

 **DIFFER**  
Dutch Institute for Fundamental Energy Research


## Elektrificatie van de Industrie: Power to Chemicals

Richard van de Sanden

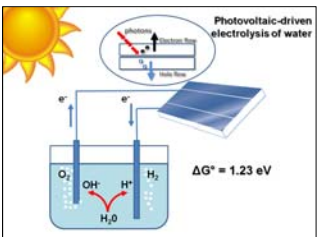
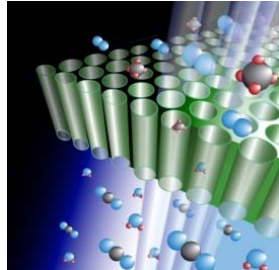
**DUTCH INSTITUTE FOR FUNDAMENTAL ENERGY RESEARCH,  
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PHYSICS, EINDHOVEN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
EINDHOVEN, THE NETHERLANDS**




NNV Energie & Klimaat 9 juni 2017 DIFFER is part of 

 **Contents**

- **The Energy Transition**
  - Greening the (chemical) industry
  - Electricity to fuels, feedstock
- **P2G;P2L;P2X; (P2Heat)**
- **Summary**

## The energy transition: the route towards the energy infrastructure in 2050




**Dutch National Research Agenda  
Route Energy Transition**

Towards a sustainable and secure energy supply  
and a strong green knowledge-based economy


NERA

Towards a sustainable and secure energy supply and a strong green knowledge-based economy

- 10 Research challenges defined to reach a **CO<sub>2</sub> neutral** energy infrastructure;
- Research challenges cross-cutting all sciences



- 4 Functionalities of energy:
  - Low temperature heat
  - **High temperature heat**
  - **Transport & mobility**
  - Light and devices





<http://www.nera.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dutch-National-Research-Agenda-Route-Energy-Transition.pdf>

## The energy transition: the route towards the energy infrastructure in 2050

A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society will be different

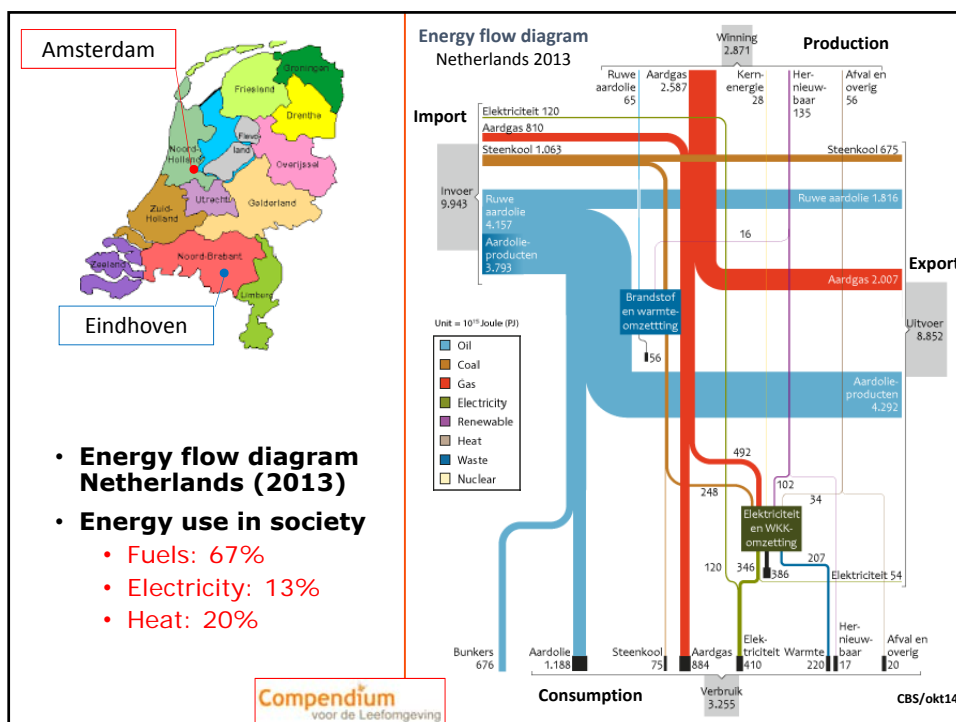
A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy system will probably look very different from our current fossil fuel-based society. It is very important to properly understand the changes that will take place due to the transition to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society. Insight into the societal changes within and beyond the energy sector is important to be able to manage the transition process and to adjust it where necessary. Elements of this transition include a different spatial design, a transition to circular processes, new forms of transport, infrastructure for energy carriers (electricity, hydrogen, etc.) and changing lifestyles. Public acceptance of certain solutions will also determine the resulting transition process and societal structure.

Fossil fuels determines how our society is organized

- Consumer vs. prosumer; central vs. decentral
- Circular economy is needed
- New forms of transport
- Public acceptance is crucial and determines pace
- .....

<http://www.nera.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dutch-National-Research-Agenda-Route-Energy-Transition.pdf>



- **Energy flow diagram Netherlands (2013)**
- **Energy use in society**
  - Fuels: 67%
  - Electricity: 13%
  - Heat: 20%

## The energy transition: the route towards the energy infrastructure in 2050

### A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society will be different

A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy system will probably look very different from our current fossil fuel-based society. It is very important to properly understand the changes that will take place due to the transition to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society. Insight into the societal changes within and beyond the energy

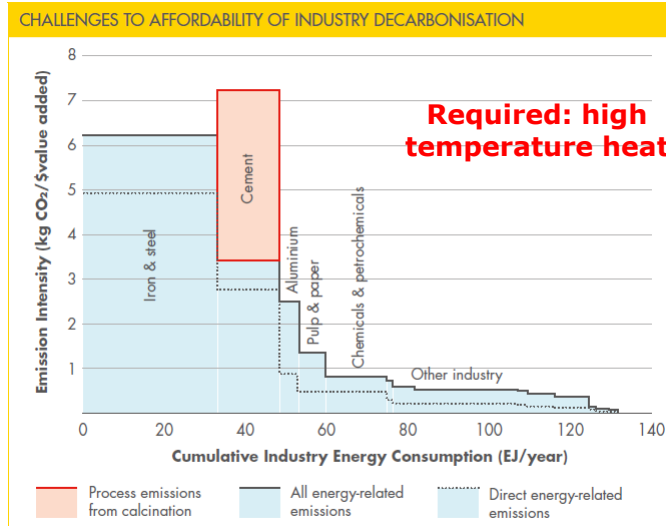
### Clean and flexible industry

Industry will go through a transformation: from being just a user to being an energy user and a supplier of flexibility and storage. Future production processes will have no net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, they will be much more energy-efficient and will use sustainable resources. Sustainable energy (electricity and heat) will replace energy from fossil fuels. Biomass and captured CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen from the air will form new sustainable raw materials, with potentially negative emissions. This requires technologies and processes that are much more energy-efficient than those currently available, that have the flexibility to absorb fluctuations in the supply of raw materials and renewable energy, and that involve low investment costs. In the long term, this transformation will close loops (circular industry) and enable regions to be largely self-supporting in terms of energy and raw materials.

Greening the (chemical) industry, high temperature heat, feedstock (carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, biomass, ....

<http://www.nera.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dutch-National-Research-Agenda-Route-Energy-Transition.pdf>

## Greening the industry



Shell report *A better life with a healthy planet* (2016)

## Electrification of the chemical industry

**DISKUSSIONSPAPIER**  
**Elektrifizierung chemischer Prozesse**

**river-to-Chemistry®**  
alternative route to clean hydrogen from electrical power

**Carbon2Chem: Industry cooperation for climate protection**

**Kopernikus-Projekt P2X**


**Electrochemistry key technology; examples not yet circular!!**

## The energy transition: the route towards the energy infrastructure in 2050


**A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society will be different**  
A CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy system will probably look very different from our current fossil fuel-based society. It is very important to properly understand the changes that will take place due to the transition to a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral energy society. Insight into the societal changes within and beyond the energy sector is important to be able to manage the transition process and to adjust it where necessary.

**Clean and flexible industry**  
Industry will go through a transformation: from being just a user to being an energy user *and* a supplier of flexibility and storage. Future production processes will have no net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, they will be much more energy-efficient and will use sustainable resources. Sustainable energy (electricity and heat) will replace energy from fossil fuels. Biomass and captured CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen from the


**From electricity to fuel and heat**  
Parts of the transport sector, such as aviation and freight transport, as well as industry, depend on fuels with a high energy density and on high-temperature heat. To increase the sustainability of these sectors, scalable, cheap and efficient chemical processes are required that convert electrical energy into fuel using biomass, captured CO<sub>2</sub>, nitrogen or water. Technologies are also needed for the cheap and efficient conversion of electricity into high-temperature heat. This requires research into new, efficient electrocatalytic and electrochemical processes with a high product selectivity, including research into new catalysts based on abundant elements.



19 25



9 16


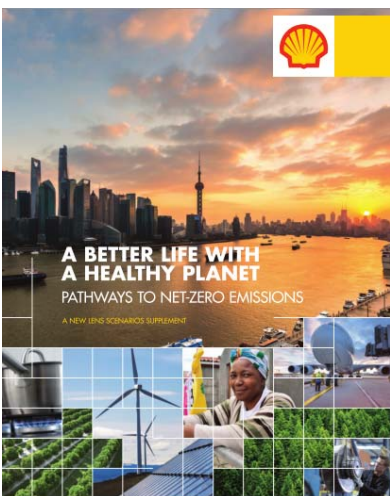


17 20  
52 53

**From electricity to fuels and heat**

<http://www.nera.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dutch-National-Research-Agenda-Route-Energy-Transition.pdf>

## The energy transition: The energy infrastructure in 2050

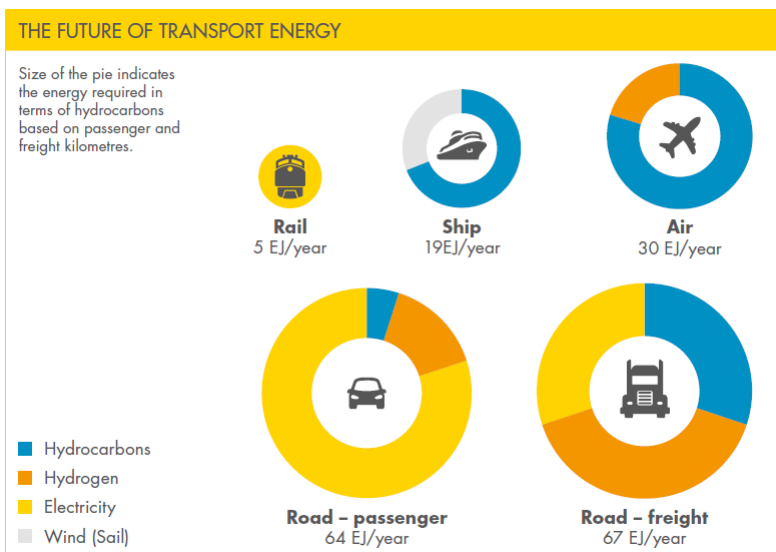



Many references to abundance of renewable electricity and surplus electrons.....

*“However, the real milestone is reached when an offshore hydrogen electrolysis system is built utilising the growing surplus **electrons** from those wind farms....”*

<http://www.nera.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dutch-National-Research-Agenda-Route-Energy-Transition.pdf>

## Future of transport energy



Shell report *A better life with a healthy planet* (2016)



## Electricity to high energy density fuels

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT



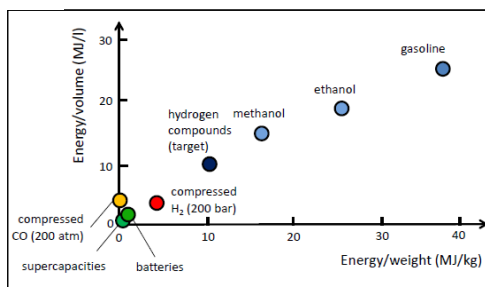
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY – ENERGY (ARPA-E)  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

**RENEWABLE ENERGY TO FUELS THROUGH UTILIZATION OF  
ENERGY-DENSE LIQUIDS (REFUEL)**

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement  
Funding Opportunity No. DE-FOA-0001562  
CFDA Number 81.135

ARPA-E is soliciting proposals on (renewable) electricity to energy-dense liquid (fuels)

**Think about liquid hydrocarbons, NH<sub>3</sub>,.....**



## Why would hydro-carbons be a good choice?

- Ideal for **energy storage**
  - High energy density per volume and per mass
- Use of **existing hydro-carbon infrastructure**
  - Transport, distribution and use
- **Coupling electricity and gas system: Power-to-Gas (P2G)**
  - Large storage capacity in gas grid (surplus RE electricity)
  - NL gas grid ~ 552 TWh (one day EU electrical power ~ 10 TWh)

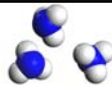


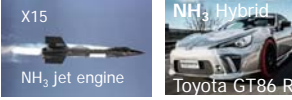


## Artist impression P2Fuel (using sorption enhanced methanation)


$$\text{CO}_2 + 4\text{H}_2 \leftrightarrow \text{C} + \text{CH}_4$$

Haije & Geerlings dx.doi.org/10.1021/es203160k

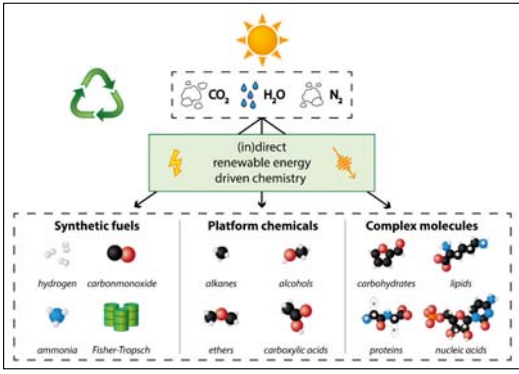
Courtesy of W. Haije (TUD)

Challenge the future

<b>Ammonia</b>	<b>Ammonia NH<sub>3</sub> for large scale energy storage</b>			
	<b>Production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ based on abundant elements N, H, and cheap catalysts: scalable.</li> <li>➤ can be produced using abundant renewable electricity and CO<sub>2</sub> free.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Storage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ energy density NH<sub>3</sub>: 22.5 MJ/kg (HHV)</li> <li>➤ liquid at 10 Bar, 20 °C</li> <li>➤ current containers can contain 60000 ton NH<sub>3</sub> ~ 375 GWh.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ potentially clean use in fuel cell, combustion engine, gas turbine. No CO<sub>2</sub>.</li> <li>➤ fertilizer industry: CO<sub>2</sub> neutral fertilizers</li> </ul>		
<b>Acceptance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ poisonous, but 100+ yr industrial know-how</li> <li>➤ current NH<sub>3</sub> production costs &gt;1.5% of world energy use &gt;6 EJ/yr</li> <li>➤ Bio degradable (fertilizer)</li> </ul>			
		Courtesy of F. Mulder (TUD)		



## CO<sub>2</sub> neutral fuels, P2X, P2G, P2L




- Excellent potential to **harness solar energy**
- Enables **storage of sustainable energy in CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral chemical fuels**
- Essential ingredient in the **future sustainable energy infrastructure**
- Essential to provide future carbon based **chemical feedstock!**



## P2X, P2L, P2G: research and technology

**Direct** (light) & **indirect** (electricity) technologies



**Conversion:**


- efficiency
- scalability
- products
- processes

**Point source** & **direct air capture**

- purity and scale
- CCS → CCU

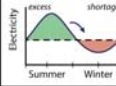
**Footprint?**

- life cycle assessments
- environment




**chemical conversion**


**Electricity storage**



**Transport & mobility**



**Feedstock industries**

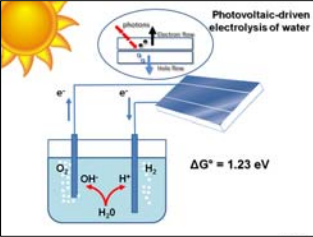


**Role for fundamental and applied research**

- new materials, from separation membranes to catalysts,
- exploiting disruptive processes & incrementally improving state-of-the-art

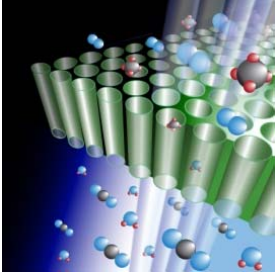
## Contents

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Photovoltaic-driven electrolysis of water

$\Delta G^\circ = 1.23 \text{ eV}$



## Production of synthetic fuels (hydrocarbons)

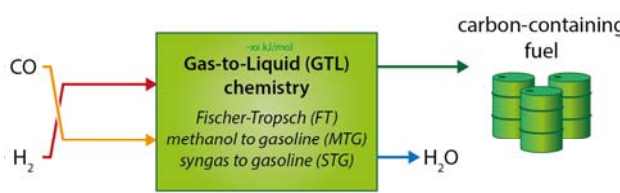


**Shell Qatari**

### Fischer-Tropsch process


FT hier als voorbeeld maar equivalent proces (Haber-Bosch) voor ammonia productie vanuit H<sub>2</sub> en N<sub>2</sub>

**Syngas (H<sub>2</sub>/CO)**




Syngas produced from steam reformation of methane gas (< €/kg)

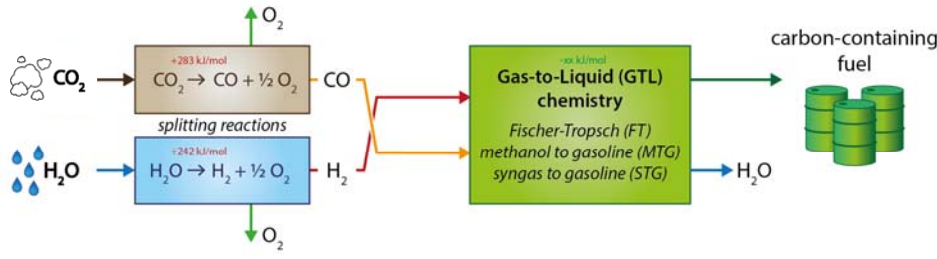
reaction enthalpies calculated for gaseous products at standard conditions




## Full chain of CO<sub>2</sub> neutral fuels

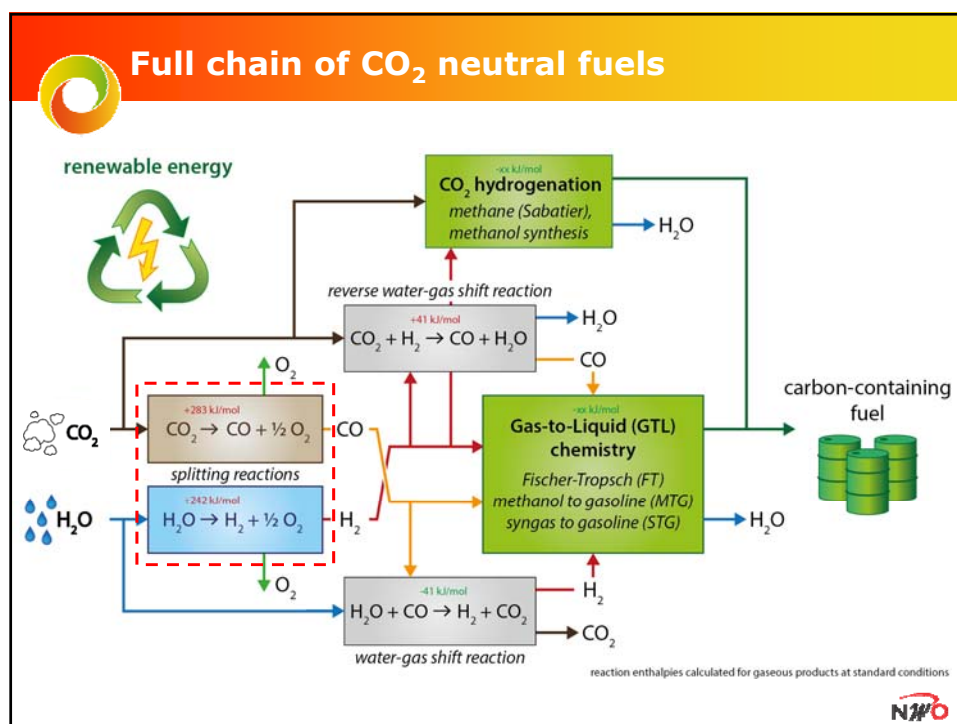
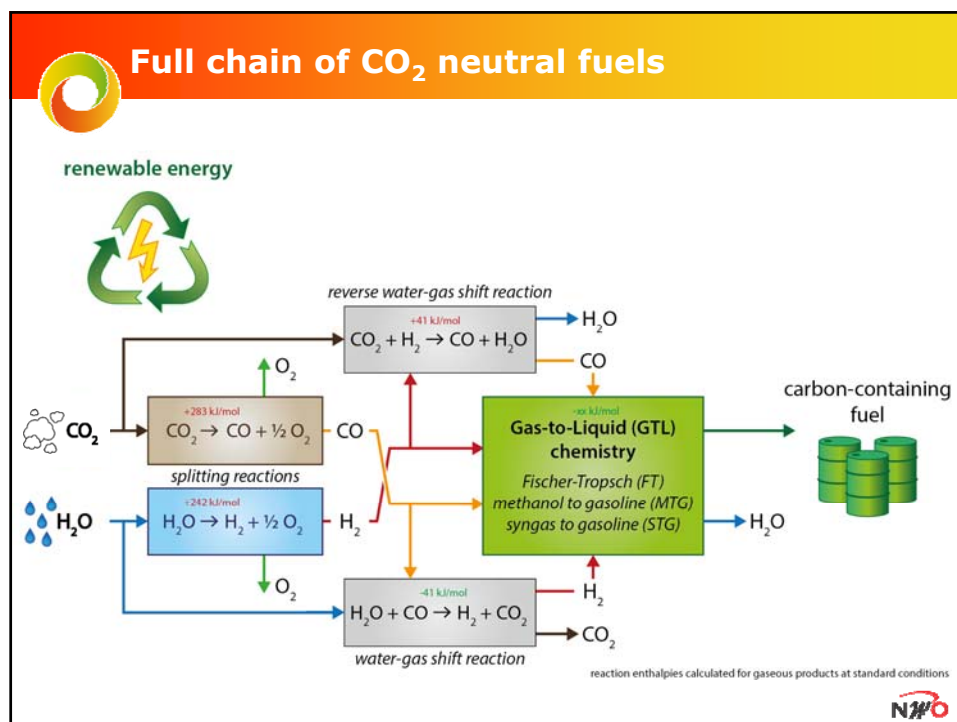
renewable energy

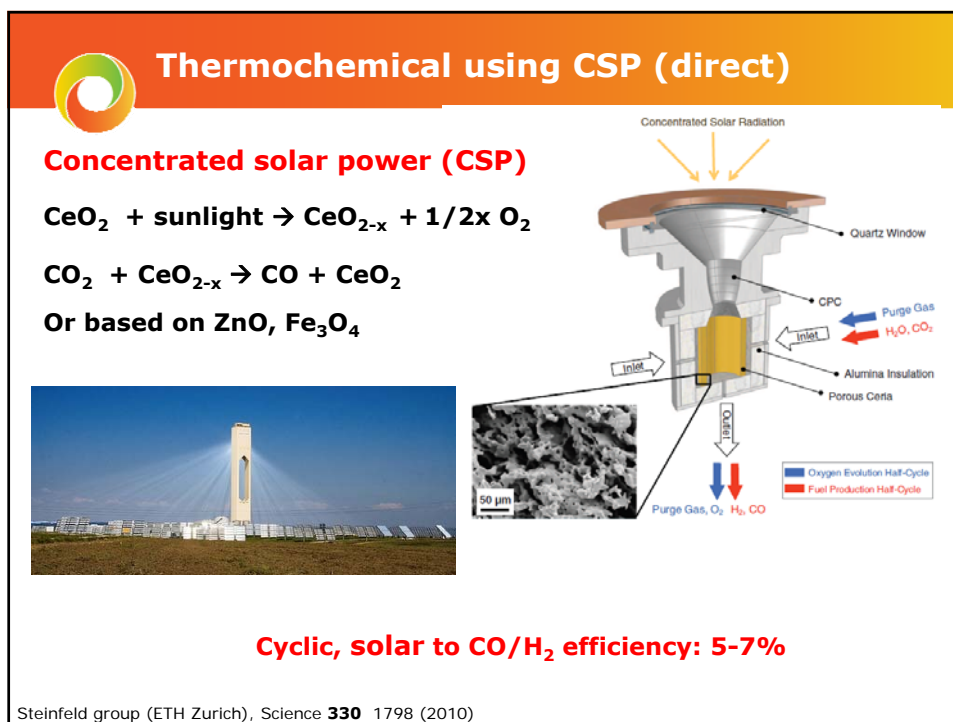
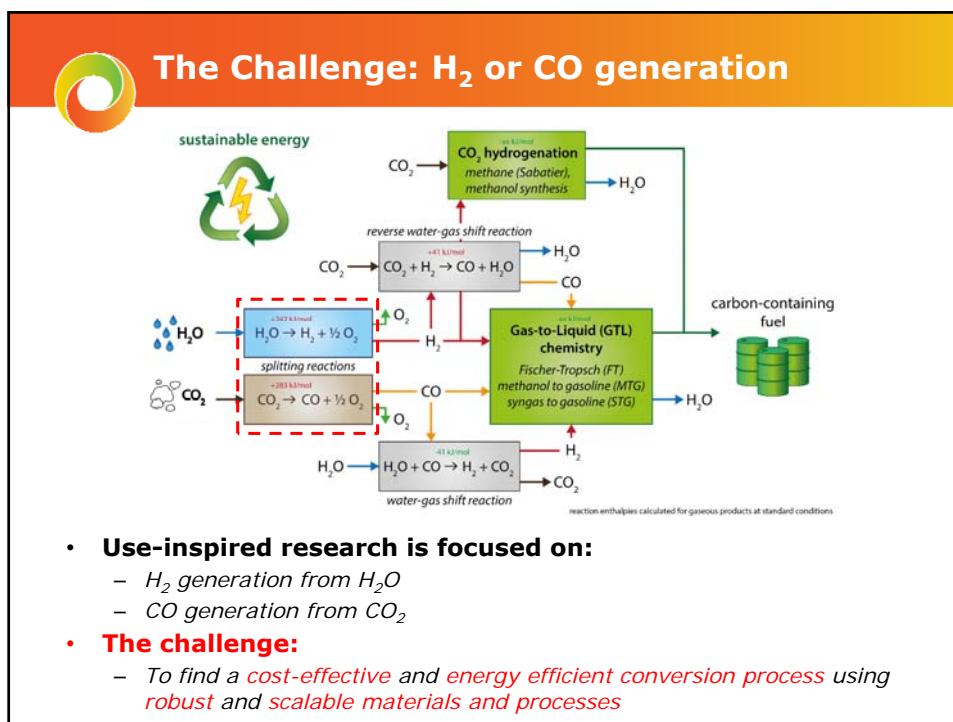




reaction enthalpies calculated for gaseous products at standard conditions

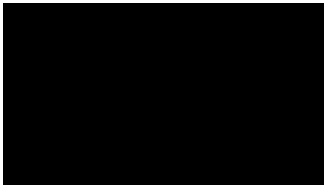







## Photo-electrochemical Solar Fuel Conversion

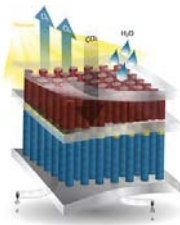
### Focus on H<sub>2</sub> generation



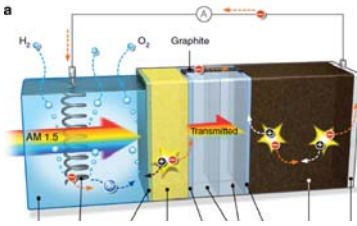
Daniel Nocera Harvard/MIT



Rene Janssen TU/e-DIFFER

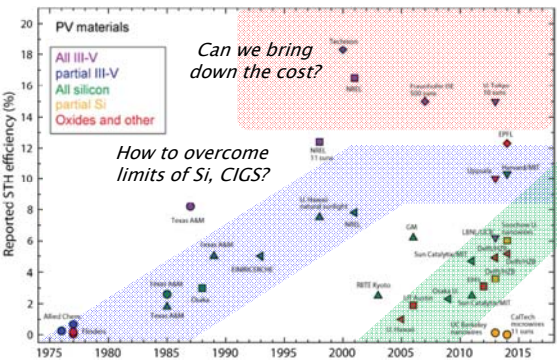


Nathan Lewis et al. JCAP



Abdi et al. Nature Commun. 4 2195 (2013)

## Photo-electrodes: no clear winner yet!

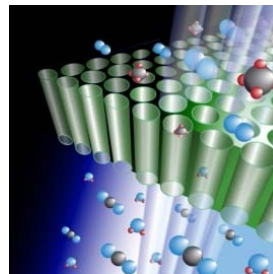
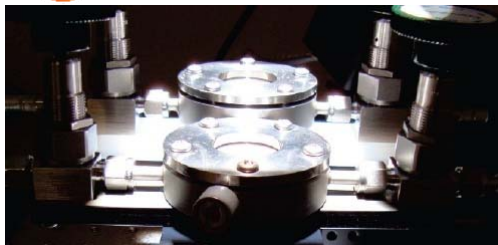


Adapted from Ager et al., *Energy & Env. Sci.* 8 (2015) 2811

Courtesy Roel van der Krol (HZB)

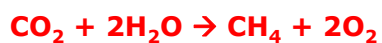


## Photo-electrochemical conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> ?



TiO<sub>x</sub> tubes with Cu catalyst

To tailor the catalyst to optimally use the solar spectrum for activating the catalyst



**Solar to methane efficiency  $\eta = 0.0148\%$**



Roy, Varghese, Paulose, Grimes, ACSNano **4**, 1260 (2010)




## Status of H<sub>2</sub> generation



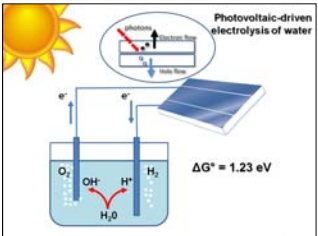
Photo-electrochemical/catalytic:  $< 0.2-6\%$

Solar thermal:  $5-7\%$

## Indirect conversion




Renewable  
electricity  
+  
Electrolysis

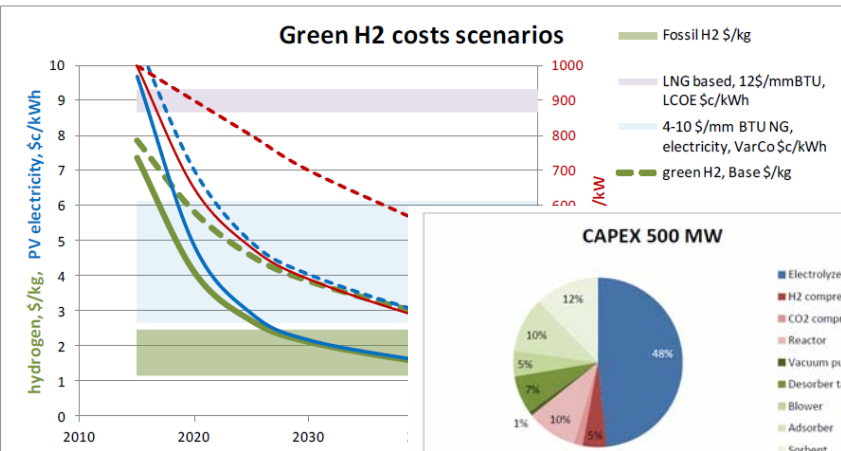


**Three types known**

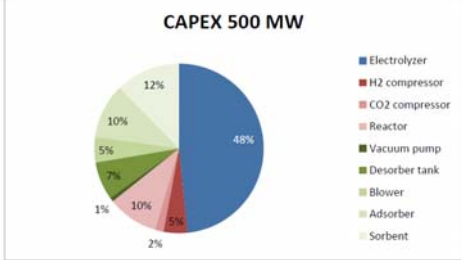
- Alkaline (liquid sodium or potassium hydroxide electrolyte)  
*Slow reaction kinetics, slow response to fluctuations, large Ohmic losses*
- Polymer Electrolyte Membrane (PEM) based  
*Fast response, expensive catalysts, cross-over, high current densities*
- Solid Oxide Membrane based  
*Slow response, high temperature (700-900 °C), material stability*

## Electricity to methanol: a study





**Electrolyzer: dominant cost in CAPEX**

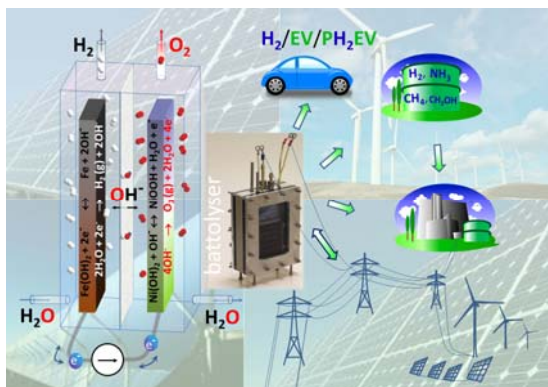


Component	Percentage
Electrolyzer	48%
H2 compressor	12%
CO2 compressor	10%
Reactor	10%
Vacuum pump	7%
Desorber tank	5%
Blower	2%
Adsorber	1%
Sorbent	1%

Antecy and Shell business calculation, incl. carbon capture

An integrated battery and electrolyser: *battolyser*

- Store electricity in the battery with high P2P efficiency
- Battery full: additional electricity is converted to H<sub>2</sub>
- H<sub>2</sub> enables Haber, Sabatier & Fischer-Tropsch, Fe reduction
- 2 for 1

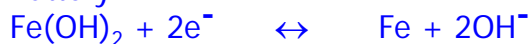


Fokko Mulder *et al.*, Energy & Environmental Science 2017  
HOT paper

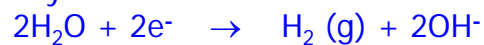
## Basic reactions:

## Negative electrode:

## Battery:

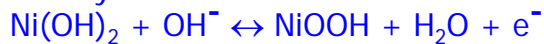


## Electrolysis:

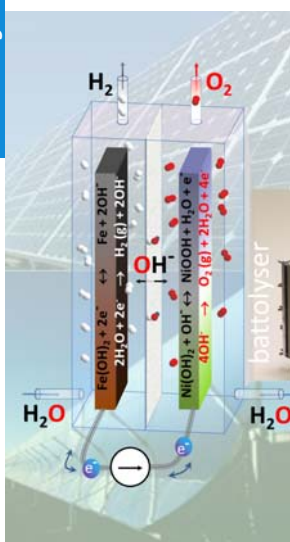
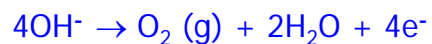


## Positive electrode:

## Battery:



## Electrolysis:





## A power plant as a super-battery

Nuon and Delft University of Technology are willing to use gas-fired power plants as storage facilities for renewable energy. They aim to do so by producing ammonia from renewable energy whenever there is a surplus. Ammonia is easy to store on a long-term basis. The ammonia can then be used as fuel in gas-fired power plants at times when there is a shortage of renewable energy.

**Wind and solar energy are not available on demand...**

**Sometimes too much is produced...**  
The supply of wind and solar energy exceeds the demand.

**Now:** The surplus is sold at very low prices and consumed elsewhere.

**..while at other times there is a shortage**  
Demand is greater than the production of renewable energy at that moment.

**Nuon:** Gas-fired power plants make up the deficit by producing electricity using natural gas.

**In the future:**

- The energy surplus will be converted into ammonia.
- The ammonia will be stored in liquid state.

**In the future:**

- The stored ammonia will be used as fuel instead of natural gas.
- No CO<sub>2</sub> will be released when ammonia is burned.

and a super-battolyser

TU Delft

TU Delft

Courtesy of F. Mulder (TUD)

## Metal Combustion & Reduction

methane      iron      aluminum      boron/aluminum      zirconium

*Use of different types of metal powders as a fuel*

*JM Bergthorson, S Goroshin, MJ Soo, P Julien, J Palecka, DL Frost, and DL Jarvis. Direct combustion of recyclable metal fuels for zero-carbon heat and power. Applied Energy 160 (2015), 368-382.*

**Key ideas**

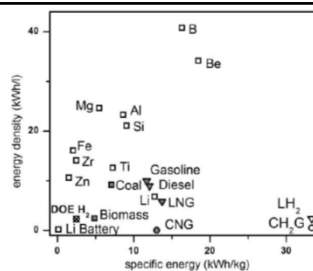
- Zinc (and Iron) powder combustion for electricity and transport (ships, trucks,..)
- Oxide particle capture and reduction back to metal powders using renewable energy

metalot TU/e

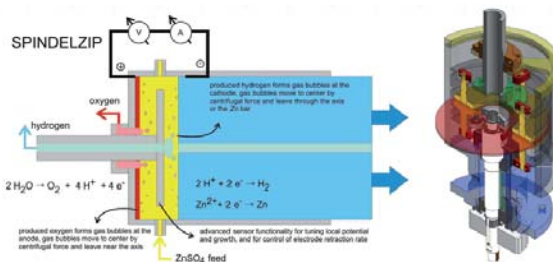
Courtesy by P. de Goeij (TU/e)

### Metal Fuels on Metalot Campus

- ✦ Very high energy density
- ✦ No CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- ✦ Mid-term: spinning-disc technology metal production via electrolysis
- ✦ Long-term: development of metal fuels for transport, energy generation, conversion and storage



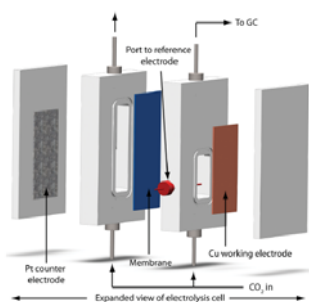
Spinning disc reactor



metalot TU/e

Courtesy by P. de Goeij (TU/e)

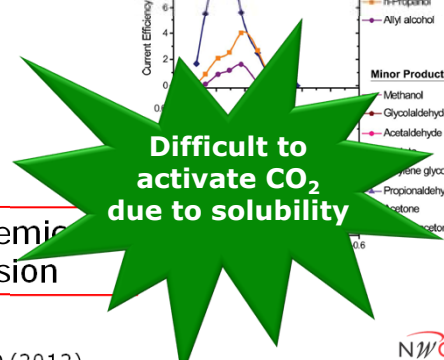
### CO<sub>2</sub> reduction ?



Electrical energy to CO > 10%

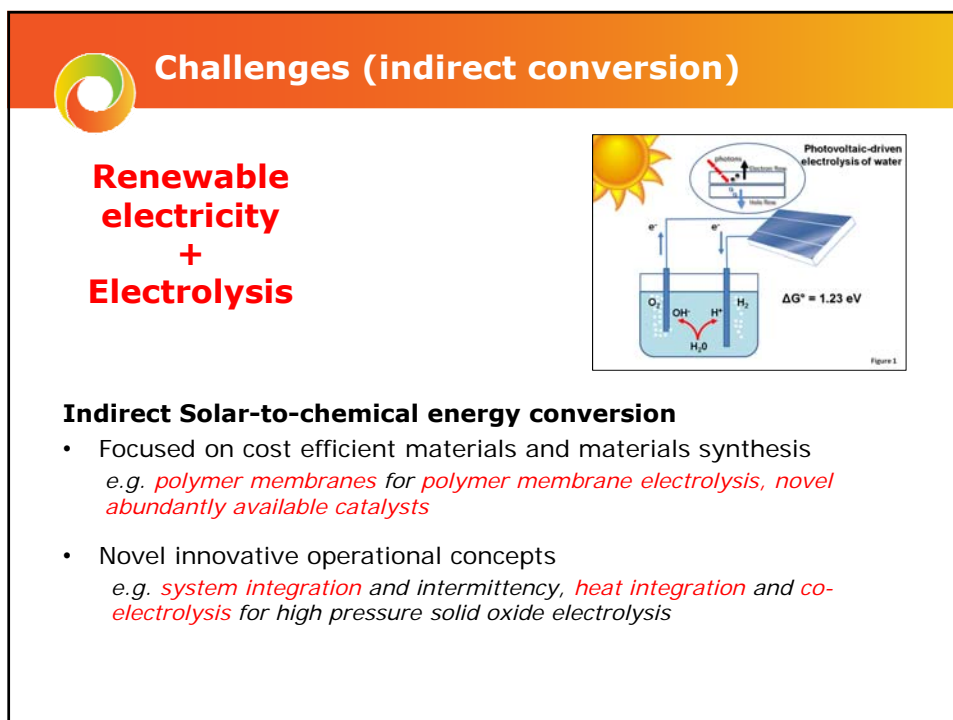
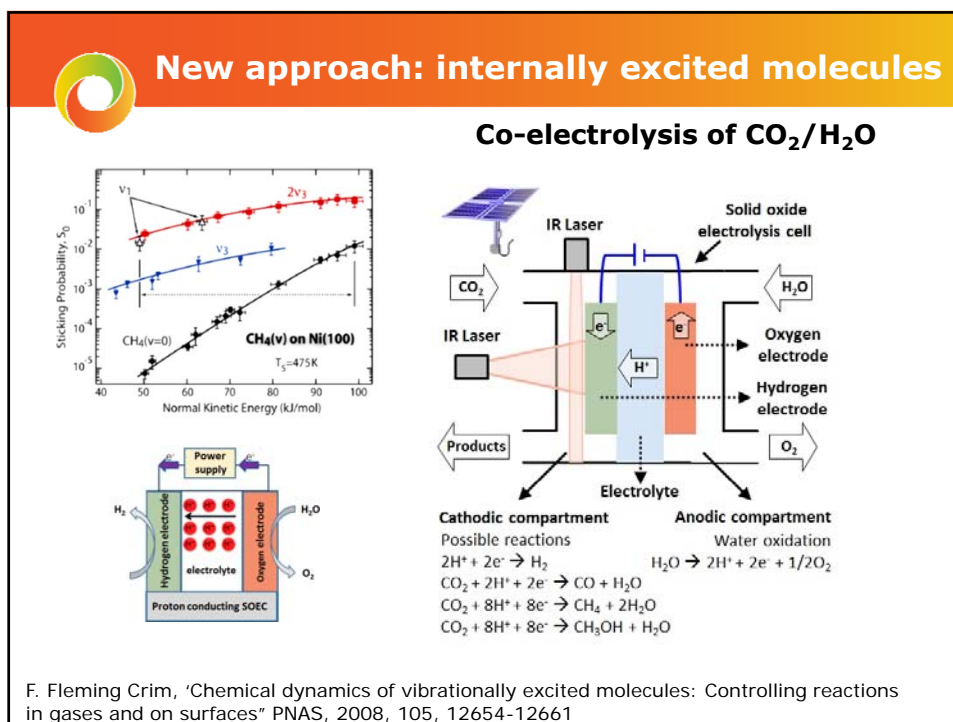


Electrochemical Conversion




K.P. Kuhl et al., Energy Environ. Sci. 5 7050 (2012)

NWO




## Challenges (indirect conversion)

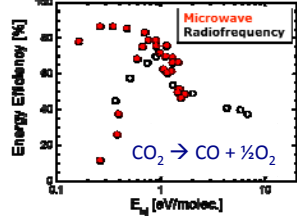
**Renewable electricity**  
+  
**Plasmolysis**



+



**CO<sub>2</sub> recycling**



**CO<sub>2</sub> → CO + 1/2 O<sub>2</sub>**

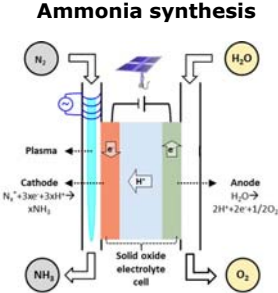
A. Fridman *Plasma Chemistry*

### Indirect Solar-to-chemical energy conversion

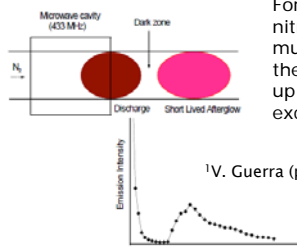
- Focused on cost efficient materials and materials synthesis  
*e.g. polymer membranes for polymer membrane electrolysis*
- Novel innovative operational concepts  
*e.g. system integration and intermittency, heat integration and co-electrolysis for high pressure solid oxide electrolysis*
- To overcome these challenges for electrolysis:  
*alternative indirect approach based the generation of a non-equilibrium plasma using renewable electric energy*

## Plasma-electrochemical membrane reactor

**Ammonia synthesis**





Combination of vibrational (plasma) excitation and electrocatalysis for N<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O



For a non-equilibrium nitrogen discharge as much as **70-80%** of the power input ends up in internal excitation<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>V. Guerra (private communication)

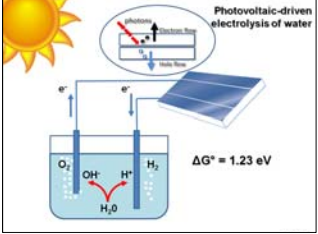



**Note that both plasma and membrane reactor are driven by renewable electricity!!**

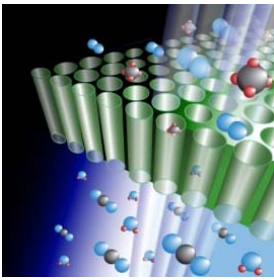
M. Tsampas (DIFFER)

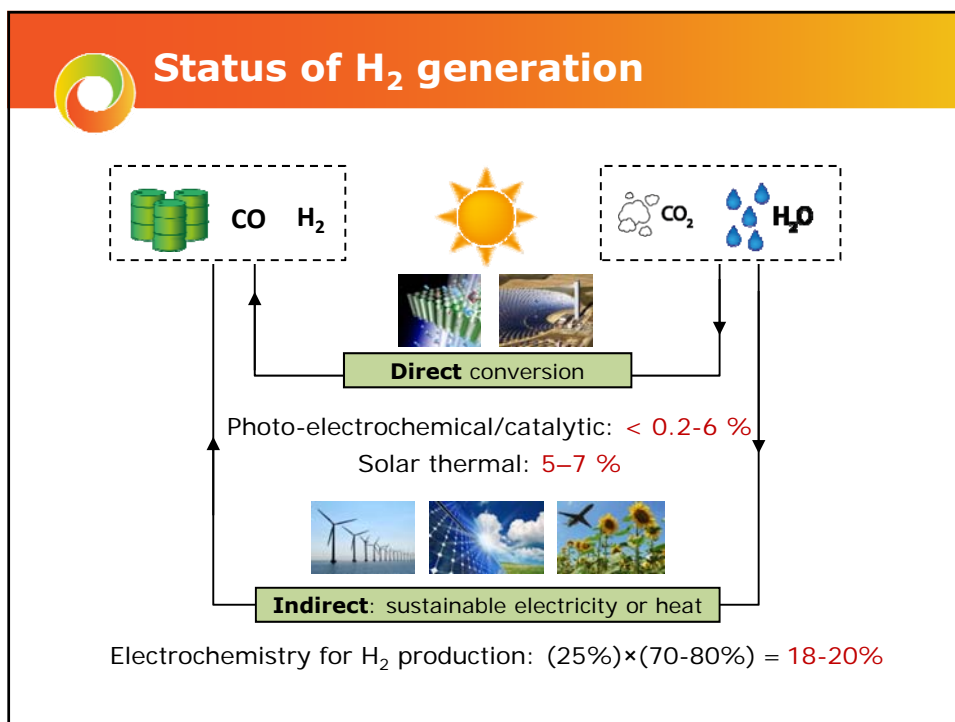
## Contents

- **The Energy Transition**
  - Greening the (chemical) industry
  - Electricity to fuels, feedstock
- **P2G;P2L;P2X; (P2Heat)**
- **Summary**



Photovoltaic-driven electrolysis of water  
 $\Delta G^\circ = 1.23 \text{ eV}$







## Summary

- **The Energy Transition**
  - Electricity to chemistry (fuels, feedstock) is going to be an key enabling technology: P2G, P2L, P2X,... for a future CO<sub>2</sub> neutral society
- **Various approaches exist, in different stages of development:** electrolysis most mature
- **At the moment no cost-efficient approach available if compared with fossil feedstock based approaches**
- **Long term research & development needed: incremental and disruptive approaches**
  - Electrolysers: materials, integration and upscaling (“science of making”)
  - Electrochemistry: H<sub>2</sub>O/CO<sub>2</sub> co-electrolysis, ammonia production, etc.
  - Artificial leaves, (photo-)thermochemical conversion, non-thermal approaches (plasmolyse/plasma, plasmon resonance induced chemistry, etc.)