



THE OFFICE OF CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS



The Energy Transition – ELI Summer School

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Energy Transition Goal and Pathways

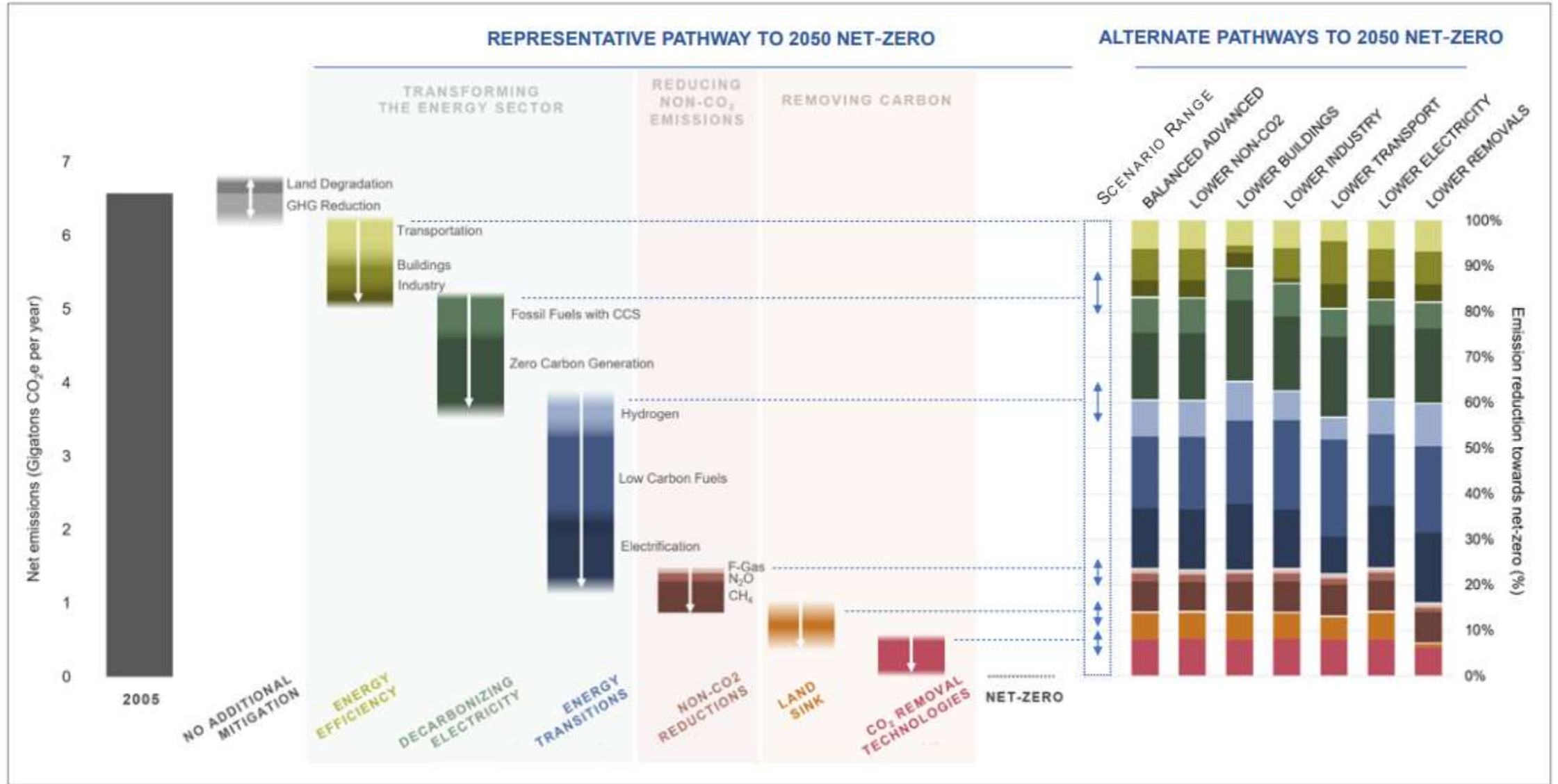


Figure ES-2: Emissions Reductions Pathways to Achieve 2050 Net-Zero Emissions in the United States.

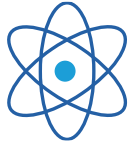
The Long-Term Strategy of the United States: Pathways to Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2050 (November 2021).

U.S. Investment in Energy Transition

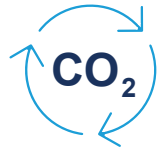
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA or BIL) (November 15, 2021)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (August 16, 2022)
- As a result, DOE is now investing over \$100 billion into clean energy demonstration and deployment, including transmission, through grants and loans and rebates and other public tools.



Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) Scope



Advanced Nuclear
(\$3.3 billion)



Carbon Management
(\$7 billion)



**Clean Energy Demonstrations
on Mine Land (\$500 million)**



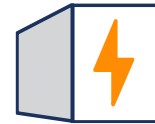
**Distributed Energy Systems
Demonstrations (\$50 million)**



**Energy Improvements in Rural
or Remote Areas (\$1 billion)**



Industrial Demonstrations
(\$6.3 billion)



**Long-Duration Energy
Storage Demonstrations**
(\$505 million)



Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs
(\$8 billion)



Liftoff Enabling Programs
(\$133 million)

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- A categorical exclusion (CX, CE, or CatEx) is a category of actions that the agency has determined, in its agency NEPA procedures, normally does not have a significant effect on the human environment.
 - A CX is not an exemption from NEPA
 - To make a CX determination, DOE must determine:
 - The proposed action fits within a listed categorical exclusion in 10 CFR part 1021
 - There are no extraordinary circumstances
 - The proposed action is not improperly segmented or otherwise improperly defined
 - A CX may be completed quickly once sufficient information is available



DOE's Categorical Exclusions

- DOE categorical exclusions are listed in 10 CFR part 1021
- DOE last made changes to its categorical exclusions in 2011 (76 FR 63764; October 13, 2011).
- DOE Proposed Rule on November 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 78681)
- DOE Final Rule issued April 30, 2024; effective May 30, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 34074)
 - Revises categorical exclusion for upgrading and rebuilding transmission lines
 - Adds new categorical exclusion for certain energy storage systems
 - Revises categorical exclusion for solar photovoltaic systems



B4.13 for Upgrading and Rebuilding Existing Powerlines

“Upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines, which may involve relocations of small segments of the powerlines within an existing powerline right-of-way or within otherwise previously disturbed or developed lands (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(1)). Upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines also may involve widening an existing powerline right-of-way to meet current electrical standards if the widening remains within previously disturbed or developed lands and only extends into a small area beyond such lands as needed to comply with applicable electrical standards. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements, including the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part; and would incorporate appropriate design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices. This categorical exclusion does not apply to underwater powerlines. As used in this categorical exclusion, “small” has the meaning discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2).”



B4.14 Construction and Operation of Electrochemical-Battery or Flywheel Energy Storage Systems

“Construction, operation, upgrade, or decommissioning of an electrochemical battery or flywheel energy storage system within a previously disturbed or developed area or within a small (as discussed at 10 CFR 1021.410(g)(2)) area contiguous to a previously disturbed or developed area. Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would incorporate appropriate safety standards (including the current National Fire Protection Association 855, Standard for the Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems), design and construction standards, control technologies, and best management practices.”



B5.16 Solar Photovoltaic Systems

“(a) The installation, modification, operation, or decommissioning of commercially available solar photovoltaic systems: (1) Located on a building or other structure (such as rooftop, parking lot or facility, or mounted to signage, lighting, gates, or fences); or (2) Located within a previously disturbed or developed area.

(b) Covered actions would be in accordance with applicable requirements (such as land use and zoning requirements) in the proposed project area and the integral elements listed at the start of appendix B of this part, and would be consistent with applicable plans for the management of wildlife and habitat, including plans to maintain habitat connectivity, and incorporate appropriate control technologies and best management practices.”



Adoption of Categorical Exclusions

- Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023
 - Amended NEPA
 - Section 109, “Adoption of Categorical Exclusions”
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations
 - Final Rule issued May 1, 2024; effective July 1, 2024 (89 FR 35442)
 - 40 CFR 1501.4(e) is consistent with Section 109 of FRA



Thank you!



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For more information, please visit: energy.gov/OCED