

# **Electricity and the Human Prospect: A Vision**

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December 8, 2004 Kurt Yeager, EPRI



# **Key Points**

- 1. Throughout history, mankind's ability to master its environment has depended on energy availability.
- 2. The Developed World is precariously perched at the top of an increasingly unstable global energy access pyramid.
- 3. The driving force for technological modernization is resolution of the global energy gap.
- 4. Transforming the world's "hunter/gatherer" energy economy is essential to sustainability.
- 5. Electricity is the essential agent for this global energy transformation.



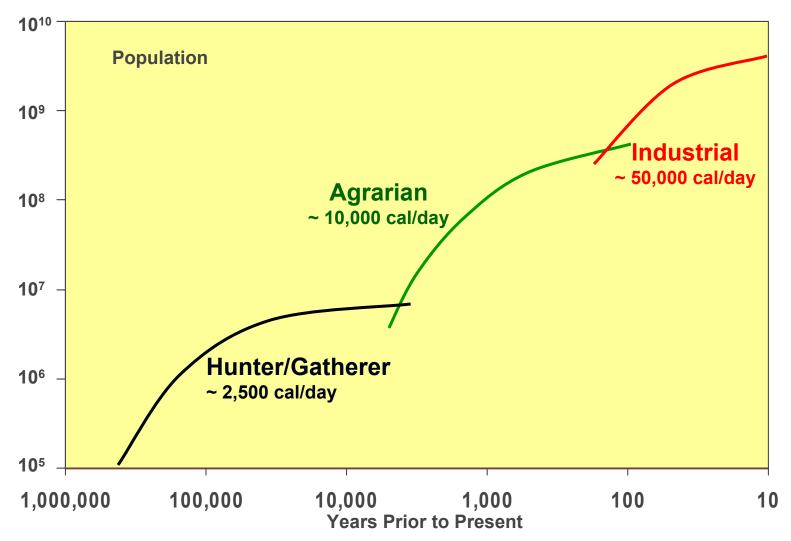
Navigating Between:

- The global demographic threat posed by those denied energy access, and
- Resistance to the modernization on which energy access depends.

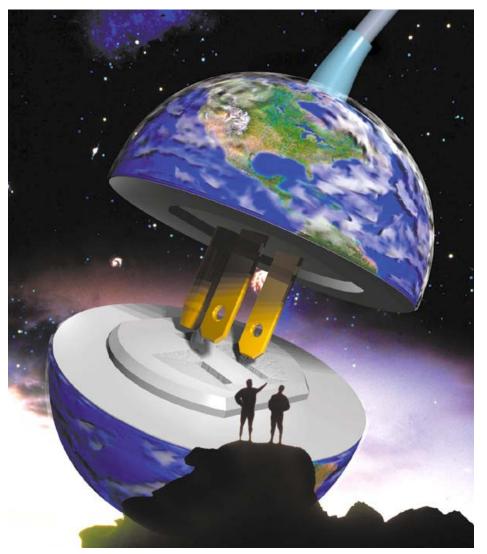




# **Cycles of Demographic Growth**



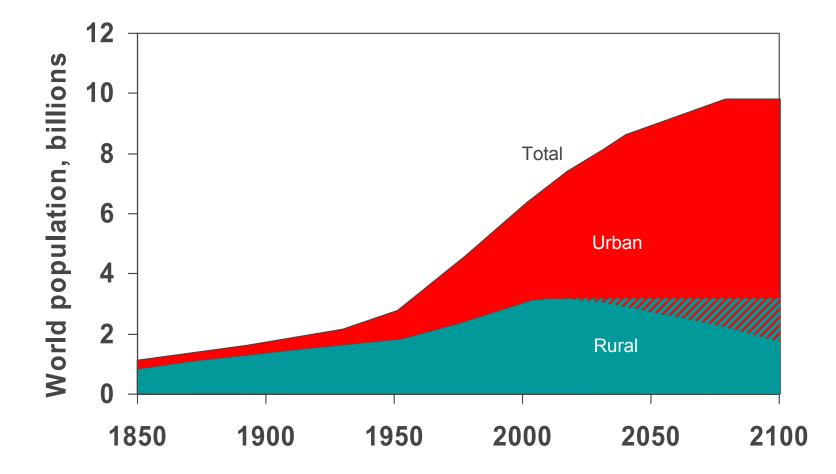
# **The Energy Gap**



- Half the world's population subsists on agrarian or lower levels of energy access, and
- Their population density generally exceeds the carrying capacity of their environment



# World Population 1850-2100, Rural-Urban





# The Thermodynamics of History



- Human history reflects the creation of increasingly complex technological and social arrangements for capturing free energy
- Collapse sets in when entropy can no longer be offset and the energy returns per capita diminish



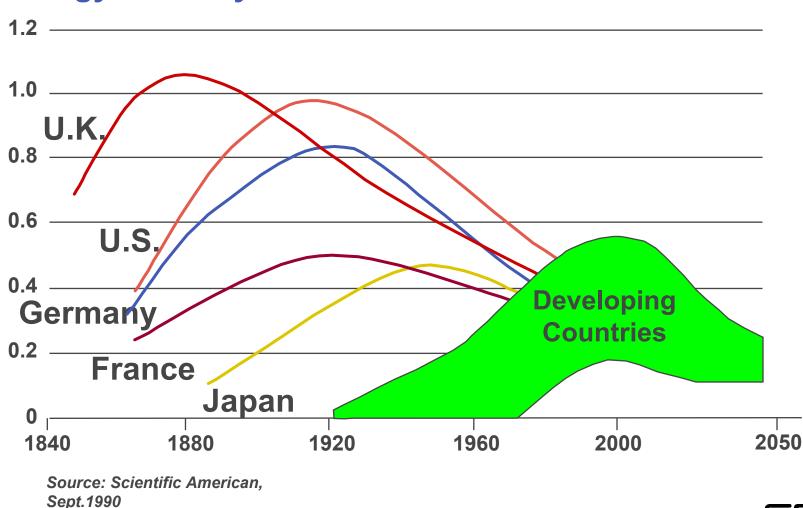
# **Fundamental Advantages of Electricity**

- Equal opportunity transformer and transmitter of all energy sources
- Greatest overall sourceto-use energy efficiency
- Essential empowerment agent for modern innovation





## **Energy Intensity Can Be Reduced Through Electrification**



Energy Intensity (MTOE/\$1,000 GDP)

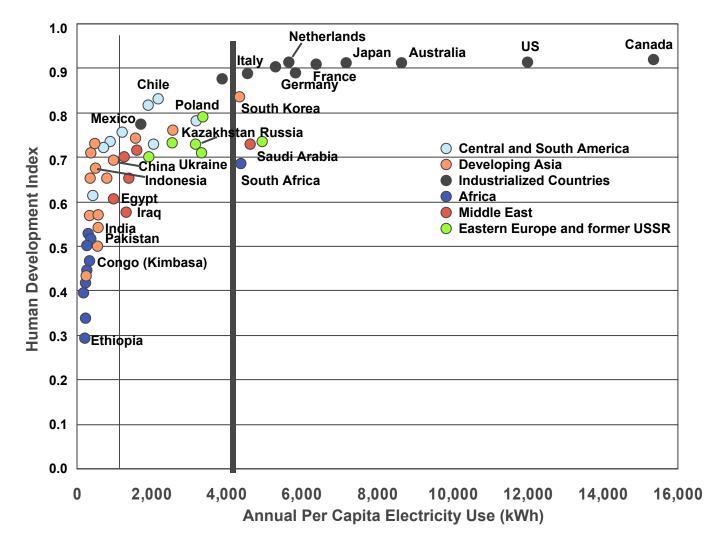
# **Inextricably Linked Global Needs**

- Restore and protect the integrity of the earth's life-support systems
- Manage resources crucial to human welfare
- Eliminate poverty
- Stabilize population



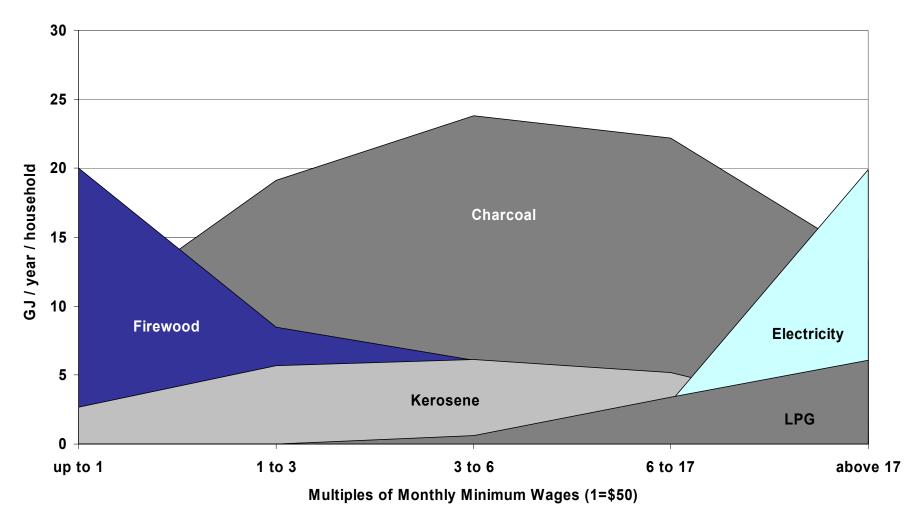


# **Correlation Between Human Development Index & Per Capita Electricity Consumption**



Source: S. Benka, MIT, The Future of Physics Today, April 2002

# Household Energy Use by Household Income: Nairobi, Kenya



Source: Adjusted from: P.O'Keefe et al, (1984) <u>Energy and Development in Kenya</u>, Scandanavian Institute of African Studies, Uppsala, Sweden, as adjusted in Gordon Leach. (1992) "The Energy Transition." *Energy Policy* (February): 116-

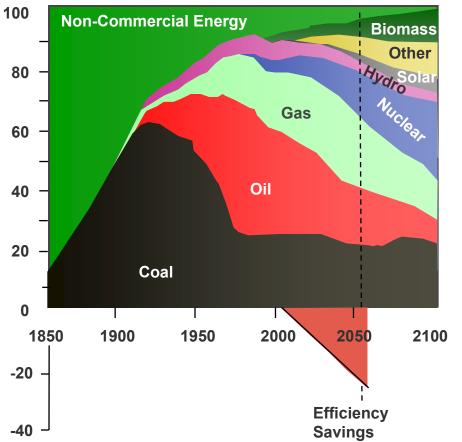
### At least 2%/yr growth in global productivity is needed to achieve a sustainable world in the 21st century

- The '2+% solution' recognizes that only growing economies are able to provide the resources needed for a world of 10 billion
- Unfunded pension and health liabilities for an aging population threaten the world economy and social stability
- Sustainability will increasingly impinge on the electricity business
- Electrification needs to reach an additional 80 million people per year



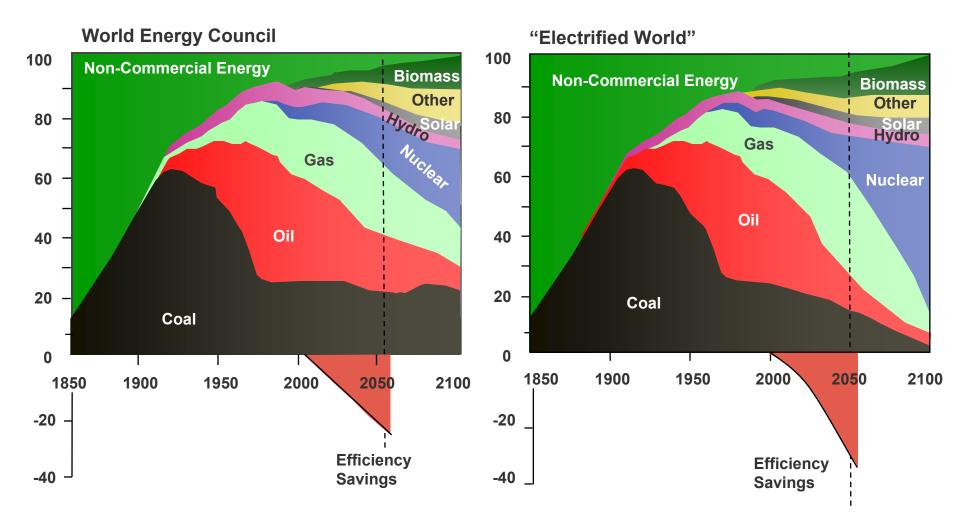
# **Evolution of Primary Energy Shares**

#### World Energy Council





# **Evolution of Primary Energy Shares**



EPCI

# What Adding 10,000 GW of Global Electrification Capacity Means

- Tripling current world capacity
- Adding 200,000 MW/yr of
  Infrastructure
- Investing \$300 billion/yr

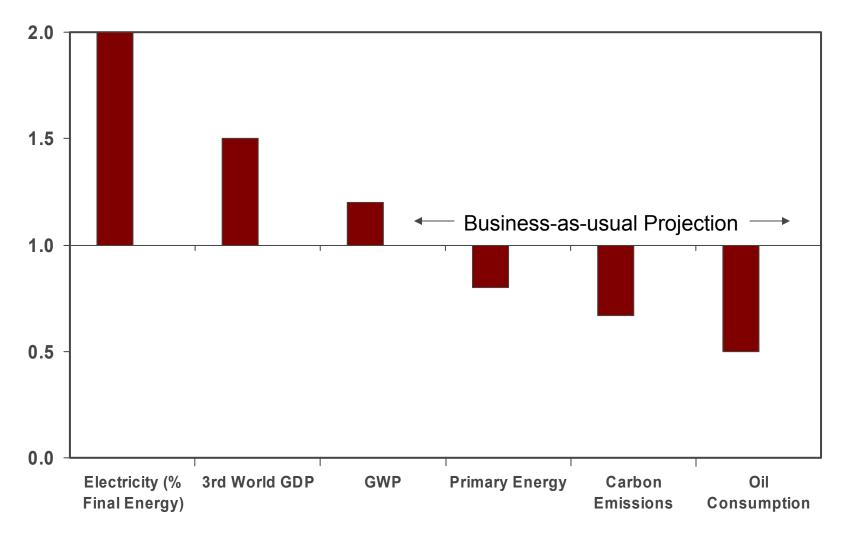
# It is equivalent to:

- < 5 years of current world automotive power production
- Less than 1.0% of GWP

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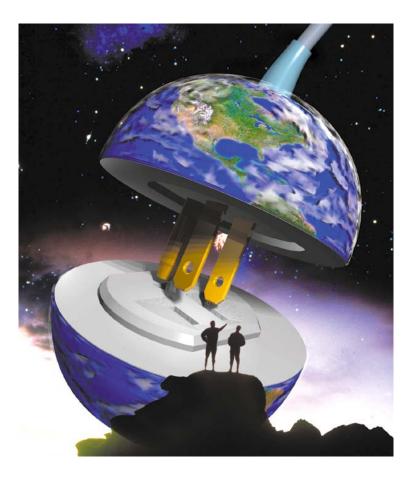
# Electrified World vs. Business-as-Usual in 2050





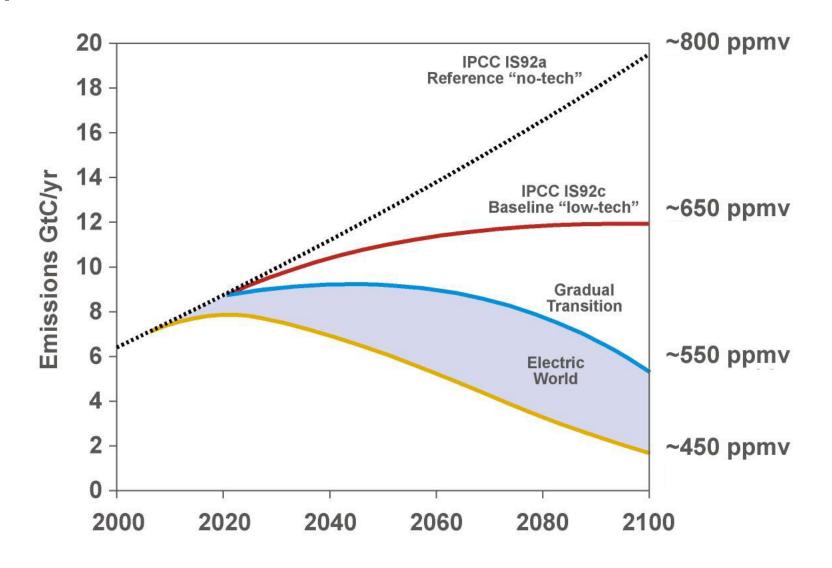
# **Other Advantages of Electricity**

- Reduces pollution / disease
- Encourages gender equity
- Enables education
- Lowers fertility rates





# **Comparison of CO<sub>2</sub> Emission Scenarios**





# Conclusions

- 1. The world is in the midst of unprecedented population growth made possible by mankind's increased ability to harness energy.
- 2. Only through broader access to energy can the world's demographic "climate change" be resolved.
- 3. This will require the transformation of what still remains a "hunter-gatherer" global energy economy.
- 4. The technology portfolio to enable this transformation is feasible but lacks the needed priority and resources.



# "Where there is no vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18



