

### Renewable Technology for the Future Jill Engel-Cox, Ph.D., Director, Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory

G20 Workshop on Global Circular Carbon Economy Session 2: Opportunities and Economics in Non-Biomass Renewables Riyadh, Saudi Arabia 5 March 2020

# Energy Supply is Shifting

In U.S., renewable energy—not including hydropower currently produces 10% of the total electricity generation. Within the next two years, this is expected to grow to 13%.

With hydropower, renewable energy is 17%.

With nuclear (19%), U.S. low-carbon electricity is 36%.

#### U.S. Electricity Generation by Energy Source (2010-2020)



Source: United States Energy Information Agency, Today in Energy, 18 January 2019

Energy Supply is Shifting.... with some places faster than others

California now generates 19% of its total electricity generation from solar photovoltaics.

Five U.S. states generated over 20% from wind power.

Many countries have similar high renewable power generation rates.



Source: NREL, Q4 2018/Q1 2019 Solar Industry Update, May 2019. NREL | 3

# Changing climate and energy mix requires resilience

- Countries that traditionally rely heavily on large hydropower face increasing risk and reliability concerns during El Niño and La Niña hydrological phases
- Rainfall and snowmelt patterns are changing making hydropower resources more unpredictable, variable
- Aging infrastructure susceptible to a variety of hazards



Source: JISEA, https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy20osti/75467.pdf

### All renewable energy technologies have a role



Images from https://images.nrel.gov

### Renewable technologies continue to advance



#### Biomass pyrolysis Simulations guiding optimization of reactions and catalysts to reduce cost of fuel production

Perovskite PV materials

Computations drive search for new perovskitelike materials, thin film, low cost, more stable, do not contain lead, tandem with Si

### Geothermal Energy

Modeling subsurface to enable geothermal anywhere through development of Enhanced Geothermal Energy technology

### Wind energy

Model wake fields in wind plants with realistic terrain to reduce cost; design larger turbines to access resource; advanced ba manufacturing

#### Electric vehicles Multi-scale simulations o

Multi-scale simulations of electric drive vehicle battery systems to create cutting-edge battery simulation tools

### Energy system integration

Modeling interconnects at native spatial scales under different renewable penetration scenarios

## Use of Hydrogen @Scale for storage and fuel



### Integration of Renewable & Carbon Capture Systems



Source: https://www.nrel.gov/hydrogen/renewable-electrolysis.html

## Thermal-Renewable Hybrid Energy Systems



### Raw materials and supply chains







Raw Materials

### For more information: Technology vision studies

Executive Summary





Harnessing the Heat Beneath Our Feet



Hydropower



A New Chapter for America's 1 Renewable Electricity Source

**ENERGY** 





Wind Vision:

A New Era for Wind Power

Renewable Electricity Futures Study

CINREL

Exploration of High-Penetration Renewable Electricity Futures



**Sun**Shot

SunShot Vision Study February 2012



### Questions?



# Thank you!

#### www.nrel.gov

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