

Thermal Energy Storage for Industrial Heat: Overview, System Analysis, and Research Pilots



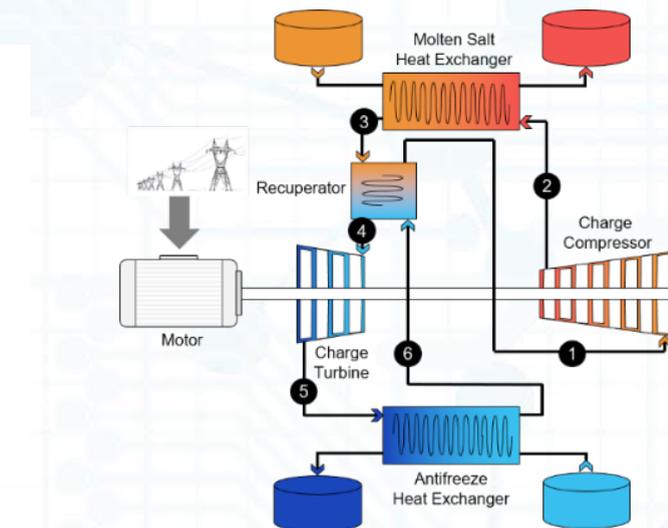
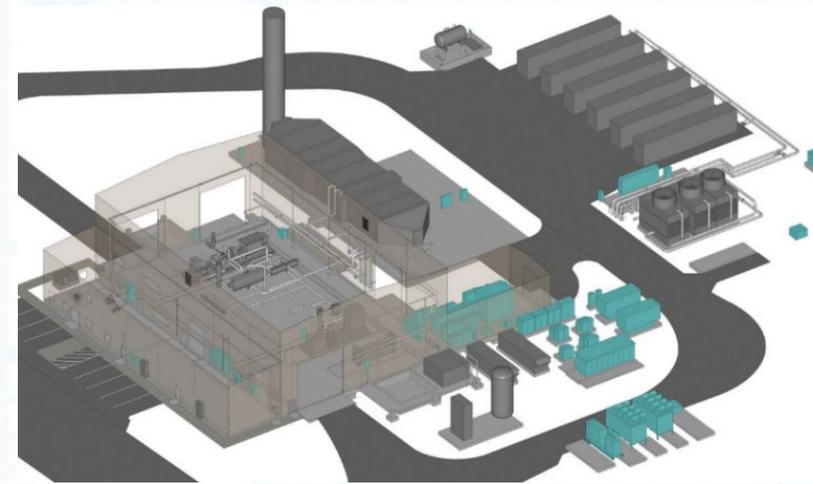
Speaker

Joshua Schmitt
Assistant Program Manager
Southwest Research Institute

Co-Authors

Dr. Owen Pryor
Colleen McCandless

January 30, 2025
Industrial Process Emissions Reduction Workshop
San Antonio, Texas



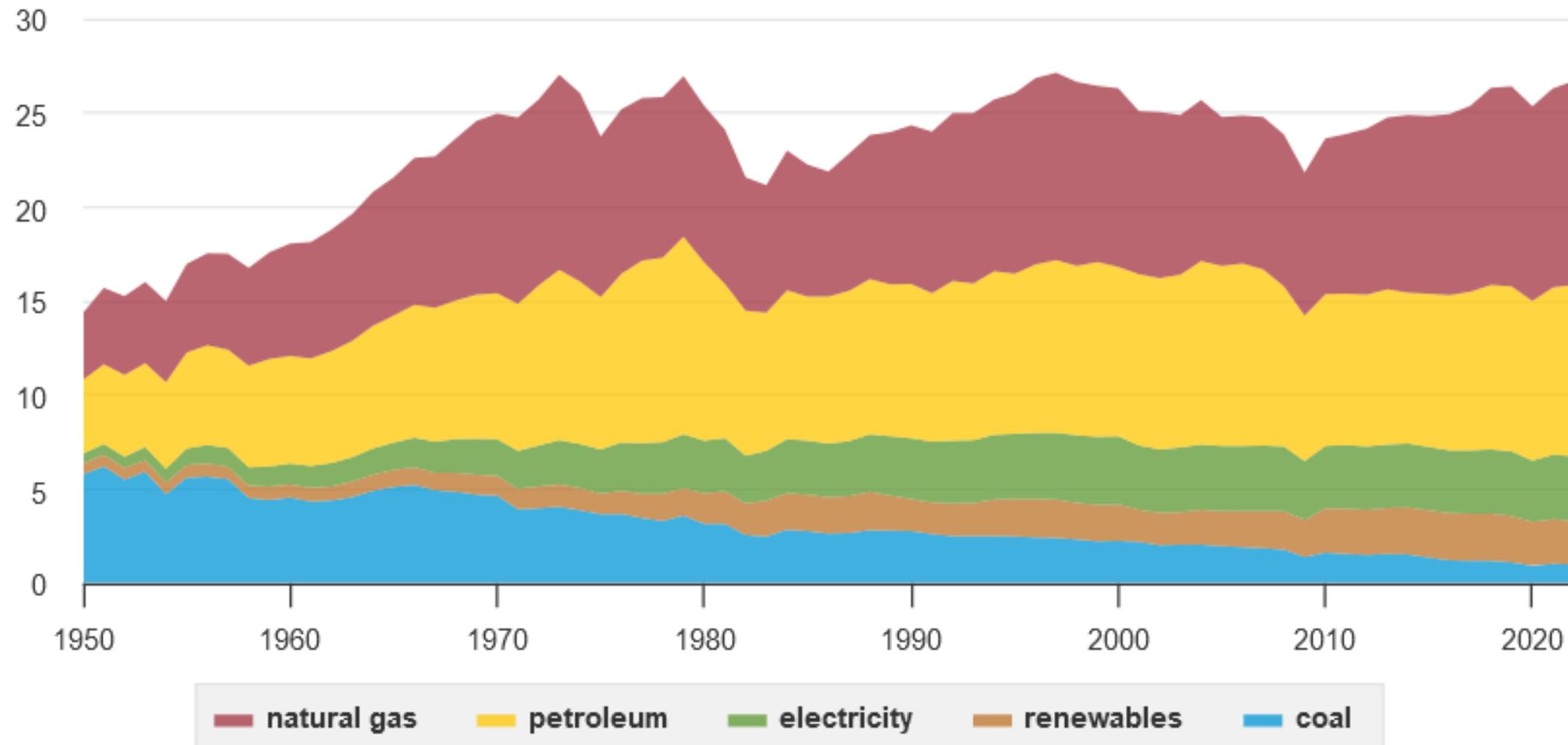
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

swri.org

United States Historical Industrial Energy Use

U.S. industrial sector energy use by source, 1950-2022

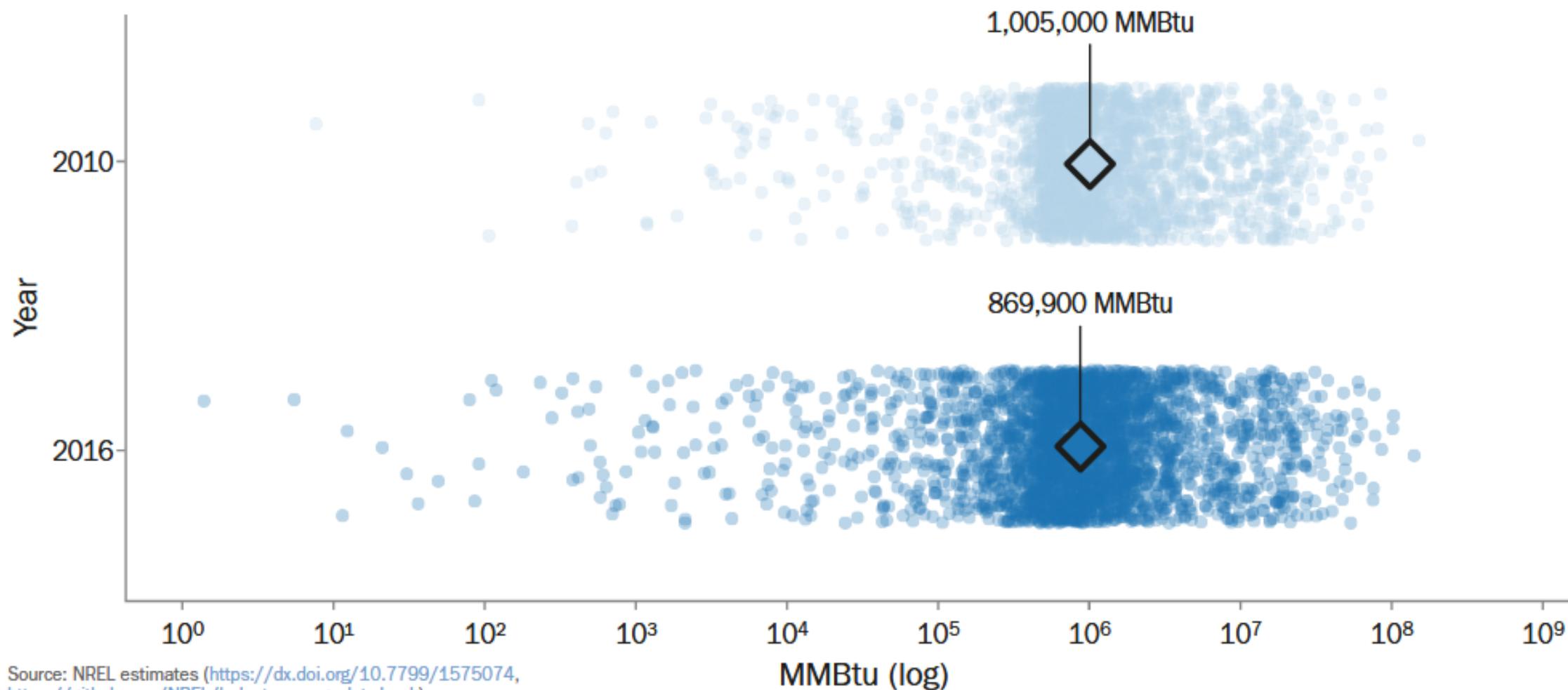
quadrillion British thermal units 1 quad = 1.06 billion GJ



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 2.4, June 2023 , preliminary data for 2022

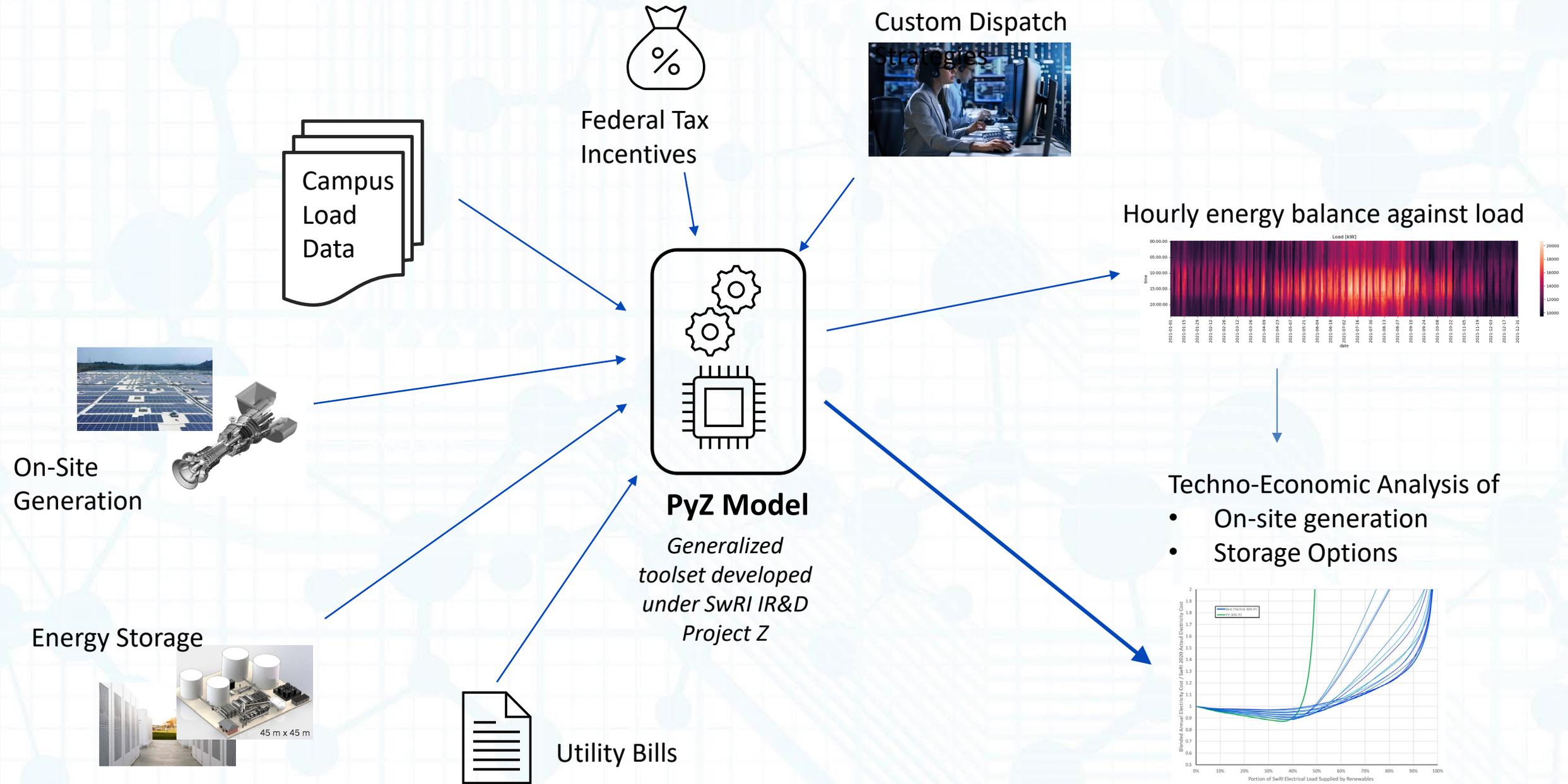
Report on Industrial Use in Large Facilities

Distribution and Median of Estimated Combustion Energy Use of Large Facilities

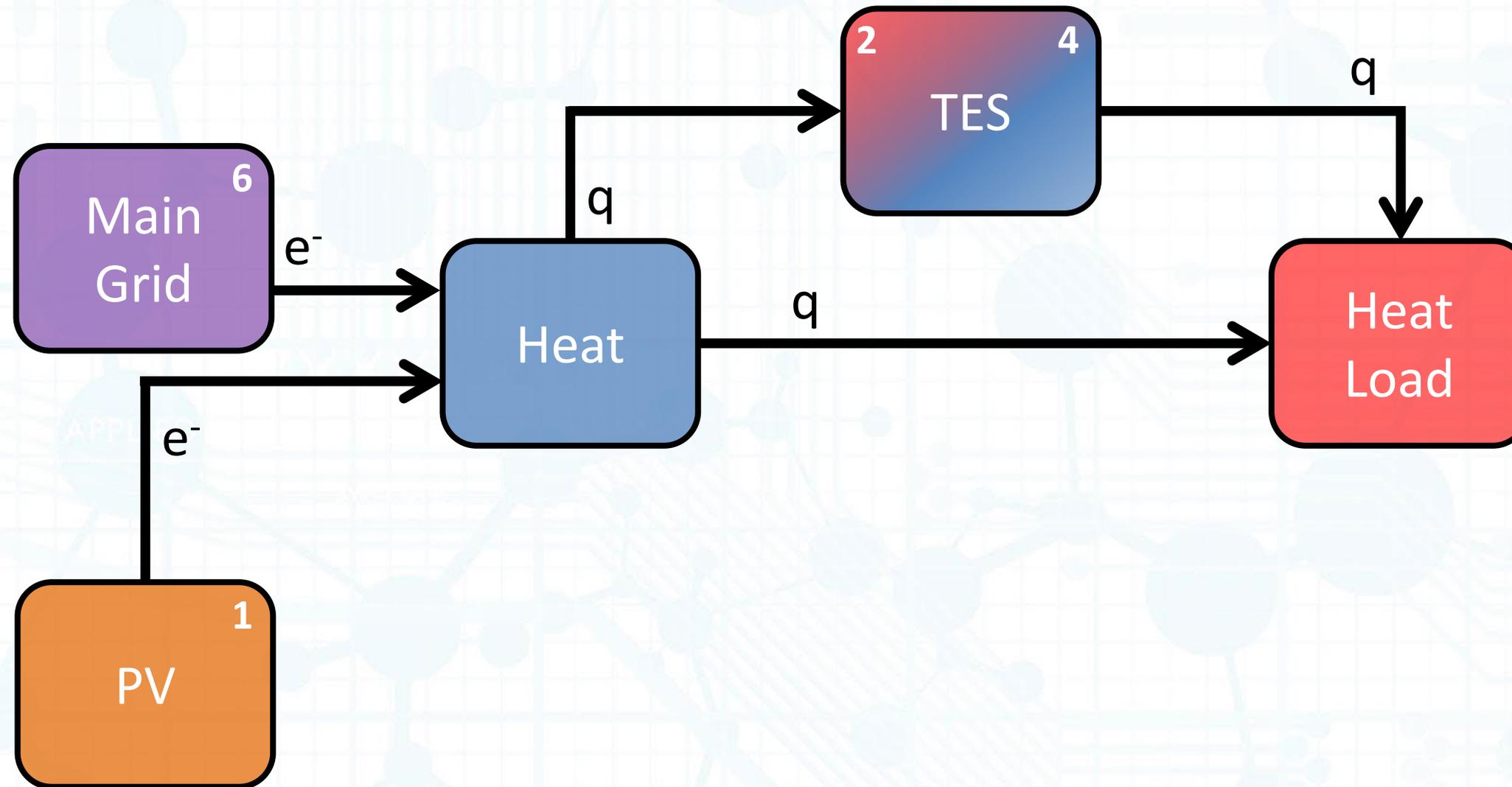


- 2018 NREL Study of Industry
- Distribution of annual use
- If facilities are continuously operated, median is 99 MMBtu/h
- If converted to electric the average facility use is 29 MW
- SwRI peak electric use is 22 MW, so location and utility costs are used in a case study

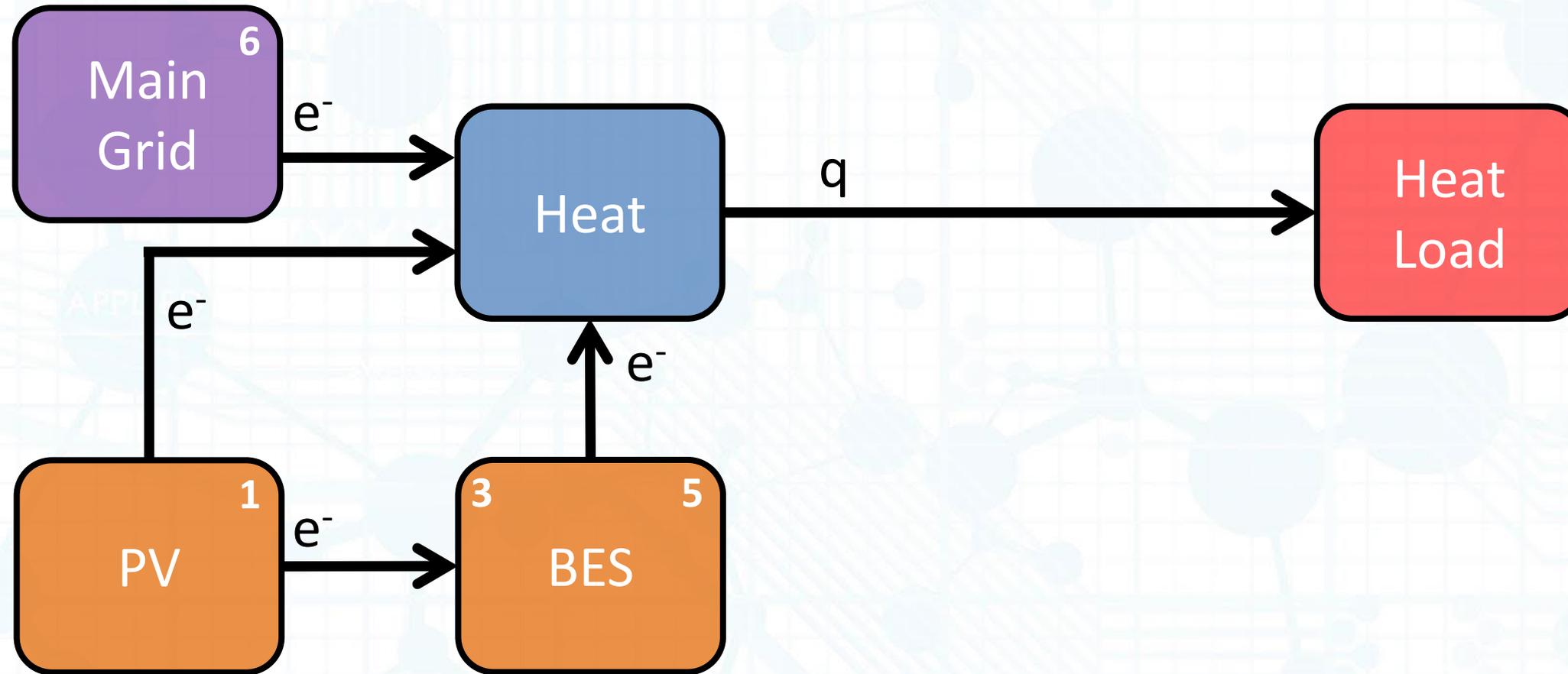
Detailed Python Model Toolset for Case Study



Grid + PV + TES Only

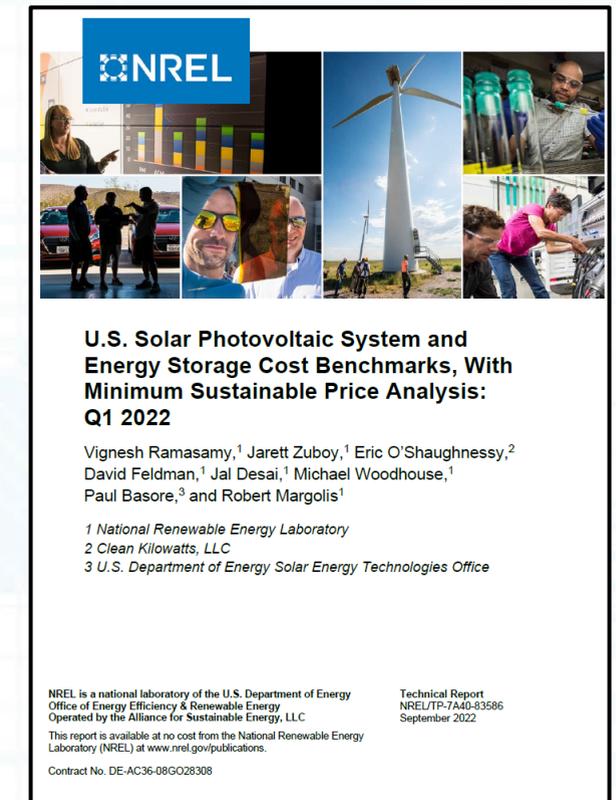
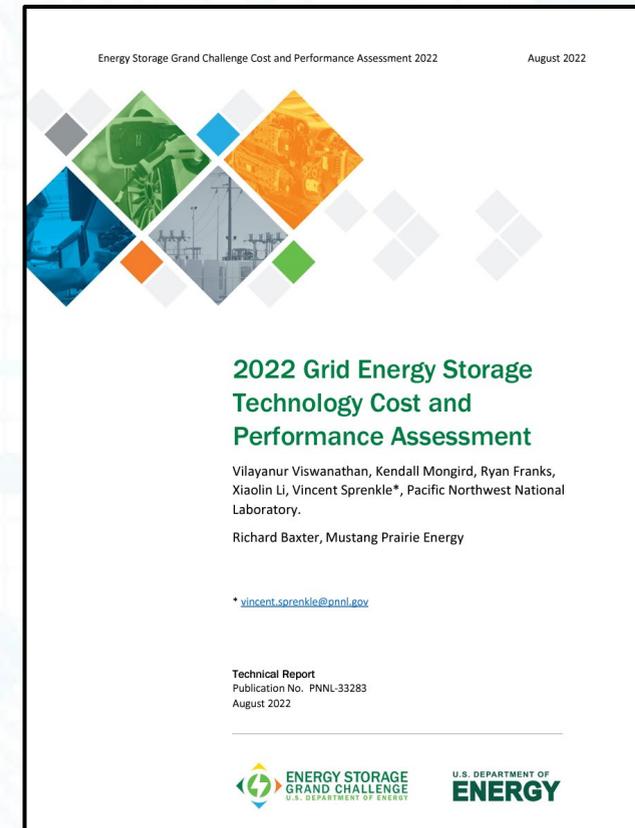


Grid + PV + ES (Lithium-Ion) Only



Techno-Economic Sources

- Public studies from reputable sources
 - National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 - Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
- Recent studies at similar sizes to the SwRI application
- Detailed cost breakdowns that separate major costs, like charging, storage, discharging, and EPC costs
- Performance and cost information should come from the same source
 - Older costs are escalated with inflation



Overview of Analysis Parameters

- Load
 - Constant 20 MW(th) heat load
- PV System
 - CAPEX: 961 \$/kW-installed
 - OPEX: 16 \$/kW-installed
- Financial
 - No financing
 - 30% ITC
 - Discount Rate – 4.74%
 - Inflation Rate – 2.5%

▪ TES Systems

Molten Salt Pumped TES

- Storage
 - CAPEX – \$108.64 / kWh
- Charge
 - Efficiency – 1.25
 - CAPEX – \$934.52 / kW
 - OPEX – \$26.85/kW

Concrete Sensible TES

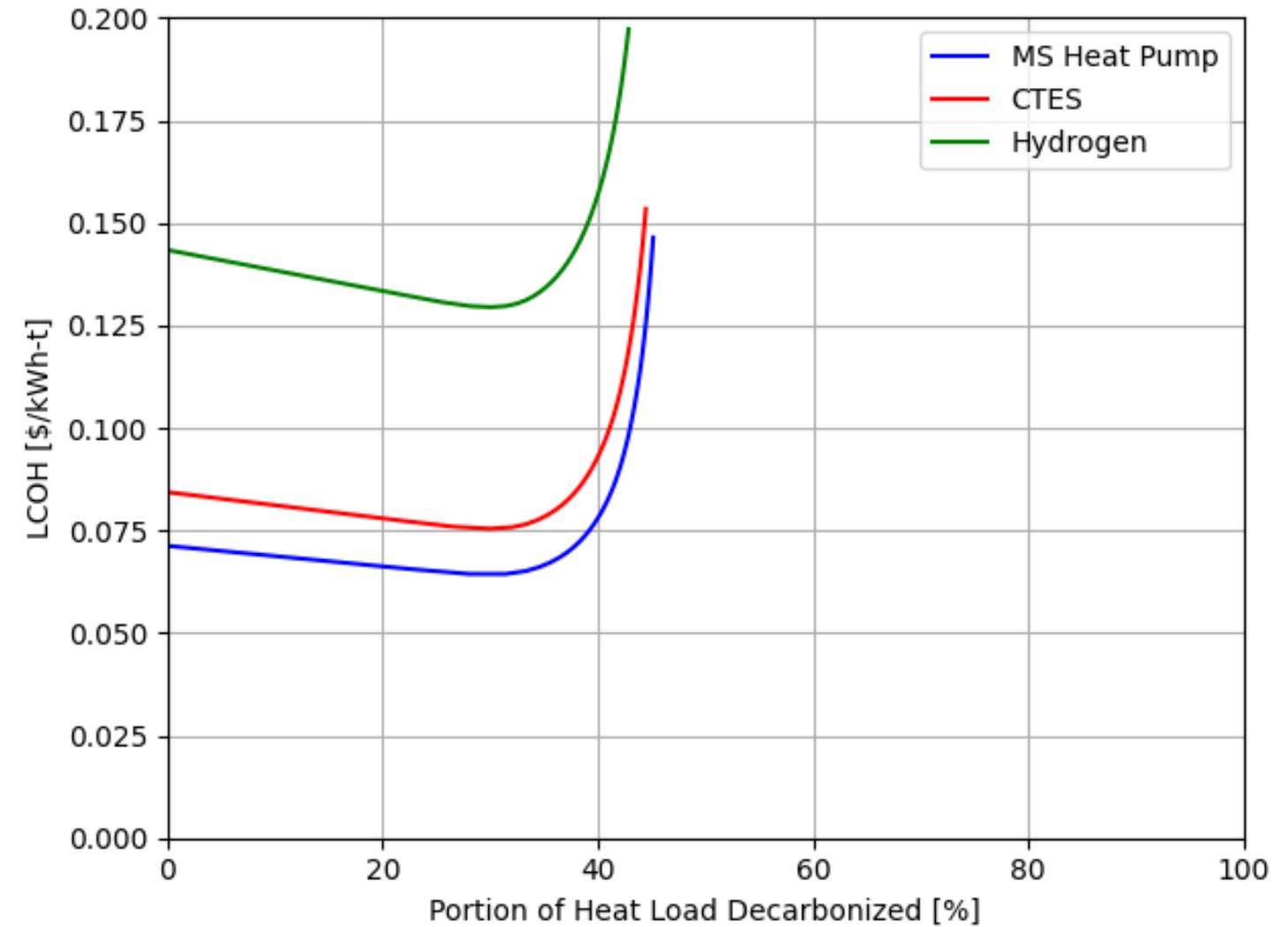
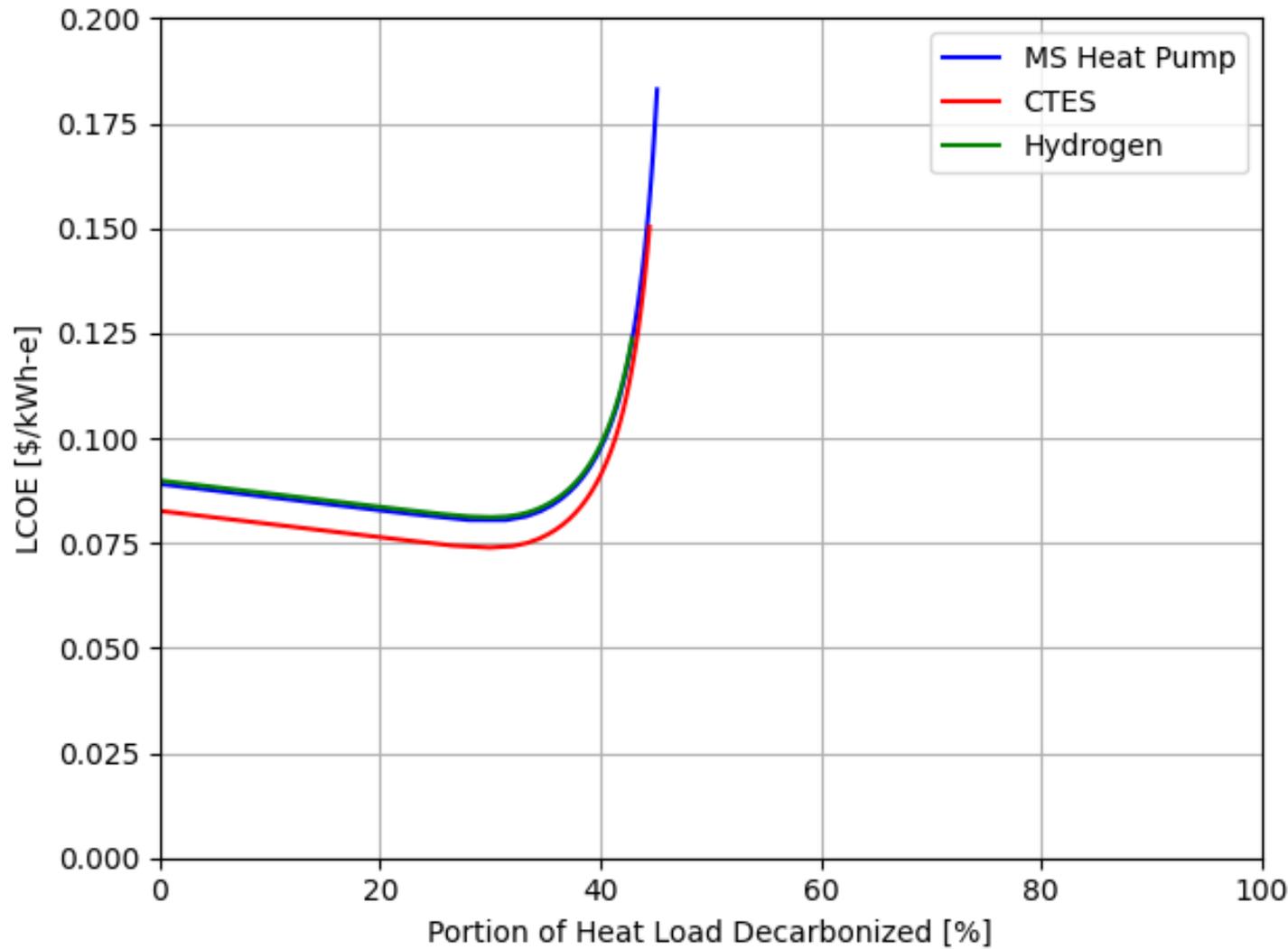
- Storage
 - CAPEX – \$32.11 / kWh
- Charge
 - Efficiency – 0.98
 - CAPEX – \$125.50 / kW
 - OPEX – \$7.35/kW

H2 Electrolyzer + 200 bar GH2

- Storage
 - CAPEX – \$122.17 / kWh
- Charge
 - Efficiency – 0.627
 - CAPEX – \$1485.3 / kW
 - OPEX – \$11.61/kW

*All efficiency numbers are in $[\text{kW}_t/\text{kW}_e]$

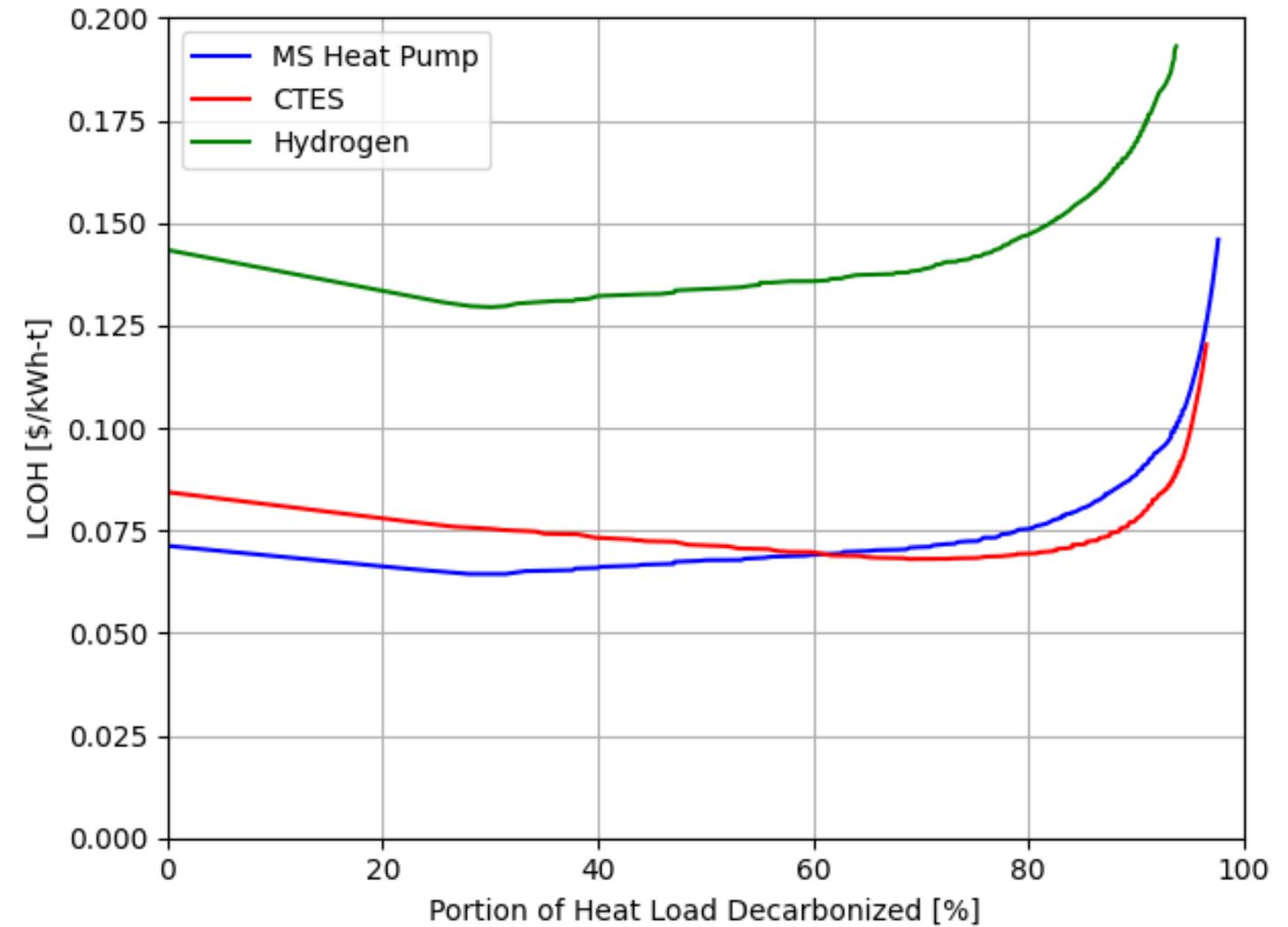
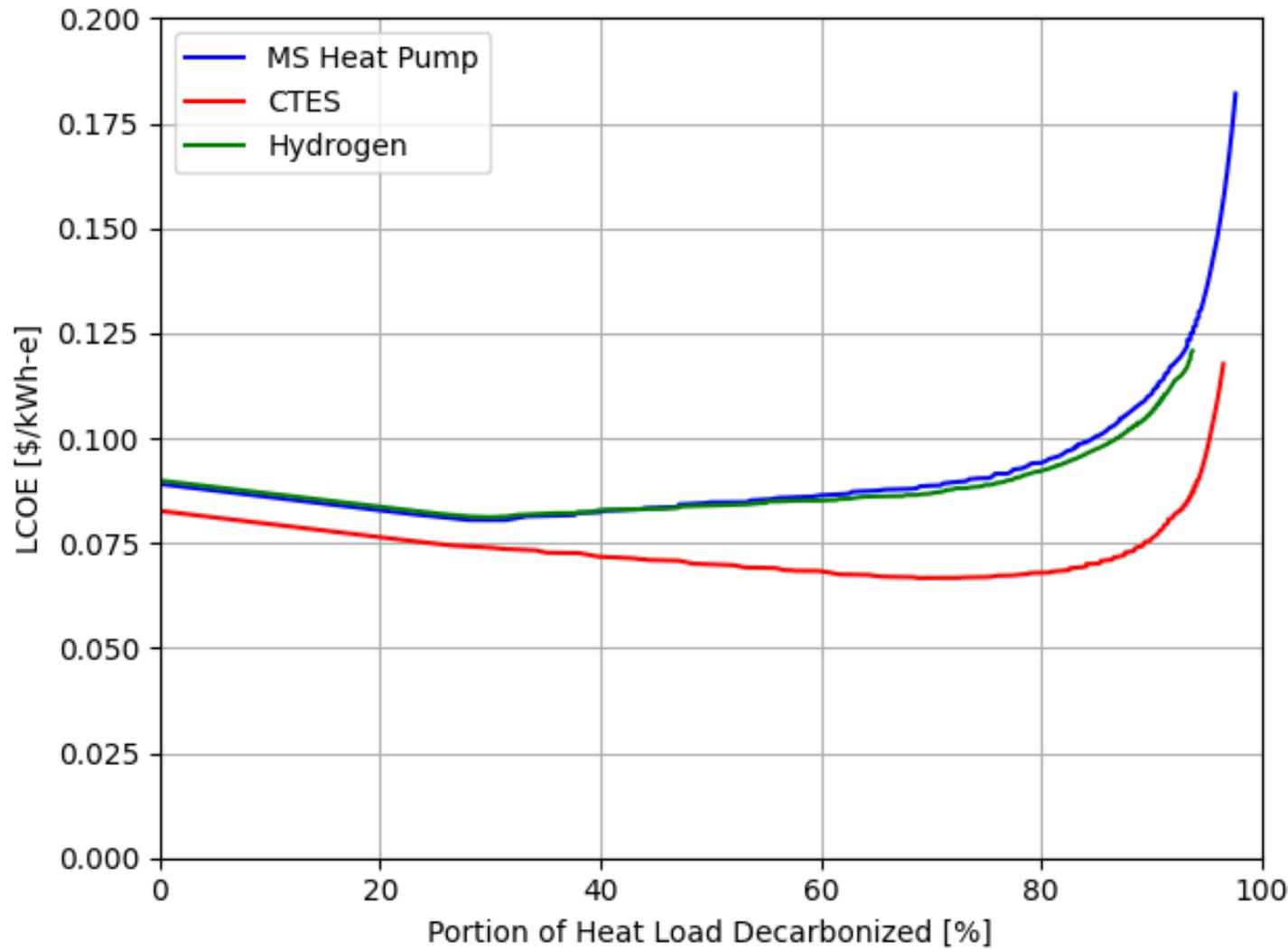
Decarbonization – No Storage



$$LCOE_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Electricity_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_e} \right]$$

$$LCOH_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Heat_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_t} \right]$$

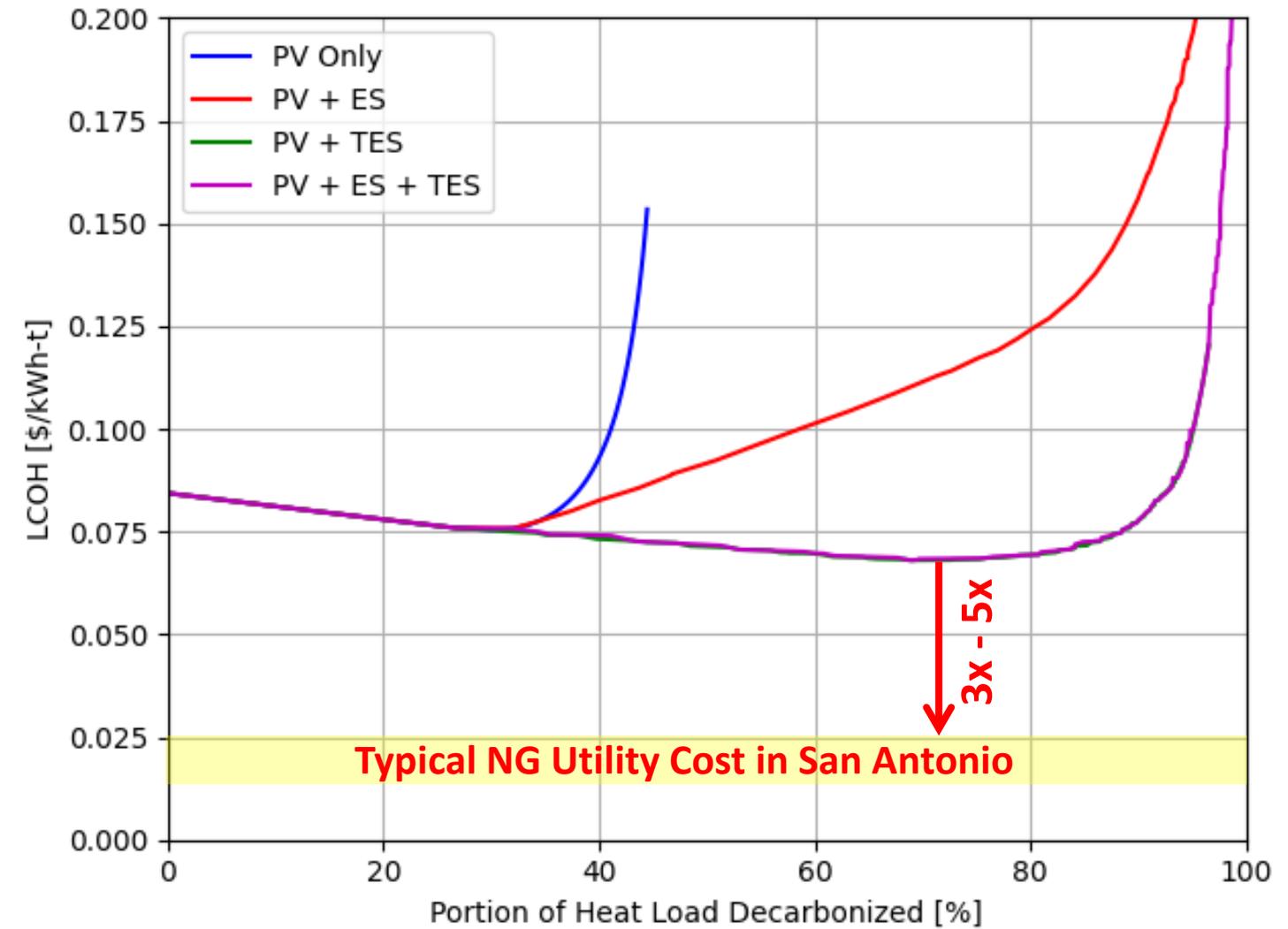
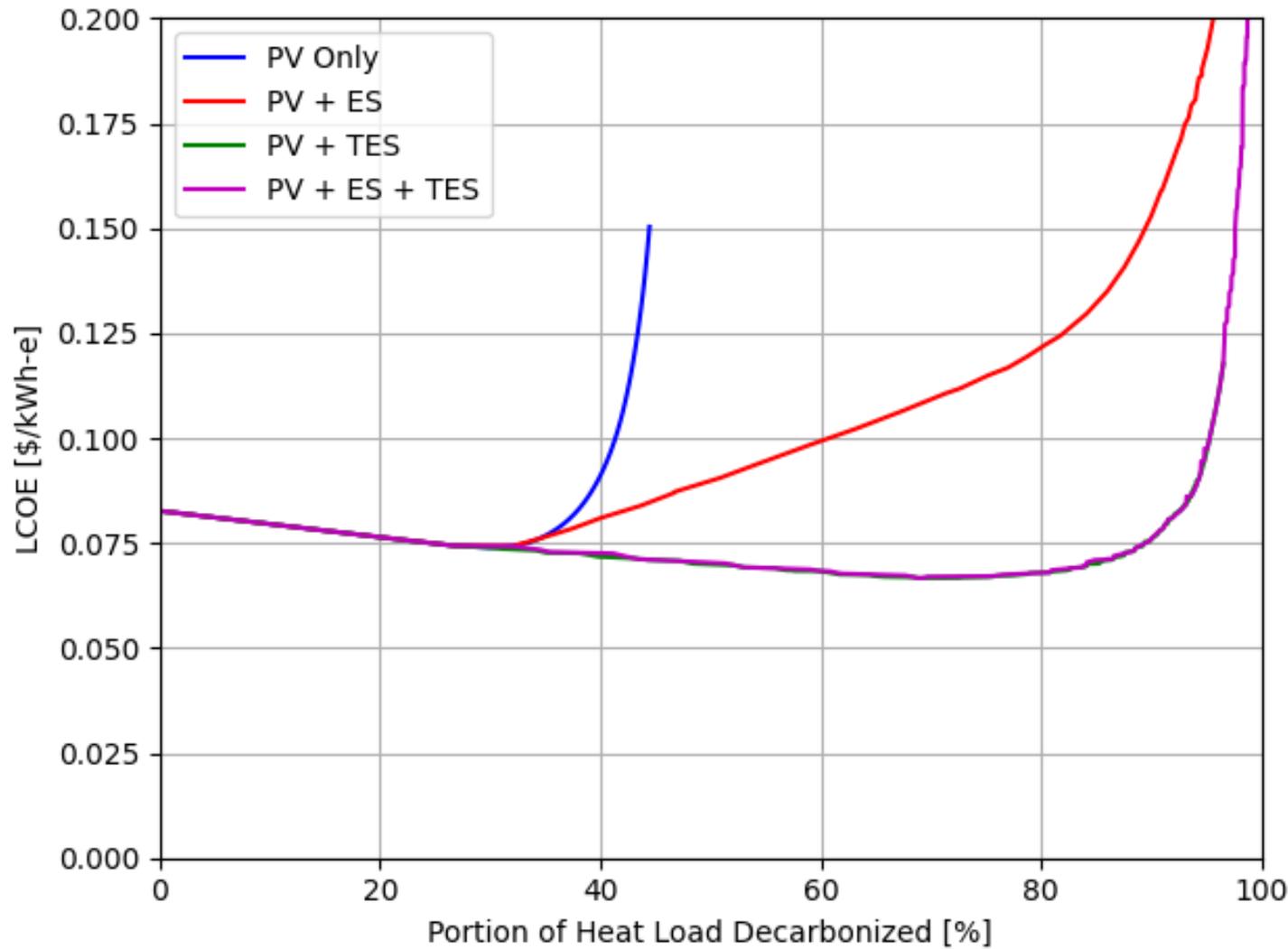
Decarbonization with TES



$$LCOE_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Electricity_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_e} \right]$$

$$LCOH_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Heat_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_t} \right]$$

Decarbonization with Battery and Concrete TES



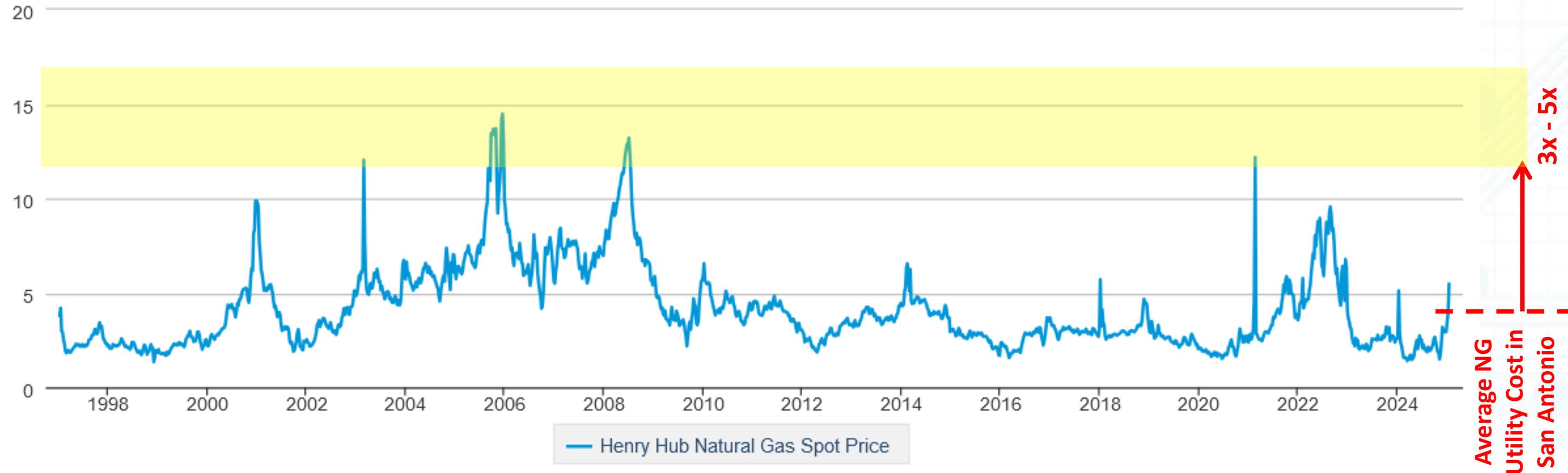
$$LCOE_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Electricity_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_e} \right]$$

$$LCOH_{real} = \frac{\sum Costs_i / r_{nom,i}}{\sum Heat_i / r_{real,i}} \left[\frac{\$}{kWh_t} \right]$$

Historical Natural Gas Prices

Henry Hub Natural Gas Spot Price

Dollars per Million Btu



San Antonio Large User: Average of \$4/MMBTU

Recent Major Awards for Industrial Decarb

▪ OCED

- \$6 billion, 33 selections
- Aluminum and Metals
- Cement and Concrete
- Chemicals and Refining
- Food and Beverage
- Iron and Steel
- Process Heat
- Pulp and Paper

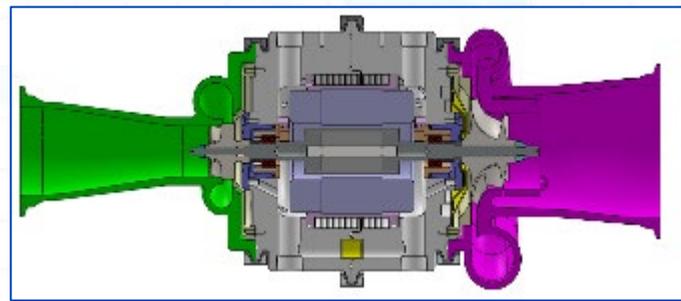
▪ IEDO Cross-cutting

- \$39 million, 16 selections
- Electrification of Industrial Heat
- Efficient Energy Use in Industrial Systems
- Decarbonizing Wastewater Treatment

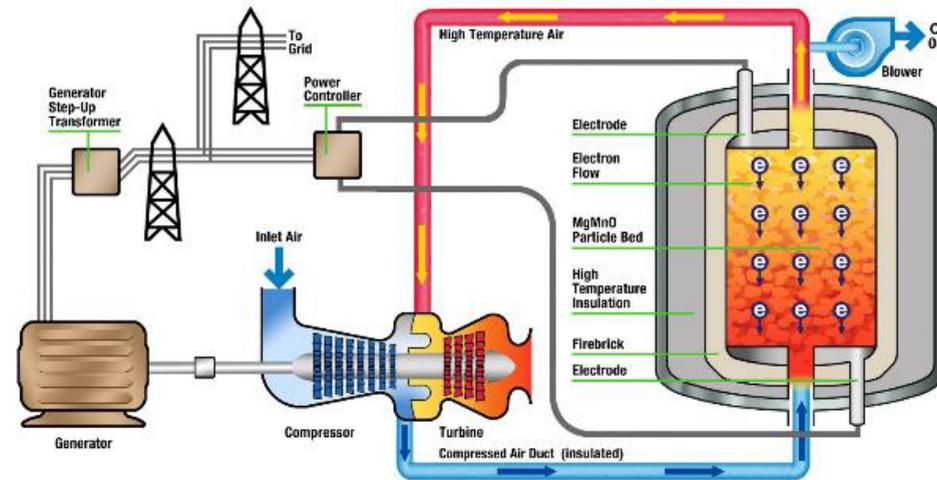
▪ IEDO Multi-Topic

- \$171 million, 49 selections
- Decarbonizing Industrial Heat
- Low-Carbon Fuels Utilization R&D
- Exploratory Cross-Sector R&D
 - Enabling Flexible Industrial Energy Use
 - Enhanced Thermal Conductivity Materials
- Decarbonizing Chemicals
- Decarbonizing Iron and Steel
- Decarbonizing Food and Beverage Manufacturing
- Decarbonizing Cement and Concrete
- Decarbonizing Forest Products.

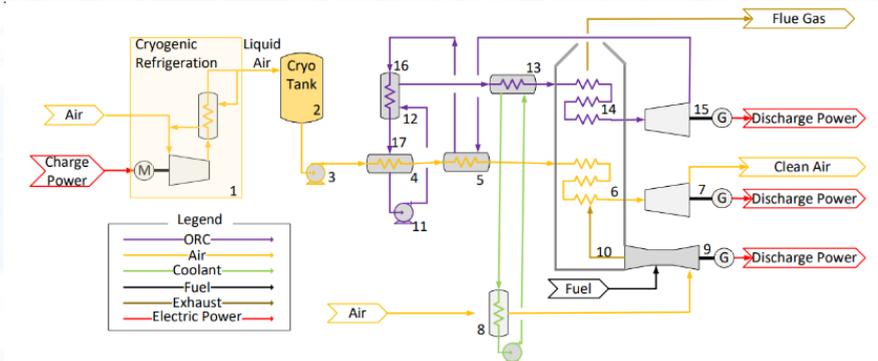
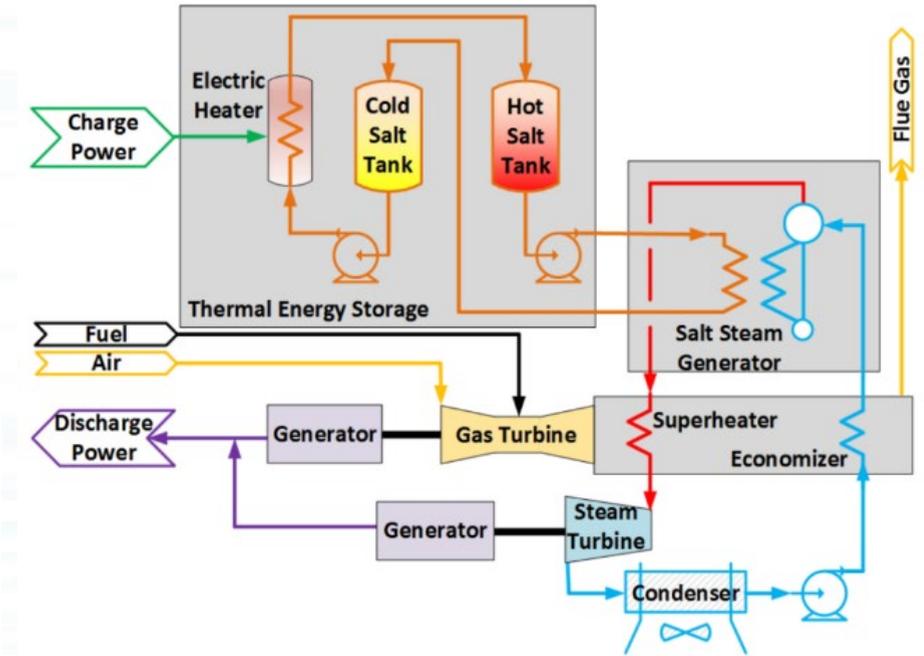
Machinery-Based Energy Storage Technologies



Pumped heat energy storage: Air vs. sCO₂, external heat addition, hot (large?) charge compressor, condensing turbine, charge/discharge operation

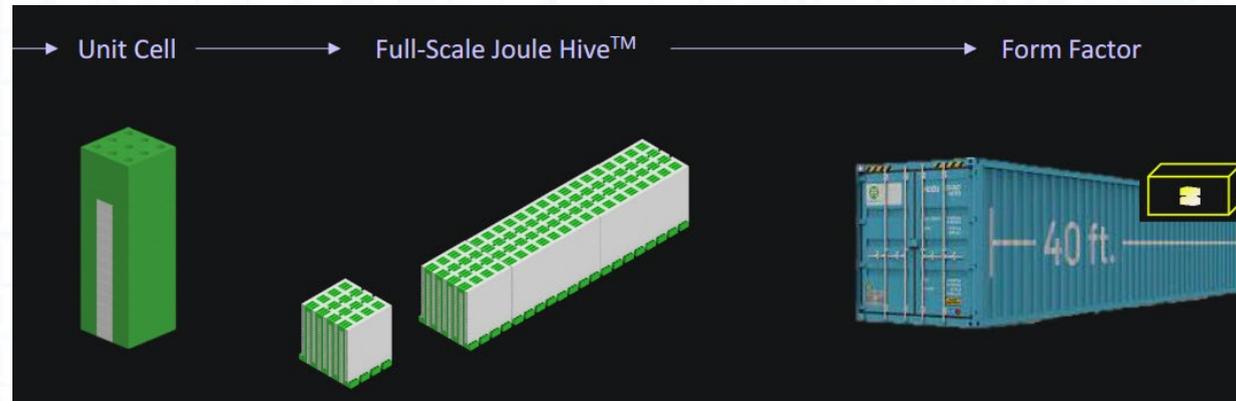


Electrothermal energy storage: gas turbine integration, sCO₂ power, combined heat and power

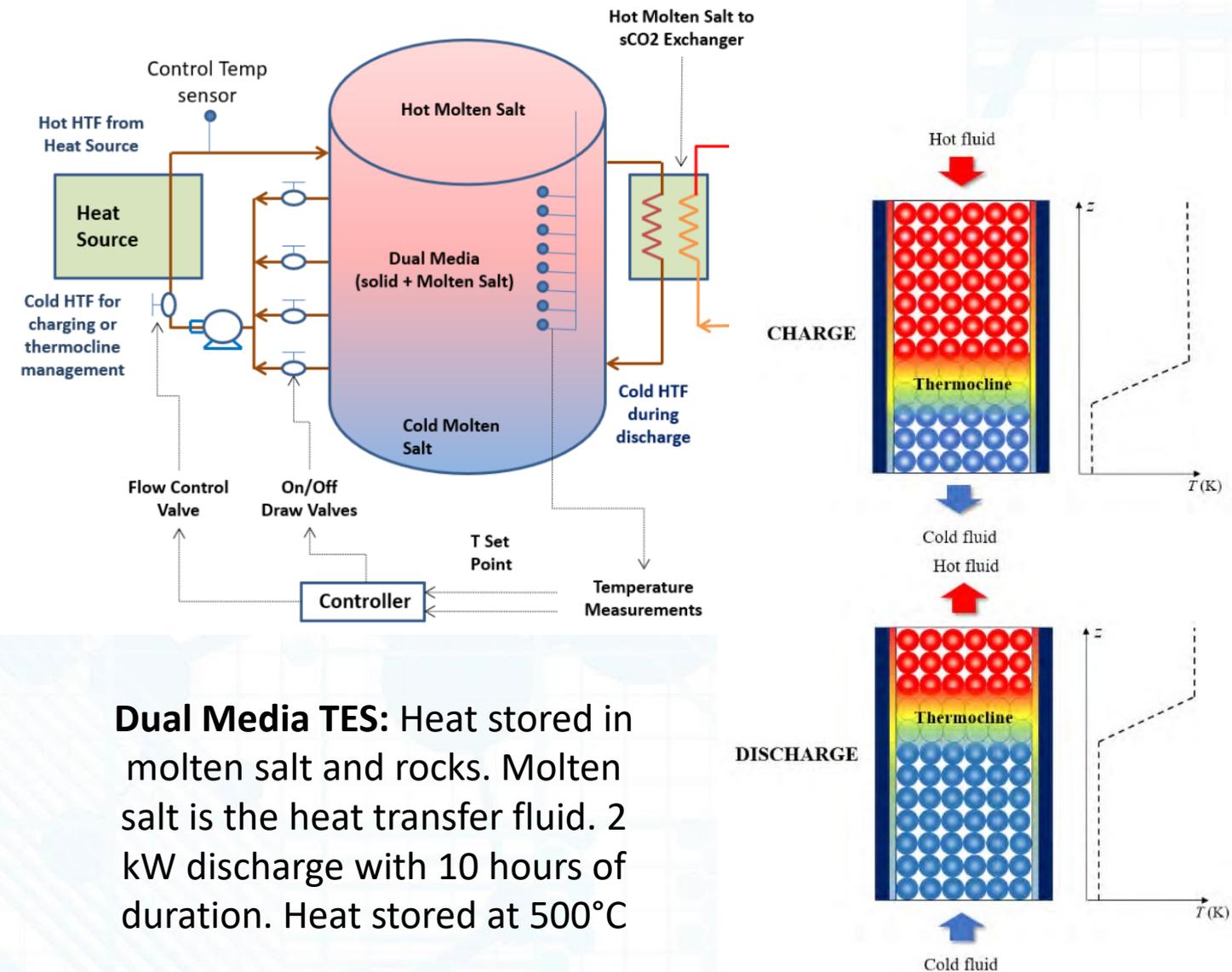
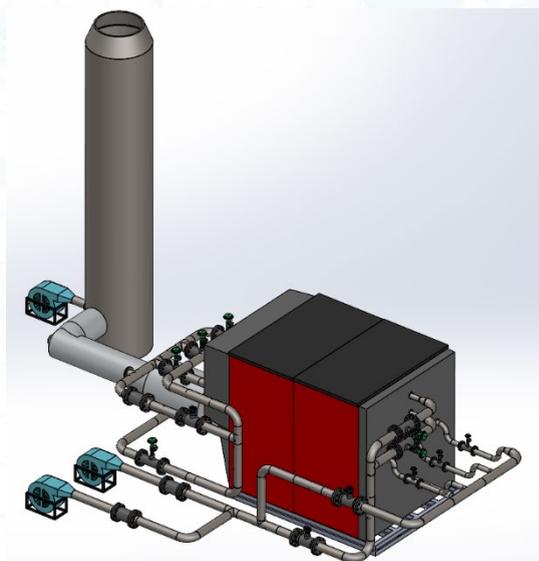
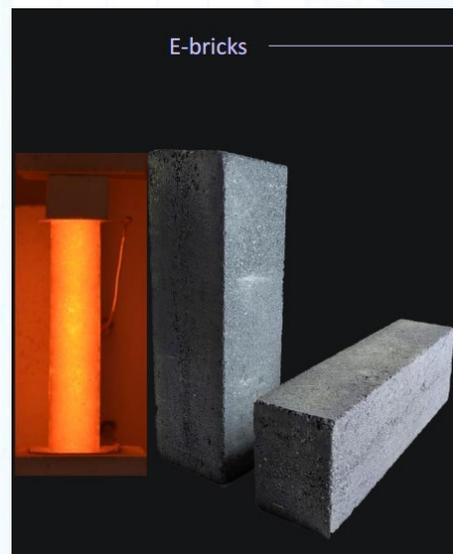


Hybrid energy storage: Liquid air, molten salt hybridized with gas turbine combined cycles, combined heat and power

SwRI-Hosted Pilot Tests for TES



High-Temp Electrified Sensible Heat: Heat stored by temperature change in bricks. Electrically conducting bricks. 1 MW charging test. 20 hours of duration. Planned heat delivery at 900°C



Dual Media TES: Heat stored in molten salt and rocks. Molten salt is the heat transfer fluid. 2 kW discharge with 10 hours of duration. Heat stored at 500°C

Questions?



Joshua Schmitt
Southwest Research Institute
(210) 522-6777
joshua.schmitt@swri.org

