Innovation, Climate Tech and Houston

Ensuring Houston is the Energy Capital of Tomorrow, not Yesterday

Agenda

- HEAT: Houston Ecosystem Activation Team
- Background + findings from 2025 Houston Climate Tech report
- HEATMap: Houston Innovation KPI dashboard
- Houston Energy + Climate Startup Week
- Why this matters for the future of Houston
- Asks / Next Steps

Houston Ecosystem Activation Team (HEAT)

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP
Making Houston Greater.

RICE | ALLIANCE
Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship

Greentown Labs

ION DISTRICT
POWERED BY RICE UNIVERSITY

OpenMinds

NCV
NEW CLIMATE VENTURES

OXY

HOUSTON ENERGY TRANSITION INITIATIVE

Activate

TEXE

SCF PARTNERS

ENERGY TRANSITION VENTURES

Artemis
ENERGY PARTNERS

Former leaders of:

Chevron technology ventures

TPH&CO
THE ENERGY BUSINESS OF PERELLA WEINBERG PARTNERS

Taylor Chapman

- 22 year Houston boomerang (12 years in NYC)
- VC since 2019
- Co-author of the [Houston Climate Tech Ecosystem report]

Yale

HARVARD Kennedy School

McKinsey & Company

SEI VENTURES

Remind

NATION SWELL

TEXAS CLIMATE TECH COLLECTIVE

NEW CLIMATE VENTURES

Cascade Climate

Progress – but a long way to go

-Fervo IPO was a major milestone, raising over $1.5B of fresh capital for a Houston company

-Viewed as a global leader in its field and possibly the largest-ever climate tech IPO

-But Houston still lags most US cities (including Austin and Dallas) in innovation-driven, job-creating IPOs

HOUSTON CHRONICLE e-Edition Account

OPINION // OUTLOOK

What Fervo's $7 billion IPO says about Houston's future | Opinion

The geothermal startup offers a model for how the city can create jobs, attract investment and scale the next generation of energy.

By **Taylor Chapman**
May 13, 2026

Gift Article

Dashboard – What it is + How we got here

-Based on extensive research, reading, interviews re: what matters for startup growth

-Why the focus on energy / climate tech?

-HEAT conceived and shepherded creation of dashboard; transferring ownership + upkeep to GHP

-Website here

Houston Energy + Climate Startup Week

HECSW website here

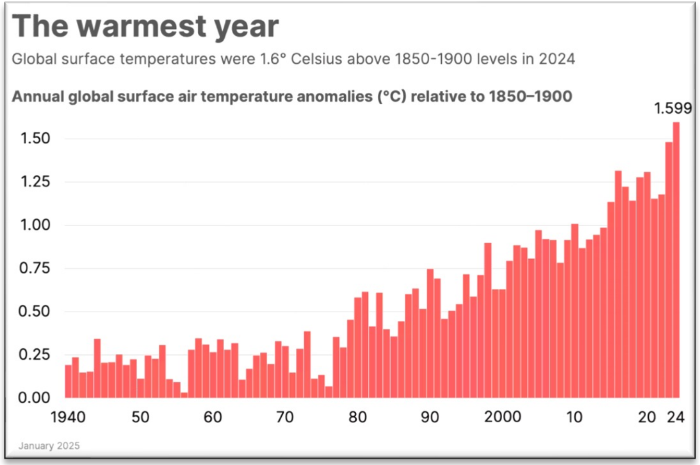
Third annual; thousands of attendees, including hundreds from outside TX

Many events free + open to the public

The economic consequences of climate change are increasingly stark

2024-2025 brought new record highs in global temperatures – and losses

2024 was the warmest year ever recorded



With record-setting losses anticipated

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

1. Extreme weather could cause $145 billion in insured losses in 2025

If the current trends continue, the world could face $145 billion in insured losses in 2025, according to Swiss Re.

This would be a 6% raise on the 2024 figures, Reuters reports.

Source Nat Bullard 2025 Annual Presentation, World Economic Forum,

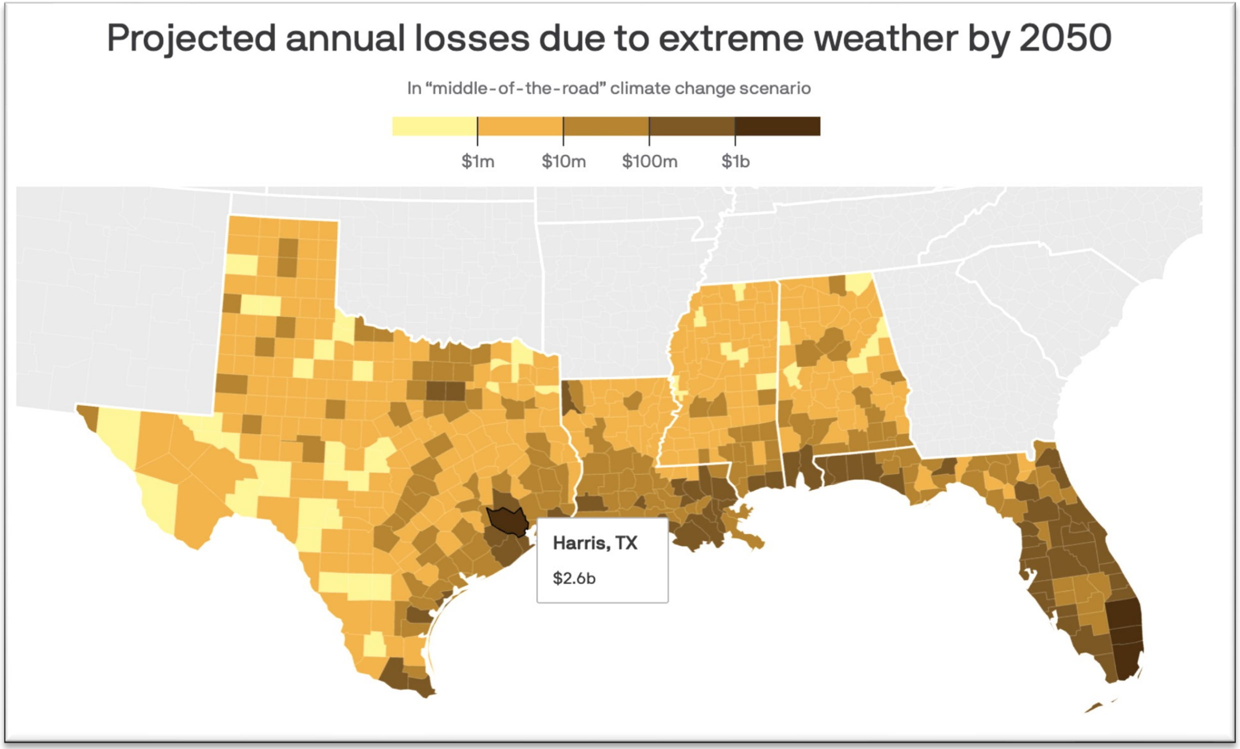
…And set to rise without continued progress

Economic cost of record temperatures and weather disasters drives demand for innovative solutions

Certain geographies are especially vulnerable to extreme-weather driven losses in 2050 projections:

-$2.6B / annum in Harris County

-$10B+ / annum across coastal Florida



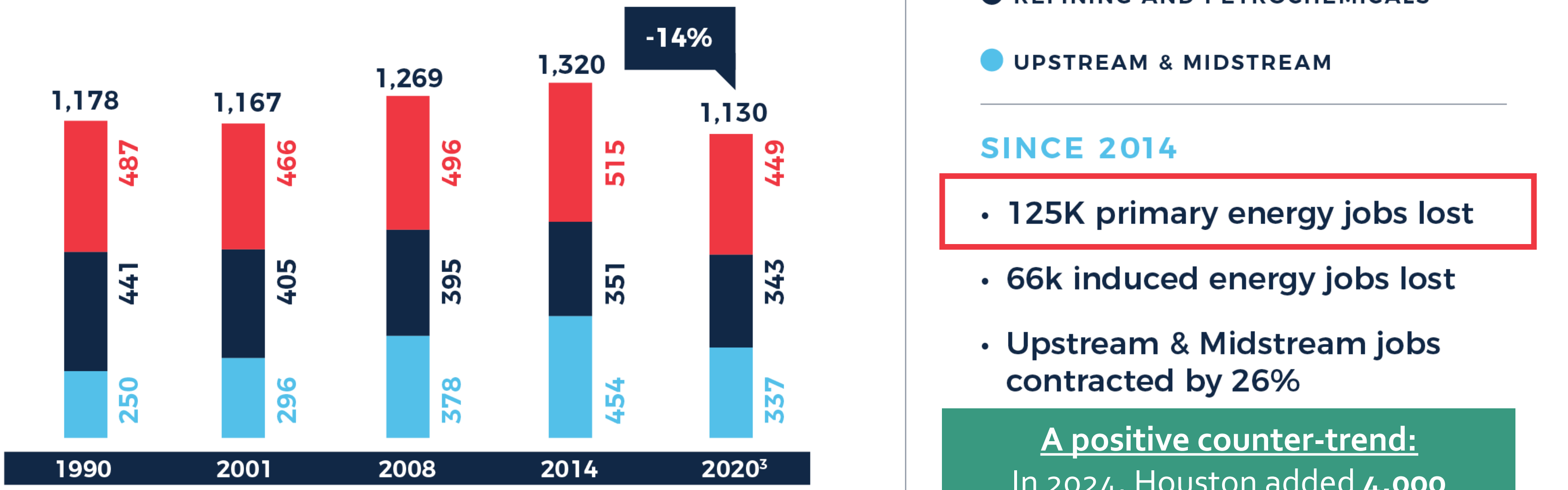
Source: Axios, drawing on FEMA data

Meanwhile, O&G is shedding jobs, even in boom times

O&G companies are "doing more with less," laying off staff even when oil prices are high

Houston MSA Employment in the Energy Sector

Number of Jobs, Thousands



Source: IMPLAN; Economic Policy Institute; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): Current Employment Statistics (CES), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

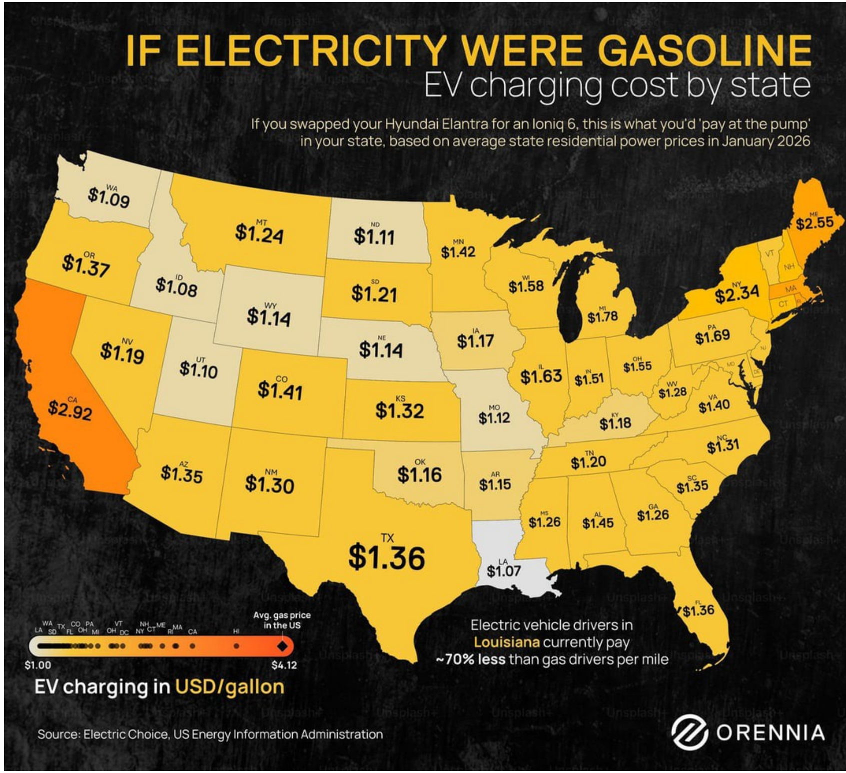
SINCE 2014

- **125K primary energy jobs lost**
- **66k induced energy jobs lost**
- **Upstream & Midstream jobs contracted by 26%**

A positive counter-trend:
In 2024, Houston added **4,000** renewable-energy jobs – roughly **3X** the growth in the next-biggest hub.

Potential Next Steps / Asks

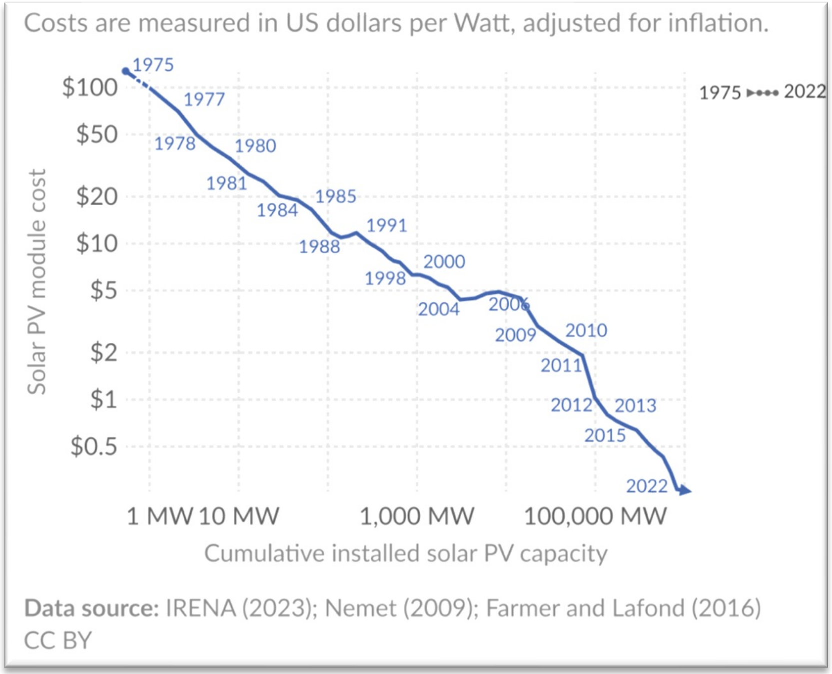
- **Structured Pilot Program(s).** See Greentown Go program.
- **Incentives**. Ensure climate / energy companies get treated as least as well as incumbents.
- **City Operations**. EVs are now markedly cheaper than gas cars to operate (see right).
- **Bully pulpit + convening power.** City-convened conference(s)? Speaking at events.
- **Procurement.** Is the city buying clean power? Sustainably sourced plastics, building materials?
- **KPIs reported and shared** to press + public.
- **Working with community leaders.** Nonprofit and community orgs - AND donors / business leaders.



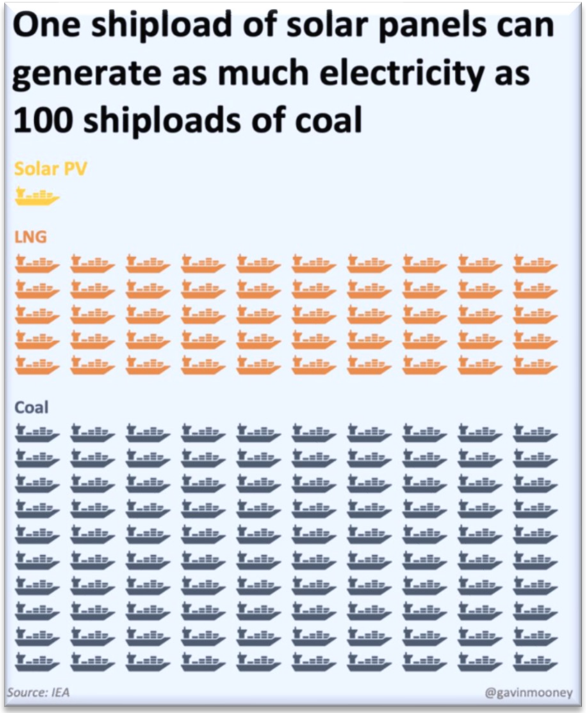
APPENDIX

TWO CRITICAL ADVANTAGES FOR RENEWABLES

1) LEARNING CURVES (AKA "WRIGHT'S LAW")

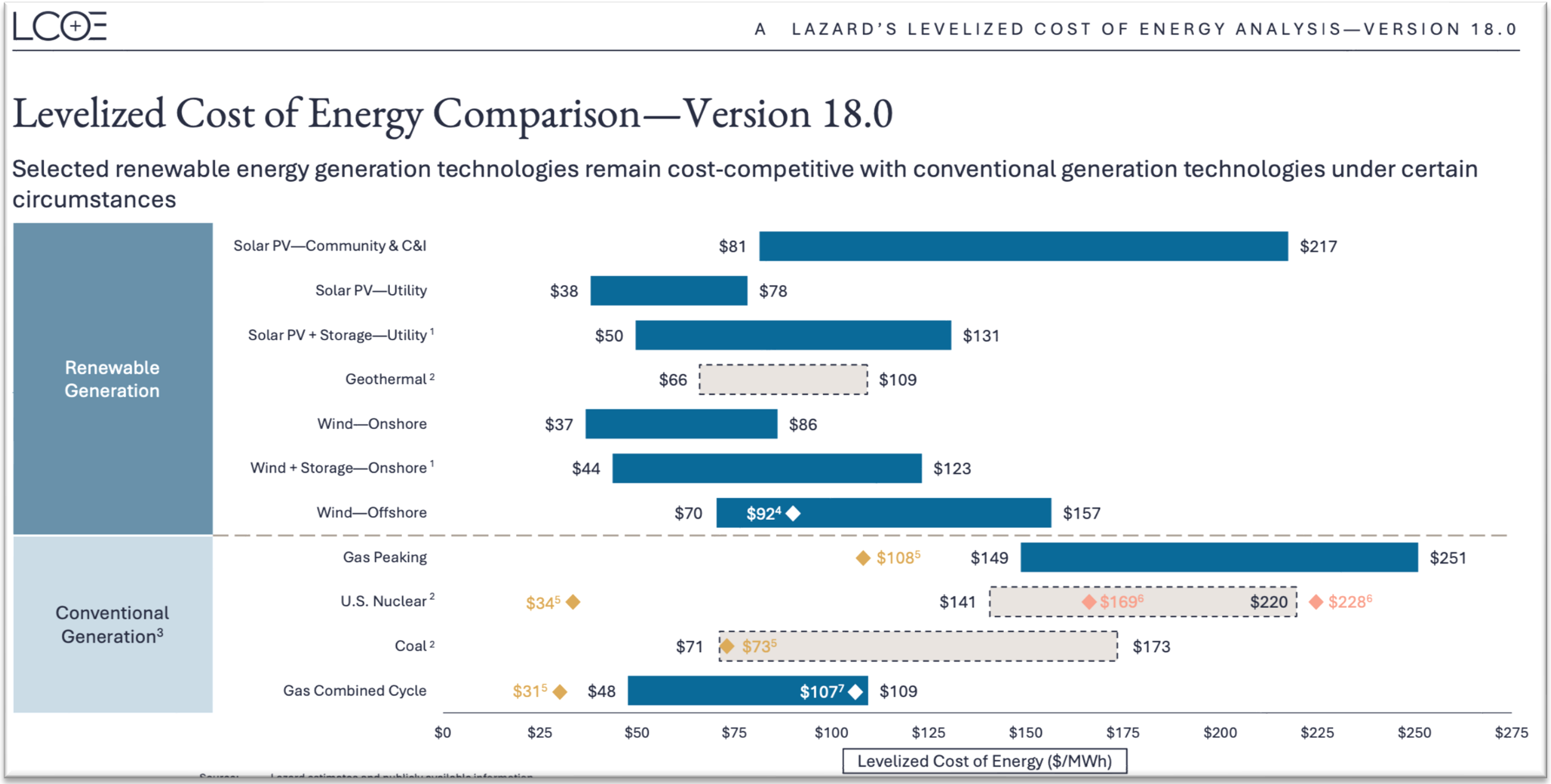


2) NO FUEL COST

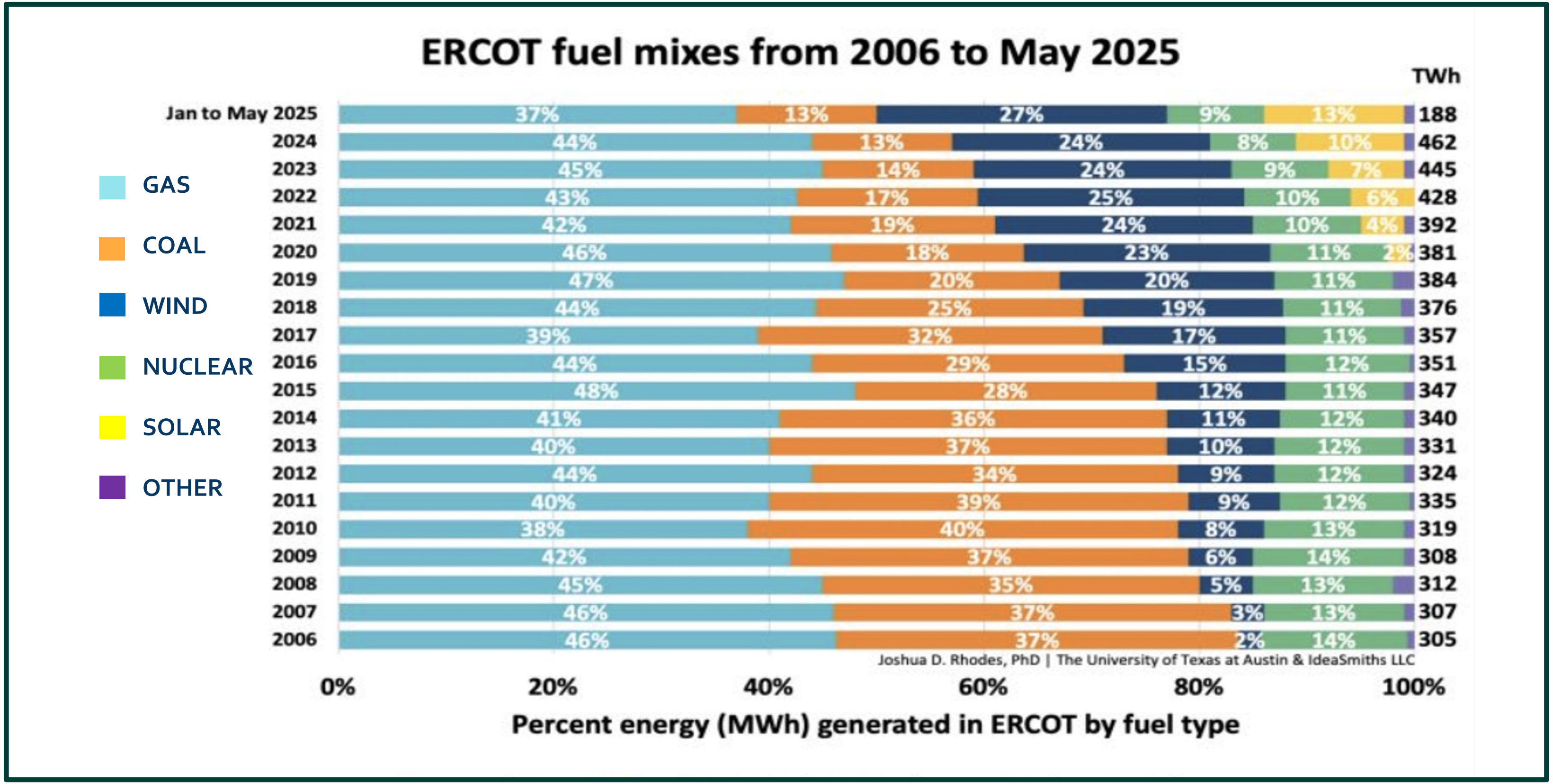


OF COURSE, WE MUST ADDRESS INTERMITTENCY...

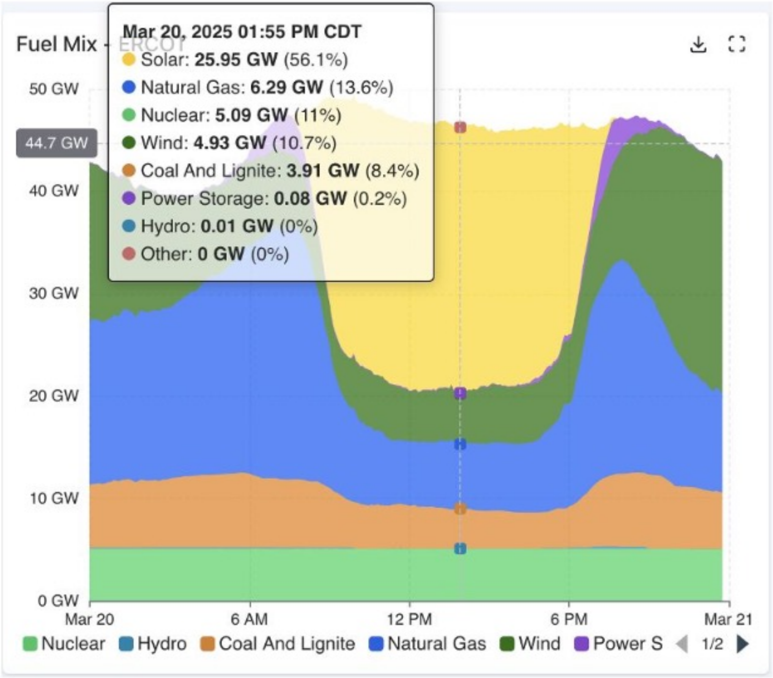
LEADING TO SIGNIFICANT COST SAVINGS...

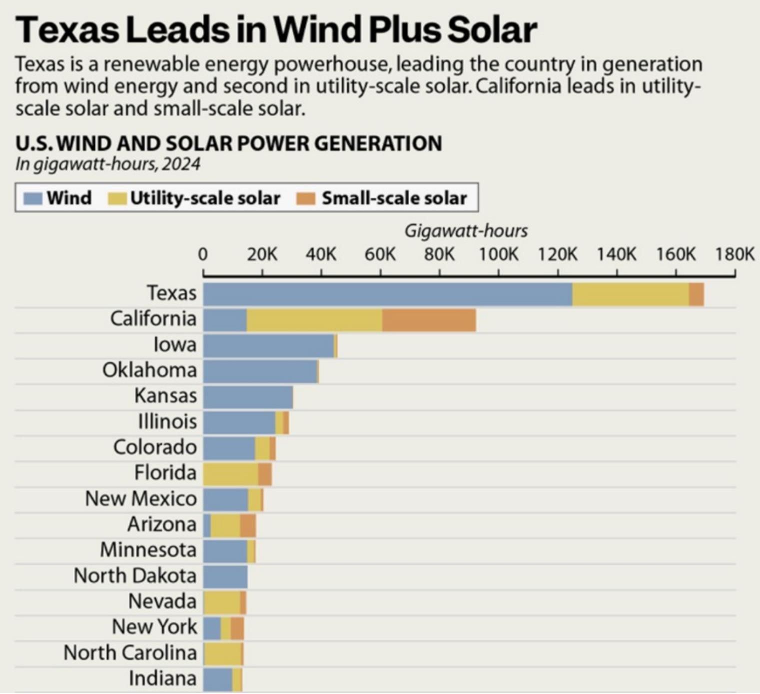


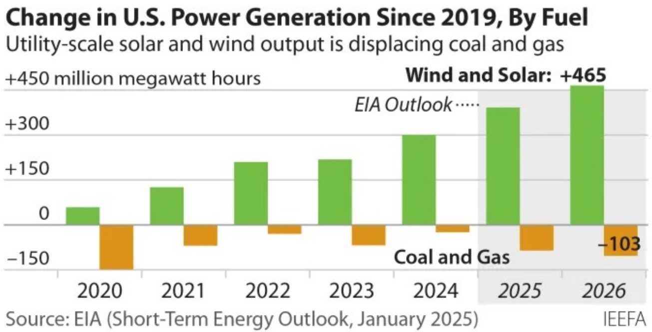
INCLUDING (ESPECIALLY!) IN TEXAS



Additional ERCOT Data

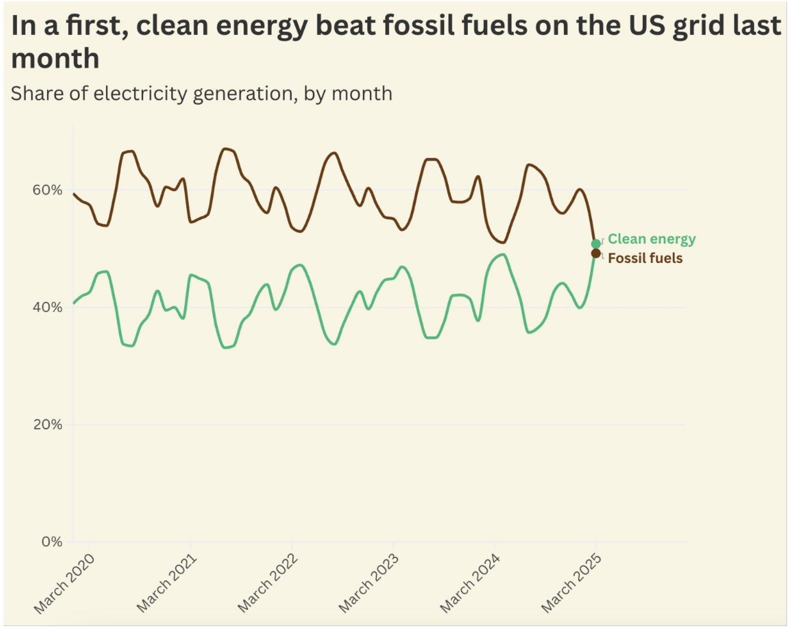






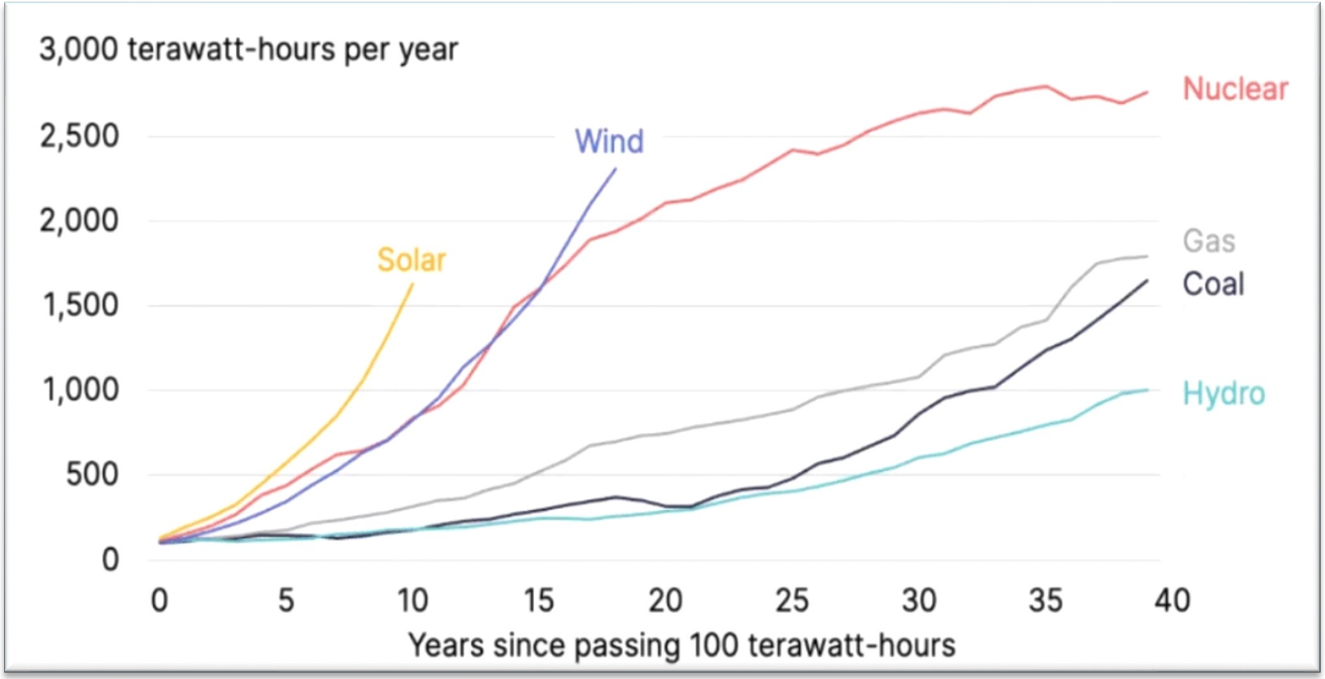
Nationwide electricity – Clean outpacing fossil

Source (Canary Media)



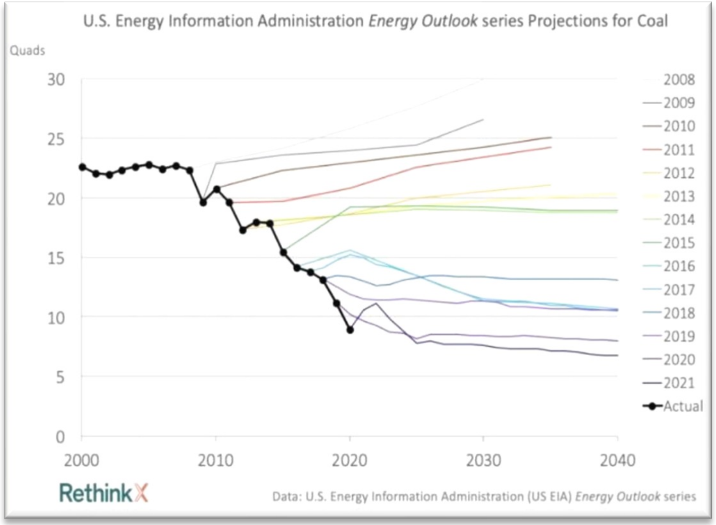
DRIVING REMARKABLE GROWTH

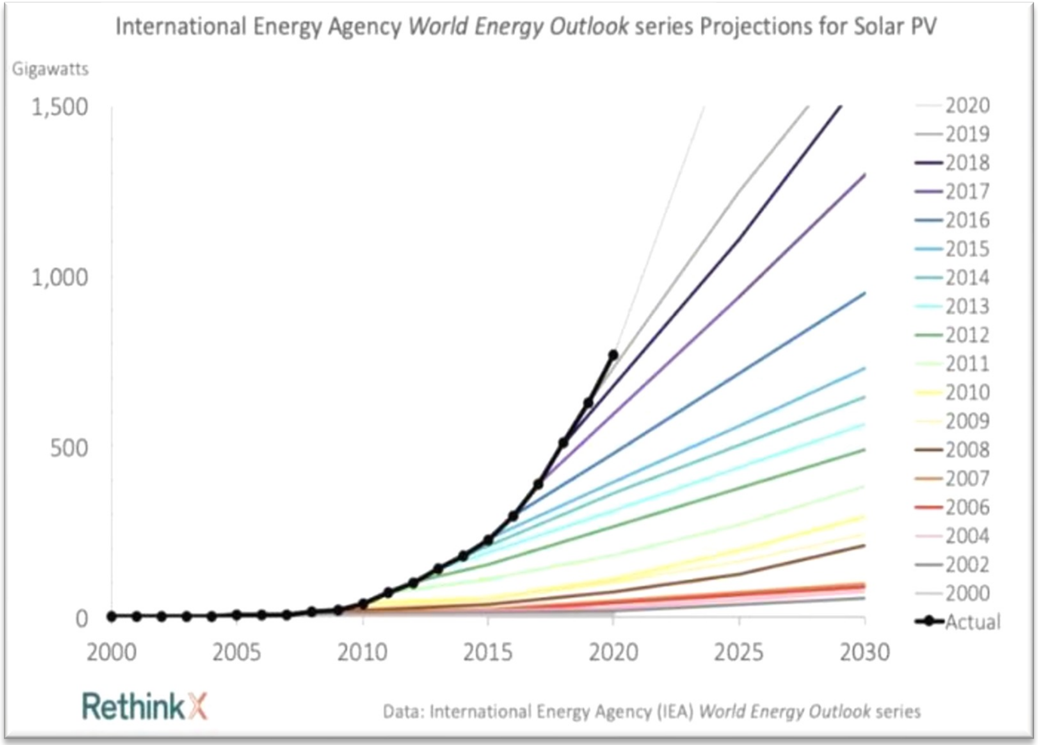
FASTEST GROWTH OF ANY ENERGY SOURCE, ALL TIME



Source: Nat Bullard, 2025

RADICALLY OUTPACING PRIOR FORECASTS OF THE SHIFT





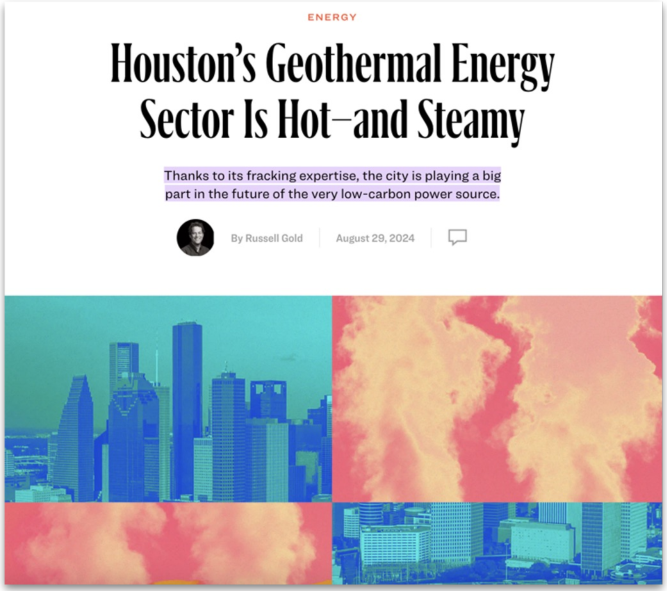
Houston - night + day in <5 years

"Houston doesn't have enough of a startup ecosystem to be our HQ2."

-Amazon, 2018

"Houston is where climate tech comes to scale."

- Tim Latimer, Fervo, 2023



ENERGY

Houston's Geothermal Energy Sector Is Hot—and Steamy

Thanks to its fracking expertise, the city is playing a big part in the future of the very low-carbon power source.

By Russell Gold | August 29, 2024

FERVO ENERGY

Solugen

NEW CLIMATE VENTURES

SYZYGY PLASMONICS

Activate

ENERGY TRANSITION VENTURES

POWERHOUSE

HOUSTON ENERGY TRANSITION INITIATIVE

Now a full-blown geothermal hub

GA Drilling

QUAISE

SAGE GEOSYSTEMS

XGS ENERGY

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

ess U.S. Politics Economy Tech **Markets & Finance** Opinion Free Expression Arts Lif

EXCLUSIVE MARKETS & FINANCE

Fervo Energy Raises $462 Million, Lands Google as Investor

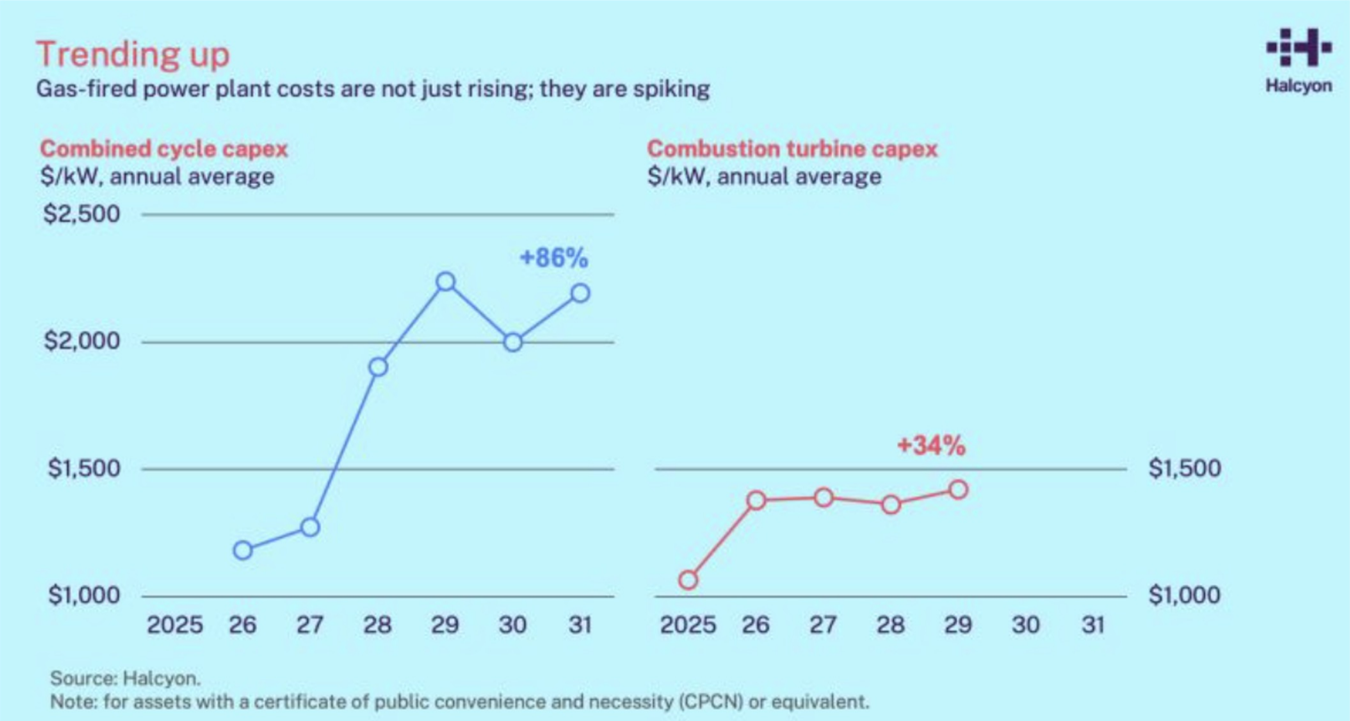
The company, also backed by Bill Gates's Breakthrough Energy Ventures, has emerged as a leader in advanced geothermal energy

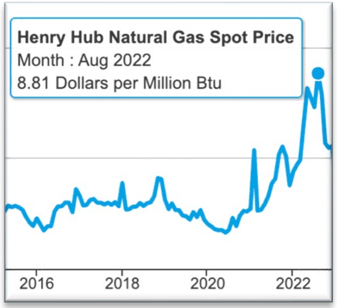
By Benoît Morenne Follow

Dec. 10, 2025 6:00 am ET

Share Resize 24 Listen (2 min)

MEANWHILE, GAS POWER KEEPS GETTING MORE EXPENSIVE (AND VOLATILE)





Ukraine War-induced volatility: price up 5X+ in 2022 vs. 2 years prior