

# Climate Change

## **Personal Action Options**

**Barry Romich and Fred Michel**

Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network

WCSEN.org



Do you have kids, grandkids, great grandkids?

Do you care about them?

I have this conversation in my mind.

With my grandkids' grandkids.

They ask "What were you thinking?"

**I cannot say I didn't know, just that I'm sorry.**

**This inspires me to do what I can now.**

**BILL GATES**

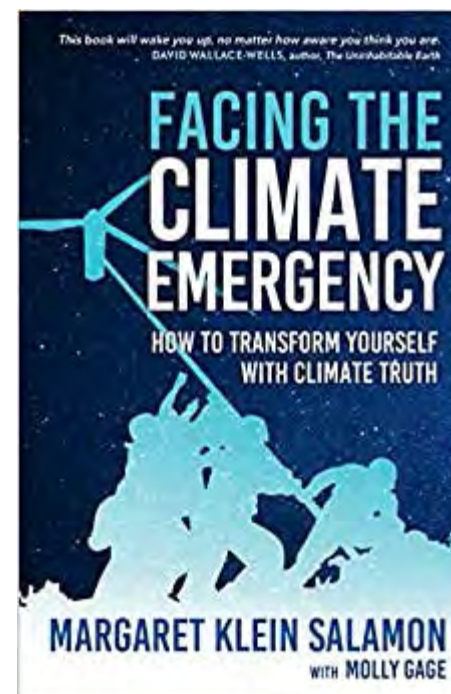
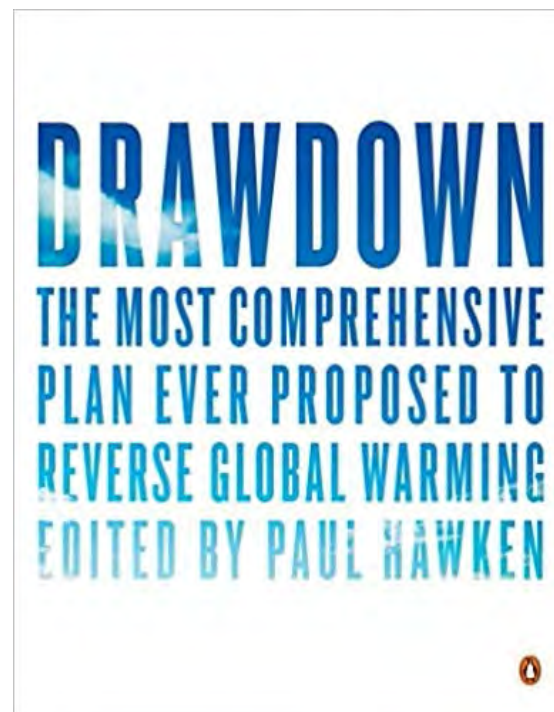
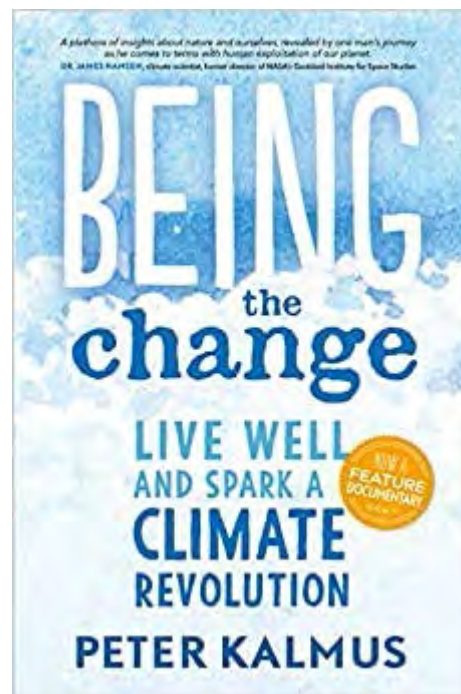
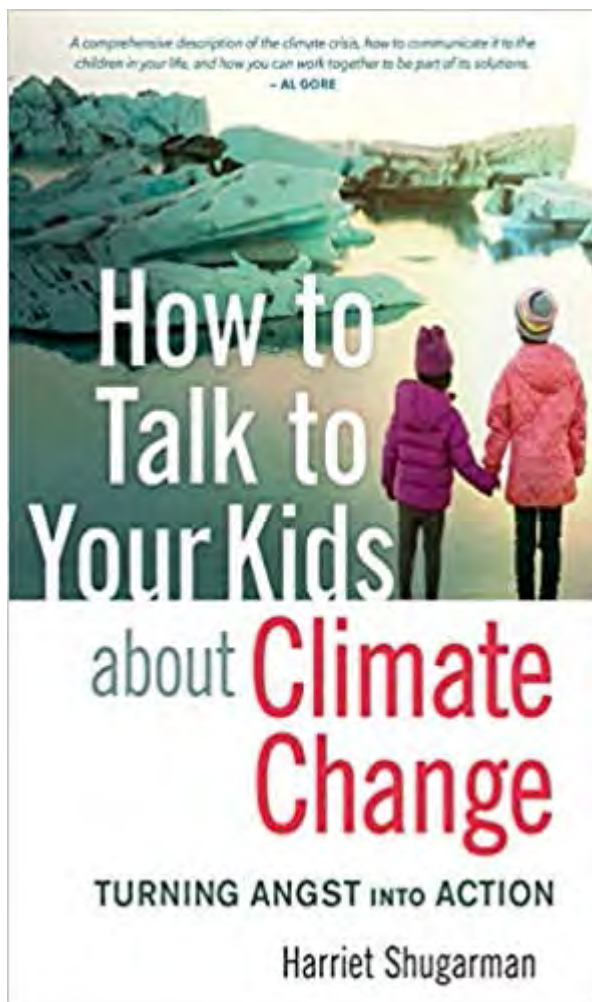
---

**HOW TO  
AVOID A  
CLIMATE  
DISASTER**

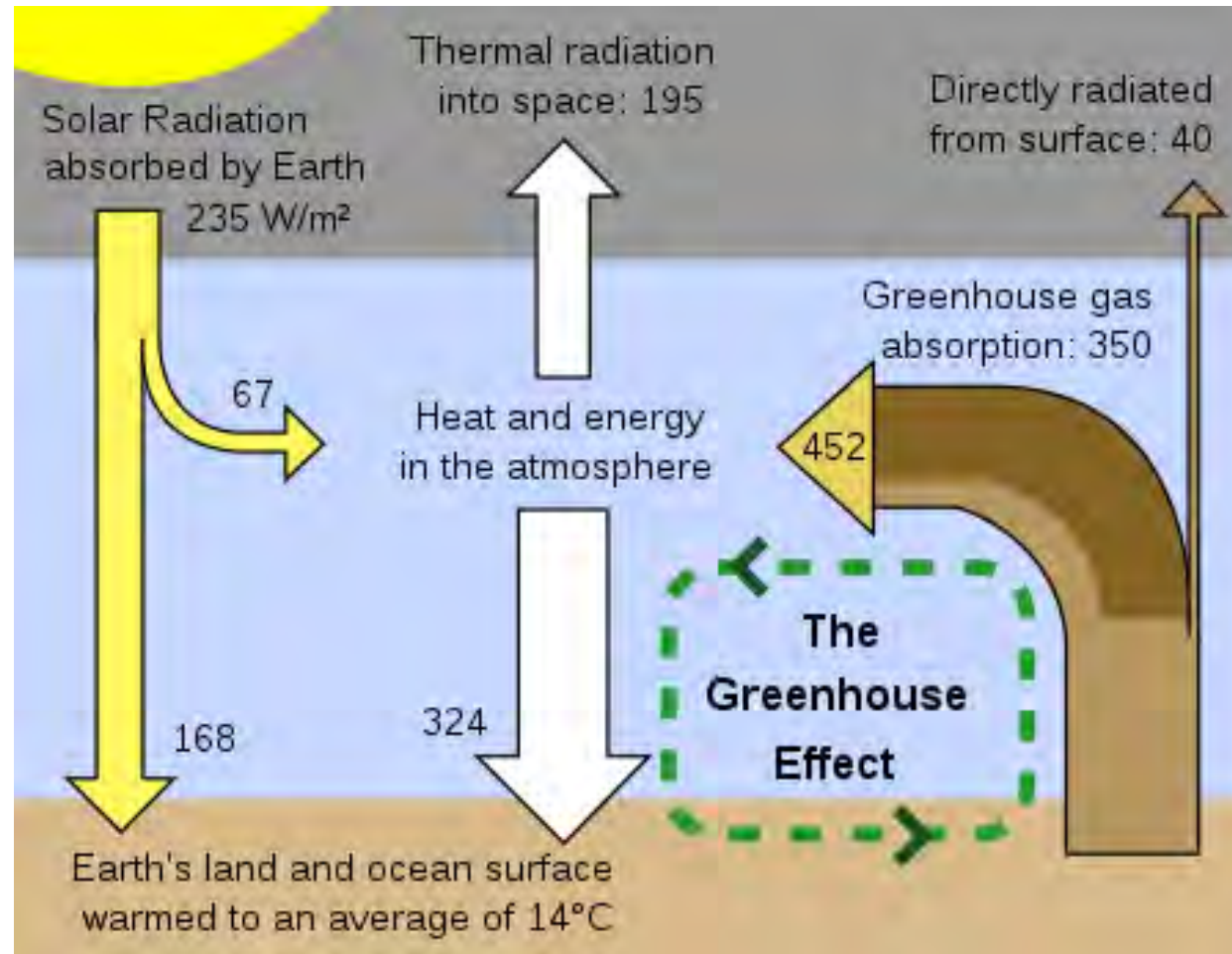
---

THE SOLUTIONS WE HAVE AND THE  
*BREAKTHROUGHS WE NEED*

---



# What causes climate change?



Wikipedia

There are many issues,  
Some of which are global in nature  
and outside what we as individuals  
can readily influence.

**How much greenhouse gas is emitted by the things we do?**

Making things (cement, steel, plastic)	31%
Plugging in (electricity)	27%
Growing things (plants, animals)	19%
Getting around (cars, trucks, planes, cargo ships)	16%
Keeping warm and cool (heating, cooling, refrigeration)	7%

**Gates**

The focus for today is on actions that we as individuals can take now.

- **Home power (27%)**
- **How we grow things (19%)**
- **Transportation (16%)**
- **Home heating - A/C (7%)**
- **Investing**



# Home Power (27%)

**AEP Total Net Generation (2020) (MW-Hr) 94,529,102**

<b>Coal</b>	<b>42,595,308</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>18,530,960</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>18,268,937</b>
<b>Renewable (wind, solar, hydro)</b>	<b>15,133,897</b>

**(~65% carbon-based fuel)**

AEP's New Carbon Emission Reduction Goals

**80%** reduction by 2030  
**Net-Zero** by 2050

(goals are from a 2000 baseline)



# Home Power

**What can I do?**

**Use less energy and choose renewable**  
(an option offered by many power companies)

**Stop or reduce buying from AEP.**

(Add your own renewable energy)

(wind, solar, hydro)

(Ask Ohio legislators to take action.)

(Colorado example)



## **Growing Things (19%)**

**Energy return (food energy / fossil  
fuel energy for production) for meat: ~ 35%**

**Energy return for plant-based food: ~ 330%**

# Diet

**What can I do?**

**Eat less meat.**

**Try meat substitutes.**

**Get protein, calories, and other nutritional needs  
from other sources.**

**Be alert for changes coming. Agriculture is changing.**

# RethinkX:

## The First Step To Replacing The Inefficient Cow, Milk

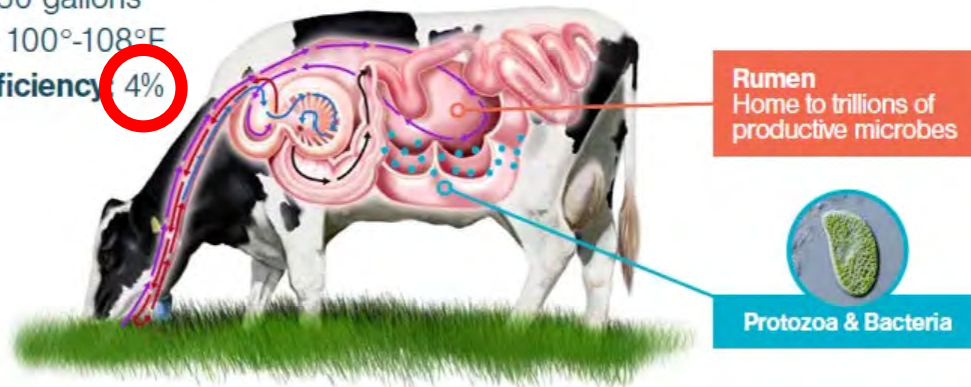
### Cow Protein Production

**Cow Rumen** – the production of protein is the work of many microbes inhabiting the rumen of the cow.

**Capacity:** 40-50 gallons

**Temperature:** 100°-108°F

**Feedstock Efficiency:** 4%



### Precision Fermentation Protein Production

The production of protein is also the work of microbes, designed to manufacture desired proteins in tightly-controlled environments.

**Capacity:** 50-10,000 gallons

**Temperature:** Optimized

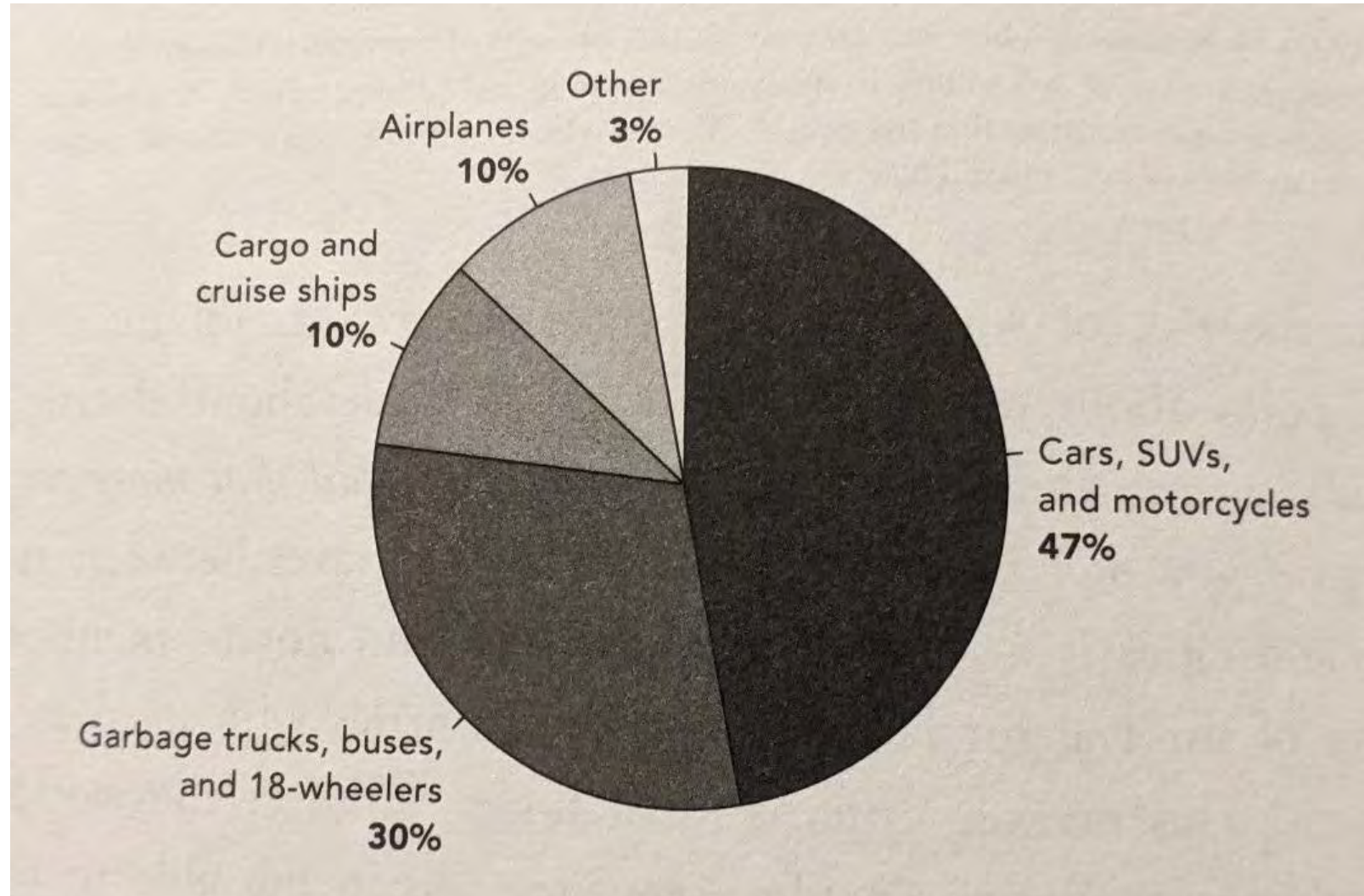
**Feedstock Efficiency:** 40% 80%



Source: RethinkX, Impossible Foods



# Transportation (16%)



**Transportation-Related Emissions**

# Transportation (16%)

**What can I do?**

**Drive less.**

**Drive smarter. Carpool.**

**Drive on emission-free fuel. (It's cheaper.)**

**Buy smarter. (You're buying transportation)**

# **Home Heating - A/C (7%)**

**Unwanted heat gain/loss has three components.**

**Conduction (maximize insulation R rating)**

**Convection (stop air leaks)**

**Radiation (use radiant barrier to reflect)**

**~ 90% of homes in the USA have A/C.**



# Home Heating - A/C (7%)

## What can I do?

Heat and air condition less.  
(Adjust thermostat; Replace thermostat.)

Consider all three heat loss/gain factors  
in new construction and remodeling.

Get off natural gas for heating. (California building code)  
Change to geothermal.

# Investing

## What can I do?

**Review your investment portfolio.**

**Eliminate investments in fossil fuel development.**

**Stop supporting organizations with fossil fuel investments.**

**Consider socially responsible investment management.**

# **Resources**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change)

<https://cleantechnica.com/>

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/>

**These slides will become available at [wcsen.org](https://wcsen.org).**

# **Reducing Our Carbon Footprint**

**Fred Michel**

**President**

**Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network**

**Professor**

**Department of F&E  
The Ohio State University**



**“The American Way of Life is NON-NEGOTIABLE!”**



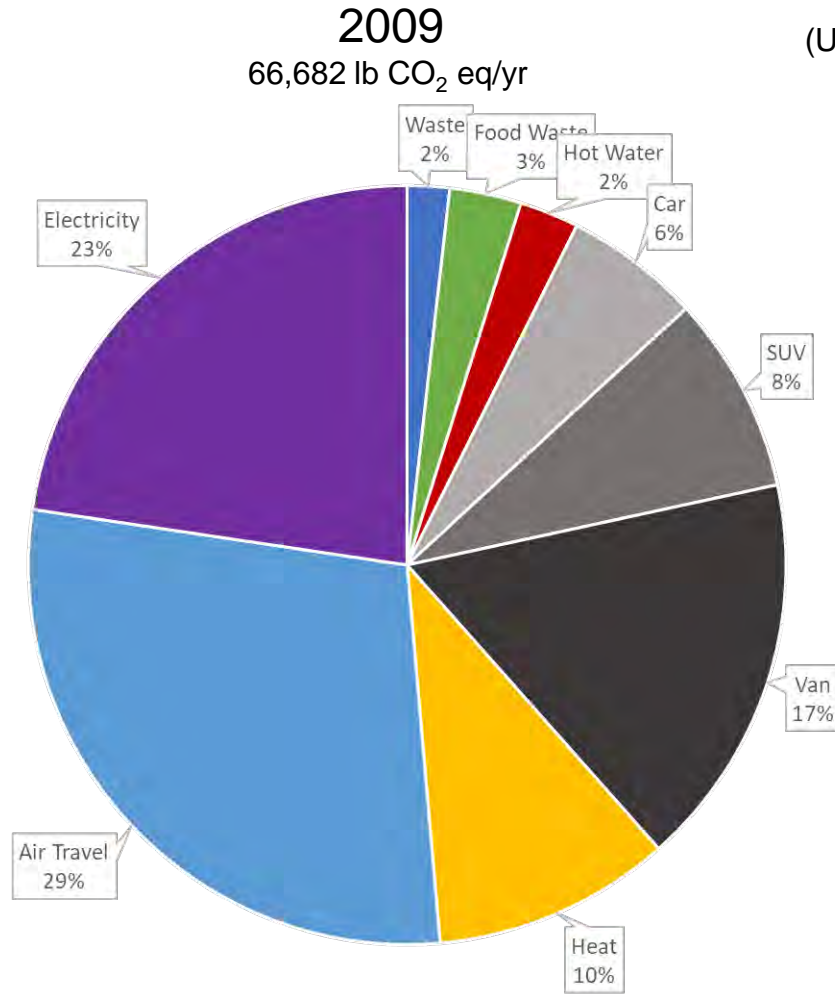
**Dick Cheney**





# HOUSEHOLD CARBON FOOTPRINT

(US Avg 62,150 lb CO<sub>2</sub> eq/yr )





ENERGY	2009
Lighting	Incandescent
Electric	Grid
Autos	Gasoline
Air Travel	Jet Fuel
Heat	Nat Gas
Hot water	Tank Nat Gas
Mower	Gasoline
Air Conditioner	6 SEER Electric
Food Scraps	Landfill

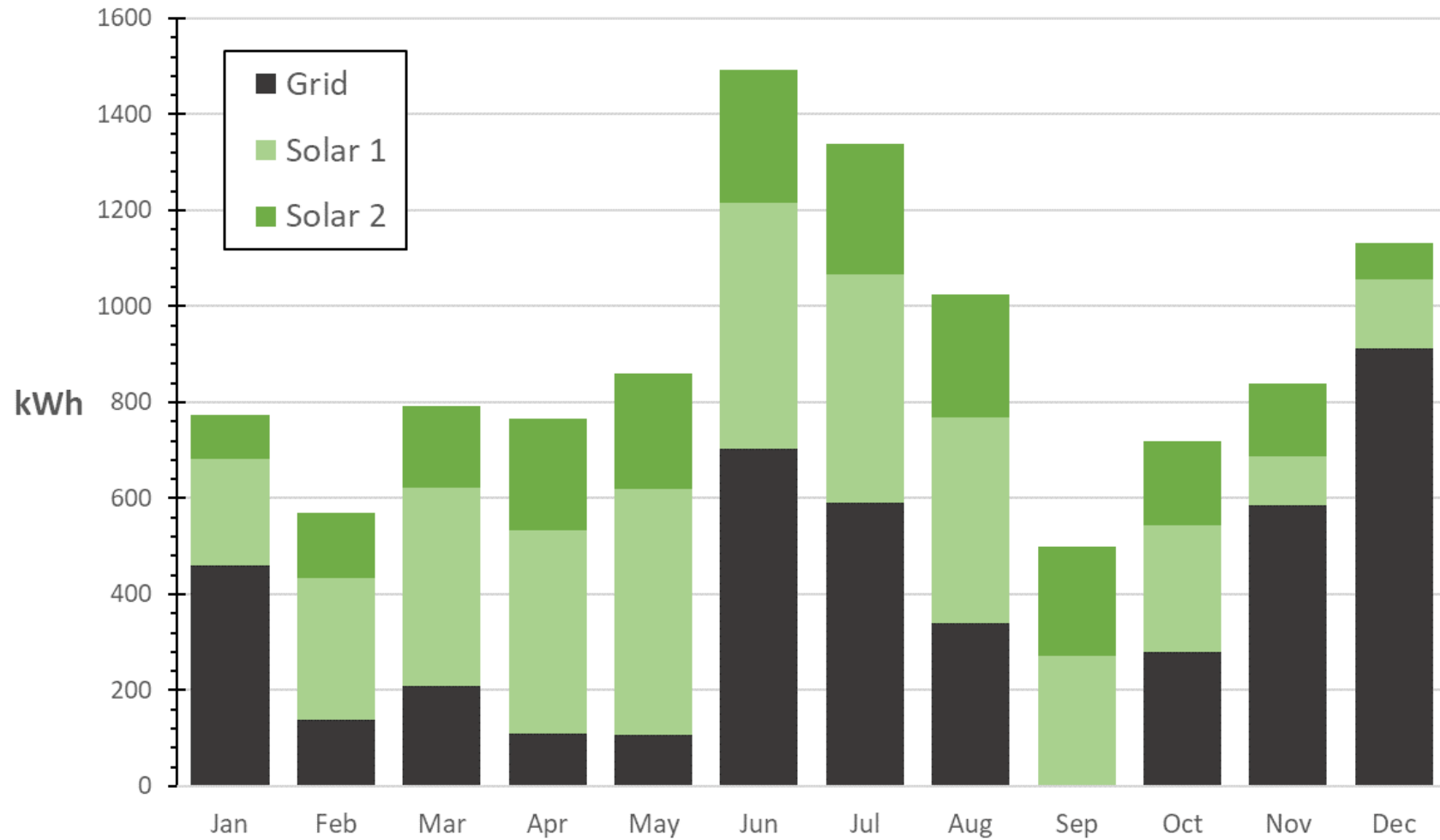
## **Actions Taken to Reduce our Carbon Footprint**

- **Roof mounted photovoltaic solar electric system**
- **Passive solar design**
- **Purchase Wind based grid electricity**
- **Programmable thermostat**
- **Energy Star Appliances**
- **LED lighting**
- **Solar tubes and skylight**
- **Solar electric lawnmower/push mower**
- **Composting (reduces food waste methane)**
- **On demand water heater**
- **6 SEER to 18 SEER HVAC system**

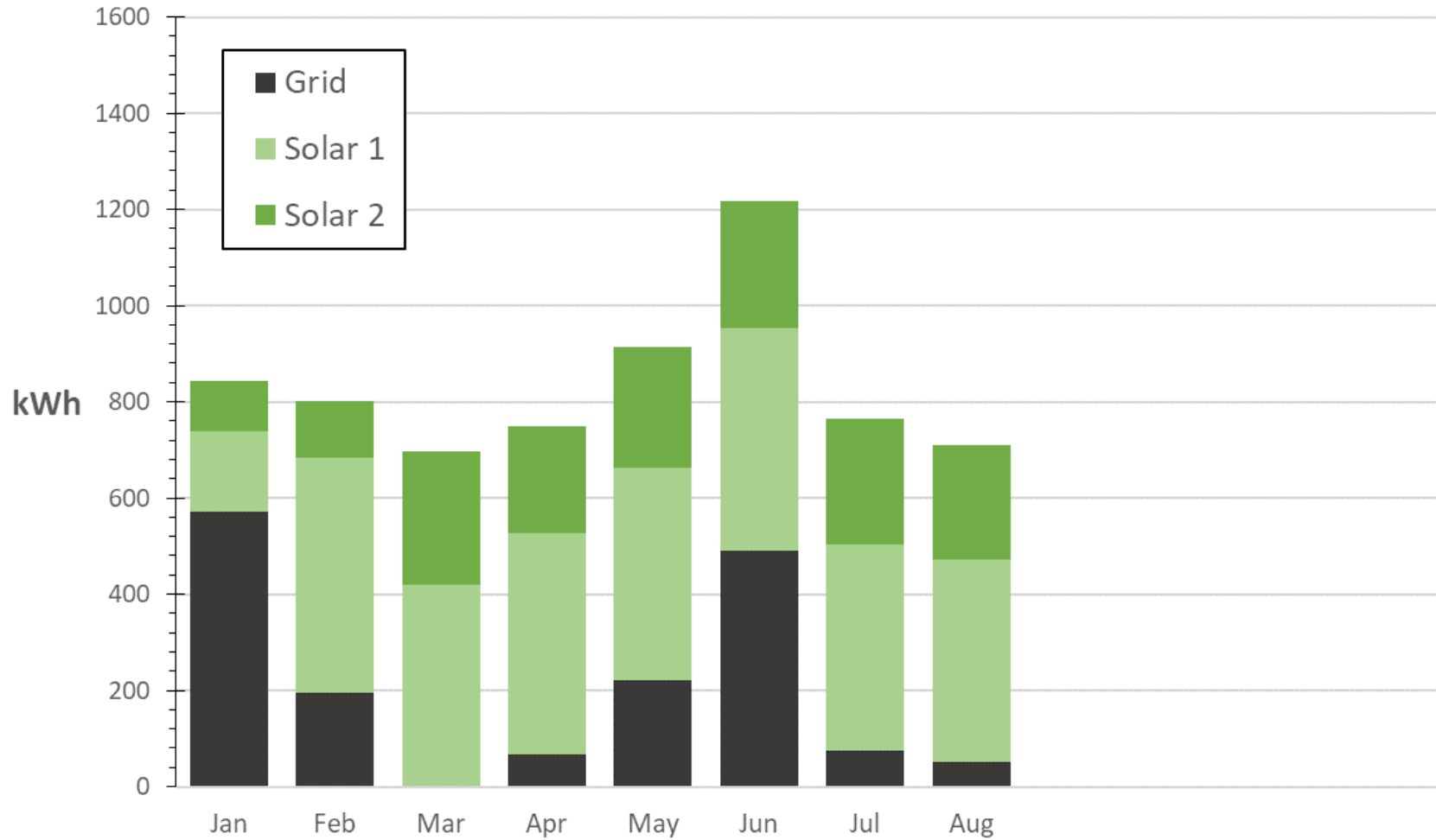
ENERGY	2009	2020
Lighting	Incandescent	LED
Electric	Grid	PV/Wind purchased
Autos	Gasoline	Gasoline/EV/Hybrid
Air Travel	Jet Fuel	Jet Fuel/Less
Heat	Nat Gas	Nat Gas High Eff
Hot water	Tank Nat Gas	On demand Nat Gas
Mower	Gasoline	Solar Electric Robot
Air Conditioner	6 SEER Electric	18 SEER Electric
Food Scraps	Landfill	Backyard Compost



# Electricity Use and Source 2020



# Electricity Use and Source 2021



Impact of High efficiency AC System







## Grid Modernization

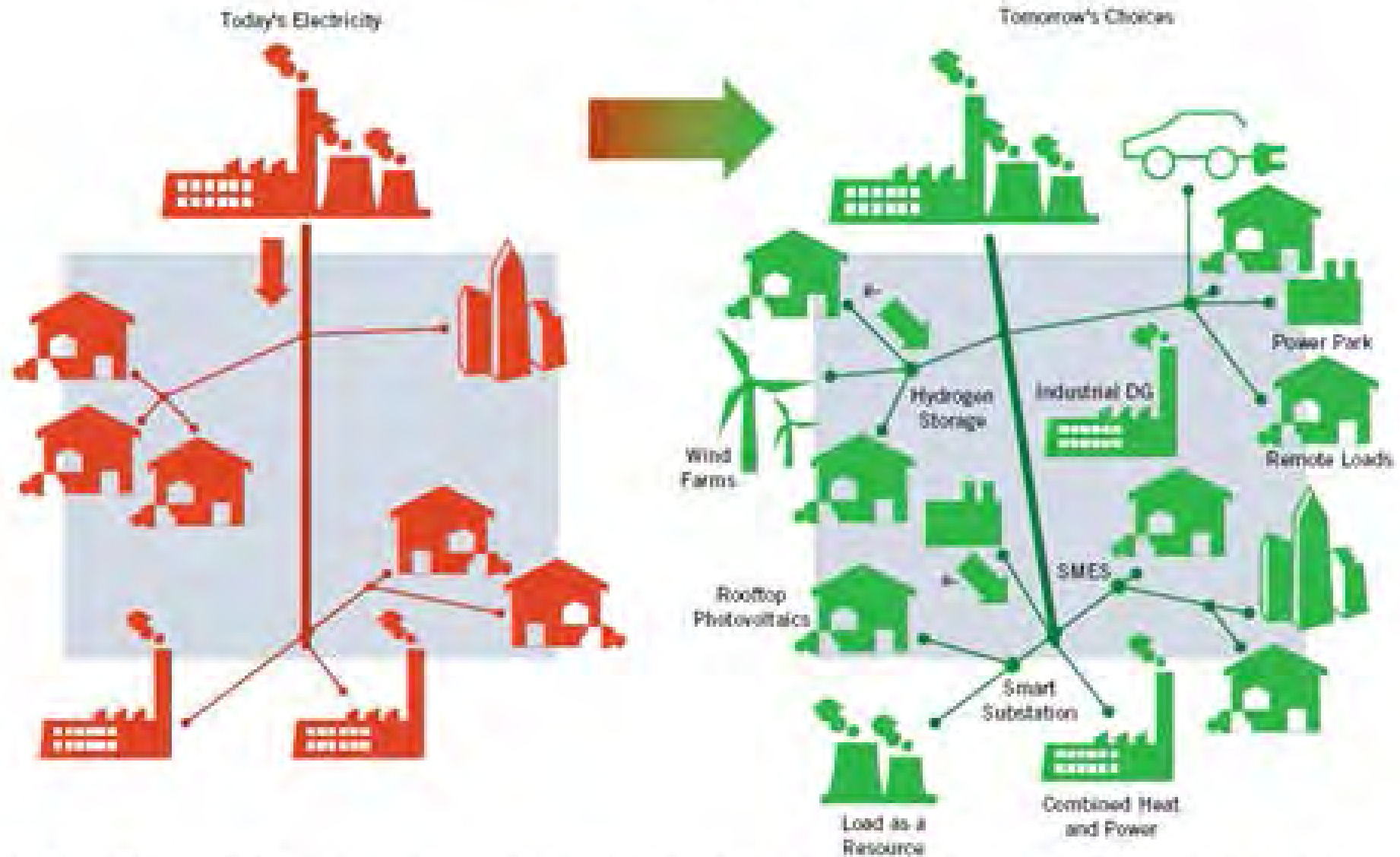
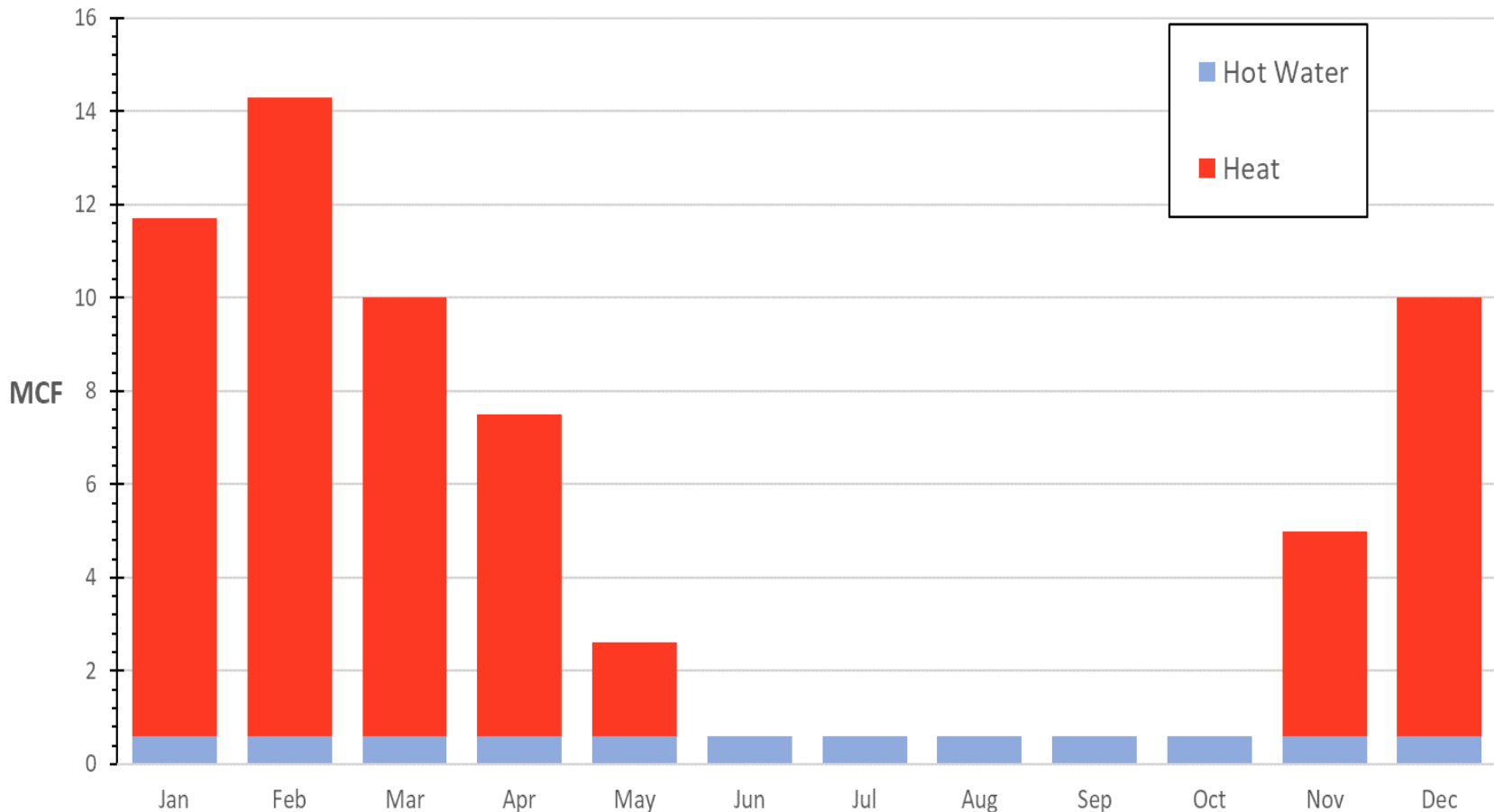


Fig. 1. The IEEE's version of the Smart Grid involves distributed generation, information networks, and system coordination, a drastic change from the existing utility configurations.

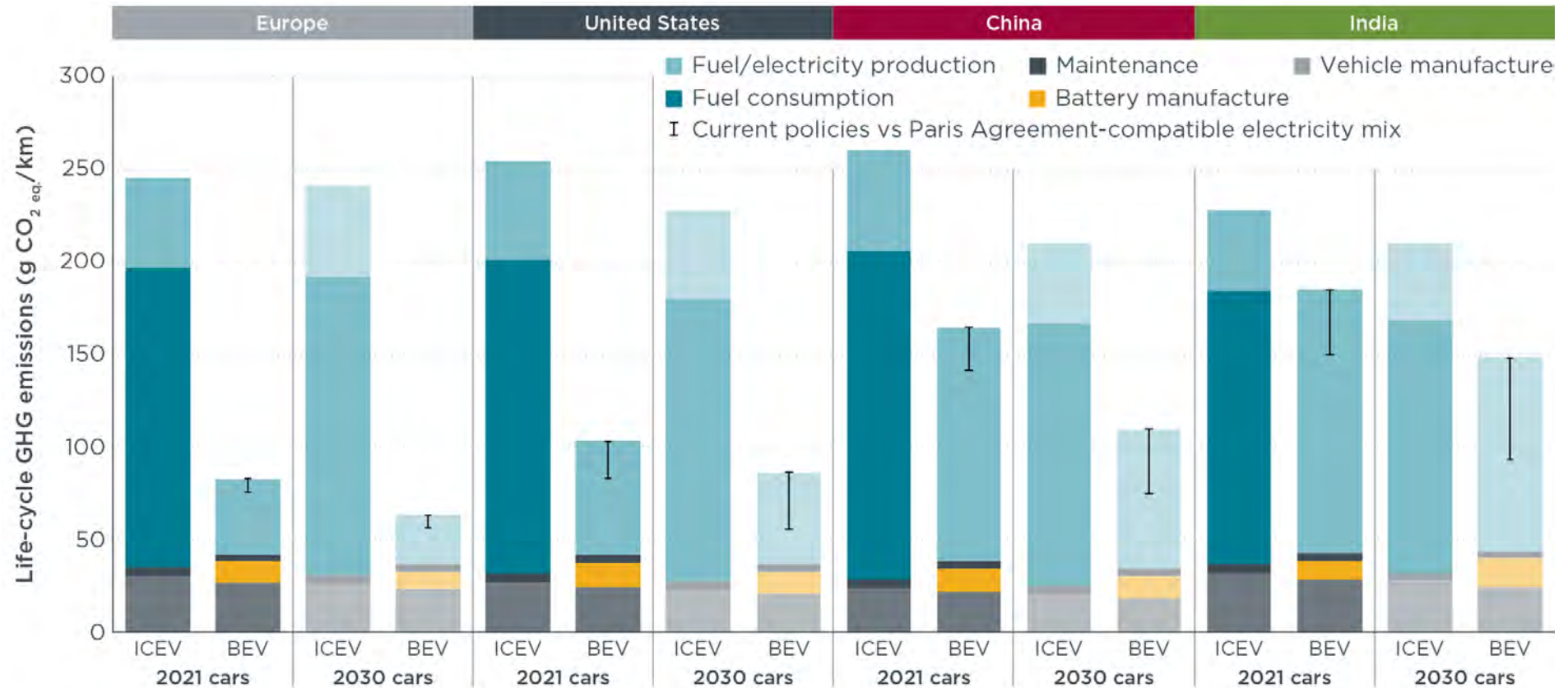
***"The stone age did not end because we ran out of stones" Jay Warmke***

# Natural Gas Use 2020



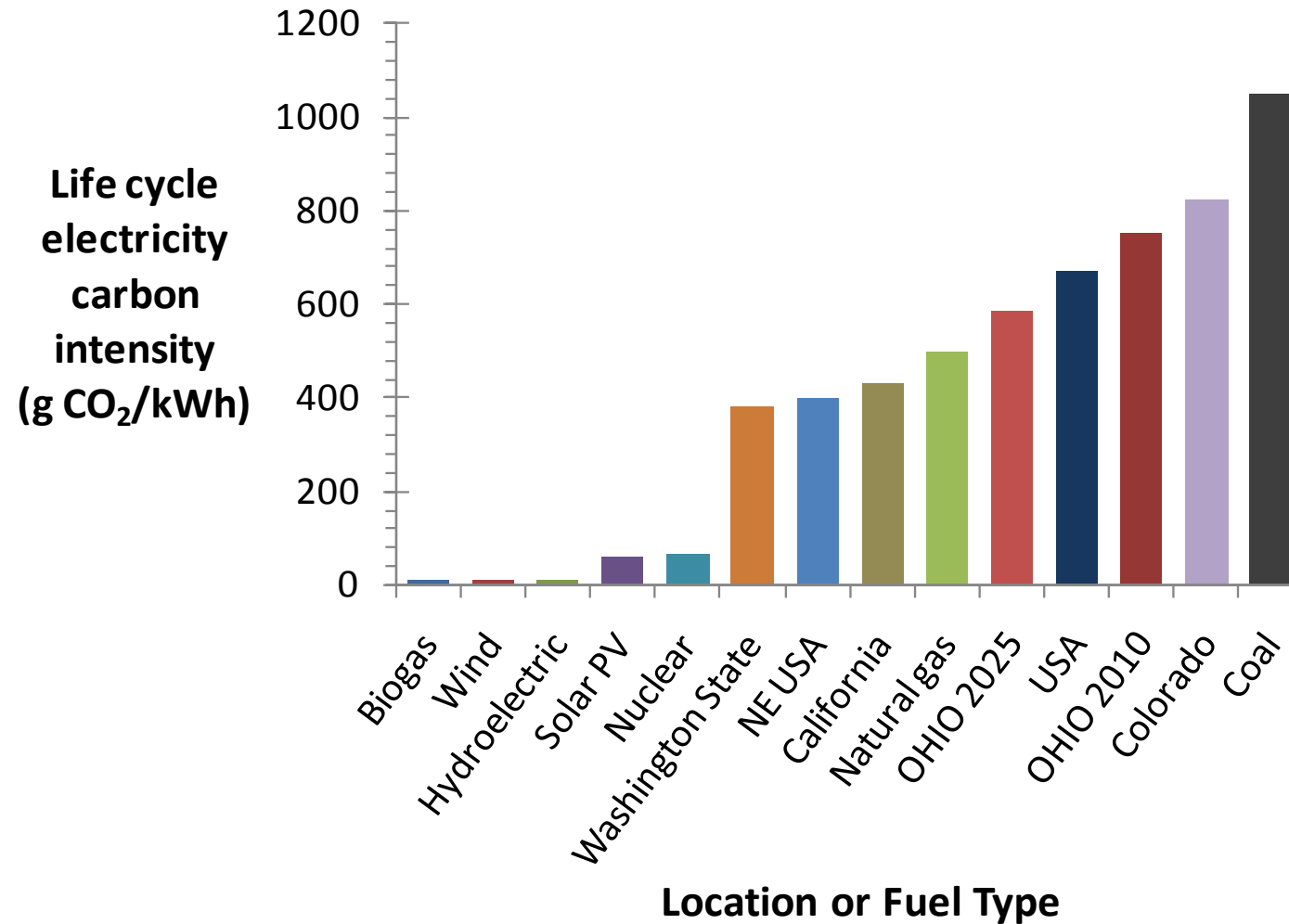
Tankless Hot water system reduced water heating costs by 50%.  
Improved insulation could further reduce CH<sub>4</sub> use

# Lifecycle Green House Gas Emissions of Internal Combustion (ICEV) and Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV)








**Figure ES.1.** Life-cycle GHG emissions of average medium-size gasoline internal combustion engine (ICEVs) and battery electric vehicles (BEVs) registered in Europe, the United States, China, and India in 2021 and projected to be registered in 2030. The error bars indicate the difference between the development of the electricity mix according to stated policies (the higher values) and what is required to align with the Paris Agreement.

# Carbon intensity of electricity







# Tail pipe + upstream CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of Vehicles

Vehicle	g CO <sub>2</sub> / mile (tail pipe+upstream)	Image
Bicycle	1	
Chevy Volt (electric mode, solar PV charged)	10	
Nissan Leaf Electric (NY electric)	120	
Chevy Volt (electric mode, NY electric)	126	
Toyota Prius hybrid (50 mpg)	222	
Nissan Leaf Electric (Ohio electric)	270	
Chevy Volt (electric mode, Ohio electric)	284	
Tesla Model 3	290	
Ford Escape PHEV with rooftop solar panel	322	
Mazda 3 (33 mpg)	335	
Ford Escape Hybrid (32 mpg)	346	
Porsche Boxster	504	
Dodge Caravan (20 mpg)	554	
Chevy Corvette (18 mpg)	616	
Ford Escape V6 4WD	644	
Ford F150 truck (12 mpg)	853	

Source: US DOE/EPA, [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)

# Lawn Mowers

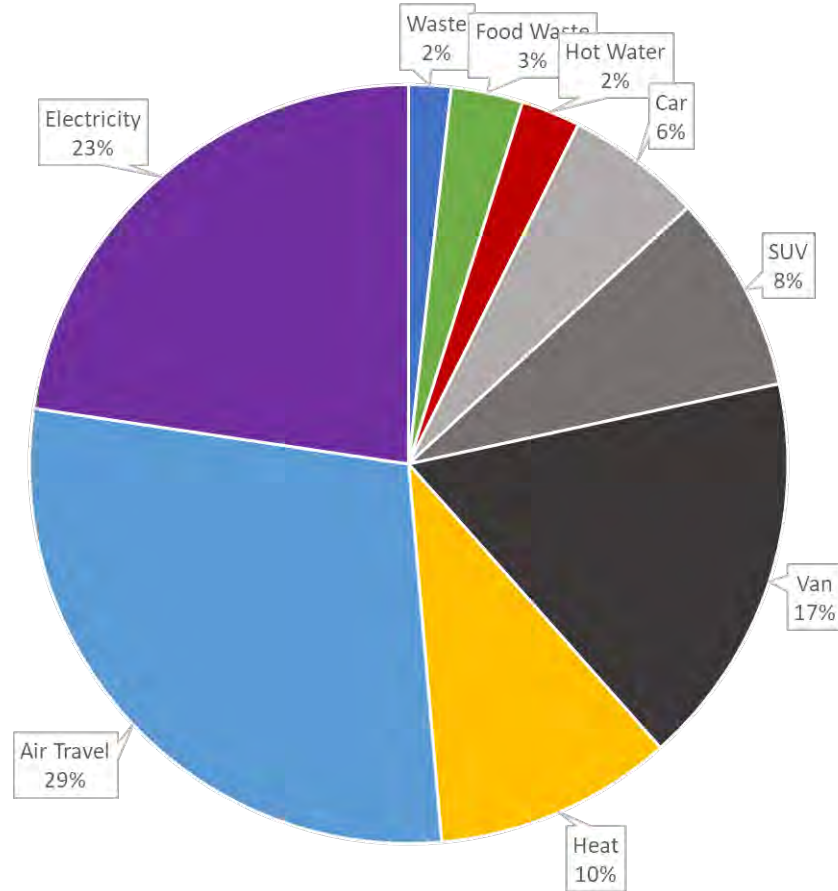
(1/3 Acre Lawn mowed 20 times per year)

				
	Rider	Gas Push	Electric	Robot
Cost	\$ 2,000	\$ 250	\$ 300	\$ 900
Weight (lbs)	600	90	65	21
Gasoline Use (gal)	6.6	2.6	0	0
Electric Use (Kwh/acre)	0	0	8.6	7.2
CO2eq emission (lb/y)	124	49	15	11
Fuel Cost (\$/y)	\$ 19.80	\$ 7.90	\$ 1.03	\$ 0.86
Noise (db)	95	88	75	63
Comments	Very loud, Disturbs all neighbors Causes ruts	Loud, ruins quiet meals and naps	Moderate noise Good workout	Quiet, undetectable Can nap while mowing

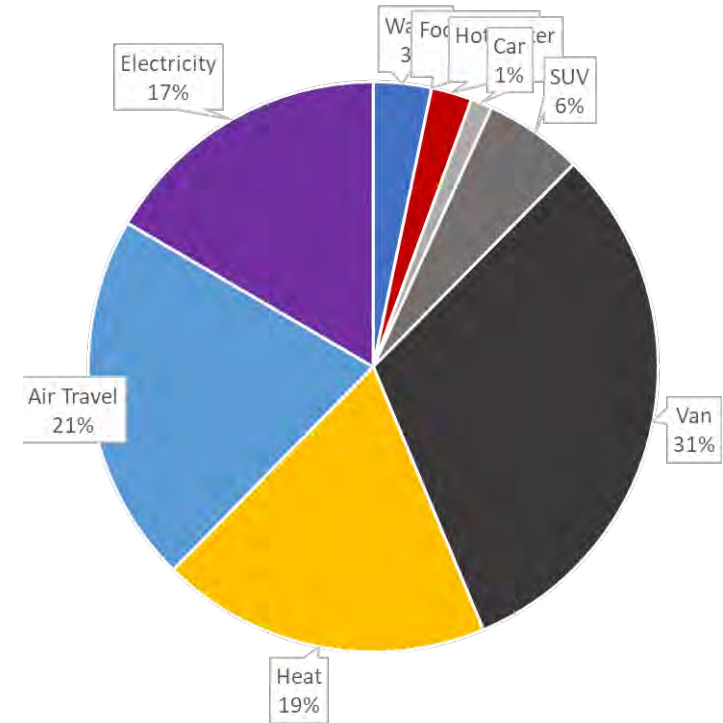
# HOUSEHOLD CARBON FOOTPRINT COMPARISON

(US Avg 62,150 lb CO<sub>2</sub> eq/yr )

2009  
66,682 lb CO<sub>2</sub> eq/yr



2020  
36,450 lb CO<sub>2</sub> eq/yr

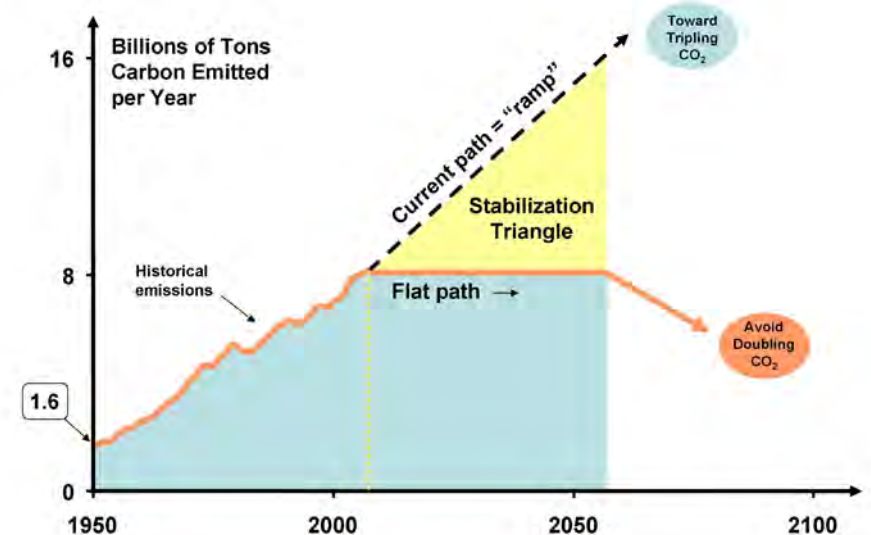




## “8 Wedges” needed to stabilize Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 525 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>, +5.4°F

(status quo = 850 ppm, +9°F). Each “Wedge” reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 1 billion tons over 50 yrs.

- Efficient vehicles: increase from 30 to 60 mpg (2 billion cars)
- Drive less: from 10,000 to 5,000 miles/yr per driver
- Increase efficiency of buildings and appliances by 25%
- Double efficiency of coal plants
- Replace 1400 coal plants with natural gas plants (4X increase)
- Capture all CO<sub>2</sub> at power plants (800 coal or 1600 gas)
- Increase nuclear 2X to reduce coal use
- Increase wind 50X to reduce coal use
- Increase solar 700X to reduce coal use
- Increase wind 100X to produce H<sub>2</sub> for cars
- Increase biofuels 150X (using 1/6 of Earth’s cropland)
- Stop all deforestation, 2X tree planting
- Use conservation tillage on all crop land (10X current)



# Take Home Messages

- Cost Effective Actions can reduce the carbon footprint of a typical family by 50%.
- In order to avoid a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, we need to **rapidly** deploy low-carbon energy technologies and/or enhance natural sinks.
- We already have an adequate portfolio of technologies to make large cuts in emissions
- No one technology can do the whole job – a variety of strategies will need to be used to stay on a path that avoids a CO<sub>2</sub> doubling.
- Every “wedge” has associated impacts and costs.

# Questions?



# Climate Change

## Personal Action Options

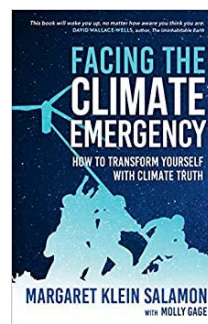
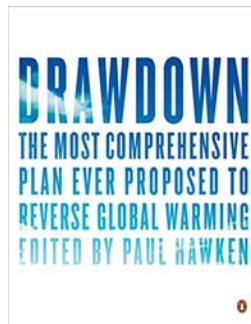
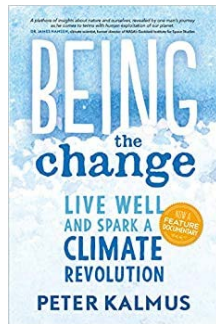
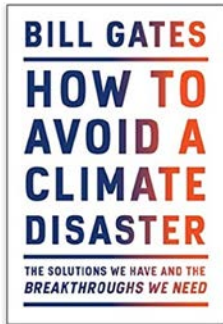
Barry Romich and Fred Michel

Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network

WCSEN.org

### References and Resources

---



Join Wayne County Sustainable Energy Network [www.wcsen.org](http://www.wcsen.org)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_change)

<https://cleantechnica.com/>

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/>

[bromich@aol.com](mailto:bromich@aol.com)

[president@wcsen.org](mailto:president@wcsen.org)