

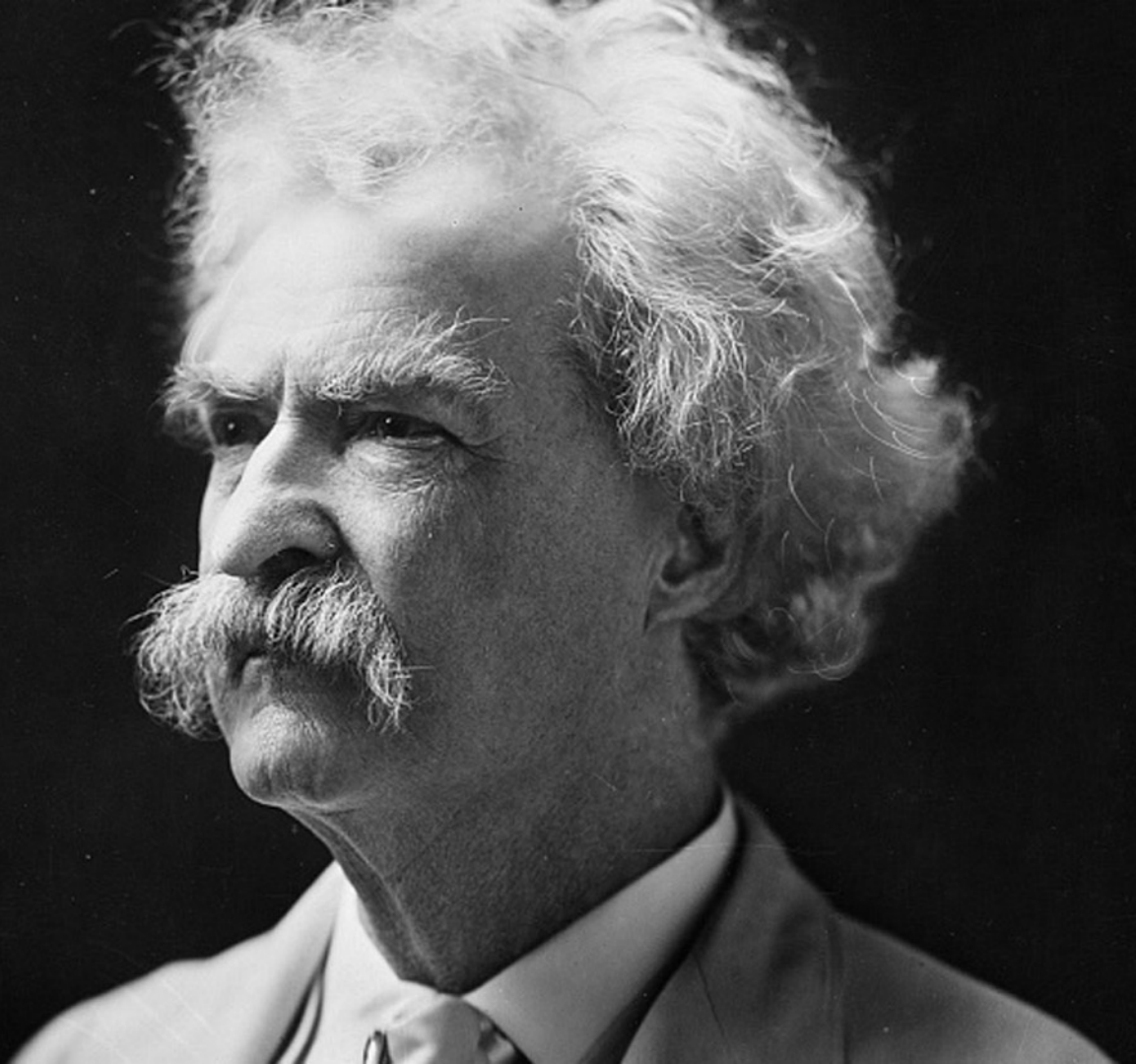


# Is There a Future for Internal Combustion Engines?

NATSO Connect  
Denver, Colorado

John Farrell  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
February 9, 2020  
NREL/PR-5400-76092

"The reports of my  
death have been greatly  
exaggerated"

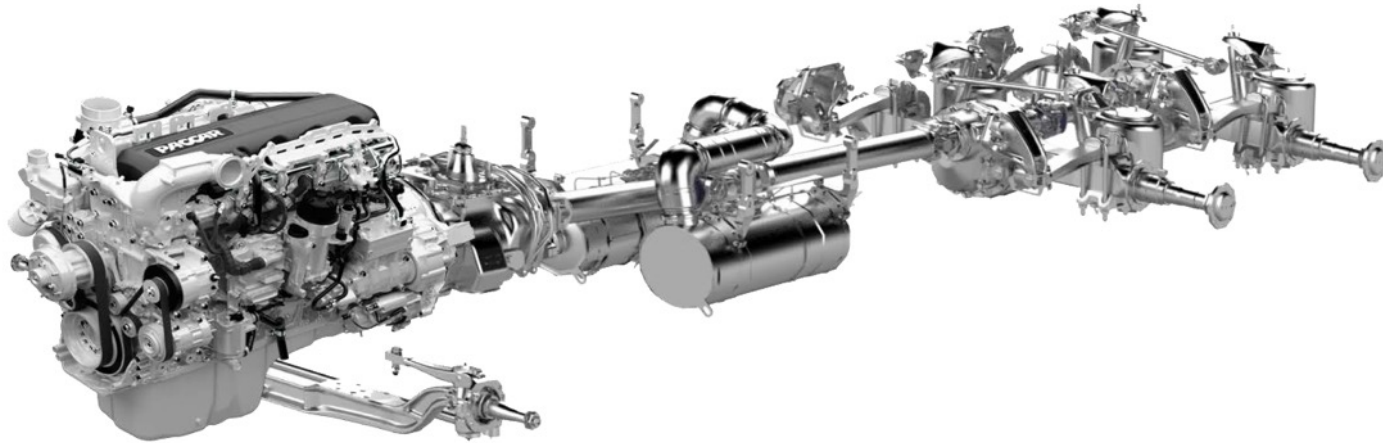




"The reports of my  
(impending demise)  
have been greatly  
exaggerated"

# Key Takeaway Messages

1. Significant work is still underway focused on improving ICE efficiency and emissions...



... but each successive improvement increases vehicle cost and complexity

# Key Takeaway Messages

2. Electrification is the 800 lb gorilla in the (board) room – for both passenger and commercial vehicles



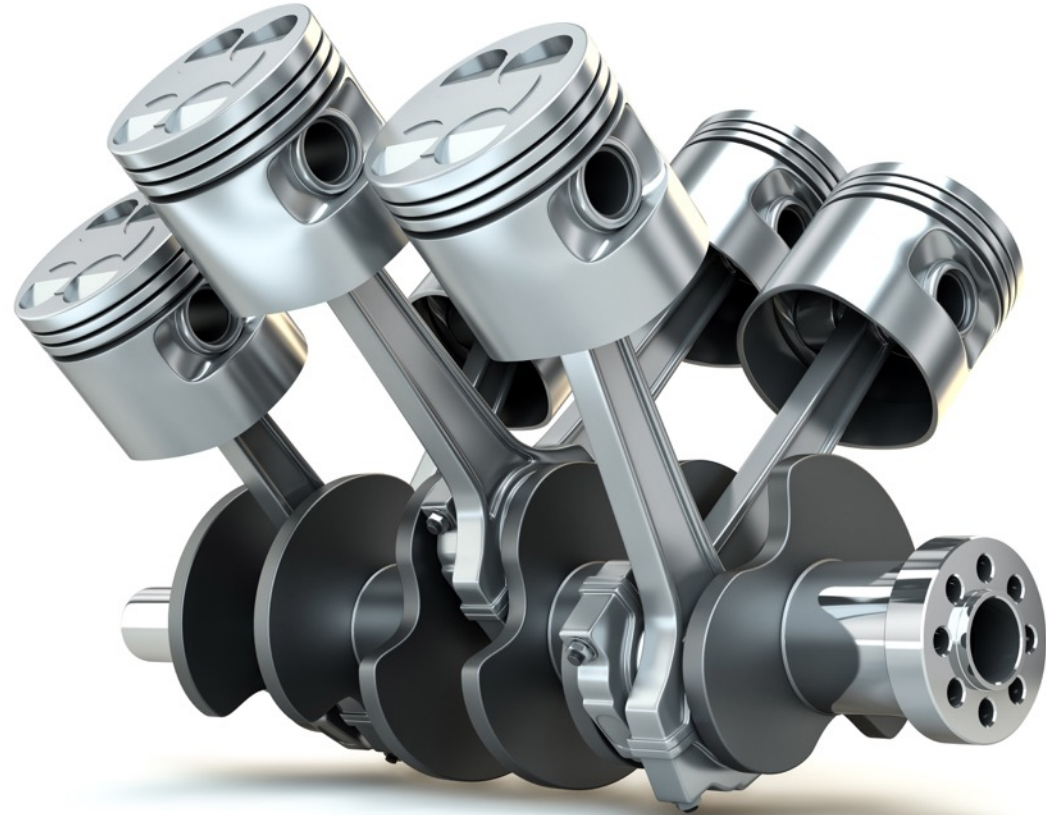
Electric vehicles are still (really) expensive, but can be cheaper to operate, and battery prices continue to fall

# Key Takeaway Messages

## 3. e-fuels won't save the day...

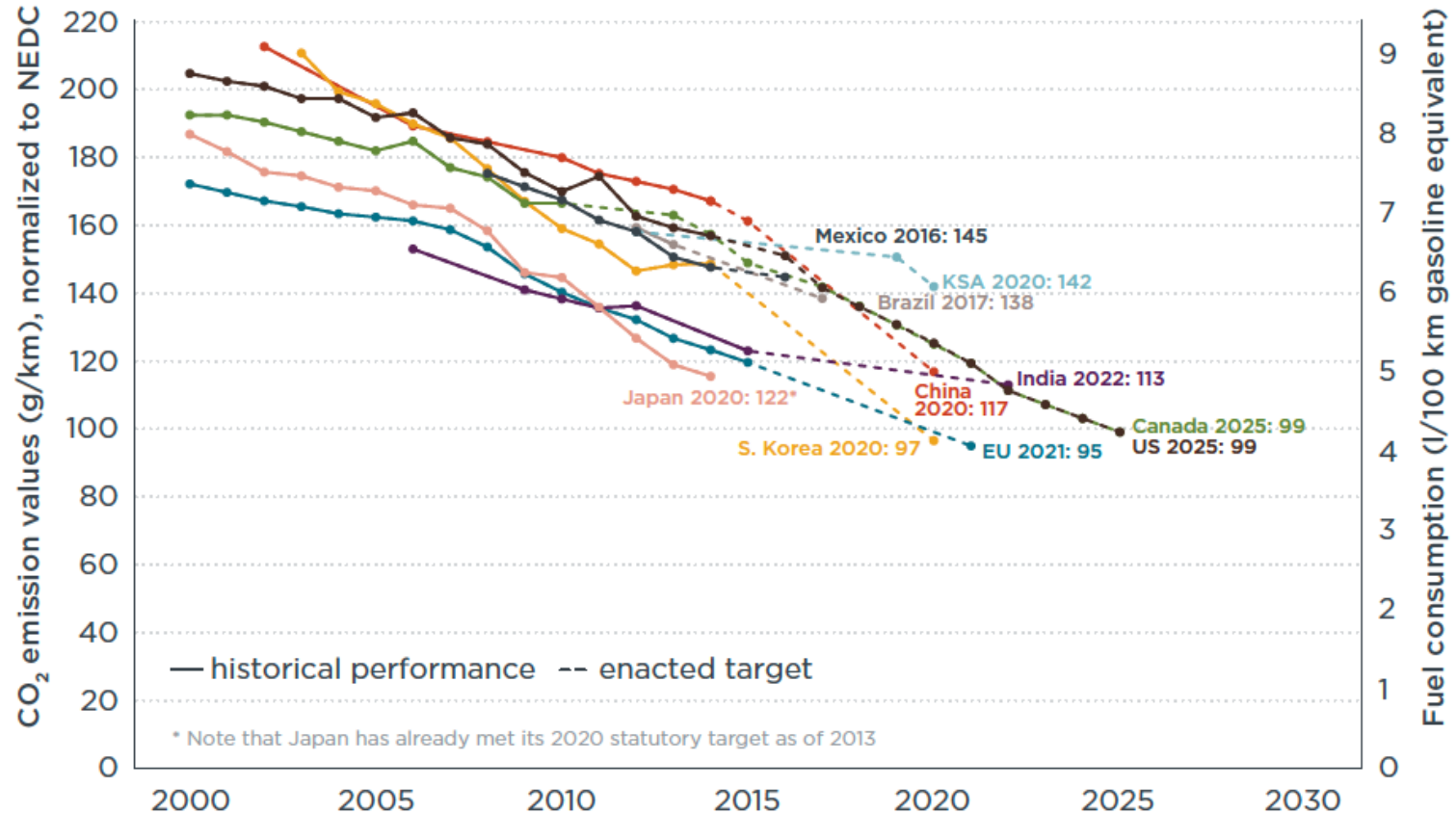


What's new in the world  
of ICEs?

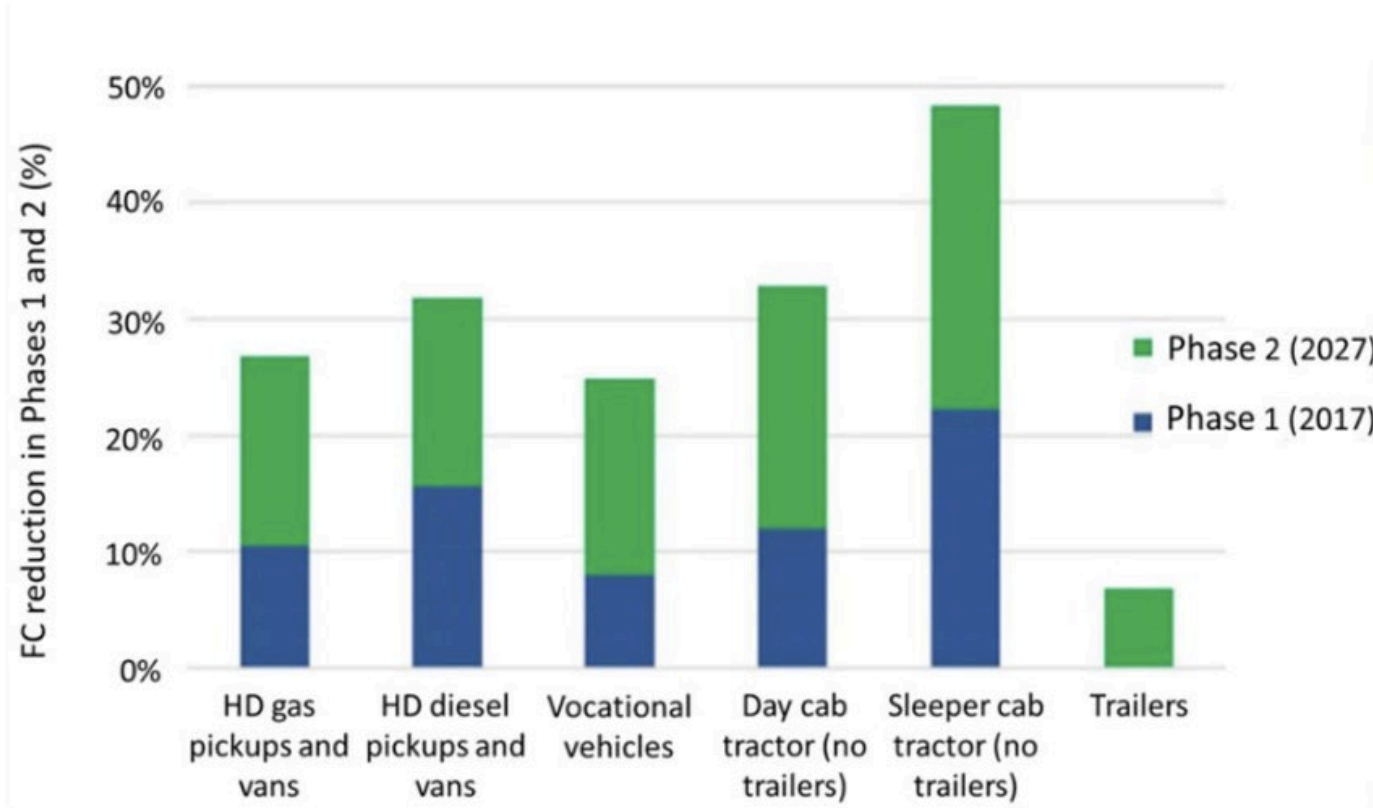


# ICE efficiency continues to increase

(because regulations are requiring them to)



# HD Fuel Consumption Reductions Mandated by the US HD Greenhouse Gas Rules

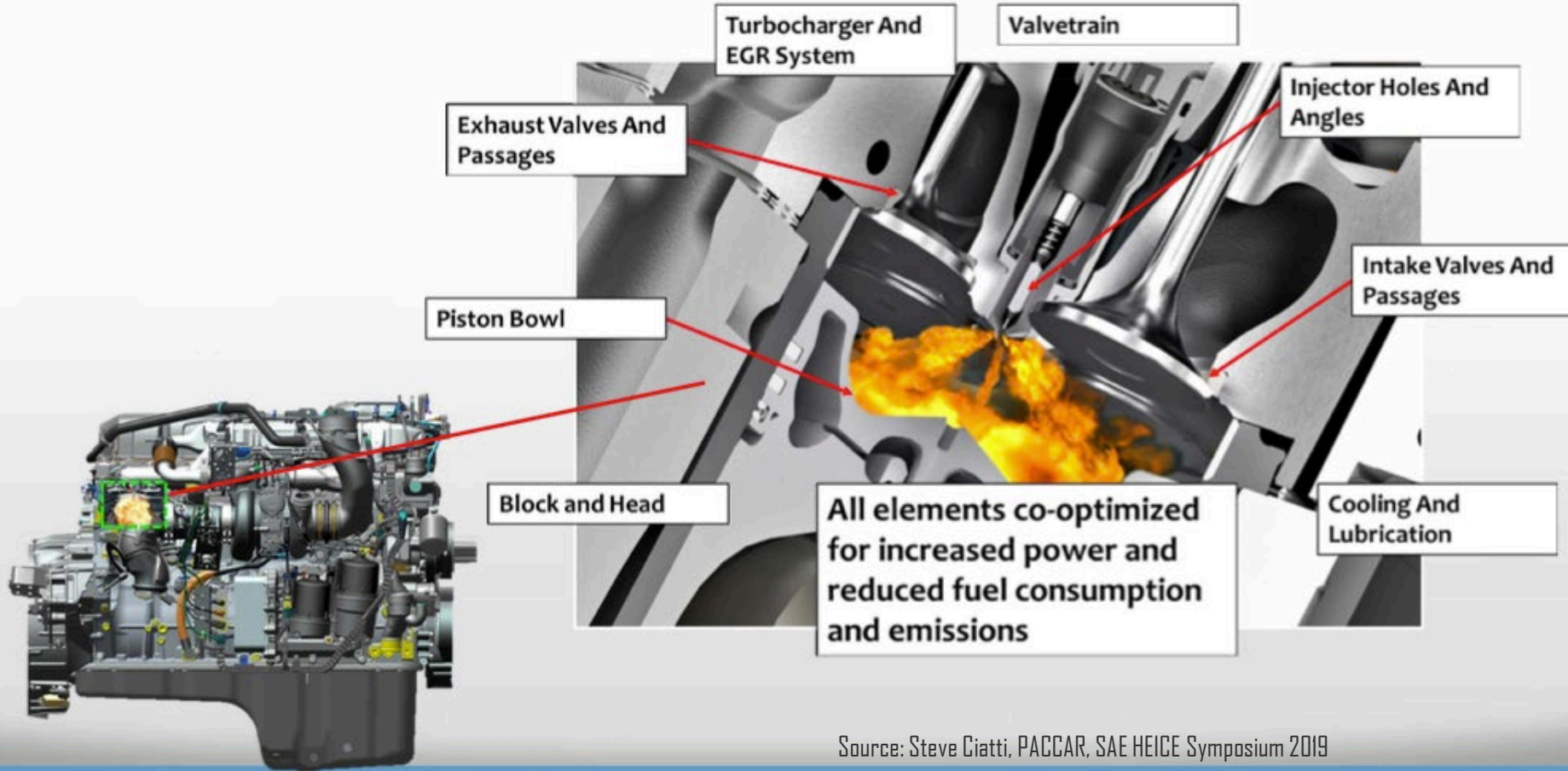


# Why are we focused so much on the engine?

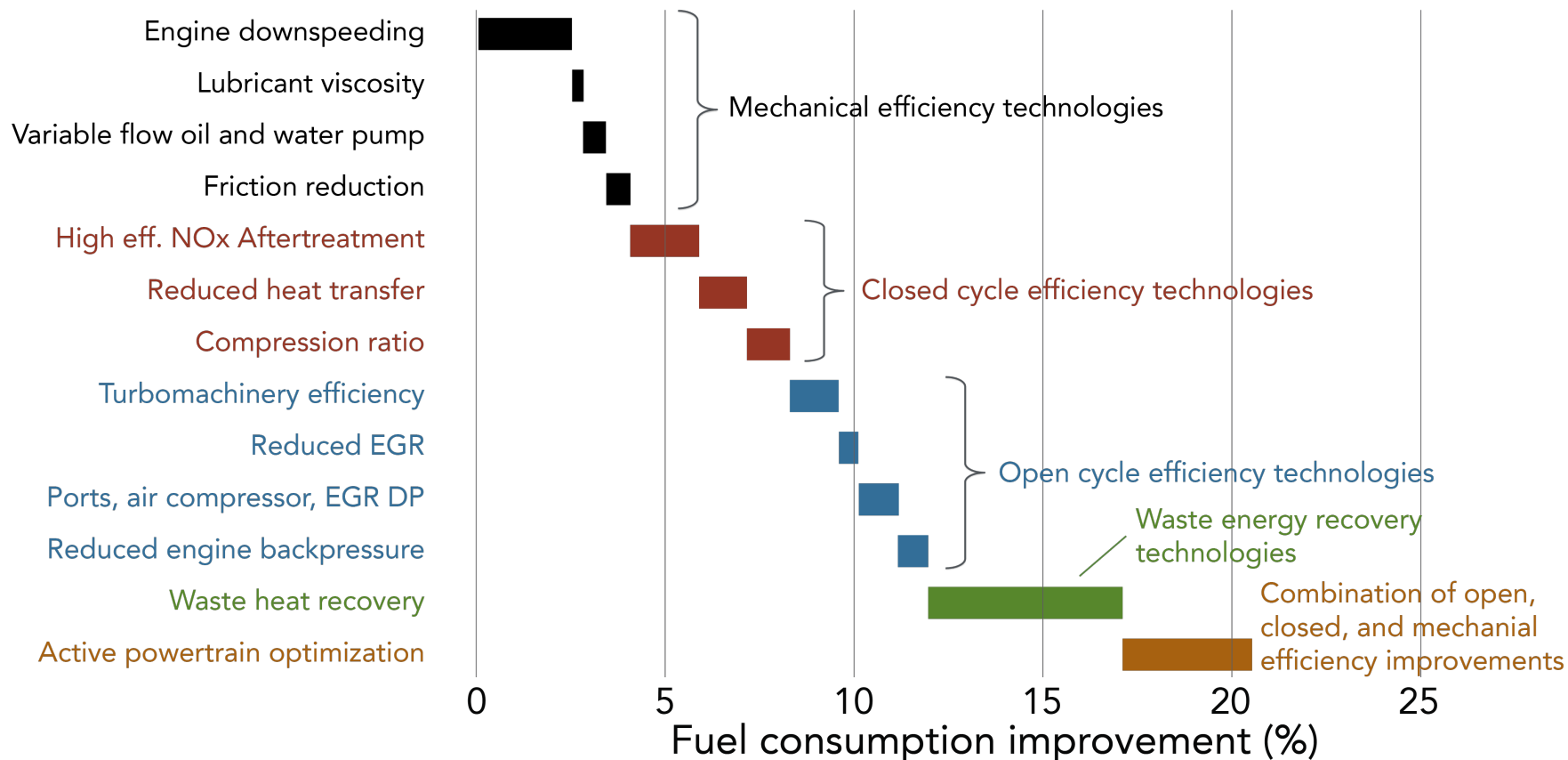


**The Engine Represents Biggest Source of Energy Loss and Provides an Opportunity to Improve Vehicle Fuel Consumption**

# Engine optimization opportunities ("silver buckshot")



# Integration with other vehicle components



“However... no engine incorporates all potential improvements. **There is significant untapped efficiency improvement potential still available for future vehicle use**, both from the technology already implemented in some form in the current production engines listed and from technology that has not been applied in combination with the other advanced technologies.”

Boosted Engines	Intro Year	Variable Valve Timing (VVT)	Integrated Exhaust Manifold	High Geometric CR	Friction Reduction	Higher Stroke/Bore Ratio	Boosting Technology	cooled EGR	Variable Valve Lift (VVL)	Miller Cycle	VNT/VGT Turbo	Partial Discreat Cylinder Deac.	Full Authority Cylinder Deac.	Variable Compression Ratio	Gasoline SPCCI / Lean Modes
Ford EcoBoost 1.6L	2010														
Ford EcoBoost 2.7L	2015														
<b>Honda L15B7 1.5L</b>	<b>2016</b>														
Mazda SKYACTIV-G 2.5L	2016						4				4				
VW EA888-3B 2.0L	2018														
VW EA211 EVO 1.5L	2019							?							
VW/Audi EA839 3.0L V6	2018				?										
Nissan MR20 DDT VCR 2.1L	2018			+	?		?	?							?
Mazda SKYACTIV-X SPCCI 2.0L SC <sup>1</sup>	2019			+	?						NA				
<b>EPA/Ricardo EGRB24 1.2L<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>N/A</b>														

**yellow** = early implementation    **light & dark green** = nearing maturity    **red** = technology not present












1- Supercharged    2- EPA Draft TAR    3- Not known at time of writing

4- Mazda accomplishes equivalent of VNT/VGT using novel valving system

# Emissions regulations are also becoming more stringent

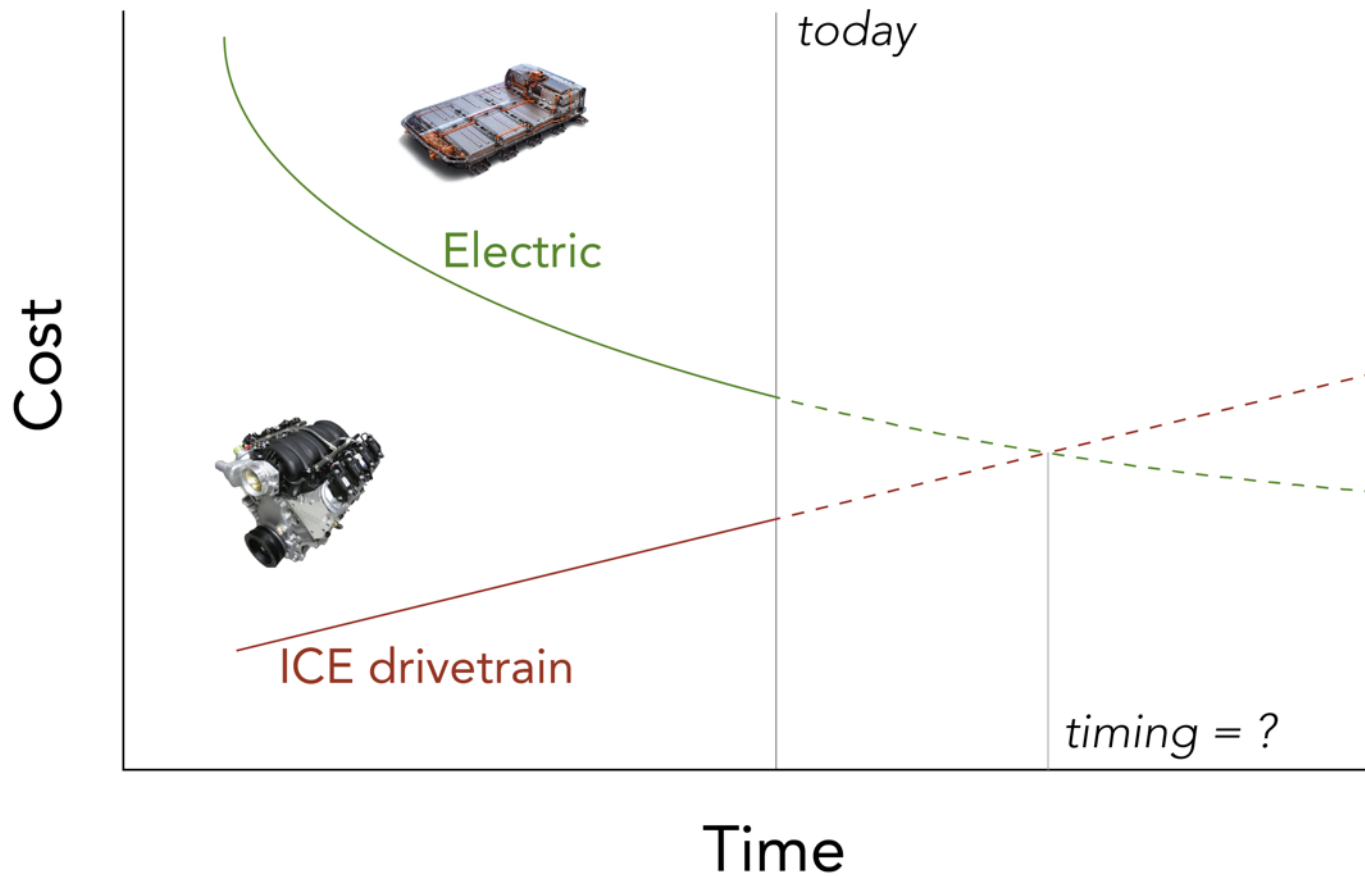


## Global Light Duty Regulations US Regs Drive Advanced Substrates, EU & CN Enforce Filters

		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
USA	 EPA	Tier 3 (phase in)										Tier 4 + 1 mg/mi?			
	 CARB	LEV III Phase in								LEV III + PM 1 mg/mi				LEV IV ?	
EU		WLTC	EU6d TEMP GDI PN 6e11 #/km CF NOx 2.1/PN 1.5		EU6d Final CF ≤1.5		EU7? CF=1, PN >10nm, NO2/NH3/HCHO/N2O/others?								
JP		JP 09 (JC08)	New PNLT (WLTC - Phase 1-3)			Diesel RDE (CF=2.0) Gasoline RDE									
Korea	 Diesel	WLTC	EU6d TEMP		EU6d Final		EU7?								
	Gasoline	K-LEV III (phase in)										LEV IV + 1 mg/mi?			
China	 Nation	<div>Diesel</div> <div>Gasoline</div>	China 5 (~EU5)		CN6a RDE Monitor		CN6b RDE CF TBD				CN 7?				
	Beijing	BJ 6	CN6b w/o RDE												
India	 Nation	BS III	BS IV		BS VI (~EU6b) RDE Monitor		RDE CF=?					BS VII ?			
	12 Cities	BS IV (~EU4)													
Australia		EU5										EU6			
Thailand		EU4					EU5					EU6			
Brazil		PROCONVE L6					PROCONVE L7 (~ Tier 3 Bin 125)			NMHC+NOx = 50		PROCONVE L8 40 30 + PM 3mg/mi			
Russia		EU5					EU6								

12

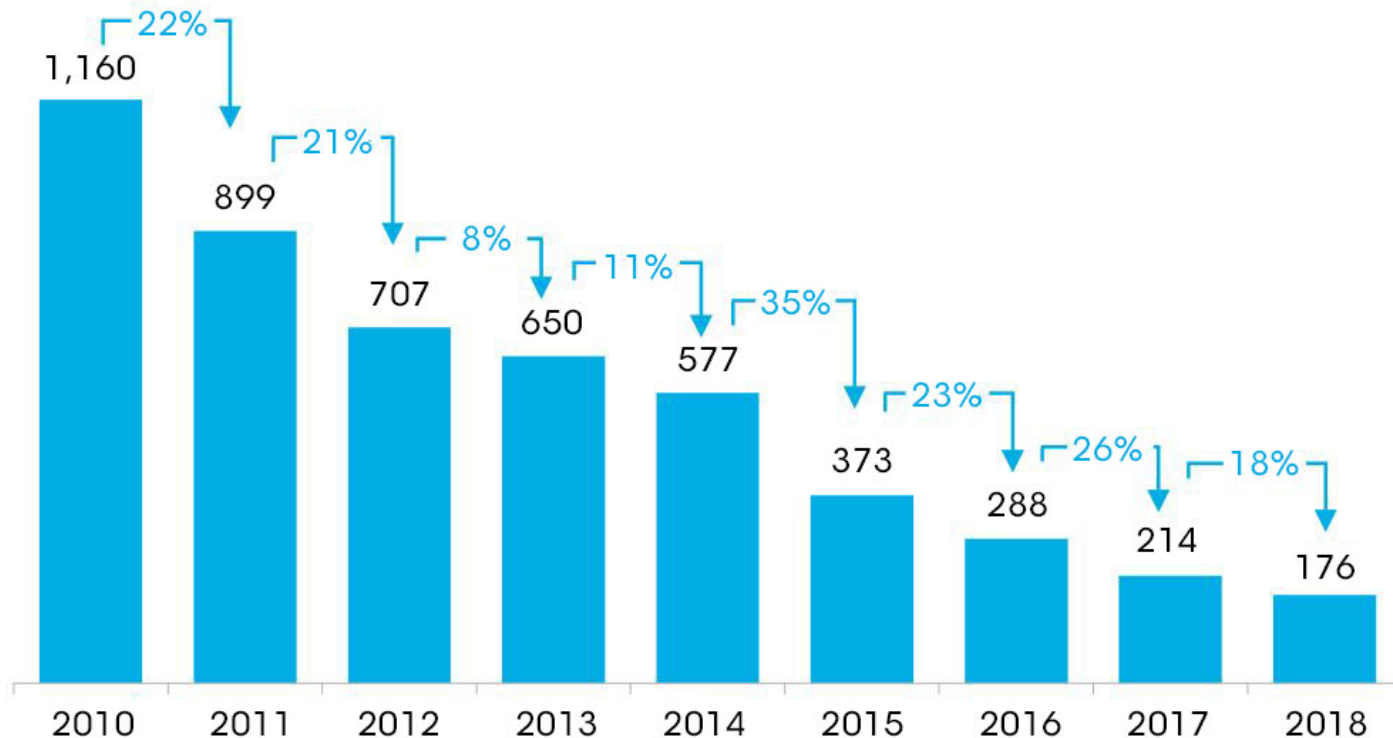
# Cost curves



# EV Battery Cost Reductions

Lithium-ion battery price survey results: volume-weighted average

Battery pack price (real 2018 \$/kWh)



Source: BloombergNEF

# General Motors starting 4,300 white-collar layoffs this week



Many of the layoffs will happen at GM's technical center near Detroit. [Most work on components for internal combustion engines and discontinued car models.](#)

A mural is seen on a wall Nov. 27, 2018, at the General Motors plant in Lordstown, Ohio. GM plans to close five North American factories in the coming months and thousands of jobs are at stake. (Tony Dejak/AP)

# 2019 ACT Expo: Allison Transmission Embraces Electrification

April 25, 2019 by Susan Carpenter, @CarpenterWheels



Allison Transmission announced a partnership with Peterbilt, which has integrated the company's transmissions into its trucks. (Photo: Peterbilt)

# 2019 ACT Expo: Meritor, TransPower Electrify Terminal Tractors

April 24, 2019 by Alan Adler, @AlanAdler



Michael Simon, chief executive of TransPower, left, and Chris Villavarayan, president of global trucks for Meritor Inc., stand with one of the port terminal trucks the companies will build for the ports of Long Beach and Oakland, Calif. (Photo: Alan Adler/Trucks.com)

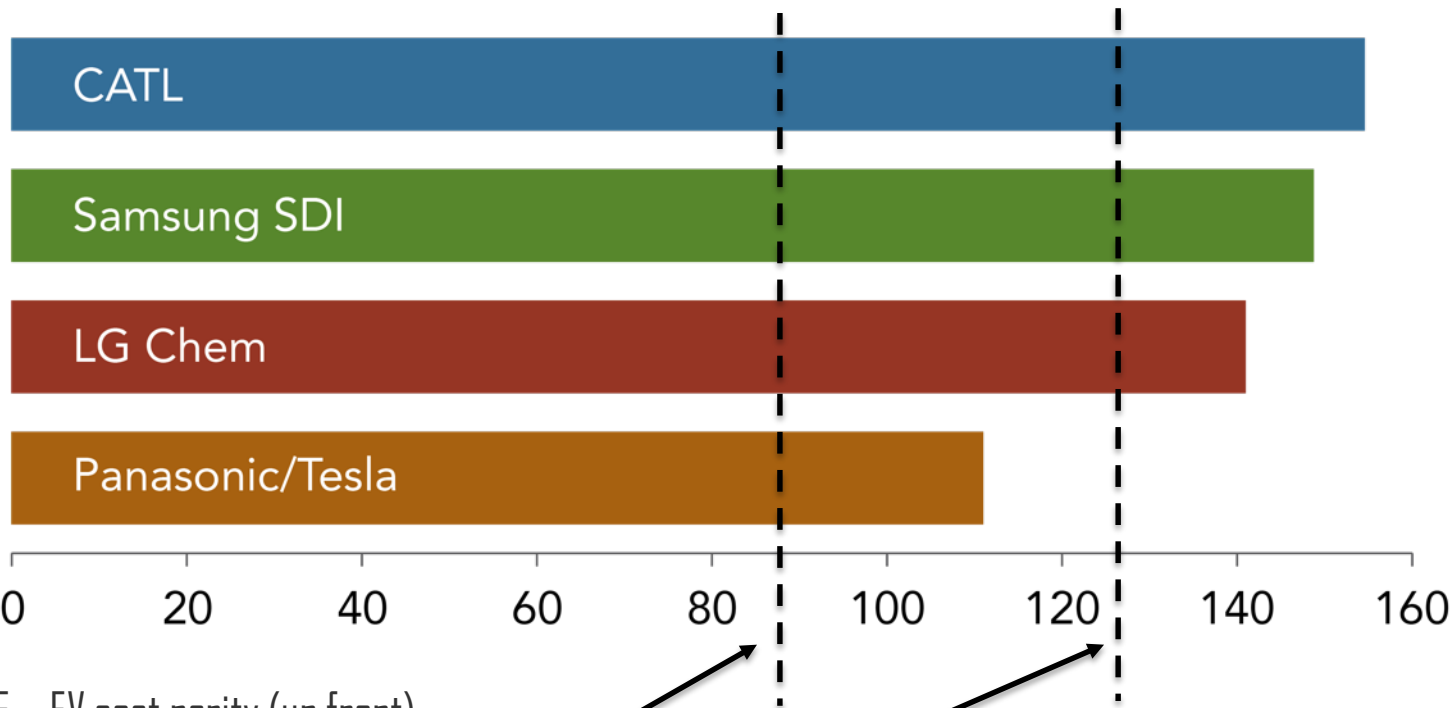
Erik Neandross, CEO of Gladstein, Neandross & Associates, joked that the event had morphed from a natural gas vehicle conference a few years ago into a "commercial electric vehicles summit."



Why all the hysteria about  
electrification?

# Battery cost reductions are now believable...

EV battery costs (\$/kWh)



LD ICE - EV cost parity (up front)

LD ICE - EV cost parity (over vehicle life)

Source: EBS/Financial Times

# And then there's California

## California adopts ZEV mandates for state heavy-duty vehicle fleets

Posted on 11 October 2017

**C**alifornia Governor Jerry Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 739, which requires at least 15% of vehicles with a GVWR of over 19,000 lbs that are newly purchased by the California Department of General Services and other state agencies to be Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) beginning in 2025, and at least 30% of those vehicles to be ZEV beginning in 2030.

"With the Federal Government rolling back environmental protections and clean air regulations, it is more important than ever for California to step-up and take a leading role in the fight against climate change," said Assemblymember Ed Chau (D-Monterey Park) who authored AB 739.

The ZEV requirements do not apply to vehicles that have "special performance requirements necessary for the protection of public safety".

# And then there's California

## L.A. City Approves Full LADOT Transit Electrification by 2030

By Joe Linton | Nov 9, 2017 | 5



This week, the L.A. approved LADOT bus electrification by 2030. Photo of LADOT's first electric DASH bus earlier this year - by Joe Linton/Streetsblog L.A.

# And then there's China

**Shenzhen's silent revolution: world's first  
fully electric bus fleet quiets Chinese  
megacity**

"All 16,000 buses in the fast-growing Chinese megacity are now  
electric...  
... and soon all 22,000 taxis will be too"



# A perspective on battery costs

- The majority of battery cost reductions over the past decade have been realized due to **engineering** improvements
- Achieve the next round of dramatic cost reductions requires **chemistry** changes
- These chemistry changes are going to be **hard to realize and commercialize**
- **Recycling** will also likely need to be adopted at the same scale as lead-acid batteries





# e-fuels

CO<sub>2</sub>-based fuels

Syn fuels

electro-fuels

e-ethanol



e-diesel

e-gasoline

Fischer-Tropsch  
fuels

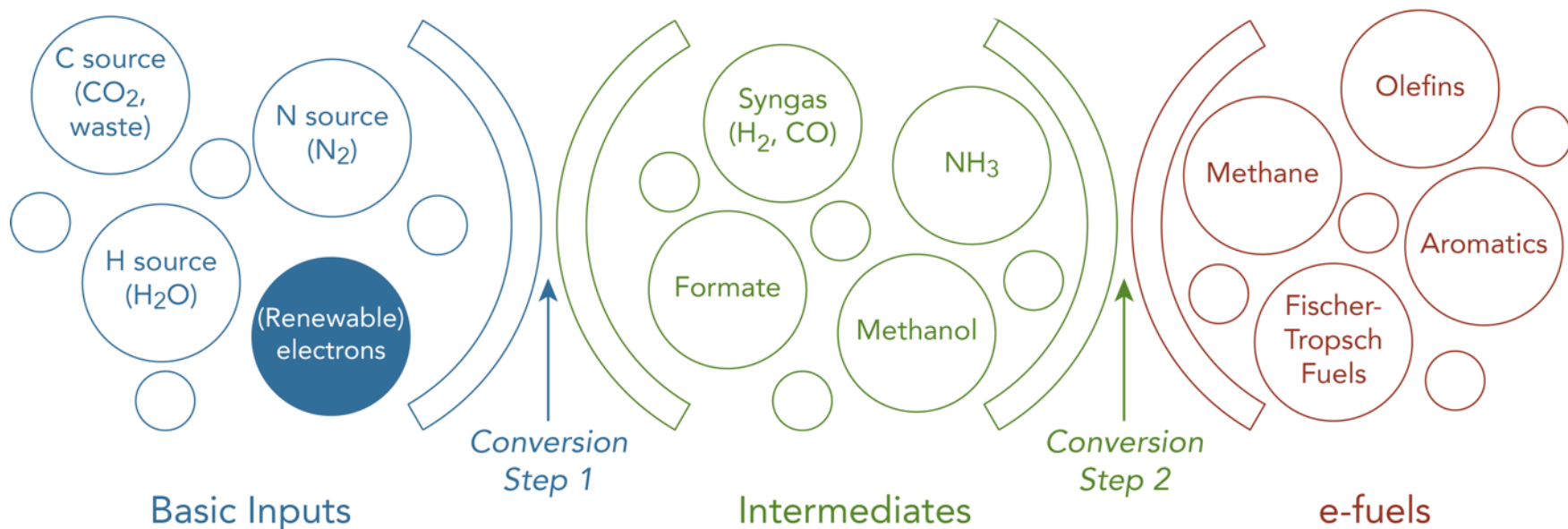
FT fuels

Power to fuel



# What are e-fuels?

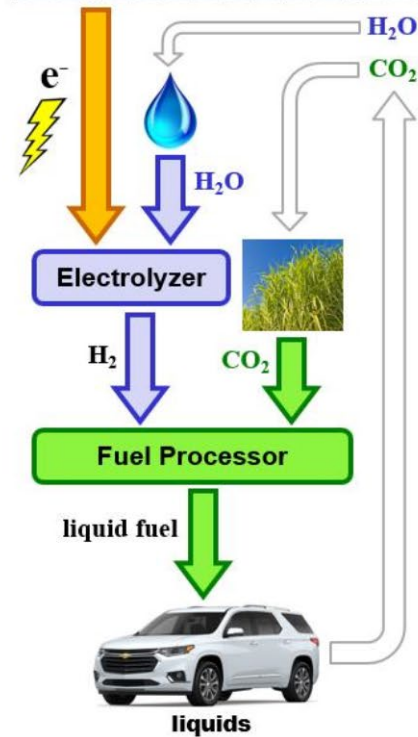
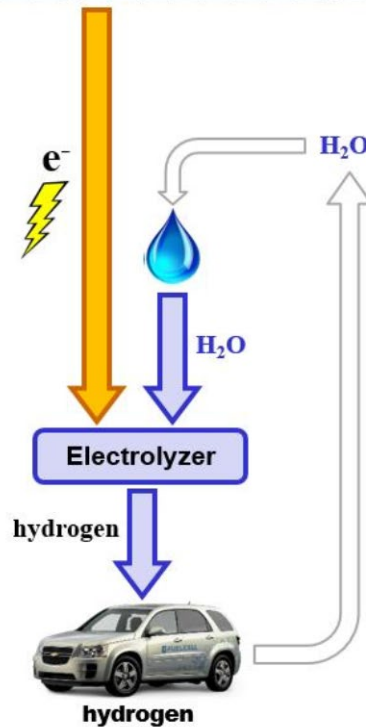
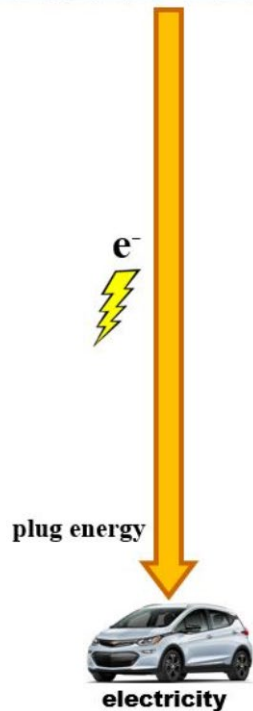
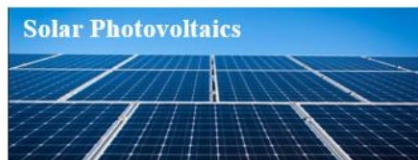
Electrofuels ("**e-fuels**") are **hydrocarbon or oxygenate fuels** synthesized primarily using a **carbon source** and **electricity**



# e-fuels attributes

- e-fuels are not new
  - But some technical approaches are new and have significant potential benefits
- e-fuels can be made with pretty much any desired structure/property
  - The same is true with biomass- and petroleum-derived fuels
- Much of the current interest in e-fuels results from their potential to be a low-GHG alternative to petroleum-derived fuels
  - Maximum benefit assumes abundance of cheap clean electrons

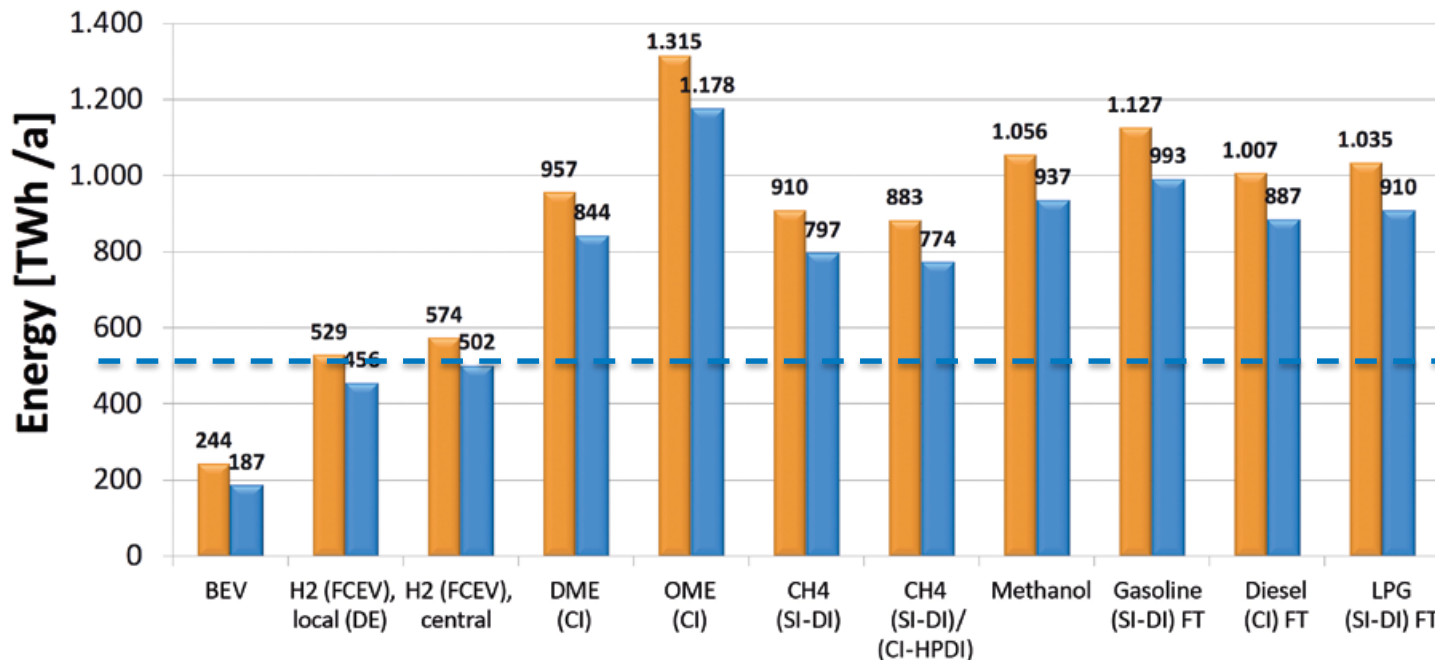




# How much electricity is required?

## Future (WtW) energy requirement

(electrical energy required for PtX production or BEV battery charging)



Germany's  
current  
annual  
electricity  
production

Energy required to convert 100% of Germany's LD and HD fleet

# e-fuels: are they feasible at scale?

- In a world with constraints on low-cost, carbon-free electrons...
  - Is it cheaper and easier just to electrify the on-road fleet?
- Do e-fuels make most sense for jet and marine applications, where incumbent technologies are harder to substitute?



# Summary/Conclusions

- Significant ICE efficiency gains are still possible
  - Technologies exist to meet future fuel economy and emissions targets but are increasingly expensive
  - Who is willing to pay for the needed R&D?
- Electrification promises to transform the entire on-road fleet
  - Cost (including TCO) and performance are driving the transformation
  - The pace will be slow; squeezing costs out will be hard
- e-fuels could be a low-GHG technology that helps extend the life of ICEs (in theory)
  - We need to use our renewable electrons wisely

# Thank You

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**[www.nrel.gov/transportation](http://www.nrel.gov/transportation)**

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