



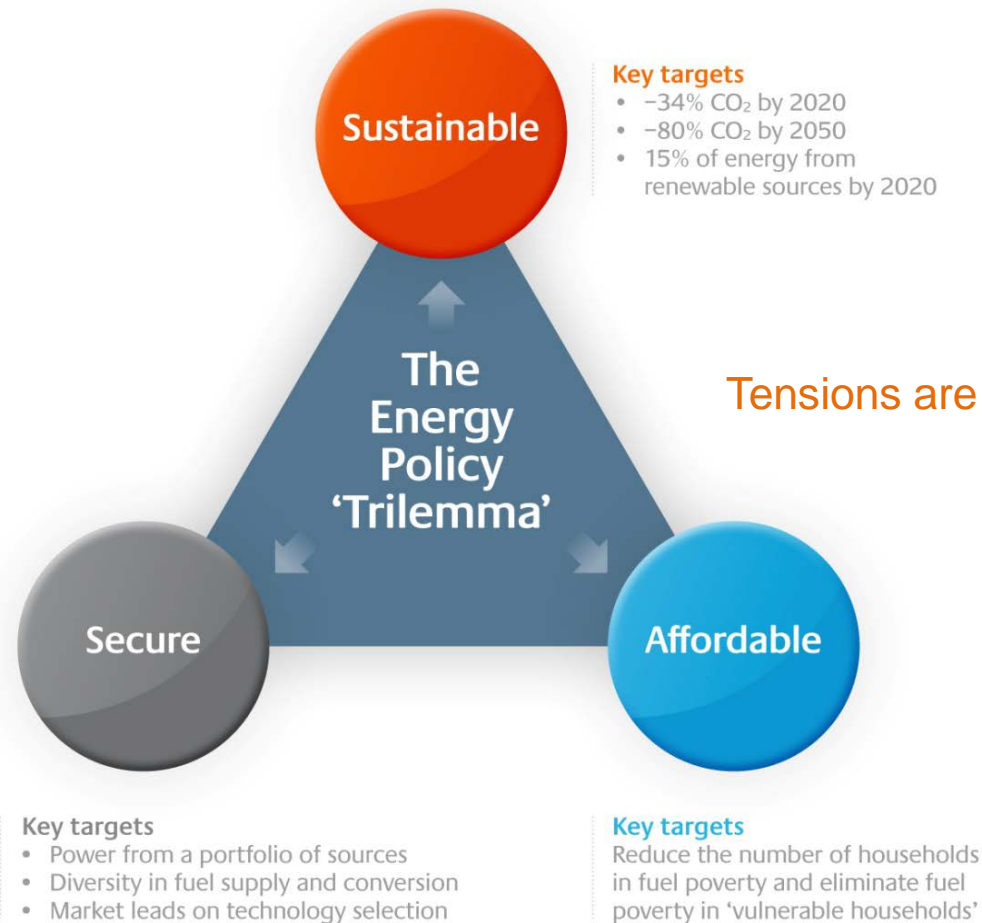
[www.eti.co.uk](http://www.eti.co.uk)

# Transitions to a Low Carbon Energy System

Mike Colechin



## The UK energy challenge...





## The UK energy challenge...

Demand is growing, assets are aging, prices are rising... irrespective of a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction target

- 62m people ..... growing to 77m by 2050
- 24m cars ..... growing to 40m by 2050
- 24m domestic dwellings ..... 90% will still be in use in 2050  
total dwellings 38m by 2050
- Final users spent £124bn on energy in 2010 .... 9% of GDP
- 2.4m English households in fuel poverty ..... average 'fuel poverty gap' £438  
and increasing
- Over 90GW generation capacity ..... from 1MW to 3.9GW
- Over 200 'significant' power stations ..... average age >20 years
- 50% of power generation capacity ..... in 30 power plants  
average age 30 years



## What is the ETI?

- The ETI is a public-private partnership between global energy and engineering companies and the UK Government.
- Targeted development, demonstration and de-risking of new technologies for affordable and secure energy
- Shared risk

### ETI members



**CATERPILLAR®**



 **Rolls-Royce**



  
Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**EPSRC**  
Pioneering research  
and skills

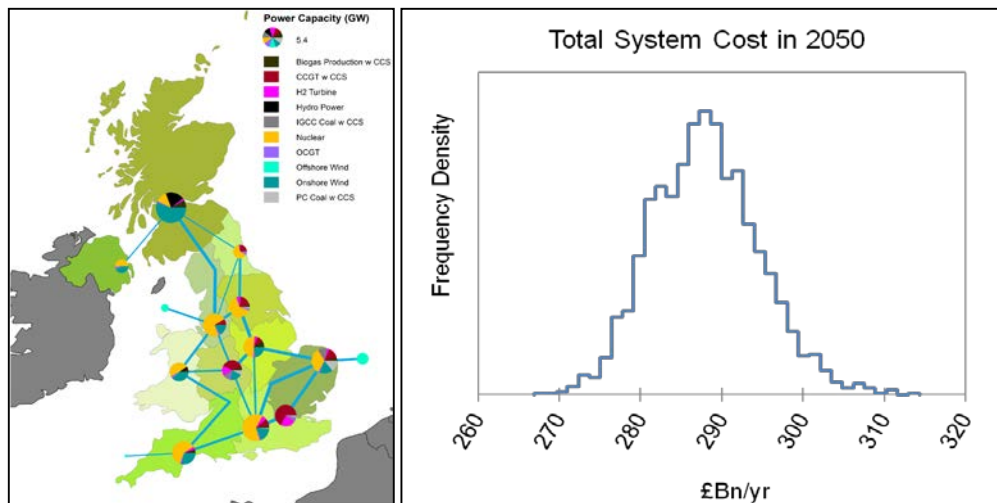
**Innovate UK**

### ETI programme associate

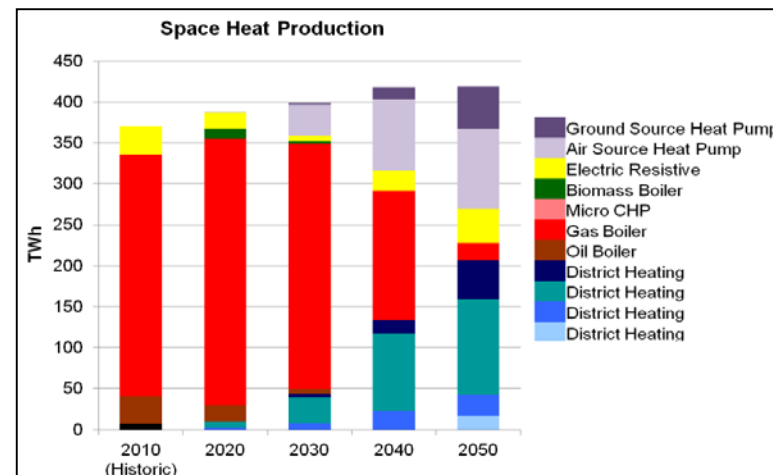
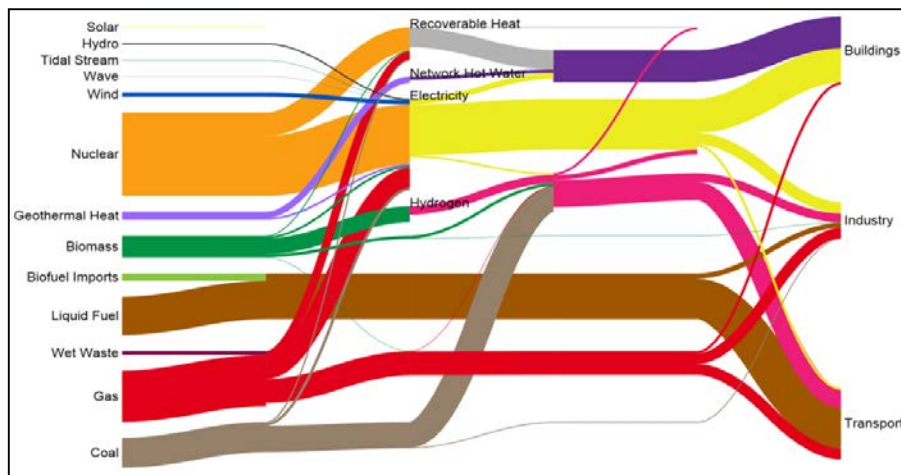
**HITACHI**  
Inspire the Next



# ESME – ETI's system design tool...

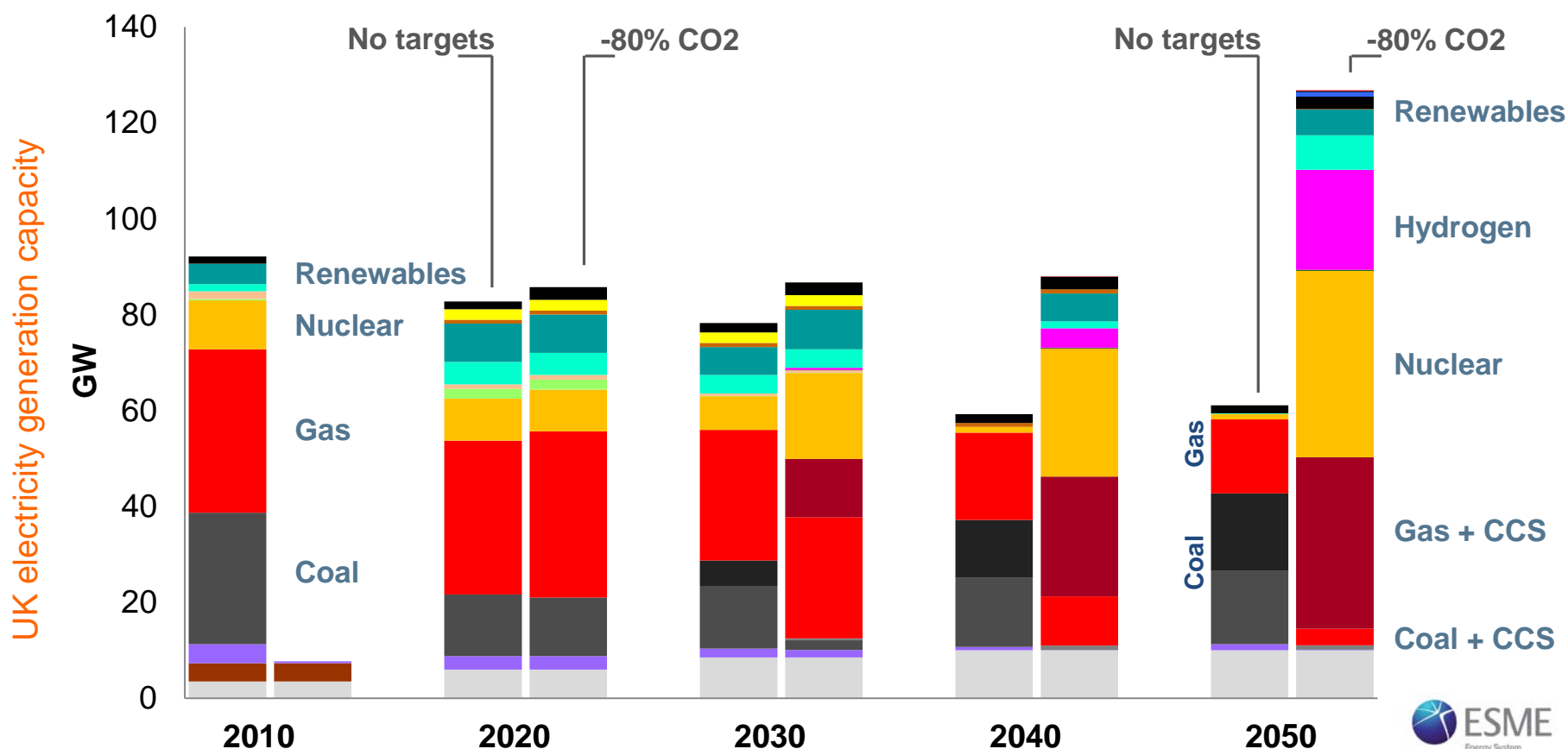


Energy  
System  
Modelling  
Environment



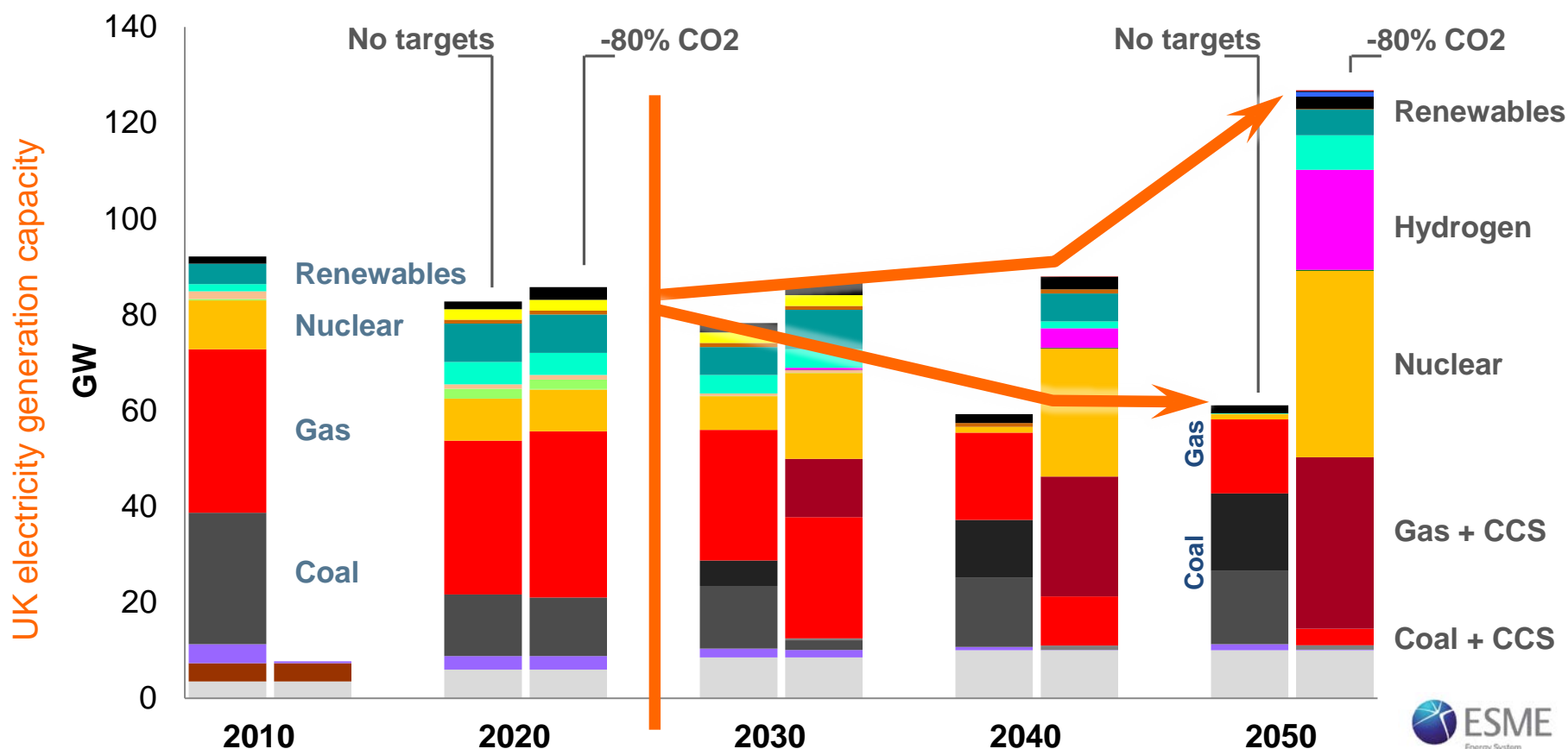


“No emissions targets” and “-80% CO<sub>2</sub> in 2050” are very different worlds...





As long as we prepare NOW, decisions on 2050 can wait... but not for long

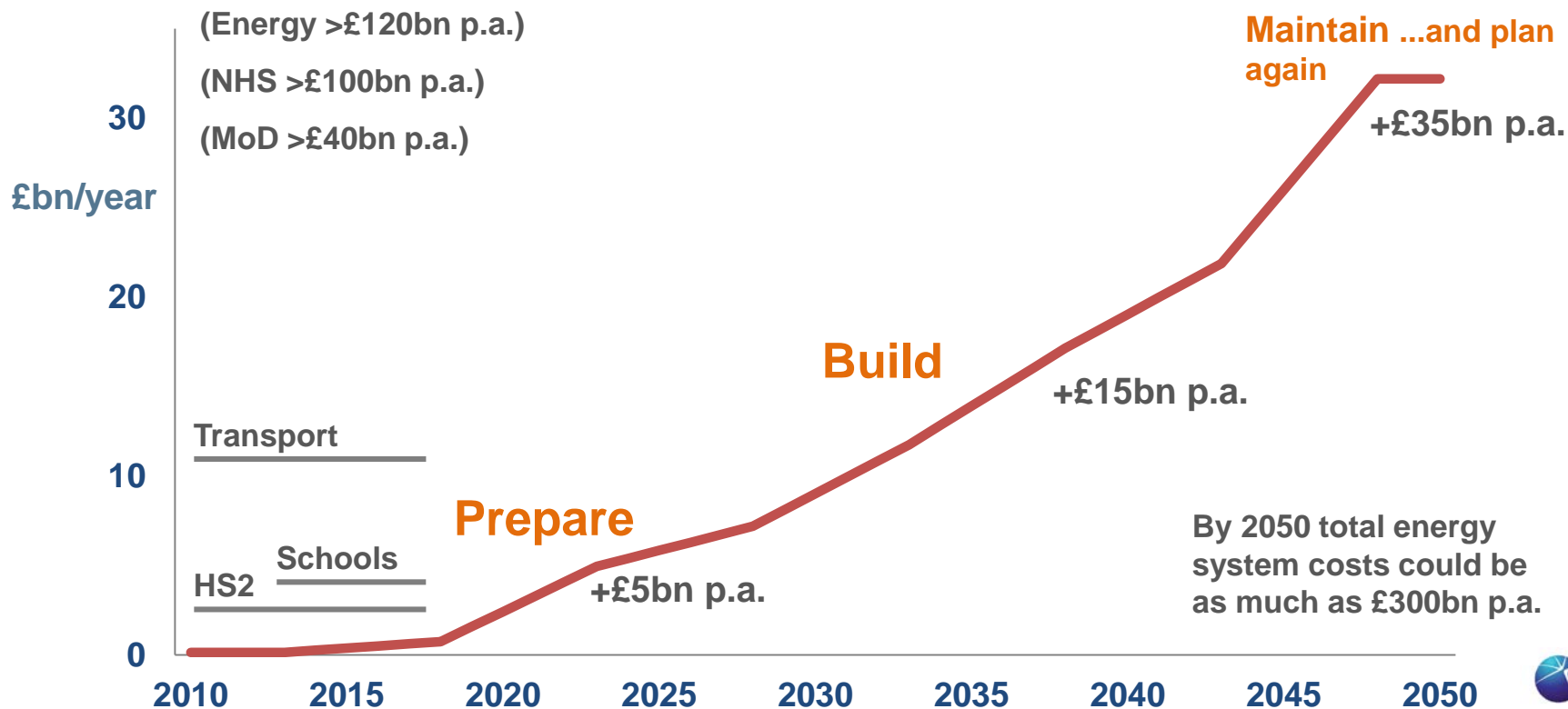




# Prepare over next 10 years

creating platform for infrastructure roll-out and growth

Incremental capital investment in a 'low-carbon' energy infrastructure

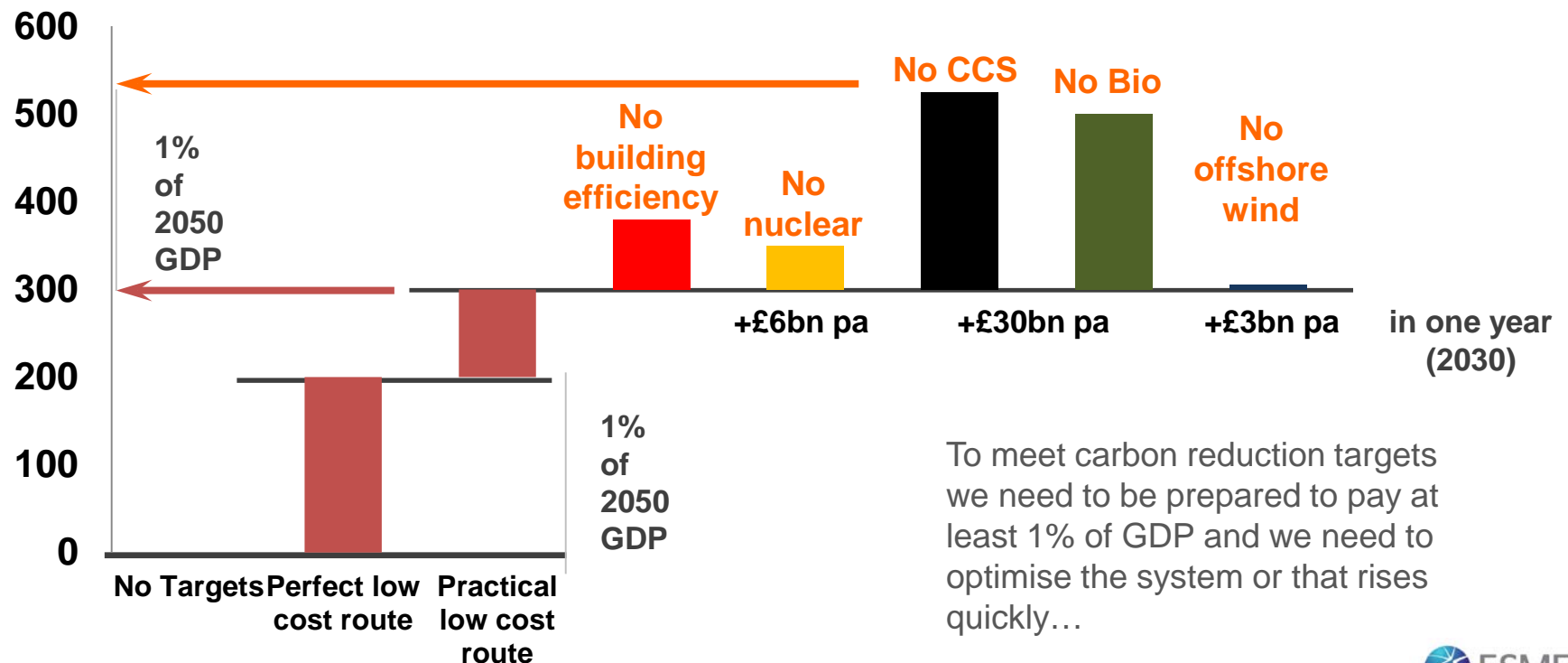






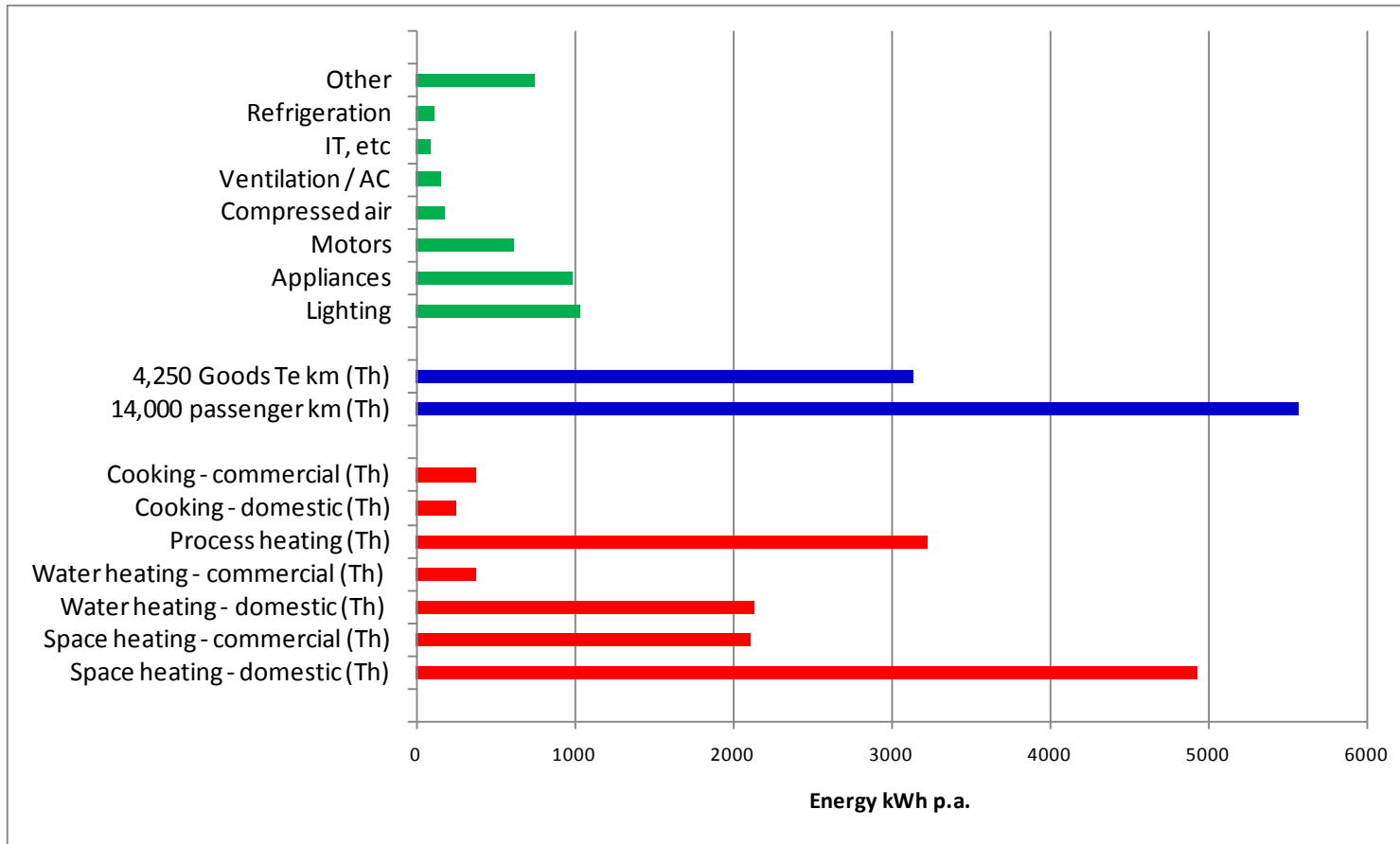
# Poor system optimisation doubles the cost of a 2050 UK low carbon energy system

Additional cost of delivering - 80% GHG energy system  
NPV £bn 2010-2050





## Individual energy consumption in the UK\* ...



\* 2010 UK consumption divided by 60M  
(people in the UK)

Notes: 1. Passenger transport figure excludes international air travel  
2. Data excludes heavy industry



90%

of the UK's housing stock  
will still be in use in 2050



20%

contribution of household  
heating to national carbon  
emissions



Today fewer than

4%



have low carbon heating

and

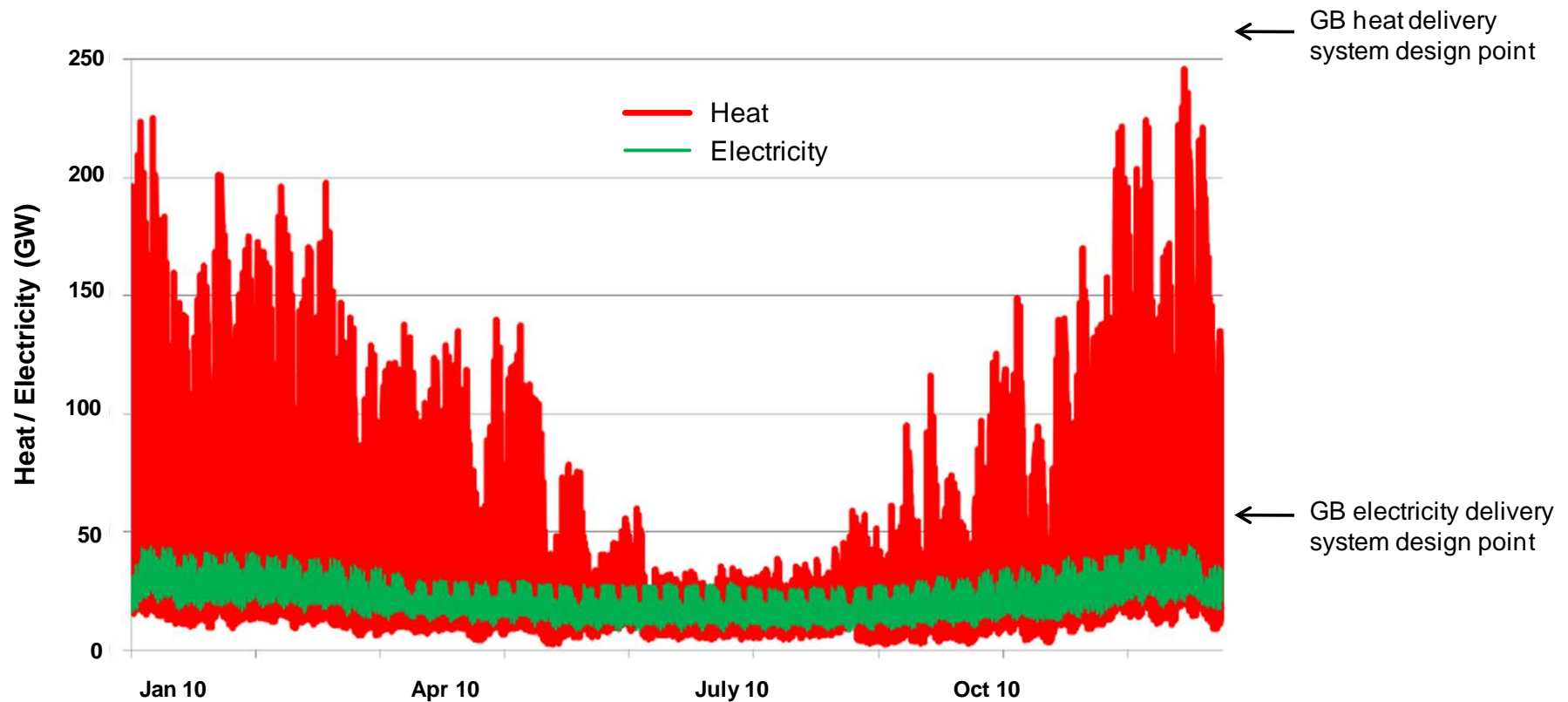
90%



prefer gas central heating  
given the choice



## GB heat and electricity demand variability (commercial & domestic - 2010)



Source: Robert Sansom, Imperial College (2010)



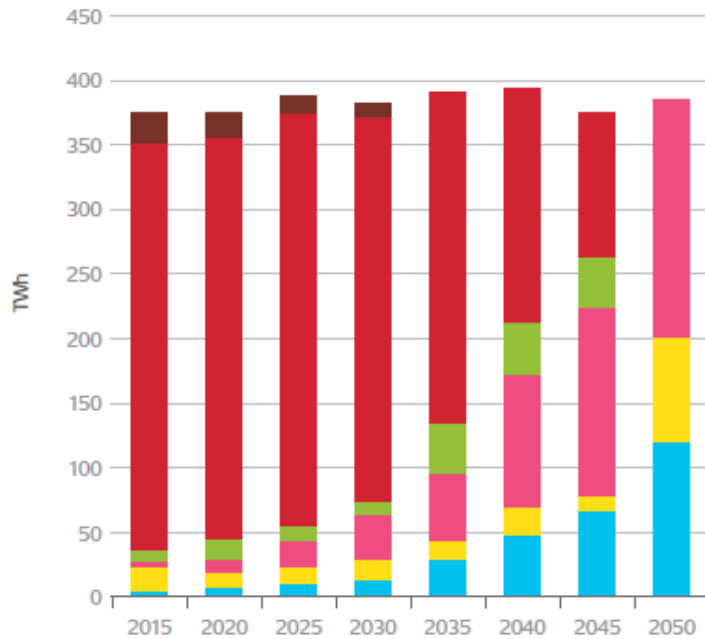
## ETI's Clockwork and Patchwork Scenarios



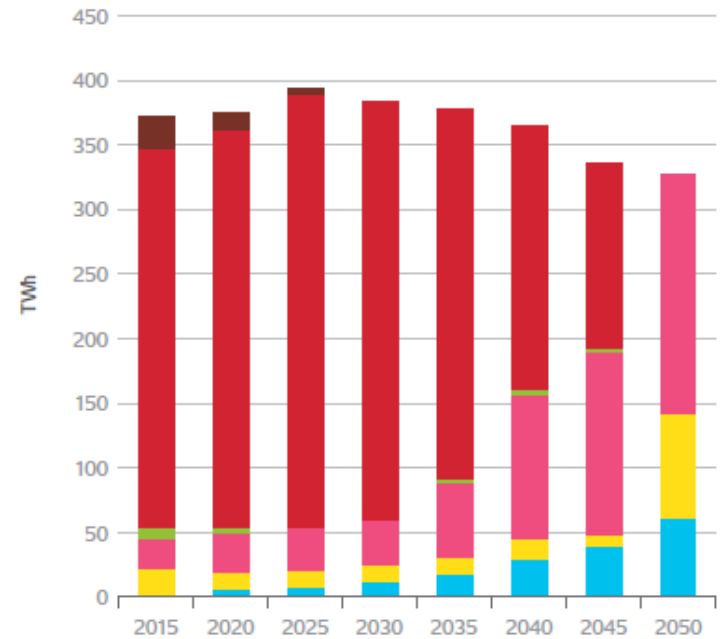
are representative of the challenges the UK faces in a move to low carbon – displaying the scale of the challenge



# Space Heat Generation



Clockwork

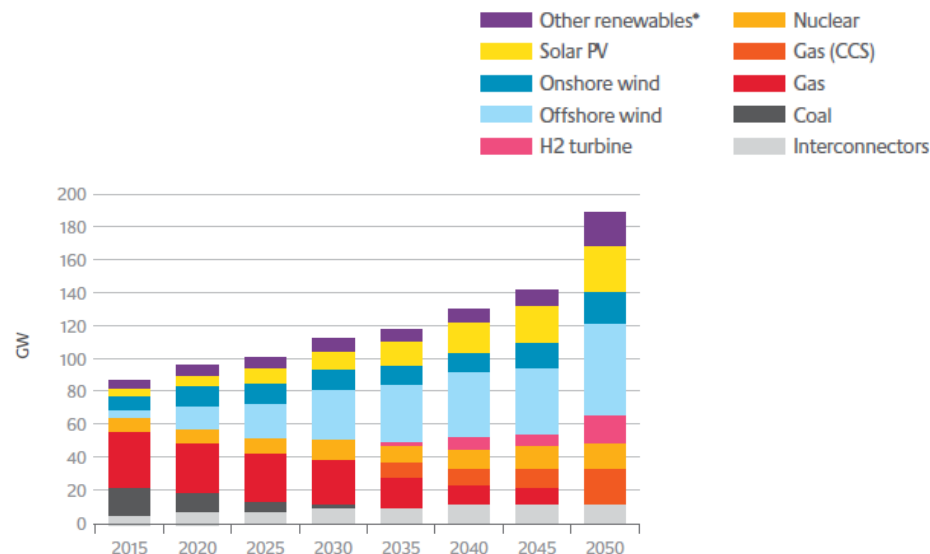
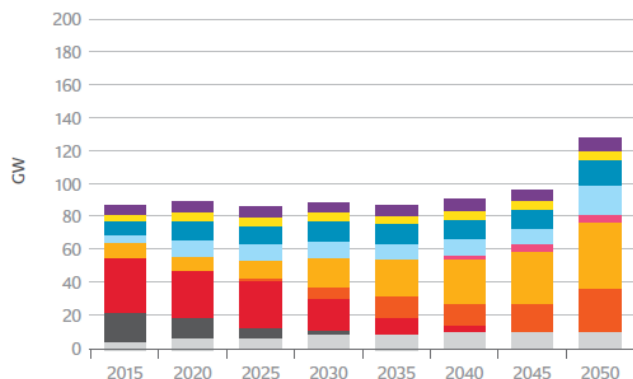


Patchwork

- Oil Boiler
- Gas Boiler
- Biomass Boiler
- Heat Pump
- Electric Heating
- District Heating



# ELECTRICITY CAPACITY



## CLOCKWORK

- » Nuclear provides 40GW of capacity by 2050
- » Existing pipeline of renewables built out to 2020, then maintained, with some further uptake of wind in 2040s
- » Gas plants retrofitted/replaced with CCS from 2020s
- » Hydrogen takes over from gas for peaking capacity from 2030s
- » Total capacity of ~ 130GW by 2050. Balance between nuclear, CCS and renewables

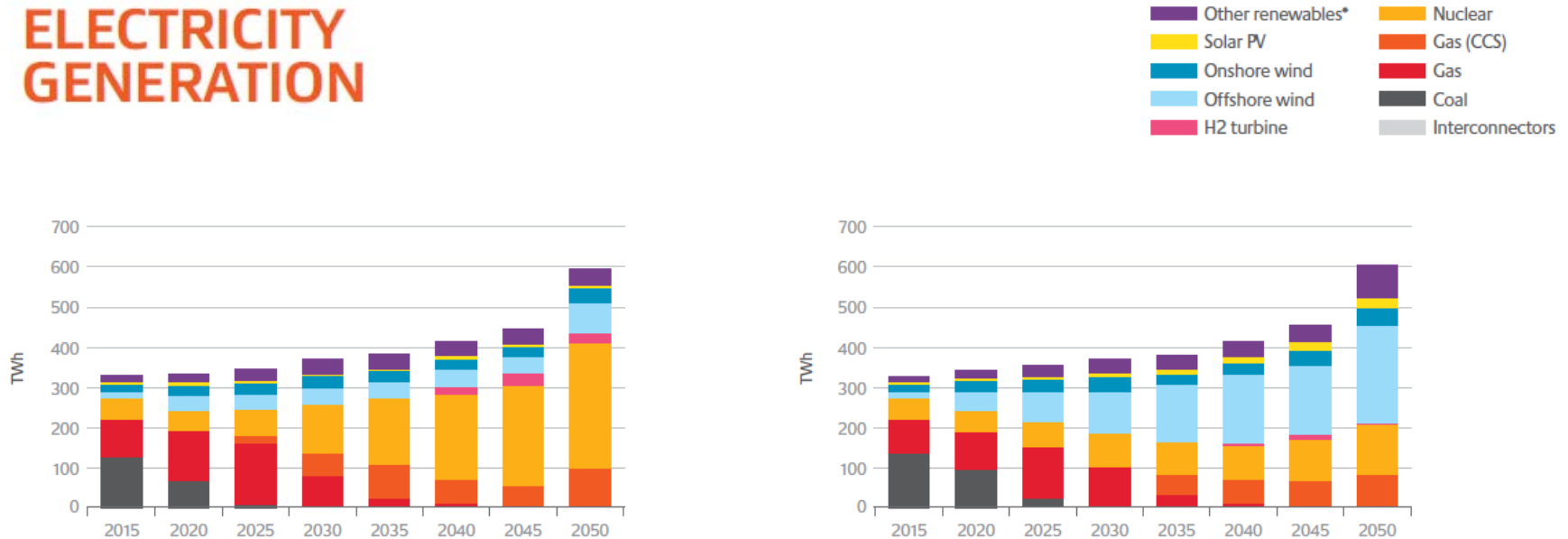
## PATCHWORK

- » Nuclear replacement of existing capacity only (16GW)
- » CCS delayed until 2030s before replacing unabated gas plants
- » Wind power capacity reaches 75GW by 2050, mostly from offshore
- » Significant capacity of hydrogen turbines (17GW) required to balance intermittent supply
- » Solar provides 28GW, Tidal 10GW and Wave 4GW of capacity by 2050
- » Total capacity of ~ 190GW by 2050, dominated by renewables





# ELECTRICITY GENERATION



## CLOCKWORK

- » Nuclear has the highest load factor of all supply technologies, making the largest contribution to total generation by 2050
- » Gas with CCS has a seasonal role, providing baseload through winter and more backup through summer
- » Improvements to technology means new offshore wind turbines have a load factor of 50% by 2050, meaning a larger share of generation compared to onshore

## PATCHWORK

- » Despite its limited capacity, the high load factor of nuclear means it contributes ~20% of electricity generation in 2050
- » Of the renewables, offshore wind makes the largest contribution of all technologies, while generation from solar is very modest, given its low load factor of 11% in the UK



## Key decisions and cost implications

- Direction change between “no targets” and “-80% CO<sub>2</sub>” polarises in mid 2020s
- Key electricity decisions are national policy led programmes
  - **Nuclear new build**
  - **CCS**
- plus... local and individual consumer decisions on other critical areas - with major implications for distribution level infrastructure
  - **Heat delivery**  
(gas, electricity, biomass, district heating)
  - **Transport**  
(liquid fuels, electricity, hydrogen)

**Delay** in launch of major build programmes beyond mid 2020s **leads to cost increases of ~£5bn p.a.** as more costly alternatives are built

There are logical asset replacements (technically and financially) that ensure security, sustainability and lowest system cost

**Efficiency improvement**  
(transport and buildings)

**Gas**

**Offshore renewables**

**Bioenergy feedstocks**  
(for heat and power)

**Nuclear**

**CCS**  
(fossil and biomass fuels)

all “no regrets” choices for the next 10 years



## What we need...

- Understanding of the drivers on future development
  - Costs
  - Supply capability and capacity (in a global market)
  - Infrastructure decisions
  - Investor requirements
  - Consumer needs/desires
- Clear market and value opportunities for investors and consumers
- Supportive and stable policy
- Consumer support

But... the future remains uncertain and we need an energy system design that allows for this

- Ready to make informed choices
- A system that creates and retains optionality
- Prepared for investment in a wide scale infrastructure roll-out
- Innovate to drive down cost (technology and business models)
- We need innovative incentives for industry to invest in the UK



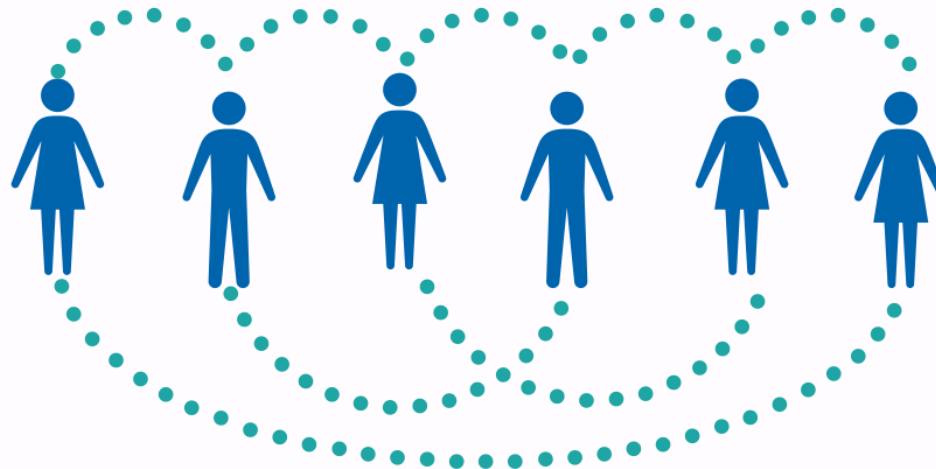
## The UK needs innovation to help it meet its carbon targets



Successful innovation has several critical components: market confidence, finance, public policy and the capability to innovate



Successful innovation systems often involve open and iterative processes, which are complex



They depend on multiple interactions between different actors



Collaboration and shared understanding is required to help the innovation process



involving interactions across science, business and government to facilitate knowledge transfer and learning

it is easier to achieve a transition with a shared understanding of the drivers of new low carbon energy technologies





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