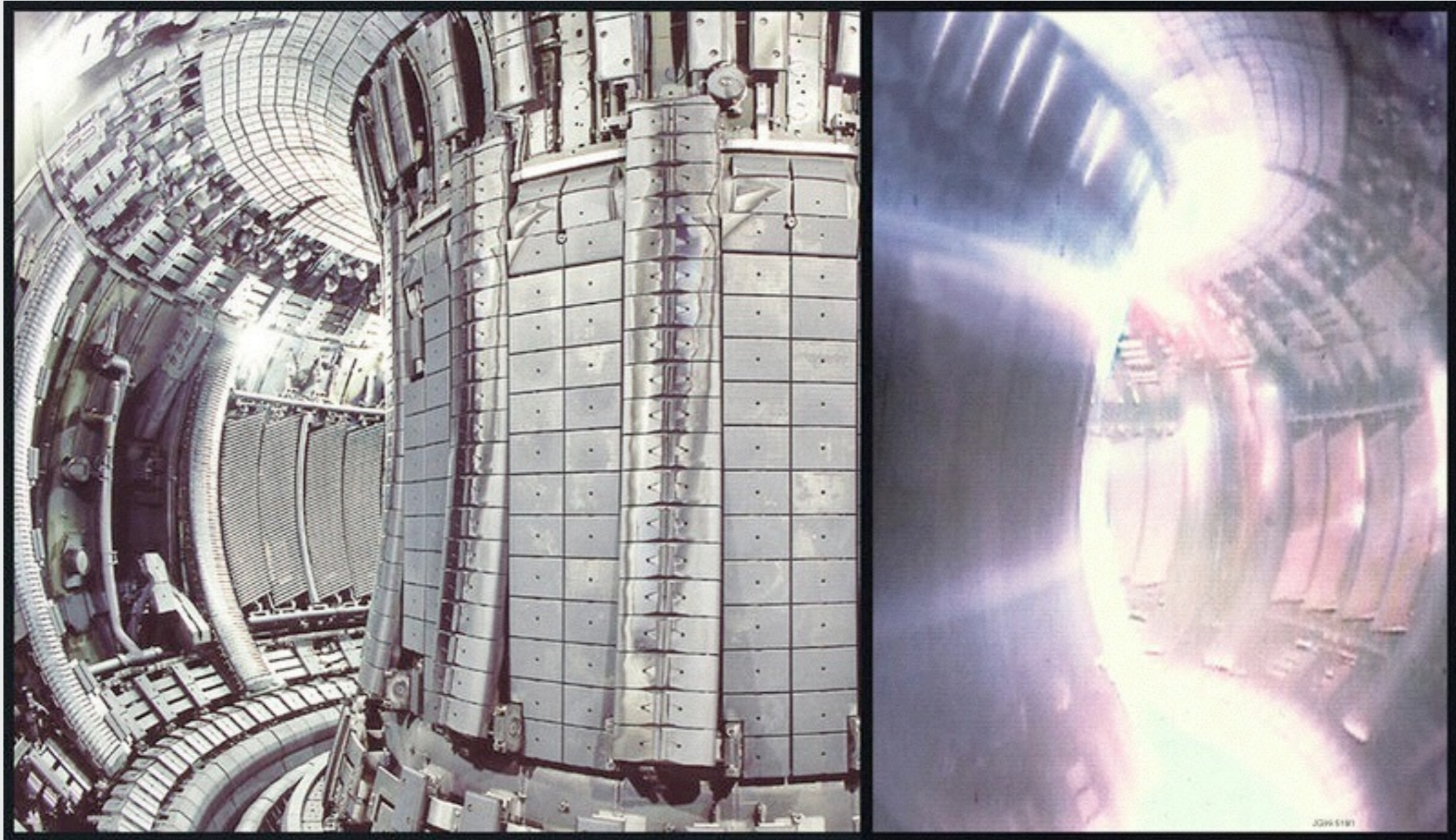
We can provide energy storage, heating, hot water, and air conditioning for profound increases in efficiency



My own story...

A night view of Dalhousie University campus. In the foreground, a green laser beam is directed at a physics experiment setup on a table. The setup includes a white cylindrical component and a green laser source. The background shows the university buildings, including a prominent stone building with a tower, and a cityscape with many lights under a twilight sky. The text "2000: age 12 physics at dalhousie university" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

2000: age 12
physics at dalhousie university



2005: begin PhD at Princeton University
Studying energy with nuclear fusion



2007: Decide it is not fast enough, move to Silicon Valley to become an entrepreneur and chase my destiny



Problem:
Renewable Energy is Intermittent
We Need to Store the Energy

A Hot Day in Texas

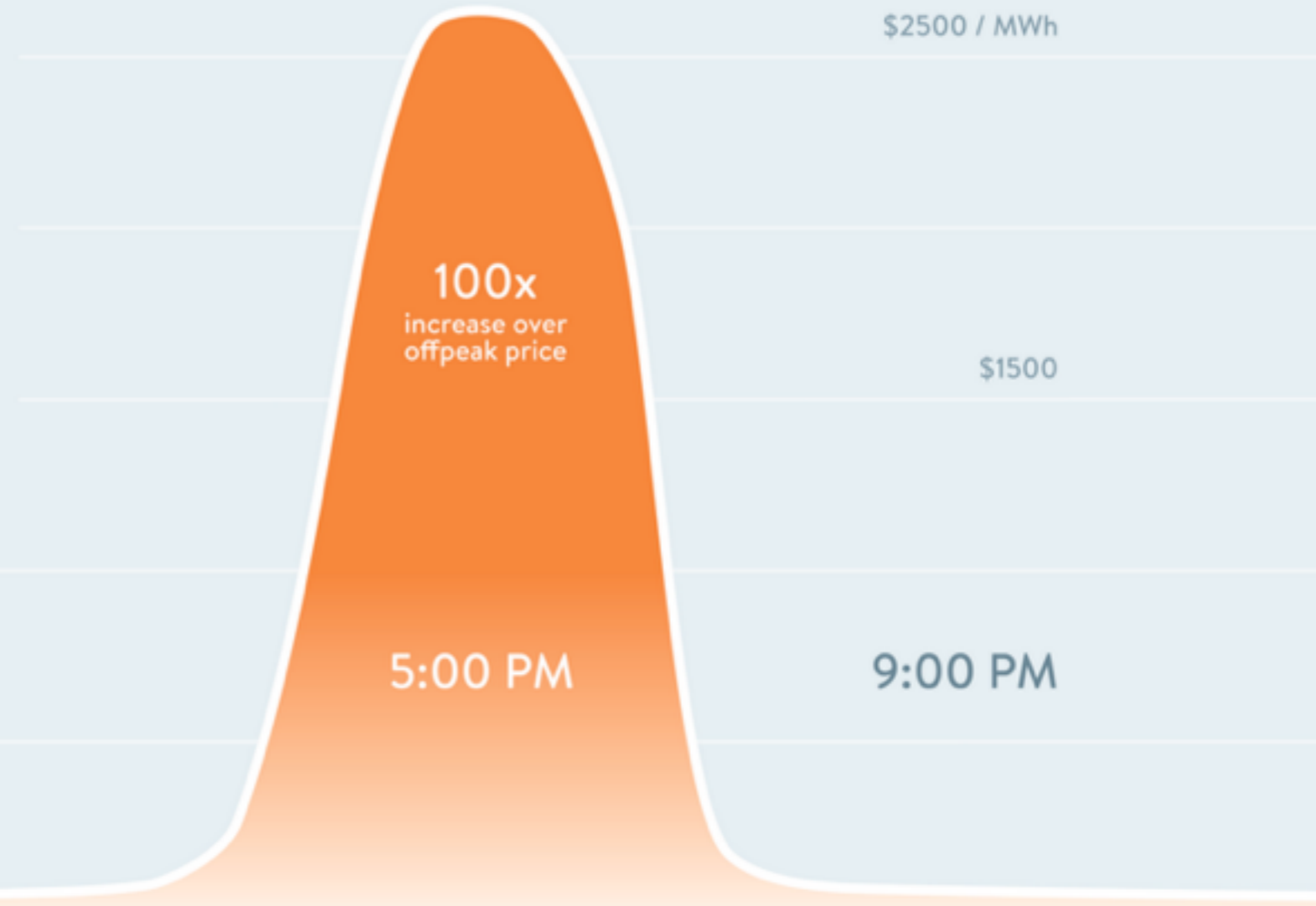
Electricity prices skyrocket on a hot day in Texas. What if wind or solar power could be stored cheaply and delivered when it's needed? More profit for the wind and solar farms, low cost energy for the users, greener energy for the world.

3:00 AM

9:00 AM

5:00 PM

9:00 PM



A solar powered world is inevitable — *if* energy storage can be made economical at scale.



Offpeak Energy

+



Energy Storage

<



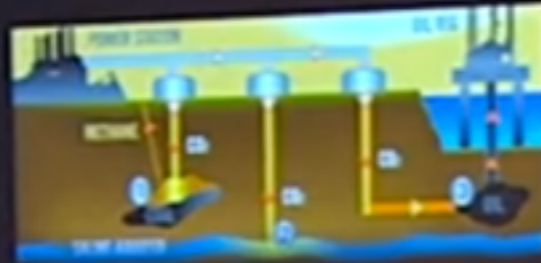
Peakers

+



Grid Upgrades

NEEDED: ENERGY MIRACLES



CARBON CAPTURE and STORAGE



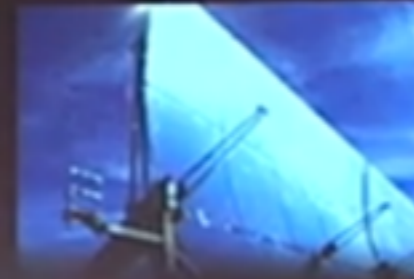
NUCLEAR



WIND



SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC



SOLAR THERMAL

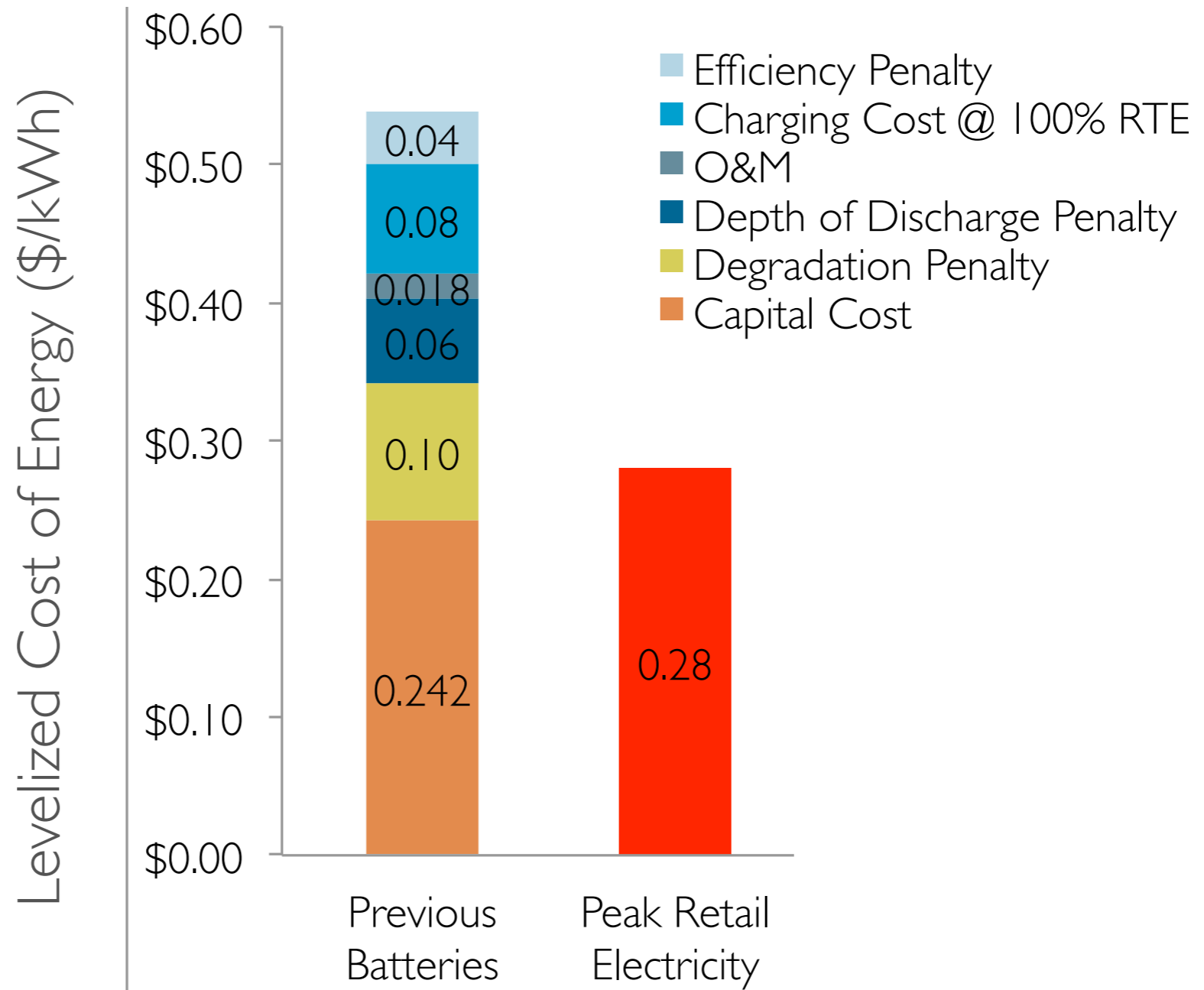
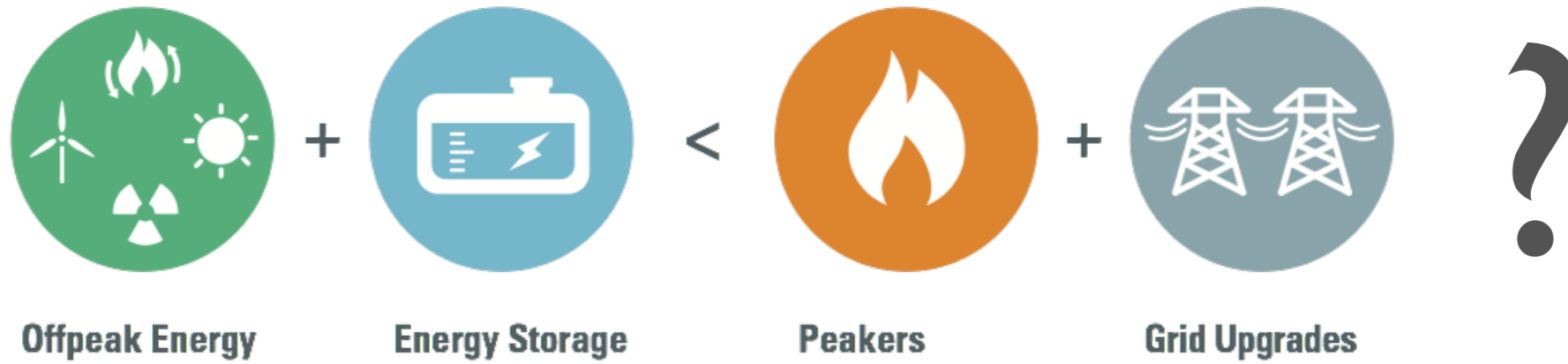
TED



Bill Gates, TED, 2010, Innovating to Zero



All the batteries on Earth can store only **10 minutes** of the world's electricity needs.



SCRAP MATERIAL





We need technology that is

Low Capital
Cost

Long Service
Life

Available at
Global Scale

Efficient
Enough

We have discovered how to do this with compressed air

Low Capital
Cost

< 1/3rd the cost
of batteries

Target cost
< \$100 / kWh

Long Service
Life

20-30 year lifetime
20000+ cycles

Tanks already certified

Available at
Global Scale

Harnessing engine
manufacturing

Only need ~1%
of manufacturing
capacity

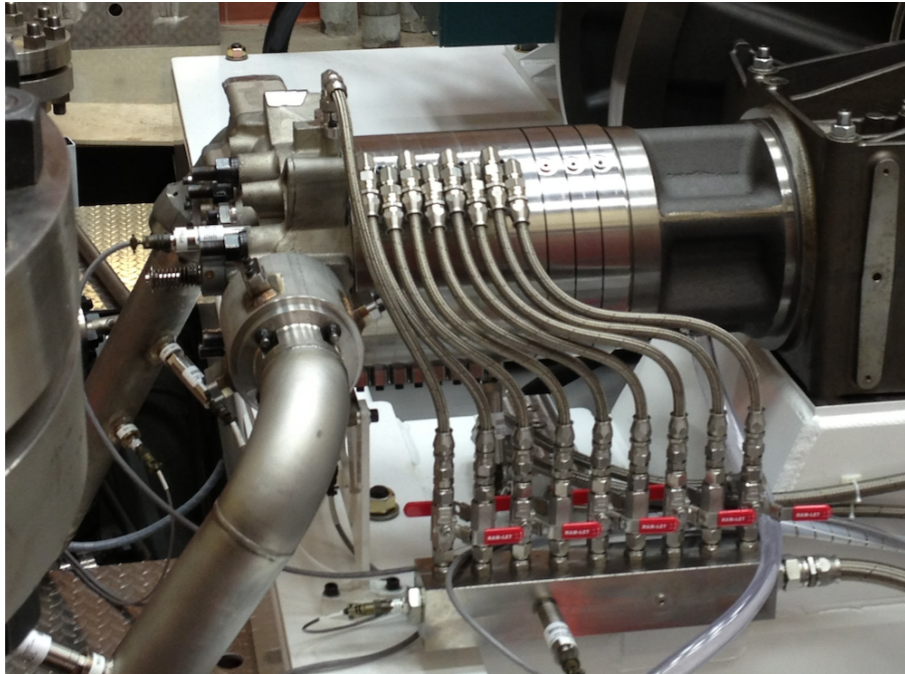
Efficient
Enough

From 25% efficiency
historically

to

60 - 70% efficiency
90+% w/ waste heat

LightSail's breakthrough solution: Regenerative air energy storage (RAES)



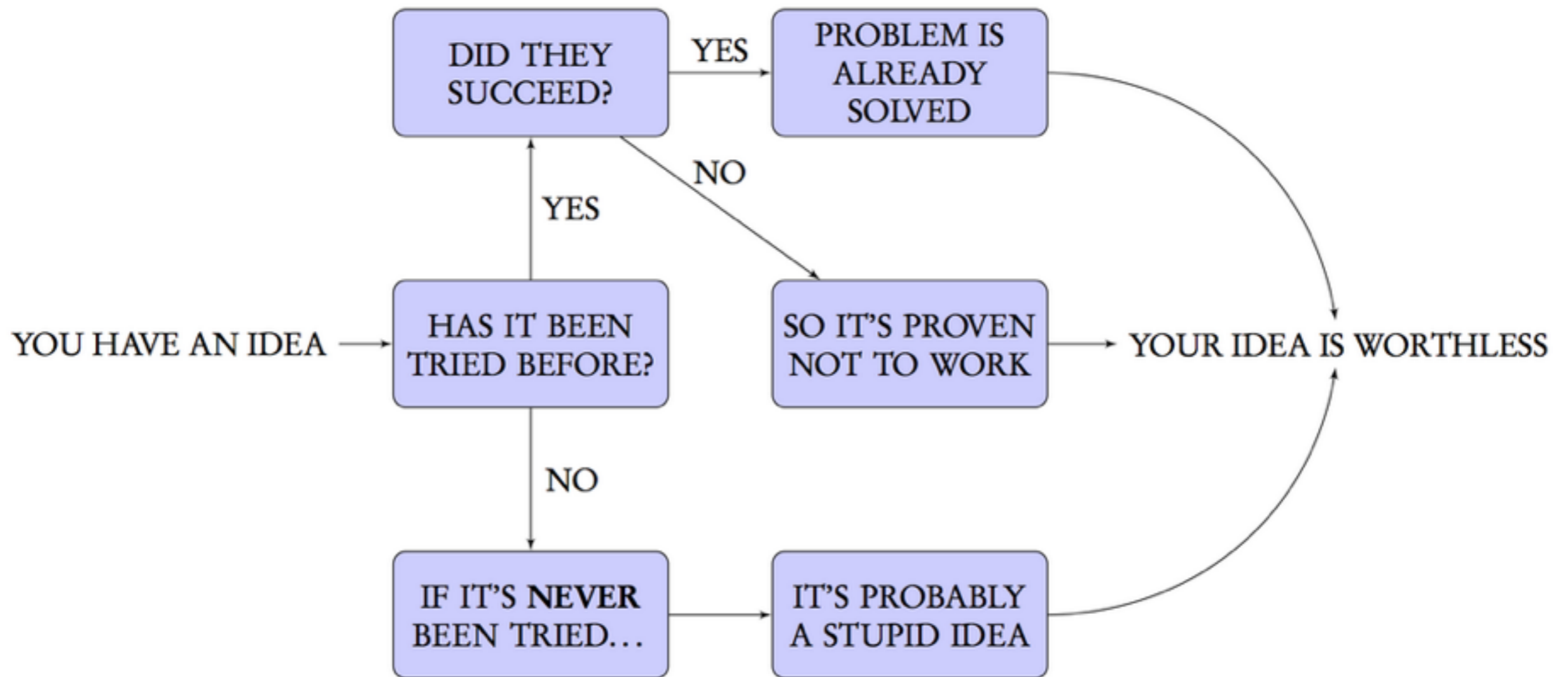
The RAES air compressor / expander:
a major thermodynamic innovation



LightSail's proprietary air storage
technology can be sited anywhere

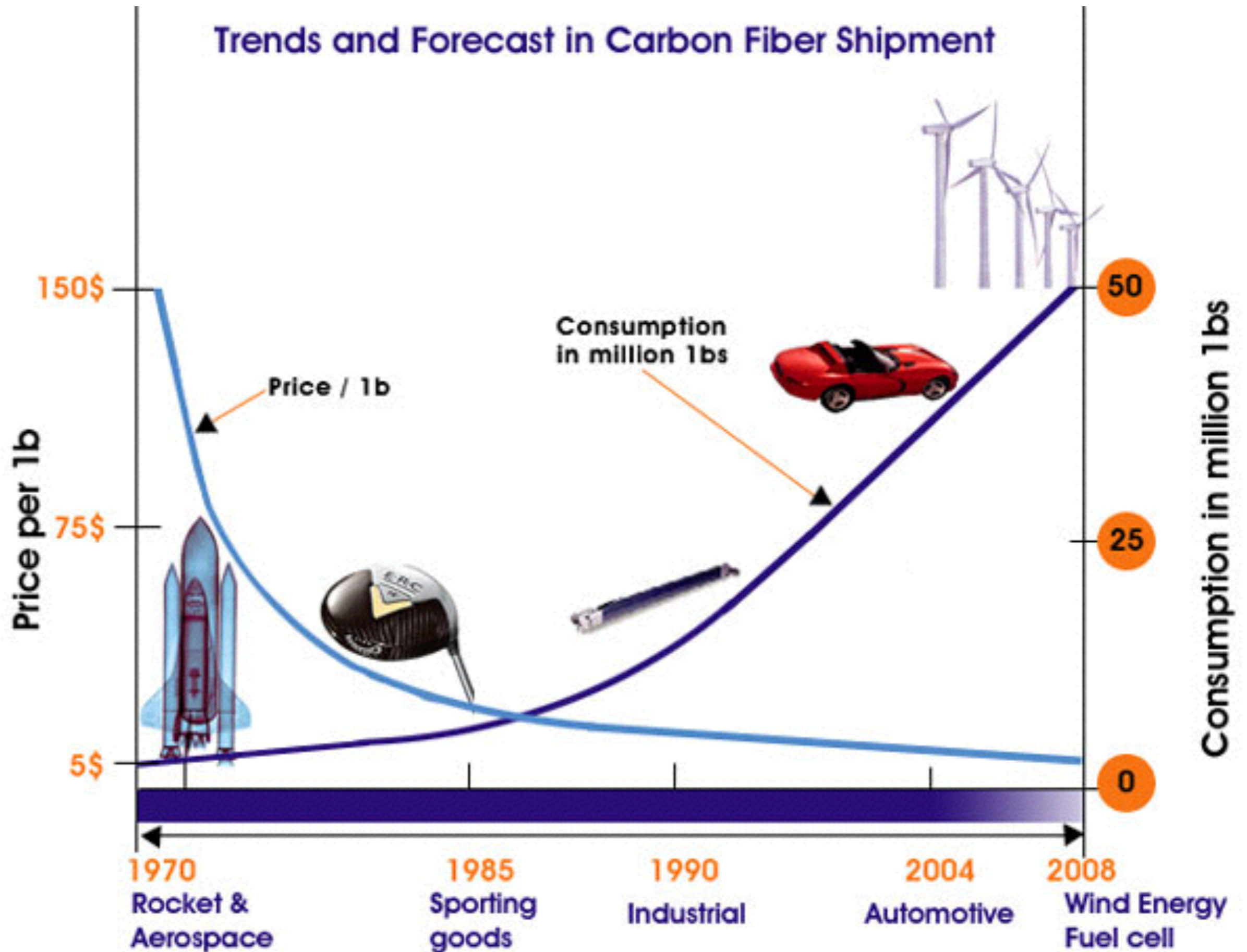
*Major advances in both compressor design
and air storage technology*

Even if you know what to build,
it was a long road



How the world criticizes ideas...

Trends and Forecast in Carbon Fiber Shipment




why don't people already use compressed air?
thermodynamics fights you

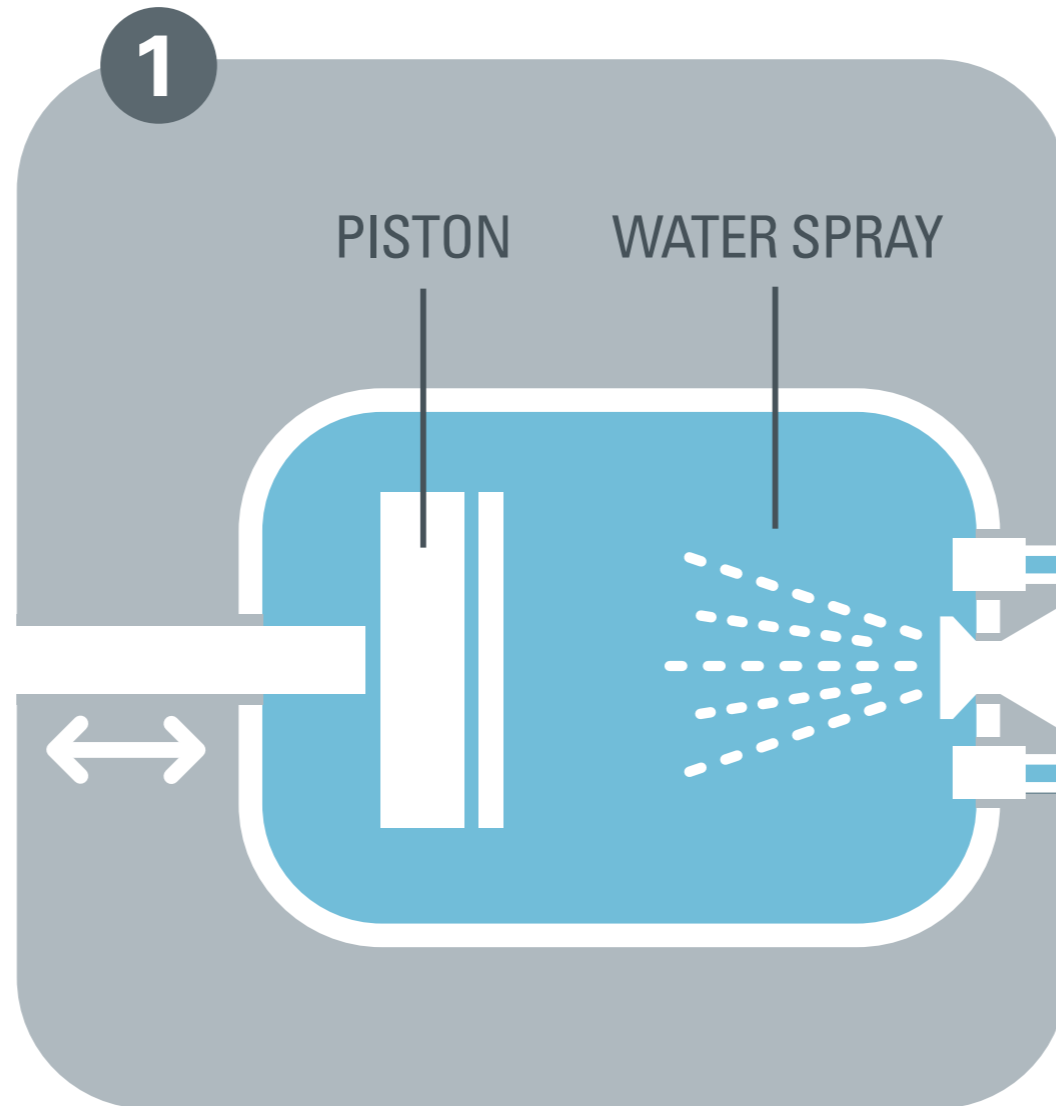
$$\mathbf{PV = NRT}$$

compress air and it gets hot, and fights the compression

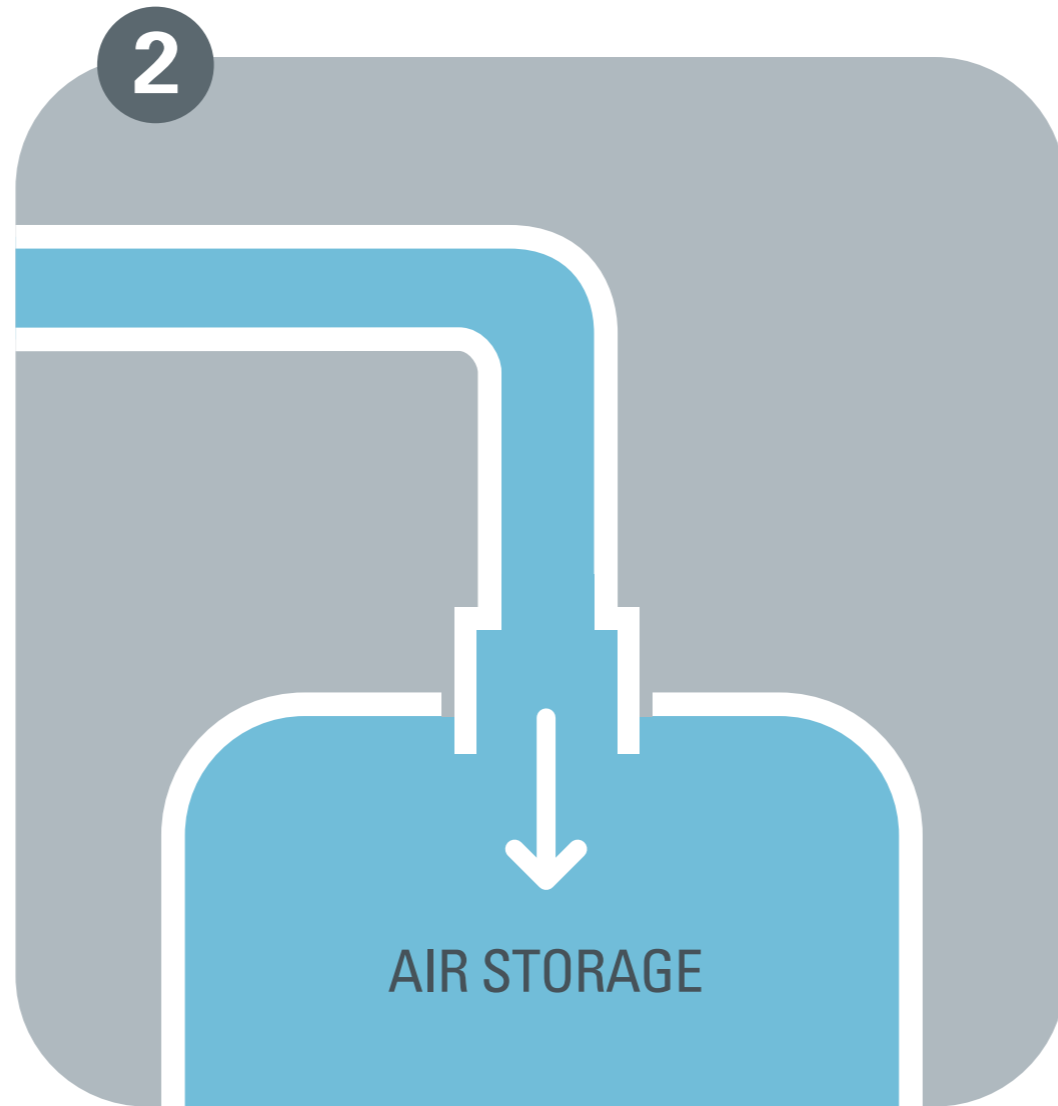
when compressing, you want the air to be as **cool** as possible
when expanding, you want the air to be as **warm** as possible
nobody had yet made this practical

A close-up photograph of a black spray nozzle on the left side of the frame, emitting a wide, conical spray of water. The water droplets are captured in mid-air, creating a soft, white mist against a clear, bright blue sky. The spray is centered in the upper half of the image.

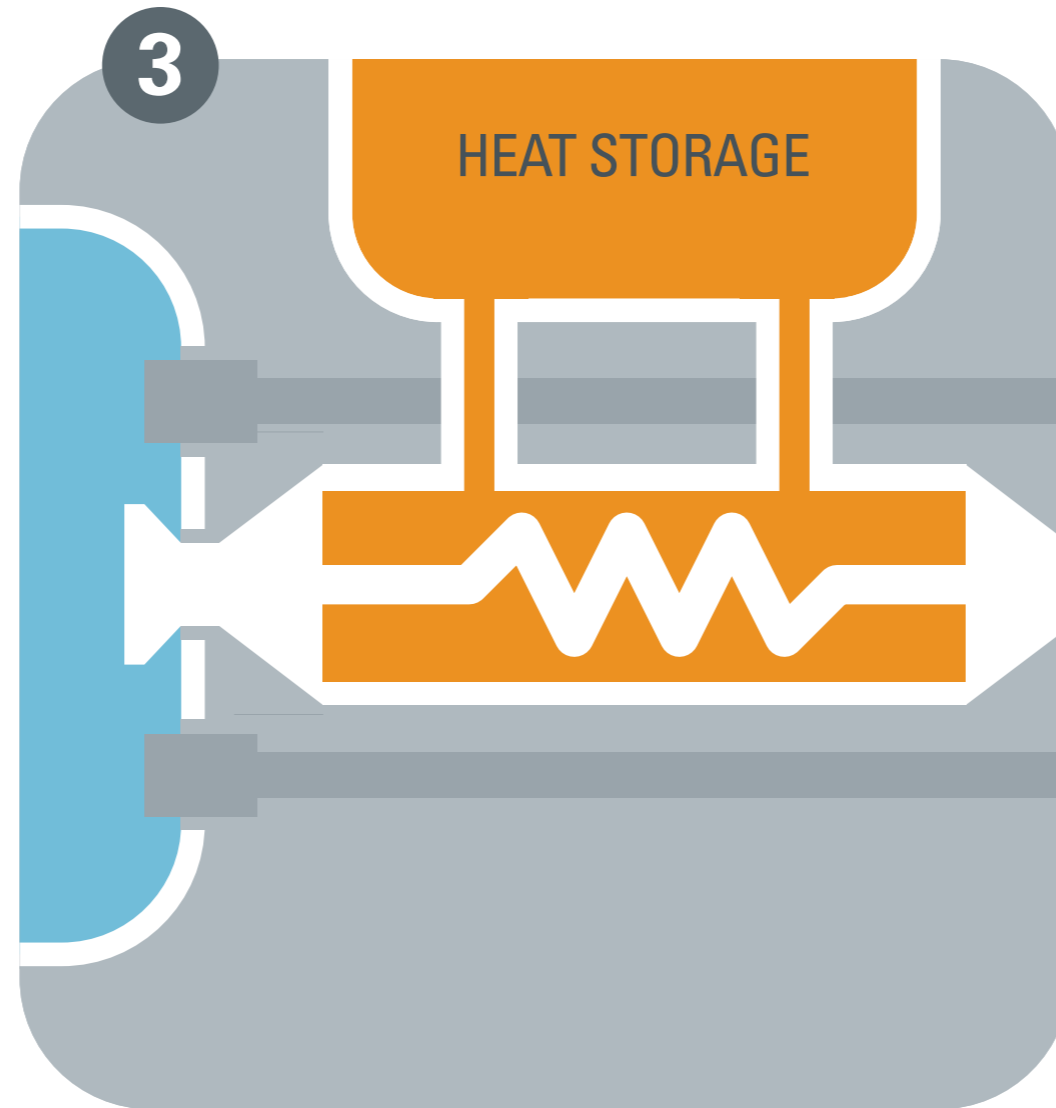
to fight the heat of compression
we use water spray



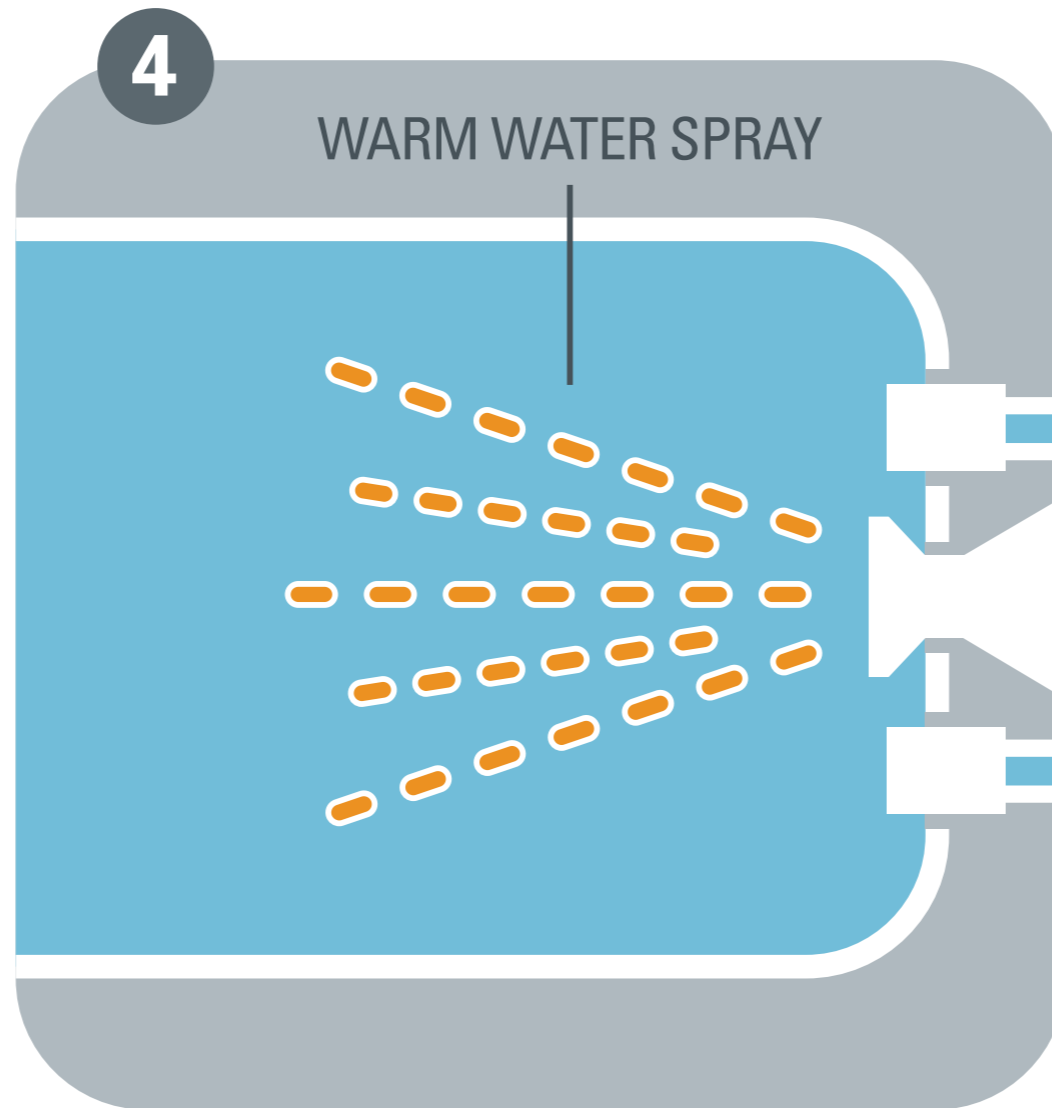
During air compression, mechanical energy is converted into heat. Spray water directly into the air during compression.



Store the compressed air in a tank.



Exchange heat between the water and heat storage.

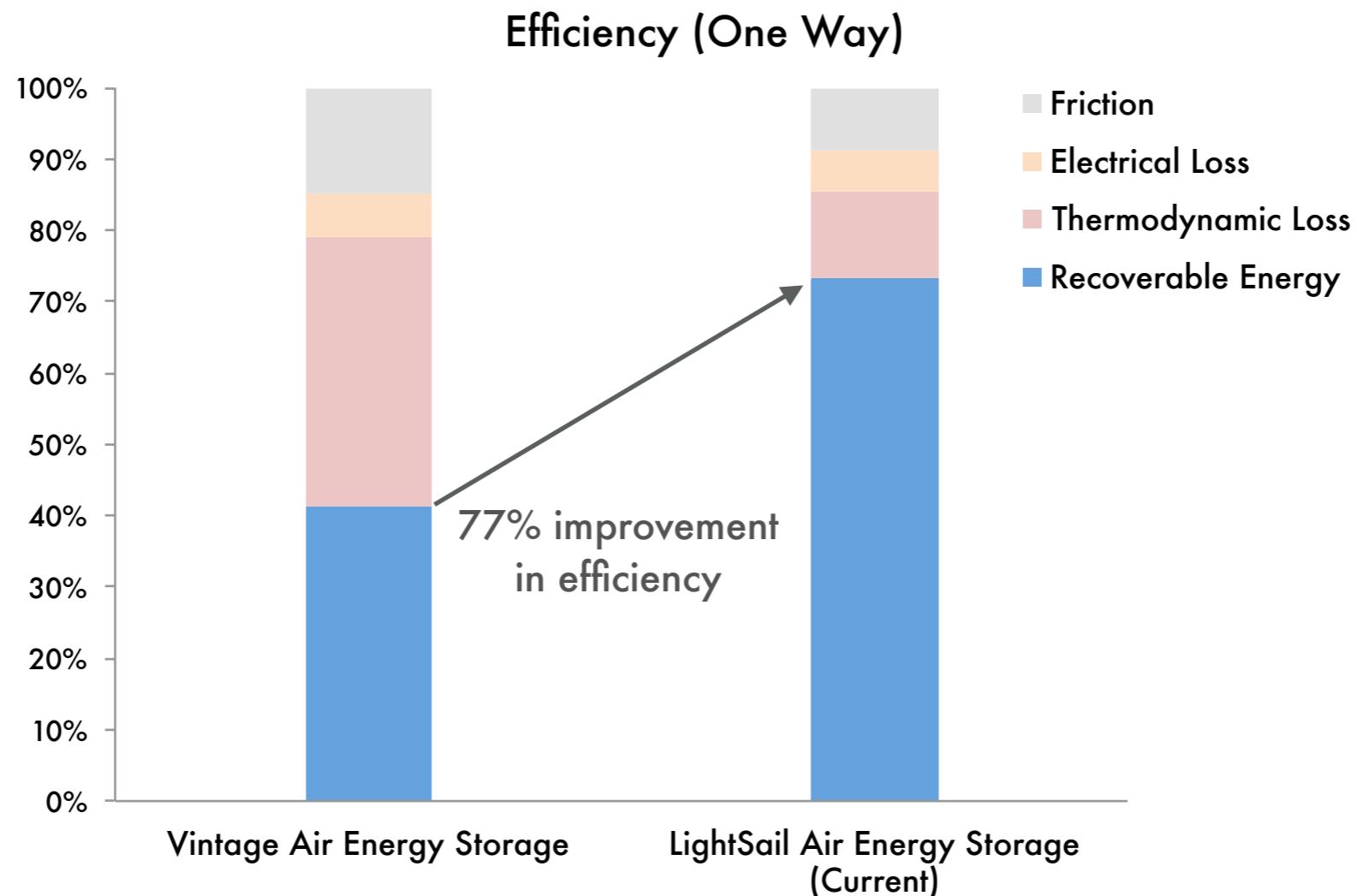


During air expansion, spray warm water into the expanding air. Heat energy in the water is absorbed by the air and is converted into mechanical energy.

why don't people already use compressed air?
thermodynamics fights you

$$PV = NRT$$

compress air and it gets hot, and fights the compression





Danielle Fong
Cofounder, CSO

Began PhD at 17
Princeton Plasma Physics Lab



Dr. Steve Crane
Cofounder, CEO

Physics at MIT,
Caltech, and the
Scripps Institute



Ed Berlin
Cofounder, CTO

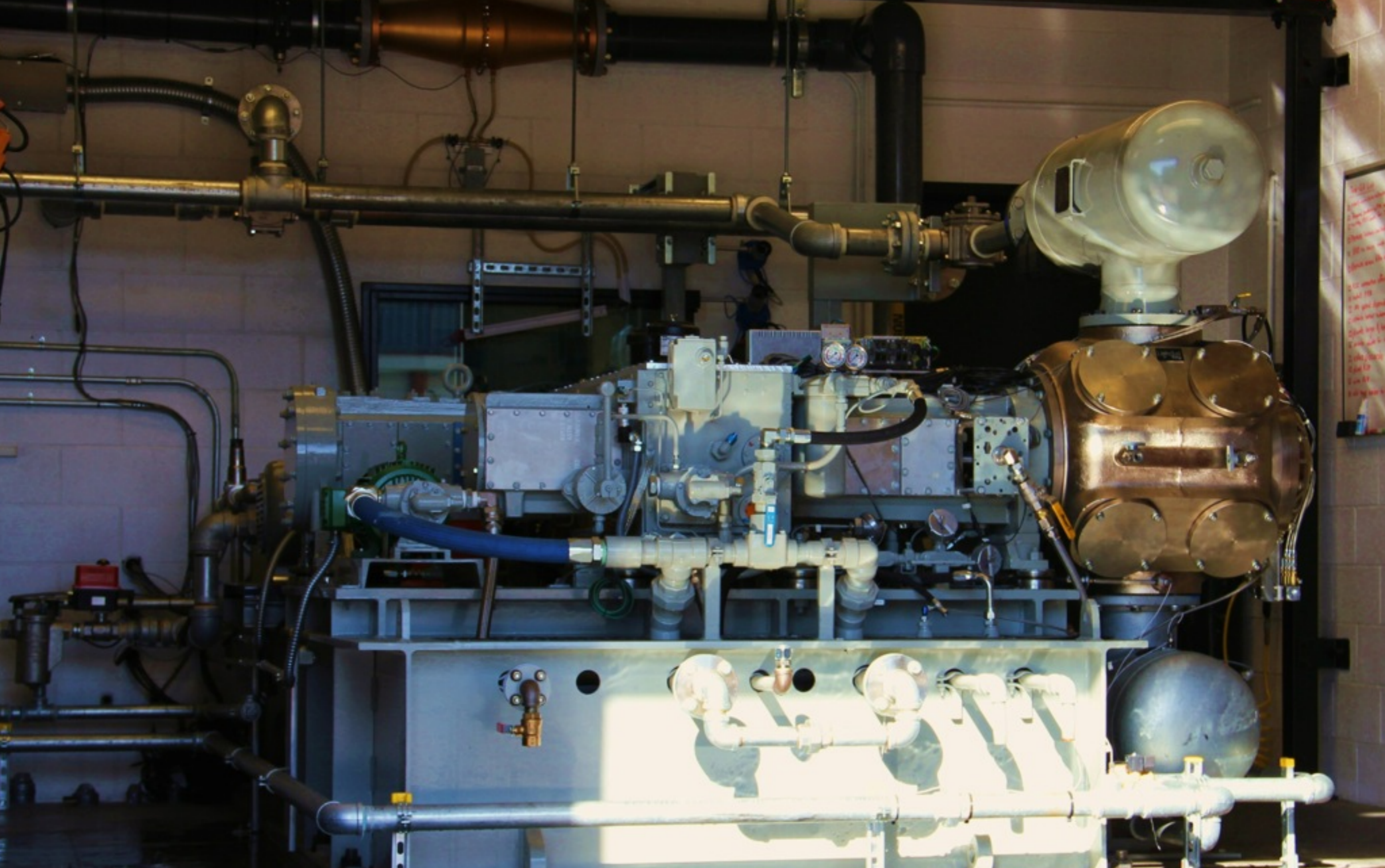
MIT electrical engineer;
Engineer of the Year,
Grumman Aerospace



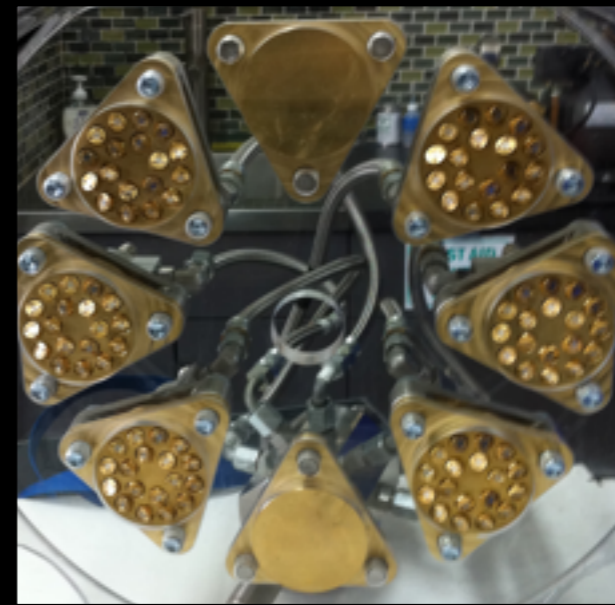
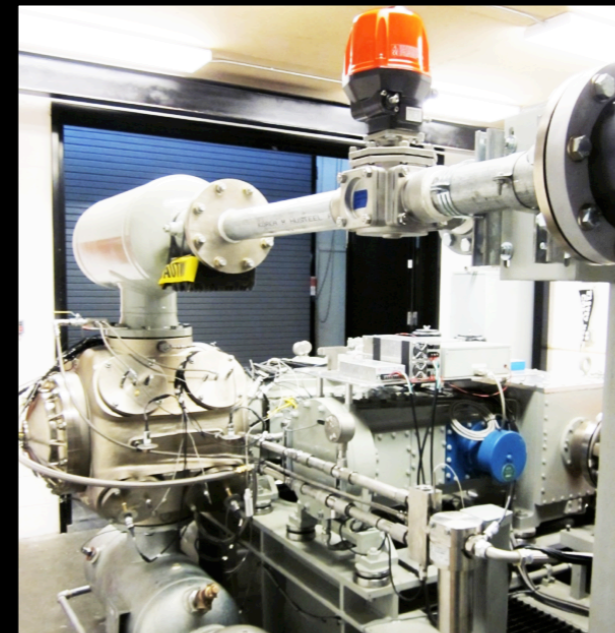
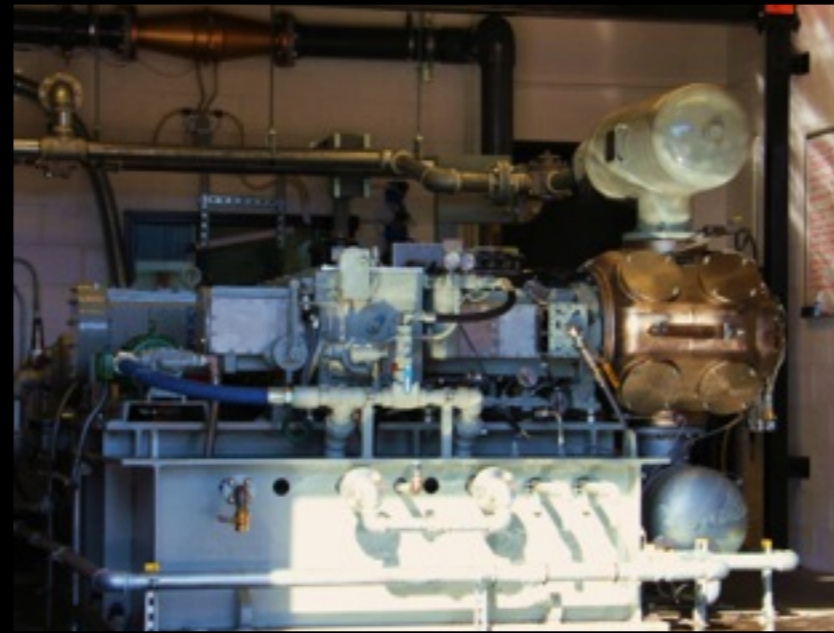
Kevin Walter
VP Mechanical Dev

Protege of Roger Penske
Developed engines which
won racing championships

2009: Combined with world class cofounders

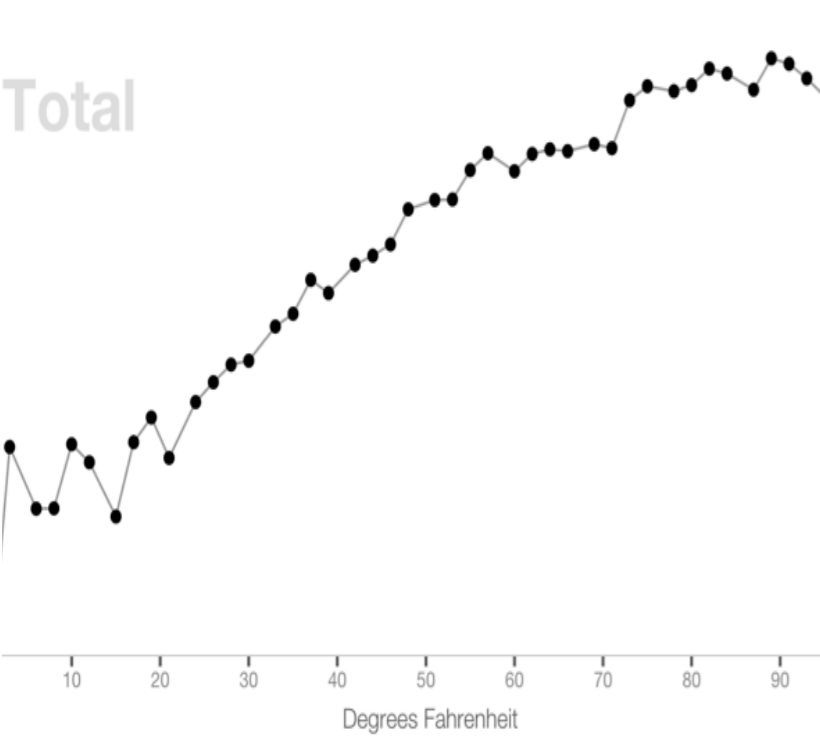


2010: industrial scale proof of concept

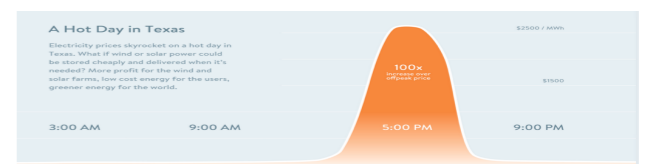
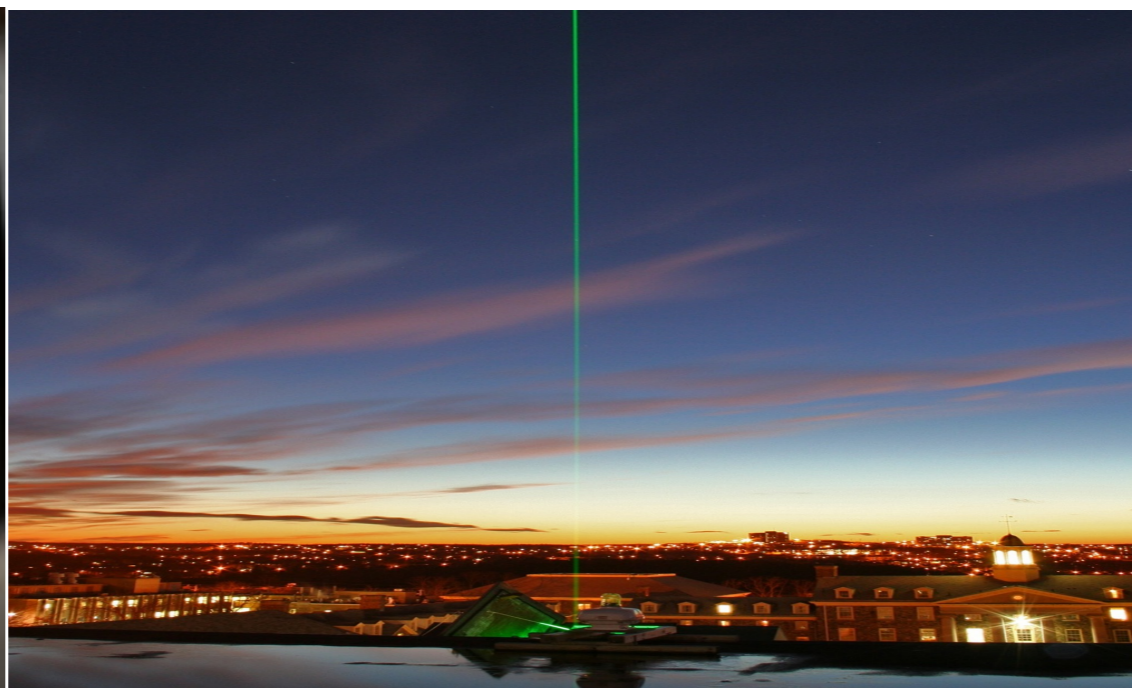
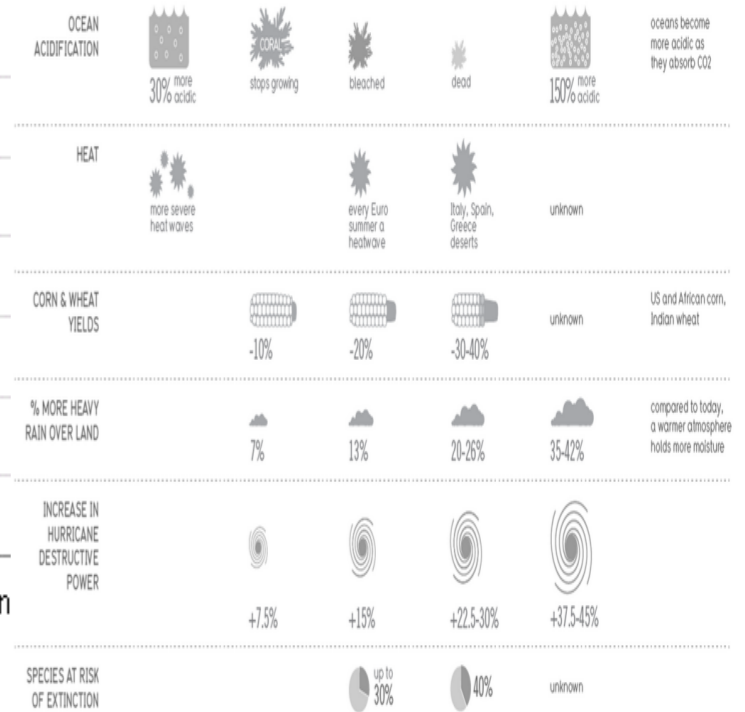
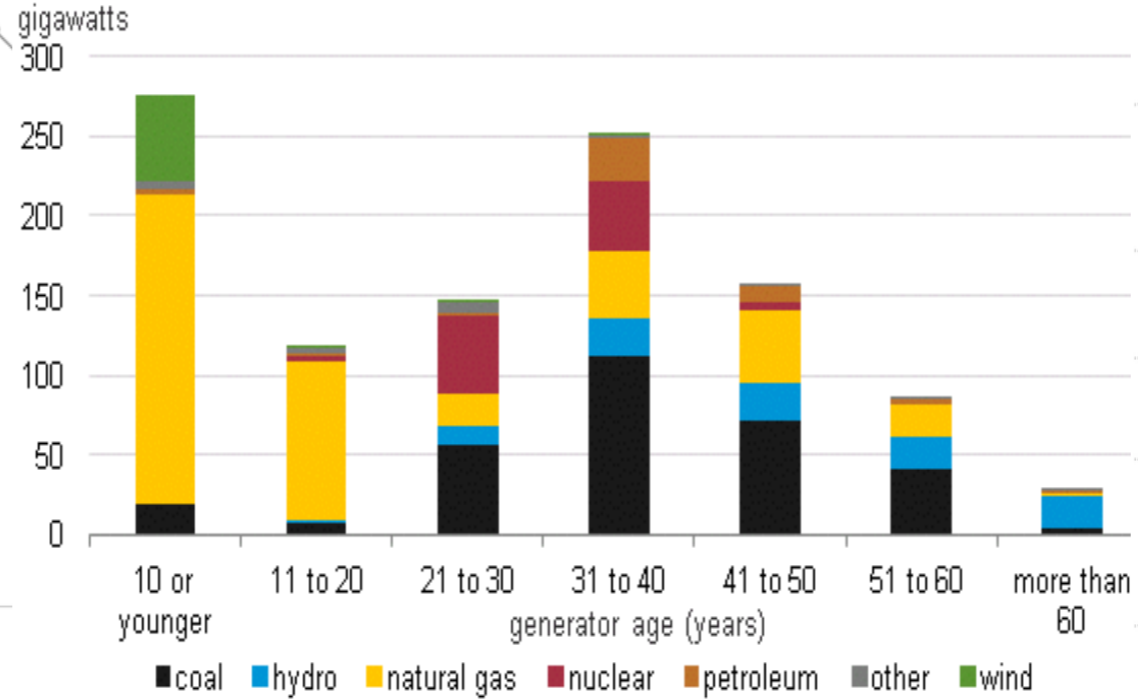


2011: complete scientific demonstration

Total

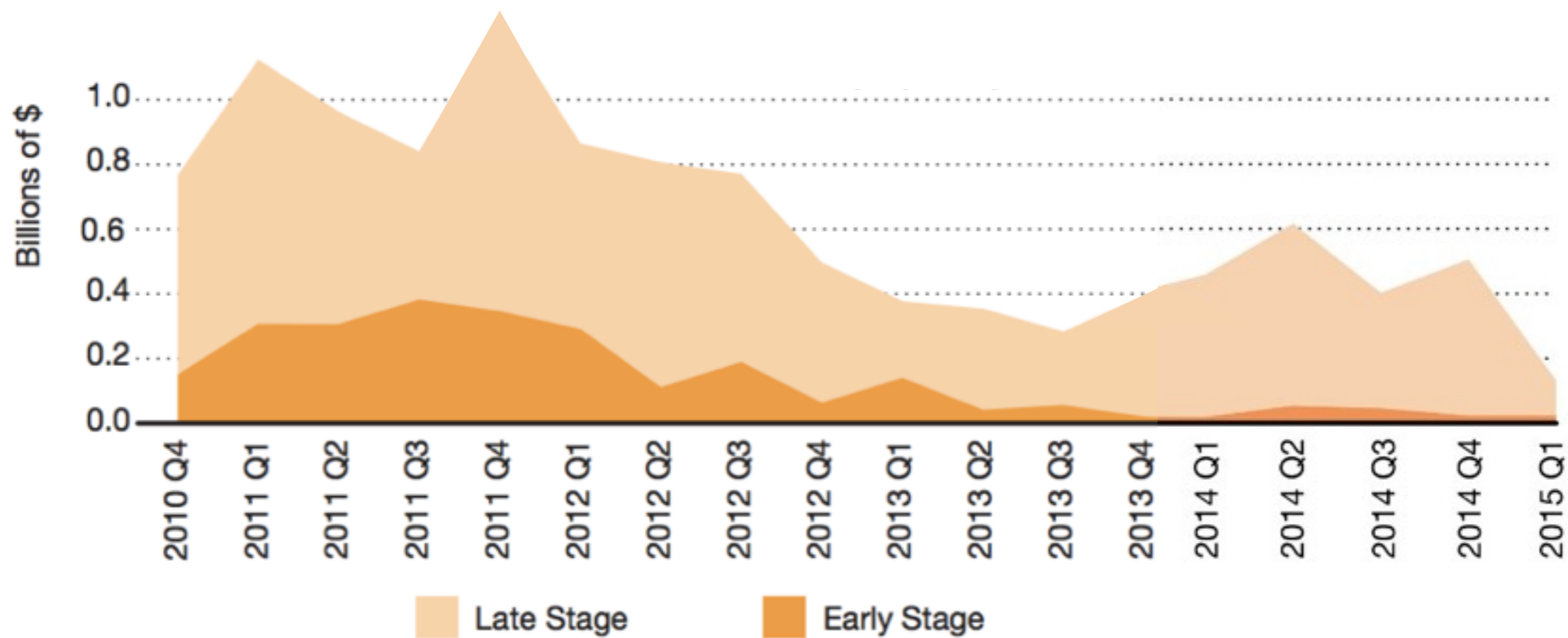


Age and capacity of electric generators by fuel type, as of year-end 2012



2012: secure backing

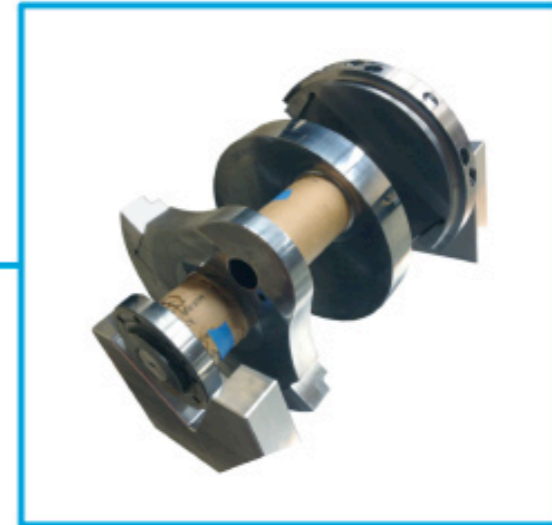
US Cleantech Venture Capital Investment: 2010 - 2015



Lesson: secure backers allows you to beat the odds



Crankcase



Crankshaft



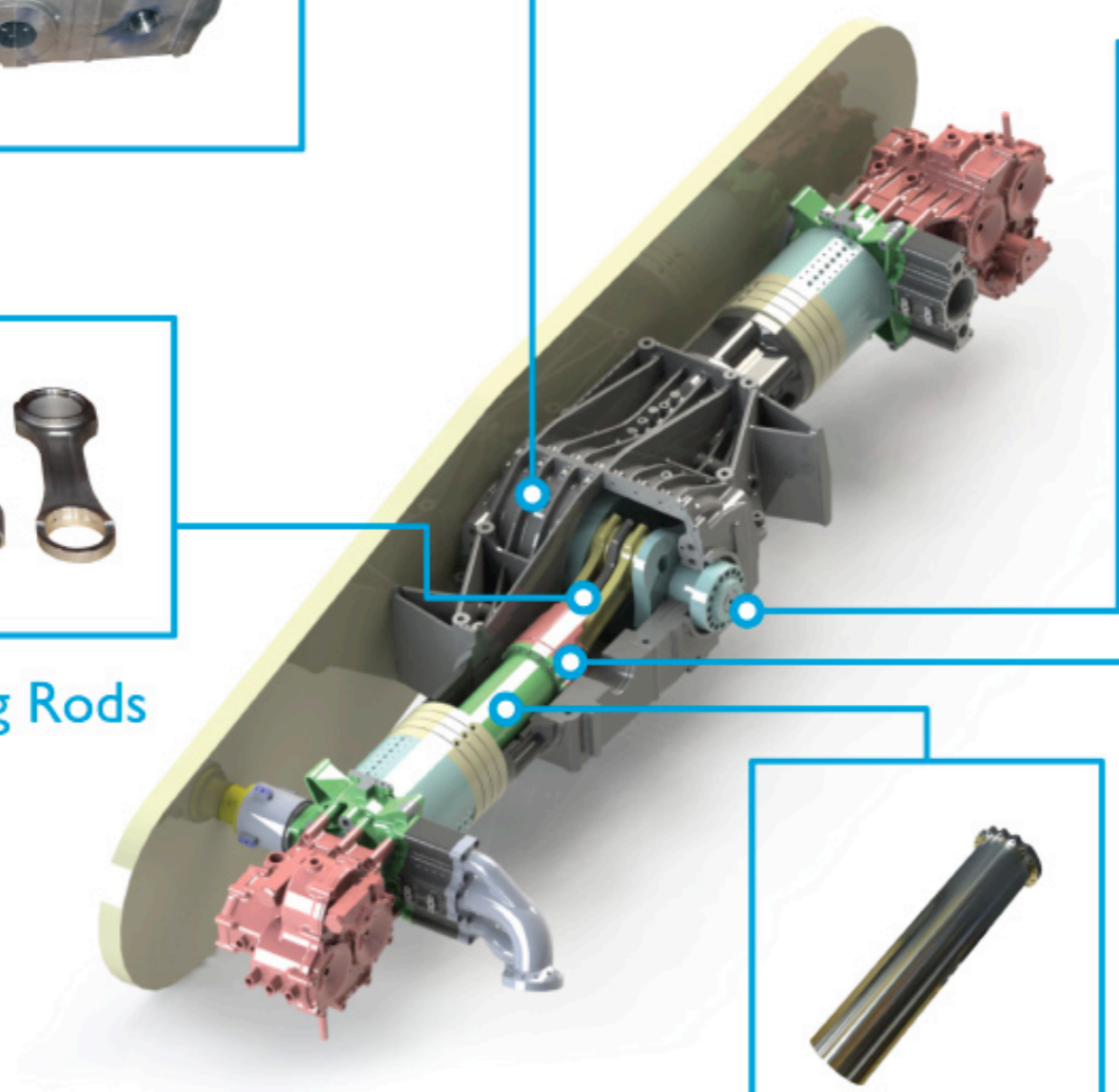
Connecting Rods



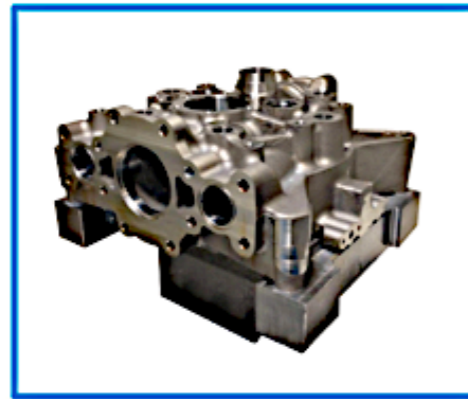
Crosshead



Piston



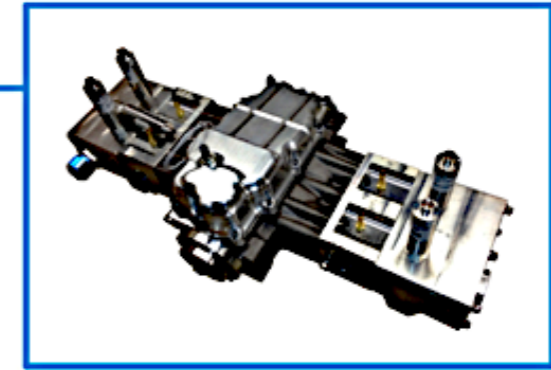
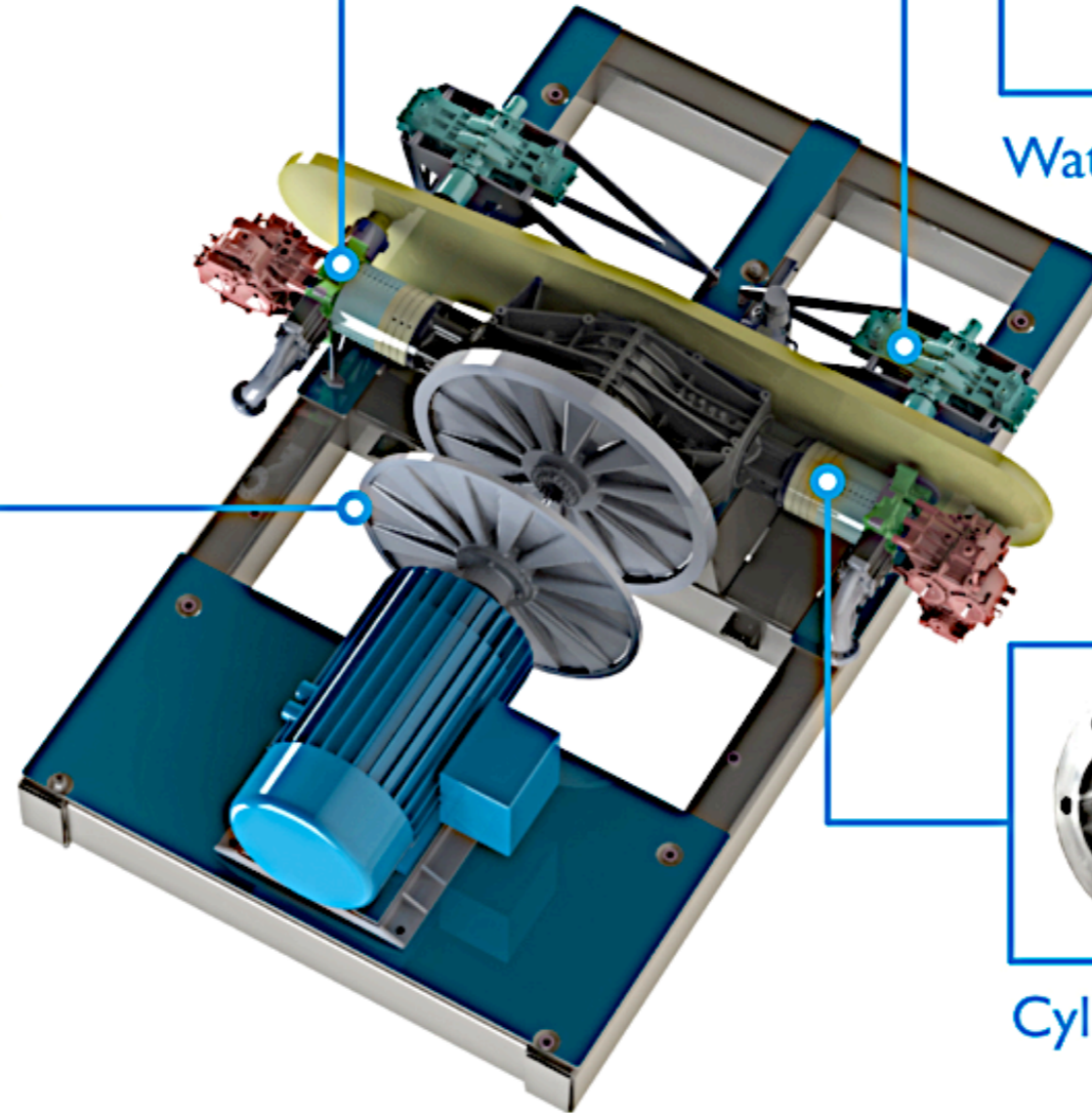
20 | 2: design of product



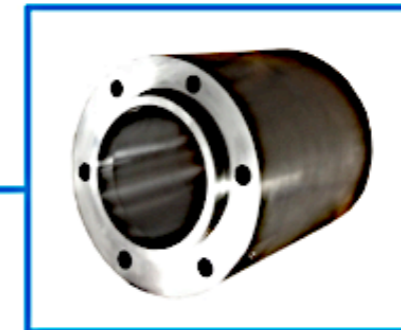
Cylinder Head



Flywheel

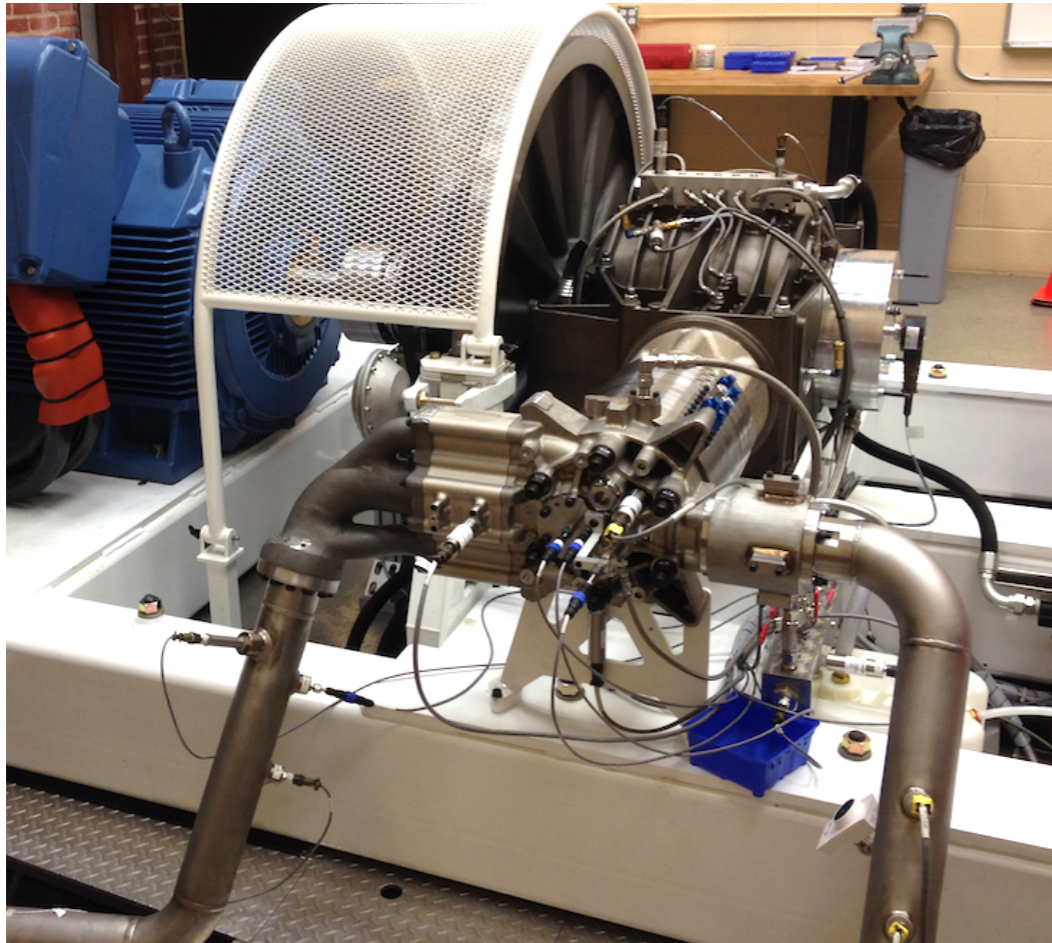


Water Pump



Cylinder

2013: build product prototype

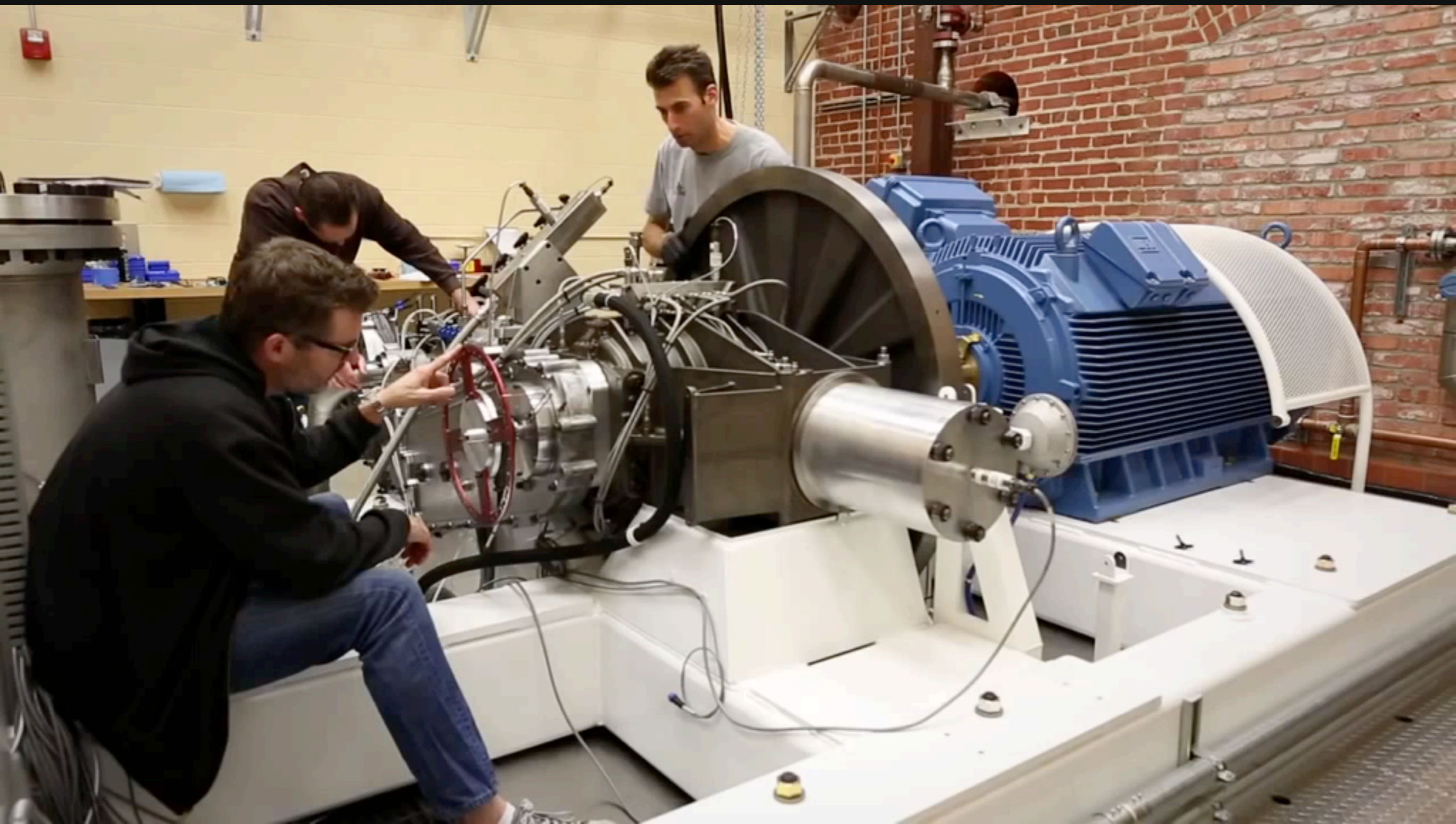


Full scale 200 atmosphere compressor/expander prototype
500 kW, 1200 RPM



Full scale carbon fiber pressure vessel prototype
Lighter, more inexpensive than anything before

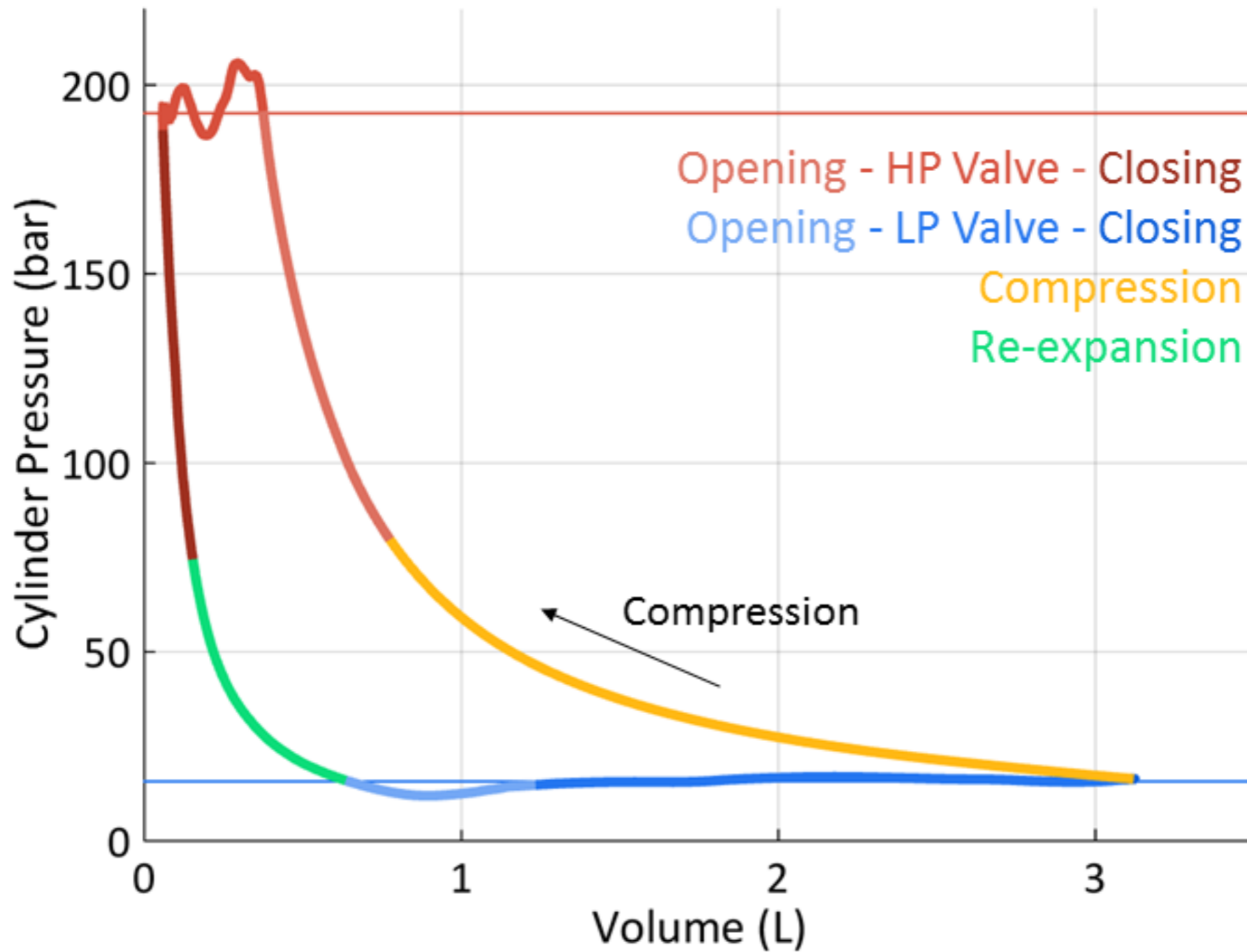
2014: we demonstrated the technological breakthrough



we built it



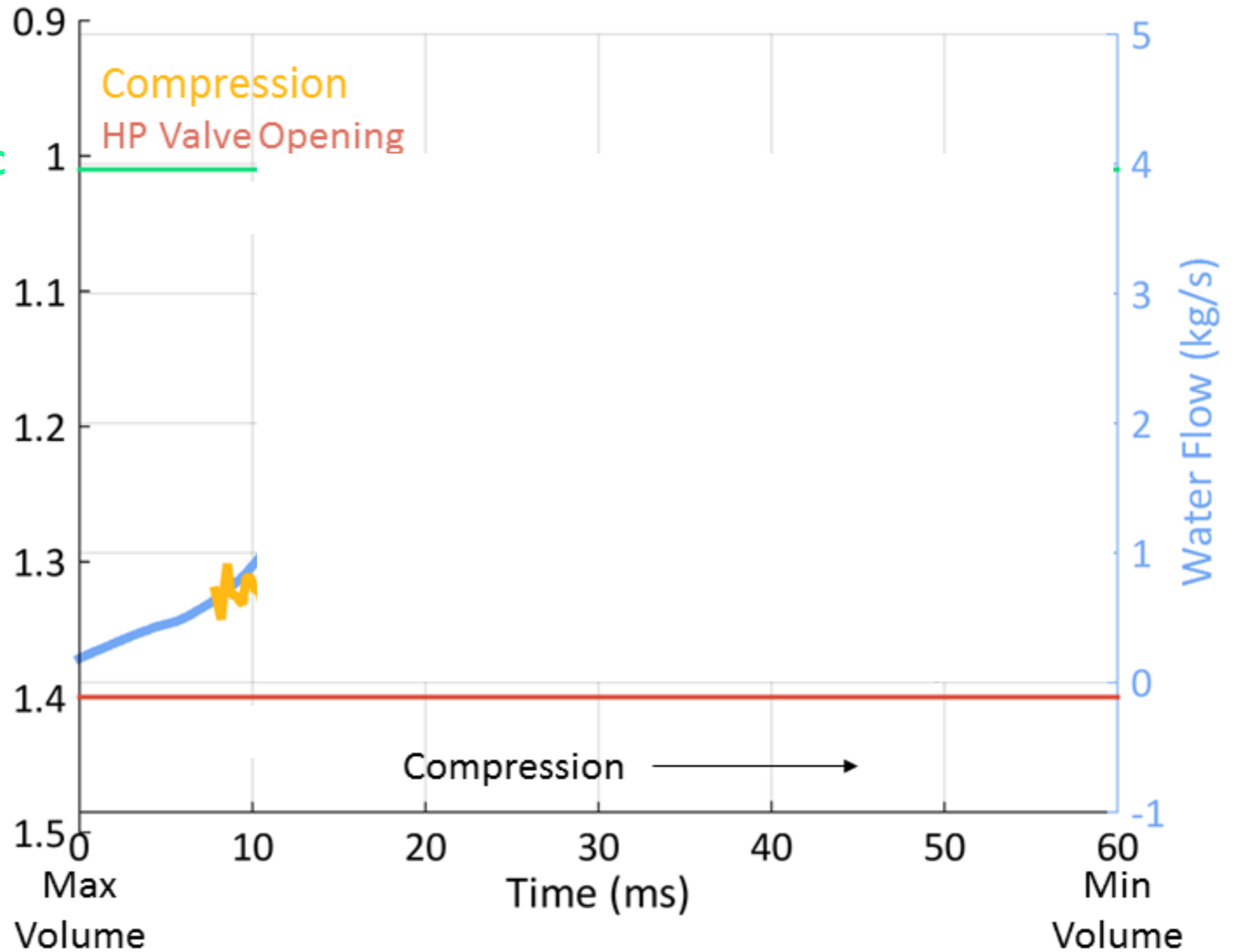
The compression process, at full pressure



How water spray effects efficiency

Absolute
Thermodynamic
Ideal

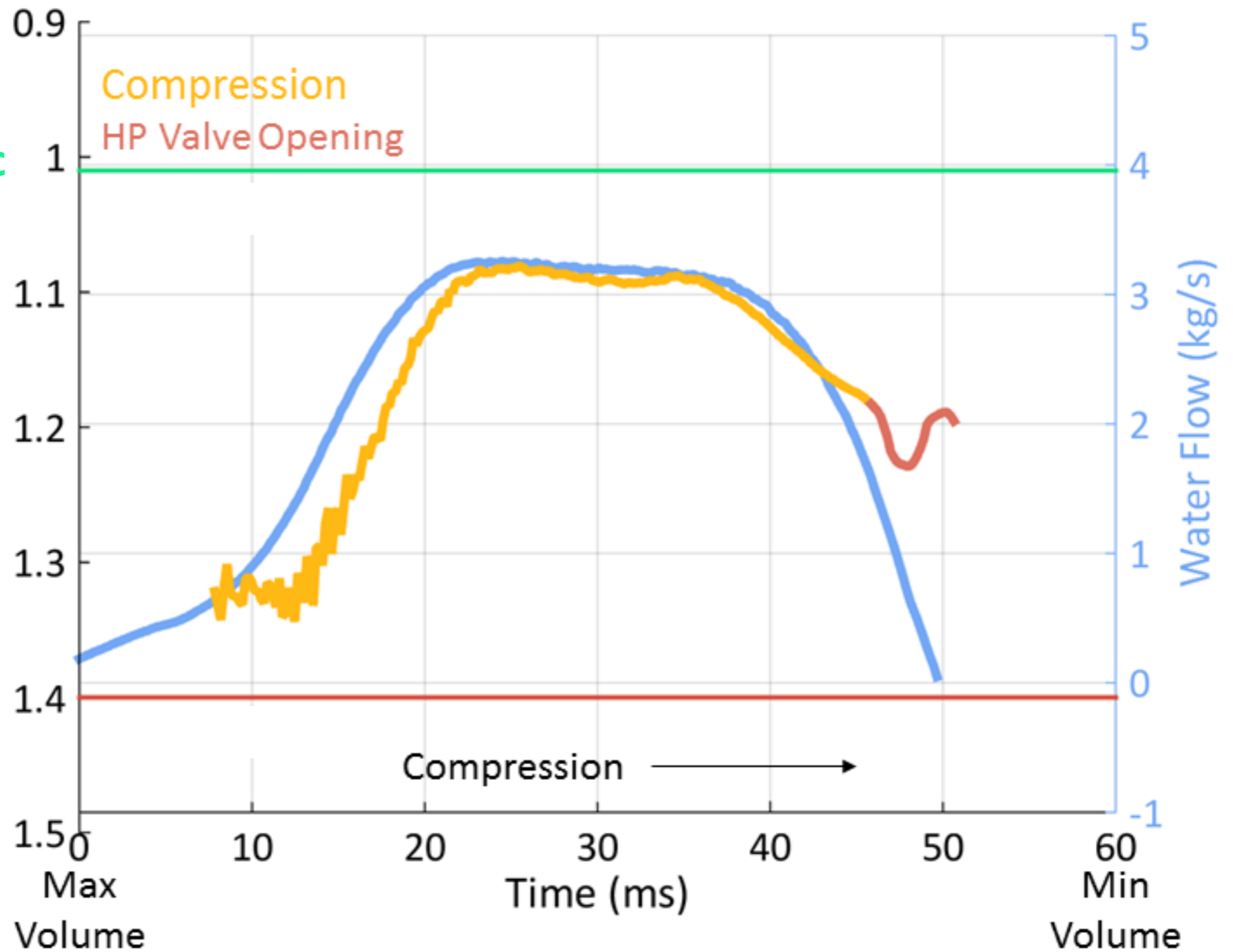
Before
"Adiabatic"

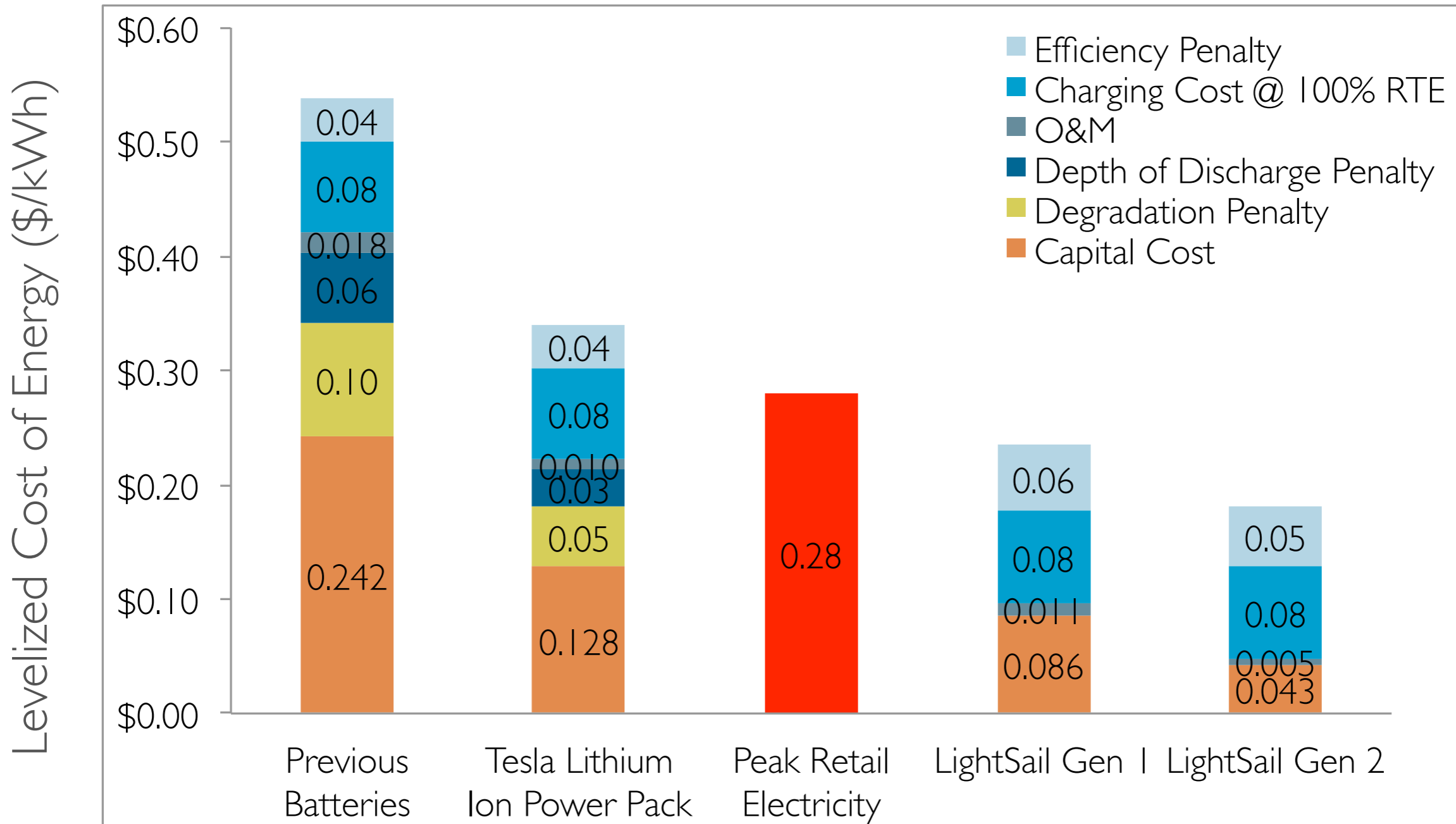
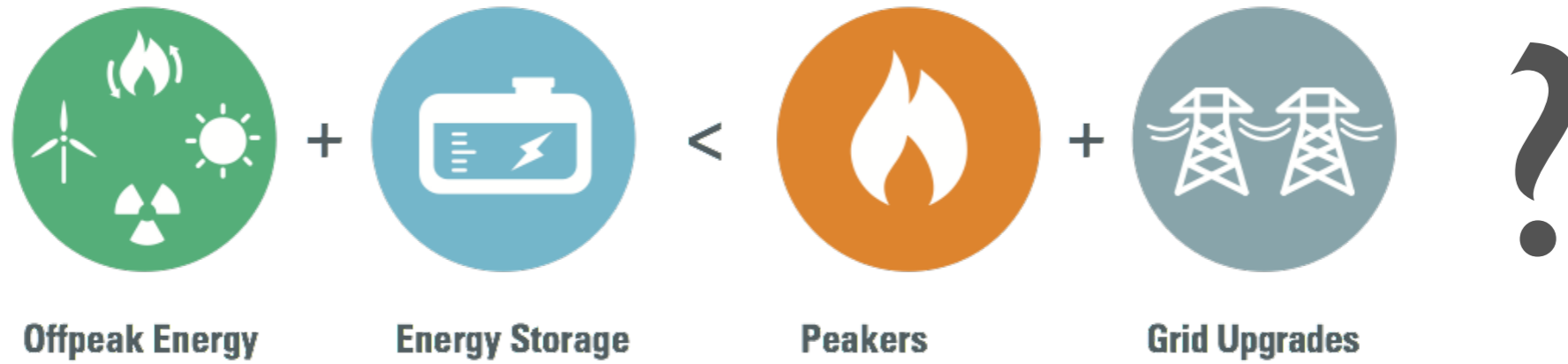


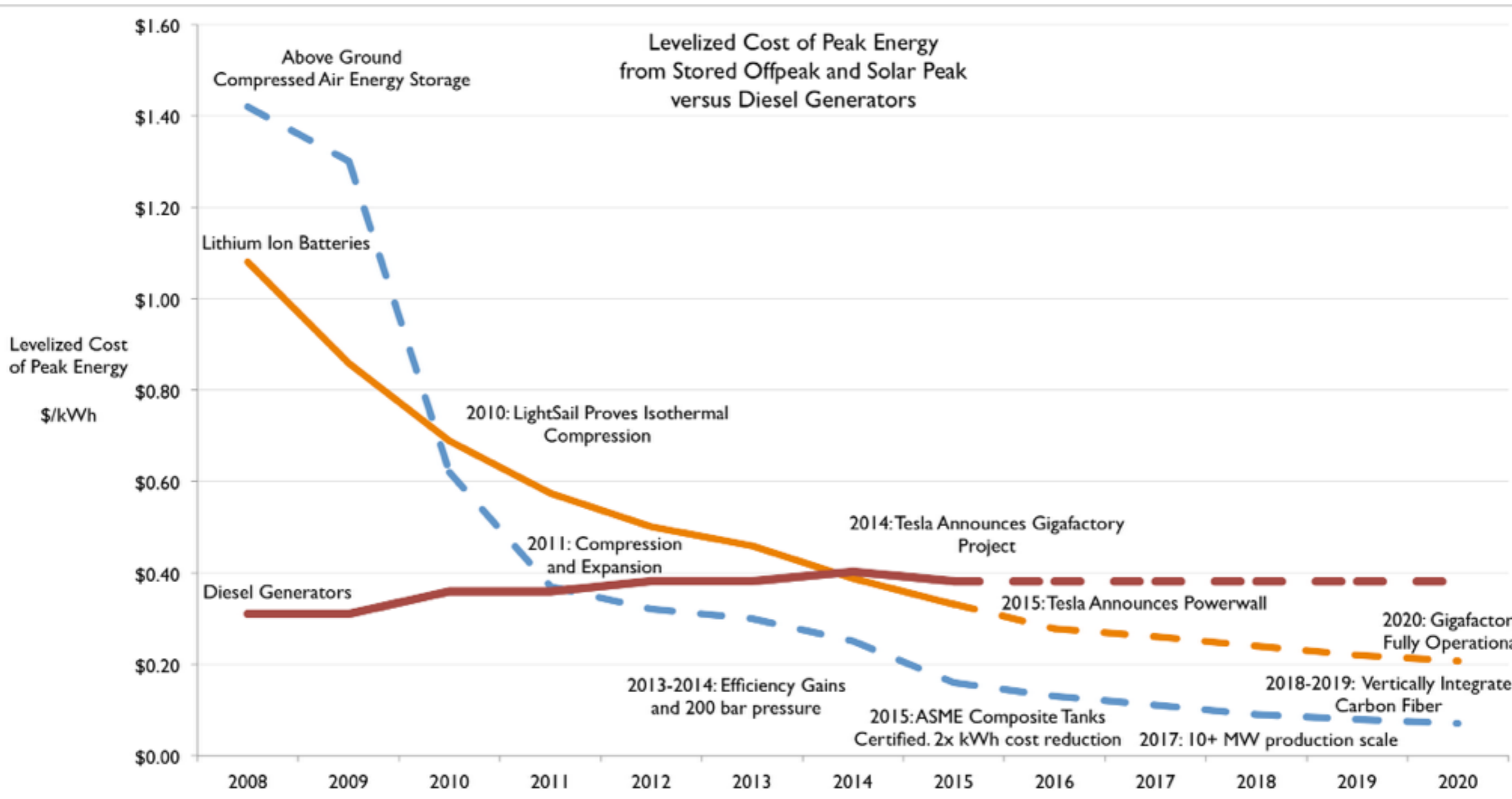
How water spray effects efficiency

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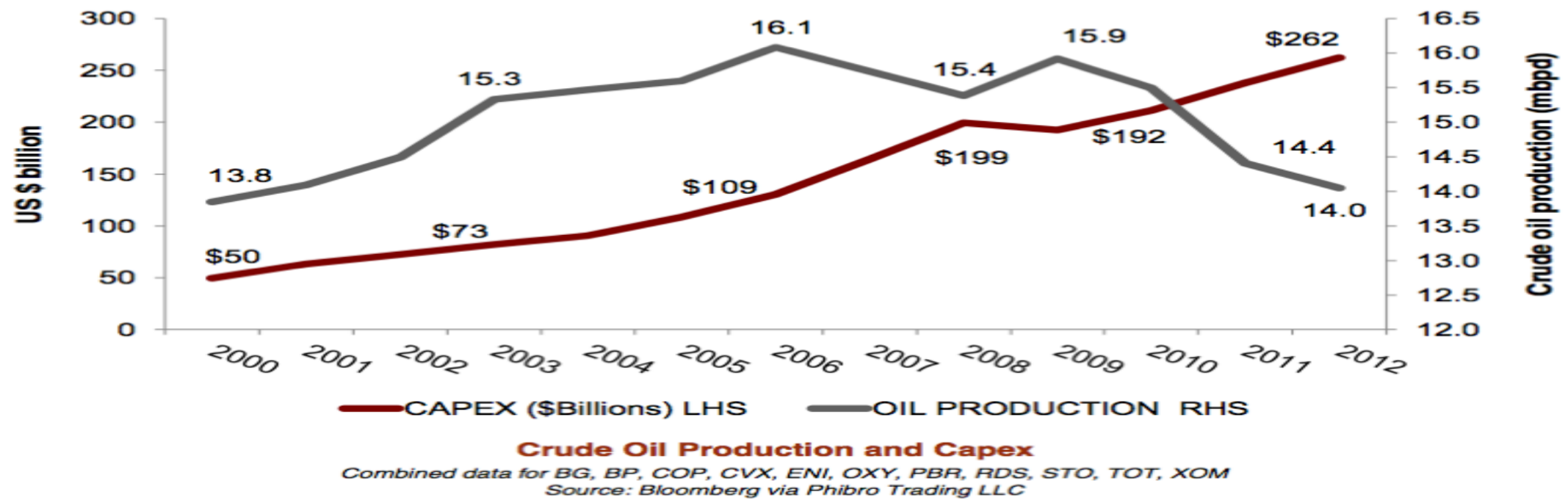








Listed Oil Majors: Capex and Crude Oil Production



- Oil production has faltered, even as capex has soared
- Capex productivity has fallen by a factor of five since 2000
- Observed decline trend now approaching 5% per year



LightSail Energy

Yes, we are raising a funding round. dfong@lightsailenergy.com