



# Navigating the Energy Transition

Major Trends Shaping the Industry

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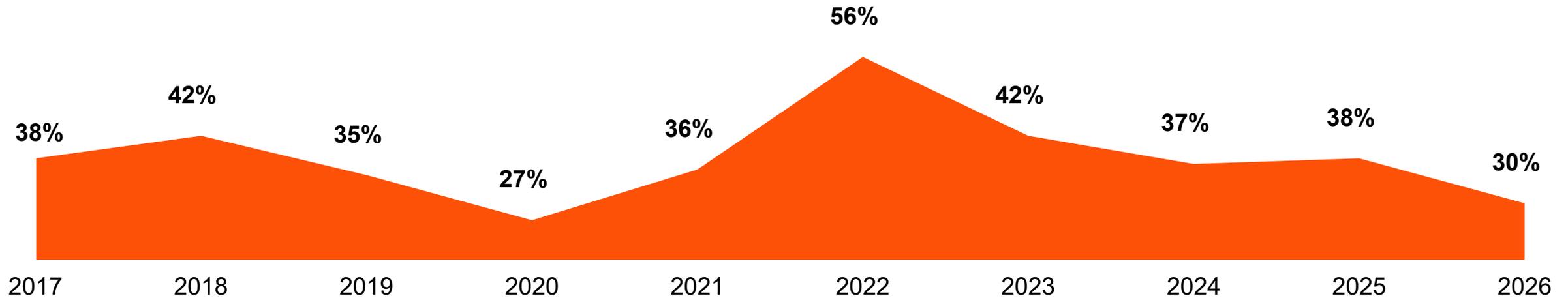
Okrugli stol - FER  
March, 2026



# Confidence in growth is on lowest level since 2020

## PwC Global CEO Survey 2026

### CEO confidence in 12-month revenue growth



### Top threats:



**Macroeconomic volatility**



**Cyber risk**



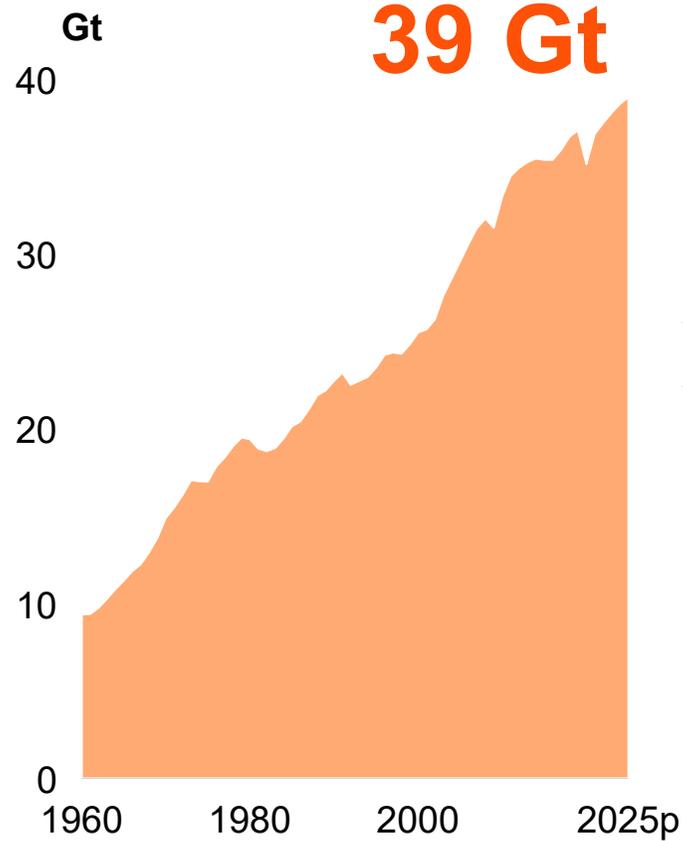
**Technology disruption**



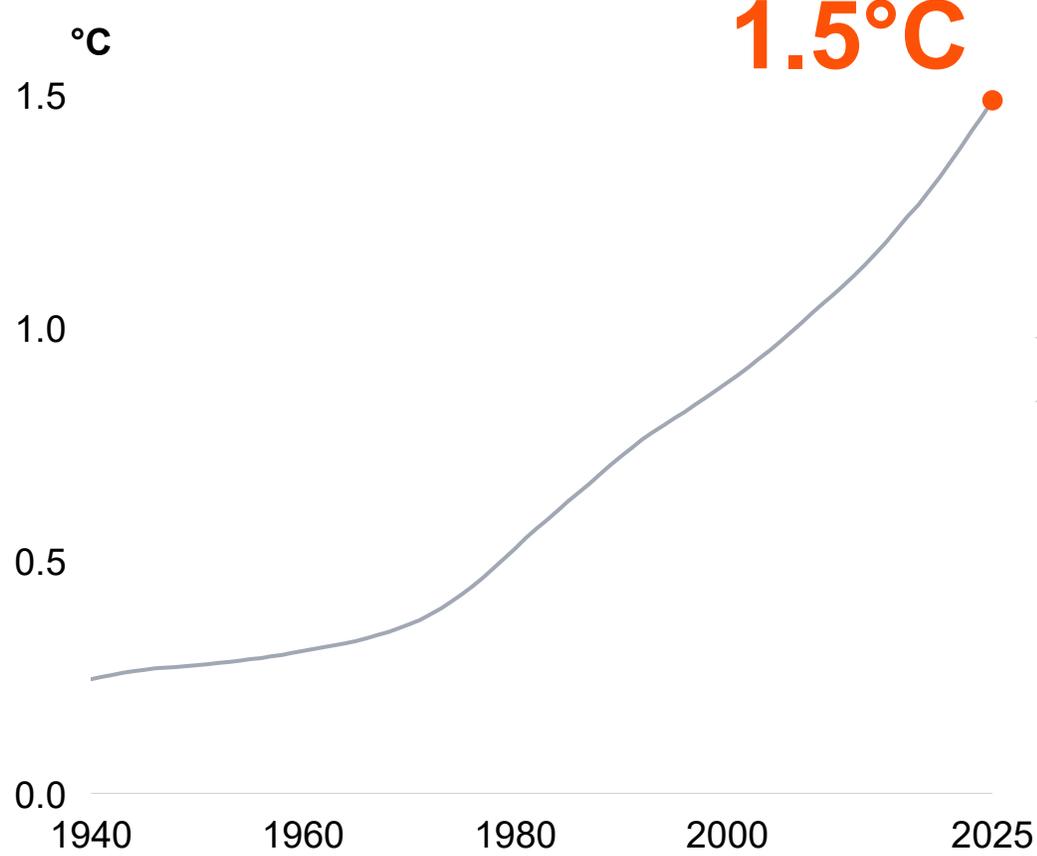
**Geopolitical conflict**

# Emissions at a record level and the second-warmest year

**Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**  
(1960-2024 and 2025 projection, Gt)



**Global surface air temp. anomalies vs 1850-1900**  
(1940-2025, °C)



**~3°C**

**Estimated warming  
in 2050 with currently  
implemented policies**

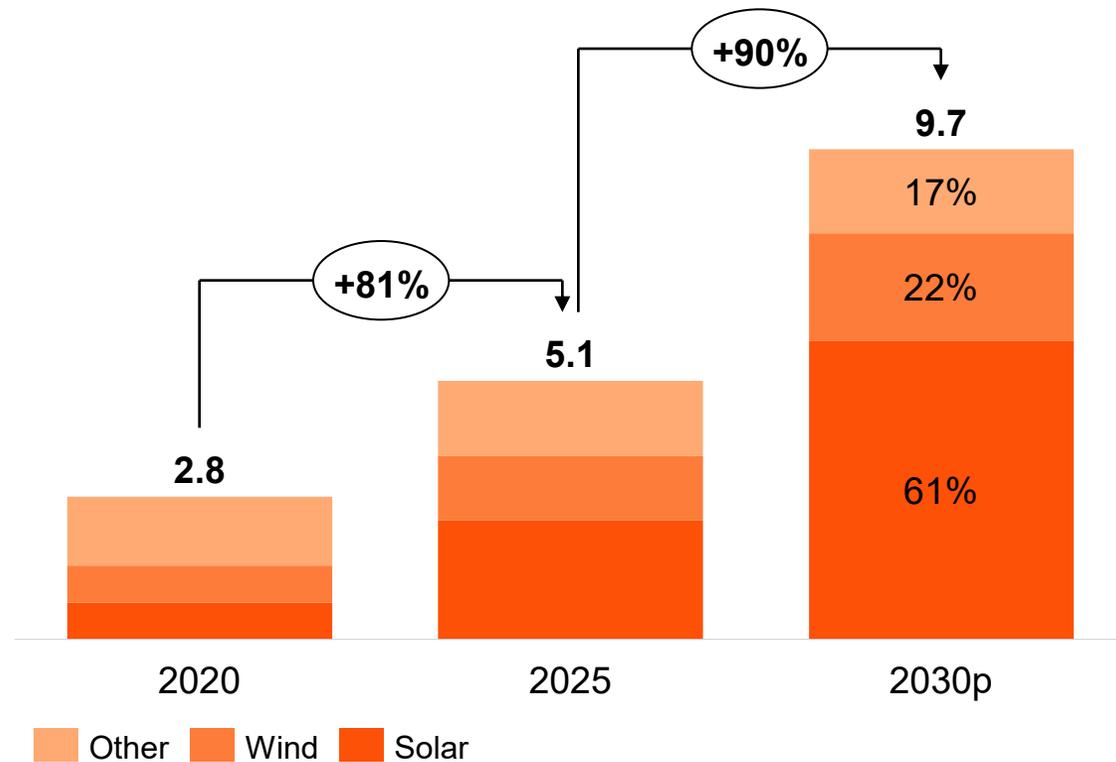


Source: Global Carbon Project, Earth System Science Data, Copernicus Climate Change Service, PwC analysis

# Energy transition will continue

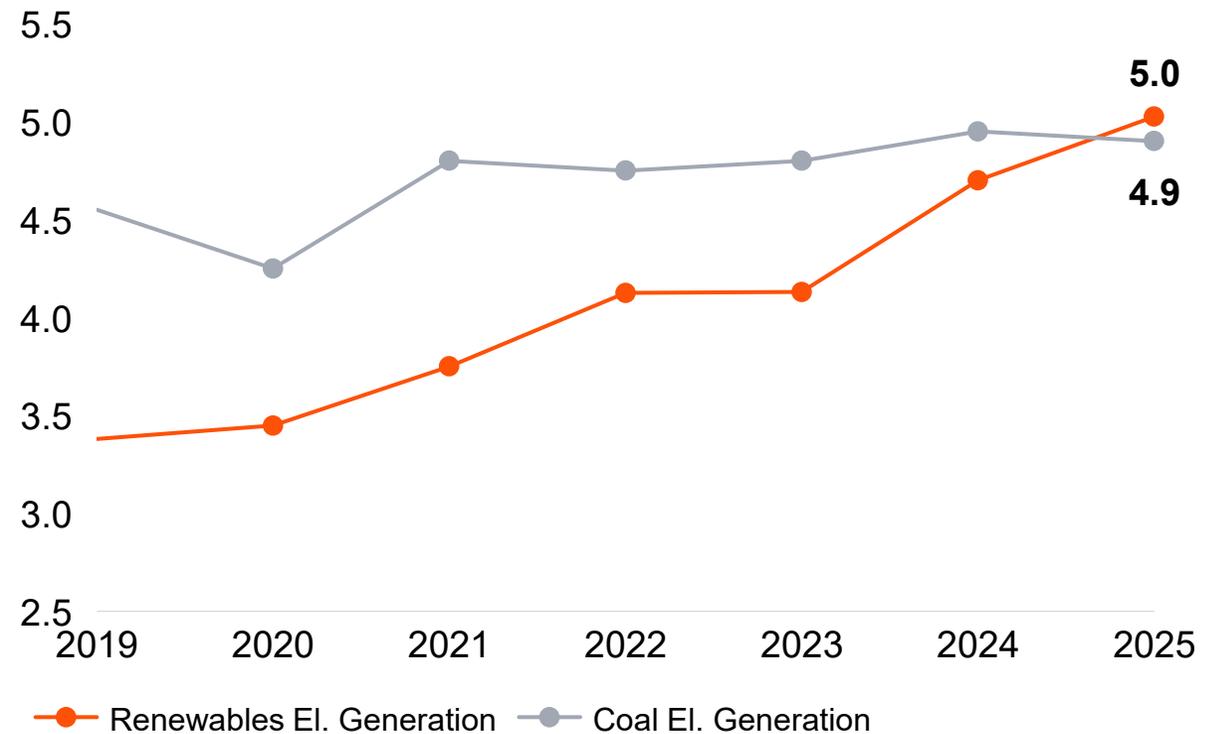
## Global installed RES capacity

(2020-2025, and 2030 projection<sup>1</sup>, TW)



## Electricity generation volume

(2019-2025, ths.TWh)

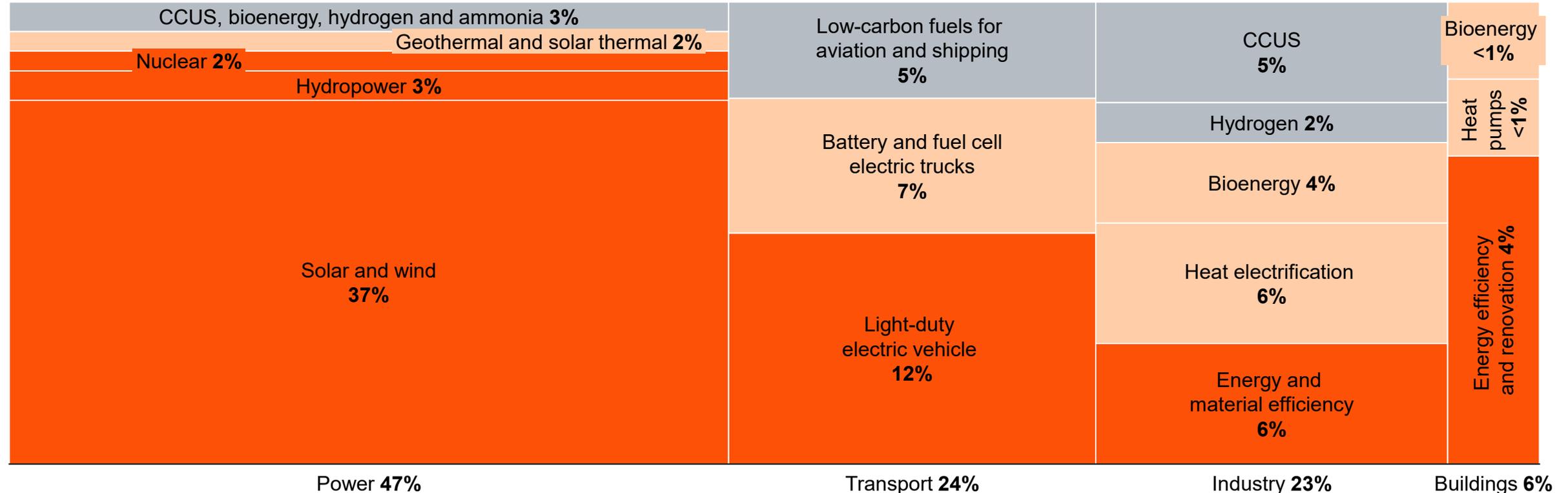


Notes: 1) Main case scenario projection

Source: IEA, IRENA, Nat Bullard decarbonization deck, PwC analysis

# 2/3 of energy related emissions can be decarbonized with positive financials

## Energy-sector emissions reductions<sup>1</sup> needed for the 1.5 °C goal by 2050



■ Cost-competitive in most situations, or soon will be ~65%
 ■ Minor cost disadvantage ~20%
 ■ Major cost disadvantage ~15%

Notes: 1) Expressed as a percentage of net GT CO<sub>2</sub> per year with annual emissions at projected 2050 level  
 Source: IEA, Høglund – Isaksson et al. (2021), PwC analysis

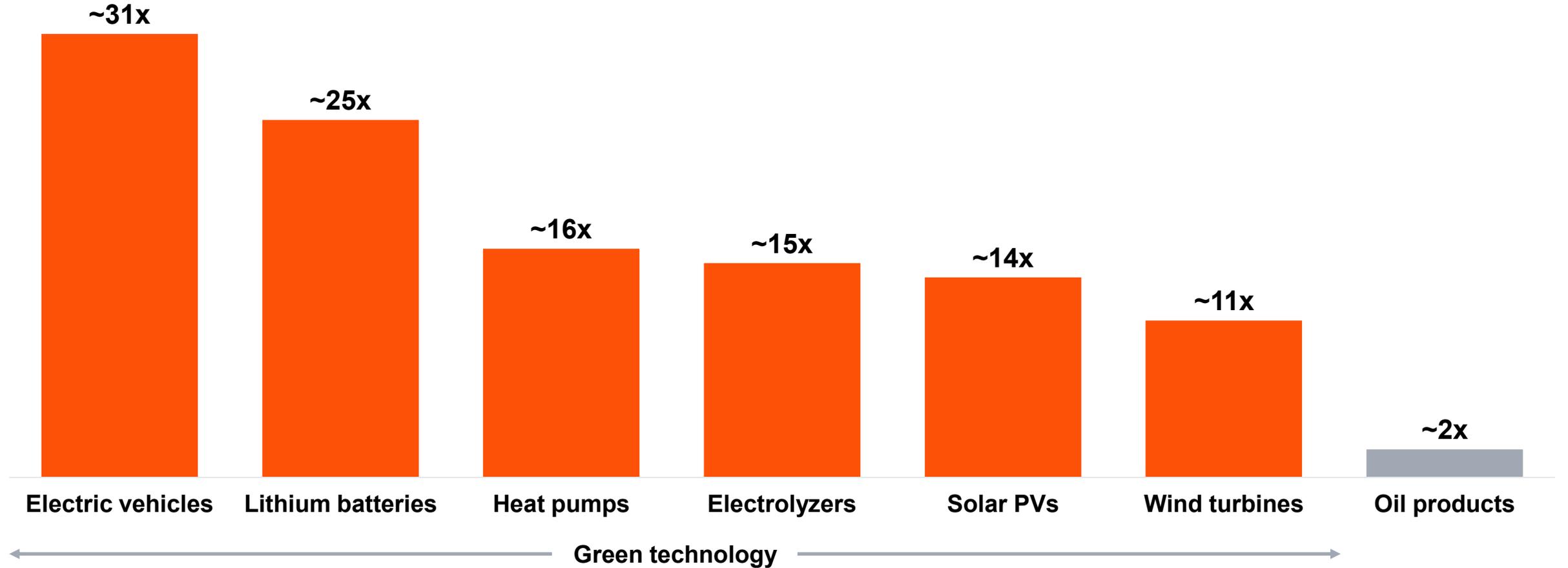


Energy security emerges as a top priority

1

# Green tech trade barriers have surged

Estimated growth in global trade restrictions by sector (2024 vs. 2015)



Source: UN Comtrade, IEA, BloombergNEF, PwC analysis

# Approach to energy security differs across the key regions

Region	 <b>United States</b>	 <b>China</b>	 <b>Europe</b>
<b>Focus</b> 	<b>Maximizing domestic oil &amp; gas production while supporting development of a diversified energy portfolio</b>	<b>Investing massively in RES, energy storage and grid, while leveraging its coal reserves</b>	<b>Reducing fossil-fuel dependence by scaling up RES and electrification</b>
<b>Key evidence</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Record-high crude oil production</b></li> <li>• <b>Rapid LNG export growth</b></li> <li>• <b>Wind and solar overtaking traditional baseload sources</b></li> <li>• <b>Lowering gasoline prices</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Half of all renewable energy investments</b> are in China</li> <li>• <b>Record-high grid investments</b> with ~45% growth since 2020</li> <li>• <b>Coal capacity still growing</b> with new projects in development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>&gt;90% of oil and gas consumption is imported</b></li> <li>• <b>Renewable energy</b> accounts for <b>more than half of the mix</b></li> <li>• <b>Electricity demand increases</b>, while <b>oil &amp; gas is down</b></li> </ul>

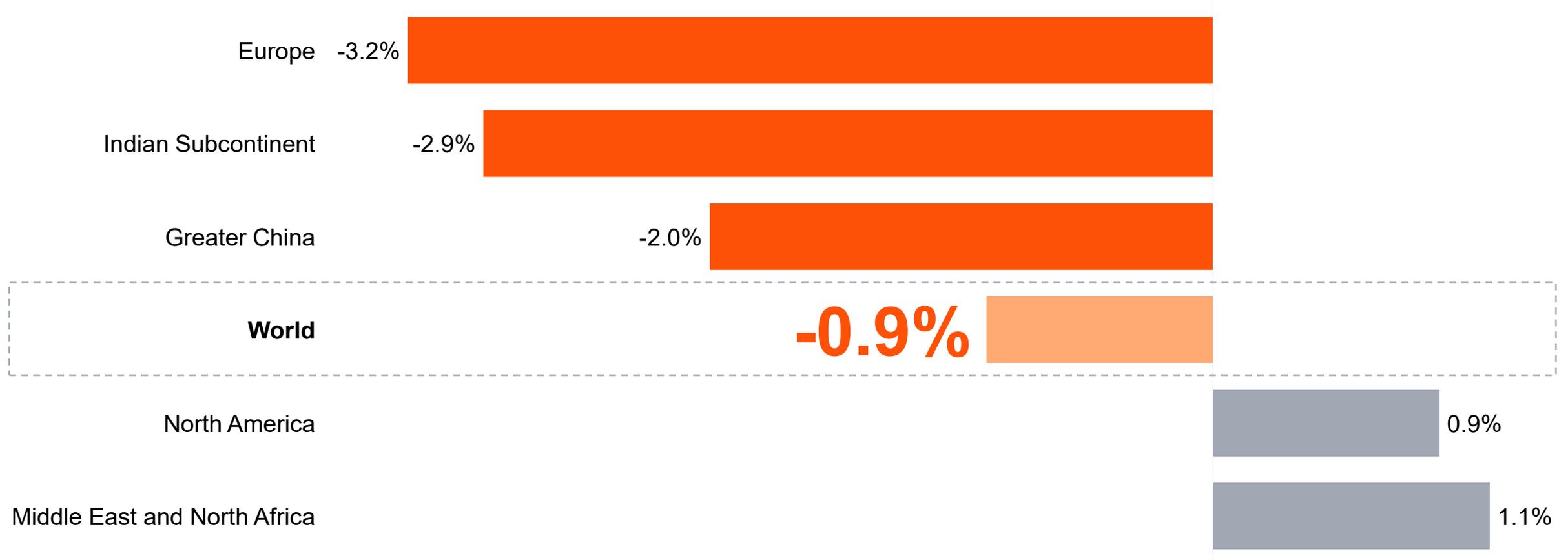
Source: PwC analysis

# Energy security policies contribute to a net fall in global emissions over time

## Emission change by 2040

### Impact of energy security policies on energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

(2024 projection)



Source: DNV Energy Transition Outlook 2025



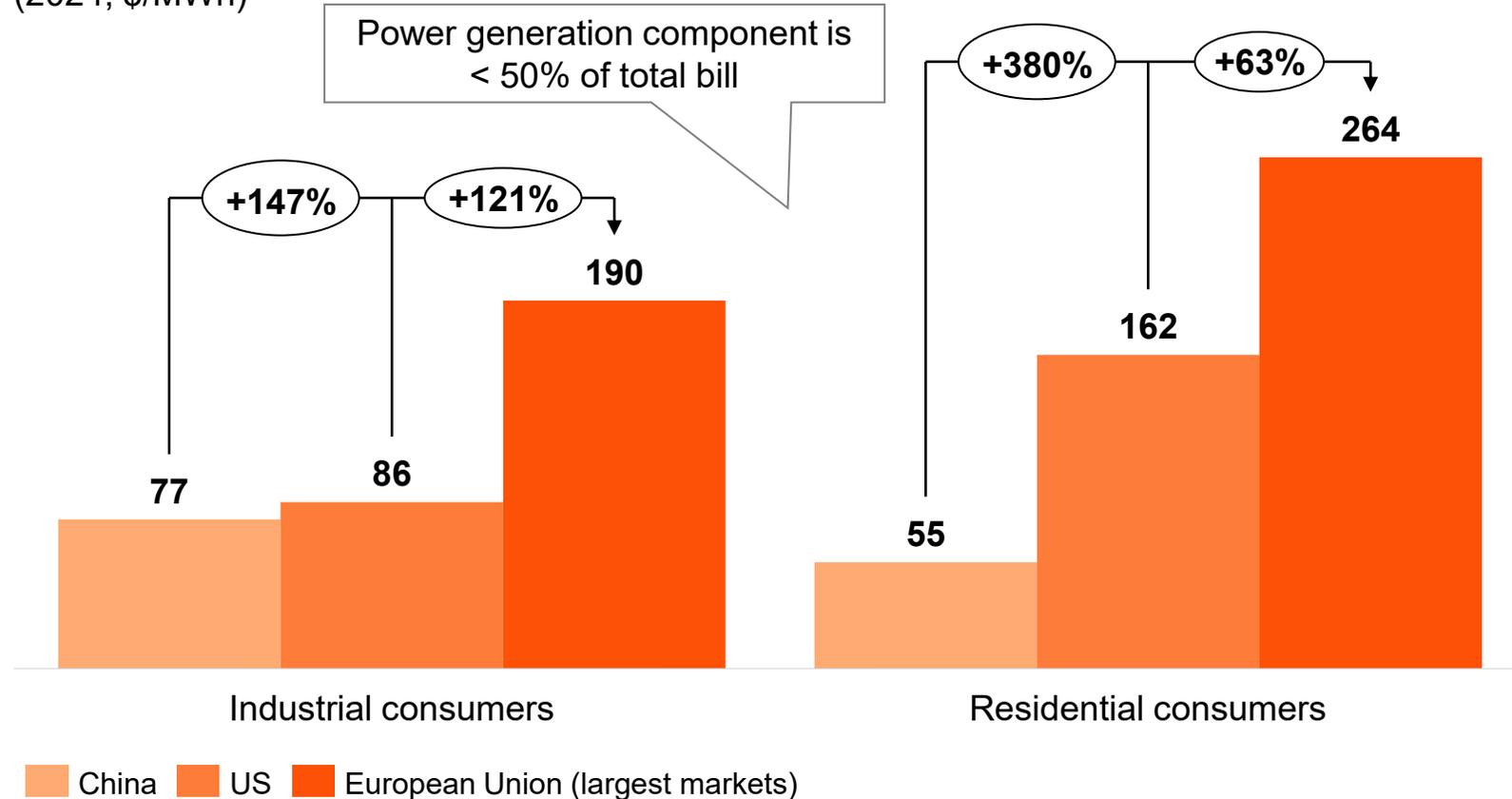
Public support for the energy transition has been shaken

2

# Higher energy prices lead to diminishing public support for transition

## End consumer average electricity prices

(2024, \$/MWh)



## Top political priorities in Europe

(Eurobarometer survey)

Rank	Priority	Recent trend
1	Economy	↑
2	Security	↑
3	Sustainability	↓

Source: OECD, US Energy Information Administration, IEA, Eurostat, Statista, PwC analysis

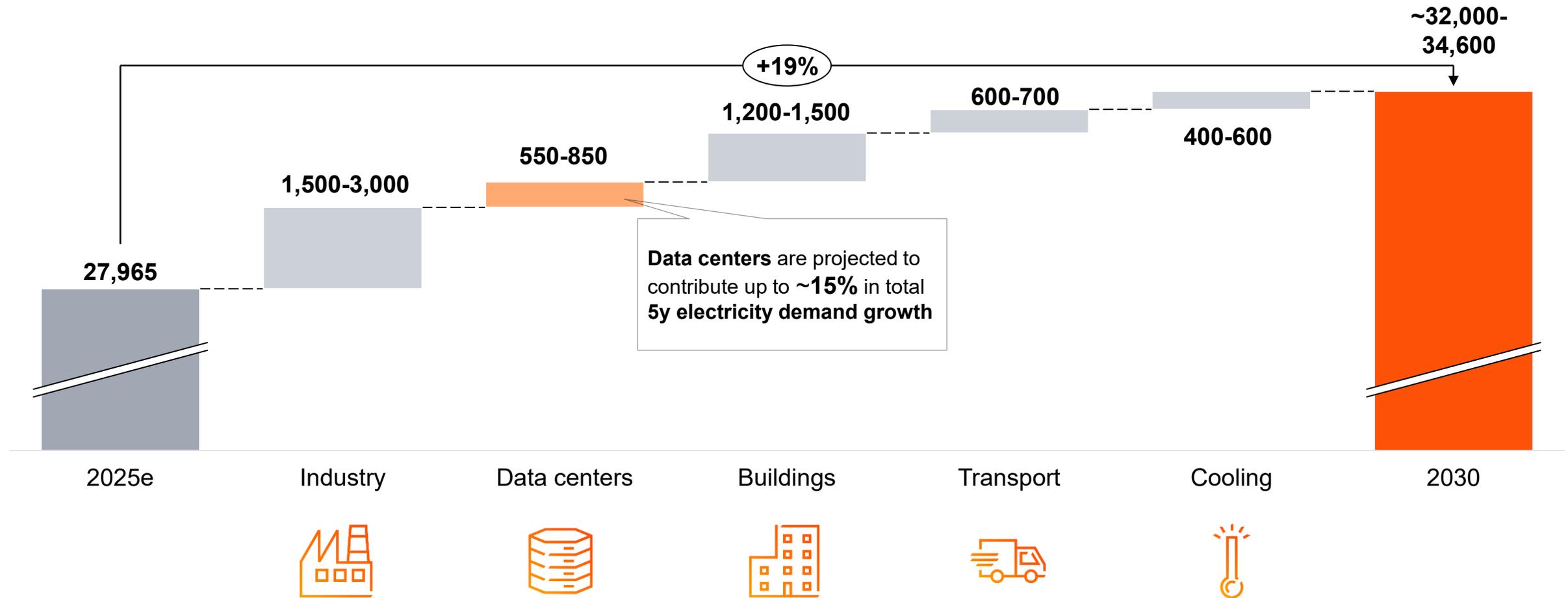


There are structural changes  
to the electricity demand

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# Industry is projected to be the key driver of electricity demand growth

## Projected 5-year electricity growth by driver, 2025-2030 (TWh)<sup>1</sup>

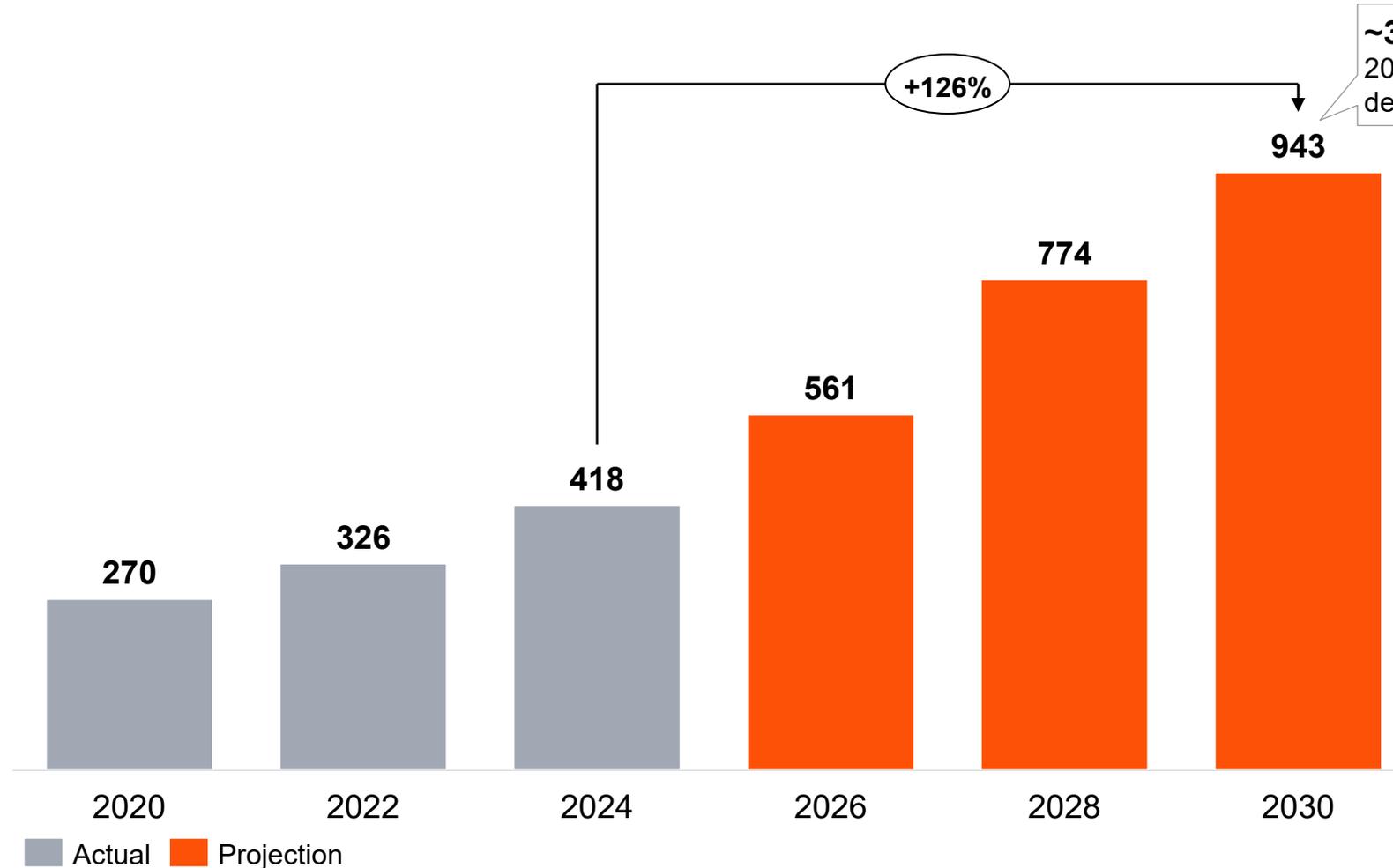


Note: 1) EPS BAU and IEA STEPS scenario

Source: Energy Policy Simulator, IEA, PwC Analysis

# Power demand from data centers is projected to double by 2030

## Global Data Center Power Demand, 2020-2030 (TWh)



~3-4% of projected 2030 global electricity demand



is aggressively investing in power utilities to secure energy for its rapidly expanding AI data centers

- Intersect Power – \$4.75 bil. acquisition in '25
- Kairos Power, NextEra Energy – Nuclear power partnerships
- Brookfield Renewable – \$3 bil. agreement in '25 to secure up to 3,000 MW of hydropower

Sources: IEA, UtilityDive, Data Center Dynamics, Reuters, PwC analysis



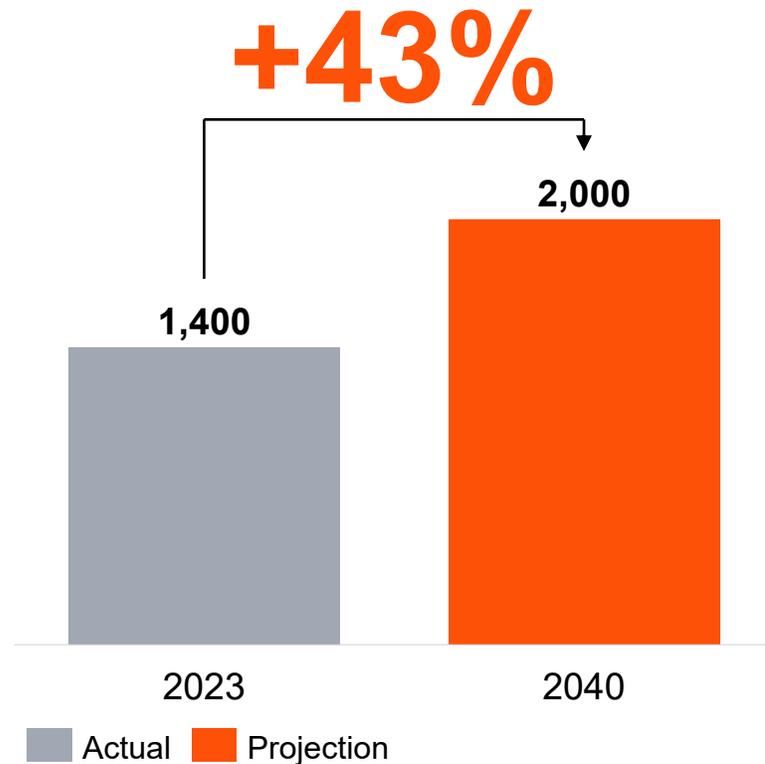
Natural gas and nuclear energy are back again

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# Gas and nuclear are on the rise again, with SMRs entering the picture

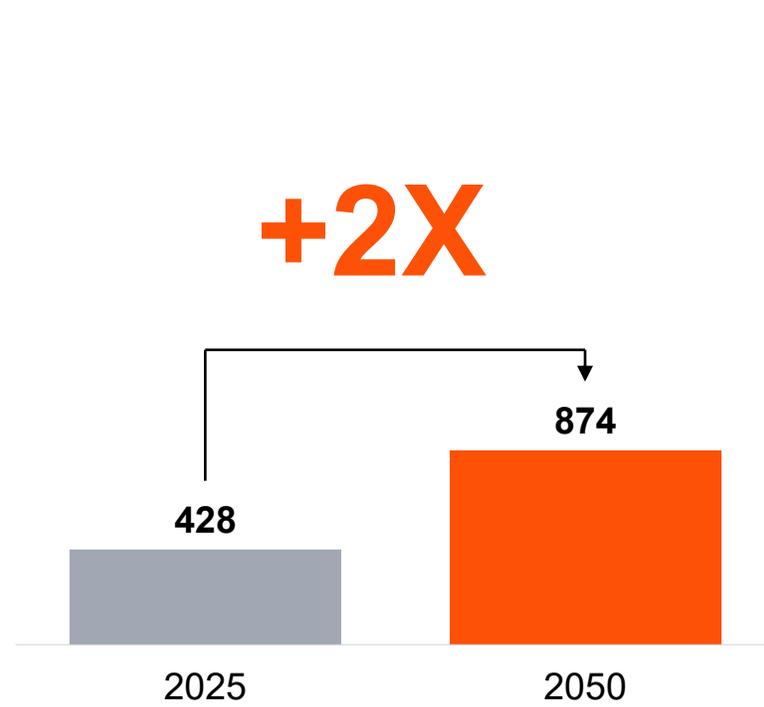
## Projected gas-fired capacity expansion

(2023-2040, GW)



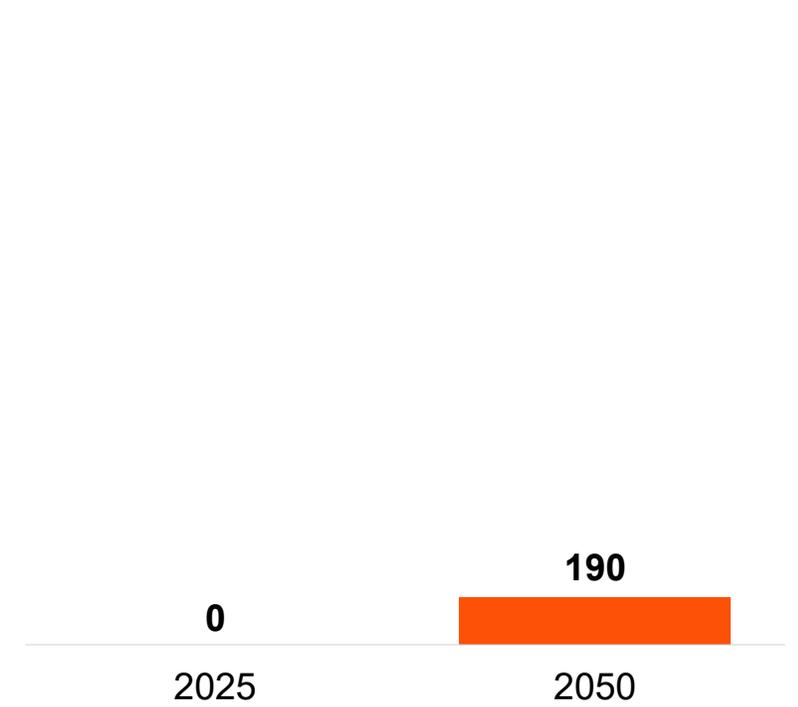
## Nuclear power capacity – APS Scenario

(2025-2050, GW)



## SMR installed capacity – APS Base case

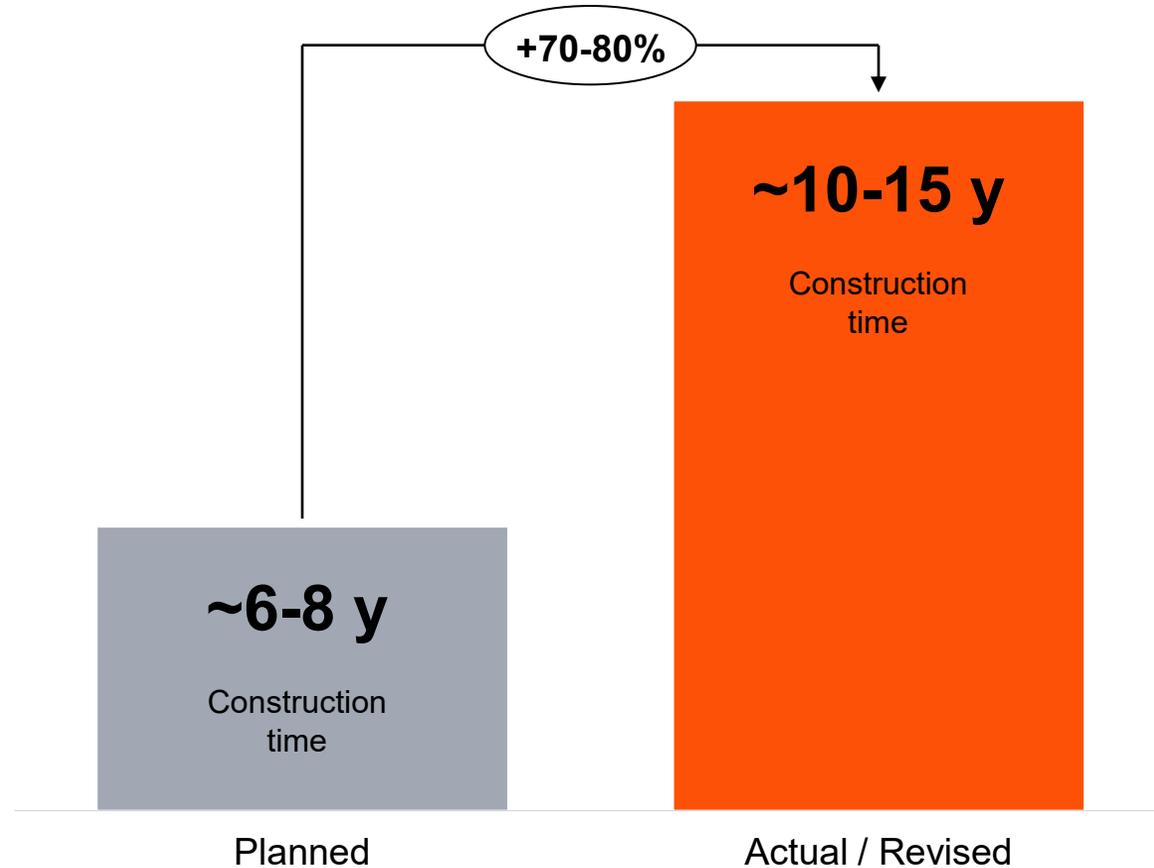
(2025-2050, GW)



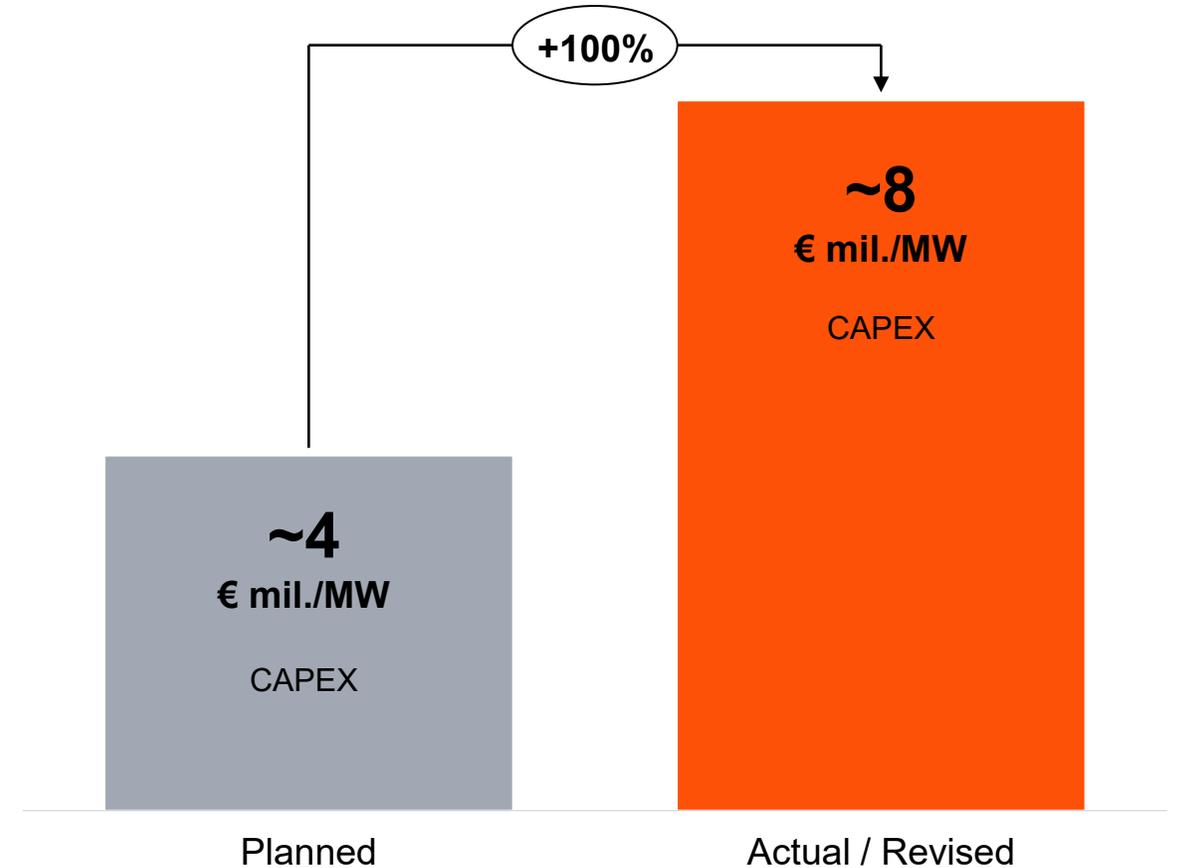
Source: Enerdata, EMBER, Bloomberg, GlobalData, IEA, PwC Analysis

# Nuclear projects tend to end with significant CAPEX & time overruns

Average time overrun for nuclear projects



Average CAPEX overrun for nuclear projects

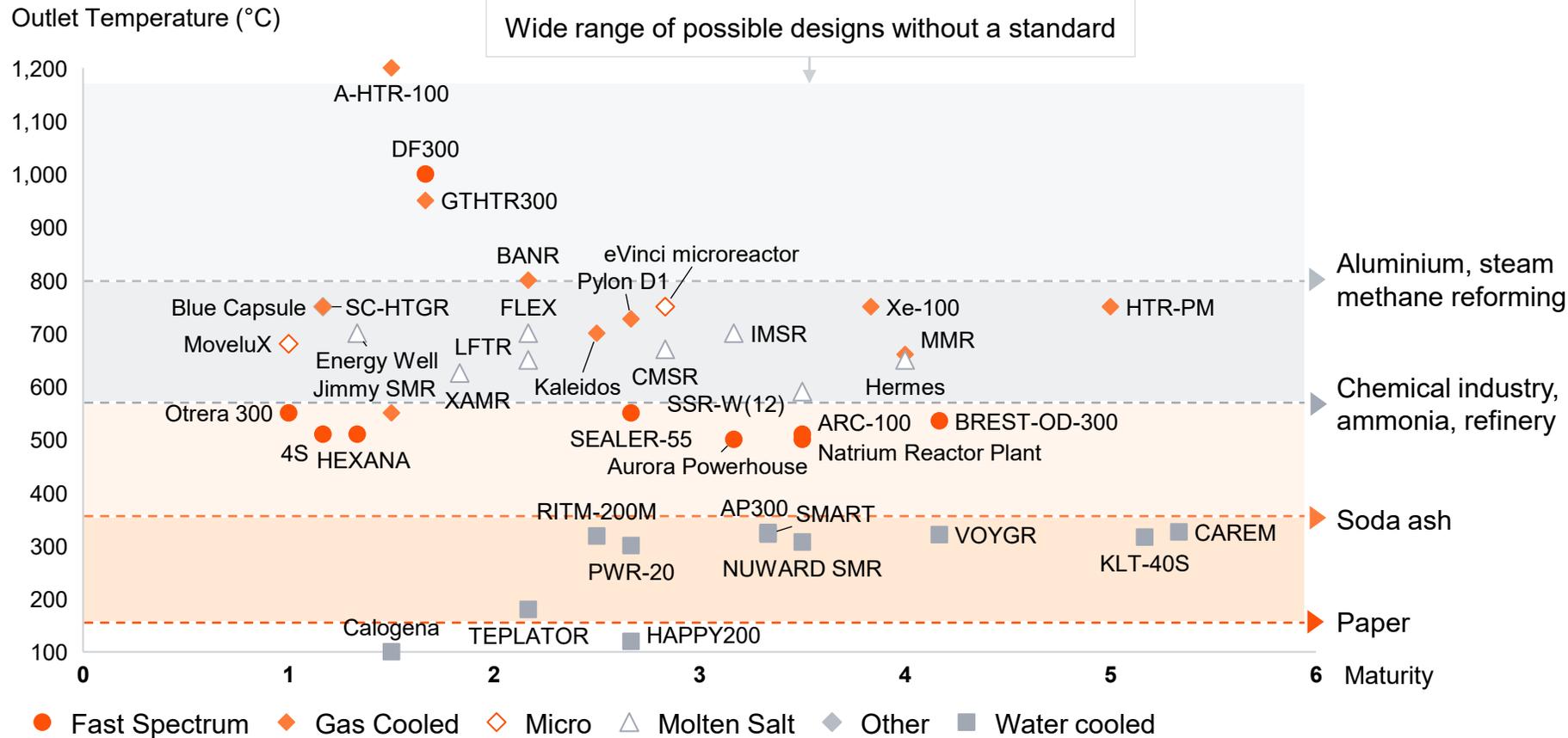


Source: World Nuclear News, World Nuclear Associations, IEA, IAEA, ENS, PwC analysis

# The variety and maturity of SMR tech. designs poses strategic challenges

## Development of SMR technology designs and key challenges

### SMR designs mapped by maturity<sup>1</sup> and outlet temperature



### Strategic challenges for SMRs OEM

- 01 Time-to-market & technology readiness
- 02 Delivering at scale to unlock competitiveness
- 03 Managing decentralized fuel supply chain
- 04 Governance and O&M capabilities

Notes: 1) Average maturity evaluated on 6 dimensions: licensing, siting, financing, supply chain, engagements and fuels

Source: NEA, PwC Analysis



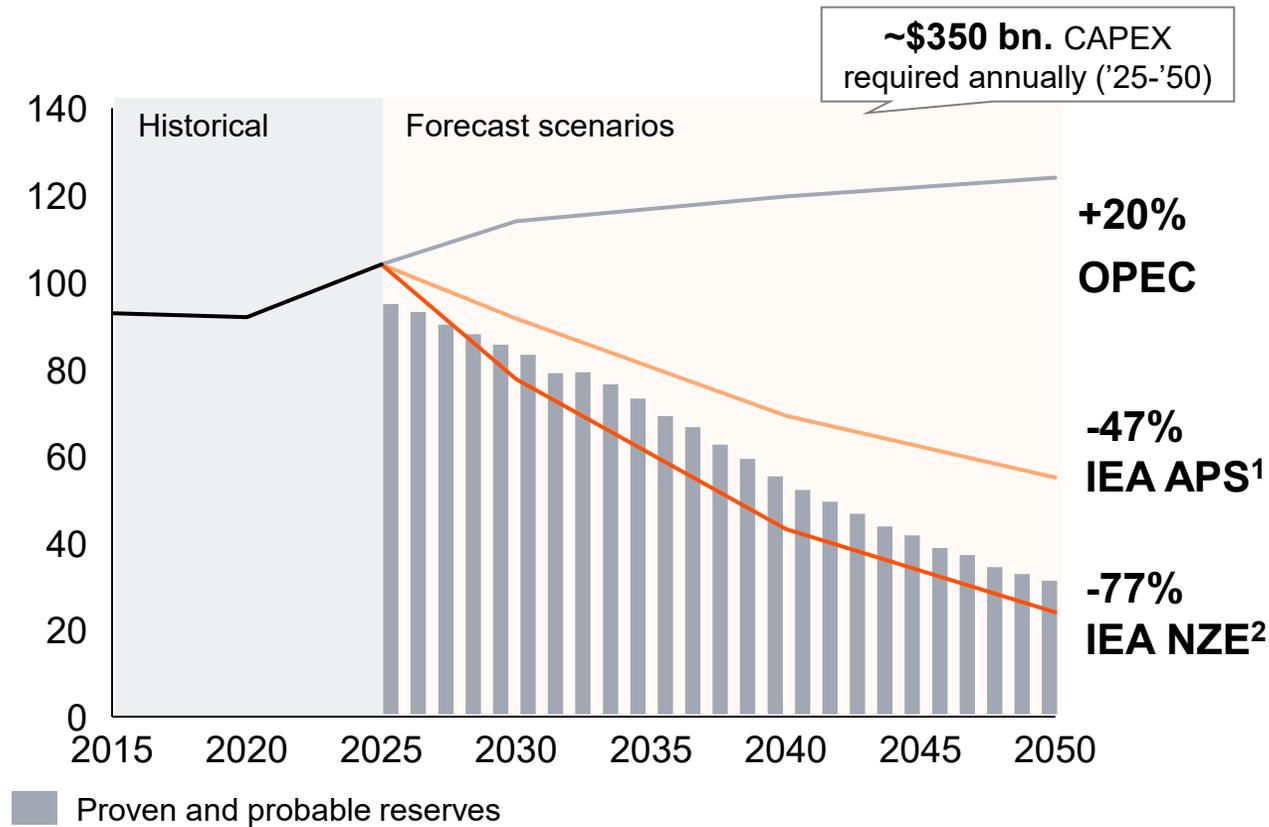
Demand for LNG will stay strong, oil keeps pushing but with rising uncertainty

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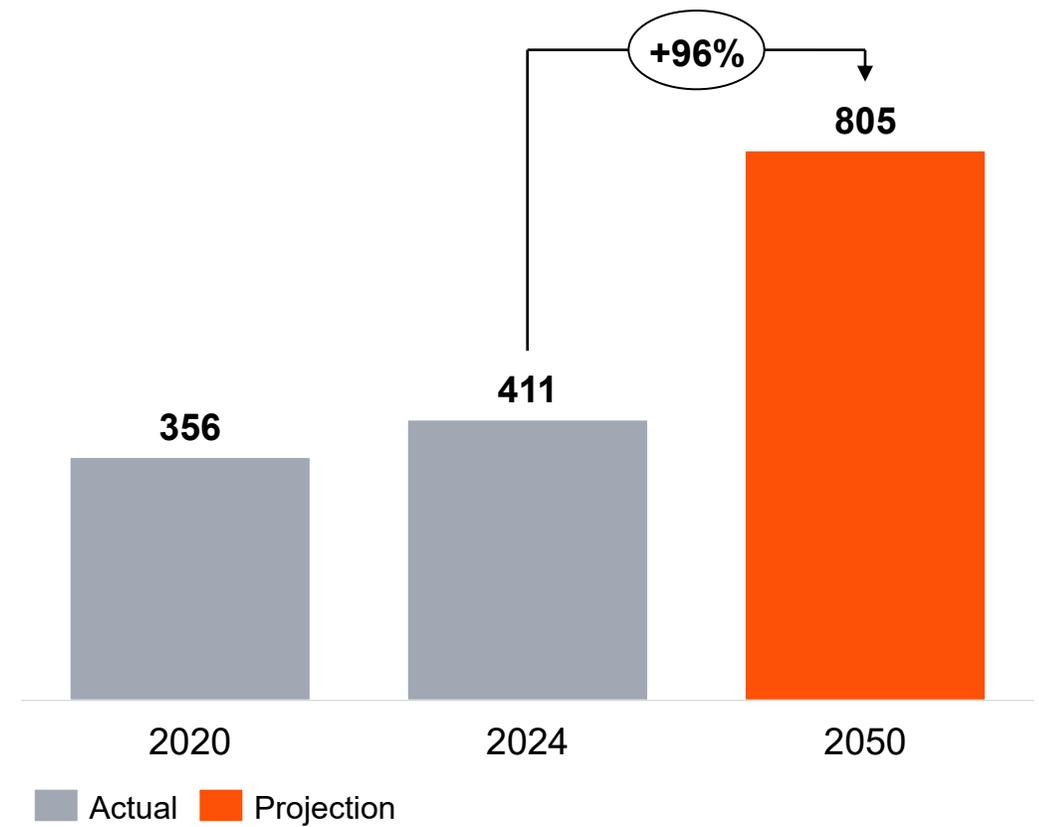
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# Oil and gas continue to play a significant role, with uncertain projections

**Global oil demand – historical and forecast scenarios in relation to proven & probable oil reserves (2020-2025, 2050 projection, mb/d)**



**Global LNG Imports – historical and forecast (2020-2025, 2050 projection, Mt)**



Notes: 1) IEA Announced Pledges Scenario 2) IEA Net Zero Emissions

Source: GECF, IEA, Rystad Energy, PwC Analysis



Green technology cost trajectories are diverging

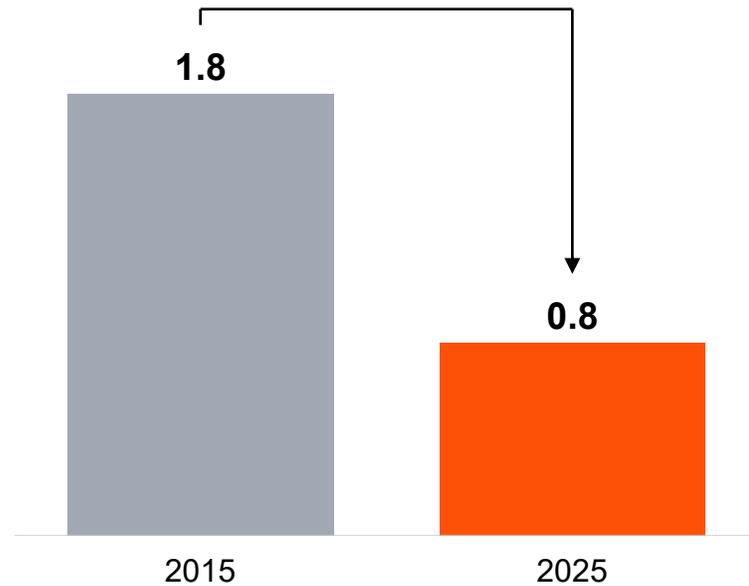
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# Cost of the key energy transition technologies has fallen tremendously...

## Key Energy Transition Technologies

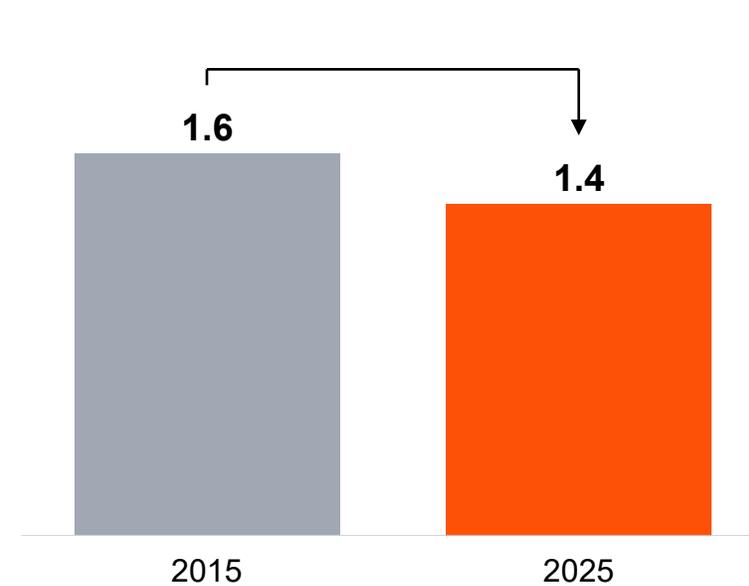
**Solar PV investment cost**  
(\$/MW, in mil.)

**-56%**



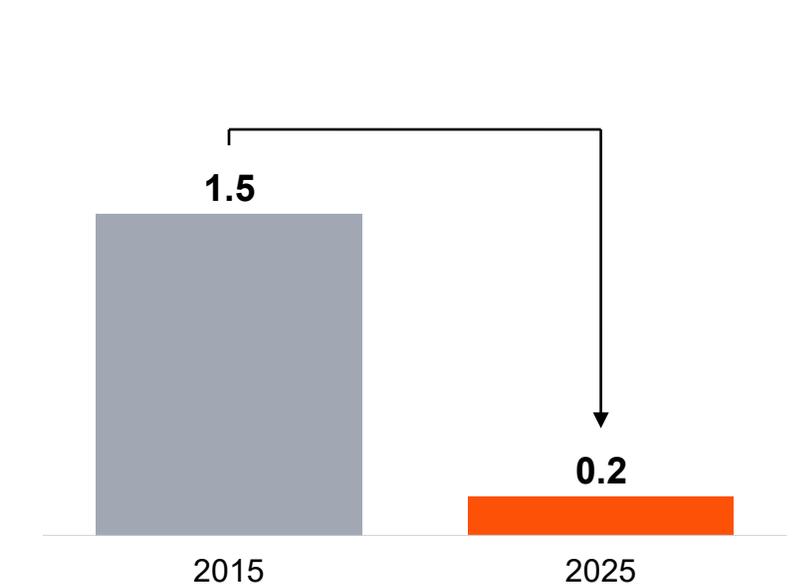
**Onshore wind investment cost**  
(\$/MW, in mil.)

**-13%**



**Battery investment cost**  
(\$/kWh, in ths.)

**-88%**

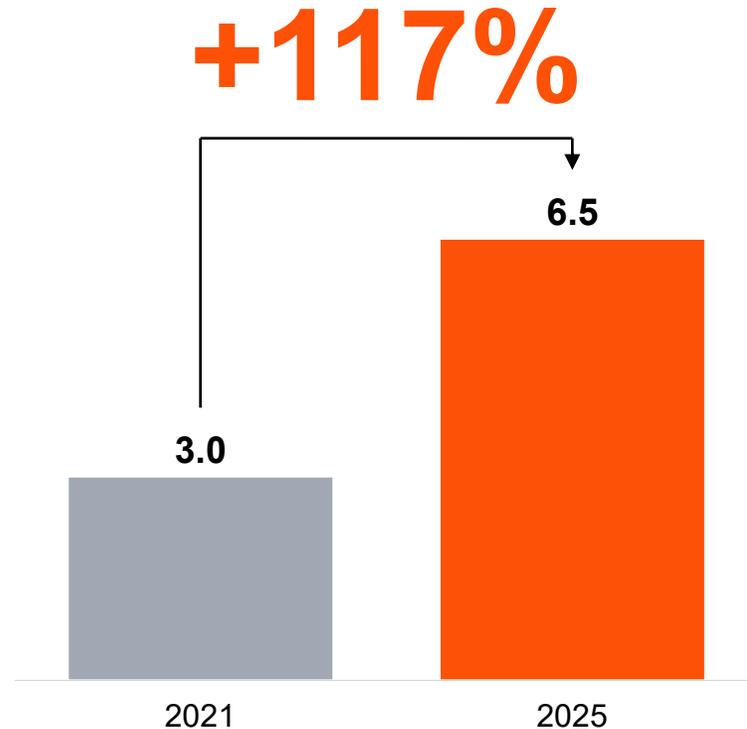


Source: IRENA, IEA, Bloomberg NEF, EIA, GE Vernova, S&P Global, Reuters, TenneT, Amprion, SO Hertz, SSEN Transmission, NeuConnect, Terna, National Grid, PwC Analysis

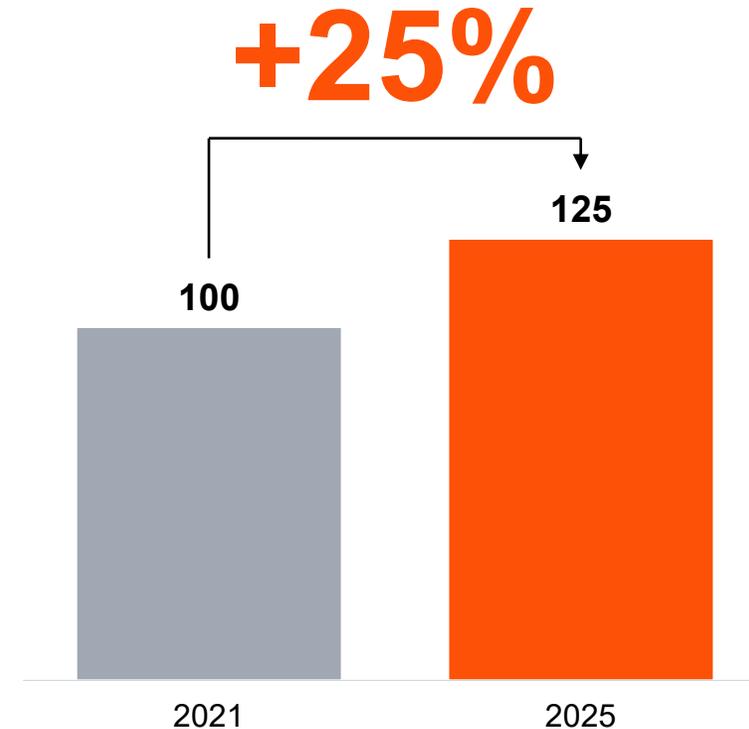
# ...While for some others price forecasts keep rising

## Pioneer energy technologies costing more than expected

Green hydrogen cost – 2030 Forecast  
(€/kg)

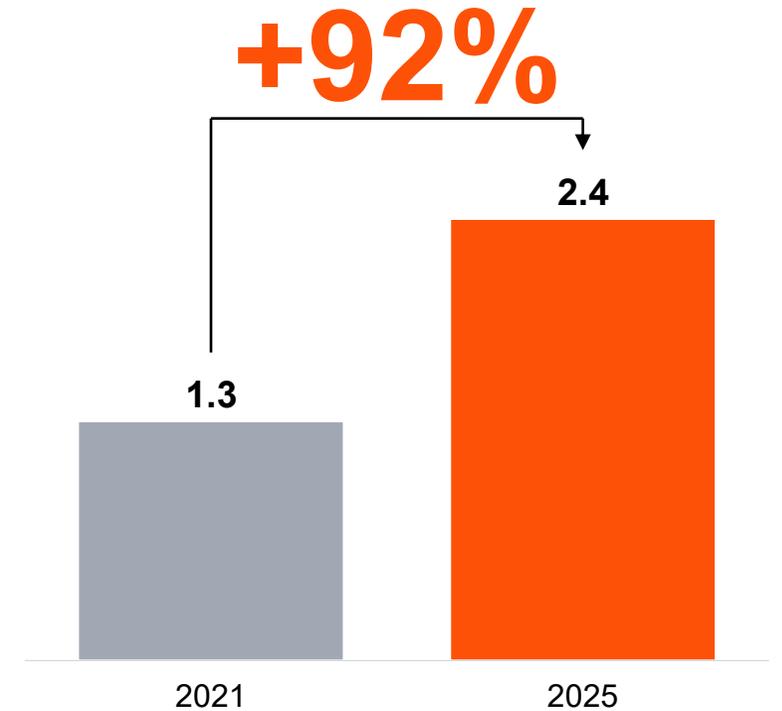


CCUS cost – 2030 Forecast  
(\$/tCO<sub>2</sub>)



## Proven transitional tech costs rising due to constrained supply

CCGT turnkey cost – 2030 Forecast  
(\$/kW, in ths.)



Source: IRENA, IEA, Bloomberg NEF, EIA, GE Vernova, , S&P Global, Reuters, TenneT, Amprion, SO Hertz, SSEN Transmission, NeuConnect, Terna, National Grid, PwC Analysis



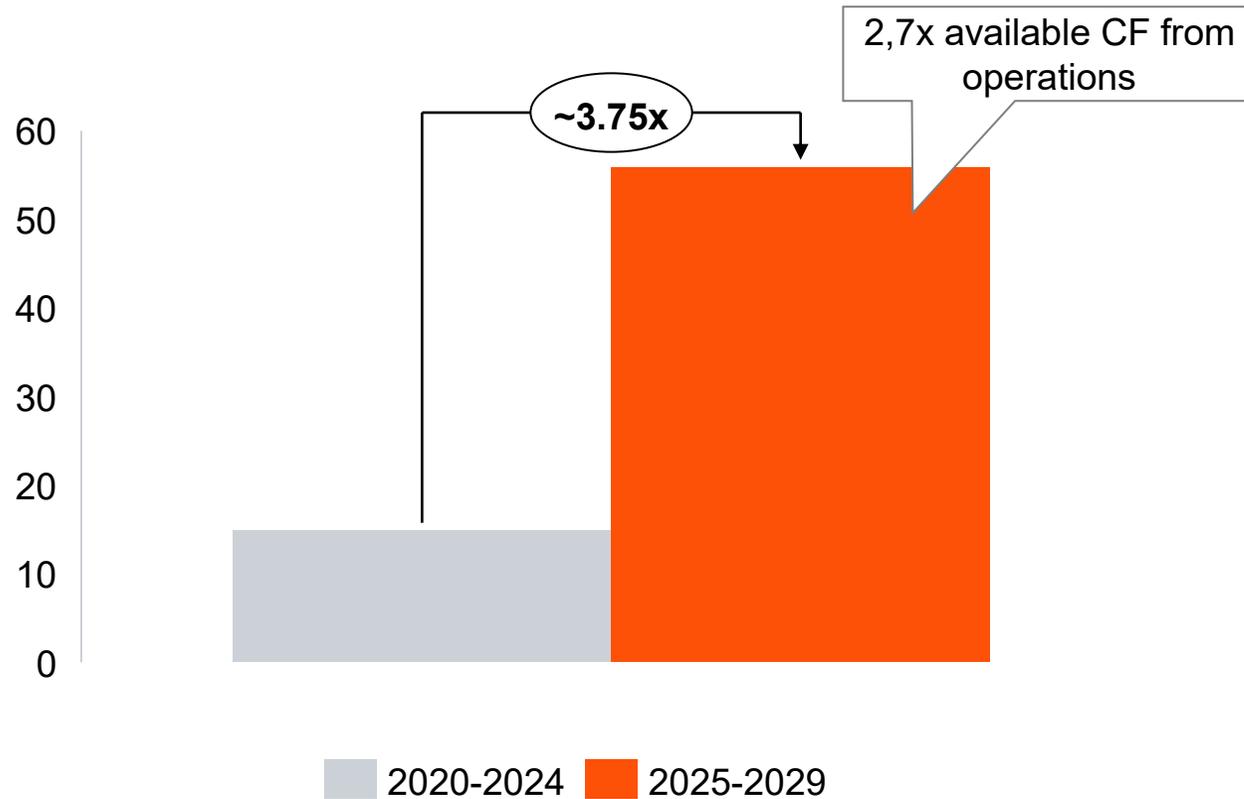
The investments needed in energy infrastructure demand new approaches

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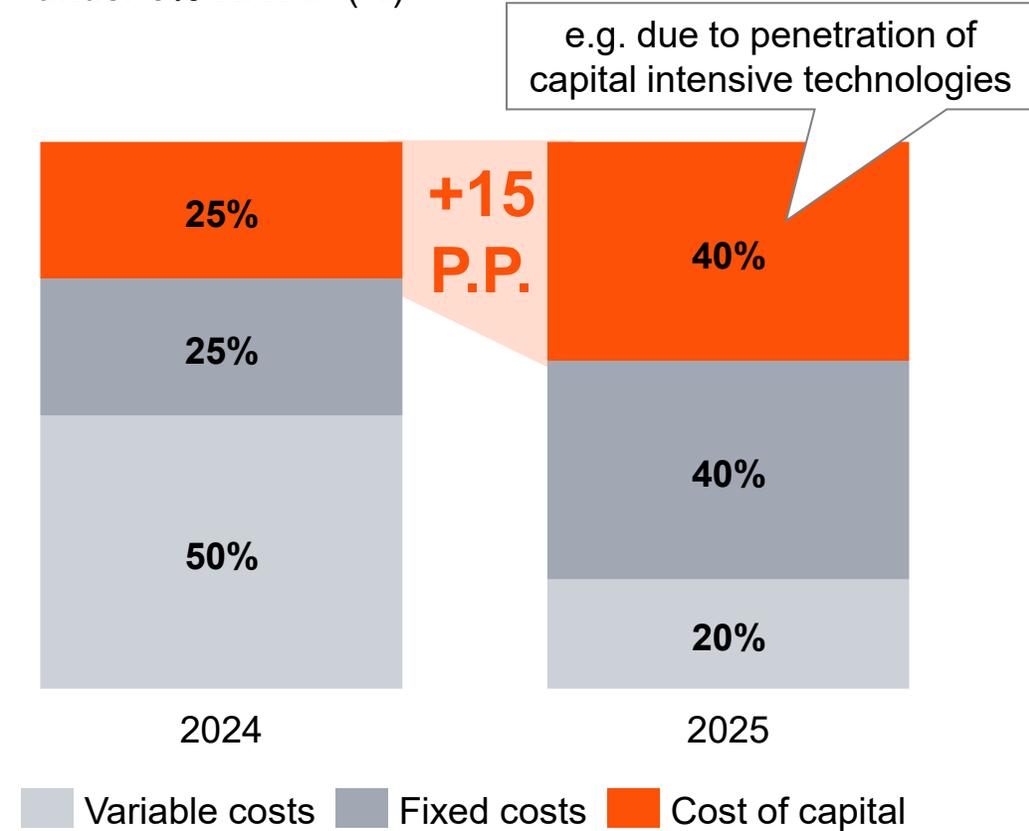
# TSOs will face a significant CAPEX pressure and funding gap

## CAPEX requirements and funding

Portfolio<sup>1</sup> average annual Capex of European TSOs (€ bn.)



UK market example of electricity system costs under 5% WACC<sup>2</sup> (%)



Notes: 1) Leading TSOs from Germany, Netherlands, France, UK, and Norway; 2) Weighted average costs of capital  
 Source: S&P Global Capital IQ, company annual report, energy regulators and system operators reports, IEA, PwC Analysis

# Selected recommendations for key market stakeholders

## Policymakers



- 1 Put **total system cost and value** at the core of future market design
- 2 Accelerate **permitting as a critical enabler** for clean energy growth
- 3 Elevate **energy security and affordability to top national priorities** and fund it accordingly

## Producers & Suppliers



- 4 Treat **integration of demand-side assets** as essential for future competitiveness and returns
- 5 Reinvent **operating models to structurally lower costs** over time
- 6 Win **customers** through **integrated decarbonization solutions**, not just commodity supply

## Grid Operators



- 7 Understand **true limits** and **sweat the existing assets harder** before building new
- 8 Make **capital project execution excellence** and **supply chain resilience** core strategic priorities
- 9 **Enable faster permitting & reform grid connection** process radically

# Thank you