

Cédric Philibert, Renewable Energy Division  
Austrian PV Conference, Vienna, 20 Oct. 2011



International  
Energy Agency

# Solar Energy Perspectives



# Building on...

Solar Energy Perspectives



## Technology Roadmap

Solar photovoltaic energy



## Technology Roadmap

Concentrating Solar Power

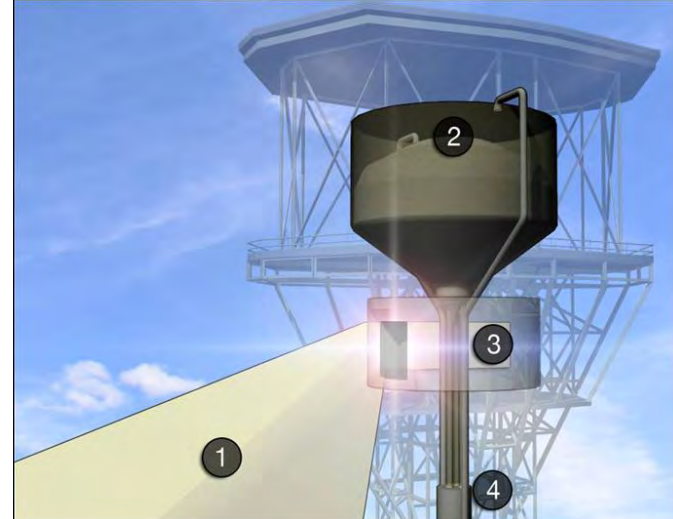
# ... also starring...

## Solar heating and cooling

### ■ Forthcoming IEA roadmap:

- 4 workshops:
- Paris (April), Kassel (Aug.)
- Beijing & Sidney (Nov.)

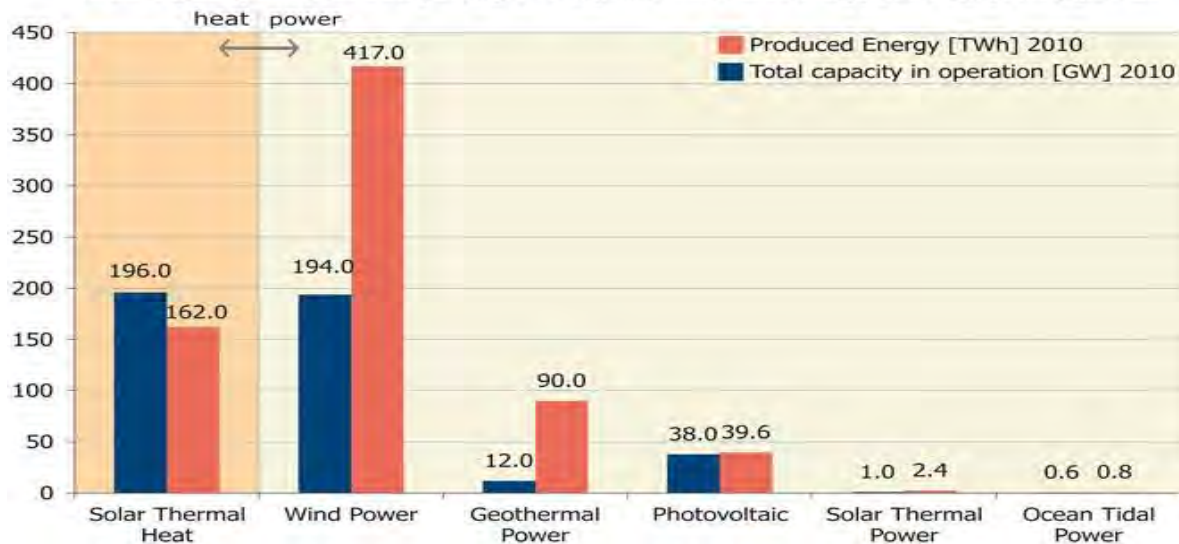
Source: Sundrop Fuels Inc.



## Solar fuels

- From PV & CSP
- H<sub>2</sub> and liquids

Total Capacity in Operation [GW<sub>el</sub>], [GW<sub>th</sub>] and Produced Energy [TWh<sub>el</sub>], [TWh<sub>th</sub>], 2010



Source: Weiss and Mauthner, 2011

# Solar Energy Perspectives

## Introducing:

- A new IEA publication to be launched in Fall
- First RE in-depth technology study
- Support from the French and US governments

# In search of synergies

- Between various solar technologies
- With other RE/EE technologies

Source: SunEarth Inc



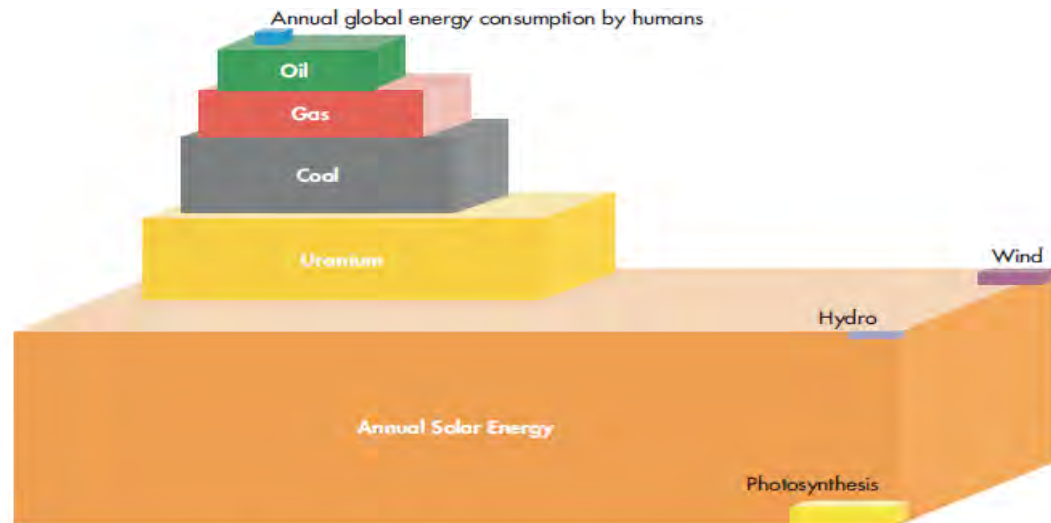
Source: Solimpeks Solar Energy



- Driven by analyses of the demand for various uses

# Content

- Rationale
- Markets & outlook
  - The solar resource
  - Electricity
  - Buildings
  - Industry
  - Transport

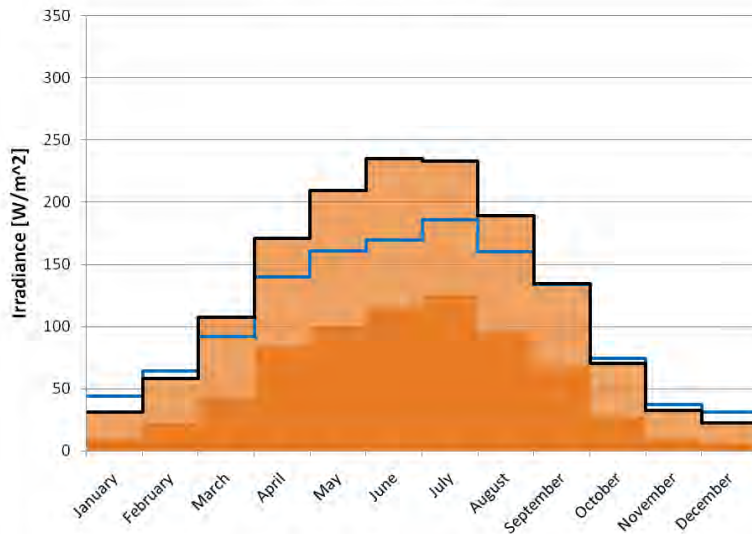


- Technologies
  - Photovoltaics
  - Heat
  - Solar thermal power
  - Solar fuels
- The way forward
  - Policies
  - Testing the limits

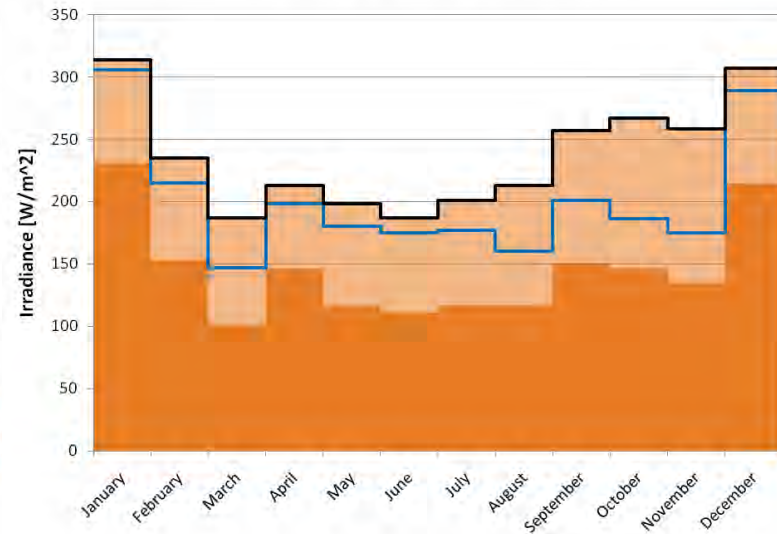
# Solar resource

Solar Energy Perspectives

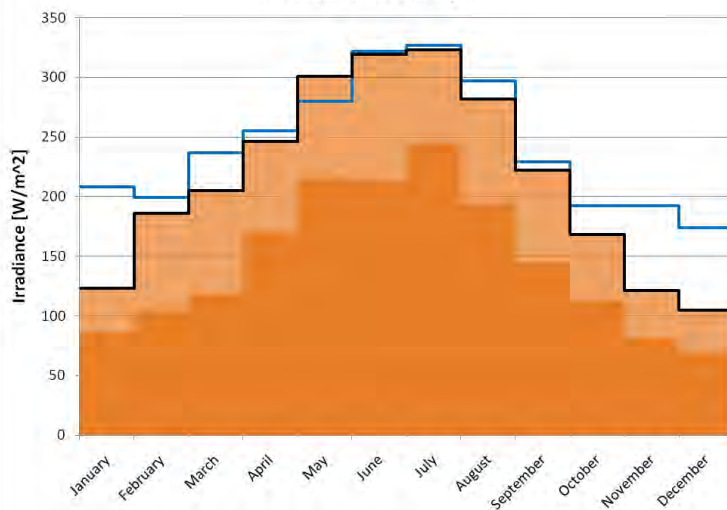
### Northern Europe



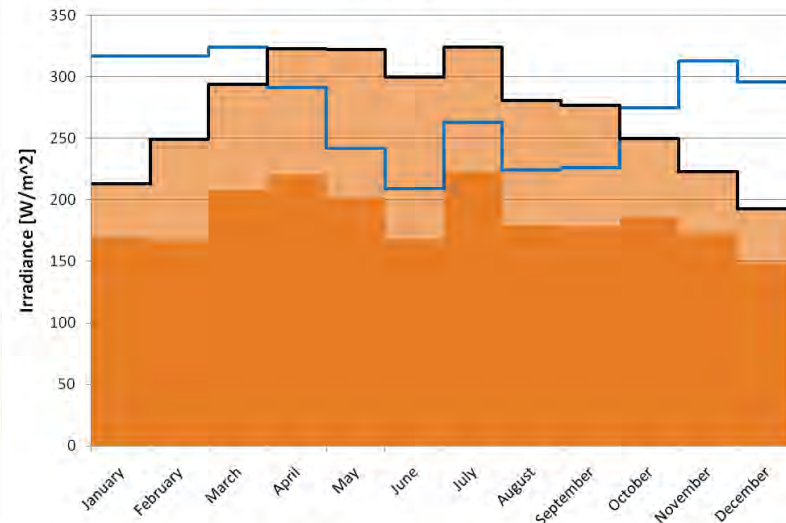
### South Pacific Islands



### Southern Europe



### Sahara Desert

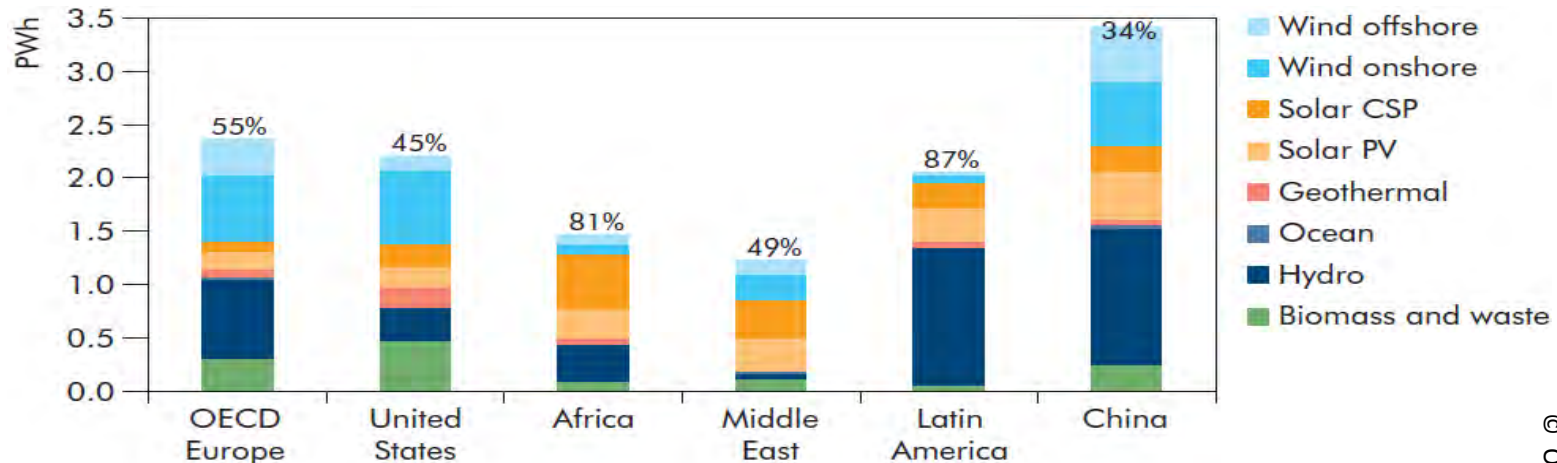


Direct Horizontal
  Diffuse horizontal
  Direct Normal
  Global Horizontal

# Markets: Electricity

- PV takes **all** light
- PV almost **everywhere**
- Mostly at **end-users'**
- **Variable**
- Peak & mid-peak
- Grid parity **by 2020**
- **Smart grids**
- CSP takes **direct** light
- CSP **semi-arid** countries
- Mostly for **utilities**
- **Firm**, dispatchable } backup
- Peak to **base-load** } storage
- Competitive peak power **by 2020**
- **HVDC lines** for transport

Electricity generation from renewable in 2050, BLUE Map scenario

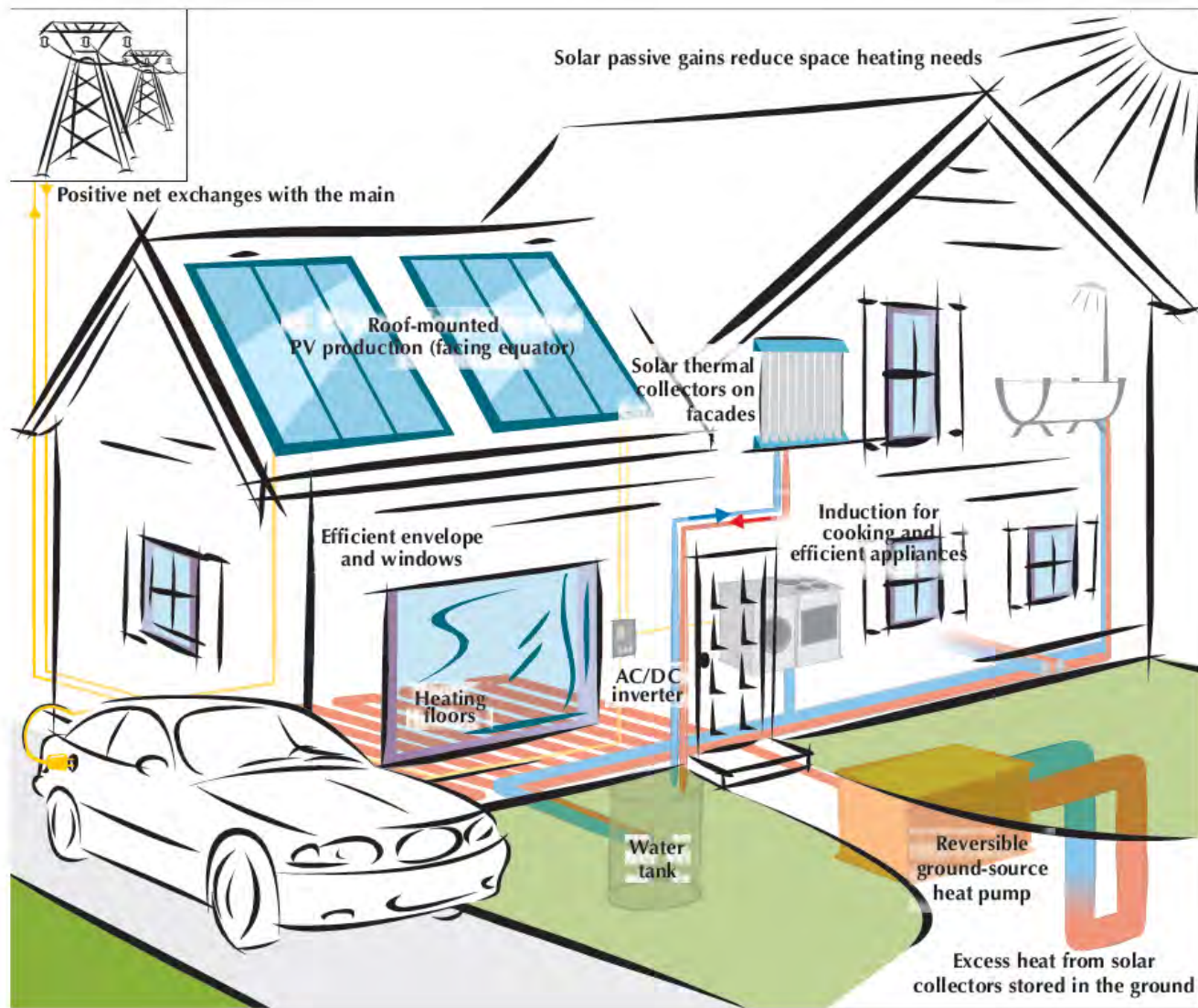


Note: Percentages above columns show the share of renewables in total electricity generation.

**Firm & flexible CSP capacities can help integrate more PV**



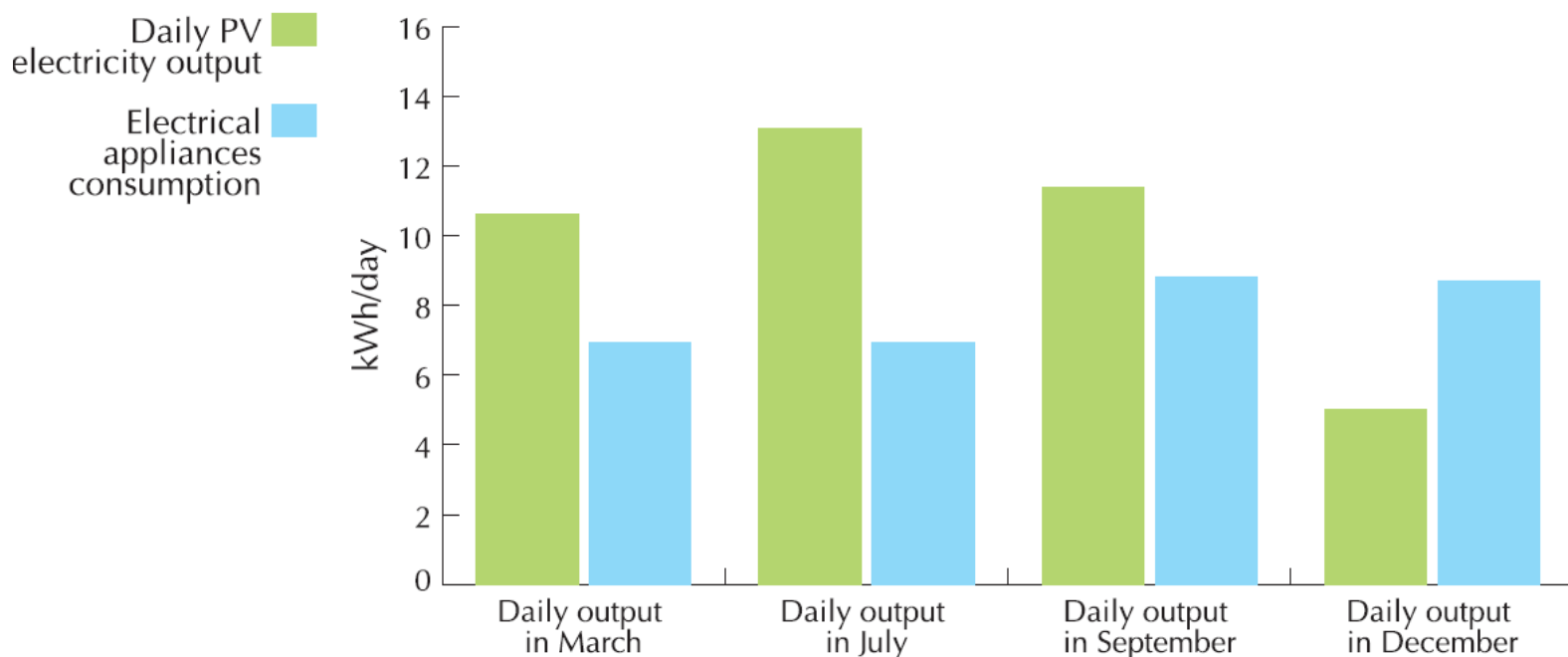
# Markets: Buildings



A system approach increases efficiency and reduces total costs

# Exchanges with the grid

Daily production of a 20 m<sup>2</sup>-PV roof and appliance electricity consumption of small family in sunny region\*

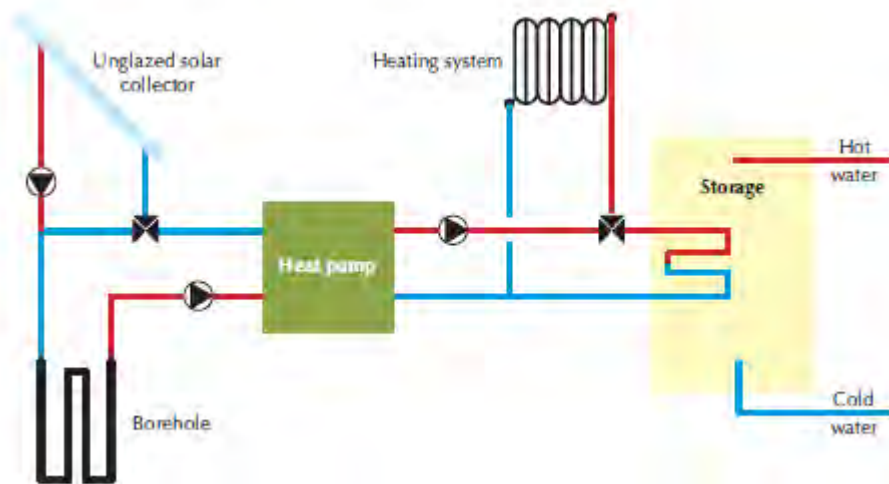
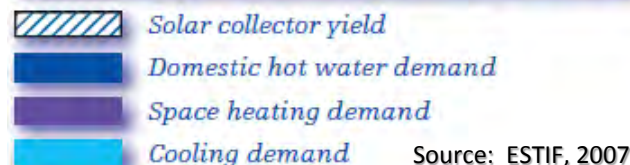
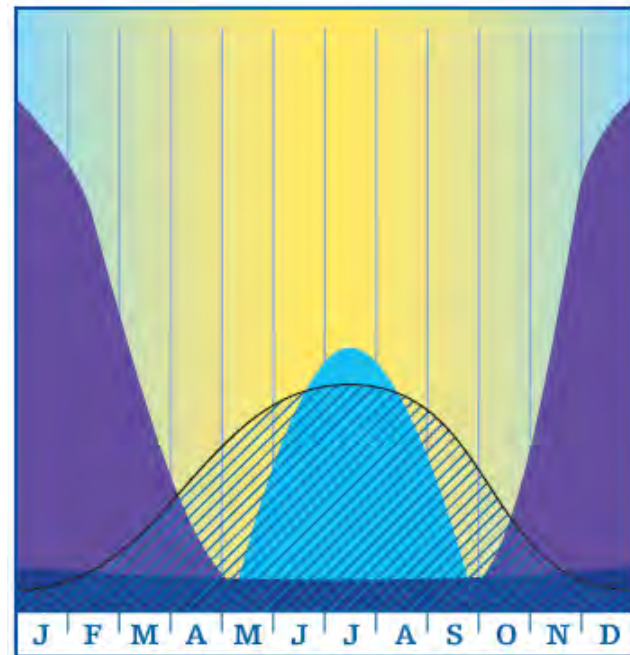


\*not including heating and/or air-conditioning

# Focus: Space heating and cooling

## ■ Storage is key

- Compact thermo-chemical?
- Large-scale heat storage
- Ground-source heat pumps = effective low-temp storage

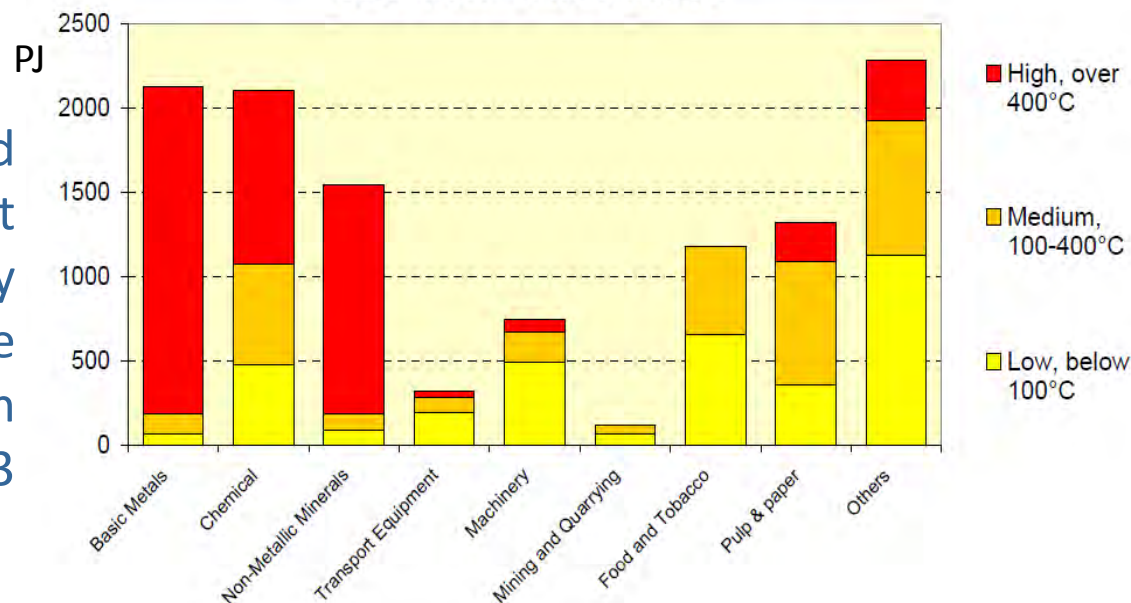


Source: Henning & Miara/Fraunhofer ISES

- (Wind and) Solar electricity + heat pumps the best option for heating?
- Thermally-driven or (solar) electricity-driven cooling?

# Markets: Industry

Estimated  
industrial heat  
demand by  
temperature  
range in  
Europe, 2003



Source: EcoHeatCool 2005-2006

- Large heat needs at various temperature levels
- Low-temperature solar heat available everywhere, demand throughout the year
- High-temp. solar heat under hot and dry climates
- Solar electricity and biomass also needed to reduce the use of fossil fuels

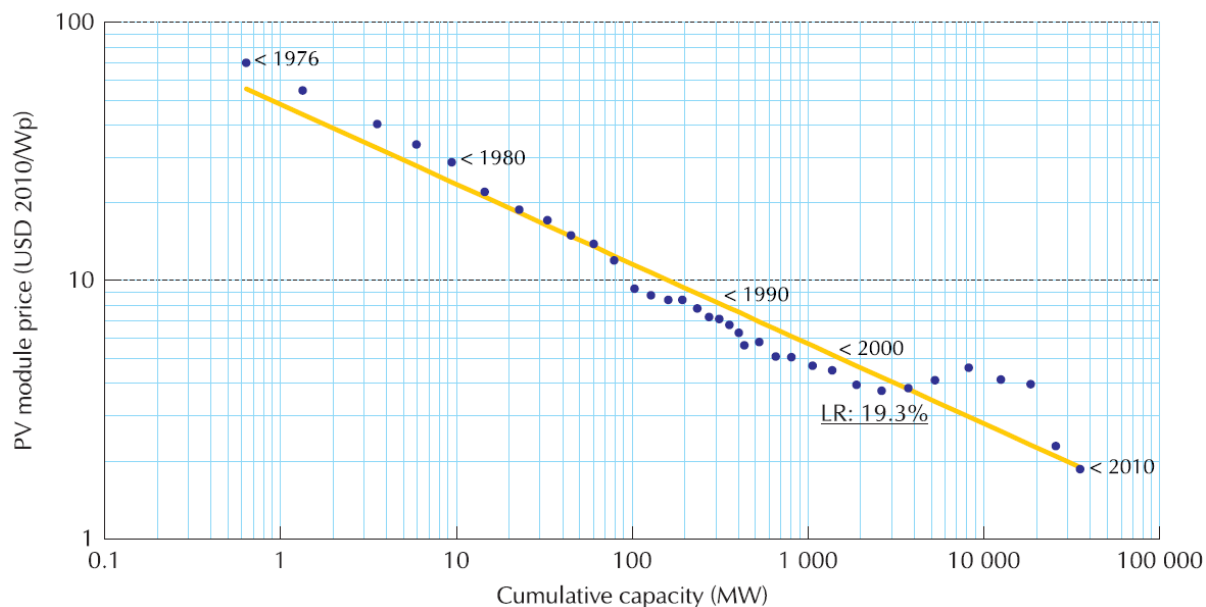
# Markets: Transports



Source: Kia Motors

- **Solar electricity and biofuels best options to substitute fossil fuels**
- **Electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, modal shift**
- **On-road electrification of trucks on highways**
- **Small direct solar contributions except for high-value niche markets (rooftops, satellites, unmanned planes...)**

# Technologies: photovoltaics



Source: Breyer and Gerlach, 2010

- **Fast growth & cost decline**
- **Important role off grid**
- **Competitive on-grid markets appear: sunny islands and countries with high retail electricity prices, and/or using oil to generate electricity**
- **Incentive-driven growth concentrated in too few (EU) countries, will spread to China, Japan, USA...**

# Cost reductions will continue

## Cost targets for the residential sector

		2010	2020	2030	2050
Typical turnkey system price (2010 USD/kW)		3800	1960	1405	1040
Typical electricity generation costs (2010 USD/MWH)*	2000 kWh/kW	228	116	79	56
	1500 kWh/kW	304	155	106	75
	1000 kWh/kW	456	232	159	112

## Cost targets for the commercial sector

		2010	2020	2030	2050
Typical turnkey system price (2010 USD/kW)		3400	1850	1325	980
Typical electricity generation costs (2010 USD/MWH)*	2000 kWh/kW	204	107	75	54
	1500 kWh/kW	272	143	100	72
	1000 kWh/kW	408	214	150	108

## Cost targets for the utility sector

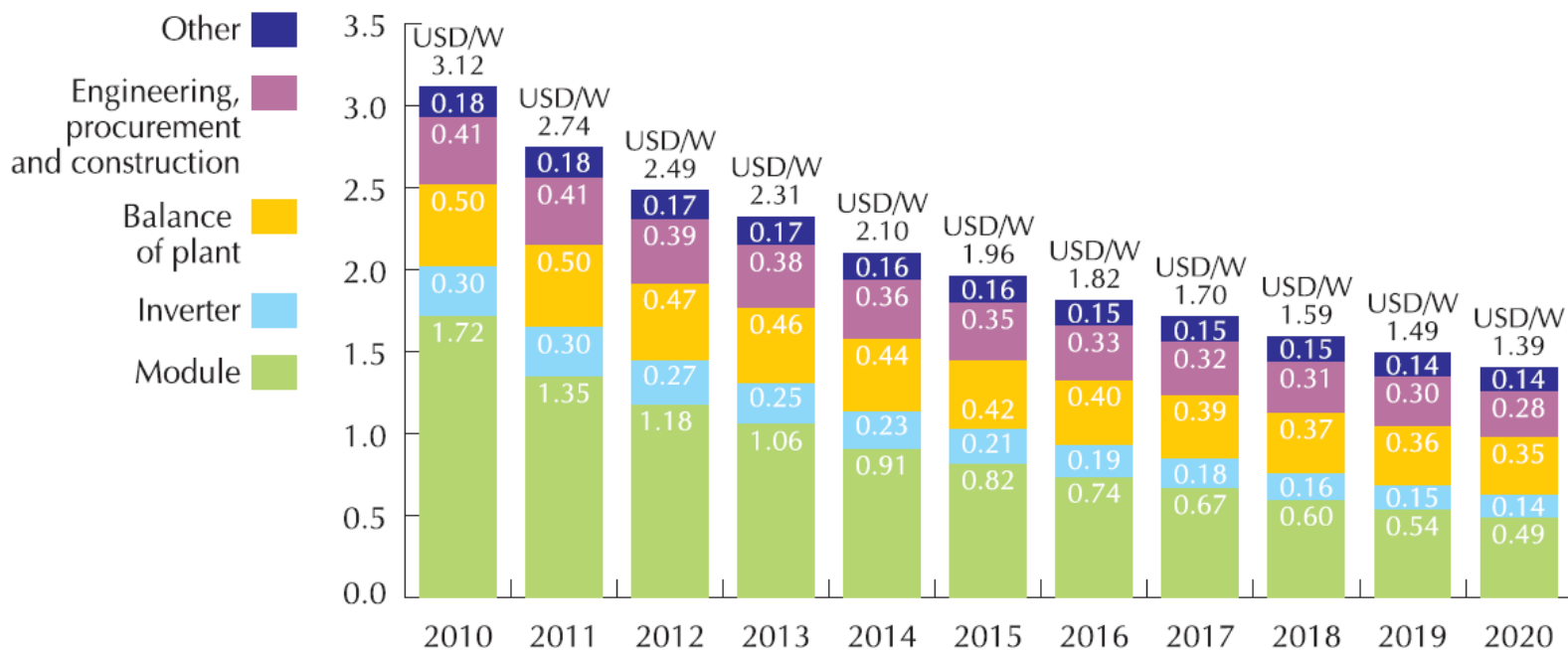
		2010	2020	2030	2050
Typical turnkey system price (2010 USD/kW)		3120	1390	1100	850
Typical electricity generation costs (2010 USD/MWH)*	2000 kWh/kW	187	81	62	48
	1500 kWh/kW	249	108	83	64
	1000 kWh/kW	374	162	125	96

Notes: Based on the following assumptions: interest rate 10%, technical lifetime 25 years (2008), 30 years (2020), 35 years (2030) and 40 years (2050). Numbers in italics are considered more speculative.

Sources: IEA 2010d, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, and IEA data and analysis.

# Modules from 2/3 to 1/3 of system costs?

## Utility-scale PV system price forecast



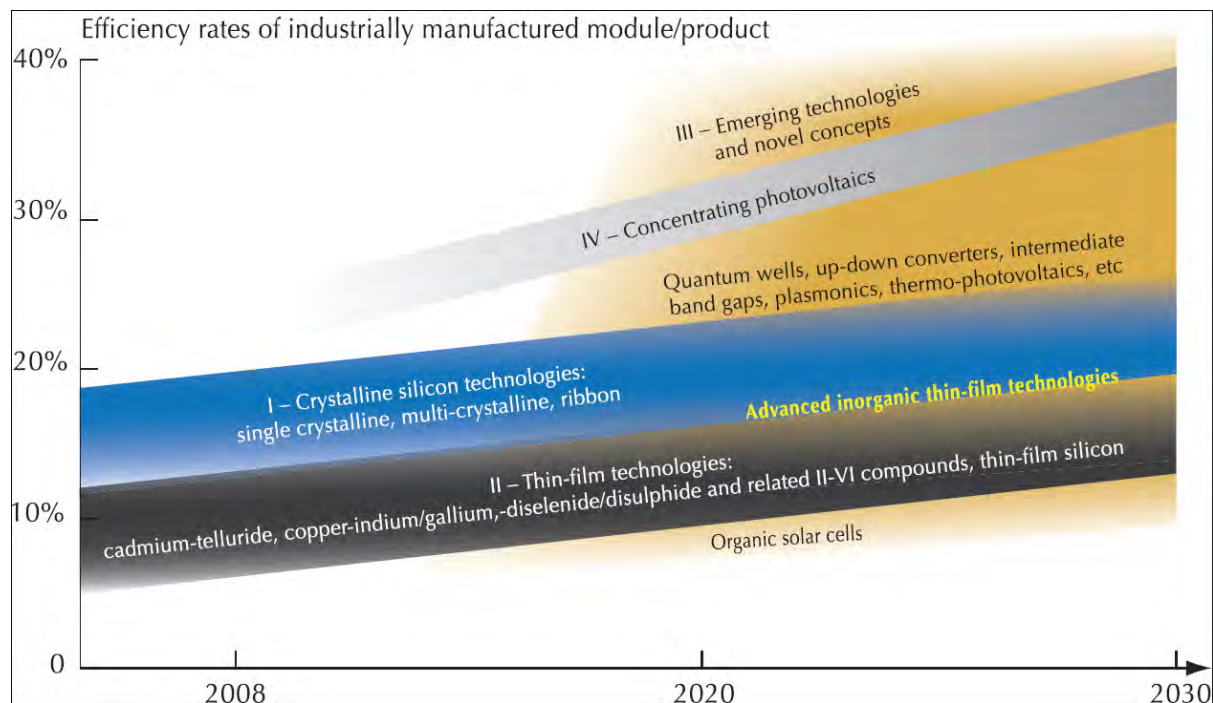
Note: Module price derives from experience curve + margin; system price in markets with cost-based, rather than value-based pricing (such as Germany).

Source: Bloomberg New Energy Finance.



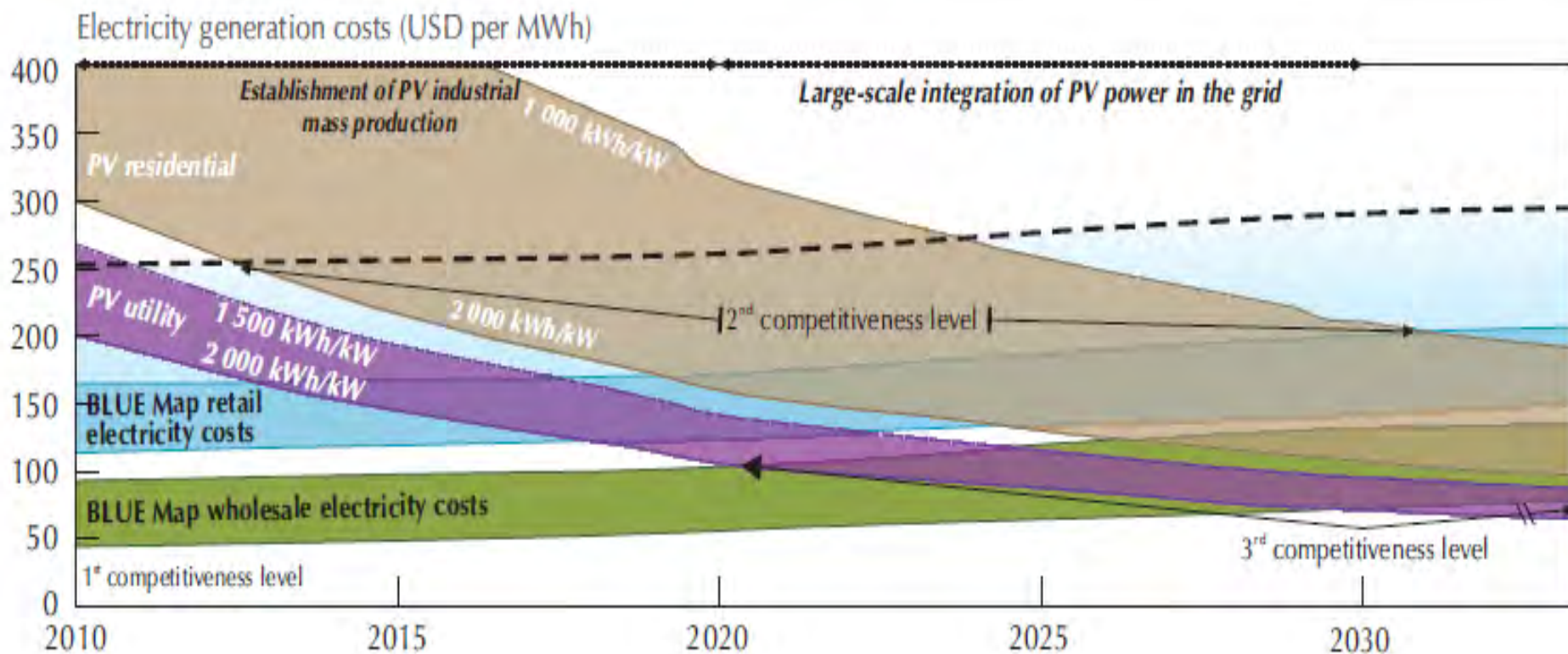
# A wider diversity of technologies

## PV technology status and prospects



Source: IEA PVPS.

# Competitiveness levels



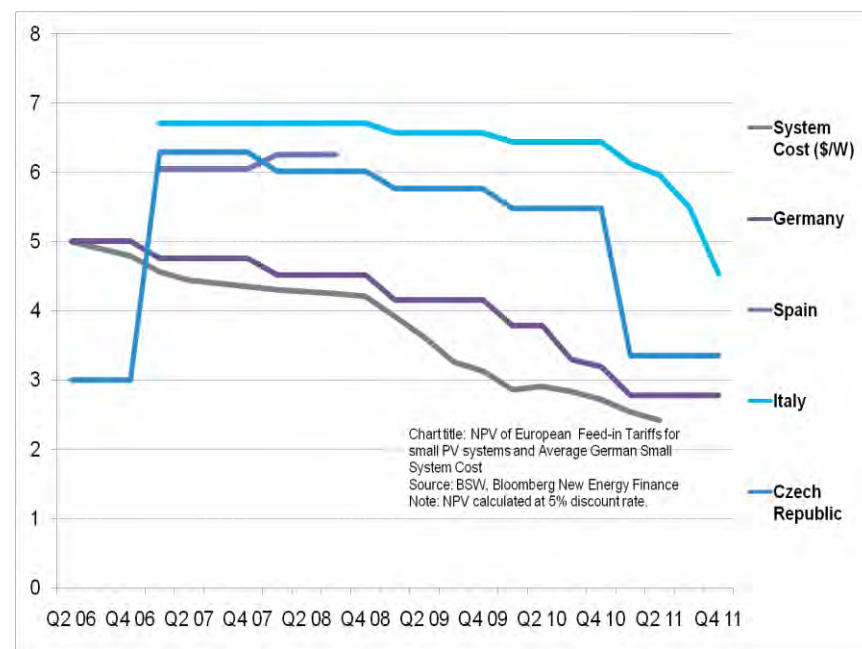
# The way forward: policies

Integrated approach	Current gaps
Support to R&D	Solar Fuels
Support to innovation	Process heat
Addressing split incentives	Solar obligations for DHW (but Israel and Spain)
Pushing toward integrated solutions	Buildings regulations (but in the EU)
Addressing financing needs (e.g. off-grid solar electricity)	Linking MDA, climate change money and micro-finance
Support to early deployment	Not all sunny countries support deployment

# Costs of policies

**Costs of support policies will build up in the coming years, despite specific cost reductions**

- This is the price to pay to bring solar technologies to competitiveness with fossil fuels
- Not easy to be effective while avoiding excessive remuneration
- True costs of support must be distinguished from the much larger amounts of investment involved
- Electricity spot prices will be reduced as shares of RE increase
- Electricity markets based on marginal pricing may not be able to finance required renewable and balancing capacities



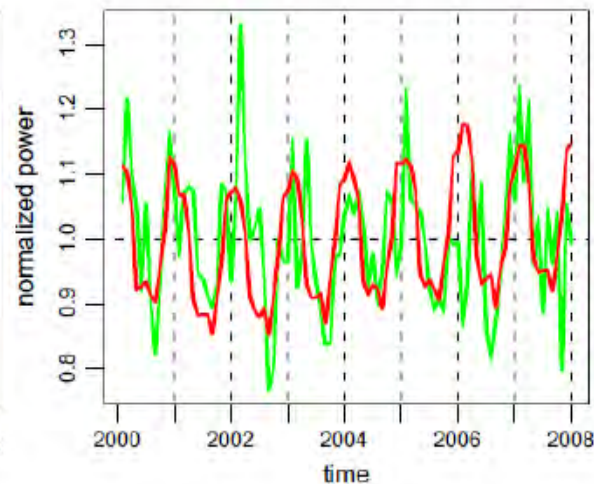
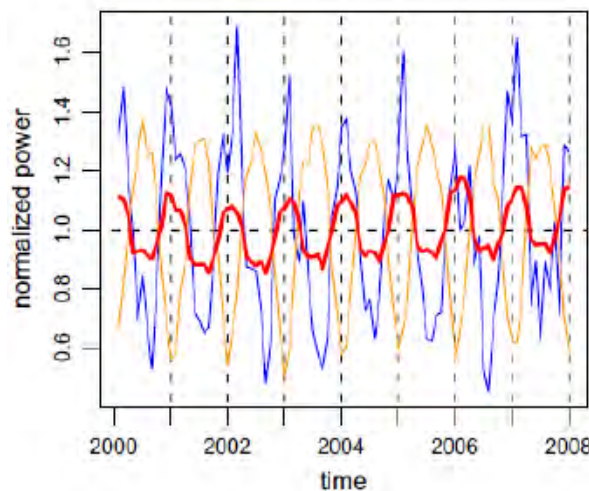
Source: BNEF, 2011

# The way forward: testing the limits

- Under severe climate constraints...
- What if other low-carbon energy options are not easily available?
- Where are the technical limits to solar energy?
  - Assuming efficiency improvements and further electrification of buildings, industry and transport
  - Not always least cost, but affordable options
  - **Footprint, variability and convenience issues**
- Three broad categories of situations:
  - Sunny and dry climates, where CSP dominates
  - Sunny and wet climates, with PV backed by hydro
  - Temperate climates, with wind power and PV

# Testing limits: key role of electricity

- Electricity share keeps growing as efficient end-use technologies continue to penetrate markets



Source: Heide et al. 2011

- Solar energy dominated by power (STE and PV)
  - Space heating needs reduced and satisfied with ambient heat through heat pumps
  - Many options converging towards USD 100/MWh
  - Solar PV (and wind) electricity storage where STE is not feasible: pumped-hydro plants

# A global approach is needed

- **The bulk of the forthcoming growth of energy demand is in sunny countries**
  - 7 out of 9 billion people, growing economies
- **Solar provides access to modern energy services**
  - Potentially changing the lives of 1.4 billion people
- **Solar energy has the potential to become a key contributor to final energy demand after 2060**
  - Under the assumptions of a massive penetration of electricity, efficiency improvements and willingness to decarbonise the energy sector
- **Efforts/benefits need to be shared globally**
  - “Spend wisely, share widely”



Thank you!

