

# *SOM Macro Strategies*

## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### *Part 2: Three Observations From The Texas Blackout That Highlight These Opportunities*

February 2021

Alan Brazil

# *SOM Macro Strategies*

## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### *Part 2: Three Observation From The Texas Blackout That Highlights These Opportunities*

- Part 1: Framing the magnitude of a net-zero GHG emissions policy for the world and the US
  - Example of transitioning to a 100% electric vehicles
  - Example of projected costs for the US of a 100% renewable energy grid
- **Part 2: Three Observation From The Texas Blackout That Highlights These Opportunities**
  - **Observation 1: Renewable Energy Is Variable By Nature And Is Particularly Vulnerable To Extreme Events**
  - **Observation 2: Renewable Grids Need To Have Substantial Overcapacity Or Days Worth Of Storage To Replace Carbon**
  - **Observation 3: A Transmission Network Needs To Be Built To Link Major Wind And Solar Area To The Whole Country**
- Part 3: Key opportunities along the path to Net-Zero

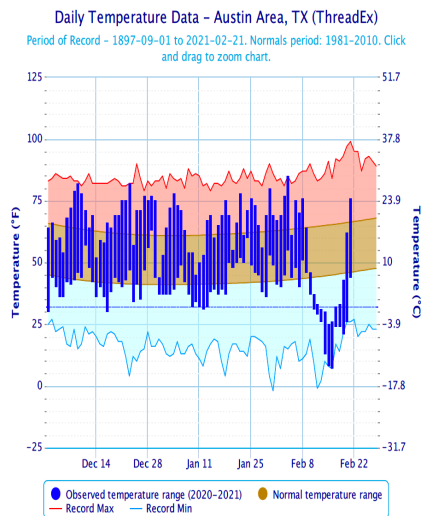
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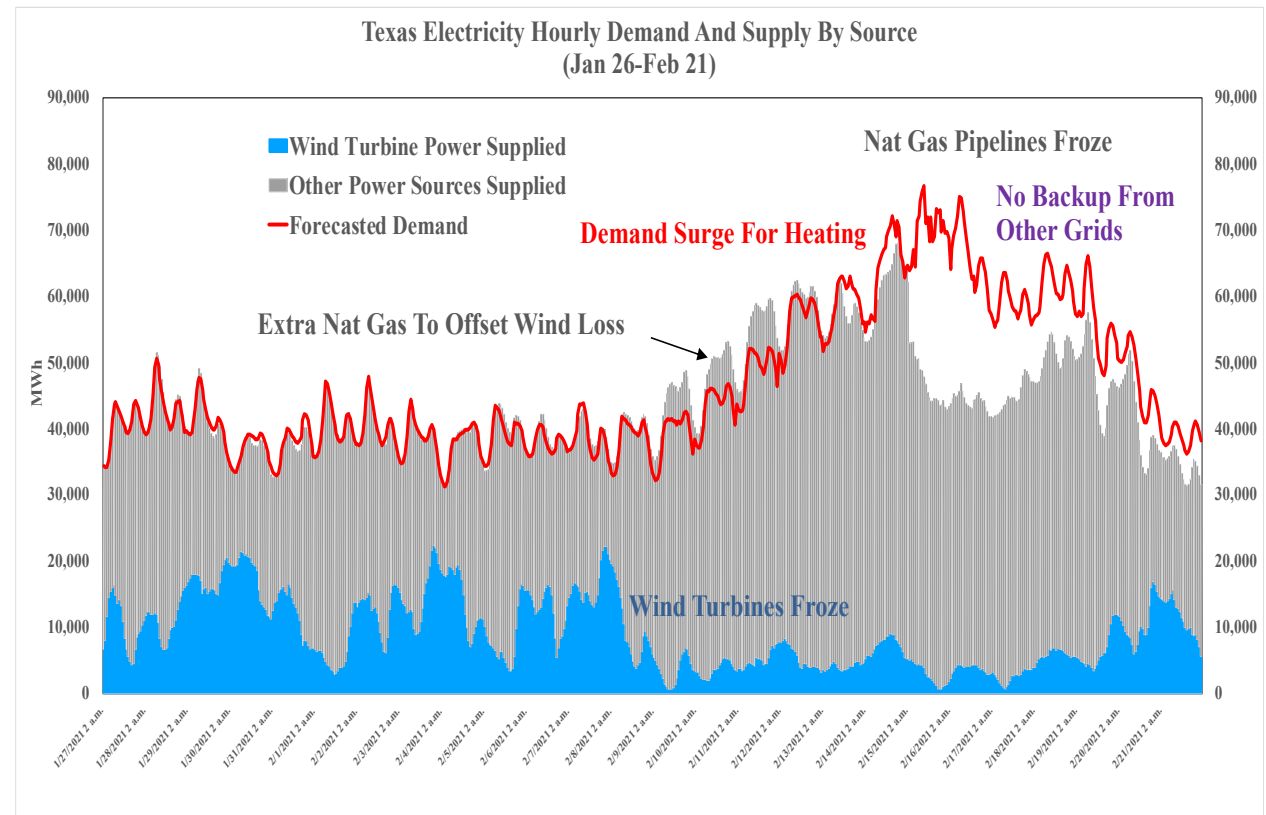
### Step 1: Macro Theme

#### The Timeline That Led To The Breakdown In The Texas Electrical Grid

Texas Temps Fell To Record Lows<sup>1</sup>



Loss Of Wind Power Started The Event Then The Gas Pipelines Froze<sup>2</sup>



1. National Weather Service  
2. EIA

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## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### *Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework*

### Three Observations From Texas That Highlight The Opportunities On The Path To A Renewable Grid

#### The Texas Observations

- **Observation 1: Renewable Energy Is Variable By Nature And Is Particularly Vulnerable To Extreme Events**
  - Wind/solar capacity is variable and changes by time: hour, day, season, over years, and in unexpected ways
  - Texas wind turbine freeze out was driven by seemingly a black swan low temp event
- **Observation 2: Renewable Grids Need To Have Substantial Overcapacity Or Days Worth Of Storage To Replace Carbon**
  - Even with a linkage of renewable grids, a 100% renewable grid will fail sometimes 100% of the time
  - Wind/solar + battery storage is still too expensive to be a replacement of a grid with Nat Gas
  - In Texas, Nat Gas acted as battery storage after the wind turbines froze
- **Observation 3: A Transmission Network Needs To Be Built To Link Major Wind And Solar Area To The Whole Country**
  - The current electric grid is linked to major carbon resource areas by a countywide network of pipelines and freight-lines
  - A renewable grid needs the a network that links major solar areas and wind areas with each for back up and to replace carbon in the rest of the country
  - in Texas shows what could happened in a 100% renewable grid without backup or linkage to other areas of the country through an electrical grid
    - Texas is basically cut off from the rest of the grids in the country by design
    - The black out in Texas would have been substantially worse if not for Nat Gas, which provided the backup after the shortfall from the wind turbines



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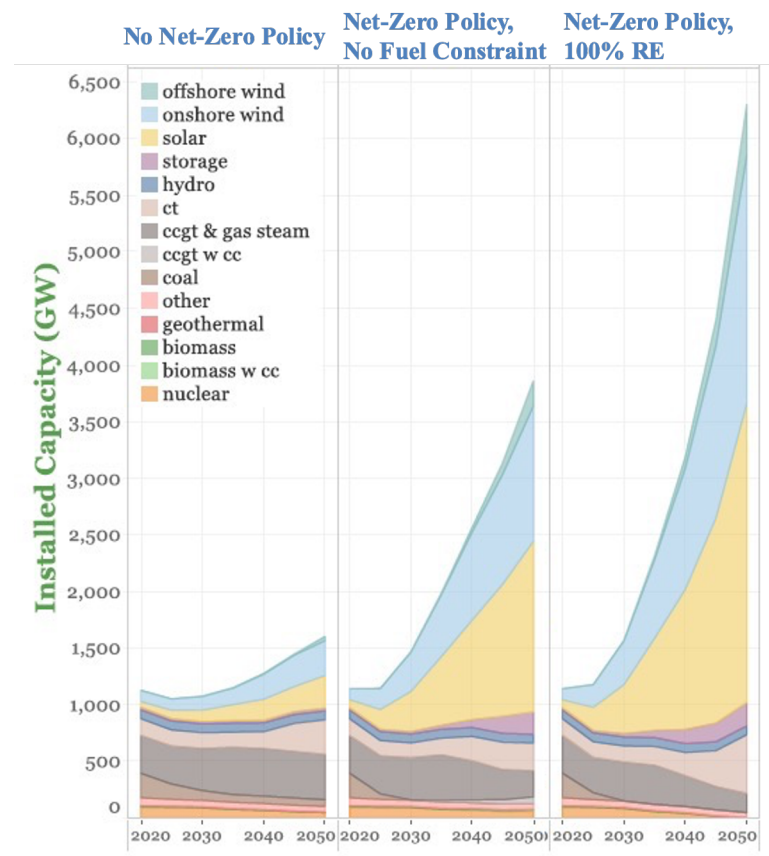
### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

### The Push For A Net-Zero Policy In The US Is Accelerating And That Means A 100% Renewable Grid

#### Biden's Green New Deal

<b>Net Zero</b>	<p>Net-Zero 2050</p> <p>Decarbonize all sectors of economy: transportation, power and consumer, industrial and commercial</p>
<b>Power Sector</b>	<p>100% pollution-free emissions by 2035</p> <p>\$2 trillion infrastructure for clean energy over next two years</p> <p>80% electrical power generated by renewable energy by 2035</p> <p>Build the next generation electric transmission and distribution network</p> <p>Green hydrogen that is cost competitive to carbon based fuel sources</p> <p>Development and deployment of large scale carbon capture systems</p> <p>\$400 billion in additional energy research next 4 years</p> <p>Grid scale battery storage at 1/10th the cost of Lithium-ion battery</p>
<b>Transportation</b>	<p>Move to 100% EV transportation by 2050</p> <p>Build 500,000 EV charging stations</p> <p>Consumer rebates/incentive to buy and produce EVs</p> <p>Substantially higher fuel economy standards to pushout ICE vehicles</p>

#### The Growth Of Wind/Solar Power Could Be Exponential<sup>1</sup>



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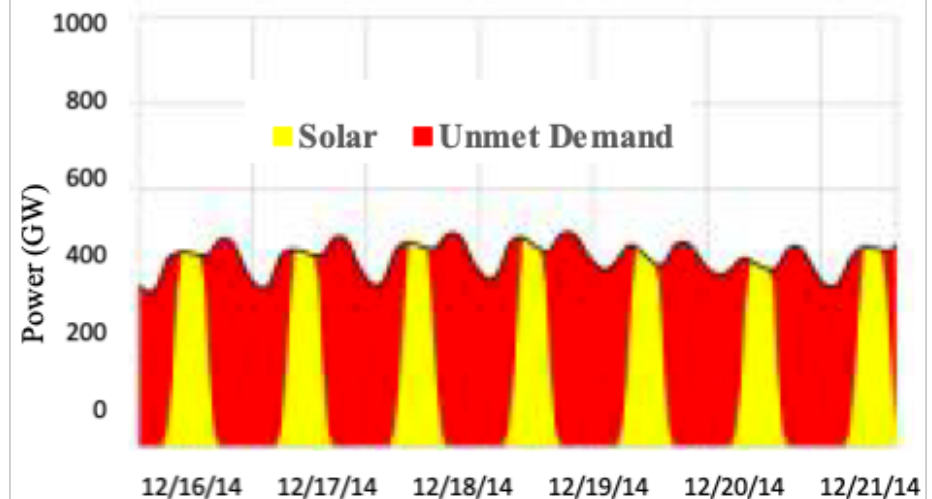
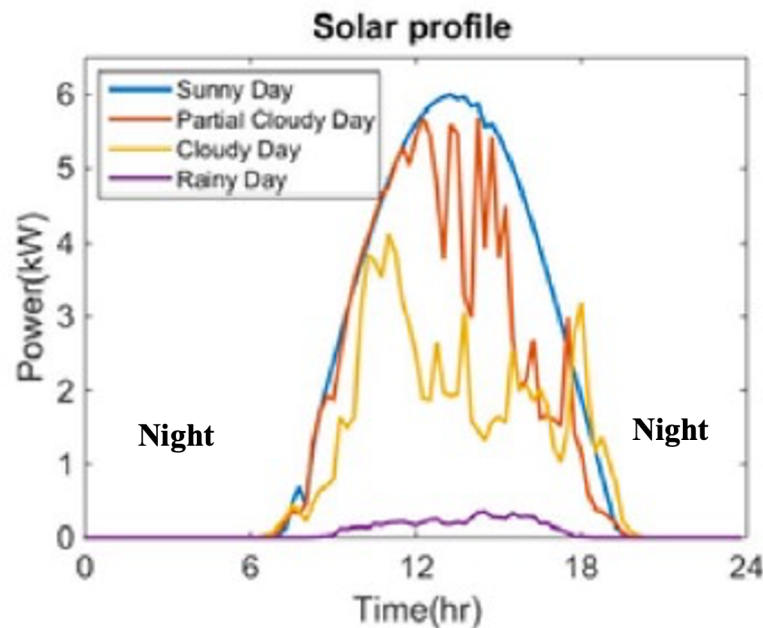
## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

#### Observation 1: Renewable Energy Is Variable By Nature And Is Vulnerable To Extreme Events

Night Is One Thing, Even During The Day Solar Power Is Variable<sup>1</sup>

Using Only Solar For A Renewable Grid Is 100% Unreliable<sup>2</sup>



1. Zhu, et.al " A Graphical Performance -Based Energy Storage capacity Sizing Method for Solar Penetration Residential Feeders", IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid, January 2016

2. Shaner, Matthew & Davis, Steven & Lewis, Nathan & Caldeira, Ken. (2018). Geophysical constraints on the reliability of solar and wind power in the United States. Energy & Environmental Science

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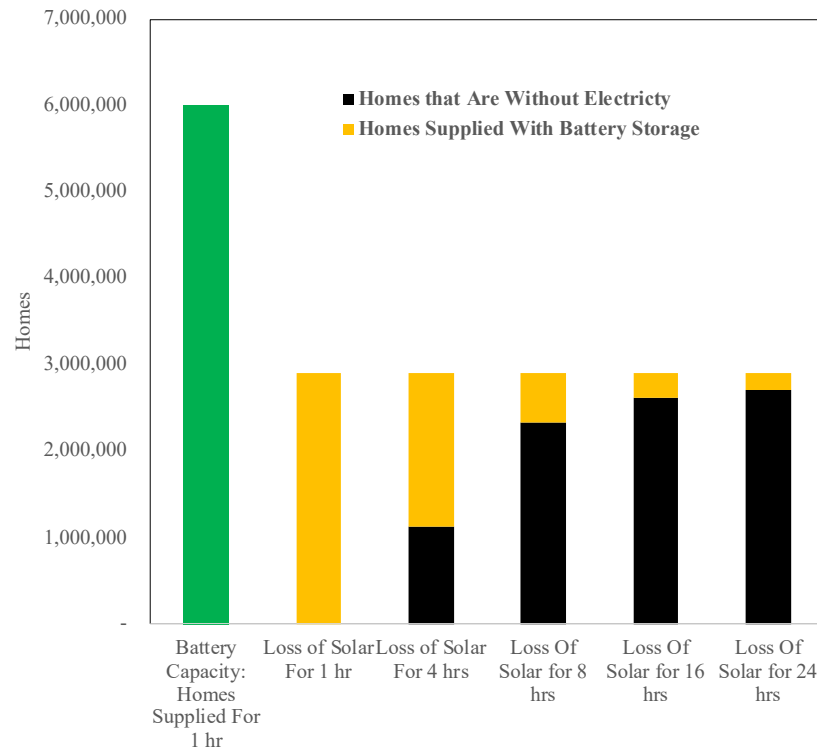
### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

#### Observation 1: Texas Highlights The Risk Of A Renewable Energy--It's Variable: Is California Next?

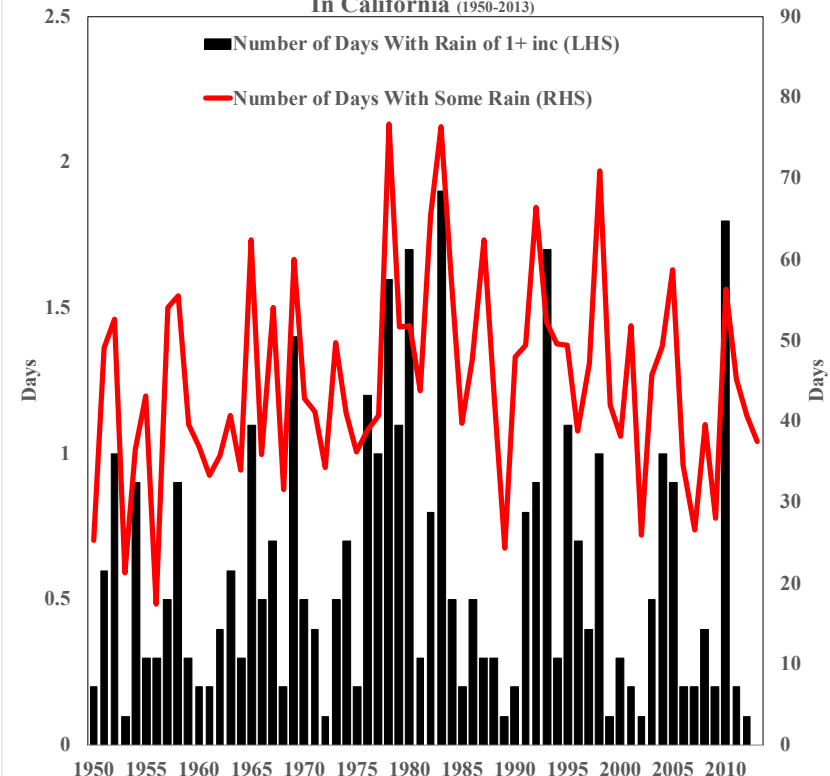
Without Storage, California Is A Storm Away From A Texas Event<sup>1</sup>

For Texas It Was Wind, For California It Will Be A Solar Event<sup>2</sup>

Potential Blackouts In California From A Cutoff Of Solar Energy



Non-Sunny Days At the Location of The Largest Solar Farm In California (1950-2013)



1. CASIO
2. Authors calculation using 11.6 mm homes in California
3. NOAA, National Centers For Environmental Information

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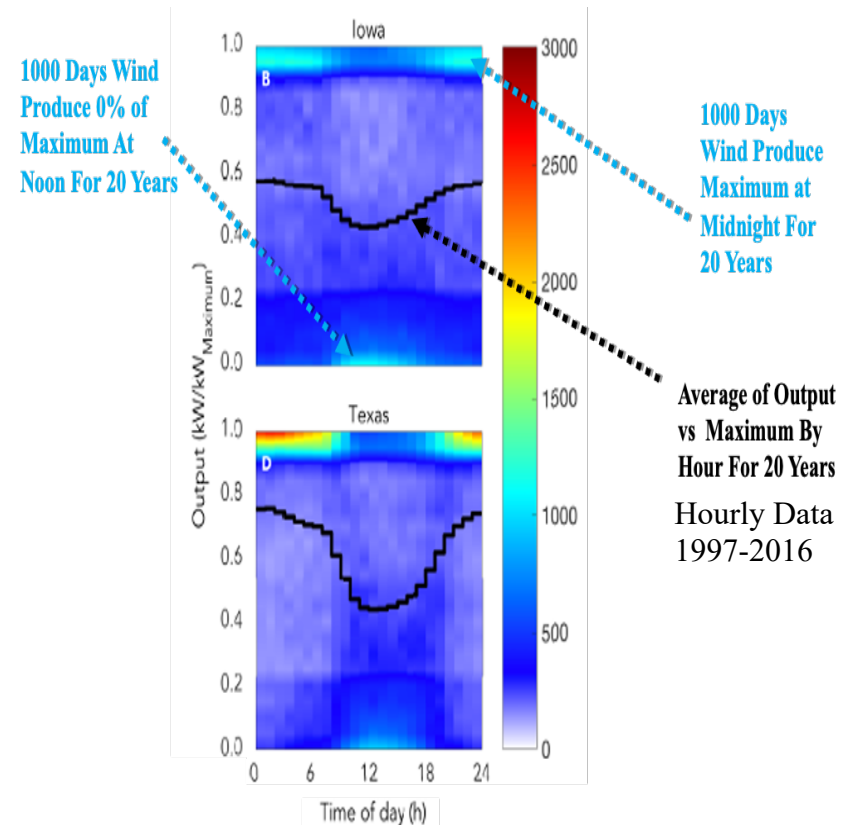
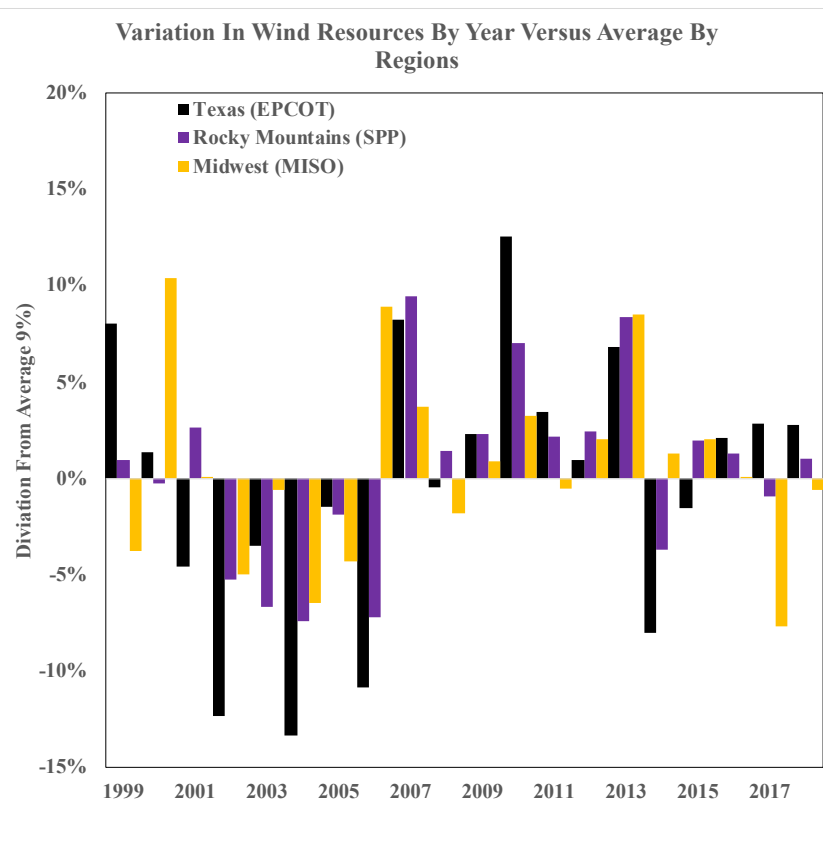
## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

#### Observation 1: Wind Energy Is Also Variable Over Hours, Days, Months And Year

Wind Energy Has Long Periods Below Average....<sup>1</sup>

And Substantial Variable Over Time Of Day, Month And Years<sup>2</sup>



1. Wiser, Et al, "Wind Energy Technology Data Update: 2020 Edition", Berkeley Lab August 2020

2. Ziegler, et al "Storage Requirements and Costs of Shaping Renewable Energy Toward Grid Decarbonization", Joule, Vol 3, September 2018

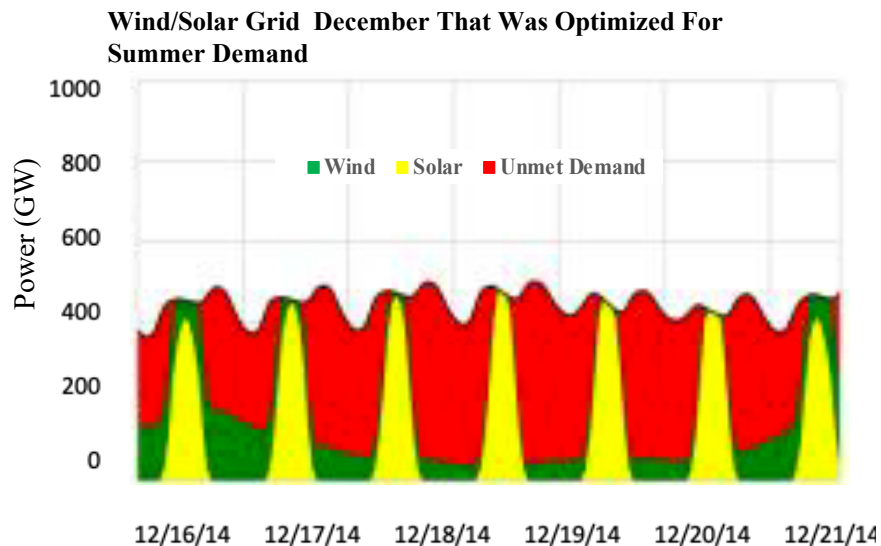
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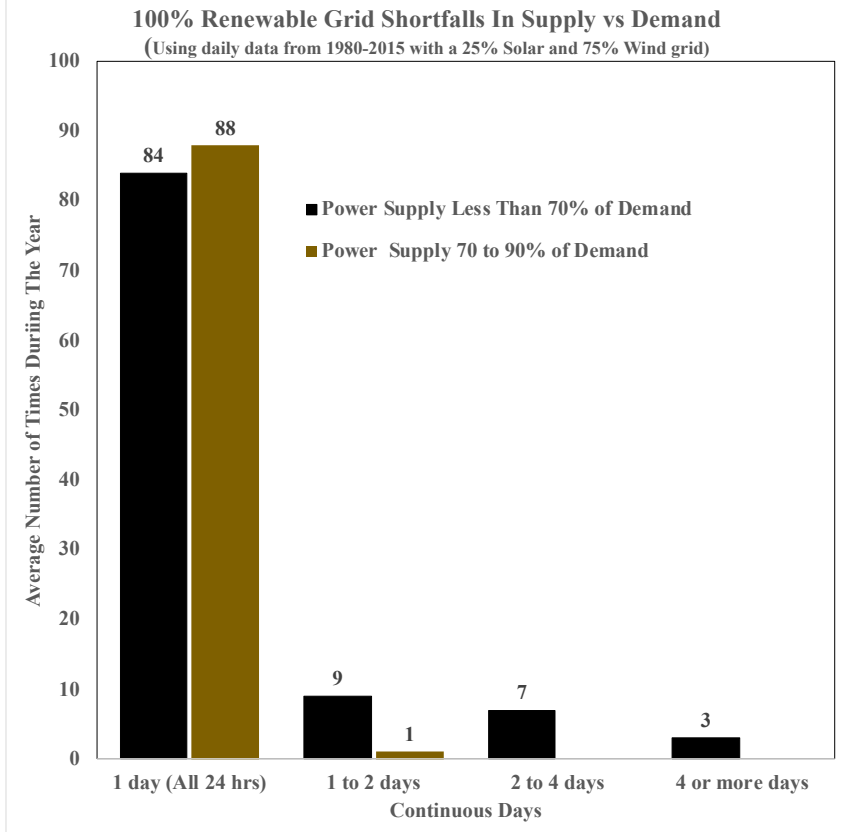
### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

#### Observation 1: Combining Wind And Solar Is Still Not 100% Reliable<sup>1</sup>

Not Enough Wind/Solar Energy To Supply Demand In Winter



A 100% Renewable Grid Could Face For Days Of Blackouts



1. Shaner, Matthew & Davis, Steven & Lewis, Nathan & Caldeira, Ken. (2018). Geophysical constraints on the reliability of solar and wind power in the United States. Energy & Environmental Science

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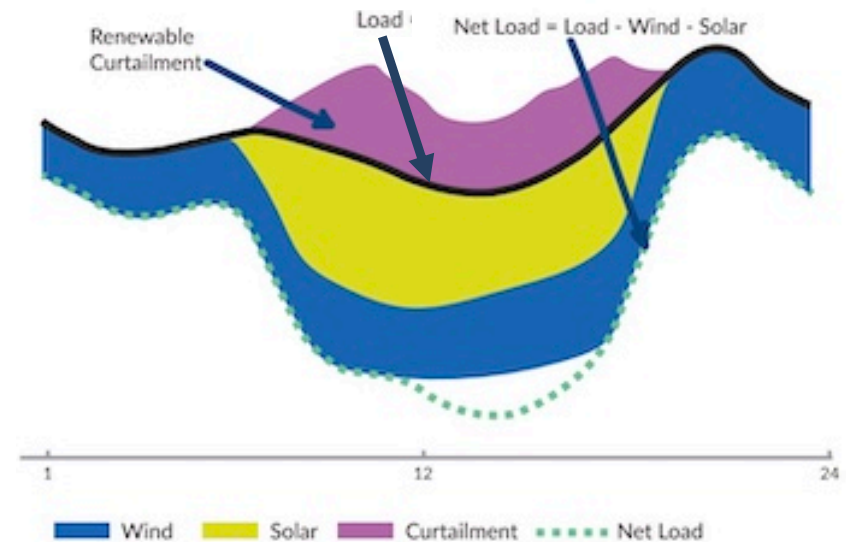
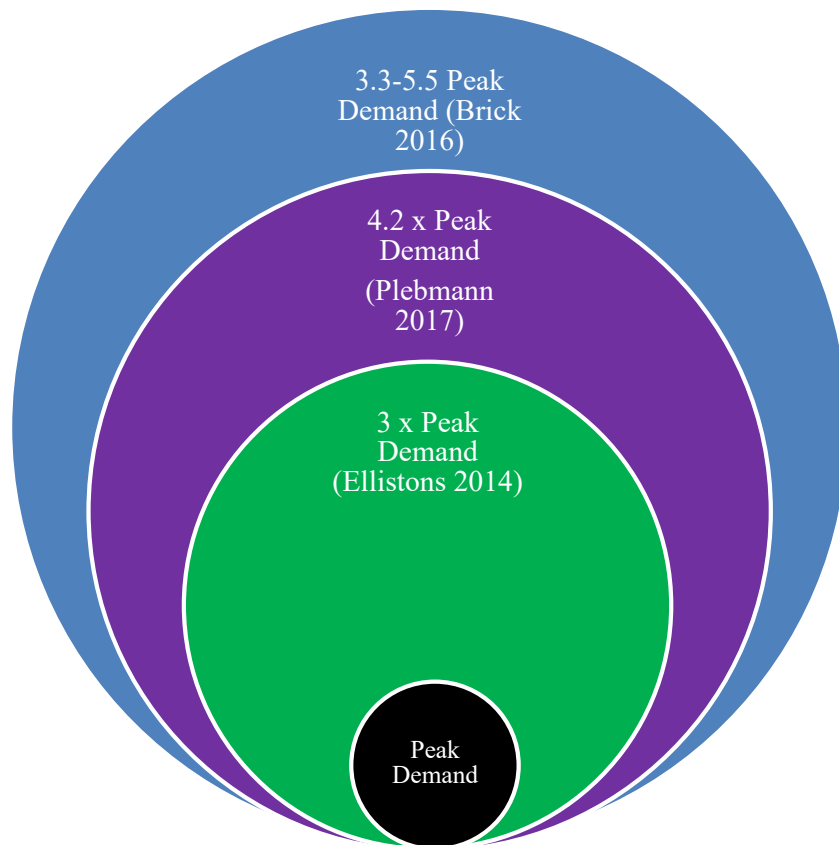
## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

#### Observation 2: Renewable Grids Need Substantial Overcapacity Or Days Worth of Storage To Replace Carbon Grids

Renewable Grid Needs Over Capacity To Be 100% Reliable<sup>1</sup>

Example of Curtailment In California in 2019, AKA The Duck Graph<sup>2</sup>



1. Jenkins, J.D., & Thernstrom, S., "Deep decarbonization of the electric power sector: Insights from recent literature. Energy Innovation Reform Project (EIRP), 2017  
2. Casio

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## State Of the Markets: Key Opportunities On The Path To Net-Zero GHG

### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

### Observation 2: Days Worth Of Battery Storage Is An Alternative To Overcapacity And Curtailments

Adding Some Battery Storage To The Grid Does Reduce Variability<sup>1</sup>

But Storage Measured In Days Is Needed To Make It 100% Reliable<sup>2</sup>

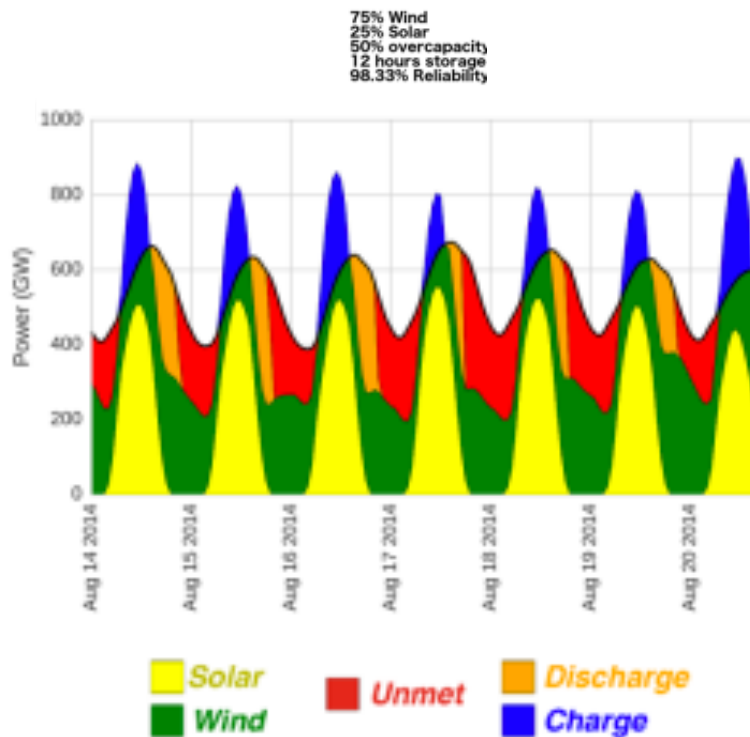
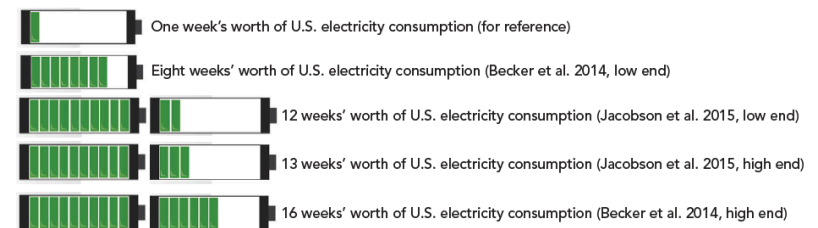


Figure 3. Energy Storage Capacity Required in 100% Renewable Electricity Scenarios



1. Shaner, Matthew & Davis, Steven & Lewis, Nathan & Caldeira, Ken. (2018). Geophysical constraints on the reliability of solar and wind power in the United States. *Energy & Environmental Science*  
2. Jenkins, J.D., & Thernstrom, S., "Deep decarbonization of the electric power sector: Insights from recent literature. Energy Innovation Reform Project (EIRP), 2017

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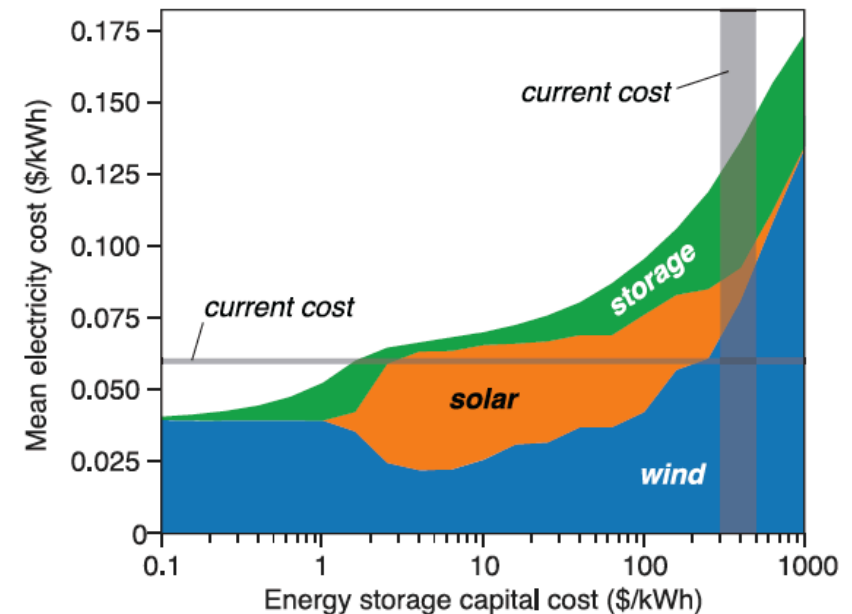
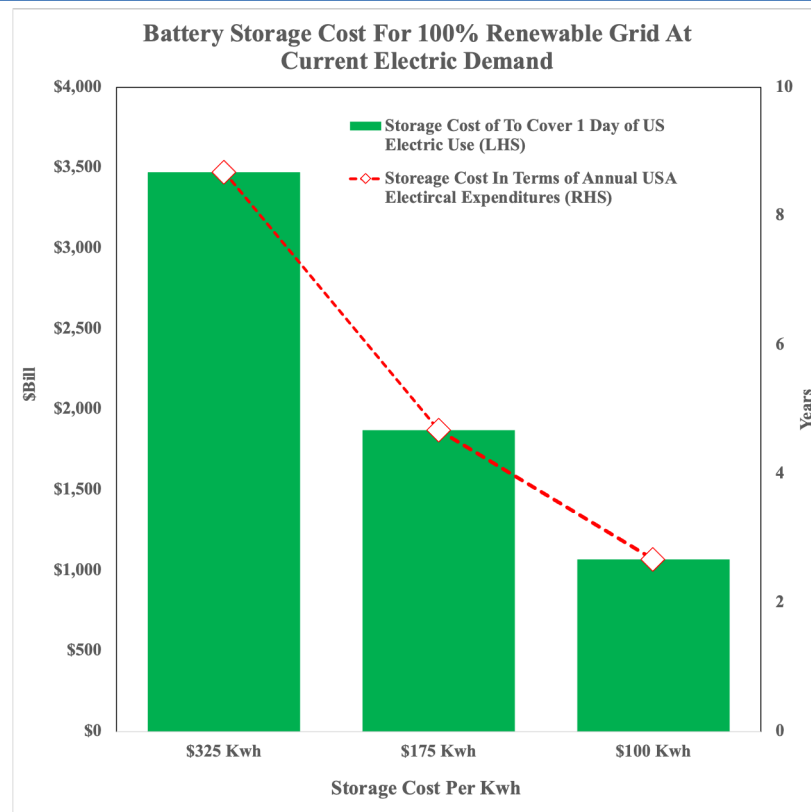
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#### Observation 2: However Days Worth Of Battery Storage Means Multiples Of Current Electricity Costs

Even California, the Leader In Storage, Would Need More<sup>1</sup>

The Problem Is Battery Storage Is Very Expensive<sup>2</sup>



1. Shaner, Matthew & Davis, Steven & Lewis, Nathan & Caldeira, Ken. (2018). Geophysical constraints on the reliability of solar and wind power in the United States. *Energy & Environmental Science*  
2. Jenkins, J.D., & Thernstrom, S., "Deep decarbonization of the electric power sector: Insights from recent literature. *Energy Innovation Reform Project (EIRP)*, 2017



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### *Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework*

### Observation 2: Storage to Supply 10% of a Renewable Grid Would Require A Massive Buildout

Need 6000 Of The Largest Battery Storage Facility In the US<sup>1</sup>

40 Dedicated Telsa Gigafactory's That Is Now Being Built In Berlin<sup>2</sup>



1. 1500 MW, 6000 MWh, Moss Landing, Monterey, California, Vistra  
2. Tesla, Berlin Giga Factory

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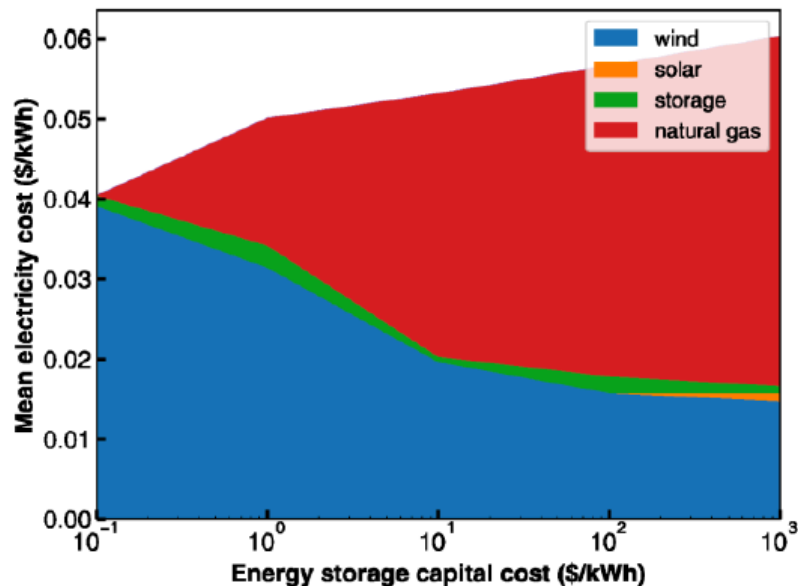
### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

### Observation 2: More Importantly, Nat Gas Substantially Cheaper As A Backup For A Renewable Grid

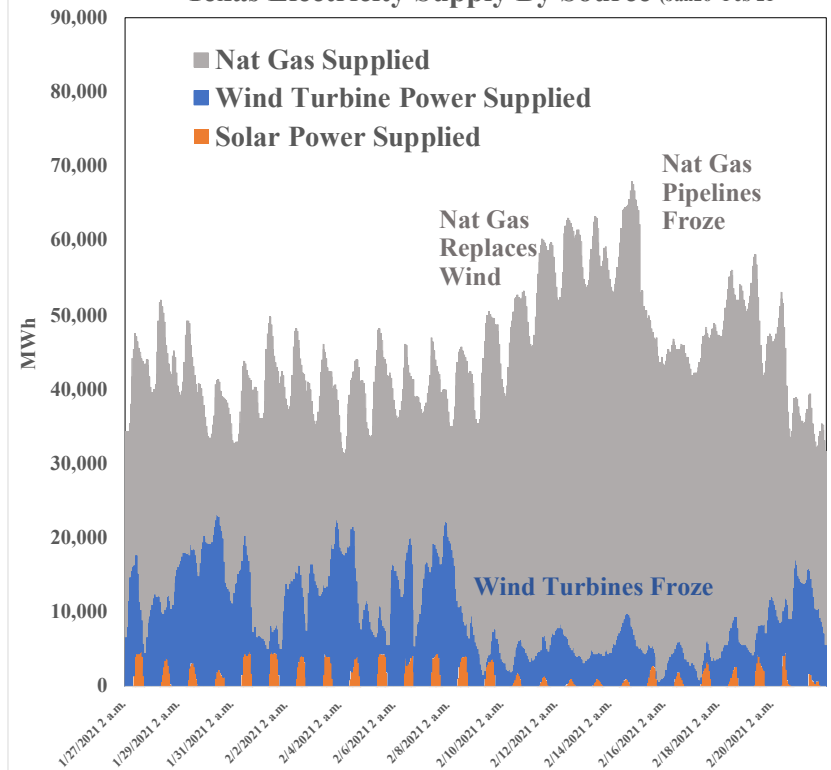
Nat Gas Is Much Cheaper Storage Alternative Than Batteries<sup>1</sup>

Think About What Happen In Texas But Without Nat Gas Backup<sup>2</sup>

The Optimal Grid Mix With Nat Gas



Texas Electricity Supply By Source (Jan26 -Feb 21)



1. Tong, Et all, "Effects of Deep Reductions in Energy Storage Costs on Highly Reliable Wind and Solar Electricity Systems", iSeeince, vol 23, September 2020  
2. Eia

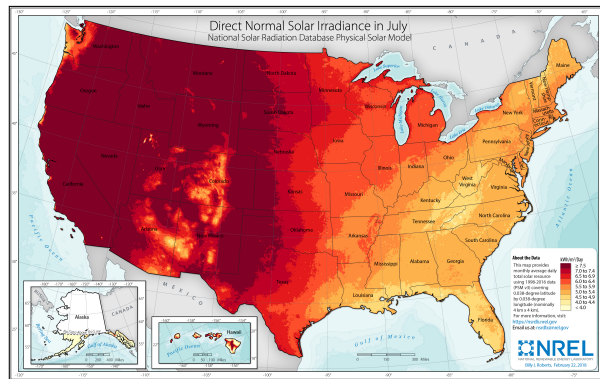
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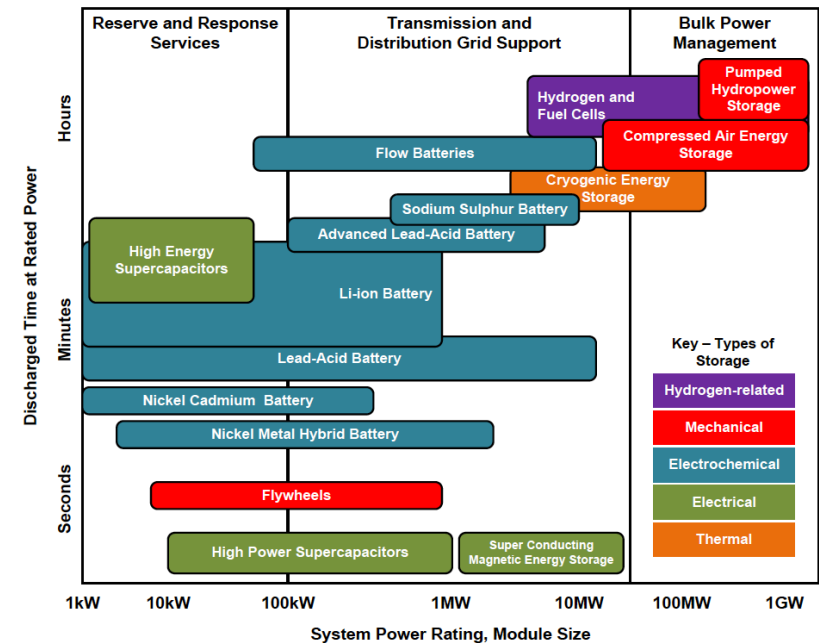
### Step 2: Fundamental Economic Framework

### Observation 2: The Key To Replace Nat Gas Is New Storage Technology Not Cheaper Lithium Batteries<sup>1</sup>

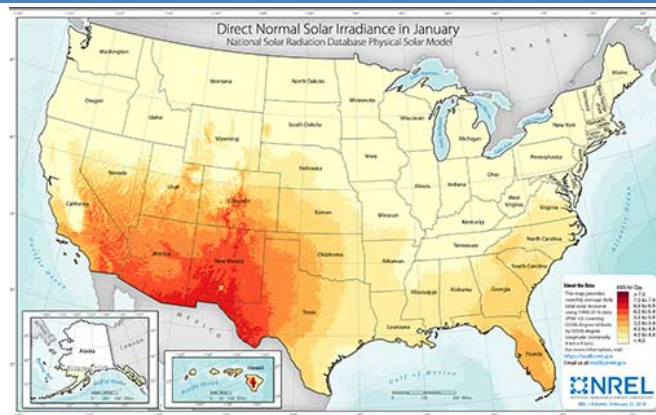
Long Duration Storage Moves Abundant Solar Energy From Summer



Potentially Large May Technologies Are Being Developed



To Low Levels Of Solar In The Winter



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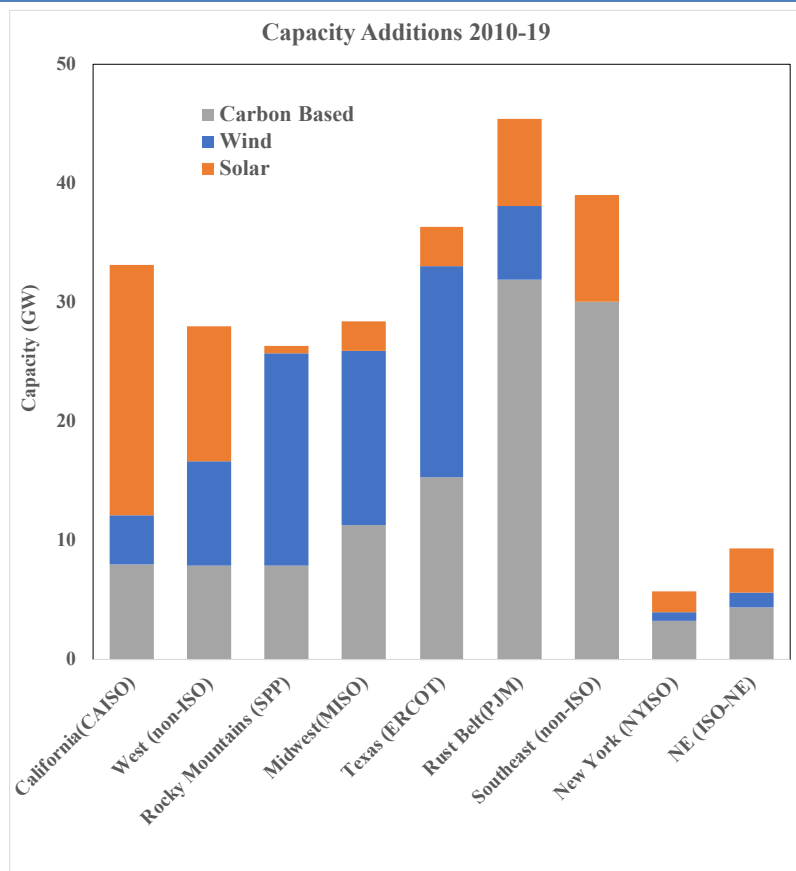
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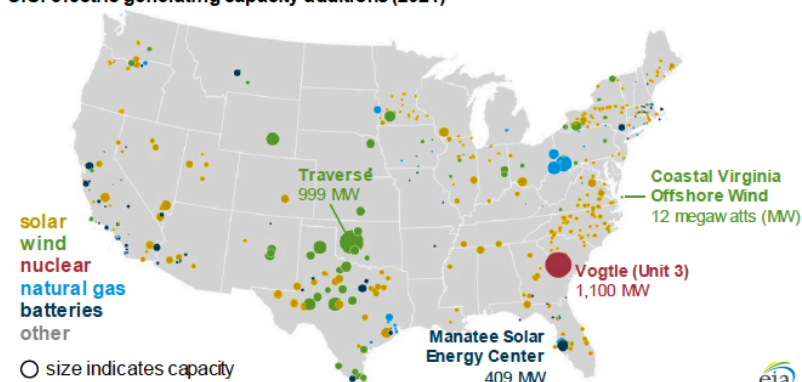
### Observation 3: Capacity Additions of Wind/Solar Reflects Economic Incentives And Need For A Network<sup>1</sup>

Solar Added In the Southwest And Wind In the Midwest

Future Capacity Additions Largely Reflect Economics As Well



U.S. electric generating capacity additions (2021)



1. EIA

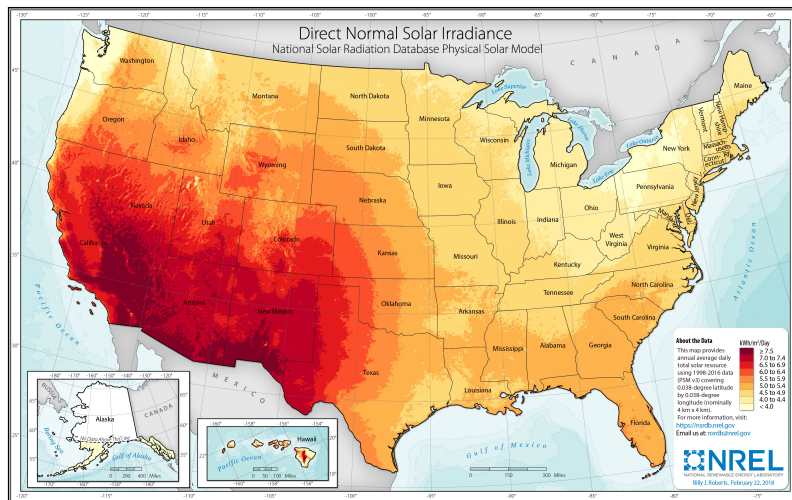
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#### Observation 3: A Transmission Network Needs To Be Built To Link Major Wind And Solar Areas Throughout The Country

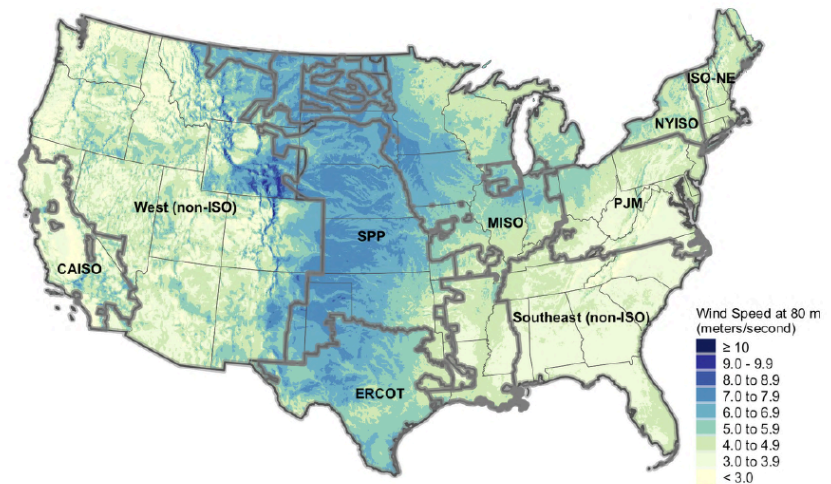
##### Solar Capacity Is Highest In the Southwest



**Solar East**



##### Wind Capacity Is Highest In the Midwest<sup>2</sup>



**Wind East & West**





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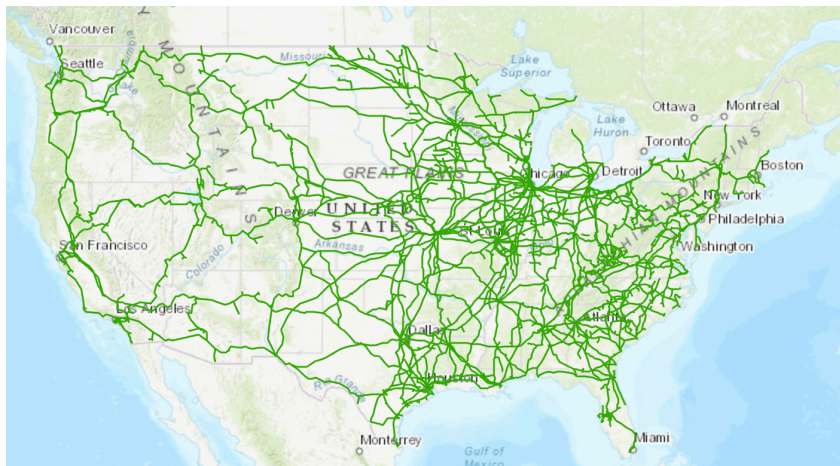
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#### Observation 3: A Renewable Grid Needs A Network As Extensive As the Carbon Grid Has Now

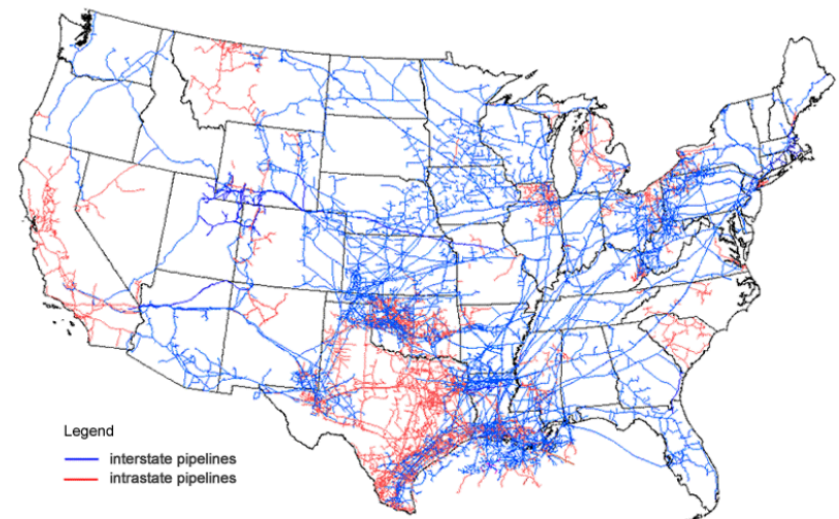
Coal Gets Shipped On Railroads to Utilities Through Out The US<sup>1</sup>

Map Of US Freight Railroad Lines



Nat Gas Is Distributed To Utilities Country Wide Through Pipelines<sup>2</sup>

Map of U.S. interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, About U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines

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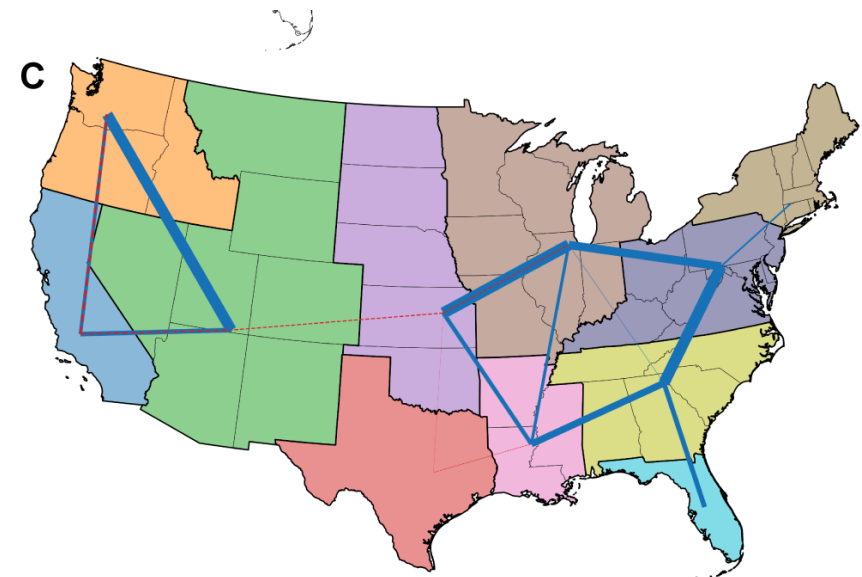
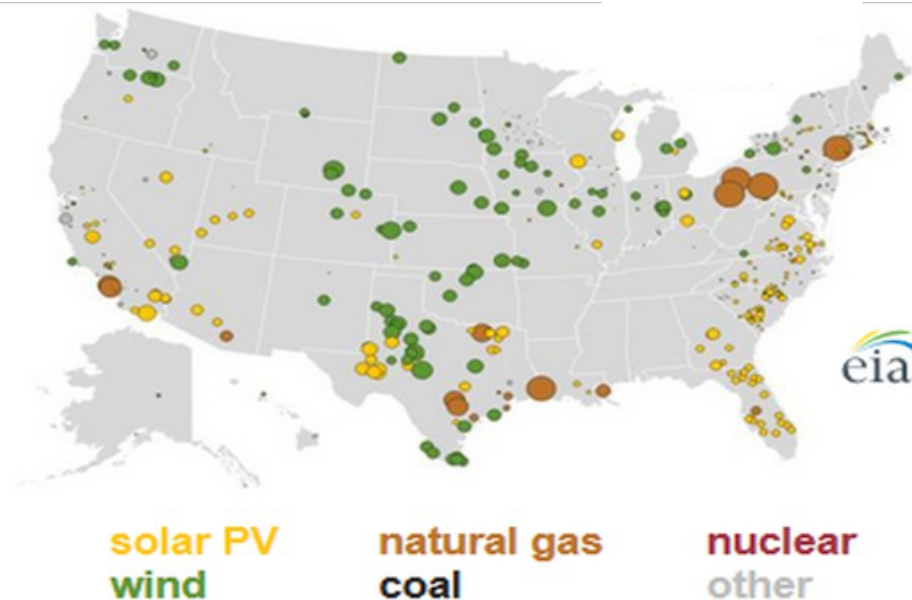
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### Observation 3: The Major Energy Regions Have Linkage To Each Other Or To The Rest Of The US <sup>1</sup>

Wind/Solar Capacity Adds Highly Regional In Nature<sup>1</sup>

But No Transcontinental Electrical Transmission Network Exists<sup>2</sup>



Texas Had No Major Electrical Transmission Links

1. EIA
2. Patrick R. Brown and Audun Botterud, "The Value of Inter-Regional Coordination and Transmission in Decarbonizing the US Electricity System", Joule, Volume 6, January 2021

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