

# “Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse”



# CO<sub>2</sub> Neutral Energy Security for Switzerland

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## ABSTRACT

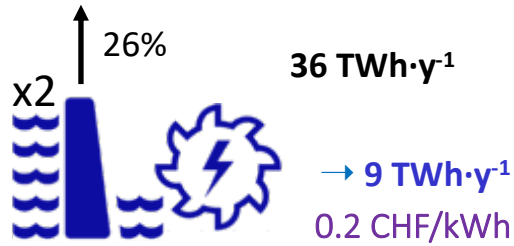
An analysis of the technical opportunities and economic consequences of the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in Switzerland is presented. The technically realized efficiencies showed that complete electrification leads to the most efficient energy system and cheapest electricity. The electricity demand is expected to almost double, and the overall energy cost will increase by 20% compared to 2019. However, the technical challenges of seasonal electricity storage, without any reserves and redundancy, amounts to 20 TWh.

Hydropower and PV without storage produce the cheapest electricity. Future nuclear fission technologies, e.g. molten salt Thorium breeding reactor - currently still in an experimental stage – might become the most economical and least environmental impact solution for CO<sub>2</sub> neutral continuous electricity production. The opportunities for a massive increase of hydroelectric production are limited, already shifting the use of water (9 TWh) from summer to winter is a great challenge. PV and hydrogen production in Switzerland have the advantage to provide approximately 75% of the electricity without seasonal storage leading to significantly lower electricity cost than from imported hydrogen or synthetic hydrocarbons. The most economical solution for aviation and reserves is imported bio-oil converted to synthetic Kerosene, for which large storages already exist.

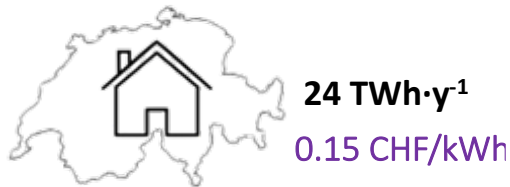
accepted by “Frontiers in Energy Research: Process and Energy Systems Engineering” (2024)



# Solution en matière d'énergie renouvelable (exemple)



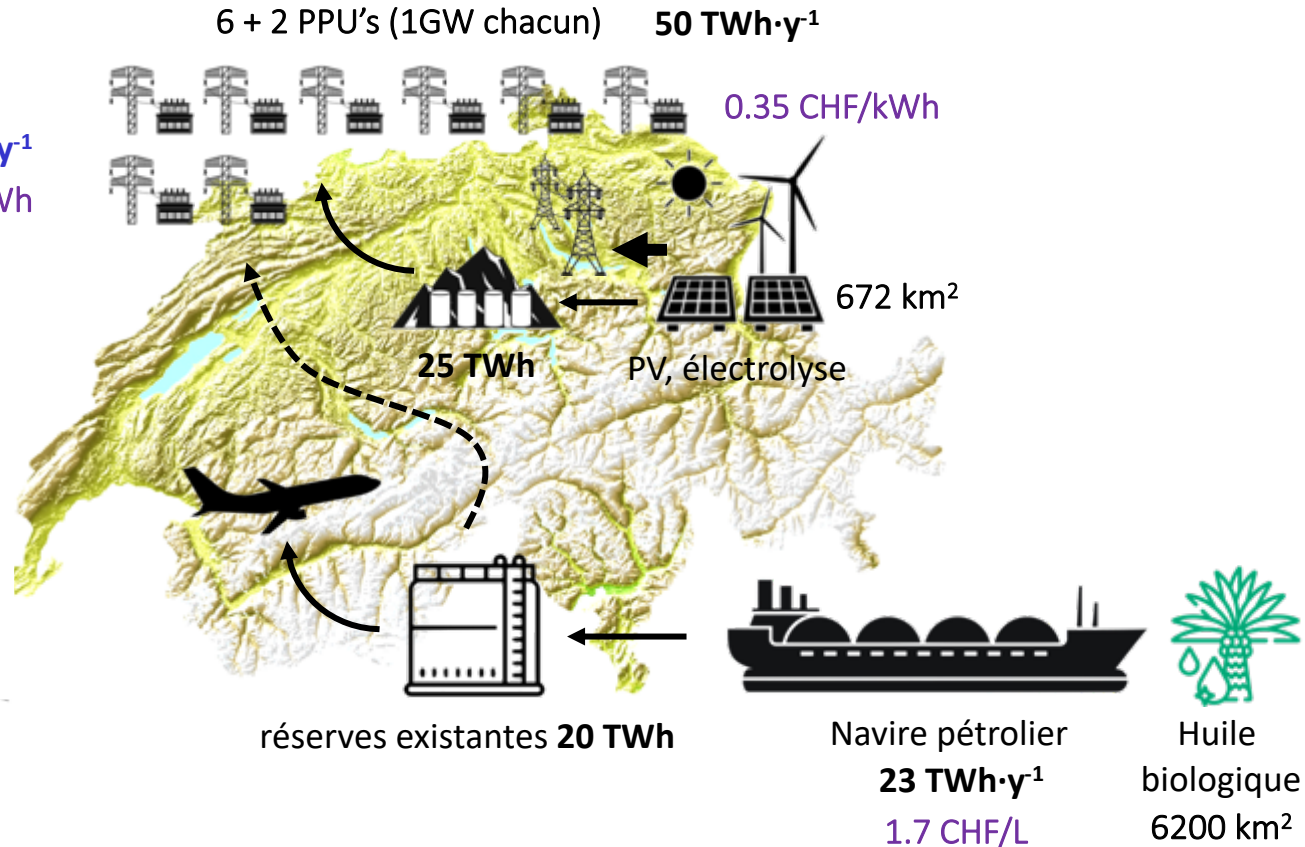
Augmenter les lacs de stockage



150 km<sup>2</sup> PV sur les toits



Biomasse pour le chauffage

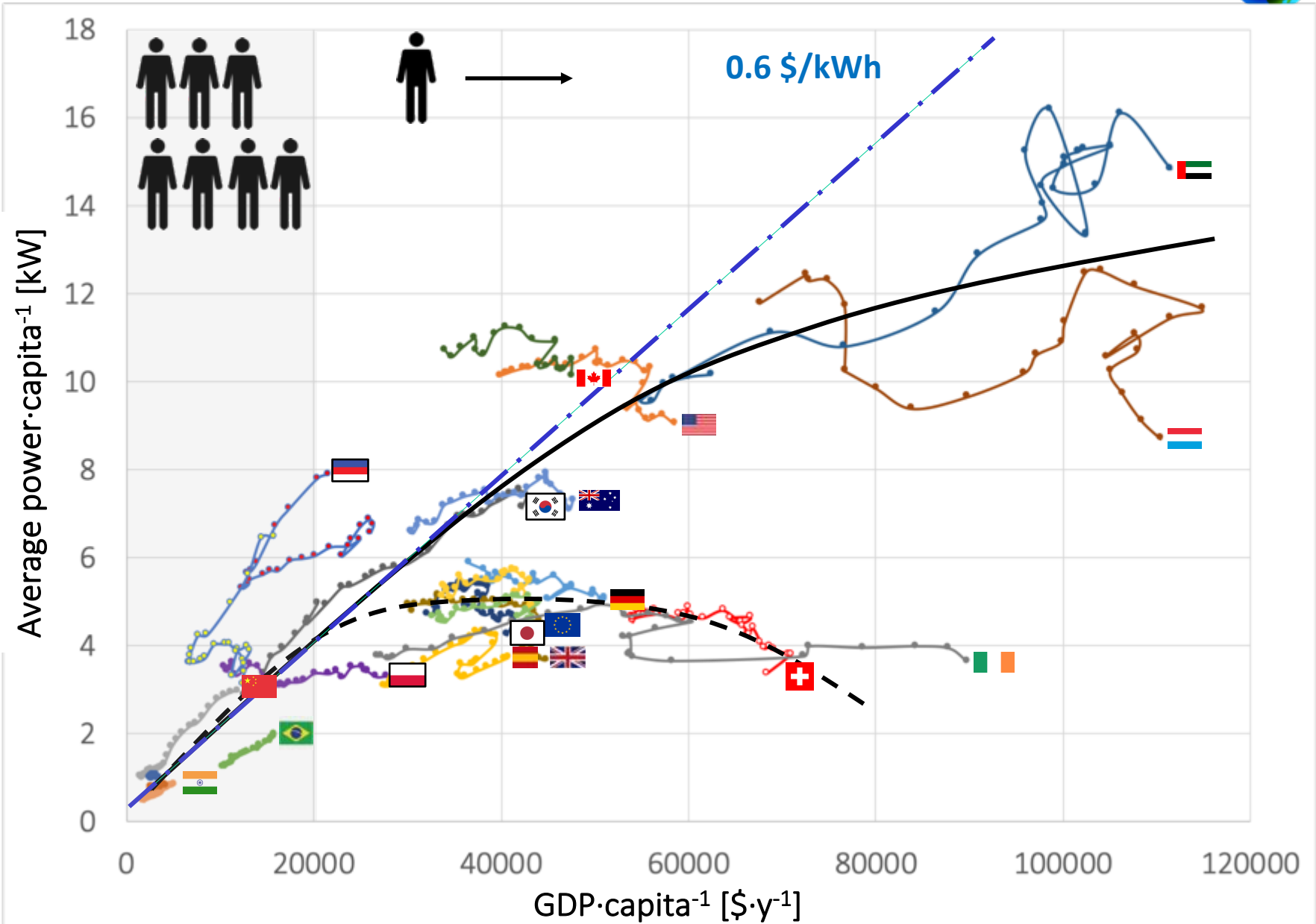


réduire la demande d'énergie par l'utilisation de la chaleur, le stockage de la chaleur, l'isolation



# Energie et economie

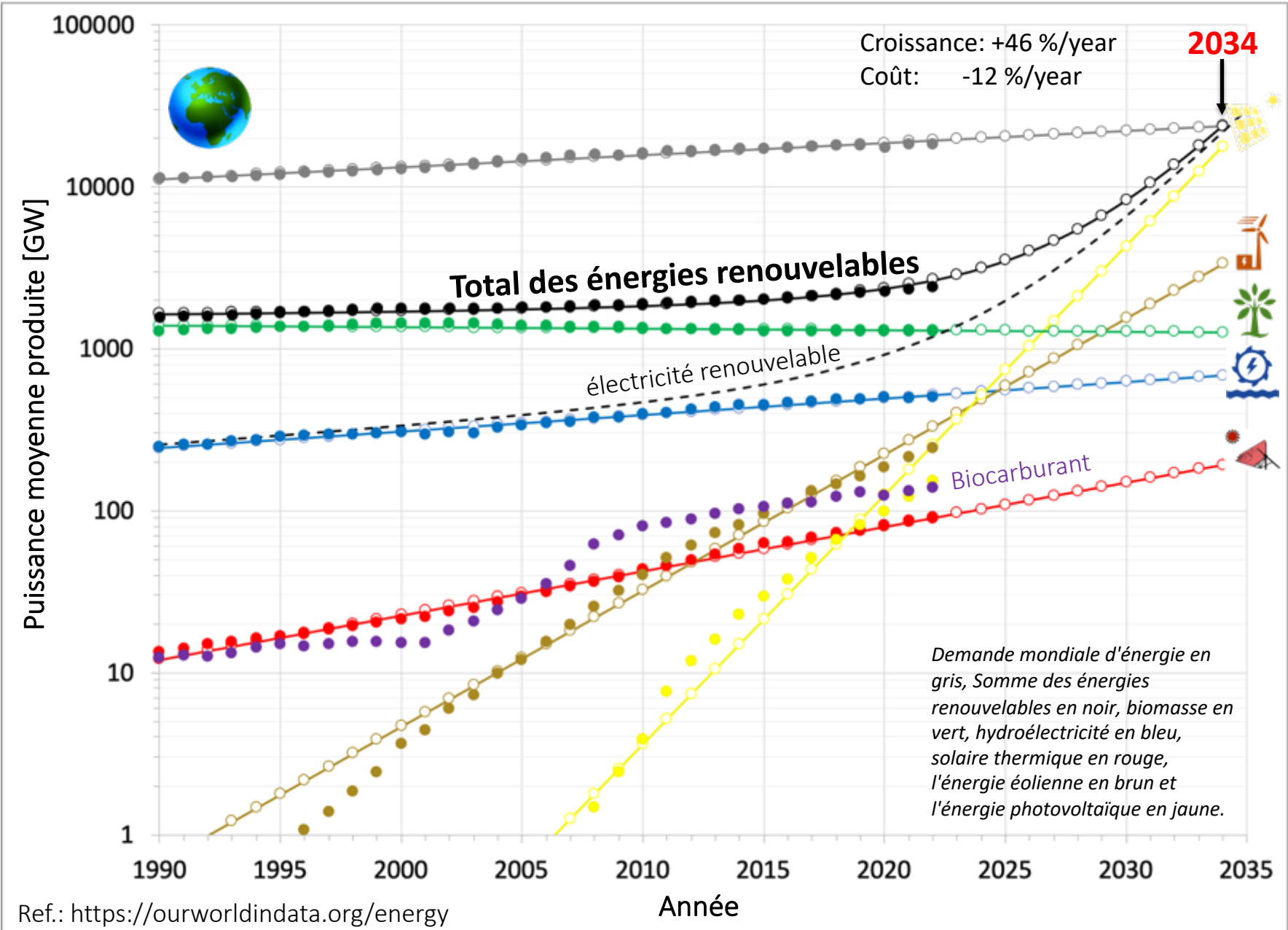
Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse



Ref.: <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/energy-use-per-capita-vs-gdp-per-capita>

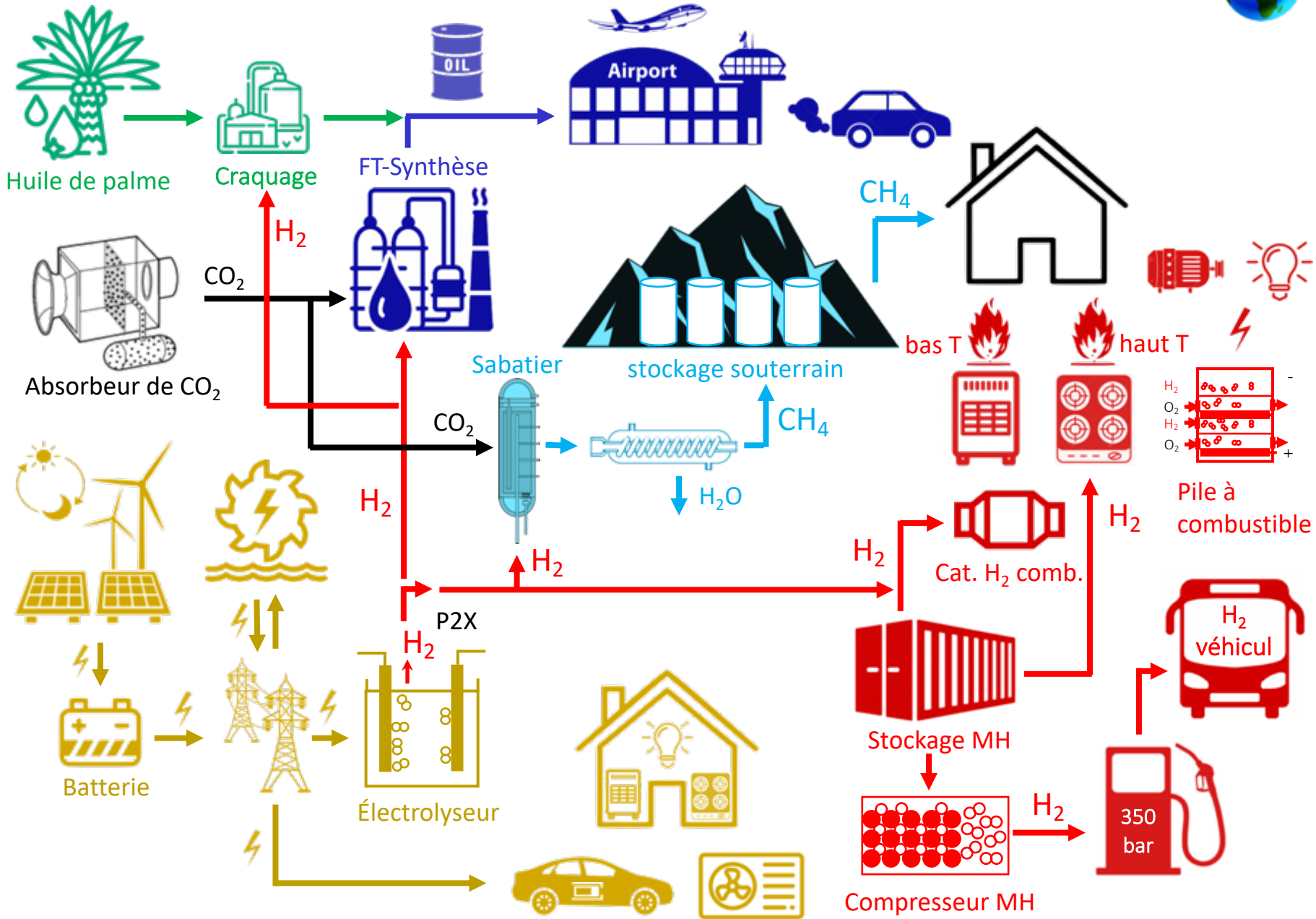


# Production mondiale d'énergies renouvelables



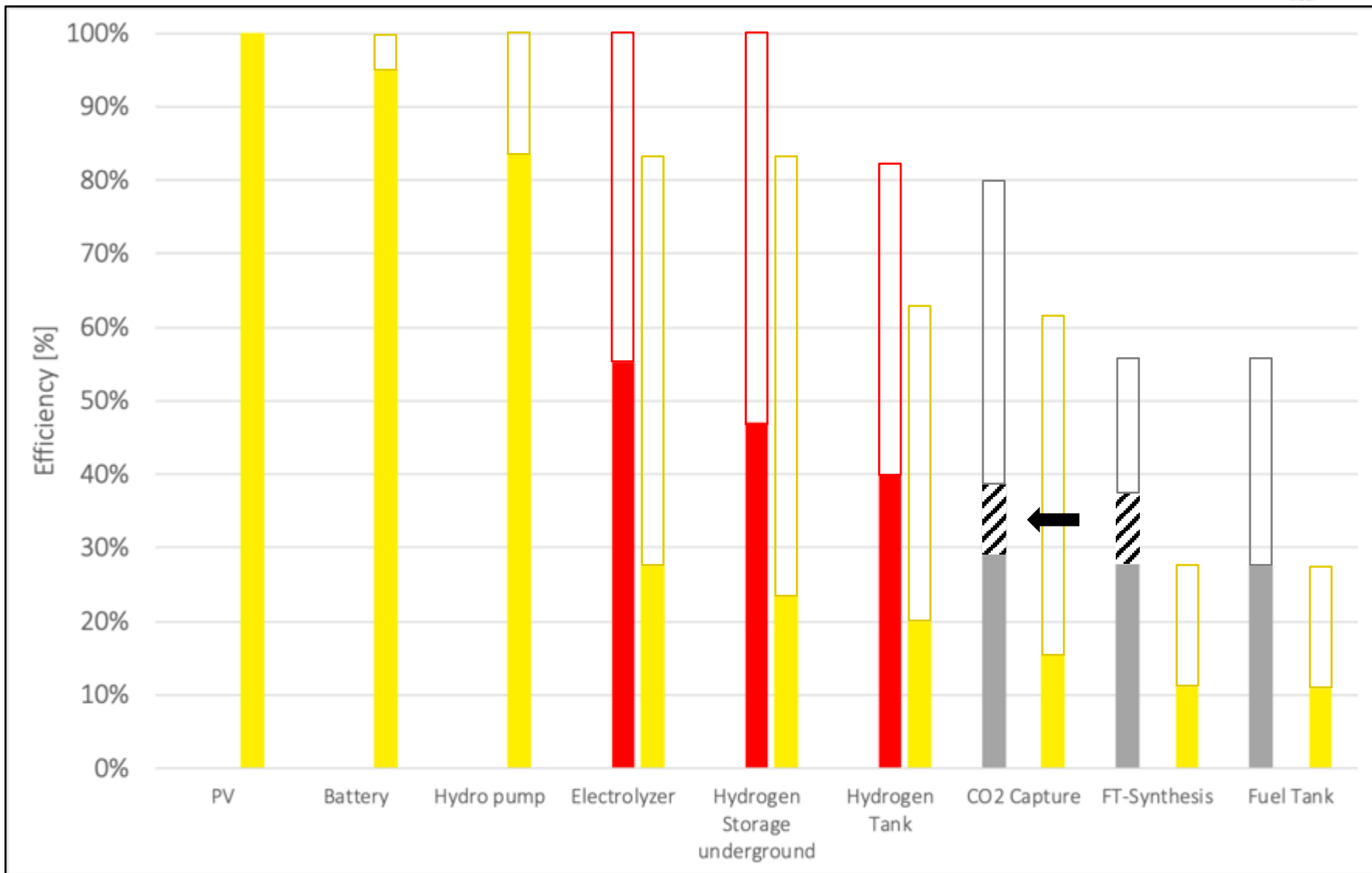
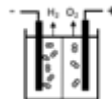


# Système d'énergie renouvelable



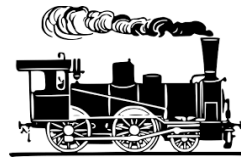
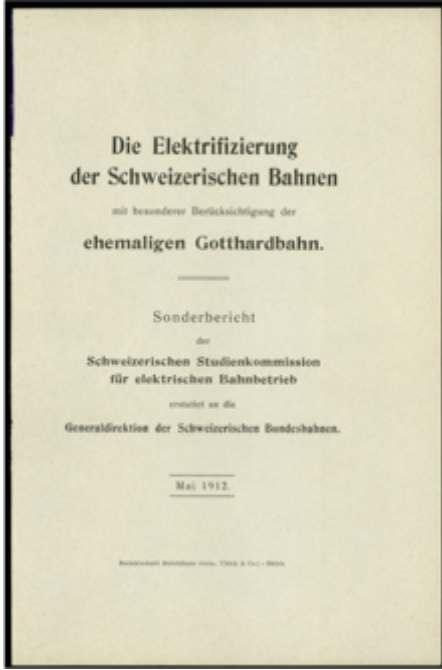
# Efficacité de la conversion énergétique

# Power to X (P2X)





# Décision suisse pour l'électricité



1912

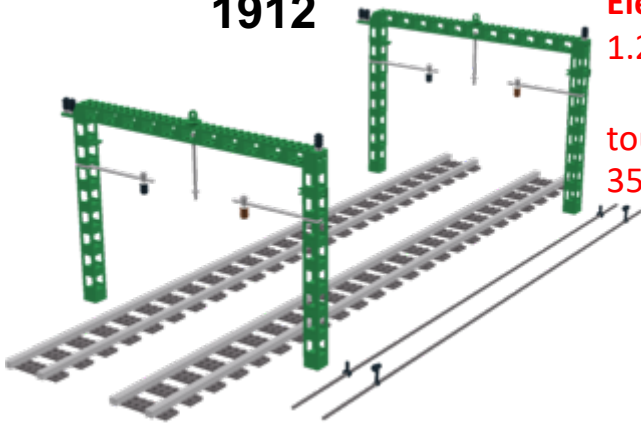


Ref.: "Die Elektrifizierung der Schweizerischen Bahnen mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der ehemaligen Gotthardbahn.", Sonderbericht der Schweizerischen Studienkommission für elektrischen Bahnbetrieb erstattet an die Generaldirektion der Schweizerischen Bundesbahnen. Mai 1912.

1912

**Electrifiant**  
1.23 – 2.6 MCHF/km

tous les 27m est un pôle,  
35 – 70 kCHF par pôle



Les voies ferrées coûtent 62 MCHF/km  
(les autoroutes coûtent entre 150 et 330 MCHF par km)

Ref.: Allemagne : Lindau -München 500 M€ pour 189 km, y compris protection contre le bruit, nouvelle gare...  
Danemark : ensemble du chemin de fer 1'600 M€ pour 1300 km



# Le changement majeur de l'économie de l'énergie en Suisse

## Catastrophe de la centrale nucléaire de Fukushima Dai-ichi



11 mars 2011



24 mars 2011

## Tremblement de terre de 11 mars 2011

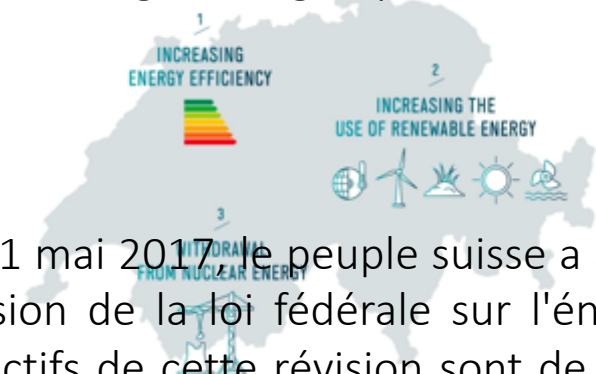


25. Mai 2011 Le Conseil fédéral a décidé de ne plus miser sur l'énergie nucléaire à l'avenir. Les centrales nucléaires existantes doivent rester raccordées au réseau tant qu'elles sont sûres. Confirmation par le Parlement le 8 juin 2011.

## Accord de Paris sur le climat 2014

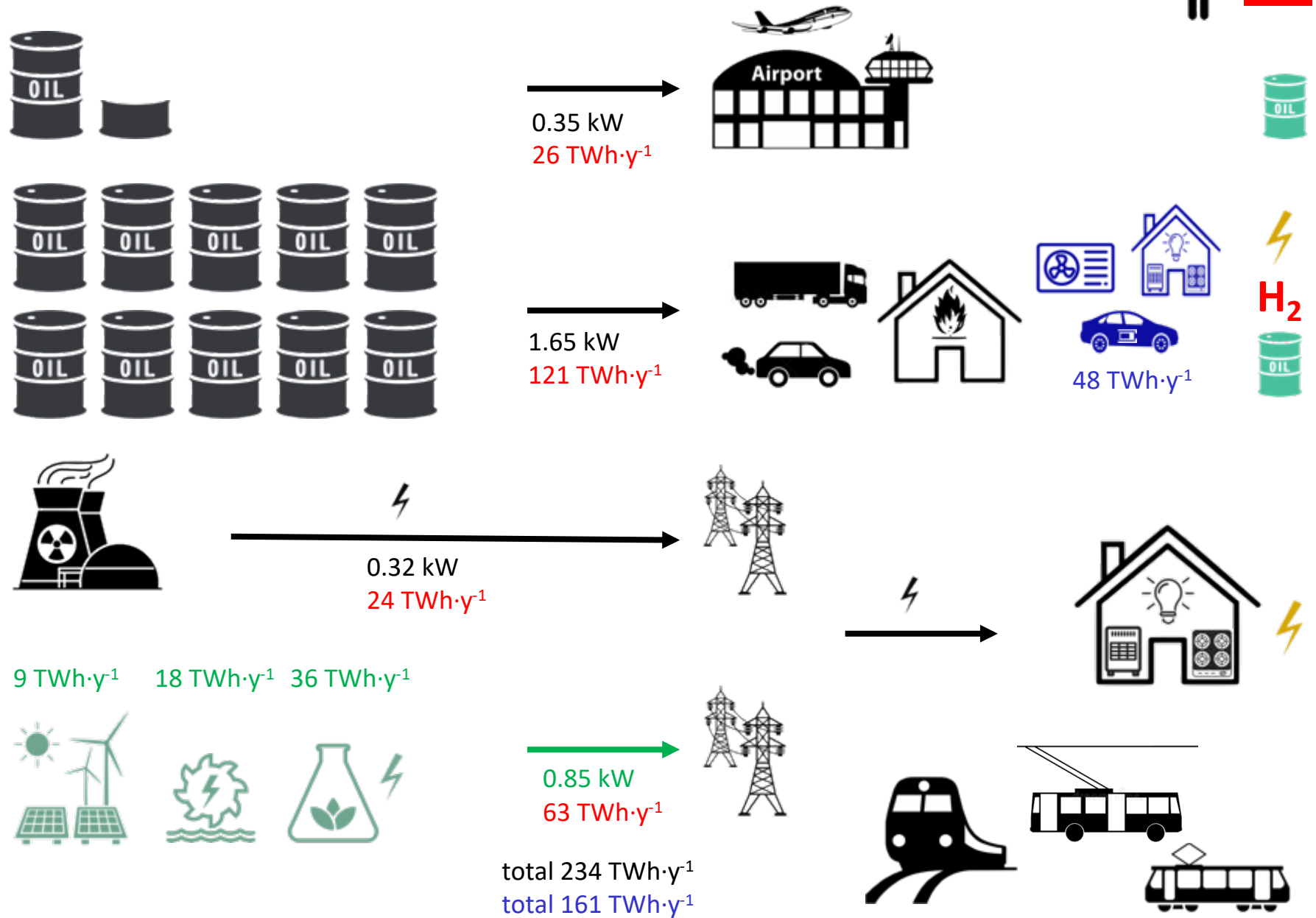


## Stratégie énergétique suisse 2050



Le 21 mai 2017, le peuple suisse a accepté la révision de la loi fédérale sur l'énergie. Les objectifs de cette révision sont de réduire la consommation d'énergie, d'augmenter l'efficacité énergétique et de promouvoir l'utilisation des énergies renouvelables. En outre, la version révisée interdit la construction de nouvelles centrales nucléaires.

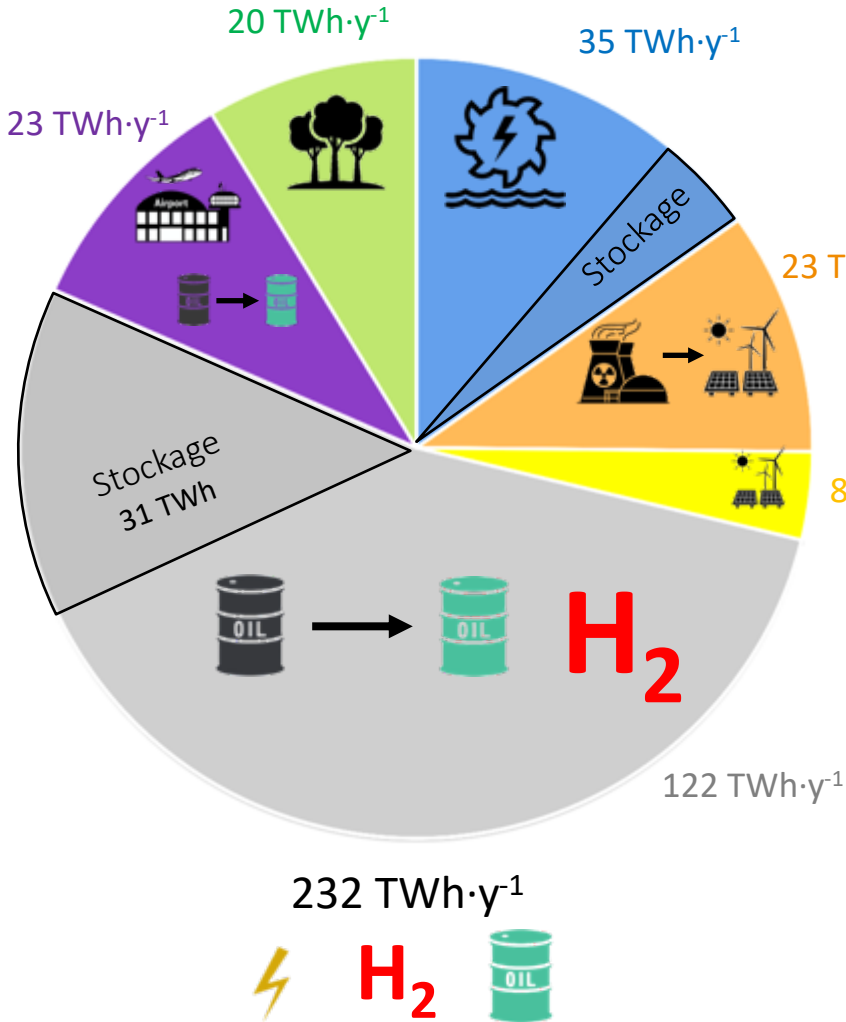
# Approvisionnement énergétique actuel de la Suisse (2020)



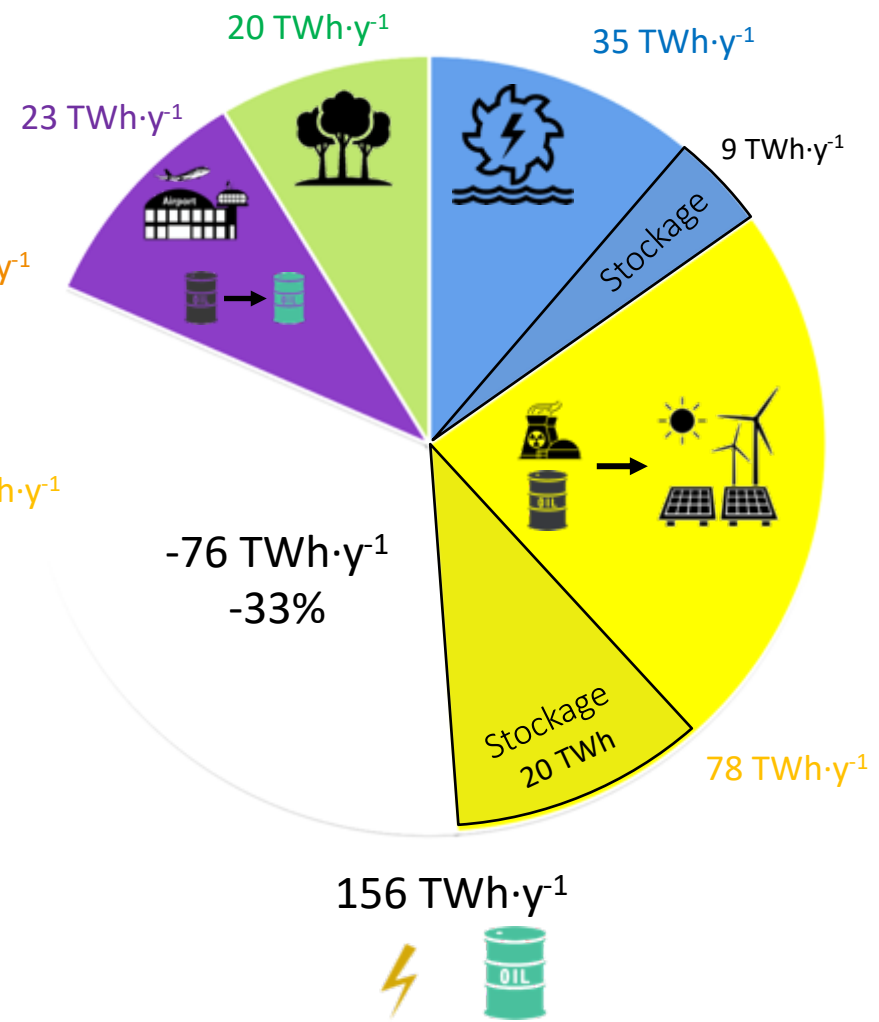


# Demande d'énergie par source et électrification

## Demande d'énergie (2019)



## Electrification



Ref.: SCHWEIZERISCHE GESAMTENERGIE STATISTIK (2019) Art.-Nr. 805.006.19 / 08.20 / 1200 / 860467013, Federal Office of Energy, Switzerland, <https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/de/home/versorgung/statistik-und-geodaten/energiestatistiken/gesamtenergiestatistik.exturl.html/>



# SAISONS EN SUISSE

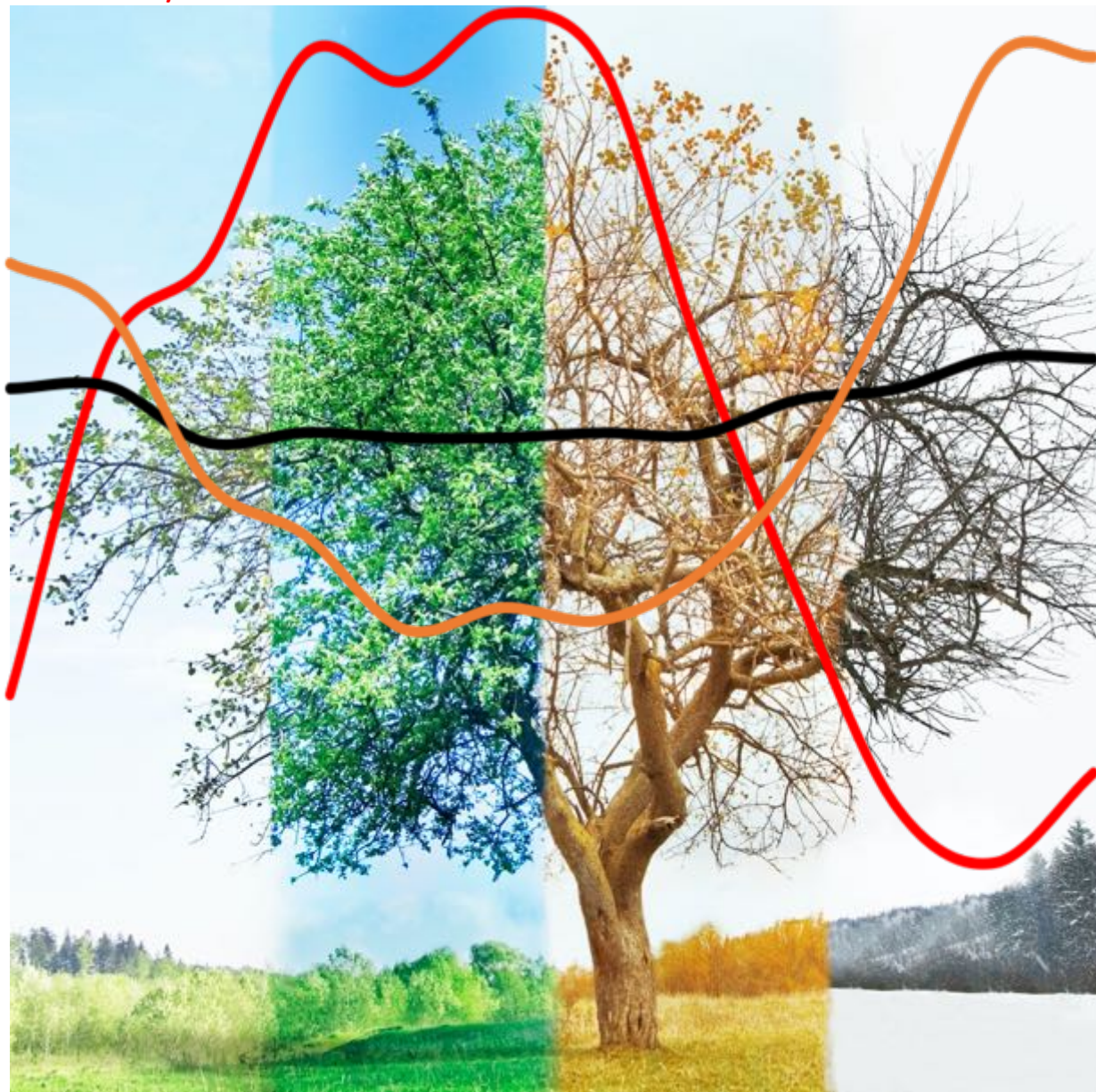


100 W/m<sup>2</sup>

160 W/m<sup>2</sup>

100 W/m<sup>2</sup>

40 W/m<sup>2</sup>

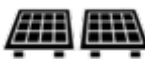


puissance éolienne moyenne



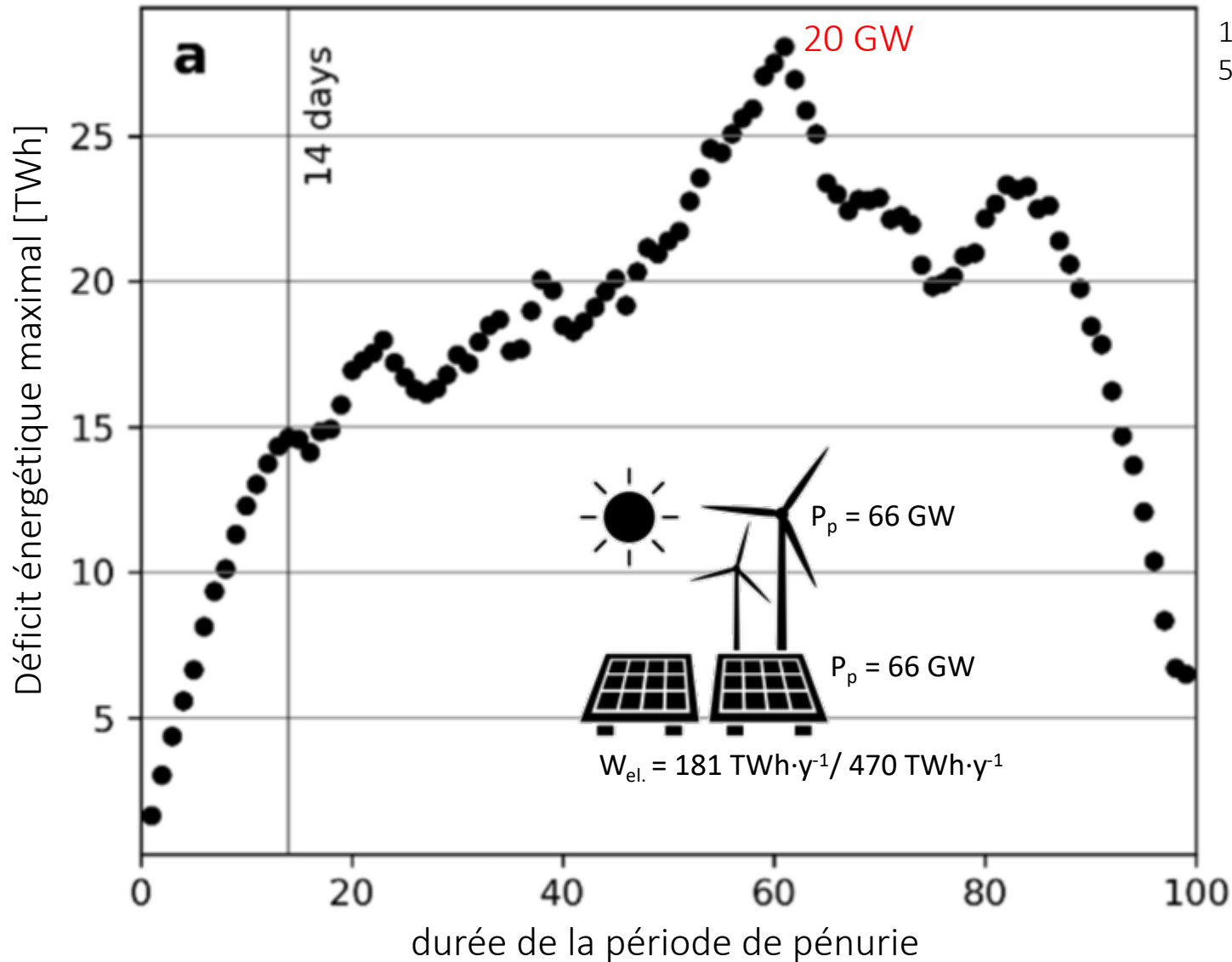
demande d'énergie

intensité solaire moyenne





## Déficit en énergies renouvelables



150 GW<sub>p</sub> installed  
53 GW avg. Power

Ref.: Oliver Ruhnau, and Staffan Qvist, "Storage requirements in a 100% renewable electricity system: extreme events and inter-annual variability", Environ. Res. Lett. 17 (2022) 044018, <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac4dc8>

# Systemes d'énergie renouvelable : Résumé



**Electricité**  
3669.-

**Hydrogène**  
5683.-

**Syn. Combustible**  
9712.-

23 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>

1 x

75 GWh

316.-

4 x

121 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>, 47 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>

2 x 134 km<sup>2</sup>

150 GWh

642.-

9 x 1.5 TWh

6 x

480 GWh

2656.-

25 x 2 Mm<sup>3</sup> 200 bar

12 x

920 GWh

6684.-

94 Mio. 159 L

23 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>

2 x

140 GWh

1212.-

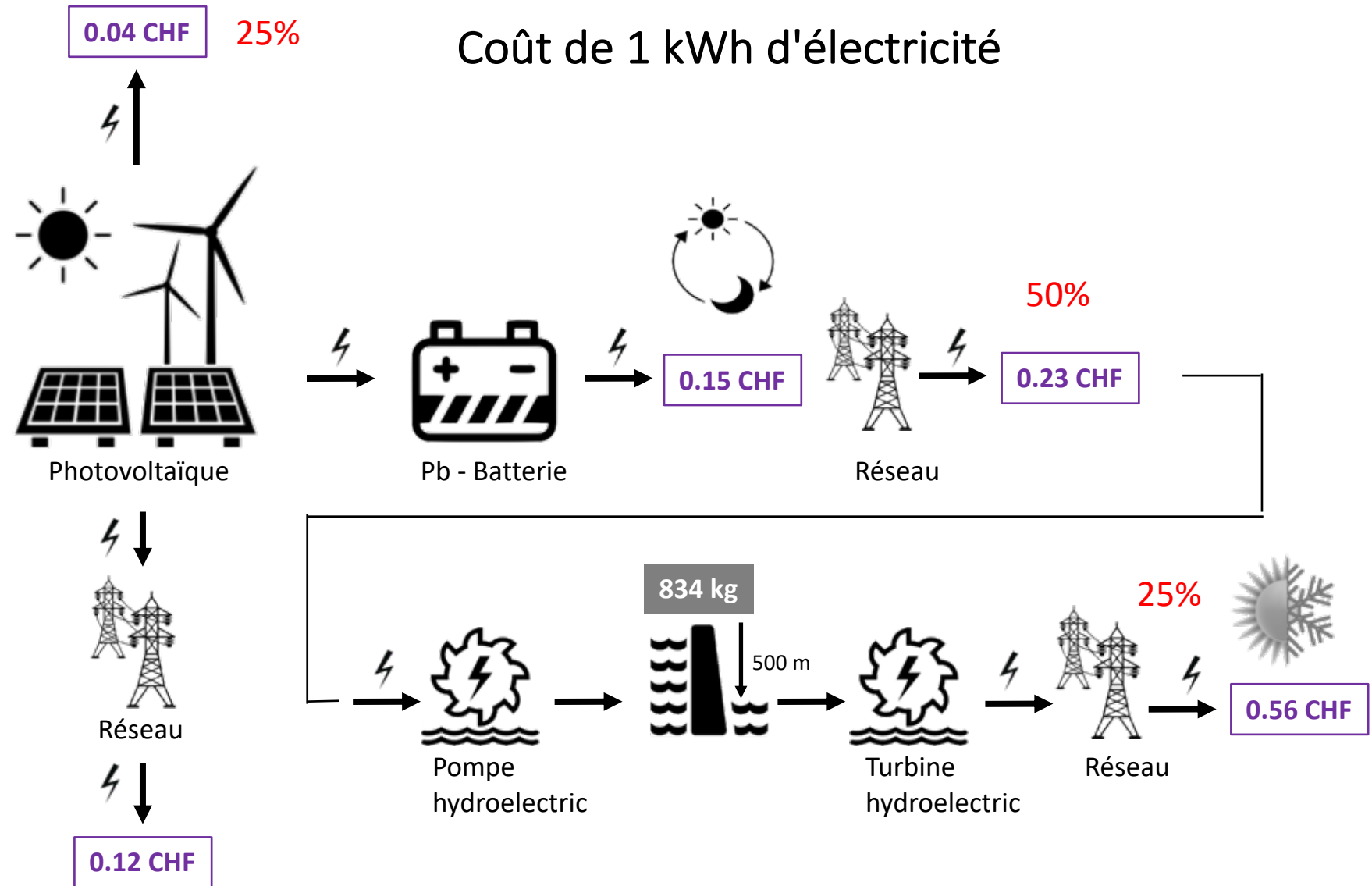
14 Mio.

existants 63 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>  
PV, biomasse,  
hydroélectricité

1500.-

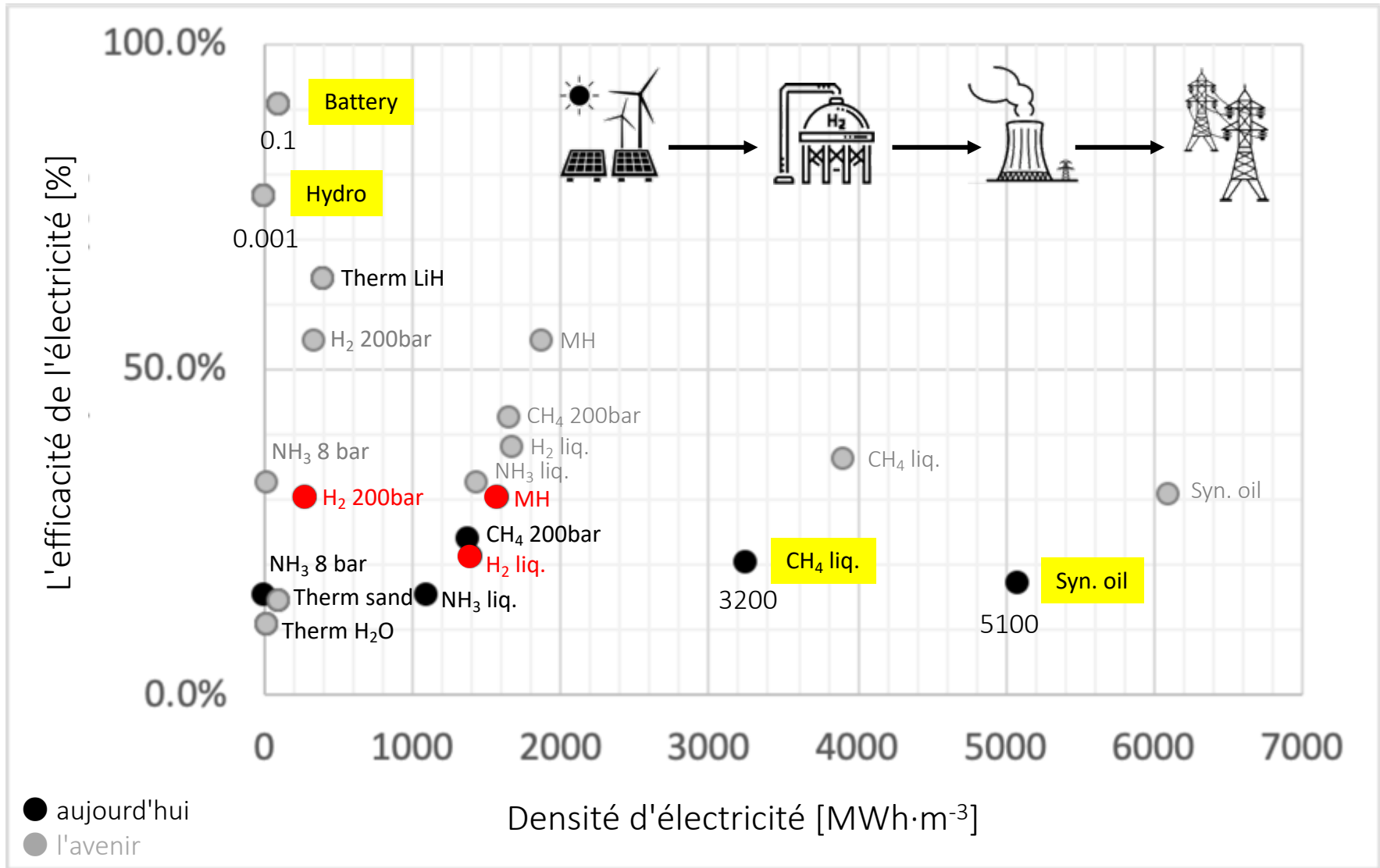
8 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup> 20 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup> 35 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>

# Électricité renouvelable à la demande





# Effacité et densité de stockage de l'électricité renouvelable

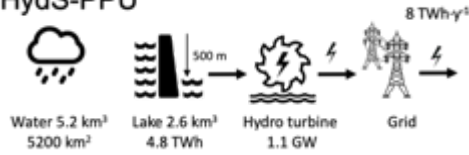




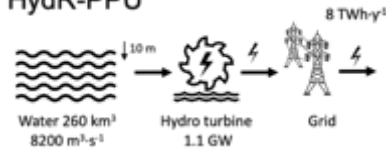


# Unités de centrales électriques

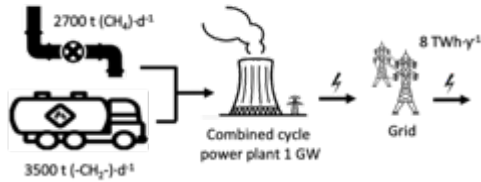
### HydS-PPU



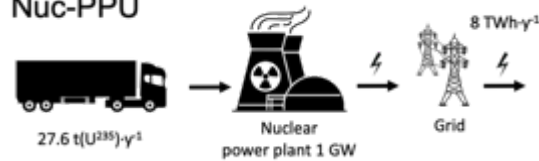
### HydR-PPU



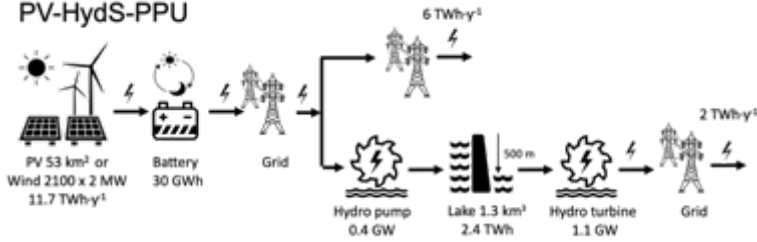
### Therm-PPU



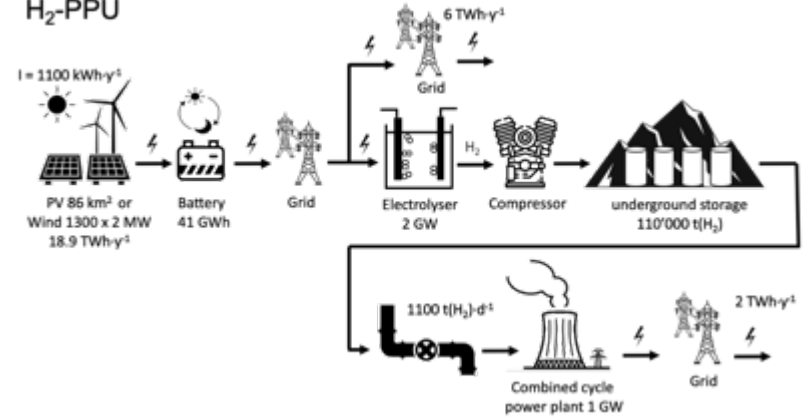
### Nuc-PPU



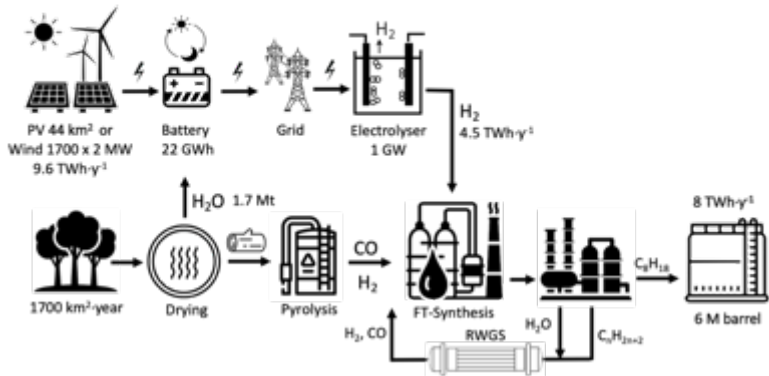
### PV-HydS-PPU



### H<sub>2</sub>-PPU

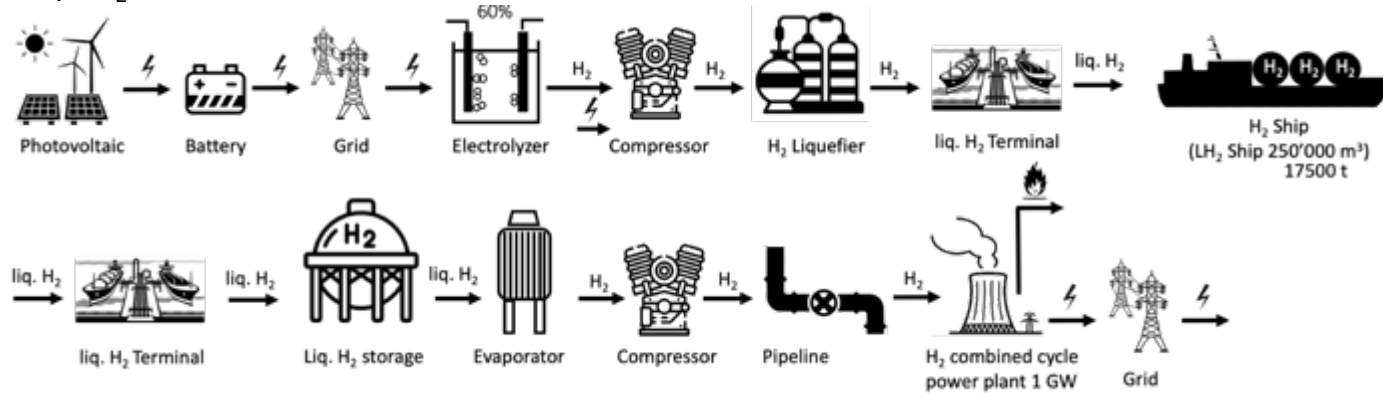


### Syn fuel - PPU

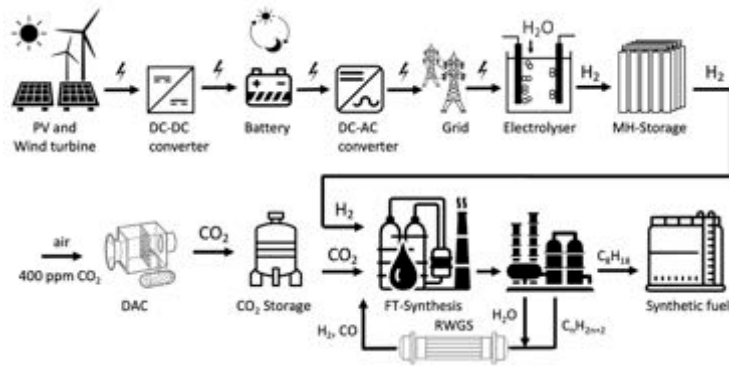


# Unités de centrales électriques

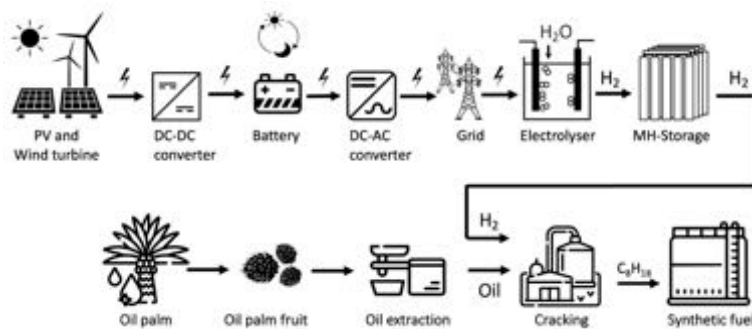
## Imp. H<sub>2</sub>



## Imp. SF



## Imp. BSF

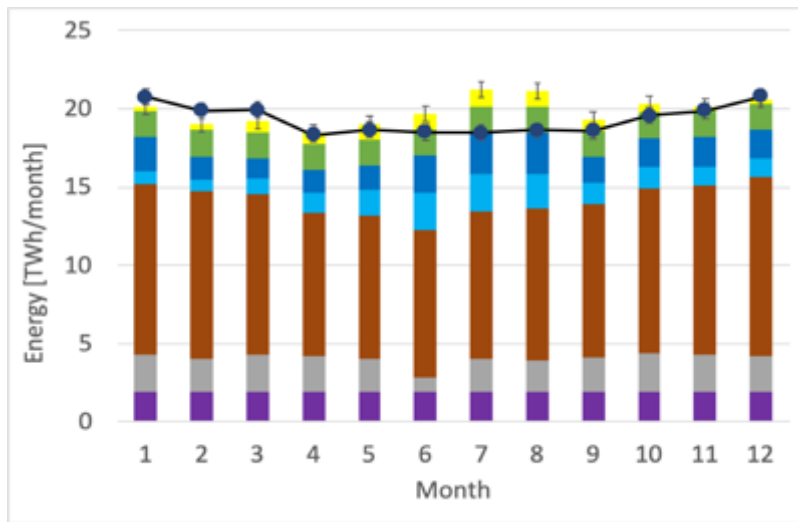




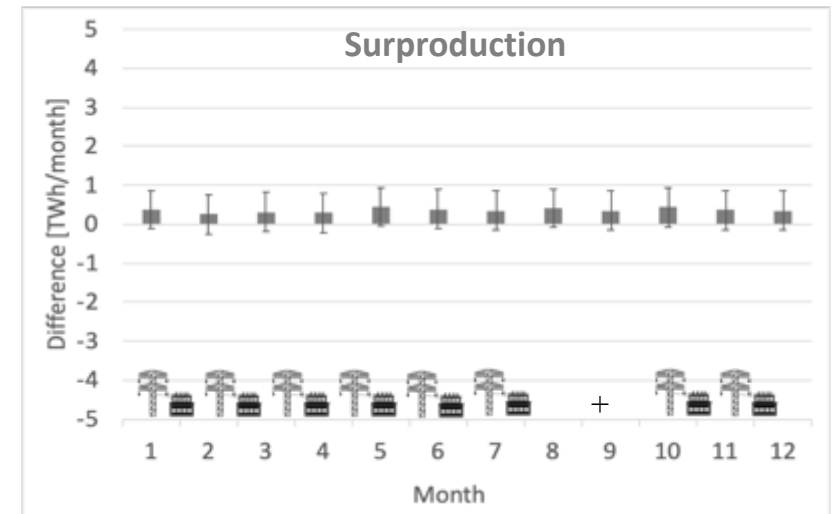
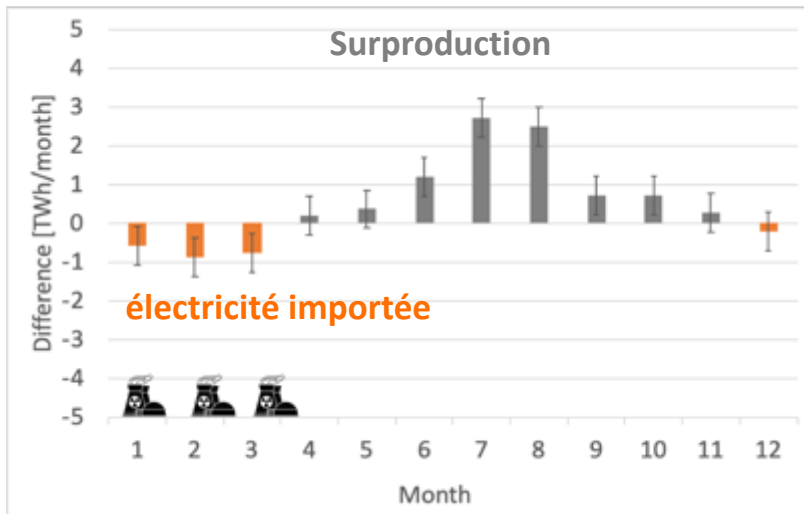
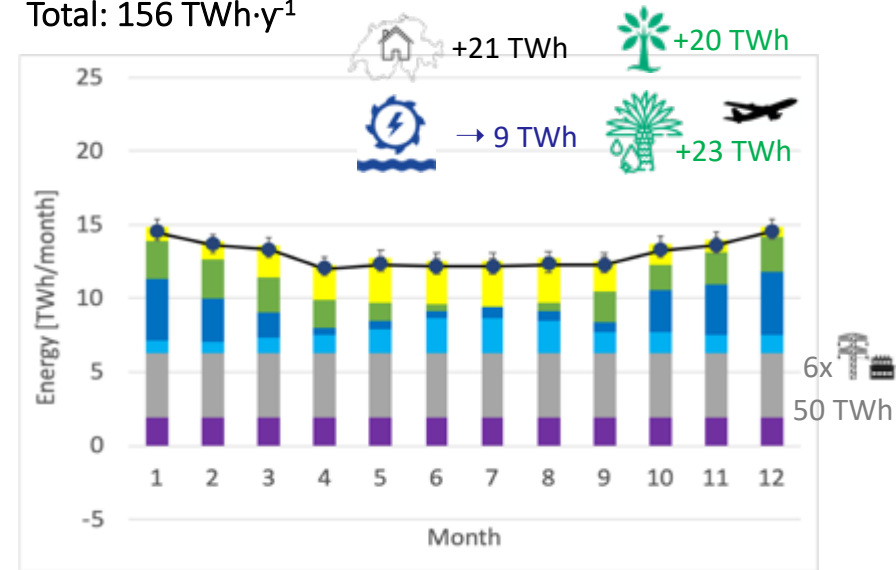
# Remplacement des énergies fossiles par des énergies renouvelables

Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse

Total: 232 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup> Fossil: 122 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>



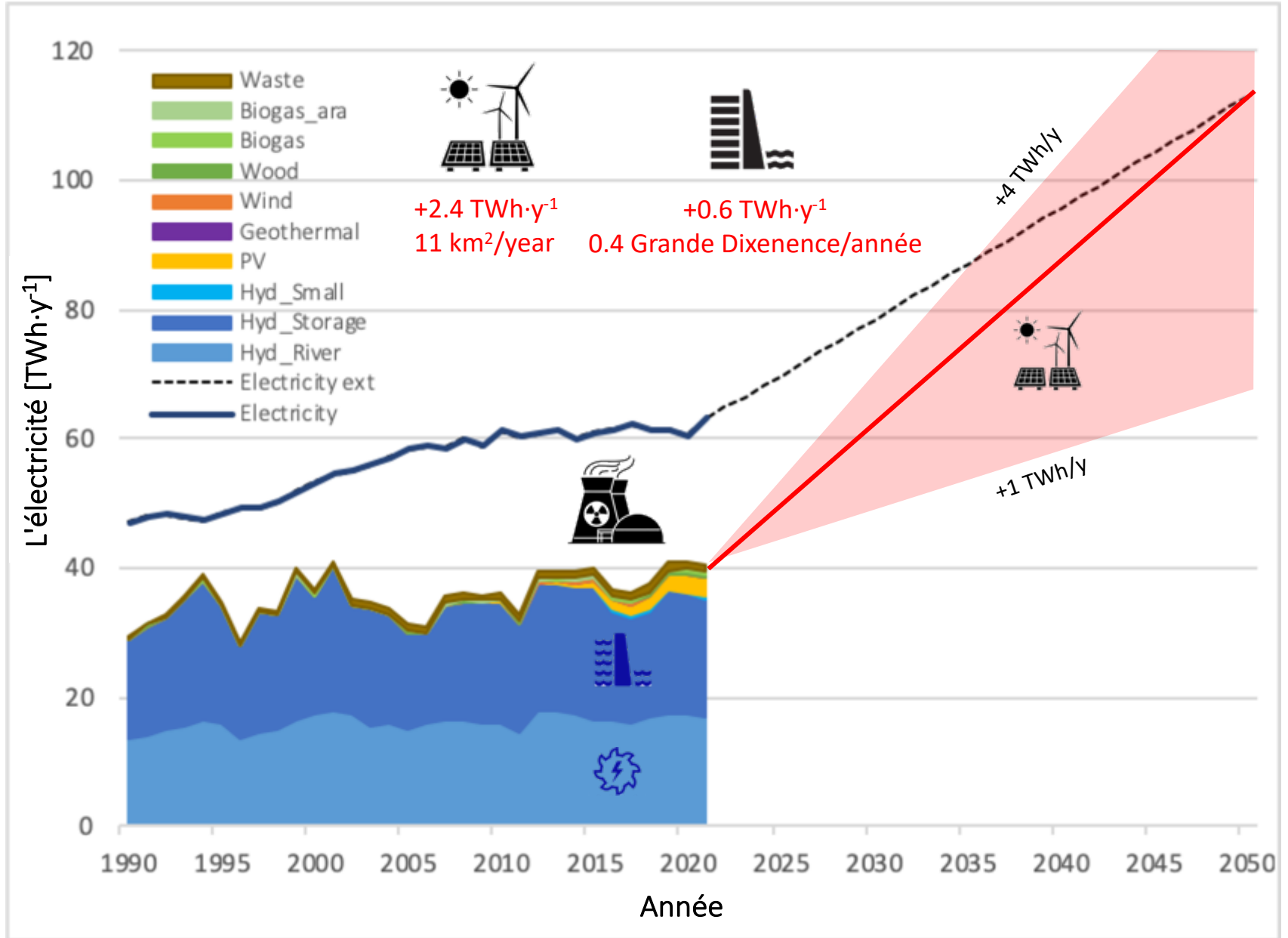
Total: 156 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>





# Développement des énergies renouvelables

Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse

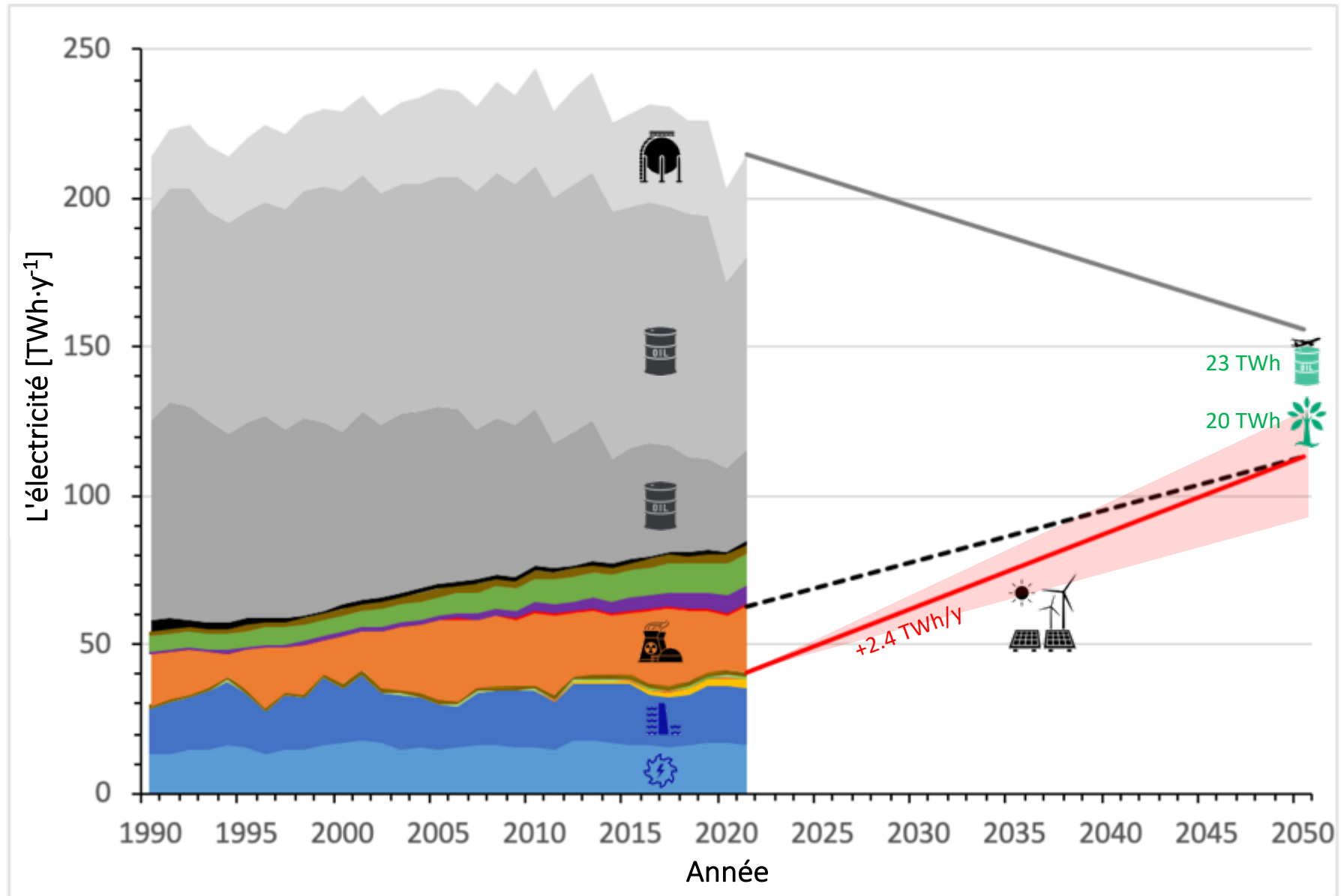






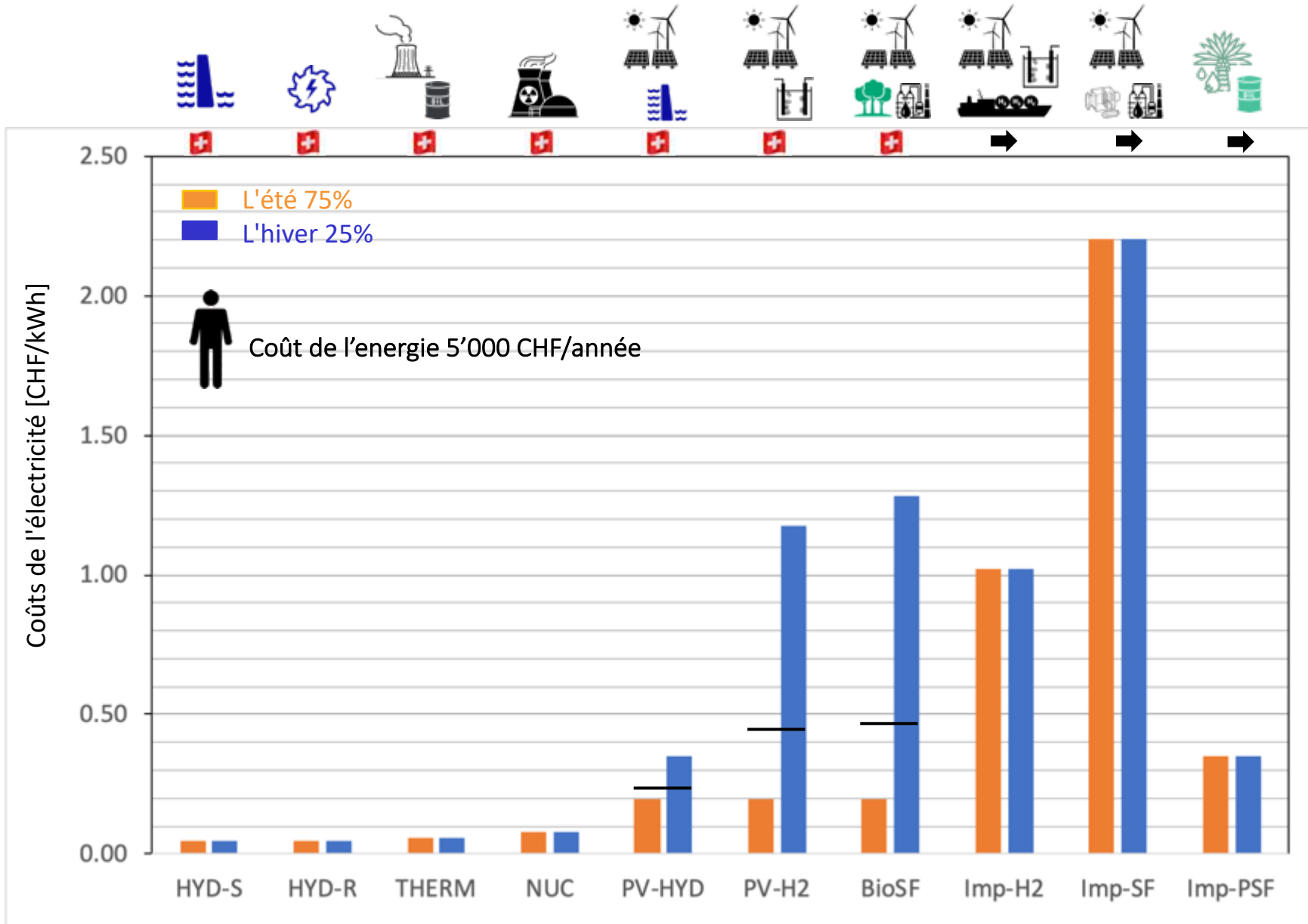
# Développement des énergies renouvelables

Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse



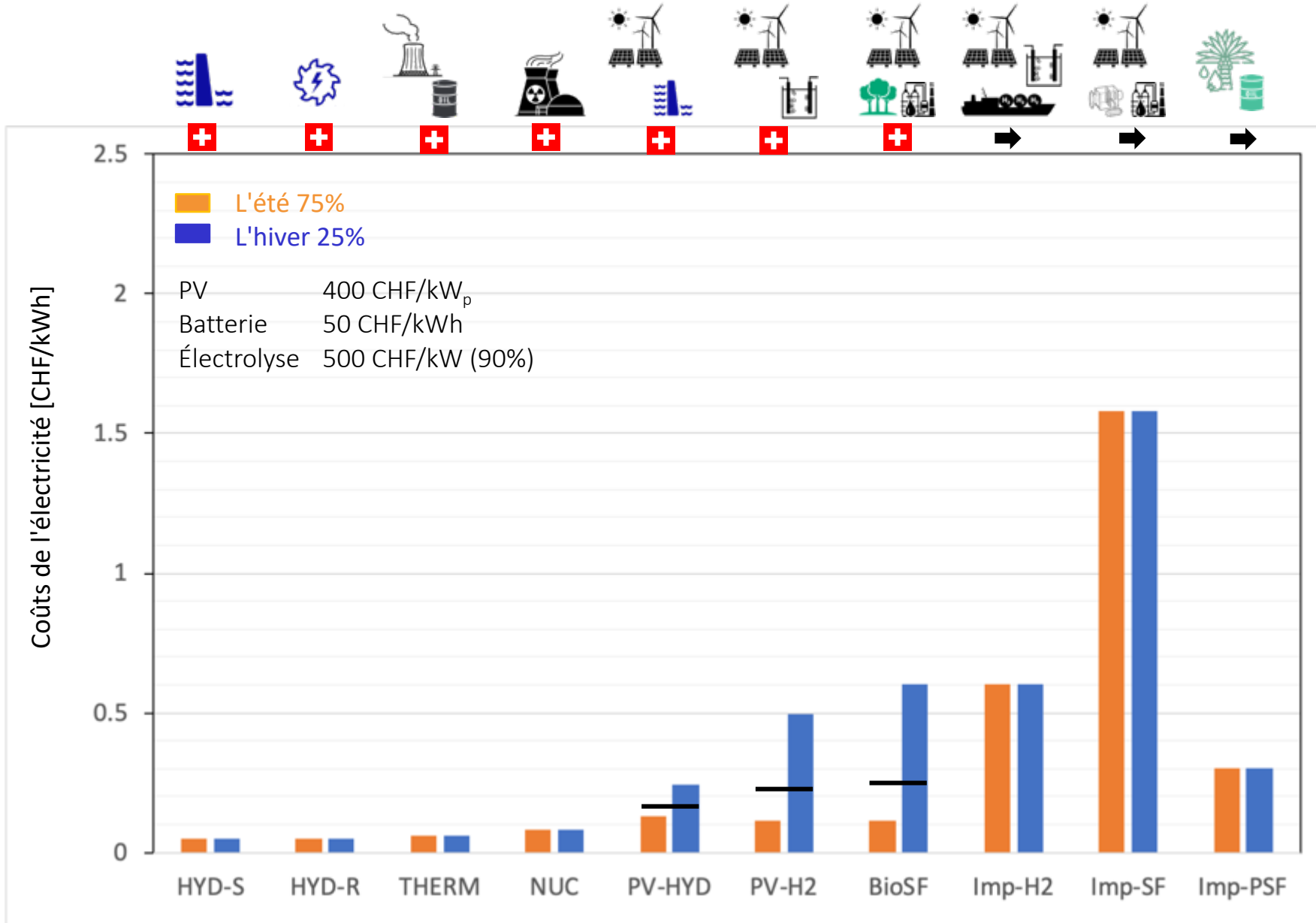


# Coût de l'électricité (2023)





# Coût de l'électricité (futur)



50 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup> par les unités de centrales électriques

	2023	Droit		H <sub>2</sub>	
Coût [CHF·y <sup>-1</sup> ]	3'000	2'764	3'402	4'402	4'281
CAPEX [BCHF]	0	48-72	228	426 <sup>Stockage</sup>	384
Surface PV [km <sup>2</sup> ]	6	150	468	672	492
Area bio [km <sup>2</sup> ]		(6'200)	(6'200)	(6'200)	<b>29'400</b> (6'200)
<b>(...) étranger</b>	H <sub>2</sub> →	→	→	→	
Coût [CHF·y <sup>-1</sup> ]		9'079 <sup>Coût</sup>	15'445 <sup>Coût</sup>	4'623	
CAPEX [BCHF]		42 (720)	30 (702)	24 (102)	
Surface PV [km <sup>2</sup> ]		150 (720)	150 (780)	150 (36)	
Area bio [km <sup>2</sup> ]		0 (6'200)	0 (6'200) + CO <sub>2</sub> 13.8 Mt·y <sup>-1</sup>	(43'400)	



# 50 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup> par les unités de centrales électriques

Sécurité énergétique neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> pour la Suisse

	2019	Droit			
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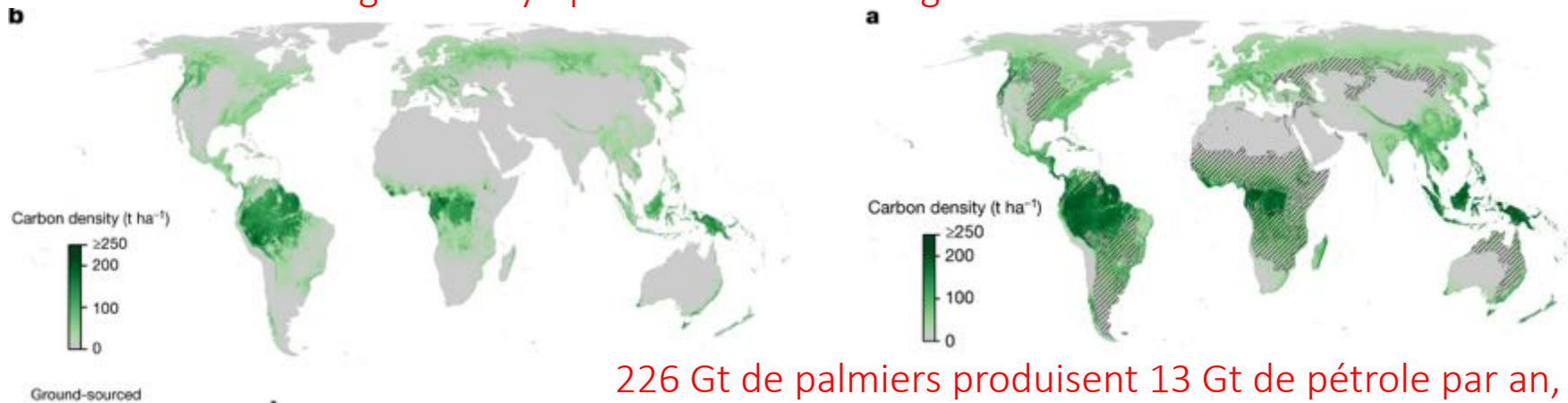


# Carbon sinks and palm oil production

À l'heure actuelle, le stockage du carbone forestier mondial est nettement inférieur au potentiel naturel, avec un déficit total de **226 Gt** (fourchette modèle = 151-363 Gt) dans les zones à faible empreinte humaine. [1] Avec 142 troncs de palmiers à huile (TPO) disponibles par ha de plantation et une superficie replantée de 100'550 ha en 2017, le poids sec estimé des TPO (74.48 t·ha<sup>-1</sup>) générés s'élevait à un total de 7.49 Mt [2]. L'huile de palme produite est de 4,0 t·ha<sup>-1</sup>·y<sup>-1</sup> et les plantes oléagineuses sont replantées tous les 20 ans.



30 kg d'huile-y<sup>-1</sup> par arbre avec 524 kg de biomasse sèche



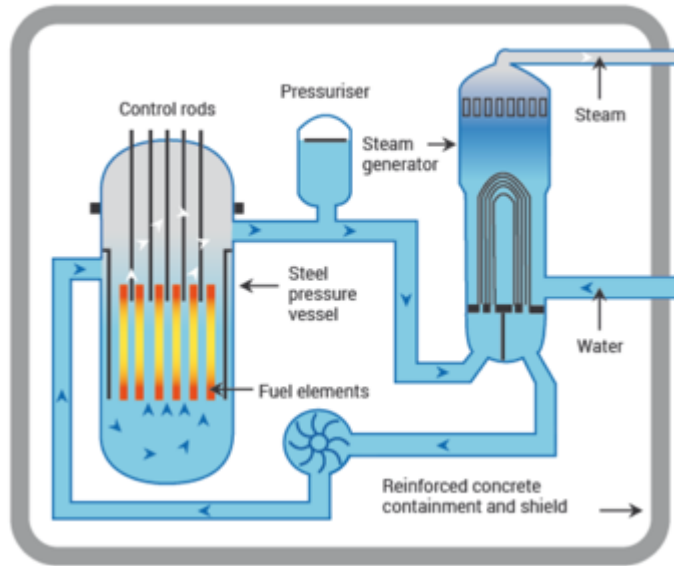
226 Gt de palmiers produisent 13 Gt de pétrole par an, soit la demande mondiale actuelle en énergie fossile.

Ref.: [1] Mo, L., Zohner, C.M., Reich, P.B. et al. Integrated global assessment of the natural forest carbon potential. Nature (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06723-z>

[2] Thiruchelvi Pulingam, Manoj Lakshmanan, Jo-Ann Chuah, Arthy Surendran, Idris Zainab-La, Parisa Foroozandeh, Ayaka Uked, Akihiko Kosugid, Kumar Sudesh "Oil palm trunk waste: Environmental impacts and management strategies", Industrial Crops & Products 189 (2022), 115827

# Réacteurs nucléaires

## Réacteur à fission à l'uranium



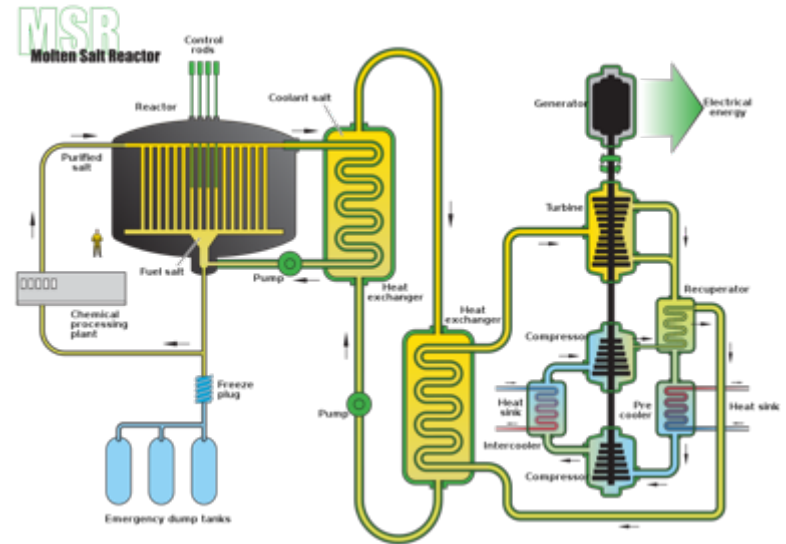
### Inconvénients :

- Réserves d'uranium limitées (pour 100 ans)
- Risque de fusion du cœur du réacteur
- Isotopes à longue durée de vie (Pu)
- faible rendement (25 %)
- utilisation limitée de la chaleur
- Dépôt final de la Nuc. Déchets
- Petits réacteurs modulaires (SMR)

# L'avenir



## Réacteur à sels fondus au thorium

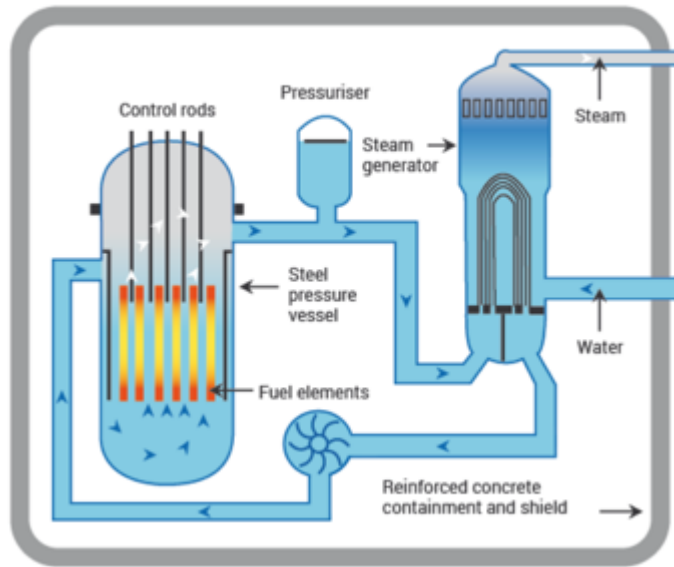


### Avantages :

- Grandes réserves de thorium (utilisation des déchets nucléaires, 95 % sont des combustibles)
- Pas de fusion possible du cœur du réacteur
- Pas d'isotopes à longue durée de vie
- T plus élevé, rendement plus élevé (> 25 %)
- Utilisation de la chaleur pour le chauffage
- Réacteur à sels fondus (MSR)

# Réacteurs nucléaires

## Réacteur à fission à l'uranium



## Inconvénients :

Réserves d'uranium limitées (pour 100 ans)

Risque de fusion du cœur du réacteur

Isotopes à longue durée de vie (Pu)

faible rendement (25 %)

utilisation limitée de la chaleur

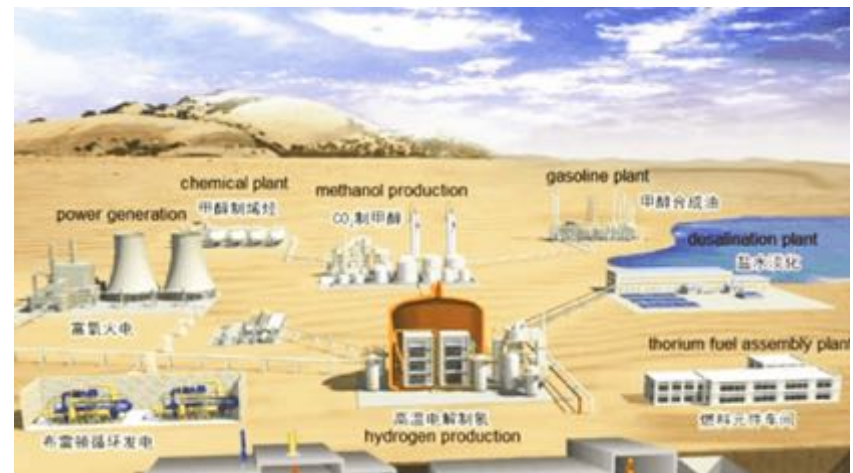
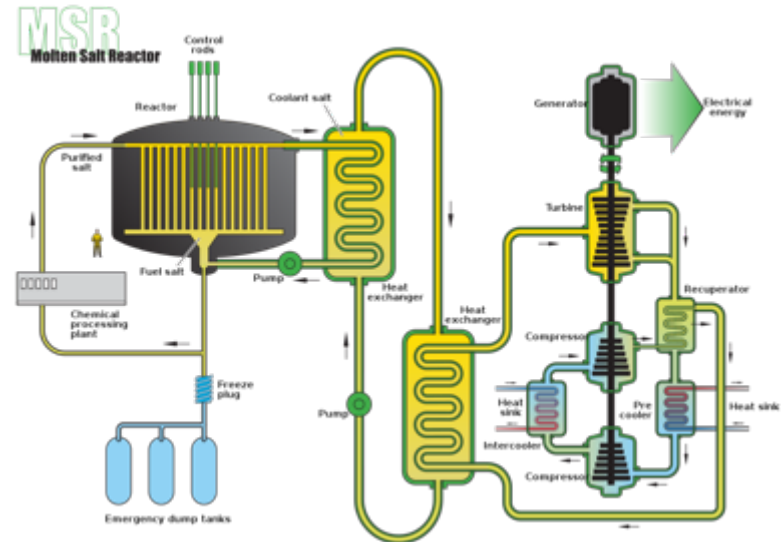
Dépôt final de la Nuc. Déchets

Petits réacteurs modulaires (SMR)

## L'avenir



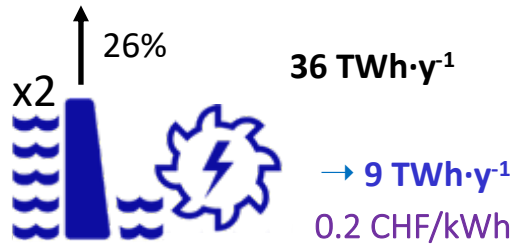
## Réacteur à sels fondus au thorium



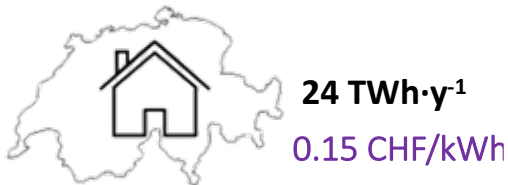
**TMSR-LF1** (2 MW<sub>therm.</sub>) construction 2018 - 2023, Wuwei city, Gansu province, China, operated since July 2023



# Solution neutre en CO<sub>2</sub> (exemple)



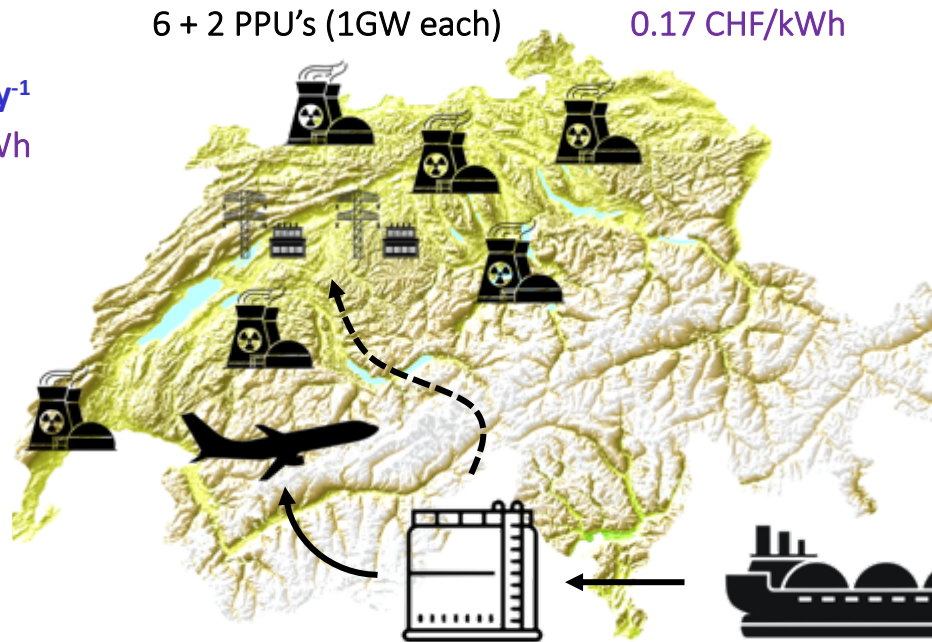
Augmenter les lacs de stockage



150 km<sup>2</sup> PV sur les toits



Biomasse pour le chauffage



Navire pétrolier

**23 TWh·y<sup>-1</sup>**  
1.7 CHF/L

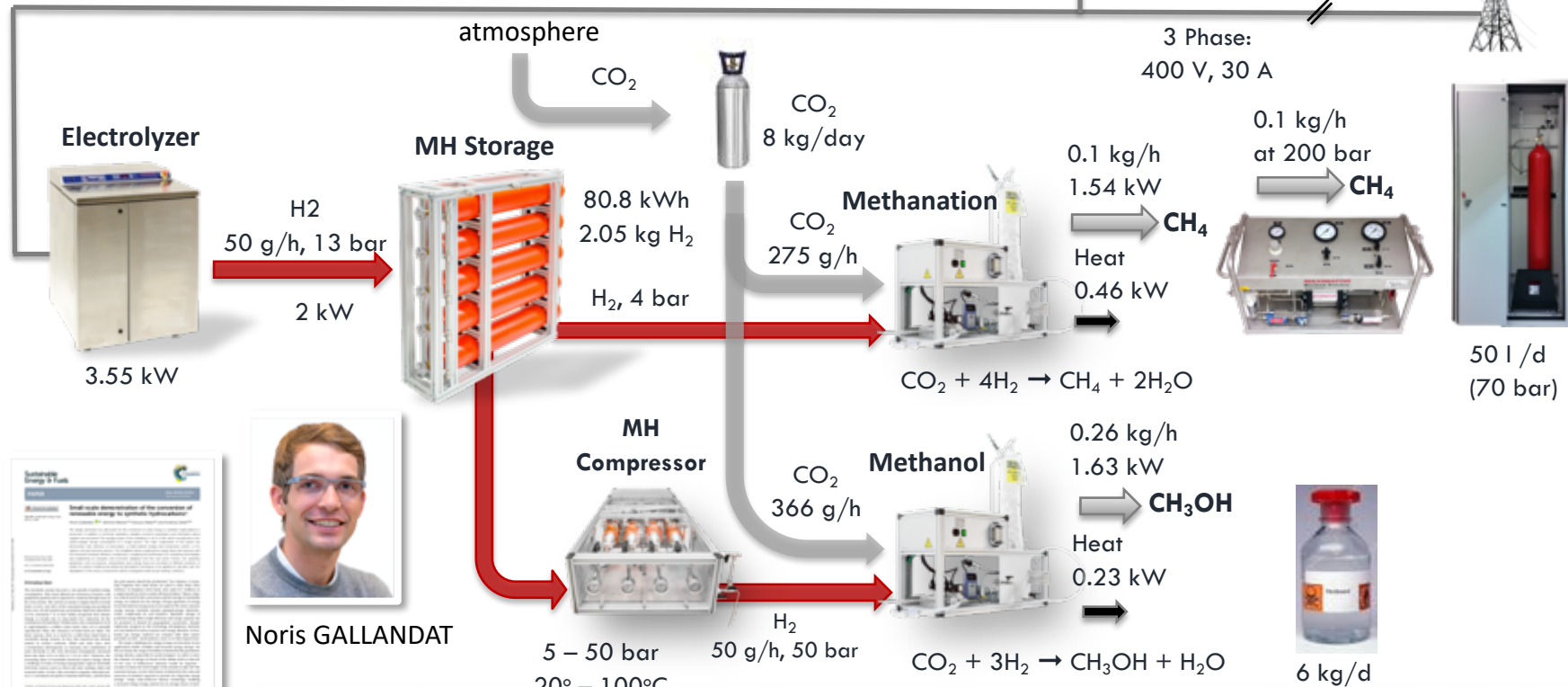
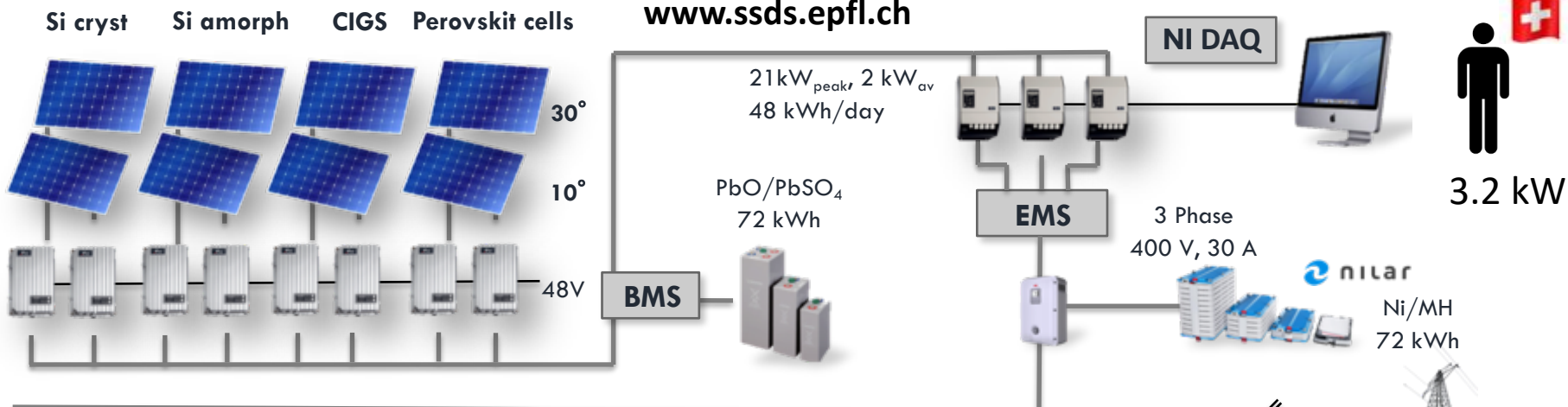


Huile biologique  
<6200 km<sup>2</sup>



# Démonstrateur à petite échelle Sion (SSDS)

www.ssds.epfl.ch

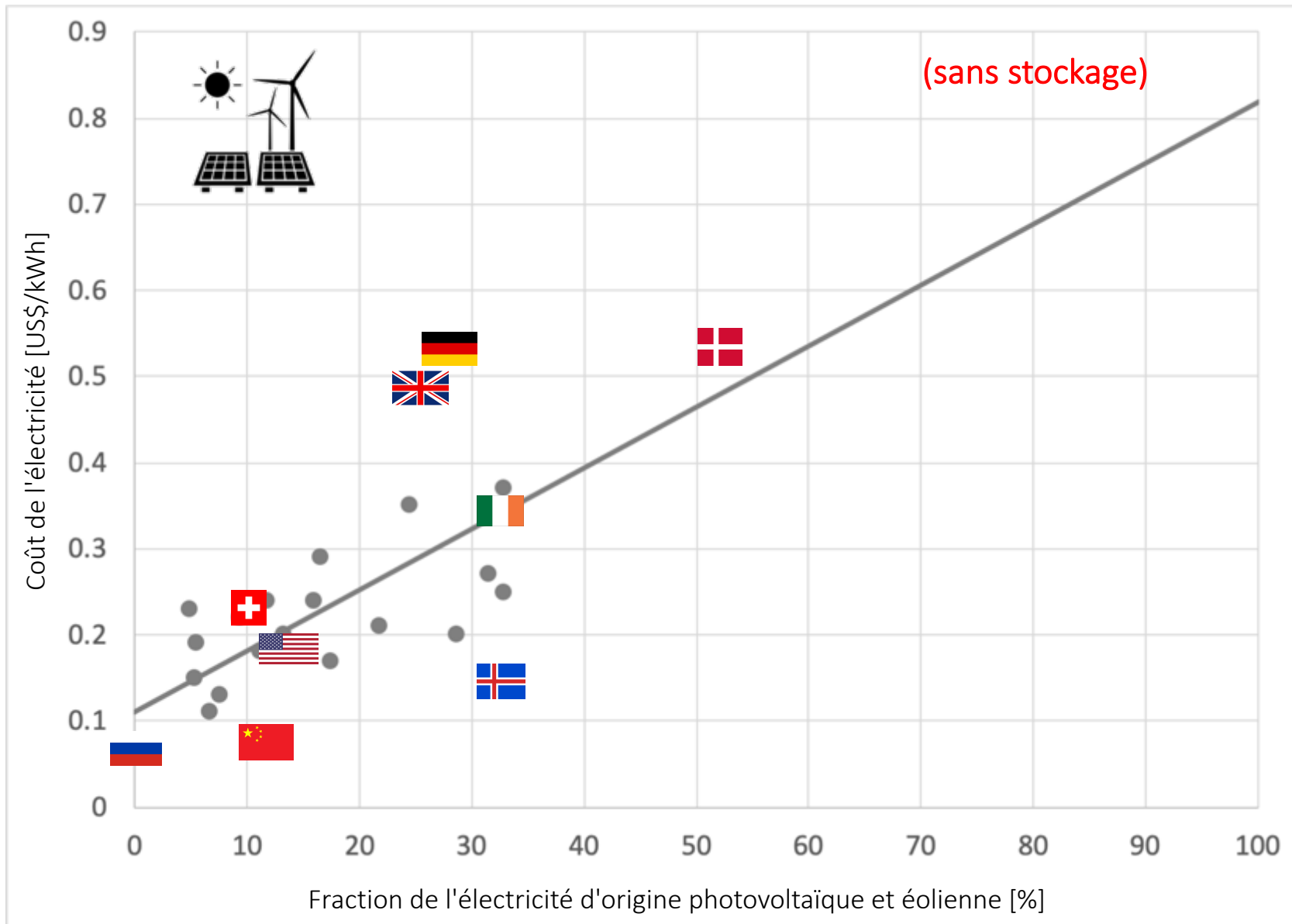


Noris GALLANDAT

Noris Gallandat, Jérémie Bérard, François Abbet and Andreas Züttel, "Small-scale demonstration of the conversion of renewable energy to synthetic hydrocarbons", Sustainable Energy & Fuels (2017). DOI: 10.1039/c7se00275k, rsc.li/sustainable-energy



## Coût de l'électricité photovoltaïque et éolienne (2023)



Ref.: <https://elements.visualcapitalist.com/mapped-solar-and-wind-power-by-country/>



## Future Swiss Energy Economy: The Challenge of Storing Renewable Energy

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Fossil fuels and materials on Earth are a finite resource and the disposal of waste into the air, on land, and into water has an impact on our environment on a global level. Using Switzerland as an example, the energy demand and the technical challenges, and the economic feasibility of a transition to an energy economy based entirely on renewable energy were analyzed. Three approaches for the complete substitution of fossil fuels with renewable energy from photovoltaics called energy systems (ES) were considered, i.e., a purely electric system with battery storage (ELC), hydrogen (HYS), and synthetic hydrocarbons (HCR). ELC is the most energy efficient solution; however, it requires seasonal electricity storage to meet year-round energy needs. Meeting this need through batteries has a significant capital cost and is not feasible at current rates of battery production, and expanding pumped hydropower to the extent necessary will have a big impact on the environment. The HYS allows underground hydrogen storage to balance seasonal demand, but requires building of a hydrogen infrastructure and applications working with hydrogen. Finally, the HCR requires the largest photovoltaic (PV) field, but the infrastructure and the applications already exist. The model for Switzerland can be applied to other countries, adapting the solar irradiation, the energy demand and the storage options.

**Keywords:** renewable energy, photovoltaic, batteries, hydrogen, synthetic hydrocarbons, energy economy

**Abbreviations:** ES, energy systems; ELC, substitution of fossil fuels through electrification; HYS, substitution of fossil fuels by hydrogen; HCR, substitution of fossil fuels by synthetic hydrocarbons; PV, photovoltaics; CO<sub>2</sub>, carbon dioxide; kWh/year, kilowatt hours per year = terawatts·10<sup>-9</sup> kW/TW·365 day/year·24 h/day; GW<sub>p</sub>, gigawatt peak; TW<sub>p</sub>, terawatt peak; <P>, average power; W, annual energy per year; I, annual solar irradiation; η, efficiency; A, PV surface area; P<sub>p</sub>, PV peak power; P<sub>avg</sub>, average power; <P>/P<sub>p</sub>, power factor; C, capital cost (CAPEX); Z, interest; P<sub>y</sub>, annual payback; n, number of years; C<sub>e</sub>, cost of the energy per energy unit; E<sub>y</sub>, annual energy received from the energy system; OPEX, operational cost; C<sub>e</sub>, cost of the energy.



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Andreas ZÜTTEL, Noris GALLANDAT, Paul J. DYSON, Louis SCHLAPBACH, Paul W. GILGEN, Shin-Ichi ORIMO, “Future Swiss Energy Economy: the challenge of storing renewable energy”, Frontiers in Energy Research: Process and Energy Systems Engineering, 9 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.3389/fenrg.2021.785908>



## CO<sub>2</sub> Neutral Energy Security for Switzerland

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### ABSTRACT

An analysis of the technical opportunities and economic consequences of the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy in Switzerland is presented. The technically realized efficiencies showed that complete electrification leads to the most efficient energy system and cheapest electricity. The electricity demand is expected to almost double, and the overall energy cost will increase by 20% compared to 2019. However, the technical challenges of seasonal electricity storage, without any reserves and redundancy, amounts to 20 TWh.

Hydropower and PV without storage produce the cheapest electricity. Future nuclear fission technologies, e.g. molten salt Thorium breeding reactor - currently still in an experimental stage - might become the most economical and least environmental impact solution for CO<sub>2</sub> neutral continuous electricity production. The opportunities for a massive increase of hydroelectric production are limited, already shifting the use of water (9 TWh) from summer to winter is a great challenge. PV and hydrogen production in Switzerland have the advantage to provide approximately 75% of the electricity without seasonal storage leading to significantly lower electricity cost than from imported hydrogen or synthetic hydrocarbons. The most economical solution for aviation and reserves is imported bio-oil converted to synthetic Kerosene, for which large storages already exist.

### Highlights

- Renewable energy on demand is essential for replacing fossil fuels and can be realized by combining intermittent energy supplies like photovoltaic and wind with battery and seasonal storage in a power plant unit.
- Importing renewable energy carriers requires a storage capacity similar to the seasonal storage for domestic production of renewable energy.
- Renewable energy production in Switzerland with seasonal storage and importing renewable energy carriers is a technical and economic challenge, respectively.
- The fuel for aviation and the energy reserves for the power plant units can be realized with synthetic oil produced by hydriding bio-oil, avoiding the need for new large and expensive storage systems and CO<sub>2</sub> capture from the atmosphere.
- Thermal power plants fueled with renewable energy carriers provide equal amounts of electricity and heat. Both forms of energy are of high value in the wintertime.

Keywords: renewable energy, energy storage, cost of energy, power plant units, CO<sub>2</sub> free, nuclear

Word count 12'881 Words

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[www.lmer.epfl.ch](http://www.lmer.epfl.ch)



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