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# The Electrification Futures Study: Demand-Side Scenarios

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Webinar

July 26, 2018

NREL/PR-6A20-72096

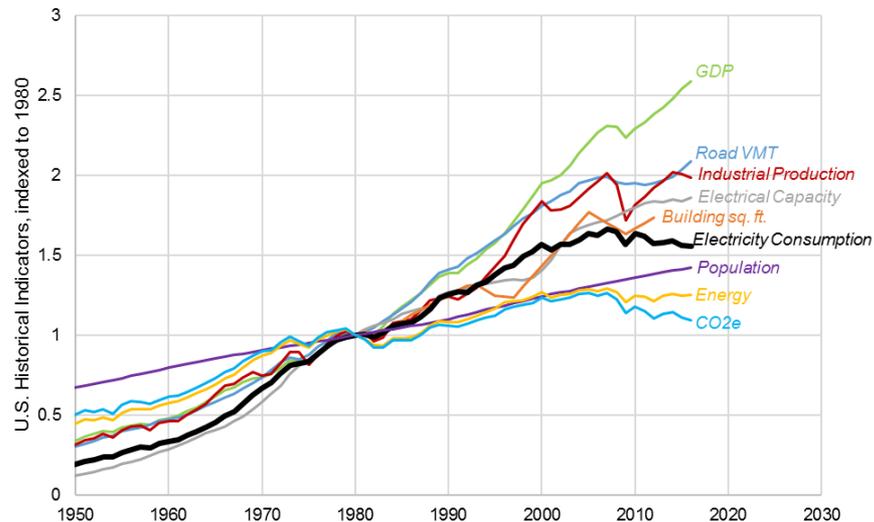
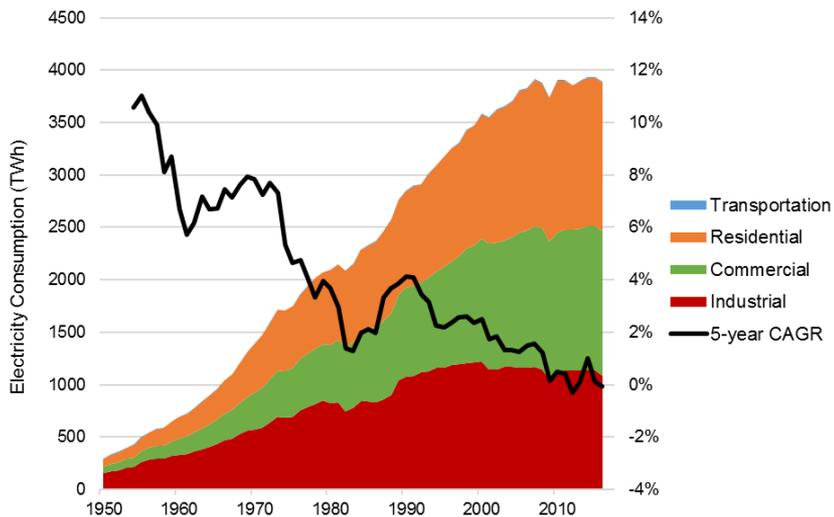
[nrel.gov/EFS](http://nrel.gov/EFS)



A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, several dark utility poles with cross-arms and power lines stretch across the frame. The city buildings in the background are silhouetted against the bright sky. The overall mood is serene and industrial.

Electricity is **integral** to our daily lives—  
and increasingly so

# Yet total growth in electricity demand has slowed



While U.S. population, GDP, and end-use services have all increased and changed in complex ways

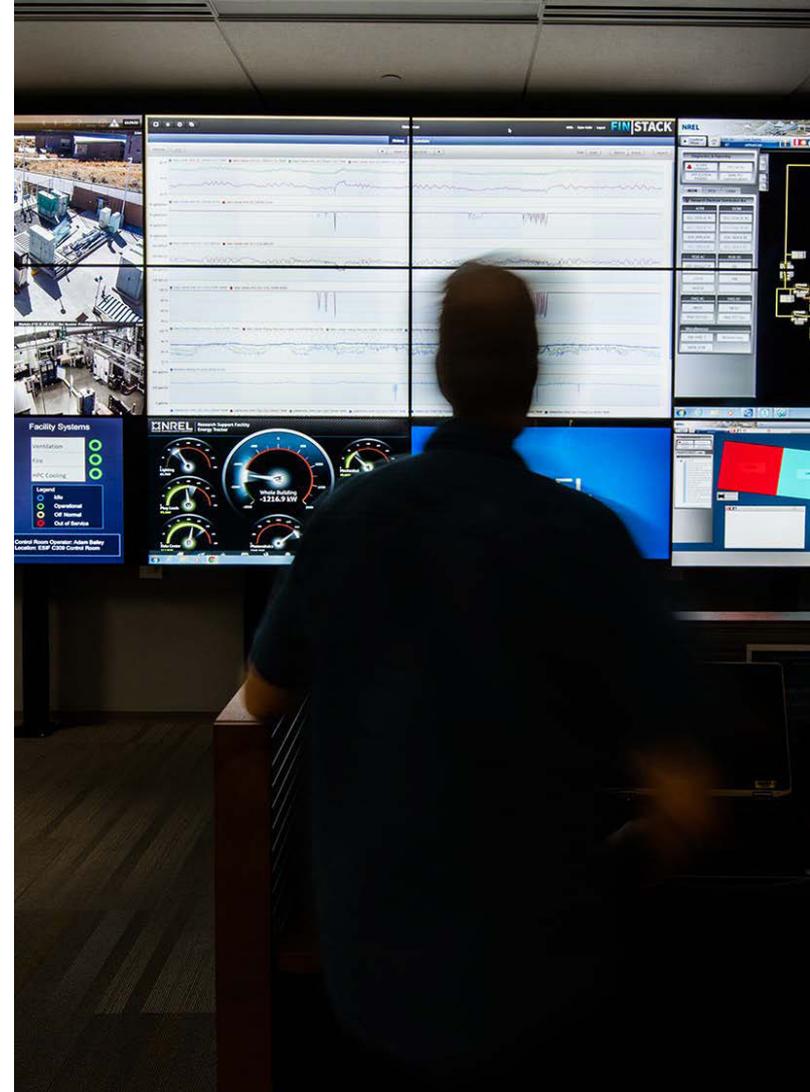


## But **greater electrification** may be on the horizon

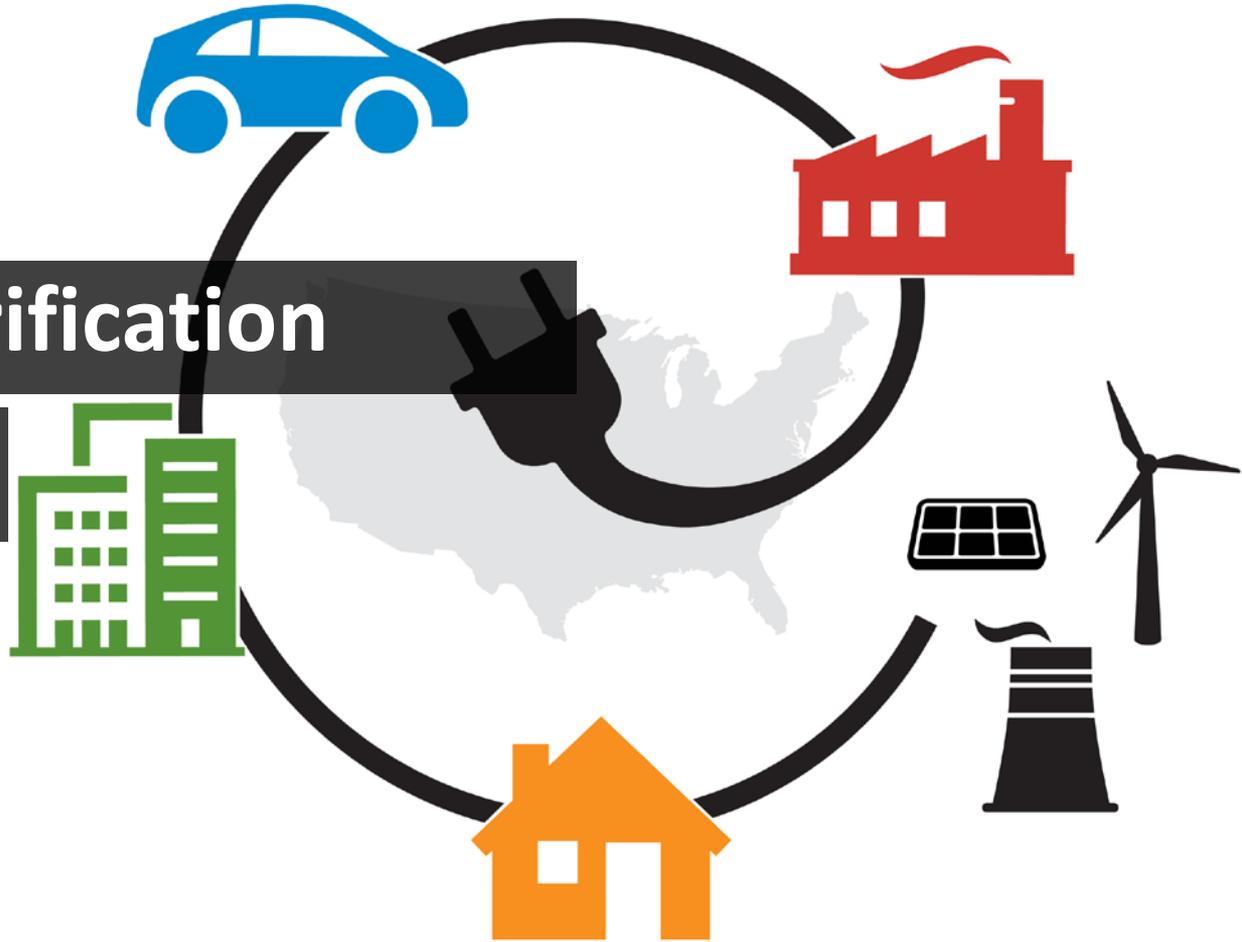
- Development of **advanced electric technologies** has driven adoption in key sectors—especially in vehicles, but also for businesses and homes
- Local policies and economic incentives support electrification to **reduce emissions, improve air quality, and increase energy security**
- Electric utilities are carefully watching to see if electrification has the potential to **increase sales and revenues**

So how do we plan for  
**widespread electrification?**

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# EFS: The Electrification Futures Study



[nrel.gov/EFS](https://nrel.gov/EFS)

# NREL-led collaboration, multi-year study

## Collaborators from:

- EPRI
- Evolved Energy Research
- Northern Arizona University
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- U.S. Department of Energy



- Strategic Energy Analysis
- Transportation and Hydrogen Systems
- Buildings and Thermal Systems

**+ Technical Review  
Committee of 19 experts**  
from industry and  
consultants, labs,  
government, NGOs

Study sponsored by U.S. DOE-EERE Office of Strategic Programs

# Answering crucial questions about:



## Technologies

What electric technologies are available now, and how might they **advance**?



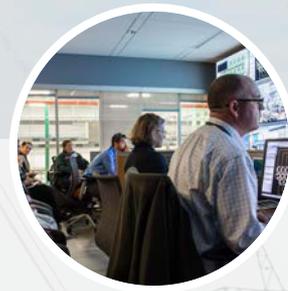
## Consumption

How might electrification impact electricity **demand** and **use patterns**?



## System Change

How would the electricity system need to **transform** to meet changes in demand?



## Flexibility

What role might **demand-side flexibility** play to support reliable operations?



## Impacts

What are the potential **costs, benefits, and impacts** of widespread electrification?

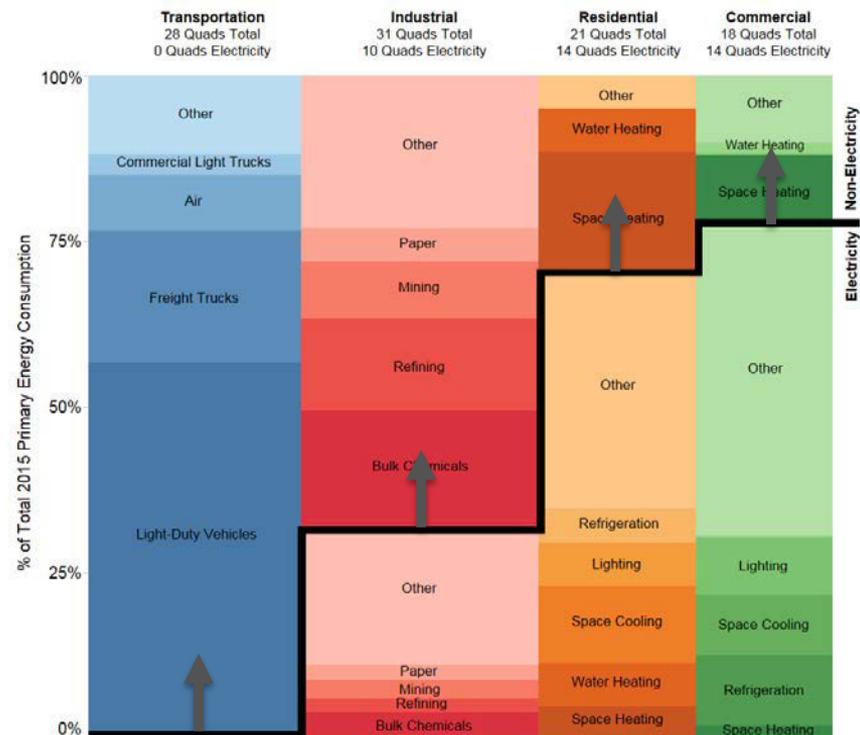
# Progress to date



**Note:** Future work scope is tentative

# Scope and definitions

- **Electrification:** the shift from any non-electric source of energy to electricity at the point of final consumption
  - Direct electric technologies only
  - Not exploring new sources of demand
  - Isolating electrification from other changes
- **Contiguous U.S. energy system**, including transportation, residential and commercial buildings, industry
  - Sectors cover **74% of primary energy in 2015** (79% of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub>)
  - Excludes air, petroleum refining and mining, CHP, outdoor cooking
- **Focus on 2050**, but transition modeled as well

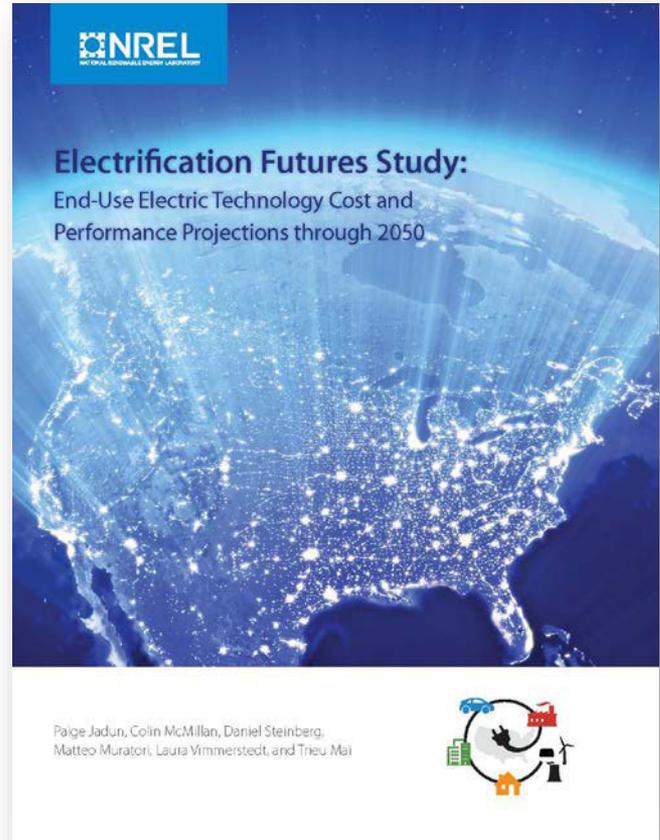


# Technology Cost and Performance Data Report

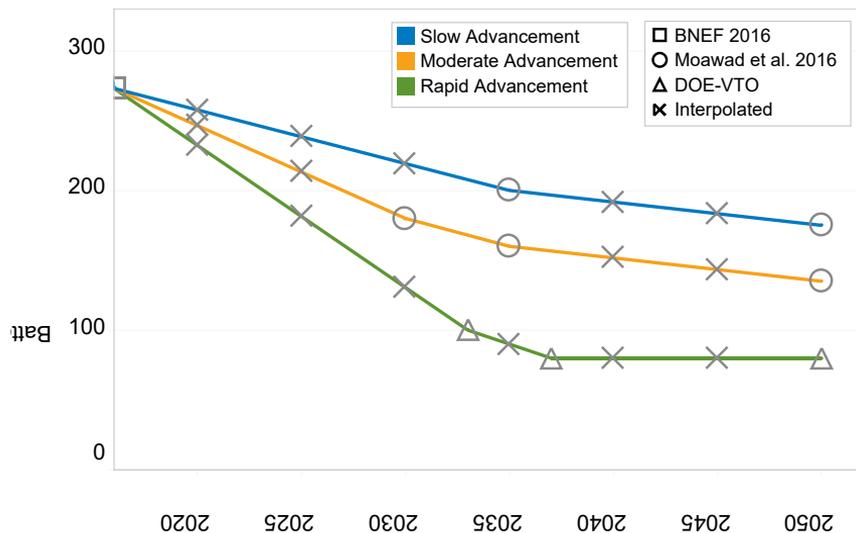
(December 2017)

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<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/70485.pdf>



# Foundational technology data

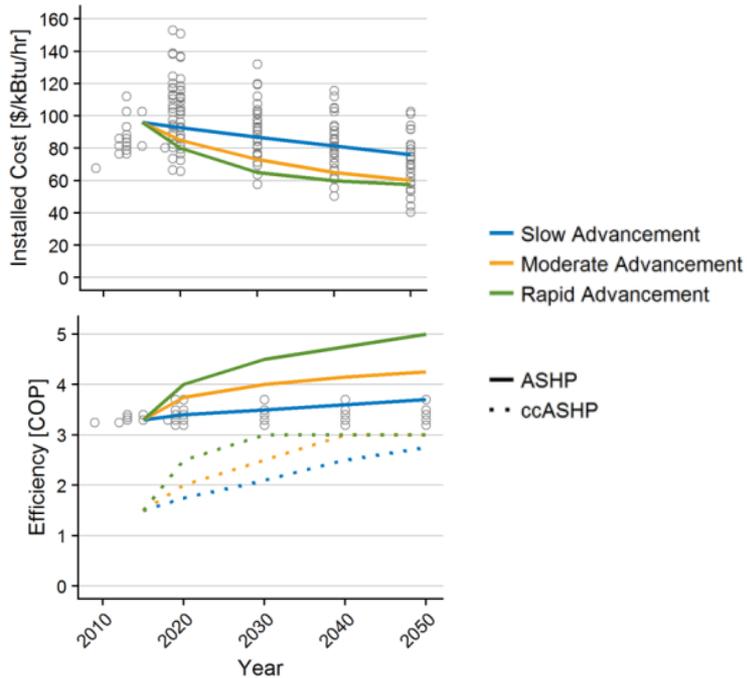


- Three technology advancement trajectories (**slow**, **moderate**, **rapid**) for **buildings** and **transportation** technologies
- Literature-based summary of **industrial** electrotechnologies

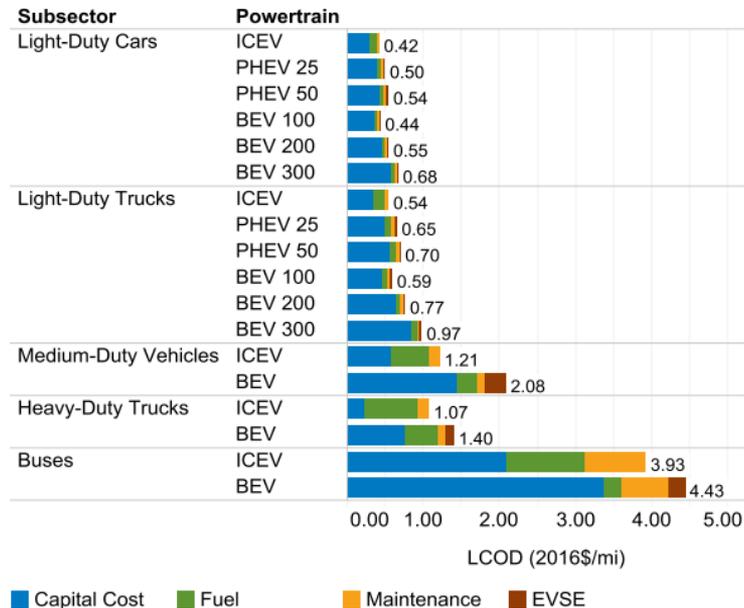
## Key Technologies:

- Light-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, buses (multiple range PHEVs and BEVs)
- Air-source heat pumps (including cold-climate ASHPs)
- Heat pump water heaters

# Used in EFS modeling and available for download



Commercial ASHPs  
installed cost and efficiency projections

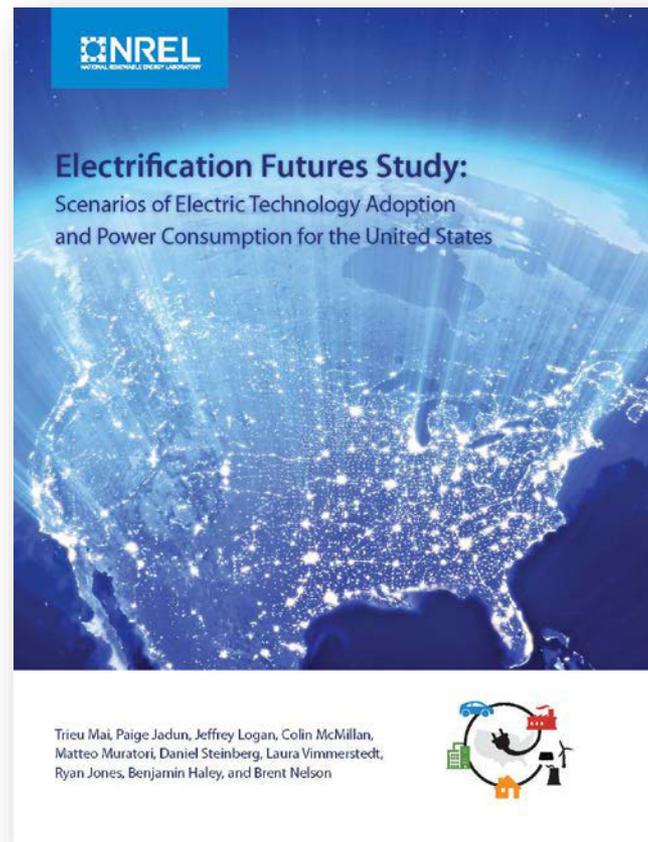


Levelized cost of driving (2020 Moderate)

# Demand-Side Scenarios Report

(June 2018)

<https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy18osti/71500.pdf>



# Looking at the demand side



## OBJECTIVES

Characterize **changes to end-use sectors** under futures with increasing levels of electrification

Quantify how electrification impacts **total electricity demand** and **consumption profiles**



## APPROACH

Expert judgment **adoption projections** and **consumer choice modeling**

Bottom-up **stock and energy accounting model** (EnergyPATHWAYS)

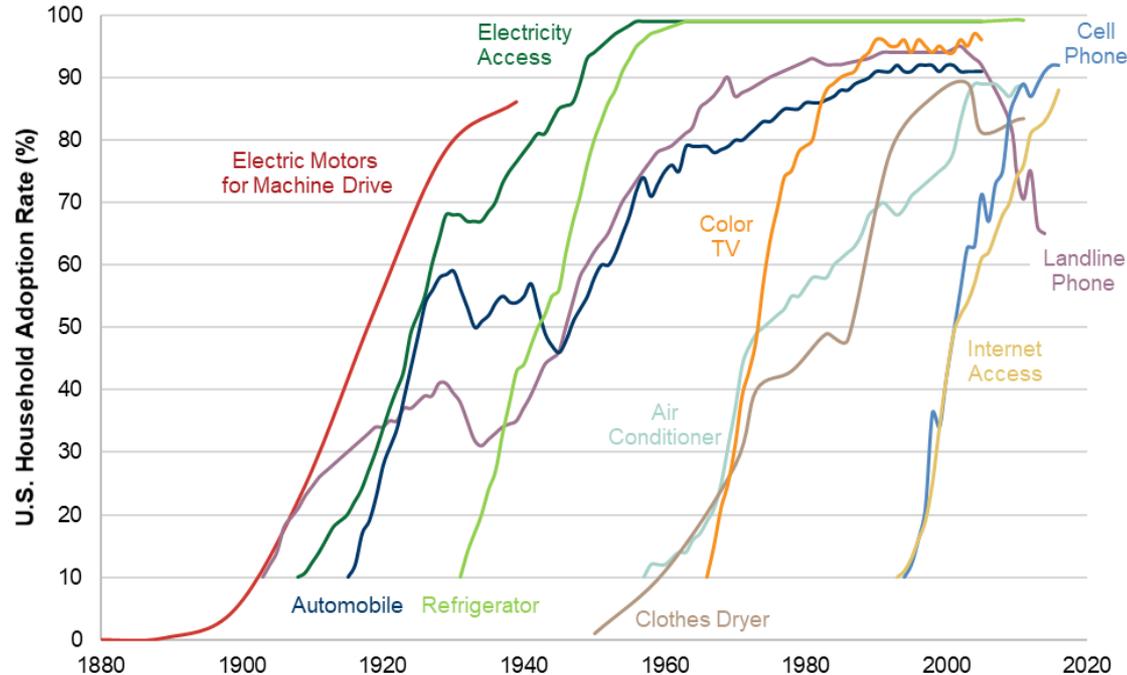


## USES

Provides data for evaluating **future electricity supply scenarios**

Gives researchers and decision-makers **data and context** to plan for an electrified energy system

# Technology adoption and energy transitions generally follow characteristic S-curve shape

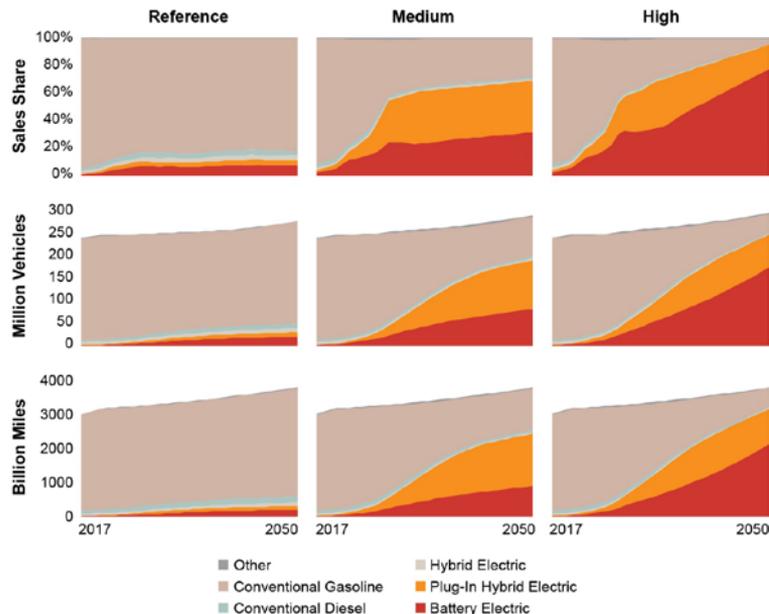


invention → innovation → niche market → pervasive diffusion → saturation → senescence

# Method in brief:

Electrification follows a similar trend

Example for light-duty vehicles



Sales shares determined from a combination of expert judgment based on current trends & consumer choice models (e.g., NREL ADOPT model for LDVs)

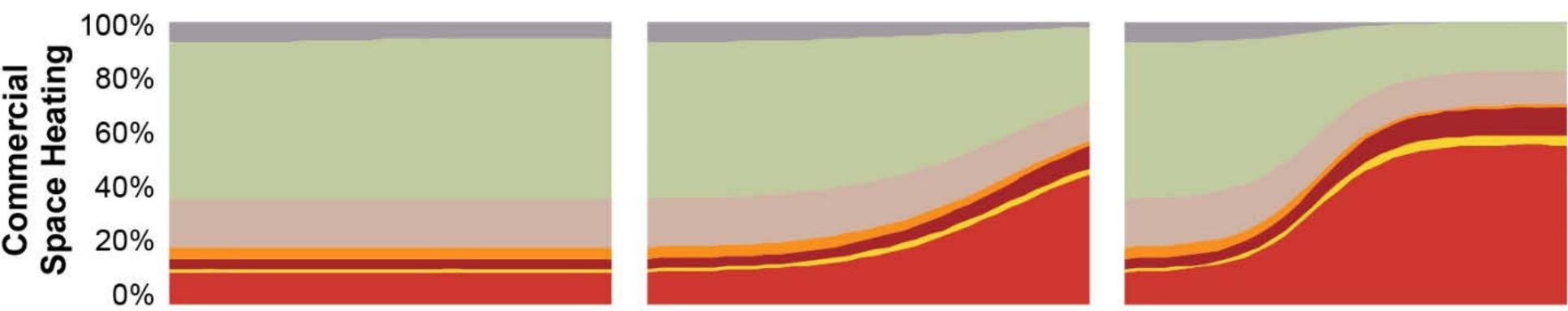
EnergyPATHWAYS model used for stock rollover and detailed energy accounting

Principles: technology-rich assessment, bottom-up accounting, cross-sectoral breadth, national scope with state-level detail

# Scenarios

- **Reference:** Least incremental change (~AEO2017)
- **Medium:** Widespread electrification among low-hanging fruit opportunities
- **High:** Transformational electrification
  - *focus of this presentation*
- + end-use technology advancement sensitivities

**Scenarios designed for assessment of isolated impacts of electrification**  
**Scenarios are not forecasts or predictions**



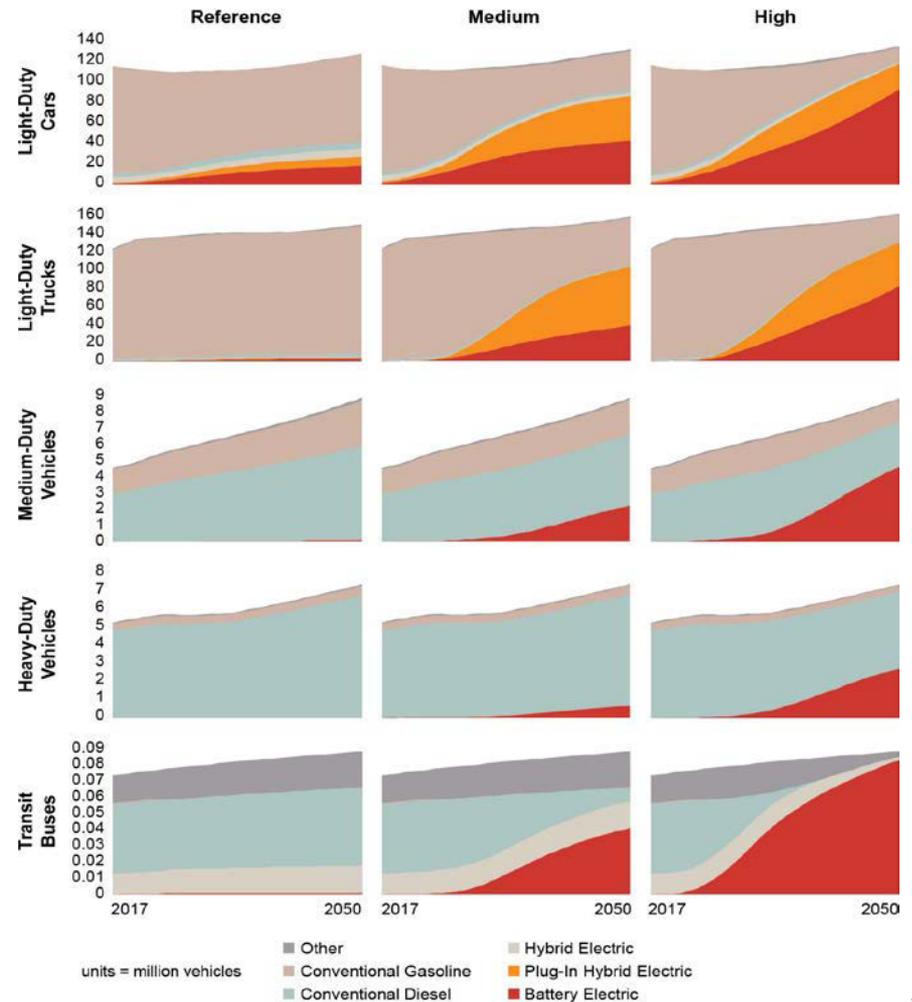


## Transportation sector

- Significant opportunities exist for electric vehicles, in part because electricity currently provides <1% of total transportation energy needs
- **Light-duty plug-in electric cars and trucks** drive the greatest overall electrification impact in all scenarios
- But **electric freight trucks** can play a major role, particularly for short-haul applications and in more transformational scenarios
- **Transit buses** are prime candidates for electrification

# Transportation sector details

- 2050 U.S. transportation fleet (**High** scenario):
  - **240 million** light-duty plug-in electric vehicles
  - **7 million** medium- and heavy-duty plug-in electric trucks
  - **80 thousand** battery electric transit buses
- Together these deliver up to **76%** of miles traveled from electricity in 2050
- 138,000 DCFC stations (447,000 plugs) and 10 million non-residential L2 plugs for light-duty vehicles



# Key questions in transportation electrification

- Will **battery costs** continue to decline, and will battery **performance** continue to improve?
- How might **consumer preference**—range anxiety, acceleration, automation—and technology development evolve?
- Will **EVSE infrastructure** enable or impede electrification?
- How will **ownership models**—for vehicles and chargers—evolve and impact utility planning? How might **utility-controlled charging** and **vehicle-to-grid services** affect energy use and adoption?

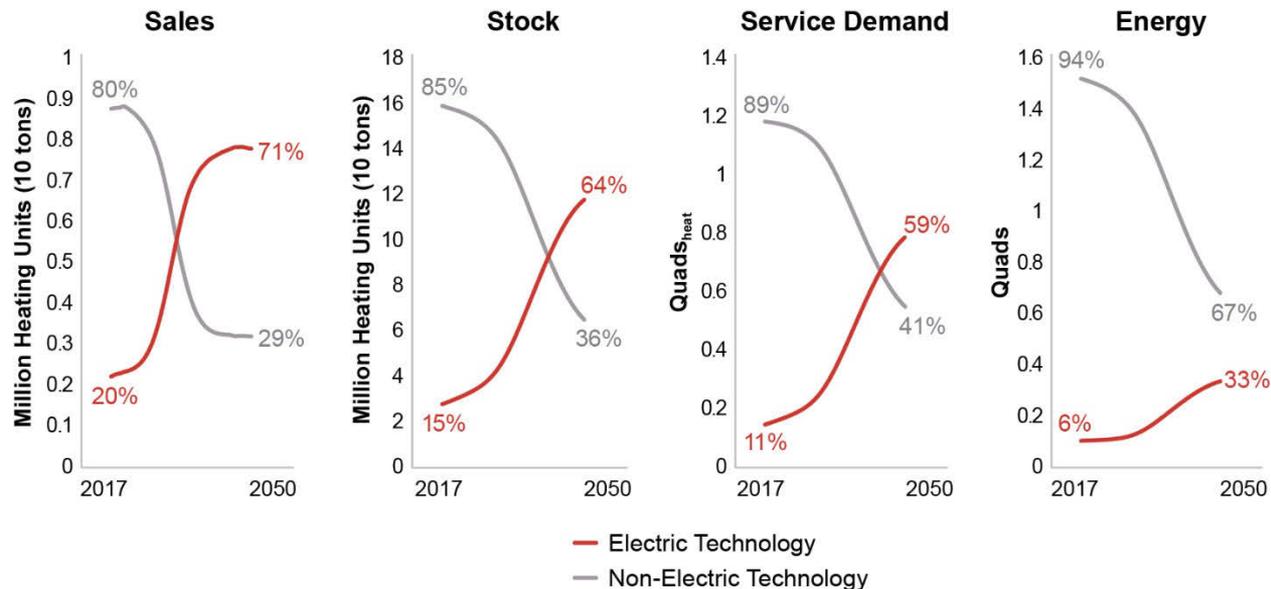


## Buildings sector

- Electricity already powers a significant share of buildings end-use services
- Electrification opportunities in buildings are most significant for **space and water heating**
- Air-source **heat pumps** are the key buildings electrification technologies

# Buildings sector details

Commercial space heating (*High scenario*)



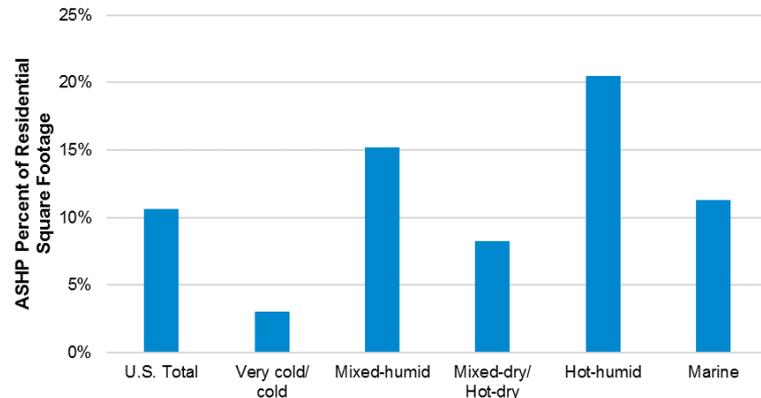
- Electric equipment provides up to **61% of space heating, 52% of water heating, and 94% of cooking services** in the combined commercial and residential building sectors by 2050 (*High scenario*)
- Would require dramatic change in **appliance manufacturing and installations** (170 million heat pumps in 2050\*)

\*Heat pumps include ASHPs and geothermal heat pumps (sales shares of geothermal heat pumps reach 3% by 2050 for commercial space heating in the High scenario)

# Key questions in buildings electrification

- Will advancements in **cold-climate** heat pumps be sufficient to enable widespread adoption?
- Will new technologies facilitate electrification in **retrofits** and new buildings?
- How might **challenges** to buildings electrification—cultural acceptance, familiarity, landlord-tenant issues—be overcome?
- How might **value streams** through “smart” and “grid-connected” appliances affect consumer adoption?

*Non-uniform adoption of ASHPs in commercial buildings (2012)*



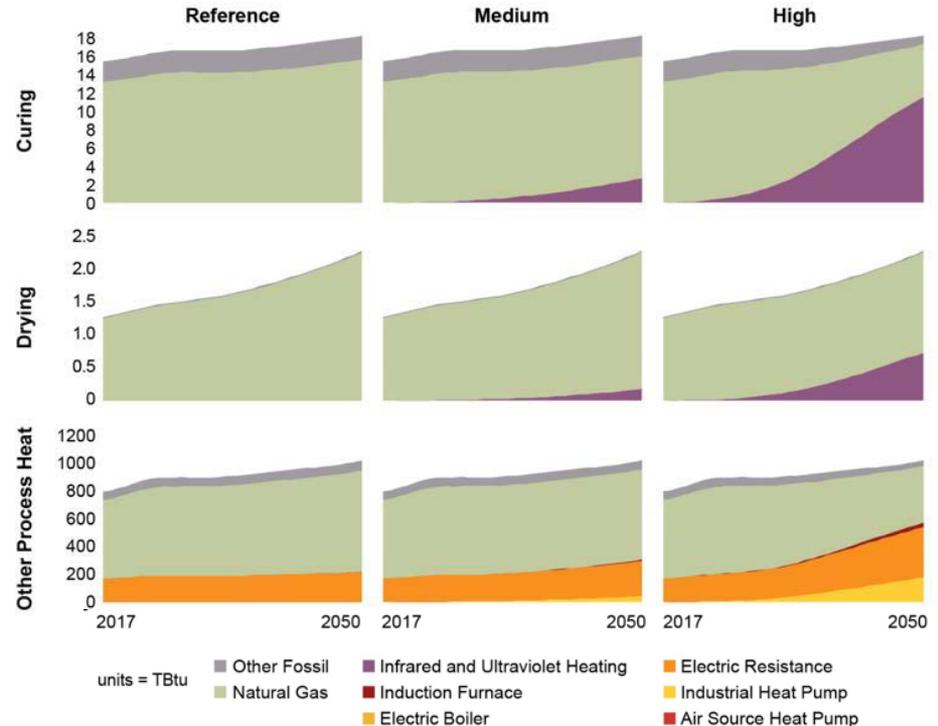


## Industrial sector

- Industry experienced early electrification and sustained growth, but electricity consumption has been flat since ~1990
- **Heterogeneity of industries** prevents broad generalizations
- **Limited industrial data** create challenges for assessing electrification opportunities
- We focus on industrial **process heating**

# Industrial sector details

- Industrial electrification is more muted compared to other sectors
- Most-significant growth for electrotechnologies with **productivity benefits**: improved product quality, higher throughput, reduced scrap and labor costs
- In the **High** scenario, electrotechnologies provide **63% of curing** needs, **32% of drying** services, **56% of other process heating**



# Key questions in industrial electrification

- Will **productivity benefits** from electrotechnologies overcome potentially higher costs and other adoption barriers, especially when energy costs comprise a small share of total costs?
- Can cost-effective technologies for **high-temperature** applications be developed?
- How might the interplay between **long equipment lifetimes** and manufacturers' profit-driven decisions impact the technology transition rate?

**More data and research are needed!**

2015



2050 Reference



What we found:

# Overall power system takeaways

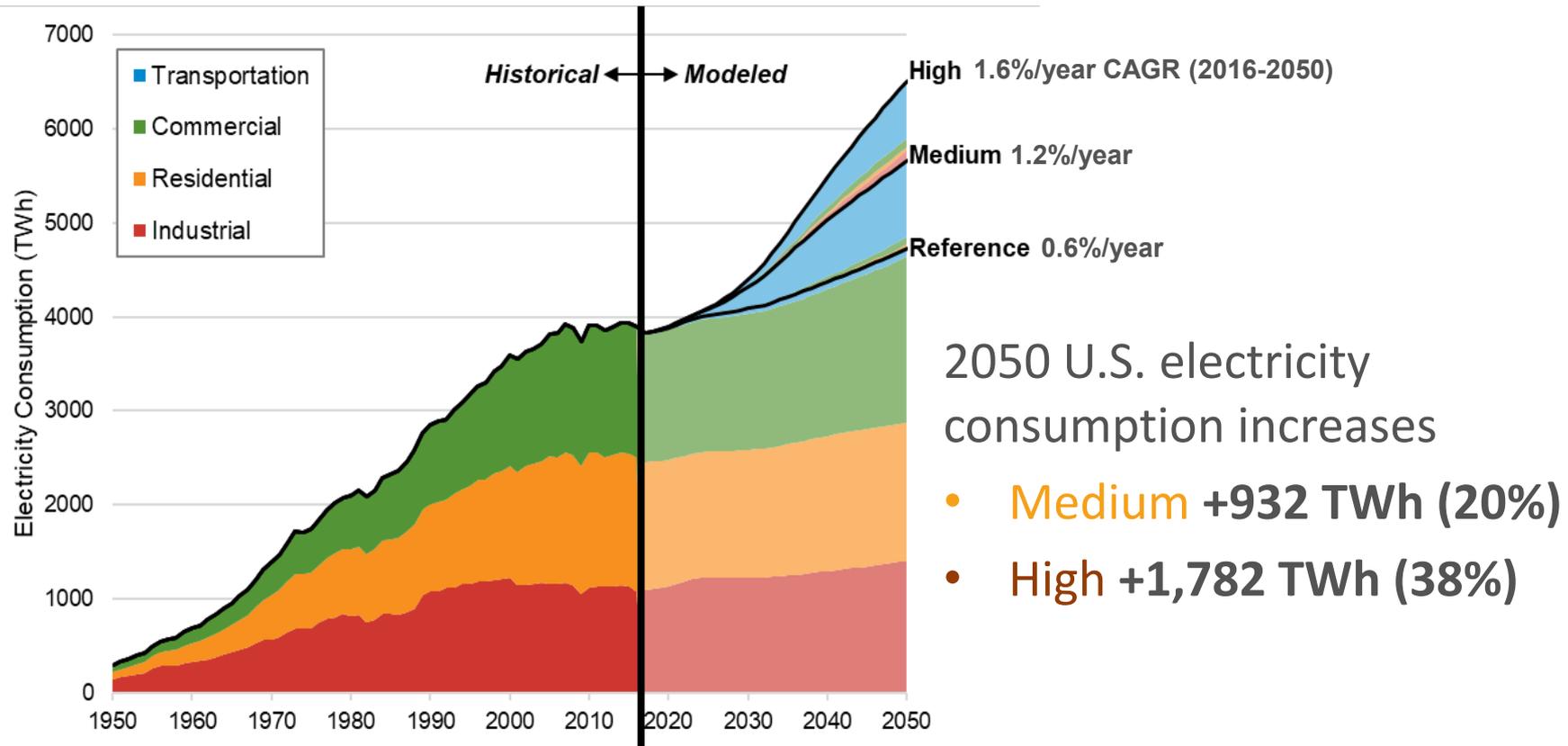
2050 Medium



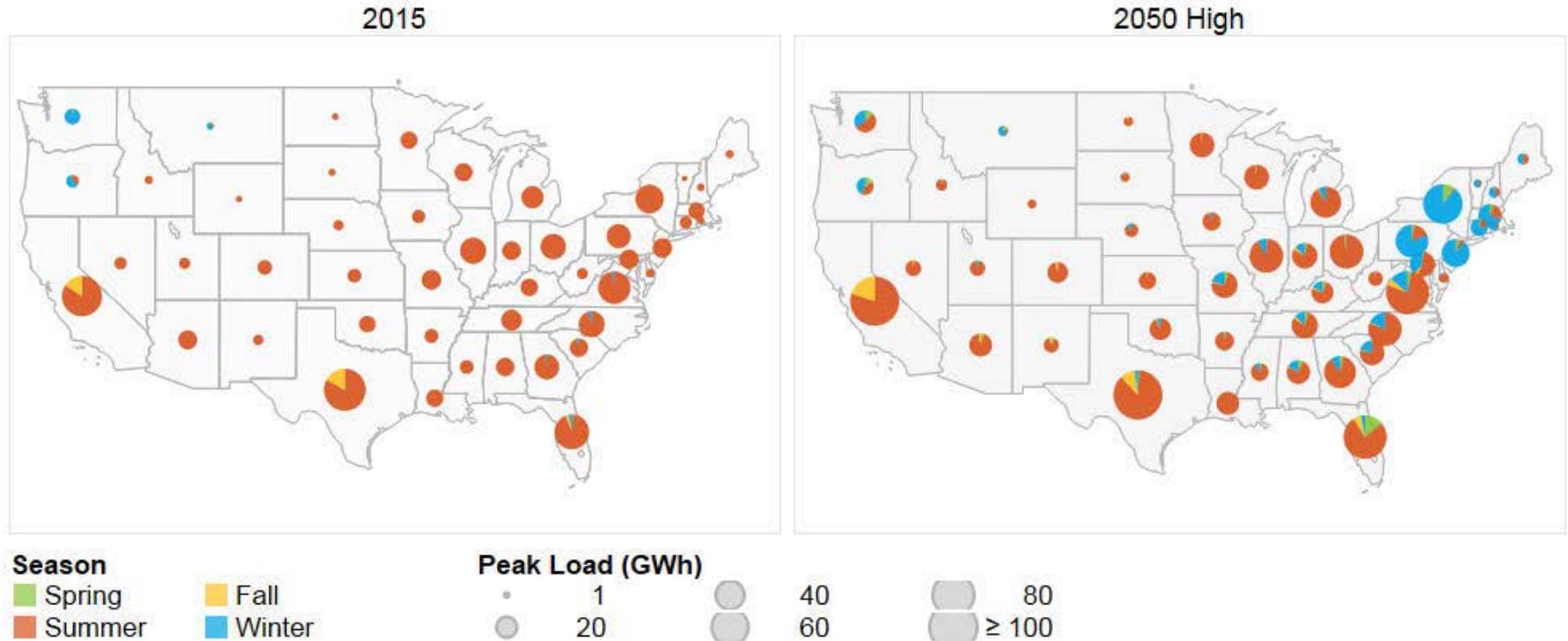
2050 High



# Vehicle electrification dominates incremental growth in annual consumption

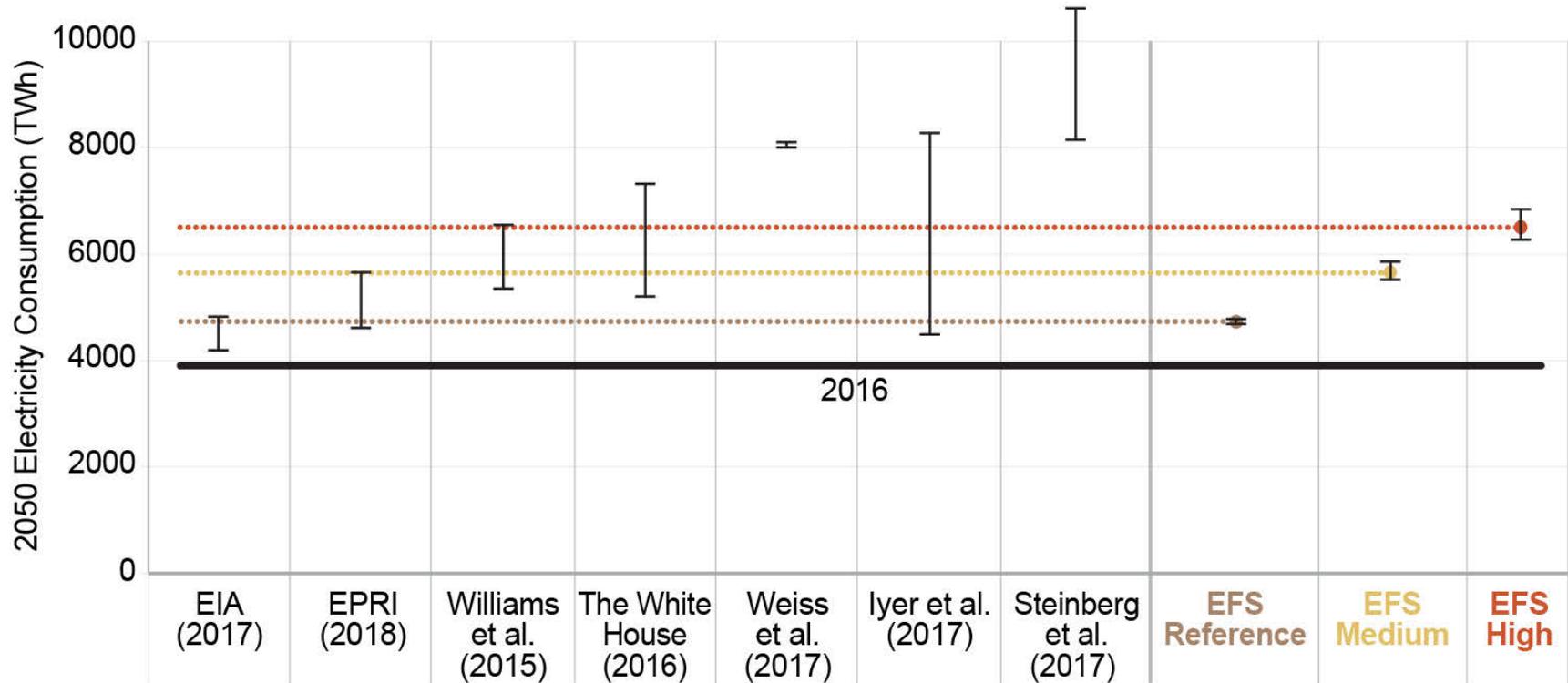


# However, electric space heating more significantly changes the timing and magnitude of **peak demand**

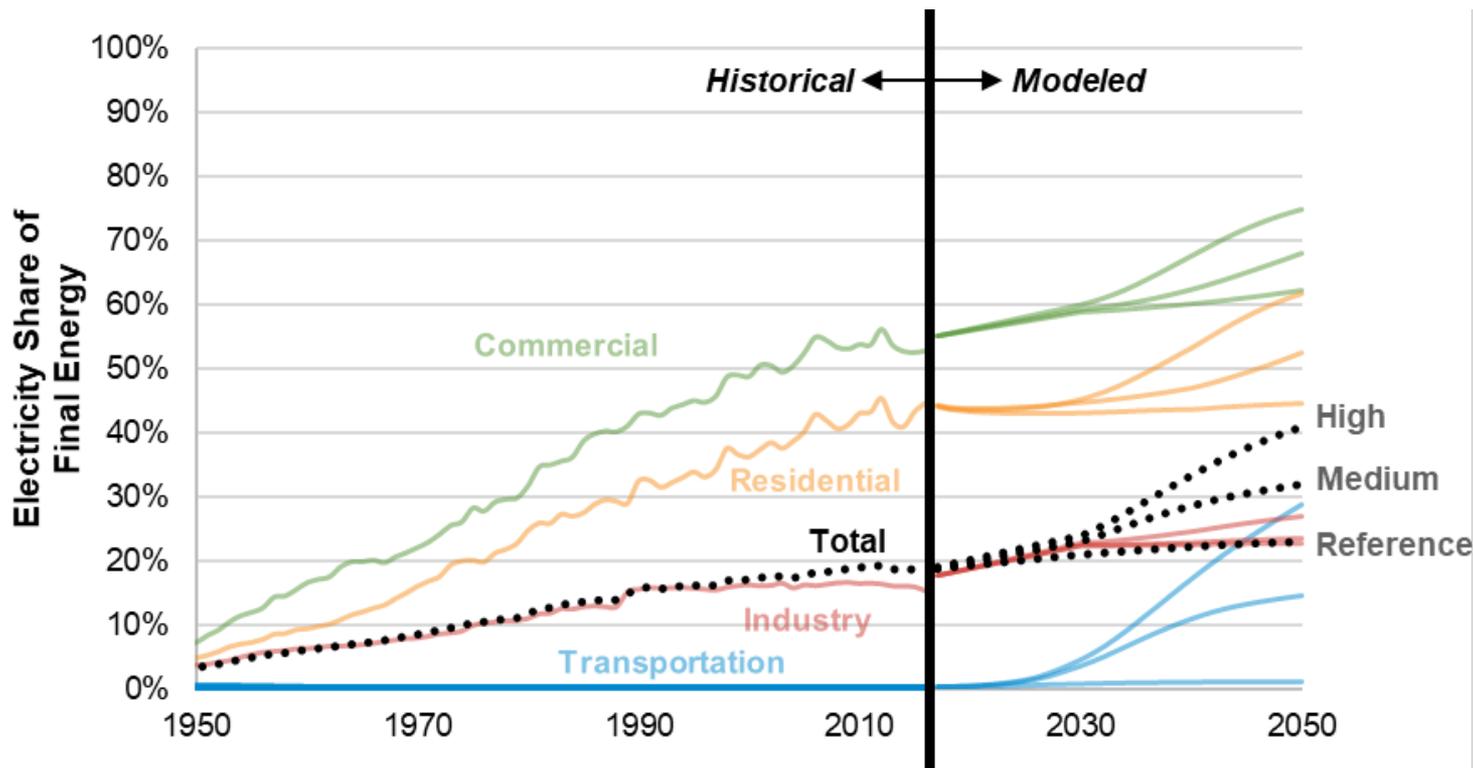


Note: Summer = June-August, Fall = September-November, Winter = December-February, Spring = March-May

Electrification in **Medium** scenario is loosely consistent with that from favorable “economic” conditions; **High** is closer to transformational scenarios



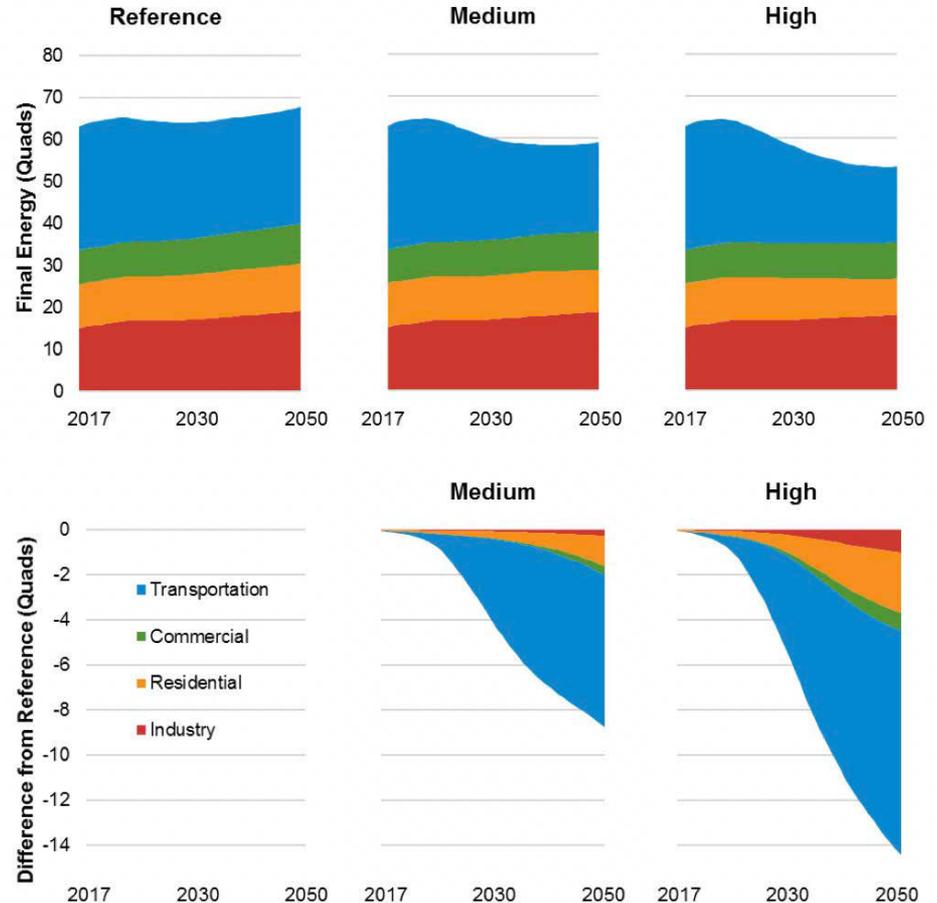
# Electricity share of final energy **doubles** from 2016 to 2050 under the High scenario



Note: Sector definitions and scope differ slightly between Historical and Modeled data

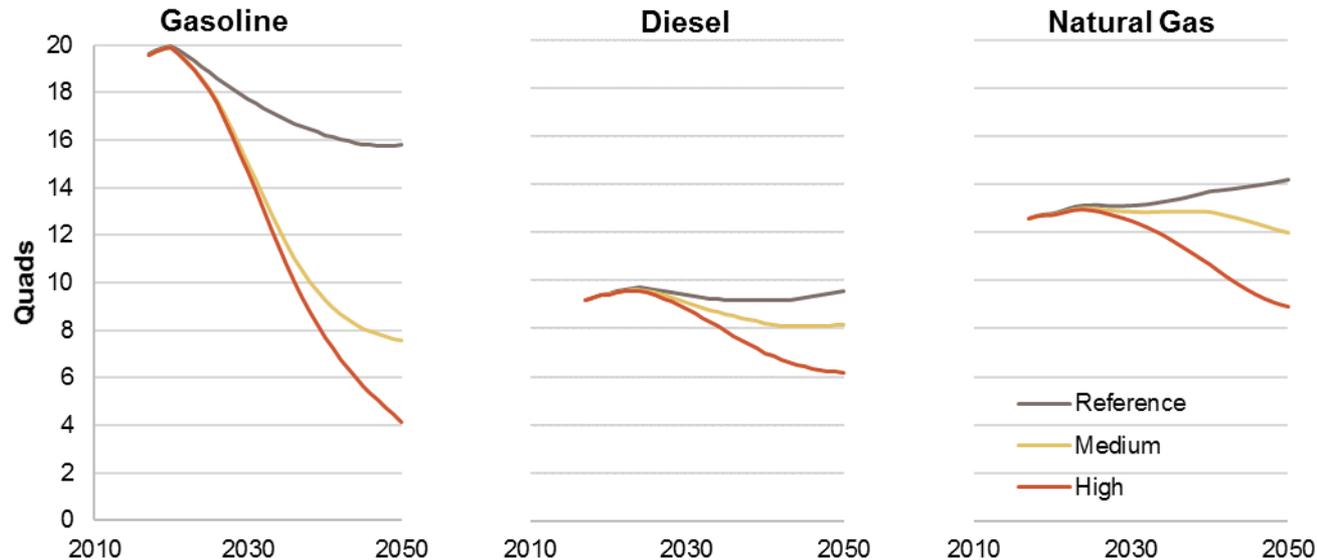
# Electrification leads to energy savings

- Greater efficiency of electric technologies yields **reductions in final energy consumption** by up to 21% (**High** scenario), relative to the Reference
- **Technology improvements** could lead to even greater savings
- Impacts to *primary* energy will depend on generation mix



Note: Does not include all activities, e.g., petroleum refining and extraction excluded

# Estimated fuel use reductions

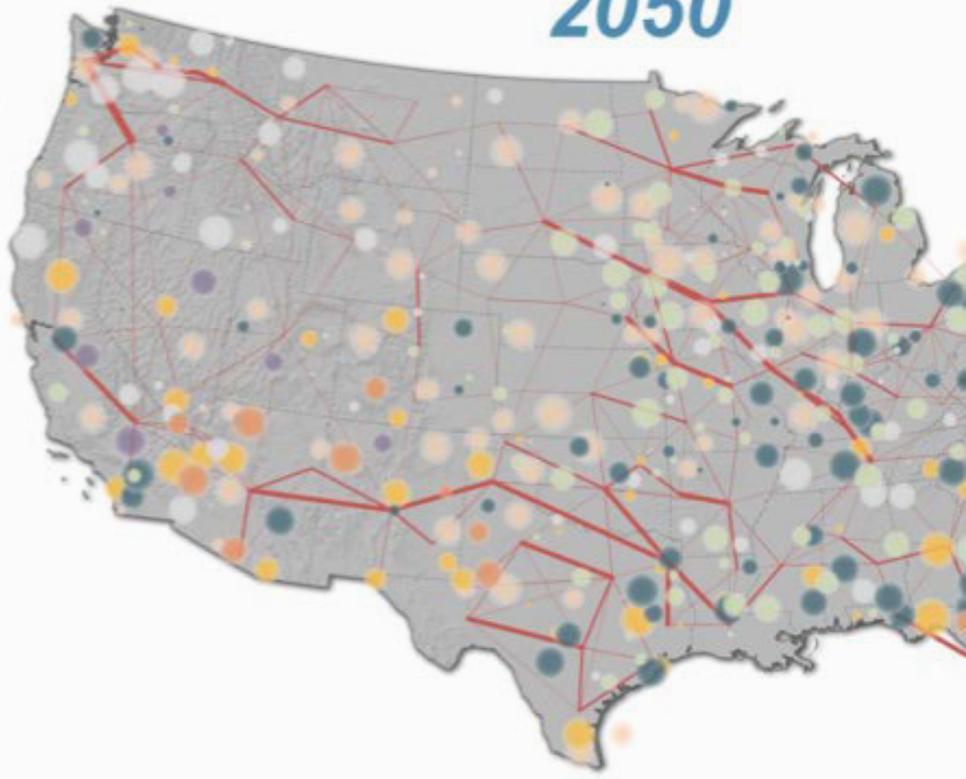


- Domestic onsite fuel use reductions: **74% gasoline**, **35% diesel**, **37% natural gas** in 2050 (**High** scenario)
- Expands opportunities for greater fuel use for power generation, fuel exports

2010

2050

Next steps



Geothermal



Hydropower



CSP



PV



Wind



Fossil

# Forthcoming EFS reports



**Note:** Future work scope is tentative



Thank you  
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