Institute for New Economic Thinking

# Achieving a low carbon economy: challenges, technological progress and responsibility

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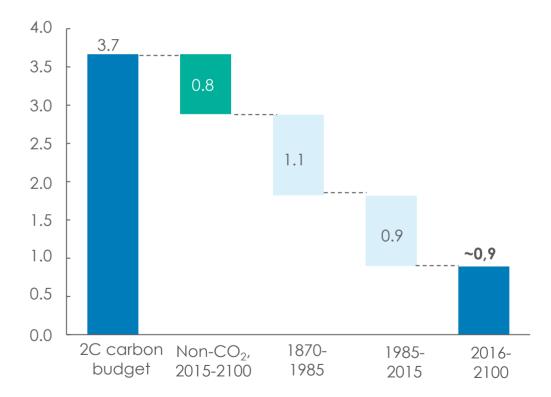
*In the Long Run, Are We All Dead? Climate Change and Denial* Edinburgh, 23 October 2017

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#### ... within a 2°C carbon budget

# Carbon budget emissions to 2100 1000 billion tonnes of $CO_2$ -eq.



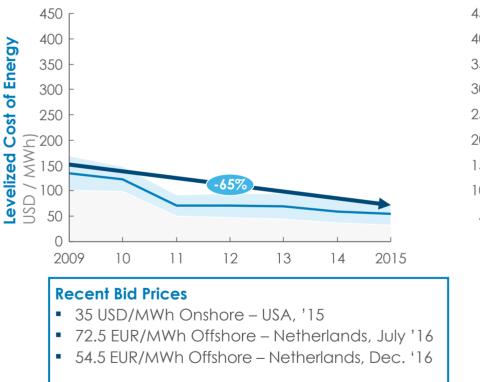
SOURCE: Copenhagen Economics analysis



### **Collapsing cost of renewables**

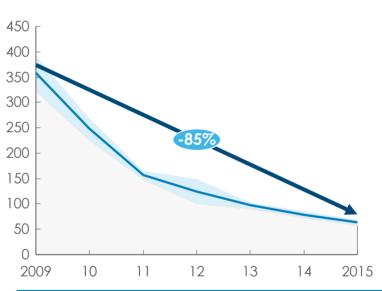
#### Levelized Cost of Wind

USD/MWh, Unsubsidized



#### Levelized Cost of Utility-Scale PV

USD/MWh, Unsubsidized



#### **Recent Bid Prices**

- 29.9 USD/MWh Dubai, May '16
- 29.1 USD/MWh Chile, August '16
- 24 USD/MWh Abu Dhabi, September '16
- 18 USD/MWh Saudi 2017

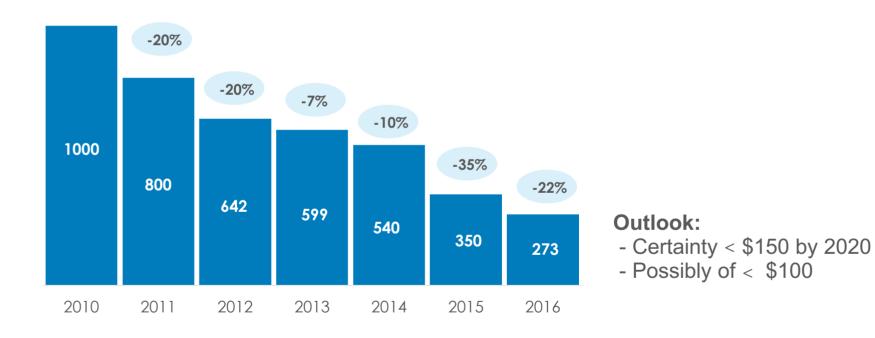
NOTE: USA 2015 wind bid price adjusted for Production Tax Credit. According to LBNL's 2015 Wind Technologies Market Report, 2015 USA PPA prices are as low as ~20 USD/MWh after PTC, plus an adjustment of 15 USD/MWh levelized value of the PTC.

SOURCE: Lazard Levelized Cost of Energy 9.0 (2015), Greentech Media, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab



### Cost of lithium ion battery parks

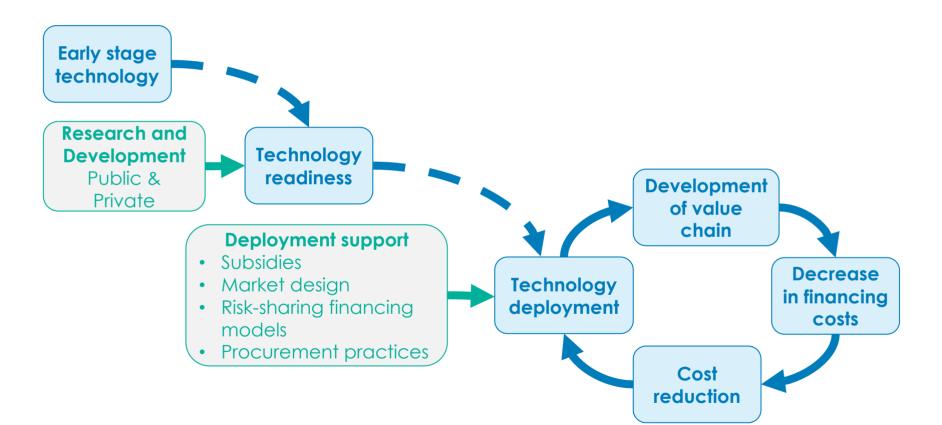
\$ per Kwh



SOURCE: Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Battery Price Survery



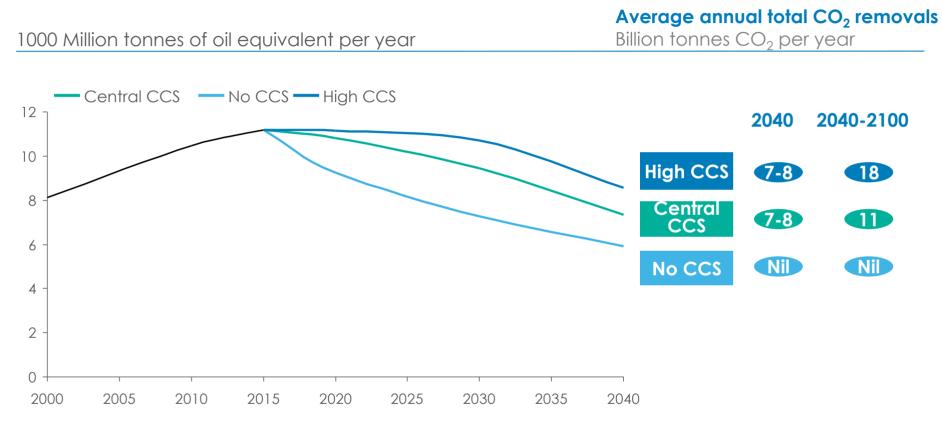
# Public policies required: repeating the renewables success story





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## Fossil fuel consumption compatible with WB2C



NOTE: Central scenario is based on scenarios limiting the risk of a global temperature rise of more than 2 degrees to less than one third, with 2020 emissions of at least 30 GtCO2 and with no more than 15 GtCO2 removal from CCS in any given year. No CCS scenario fulfils the same criteria as the Central scenario and in addition requires 0 GtCO2 removal from CCS in any given year. High CCS allows for CCS capture rates of between 15 and 40 Gt in any given year.

SOURCE: Historic data from BP, future trajectories based on Copenhagen Economics analysis of the AR5 scenarios database

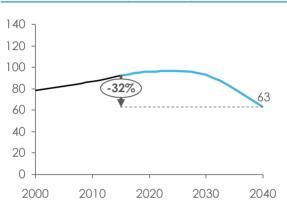


# ... with big variations by specific fuel

# Billion tonnes per year

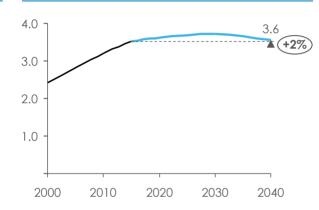
**Coal consumption** 

#### **Oil consumption** Million barrels per day



#### Natural gas consumption

Bcm per year



- **Use:** Thermal coal falls far more rapidly than metallurgical.
- **Key challenge:** Phasing out coal in power in emerging economies.

- **Use:** increasingly concentrated in long-distance transport, plus feedstock for chemicals.
- **Key challenge:** Pace of electrification and development of biofuels/hydrogen.
- **Use:** across the energy system, with an increased role in industry.
- **Key challenge:** Methane leakages and new gas infrastructure in emerging economies.

Notes: All fossil fuel trajectories are based on scenarios reaching a 2°C objective with at least two-thirds probability. The charts show median fossil fuel use in 21 scenarios with less than 15 GT CO<sub>2</sub> removal in any given year. Average removals 2050-2100 are 3 GT/year through CCS on fossil fuels and 8 GT/year through BECCS or other negative emissions.

SOURCE: Historic data from BP. Projects are Copenhagen Economics calculations on data from IIASA AR5 database