



The Prospects for Natural Gas in 2050

Dr. Tim Boersma









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Some things change a lot in 32 years...



1986



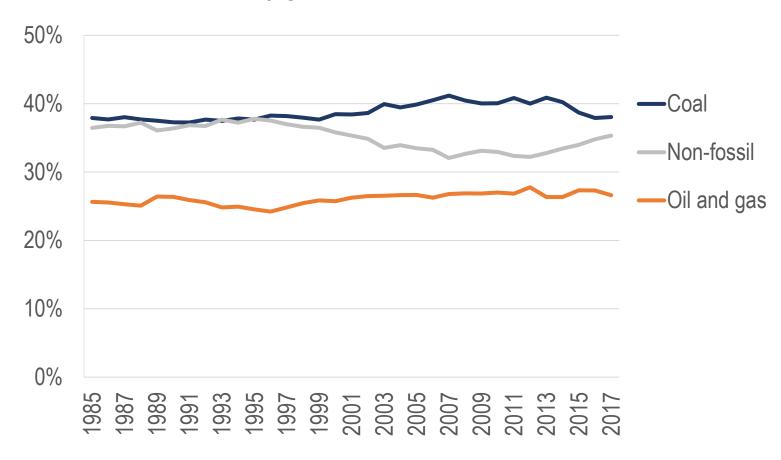
Argentina faces elimination in 1st round after a 3-0 defeat by Croatia



...But some things don't



Fuel shares in electricity generation 1985-2017



Source: BP Statistical Review 2018 (after Spencer Dale's presentation at Columbia University on June 19, 2018)





Assumptions underlying most long-term demand forecasts

- We are rational actors
- Exceeding 2°C will become politically acceptable
- Policy intervention is guided by economic efficiency
- Innovation will help decarbonize natural gas







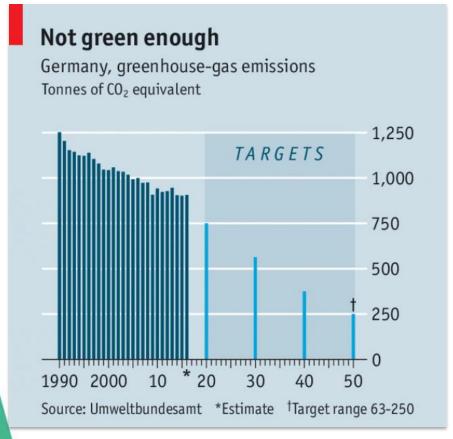
Are we rational actors? (Maybe not)





Germany's *Energiewende*







Source: Economist.com

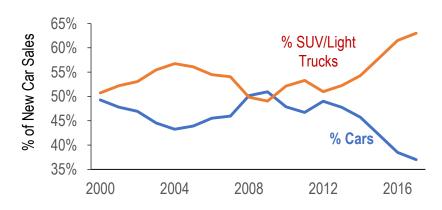


Low oil prices equal high SUV sales

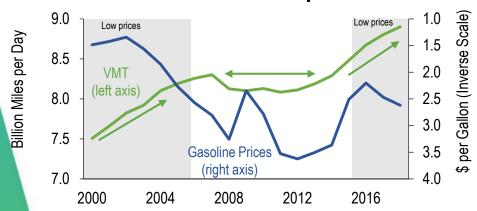


Continued shift to SUVs / light trucks

Top 3 best-selling vehicles in the US in 2017



VMT increases in a lower price environment



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, EIA, STEO, NHWA, Wards Auto







Source: Car and Driver



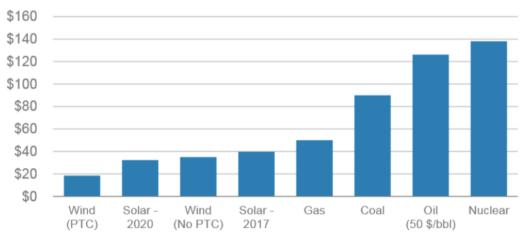


US efforts to bring back coal





Levelized cost of electricity for new generation in the US (\$/MWh)



Source: Morgan Stanley Research



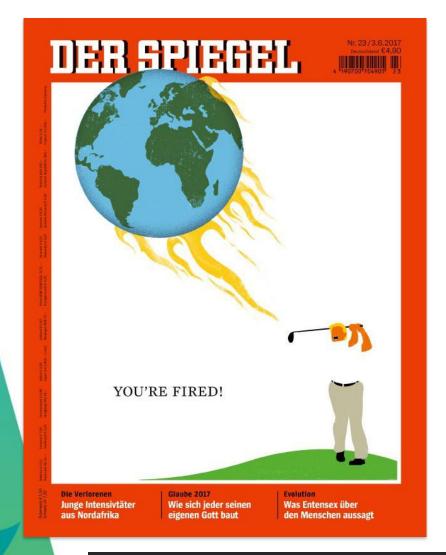


Exceeding 2°C will become politically acceptable (Be very skeptical)



We will always have Paris









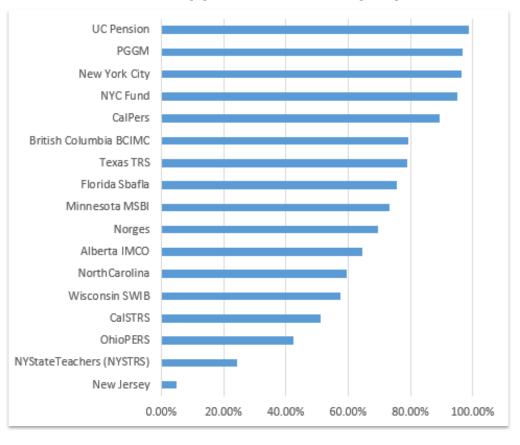
Climate risk is not disappearing







Pension fund support of climate proposals



Source: As YouSow.org





Policy intervention is primarily guided by economic efficiency (Absolutely not)



A case study of the Netherlands





Newly-built coal plant in Rotterdam



Biomass to be imported from Canada for co-firing



A case study of the Netherlands





Protest against gas production at the Groningen gas field in the Netherlands



Offshore wind farm in the North Sea





Innovation Will Help Decarbonize Natural Gas (There is hope)



Innovation in natural gas?

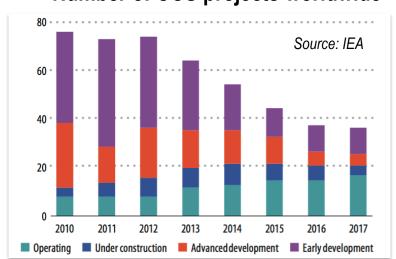




Biogas facility in Drenthe, Netherlands

The Kemper CCS facility in Mississippi

Number of CCS projects worldwide





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Center on Global Energy Policy



What does this mean?





- We must be cautious about long-term projections
- Growing energy demand and limitations of mainstream renewables will likely leave room for gas in the energy system through 2050
- The role of gas will be defined by volatile politics and (oftentimes) irrational decision-making
 - Investors have their work cut out for them





Thank you!

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