

# Energy Transitions—Shale Gas at the Convergence with Renewables



Source: Lightsourcebp

# Penn State's MCOR

## Outreach

- Science-based information
- Rapid response
- Localized outreach
- Rapid evolution of info
- Broad range of views
- Positive link between stakeholders, researchers, industry, and elected officials

### “Translational Outreach”

--Creating advocates of science w/**Energy Transitions**

## Research Interests

- Above and below ground
- Geoscience/engineering
- Technical
- Environmental/land use
- Economic/workforce
- Social, community impacts
- Governance
- Regulatory
- Baseline assessments
- Convergence of shale and renewables

# New U.S. Energy Paradigm



- Shifting energy dynamic and energy transitioning
- New price advantages
- Political realities
- Changing cultural expectations on energy
- Low carbon future
- Economic realities
- New business demands on energy



# Energy Transition Drivers

- Societal change
  - What do people want
  - Realistic or not
- Political forces
  - Four-year cycles
- Market
  - Investment trends
- Global climate metric
  - Localized impacts
  - Global ramifications
- Where is the energy technology??





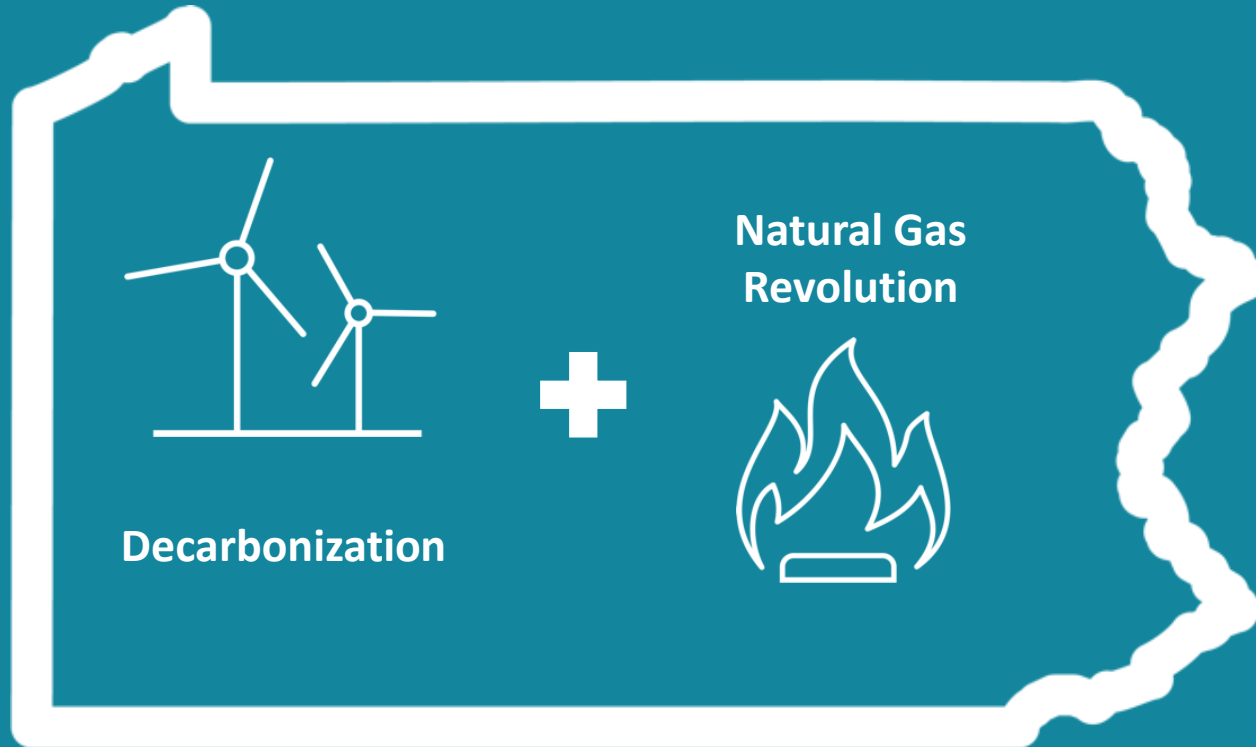
# PENNSYLVANIA ENERGY HORIZONS



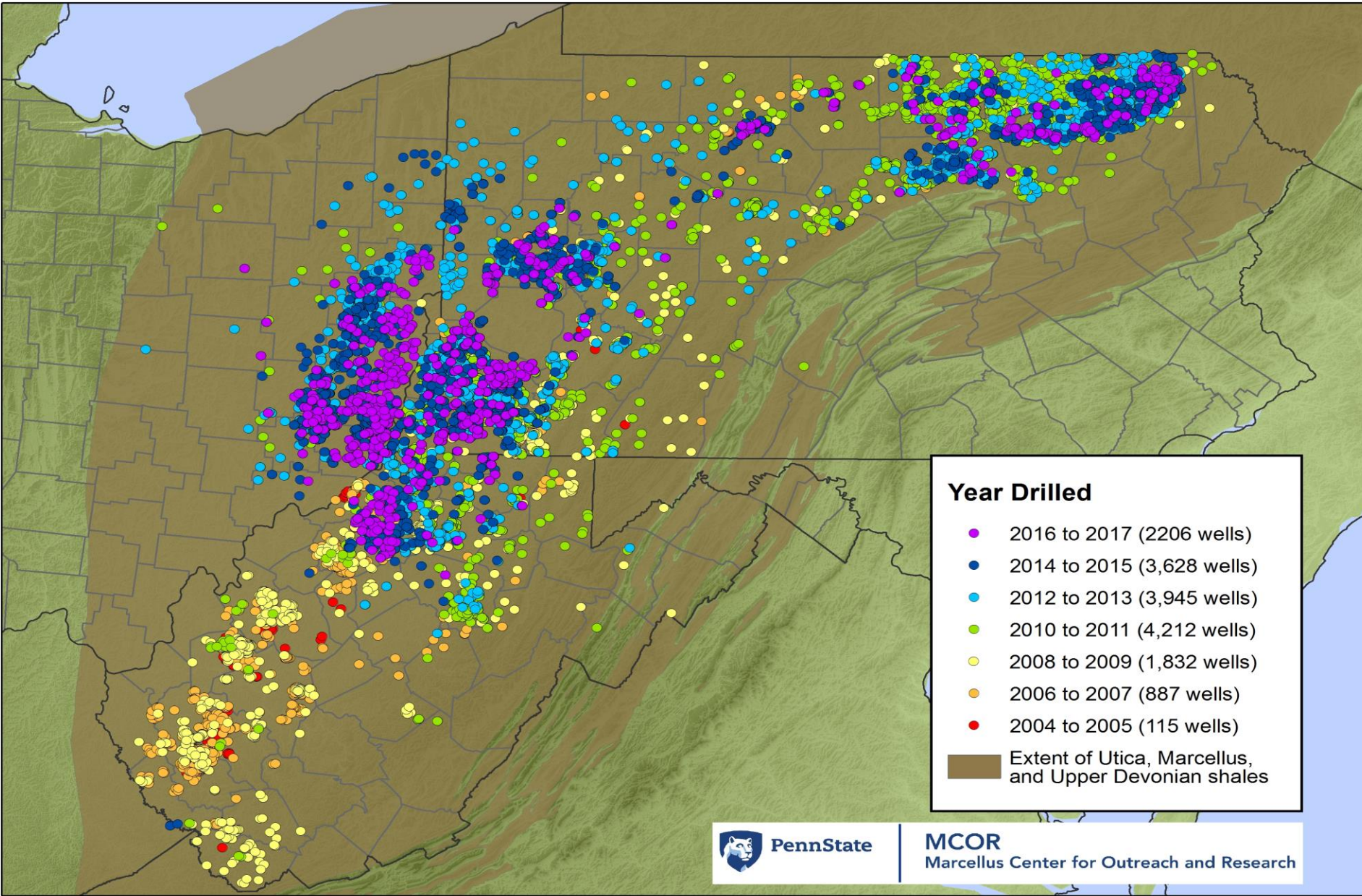
DEVELOPING SCENARIOS TO INFORM PENNSYLVANIA'S ENERGY STRATEGY

How might Pennsylvania's energy system evolve in the next 25 years, and what might that mean for Pennsylvanians?

# Pennsylvania's Convergence of Energy Transitions



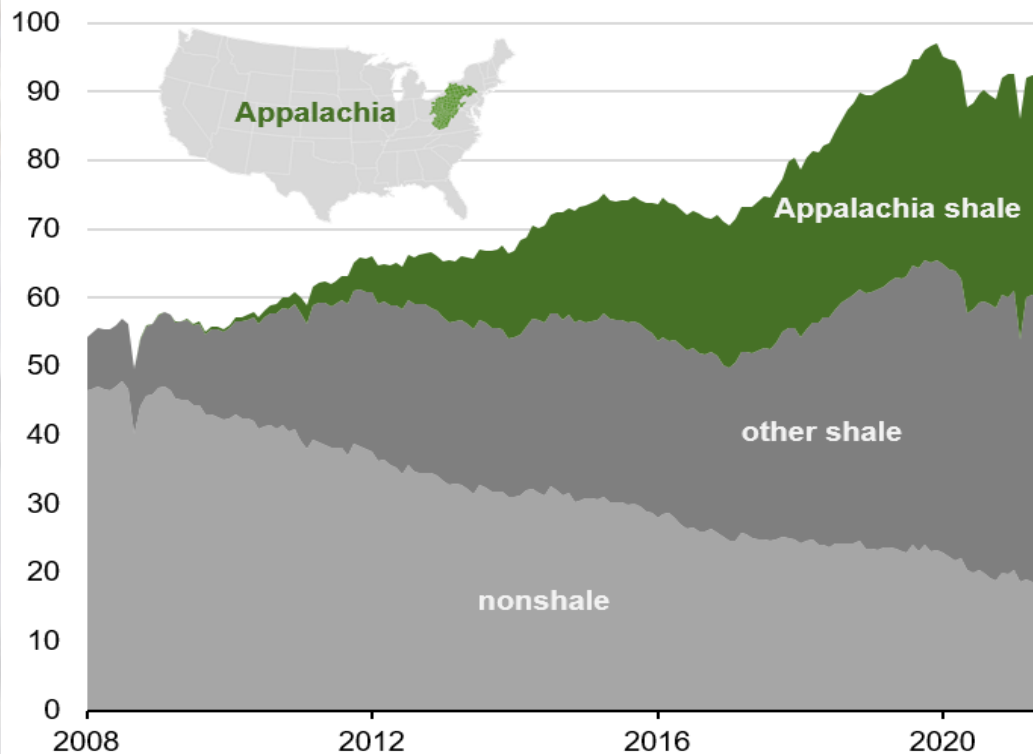
# Unconventional Wells Drilled by Year



**MCOR**  
Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research

# Marcellus/Utica Production

U.S. dry shale natural gas production (Jan 2008–Jun 2021)  
billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d)



- 32+ Bcf/d in basin
- 34% of U.S. production
- Third largest producer behind Russia and remainder of U.S.
- Expanding domestic markets
- Increasing LNG options





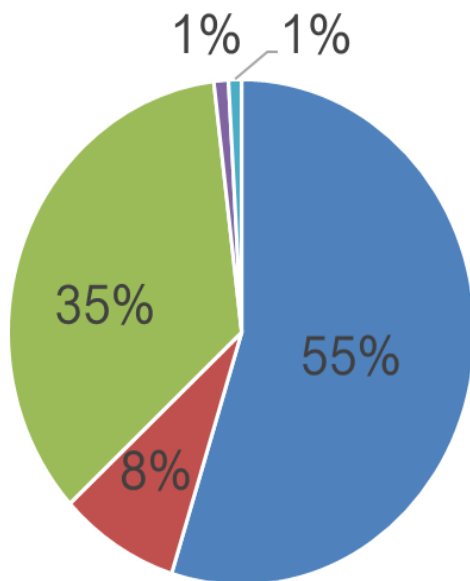
Different energy resources,  
similar concerns:

## Wind/Solar/Gas/Hydrogen

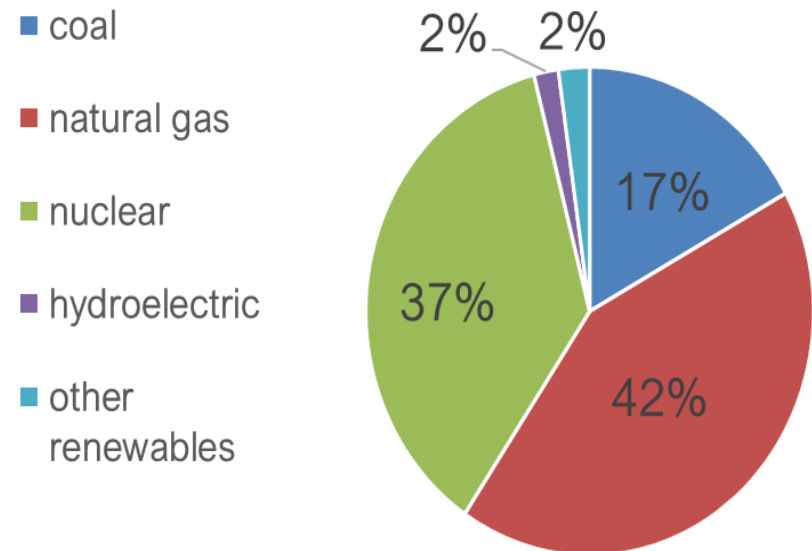
- Transmission lines
- Pipeline ROW
- Infrastructure
- Revenue generation
- Community impacts
- Environmental issues
- Local economic benefit



## Pennsylvania - Net Electricity Generation 2007



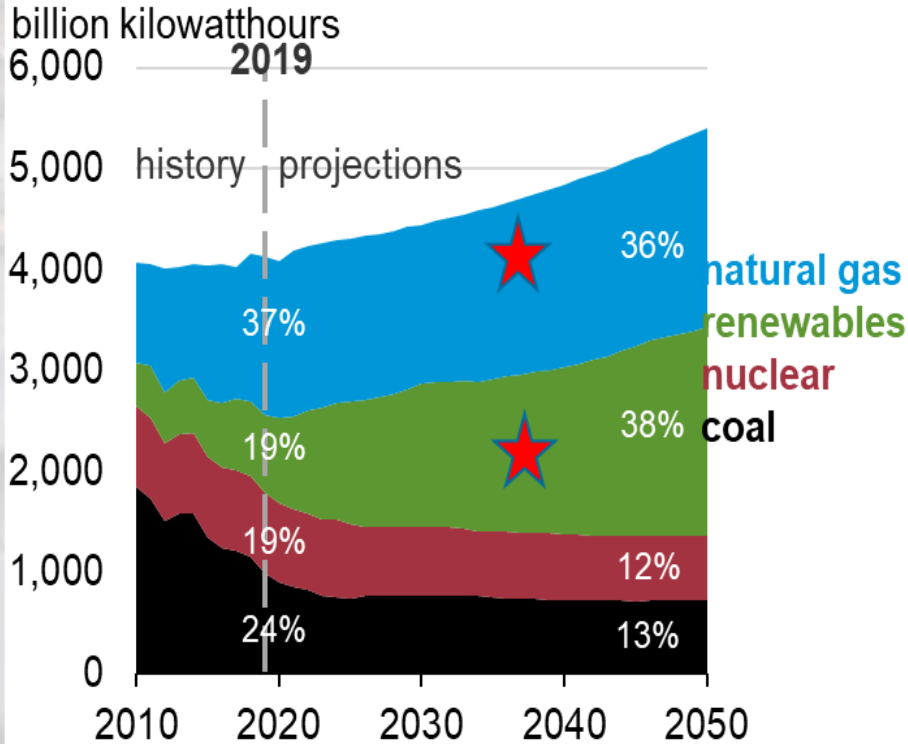
## Pennsylvania - Net Electricity Generation 2019



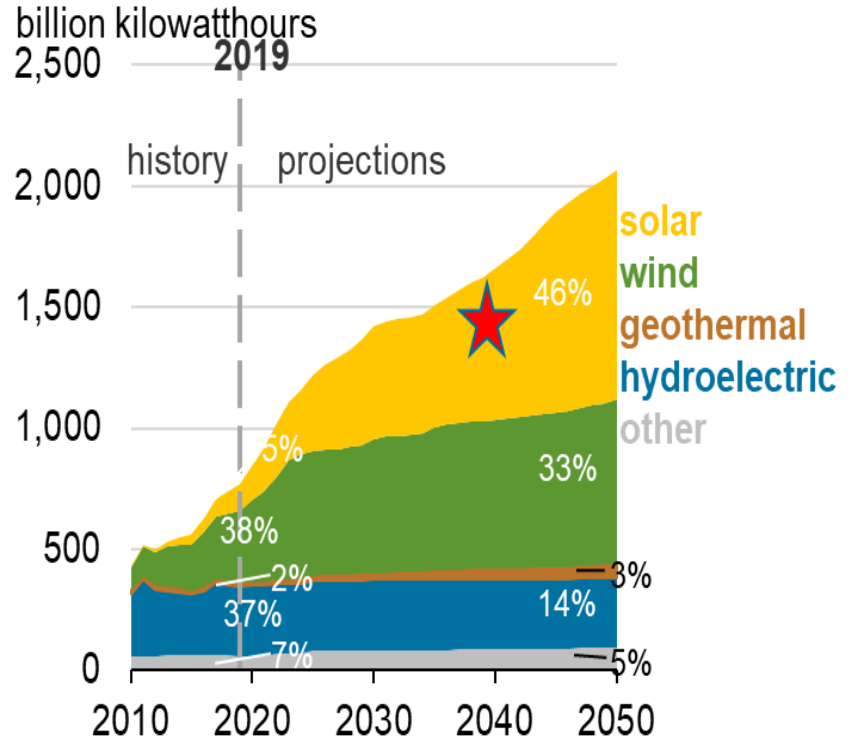
Source: EIA Net Generation Pennsylvania Electric Power Annual



## Electricity generation from selected fuels (AEO2020 Reference case)



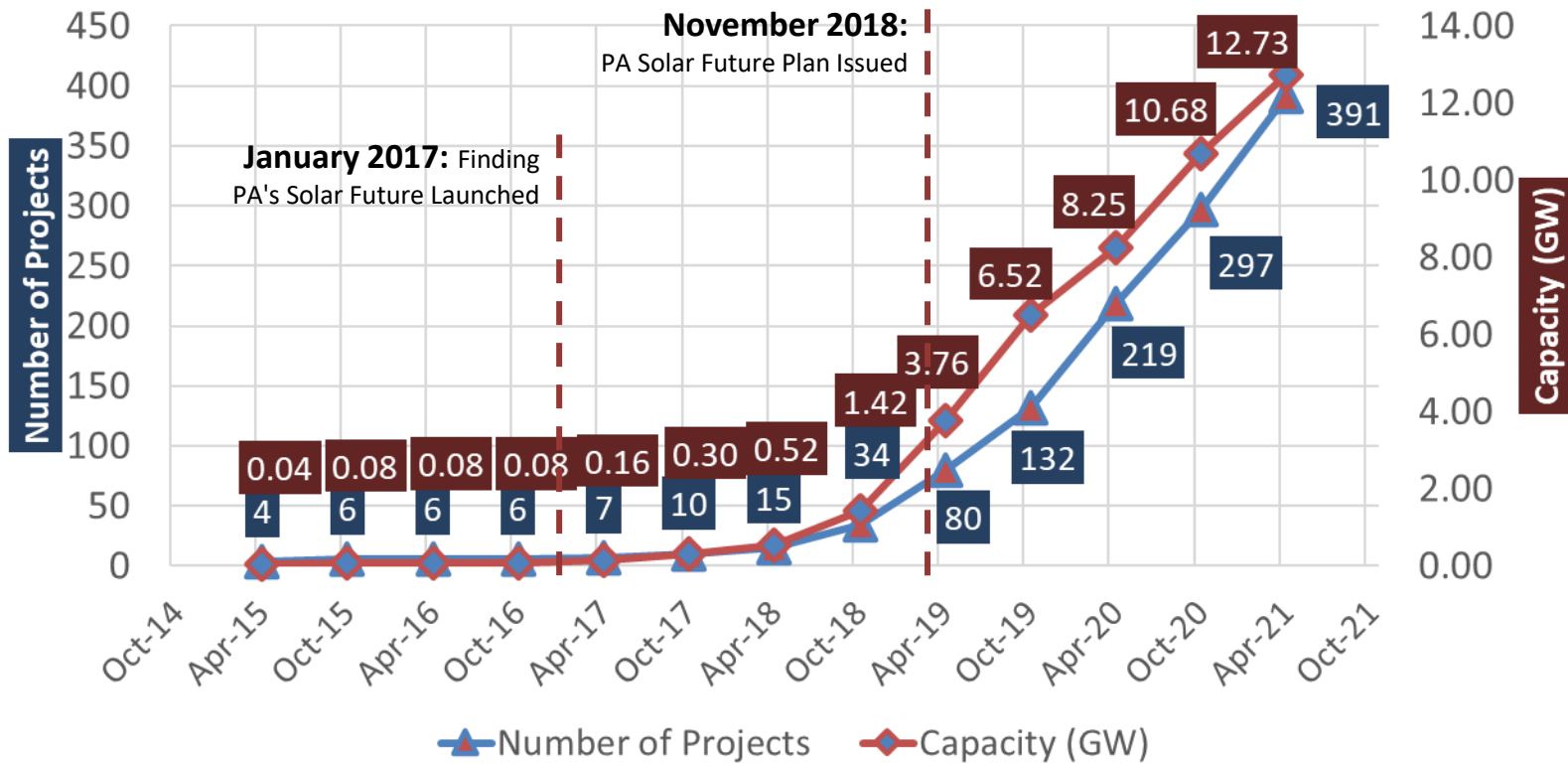
## Renewable electricity generation, including end use (AEO2020 Reference case)



Electricity generation from natural gas and renewables increases as a result of lower natural gas prices and declining costs of solar and wind renewable capacity, making these fuels increasingly competitive

# Growth of Grid-Scale Solar Proposals

## Projects in PJM New Services Queue in Pennsylvania



Based on data from PJM, graphic by DEP 8.21

# Why Solar in PA

- Not the best location in the U.S. for sun
  - But... ...400+ projects in PJM queue
- PA is large electric generator and export state
- Abundant electrical infrastructure
  - transmission
- Generally favorable political/policy support
  - 80K acres anticipated
- Investor support --\$13B by 2030??
  - \$1.13M/MW (approx. 6 acres/MW)
- Central location to markets
- New storage technology and declining costs

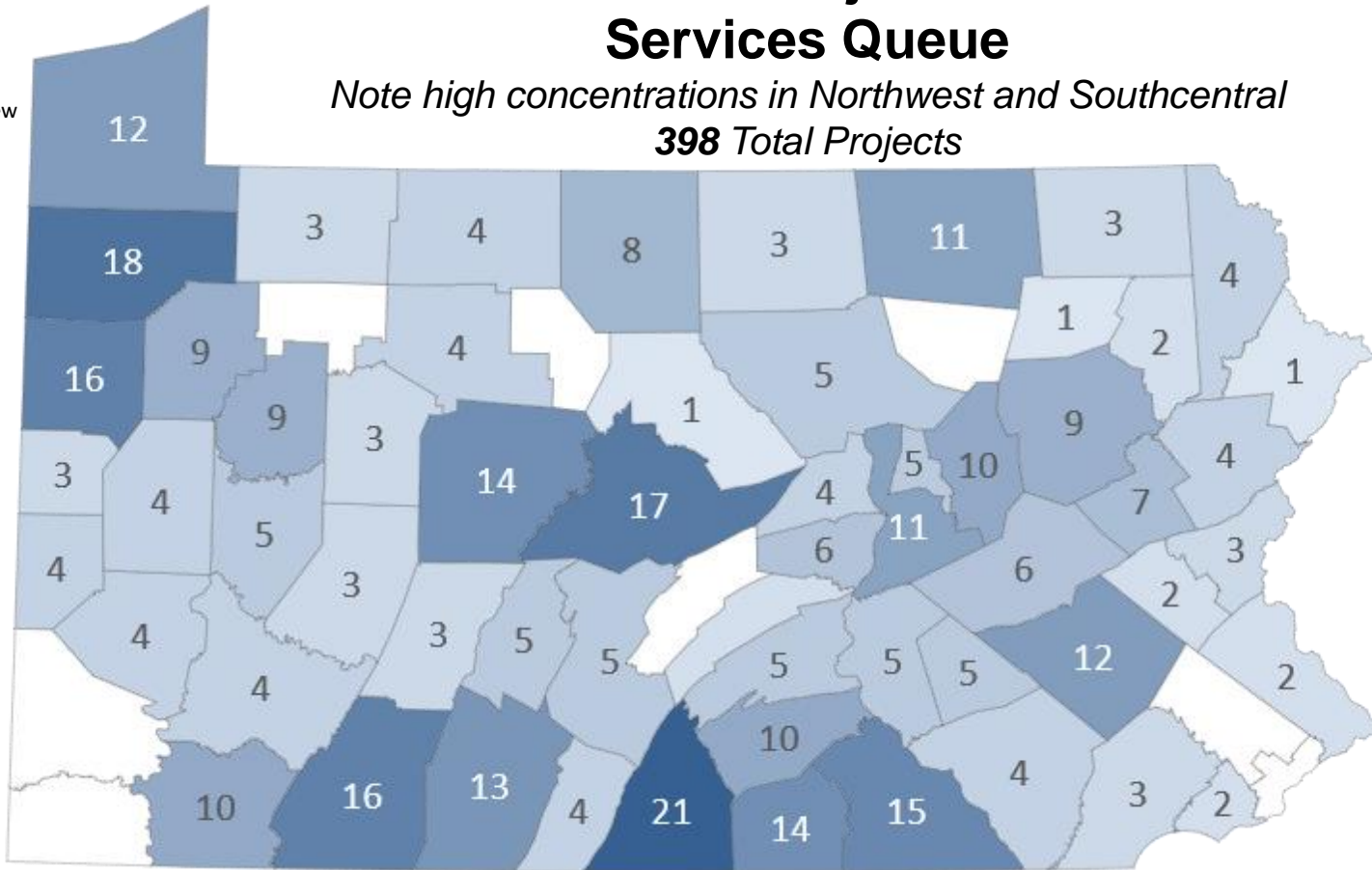
# Statewide Development Potential

## Total Number of Projects in PJM New Services Queue

*Note high concentrations in Northwest and Southcentral*  
**398 Total Projects**

**Review Phase:**

- 181 Initial Review
- 133 Advanced Review
- 77 Project Design
- 7 Operations



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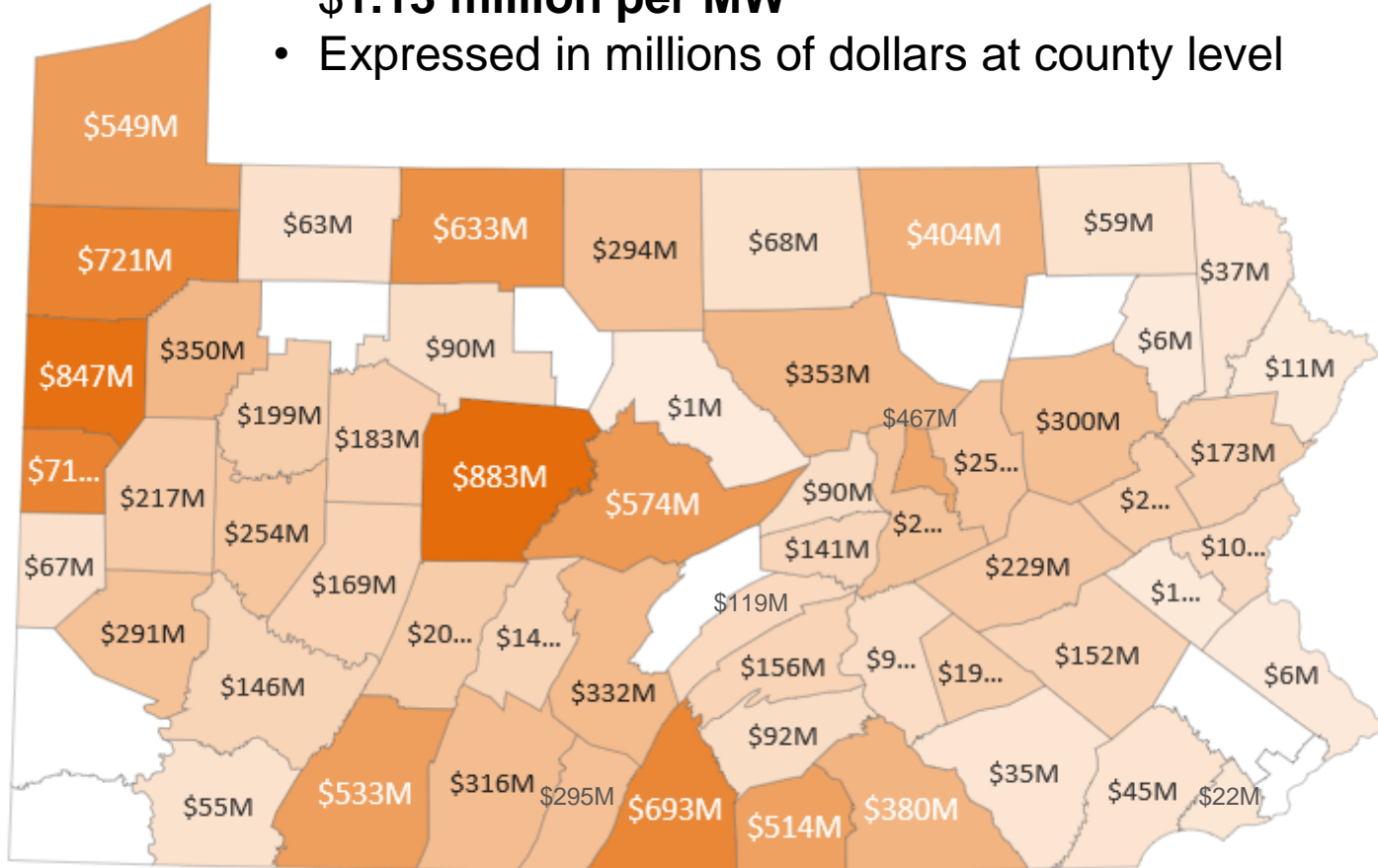
Based on data from PJM, graphic by DEP 8.21





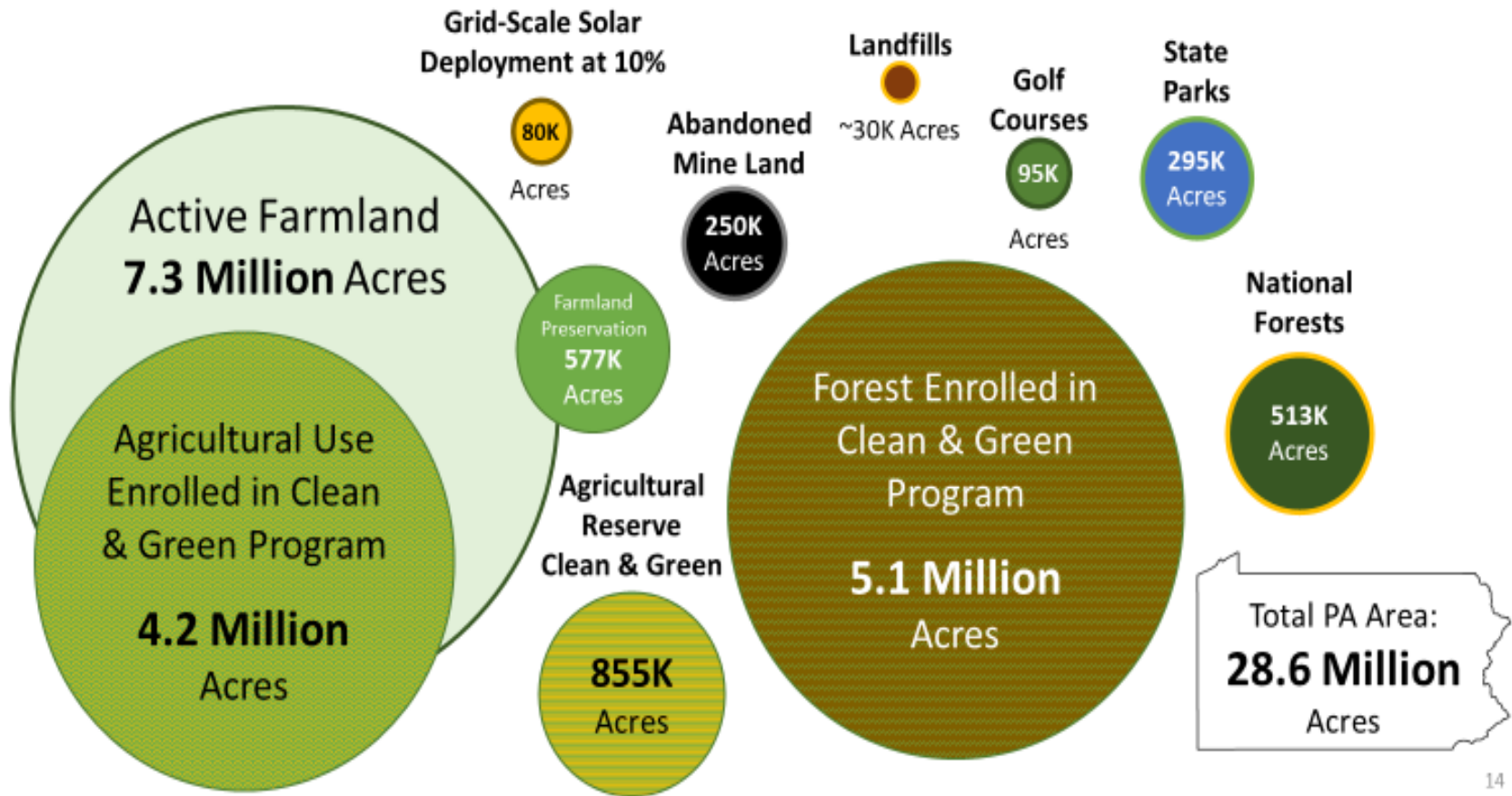
# Project Investment Potential

- Total cost based off an estimated construction cost of **\$1.13 million per MW**
- Expressed in millions of dollars at county level



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# Land Use Comparison

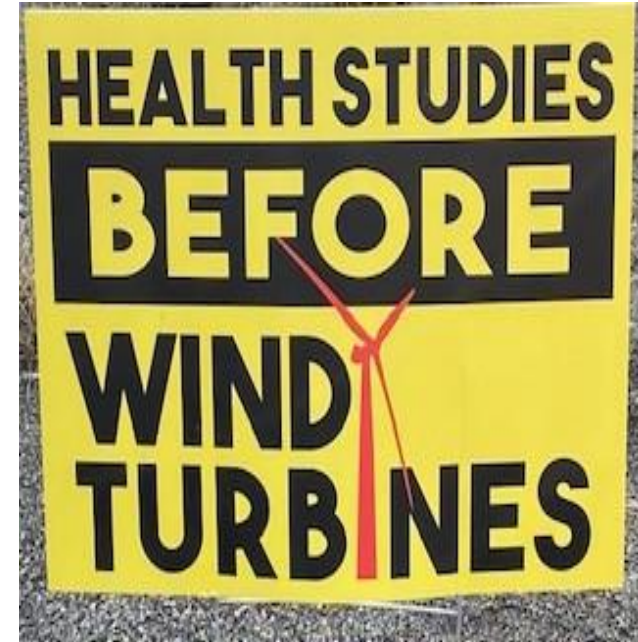


# Hot Issues

- Siting Considerations/Land Transitions
  - Brownfields vs. agland
- Environmental impacts
  - Baseline testing/water
- Stormwater/impervious surfaces
- Agrivoltaics
- New technology trends and efficiency improvements
- Co-location of energy storage/hydrogen
- Decommissioning
  - Lifespan/bonding/recycling/disposal -- who and where??
- Land restoration

# What to Expect

- More legal challenges by all sides
- Increased NIMBYism
  - All energy types
- Emerging markets influenced by legislation/policy
  - Widespread EV adoption??
- New energy technology
  - Hydrogen (Blue, Green, etc)
  - CCUS options
  - Fugitive methane assessment and control
- New investment trends
  - Particularly towards lower carbon options
  - New “Exxons” in renewables





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