



# Integrated Energy Systems: Advancing Economy-wide Net-Zero Solutions

October 2022

*Changing the World's Energy Future*

Shannon M Bragg-Sitton



*INL is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory operated by Battelle Energy Alliance, LLC*

#### **DISCLAIMER**

This information was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the U.S. Government. Neither the U.S. Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, expressed or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness, of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. References herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trade mark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the U.S. Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Government or any agency thereof.

# **Integrated Energy Systems: Advancing Economy-wide Net-Zero Solutions**

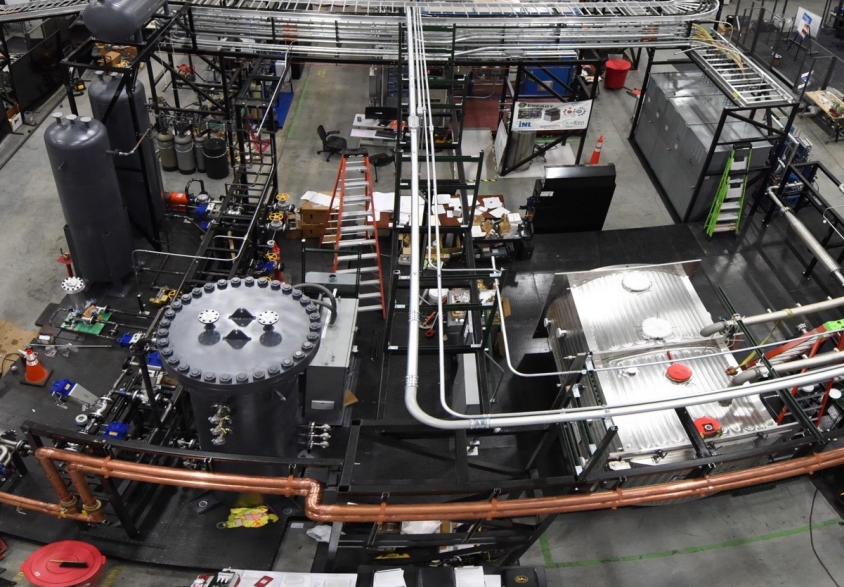
**Shannon M Bragg-Sitton**

**October 2022**

**Idaho National Laboratory  
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415**

**<http://www.inl.gov>**

**Prepared for the  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Under DOE Idaho Operations Office  
Contract DE-AC07-05ID14517**



**Shannon Bragg-Sitton,  
Ph.D.**

Director, Integrated Energy &  
Storage Systems, INL

National Technical Director, DOE-  
NE Integrated Energy Systems

[shannon.bragg-sitton@inl.gov](mailto:shannon.bragg-sitton@inl.gov)



## *Integrated Energy Systems: Advancing Economy-wide Net-Zero Solutions*



# Ambitious goals to mitigate climate change: Achieving “net-zero”

- President Biden has set a goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050 and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius
- Steps in reaching this goal require the U.S. to achieve
  - 100 percent carbon pollution-free electricity by 2035
  - Net-zero economy wide by 2050
- Must be achieved while...
  - Investing in infrastructure
  - Fueling an economic recovery – job creation
  - Advancing environmental justice
  - Bolstering domestic supply chains



## ***What is “net-zero”?***

“Net-zero” refers to a target of completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activity, to be achieved by reducing emissions and implementing methods of absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere

# The “Net-Zero” goal aligns perfectly with the INL vision, mission, and values

## INL Values

Excellence, Inclusivity,  
Integrity, Ownership,  
Teamwork, and Safety

## INL Vision

INL will change the world’s  
energy future and secure  
our critical infrastructure.

## INL Mission

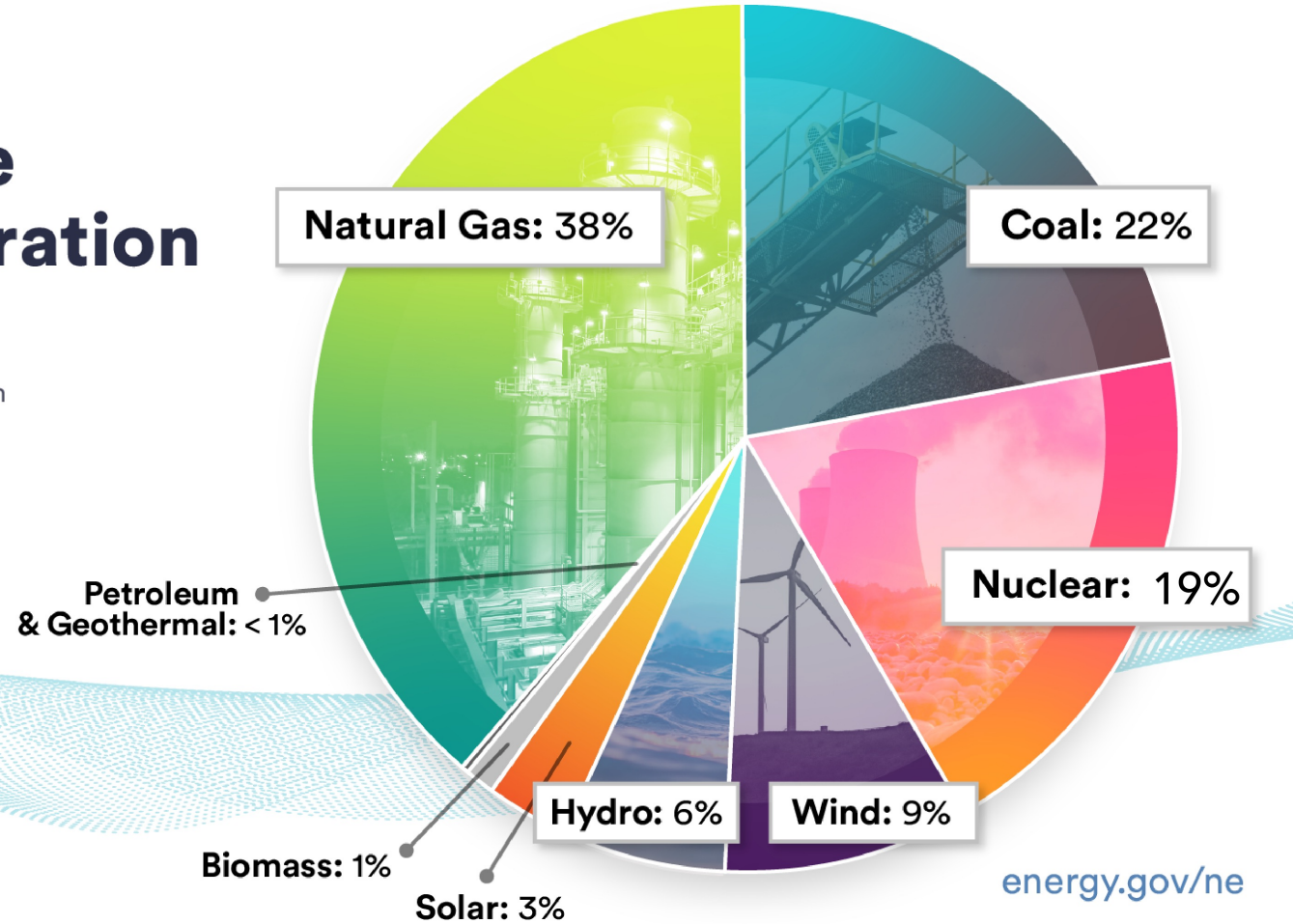
Discover, demonstrate and secure  
innovative nuclear energy solutions,  
clean energy options and critical  
infrastructure.



# The U.S. Energy Mix (2021)

## U.S. Utility-Scale Electricity Generation by Source, 2021

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY** | Office of  
NUCLEAR ENERGY

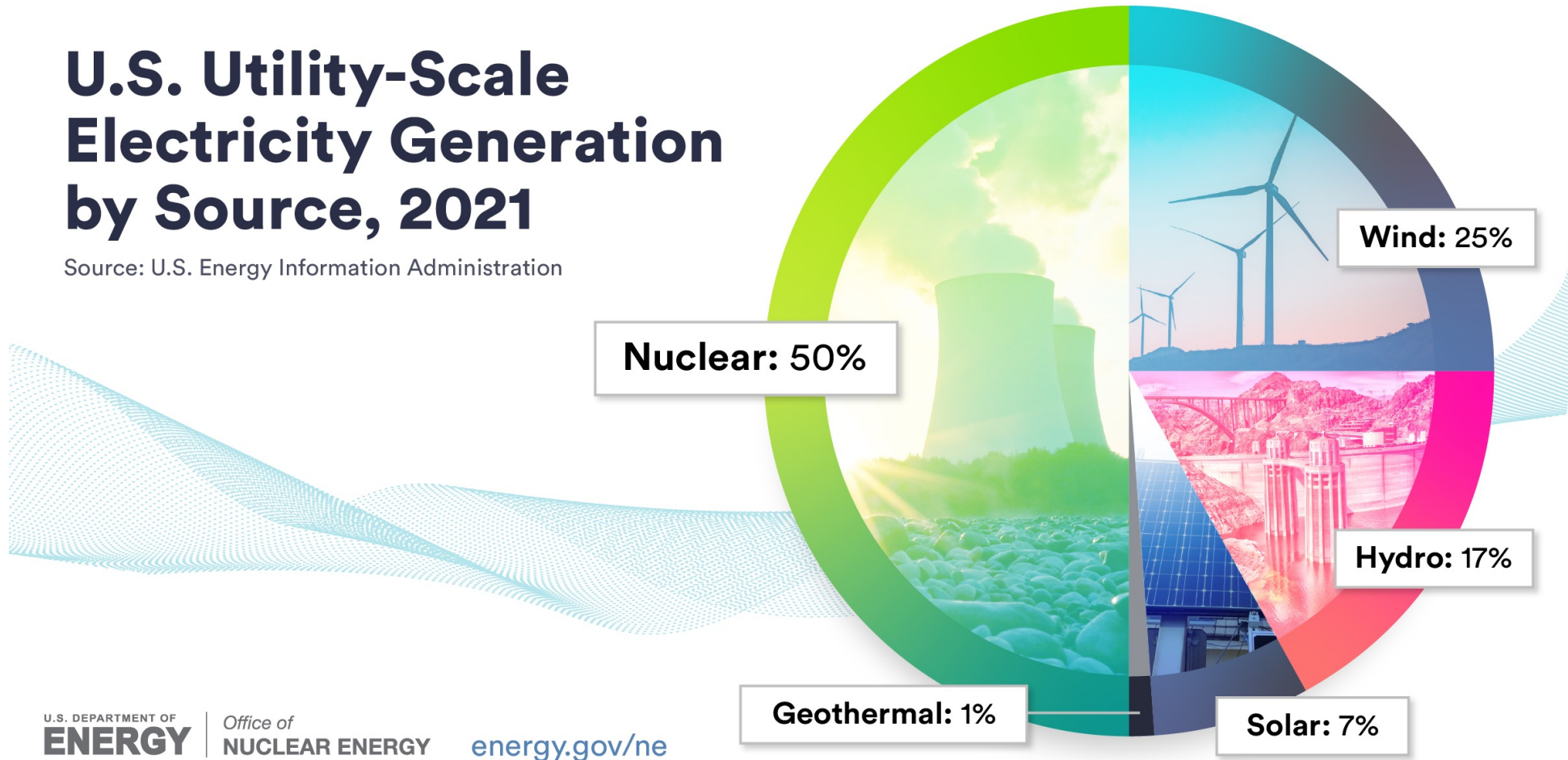
[energy.gov/ne](https://energy.gov/ne)



# The U.S. Clean Energy Mix (2021)

## U.S. Utility-Scale Electricity Generation by Source, 2021

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
NUCLEAR ENERGY

[energy.gov/ne](https://energy.gov/ne)

# Today's energy systems

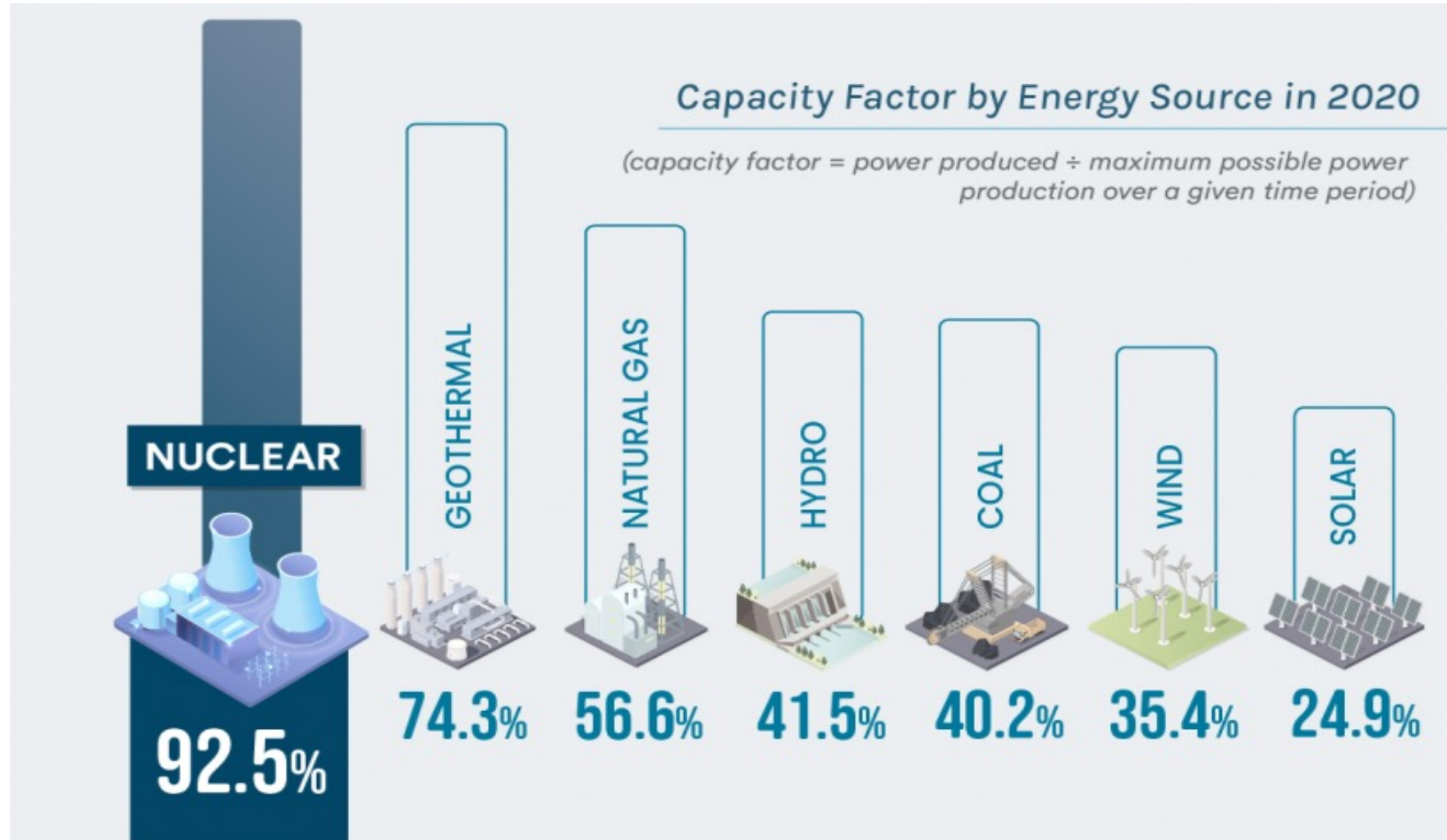


- Individual generators contribute to meeting grid demand, managed by an independent grid operator
- Individual thermal energy resources typically support industrial demand
- Transportation mostly relies on fossil fuels (with growing, yet limited, electrification)

***Achieving net-zero emissions will require us to consider the role(s) of all clean energy generation options—and we must look to non-emitting sources of heat in addition to electricity.***

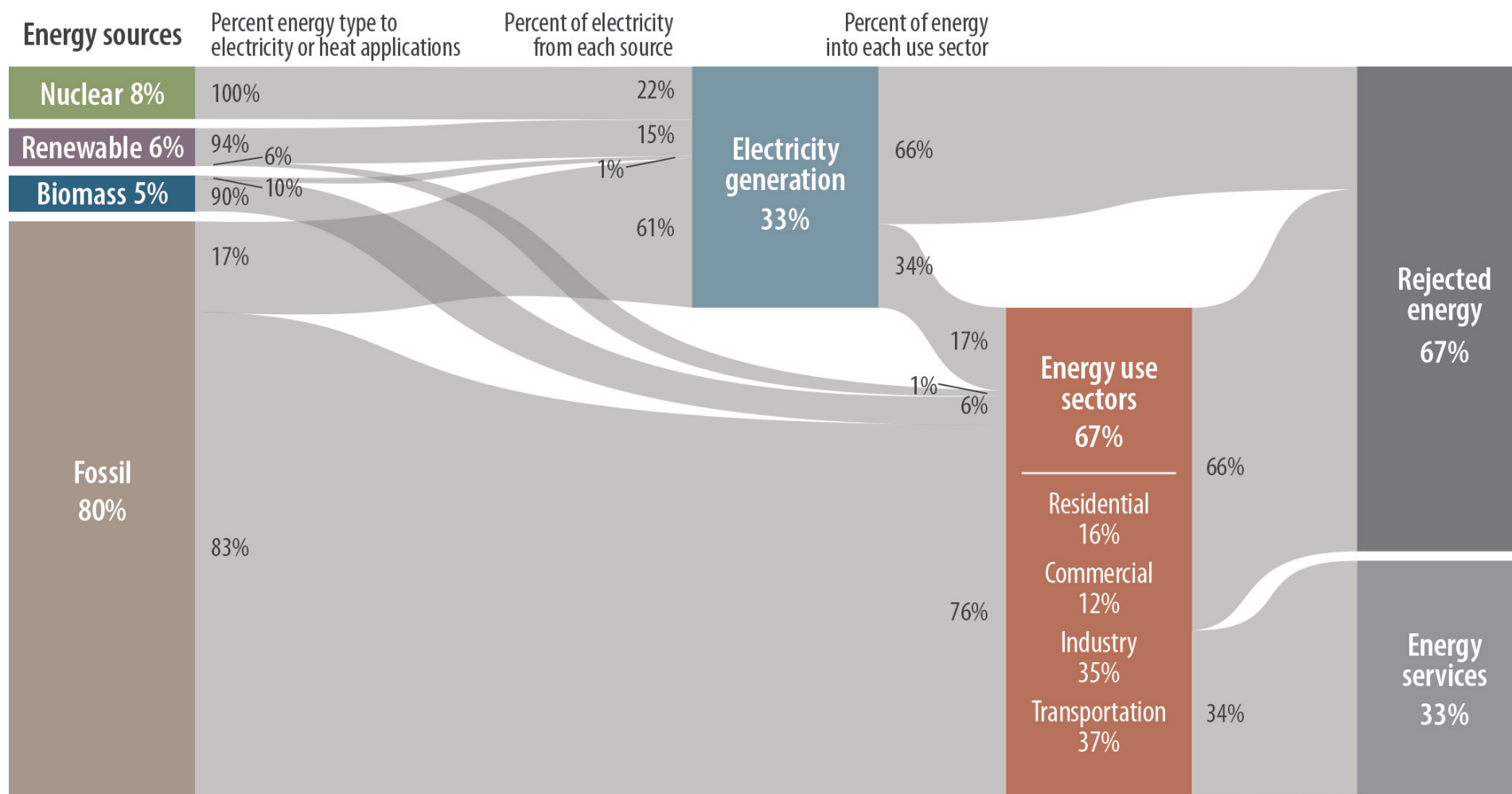


# Net-zero needs reliable, dispatchable energy



Source: NEI

# 2018 energy sources and consumers, U.S.



## Decarbonizing electricity is only part of the challenge

Electricity accounts for only 17% of total energy use in the U.S. across all “Energy use sectors,” with the remaining 83% used in the form of heat.

Forsberg and Bragg-Sitton, Maximizing Clean Energy Use: Integrating Nuclear and Renewable Technologies to Support Variable Electricity, Heat and Hydrogen Demand, *The Bridge*, National Academy of Engineering, 50(3), p. 24-31, 2020. Available at <https://www.nae.edu/239120/Fall-Issue-of-The-Bridge-on-Nuclear-Energy-Revisited>.

Adapted from LLNL (2020), <https://flowcharts.llnl.gov/>

# The Department of Energy is doubling down on their commitment to clean energy

- *Energy Earthshots™ will accelerate breakthroughs of more abundant, affordable, and reliable clean energy solutions within the decade. They will drive the major innovation breakthroughs that we know we must achieve to solve the climate crisis, reach our 2050 net-zero carbon goals, and create the jobs of the new clean energy economy.* (<https://www.energy.gov/policy/energy-earthshots-initiative>)

Hydrogen Shot

Long Duration Storage Shot

Carbon Negative Shot

Enhanced Geothermal Shot

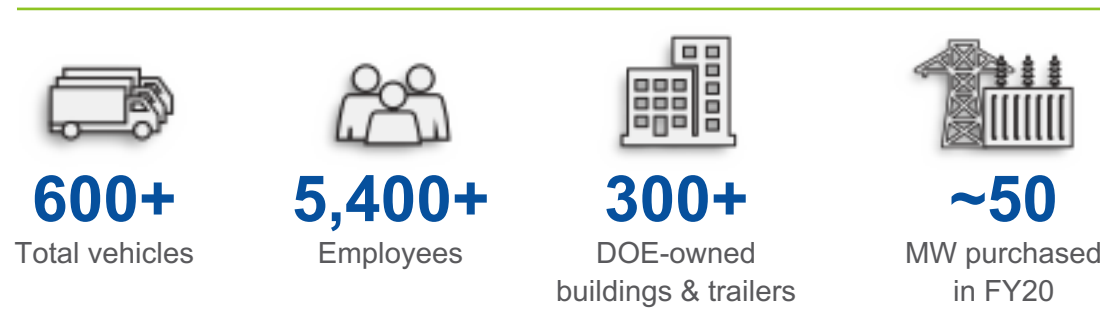
Floating Offshore Wind Shot

Industrial Heat Shot

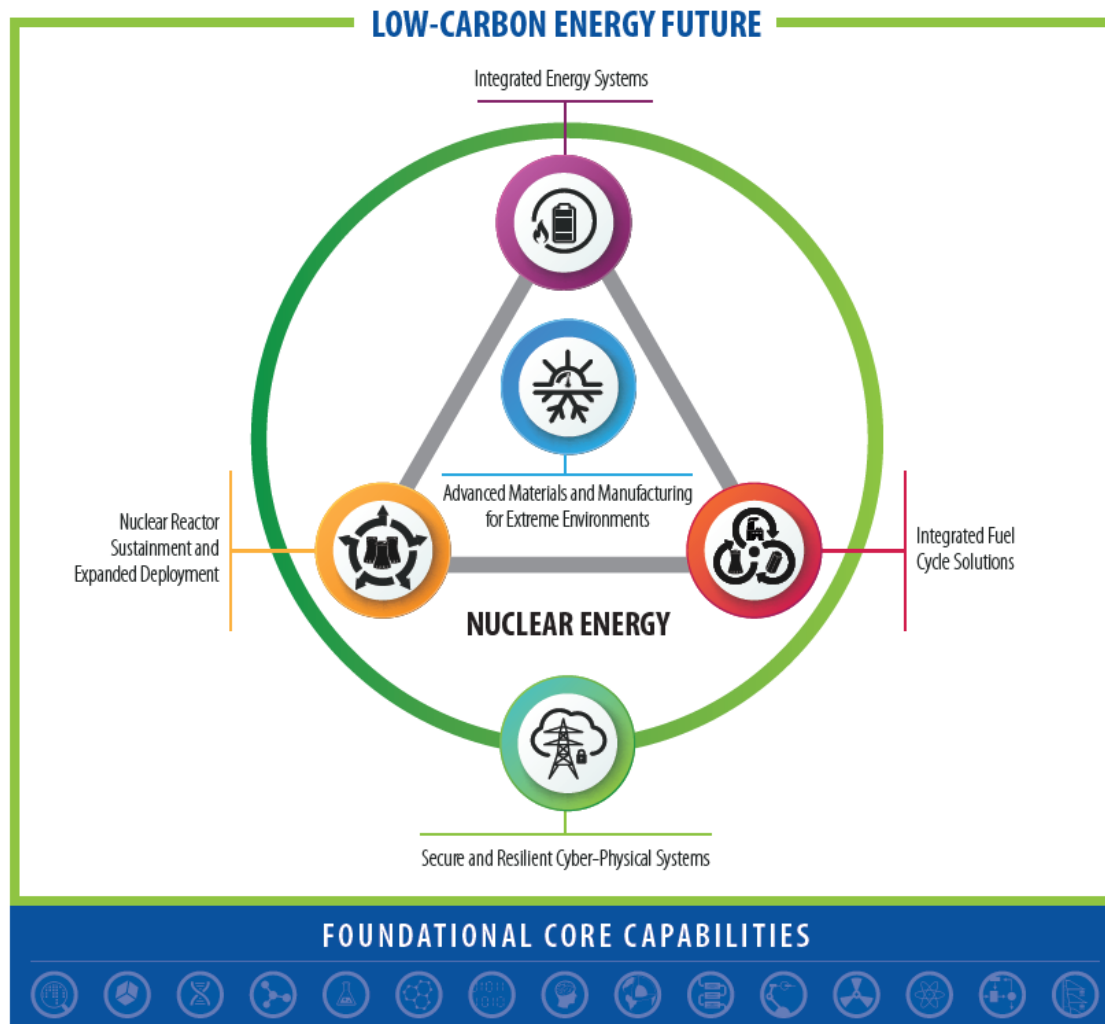


# Why Net-Zero at INL?

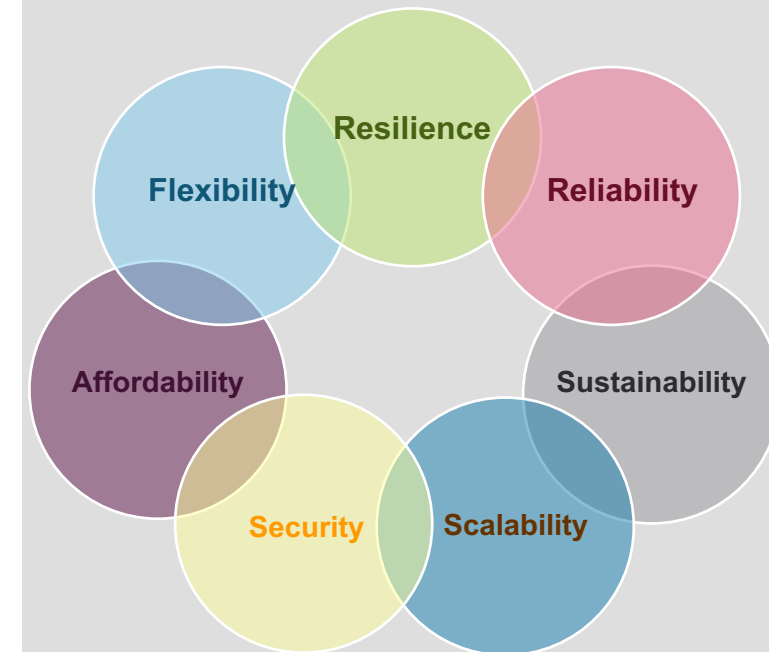
- INL's site characteristics and operations make it a highly relevant demonstration site; representative of a city or county
- INL will lead by example; lessons learned can inform best-practices for others
- Net-zero aligns with DOE priorities



# INL's Strategic Initiatives support the Administration's goals

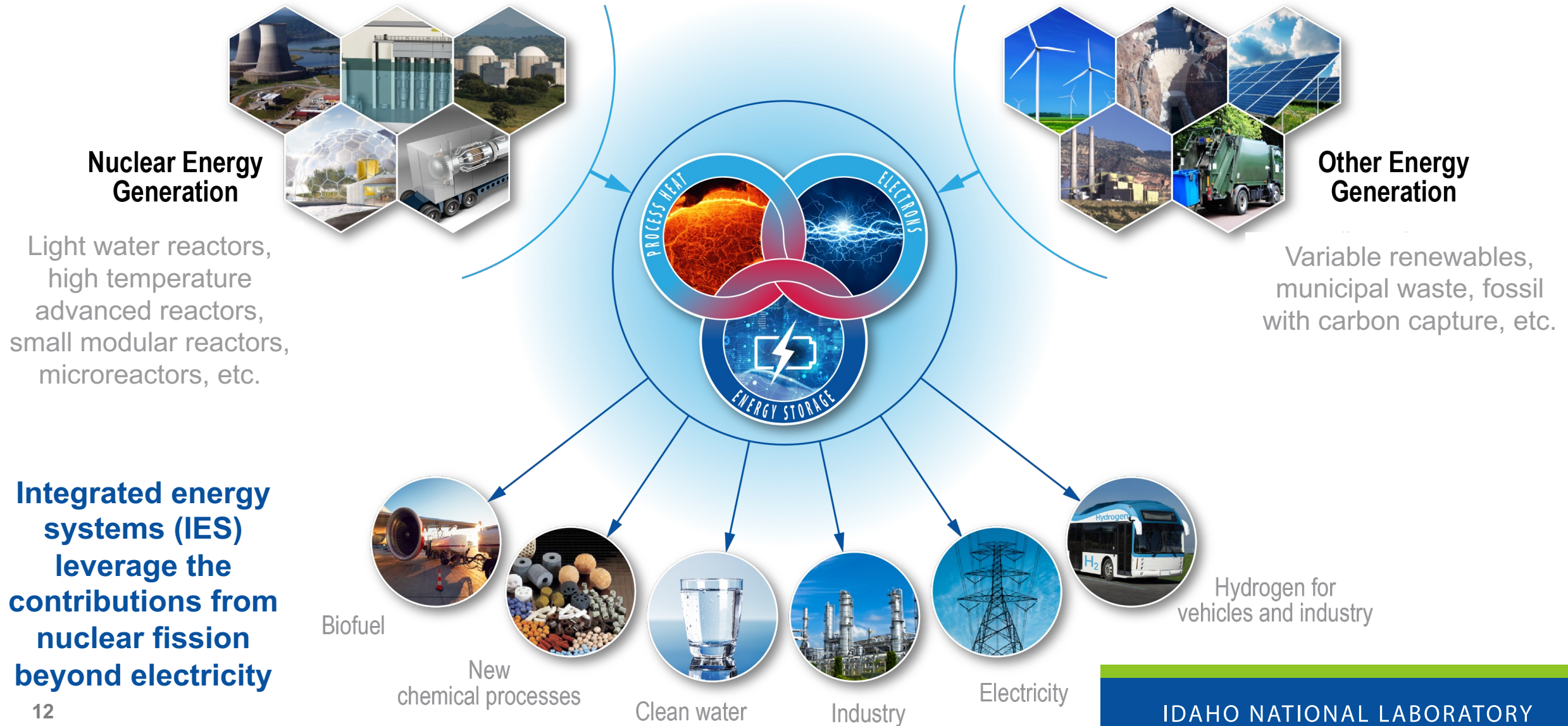


Strategic INL research initiatives advance energy and security goals for the nation



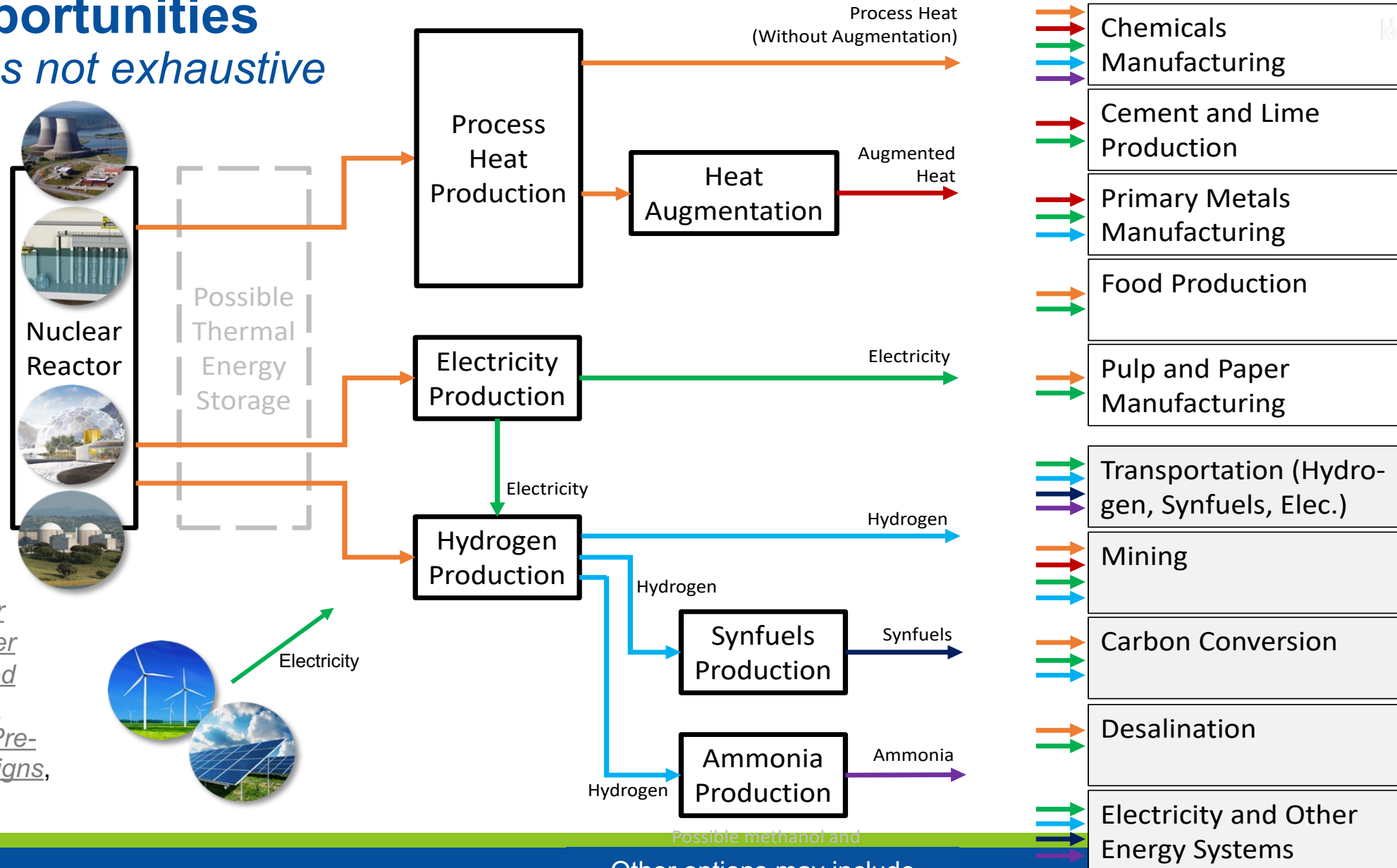


# Future clean energy systems – transforming the energy paradigm



# Potential nuclear-driven IES opportunities

*Examples not exhaustive*



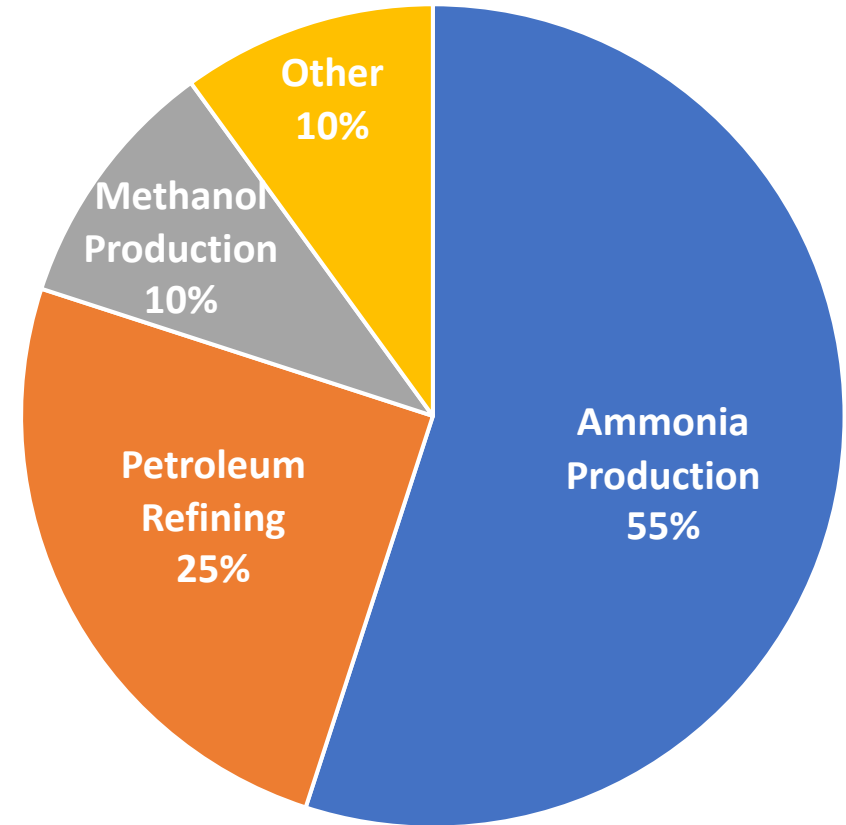
Other options may include methanol, synthetic methane

# Why all the hype about hydrogen?

## Hydrogen applications in industry

- Agriculture/chemical industry: ammonia, ammonia-based fertilizers
- Petroleum refining: hydrocracking to produce gasoline, diesel
- Methanol production
- Other:
  - Food (e.g., hydrogenated oils)
  - Metalworking
  - Welding
  - Flat glass production
  - Electronics manufacturing
  - Medical applications

Fraction of Global Hydrogen Use by Industry



Data source: Hydrogen Europe  
[hydrogeneurope.eu/hydrogen-applications](https://hydrogeneurope.eu/hydrogen-applications)



# INL research and development will enable—and lead the way—to a clean hydrogen future

## CLEAN HYDROGEN POWERED BY NUCLEAR

H<sub>2</sub>

Hydrogen H<sub>2</sub>

### THE POTENTIAL

Hydrogen is an **economic commodity** and an element for moving energy into fuels and chemicals in the industrial, agricultural, and transportation sectors.

### THE PROBLEM

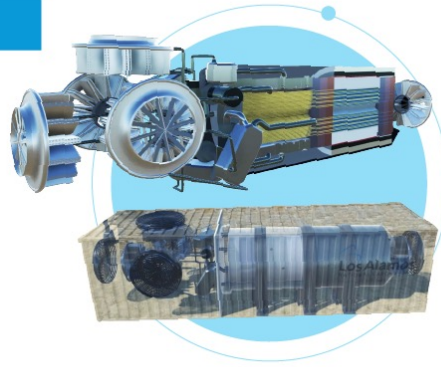
About **95%** of the hydrogen produced in the U.S. comes from **natural gas**, resulting in emissions.

- INL is the nation's lead nuclear laboratory
- AND
- The lead laboratory for high temperature steam electrolysis (breaking water—steam—into its constituent parts)



## BUT HOW?

Current and advanced reactors can utilize the constant heat and electricity they generate to split water into pure hydrogen and oxygen through **low- and high-temperature electrolysis**.



## THE IMPACT

Creates **clean hydrogen** at a **competitive price** for many applications:



Oil Refining



Fertilizer Production



Steel Production



Synthetic Fuels



Grid Storage



Transport Fuels



## THE RESULT

- ✓ Reduces air emissions
- ✓ Deploys hydrogen at scale
- ✓ Expands the use of carbon-free nuclear energy into the transportation and industrial sectors
- ✓ Supports the Hydrogen Shot goal of reducing the cost of clean hydrogen by

**80%** to \$1 per kilogram within a decade



LEARN MORE: [energy.gov/ne](https://energy.gov/ne)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
NUCLEAR ENERGY



# Nuclear-H<sub>2</sub> demonstration projects

Four projects have been selected for demonstration of hydrogen production at U.S. nuclear power plants (NPP)

- H<sub>2</sub> production using direct electrical power offtake
- Develop monitoring and controls procedures for scaleup to large commercial-scale H<sub>2</sub> plants
- Evaluate power offtake dynamics on NPP power transmission stations to avoid NPP flexible operations
- Produce H<sub>2</sub> for captive use by NPPs and clean hydrogen markets

## Projects

- Constellation: Nine-Mile Point NPP (~1 MWe LTE/PEM)
- Energy Harbor: Davis-Besse NPP (~1-2MWe LTE/PEM)
- Xcel Energy: Prairie Island NPP (~150 kWe HTSE)
- FuelCell Energy: Demonstration at INL (250 kWe)

### *Nine Mile Point NPP LTE/PEM*



### *Davis-Besse NPP LTE-PEM*



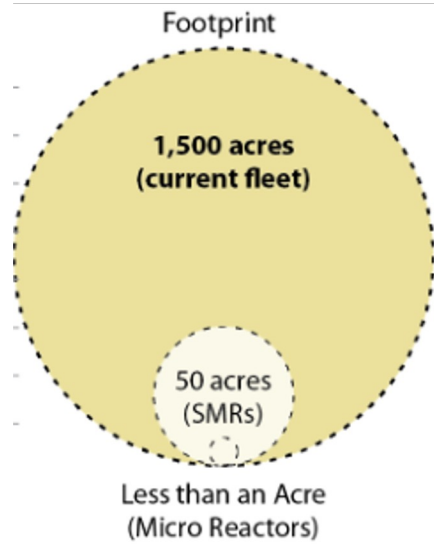
### *Thermal & Electrical Integration at Prairie Island NPP HTSE/SOEC*



### *FuelCell Energy at INL, SOEC at increasing scale*



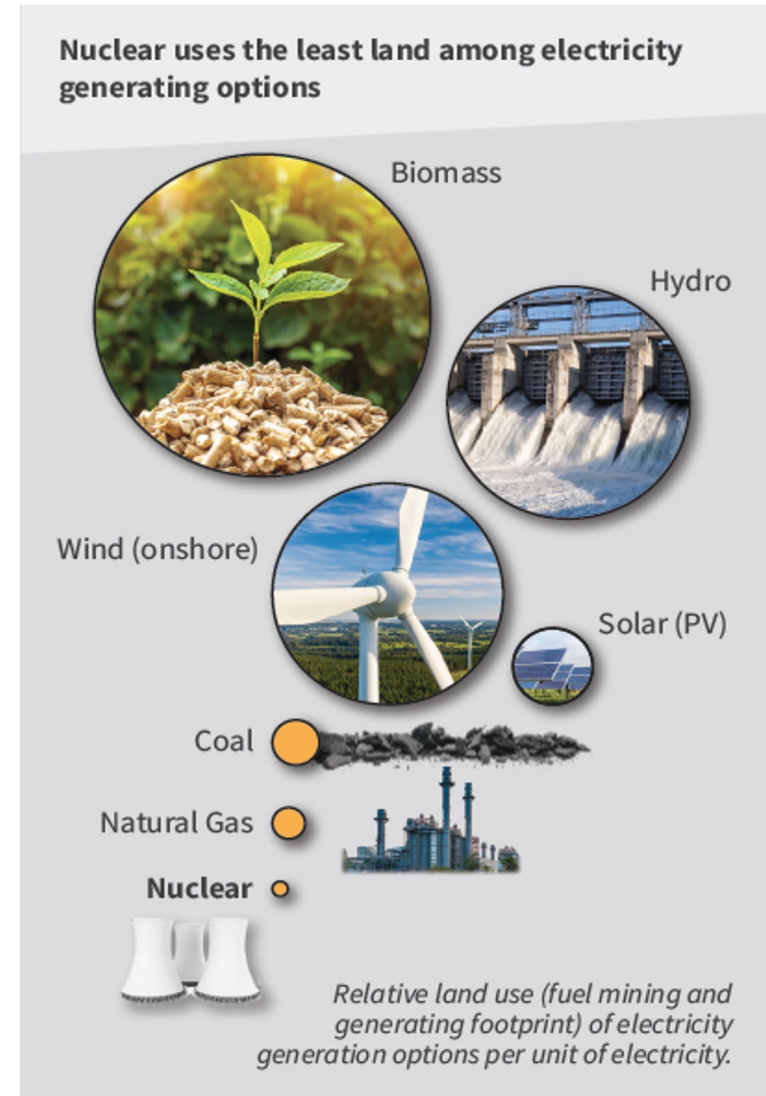
# Nuclear energy and deployment flexibility



***Microreactors and small modular reactors can be deployed to provide reliable energy where it is needed with a small footprint that allows for siting very near to the intended use.***



Artist renditions courtesy of GAIN and Third Way, inspired by the *Nuclear Energy Reimagined* concept led by INL. Learn more about these and other energy park concepts at [thirdway.org/blog/nuclear-reimagined](https://thirdway.org/blog/nuclear-reimagined)



Source: <https://world-nuclear.org/information-library/energy-and-the-environment/nuclear-energy-and-sustainable-development.aspx>

# Advanced Reactor Design Concepts

## Key Benefits

- Inherent/passive safety
- Deployment flexibility
- Versatile applications
- Long fuel cycles
- Reduced waste
- Advanced manufacturing to reduce cost

*60+ private sector projects under development*

## SIZES

### SMALL

1 MW to 20 MW

Micro-reactors

*Can fit on a flatbed truck.  
Mobile. Deployable.*

### MEDIUM

20 MW to 300 MW

Small Modular Reactors

*Factory-built. Can be  
scaled up by adding  
more units.*

### LARGE

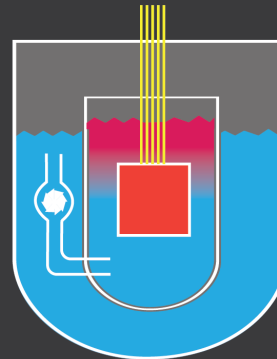
300 MW to 1,000 + MW

Full-size Reactors

*Can provide reliable,  
emissions-free baseload  
power*

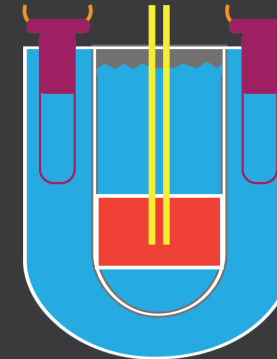
— Advanced Reactors Supported by the U.S. Department of Energy —

## TYPES



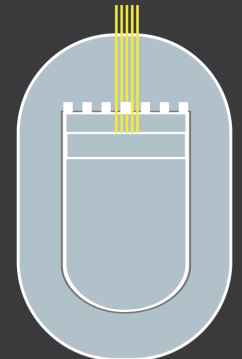
### MOLTEN SALT REACTORS –

Use molten fluoride or chloride salts as a coolant. Online fuel processing. Can re-use and consume spent fuel from other reactors.



### LIQUID METAL FAST REACTORS –

Use liquid metal (sodium or lead) as a coolant. Operate at higher temperatures and lower pressures. Can re-use and consume spent fuel from other reactors.

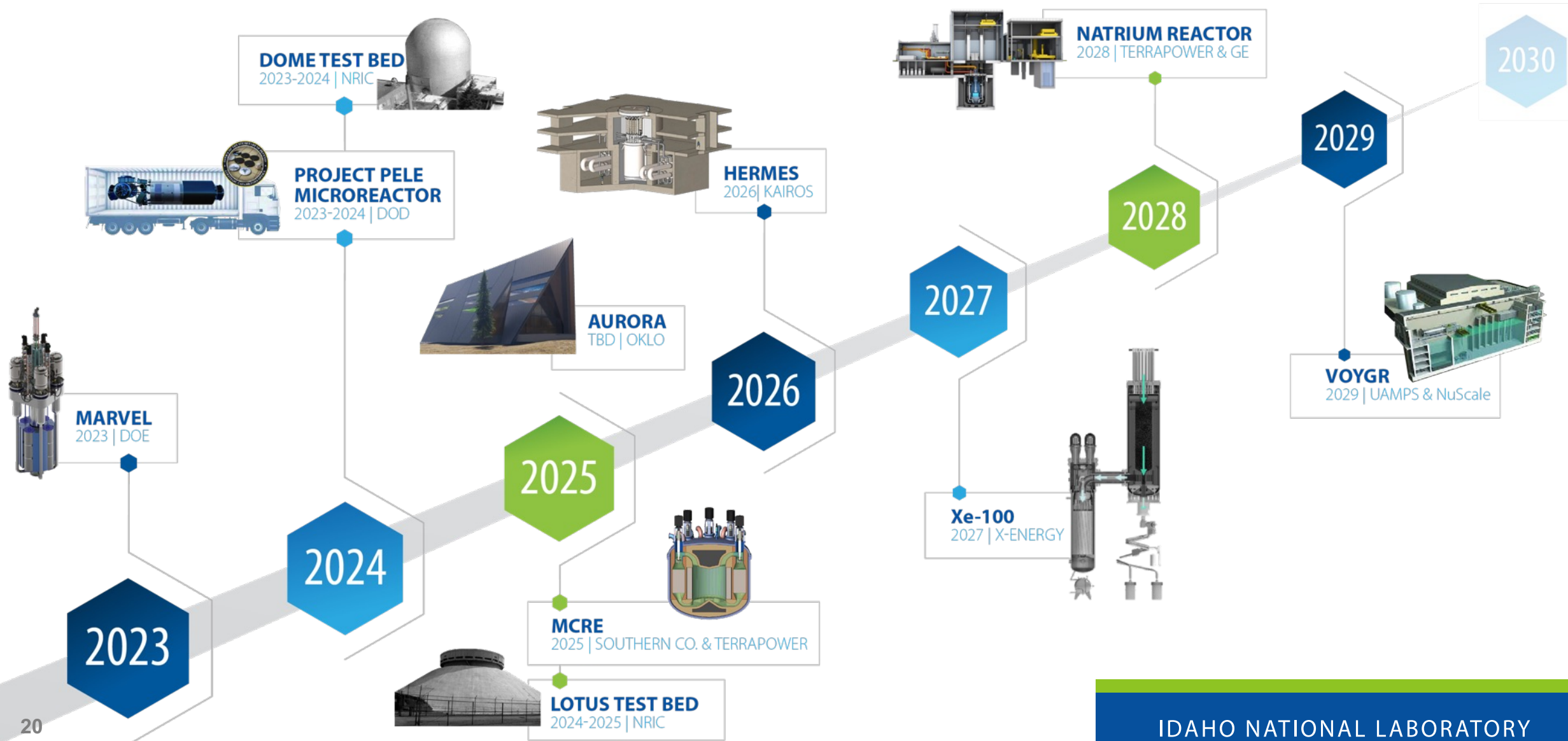


### GAS-COOLED REACTORS –

Use flowing gas as a coolant. Operate at high temperatures to efficiently produce heat for electric and non-electric applications.

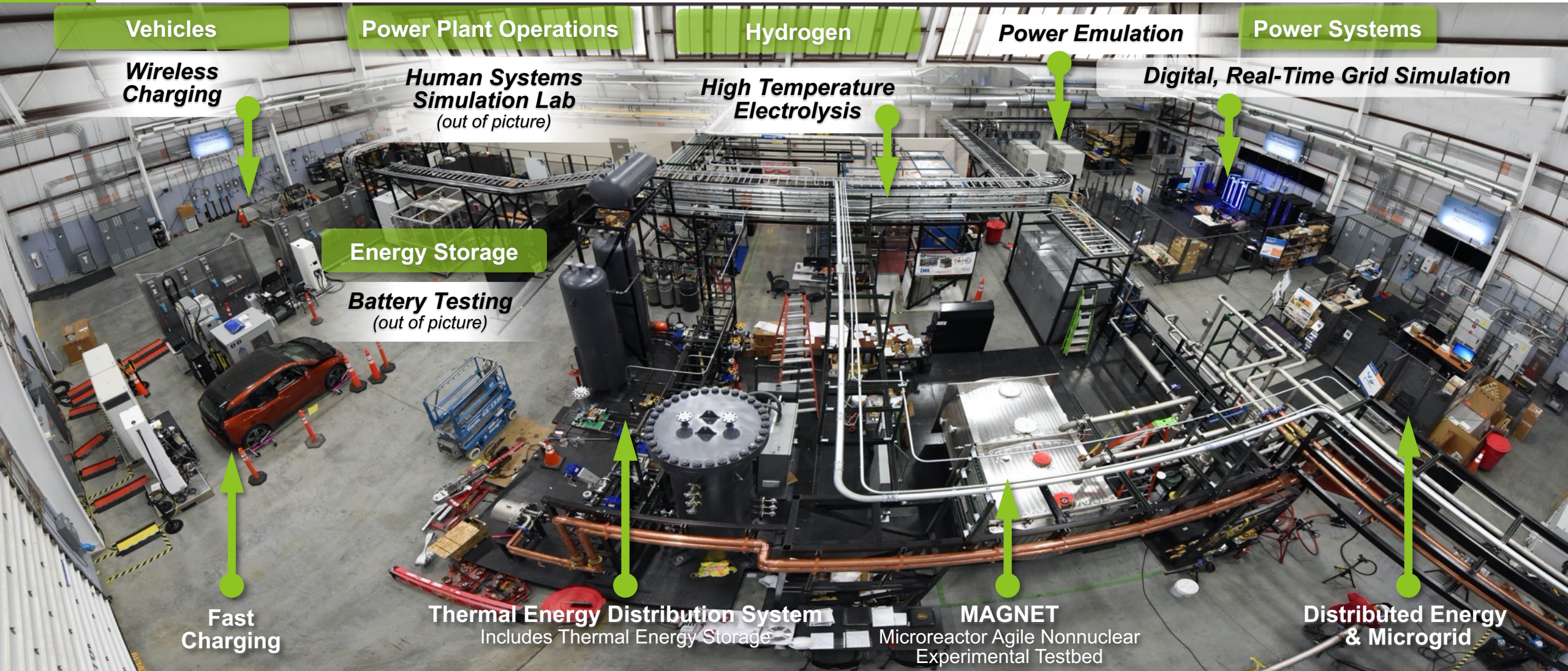


# Accelerating advanced reactor demonstration & deployment



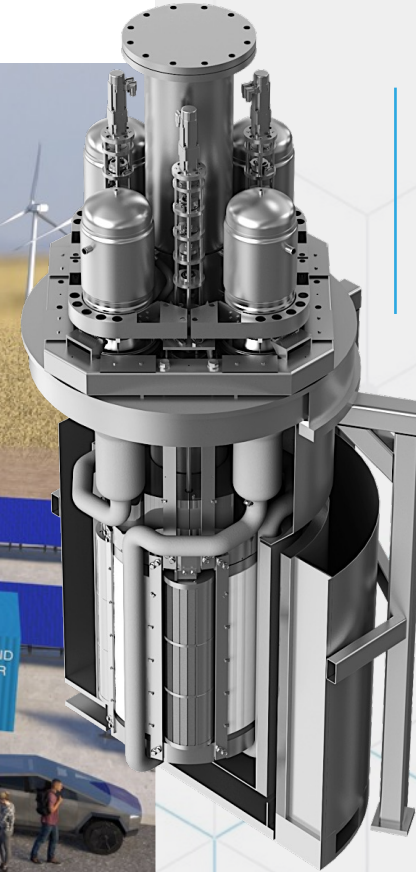


# Dynamic Energy Transport and Integration Laboratory (DETAIL)



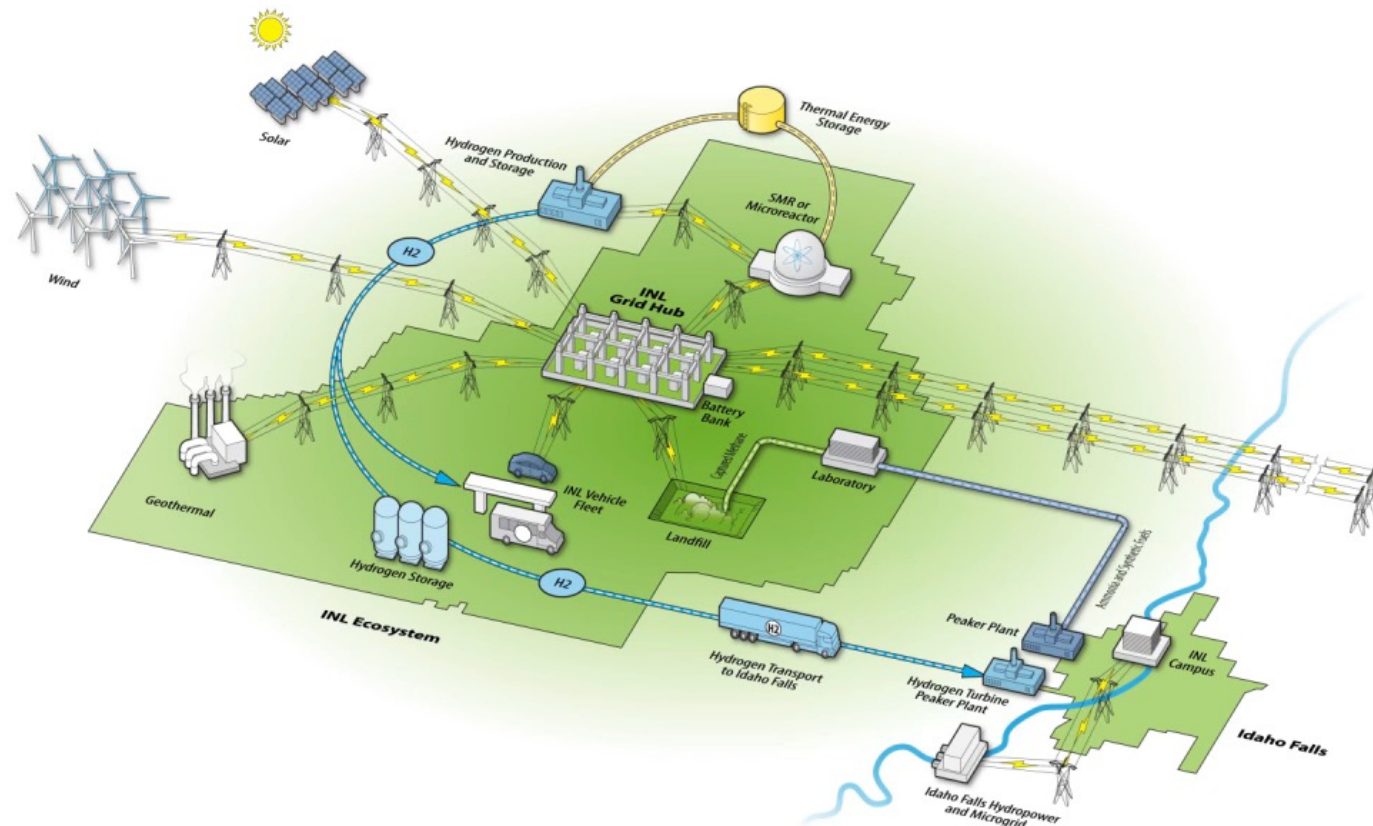


# INL microgrid with MARVEL microreactor



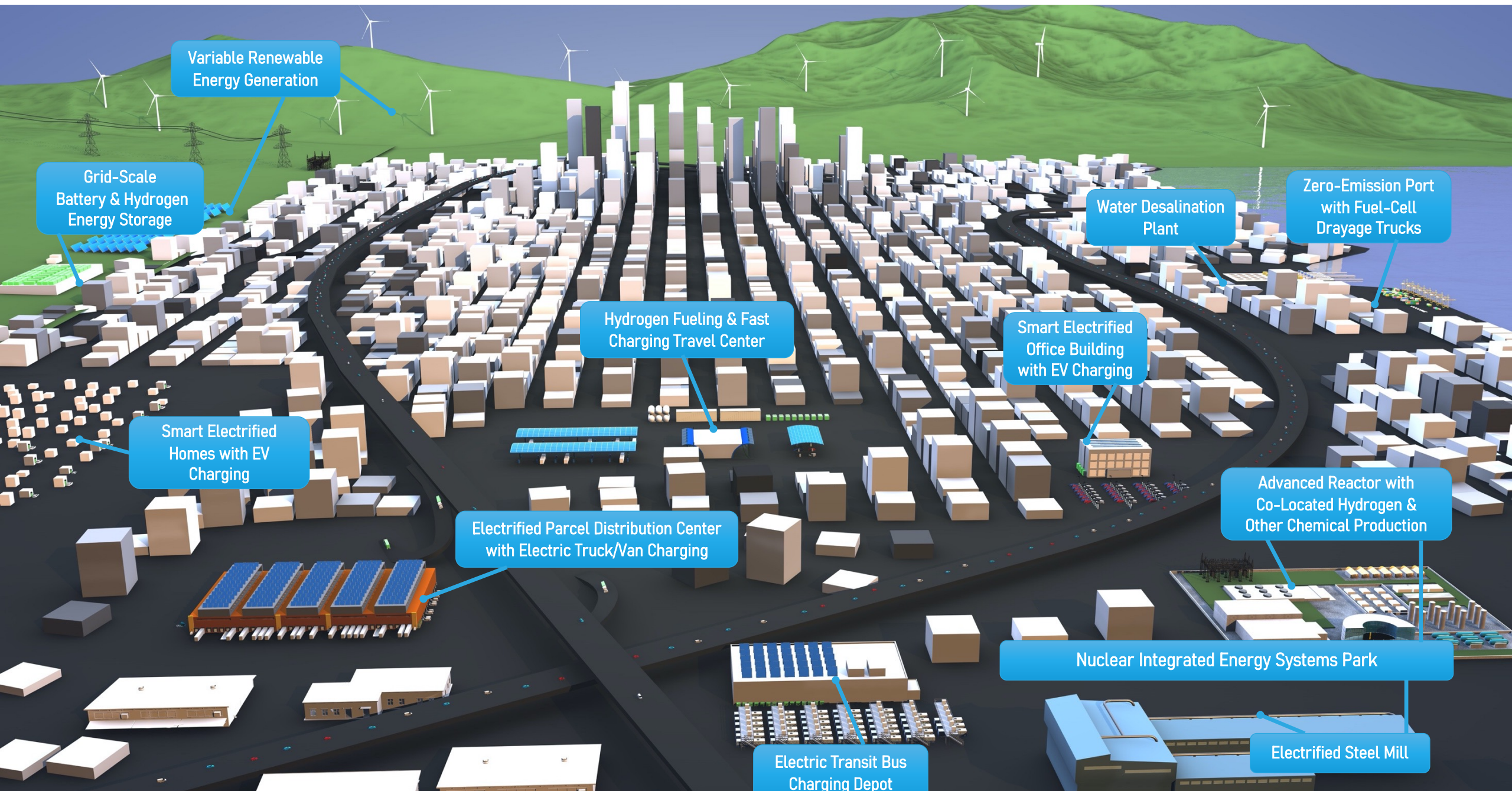
**MARVEL TEAM**  
*is innovating in  
every area of a  
microreactor*

# INL secure, resilient net-zero energy future.





# A vision for a net-zero future







Idaho National Laboratory