## Levelized Cost of Returned Energy for Comparing Hydrogen End-Uses & Battery Storage Economics

42<sup>nd</sup> IAEE International Conference 30 May 2019 Montreal, Quebec CANADA

Lori Smith Schell, Ph.D., ERP Empowered Energy

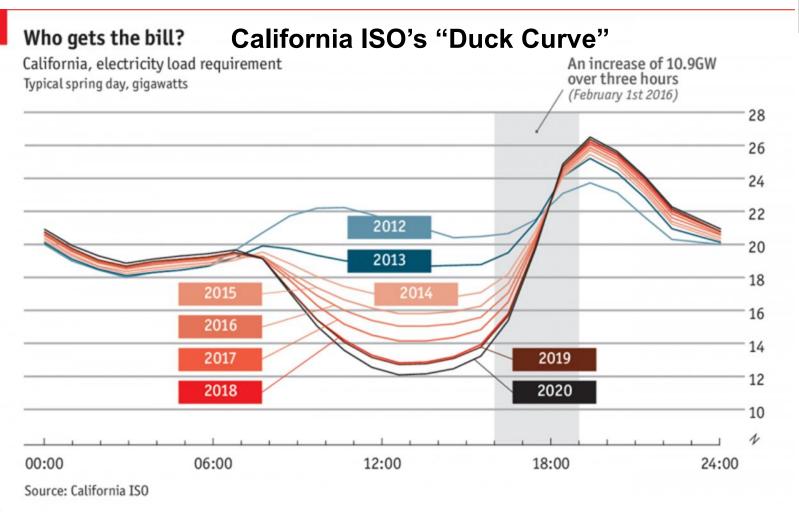
174 N. Elk Run, Durango, CO 81303 USA Tel: (970) 247-8181 • Fax: (970) 247-3761 E-Mail: LSchell@EmpoweredEnergy.com



## Co-Authors & Sponsor: Thanks and Acknowledgments

- Advanced Power and Energy Program, University of California-Irvine (UCI)
  - Dr. Jeffrey Reed jgr@apep.uci.edu
  - Dr. Li Zhao Iz@apep.uci.edu
  - Professor Scott Samuelsen gss@apep.uci.edu
- National Fuel Cell Research Center, UCI
  - Professor Jack Brouwer jb@nfcrc.uci.edu
- Funding generously provided by the Southern California Gas Company.

## Increased Renewables: Load Impact & More Curtailment...



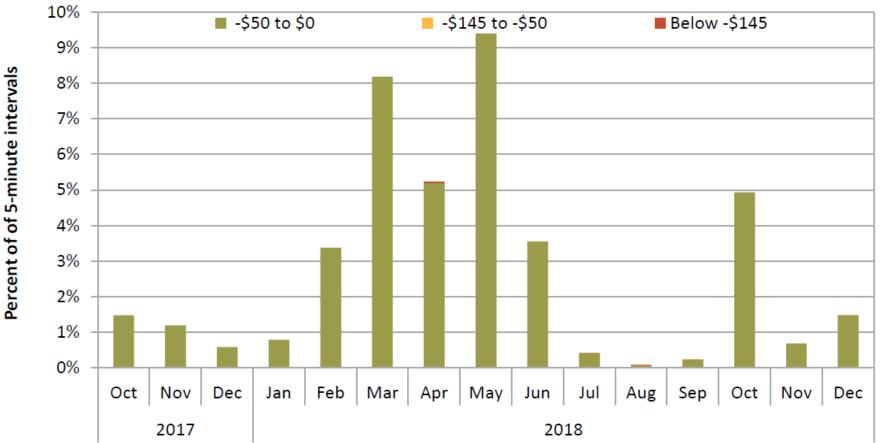
Source: The Economist, 3/28/2018, What a ten-year-old duck can teach us about electricity demand. https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2018/03/28/what-a-ten-year-old-duck-can-teach-us-about-electricity-demand



## Impact Wholesale Electricity Pricing (Not Just in California)



CAISO: Frequency of Negative 5-Minute Prices, By Month



Source: California Independent System Operator, February 13, 2019, *Q4 2018 Report on Market Issues and Performance*. http://www.caiso.com/Documents/2018FourthQuarterReportonMarketIssuesandPerformance.pdf#search=negative%205%2D minute%20prices

## **Electrolysis Using Renewables Helps Balance Grid Operations**



- Multiple End-Uses for Produced Hydrogen<sup>'</sup>(H2)
  - Power-to-Gas (P2G)
    - Direct Injection into Natural Gas Pipeline System
    - Feedstock for Methanation of H2 to CH4
    - Dispensed H2 Fuel for Fuel Cell Vehicles (FCVs)
  - Power-to-Gas-to-Electricity (P2G2E)
    - H2 Fuel Cell Feedstock for Electricity Generation
- "Battery" Aspect of H2 Use Cases
- Comparative Economics: H2 vs. Batteries
  - Capacity Factor (CF): 90% H2 vs. 45% Batteries.

# Multiple Technologies and Use Cases, Current & Future Costs



- Electrolyzers (EC): Flexible, fast on and off
  - Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEMEC), Alkaline (AEC), Solid Oxide (SOEC)
- Fuel Cells (FC)
  - PEMFC, AFC, SOFC, Molten Carbonate (MCFC)
- Dispensed H2 Fuel for FCVs
  - Central H2 Production: Gaseous, Liquid
  - Onsite H2 Production: Gaseous
- Batteries

• Li-Ion, ZnBr (Flow), NaS, Advanced Lead-Acid.

## Levelized Cost of Returned Energy ("LCORE") Concept

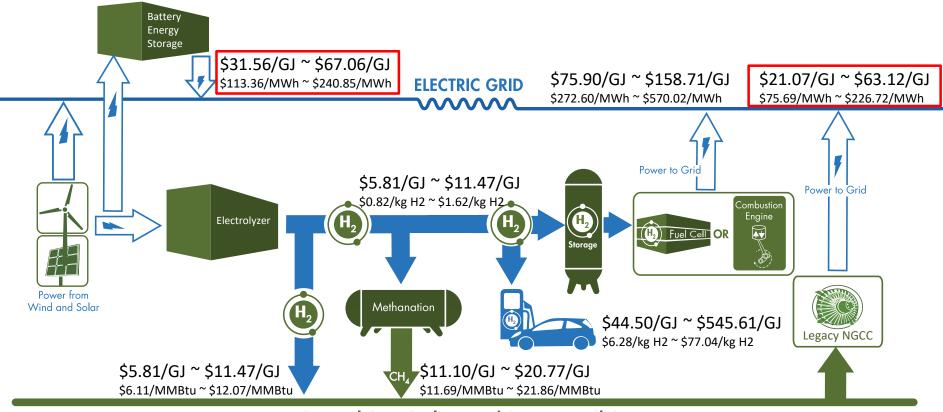


- Use Case Electricity Input Assumptions:
  - The renewable-generation electricity would have to be curtailed if it were not used onsite as input to electrolyzers or batteries
  - Electricity input cost is thus assumed to be ZERO
- LCORE represents the levelized cost of all equipment required to generate the final product for each Use Case
  - Calculated same as Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) but with all input fuel costs set to zero.

#### **LCORE** Results

#### **CURRENT COSTS & EFFICIENCES**

45% Capacity Factor for Batteries; 90% Capacity Factor for All Other Equipment



Natural Gas Pipelines and Storage Facilities



© National Fuel Cell Research Center

#### **LCORE Results**

**CURRENT COSTS & EFFICIENCES** 

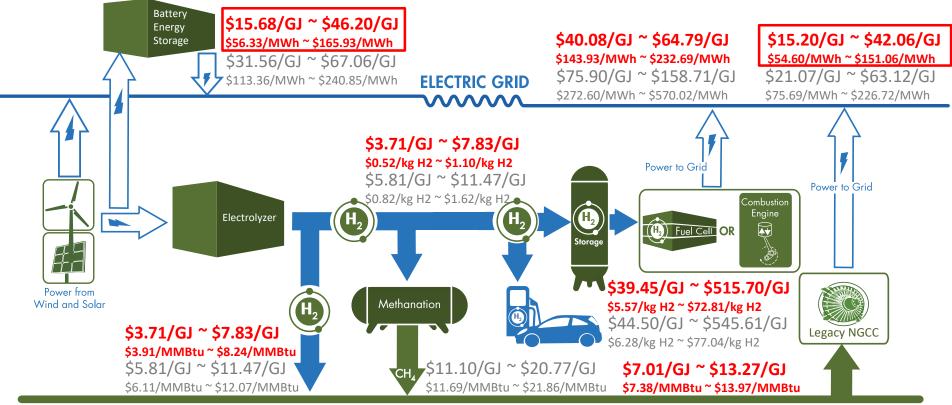
45% Capacity Factor for Batteries;

90% Capacity Factor for All Other Equipment

#### **LCORE** Results

#### FUTURE COSTS & EFFICIENCES

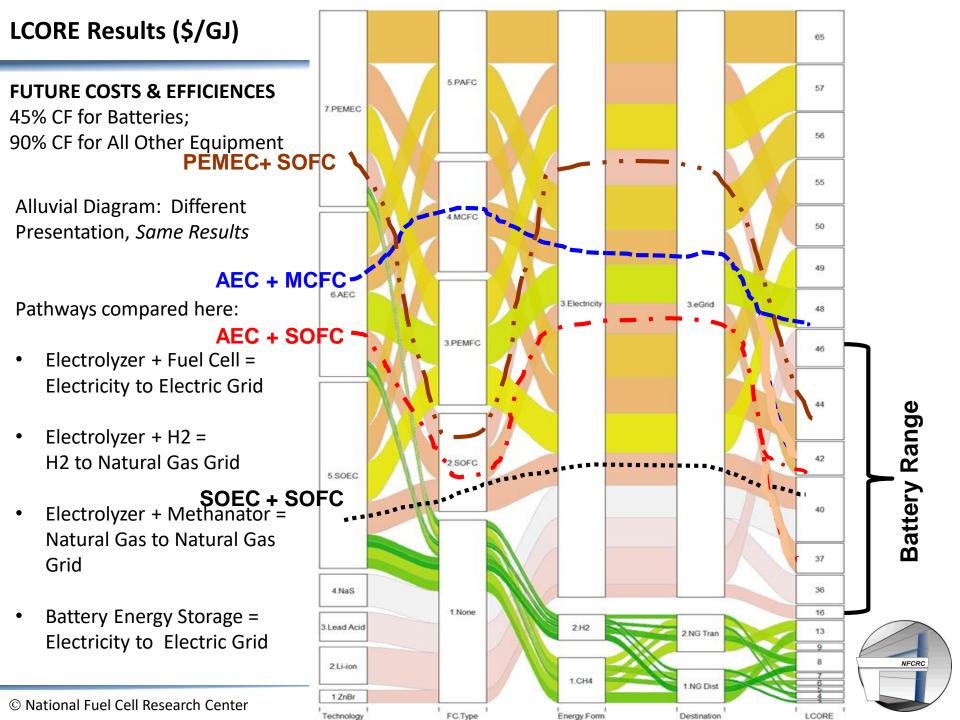
45% Capacity Factor for Batteries;90% Capacity Factor for All Other Equipment



Natural Gas Pipelines and Storage Facilities



© National Fuel Cell Research Center



## LCORE Results by Use Case: Comparative Economics

- At Current Costs (using 90% vs. 45% CF):
  - H2 fuel competitive in high-gasoline tax states
  - H2 fuel into legacy central station generation competitive with batteries for electricity delivery
- At Future Costs (using 90% vs. 45% CF):
  - H2 for pipeline injection competitive
  - CH4 for pipeline injection seasonally competitive
  - Some competition between FC-generated electricity and battery-generated electricity
- All results depend on future cost evolution.

## POWER-TO-GAS (P2G): LCORE Analysis Conclusions



- P2G Can Provide Economic Grid-Scale
  Storage of H2 Using Otherwise-Curtailed
  Renewable Generation
- P2G Increases Grid and Fuel Flexibility through Multiple H2 Use Cases
- Current Economics Support H2 as Fuel for FCVs and Legacy Central Plant Electricity Generation via Natural Gas Pipeline System
- Future Economics Support H2 into FCs for Shifting Timing of Electricity Generation.

## Levelized Cost of Returned Energy for Comparing Hydrogen End-Uses & Battery Storage Economics

### THANK YOU! QUESTIONS?

Lori Smith Schell, Ph.D., ERP Empowered Energy

174 N. Elk Run, Durango, CO 81303 USA Tel: (970) 247-8181 • Fax: (970) 247-3761 E-Mail: LSchell@EmpoweredEnergy.com

