

# POWER-TO-GAS: Enabling Rapid Response, Variable-Duration Energy Storage at Grid Scale

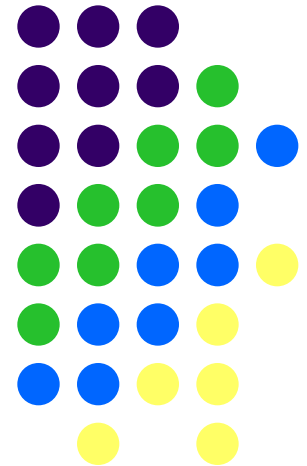
ICEPAG 2017

28 March 2017

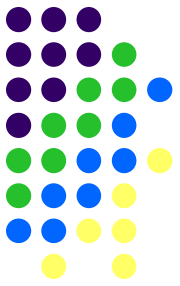
University of California - Irvine

Lori Smith Schell, Ph.D., ERP  
Empowered Energy

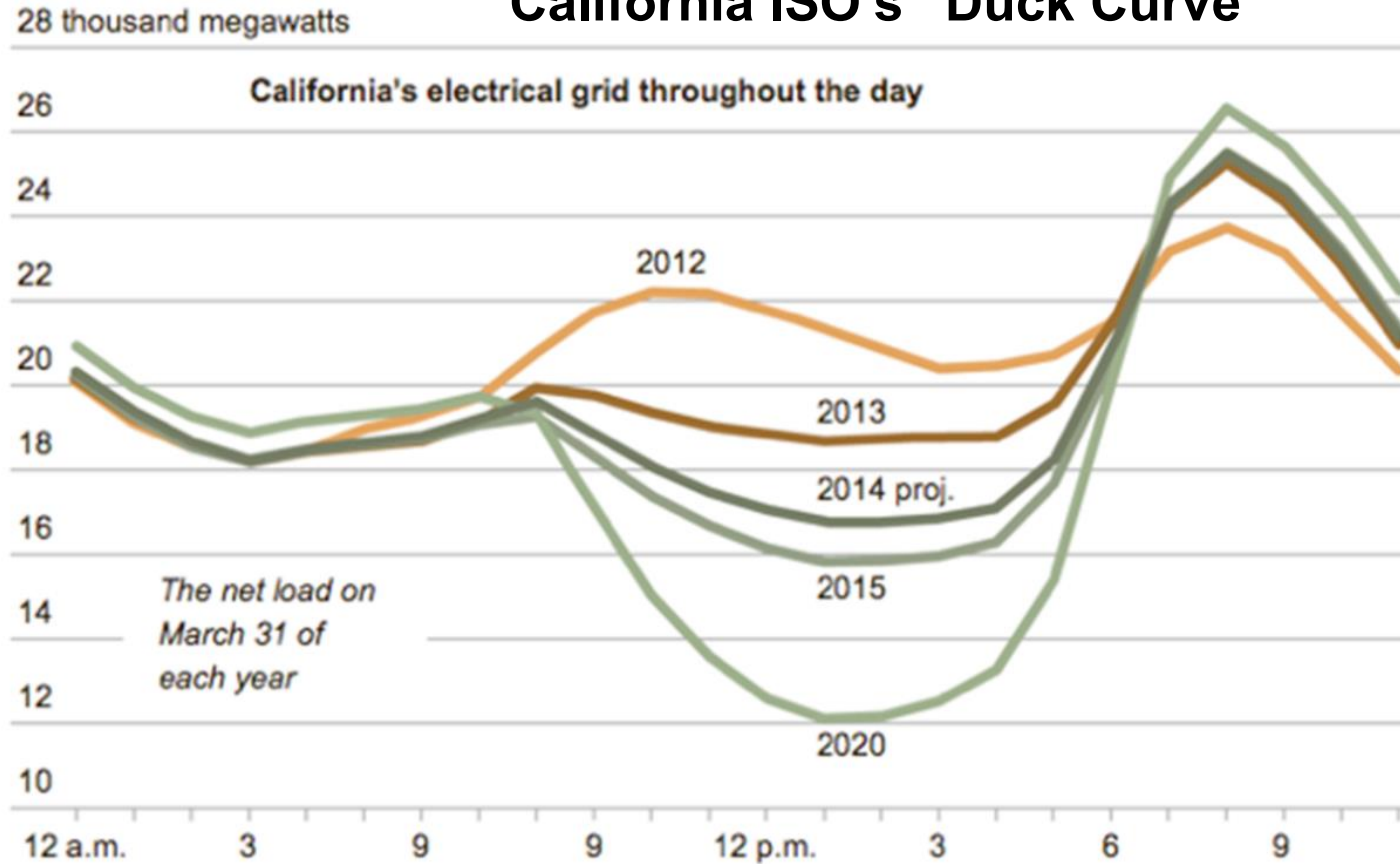
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# Increased Renewables Are Impacting Electric Grid Flows...



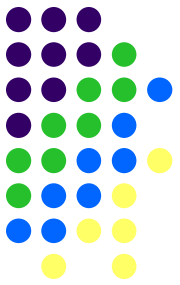
## California ISO's "Duck Curve"



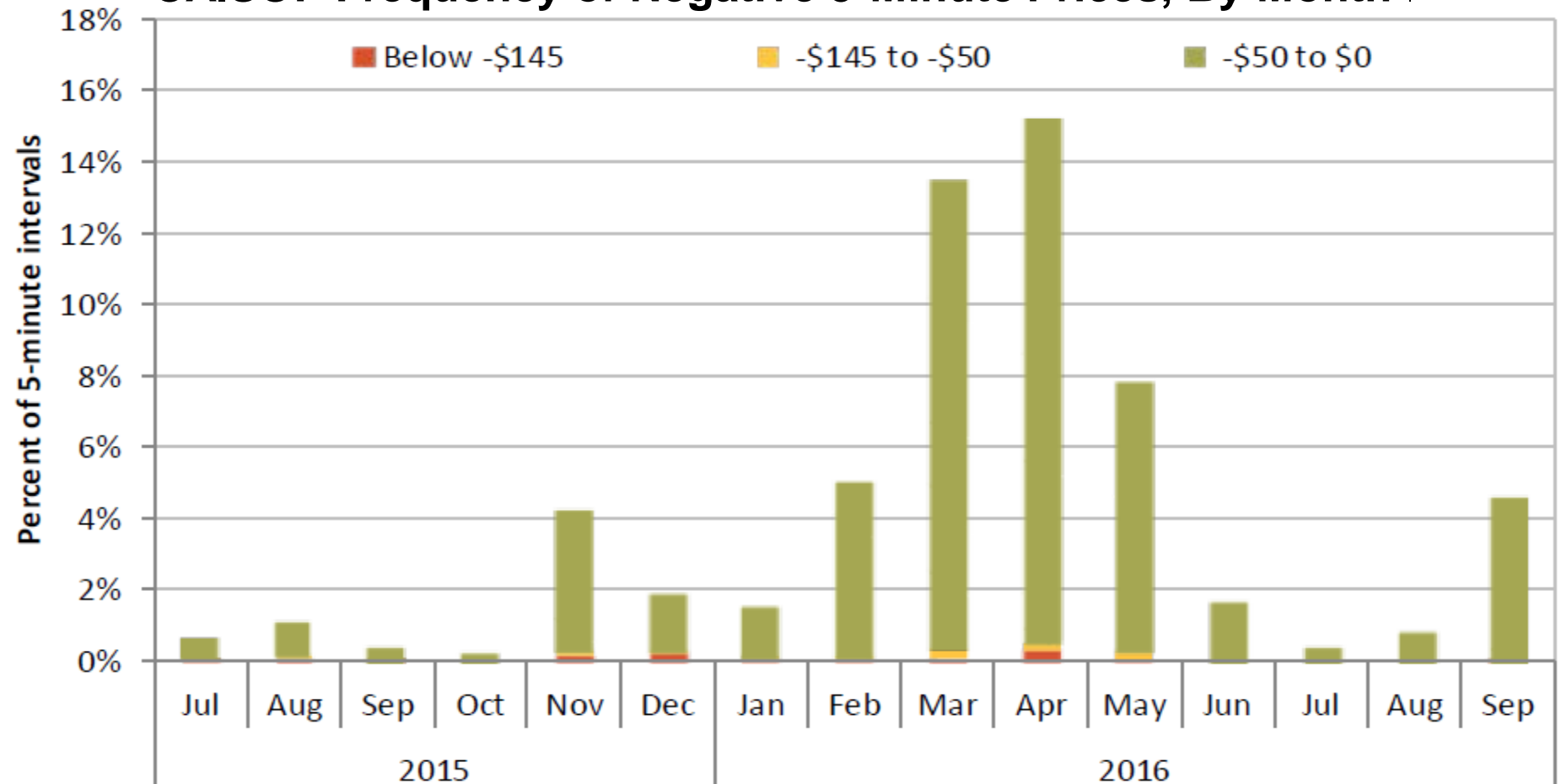
Source: CalISO



# As Well As Wholesale Electricity Pricing...



## CAISO: Frequency of Negative 5-Minute Prices, By Month

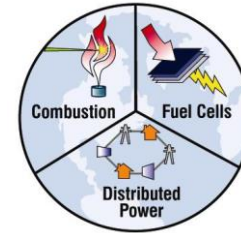


Source: [www.caiso.com/market/Pages/MarketMonitoring/MarketIssuesPerformanceReports/Default.aspx](http://www.caiso.com/market/Pages/MarketMonitoring/MarketIssuesPerformanceReports/Default.aspx) (Third Quarter 2016)



# HiGRID Results: Renewables Integration

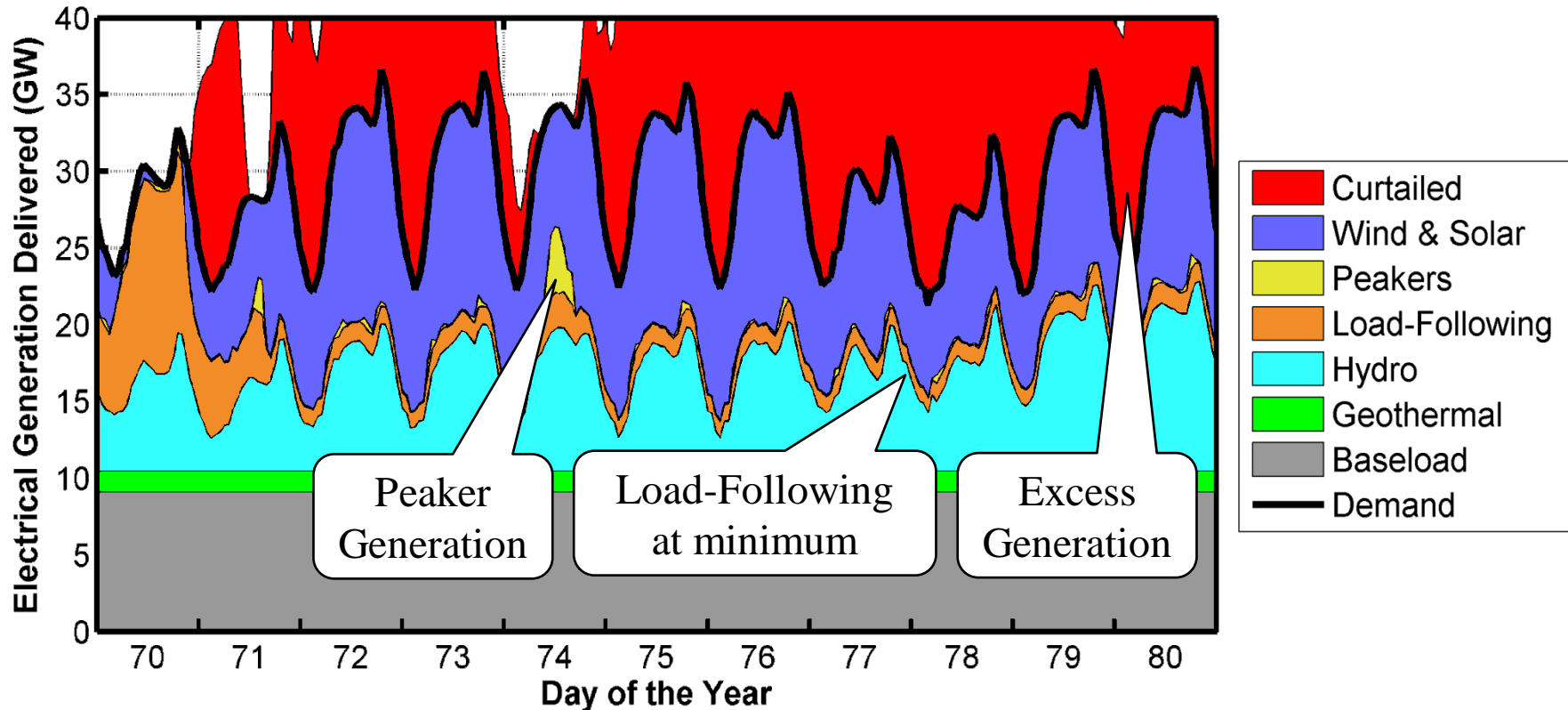
- **Task 4.1: Perform spanning analysis for different resources in California**
  - **Installation of renewables affects how other generators operate**



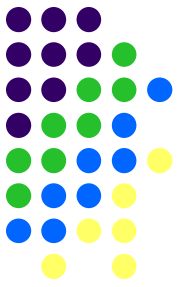
**Advanced Power  
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Energy Portfolio for 33% Renewable Penetration



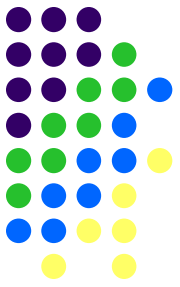
# Electrolysis Using Renewables Helps Balance Grid Operations



- Produced Hydrogen: Multiple Potential Uses
  - Power-to-Gas
    - Direct Injection into Natural Gas Pipeline System
    - Feedstock for Methanation of H<sub>2</sub> to CH<sub>4</sub>
    - Dispensed Fuel for Fuel Cell Vehicles
  - Power-to-Gas-to-Electricity
    - Fuel Cell Feedstock for Electricity Generation
- “Battery” Aspect of Hydrogen Use Cases
- How Do Economics of Hydrogen Use Cases Compare to Traditional Batteries?



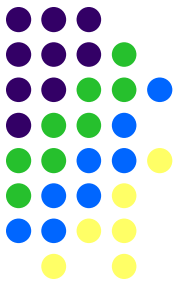
# Multiple Technology Mixes Make for Multiple Use Cases



- Electrolyzers: Highly flexible, fast on and off
  - PEMEC, AEC, SOEC
- Fuel Cells
  - PEM, Alkaline, SOFC, MCFC
- Hydrogen Fuel Dispensing
  - Central Production: Gaseous, Liquid
  - Onsite Production: Gaseous
- Batteries
  - Li-Ion, ZnBr (Flow), NaS, Advanced Lead-Acid



# Technologies Are Developing Rapidly; Costs Are Declining

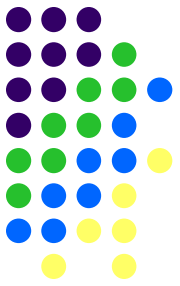


- CASE 1: Current Costs
  - 50% Annual Average Capacity Factor (“CF”) for All Use Cases to Level the Playing Field
- CASE 2: Current Costs
  - 90% CF for Electrolysis-Based Use Cases
  - 45% CF for Battery Use Cases
- CASE 3: Future Costs
  - 90% CF for Electrolysis-Based Use Cases
  - 45% CF for Battery Use Cases





# Levelized Cost of Returned Energy (“LCORE”) Concept



- Use Case Electricity Input Assumptions:
  - If not input to electrolyzers or batteries, the renewable-based electricity would otherwise be curtailed
  - Electricity input cost is thus assumed to be ZERO
- LCORE represents the levelized cost of all equipment required to generate the final product for each Use Case
  - Is the same as the Levelized Cost of Electricity but with all input fuel costs set to zero.

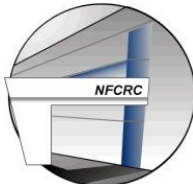
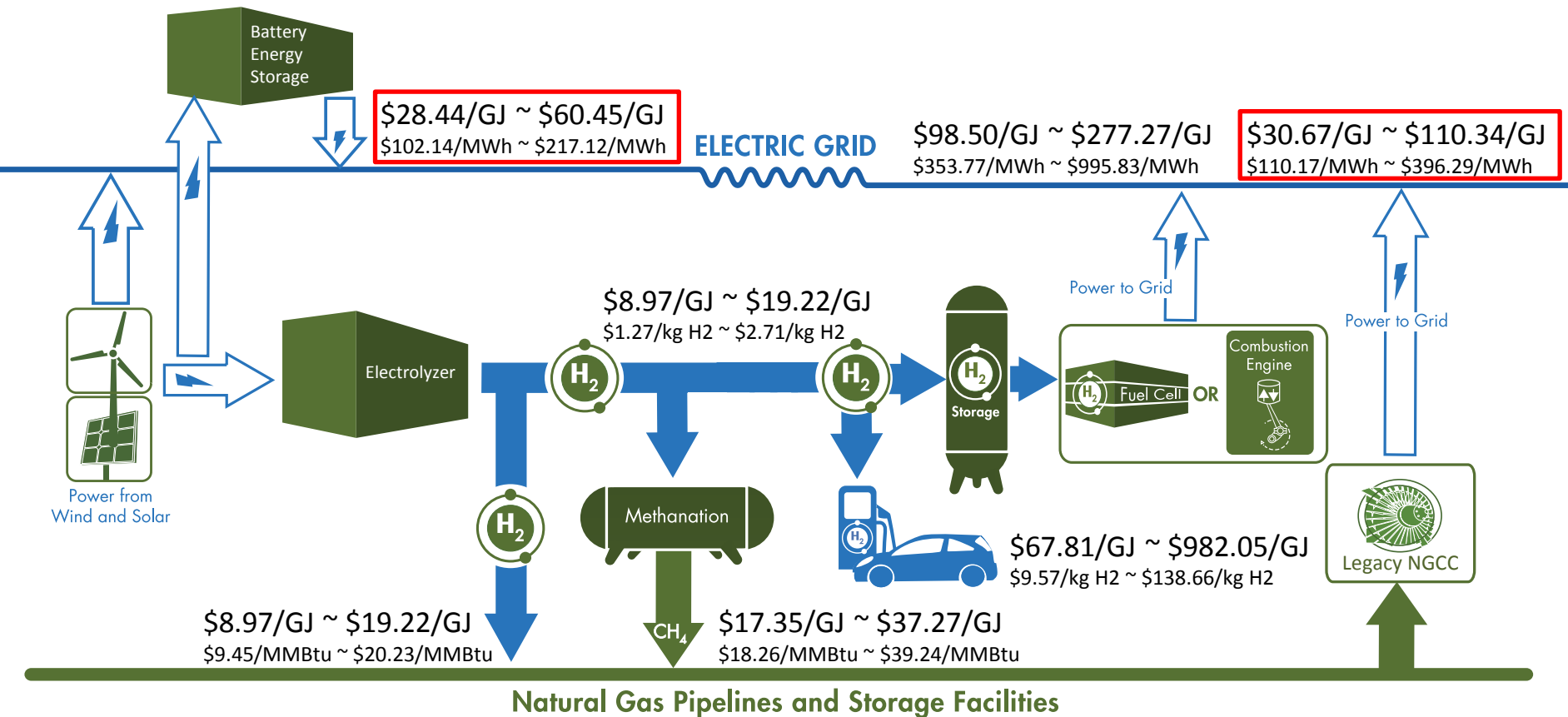




# LCORE Results

## CURRENT COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

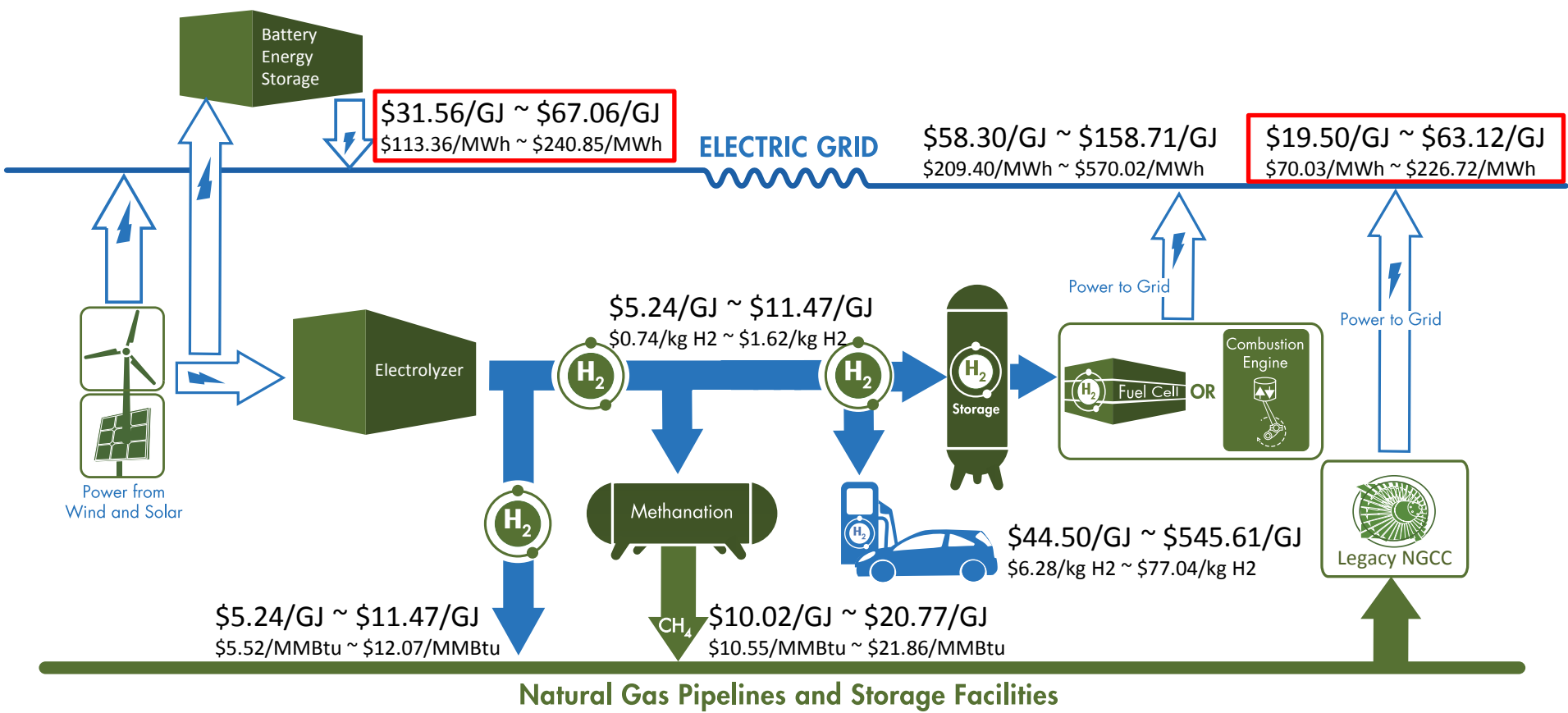
50% Capacity Factor for All Equipment



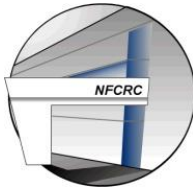
# LCORE Results

## CURRENT COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

45% Capacity Factor for Batteries;  
90% Capacity Factor for All Other Equipment



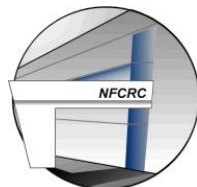
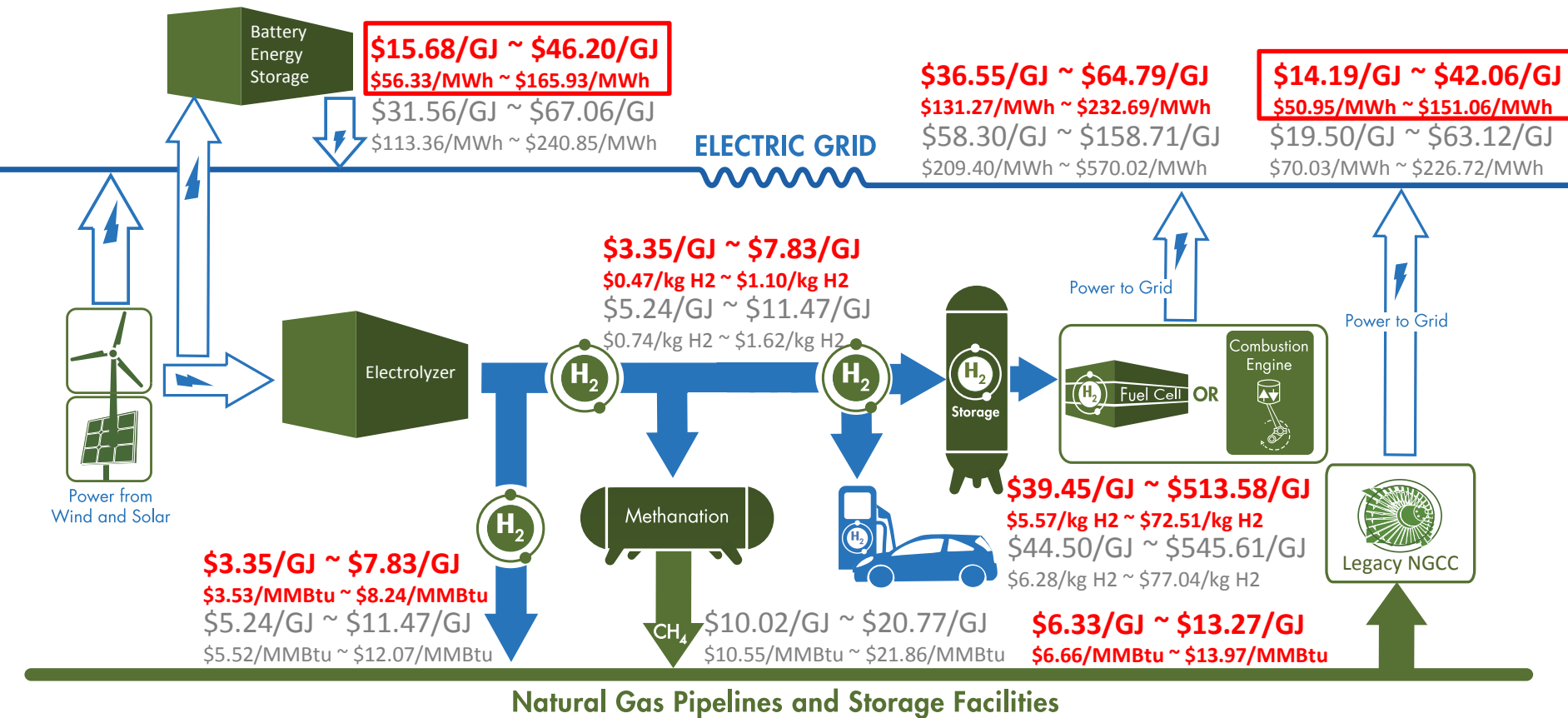
**ALL RESULTS PRELIMINARY – DO NOT QUOTE**



# LCORE Results

## CURRENT COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

45% Capacity Factor for Batteries;  
90% Capacity Factor for All Other Equipment



# LCORE Results

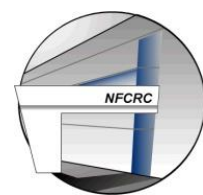
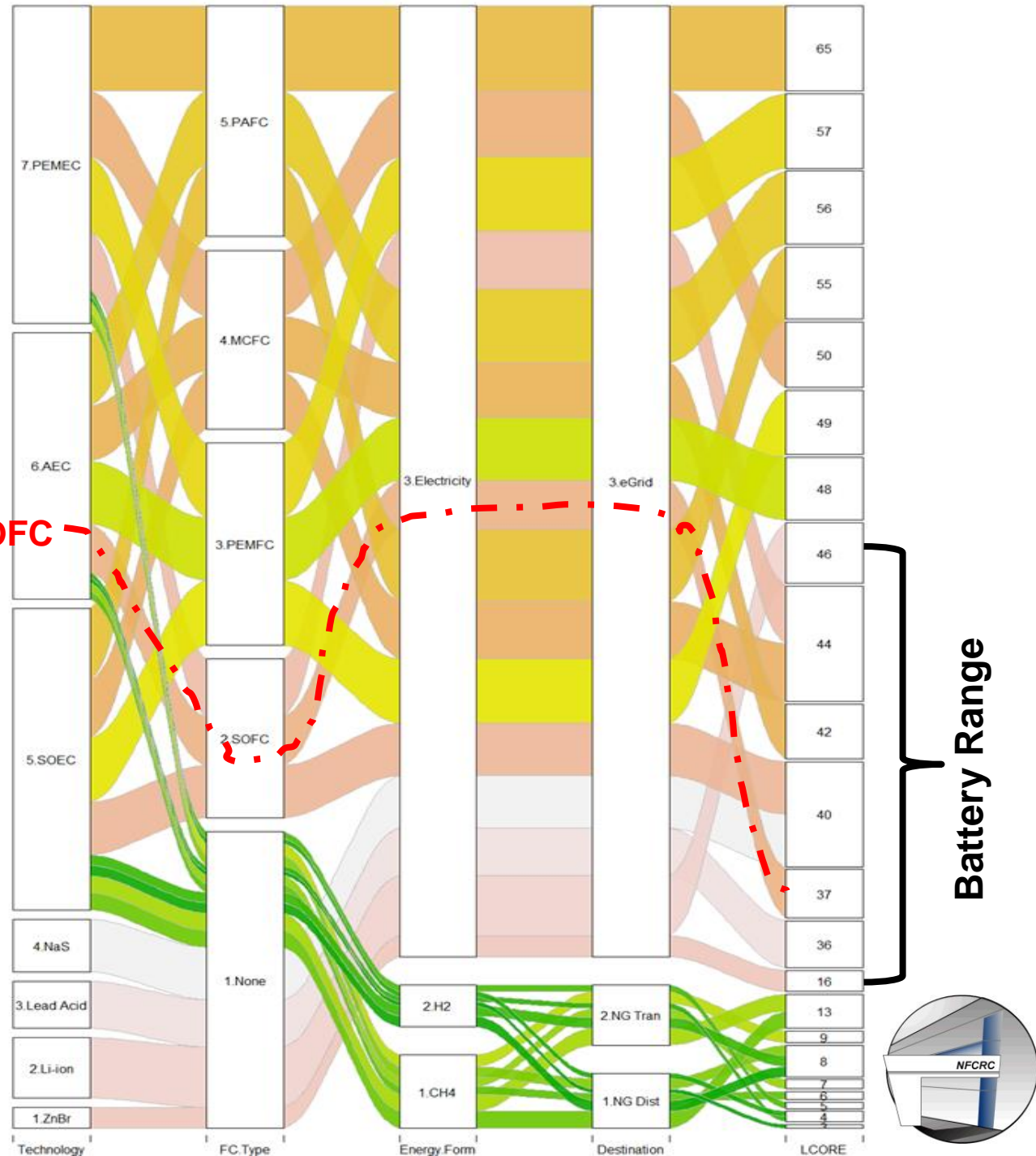
## FUTURE COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

45% CF for Batteries;  
90% CF for All Other Equipment

Alluvial Diagram: Different  
Presentation, *Same Results*

Pathways compared here:

- **AEC + SOFC** = Electricity to Electric Grid
- Electrolyzer + H2 = H2 to Natural Gas Grid
- Electrolyzer + Methanator = Natural Gas to Natural Gas Grid
- Battery Energy Storage = Electricity to Electric Grid







# LCORE Results

## FUTURE COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

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Alluvial Diagram: Different  
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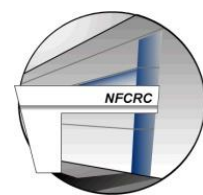
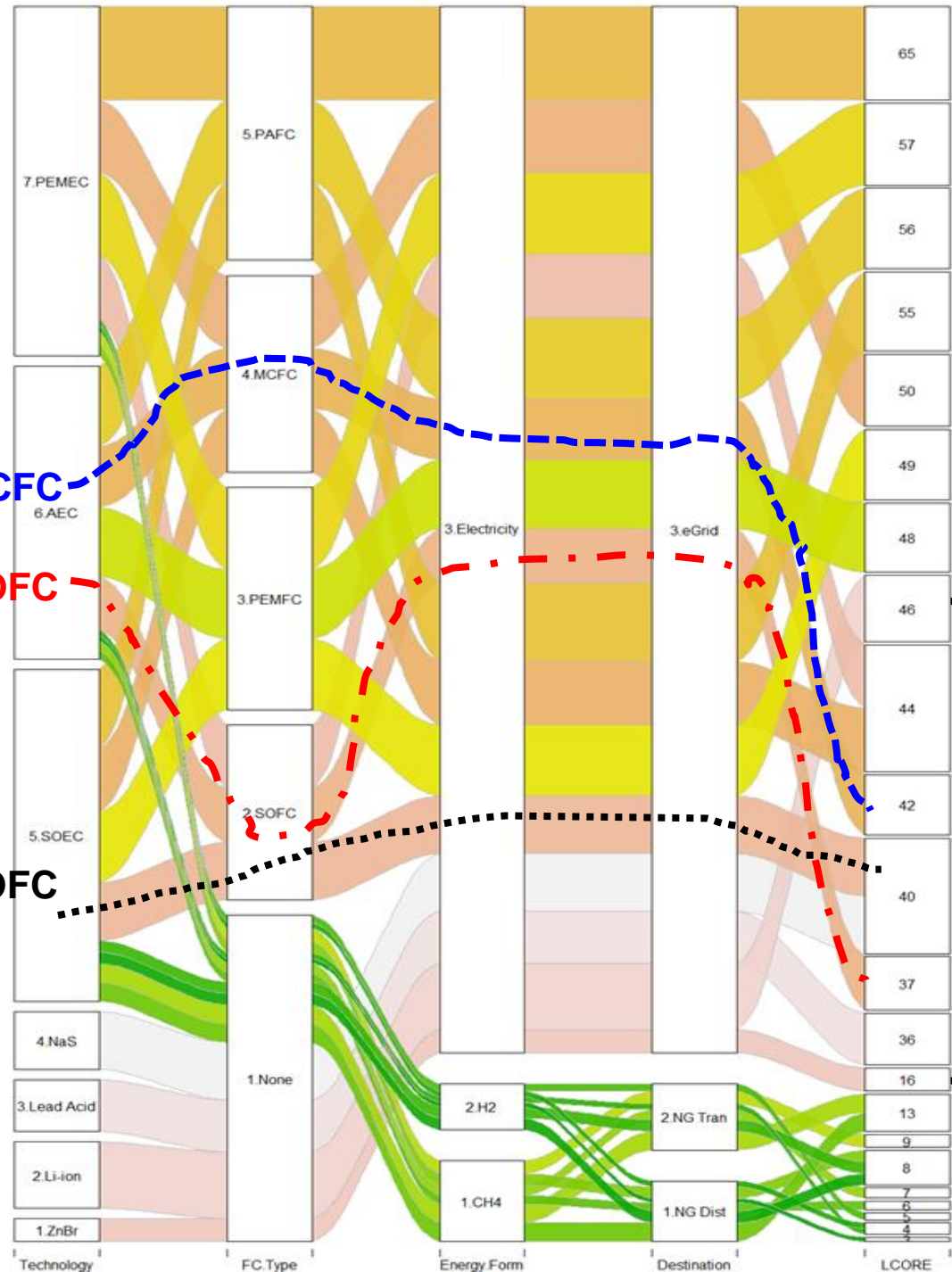
Pathways compared here:

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- Electrolyzer + H2 =  
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- Electrolyzer + Methanator =  
Natural Gas to Natural Gas  
Grid
- Battery Energy Storage =  
Electricity to Electric Grid

AEC + MCFC

AEC + SOFC

SOEC + SOFC



Battery Range

# LCORE Results

## FUTURE COSTS & EFFICIENCIES

45% CF for Batteries;  
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**PEMEC+ SOFC**

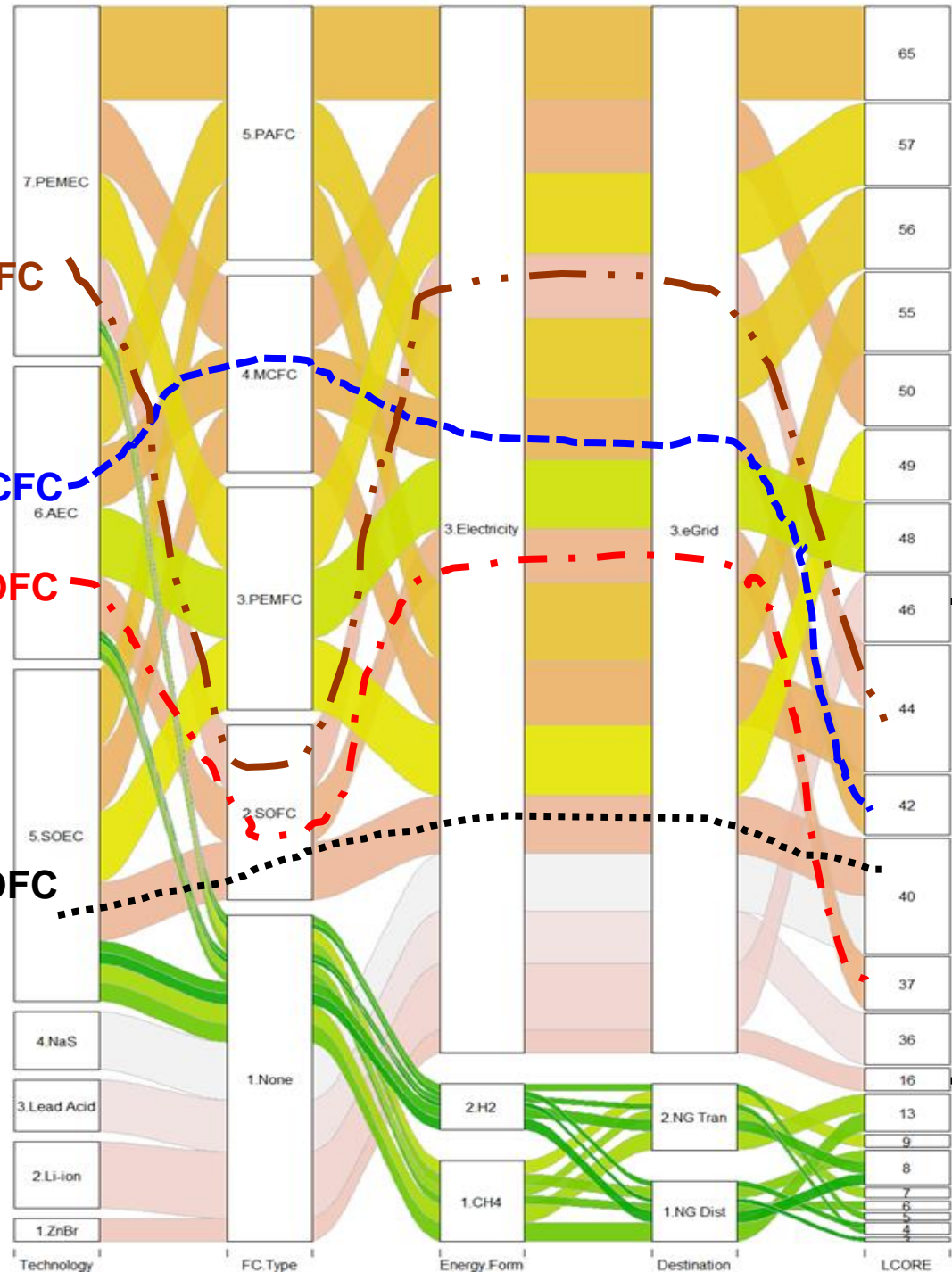
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**AEC + MCFC**

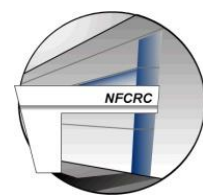
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Grid
- Battery Energy Storage =  
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**SOEC + SOFC**

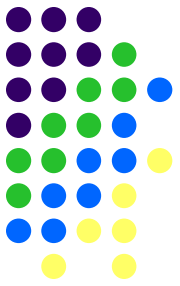


Battery Range





# LCORE Results by Use Case: Comparative Economics

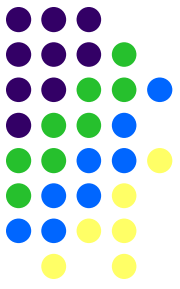


- At Current Costs + 50% CF:
  - H2 production for direct fueling quite competitive
  - Batteries more competitive for electricity delivery
- At Current Costs + 90% vs. 45% CF:
  - H2 fuel into legacy central station generation competitive with batteries for electricity delivery
- At Future Costs + 90% vs. 45% CF:
  - H2 & CH4 for pipeline injection competitive
  - H2 for fuel cell electricity generation competitive.



# POWER-TO-GAS: LCORE

## Analysis Conclusions



- Power-to-Gas Can Provide Economic Grid-Scale Storage of Hydrogen Using Otherwise-Curtailed Renewable Generation
- Power-to-Gas Increases Grid and Fuel Flexibility Through Multiple Use Cases
- Current Economics Support Hydrogen Generation for Fueling
- Future Economics Support Hydrogen Use in Fuel Cells for Electricity Generation.



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**THANK YOU!**  
**QUESTIONS?**

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