

## The Energy System of the Future

### How to combat climate change and pollution

#### W. Eberhardt









Designing the Energy System of the Future We focus on Carbon-Dioxide......

.....to combat climate change

ΤΗĖ

LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND DUBLIN

#### PHILOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE

AND

#### JOURNAL OF SCIENCE.

[FIFTH SERIES.]

APRIL 1896.

XXXI. On the Influence of Carbonic Acid in the Air upon the Temperature of the Ground. By Prof. SVANTE ARRHENIUS\*.



## Present State of the World Energy System

- The rise of the CO<sub>2</sub> in the athmosphere is predominantly man made (burning of fossil fuels)
- This causes the world wide climate to change (global warming)
- How much climate change can our society afford? (social and economic consequences)
- Additional (local) effects:
- Environmental pollution by carbon particles and heavy metals
- Health risks and premature deaths

We need to make changes now  $\rightarrow$  This implies the use of existing technologies (with improvements)

--- and we will have immediate local benefits



#### **Drivers:**

**Icreasing Population** 

Increase in Standard of Living

Dependency on Foreign Sources International Security

Pollution – Global Warming

#### **Solutions:**

Generating Electricity without CO<sub>2</sub> Making Fuels from Sunlight Revolutionizing Energy Efficiency New Science for a Secure and Sustainable Energy Future



U.S. Dep. of Energy, BES reports (2008) http://www.sc.doe.gov/bes/reports/list.html Wolfgang Eberhardt

## Challenges for the Future Energy-System







Science 329, 786 Aug 13, 2010

In one hour as much solar energy hits the earth..... as we use in one year



**Nuclear Power Plants** 

## **Liquid Fuels for Transport**

Transport is responsible for  $\geq 25\%$  of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions worldwide



ExxonMobil (2018)

Bloomberg NEF (2021)



## **Electrical truck makes it over the Alps**







How much do we need to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions......

.....in order to win the war on 'climate change'?



#### Global Carbon Budget



Data source: Friedlingstein et al. 2020 Global Carbon Budget 2020. Earth System Science Data.



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## Conclusions from the "Keeling-Curve"

- (less than) half of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are deposited into the atmosphere (measured since 60 years)
- With increasing CO<sub>2</sub> concentration the absorption by biomass on land and in the oceans is increasing

As soon as we have lowered the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 50%, the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere will decline → we have won the battle against climate change



Today's state (2019).....

......we totally miss the 'Paris goals'!!!

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions (Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)









IEA outlook on electricity generation 26000 TWh 40000 TWh 2017 2040 900 4800 500 10500 4.500 3800 10.000 1400 2.700 500 6000 5.800 9000 3500 coal ۲ oil gas bio nuclear hydro other renewables solarPV wind Source: IEA 2019

# Summary

- The Change of the Energy System is technically and economically possible
- Climate change and local pollution will be drastically reduced
- Major Measures to be implemented:

Elimination of coal based power plants Ban of combustion engines for land based transport Heat pumps for new buildings

- The (worldwide) change of the energy system is absolutely mandatory ---it will open up new market opportunities --- The fate of our world will be decided in South East Asia and Africa
- We urgently need a long term vision and steady development
  - --- protected against lobbying and political interests





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