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Key Challenges for California's Energy Future

An Energy Primer for California's Policymakers

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The Objective

Provide an accessible resource for policymakers and their staff who are new to working in energy policy.

CCST | The Objective

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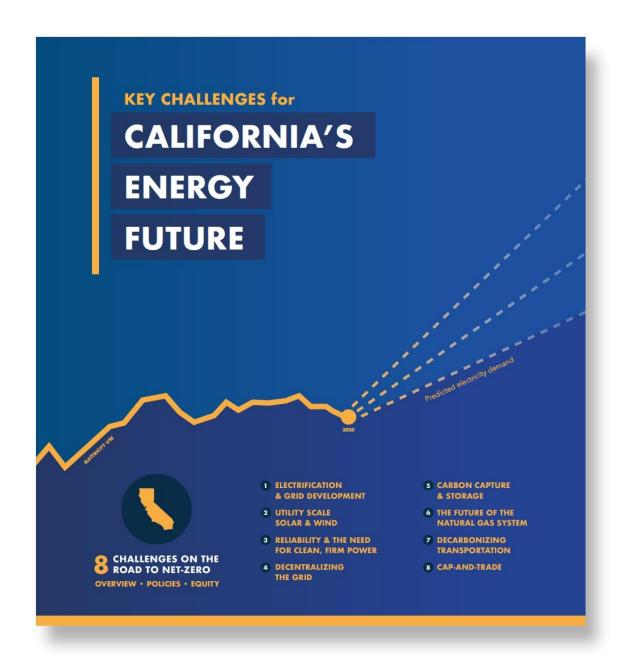
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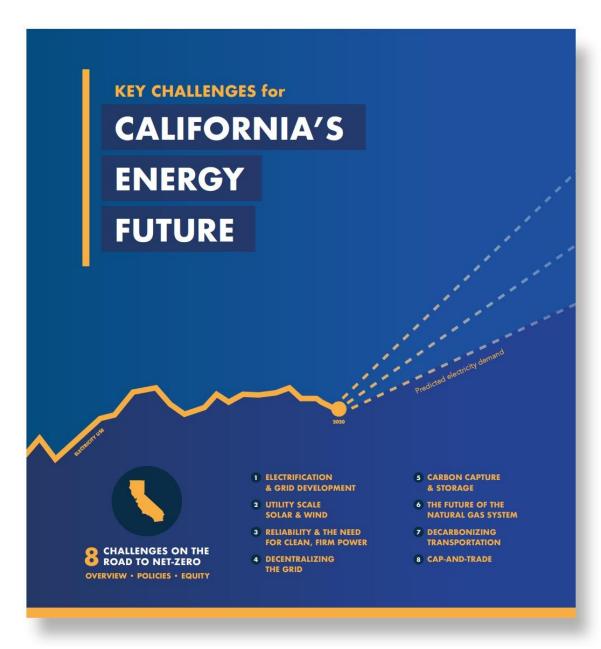
Structure

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 - High level summaries
 - Policies
 - State Institutions
 - Environmental Justice & Equity
- Glossary

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Overview of California's Energy Transition

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- 4. Decentralizing the Grid
- 5. Carbon Capture and Storage
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- 7. Decarbonizing Transportation
- 8. Cap-and-Trade



Overview of California's Energy Transition:

Key Takeaways

The Challenge: Decarbonize the state's economy.

- Maximize efficiency and electrify energy use across sectors to the greatest extent possible.
- Provide affordable, accessible, and reliable carbon-free electricity for a highly electrified economy.
- Decarbonize activities that cannot be electrified by using clean fuels, efficiency, conservation, and better land use planning and infrastructure.
- > Attention must be paid to who bears the costs to ensure equitable and affordable access.
- Strong, rapid action guided by careful, evidence-based, and inclusive planning can help minimize the impacts of climate change while securing a safe, prosperous, and equitable future for all Californians.

Section 1

Electrification and Grid Development:

Key Takeaways

The Challenge: Grappling with an aging power grid and a rapidly expanding demand for electricity.

- New and increasing demands require upgrades and expansion of a grid already challenged by wildfires, extreme heat, and other weather events.
- The scale of this challenge is monumental: CAISO estimates that adding and upgrading the necessary transmission lines will cost \$30.5 billion over the next 20 years. Many distribution networks will also require costly upgrades to accommodate more distributed energy resources (like electric vehicles and rooftop solar).
- 3. Transmission projects can take 8-10 years to complete. These planning horizons are in tension with the necessary build out pace.

Section 2

Utility-Scale Solar and Wind Development:

Key Takeaways

The Challenge: Dramatically scaling California's capacity to produce renewable energy without compromising the State's natural and working lands.

- Meeting the mandate established by SB 100 (de León, 2018) will require unprecedented construction of utility-scale solar and wind facilities.
- In siting these facilities, the State must consider clean energy needs, while also supporting other land use priorities such as agriculture, wildlife conservation, and recreation.
- 3. More work is needed to estimate the maximum amount of solar and wind power possible by mid-century given all the factors that affect development.
- 4. Early and ongoing community engagement can help address concerns and ensure projects maximize local benefits.

Section 3

Reliability and the Need for Clean Firm Power:

Key Takeaways

The Challenge: Managing the intermittency of renewable resources.

- Solar and wind power are central to California's carbon-free electricity strategy but present intermittency challenges from day to night and on a seasonal basis that can impact grid reliability if not effectively managed.
- 2. California is deploying energy storage, demand response, and other strategies to manage the shorter-term intermittency of these resources.
- 3. A diverse energy portfolio that includes clean firm power would help manage the longer-term intermittency of renewable energy, for example, in winter periods when renewable energy supply is at a minimum.
- 4. Currently, the most considered clean firm power options to support California achieving a net-zero economy by 2045 are geothermal energy, nuclear power, hydropower, natural gas with carbon capture and storage, and renewable hydrogen. There are benefits and costs to all choices.

Thank you!

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Download the Energy Primer:

https://ccst.us/reports/key-challengesfor-californias-energy-future

