## **Natural Gas Pinch Points**





**November 15, 2023** 

ercator Energy

## Raise your right hand if you have heard of this ship





## **Balticconnector Pipeline Sabotaged? Act of Warfare?**





Finnish police leading the pipeline investigation have named the Hong Kong-flagged container carrier NewNew Polar Bear as the prime suspect in damaging the Balticconnector Finland-Estonia gas pipeline early on Oct. 8.

## **Attack on NATO's Critical Energy Infrastructure?**

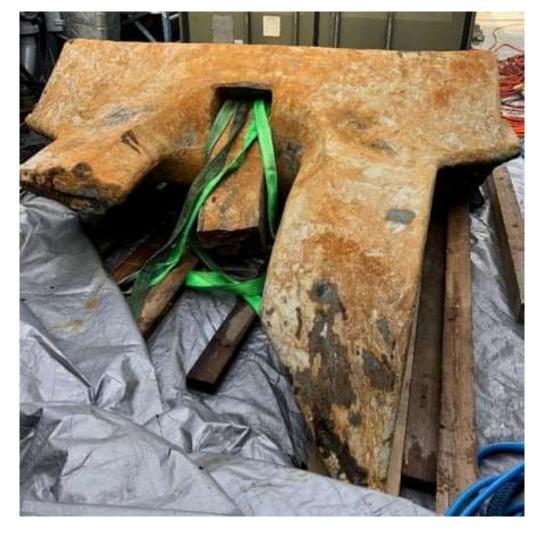




## **Smoking Gun? NewNew Polar Bear Left Something Behind**



A 6-ton, 12,000 lb. anchor





# But first, an update on last year's talk

## Nord Stream Update - Still under investigation (?)



- Washington Post from a week ago blames a Ukrainian Colonel who "rented a yacht" and placed the explosives
- That theory has been completely debunked due to diving physics
- At least a 45-minute dive at a depth of 120 feet
- Requires significant recompression
- How do you fit a recompression chamber (not a small device) on a yacht?



## Who Blew up Nord Stream?



"Danish Armed Forces confirmed to Reuters that a patrol vessel had taken 26 photos of a Russian submarine rescue vessel named SS-750 near the Nord Stream blast site on Sept. 22 last year, just days before the explosions happened."

"SS-750 was among six Russian Navy ships operating in the area according to Defence Command... these ships had their transmitters turned off"

## Who Blew up Nord Stream?

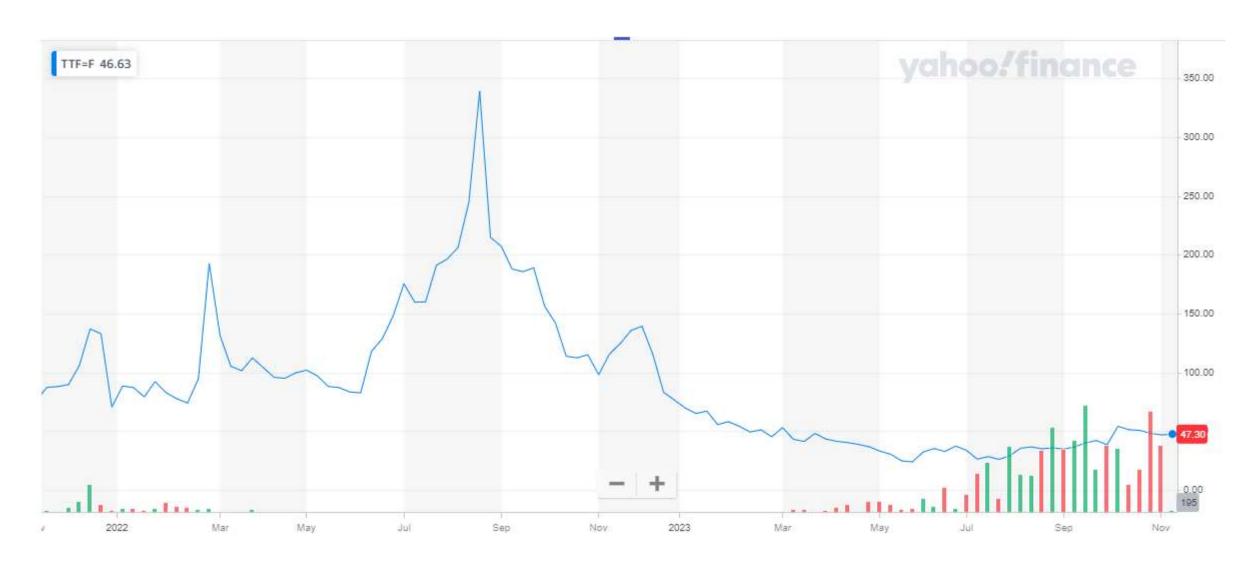


## Russian Ship SS-750



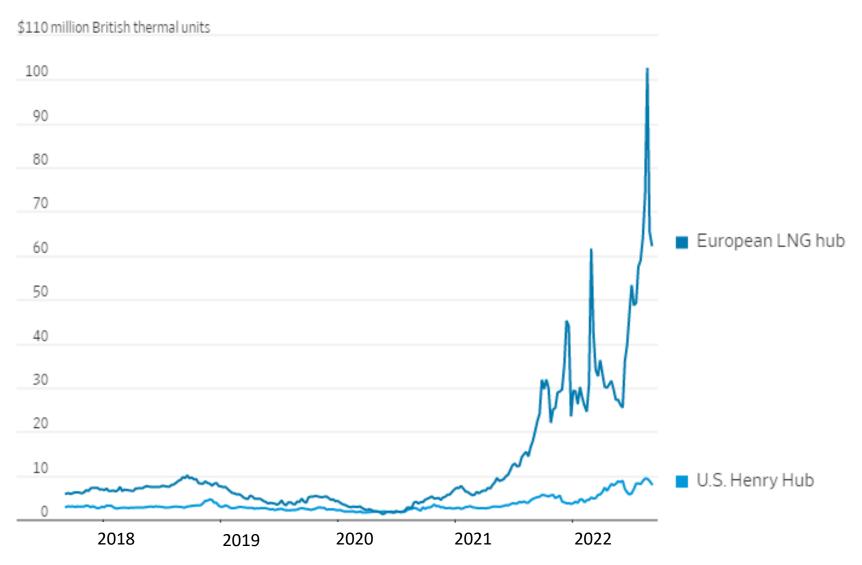
## **TTF 2-Year Historical Price/U.S. Dollars**







#### Natural gas price



Source: FactSet

## Comparative Forward Strips as of August 26, 2022



#### One-Year Forward Strip / \$ per MMBtu

| NYMEX Henry Hub               | \$ 7.725 |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| LNG Delivered Price to Europe | \$97.993 |

## **Geopolitical Risk Premium**



#### One-Year Forward Strip

| NYMEX Henry Hub               | \$ 3.22 |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| LNG Delivered Price to Asia   | \$15.88 |
| LNG Delivered Price to Europe | \$14.99 |

#### Three-Year Forward Strip

| NYMEX Henry Hub               | \$ 4.16 |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| LNG Delivered Price to Asia   | \$14.43 |
| LNG Delivered Price to Europe | \$13.87 |

<sup>\*</sup> Comparative Forward Natural Gas Price Strips, Settled price as of November 10, 2023, prices in \$/MMBtu

## European LNG infrastructure - Do you remember my concern? Wercator Energy





#### Opinion I Russia, A Chinese Cargo Ship and the Sabotage of the Balticconnector Pipeline

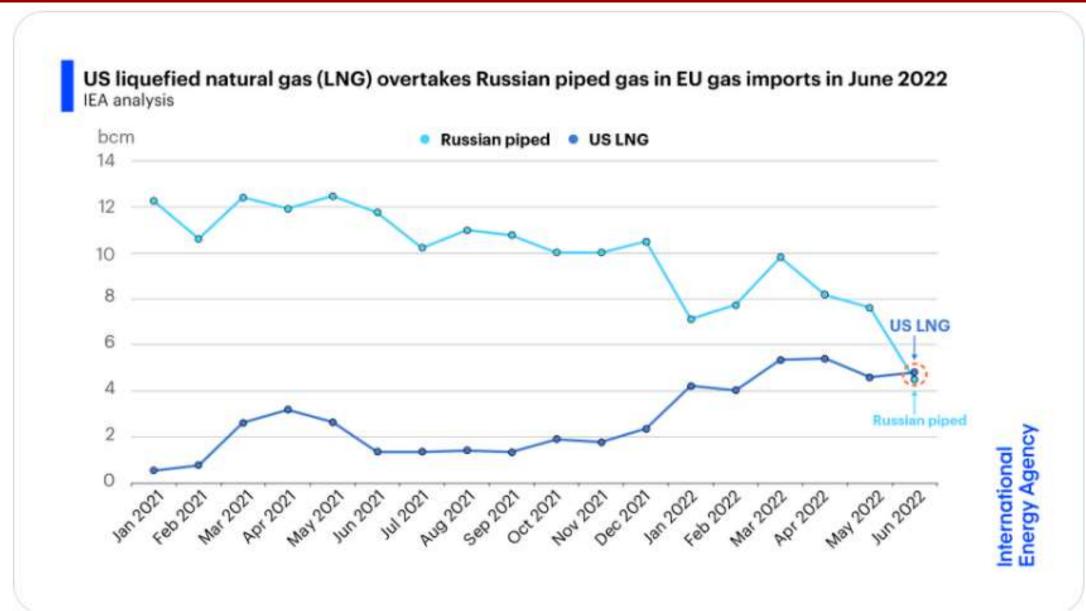


"The deliberate targeting of subsea cables and gas pipelines during peacetime is a tactic that falls in the grey zone – actions that are coercive, effective, and aggressive, yet fall below the threshold of armed conflict – even if it can be proved."



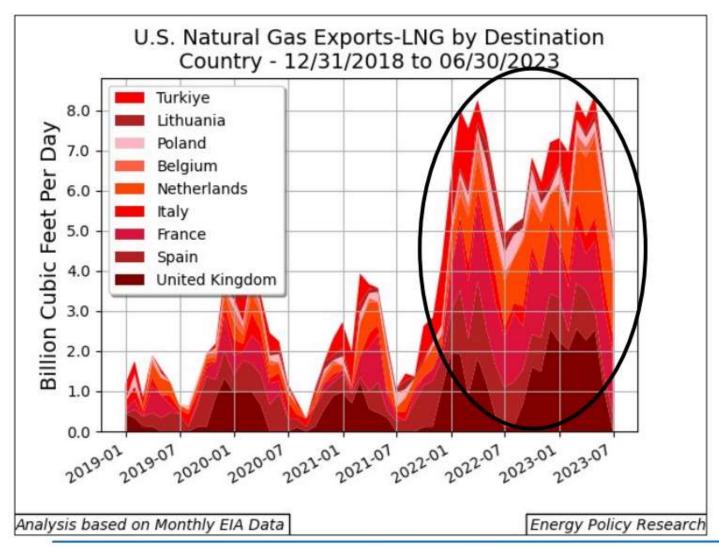
## **U.S. LNG to the Rescue**





## **European Receipts of U.S. LNG Exports by Destination - Revisited**





|             | Jan 2022- |  |
|-------------|-----------|--|
|             | Jun 2023  |  |
|             | Avg BCF/d |  |
| Turkiye     | 0.5       |  |
| Lithuania   | 0.2       |  |
| Poland      | 0.4       |  |
| Belgium     | 0.2       |  |
| Netherlands | 1.3       |  |
| Italy       | 0.4       |  |
| France      | 1.5       |  |
| Spain       | 1.0       |  |
| United      |           |  |
| Kingdom     | 1.4       |  |

With the winter 2021-2022 shortfall in natural gas supplies from Russia, Europe increased and maintained its purchases of U.S. LNG at the rate of 8 BCF/d through June 2023.

(includes Turkiye)

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## A Case Study: Germany and Europe



# Are there lessons to be learned by what happened in Germany/Europe?

## The Former Chancellor Who Became Putin's Man in Germany



"Germany's reliance on Russian gas surged to 55 percent before Russia's attack on Ukraine began in February, from 39 percent in 2011, amounting to 200 million euros, or about \$220 million, in energy payments every day to Russia."



#### The Russia-Ukrainian Conflict Greatly Affecting the Global Natural Gas & Greater Energy Market



#### **Russian Energy Figures**

- Natural gas production: 70 Bcf/d (2<sup>nd</sup> largest)
- Natural gas pipe exports: 19 Bcf/d (1st largest)
- Oil production: 10.6 MMBpd (3<sup>rd</sup> largest)
- Oil exports: 7.5 MMBpd (2<sup>nd</sup> largest)

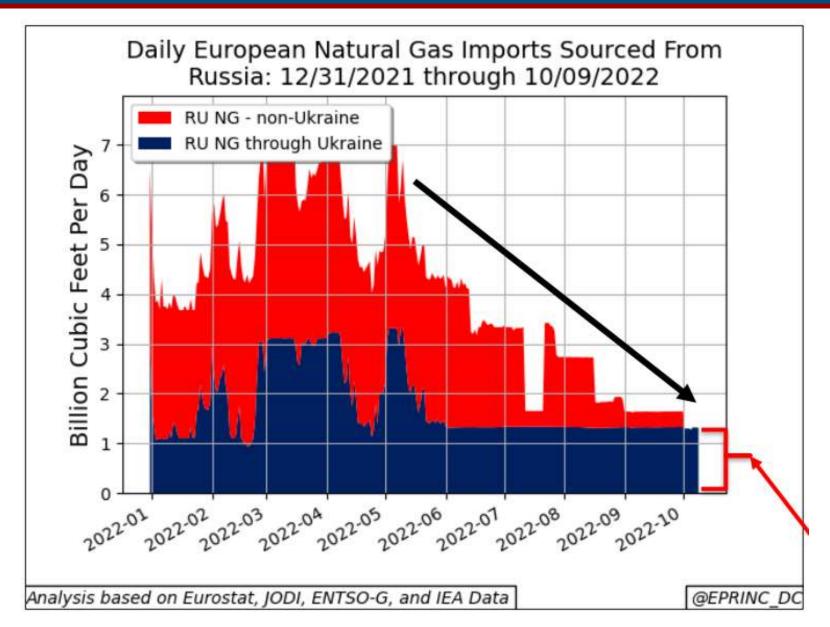
#### Europe's Reliance on Russian Energy

- ~40% of EU's gas demand met by Russia
- ~45% of EU's coal imports from Russia
- ~30% of EU's oil imports met by Russia



## **Europe – Daily Natural Gas Receipts During 2022**





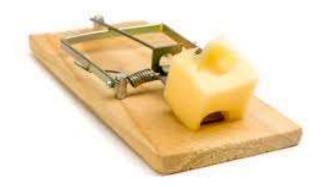


## European supply diversification away from Russia takes 17 BCF/d out of 50 BCF/d market





# This was a trap laid by Vladimir Putin 20 years in the making.

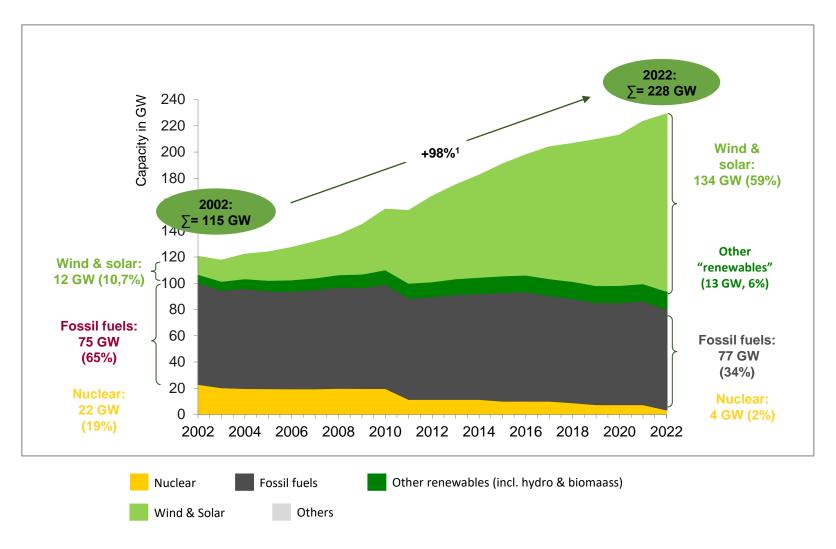




- Over reliance on renewables
- Retired coal plants too early
- Retired nuclear plants too early
- Under reliance on fossil fuels

## Installed Net Power Generation Capacity in Germany (2002-2022)





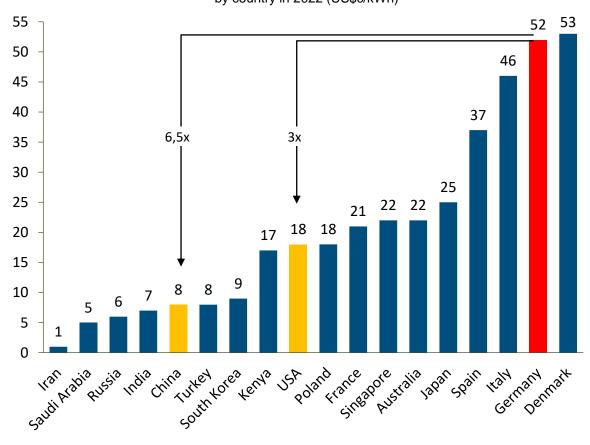
Source: Schernikau on Energy Policy



#### **Germa Industrial Electricity Prices:**

2002: 7 ct / kWh 2023: 40 ct / kWh

#### Consumer electricity prices by country in 2022 (US\$c/kWh)

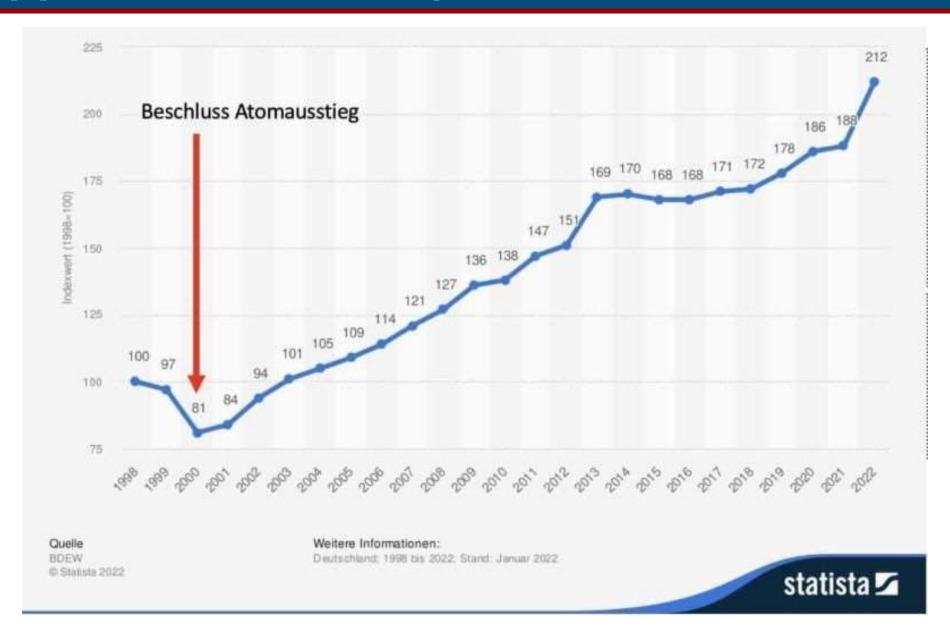


Source: Schernikau on Energy Policy

## **Electricity price index in Germany from 1998 to 2022.**



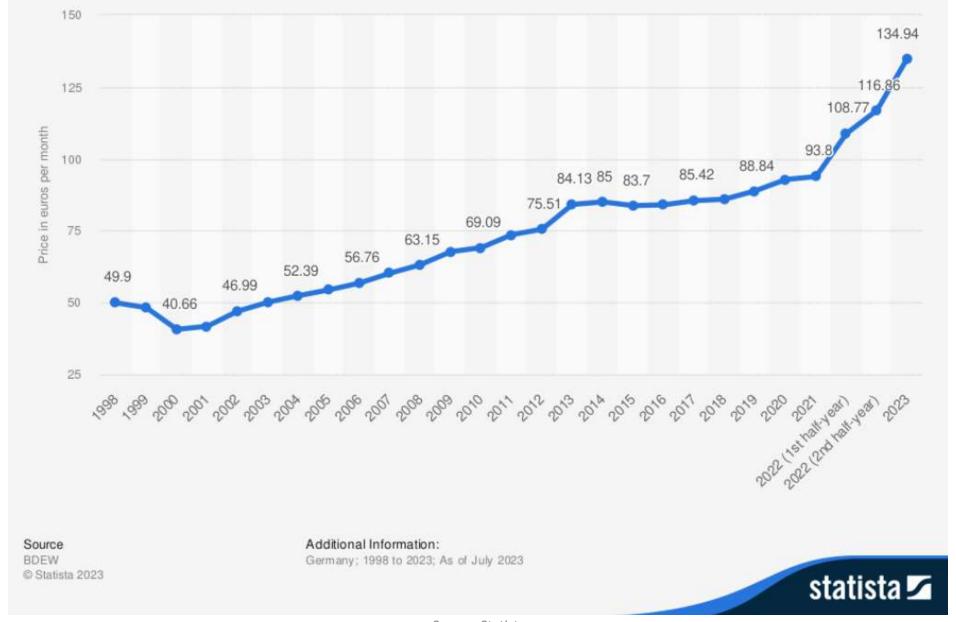
27



Source: Statista

## Average electricity bill for a 3-person household in Germany from 1998 to 2023 (in euros per month)





28

## Germany drove their car into a ditch and then took the wheels off\*





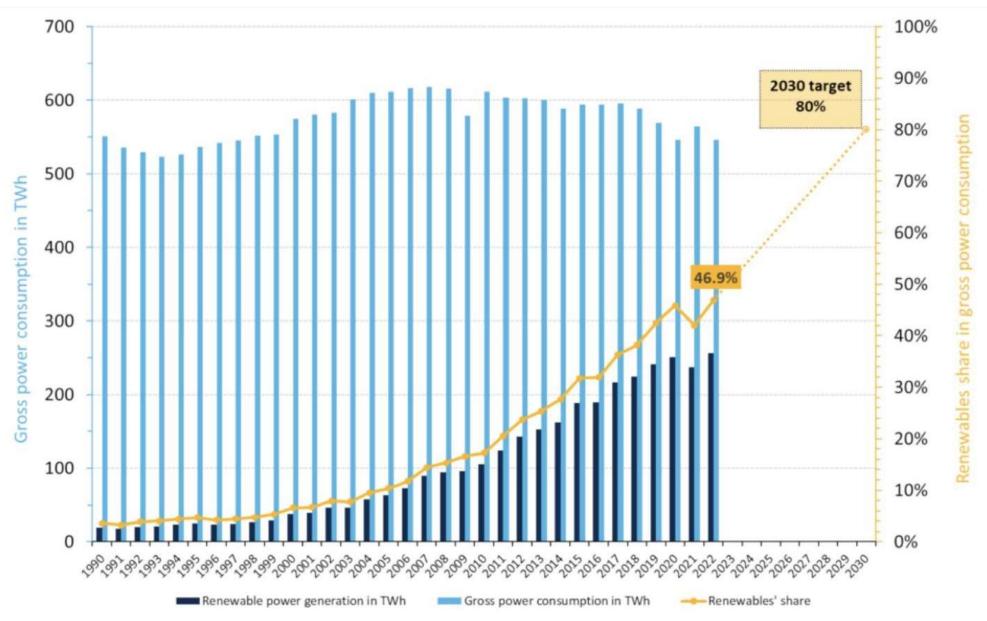
## "Over and out: Germany switches off its last nuclear plants"

Apr 15, 2023 – Germany has switched off its three remaining nuclear power plants as part of a long-planned transition toward renewable energy.

- AP News

## Renewables' share in gross power consumption in Germany 1990-2022





## **Germany Headlines**



## Germany's Shrinking Economy Sparks a Struggle for Solutions

- WSJ, August 29, 2023

### Russian Gas Cuts Threaten World's Largest Chemical Hubs

- WSJ, June 27, 2022

## Germany faces a looming threat of deindustrialization

- Economist, September 11, 2022

## Rust Belt on the Rhine: The Deindustrialization of Germany

- Politico, July 13, 2023

## Germany went from envy of the world to the worst-performing major developed economy. What happened?

- ABC News, September 19, 2023

## Gas crisis forces Germany to flatten wind farm for coal mine



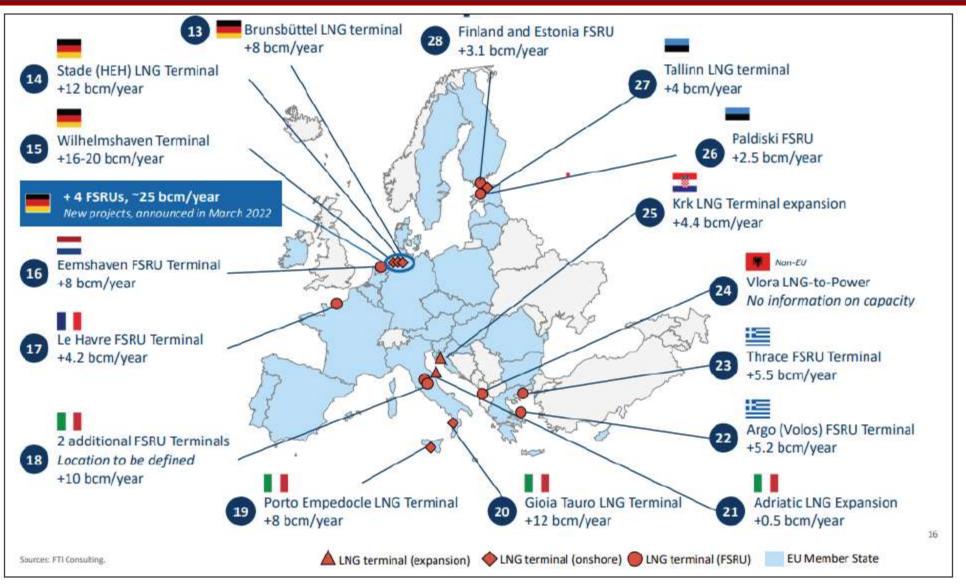




## The Response?

## **Europe has authorized 21 new LNG projects**



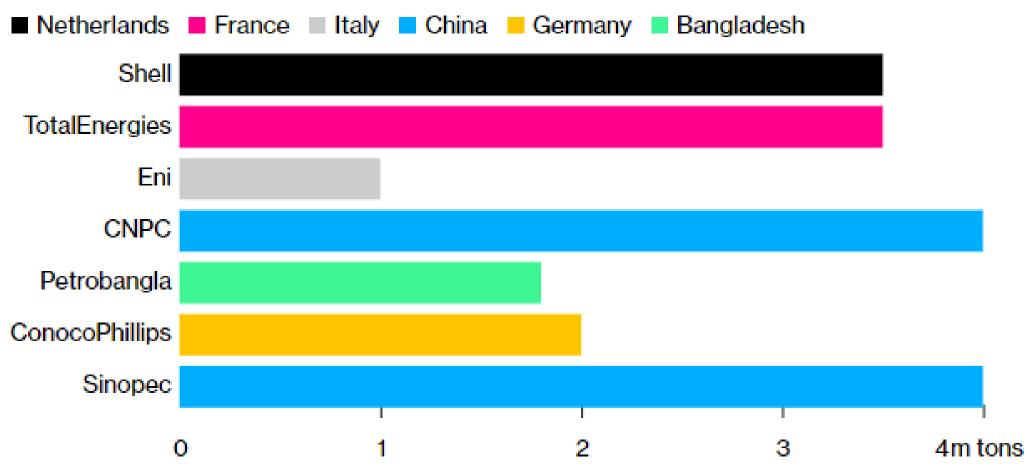


https://www.fticonsulting.com/-/media/files/emea--files/insights/white-papers/2022/may/new-lng-regasification-terminals-europe.pdf

## **Qatar Dealmaking Continues With LNG Supply Push**



QatarEnergy inks more than 40% of expansion capacity in past year



Source: Company reports

## Is the U.S. Headed Down the Same Path?

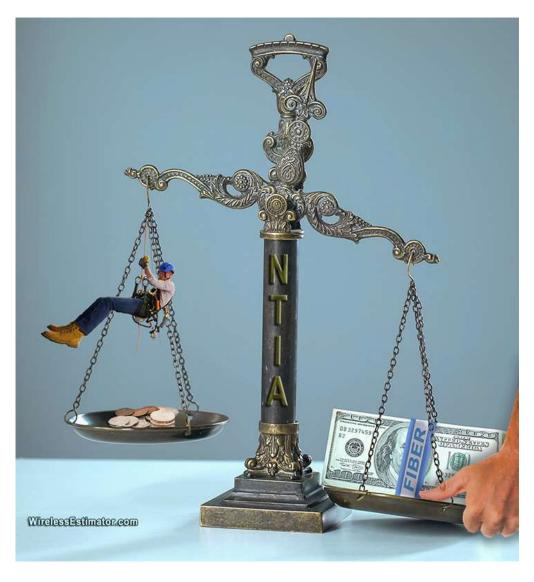




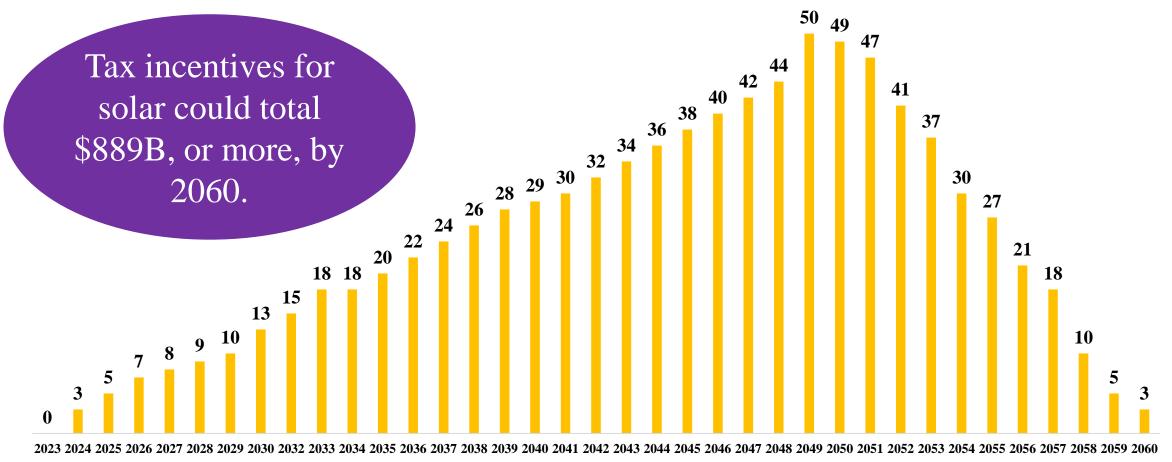
# **Thumb on the Scale for Renewables**



# The Inflation Reduction Act



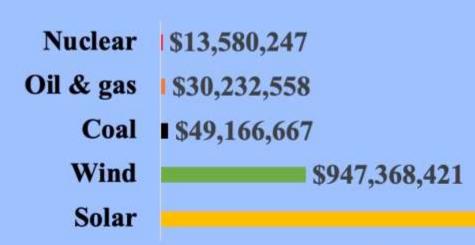
# Solar Subsidies Under Inflation Reduction Act Could Total \$900B



Tax incentives, \$Billion per year



# EIA Data: Tax Incentives For Solar, Wind, Coal, Oil & Gas, & Nuclear, Per Unit of Energy Produced, 2022



Solar got 302x more in tax incentives than nuclear & 136x more than oil and gas.

\$4,111,111,111

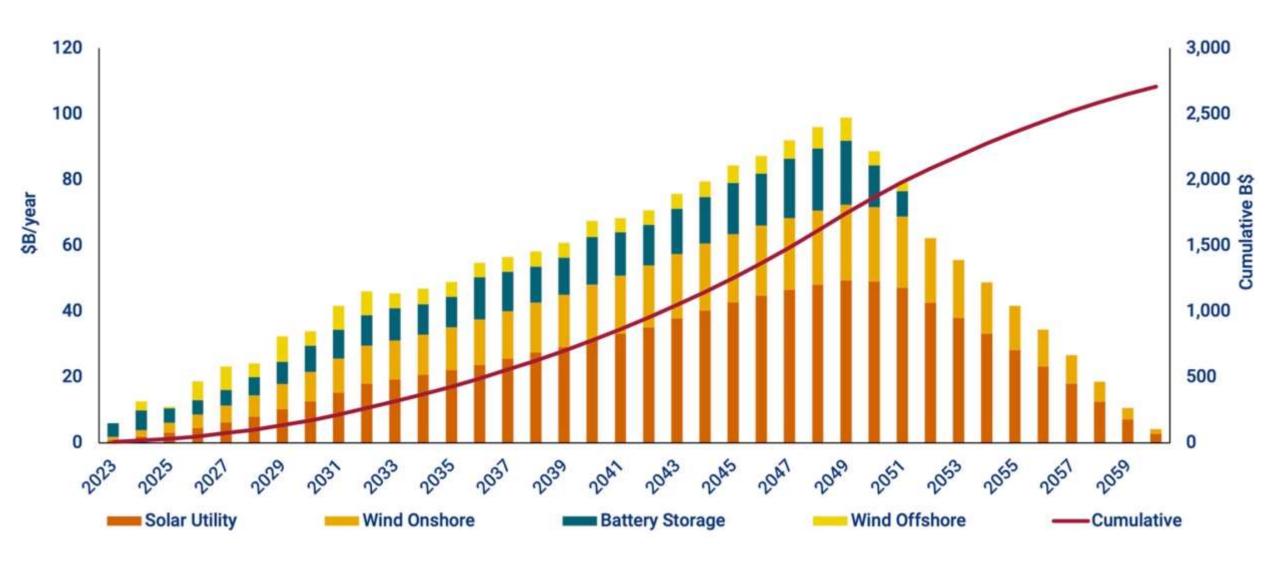
\$ Per Quadrillion Btu

Source: EIA, https://www.eia.gov/analysis/requests/subsidy/pdf/sub

© Robert Bryce

# **Cost of the Inflation Reduction Act**





Final Cost = \$3 Trillion

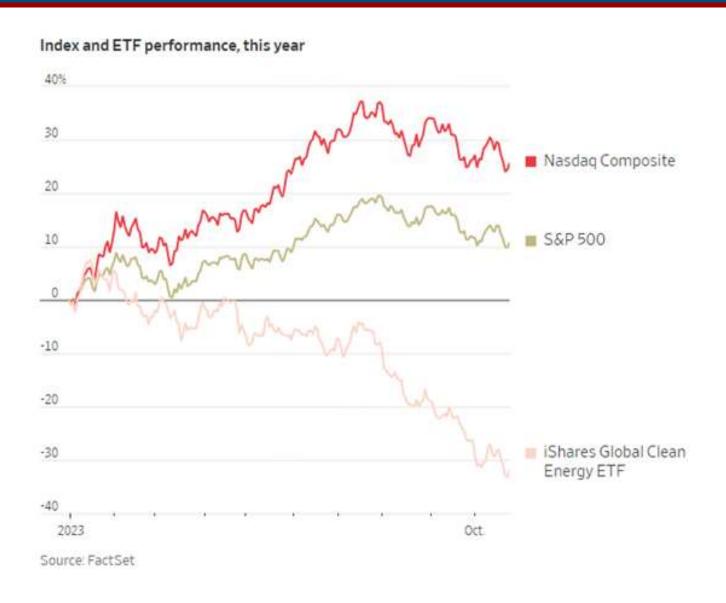
Source: Robert Bryce, Substack

# Biden-backed wind power company cancels New Jersey projects despite \$1B in subsidies

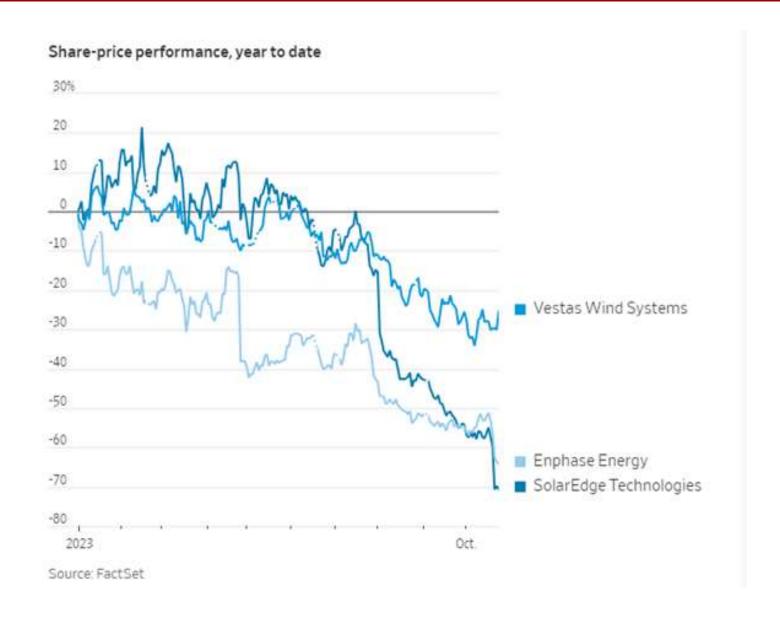






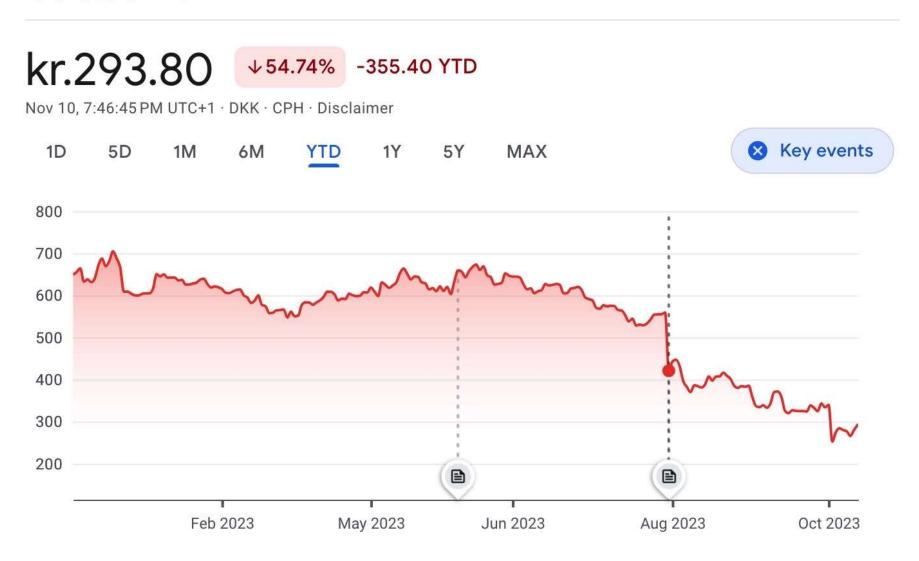








### Oersted A/S



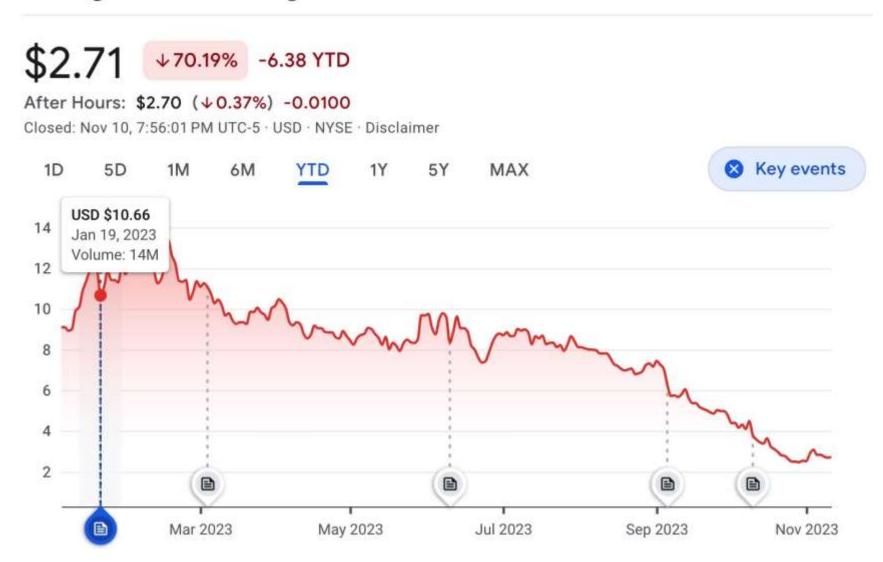


# Siemens Energy AG





### ChargePoint Holdings Inc





# Nextera Energy Partners LP





# Blink Charging Co



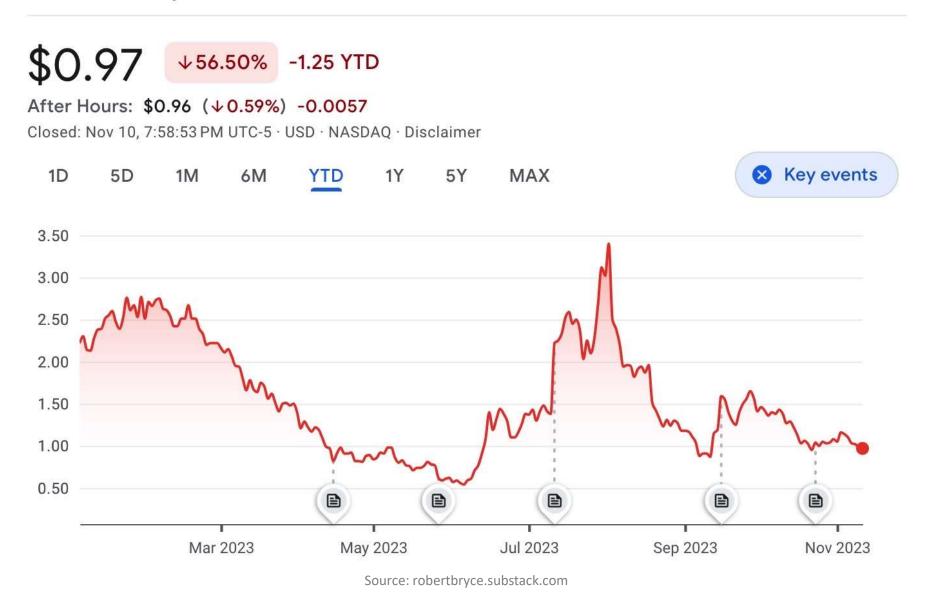


# Plug Power Inc





# Nikola Corp





### Invesco Solar ETF



# A Different Story for Fossil Fuel-Based Stocks and Funds



# Vanguard 500 Index Fund ETF



# A Different Story for Fossil Fuel-Based Stocks and Funds



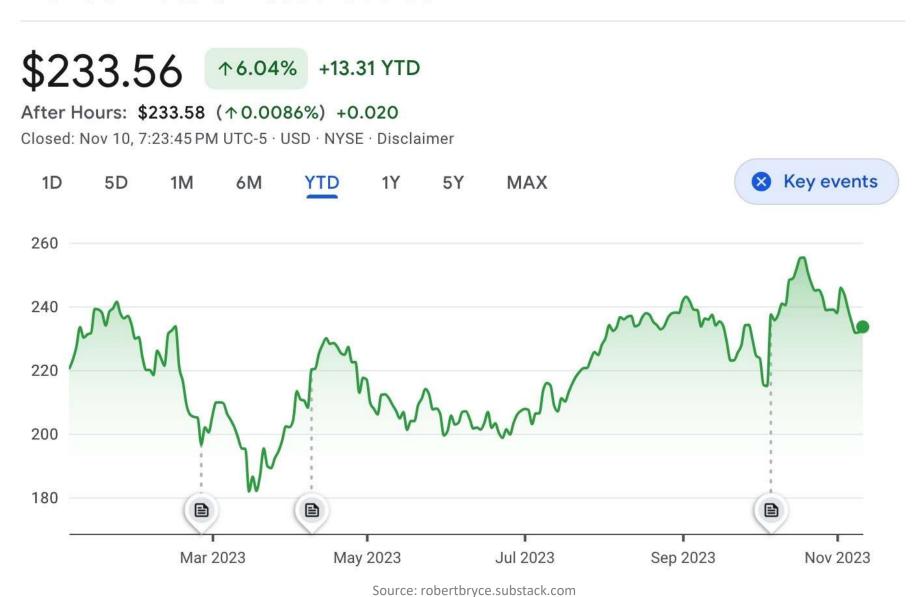
# Phillips 66



# A Different Story for Fossil Fuel-Based Stocks and Funds

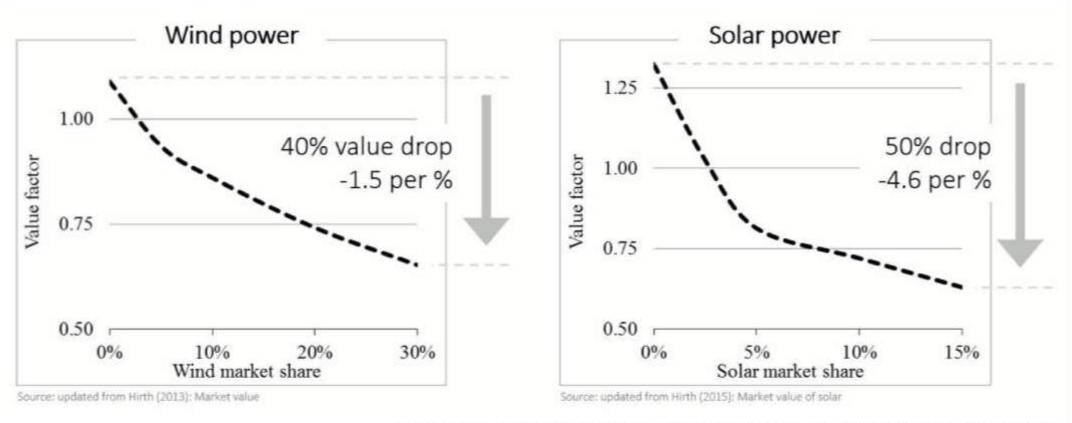


### Pioneer Natural Resources Co





# Value of Wind & Solar Decline



Source: Lion Hirth, "Market Value of Variable Renewables," EUI Working Paper, 2013, http://cadmus.eui.eu/bitstream/handle/1814/27135/RSCAS\_2013\_36.pdf?sequence

# Are we being oversold on the climate change problem?

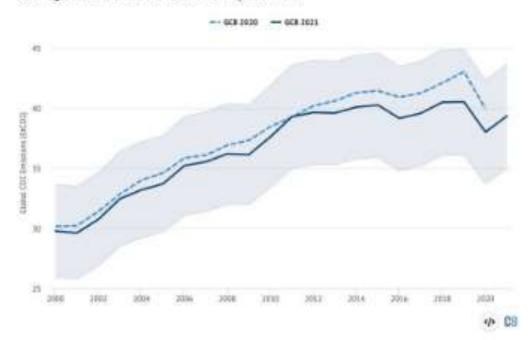




# **Global Emissions in Decline**

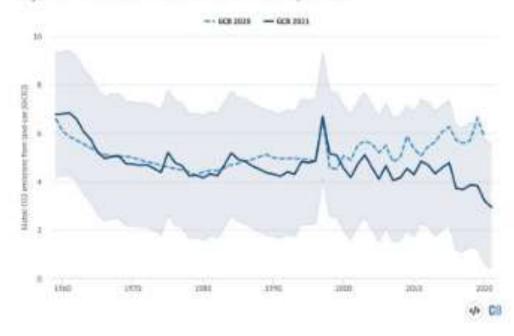






Annual total global CO3 entitions – from featal and land-use change – between 3000 and 2021 for both the 2030 and 2021 versions of the Global Carbon Project's Global Carbon Budget. Shaded area shows the estimated one-sigma uncertainty for the 3021 budget. Data from the Global Carbon Project; chart be Carbon Brief using Highertants.

### Major downward revision in land-use emissions over the past decade



Annual global CO2 emissions from land-use change between 1959 and 2021 for both the 3020 and 2021 versions of the Global Carbon Projects Global Carbon Budget. Shaded area shows the estimated one-signed uncertainty for the 2021 budget. Data from the Clobal Carbon Project; chart by Carbon Brief using High-Charts.

Source: Zeke Hausfather, Carbon Brief, November 4, 2021

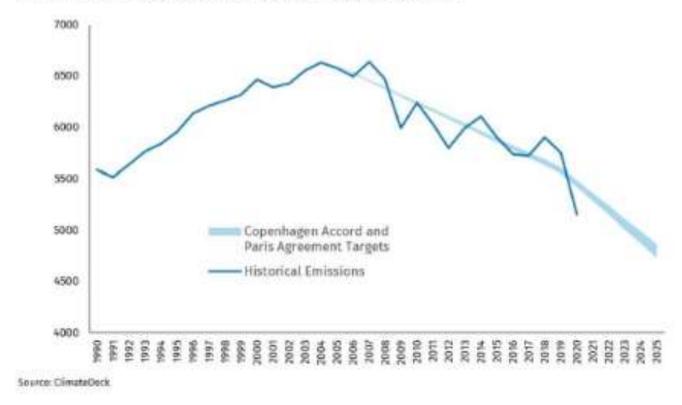
# **U.S. Is World Climate Leader**



"The U.S. saw the largest decline in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2019 on a country basis." – International Energy Agency, 2020

### Net US GHG emissions relative to international commitments

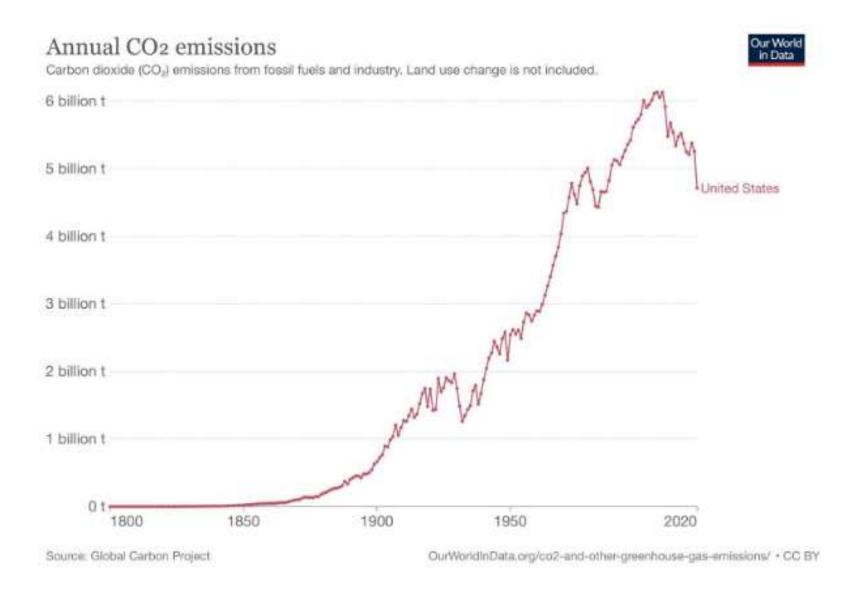
Million metric tons CO1e, IPCC definitions, excludes international bunkers



Source: Rhodium Group, Jan 12, 2021

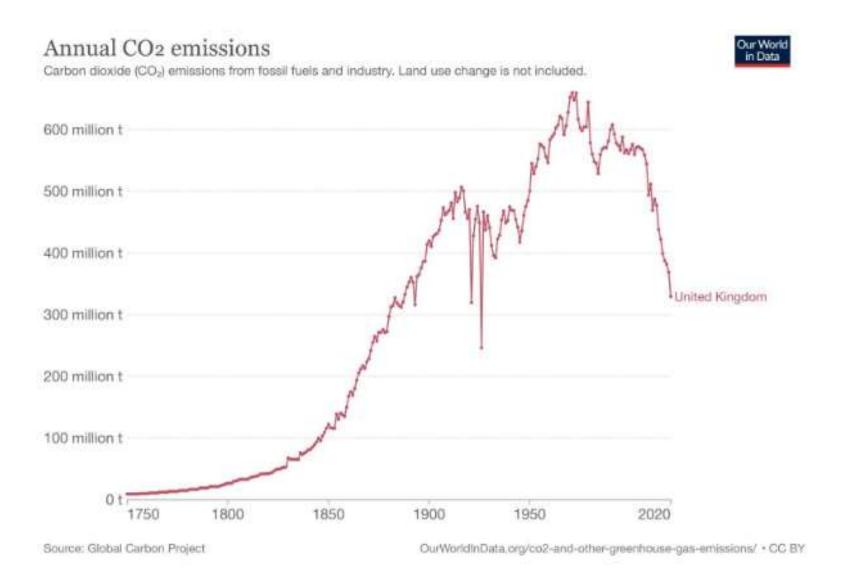
# **United States**





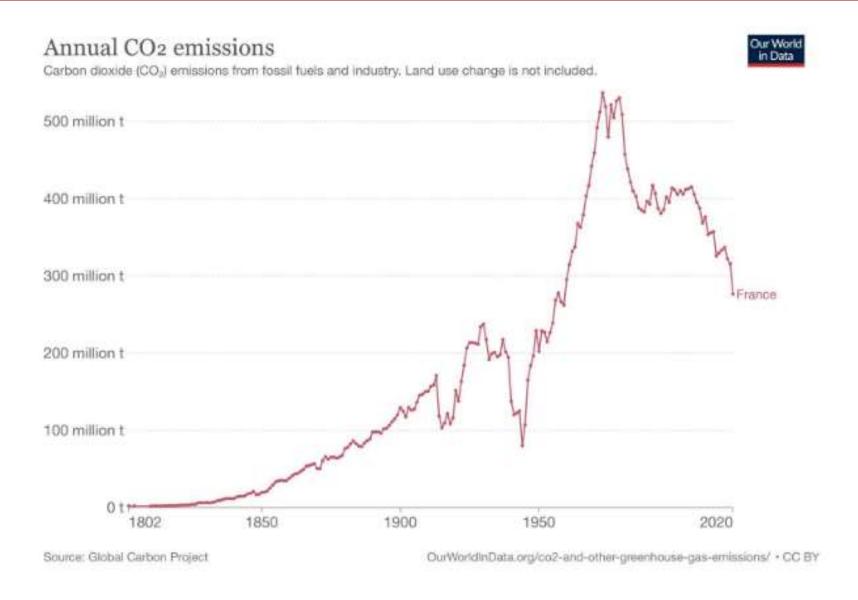
# **United Kingdom**





# **France**





# **Despite the Rhetoric, Global Coal Demand Grows**









# It's All About Scale





# It's All About Scale

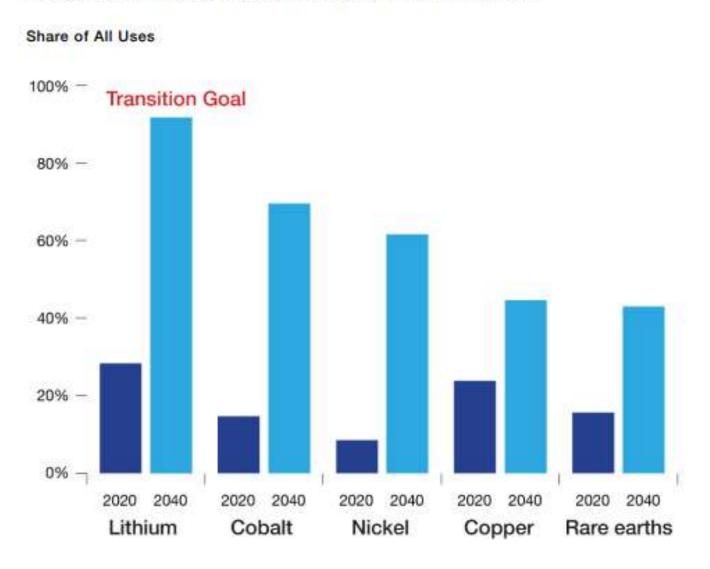




# **Energy Transition Policies are Inflationary**



### Energy Sector Share of Mineral Demands for All Purposes



# **China is the OPEC of Green Energy Minerals**



### Sources of Key Energy Transition Minerals



# **Not Enough Minerals in the Pipeline**



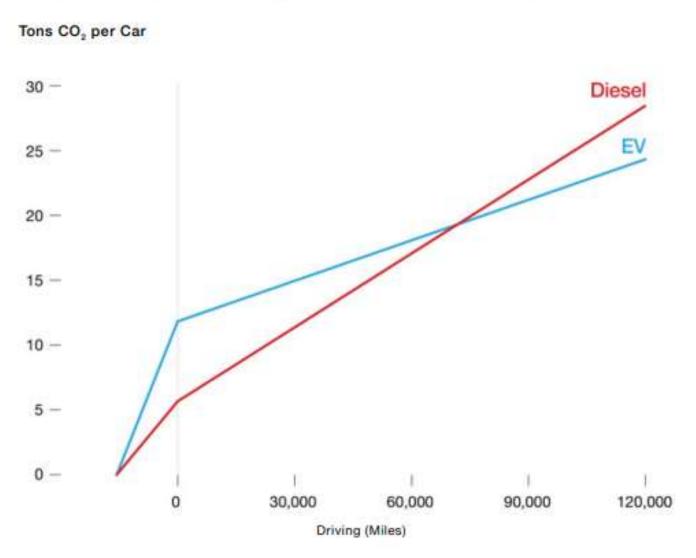
"There are simply not enough minerals in the pipeline to meet this kind of demand. One example of this is shown by research done by EV Expert Steve LeVine. Using major metals production forecasts, LeVine found that by 2030, there will only be enough metals for 15.6 million EVs, while automakers claim they want to produce over 40 million."



# **Green Energy Isn't Carbon-Free**



### Miles Driven Before an EV Emits Less CO<sub>2</sub> than a Diesel Car



# **China is the OPEC of Green Energy Minerals**



"The International Energy Agency's (IEA) 'sustainable development scenario' results in a

- 42-fold increase in lithium demand,
- 25-fold increase in graphite demand,
- 21-fold increase in cobalt demand,
- 19-fold increase in nickel demand,
- 7-fold increase in rare earth demand by 2040"







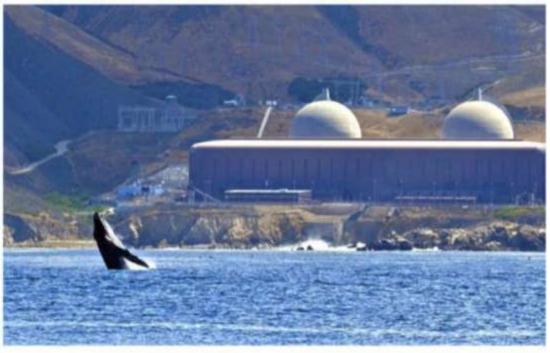




# Needs 379 times more land for solar than nuclear







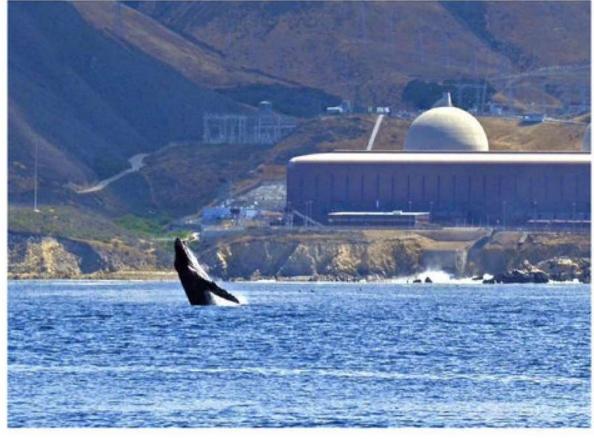


**Source:** Comparison between Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant and Topaz. In 2018, Diablo Canyon produced 18.29 TWh of electricity on an approximate land area of .742 square kilometers. In 2018, Topaz produced 1.3 TWh of electricity on an approximate land area of 20 square kilometers. Generation data from Energy Information Agency.

# **Needs 421 times more land for wind than nuclear**









**Source:** Comparison between Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant and Alta Wind Energy Center. In 2018, Diablo Canyon produced 18.29 TWh of electricity on an approximate land area of .742 square kilometers. In 2018, Alta produced 3.52 TWh of electricity on an approximate land area of 60.1 square kilometers.

Generation data from Energy Information Agency.



# More Proof Electrify Everything Push Is A Regressive Tax: EIA "Winter Fuels Outlook," October 11, 2023



72

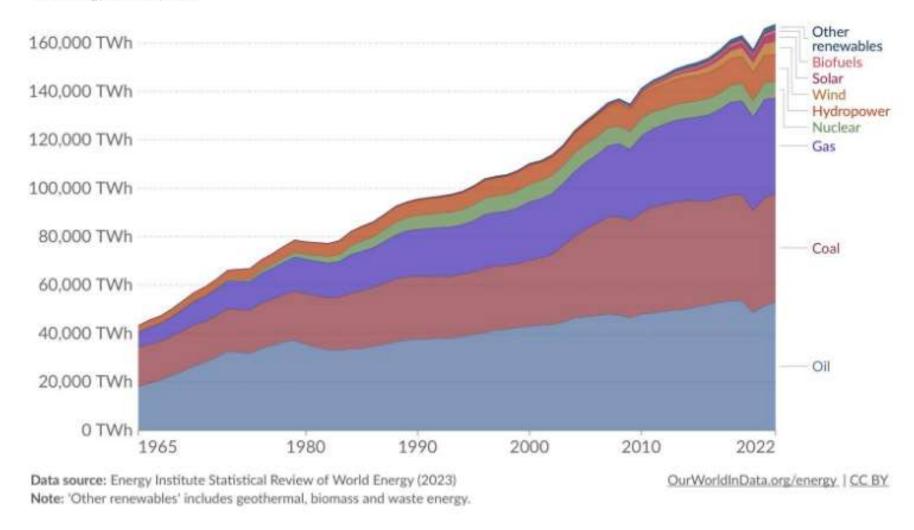
© Robert Bryce

Source: EIA, https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/perspectives/2023/10-winterfuels/article.php

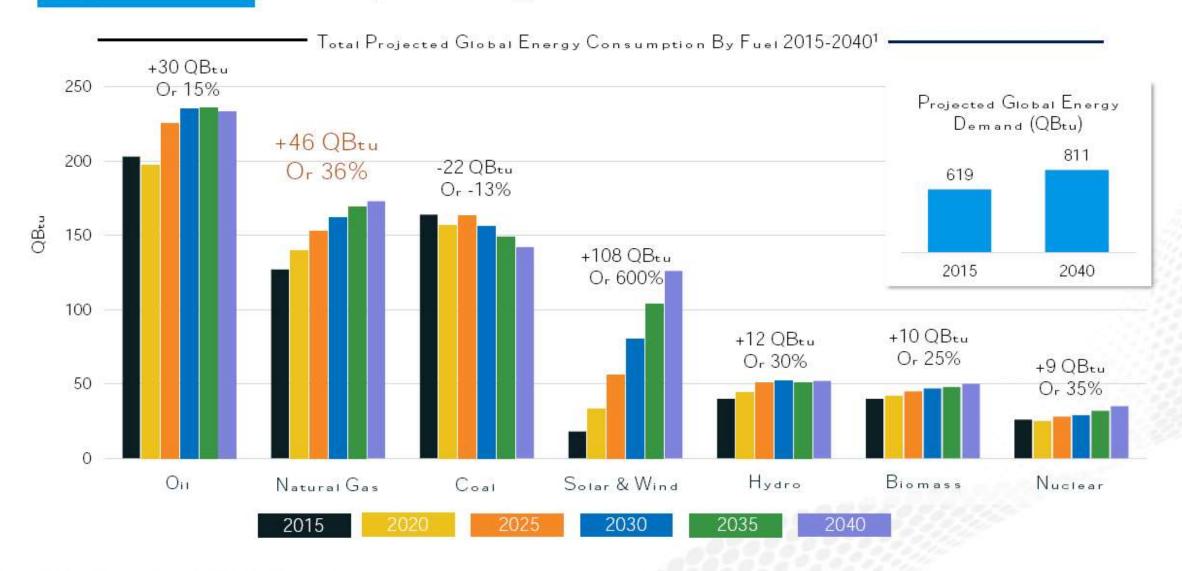
# **Energy consumption by source, World**



Primary energy consumption is measured in terawatt-hours (TWh). Here an inefficiency factor (the 'substitution' method) has been applied for fossil fuels, meaning the shares by each energy source give a better approximation of final energy consumption.



# Nearly one-quarter of global energy demand growth through 2040 projected to be filled by natural gas



Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights @2023 May 2023 Reference Case

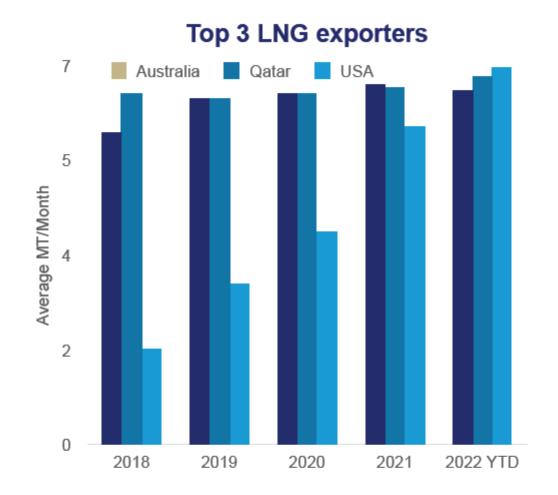
#### The United States has been the key driver of global natural supply growth







 Since 2007, 42% of global natural gas supply growth has come from the United States



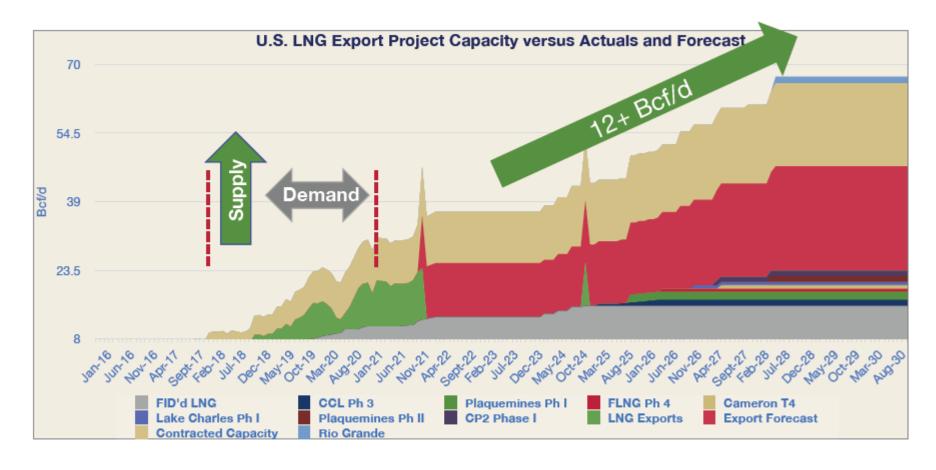
 US natural gas supply growth has supported LNG exports, with the US overtaking Qatar this year



Source: Wood Mackenzie, IHS Markit Note: 2022 YTD = January 1 to June 15, 2022



#### 2024 to 2030

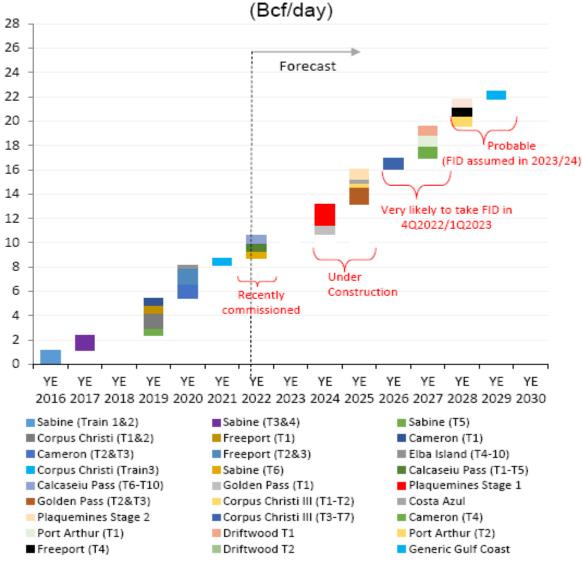


Where will all the gas come from to meet this massive increase in Demand?

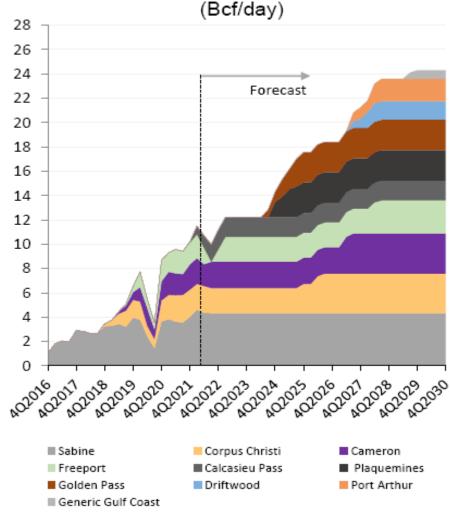
# USGC LNG feed gas is expected to reach ~24 Bcf/d by 2030, adding ~14 Bcf/d to regional demand (from 2021 average of ~10 Bcf/d)



#### USGC LNG Export Nameplate Capacity Forecast

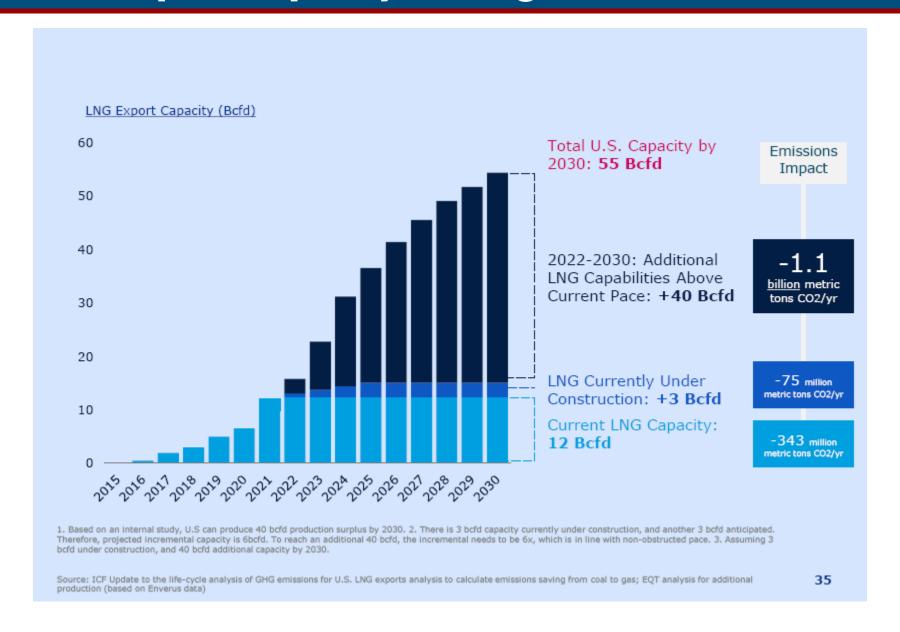


#### USGC LNG Feed Gas Volume Forecast



## **Projected LNG Export Capacity Through 2030<sup>1</sup>**

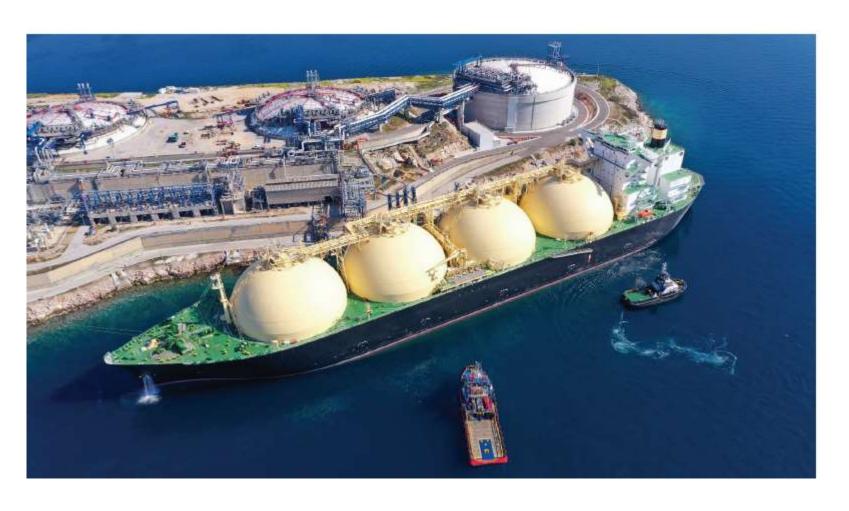




## Is the natural gas industry a sunset business?



A leading indicator of a sunset business is the inability to attract capital investments into expensive, long-term projects. This is not happening in natural gas.



- Over the past year and a half, nearly 50binding contracts have been signed for LNG offtake from facilities on the U.S. Gulf Coast
- Of these contracts, about 75% contemplate a start date in 2026 or 2027
- Of these contracts, over 70% run for 20 years and about 25% run for 15 years
- Conclusion: Sophisticated investors are betting material capital that this will remain a good business through at lest 2045

# **Final Thoughts - Pinch Points**



- Markets broken by Federal Tax Incentives
- Regulations
- Duck Curves
- Canals
- Terrorism/Potential for Critical Energy Infrastructure Sabotage

#### **Pinch Point - Broken Markets**



# **Texas Energy Fund Should Help the Market**

By about a two-thirds margin, voters in the Lone Star State on November 7, 2023 approved a constitutional amendment authorizing a new \$10 billion Texas Energy Fund to provide low-interest loans to build gas-fired power plants, develop microgrids and modernize portions of the state's electric grid.

# **Pinch Points - Regulations? A New Target?**

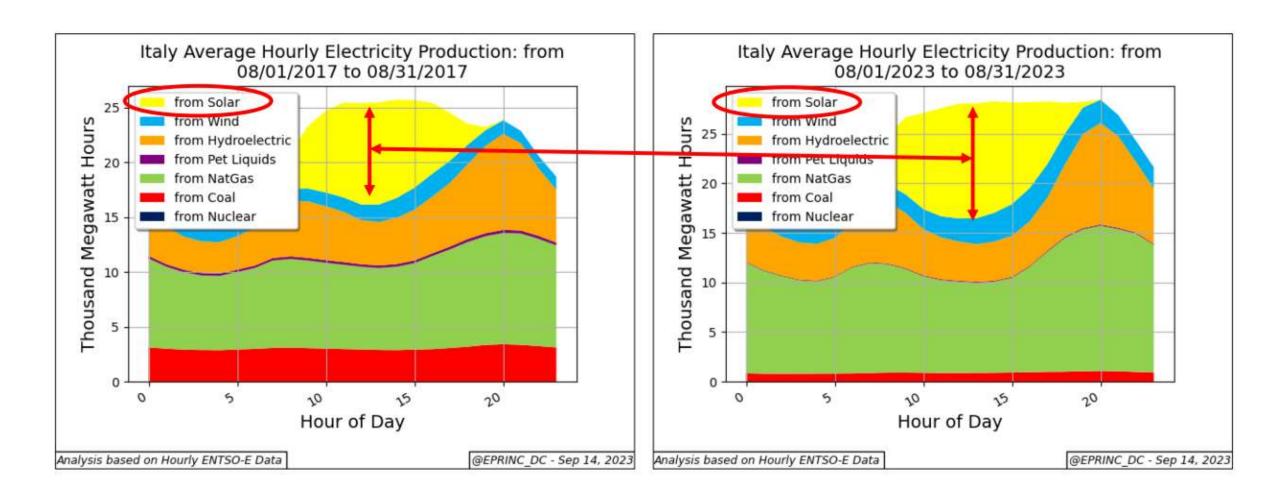


- Environmental left wants to force Biden's hand on U.S. LNG exports
- "The buildout of LNG infrastructure in the U.S. is by far the largest example of fossil-fuel expansion currently proposed anywhere in the world."
- "worse than digging up and burning an equivalent amount of coal"

- Bill McKibben

#### **Pinch Point - The Troublesome Duck Curve**

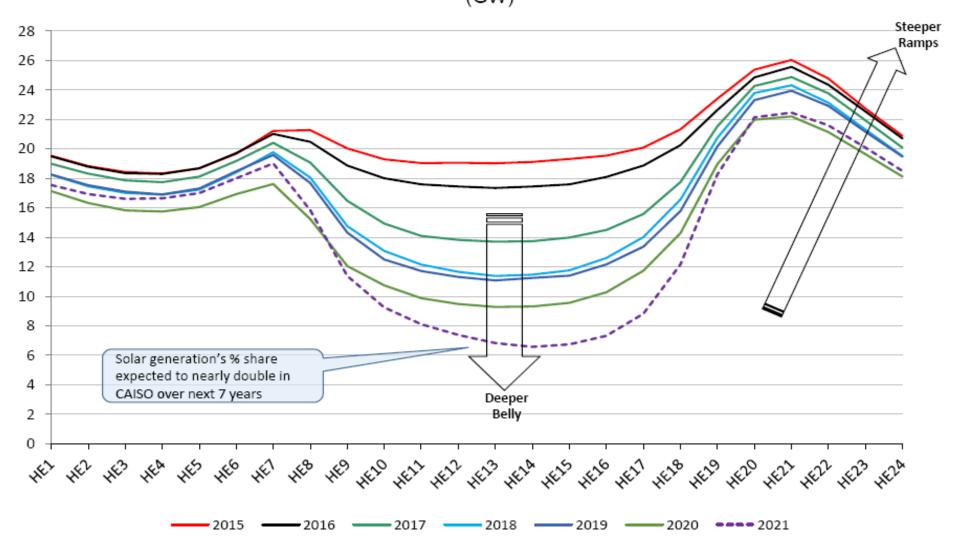








# Average Hourly Net Load Profile (April) (GW)



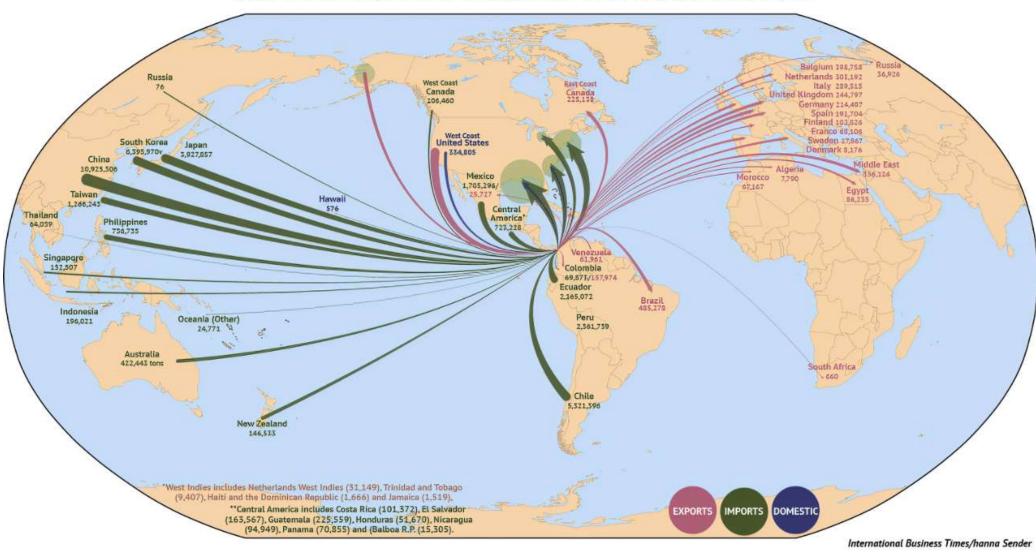
#### **Pinch Point - The Panama Canal**



- 40% of all U.S. container traffic travels through the Panama Canal every year
- That is roughly \$270 billion in cargo annually
- Due to drought, historical shipping which averaged 40 cargo ships per day, has been cut to less than 20
- Last week at auction, a record bid was received for a shipping slot (a liquified petroleum gas tanker) later this month at \$3.98 million, typically worth \$100,000-150,000\*



#### U.S. TRADE ROUTED THROUGH THE PANAMA CANAL



#### Pinch Point - The Suez Canal - An Artery at the Heart of Global Trade



- More than 10% of global trade, 18,000 ships every year, goes through the Suez Canal and China is its biggest user
- On average, 50 ships traverse the canal daily, carrying \$3.9 billion worth of cargo
- Over 1 billion tonnes of cargo was shipped through the canal in 2019
- That is 4X the Panama Canal

# China: 124, America: 56





#### **Pinch Point - Straits of Hormuz**



Approximately 10 BCF/day is exported through the Straits... That is equivalent to 20% of world LNG supply



# Finland Joins NATO, April 4, 2023





Source: Map shows how Russia's border with NATE more than doubles with Finland as a member, msn.com, Sinead Baker, Erin Snodgrass,

# Pinch Point - Asymmetric Warfare? May 3, 2023 NATO Warning 🕷



- NATO warns Russia could target undersea pipelines and cables
- Moscow is 'actively mapping' gas pipelines and internet cables, top intelligence official says
- "We see a significant risk that critical infrastructure in Europe and potentially North America could be targeted by Russia as part of its war on Ukraine," (David Cattler, NATO's assistant secretary general for intelligence and security)

Source: Politico 91

#### Pinch Point - "Not Petya" From a New Jersey Appellate Court Opinion



"The exclusion of damages caused by hostile or warlike action by a government or sovereign power in times of war or peace requires the involvement of military action. The exclusion does not state the policy precluded coverage for damages arising out of a government action motivated by ill will, ... It was not willing to refine war."

"If the sabotage was linked to a state, does it constitute an act of war?"

## Within 24-hours of the Hamas Attack on Israel



- A Chinese ship, the NewNew Polar Bear, drags a 6-ton, 12,000 lb. anchor over 100 nautical miles, through the Baltic Sea while shadowed by a Russian nuclear powered cargo ship, taking out 2 critical fiber optic cables and the Balticconnector Pipeline (the only natural gas pipeline serving Finland)
- Is this a case of asymmetric hybrid Russian maritime warfare?
- Doesn't this constitute an attack on NATO's critical energy infrastructure?

## **Questions to Ponder**



- Should we anticipate more "grey zone" asymmetric warfare on our energy infrastructure?
- Should we anticipate continued regulatory upheaval with respect to fossil fuels?
- How do you measure the impact of geopolitical risk, ie – potential attacks on critical energy infrastructure, on the insurance industry?

# Closing



# Progressives don't understand scale.

Daniel Yergin: "... this is a \$90 trillion world economy that gets 80% of its energy from hydrocarbons. It's not going to change overnight."

# **Selected Reading and Podcasts**



RobertBryce.substack.com

Unreportedstorysociety.com

AlexEpstein.substack.com

@Shellenberger

Committeetounleashprosperity.com

Doomberg.substack.com

RogerPielkejr.substack.com

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President

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# Scale



Average U.S. Daily Production and Demand 100 BCF Russian Daily Production **70 BCF** European Union average daily usage **50 BCF** Russian export volume to Europe (2021) **18 BCF** U.S average daily LNG Export volume (2022) **12 BCF** Expected growth in U.S. LNG export capacity **12 BCF** next 4 years Worldwide daily volume of natural gas that is 11 BCF converted to fertilizer Anticipated 24-hour swing in natural gas **11 BCF** demand in California by 2035

# Scale



- 7-8 BCF California peak day natural gas usage (2022)
- 4 BCF Colorado peak day natural gas usage
- 3 BCF Volume contained in the average LNG tanker
- 2.5 BCF Daily volume of natural gas managed by Mercator
  - Energy
- 2 BCF Xcel Energy peak day natural gas usage (CO)
- 84 Dth Typical annual average use per U.S household
- 1 Dekatherm (Dth) = 1 MMBtu = 1 MCF (approx.)
- 10 Therms = 1 Dekatherm
- 4/10 of 1%: Percentage of total U.S. gas stove usage vs.
  - total U.S. gas usage