

Getting to 100%: Six strategies for the challenging last 10%

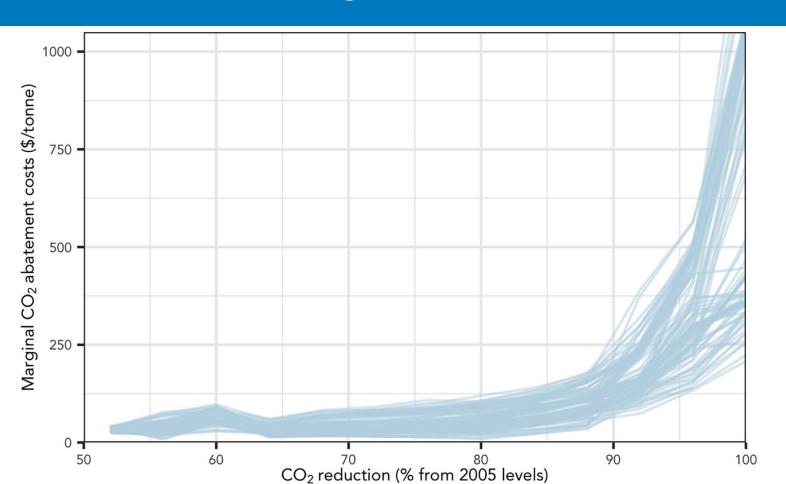
Presenter: Wesley Cole

Coauthors: Trieu Mai, Paul Denholm, Patrick Brown, Elaine Hale, Patrick Lamers, Caitlin Murphy, Mark Ruth, Brian Sergi, Daniel

Steinberg, Samuel Baldwin

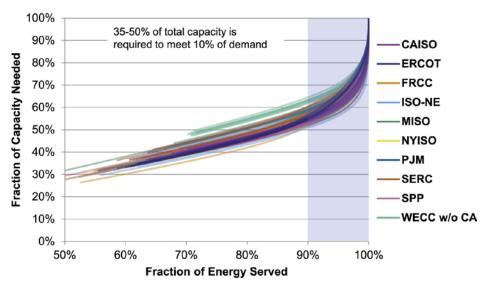
April 18, 2024

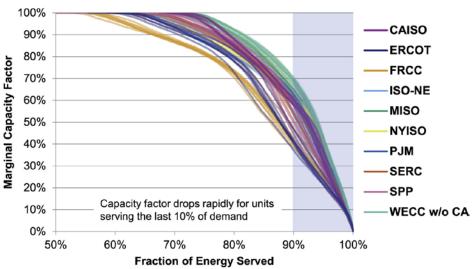
The Challenge of the Last 10%

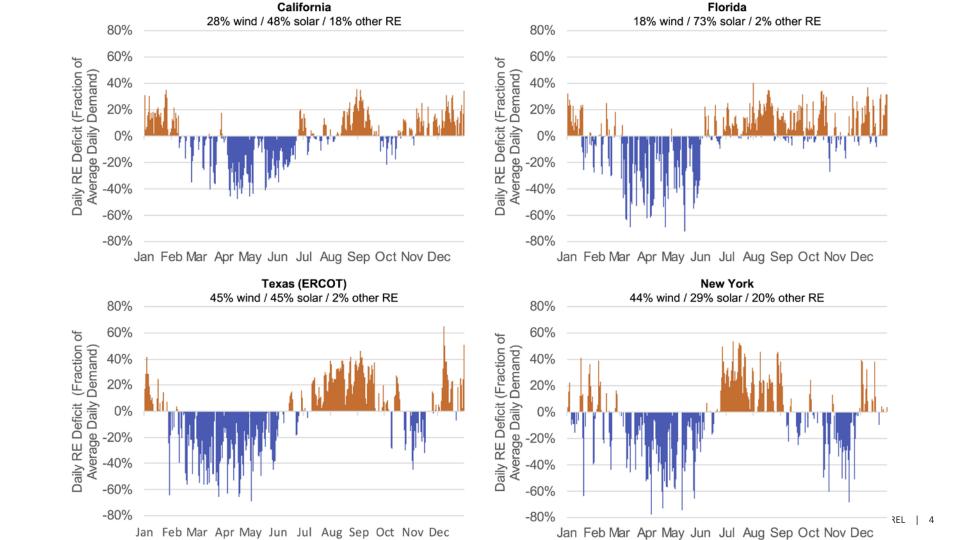


NREL

Meeting 100% of Demand: The Peaking Problem







Strategy ^a	Example technologies	Economic factors ^b	Resource constraints	Technology maturity	Other considerations
Ideal solution	n/a	low capex, low opex	low	high	low environmental impact, synergistic interactions with other sectors

^aMany of the six strategies listed will also be used for the first 90% and, for these, the table focuses on additional amounts used to solve the last 10%.

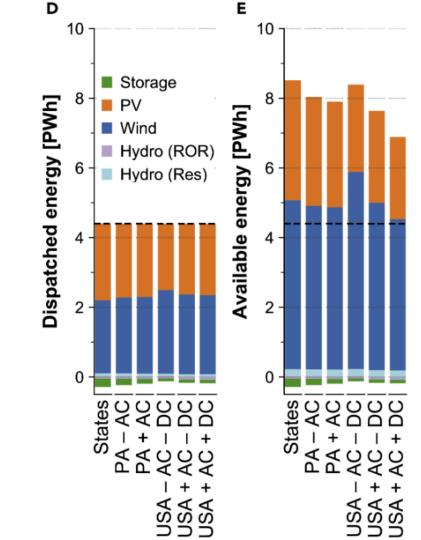
^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures. ^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

Strategy ^a	Example technologies	Economic factors ^b	Resource constraints	Technology maturity	Other considerations
ldeal solution	n/a	low capex, low opex	low	high	low environmental impact, synergistic interactions with other sectors
Variable renewable energy	wind, solar photovoltaics	low-medium capex, low opex	medium	high	electrical transmission and storage, land use, social acceptance, weather dependent

^aMany of the six strategies listed will also be used for the first 90% and, for these, the table focuses on additional amounts used to solve the last 10%.

^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures. ^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

Example of Overbuilding



Source: Brown and Botterud (2021), The Value of Inter-Regional Coordination and Transmission in Decarbonizing the US Electricity System

Table 1. Properties of the ideal solution for the last 10% emisisons reductions and six potential strategies Technology Resource Example technologies Economic factors^b Other considerations Strategy^a constraints maturity Ideal solution low environmental impact, n/a low capex, low opex low high synergistic interactions with other sectors Variable renewable electrical transmission and wind, solar photovoltaics low-medium capex, medium high storage, land use, social low opex energy acceptance, weather dependent Other renewable geothermal medium-high capex, high high geographic constraints low opex energy medium-high capex, hydropower high high geographic constraints, low opex shared water resource biopower high capex, medium high high biomass sustainability (feedstock) and competition opex biomass sustainability biogas and biodiesel low capex, high opex high medium (feedstock) combustion turbine and competition

^aMany of the six strategies listed will also be used for the first 90% and, for these, the table focuses on additional amounts used to solve the last 10%.

^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures.

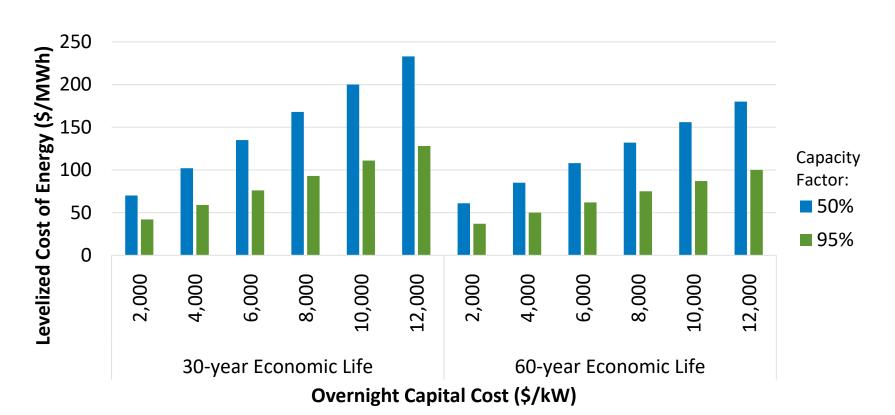
^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

Strategy ^a	Example technologies	Economic factors ^b	Resource constraints	Technology maturity	Other considerations
ldeal solution	n/a	low capex, low opex	low	high	low environmental impact, synergistic interactions with other sectors
Variable renewable energy	wind, solar photovoltaics	low-medium capex, low opex	medium	high	electrical transmission and storage, land use, social acceptance, weather dependent
Other renewable energy	geothermal	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints
	hydropower	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints, shared water resource
	biopower	high capex, medium opex	high (feedstock)	high	biomass sustainability and competition
	biogas and biodiesel combustion turbine	low capex, high opex	high (feedstock)	medium	biomass sustainability and competition
Nuclear and fossil with carbon capture	advanced nuclear	high capex, medium opex	medium	medium	security, supply chain, regulatory and cost uncertainties
	fossil with carbon capture and storage	high capex, medium opex	medium	low	upstream emissions, CO ₂ transport and sequestration

^aMany of the six strategies listed will also be used for the first 90% and, for these, the table focuses on additional amounts used to solve the last 10%.

^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures. ^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

Impact of Utilization



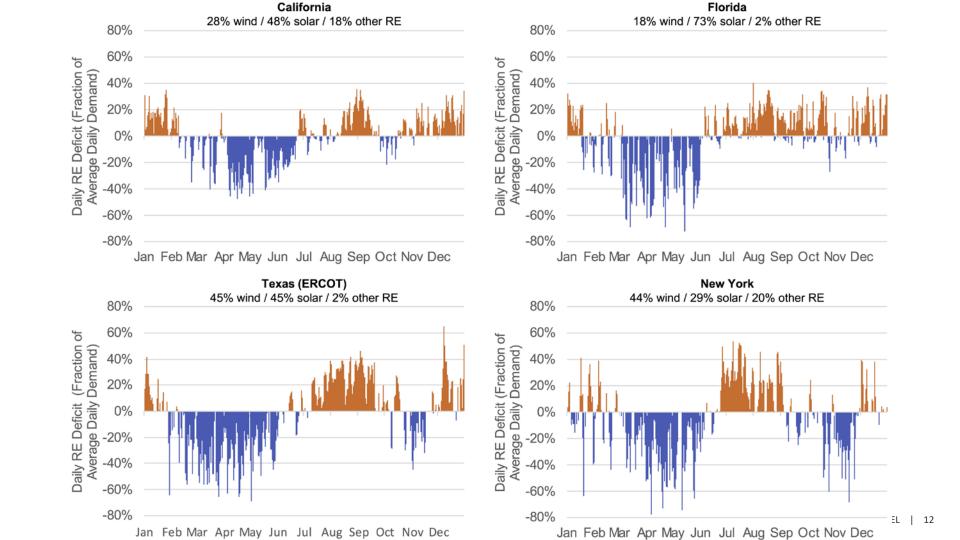
10

Table 1. Properties of the ideal solution for the last 10% emisisons reductions and six potential strategies Technology Resource Economic factors^b Other considerations Strategy^a Example technologies constraints maturity Ideal solution low environmental impact, n/a low capex, low opex low high synergistic interactions with other sectors Variable renewable electrical transmission and wind, solar photovoltaics low-medium capex, medium high storage, land use, social low opex energy acceptance, weather dependent Other renewable geothermal medium-high capex, high high geographic constraints energy low opex hydropower medium-high capex, high high geographic constraints, low opex shared water resource biopower high capex, medium high high biomass sustainability (feedstock) and competition opex biogas and biodiesel low capex, high opex high medium biomass sustainability (feedstock) combustion turbine and competition Nuclear and advanced nuclear medium medium security, supply chain, high capex, medium fossil with regulatory and cost opex carbon capture uncertainties medium upstream emissions, CO2 fossil with carbon high capex, medium low capture and storage transport and sequestration Seasonal storage low capex, high opex medium H₂ combustion turbine low H₂ storage and transport, H₂ competition H₂ fuel cell potential for low capex, H₂ storage and transport, low low high opex H₂ competition

11

aMany of the six strategies listed will also be used for the first 90% and, for these, the table focuses on additional amounts used to solve the last 10%.

^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures. ^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

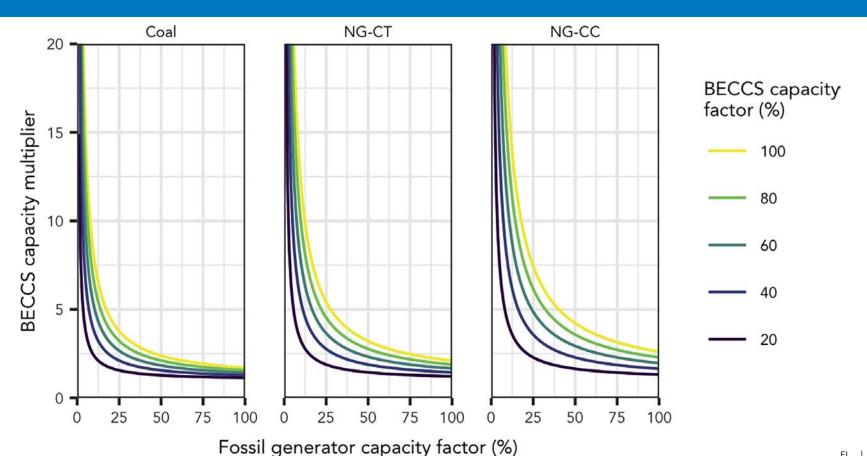


Strategy ^a	Example technologies	Economic factors ^b	Resource constraints	Technology maturity	Other considerations
ldeal solution	n/a	low capex, low opex	low	high	low environmental impact, synergistic interactions with other sectors
Variable renewable energy	wind, solar photovoltaics	low-medium capex, low opex	medium	high	electrical transmission and storage, land use, social acceptance, weather dependent
Other renewable energy	geothermal	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints
	hydropower	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints, shared water resource
	biopower	high capex, medium opex	high (feedstock)	high	biomass sustainability and competition
	biogas and biodiesel combustion turbine	low capex, high opex	high (feedstock)	medium	biomass sustainability and competition
Nuclear and fossil with carbon capture	advanced nuclear	high capex, medium opex	medium	medium	security, supply chain, regulatory and cost uncertainties
	fossil with carbon capture and storage	high capex, medium opex	medium	low	upstream emissions, CO ₂ transport and sequestration
Seasonal storage	H ₂ combustion turbine	low capex, high opex	low	medium	H ₂ storage and transport, H ₂ competition
	H ₂ fuel cell	potential for low capex,	low	low	H ₂ storage and transport, H ₂ competition
Carbon dioxide removal	bioenergy with carbon capture and storage	high capex, ^c high opex	medium- high	low	biomass sustainability and competition, CO ₂ storage and transport
	direct air carbon capture and storage	high capex, ^c high opex	low	low	CO ₂ storage and transport

^bCapex refers to capital cost expenditures. Opex refers to operating cost expenditures.

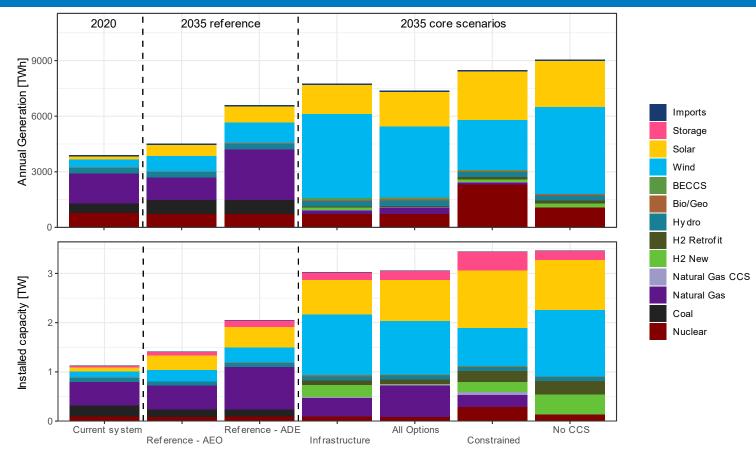
^cEnables continued use of existing or new low capex resources.

BECCS Capacity Multiplier



Strategy ^a	Example technologies	Economic factors ^b	Resource constraints	Technology maturity	Other considerations
ldeal solution	n/a	low capex, low opex	low	high	low environmental impact, synergistic interactions with other sectors
Variable renewable energy	wind, solar photovoltaics	low-medium capex, low opex	medium	high	electrical transmission and storage, land use, social acceptance, weather dependent
Other renewable energy	geothermal	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints
	hydropower	medium-high capex, low opex	high	high	geographic constraints, shared water resource
	biopower	high capex, medium opex	high (feedstock)	high	biomass sustainability and competition
	biogas and biodiesel combustion turbine	low capex, high opex	high (feedstock)	medium	biomass sustainability and competition
Nuclear and fossil with carbon capture	advanced nuclear	high capex, medium opex	medium	medium	security, supply chain, regulatory and cost uncertainties
	fossil with carbon capture and storage	high capex, medium opex	medium	low	upstream emissions, CO ₂ transport and sequestration
Seasonal storage	H ₂ combustion turbine	low capex, high opex	low	medium	H ₂ storage and transport, H ₂ competition
	H₂ fuel cell	potential for low capex, high opex	low	low	H ₂ storage and transport, H ₂ competition
Carbon dioxide removal	bioenergy with carbon capture and storage	high capex, ^c high opex	medium- high	low	biomass sustainability and competition, CO ₂ storage and transport
	direct air carbon capture and storage	high capex, ^c high opex	low	low	CO ₂ storage and transport
Demand-side resources	varied	low capex, uncertain opportunity cost	unknown	medium	communications and control equipment, reliability

Example of a Decarbonized Future



Feel free to follow up! wesley.cole@nrel.gov

www.nrel.gov

NREL/PR-6A40-90027

This work was authored [in part] by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.

