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# Excitement in the Air: The Energy Revolution

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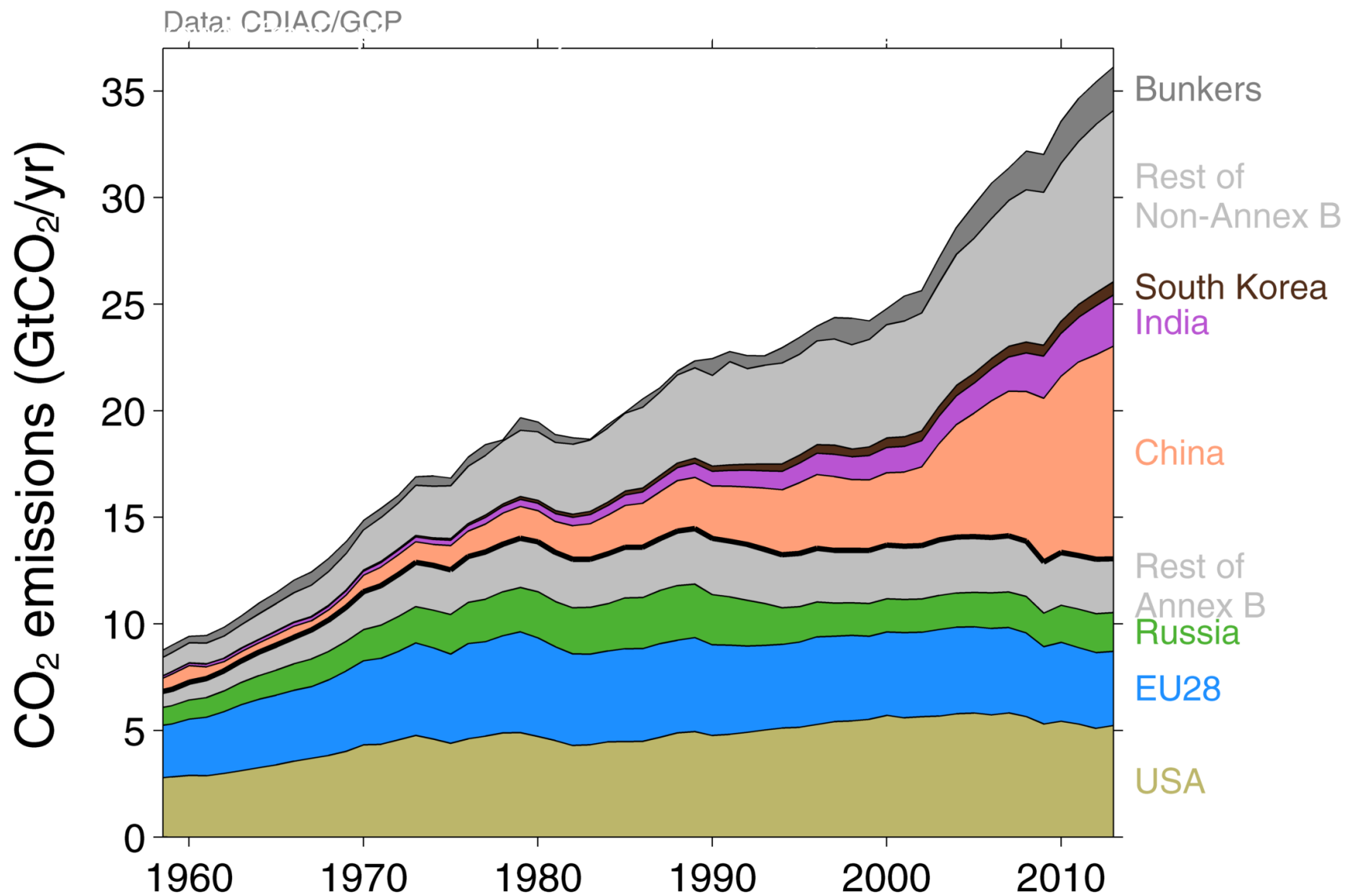
**Prepared for Presentation at the Eilat – Eilat annual Conference**

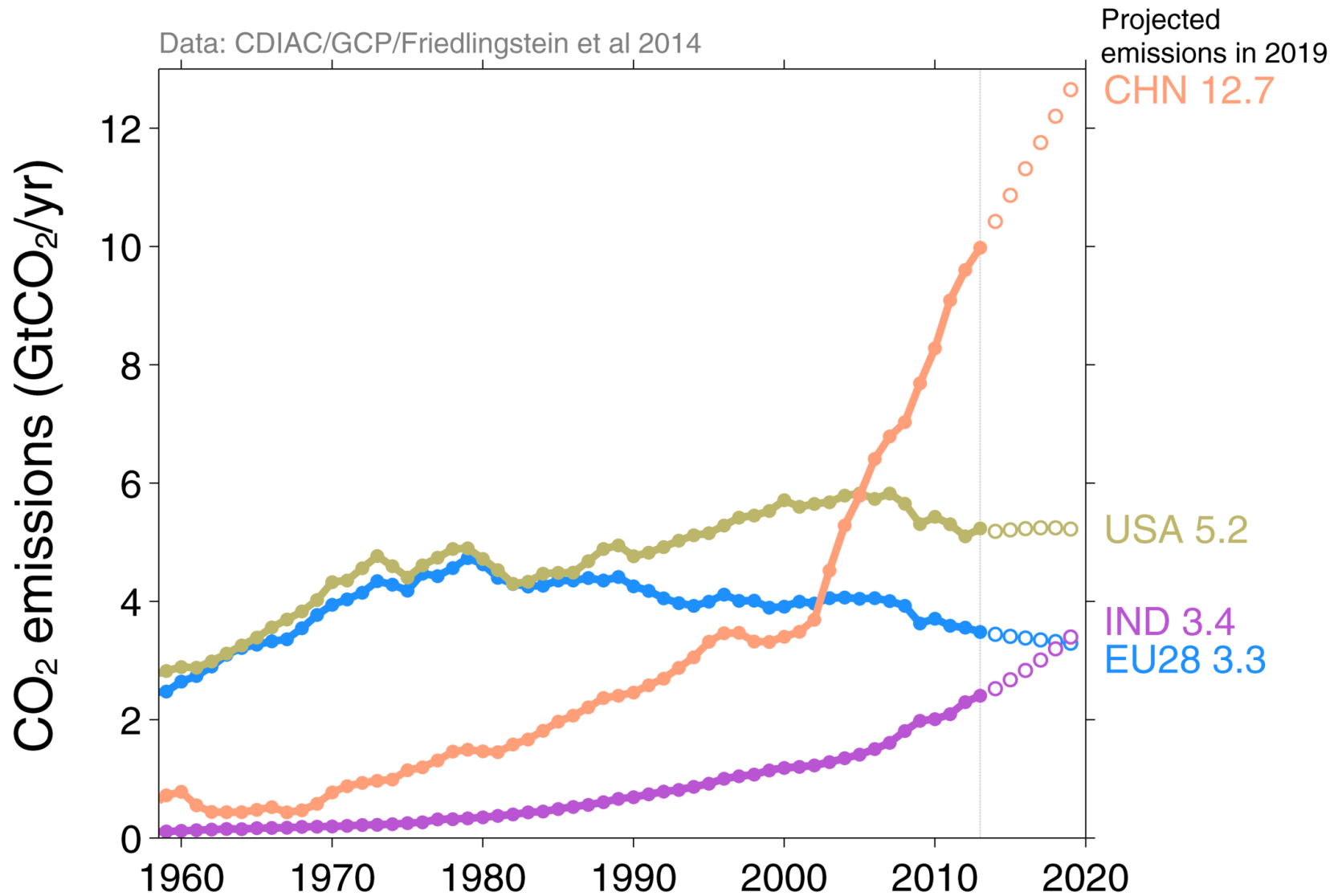
Prepared by the TAU Public Policy Renewable Energy Policy Lab with the Generous Support of the Boris Mints Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions to Global Challenges

# The Global Challenge

- We know that something is not working here
- The puzzle is striking: global warming is already affecting the lives of millions and will dramatically change the lives of virtually all of us within our life expectancy.
- Millions die every year as a result of fossil fuel related pollution
- Renewable energy is by now competitive, price wise, with most modes of fossil fuel generated energy.
- Renewable energy is not polluting and it is the only way to stop global warming. **Energy Saving and Recycling are problematic policy solutions in more ways than one.**
- Renewable energy technology is readily available
- And yet, the market is not investing more ... or, to be more accurate, it is not investing everything it's got in renewable to get this whole issue done and over with.
- Hence a Global Challenge

Source: Global Carbon Project, 2013 data





## **Recycling is not a good policy solution: GHG**

Emissions Of Virgin And Recycled Material  
Production (Kg CO<sub>2</sub>eq / kg)

Material	Virgin	Recycled	Factor
Aluminum cans	12.94	1.03	12.6
Steel cans	2.82	0.99	2.8
Copper wire	7.41	6.09	1.2
Glass	0.48	0.33	1.5
HDPE	1.76	0.18	9.8
LDPE	2.16	0.18	12.0
PET	2.05	0.18	11.4
Cardboard	0.84	0.92	0.9
Newspaper	2.13	1.27	1.7

Source: EPA (2006) Solid Waste Management and Greenhouse Gases:  
A Life-Cycle Assessment of Emissions and Sinks, EPA 530-R-06-004

## Examples: Energy Savings From Reuse and recycling

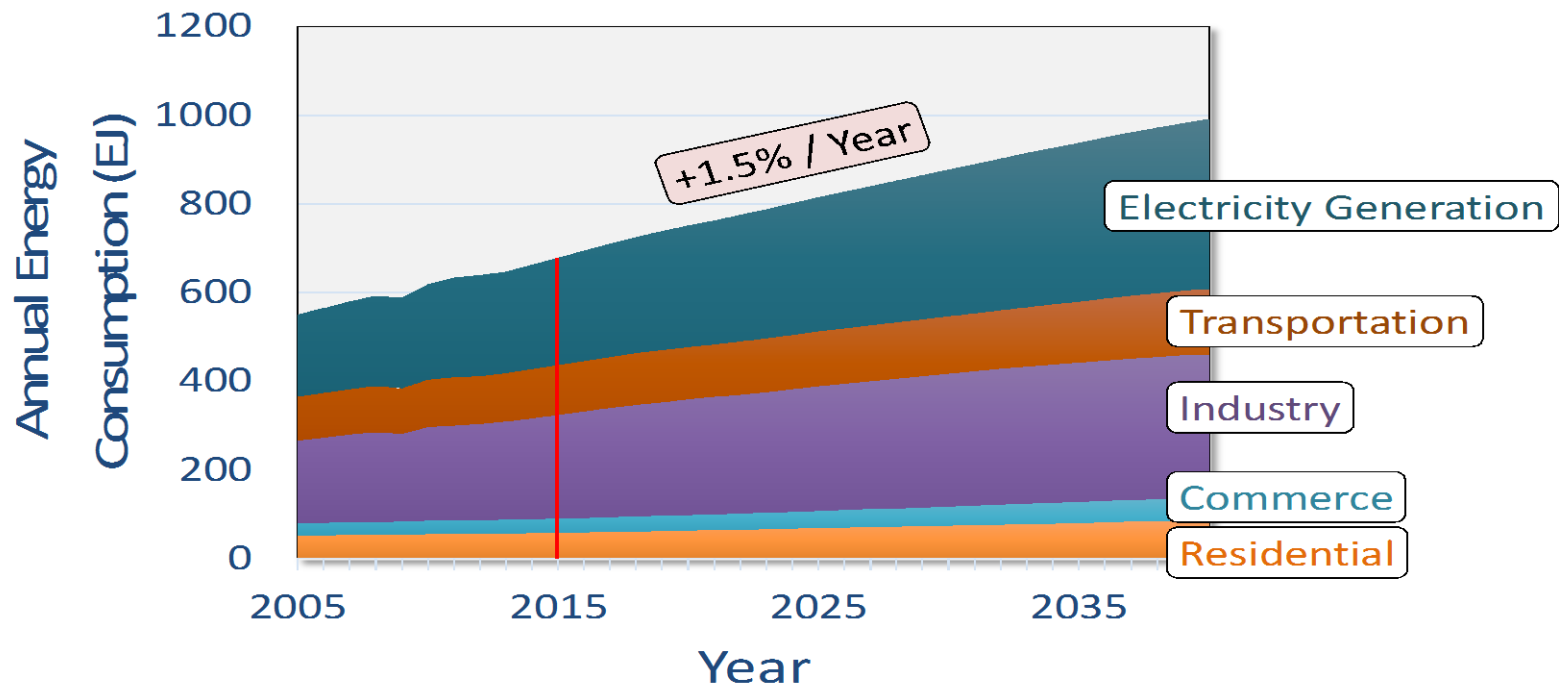
Material	Primary Production (cradle-to-gate in MJ/kg)*	Recycling (scrap-to-gate MJ/kg)	Savings Factor
Aluminum	194.7	10.3	19
Copper	~100	20 – 30	5 – 3.3
Steel	21.7	7.1	3
Steel section	33.3	16.0	2.1
PET	82.7	30.2	2.7
Paper	18	12	1.5
Glass	12	8	1.5

Slide by Roland Geyer, Santa Barbara UCSB

\* 1 Kilowatt = 3.6 MJ

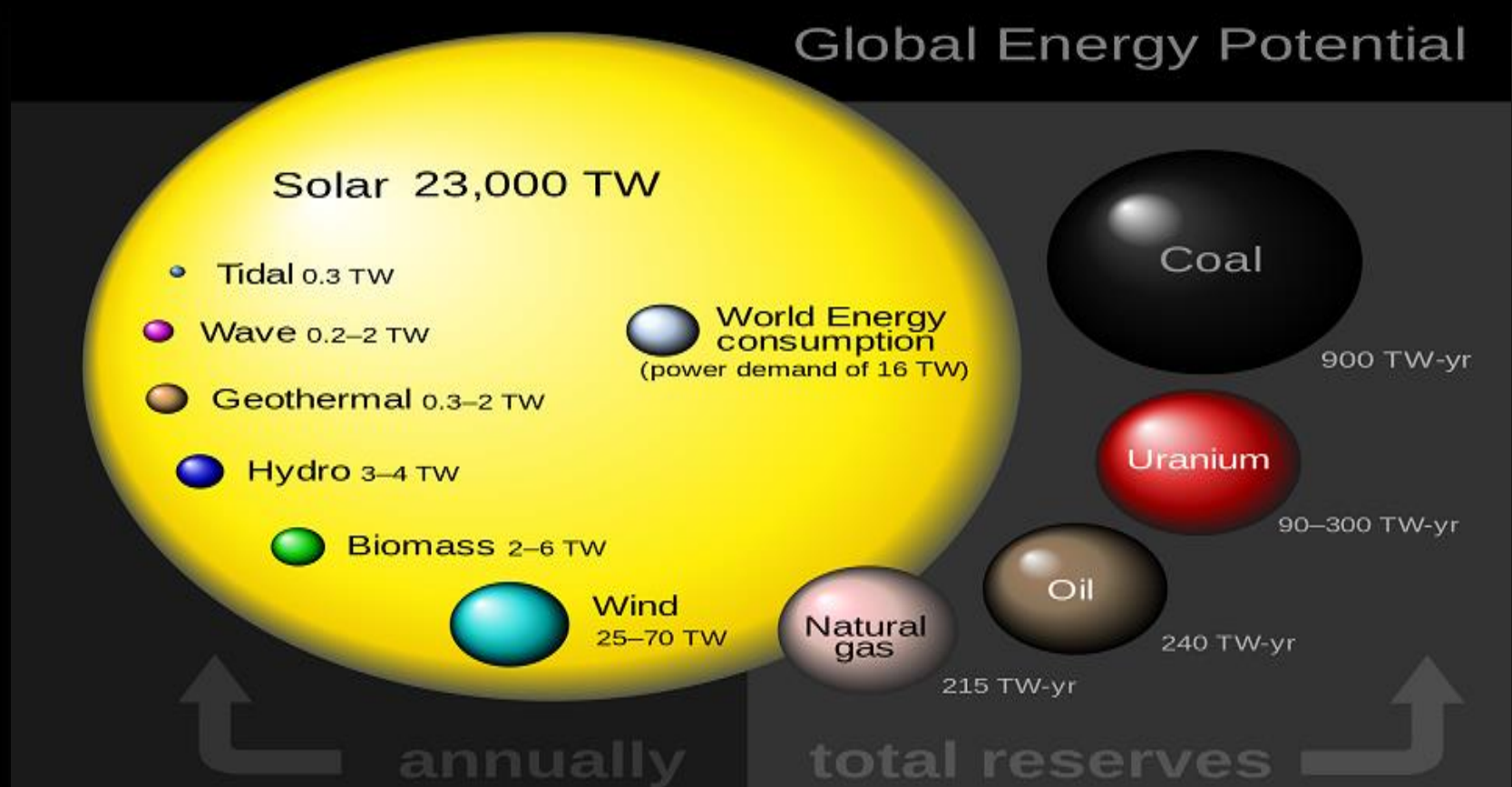
# Energy Saving Is not an Effective Policy Solution due to the ever Growing Energy Needs

## Need for Energy



# Nature's Supply and Demand

## The (non) Scarcity of Resources

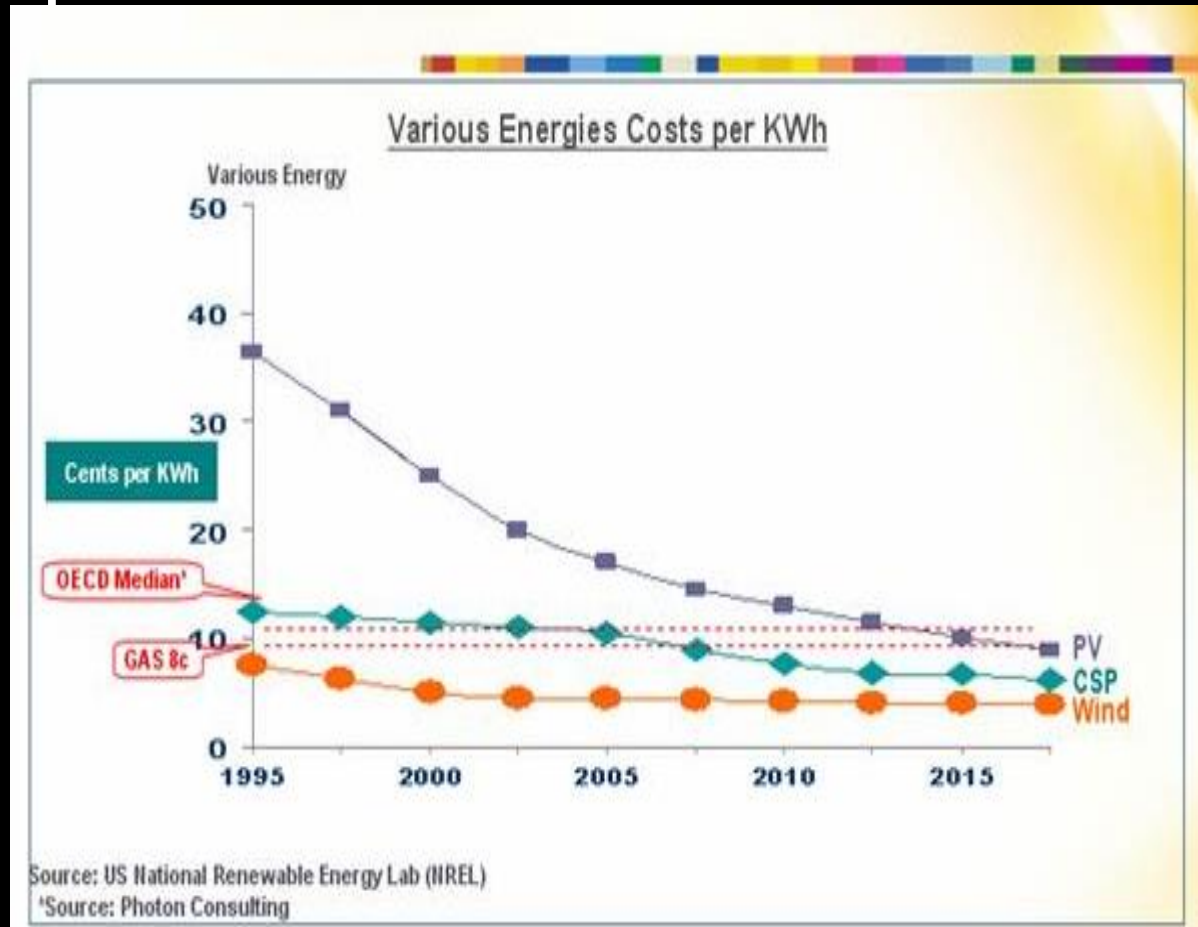




# What do prices of Wind and Solar look like? Compared to Fossil Fuels

Hey, Guess what?  
Prices of wind and CSP  
Solar have just gotten  
Below coal and gas  
But no one bothered  
to tell us 😊

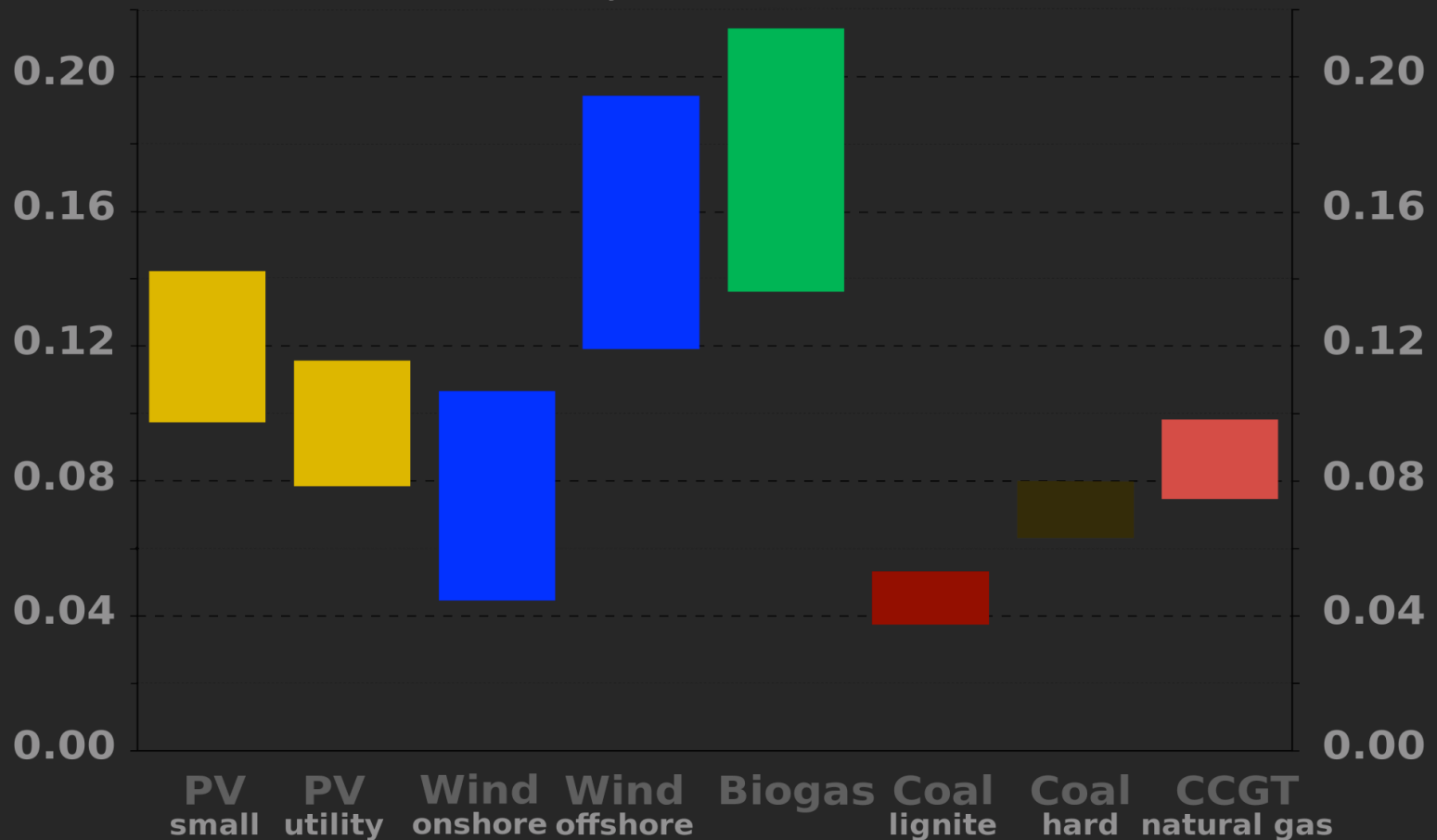
Should we start  
investing in  
solar and wind  
energy?



# Most Current Price Estimates

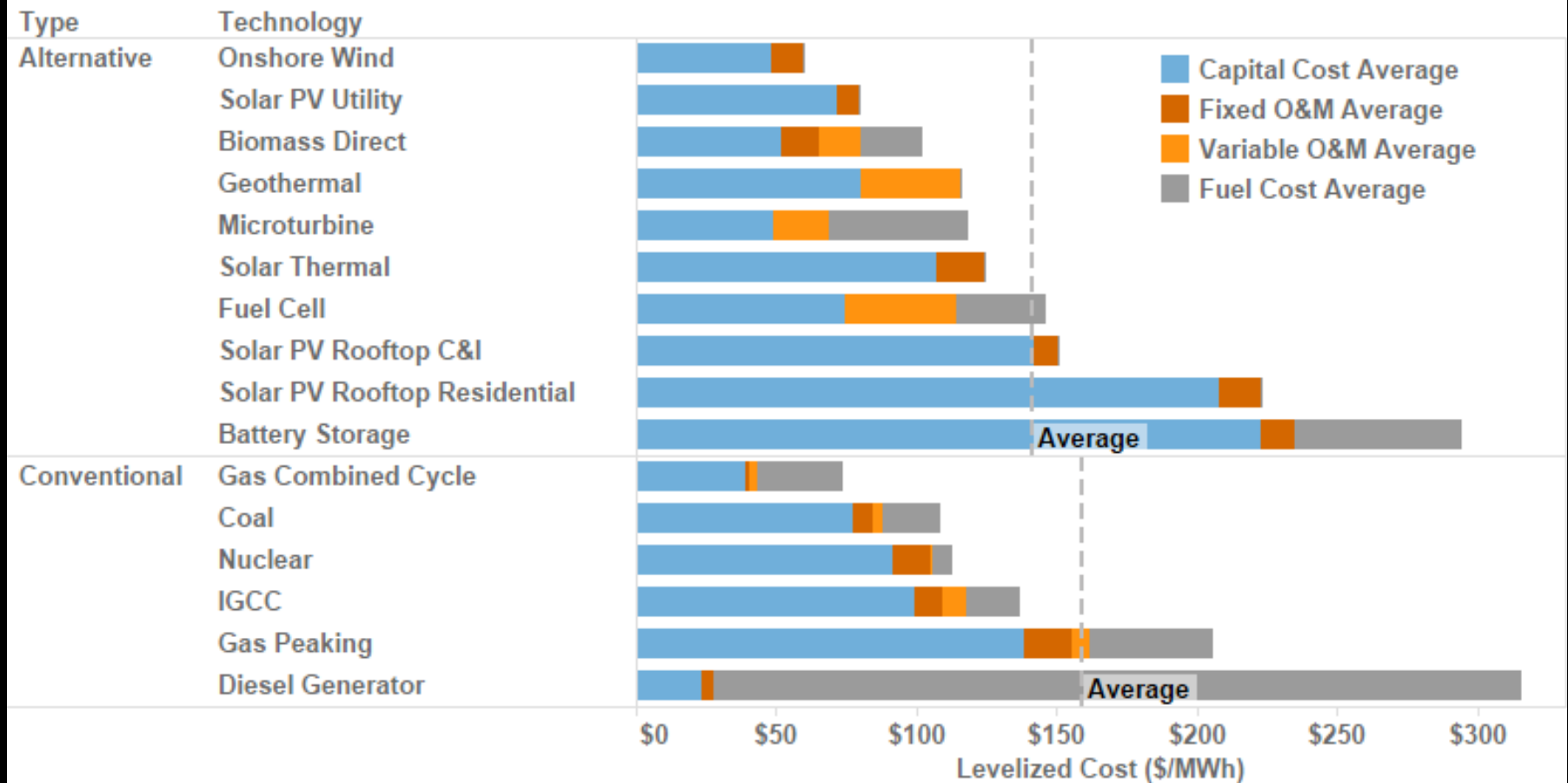
## Levelized Cost of Electricity in € per kWh

Source: Fraunhofer ISE, Germany November 2013



# Another Estimate

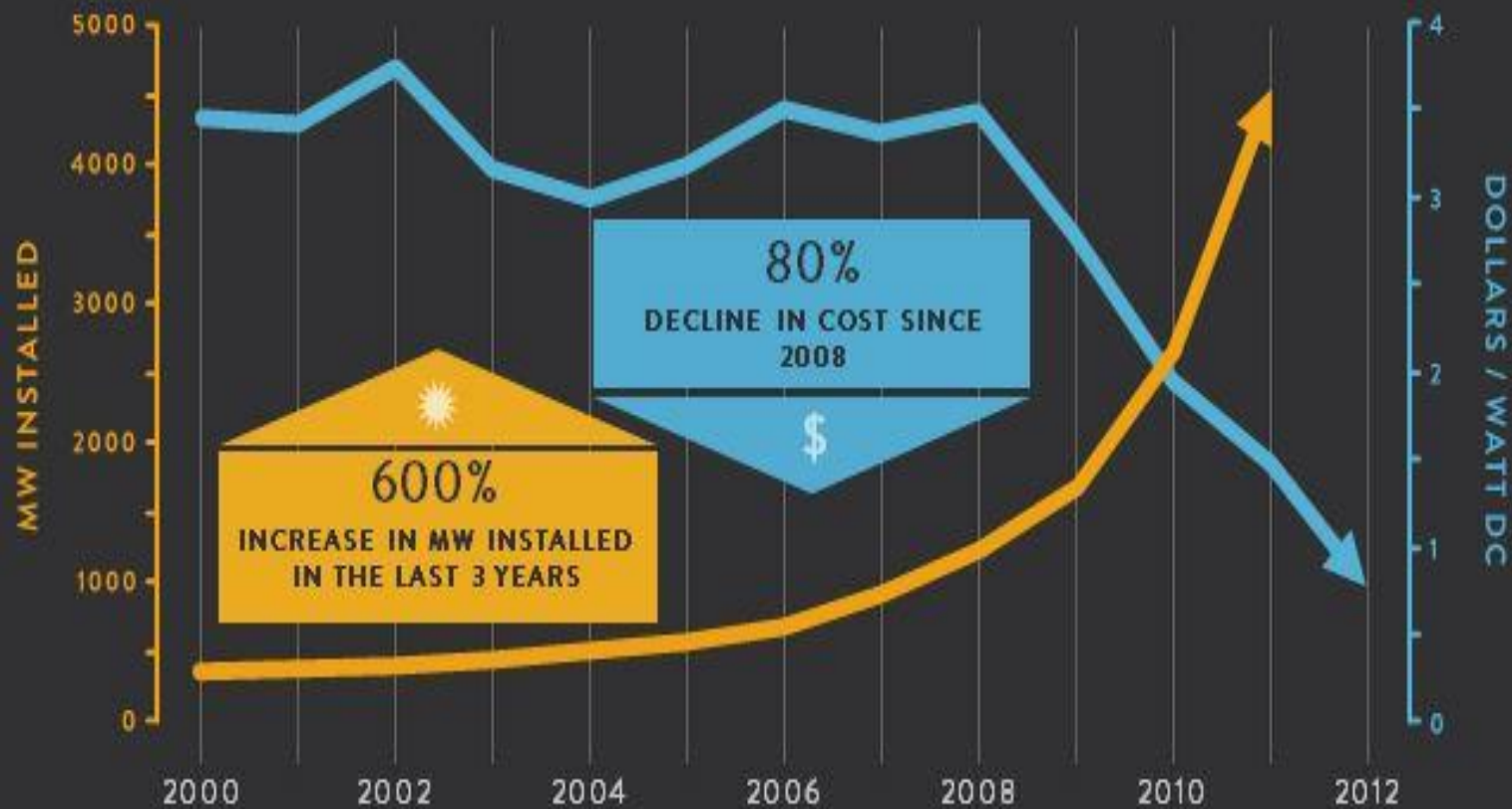
## Components of levelized cost of energy



Source: Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis--Version 8.0, September 2014

<http://www.lazard.com/PDF/Levelized%20Cost%20of%20Energy%20-%20Version%208.0.pdf>

# LOWER PRICES DRIVE DRAMATIC GROWTH IN SOLAR



# The Virtuous Cycle



Tom Randall of the Bloomberg Report October 5 2015

# Bloomberg and MacKensie Conclusion

- Tom Randall of Bloomberg, October 2015: Solar and Wind has just past another (no return) turning point: It never made less sense to build fossil fuel power plants
- Wood MacKensie Februar 2015: *Just as shale extraction reconfigured oil and gas, no other technology is closer to transforming power markets than distributed and utility scale solar.*

# Critical Change of Policy of the Government of China

- *Guiding Policy Framework –*
- *China's 13th five year plan (FYP), was released in March 2016 and covers the period up to 2020. The headline targets are to reduce energy intensity by 15 percent and carbon intensity by 18 percent compared to 2015 levels. In addition, energy consumption will be capped at 5 billion tons of coal equivalent, and the share of primary energy consumption from non-renewable sources will increase to 15 percent. The increased carbon intensity goal means that China would reach, or potentially exceed, its Copenhagen pledge to reduce carbon intensity 40-45 percent below 2005 levels.*

# The Theoretical Question: Why then do we not see more of it yet?

- The study of misconceptions
- Concentrated versus diffused interests
- The Tipping Point Theory
- Social Movements or lack thereof...
- Market Failures
  - Information
  - Externalities
- The Institutional Approach
  - Path Dependence
  - The Lack in Market Structures
  - **The structure of the existing market**
  - **Economies and diseconomies of scale**



# Economies and Diseconomies of Scale

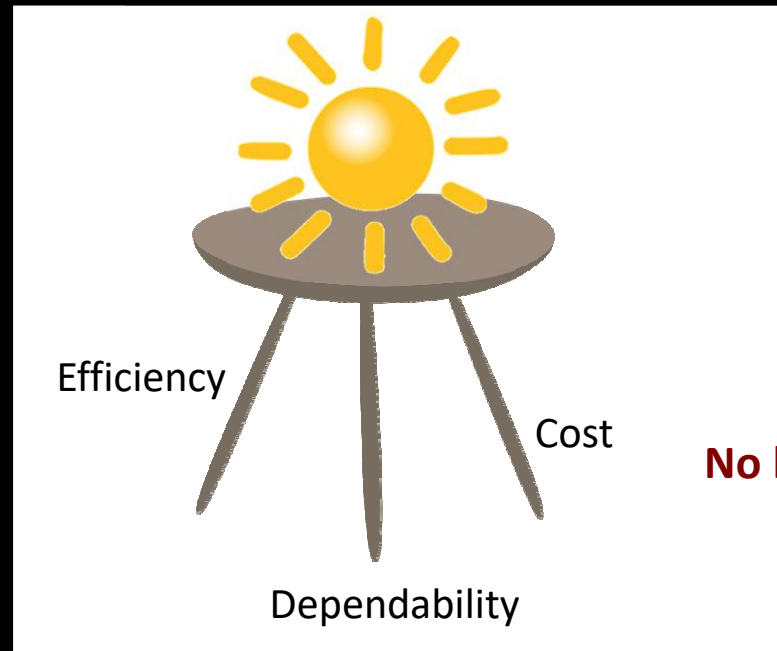
- Scientific Observation:
  - There are no Economies of Scale in the production of renewable energy
  - There are huge economies of scale in the production of energy off fossil fuels

# Why?

- Transaction costs
- Technicalities
- Technological barriers
  - Cannot transport
  - Cannot store
  - Cannot really trade globally
    - The failure of CO2 global markets
    - ARCH COAL collapses; Barrel of Oil at \$ 30
    - And yet – Renewable Energy is doing just fine
    - Market Failure or Market Resilience?
    - Whatever the case may be, it explains the remarkable attractiveness of investing in renewable energy
    - Warning: I am not an investment consultant

# Requirements for Success

**Remains a Problem**



**No longer a problem**

**Not Really  
a Problem**

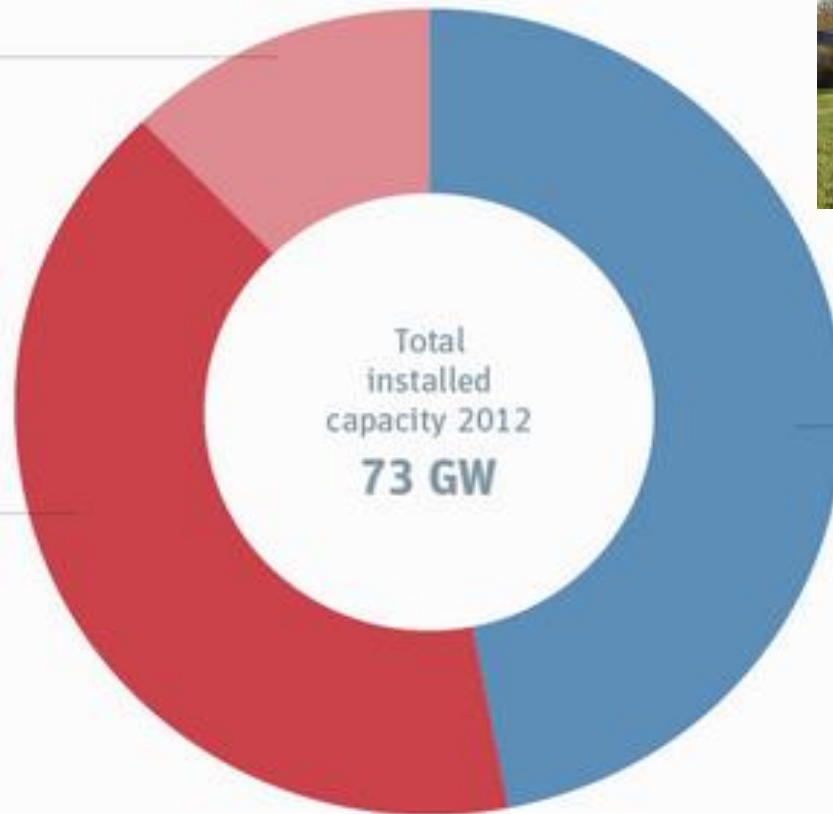
# German energy transition is a democratic movement

## Ownership of renewables in 2012

Source: AEE, [www.unendlich-viel-energie.de](http://www.unendlich-viel-energie.de)

Energy suppliers  
12%

Institutional  
and strategic investors  
41%



Citizens and coops  
47%

# “The Energiewende”

# Off Grid Prosumerism is probably the best option for Renewable Energy

It is Efficient

It Does not require of us to worry about System and grid effects

It allows us to bypass the storage problem

In most developing economies it provides more energy than they are used to get

It would and does work in many developed countries as well

# What do we need to worry about: An Ongoing Research Project

Secure property rights

Enabling regulations

Leave the prosumer alone attitude

Most Importantly: Educating a new Generation of  
Professionals to know how to  
Install, maintain and Secure these  
Systems, technically legally and  
Financially

But in Order to teach and train, we need to figure it all first, hence the urgent need for applied research

# How do we cover and what Roof Tops?

Table 5: Electrical data analysis.

Bulding	System	COE $\frac{m^2}{kwh}$	NPC	Operating cost	Total electricity production	Total electricity consumption
Beary school	PV/ Grid	0.387	1,826,604	80,387.86	81,345	230,972
	Grid	0.540	2,441,418	124,760	-	230,972
Bar-Ilan school	PV/ Grid	0.4444	2,829,851	131,655	81,345	322,233
	Grid	0.5463	3,444,664	176,027	-	322,233
Hazany school	PV/ Grid	0.3079	459,874	17,541	37,419	65,966
	Grid	0.5753	742,688	37,952	-	65,966
Bney-Akiva	PV/ Grid	0.5041	9,615,518	478,412	81,345	974,815
Yeshiva	Grid	0.5363	10,230,330	522,784	-	974,815
Moreshet Zvulun school	PV/ Grid	0.3801	1,740,061	75,965	81,345	222,506
	Grid	0.5408	2,354,875	120,337	-	222,506
municipal offices stampfer street	PV/ Grid	0.29790	535,775	19,606	48,807	75,632
	Grid	0.6112	904,664	46,229	-	75,632
municipal offices Tel-hai street	PV/ Grid	0.4618	2,368,962	108,103	81,345	256,292
	Grid	0.595	2,983,776	152,475	-	256,292

# Thank you,

- Thank you

