

Zero Carbon Fuels – A Global perspective with Contemporary North American insights

Andrew Place | July 20, 2022

CATF

Mission: Lead the way to an affordable, zero carbon energy system by advocating for pragmatic policies, new business strategies, and advanced technologies.

Steam Methane Reforming

(95% of H2 production today)

Carbon Intensive

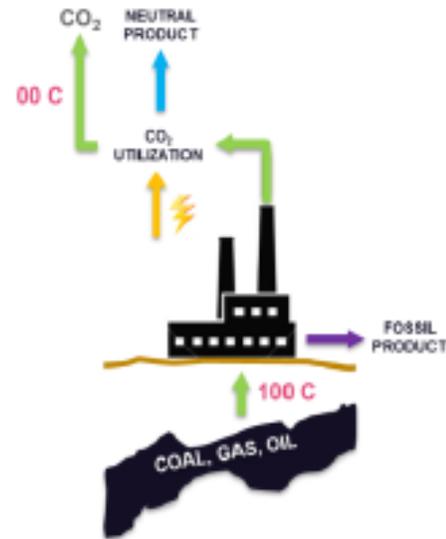
H2 produced at oil refineries =
10.5 tons CO2 per ton of H2



Oil, Coal, Natural Gas

Steam Methane Reforming + CCUS

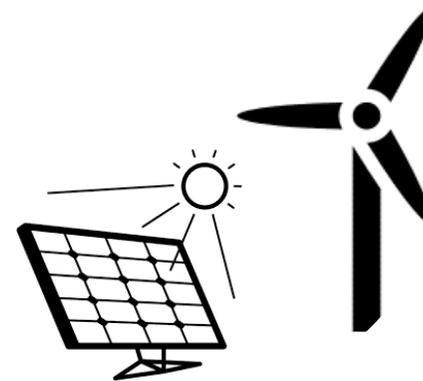
Low Carbon, but more expensive



Electrolysis + Zero-Carbon Source

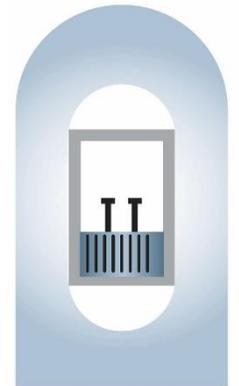
Zero Carbon, but currently more expensive

Geographic Limitations



Renewables

Zero Carbon, can be economically competitive due to baseload production + H2 production efficiencies



Nuclear

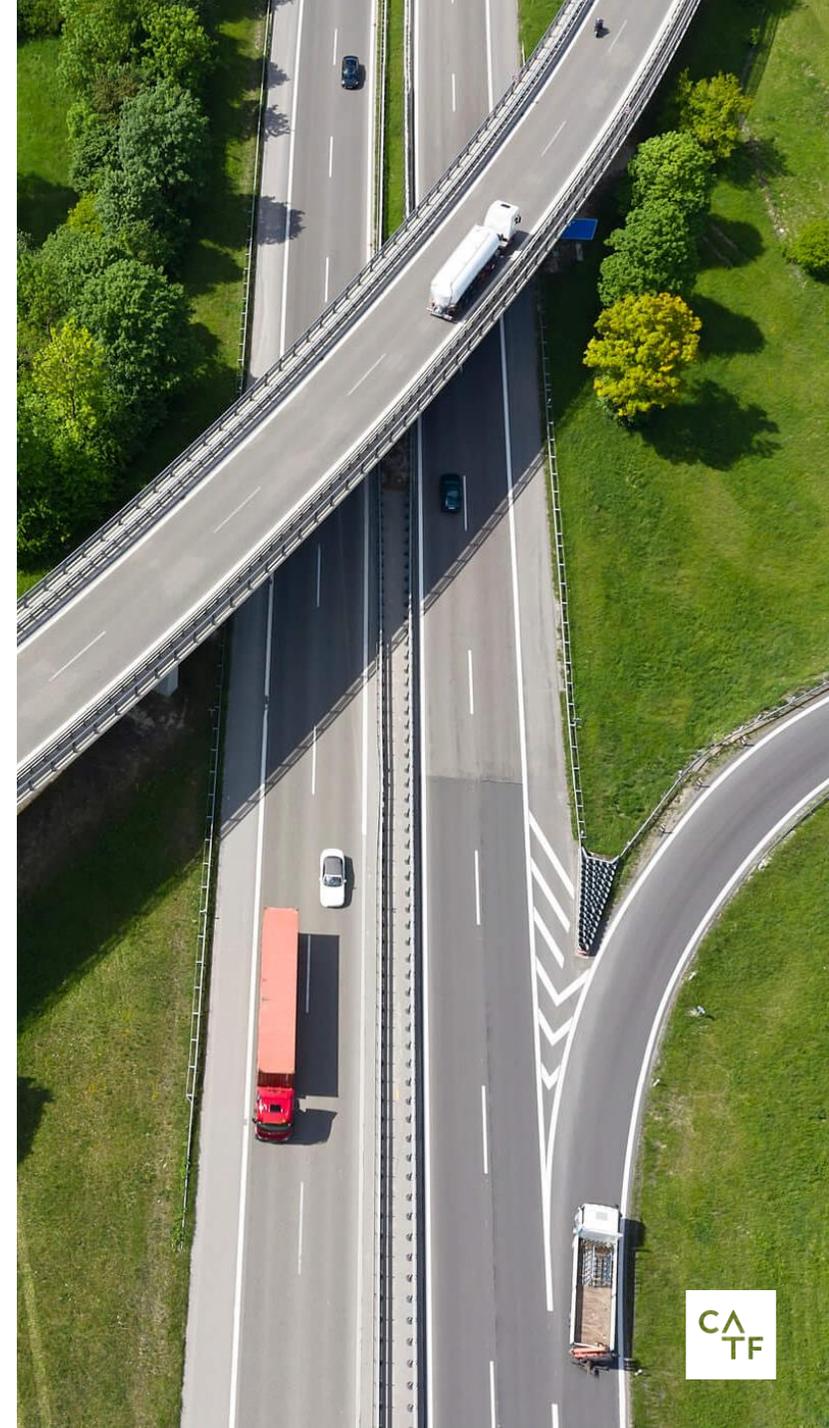
Zero-carbon fuels production pathways

We refer to fuels that are not only zero- carbon at the point of use, but that are also produced in ways that aim to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, resulting in very low CO2-equivalent emissions across the value chain.

Clean hydrogen can be produced in multiple ways, through electrolysis using zero-carbon electricity, methane reforming using natural gas with carbon capture and upstream methane control, etc.

Clean hydrogen is the whole point. What constitutes “clean” depends on context and should evolve over time, but at a minimum:

- Gas-based production must feature very high level of carbon capture for reformers, extremely low methane loss rates upstream, low CO2 intensity of process electricity
- Electrolytic production must utilize electricity that is renewable or clean



Zero-Carbon Fuels (ZCF)

80% of end-use energy is currently provided by fuel molecules like coal, natural gas and gasoline.

In the future, **many fuel end users will convert that consumption into electricity.**

Despite critical efforts to expand electrification, **there are many sectors of the economy where electrification is not a viable alternative to molecules.**

This is because the energy demand is so high, that it cannot be commercially delivered through electrification alone. For these sectors, replacement fuels are required that do not emit carbon when consumed.

Zero-carbon fuels—specifically hydrogen and ammonia—are fuels that do not emit carbon dioxide when consumed and can replace existing high-emitting fuels.

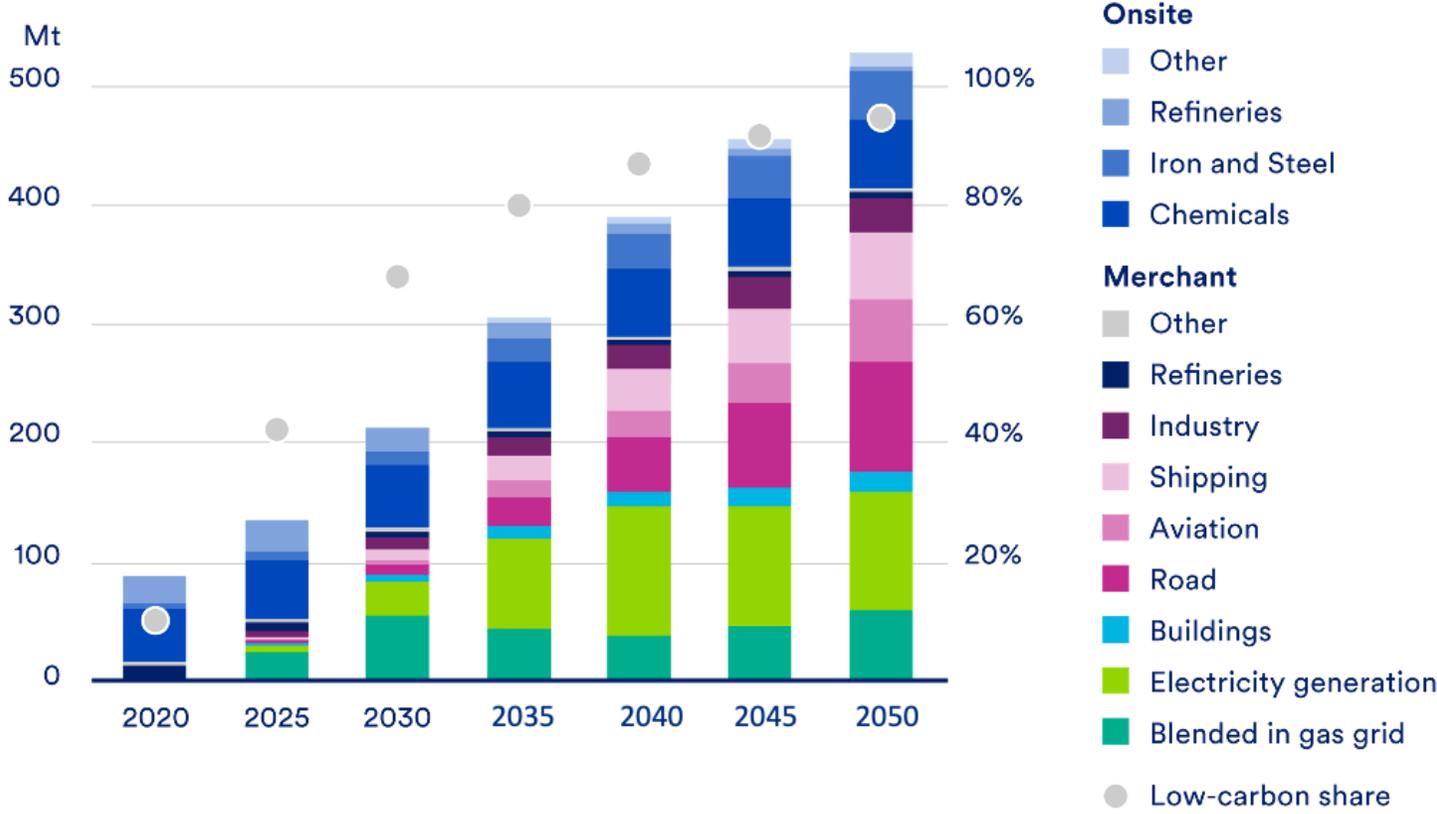


ZCFs' Role

IEA Predicts that global hydrogen demand will increase from 90 Mt/y to **530 Mt/y by 2050**

- 46% of hydrogen produced by 2030 is low-carbon
- By 2050, 38% of hydrogen is fossil-based with CCS.

Global hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuels in IEA NZE 2021

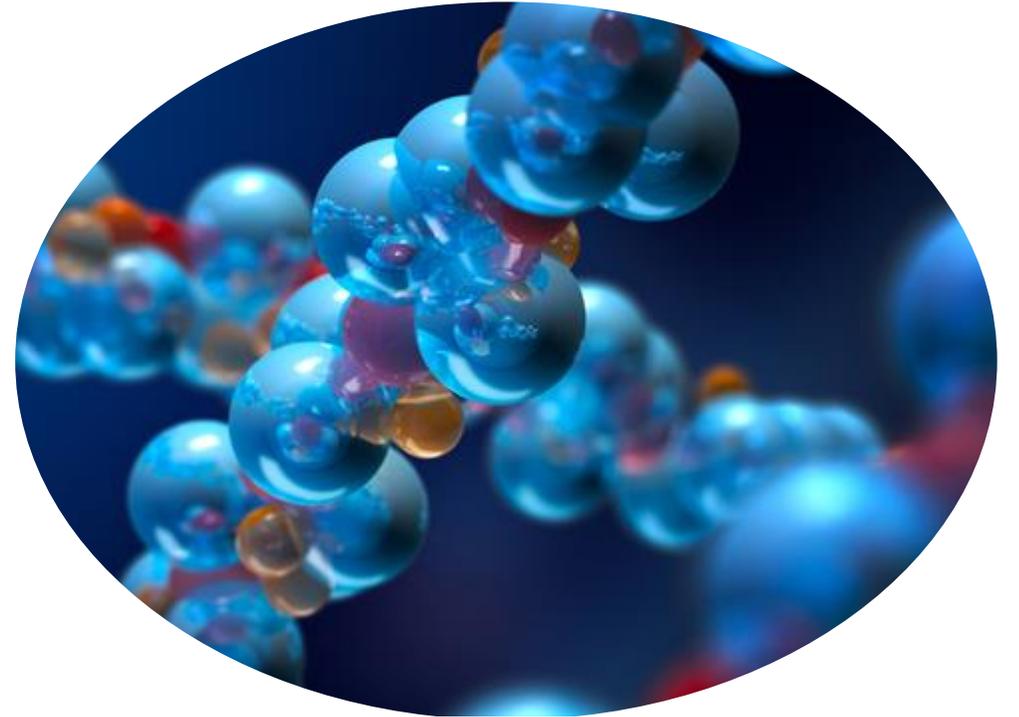


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Hydrogen Market Potential

Hypothetically, meeting replacing of the energy (~372 EJ) currently provided by fuels with hydrogen would require:

- 186 EJ of H₂
- 1.3 billion metric tonnes H₂
- 68000 TWh of electricity (with today's low-temperature electrolysis)
- 8.6 TW of electric capacity (if 90% capacity factor)



Hydrogen's eventual role in full economy-wide decarbonization may be limited in scope, but it probably won't be a niche role



Marine Vessels
1 B tpy CO₂
6 EJ H₂ @ 50%



Balancing
~ 1 B tpy CO₂
18 EJ H₂ @ 10%



Heavy Trucking
~ 2 B tpy CO₂
13 EJ H₂ @ 50%



Ironmaking
~ 2 B tpy CO₂
6 EJ H₂ @ 50%



Aviation
~ 1 B tpy CO₂
6 EJ H₂ @ 40%



Process Heat
~ 2 B tpy CO₂
10 EJ H₂ @ 25%

8 *NOTES ON HYDROGEN DEMAND: Except for power system balancing, CO₂ values represent approximate current total global emissions from the indicated activity and EJ values illustrate potential H₂ demand assuming the stated % of current demand is replaced with hydrogen. Power system balancing CO₂ represents potential CO₂ if assumed balancing energy was provide by natural gas. Total potential demand total ~70 EJ including ~5 EJ from building heating (~10% today's demand) and ~5 EJ from ammonia fertilizer production. Marine fraction reflects bulker and containership fraction of current marine fuel consumption. Trucking fraction reflects current fuel consumed in US on trips more than 300 km from base. Aviation fraction reflects half of fuel currently consumed on trips more than 1500 km. Process heat fraction assumes electrification and CCS apply to 75% of fuel consumption. Ironmaking fraction assumes CCS and hydrogen split current market size. 1.5%/yr growth suggests >100 EJ/yr could be needed by 2050. All values intended for illustration only.*

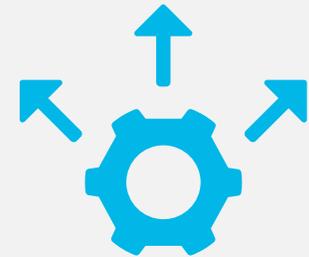
Zero-Carbon Fuels Challenges

- The key challenges for zero-carbon fuels are costs, infrastructure development and markets.
- Costs are currently too high to compete with incumbent high-emitting fuels without public policy support.
- Reductions in costs will require large-scale deployment through markets that recognize the greenhouse gas benefits of these fuels.
- Other challenges include the lack of an attractive ecosystem for financing and investing in zero-carbon fuels projects.
- Fuel switching for industrial players will come with significant cost challenges just for energy inputs.
- Low-carbon fuel adoption represents a substantial increase in fuel price compared to natural gas, ultimately increasing production costs. Electricity, however, appears to be even higher cost.

Zero-Carbon Fuels



Reduced Cost



Wide Deployment

Meeting Hydrogen Demand Requires Coordinated Public- and Private-Sector Action

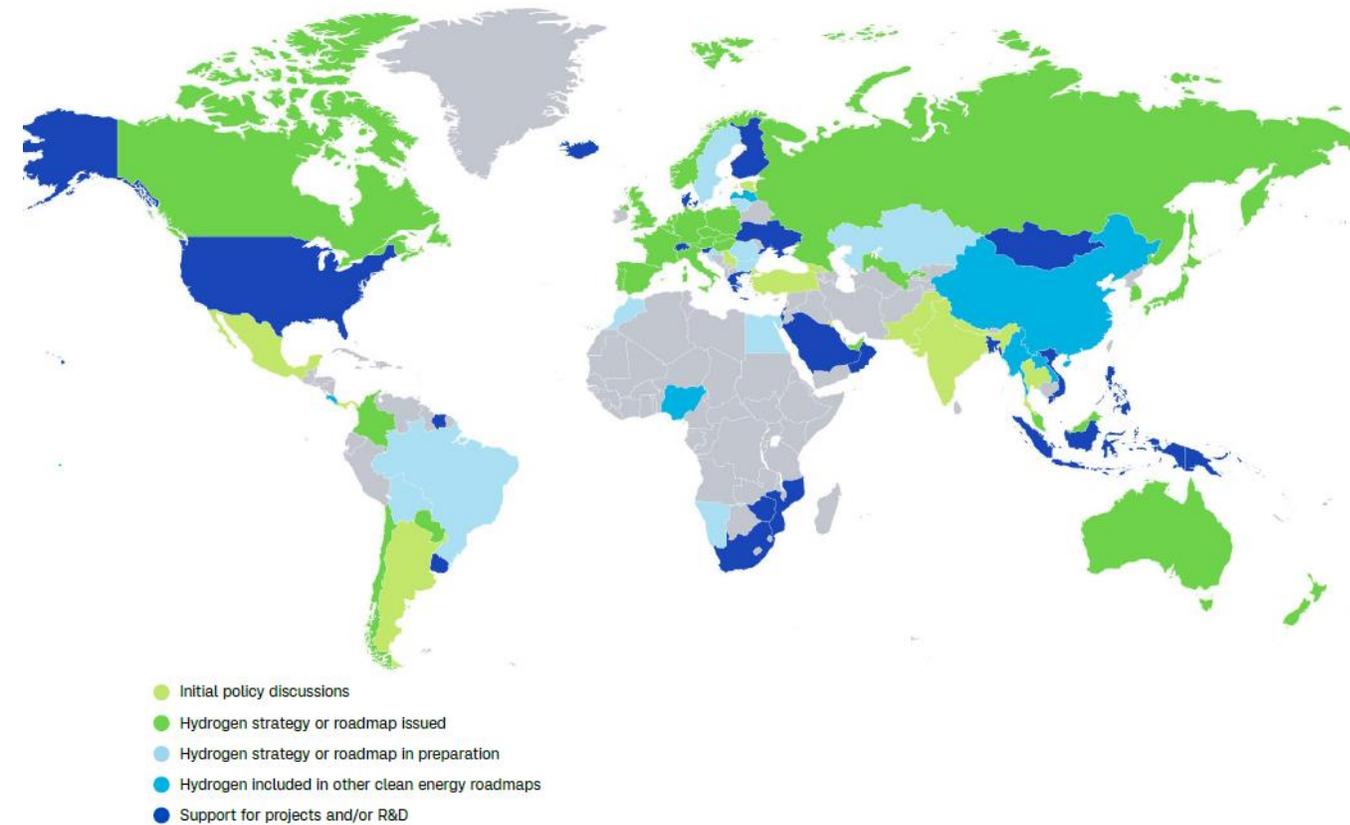
We need lots of zero/low-carbon hydrogen if we want to fully decarbonize the global economy, we need it soon, and we need it to be competitively priced.

Achieving all that requires public- and private-sector investment in:

- **A range of decarbonized production technologies** including renewable- and nuclear-based electrolysis and natural gas reforming with carbon capture and storage systems.
- Pipelines and other **connective infrastructure**.
- **Fueling infrastructure** like hydrogen truck fueling depots and ammonia bunkering.
- **Zero-emission end-use applications** like fuel-cells, ammonia-fueled engines, and hydrogen-fueled turbines and process heaters.

Developing and deploying a sufficient volume of clean and affordable hydrogen fuels will also require leadership, oversight, and resources from the public sector.

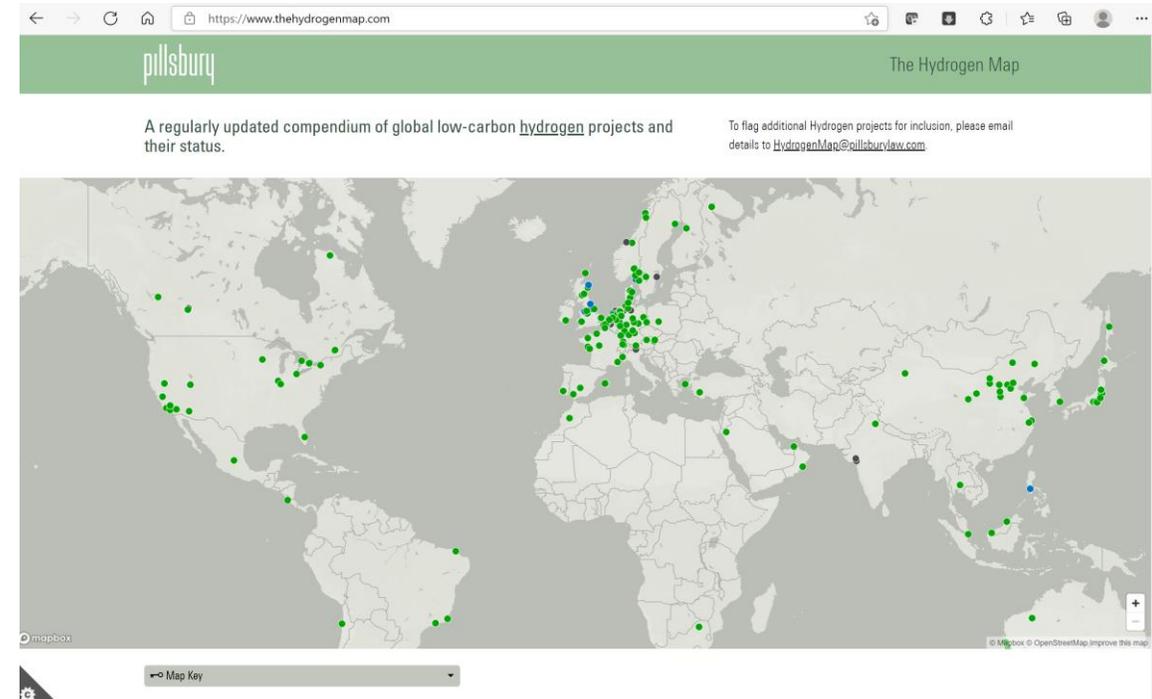
Nuclear Hydrogen - Policy Drives Projects



National Hydrogen Strategies as of June 2022:
<https://nuclear-hydrogen.org/>

Over 200 low and zero carbon H2 projects globally under development

<https://www.thehydrogenmap.com>



Highlights and Policies in the United States

Emerging U.S. Hydrogen Hub Regions



Northeast

New York, New Jersey,
Massachusetts,
Connecticut

**WISHH
(Mountain Region)**
New Mexico, Wyoming,
Utah, Colorado

Appalachian Region
Pennsylvania, Ohio,
West Virginia

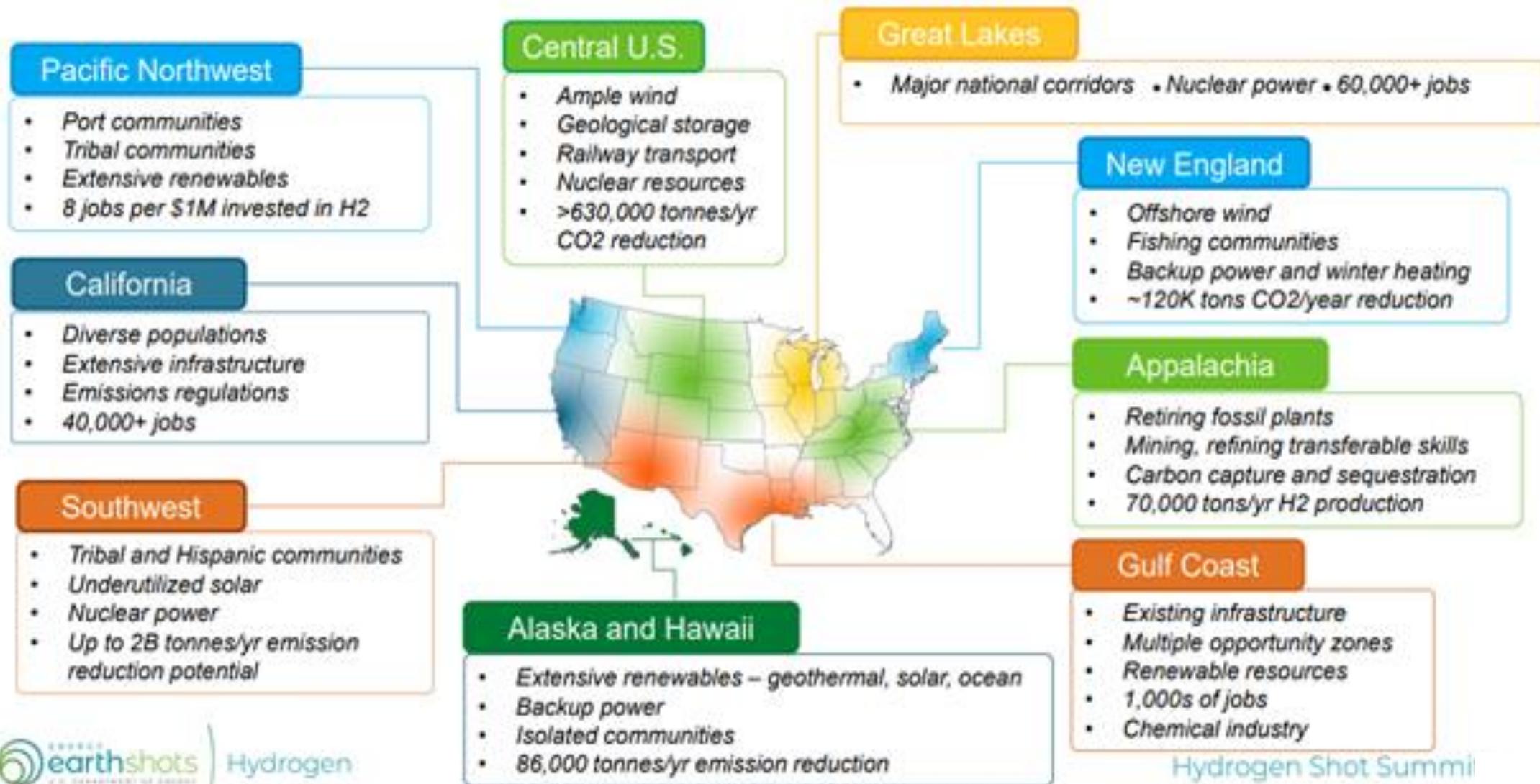
**North & South
Carolina**

**Los Angeles,
California**

Houston, Texas

**Southern & Gulf
Coast Region - HALO**
Louisiana, Oklahoma,
Arkansas

RFI Findings: Regional clusters and geographic factors



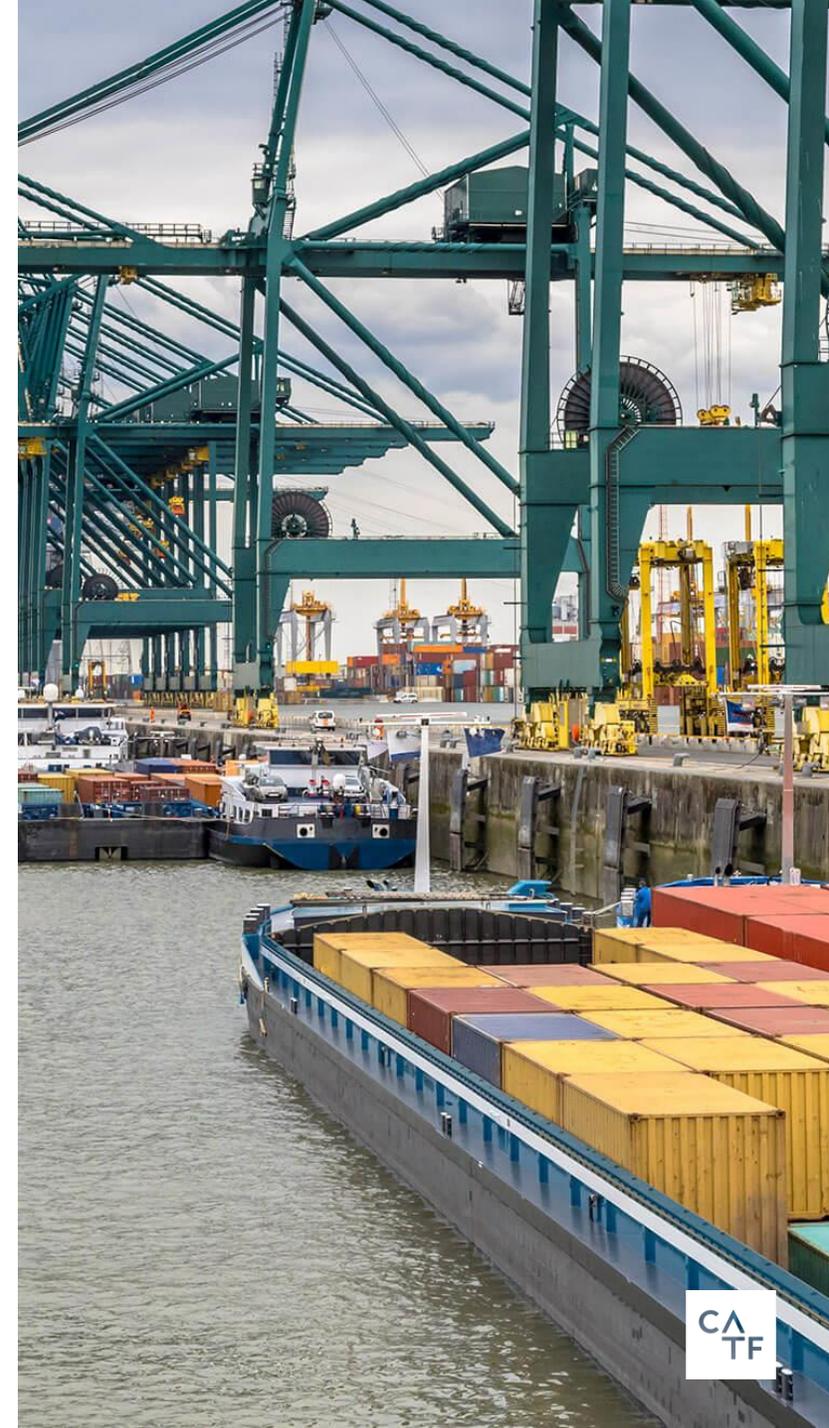
Transportation as a Key End-Use Sector

The global transportation decarbonization challenge

25% Roughly 25% of global warming pollution comes from vehicles.

Electrification can eliminate much of that pollution, but **many vehicles will be difficult or impossible to power with batteries**—including marine vessels, aircraft, and long-haul freight trucks that could account for approximately one-quarter of future transportation sector energy demand.

Unless zero-carbon fuels are produced at massive scale and ZCF-powered vehicles are developed and deployed around the world in massive numbers, we cannot fully eliminate GHG emissions from the transportation sector.



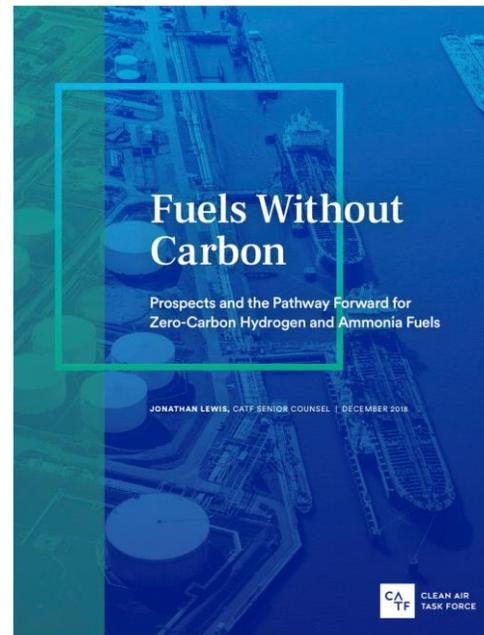
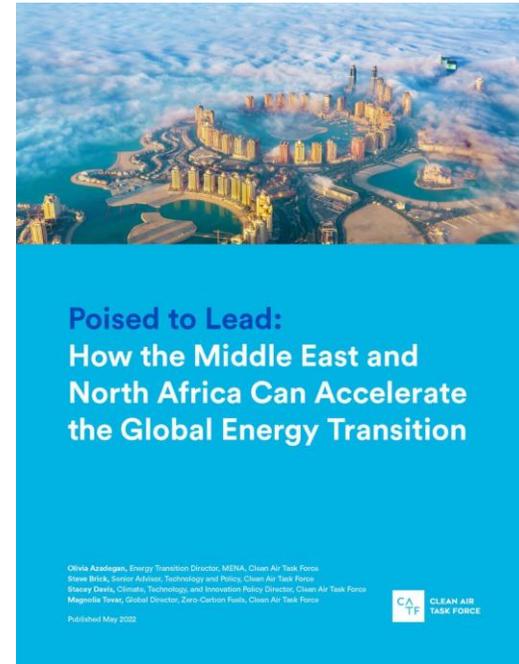
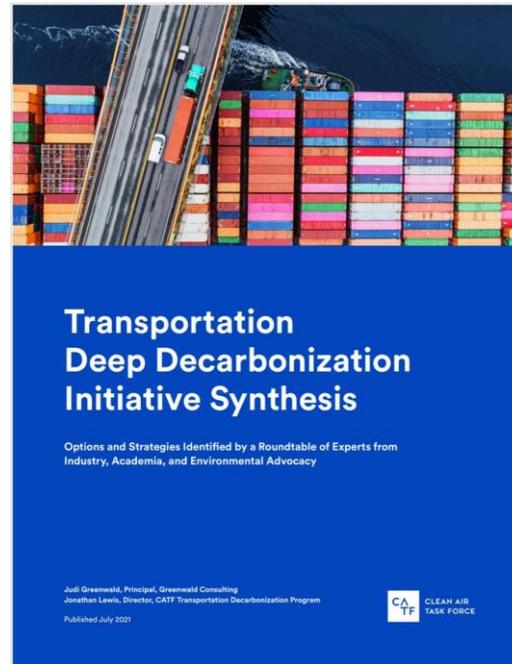
Thank you



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Why is hydrogen essential to full decarbonization?

Hydrogen is a zero-carbon fuel. Burning it or converting it to a fuel cell produces only energy and water. It can be manufactured through processes that emit little to no greenhouse gas, either by splitting water with clean electricity (called electrolysis) or by splitting hydrocarbons with heat (called reforming or gasification) and then capturing the resulting carbon dioxide. Both processes—often referred to as “green” and “blue” hydrogen production, respectively—will be needed to make enough hydrogen to fully and rapidly decarbonize “difficult-to-electrify” sectors of the economy. These sectors include long-haul heavy trucking, high-temperature industrial processes, ironmaking, and ammonia-fueled long-haul marine shipping (ammonia is produced by combining hydrogen with nitrogen from the air). Hydrogen may also be used for long-duration energy storage and building heating. The world could need 700–1400 million tons per year (tpy) of low-carbon hydrogen by mid-century. Some estimates for U.S. demand alone would be 90 million tpy.

What is a “hydrogen hub”?

A hydrogen hub is a group of facilities that brings together low-carbon hydrogen producers with hydrogen consumers in a single region to promote rapid deployment of low-carbon hydrogen and minimize geographic and infrastructure barriers. Concentrating supply and demand in these hubs can help demonstrate the technology at scale, foster learning-by-doing, and support cost reduction. Some hubs could also serve as clean fuel export centers, supporting decarbonization elsewhere. A hydrogen hub might include technology to produce the low-carbon hydrogen, such as a large wind or solar farm and a large electrolysis plant, or a large natural gas reformer with carbon capture and sequestration. Hubs will also include associated downstream equipment and infrastructure needed to deliver hydrogen fuel to consumers, which might include hydrogen pipelines, storage facilities, vehicle fueling stations, and specialized conversion equipment such as ammonia synthesis plants. Finally, a hub could include virtual infrastructure, such as an agreement to purchase unused nuclear electricity from plants spread over a wider area.

What can be produced at a low-carbon hydrogen hub?

A hydrogen hub will serve regional markets by supplying low-carbon hydrogen for transportation fuels, power generation, steel production, and other manufacturing processes. Hydrogen production will be sized to meet those needs. A production facility that makes 80,000 tpy of hydrogen would require either between 600 MW and 1 GW of clean power to fuel an electrolyzer, or a natural gas reformer that captures and sequesters about 700 thousand tpy of CO₂. For context, a hydrogen hub at this scale could produce enough low-carbon hydrogen to decarbonize one of the following: (1) a 1 GW combined cycle power plant operating at about 15% capacity factor and balancing 1.6 GW or more of variable renewable electricity generation; (2) 430 million miles of heavy freight trucking; (3) 61