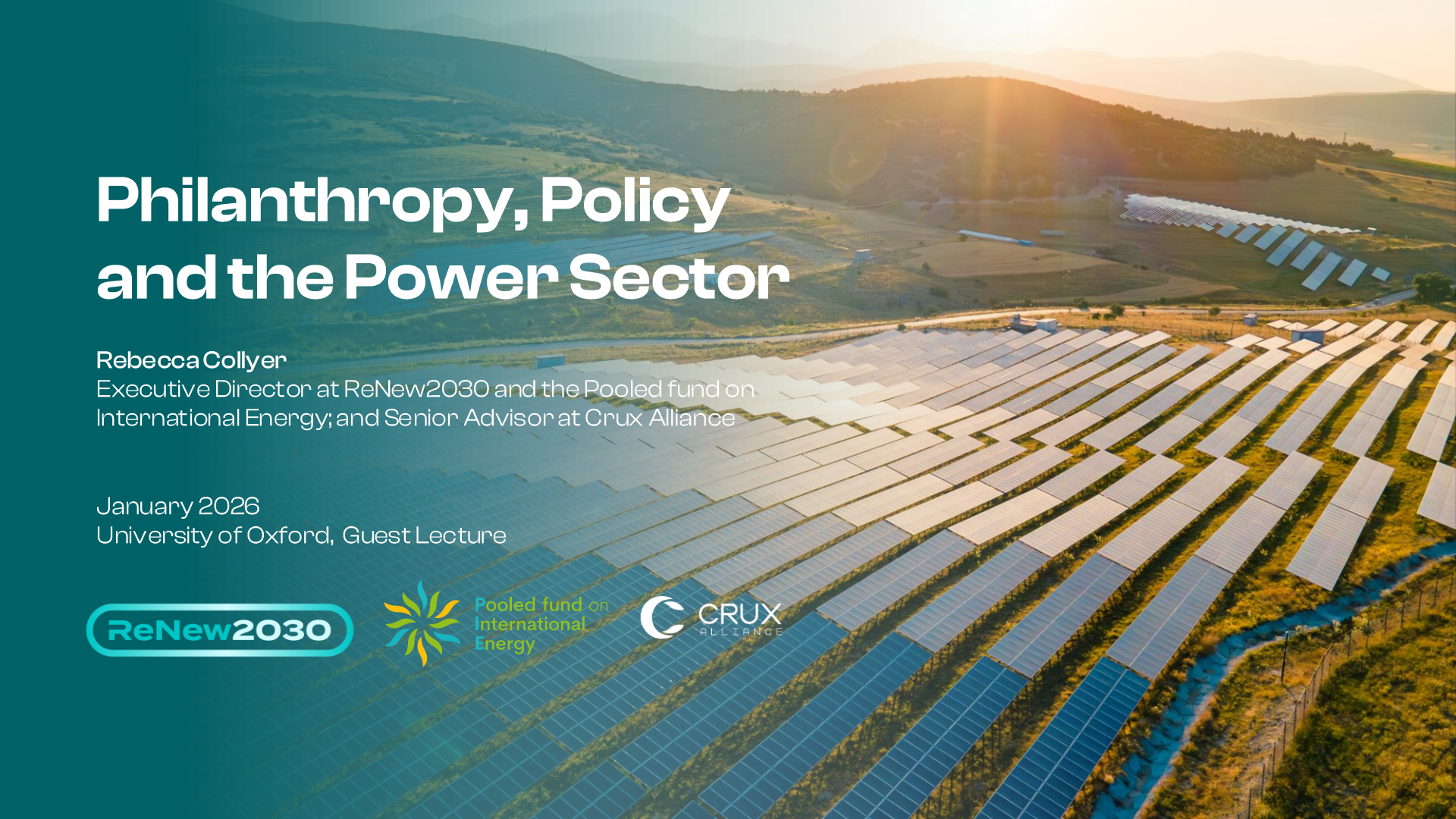


Philanthropy, Policy and the Power Sector

Rebecca Collyer
Executive Director at ReNew2030 and the Pooled fund on International Energy; and Senior Advisor at Crux Alliance

January 2026
University of Oxford, Guest Lecture

ReNew2030

Pooled fund on International Energy

CRUX ALLIANCE

The New York Times

Science Panel Calls Global Warming 'Unequivocal'

Share full article

By Elisabeth Rosenthal and Andrew C. Revkin
Feb. 3, 2007

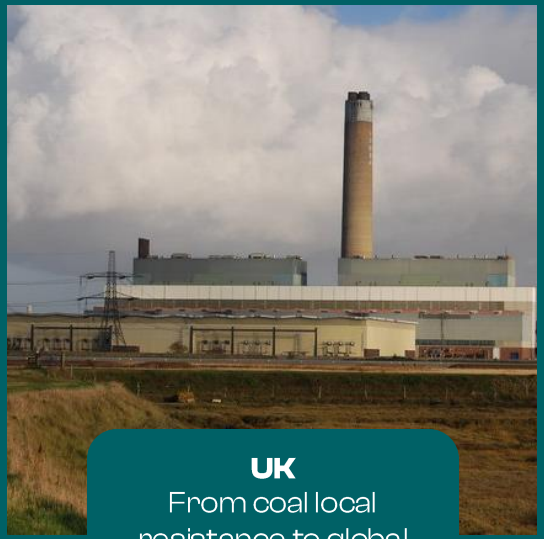
PARIS, Feb. 2 — In a grim and powerful assessment of the future of the planet, the leading international network of climate scientists has concluded for the first time that global warming is "unequivocal" and that human activity is the main driver, "very likely" causing most of the rise in temperatures since 1950.

They said the world was in for centuries of climbing temperatures, rising seas and shifting weather patterns — unavoidable results of the buildup of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

But their report, released here on Friday by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said warming and its harmful consequences could be substantially blunted by prompt action.

FROM PROOF TO POWER:

How philanthropy has helped rewire the power sector



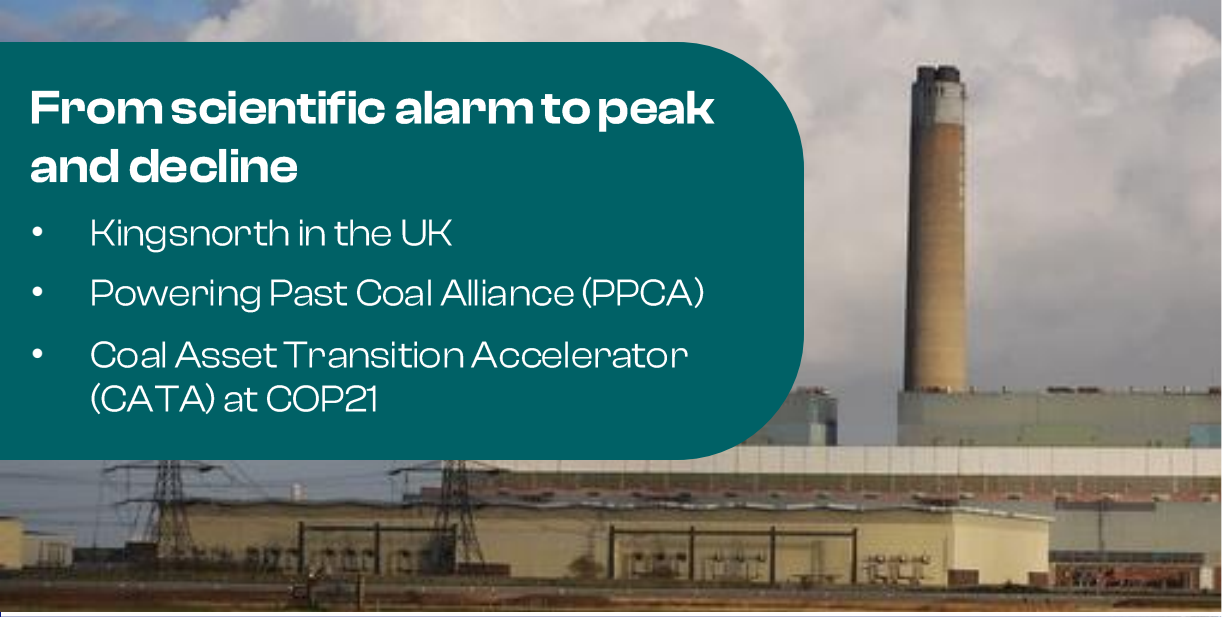
UK
From coal local resistance to global coordination

EUROPE
The road-mapping era, offshore wind and solar at scale

GLOBAL
ReNew2030 and the worldwide 3x renewables push

From scientific alarm to peak and decline

- Kingsnorth in the UK
- Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA)
- Coal Asset Transition Accelerator (CATA) at COP21

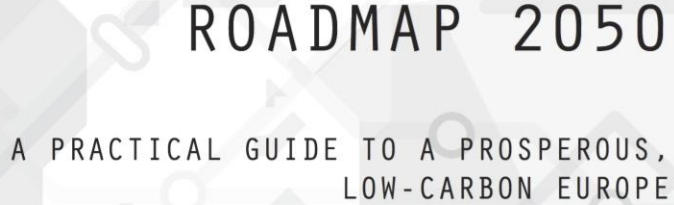


Europe: The road-mapping era, offshore wind and solar at scale

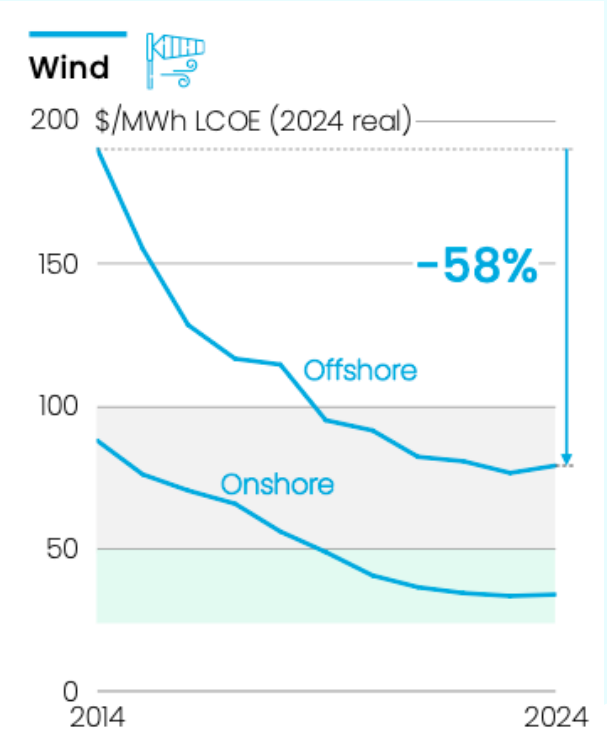
A tale of impact and system change

Seminal study by the European Climate Foundation on Europe wind and solar (2009)

- Multiple think tanks, academics and policy makers
- Very high renewables share
- Grids key
- Market design essential
- Offshore wind in the North Sea and solar across Europe



Offshore wind price reduction



Source: BNEF and Ember

Growth of solar energy in Europe

The growth of solar energy in Europe in recent years is a trajectory we can all be proud of.

Solar PV has become the most competitive source of electricity in many parts of the EU, thanks to massive decreases in its cost. Eurostat reports that 47.5% of the EU's electricity consumption came from renewables in 2024, of which solar PV accounted for almost a quarter at 23.4%, and in June 2025, for the first time in history, the sun was the main source of the electricity we generated!

The EU's solar PV capacity reached an estimate 406 GW in 2025. This is compared to 338 GW in 2024 and comfortably surpasses the objective of the EU Solar Energy strategy from 2022 that aimed at reaching 380 GW by 2025.*

Meanwhile, 11 million rooftops in Europe are equipped **with solar thermal and thermal storage.** The total installed capacity of solar thermal in mainland Europe was 41 GW in 2023**.

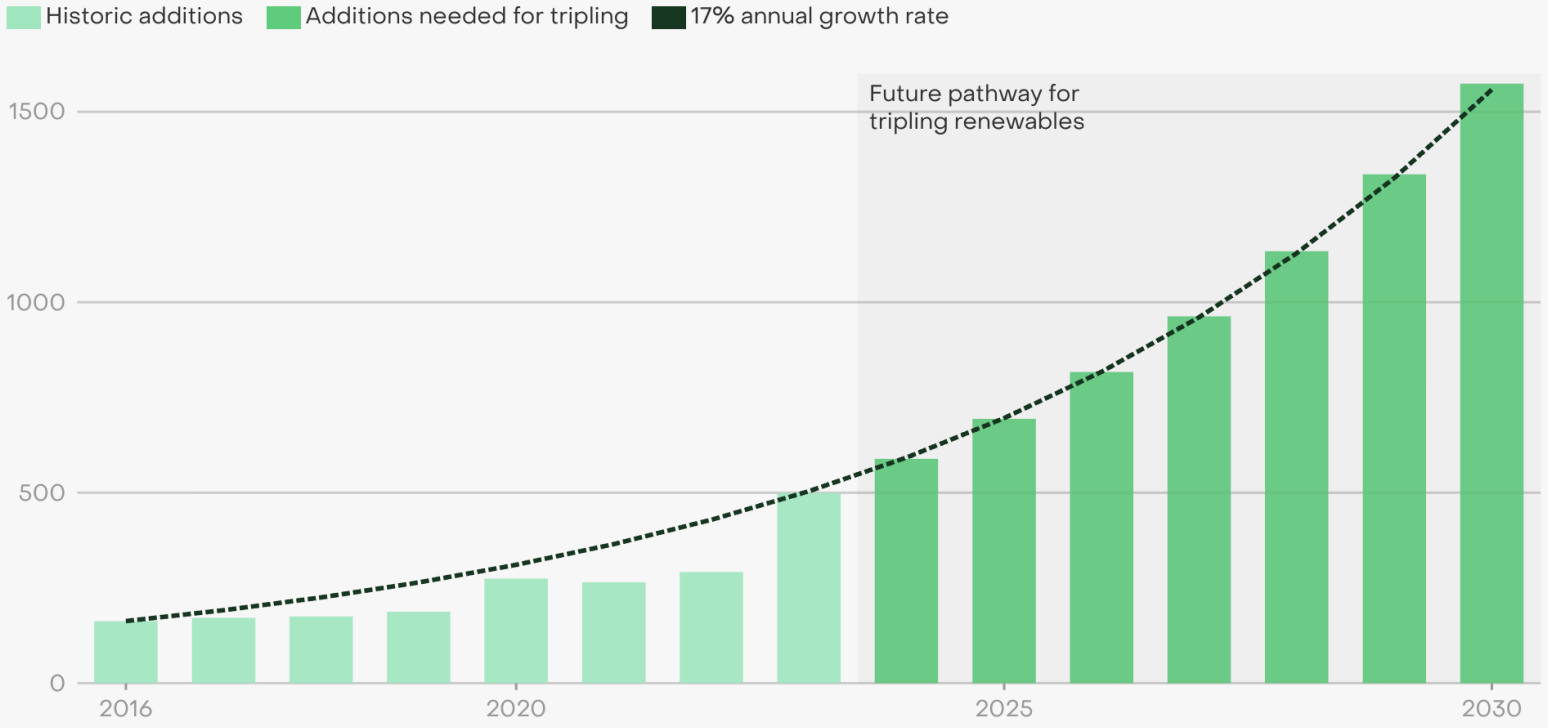
*Source: SolarPower Europe / **Source: Solar Heat Europe

ReNew2030 and the global 3x renewables push

Ecosystem actors, inspiring and scalable examples

Annual additions need to continue rising at the historical rate to triple global renewable capacity to 11,000GW

Annual renewable capacity additions (in gigawatts)



Source: Projected additions in 2023: IEA Renewable Energy Market Update 2023, Capacity additions 2016-2022: IRENA Renewable Capacity Statistics 2023

EMBER

How does that x3 ambition actually get delivered in policy

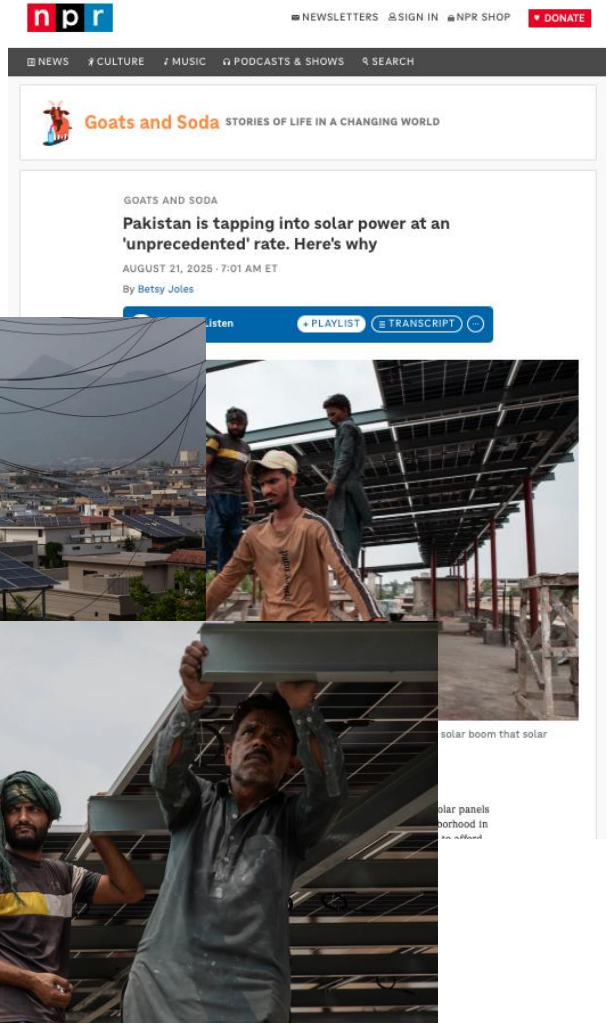
- National level think tanks
- Deep expertise
- Not attached to industry or governments
- Flexible and able to address questions as they arise rather than locked into long multi-year Official Development Assistance (ODA) contracts

ReNew2030

Proof Point:
The Pakistan Solar Rush – fastest growing emerging market

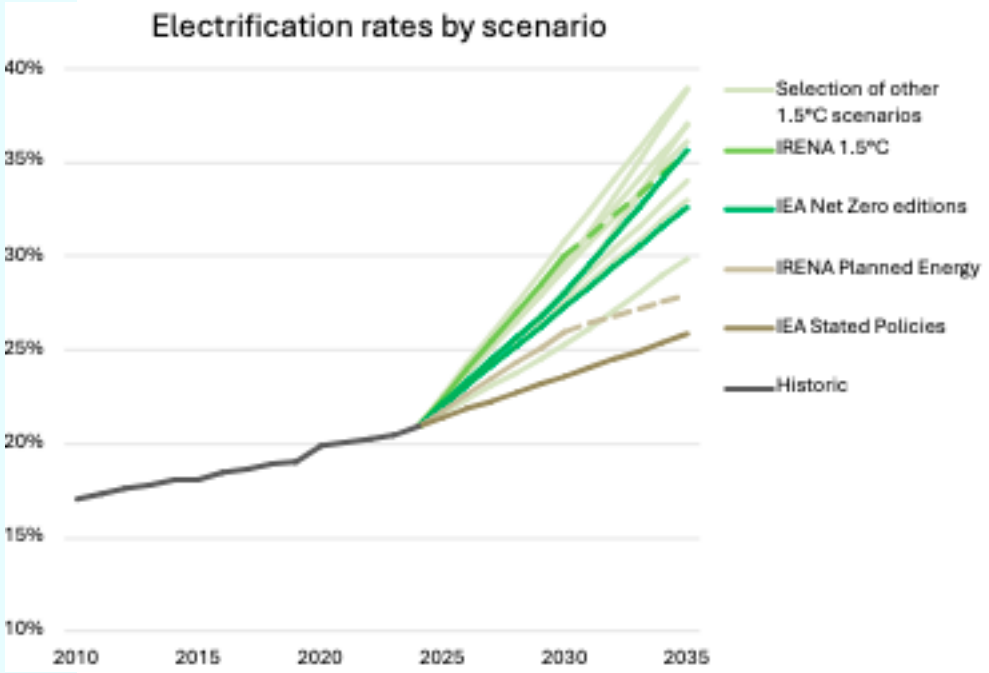
Tara Climate Foundation and The Sunrise Project, with the support from philanthropy

- **Surging demand for solar** amid energy insecurity and fragile infrastructure
- **Government enabling policies** have removed key regulatory and financial barriers
- **Innovative, consumer-led financing models** unlocking access to solar
- **Transformative potential** for energy access, affordability, and resilience



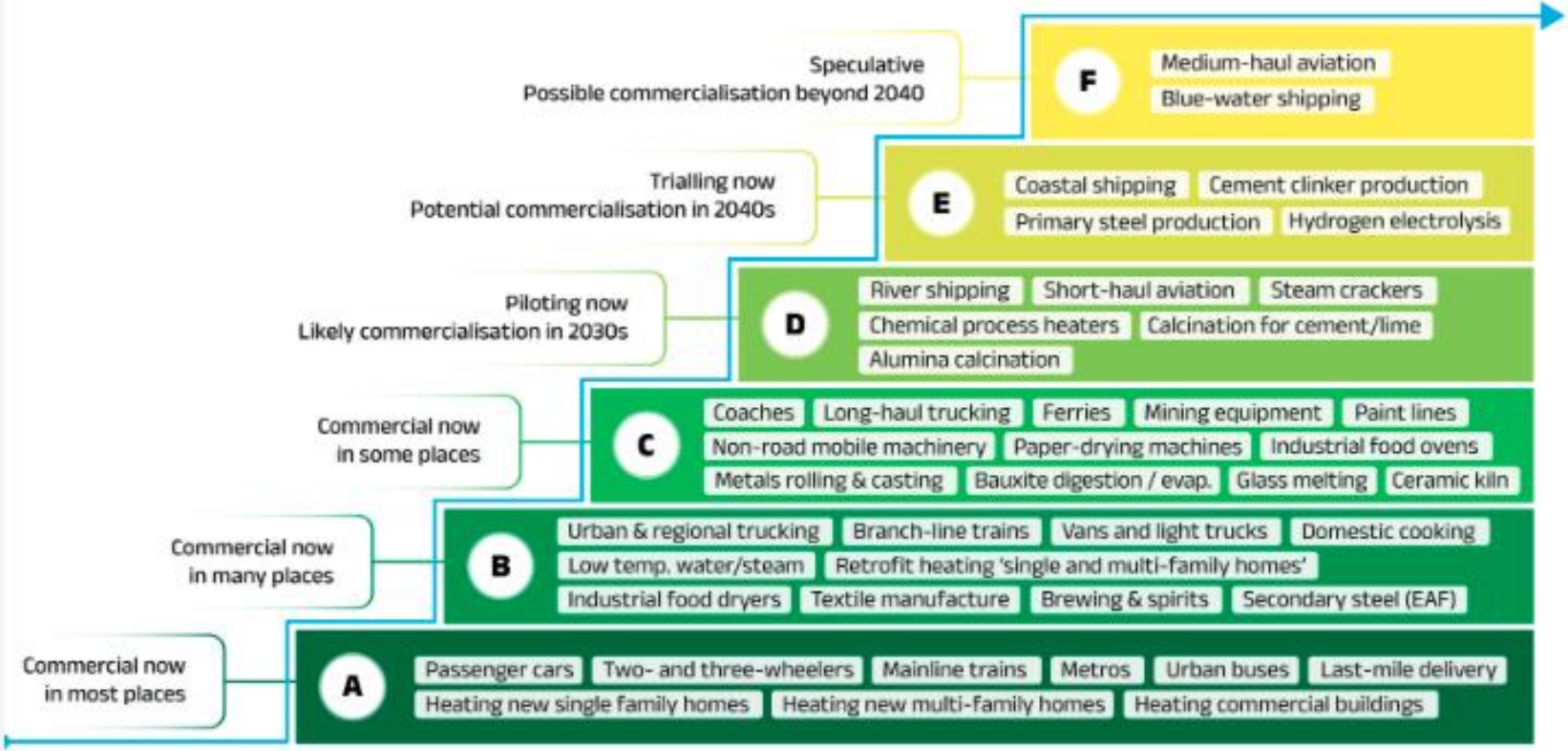
Looking ahead to electrification

Major scenarios show a convergence around an ambitious 35% electrification goal by 2035



Source: IEA & IRENA team analysis

ELECTRIFICATION STAIRCASE 2040 - v1.0



Credit: Authors Silvia Madeddu, Schneider Electric; Tom Butler, Regulatory Assistance Project; Michael Liebreich, Liebreich Associates; William Drake, Liebreich Associates; Adrian Hiel, Electrification Alliance

Challenges and opportunities ahead

Mis & Disinformation	Challenge → industry organised and fighting Opportunity → transparent data, trusted messengers and stories demonstrating tangible benefits
Geopolitical shifts	Challenge → conflict, fragmentation and trade disruption Opportunity → anchor RES energy security benefits and new middle super-powers
Workforce support	Challenge → insufficient skilled workforce Opportunity → new jobs, growth and youth opportunities
Shrinking civic space	Challenge → backlash, freedom of speech curtailed Opportunity → strengthen partnerships, outreach, comms, data and narrative representation
Grids / Flexibility	Challenge → grid bottlenecks, lack of investment, under-utilising flexibility and storage Opportunity → massive transmission investment potential, distribution and storage for electrification