



# **R&D Outlook for Decarbonization Opportunities**

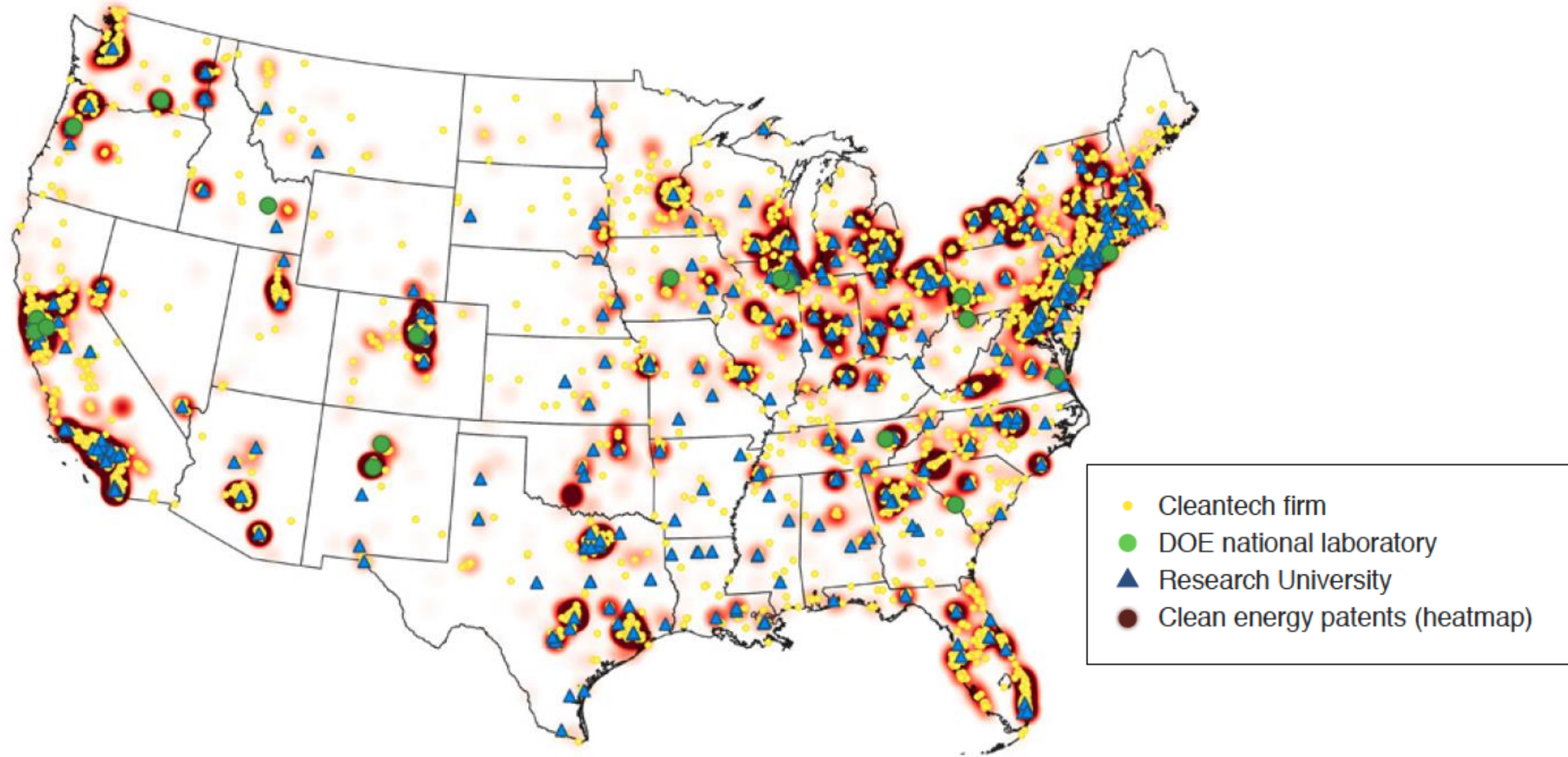
Ellen D Williams

EPRI Energy and Climate Research Seminar

May 15, 2020

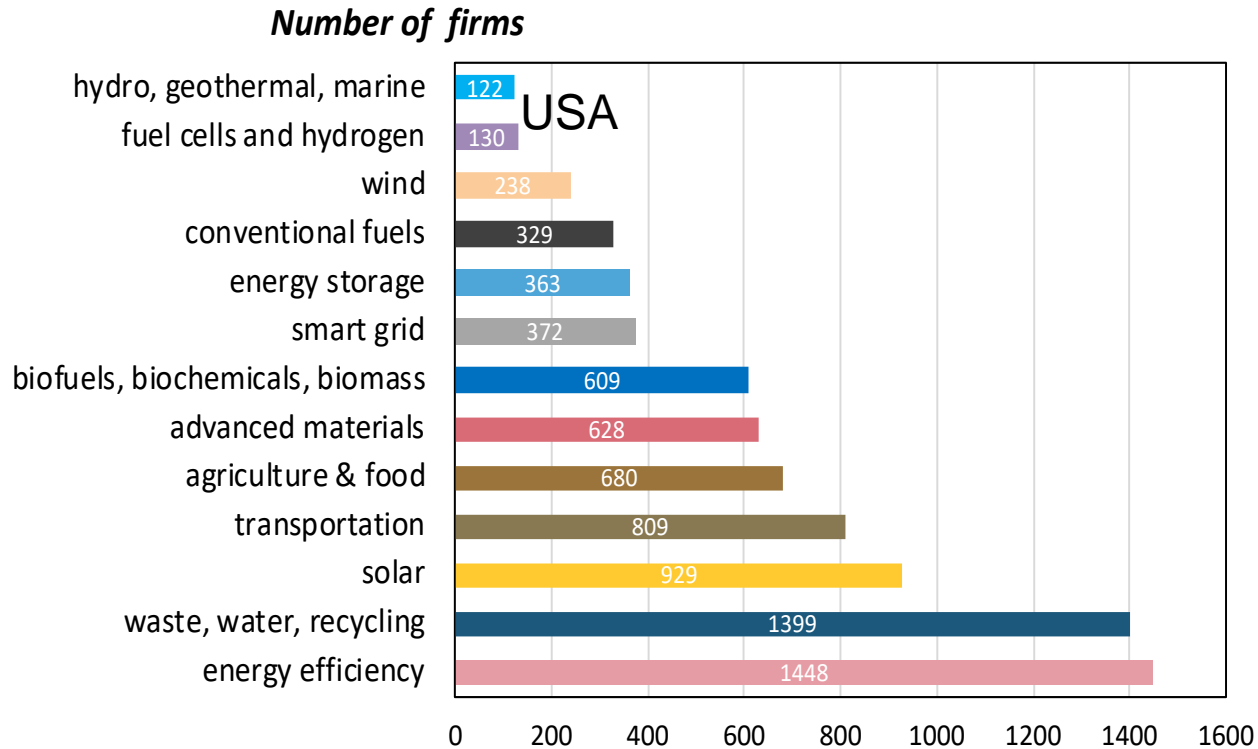
# US Clean Energy Innovation System

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# Young firms advance innovative clean energy technologies

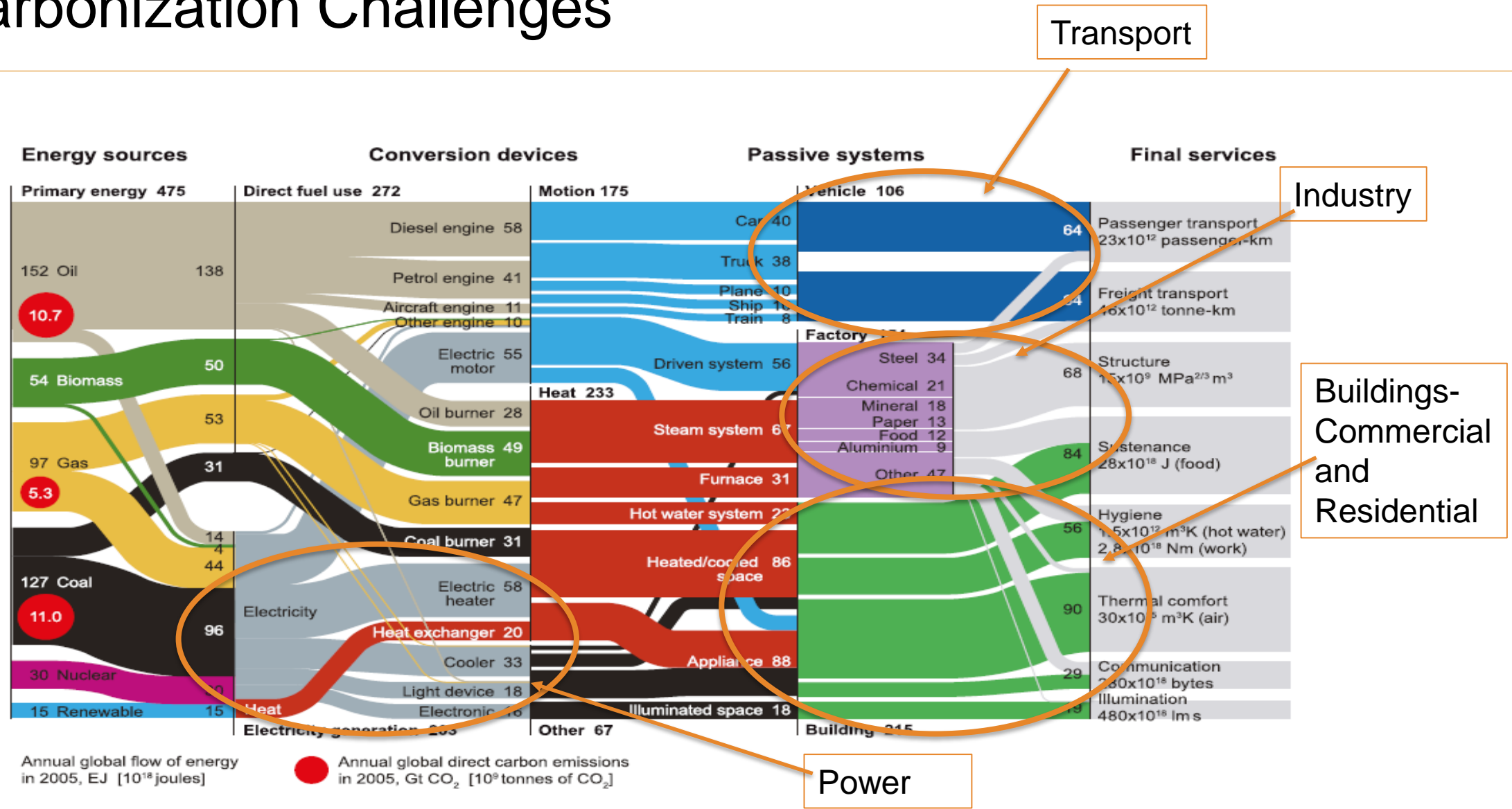
## Growing areas of opportunity



Source: i3

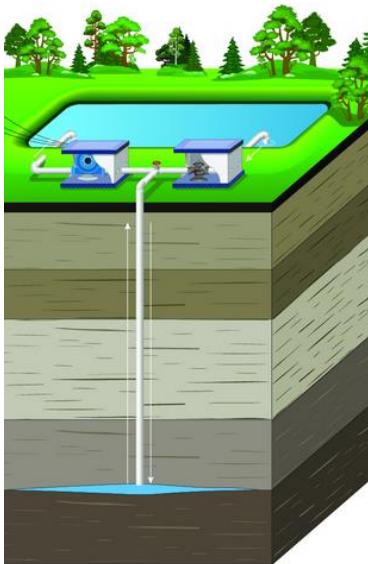
- ▶ Energy storage, grid modernization and demand reduction
- ▶ Biotechnology in clean energy and clean agriculture
- ▶ Carbon dioxide removal, management and re-use
- ▶ Clean fuels and displacement of energy-intensive products
- ▶ Mobility – EVs, vehicle automation, transportation systems
- ▶ Integrated systems – AI and ‘internet of things’
- ▶ New concepts in nuclear power to improve safety and lower costs

# Decarbonization Challenges

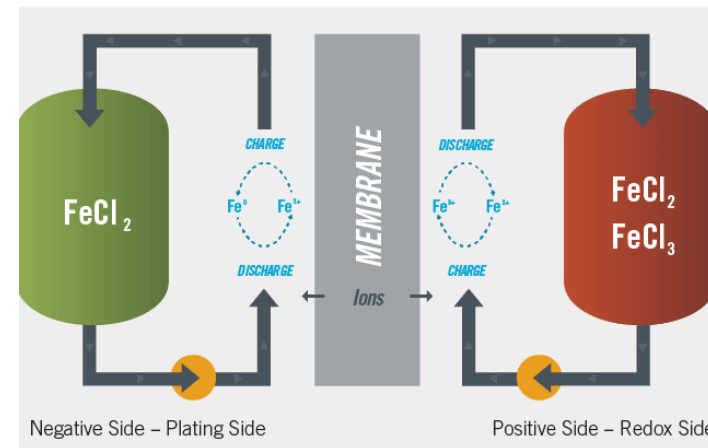


# Innovation

- ▶ **Supply Chains, Learning Curves, and Enabling technologies**
  - For every ‘big-picture’ carbon-mitigation technology, hundreds of innovative technologies are needed in its development, deployment, operations, performance improvements and cost reductions
- ▶ Example: Innovative technologies under development to provide energy storage for grid integration of distributed, intermittent renewable power requires energy storage



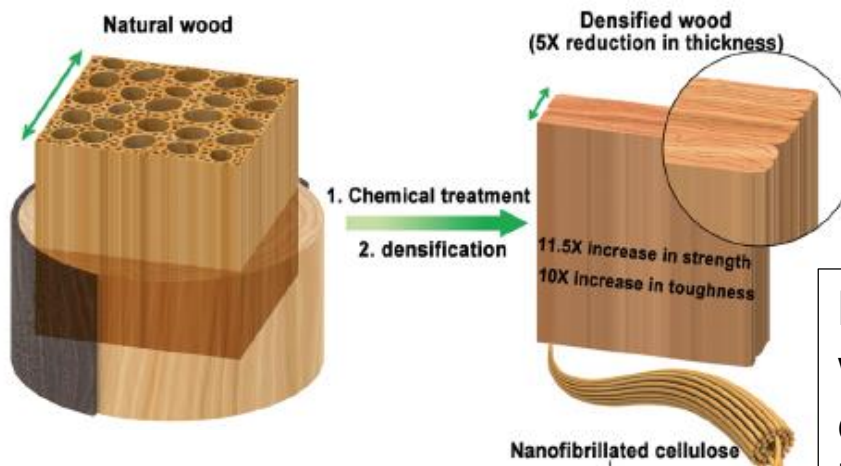
Geomechanical pumped storage



Flow Battery based on low-cost Iron

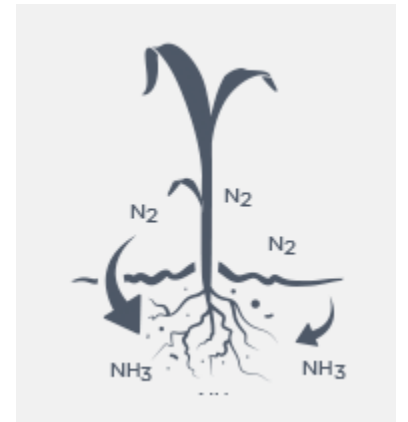
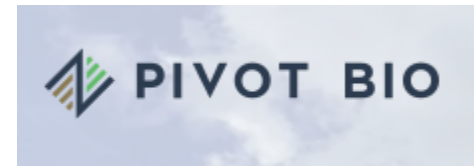
# Innovation

- ▶ **Processes that are difficult to decarbonize may be replaced by alternative approaches**
  - Industrial production of commodities such as steel, aluminum, fertilizer, concrete, fuels and chemicals have limited opportunities for improved efficiency
- ▶ Example: Innovative technologies under development to replace green-house gas intensive products with alternatives that deliver the same function



**INVENTWOOD™**  
From Nature | For The Future

High-strength wood to replace energy-intensive building materials such as steel and concrete.



Discover microbes that can work symbiotically to fix nitrogen for crops and reduce demand for fertilizer

# Innovation

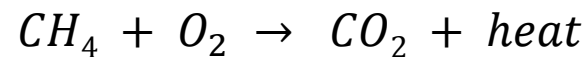
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## ▶ Carbon Utilization

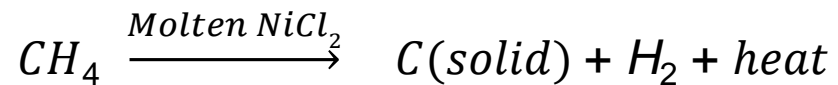
- Remove or displace the carbon atoms in CO<sub>2</sub> for formation of useful products



Replace direct natural gas combustion:



With alternative process



# Rocky road from R&D to clean energy impact

Sources of Support

Government and Industrial Development Funding

Private Equity

Seed, Angel, and Venture Funds

Debt Financing

Stages of Commercial Development



Status of Clean Tech Firms

Tech Creation

Minimum Viable Product

Demonstration and Scale up

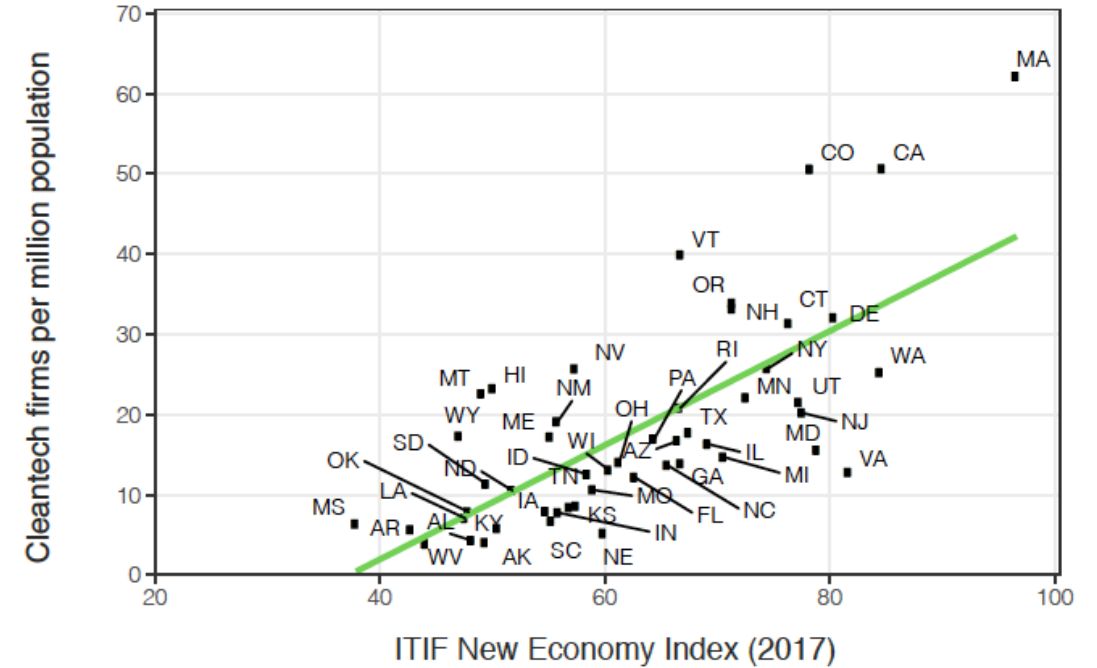
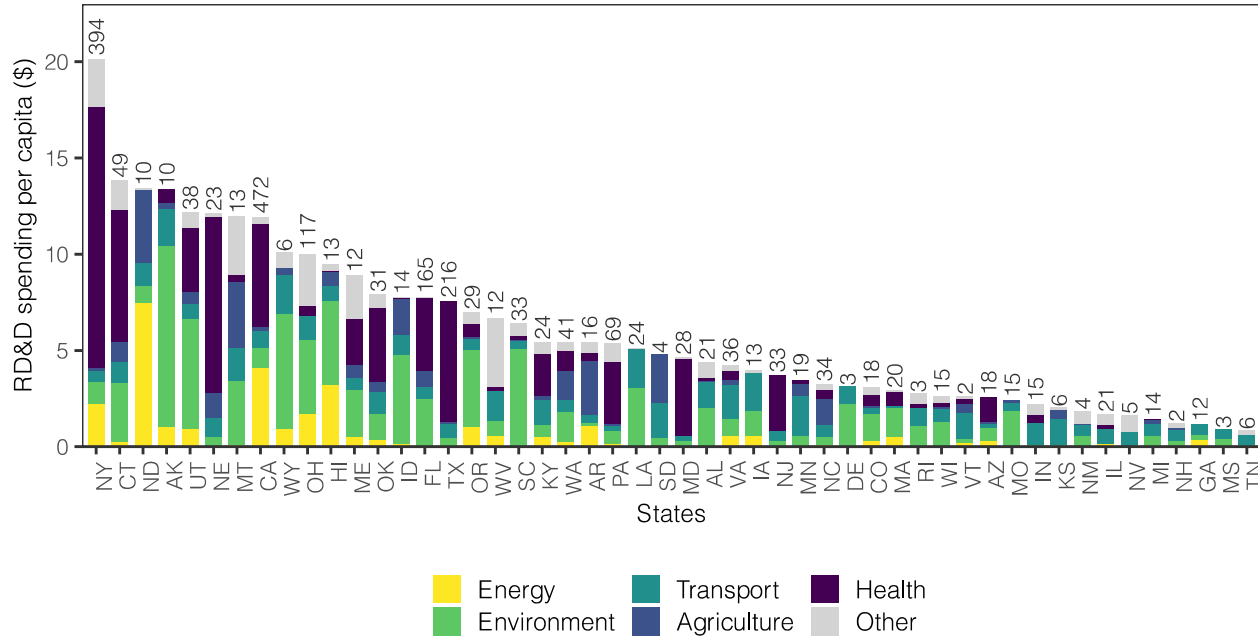
Commercial Maturity

Innovations that start in the state should grow in the state, and become the high-tech clean energy firms that help shape Maryland's economic future – but it requires a good innovation system to make that happen.



# Federal Funding can be activated by State Priorities

State government RD&D spending per capita  
Bar totals show annual average (\$M), 2013–17



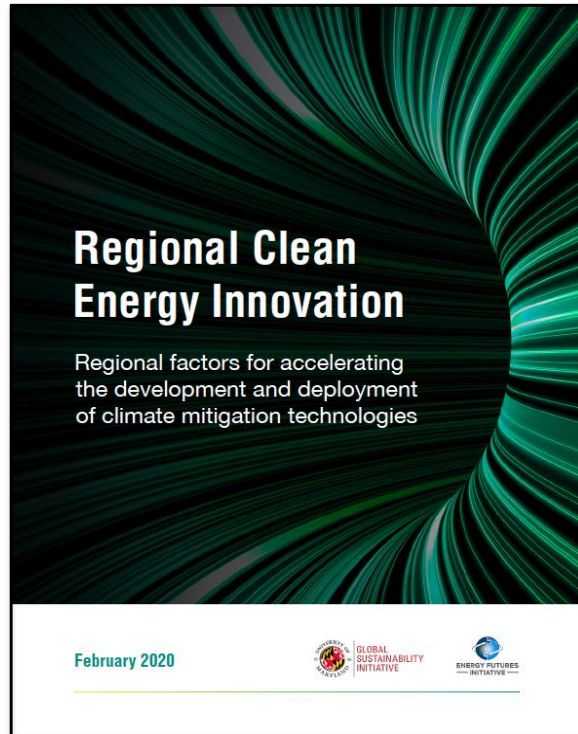
Direct State R&D spending is small compared with Federal funding levels, but State policies play a significant role in number and health of clean energy firms in the state.

# *Improving Outcomes for Clean Energy Innovation*

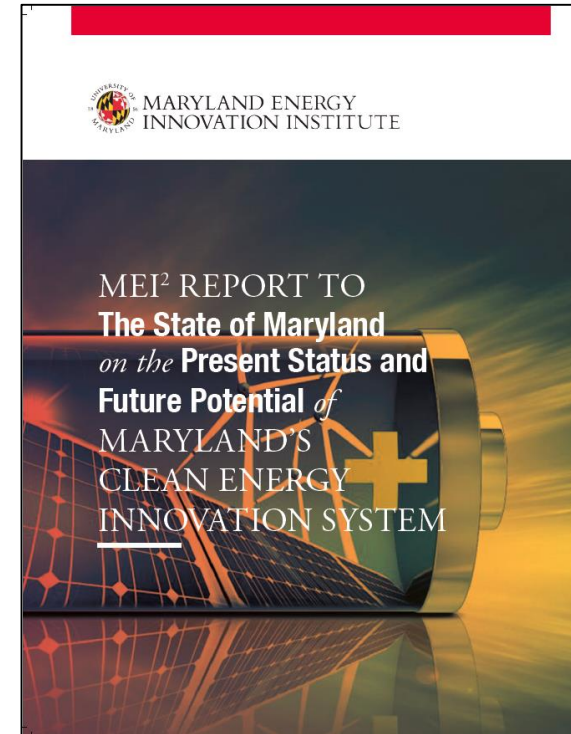
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- **Use a broad definition of Clean Energy Technology**
- **Create well-defined clean-energy goals linked to regional technology strengths**
- **Coordinate environmental, societal and economic-development goals and actions**
- **Offer targeted support for clean energy RD&D – both direct seed funds and developmental support**
- **Expand impact by coordinating actions of state agencies with Universities, Federal Laboratories, non-profit innovation organizations, utilities programs, and local industry**

# State Policies and Clean Energy Innovation



K. Surana *et al.*, download at:  
<http://go.umd.edu/regionalenergy>



E.D. Williams *et al.*, download at:  
<https://energy.umd.edu/news/story/new-report-recommends-a-path-for-the-future-of-marylandrsquo-s-clean-energy-economy>