

CLEAN ENERGY
INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



Grid Energy Storage

Accelerating the creation of a scalable, clean
energy future

Energy (Density) & Power (Density)

- **Energy** □ the ability to do work [J, kWh]
- **Power** □ how fast energy is used or produced [J/s = W]
- **Density** □ energy (power) stored per weight (volume) [Wh/kg]

Tesla Model S



Chevrolet Bolt



- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| • Range: | 390 miles | 259 miles |
| • 0-60 mile: | 1.99 s | 6.5 s |
| • Battery: | Panasonic (246 Wh/kg) | LG (237 Wh/kg) |



Power Scales

1 Watt



laptop computer
15-30 watts



human body base
metabolism
80 watts

1 kW (10^3 W)



microwave
1 kilowatt



small solar panel array
(peak production)
1.5 kilowatt

1 MW (10^6 W)



flying a Boeing 747
140 megawatts



wind turbine
(2011 GE 2.5 MW)
2.5 megawatts

1 GW (10^9 W)



average power use of
Washington (2010)
68 gigawatts

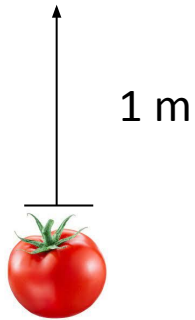


average power use of
United States (1940)
840 gigawatts



Energy Scales

1 J



1 Wh = 3600 J

NCR18650B
PANASONIC



Panasonic 18650 B Li battery
9.13 Wh

1 kWh (10^3 Wh)



Tesla Powerwall
13.5 kWh



Average US household
daily energy consumption
28.9 kWh

1 MWh (10^6 Wh)



1 GWh (10^9 Wh)

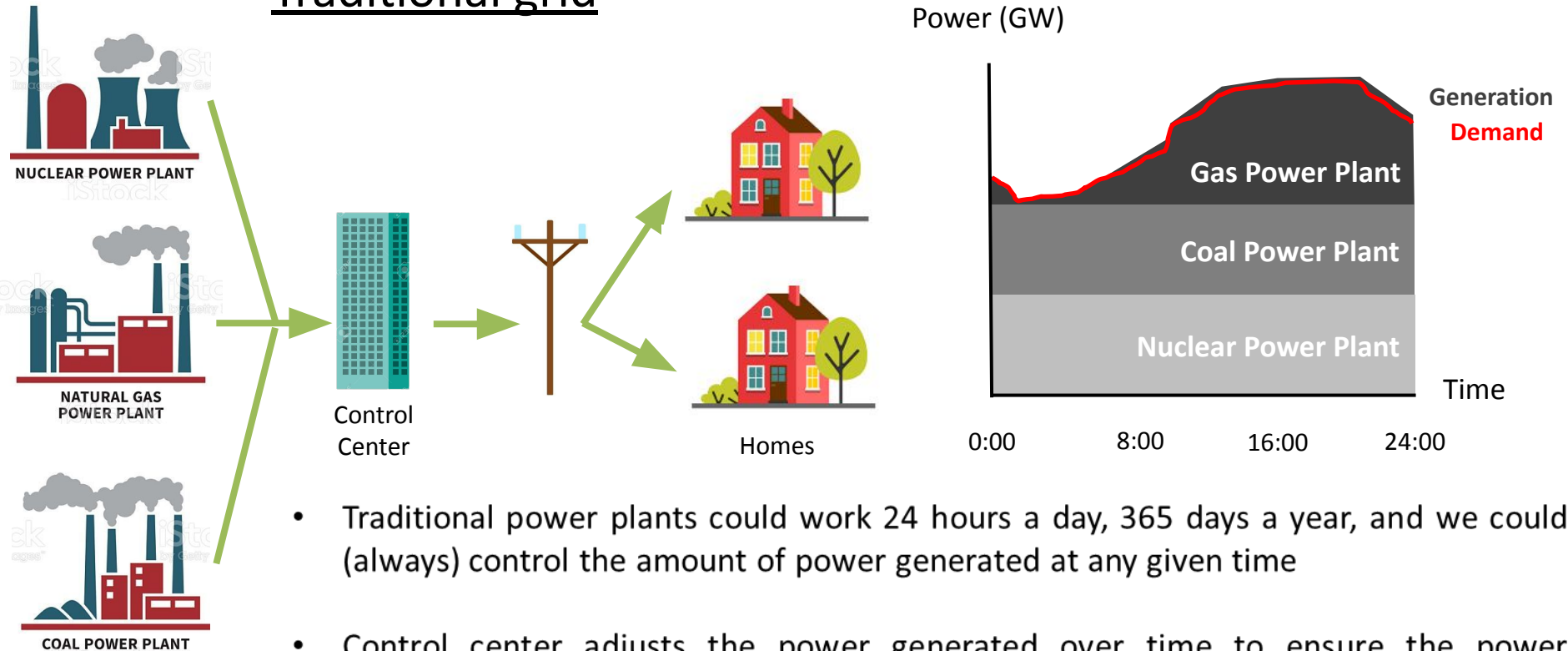


average daily energy consumption
of United States (2020)
10,416 GWh



Why grid energy storage matters for 100 % clean energy?

Traditional grid

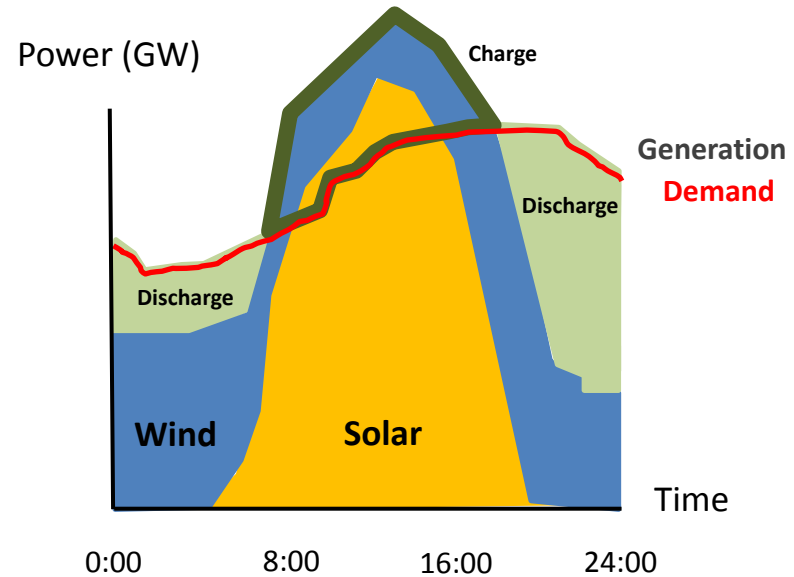
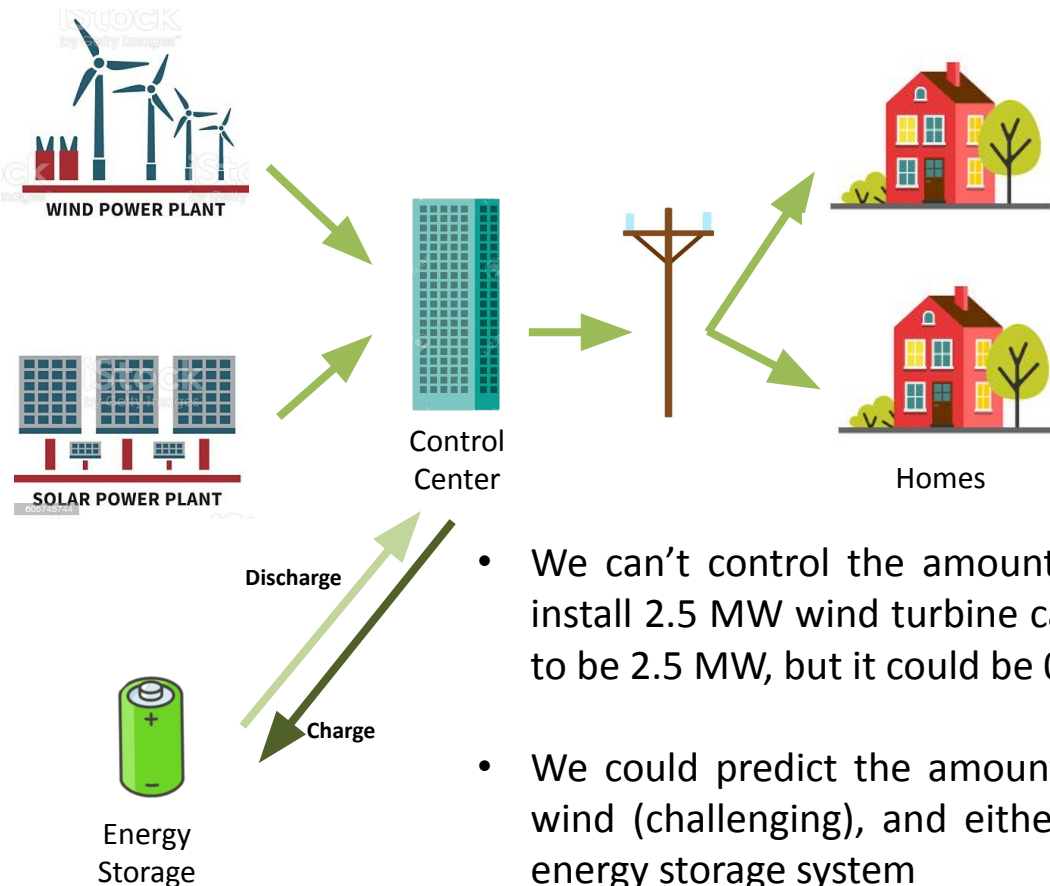


- Traditional power plants could work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and we could (always) control the amount of power generated at any given time
- Control center adjusts the power generated over time to ensure the power $\text{Generation} \cong \text{Demand}$. The imbalance of generation and demand will cause the power grid to crash
- For traditional grid, we use most of the energy generated right away, and the energy storage demand is relatively low



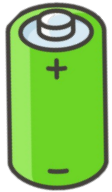
Why grid energy storage matters for 100 % clean energy?

Smart grid (simplified)



- We can't control the amount of power generated from wind or solar. We install 2.5 MW wind turbine capacity and expect the maximum power output to be 2.5 MW, but it could be 0 MW at some time point.
- We could predict the amount of energy that will be generated by solar or wind (challenging), and either store the extra or fill up the shortage using energy storage system
- Very high energy storage demand to smooth the energy generation curve

Grid energy storage considerations



Grid Energy Storage

(Levelized)
Cost

USD/kWh. The average cost of total energy stored (multiple store-release cycles) over the lifetime of the energy storage facility

Efficiency

$$\frac{\text{Energy released (electrical)}}{\text{Energy stored (mechanical, electrochemical, chemical)}}$$

Energy density

Watt–hour per liter, how much space is required

Safety

High energy storage = great ability to work normally (discharge) or abnormally (fire or explosion)

Discharge
time

1,200 MWh □ 300 MW – 4 hours
□ 600 MW – 2 hours

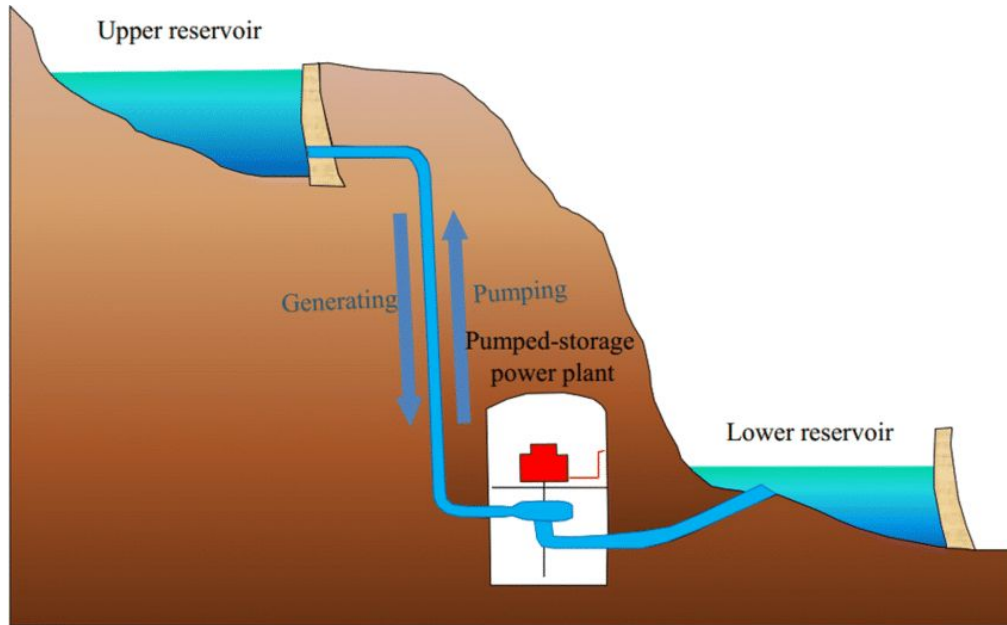
Max cycle
or lifetime

Years or > 1,000 cycles, how long to replace the unit

Different grid energy storage forms

Mechanical

Pumped Hydro



(Levelized)
Cost

Low

Efficiency

Medium

Energy density

Low

Lifetime

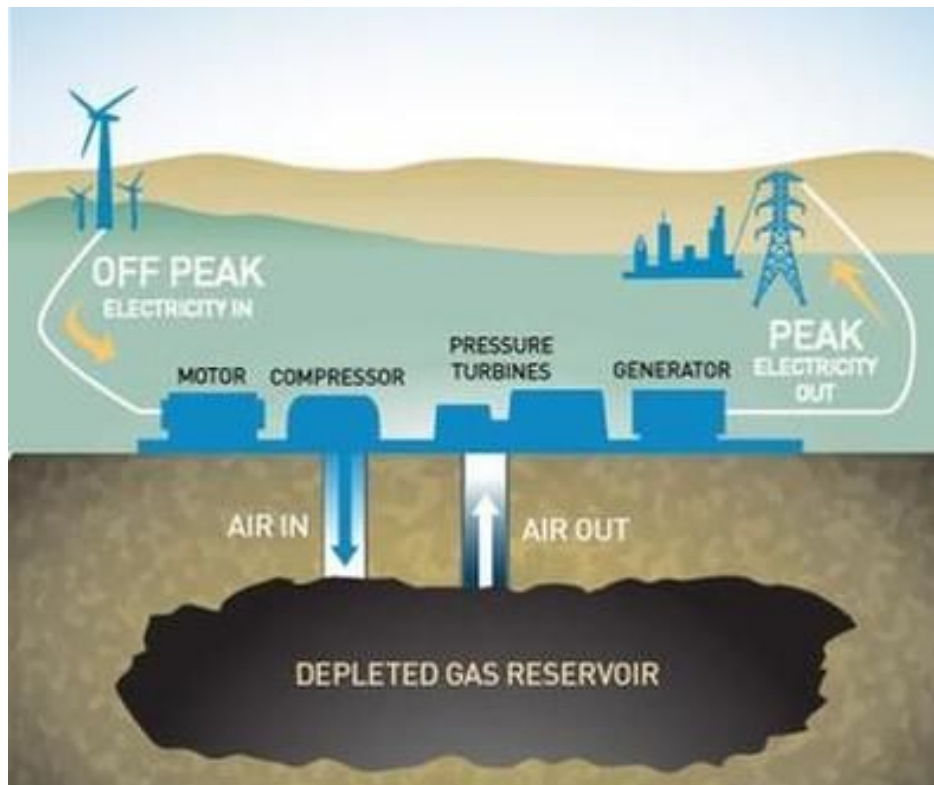
Long

- 95 % energy storage, very mature technology
- Snoqualmie falls, Grand Coulee Dam (WA)
- Location limitation

Different grid energy storage forms

Mechanical

Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)



(Levelized)
Cost

Low

Efficiency

Low-Medium

Energy density

Low

Lifetime

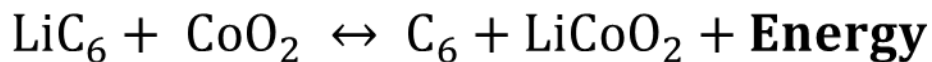
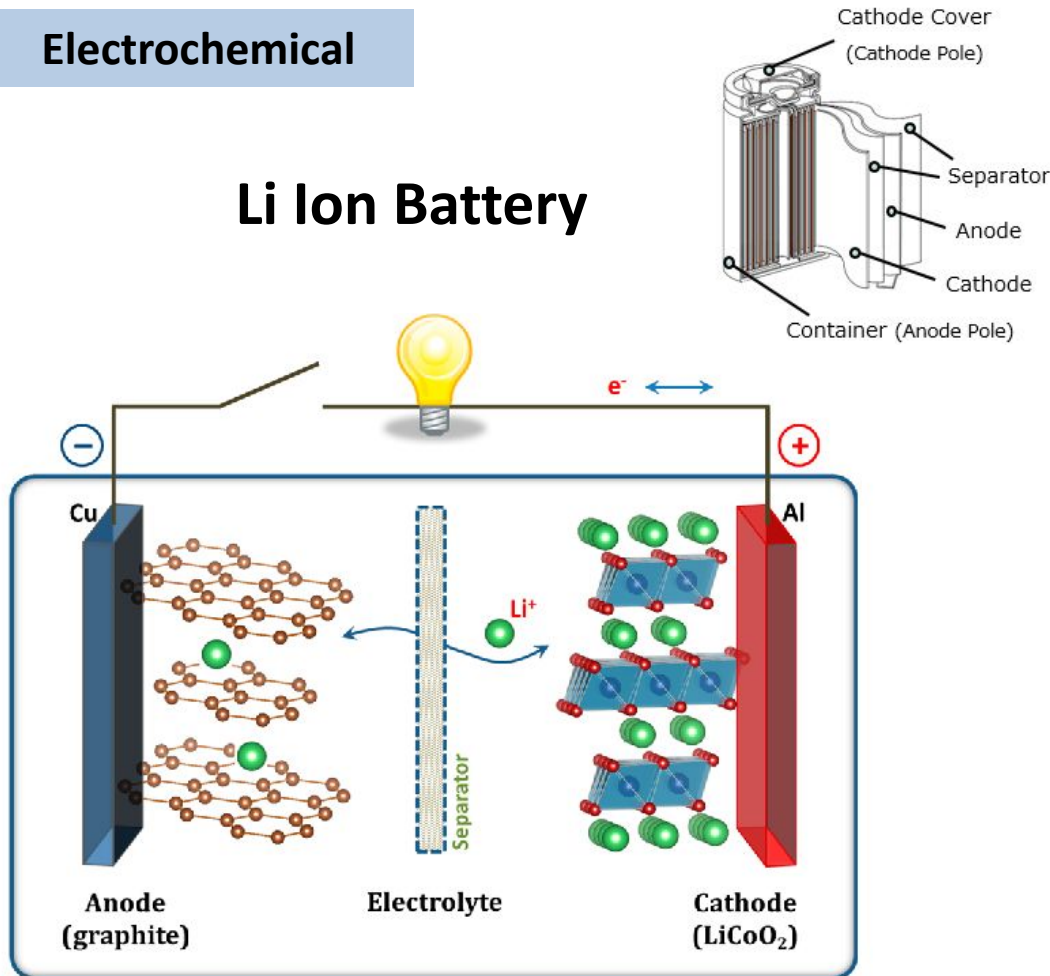
Long

- Eastern Washington is rich with potentially suitable sites for CAES.

Different grid energy storage forms

Electrochemical

Li Ion Battery



(Levelized)
Cost

Medium

Efficiency

High

Energy density

High

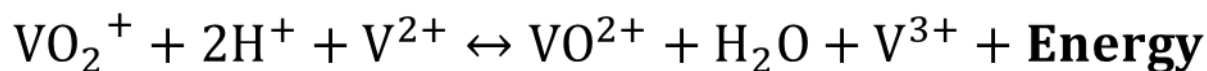
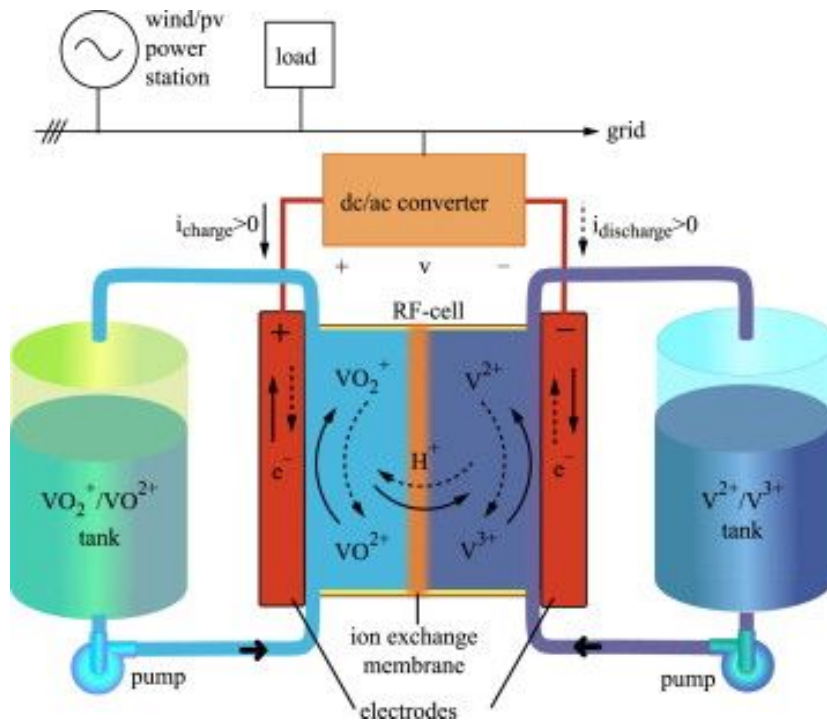
Lifetime

Medium

- Potential safety concern

Electrochemical

Vanadium Flow Battery (VFB)



(Levelized)
Cost

Medium

Efficiency

Medium

Energy density

Medium

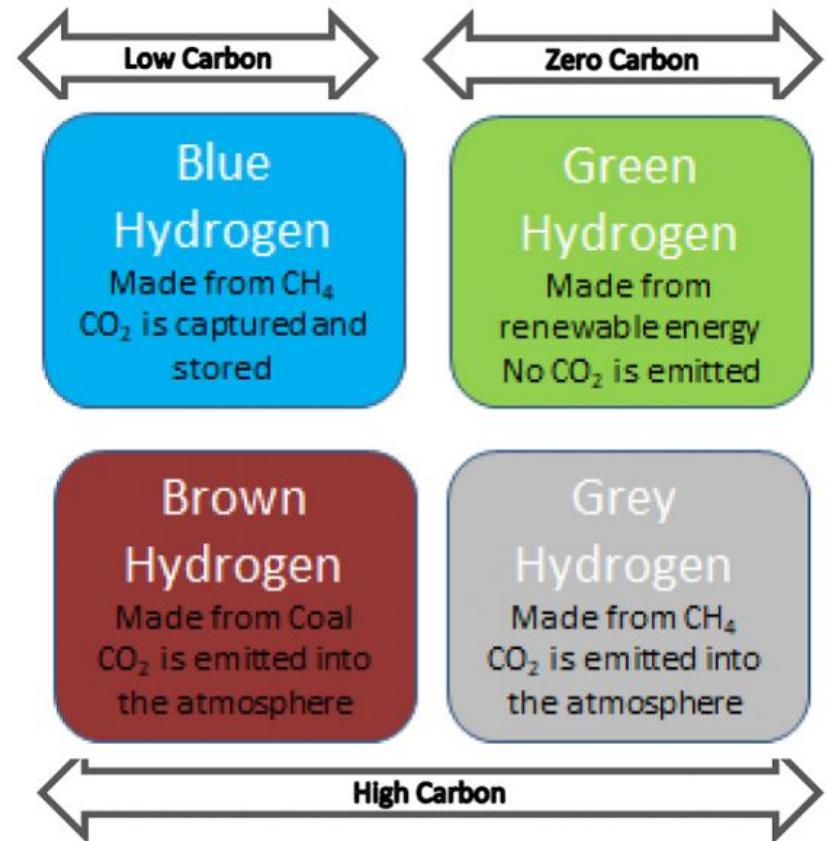
Lifetime

Medium

- *No safety concern,
no location
limitation.*

Chemical

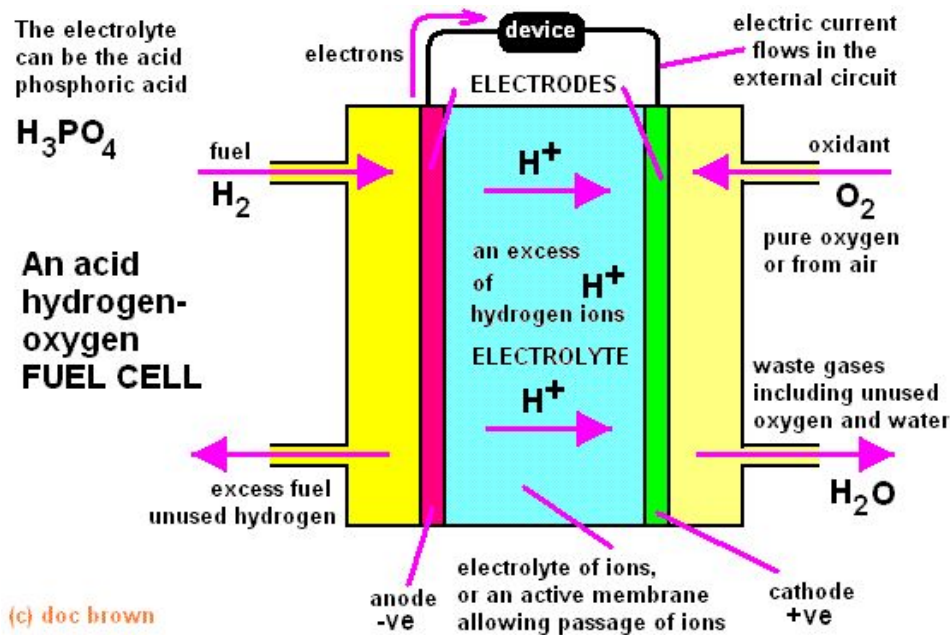
Hydrogen generation (energy storage)



Different grid energy storage forms

Chemical

Fuel Cell (energy release)



(Levelized)
Cost

High

Efficiency

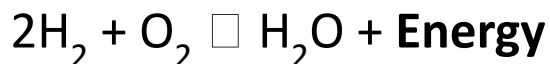
Low-Medium

Energy density

High

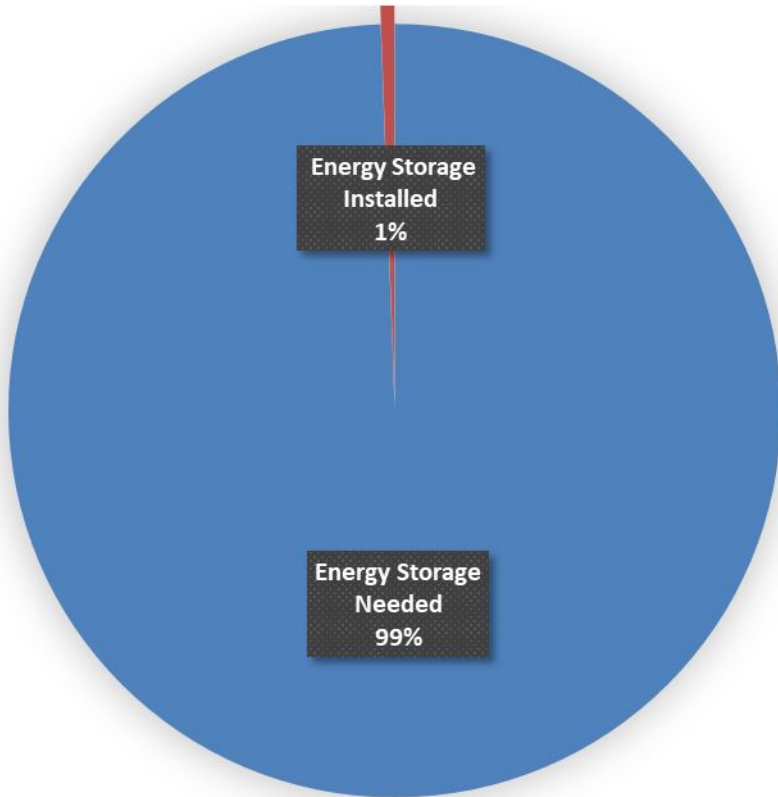
Lifetime

Medium-Long



- Potential safety issue
- Storage/transportation is challenging

Key challenge to 100 % renewable energy



- The power demand in US in 2020 is ~ 500 GW.
- The largest Li battery storage system today is ~ 0.3 GW (4 hours)
- To smooth the energy generation curve, we need energy storage unit at least **150 GW (4 hours) for 90 % renewable energy usage**. The storage capacity in US is ~ 3.5 GWh in 2020.

- **Foreseeable future:**

- ✓ The combination of different energy storage technologies
- ✓ Highly region-dependent energy storage strategies



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Appendix

