

Innovation for Our Energy Future

Grid-Based Renewable Electricity and Hydrogen Integration

Carolyn Elam

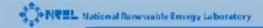
Senior Project Leader – Hydrogen Production Electric & Hydrogen Technologies & Systems Center National Renewable Energy Laboratory



NREL is operated by Midwest Research Institute - Battelle

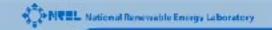
Goals for Electrolysis in Hydrogen Fuel Supply

- Goal is to supply hydrogen fuel for 20% of the lightduty vehicle fleet
 - 12 million short tons of hydrogen annually
 - 450 TWh per year
- Must be competitive
 - With gasoline, assuming FCV will have twice the efficiency of an ICE
 - With other hydrogen production methods
- Net zero impact or reduction in GHG emissions
 - Compared to Gasoline ICE 31% reduction in carbon emissions from the current electricity mix
 - Compared to Natural Gas-Derived Hydrogen 65% reduction in carbon emissions from the current electricity mix



Goals for Electrolysis (cont.)

- Need to cut the cost of hydrogen production via electrolysis in half
 - Lower feedstock cost (electricity)
 - Lower capital cost
- No net increase in carbon emissions
 - Improve efficiency of current generation mix
 - Increase market share for low- and no-carbon electricity sources
- But is this possible?

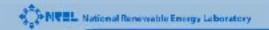


Figuring out the potential....

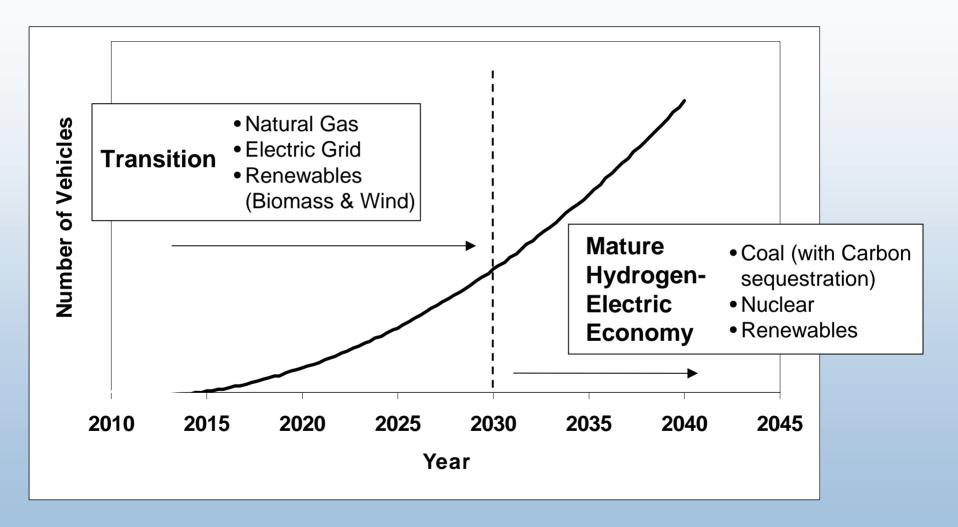
To answer this question we need to understand:

- Cost impacts, including requirements for capital, storage, and feedstock (electricity)
- How much hydrogen will be required, where, and when
 - Amount that could be produced by electrolysis
 - Competition
- Potential of non-carbon electricity sources
 - Resource availability
 - Cost
 - Impact on transmission and distribution

This represents a multi-level analysis issue.

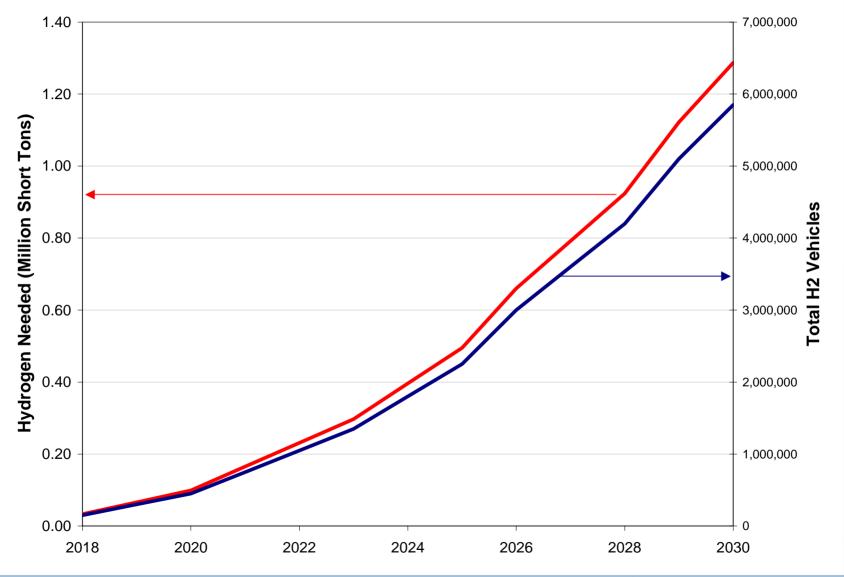


Moving Toward a Hydrogen-Electric Future





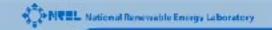
How much hydrogen?





How much Hydrogen?

- Transition Period
 - Sufficient stations to enable interstate travel
 - Accessible in urban areas
- Major Market Share
 - -~120,000 hydrogen fuel stations
 - Convenient in urban areas
 - Accessible in rural areas



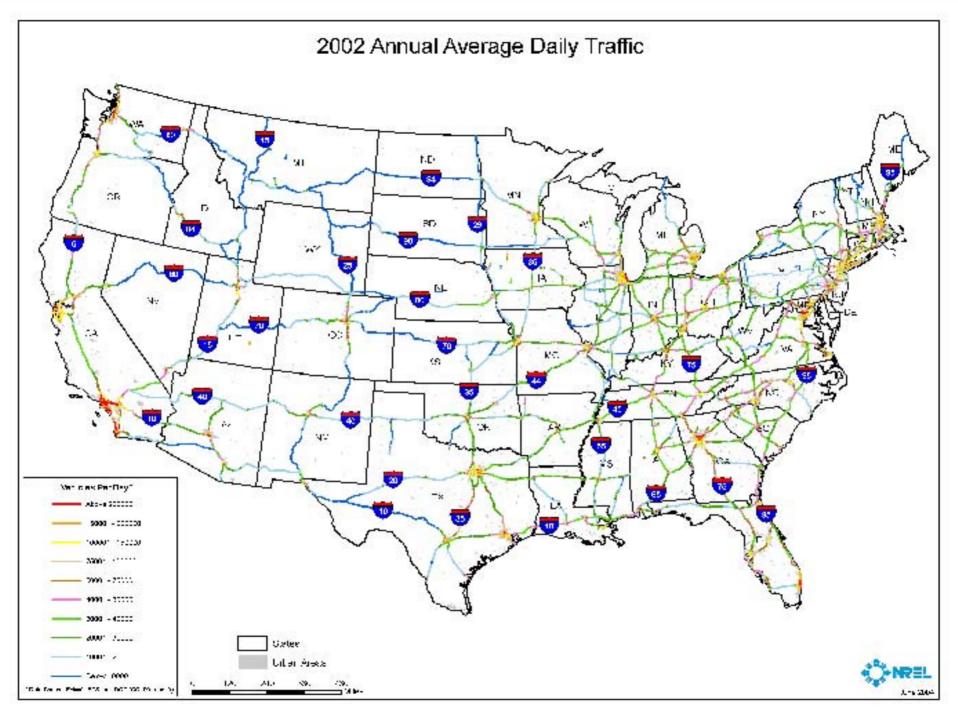
Where do we build hydrogen stations?

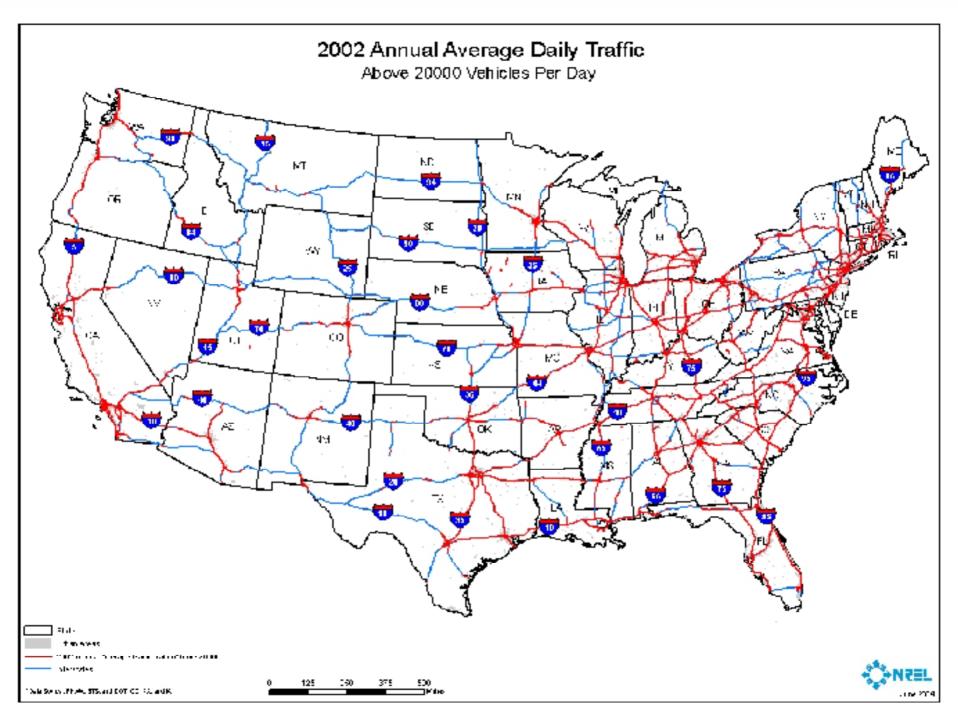
For the transition phase:

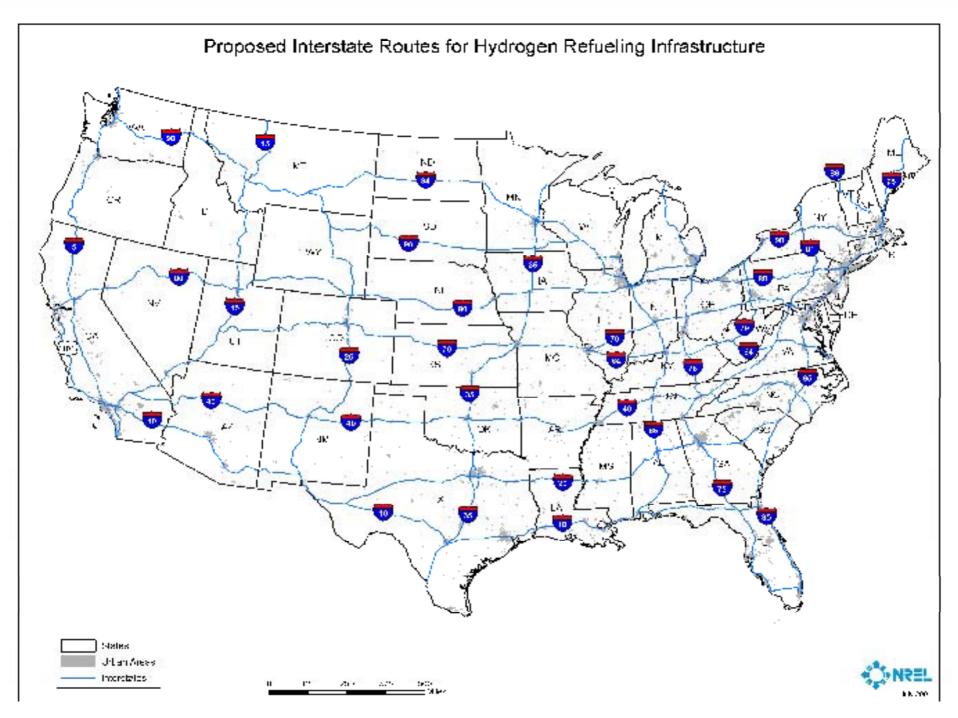
- Use existing hydrogen fueling stations
- Build near existing hydrogen production facilities
- Co-locate at existing alternative fuels stations

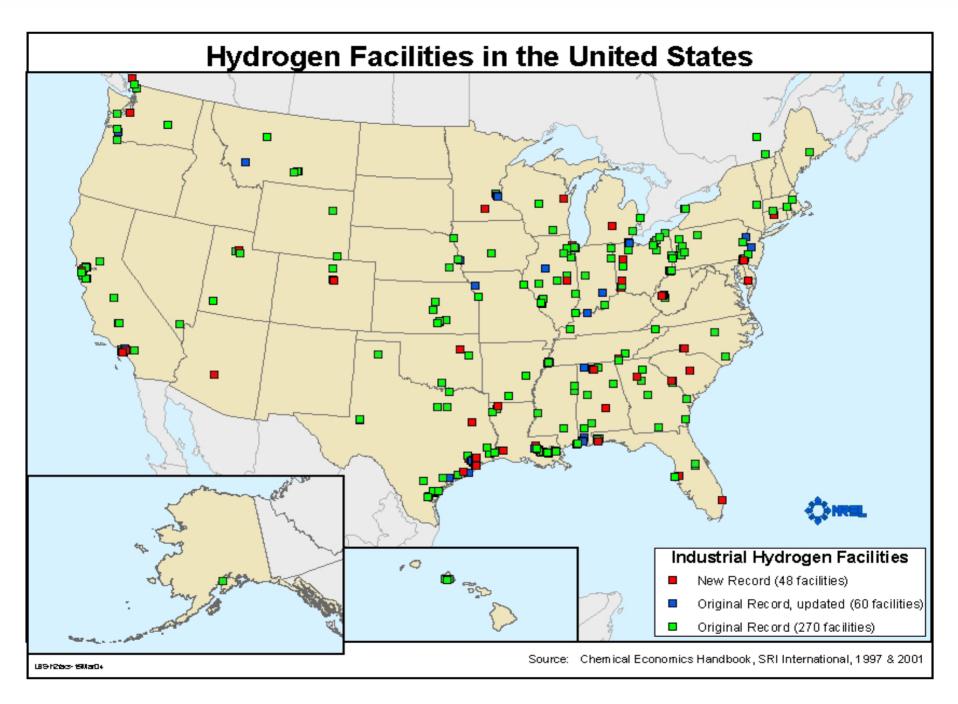


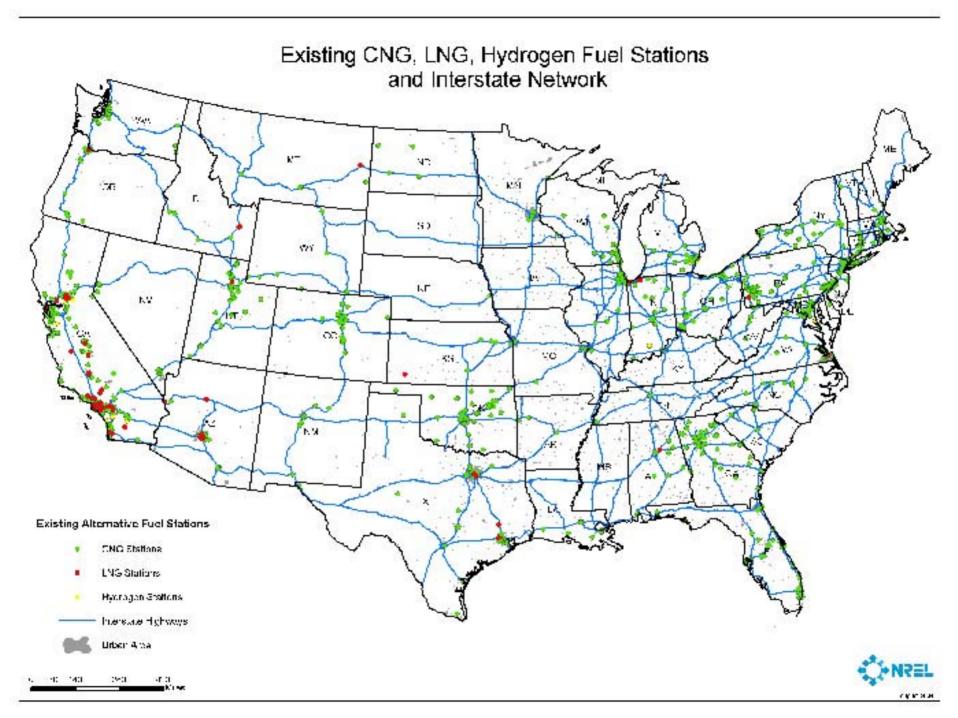


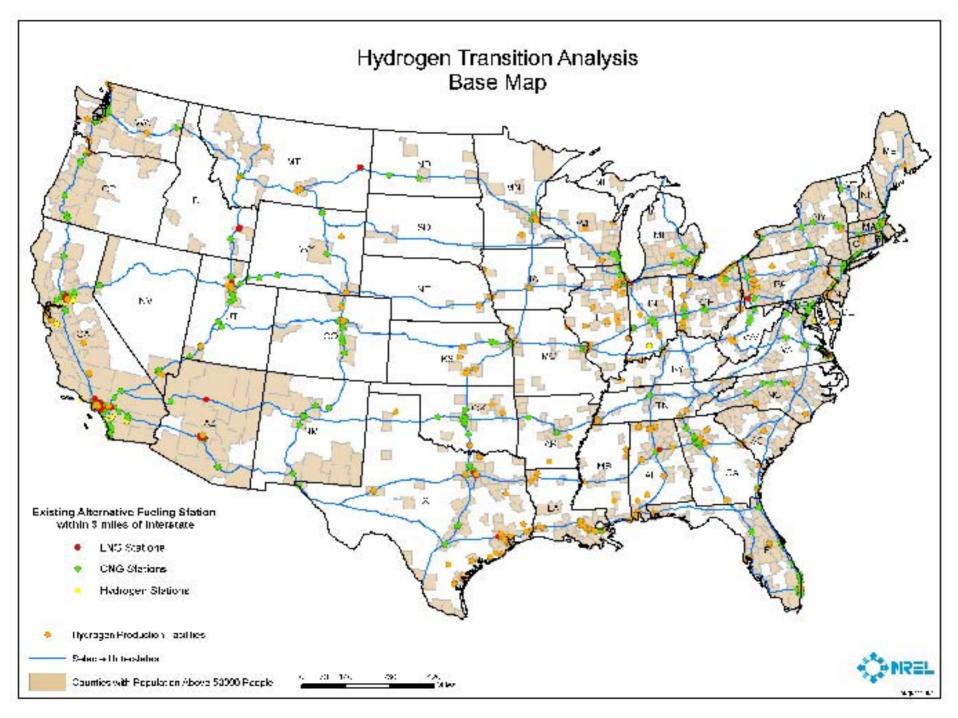


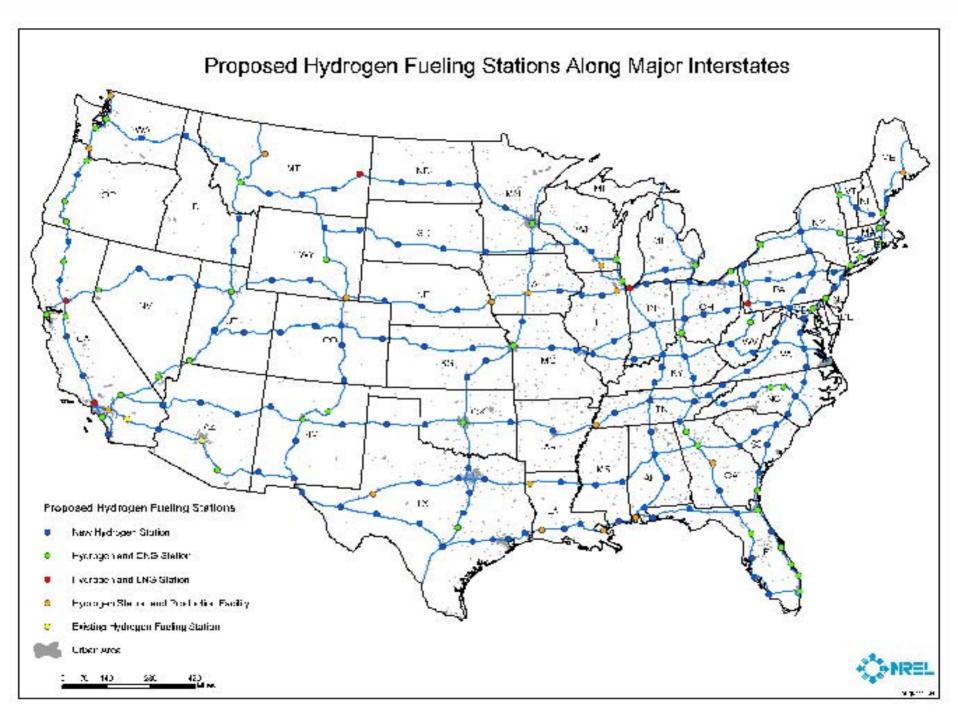












Legend

- New Hydrogen Station
- Hydrogen and CNG Station
- Hydrogen and LNG Station
- Hydrogen Station and Production Facility
- Existing Hydrogen Station
- Proposed Interstate Hwy
- ----- Other Interstate Hwy
 - US Hwy
- ---- Railmads
 - States
 - Counties with Population above 50000 People Urban Areas
 - Parks



Legend

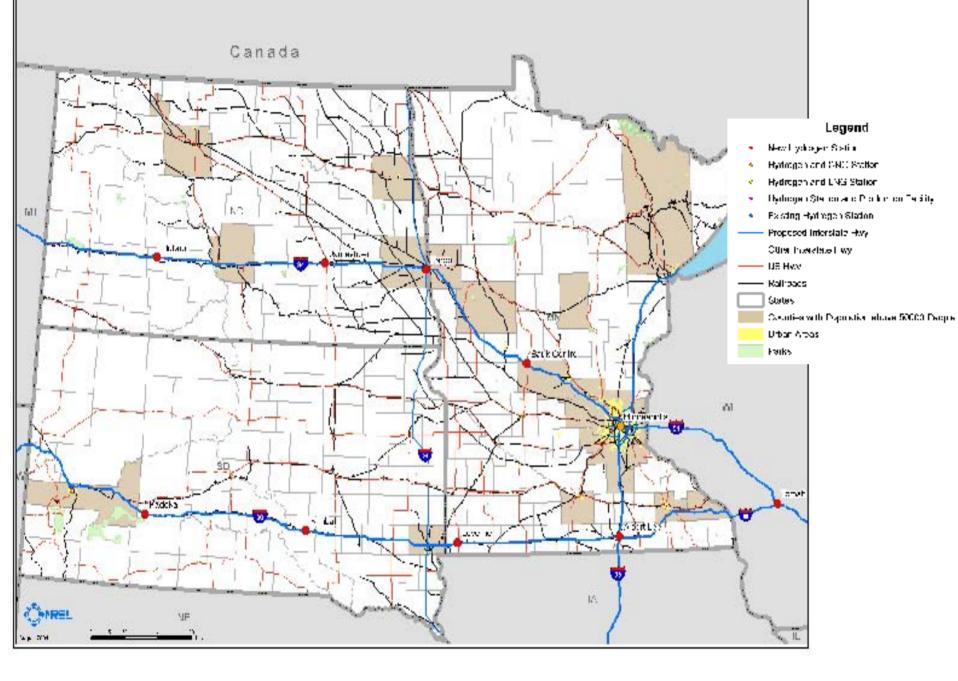
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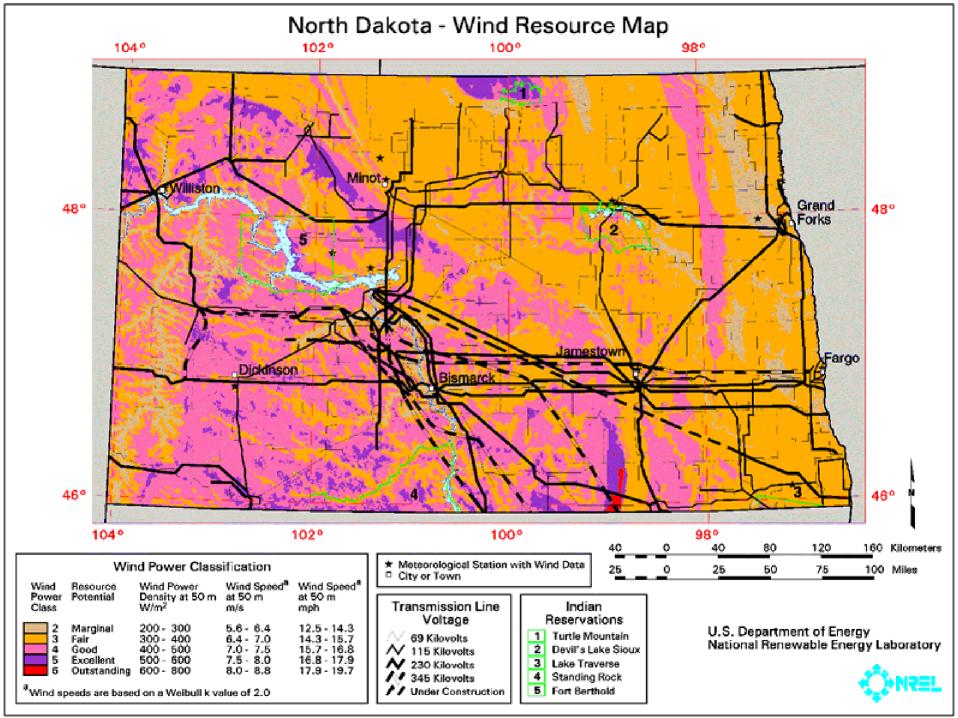
States

Counties with Population above 50000 People. Urban Areas

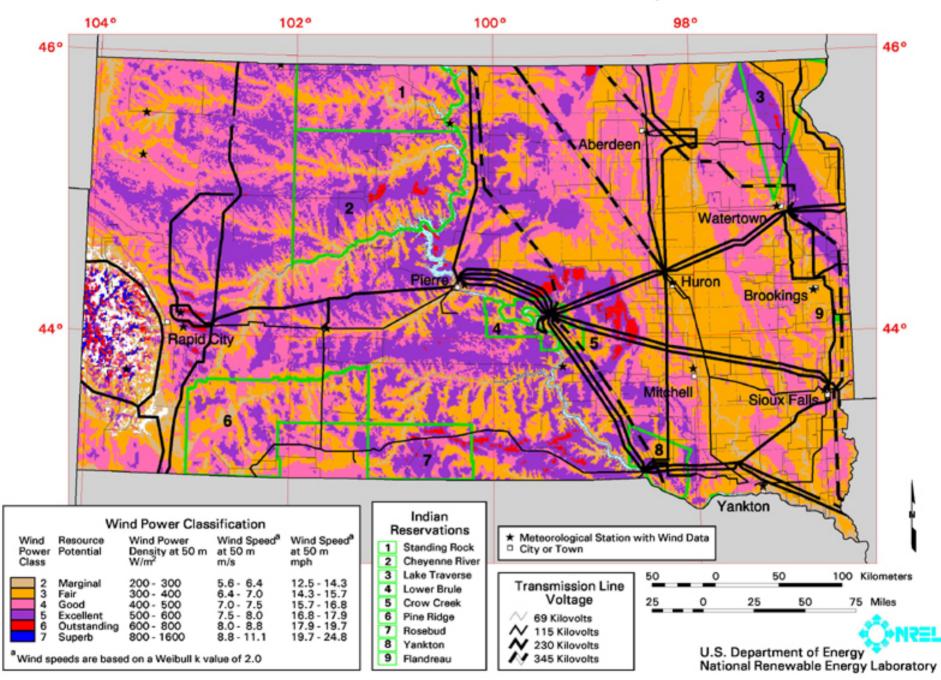
Parks





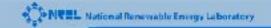


South Dakota - Wind Resource Map

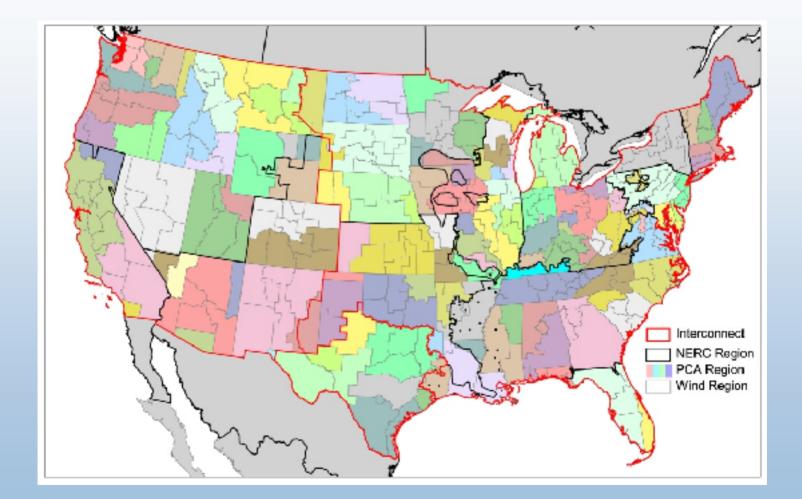


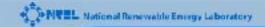
Market Analysis Using WinDS-H2

- A multi-regional, multi-time-period model of capacity expansion in the electric sector and hydrogen production in the U.S
- Designed to estimate market potential of wind energy and hydrogen from wind in the U.S. for the next 20 – 50 years under different technology development and policy scenarios

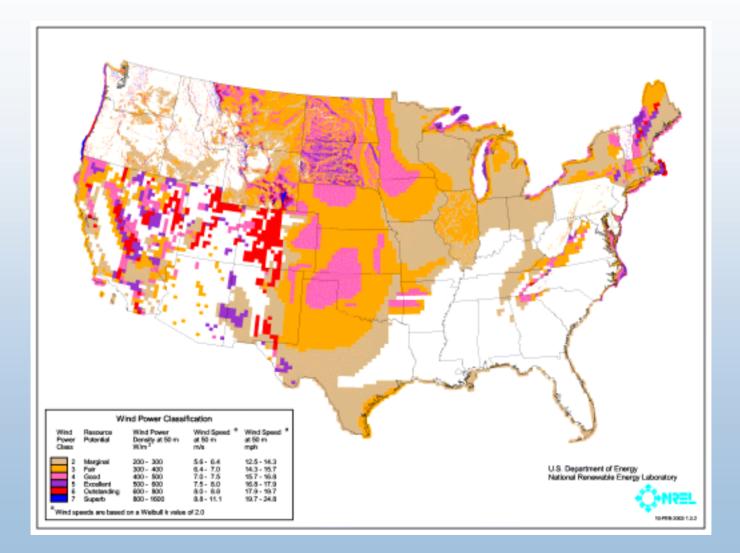


Market Analysis Using WinDS



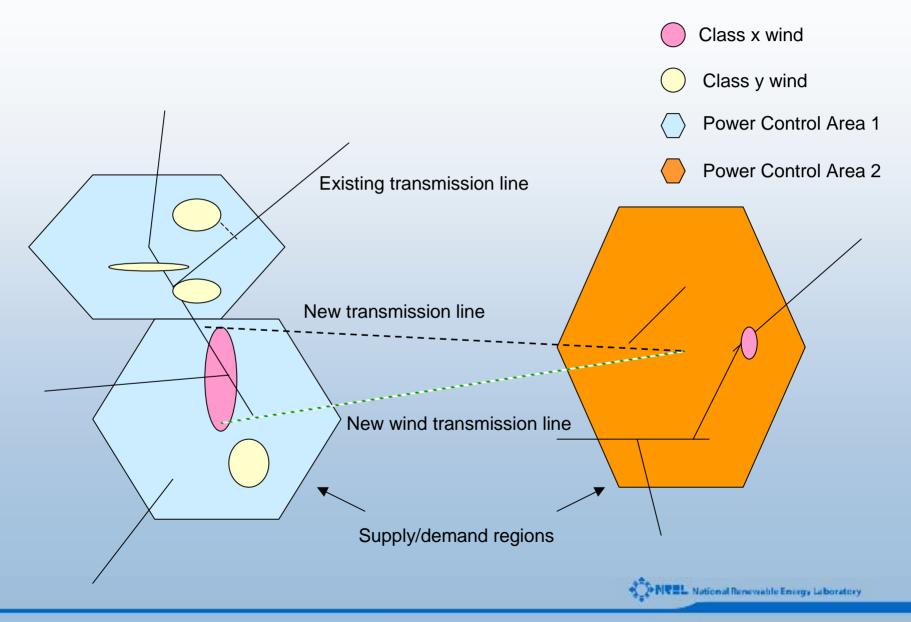


Wind Resources

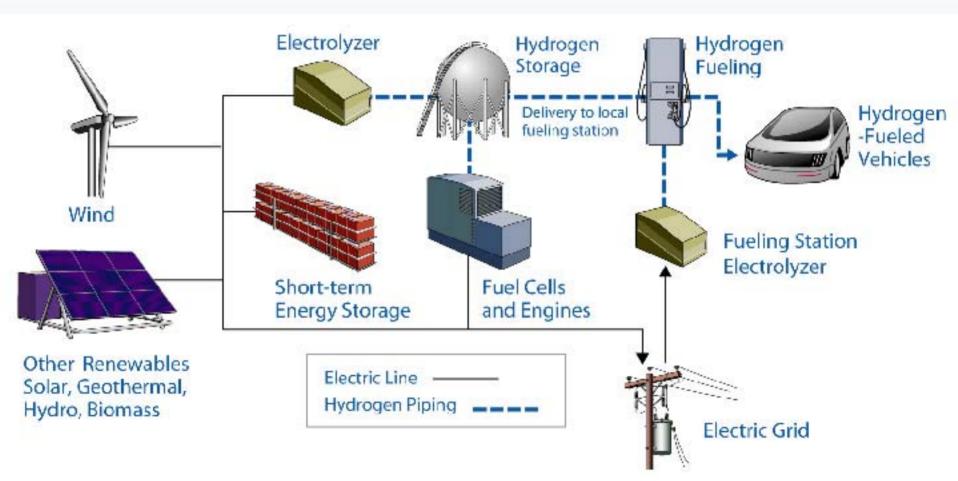




Constraints on Wind Transmission



Electrolysis Options



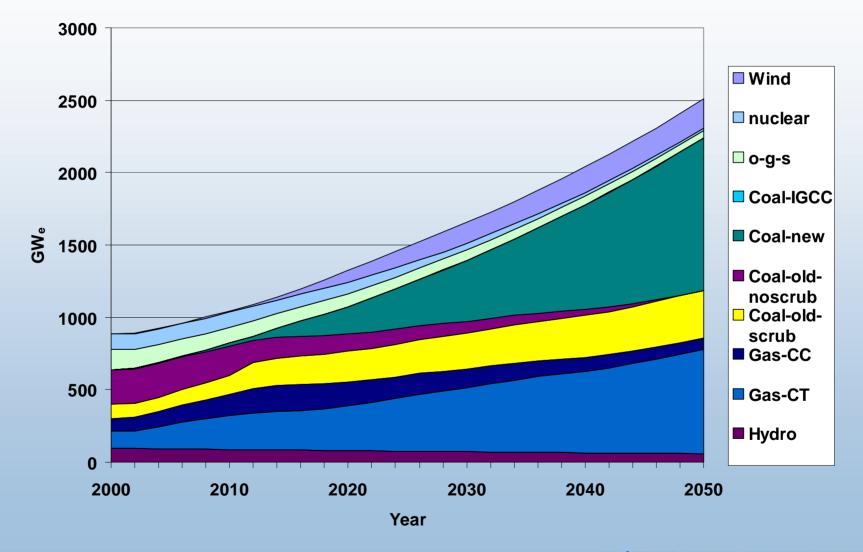


Cost/Performance for Class 6 Wind Resources

Year	Capital Cost (\$/kW)	Capacity Factor
2000	942	0.4
2010	754	0.5
2020	706	0.54



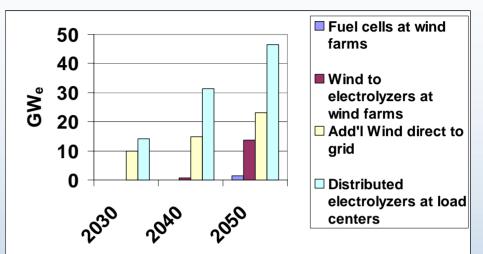
Base Case Results

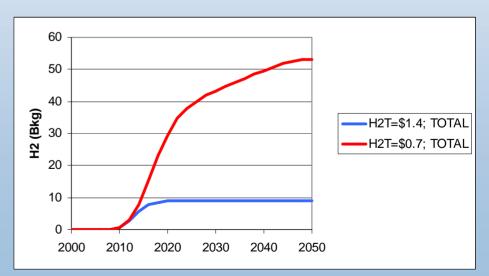


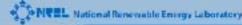


Cases Considered (so far)

- Low-cost high-efficiency electrolyzers
 - Electrolyzers show up at both the wind farm and the load center
 - More wind to grid
- Sensitivity to hydrogen delivery cost
 - Hydrogen delivery distance/cost will have significant impact
- Increased wind penetration depends heavily on hydrogen conversion device (i.e. fuel cell) cost and efficiency







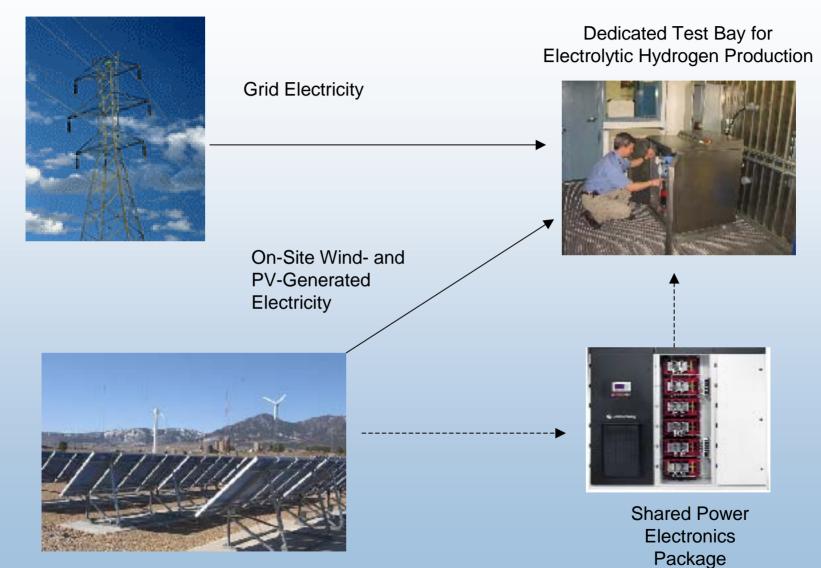
Integration with Renewables: Research Opportunities

- Co-producing electricity and hydrogen can address issues that currently face intermittent and season renewable technologies
- Wind/electrolysis could be the first economical renewable system
- R&D: hybrid system optimization, power electronics, system design





Component Development



REL National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Component Development

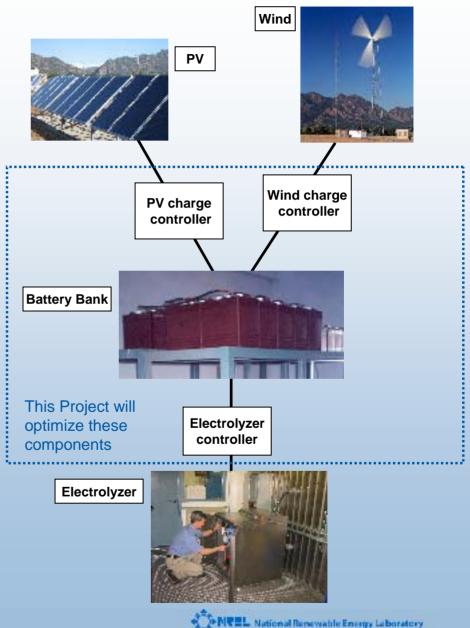
Past research on integrating electrolyzers with renewables has focused on integrating commercially available electrolyzers and renewables, both complete with their own dedicated power electronics and controller.

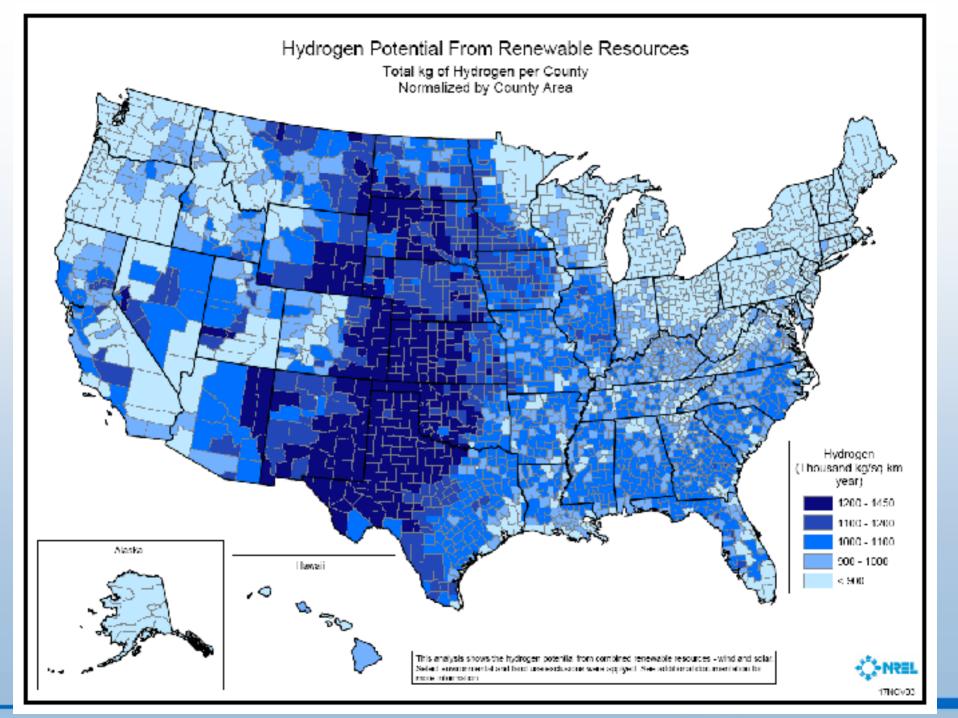
Designing a single power electronics package and controller will:

- Eliminate this redundancy
- Allow matching of renewable power output to electrolyzer power requirements leading to gains in system efficiency.

This new design will eliminate the need for a constant voltage DC bus and associated battery bank present in all systems previously studied.

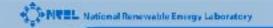
Typically power electronics can be up to 30% of each system's cost.





Opportunities

- Wind could play a substantial role in hydrogen production at competitive prices, while reducing carbon from the generation mix
- Wind is essentially a fuel-free hydrogen generation source
 - Removes most uncertainty related to energy cost projection
 - Directly tied to capital cost of components



What might be practical?

- Levelize wind generation profile
 - Reduce risk
 - Downsize transmission
- Hydrogen fuel production at the wind site near hydrogen demand
- Electrolyzers at fueling stations creating new, controllable demand
 - Levelize load
 - Intelligent grid control
- Electrolyzers at fueling station create constant load
 - Long-term purchase agreements

