

Stefano Passerini

# An approach to the Energy Transition: From the Oil Barrel to Reactive Metals

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# Decarbonising Europe by 2050

**EU Energy players propose one broad ambitious mission for Europe**  
**“Decarbonising Europe by 2050”.**

A new framework programme has been created “Horizon Europe”. This coalition gathers the most important energy players in Europe covering electrical, heat and gas sector

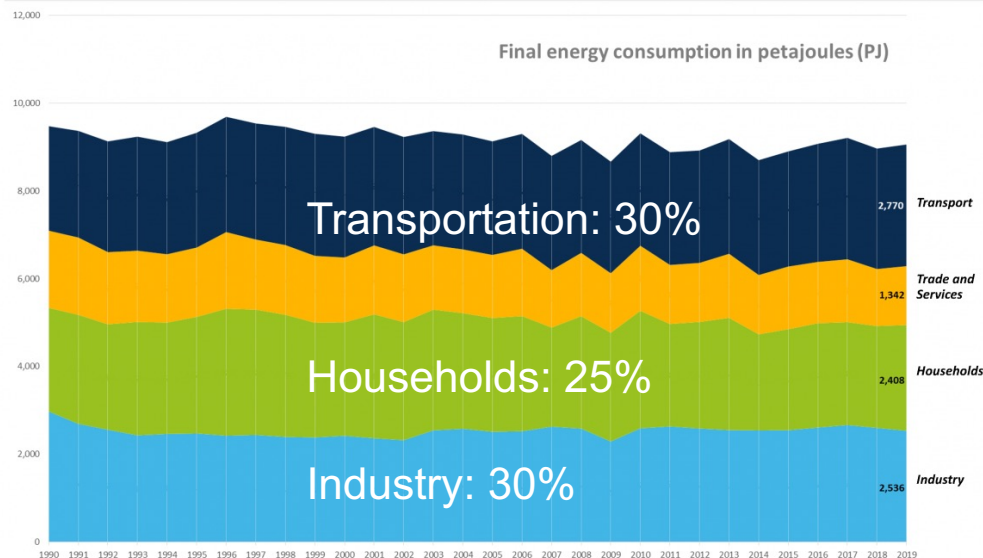
On 28 **November 2018**, the Commission presented its **strategic long-term vision for a climate-neutral economy by 2050** (emissions are balanced by methods of removing warming gases from the atmosphere)

Source: ETIP SNET Website [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2050_en)



## Final energy consumption in Germany by consumer group 1990 - 2019.

Data: AGEB 2020.



## Secure Energy Needs for:

**Transportation**

**Residential**

**Industry**

*“Der Weg nun, auf welchem diese grösste aller technischen Fragen, die Beschaffung billiger Energie, zu lösen ist, dieser Weg muss von der Elektrochemie gefunden werden.”*

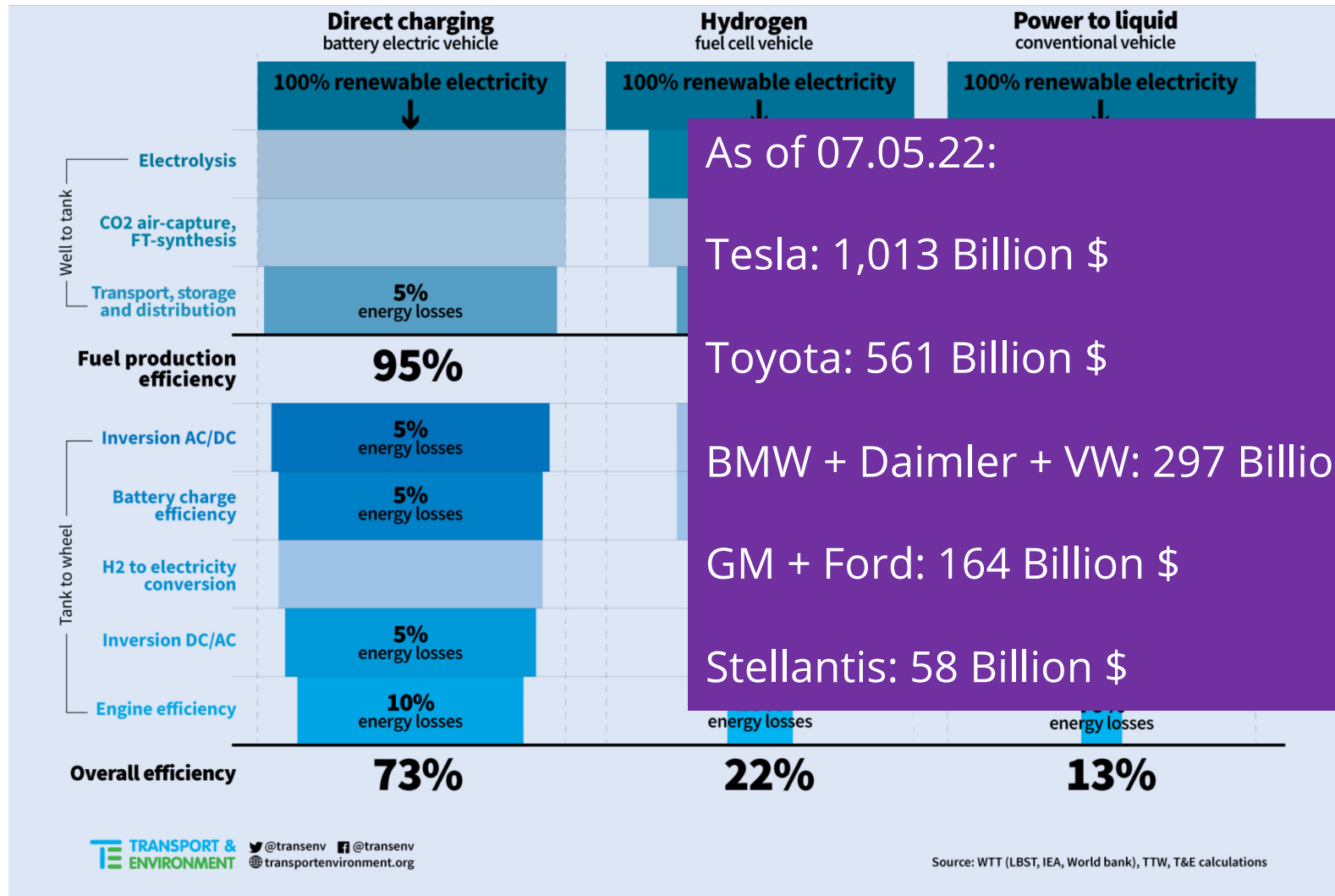
*“The path leading to the solution of the most difficult of all technological questions - the delivery of cheap energy - must be discovered by Electrochemistry”*

F.W. Ostwald, Z. Elektrotechnik und Elektrochemie, 1894

*One of the most important missions for electrochemistry is to enable a sustainable energy future*



# Decarbonising the Transportation Sector

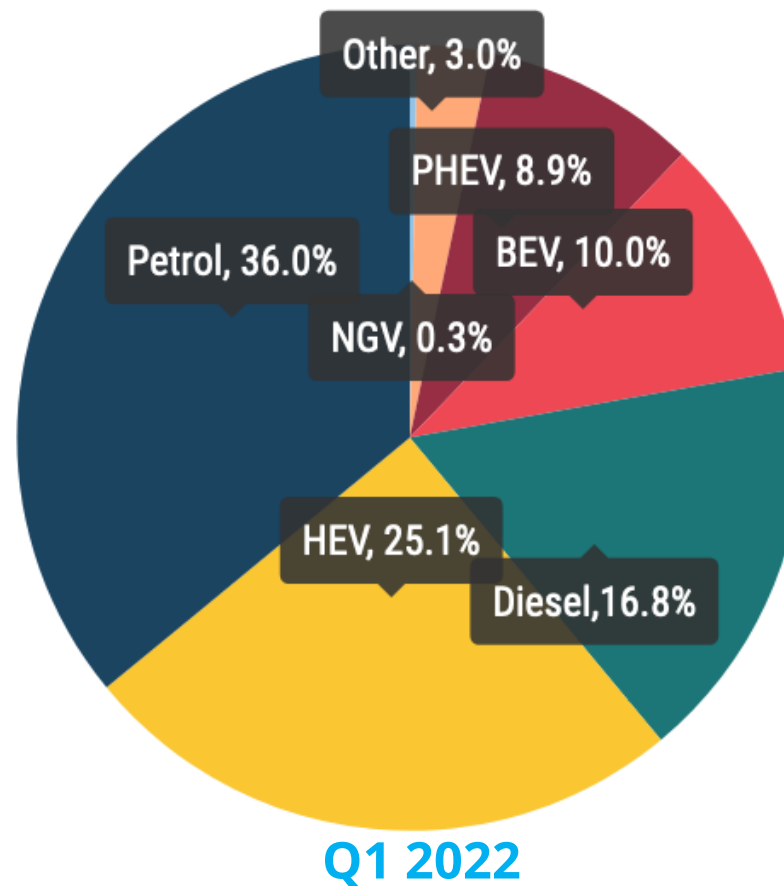
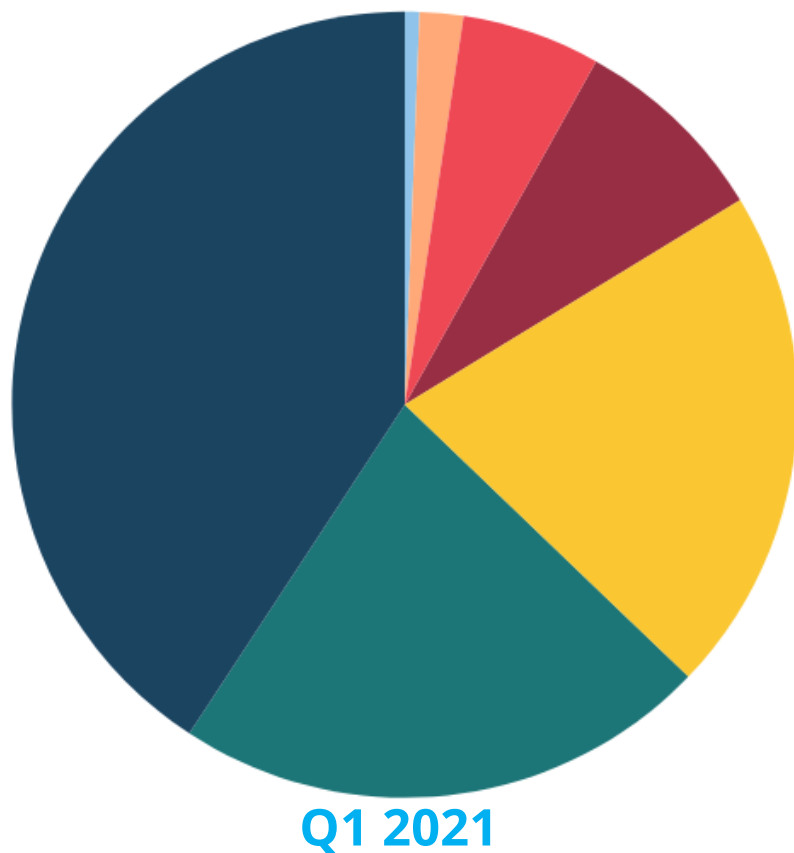


Energy storage in batteries is way more efficient than in hydrogen and liquid fuels.

No wonder Tesla capitalizes more than Toyota as well as the three German carmakers altogether !!!

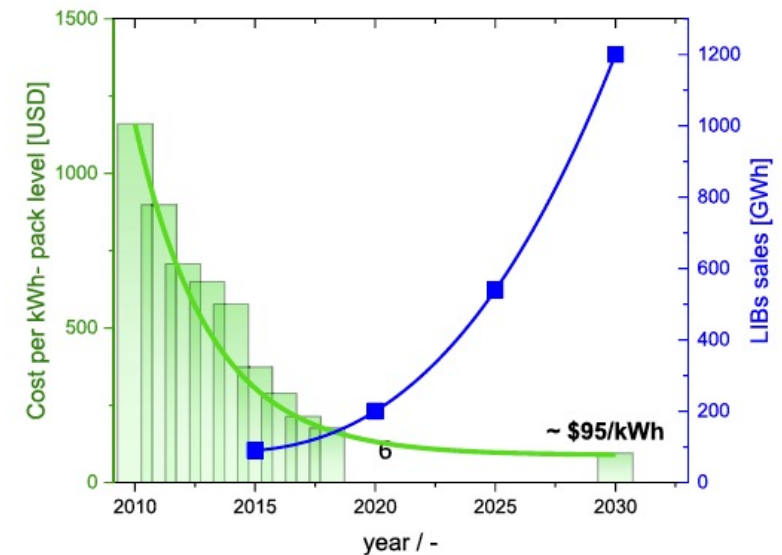
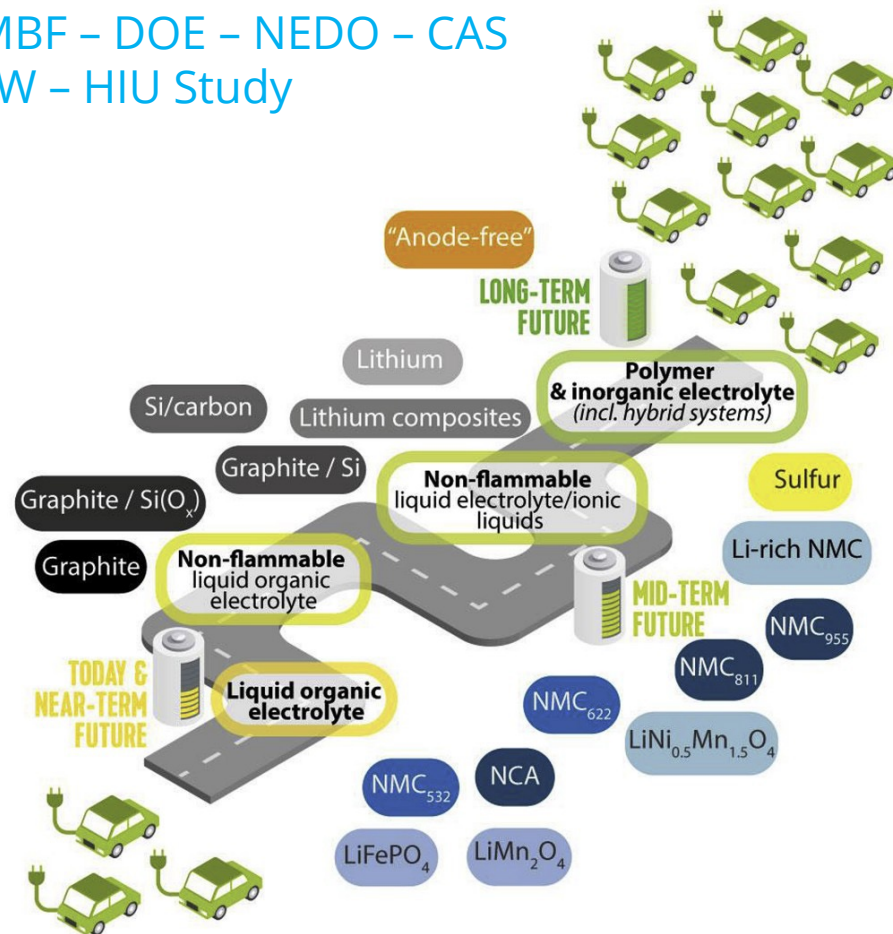


- Petrol
- Diesel
- Battery electric (BEV)
- Plug-in hybrid (PHEV)
- Hybrid electric (HEV)
- Natural gas (NGV)
- Other



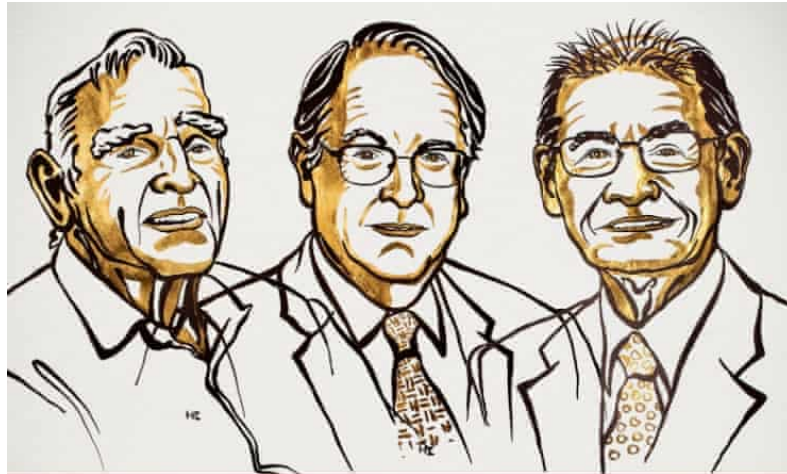
Share of HEV, PHEV and EV in the EU is growing fast. **44% in Q1 2022**

BMBF – DOE – NEDO – CAS  
ZSW – HIU Study



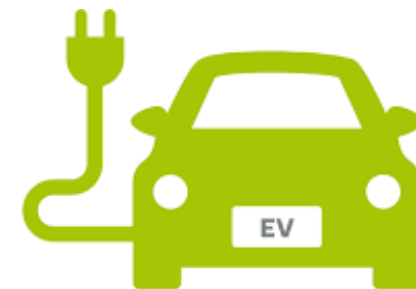
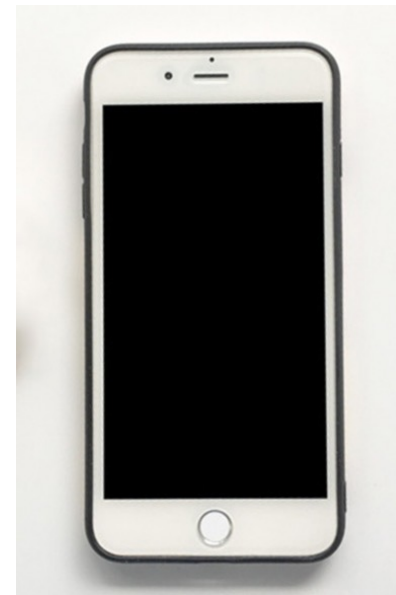
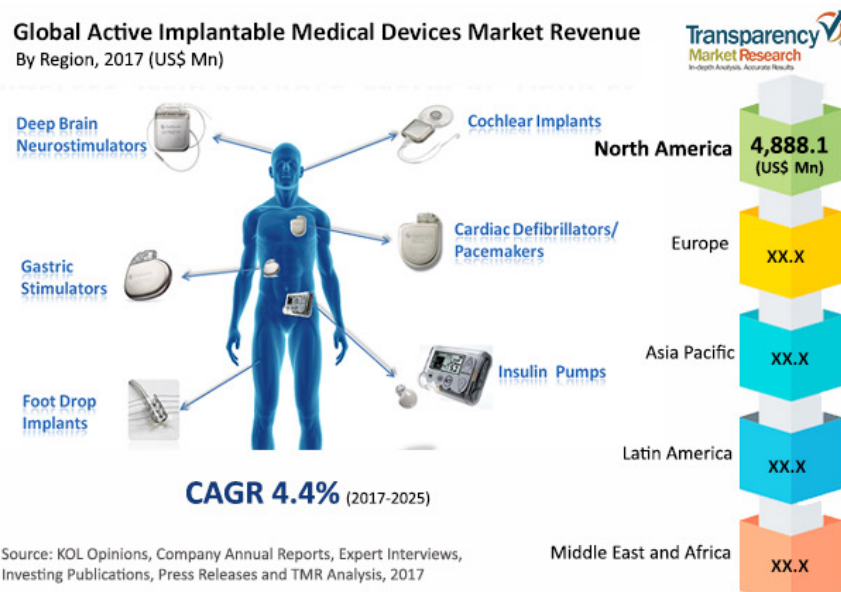
*A Behind the Scenes Take on Lithium-ion Battery Prices" –bloombergNEF-; predicted costs for 2030 kindly provided by NEDO.*

Lithium batteries (LIBs and LMBs) will lead the EV market for the next 10-15 years (at least).

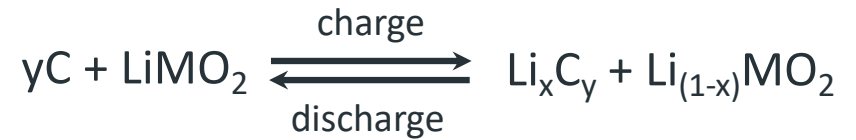
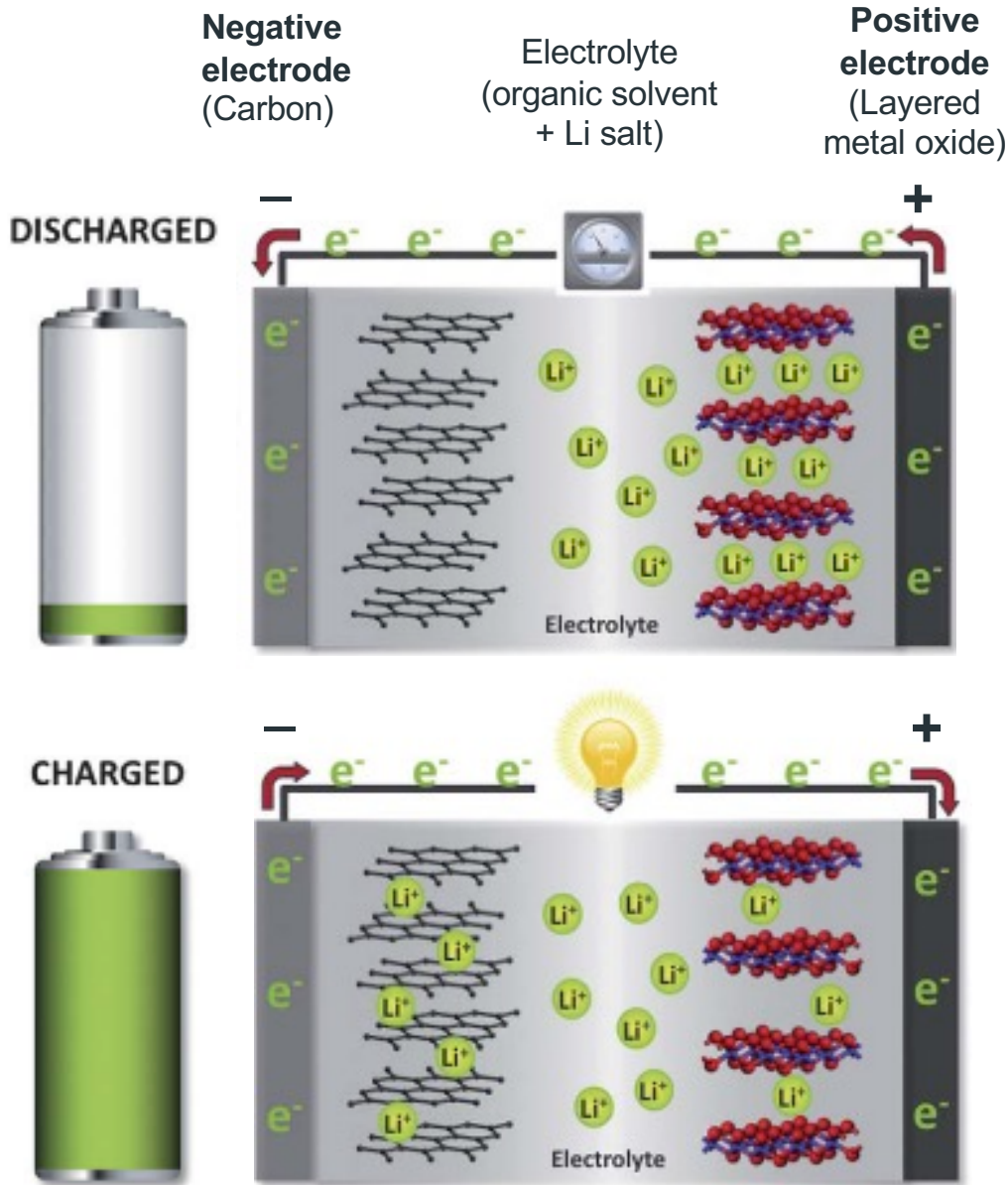


## Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2019

John B. Goodenough,  
M. Stanley Whittingham  
and Akira Yoshino.



# Lithium-ion Batteries – operating principle



**Average Cell Voltage ~ 3.6 V**

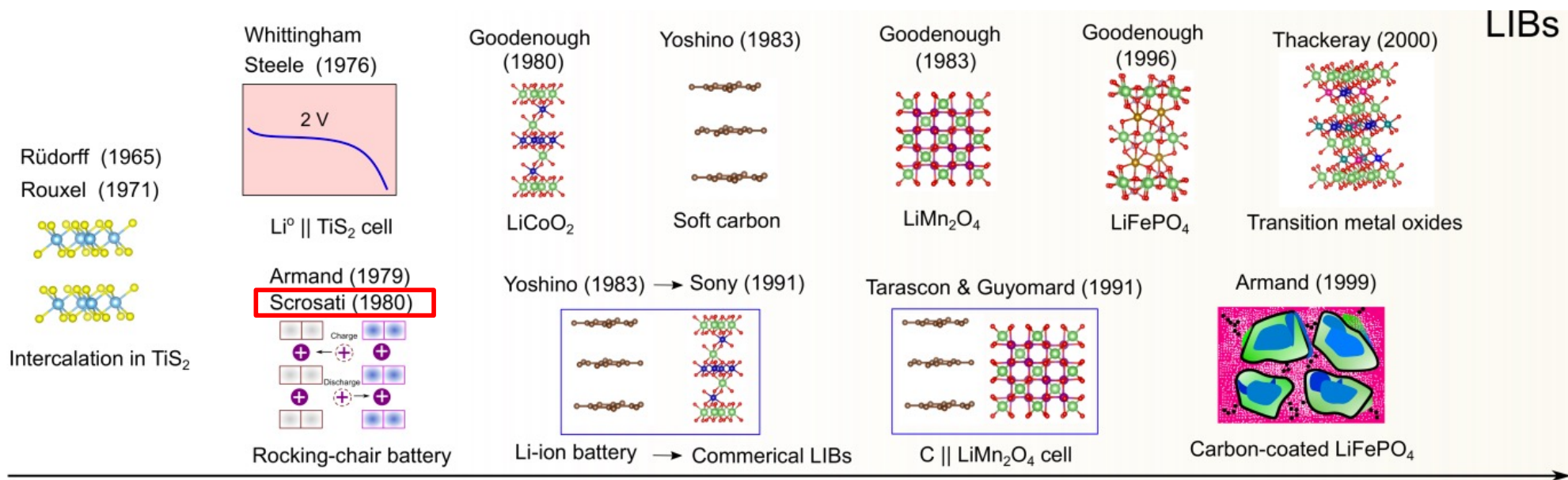
**Energy (Wh) = Voltage (V) x Capacity (Ah)**

System	Nominal Voltage / V	Energy*	
		Gravimetric / Wh kg <sup>-1</sup>	Volumetric / Wh L <sup>-1</sup>
Pb-Acid	2.1	40	90
Ni-Cd	1.2	60	130
Ni-MH	1.2	80	215
<b>Li-ion</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>700</b>

\*Practical values on battery pack level

The Li-ion performance has more than doubled in the past 30 years, „just“ by optimizing cell design...





1980 - First report on Lithium-ion (Rocking Chair) Battery

1991- First commercial Lithium-ion Battery

*Journal of the Electrochemical Society* • Volume 127, Issue 3, Pages 773 - 774 • 1980

## A Cyclable Lithium Organic Electrolyte Cell Based on Two Intercalation Electrodes

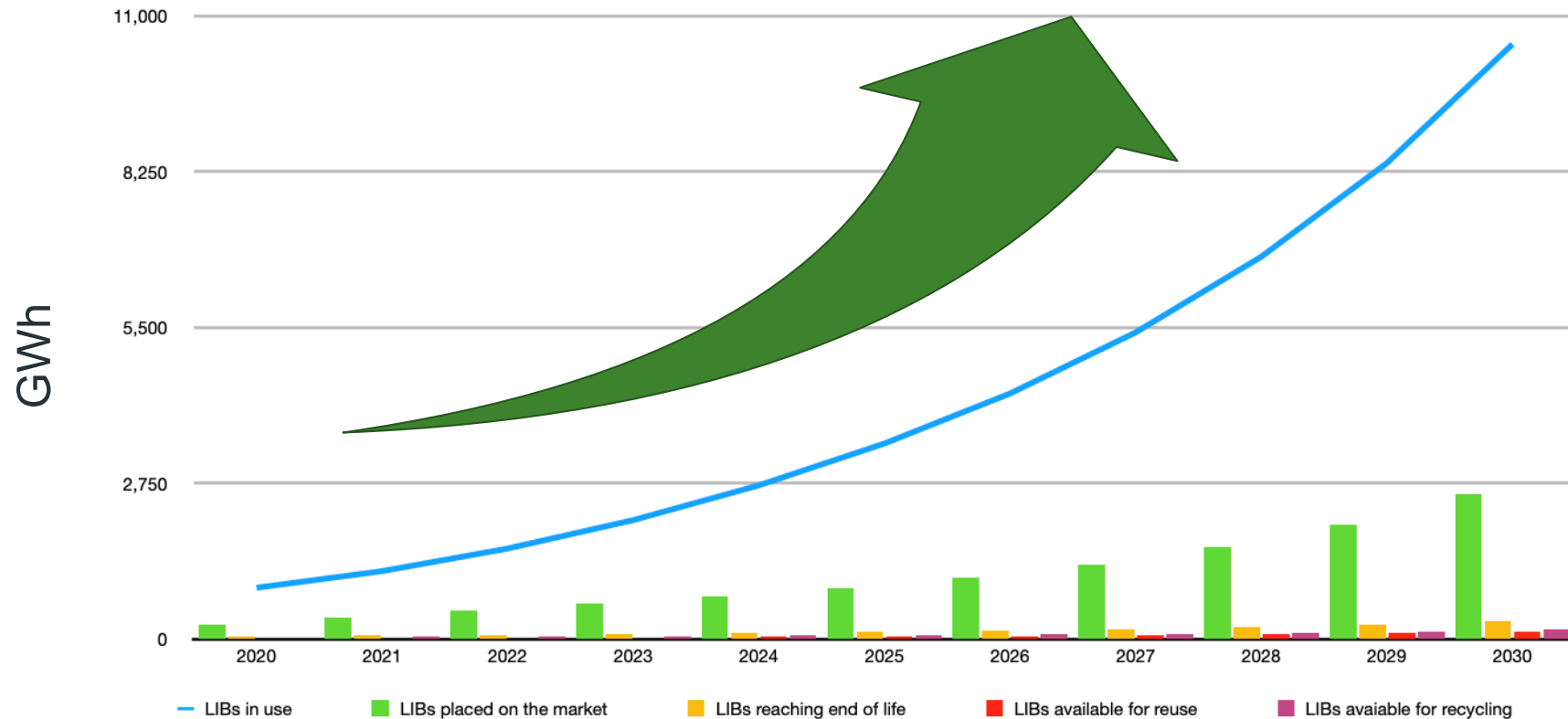
Lazzari M.<sup>a</sup>; Scrosati B.<sup>b</sup>

[Save all to author list](#)

<sup>a</sup> Centro Studio Processi Elettrodici del C.N.R., Polytechnic of Milan, Milan, Italy

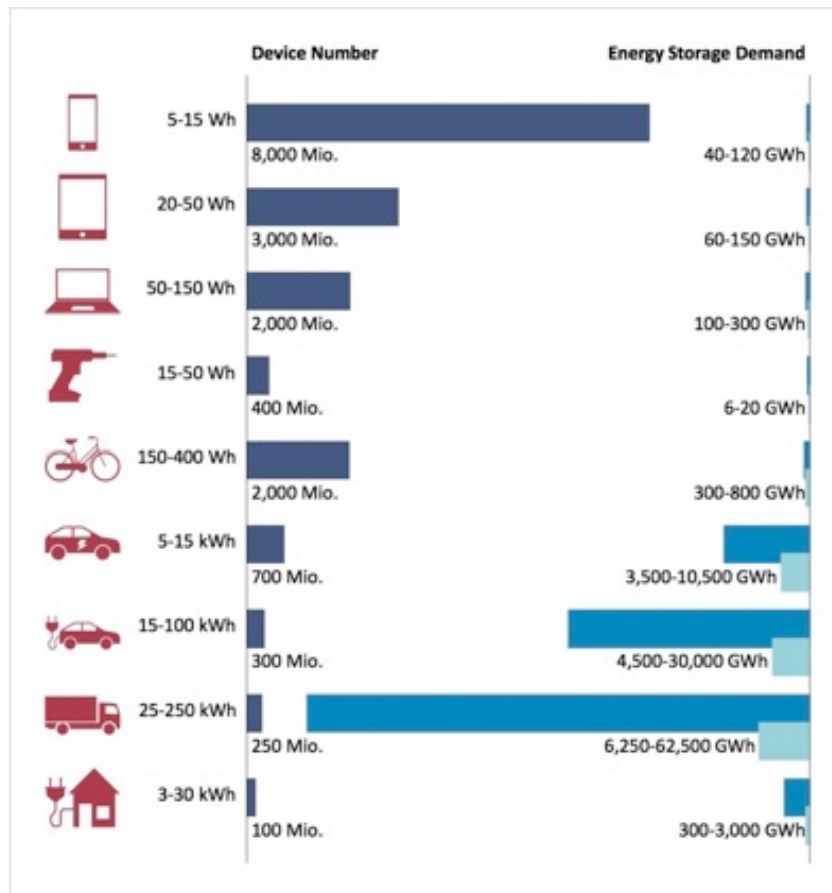
<sup>b</sup> Istituto di Chimica Fisica, University of Rome, Rome, Italy

## LIBs production grows extremely fast because of EV



The 2021 forecast on LIBs production in 2030 was two times higher than the 2020 forecast.

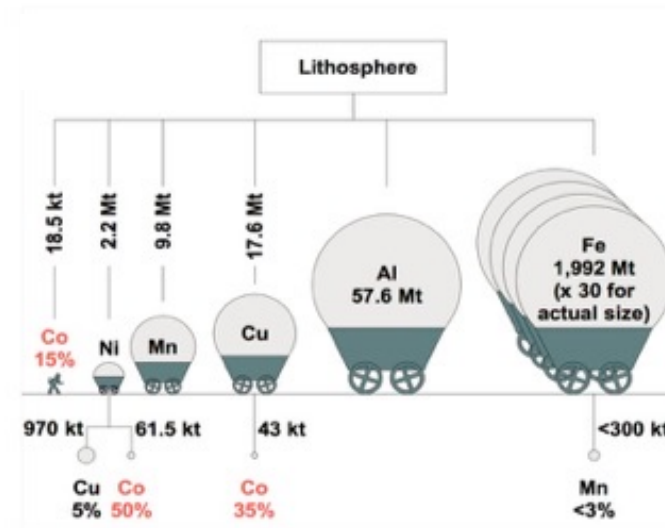
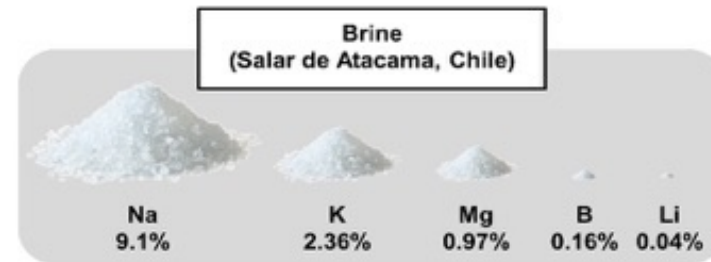
## Battery Energy Storage 2050 Scenario



Cumulative capacity demand in 2050: 14-107 TWh

Production 2016: 44 GWh (1540 GWh by 2050)

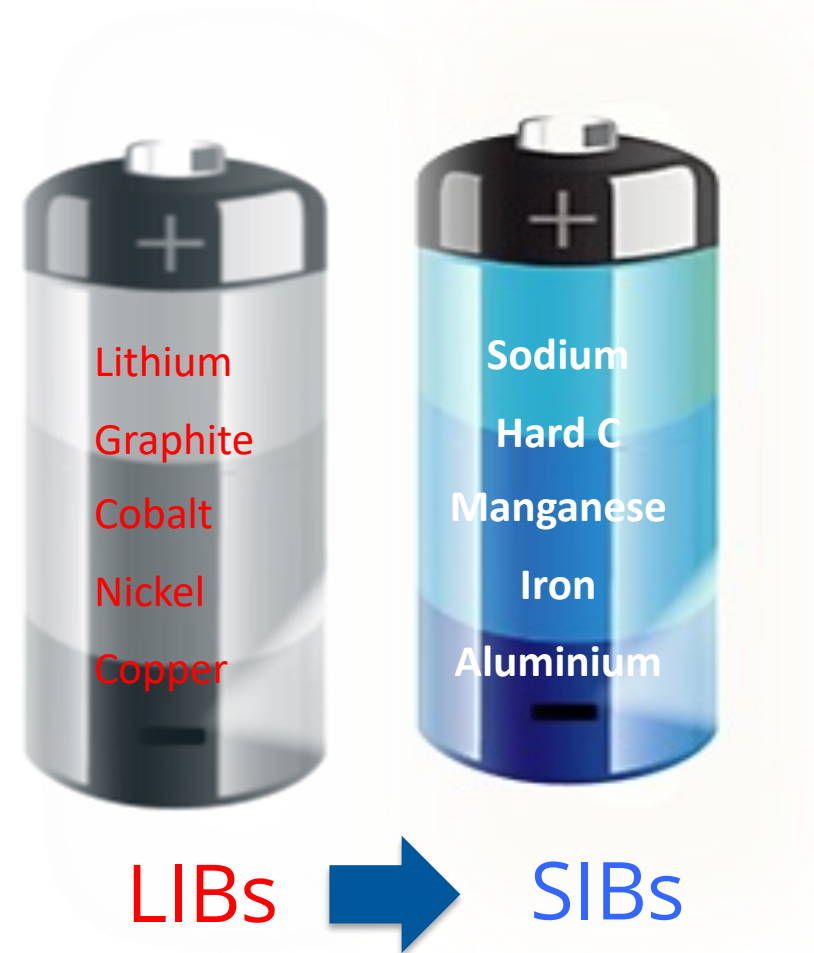
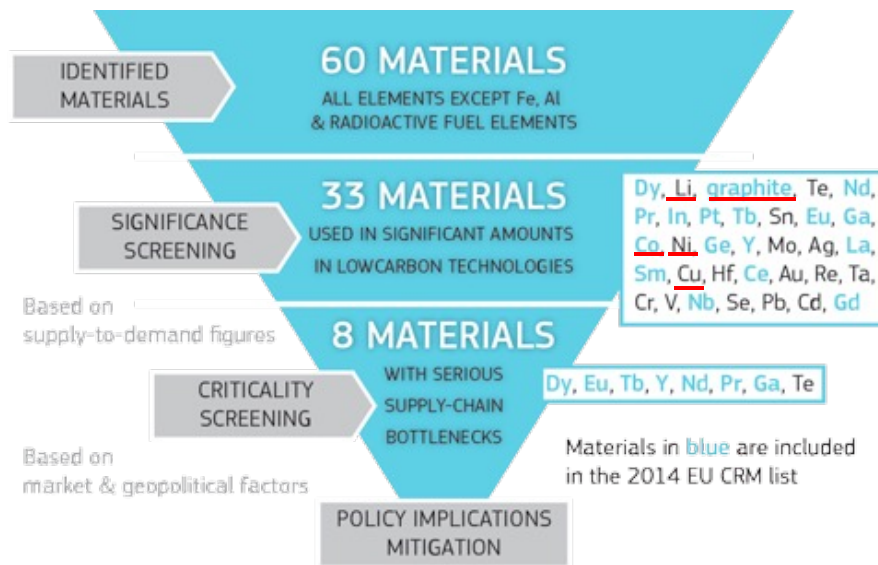
## Availability of Resources



Lack of Cobalt (soon) then Nickel and, eventually, Lithium !!!!

## NEED TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON CRITICAL MATERIALS (EU)

In 2014, the EU issued a revised list of 54 raw materials, among which 20 were identified as critical in terms of supply risk and economic importance.



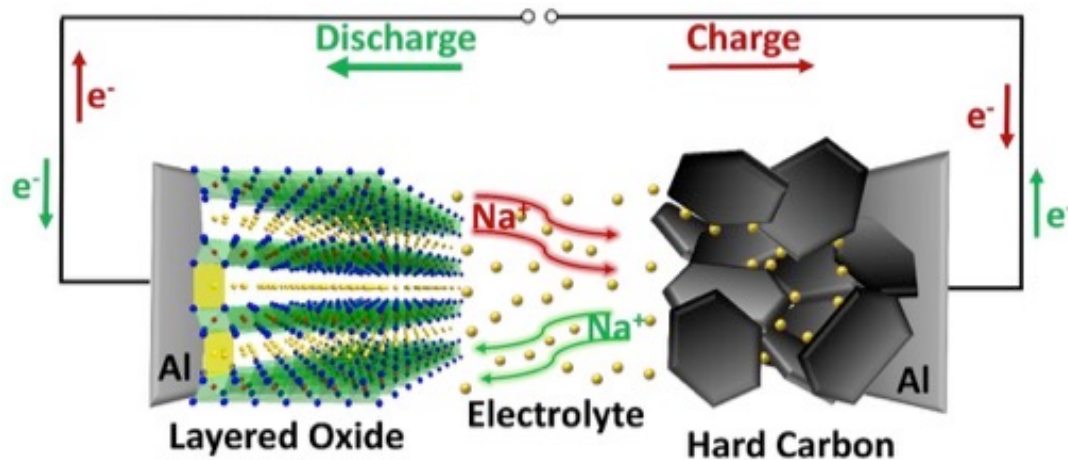
- ❑ Supply risks (geopolitical);
- ❑ Supply restrictions (importance and substitutability);
- ❑ Environmental implications (human health and ecosystems);



## Sodium-ion Battery philosophy:

- Use of low-cost & environmentally friendly raw materials;
  - Reduce dependency on critical materials

## “Drop-in” technology



**LIBs** → **SIBs**

Foreseen applications for Sodium-ion batteries:

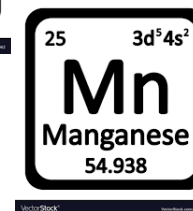
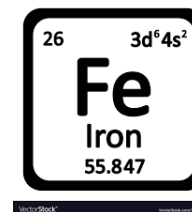
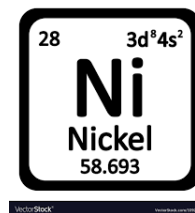
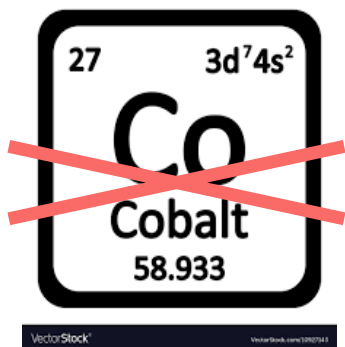
Scooters

Light-duty vehicles

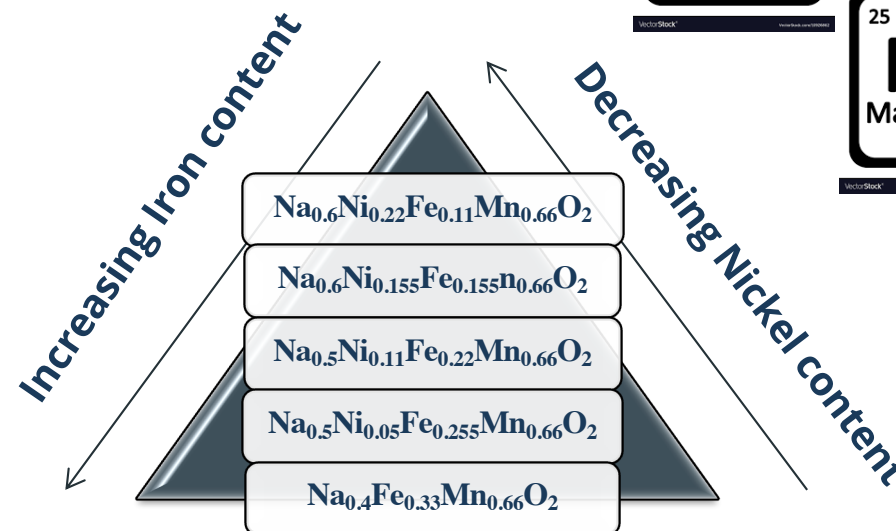
City buses

Stationary energy storage

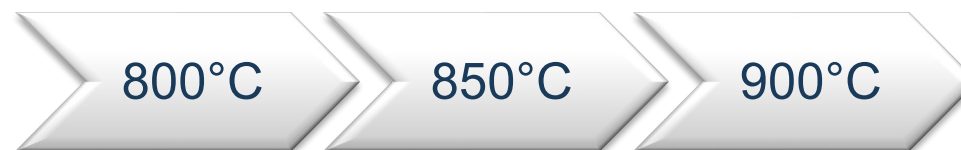
Toward Cobalt free cathodes:  
Ni-Fe-Mn based transition metal layered oxides

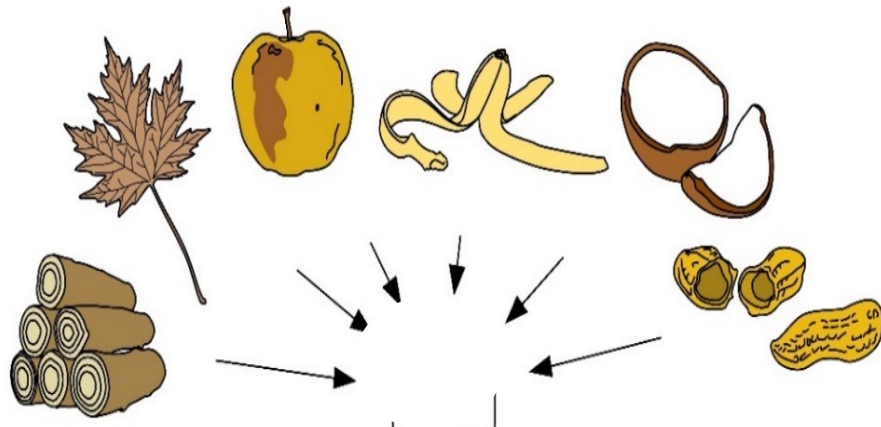


**Nickel to Iron Ratio in the layers  
of the transition metal oxide**

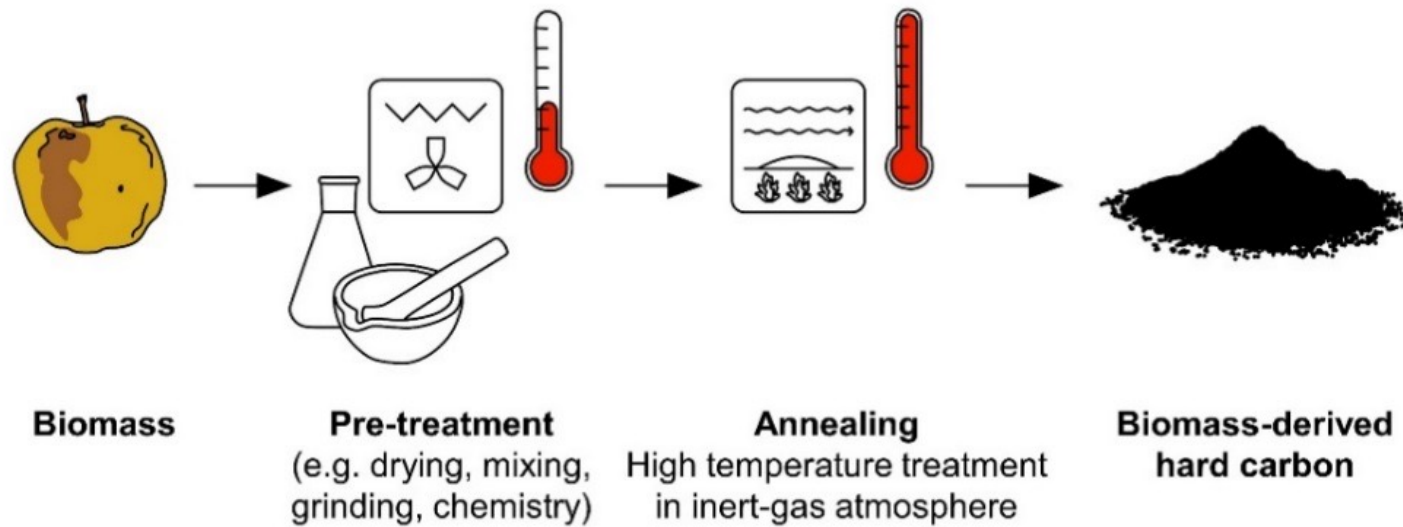


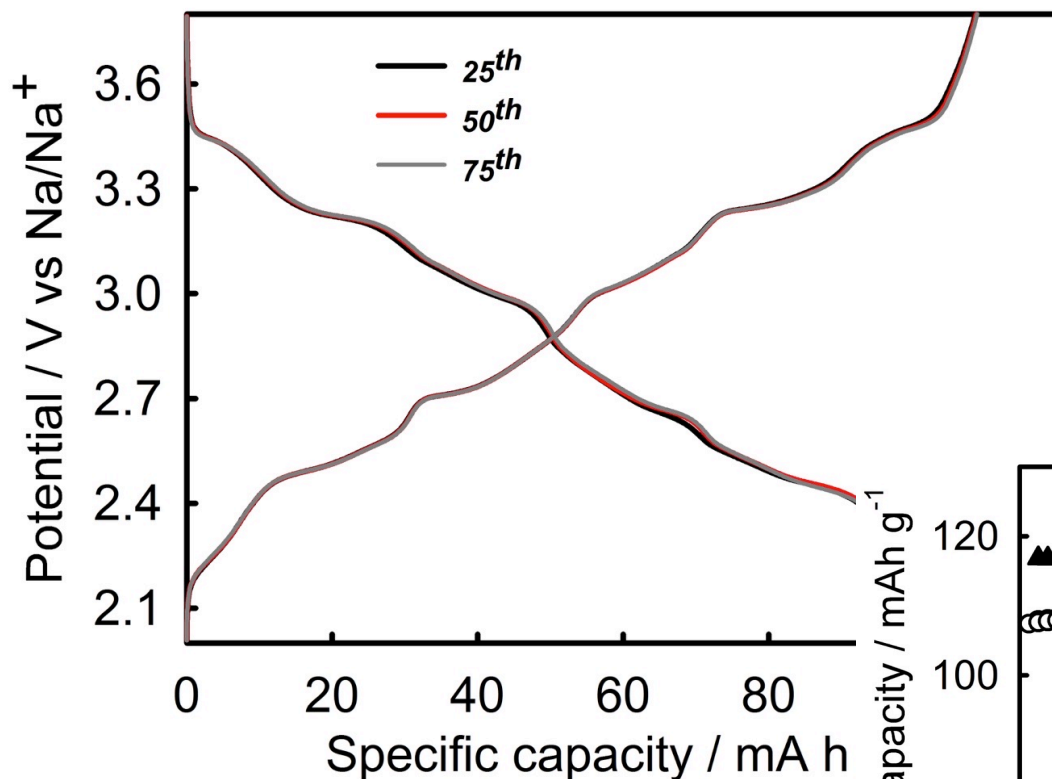
**Annealing condition: thermal  
treatment temperature**





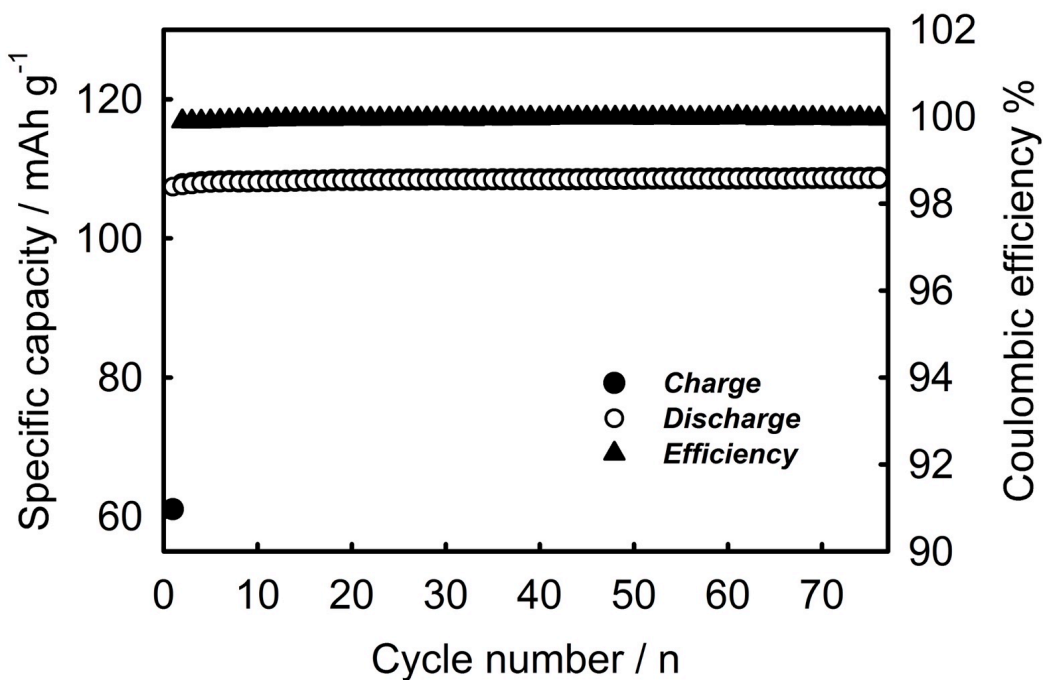
Biowaste is an abundant and cheap raw material for Hard Carbon



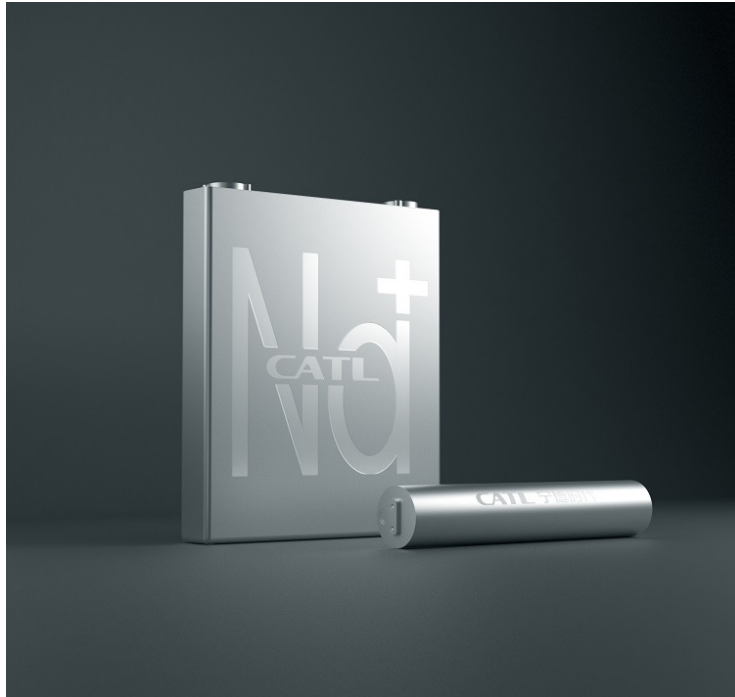


**Excellent cyclability**  
**Acceptable capacity**

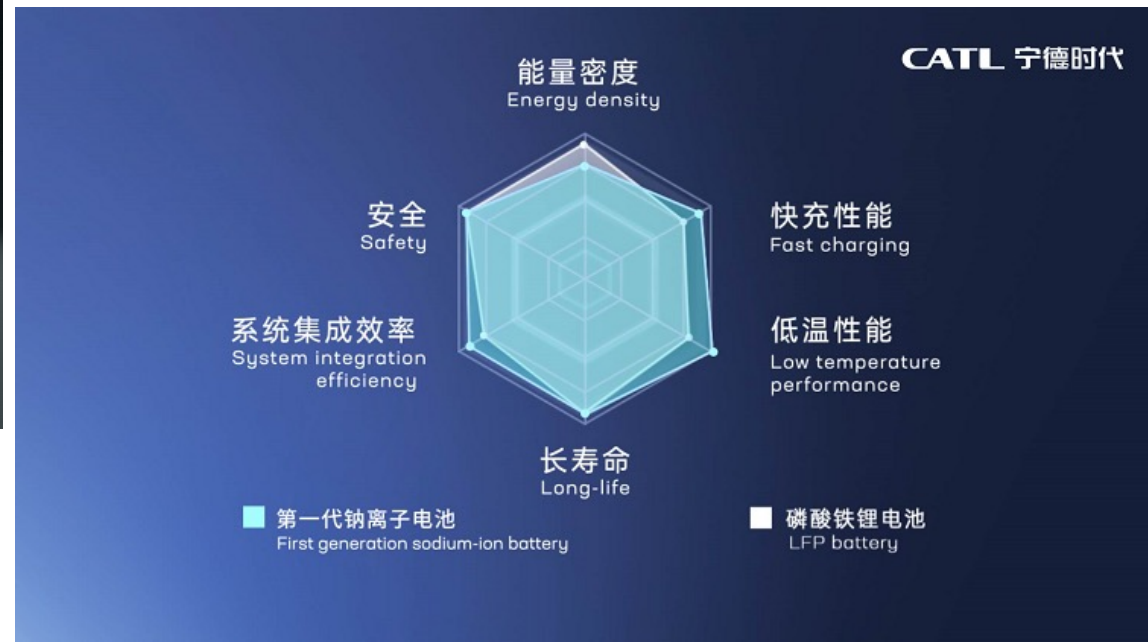
**HC/ Na<sub>x</sub>MnO<sub>2</sub>**  
Hard Carbon from corn cobs  
Ni- and Co-free cathode  
Both electrodes made with a  
cellulose-derived aqueous  
binder







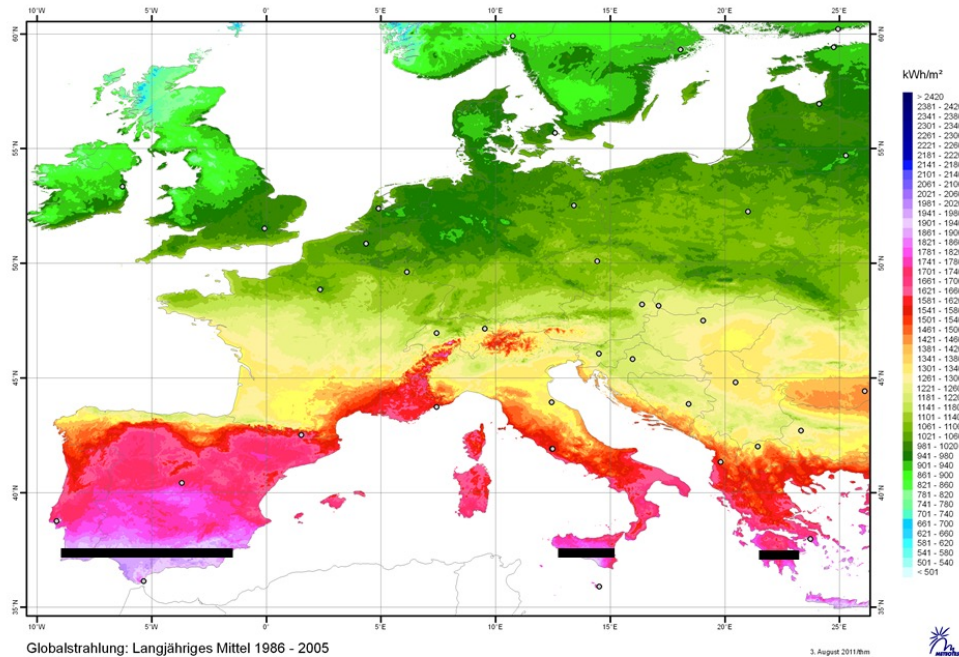
**See Mr. A. Innocenti presentation  
on LCC of Na-ion Batteries.**



Industrial Sodium-Ion Batteries are already available on the market  
CATL recently announced interest in large-scale production  
However, they are still not competitive with Lithium-ion Batteries.

## Primary Energy needs

**Europe: 21,400 TWh (2018)**  
**Italy: 1,807 TWh (2019)**



### Assumptions

- Energy through renewable energy from PV only (20% collection efficiency)
- Solar radiation  $\sim 1,500 \text{ kWh/m}^2$  (Perugia)

Area of photovoltaic systems to meet energy needs

**Europe:**

62,600 km<sup>2</sup> (Sicilia + Sardegna + ½ Puglia)

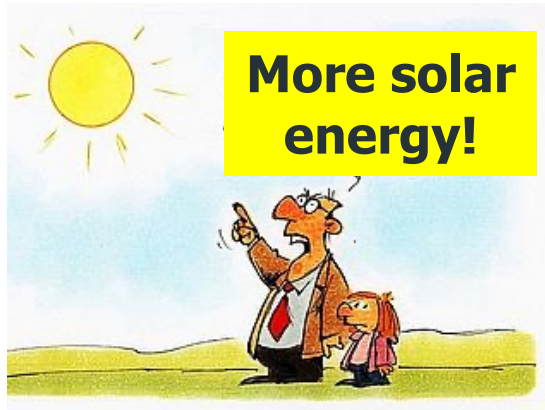
**Italy:**

6,000 km<sup>2</sup> (9% of Sicilia + Sardegna + Puglia)

**Italy:**

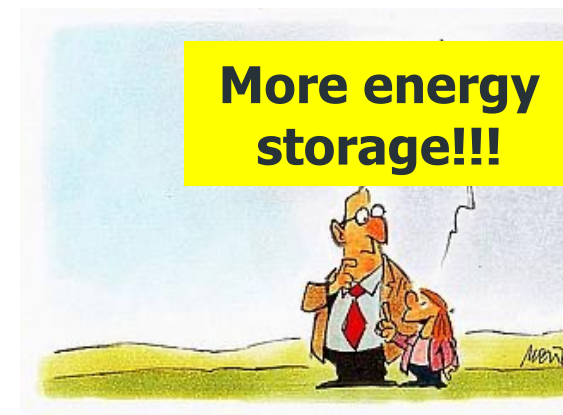
**20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of urbanised territory (Buildings, Railways, Roads and Motorways)**

# Renewable Energy for Energy Transition

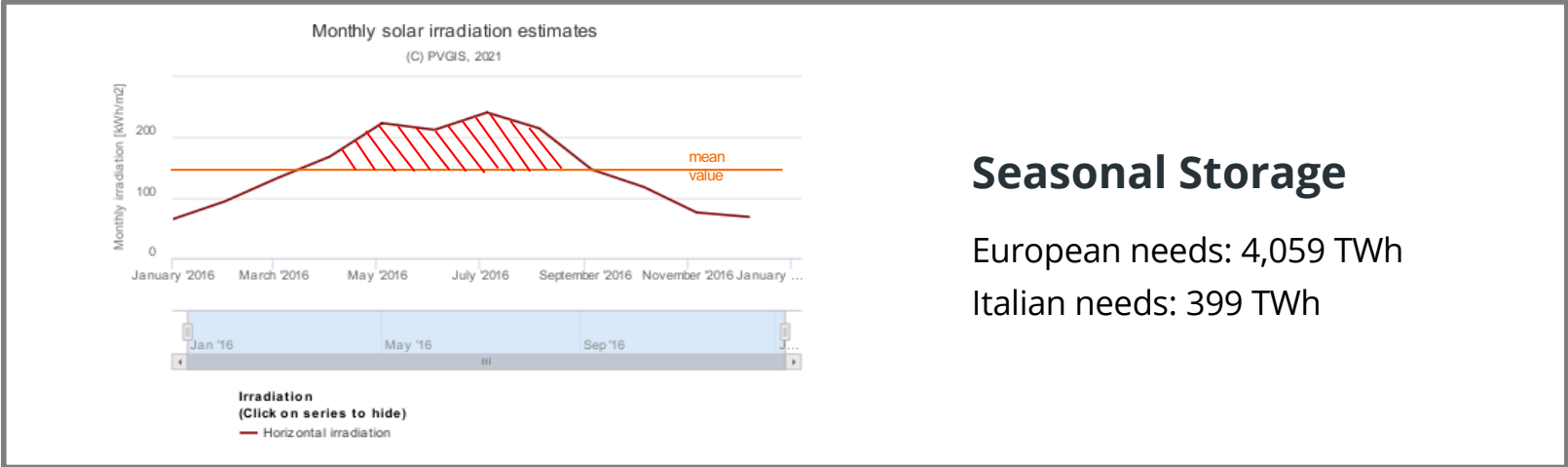


**Seasonal/annual energy storage –**

**The KEY to  
renewable energy,  
energy independence,  
and decarbonisation.**

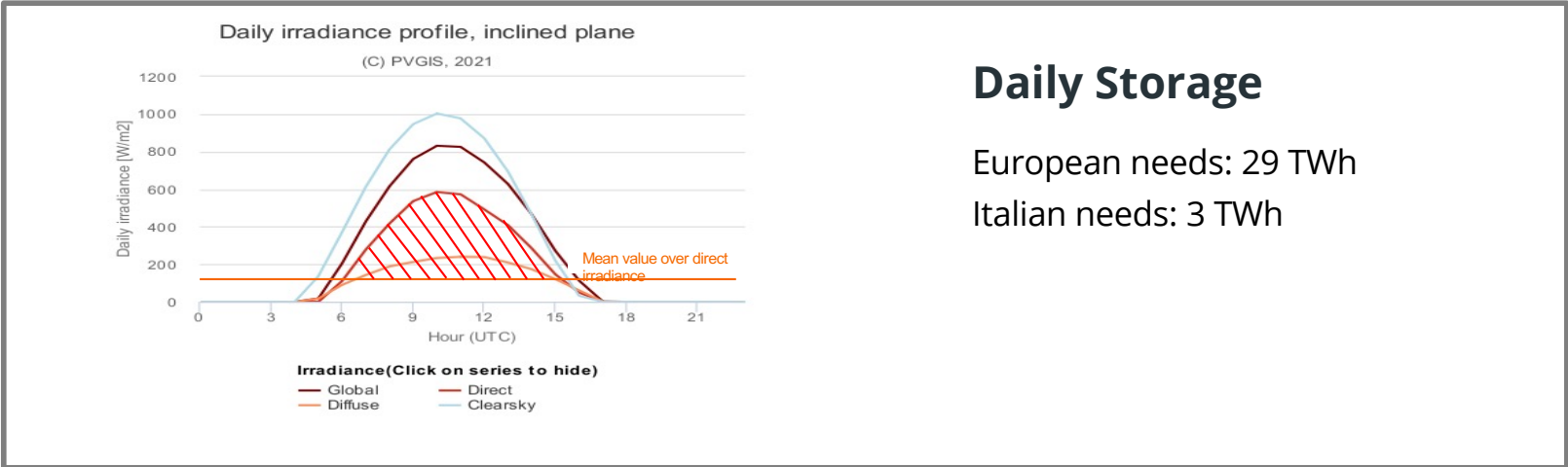


## STORAGE NECESSARY FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



### Seasonal Storage

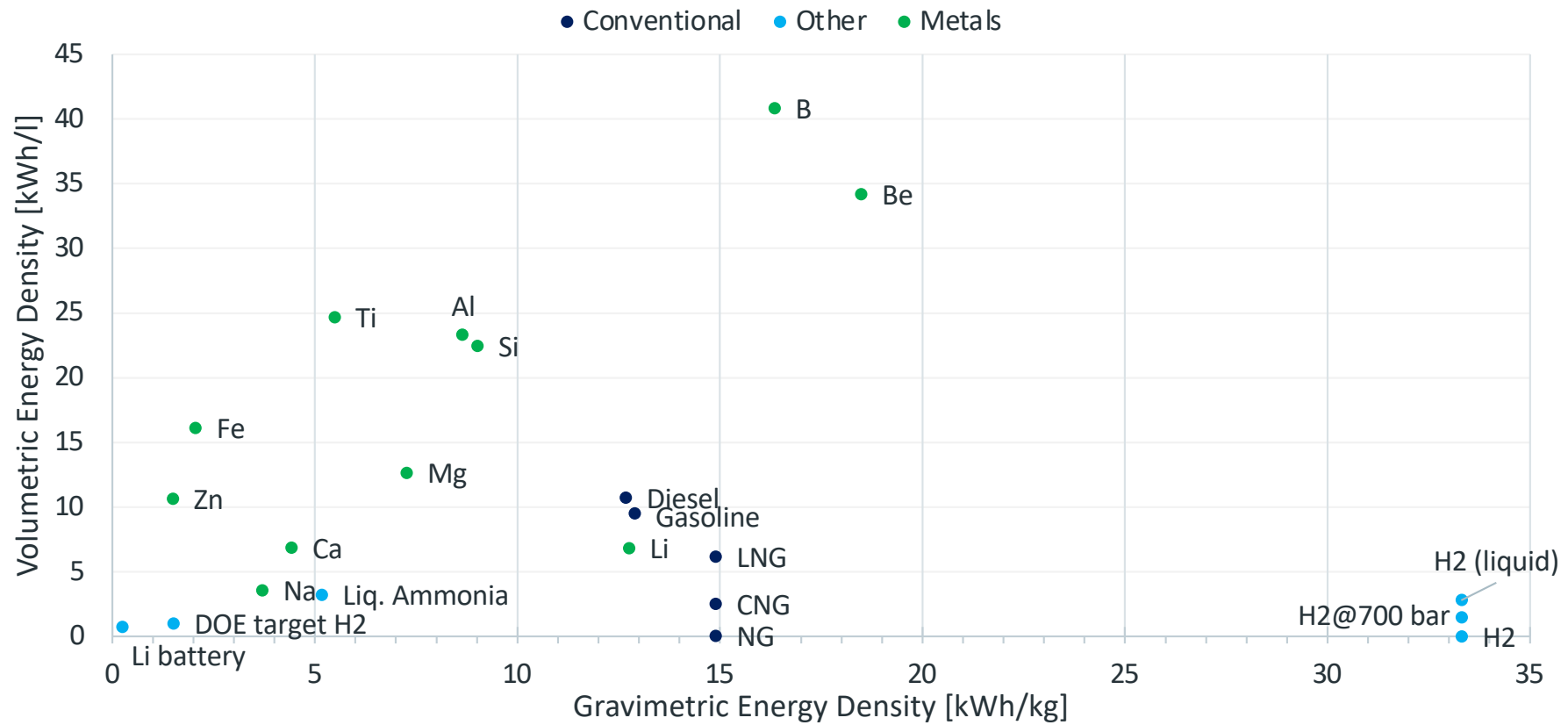
European needs: 4,059 TWh  
Italian needs: 399 TWh



### Daily Storage

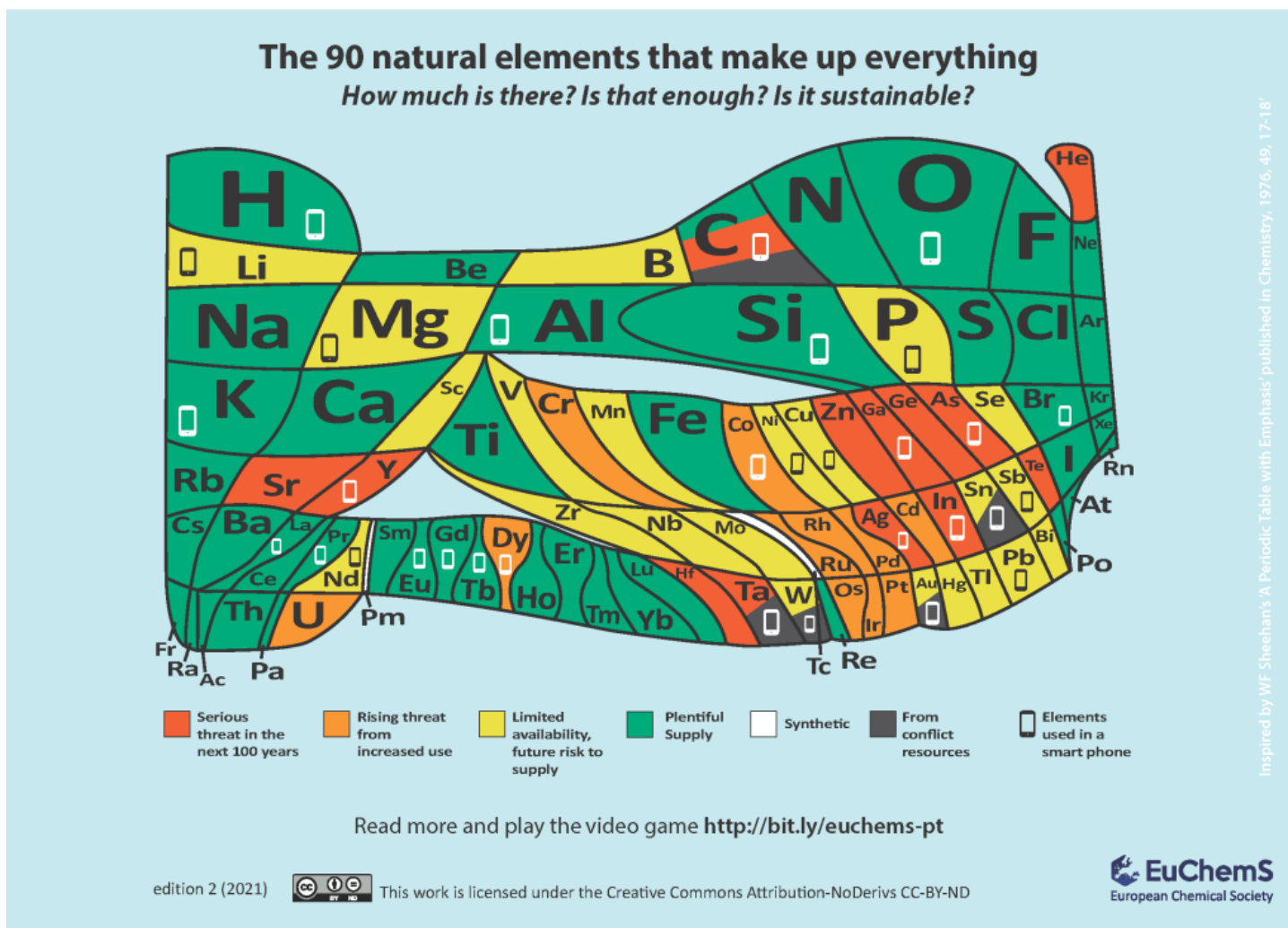
European needs: 29 TWh  
Italian needs: 3 TWh

## Energy Storage - Substitution of Oil and Natural Gas



Reactive metals can store large amounts of energy in smaller volume than hydrogen





Some reactive metals (e.g., Al, Mg, Ca, Si Na, ...) are rather abundant

Power-to-Al conversion:

Al production via Carbon-free (*inert anode*) Hall-Hérout (almost commercial)

Al-to-Power conversion:

- Electrochemical → **Primary batteries (see Mr. Chen Xu presentation)**
- Thermodynamic → **Combustion with water vapor**<sup>2,3</sup>



1 kg of Al produce:

15.1 MJ heat

0.11 kg H<sub>2</sub>

1.9 kg Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> → recyclable

## 1 TWh Energy Storage

	Volume	Weight
Al:	42.5 10 <sup>3</sup> m <sup>3</sup>	116 10 <sup>3</sup> Tons
H <sub>2</sub> (liq):	425 10 <sup>3</sup> m <sup>3</sup>	30 10 <sup>3</sup> Tons
H <sub>2</sub> (700 bar):	714 10 <sup>3</sup> m <sup>3</sup>	30 10 <sup>3</sup> Tons

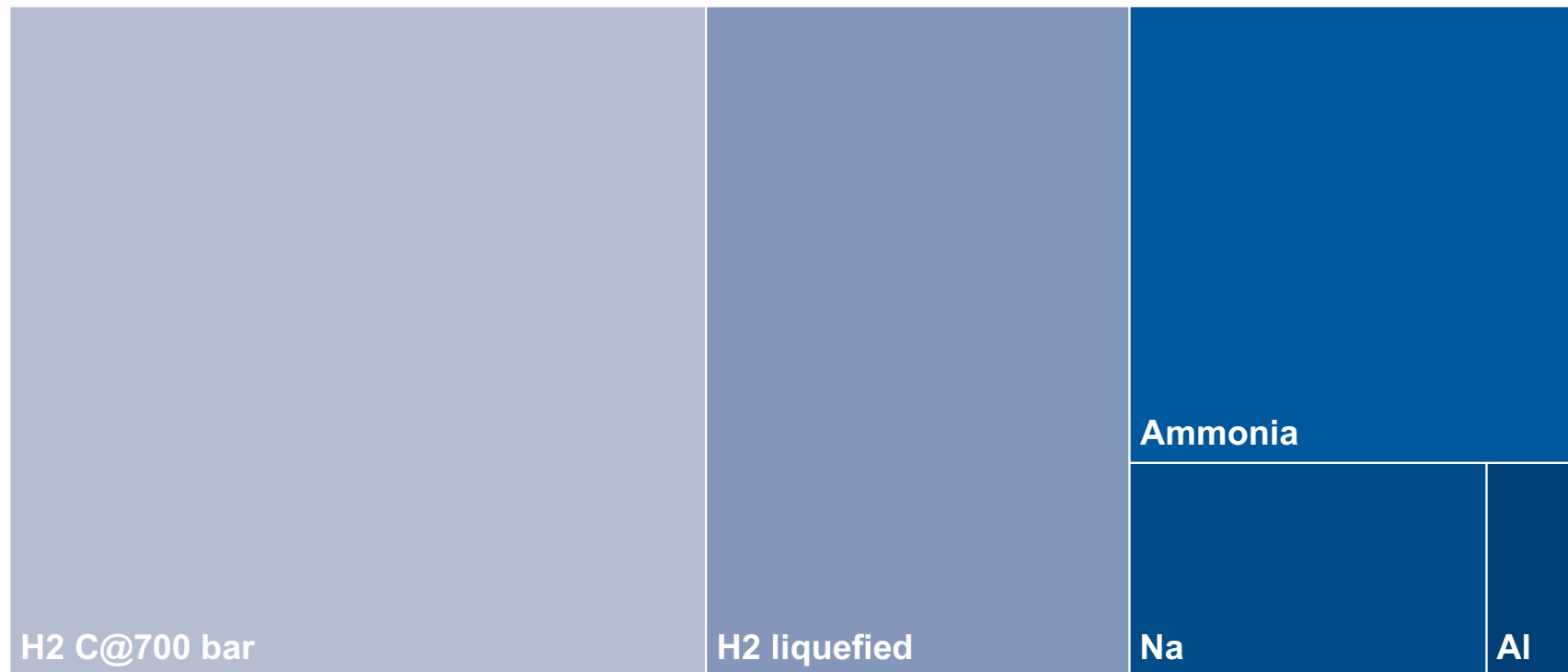
<sup>2</sup>E. I. Shkolnikov, A. Z. Zhuk, M. S. Vlaskin, Renewable Sustainable Energy Rev. 2011, 15, 4611.

<sup>3</sup>Y. Yavor, S. Goroshin, J. M. Bergthorson, D. L. Frost, R. Stowe, S. Ringuette, Int. J. Hydrogen Energy 2013, 38, 14992.



## Seasonal Storage demand of Italy: 399 TWh

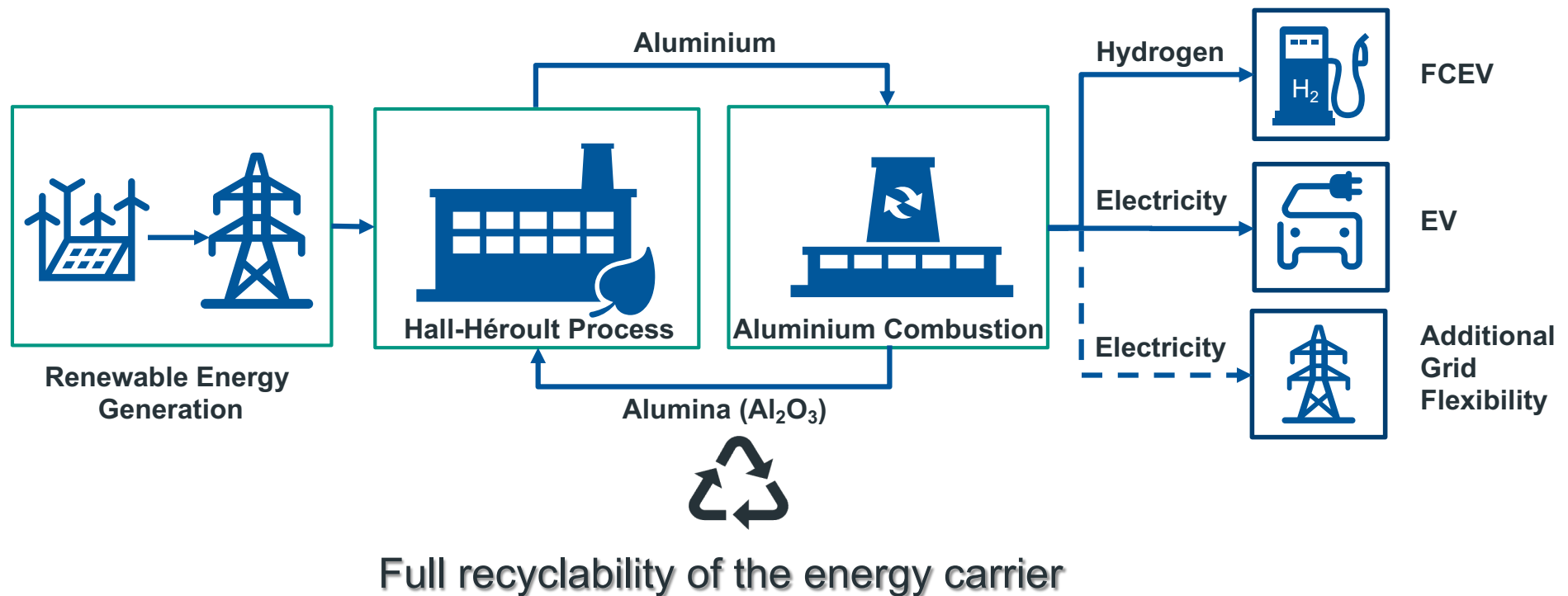
VOLUME OF ENERGY STORAGE CARRIER



A soccer field covered with 7 metres of aluminium corresponds to 1 TWh (1800 fields for the annual needs of Italy).

One cubic metre of aluminium provides 25 MWh - exceeding the annual needs of a household.

## Implementation Scenario – Business case: BEV and FCEV charging stations



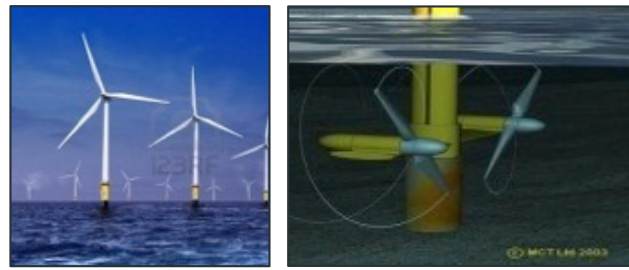
RTE, volumetric energy density of various Power-to-Power technologies employing different energy carriers

Energy Carrier	Conversion Technology	Round Trip Efficiency (RTE)	Energy Density [kWh/L]
Al	Aluminium Wet – Combustion (ST,GT, & SOFC)	35.6 %	23.5
H <sub>2</sub>	PEM Electrolyzer – PEM Fuel Cell (PEMFC)	30% (H <sub>2</sub> @200 bar)	0.53
	Reversible – Solid Oxide Cell	48% (H <sub>2</sub> @70 bar)	0.2
Methanol / DME	Solid Oxide Electrolyzer (SOE) / H <sub>2</sub> to methanol-DME / Solid Oxide Fuel Cell (SOFC)	36% (26.5%*)	5.5
Gasoline	SOE/ H <sub>2</sub> to gasoline/SOFC	27% (20%*)	8.8
LNG	SOE/TSA dehydration, H <sub>2</sub> and CO <sub>2</sub> membrane separation/SOFC	28% (23%*)	5.8

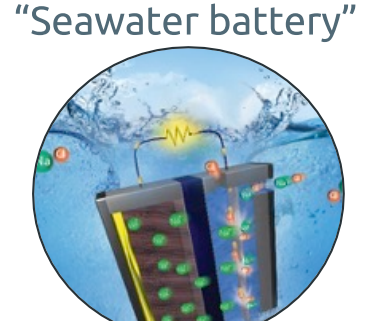
RTE values include the thermal (1750 kWh/tCO<sub>2</sub>) and electric (250 kWh/tCO<sub>2</sub>) energy consumption for CO<sub>2</sub> trapping via low temperature absorption technology



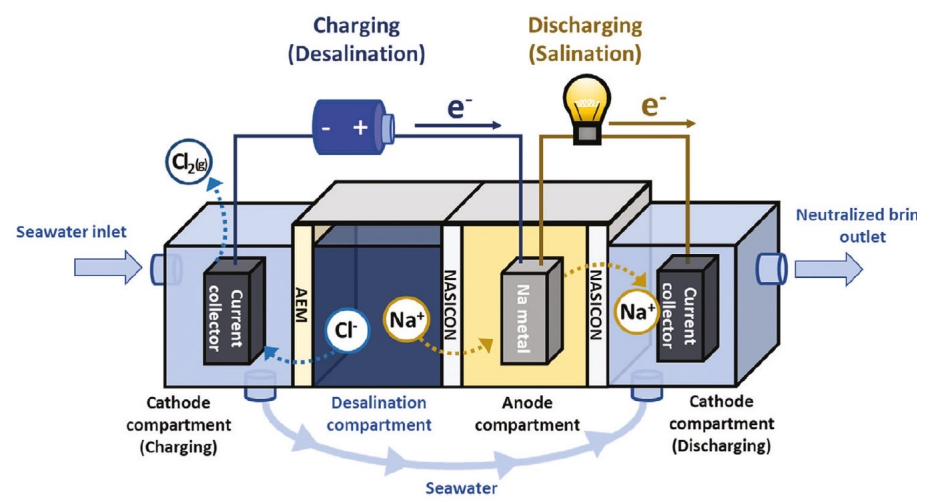
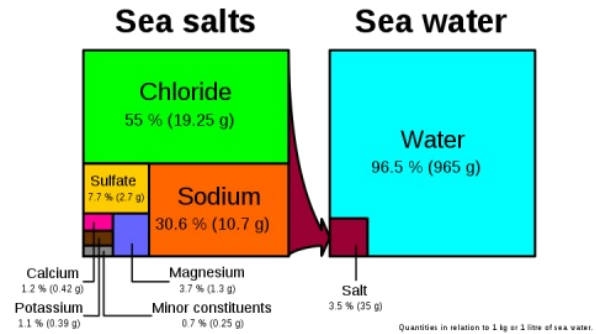
# Addressing the Global Energy Transformation: Sodium



Energy Production

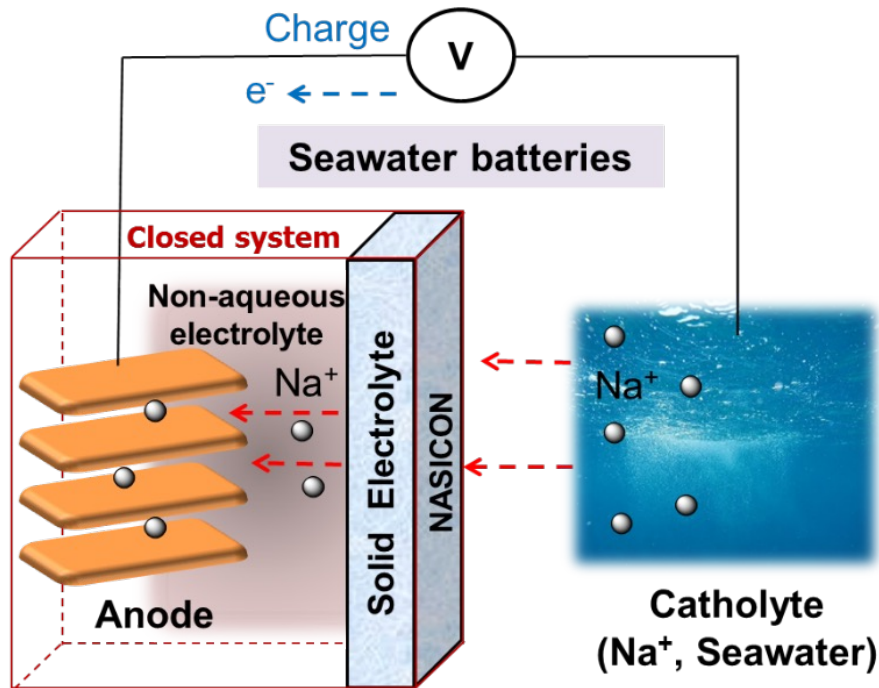


Energy Storage and Delivery

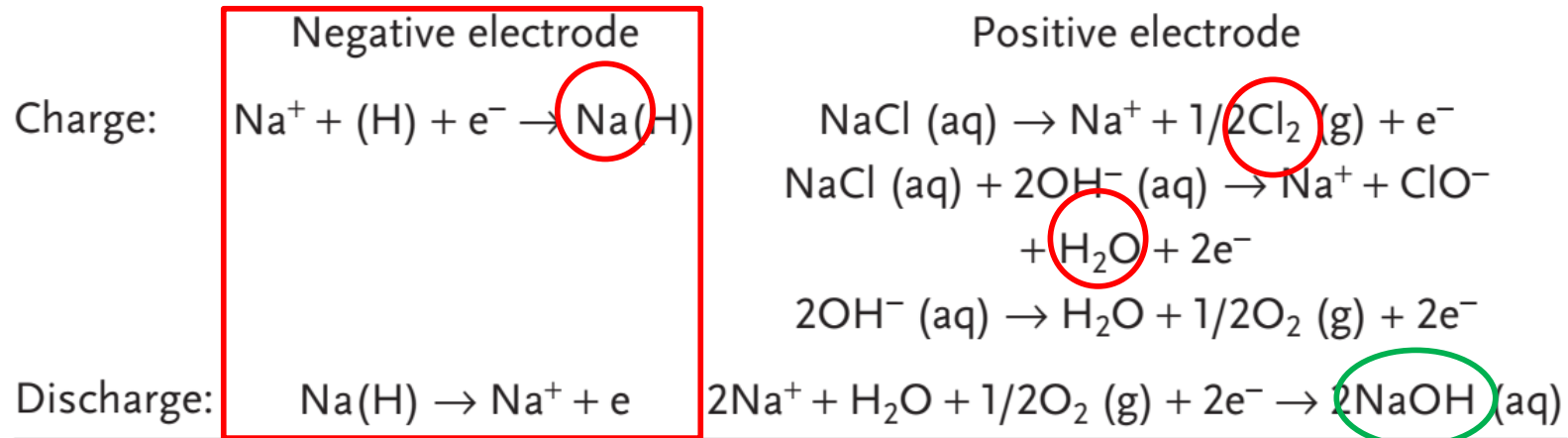


Sustainability and Efficiency:  
Rather non critical raw materials and High Round Trip Efficiency (> 70%)

# Addressing the Global Energy Transformation: Sodium

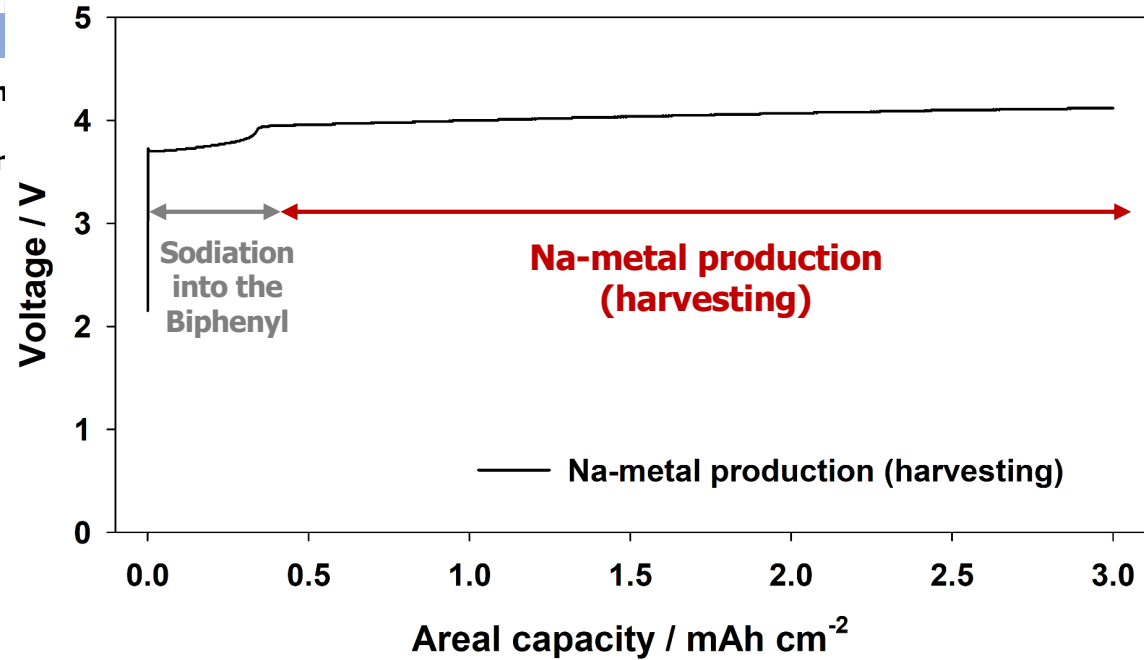
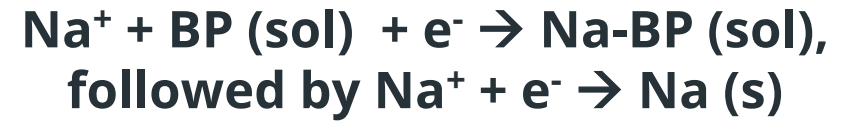
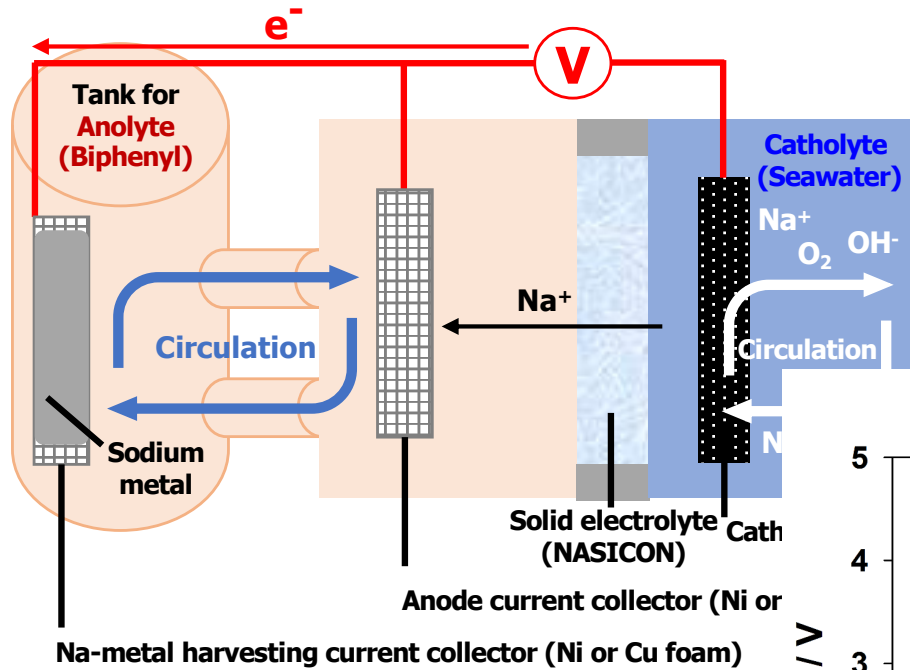


- Multilayer electrolyte system: Catholyte | Solid electrolyte | Anolyte
- No cost for cathode using unlimited natural seawater (0.47 mole of NaCl)



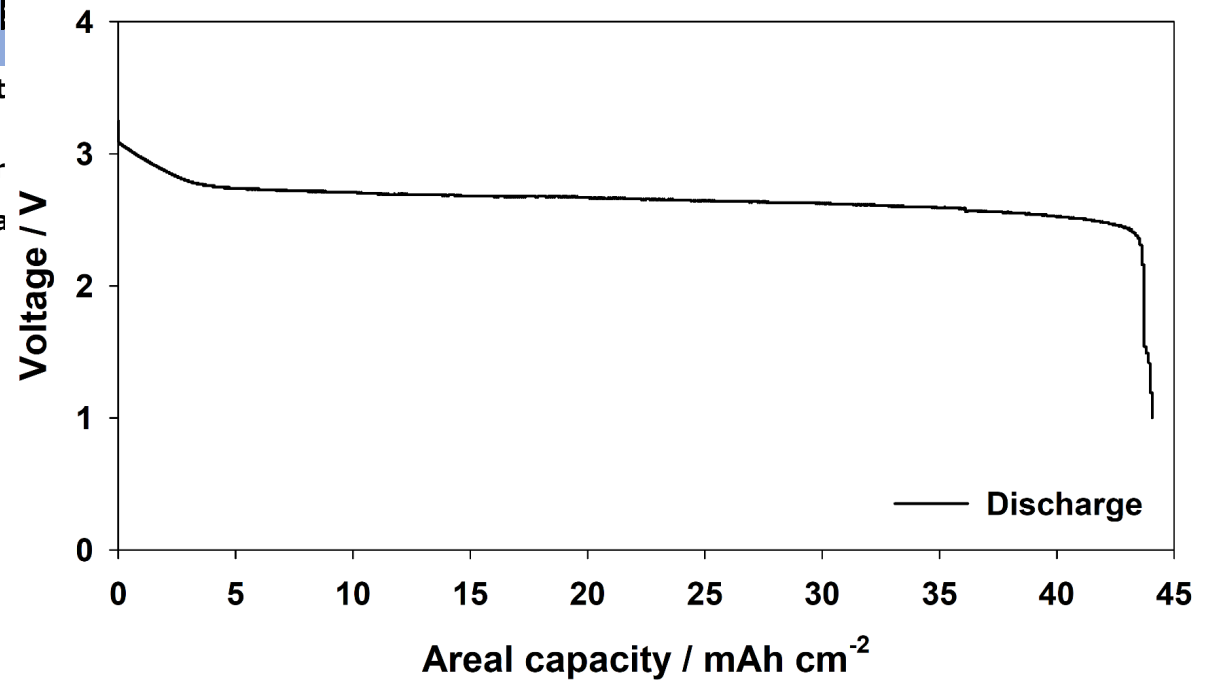
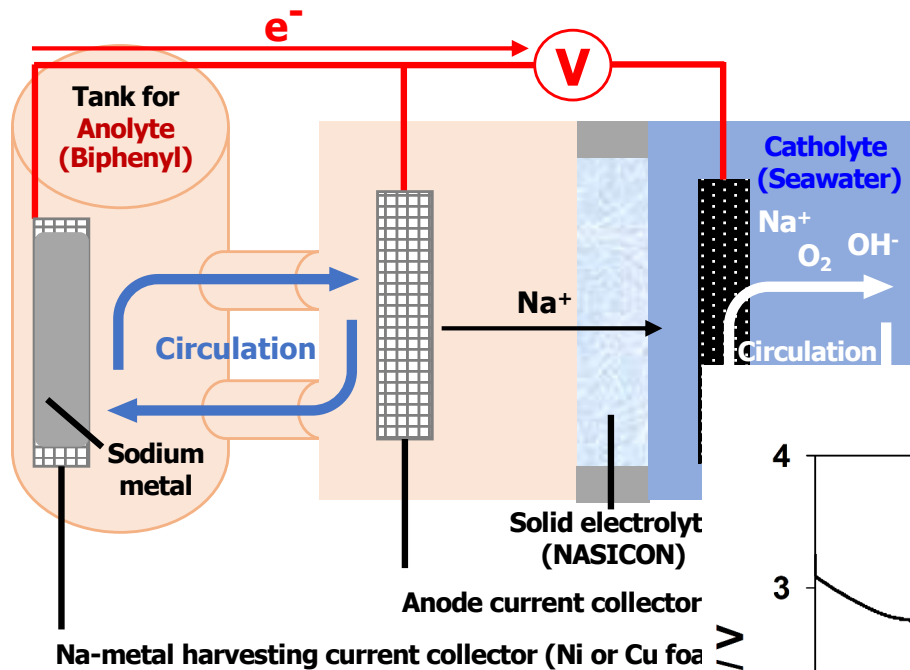
**The energy stored is proportional to the amount of Na stored**

# Addressing the Global Energy Transformation: Sodium



## Sodium and Chlorine production and water desalinization

# Addressing the Global Energy Transformation: Sodium



**Further details in Dr. Y. Kim presentation**

Power generation from Sodium and Seawater demonstrated  
Applicable for marine transportation, on-shore and off-shore power generation

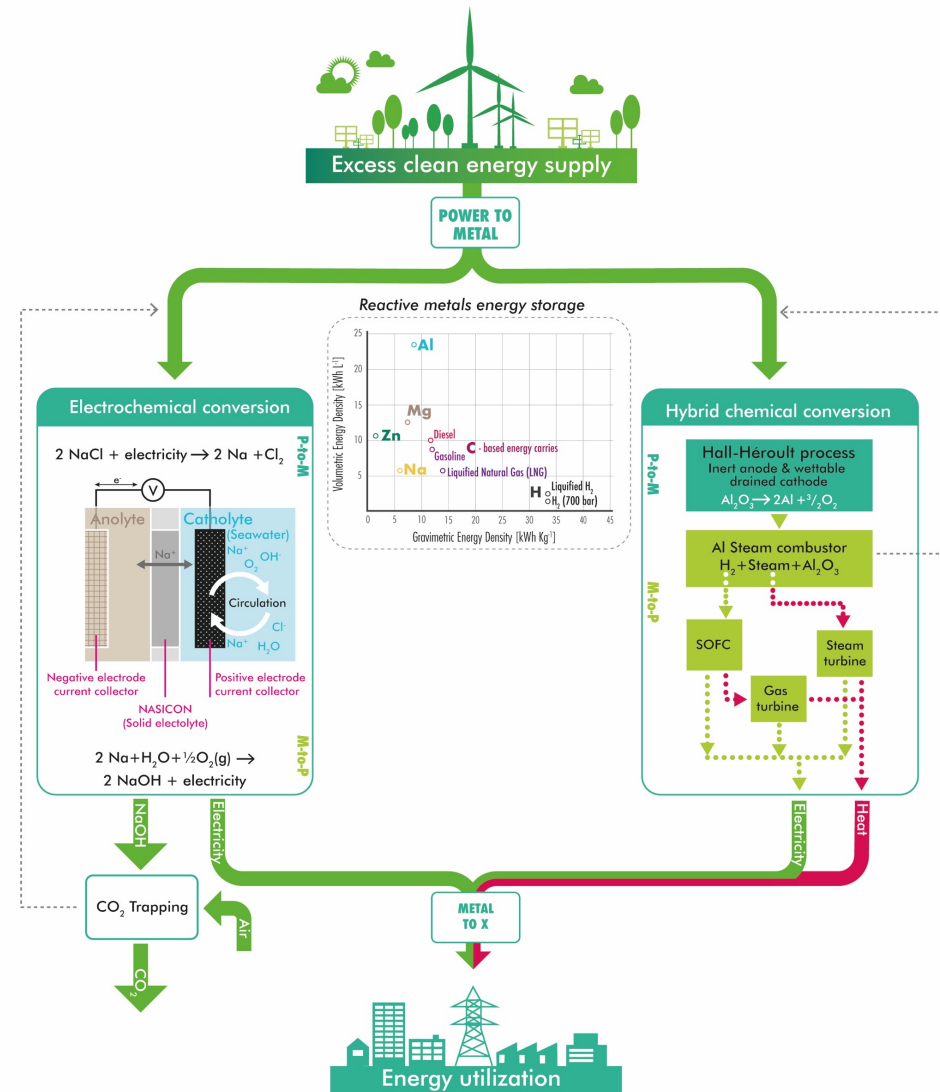
# Addressing the Global Energy Transformation: Sodium

Sodium as energy carrier and storage ...

... offers good volumetric energy storage (**3-4 times that of liq. H<sub>2</sub>**),<sup>1</sup> but ...

... promises substantially higher round trip efficiency (**RTE = 85%**) in laboratory cells.<sup>2</sup>

Additionally, **Chlorine** and **desalinized water** are produced upon charge while the discharge product (NaOH) can be used for **CO<sub>2</sub> trapping**.<sup>2</sup>







## Implementation Scenario – Business case: Sardinia

### Energy characteristics:

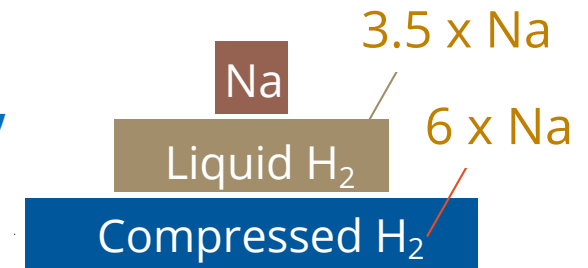
- No natural gas network;
- Old energy infrastructure;
- Great Renewables potential

Primary annual energy  
needs: 23.5 TWh

Seasonal storage needs: 4.43 TWh

PV (69 km<sup>2</sup>) + Seawater Battery

High volumetric energy density  
High energy efficiency (>70%)



Confronto volume di accumulo per diverse tecnologie.

Chlorine production

Desalinated water production 131 mln di m<sup>3</sup>  
(1.64 mln inhabitants)

CO<sub>2</sub> trapping 57,700 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>  
36.2 g CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh of  
stored energy

Na and other abundant metal-based energy systems can help addressing several (and rather different) energy storage issues:

## **Sustainable Transportation (existing and fast growing market)**

Scooters, light-duty and city-transportation vehicles (Na-ion batteries)

Innovative approaches for marine transportation (Na-seawater batteries)

Delocalized power generation for the EV charging infrastructure via reactive metals (Al, Zn, Fe, Na, Ca, Mg, ...)

## **Energy Storage (huge market perspectives)**

Stationary storage (Na-ion and Na-seawater batteries)

Seasonal/annual electrochemical and hybrid storage via reactive metals (Al, Zn, Fe, Na, Ca, Mg, ...)



## STORIES PROJECT

- ▶ **Start:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021
- ▶ **Duration:** 4 years (2021-2025)
- ▶ **Budget:** 7 Mio €
- ▶ **Beneficiaries:** 47
- ▶ **Research Infrastructures:** 64
- ▶ **Coordinator:** KIT (DE, Stefano Passerini)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS CALL

- **Free access to 64 world-leading Research Infrastructures for Hybrid Energy Storage**
- **Travel and accommodation costs covered by StoRIES**
- **Open to all researchers** from academia and industry
- ▶ **Topic:** **Application oriented hybrid and sustainable energy storage solutions**
- ▶ **Deadline:** **31<sup>st</sup> July 2022**



→ More information & application:  
[www.storiesproject.eu/calls](http://www.storiesproject.eu/calls)

Contact: [eera-jpes@b3.kit.edu](mailto:eera-jpes@b3.kit.edu)

## CALL TOPIC: "APPLICATION ORIENTED HYBRID AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS"

The call topic foresees **three** different **sources of innovation**: material research, development and testing of a component, device or device cluster and the integration of the innovation in the energy system.

Proposals concentrating on the same innovation source and **investigating it from different scientific directions** (proposal cluster) with the aim of fast and successful implementation of the innovation to the market, will receive **additional points** by the proposal evaluation. This approach will support solutions with a clear and predefined path for an uptake to the market.

The proposals should include **sustainability-oriented** assessments regarding e.g. the use of critical raw materials, possible environmental and economic impacts over the entire lifecycle of the storage solution, as well as indications about the potential recyclability of used materials. Beyond that, social implications related to relevant upstream value chains, the use and end of life phase should be considered.

To apply for the call please use the **application form** available at the StoRIES website ([storiesproject.eu](https://storiesproject.eu)).

Only proposals submitted by the **31st of July 2022** will be evaluated.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 101036910

Questions? [info@storiesproject.eu](mailto:info@storiesproject.eu)  
(TNA in the email title)



## StoRIES RIS

### Research Infrastructures | StoRIES (storiesproject.eu)



- 58 physical infrastructures
- 6 virtual infrastructures
- 17 countries all over the Europe
- 5 energy storage technologies:
  - Electrochemical
  - Chemical
  - Thermal
  - Mechanical
  - Superconducting – Magnetic
- Cross-cutting infrastructures
- TRL 1-6



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(TNA in the email title)

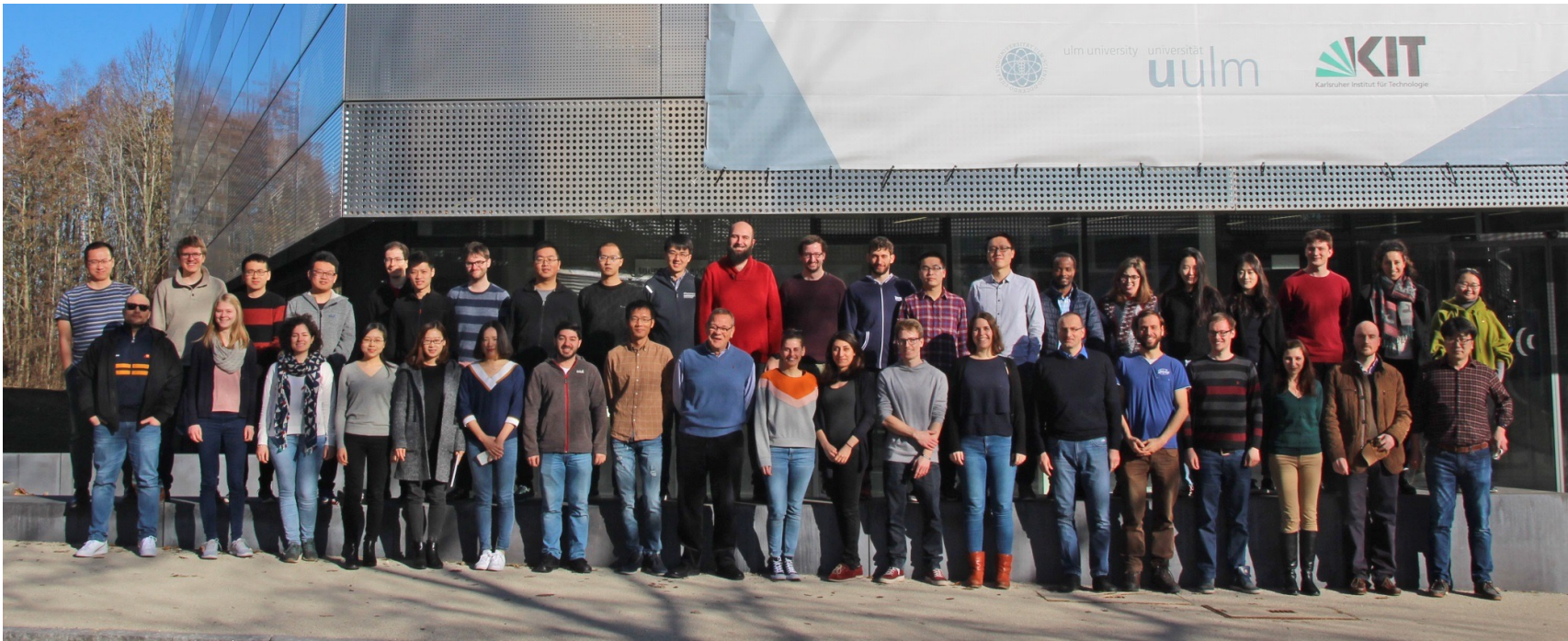




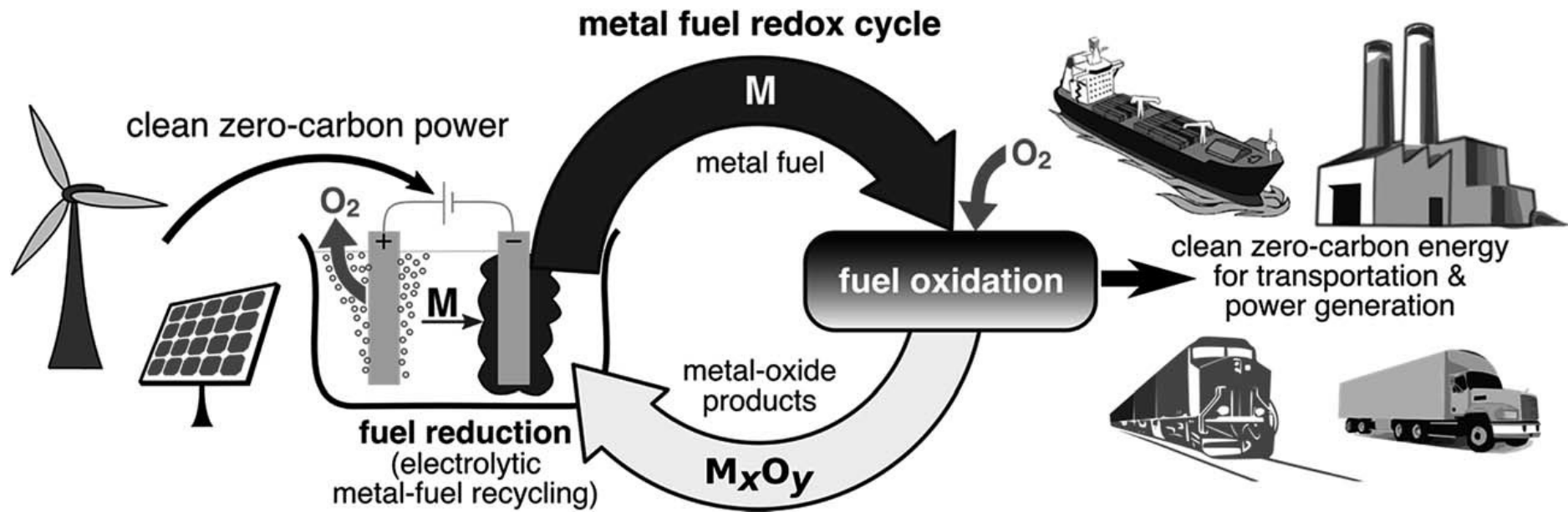
# Acknowledgment



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

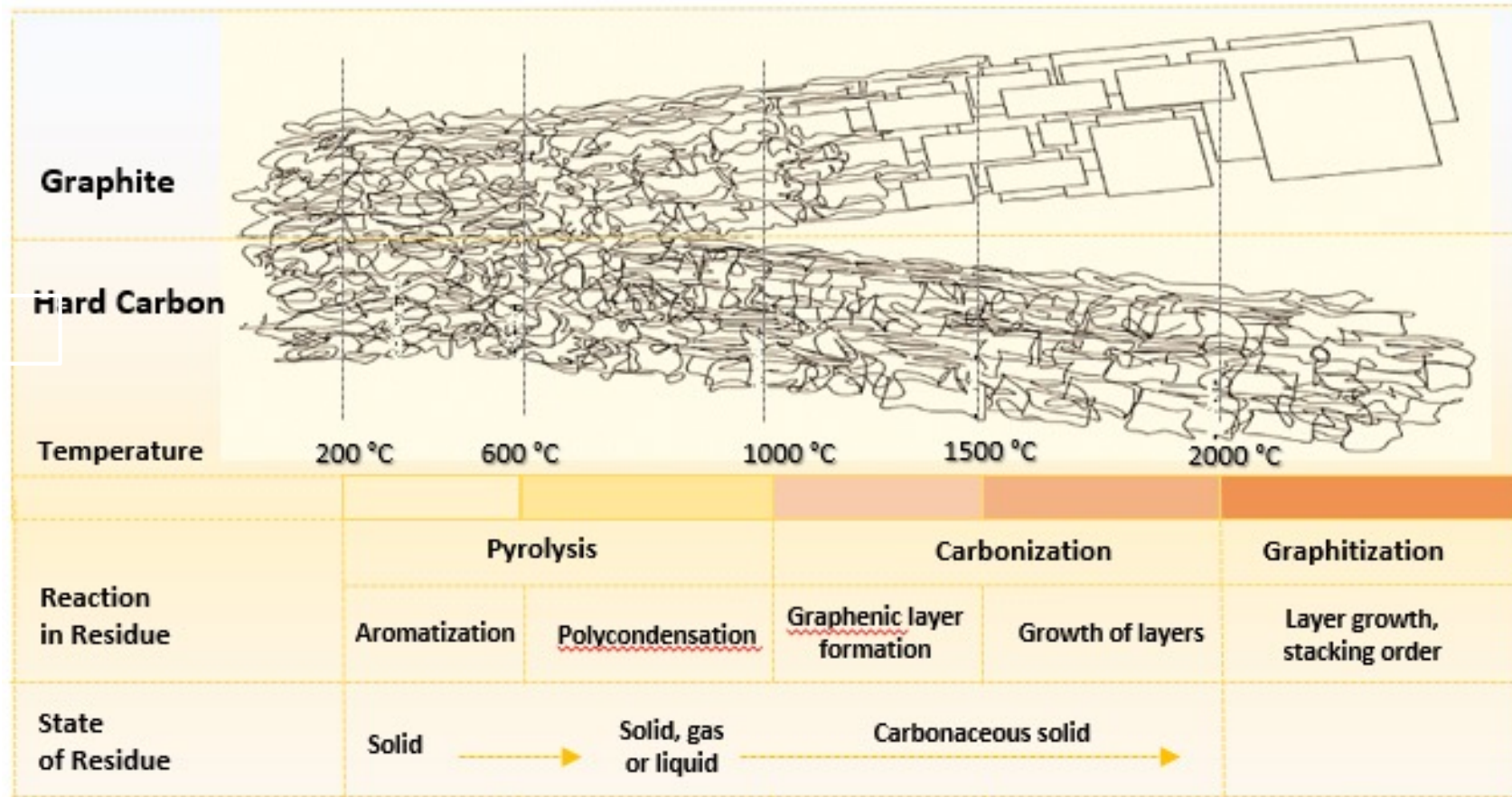






Reactive metals (Al, Mg, Ca, Si Na, ...) can store large amounts of energy

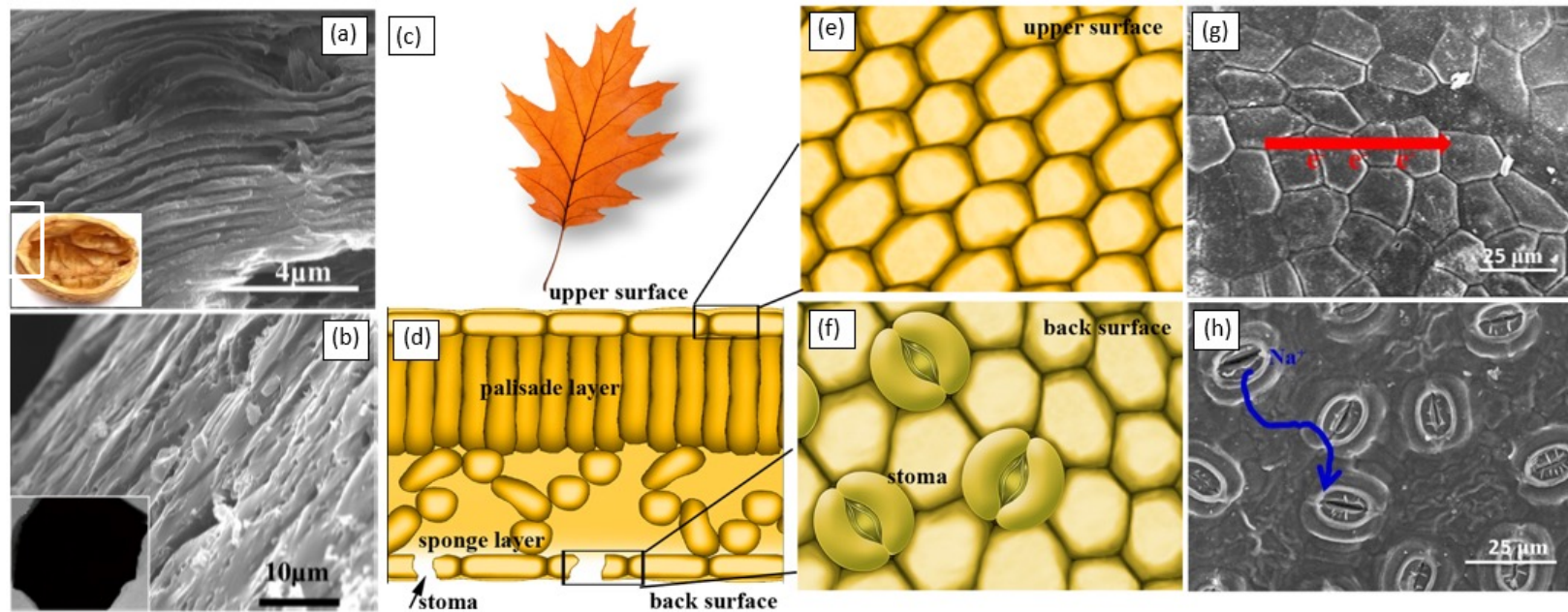
## Graphite and Hard-carbon formation



Not all carbon-containing materials form graphite upon thermal treatment



## Bio-precursors and hard carbons



Some precursors, mainly biological materials with polymeric structures, carbonize retaining a non-graphitic structure.

Press release | 8 July 2020 | Brussels

## Powering a climate-neutral economy: Commission sets out plans for the energy system of the future and clean hydrogen

However:

Hydrogen Economy was first proposed by John Bockris in 1970 during a talk at GM Technical Center.

After 50 years of R&D&I, still no complete solution!!!



## Case study: Multiservice Case for Electric Mobility and Energy Storage Services



Partial load of the SOFC

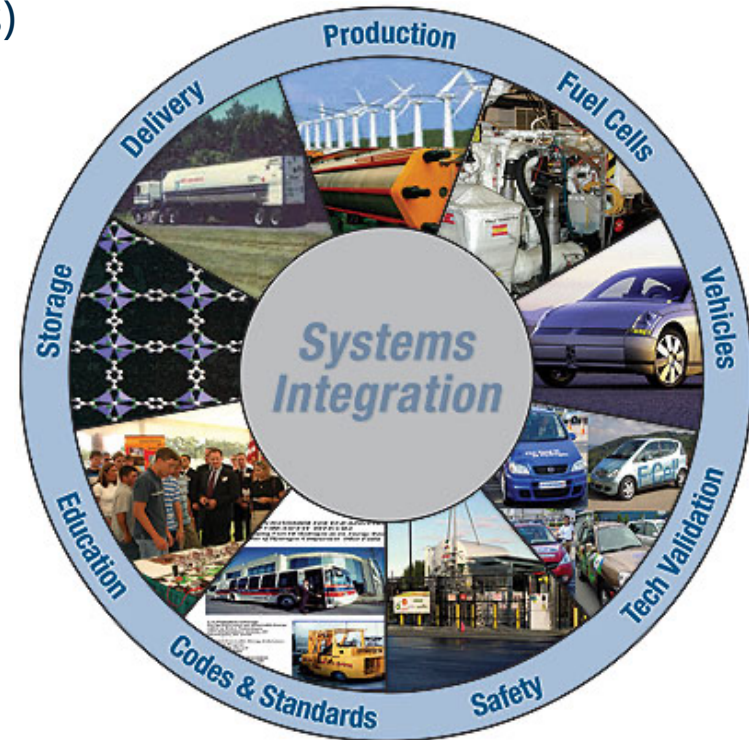
0.275 kg/s of Aluminum

CAPEX: 4200–6200 €/kW

SOFC Partial Loads	$P_{el}$ production	$H_2$ production	$\eta_{Power-to-X}$
100%	~4 MW	-	35.6%
80%	3.1 MW	28 kg/h	38.8%
65%	2.6 MW	46.8 kg/h	40.7%

Hydrogen: After 50 years of R&D&I, still

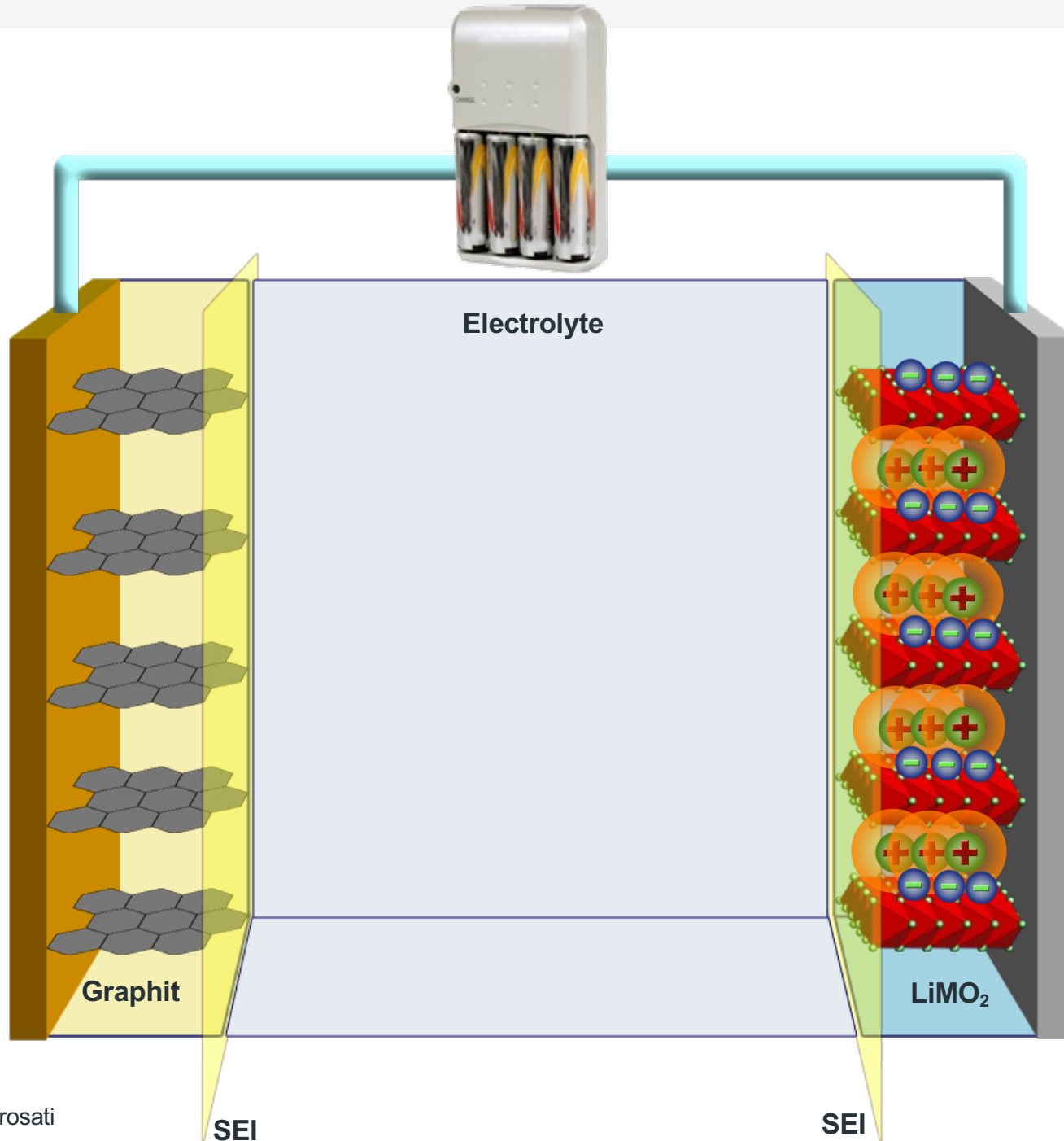
- Storage is still an issue (large volume or high costs)
- Technical hurdles for Electrolysers and Fuel Cells
- Hydrogen embrittlement (direct combustion)
- Overall low RTE
- Safety



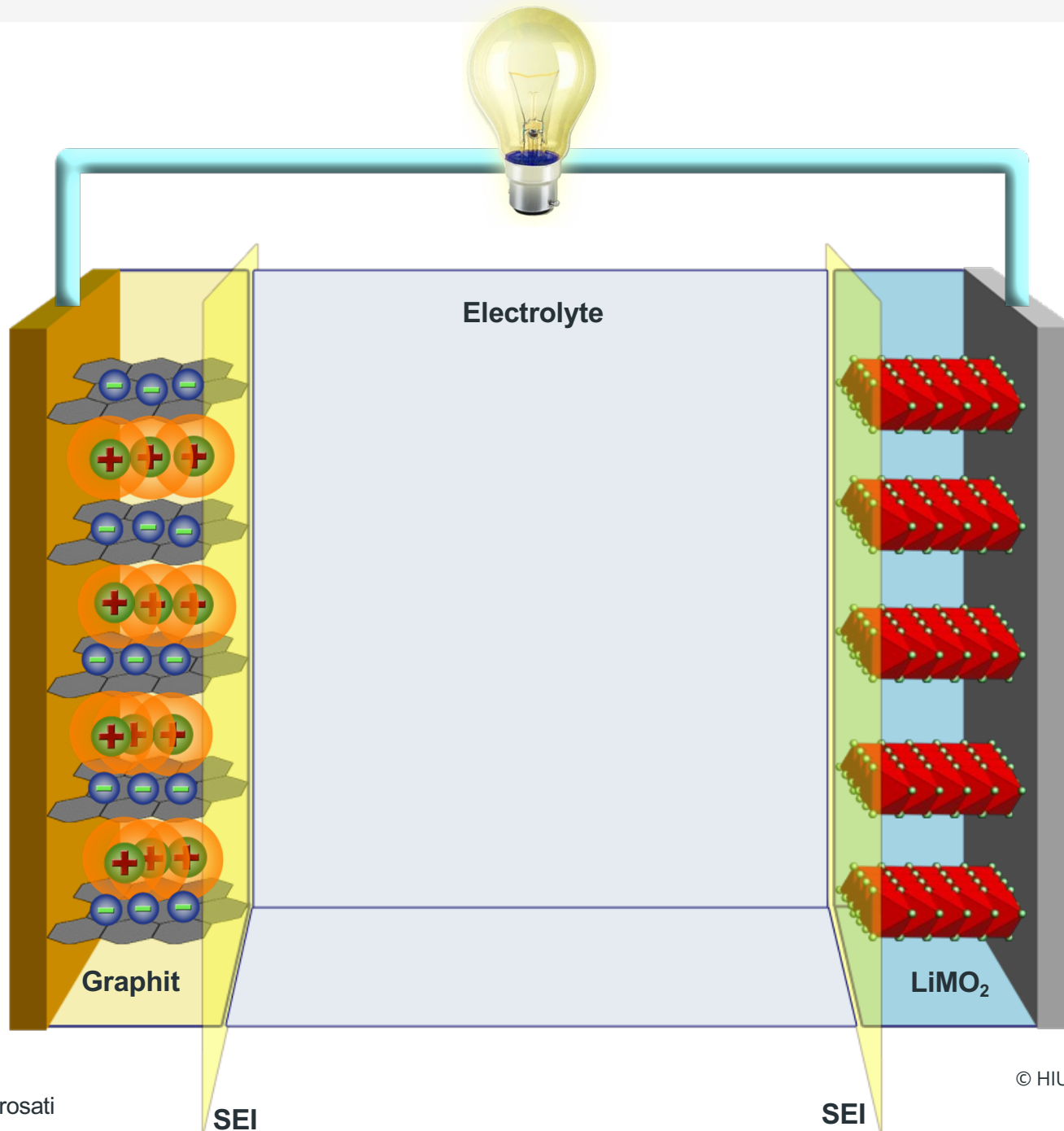
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1207497>

**Can hybrid storage including batteries enable seasonal storage while maintaining the high energy efficiency (>75%)?**

# Lithium-ion Batteries – operating principle



# Lithium-ion Batteries – operating principle



## There are basically 3 approaches:



Aqueous cathode fabrication  
using bio-derived binders



Development of  
Co-free  
cathodes



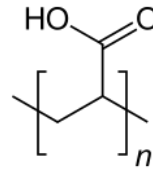
Recycling electrode  
materials not metals

Water/ethanol  
processable

TRD 202A  
(Fluoro acrylic  
polymer)\*

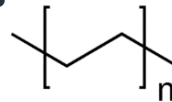


**Polyacrylates**  
Polyacrylic acid (PAA)  
 Polymethyl acrylate (PMA)  
 Polybutyl acrylate (PBA)  
 Polyvinyl acetate (PVA)  
 Polyacrylonitrile (PAN)

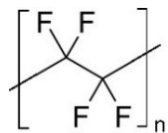


**Aliphatic Polymers**

Polyethylene (PE)  
 Polyisoprene  
 Polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP)  
 Polyvinyl butyral (PVB)

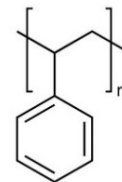


Poly tetra-  
fluorethylene  
(PTFE)



**Aromatic Polymers**

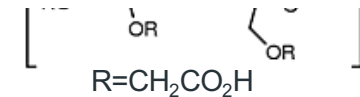
Polystyrene (PS)  
 Polyurethane (PU)  
 Styrene-butadiene rubber  
(SBR)



**Oligo- and  
Poly-saccharides:**

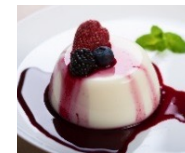
Carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) Chitosan, Alginate,  
 Pectine, Amylose, Starch,  
 Gums (Xanthan, Arabic,

**Sustainability**



**Proteins**

Gelatine  
 Caseinate

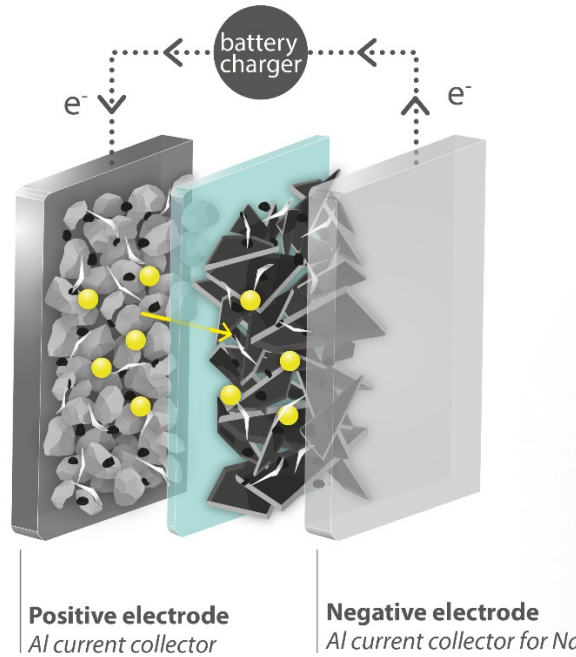


Bio-polymers  
and derivatives

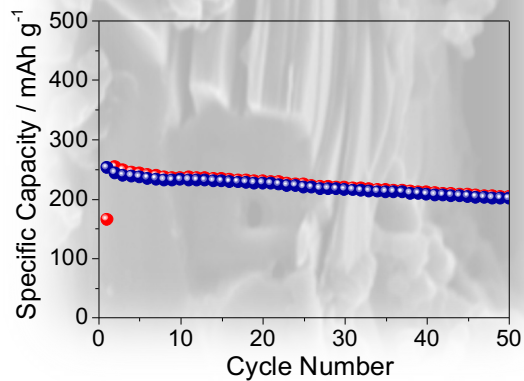
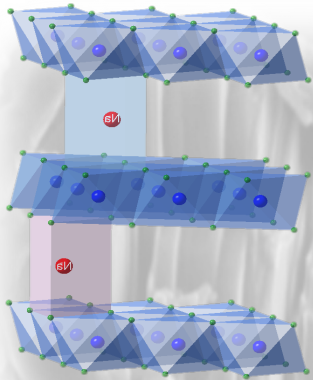


## Sodium-ion Battery

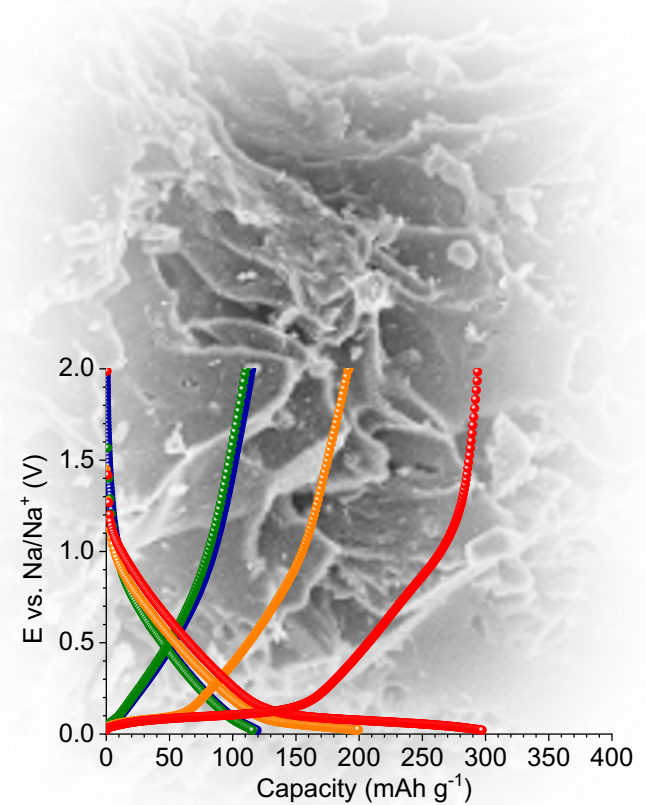
Discharge



## Sodium Layered Cathodes



## Hard Carbon Anodes



## Life cycle assessment for the production of a Na-Ion Battery

18650 cell, 128 Wh/kg

Layered  $\text{Na}_{1.1}[\text{Ni}_{0.3}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{Mg}_{0.05}\text{Ti}_{0.05}]\text{O}_2$  – Hard Carbon (derived from sugar)

### Three impact categories:

GWP = global warming potential

**Cathode production**

FDP = fossil depletion potential

**Anode production**

MEP = marine eutrophication potential

**GWP:** Emission of greenhouse gases like  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  (measured in kg of  $\text{CO}_2$  equivalents)


**FDP:** Depletion of fossil energy sources (measured in kg of oil equivalents)

**MEP:** Deposition of macronutrients in water (measured in kg of N- equivalents)

# Environmental Impact of Na-ion Batteries

## Relative environmental impact **per kWh over energy stored over lifetime**

Lifetime based on existing LCA studies for better comparability

	<b>GWP</b> (in kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)		<b>MEP</b> (in kg N eq.)		<b>FDP</b> (in kg oil eq.)		
<b>LFP-Graphite (3k)</b>	48%		23%		38%		<b>high</b>
<b>LFP-LTO (14k)</b>	13%		5%		13%		
<b>LMO-Graphite (1k)</b>	73%		44%		83%		
<b>NCA-Graphite (2.2k)</b>	38%		20%		39%		
<b>Na-Ion (2k   5k)</b>	50%	20%	50%	20%	50%	20%	
							<b>low</b>

Battery lifetime is fundamental for environmental impact (also for cost (€/kWh))  
Use of bio-waste is a promising way to enhance sustainability and lower the environmental impact