Arendalsuka, 13th August 2018, The Future of Energy

The reality of bridging the gap

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Halving carbon emissions by 2040 is within our reach if we act now to implement 4 interdependent transition strategies





This energy transition is technologically feasible and financially manageable





Technologically feasible



No complete unknowns

Can identify one or several plausible decarbonization technologies for each emitting activity, even if they are still at R&D stage or not yet cost-competitive





Financially manageable

What is happening in the energy world?

- Solar PV is on track to be the cheapest source of new electricity in many countries
- Decline in battery prices are pointing to solar + battery becoming the cheapest source of 24-hour electricity
- The future is electrifying, spurred by cooling, electric vehicles & digitalization
- Increased gas use in industry and buildings is driving global demand
- Hydrogen is increasingly likely to be the fuel of the future

Cost of wind and solar electricity has decreased significantly; battery costs are also plummeting. This will enable the cost-effective integration of variable renewables into the grid



A near-total-variable-renewable power system can be competitive with one based on coal or gas-fired power generation

Maximum all-in cost of power generation in a near-total-variable-renewable power system by 2035

USD/MWh







Maximum all-in cost of a near-100% renewable power system

Likely lower if:

- Generation cost lower than \$40/MWh
- Other sources of flexibility used (e.g. dispatchable hydro, interconnections, demand management...)

NOTE: Based on Germany resource and load profile. / Considers only 2 flexibility technologies: CCGT & Li-ion batteries / Levelized renewable energy generation cost includes all energy potentially produced, including amount curtailed or stored/shifted.

SOURCE: Climate Policy Initiative & ETC, 2017, Low-cost, low-carbon power systems.

EVs are on the way, but oil demand is still rising



Electric cars are helping to transform energy use for passenger cars, slowing the pace of growth in global oil demand; however, trucks, aviation, shipping & petrochemicals keep oil on a rising trend.

SOURCE: IEA Analysis

Future passenger vehicle oil demand is most affected by improvements in fuel efficiency

Oil demand for passenger vehicles



By 2040, electric vehicles, fuel switching and efficiency improvement displace 19 mb/d of oil demand for passenger vehicles

SOURCE: IEA Analysis

Broader electrification with low-carbon power could increase electricity requirements by 25% by 2040



NOTE: 1. Additional power demand in a high-electrification scenario compared to a business-as-usual / low-electrification scenario by 2040. SOURCE: Energy Transitions Commission (2017), Better Energy, Greater Prosperity.

Universal electricity access: a key strategic challenge for all of us





Strong policy support in India in recent years has brought the goal of universal access within reach, although more effort will be required to reach the worldwide target of 'energy for all' by 2030

Low carbon sources – renewables and gas could meet over 70% of global energy demand. However, this is a generational transition

Change in world energy demand by fuel





SOURCE: IEA Analysis

The solar takeoff in India will depend on battery price; till then coal use will increase albeit solar utilization will be more rapid



Power Generation in India (By 2030)



Source-wise Power Generation in India (By 2030)



Natural gas consumers are responding to lower prices

Growth in global gas demand



The strong growth in gas demand in 2017 was not driven by the power sector, but by greater use in industry & buildings; China accounted for 30% of the increase in global gas demand

Direct electrification and indirect electrification (through hydrogen) of the economy will significantly increase power demand, which could be multiplied by 3 to 5 in the second half of the century



SOURCE: Energy Transitions Commission analysis

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Key Messages

Transition to renewables is inevitable in electricity sector

- timing depends on speed of price reduction of batteries
- coal use will plateau before declining
- Low carbon electricity will drive electrification
 - Will substitute oil in the urban transport, industry and buildings sectors
 - Low price, low carbon electricity could stimulate hydrogen (from water splitting) as the main fuel of the low-carbon world.
- Gas is emerging as a bridging fuel
 - In industry and buildings till low carbon electricity is cost effective?
 - Could be a source of hydrogen till splitting for low carbon electricity is cost effective.