

# THE ROLE OF HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN FUTURE ENERGY SYSTEMS

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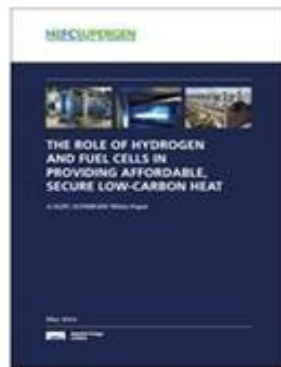


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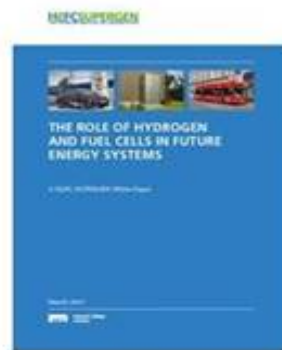
**H<sub>2</sub>FC SUPERGEN**  
THE HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL RESEARCH HUB

# Aim of the White Papers

To commission four evidence-based White Papers to inform key stakeholders, especially policy makers, of the roles and potential benefits of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies for meeting UK energy objectives.



**Low Carbon  
Heat**



**Future Energy  
Systems**



**Energy  
Security**



**Economic  
Impact**

# Hydrogen Energy Carrier(s)

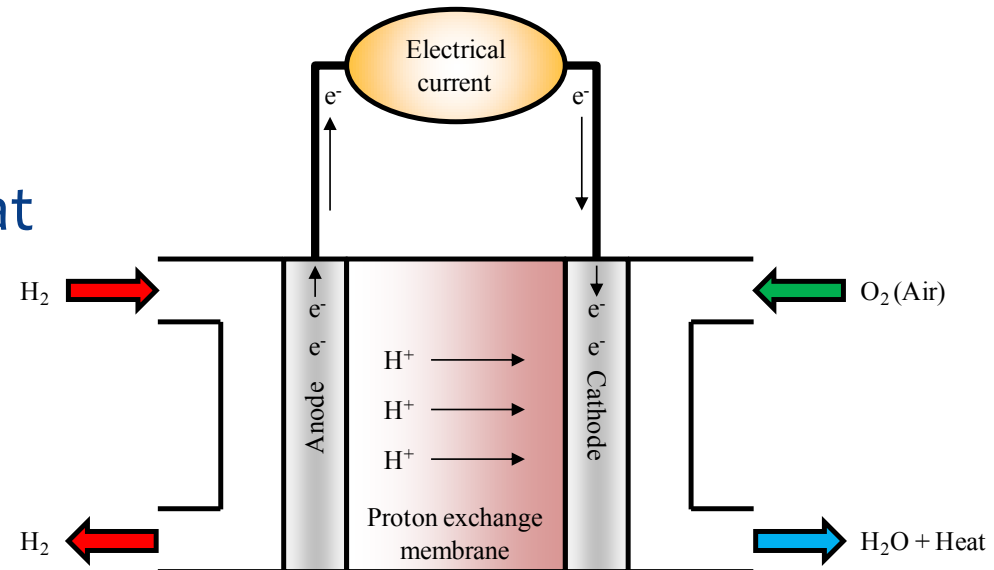
**Achievement: zero emission energy vector (carrier)**

- \* abundant element in the world and the universe
- \* conversion product is only water
- \* zero emission fuel, if produced by zero-emission feedstock
- \* if burnt in a combustion engine or gas turbine will also emit  $\text{NO}_x$
- \* safer in handling than many of today's fuels (e.g. petrol)
- \* can replace natural gas
- \* can be converted to Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG) or other synthetic fuels

# Hydrogen to Energy: Fuel Cells

**Achievement:** reduction in energy demand due to improved efficiency

- \* not limited by the Carnot efficiency: upper limit of the efficiency of (thermal) power plants
- \* electrical efficiencies:
  - nuclear power station ▶ 33%
  - best coal fired power station at full power ▶ 52%
  - CCGT 400 MW ▶ 60%
  - fuel cell 2 kW ▶ 35 to 60%
  - fuel cell CCGT 100 kW ▶ 70%



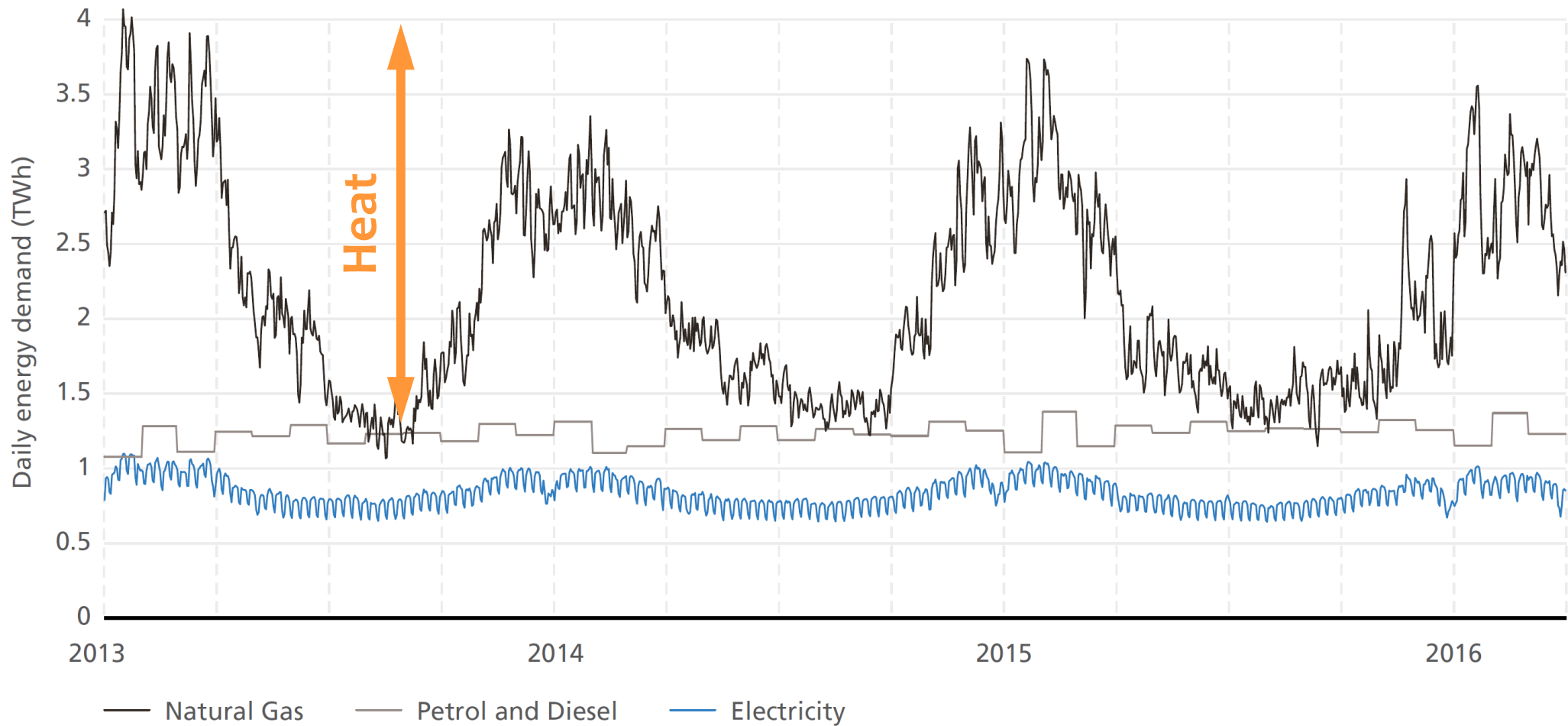
# H<sub>2</sub>FC for Transport

- \* Fuel cell vehicles are now produced by major manufacturers
- \* Driving range and refuelling time match conventional vehicles
- \* Costs can achieve parity with alternatives by 2025–2030
- \* Fuel cell vehicles improve urban air quality by producing zero / near-zero exhaust emissions

# H<sub>2</sub>FC for Transport



# H<sub>2</sub>FC for Heat





# H<sub>2</sub>FC for Heat

- \* Decarbonising heat faces many challenges
- \* Fuel cell CHP can operate on today's natural gas network and later transition to hydrogen supply
- \* Hydrogen can decarbonise this network in the longer term – either in the shape of hydrogen or as SNG
- \* Households are accustomed to compact powerful heating systems, which could use hydrogen

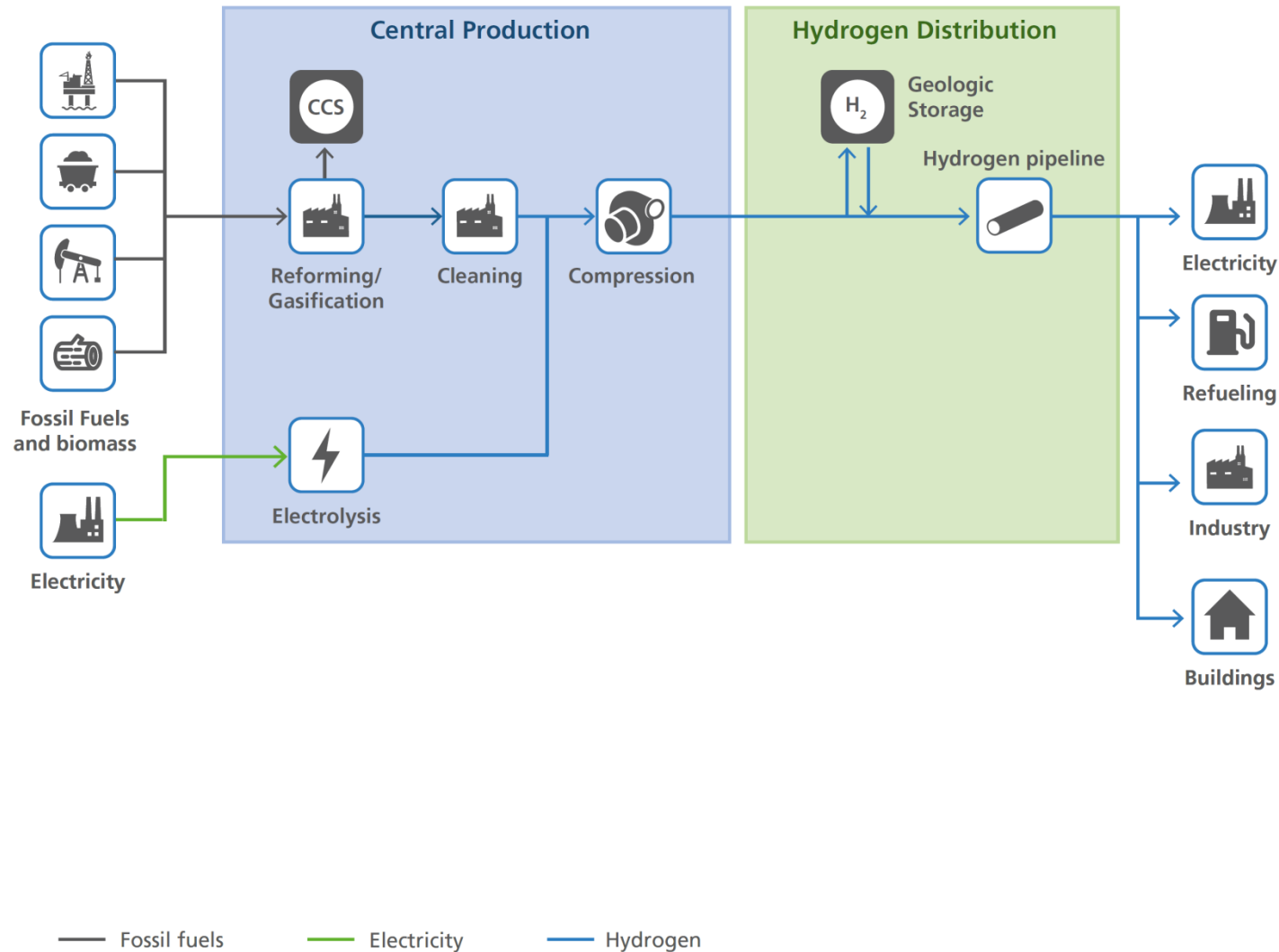


# H<sub>2</sub>FC for Electricity

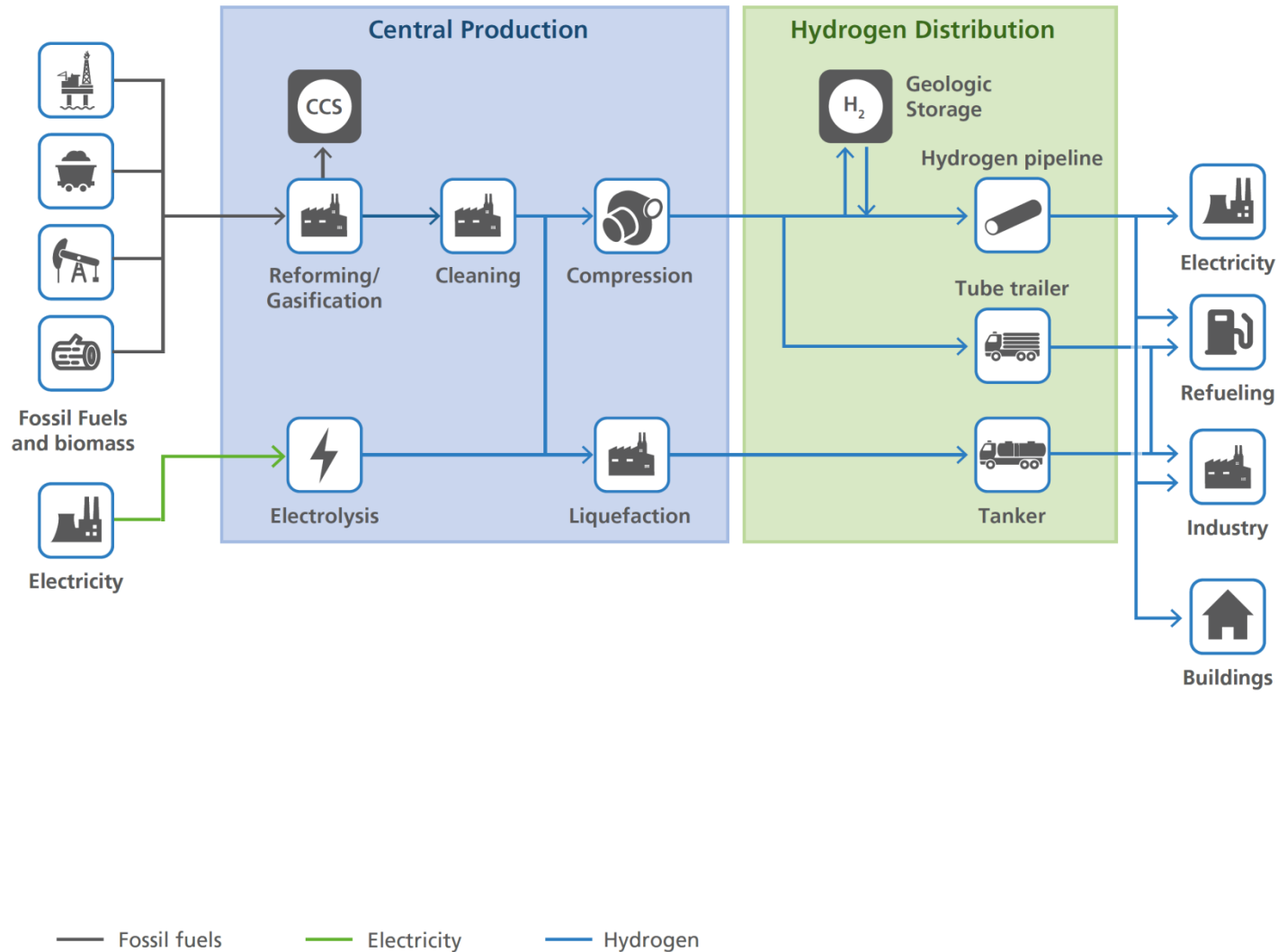
- \* Hydrogen can support low-carbon electricity systems
- \* Fuel cells are controllable and offset electric heat pumps
- \* Power-to-gas gives large-scale, long-term storage
- \* Data centres, backup and households are major applications



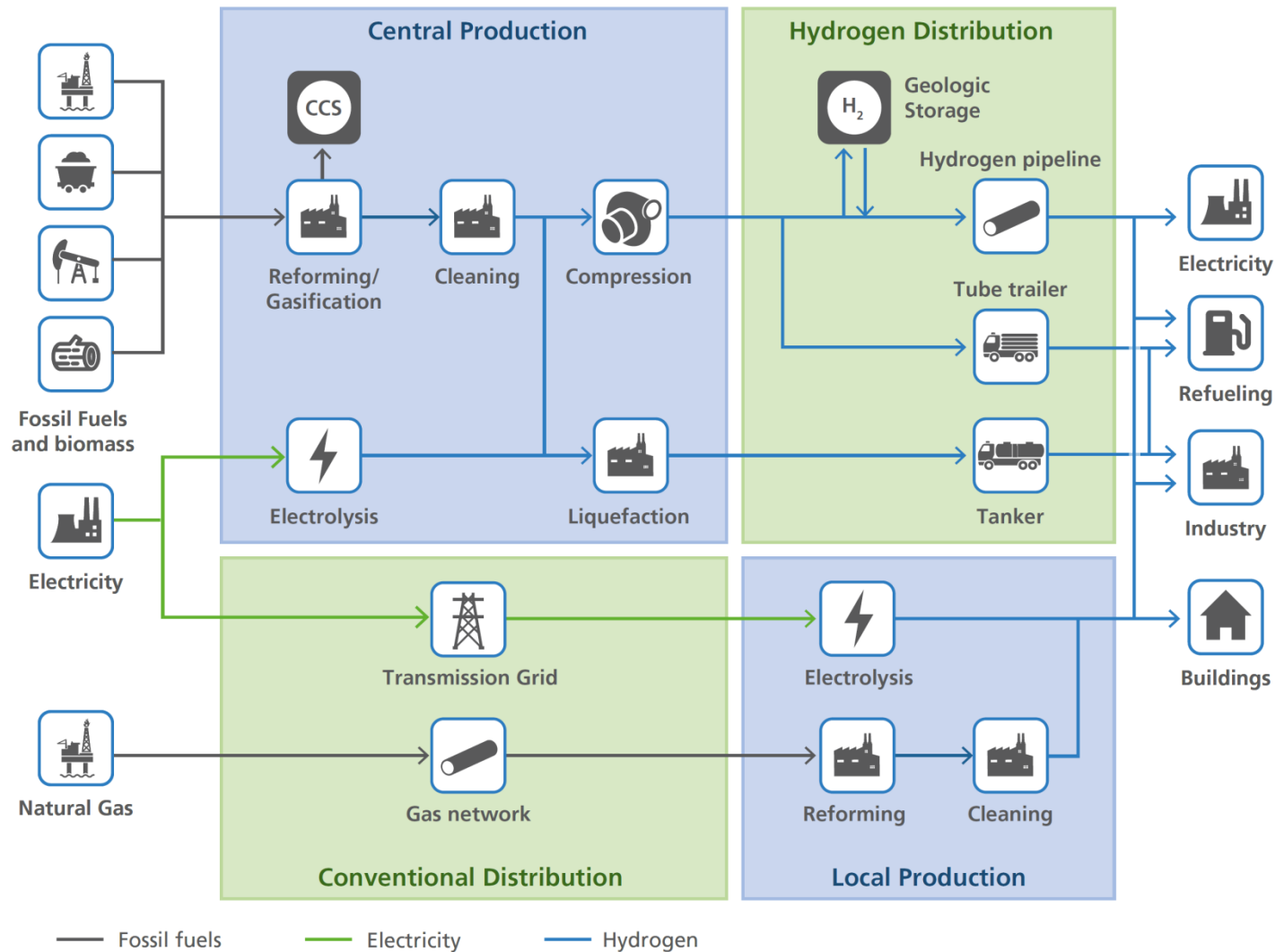
# H<sub>2</sub>FC Infrastructure



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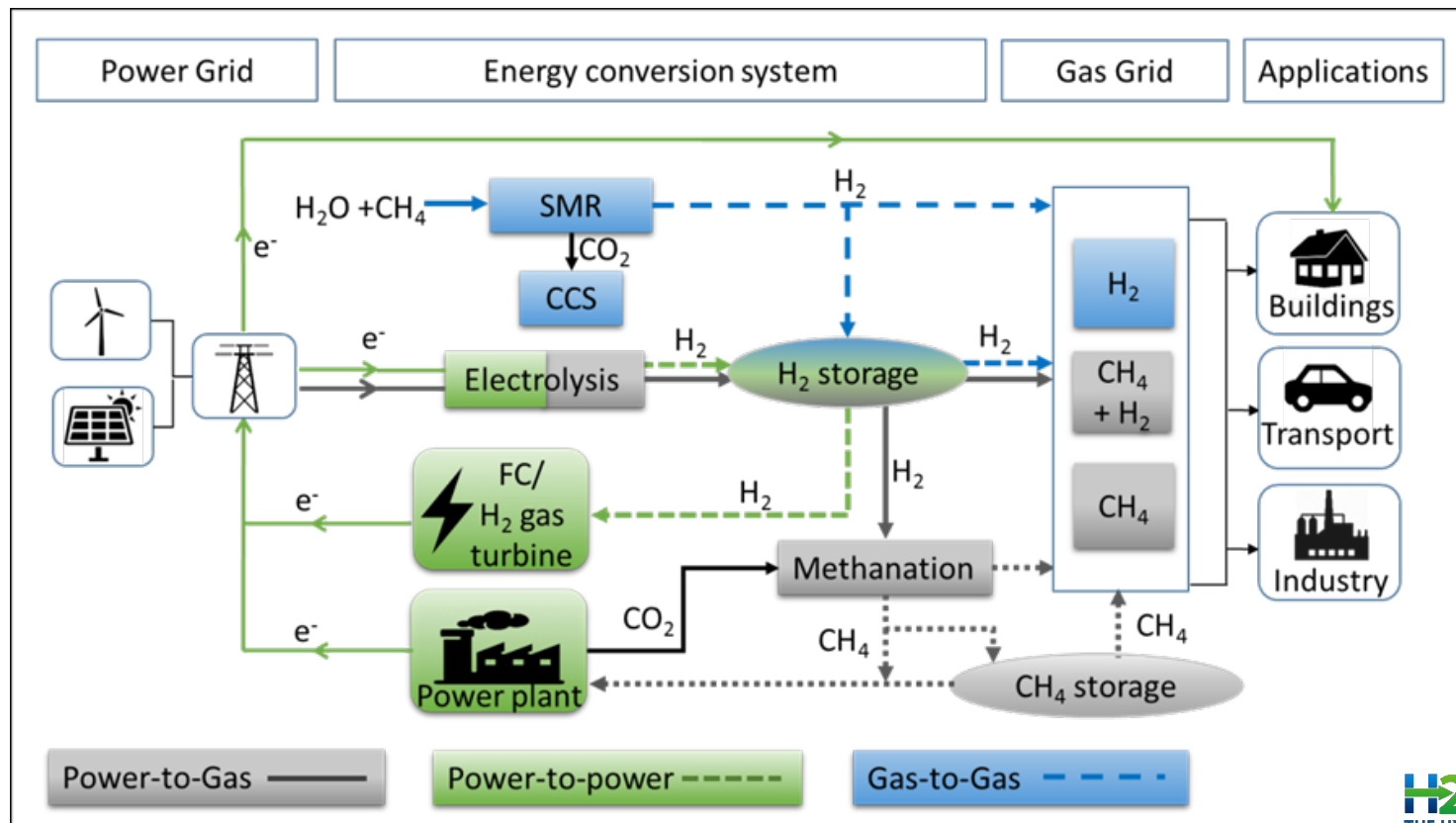
# H<sub>2</sub>FC Infrastructure



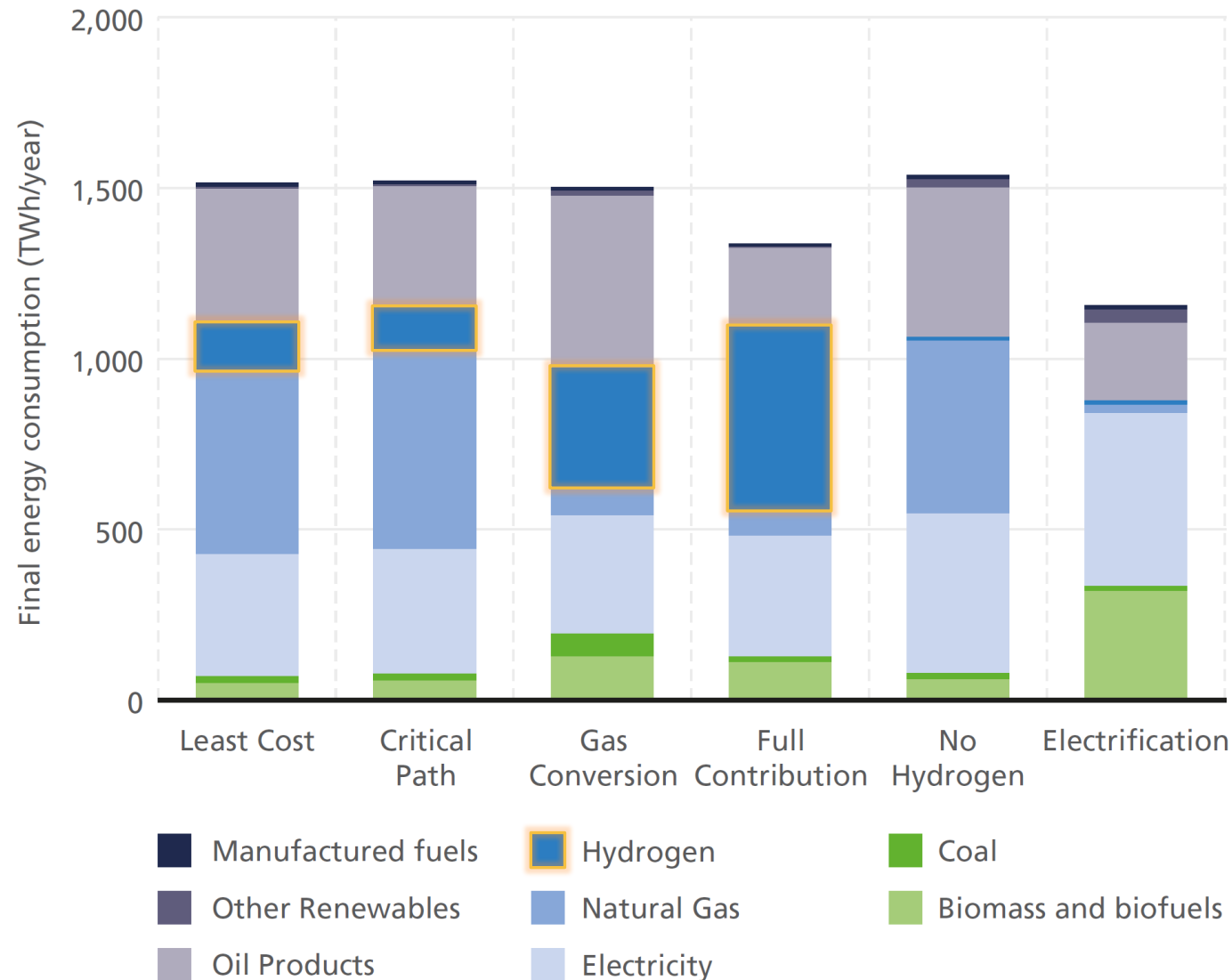
# Linking Energy Sectors

**Achievement: increasing flexibility and resilience of energy infrastructure**

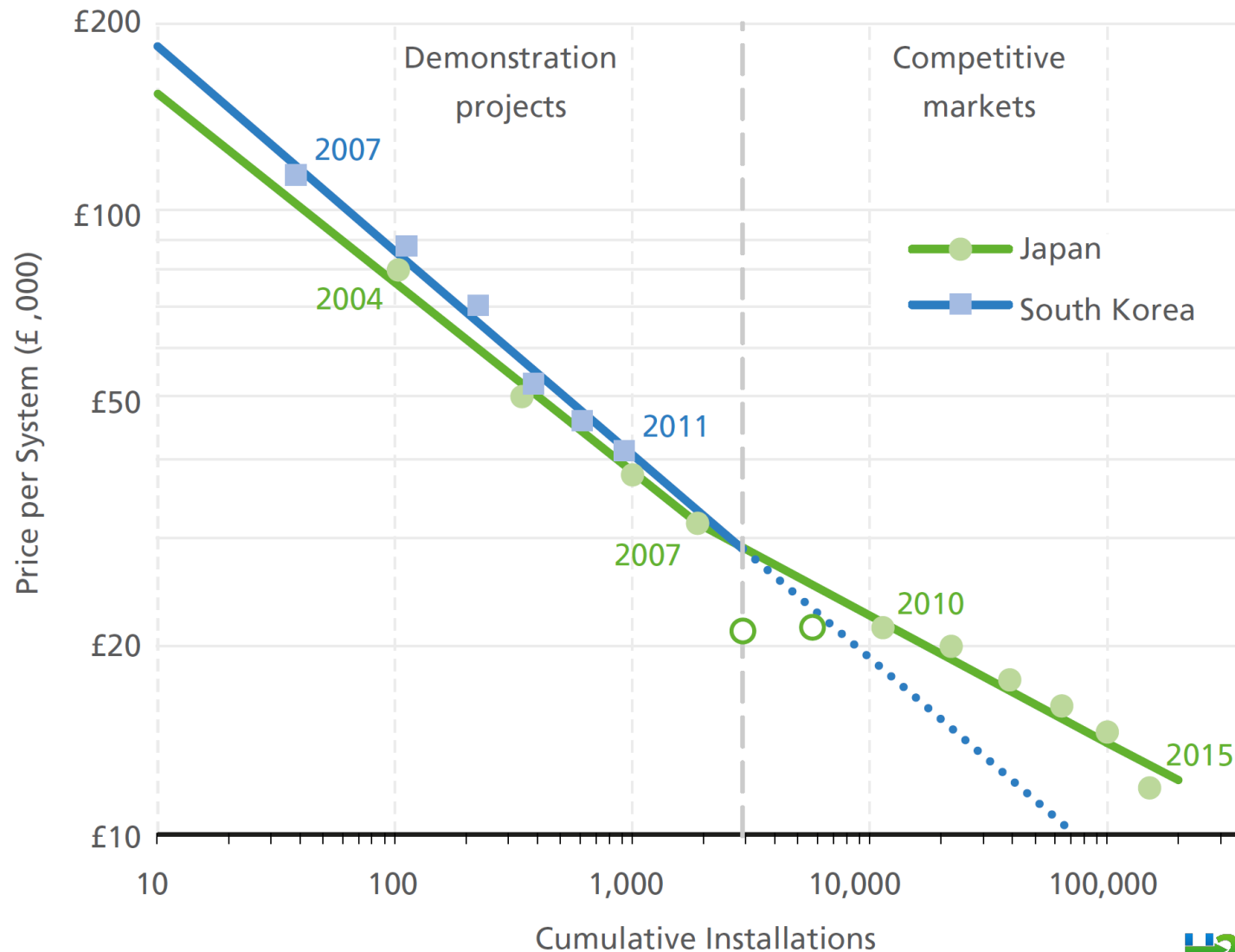
Fuel Cells and electrolysis as complementary technologies linking the electricity and gas markets (as well as transport fuels).  
Provide balancing power for high renewable electricity systems.



# H2FC Scenarios for the UK



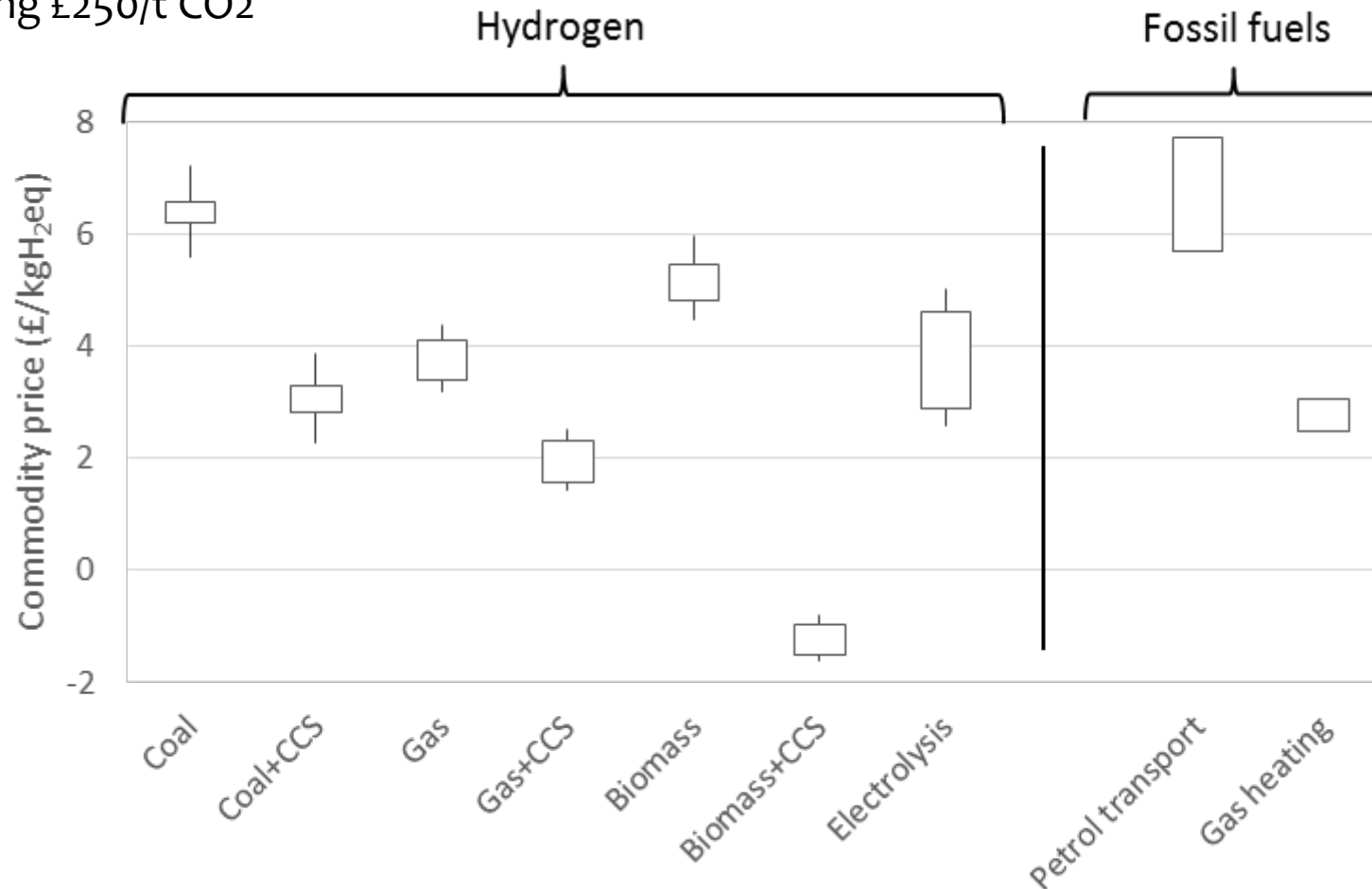
# H<sub>2</sub>FC Policies and Drivers





# Hydrogen Cost Development

assuming £250/t CO<sub>2</sub>

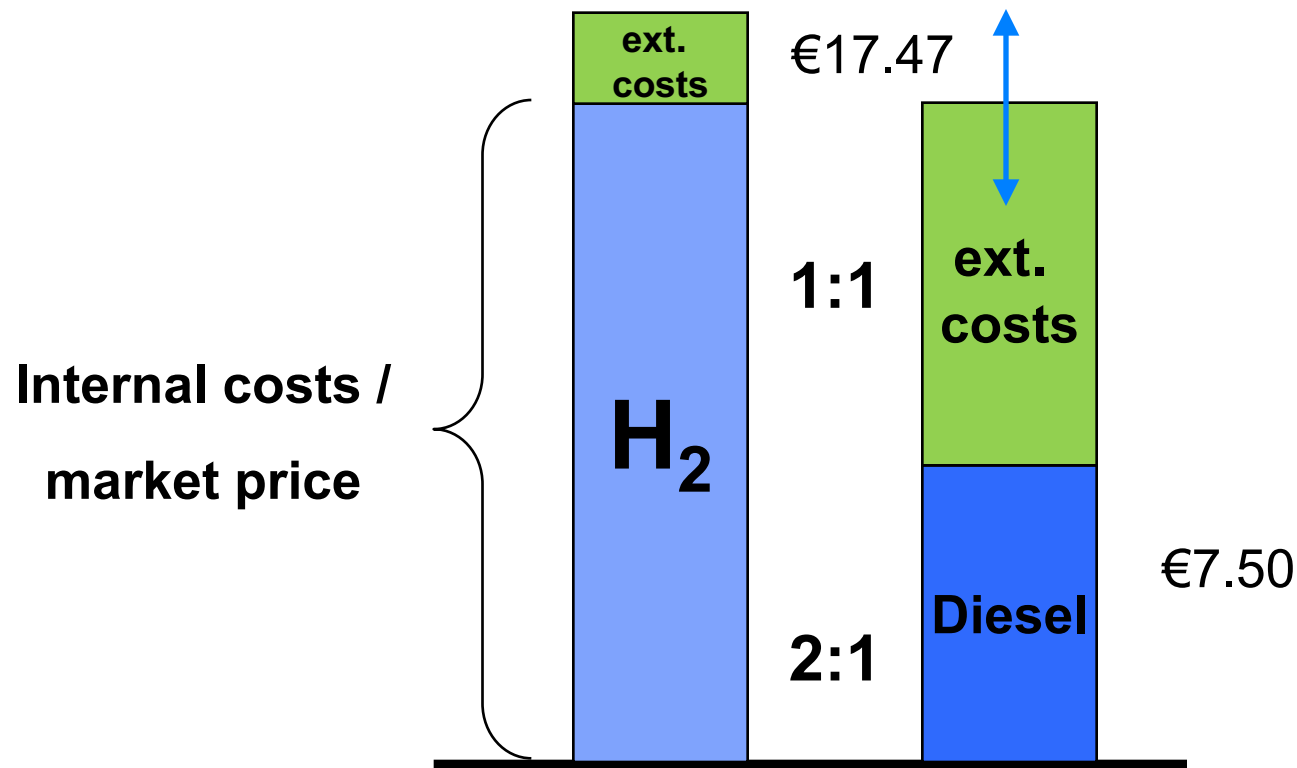


# Pump Price vs. Societal Cost

- \* customer pricing of energy services largely excludes environmental and societal damages
- \* externalities:
  - environmental damages
  - health impacts, incl. smog
  - corrosive urban air impact on buildings
  - limitations to human habitat
- \* compensation for damages paid by state (taxpayer) or by the individual (health impacts)

# Full Cost of Transport

‘polluter pays’ principle, sustainable allocation of cost



# H2FC Policy

	CHP	Vehicles	Refuelling
Japan	181,500	900 cars	78
Germany	~1,000	100 cars, 14 buses	22
China	n/a	90 cars, 40 buses	4
US	0.7 MW	331 cars, 33 buses	87
South Korea	177 MW	71 cars	7

Uptake to  
Sep 2016

	CHP	Vehicles	Refuelling
Japan	£500–1,400 per unit	£107m	£45m
Germany	€ 10,200 / kW	€8m for trains	€350m
China	?	£23–58k per vehicle	£500k per station
US	up to \$3,000 / kW	\$8k per vehicle \$0.50 / gallon H <sub>2</sub>	\$100m in California
South Korea	\$31m total	£20k per vehicle	?

Govt.  
support

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UK	~10	42 cars, 18 buses	14

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South Korea	\$31m total	£20k per vehicle	?
UK	n/a	£2m for cars £2.8m for buses	£5m

Govt.  
support

# To recap...

Hydrogen and fuel cells are a key technology in:

- \* integrating large scale renewable energy
- \* reducing urban air pollution
- \* reducing energy import dependency
- \* increasing energy supply efficiency

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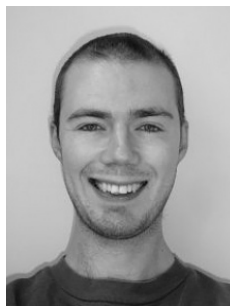


## THE ROLE OF HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN FUTURE ENERGY SYSTEMS

A H<sub>2</sub>FC SUPERGEN White Paper

March 2017

 Imperial College  
London



**Thank you for your attention!**

**Any questions?**

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