

Stories from the Frontline of Cleantech Innovation

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Technologies





Ontario Centres of
Excellence

Where Next Happens

In partnership with



ABOUT US

OCE accelerates innovation through game-changing research leading to successful commercialization and vibrant collaboration between industry and academia helping to launch the next generation of products and jobs.

What we do

Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) drives the development of Ontario's economy by helping create new jobs, products, services, technologies and businesses.

In partnership with industry, OCE co-invests to commercialize innovation originating in the province's publicly funded colleges, universities and research hospitals. We also support and invest in early-stage projects, where the probability of commercial success and potential total return on innovation are substantial. Another expanding focus for OCE is the development of the next generation of innovators through our entrepreneurship fellowships and programs for students and youth across Ontario.



Newsroom

News Release

The Province Wants Your Ideas for a Made-in-Ontario Plan

October 19, 2018 4:30 P.M. | [Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks](#)

Toronto - Ontario's Government for the People is inviting the public and businesses to have their say on how Ontario can deal with environmental challenges such as climate change.

"We share an opportunity to work together to tackle the big environmental challenges that currently face our province and, indeed, the entire world," said Rod Phillips, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks. "At the same time, Ontario has many resourceful and innovative individuals and businesses - we want to hear from you on how best to balance a healthy economy with a healthy environment."

The public can [now comment](#) on some key areas of focus for Ontario's new plan, which will replace the previous government's insistence on imposing a punishing, job-killing carbon tax on Ontario families and businesses, and instead focus on collaborative approaches that will actually help the environment.

In particular, the consultation will focus on resiliency efforts, pollution reduction and how government can better partner with the private sector on sustainable solutions.

The government's new made-in-Ontario environment plan will be released for formal feedback later this fall. It is a comprehensive environmental plan to build a resilient Ontario that protects waters and air, cleans up communities and encourages conservation.

Media Contacts

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Consultation

We want your ideas

About this consultation

Our quality of life depends

Later this fall, Ontario will
change.

This will be the first part of
urban litter and waste.

This made-in-Ontario solution
economy.

Areas of focus

The plan will include several

- Creating an understanding of infrastructure to better
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Consultation: A made-in-Ontario climate change plan

We want your ideas on key areas of focus to address climate change.

About this consultation

Our quality of life depends on clean air to breathe, safe water to drink, and well-protected lands and parks.

Later this fall, Ontario will release a plan that will identify specific areas of focus to help us tackle and be more resilient to climate change.

This will be the first part of a broader approach that will protect clean air and water, encourage conservation and do more to address urban litter and waste.

This made-in-Ontario solution will strike the right balance between protecting our environment and responsibly supporting a prosperous economy.

Areas of focus

The plan will include several areas of focus, such as:

- Creating an understanding of the effects that climate change is having on our households, businesses, communities and public infrastructure to better prepare and strengthen our resiliency.
- Ensuring polluters are held accountable and creating dedicated measures that will efficiently reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Improving Ontario's business climate by unlocking the power of the private sector to finance and drive innovative climate solutions. This will include an emissions-reduction fund to invest in technology-based and other solutions to reduce emissions in Ontario.
- Finding a balanced solution that puts people first, makes life more affordable for families, and takes Ontario's role in fighting climate change seriously.

These areas will help ensure our investments in climate action effectively balance greenhouse gas reductions while supporting economic prosperity and Ontario families.

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waste (noun) \wāst\

" 'Wastes' are substances or objects, which are disposed of or are intended to be disposed of or are required to be disposed of by the provisions of national law"

- Basel Convention (a fancy-schmancy UN treaty on waste and Hazardous wastes)

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Something that is made or grown to be sold or used

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A magnifying glass with a grey handle and frame is positioned over a background image. The background shows an industrial facility with large cylindrical tanks and piping under a blue sky with white, fluffy clouds. In the center of the magnifying glass's lens, a large green dollar sign (\$) is placed above the word "Value" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

\$
Value



Value

Conserve

More Efficient

Produce/Emit Less

Fuel Switching

Convert

Growing Biomass or RNG

Energy from Methane

Building Materials

Combine

Advanced Materials

Chemicals

Fuels (Energy Storage)

More Efficient
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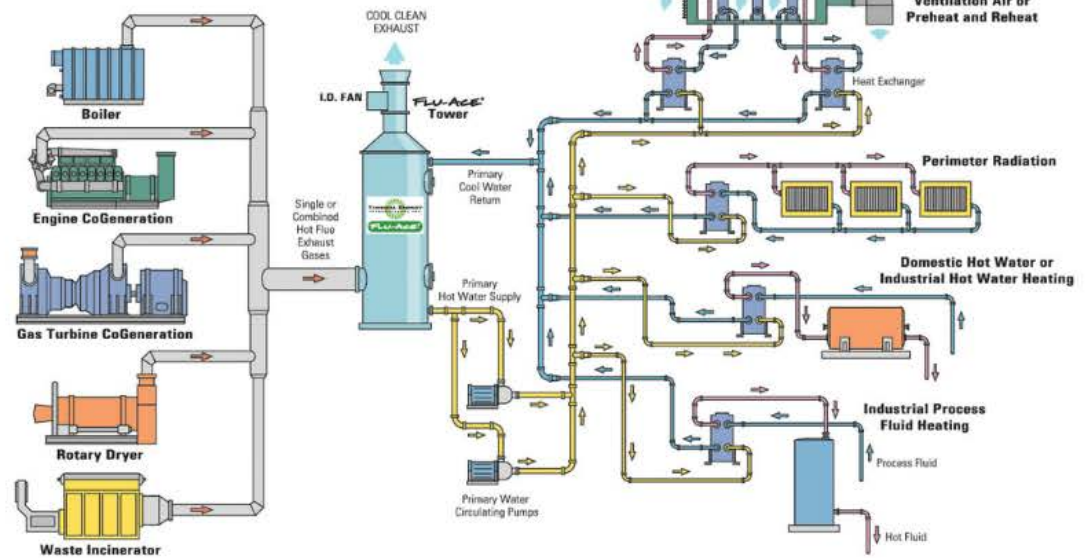
resolute
Forest Products

FLU-ACE®



Waste Flue Gas Pollution Control and Heat Recovery

Energy Recycling and Redistribution for H.V.A.C and Process Heating



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www.thermalenergy.com



More Efficient
Produce/Emit Less
Fuel Switching

Growing Biomass or RNG
Energy from Methane
Building Materials

Advanced Materials
Chemicals
Fuels (Energy Storage)



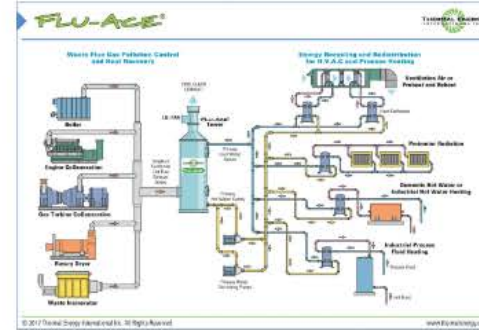


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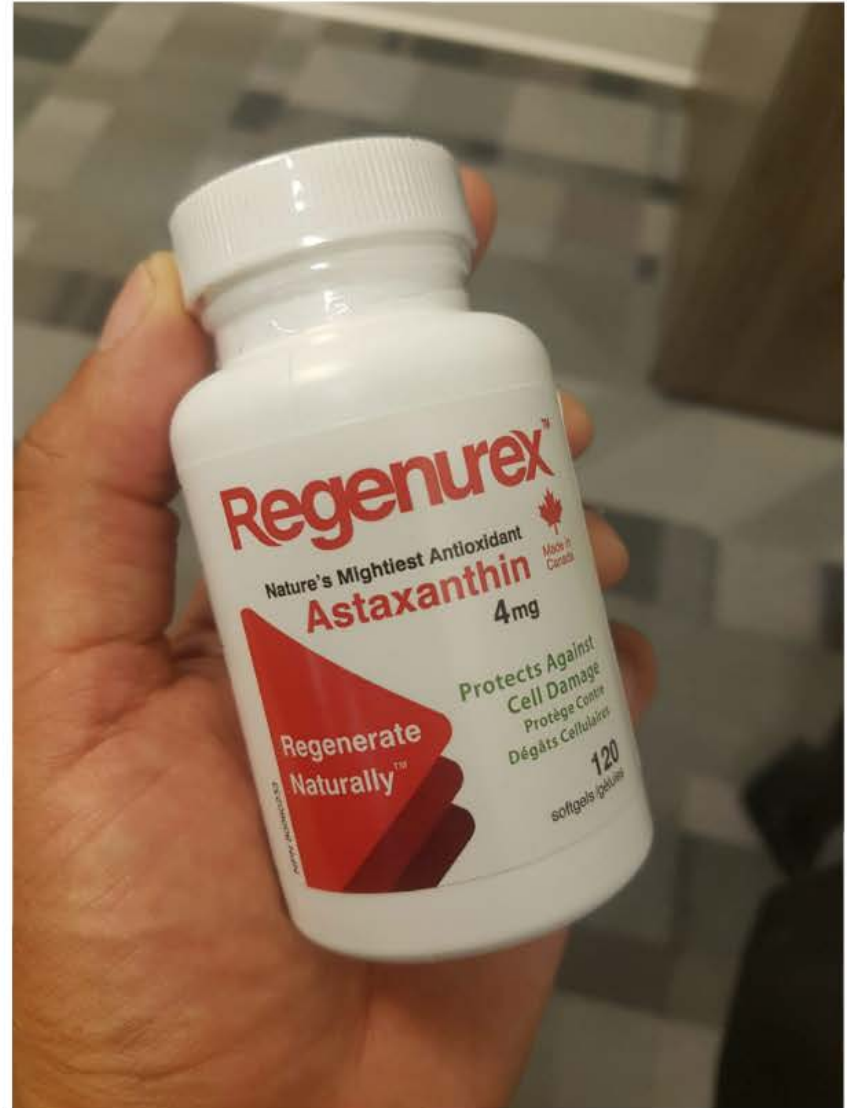
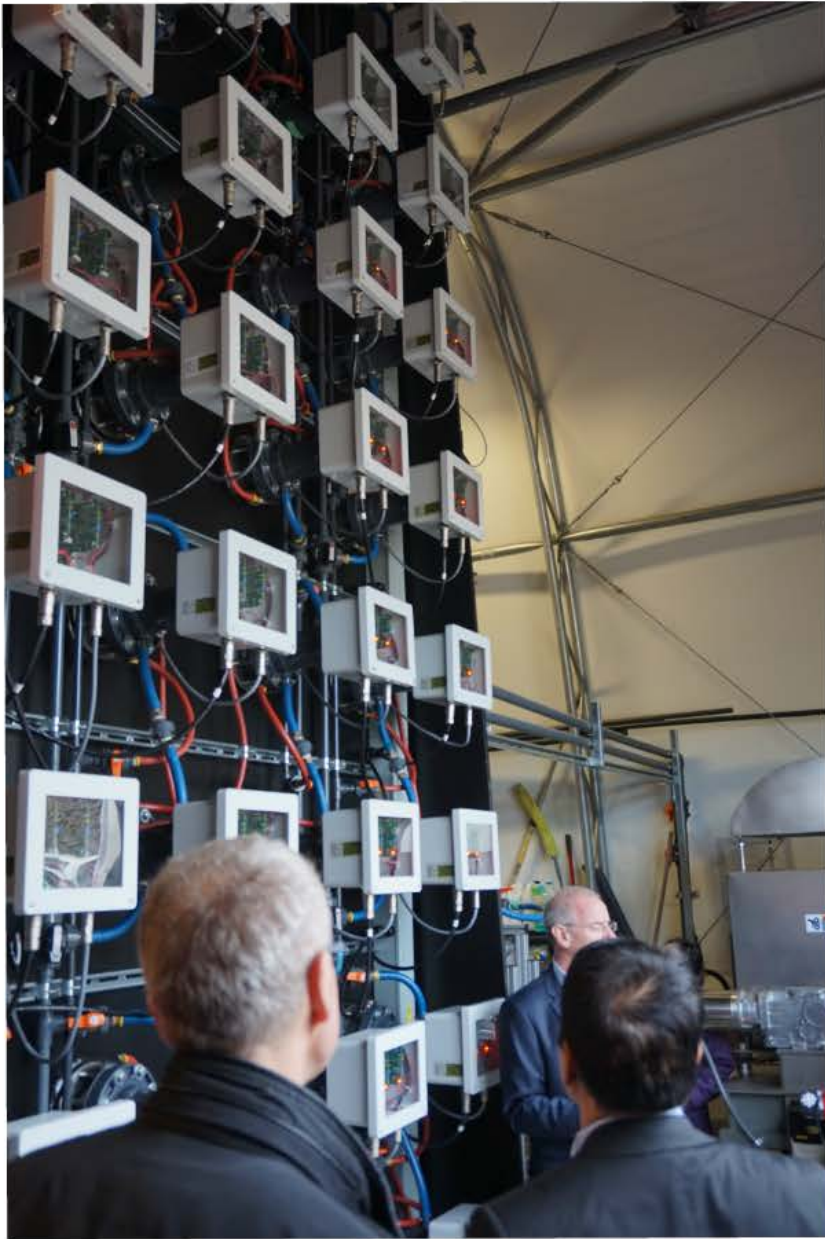


More Efficient
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Fuel Switching

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Energy from Methane
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walker
Environmental

 **GOLDCORP**



SAN

 **StormFisher**
ENVIRONMENTAL

 **SulfaCHAR.**
CATALYTIC DESULFURIZATION

 **uniongas**
An Enbridge Company

 **Clean Energy**



 **GERDAU**

More Efficient
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General Motors of Canada Company

Welland Canal Sewer Rd

Seaway Haulage Rd

Regent St

Innisfold-Townline Rd

Mountain Rd

Taylor Rd

69

101

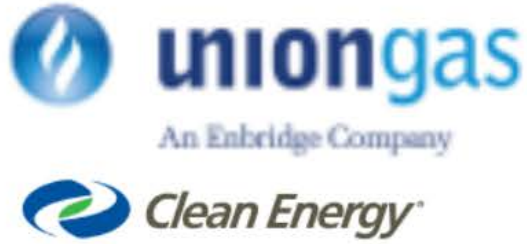
70

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Google Earth

1934

43°07'59.56" N 79°10'24.33" W elev 178 m eye alt 2.02 km



TargetGHG and GreenON Industries RNG Projects

OCIO - Gas Storage Status: Pending, in progress	Target Gas - 1000 Mtpa RNG Project Status: Funded, in progress	Green Gas - True Energy RNG Project Status: Application under Review																																										
<p>Midstream solution from the conversion of 2-3 percent of conventional crude and organics</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>\$5,000,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Capital</td><td>\$11,944,945</td></tr> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>45,000 (100000)</td></tr> <tr><td>Production</td><td>3,000 (8000)</td></tr> <tr><td>EMO</td><td>2,200,000 (2000000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>64 (100000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>562 (80000)</td></tr> </table>	OCIO	\$5,000,000	Total Capital	\$11,944,945	OCIO	45,000 (100000)	Production	3,000 (8000)	EMO	2,200,000 (2000000)	CO2E	64 (100000)	CO2E	562 (80000)	<p>Methane obtained from the a specific category of food and agricultural wastes. Gas is used for energy generation</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>\$6,300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Capital</td><td>\$6,300,000</td></tr> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>26,110 (30000)</td></tr> <tr><td>Production</td><td>16,477 (8000)</td></tr> <tr><td>EMO</td><td>16,501 (8000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>16,501 (8000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>16,501 (8000)</td></tr> </table>	OCIO	\$6,300,000	Total Capital	\$6,300,000	OCIO	26,110 (30000)	Production	16,477 (8000)	EMO	16,501 (8000)	CO2E	16,501 (8000)	CO2E	16,501 (8000)	<p>Methane obtained from the conversion of 2-3 percent of conventional crude and organics</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>780</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Capital</td><td>\$17,700,000</td></tr> <tr><td>OCIO</td><td>\$1,200 (1000)</td></tr> <tr><td>Production</td><td>12,000 (10000)</td></tr> <tr><td>EMO</td><td>12,000 (10000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>12,000 (10000)</td></tr> <tr><td>CO2E</td><td>12,000 (10000)</td></tr> </table>	OCIO	780	Total Capital	\$17,700,000	OCIO	\$1,200 (1000)	Production	12,000 (10000)	EMO	12,000 (10000)	CO2E	12,000 (10000)	CO2E	12,000 (10000)
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TargetGHG and GreenON Industries RNG Projects

OCWA – Suez – Stratford
RNG Project

Status: **Funded, in progress**

Methane obtained from the anaerobic co-digestion of wastewater sludge and organics

OCE	\$5,000,000
Total Capex	\$15,543,305
GHG Reduction (tonnes)	45,012 (indirect) 3,939 (direct)
RNG	2,359,944 m3/yr \$8.70/m3/a
\$/t OCE	\$92 (direct)

Stormfisher – Union Gas
RNG Project

Status: **Funded, in progress**

Methane obtained from the anaerobic digestion of food mfg and agricultural wastes. Builds upon some existing capital.

OCE	\$4,200,000
Total Capex	\$8,338,260
GHG Reduction (tonnes)	25,113 (indirect) 11,477 (direct) 18,301 (direct vs diesel)
RNG	6,387,091 m3/yr \$1.89/m3/a
\$/t OCE	\$32 (direct)

Gerdau Steel – True Energy
RNG Project

Status: **Application under Review**

Methane (55.5 MJ/kg) and Hydrogen (15% @142MJ/kg) obtained from hydrogen gas-phase reduction of auto shredder residues (plastics)

OCE	TBD
Total Capex	\$17,760,930
GHG Reduction (tonnes)	51,100 (direct) 22,995 (from H2) 79,328 (emitted) 42,035 (emitted from NG)
RNG	28,437,775 m3/yr \$0.80/m3/a
\$/t OCE	\$9.78 (direct) \$21.74 (H2)

More Efficient
Produce/Emit Less
Fuel Switching

Growing Biomass or RNG
Energy from Methane
Building Materials

Advanced Materials
Chemicals
Fuels (Energy Storage)



The background of the slide is a photograph of an industrial facility. Several tall, dark metal smokestacks are visible, with thick plumes of white smoke rising from them into a clear blue sky. On the right side, a portion of a large, cylindrical industrial tank or reactor is visible, featuring a metal walkway and various pipes. The overall scene depicts a typical industrial emission source.

CO2 Utilization

CO2U: CO2 Utilization focuses on finding pathways and novel approaches for reducing CO2 emissions by developing beneficial uses for the CO2 that will mitigate CO2 emissions and generate significant environmental and economic benefits.

CO₂: CO₂ Utilization focuses on finding pathways and novel approaches for reducing CO₂ emissions by developing beneficial uses for the CO₂ that will mitigate CO₂ emissions and generate significant environmental and economic benefits.

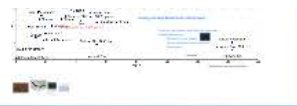
Hydrogen

Made from Natural Gas
Steam Methane Reforming
Produces plenty of CO₂
 $\text{CH}_4 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CO} + \text{H}_2$
 $\text{CO} + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2$

Electrical Splitting
Electrolysis
Needs low cost or surplus electricity

Thermo Chemical Splitting
Copper-Chlorine Cycle
Needs 500°C Heat Source

Electrical and Thermal Energy Storage Solutions?



Development
Hydrogen Production Costs
2010-2050

The Periodic Table of Elements

1 H Hydrogen <small>Lightest of all the elements Burns with high energy output Produces water when burned The main fuel of the sun Fuel of the rockets?</small>																	2 He Helium
3 Li Lithium	4 Be Beryllium											5 B Boron	6 C Carbon	7 N Nitrogen	8 O Oxygen	9 F Fluorine	10 Ne Neon
11 Na Sodium	12 Mg Magnesium											13 Al Aluminum	14 Si Silicon	15 P Phosphorus	16 S Sulfur	17 Cl Chlorine	18 Ar Argon
19 K Potassium	20 Ca Calcium	21 Sc Scandium	22 Ti Titanium	23 V Vanadium	24 Cr Chromium	25 Mn Manganese	26 Fe Iron	27 Co Cobalt	28 Ni Nickel	29 Cu Copper	30 Zn Zinc	31 Ga Gallium	32 Ge Germanium	33 As Arsenic	34 Se Selenium	35 Br Bromine	36 Kr Krypton
37 Rb Rubidium	38 Sr Strontium	39 Y Yttrium	40 Zr Zirconium	41 Nb Niobium	42 Mo Molybdenum	43 Tc Technetium	44 Ru Ruthenium	45 Rh Rhodium	46 Pd Palladium	47 Ag Silver	48 Cd Cadmium	49 In Indium	50 Sn Tin	51 Sb Antimony	52 Te Tellurium	53 I Iodine	54 Xe Xenon
55 Cs Cesium	56 Ba Barium	71 Lu Lutetium	72 Hf Hafnium	73 Ta Tantalum	74 W Tungsten	75 Re Rhenium	76 Os Osmium	77 Ir Iridium	78 Pt Platinum	79 Au Gold	80 Hg Mercury	81 Tl Thallium	82 Pb Lead	83 Bi Bismuth	84 Po Polonium	85 At Astatine	86 Rn Radon
87 Fr Francium	88 Ra Radium	103 Lr Lawrencium	104 Rf Rutherfordium	105 Db Dubnium	106 Sg Seaborgium	107 Bh Bohrium	108 Hs Hassium	109 Mt Meitnerium	110 Ds Darmstadtium	111 Rg Roentgenium	112 Cn Copernicium	113 Uut Ununtrium	114 Uuq Ununquadium	115 Uup Ununpentium	116 Uuh Ununhexium	117 Uus Ununseptium	118 Uuo Ununoctium

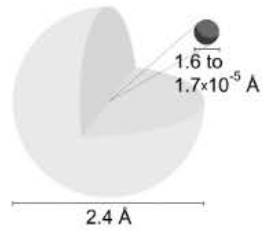
57 La Lanthanum	58 Ce Cerium	59 Pr Praseodymium	60 Nd Neodymium	61 Pm Promethium	62 Sm Samarium	63 Eu Europium	64 Gd Gadolinium	65 Tb Terbium	66 Dy Dysprosium	67 Ho Holmium	68 Er Erbium	69 Tm Thulium	70 Yb Ytterbium
89 Ac Actinium	90 Th Thorium	91 Pa Protactinium	92 U Uranium	93 Np Neptunium	94 Pu Plutonium	95 Am Americium	96 Cm Curium	97 Bk Berkelium	98 Cf Californium	99 Es Einsteinium	100 Fm Fermium	101 Md Mendelevium	102 No Nobelium

- Lighter
- Burns

1

Atomic Weight
1.00794

Hydrogen atoms, gas atoms that it is available
water. There are the most abundant in the universe.



H

Hydrogen

Hydrogen is the chemical element with atomic number 1. It is represented by the symbol H. An atomic weight of 1.00794 is assigned to the lightest isotope, protium, which has one proton and no neutrons. The most common isotope of hydrogen is protium, which has one proton and no neutrons. The atomic weight of hydrogen is 1.00794. Hydrogen is a colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas. It is the most abundant element in the universe, making up about 75% of the mass of the universe. Hydrogen is also the most abundant element in the Earth's atmosphere, making up about 1% of the mass of the atmosphere. Hydrogen is used in a variety of applications, including as a fuel, a reducing agent, and a component of many chemical compounds. Hydrogen is also used in the production of ammonia, which is used in the production of fertilizers. Hydrogen is also used in the production of methanol, which is used in the production of plastics. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen peroxide, which is used in the production of disinfectants. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen chloride, which is used in the production of hydrochloric acid. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen sulfide, which is used in the production of sulfuric acid. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen cyanide, which is used in the production of nitriles. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen cyanide, which is used in the production of nitriles. Hydrogen is also used in the production of hydrogen cyanide, which is used in the production of nitriles.



- Produces
- The most
- Fuel of

1

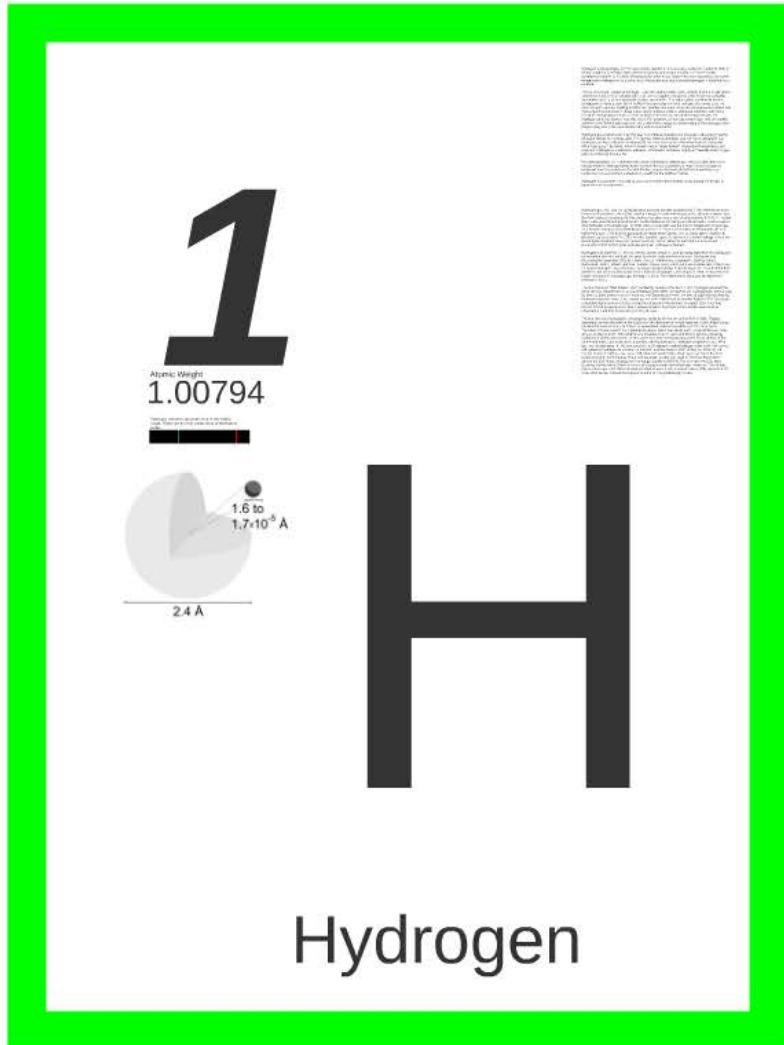
Atomic Weight
1.00794

1.6 to $1.7 \cdot 10^{-8}$ Å

2.4 Å

H

Hydrogen



- Lightest of all the elements
- Burns with high energy output



- Produces water when burned
- The main fuel of the sun
- Fuel of the future?

3

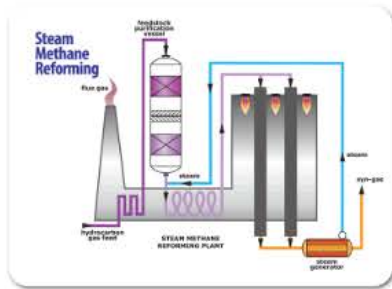
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Hydrogen Production

Made from Natural Gas

Steam Methane Reforming

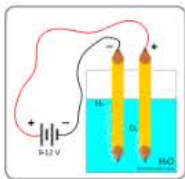
Produces plenty of CO₂



Electrical Splitting

Electrolysis

Needs low cost or surplus electricity



- Back
- Research
- Thermochemical Hydrogen Production**
- Solar Based Hydrogen Production
- Heat Engines/Pumps
- Wind Turbine Technology

THERMOCHEMICAL HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

Co-Principal Investigator: [Dr. M. Rosen](#)

Co-Principal Investigator: [Dr. G. Naterer](#)

Co-Investigators: [Dr. K. Goswami](#), [Dr. Forest Wang](#), [Dr. L. Hwang](#), [Dr. Jurg Avesco](#) (University of Maribor, Slovenia), [Dr. M. Fowler](#) (University of Waterloo, Ontario), [Dr. L. Dincer](#), [Dr. R. Easton](#), [Dr. F. Gaspari](#), [Dr. G. Goward](#) (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario), [Dr. S. Luyv](#) (Pennsylvania State University), [Dr. V. G. Papangelakis](#) (University of Toronto), [Dr. H. M. Iweda](#), [Dr. G. Rizvi](#), [Dr. M. H. Kaye](#), [Dr. J. Mostaghimi](#) (University of Toronto), [Dr. L. Lu](#), [Dr. D. Zhang](#) and [Dr. J. Jiang](#) (University of Western Ontario).

Thermo Chemical Splitting

Copper-Chlorine Cycle

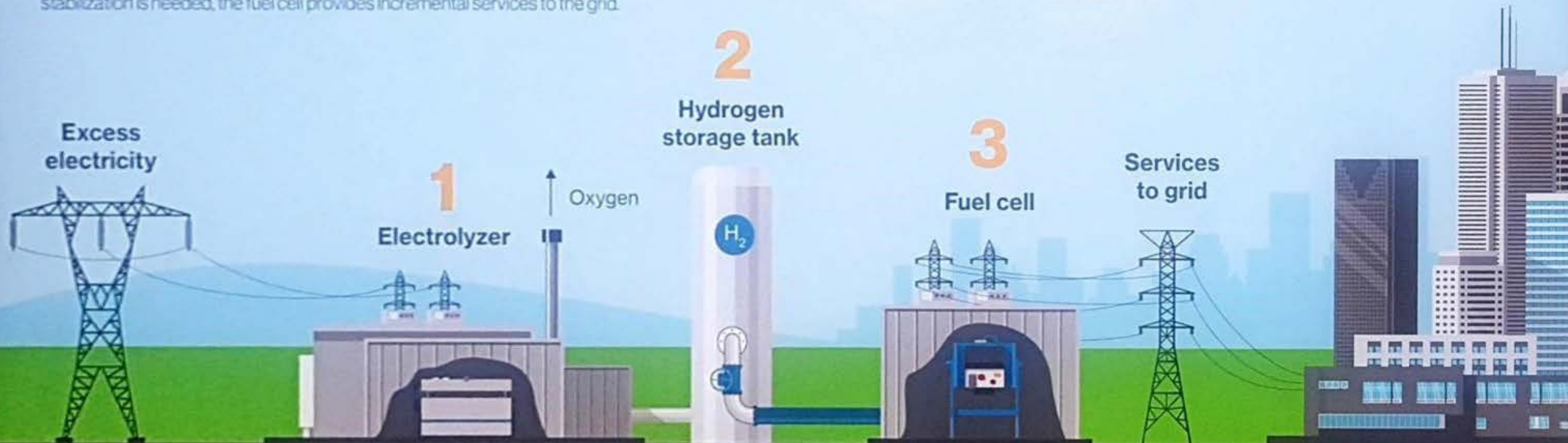
Needs 530C Heat Source

Electrical and Thermal
Energy Storage Solutions?

Enbridge and Hydrogenics Invest in Power-to-Gas

Current State – Power Grid Balancing

The power grid needs real-time balancing of supply and demand. Power-to-Gas electrolyzers respond to this need by increasing or decreasing hydrogen production. Hydrogen is stored, and when more grid stabilization is needed, the fuel cell provides incremental services to the grid.



1 The electrolyzer takes electricity and uses it to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, while balancing the power grid at the same time.

2 The hydrogen that is produced is then stored.

3 Fuel cells convert the hydrogen into electricity to provide additional power grid stabilization services as needed.

HYDROGENICS
SHIFT POWER | ENERGIZE YOUR WORLD

TDC - HYDROGEN
OPERATIONS

GENERIC WATER OXYGEN

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy

HYDROGENICS
SHIFT POWER | ENERGIZE YOUR WORLD

ENBRIDGE
Life Takes Energy



← Back

Research

Thermochemical Hydrogen Production

Solar Based Hydrogen Production

Heat Engines/Pumps

Wind Turbine Technology

THERMOCHEMICAL HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

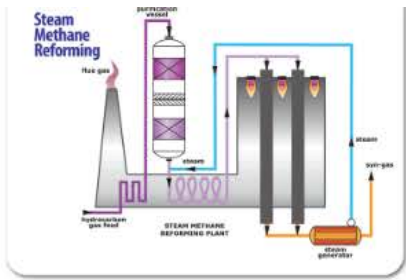
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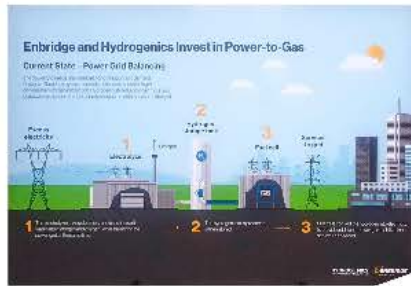
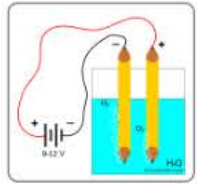
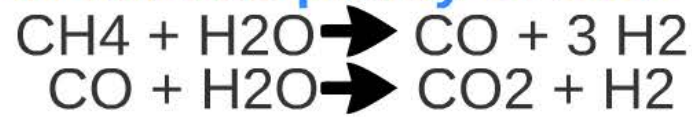
Electrical Energy Stor



MADE FROM NATURAL GAS

Steam Methane Reforming

Produces plenty of CO₂



Electrical Splitting

Electrolysis

Needs low cost or surplus electricity

UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Thermochemical Hydrogen Production

Solar Based Hydrogen Production

Heat engines/Pumps

Wind Turbine Technology

THERMOCHEMICAL HYDROGEN PRODUCTION

Co-Principal Investigator: [Dr. M. Rosen](#)

Co-Principal Investigator: [Dr. G. Naterer](#)

Co-Investigators: [Dr. H. Gabriel](#), [Dr. Forest Wang](#), [Dr. L. Flores](#), [Dr. Jurij Avsec](#) (University of Maribor, Slovenia), [Dr. M. Fowler](#) (University of Waterloo, Ontario), [Dr. I. Dincer](#), [Dr. B. Ekan](#), [Dr. P. Ghoshan](#), [Dr. G. Goward](#) (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario), [Dr. S. Lviv](#) (Pennsylvania State University), [Dr. V. G. Papadogiannis](#) (University of Toronto), [Dr. B. M. Ikeda](#), [Dr. C. Rizvi](#), [Dr. M. H. Kaye](#), [Dr. J. Mousigiri](#) (University of Toronto), [Dr. L. Lu](#), [Dr. D. Zhang](#) and [Dr. J. Jiang](#) (University of Western Ontario).

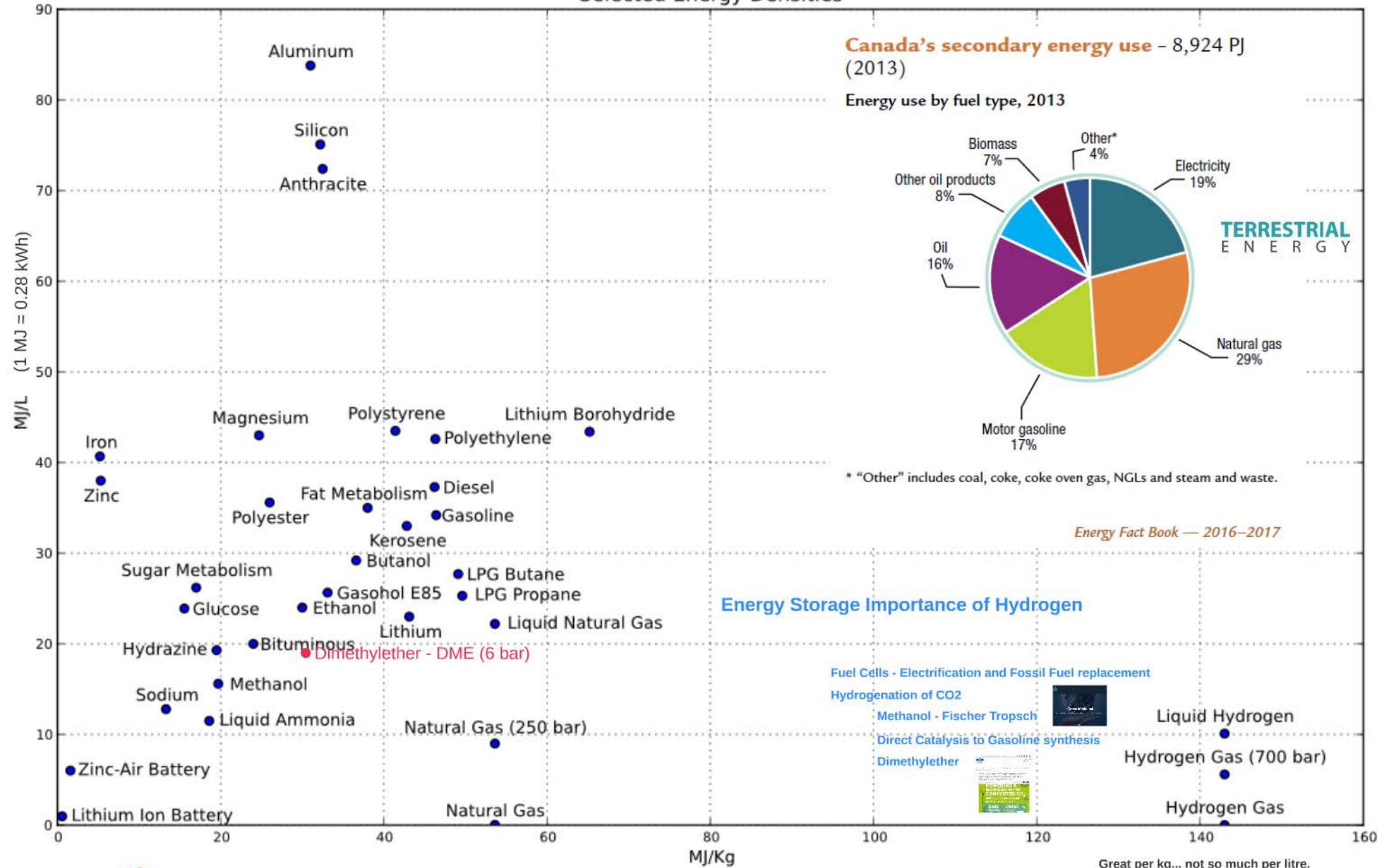
Thermo Chemical Splitting

Copper-Chlorine Cycle

Needs 530C Heat Source

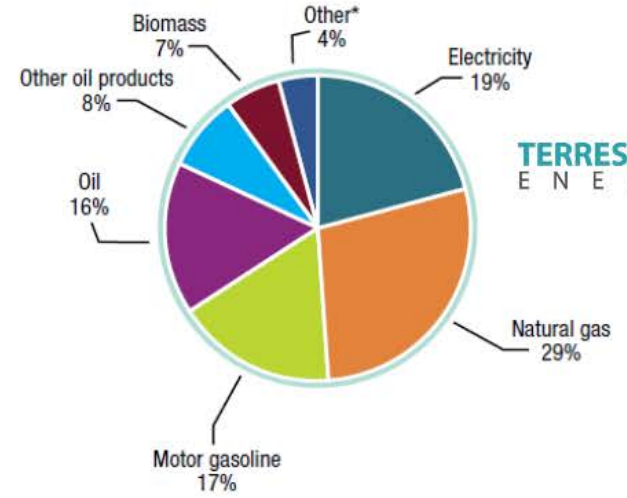
Electrical and Thermal Energy Storage Solutions?

Selected Energy Densities



Canada's secondary energy use - 8,924 PJ (2013)

Energy use by fuel type, 2013



* "Other" includes coal, coke, coke oven gas, NGLs and steam and waste.

Energy Fact Book — 2016–2017

Energy Storage Importance of Hydrogen

Fuel Cells - Electrification and Fossil Fuel replacement

Hydrogenation of CO2

Methanol - Fischer Tropsch

Direct Catalysis to Gasoline synthesis

Dimethylether



Liquid Hydrogen

Hydrogen Gas (700 bar)

Hydrogen Gas

Great per kg... not so much per litre.

* "Other" includes coal, coke, coke oven gas, NGLs and steam and waste.

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Liquid Hydrogen

Hydrogen Gas (700 bar)

Hydrogen Gas

80
MJ/Kg

100

120

140

160

Great per kg... not so much per litre.



Green Methanol

Advanced Chemical Technologies Inc. is developing Canada's first green methanol plant.



* "Other" includes coal, coke, coke oven gas, NGLs and steam and waste.

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Liquid Hydrogen

Hydrogen Gas (700 bar)

Hydrogen Gas

80
MJ/Kg

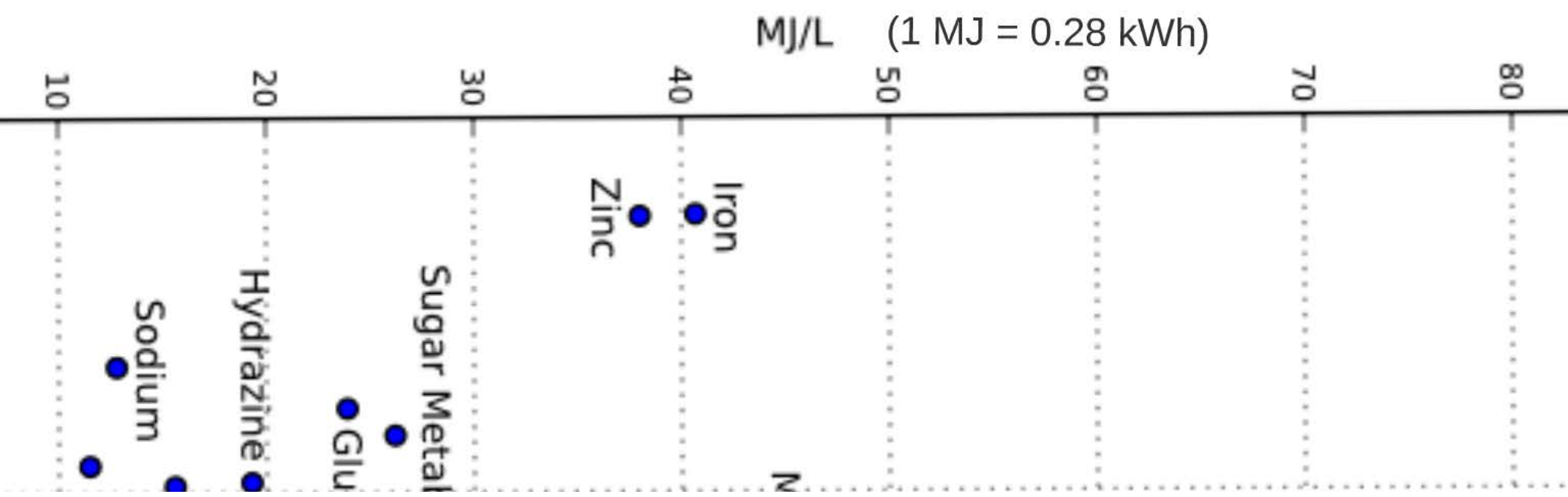
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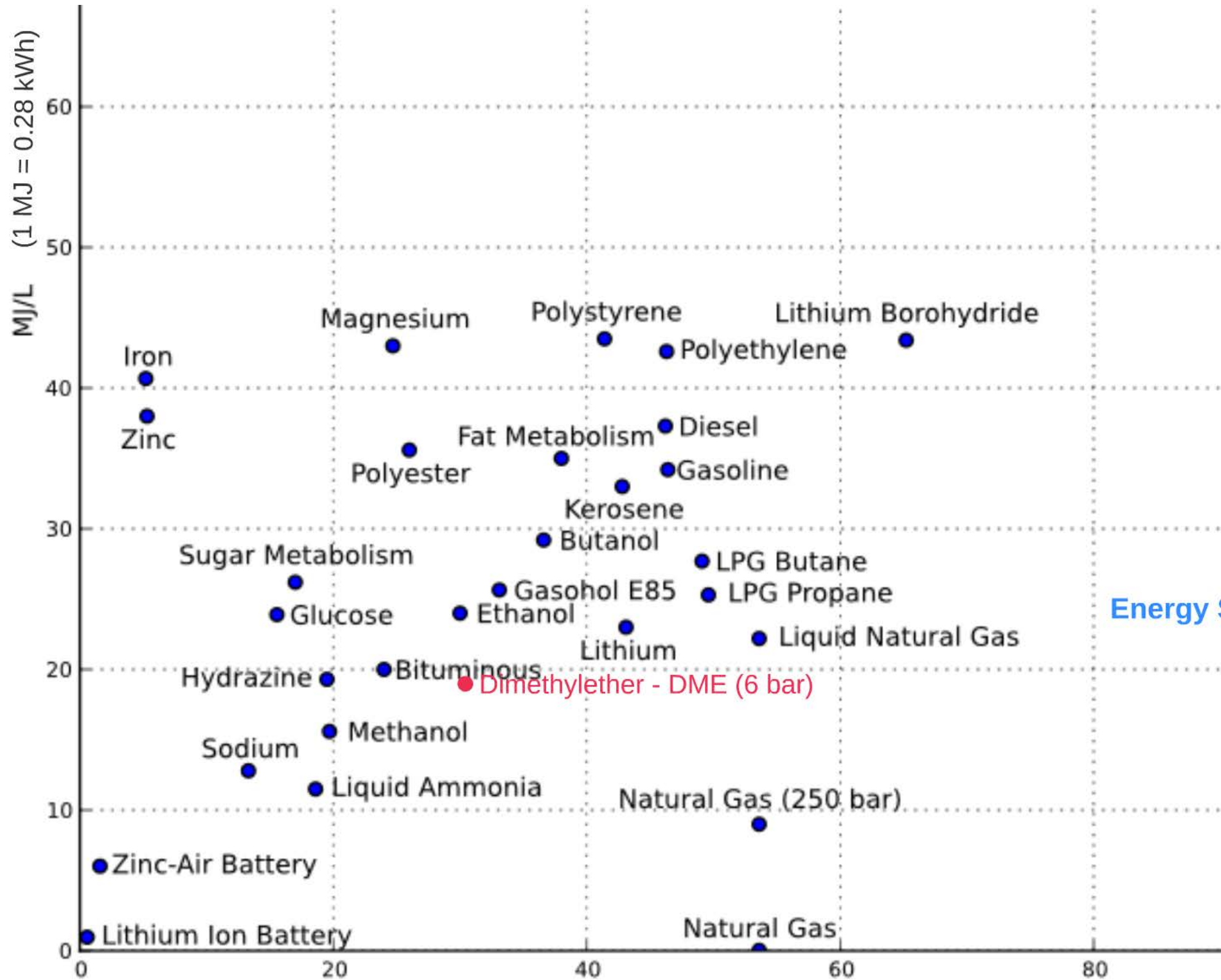
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Home < News < Ford Leads Project To Develop Near Zero Particulate Emission Diesel Cars That Could Run On Converted CO2

FORD LEADS PROJECT TO DEVELOP NEAR ZERO PARTICULATE EMISSION DIESEL CARS THAT COULD RUN ON CONVERTED CO2

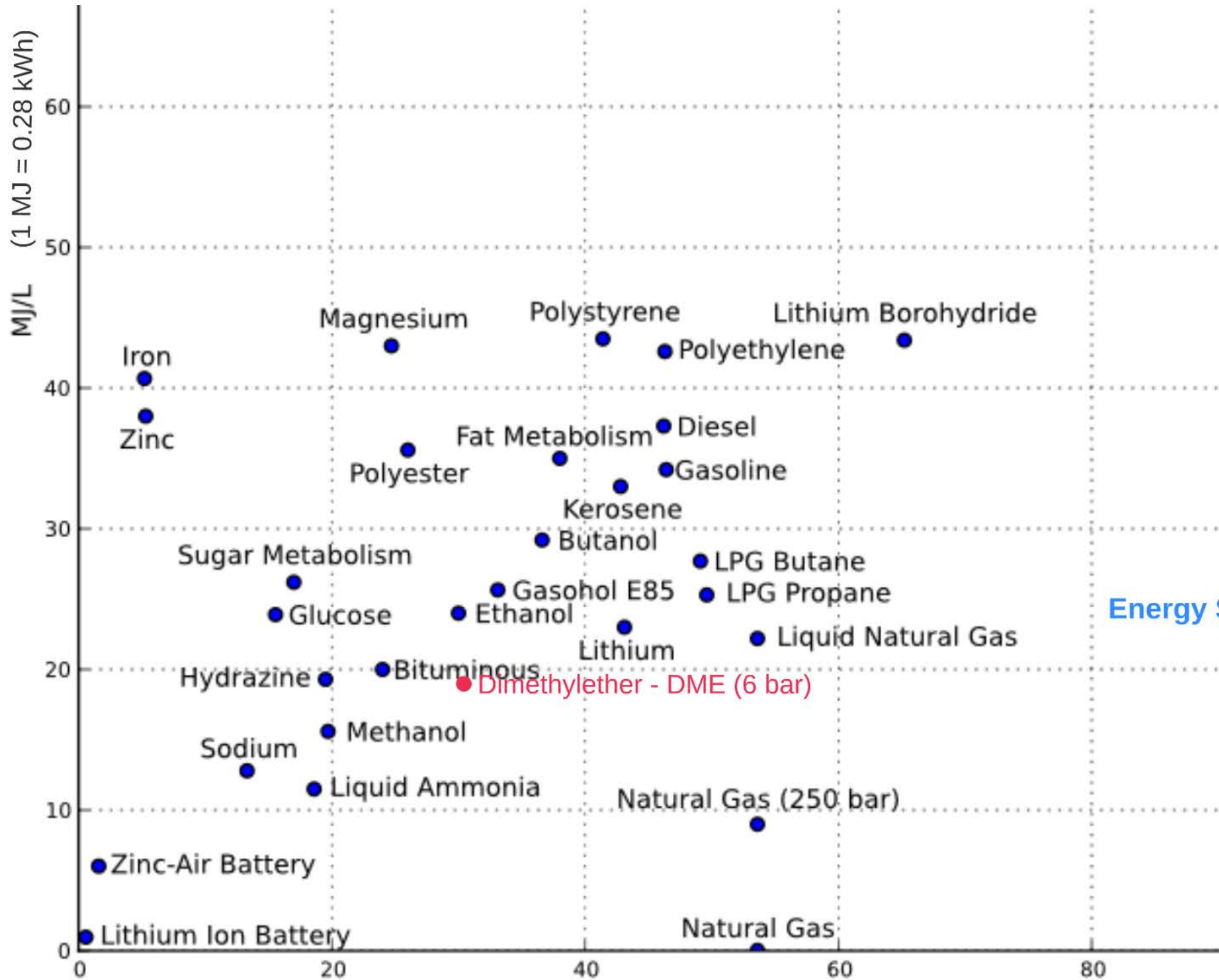
11-Sep-2015 | AACHEN, Germany

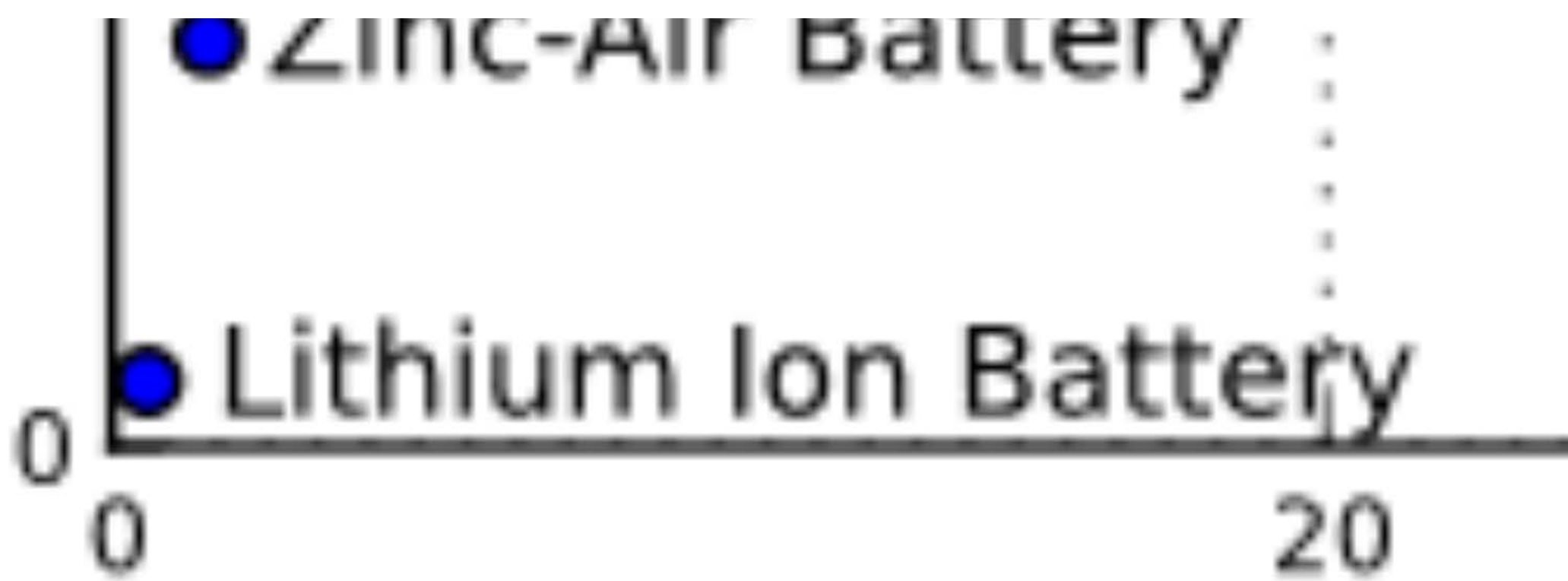


POWERING A MONDEO WITH CONVERTED CO₂:
how ethers can be used as alternative fuels

DME
dimethyl ether
C

OME1
CH3OCH2OCH3





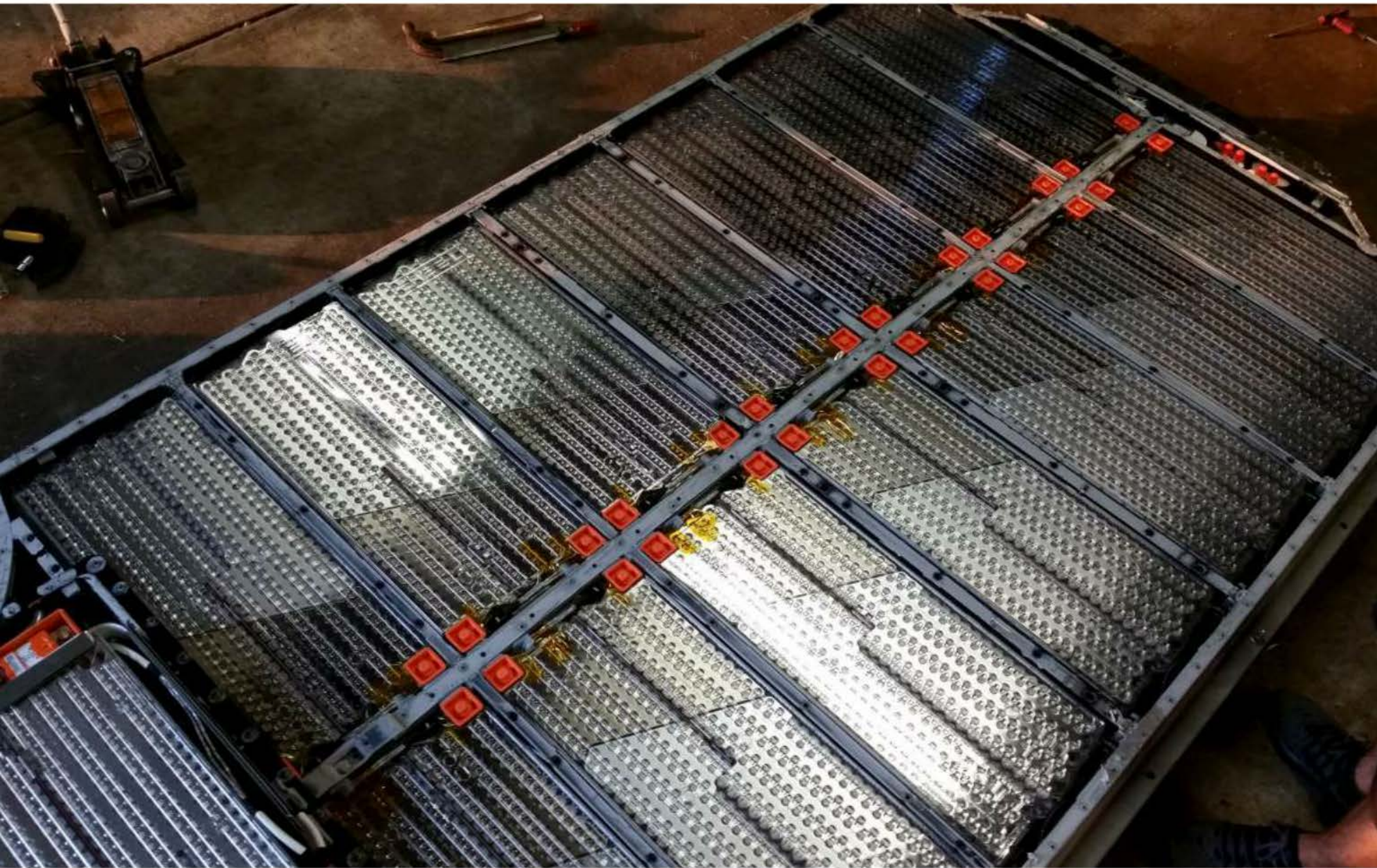


BRC 18650 6800mAh
3.7V Li-ion

Low Discharge rate, No memory effect.
Low reoccurring operation cost. Short-circuit

BRC 18650 6800mAh
3.7V Li-ion

Low Discharge rate, No memory effect.
Low reoccurring operation cost. Short-circuit





2% GHG Worldwide from aviation
420 grams of CO2 per tonne-km

DME?

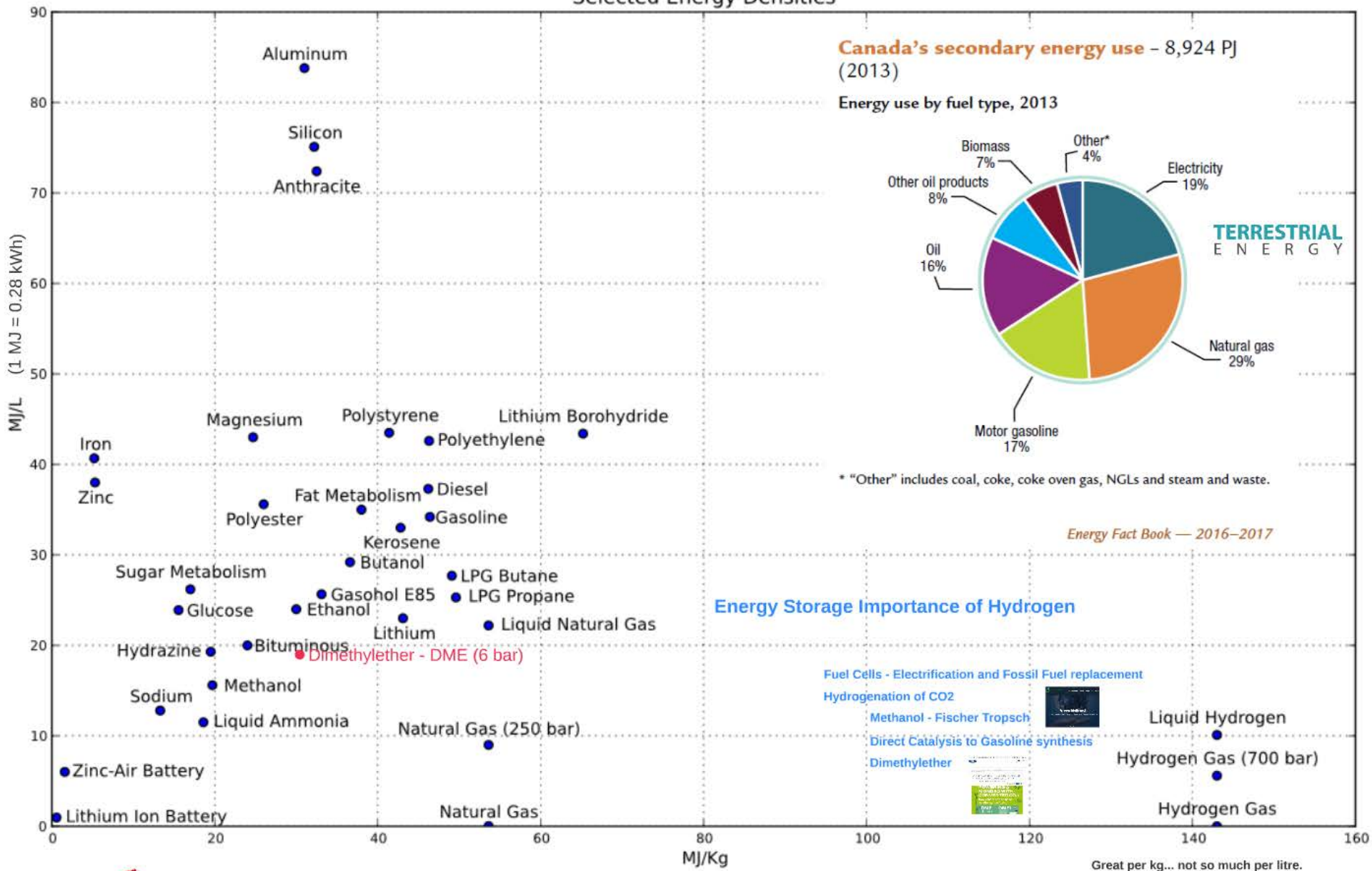
Hydrogen-Electric Fuel Cell?



2.2% GHG Worldwide from Shipping
10 grams of CO2 per tonne-km



Selected Energy Densities

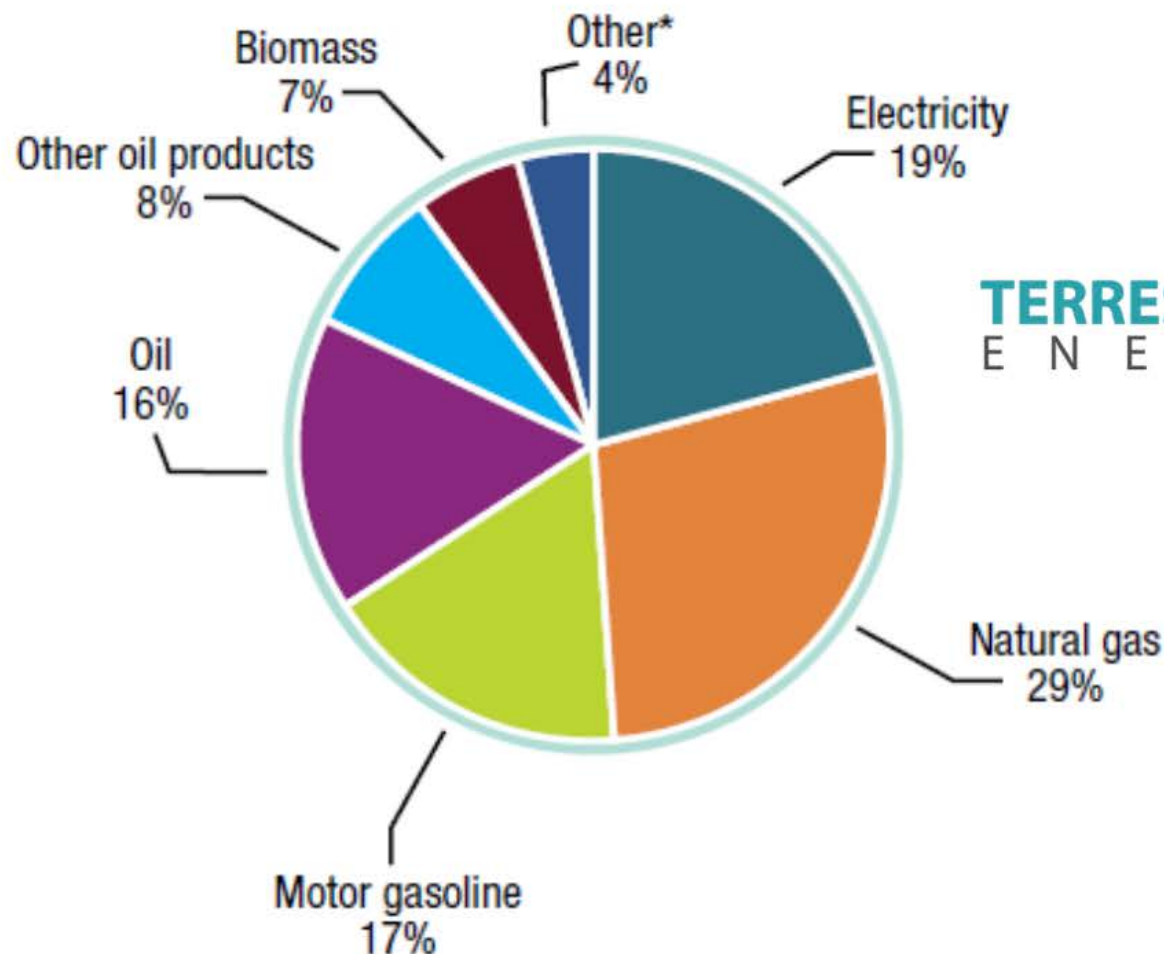


Energy Fact Book — 2016–2017



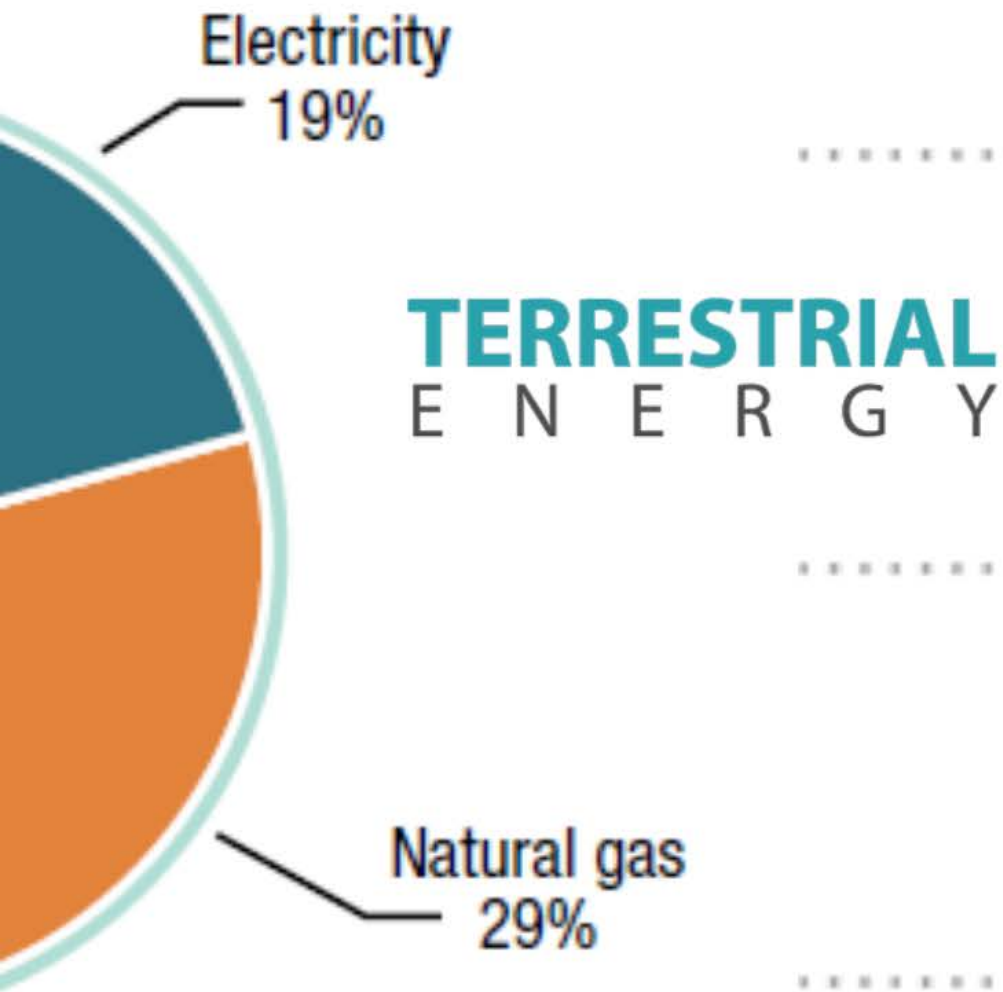
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Storage material
Deuterium (in Fusion reactor)
Uranium (in breeder)
Thorium (in breeder)
Plutonium 238
Tritium
Hydrogen (liquid)
Hydrogen (compressed at 70 MPa)
Methane or Liquefied natural gas (compressed)
Diesel
LPG (including Propane / Butane)
Gasoline (petrol)



Storage material	Energy type	Specific energy (MJ/kg)
Deuterium (in Fusion reactor)	Nuclear fusion	87,900,000 ^[3]
Uranium (in breeder)	Nuclear fission	80,620,000 ^[5]
Thorium (in breeder)	Nuclear fission	79,420,000 ^[5]
Plutonium 238	Nuclear decay	2,239,000
Tritium	Nuclear decay	583,529
Hydrogen (liquid)	Chemical	142
Hydrogen (compressed at 700 bar)	Chemical	142
Methane or Liquefied natural gas (compressed)	Chemical	55.5
Diesel	Chemical	48
LPG (including Propane / Butane)	Chemical	46.4
Gasoline (petrol)	Chemical	46.4 ^[2]

Regulatory Tools

Funding Models

Price on Carbon
Revenue for Capital

Ontario: 100% > 25kt = 49 Mt
China: 8% > 50 kt = 3.7 Gt

Innovation and Cleantech Investment and Development

2% of Cleantech IP Created in Canada
60% to 90% of Cleantech IP owned by China



U.S. and China: Cement production

Millions of tons

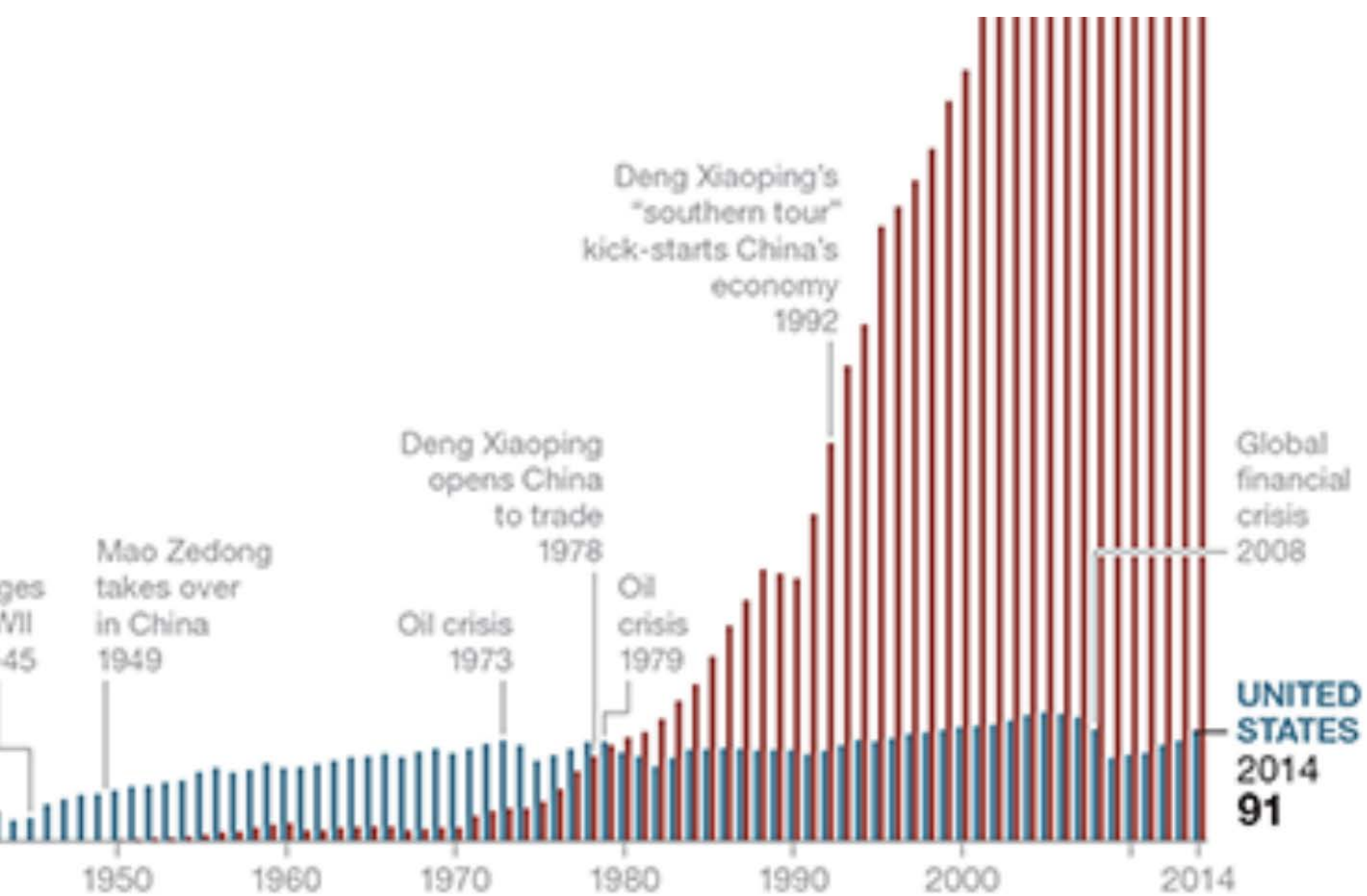
Cement production tends to reflect political and economic shifts. Wars, revolutions, and financial crises have resulted in slowdowns.



GRAPHIC: MATTHEW TWOMBLY.



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GRAPHIC: MATTHEW TWOMBLY, NGM STAFF. SOURCES: USGS; ORVILLE SCHELL, ASIA SOCIETY

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Towering Above

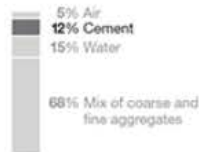
The foundation of China's 21st-century growth is concrete. Literally. The country's cement production has spiked 3,000 percent since 1980. Since 2012, China has made more cement than the U.S. has since 1900.

Where is it all going? Mass urbanization, says USGS geologist Hendrik van Oss: "When you consider large new cities and highways, [the Chinese are] building faster than anyone before." Cement, which tends to be a cheaper construction material than wood or steel, has been used for China's most ambitious building projects. One of the biggest—the Three Gorges Dam—required 12 million tons of cement, more than the United Kingdom produces in a year.

But there's a downside. Cement production, especially in antiquated plants, emits large amounts of CO₂—about five percent of all anthropogenic emissions, reports a U.S. study. China's cement contributes as much toward that tally as all other countries combined. —Daniel Stone

Canada: 13 Mt

CHINA 2014 2,730 million tons of cement



Cement to concrete
Cement is a small fraction of concrete, which is made with water plus other ingredients like rock, sand, or gravel. Too many additives can weaken it.



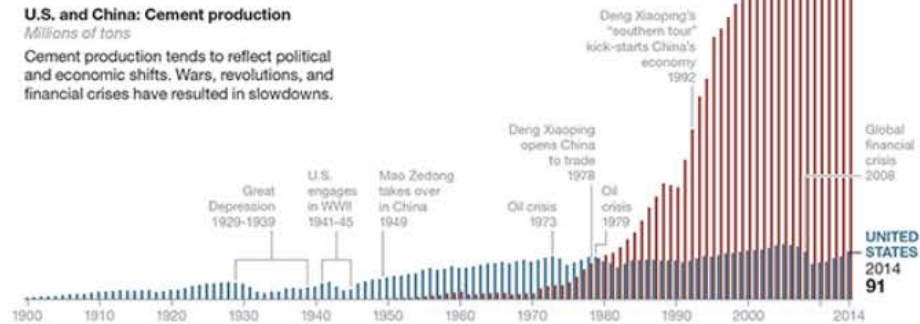
How much concrete?
In 2014 China produced enough cement to make 330 billion cubic feet of concrete. That's enough to cover the entire island of Manhattan with a block 520 feet thick.

Three Gorges Dam construction completed 2006

U.S. and China: Cement production

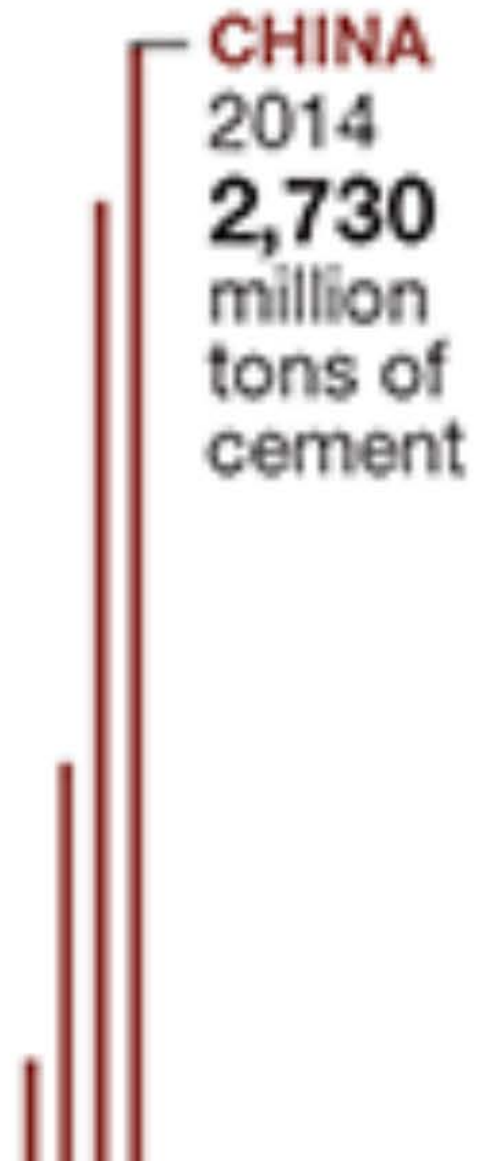
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