

DAY 1 - Tuesday, 28. January 2025
ENERGY AND PROPULSION - OVERVIEW



STANDARDIZED LH2, LNG, SAF COST / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

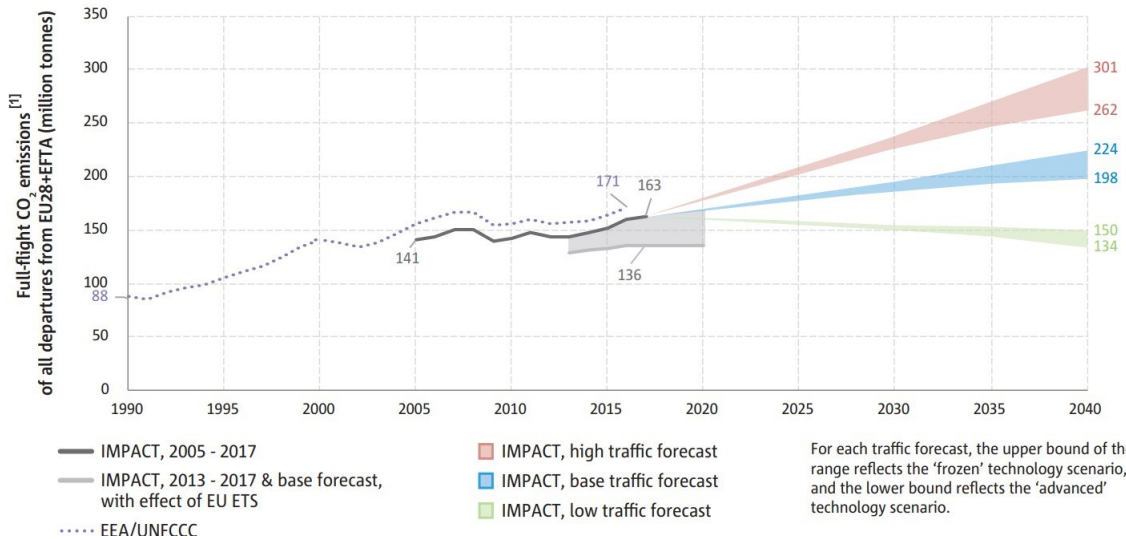
Alternative fuels and new propulsion systems towards sustainable aviation

Ralph-Uwe Dietrich, Rahnuma Bhuiyan Evon, Felix Habermeyer,
 Simon Maier, Moritz Raab, Julia Weyand (DLR e.V., www.DLR.de/tt)



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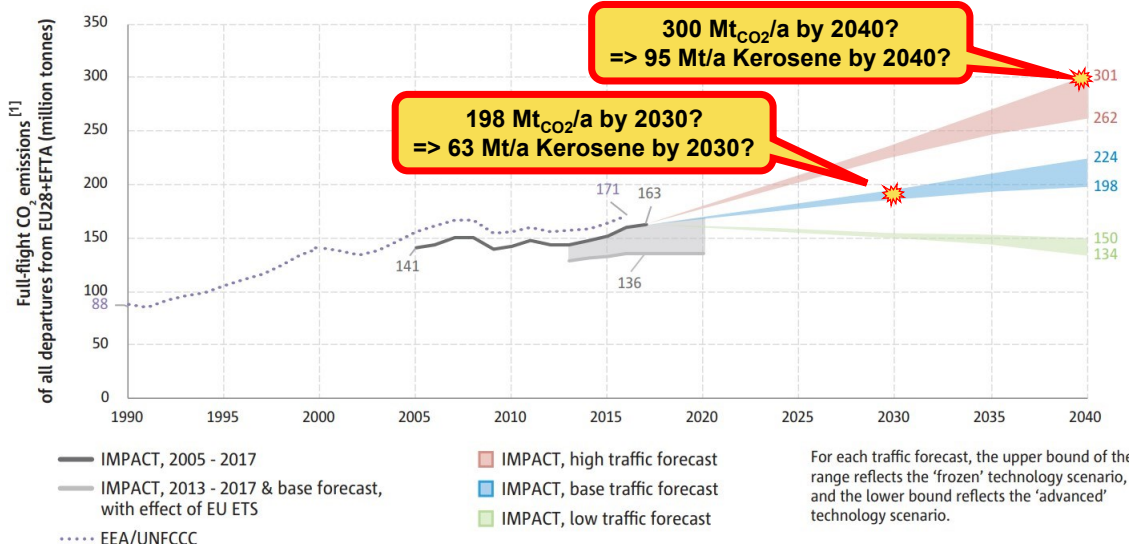
EU aviation CO₂ emissions



For each traffic forecast, the upper bound of the range reflects the 'frozen' technology scenario, and the lower bound reflects the 'advanced' technology scenario.

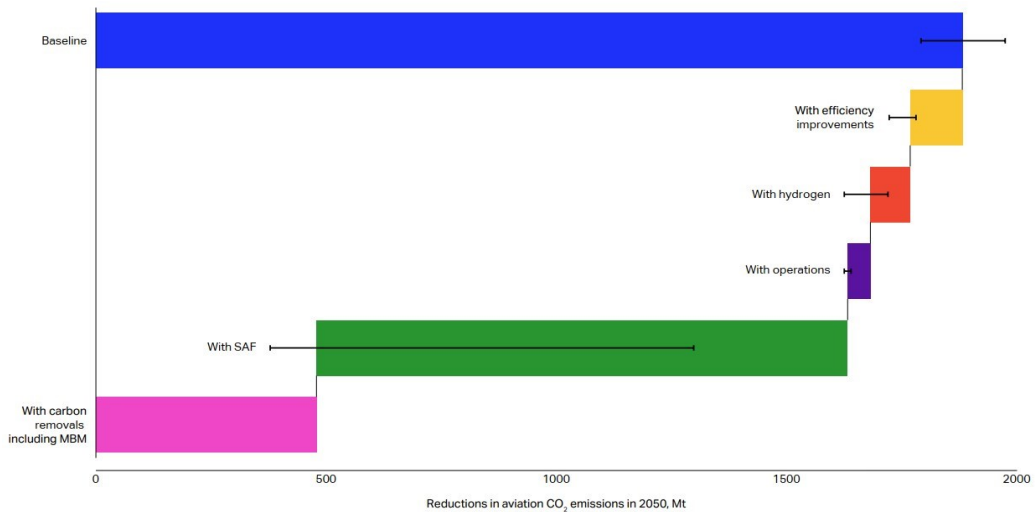
[1] European Aviation Environmental Report 2019, https://www.easa.europa.eu/eaer/system/files/usr_uploaded/219473_EASA_EAER_2019_WEB_LOW-RES.pdf

EU aviation CO₂ emissions



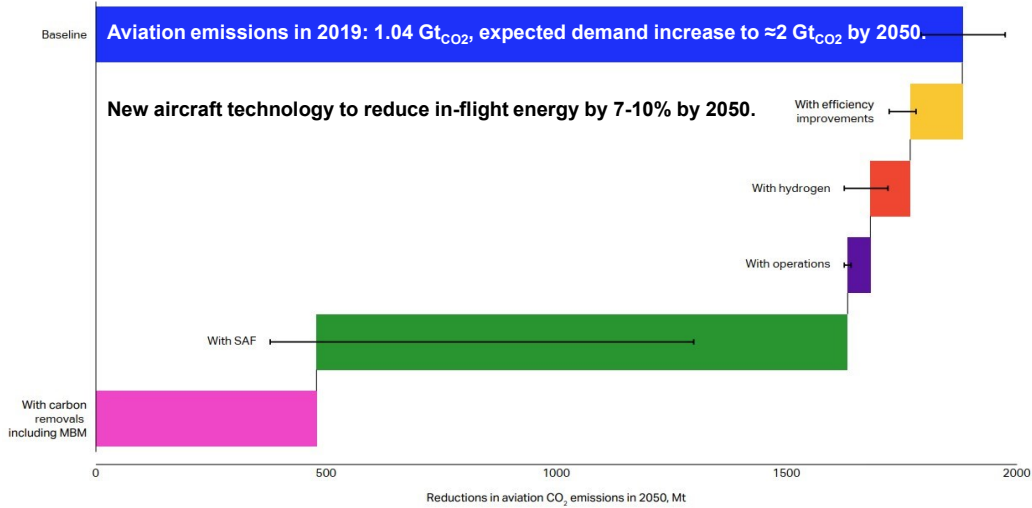
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IATA Net Zero Roadmaps [1] International Aviation Contribution



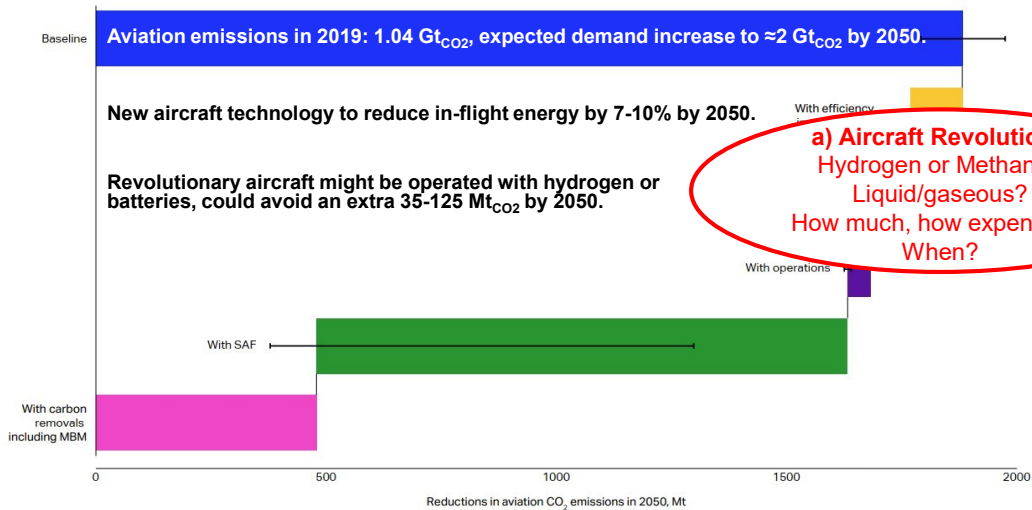
[1] IATA's Net Zero roadmaps, <https://www.iata.org/en/programs/sustainability/roadmaps/>

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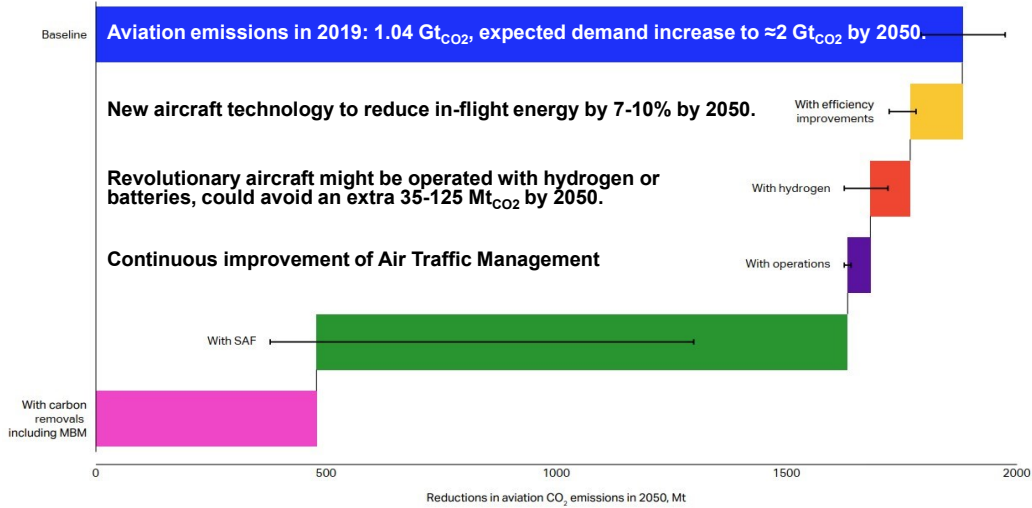
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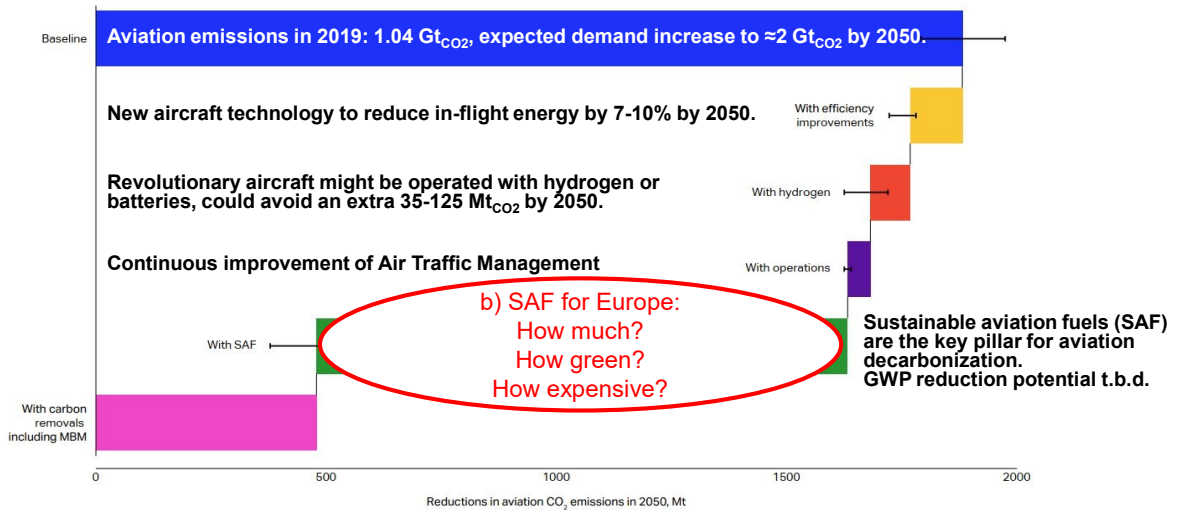
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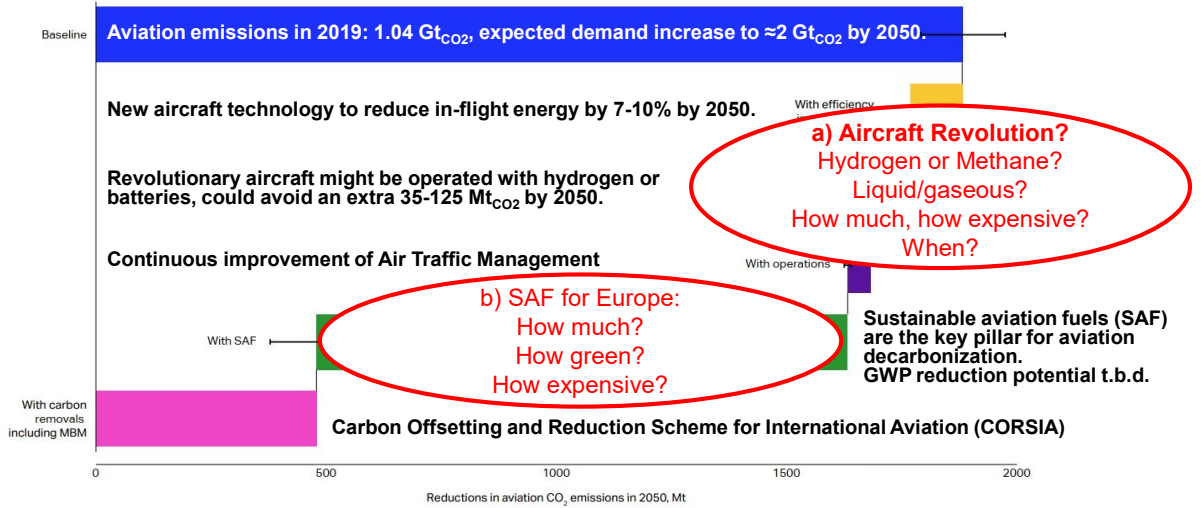
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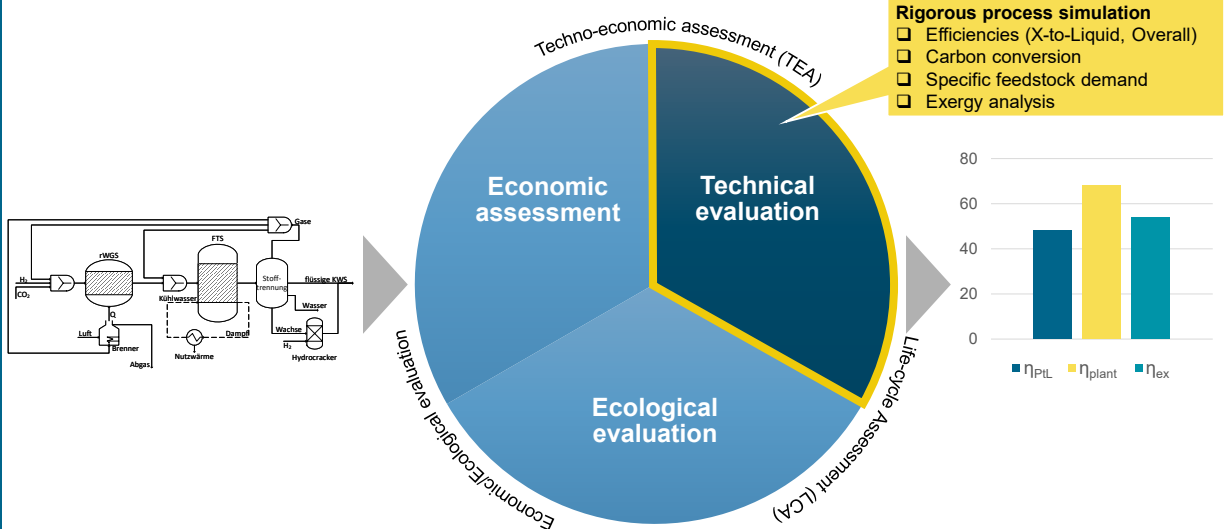
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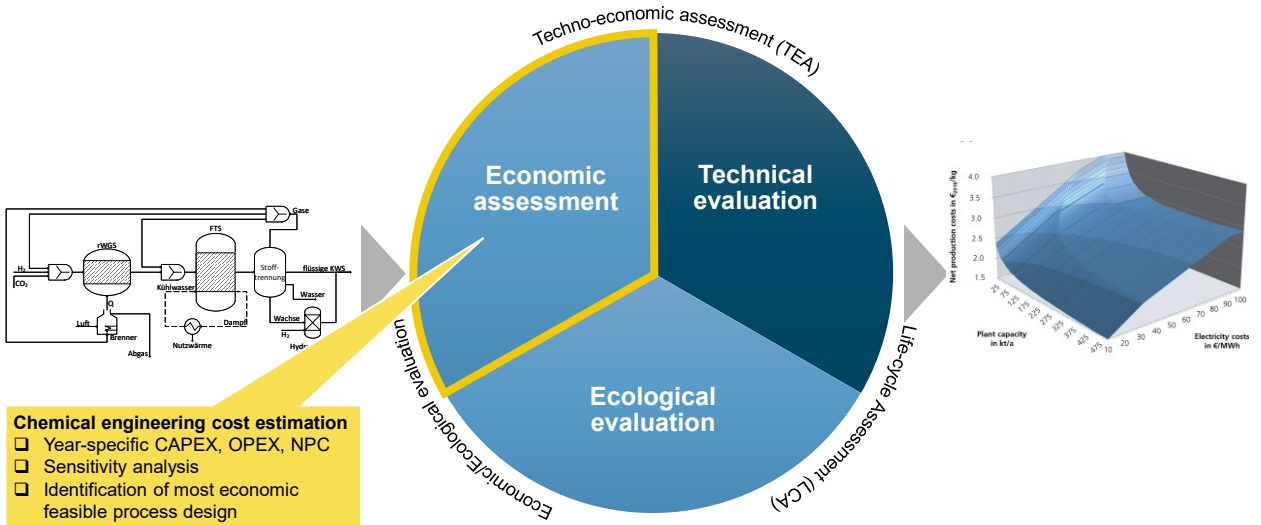
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Techno-Economic and Life Cycle Assessment @ DLR



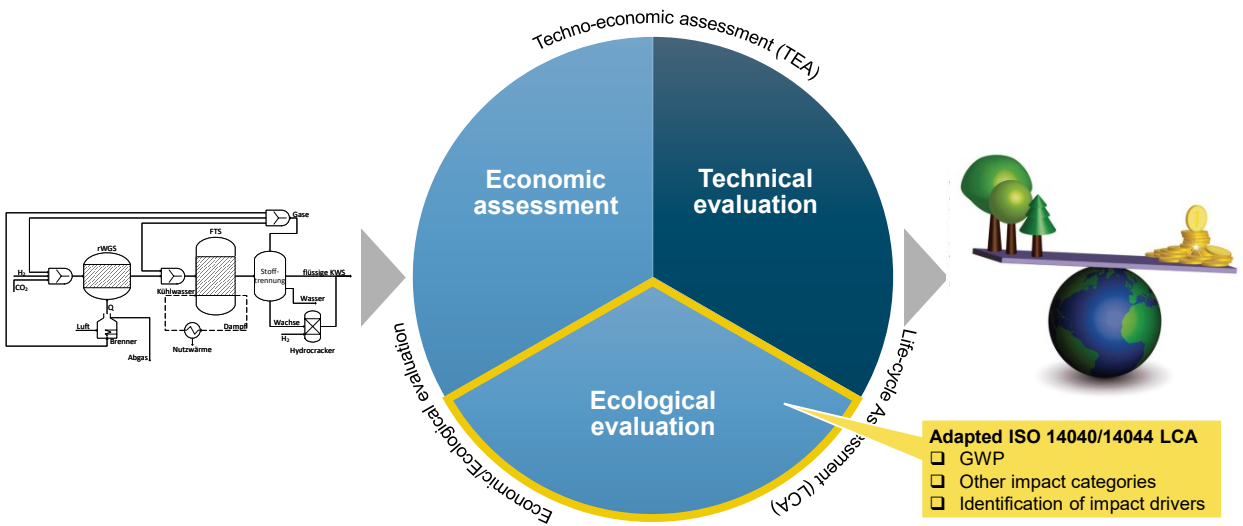
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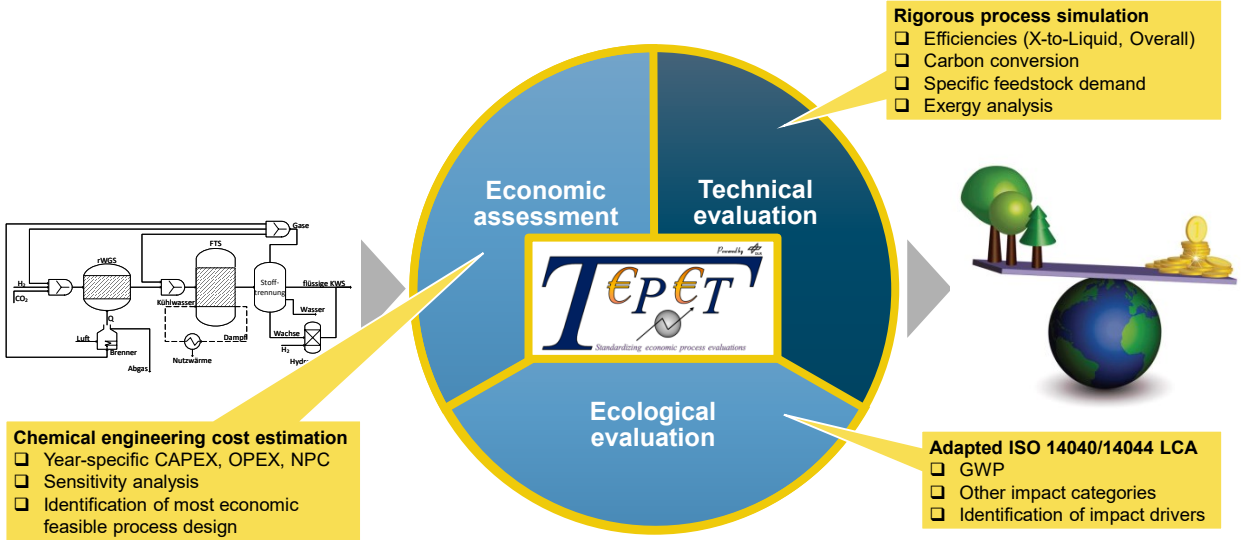


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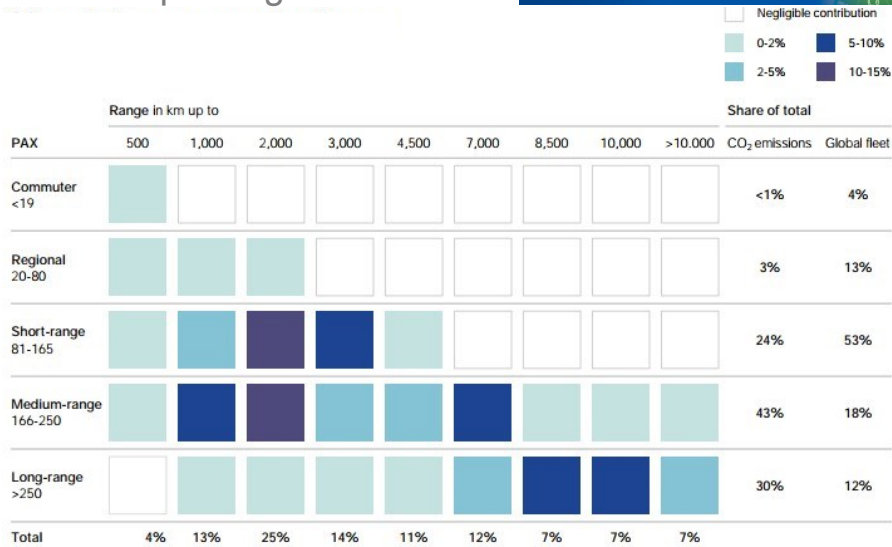
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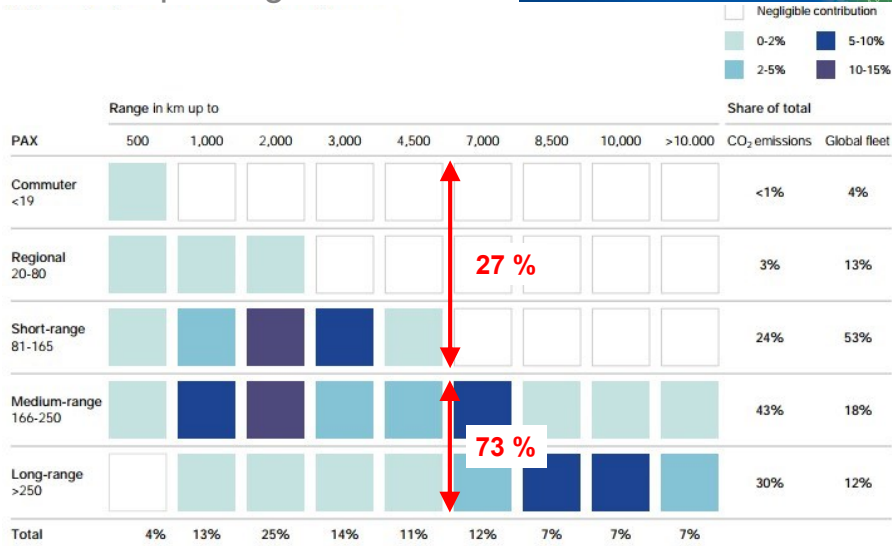


Civil aviation CO₂ emissions [1] CO₂ abatement per segments



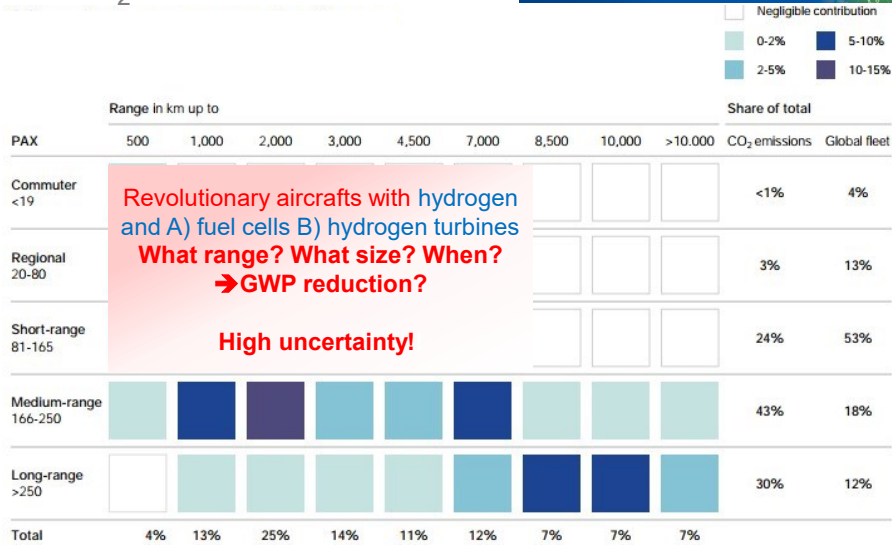
[1] FCH-JU (2020) Hydrogen-powered aviation: a fact-based study of hydrogen technology, economics, and climate impact by 2050. DOI: 10.2843/471510

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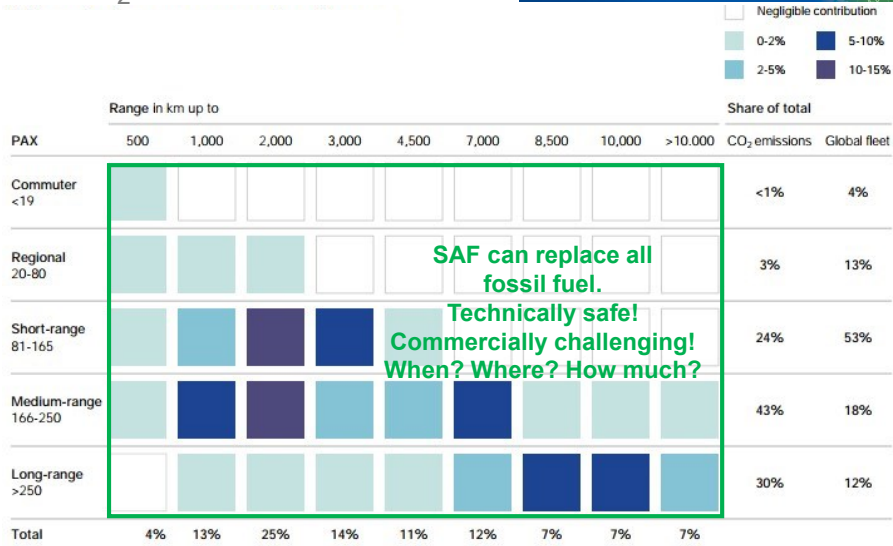
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Aircraft Revolution Roadmap Based on CO₂ emissions of 2018 [1]



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Aircraft revolution option 1 LH2 and its potential in aviation [1]



Open Questions:

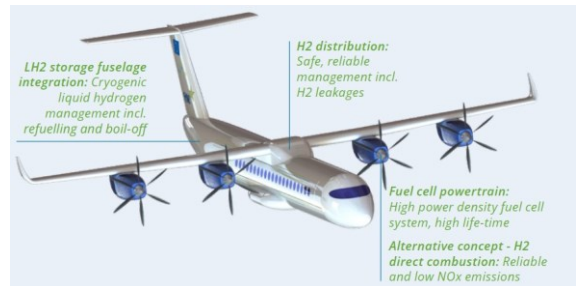
- Fuel cell versus combustion?
- Liquid versus gaseous fuel?



Clean Aviation Research Agenda [2]:

- H2 direct combustion aircraft **AND** Fuel cell based powertrain aircraft

	CO ₂ emissions	NO _x emissions	Contrails	Fuel Volume	Fuel + Propulsion System Mass	Supply chain / Infrastructure
Liquid H₂ fuel cell <i>H₂ generates electricity via an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, used for thrust.</i>	Green plane	Green plane	Yellow plane	Yellow fuel can	Yellow fuel can	Red plane
Liquid H₂ combustion <i>H₂ is burned in a modified gas-turbine engine to generate thrust.</i>	Green plane	Yellow plane	Yellow plane	Yellow fuel can	Green fuel can	Red plane
Gaseous H₂ fuel cell <i>H₂ generates electricity via an electrochemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, used for thrust.</i>	Green plane	Green plane	Yellow plane	Red fuel can	Red fuel can	Yellow plane
Gaseous H₂ combustion <i>H₂ is burned in a modified gas-turbine engine to generate thrust.</i>	Green plane	Yellow plane	Yellow plane	Red fuel can	Red fuel can	Yellow plane



[1] EASA; Hydrogen and its potential in aviation, <https://www.easa.europa.eu/en/light/topics/hydrogen-and-its-potential-aviation>

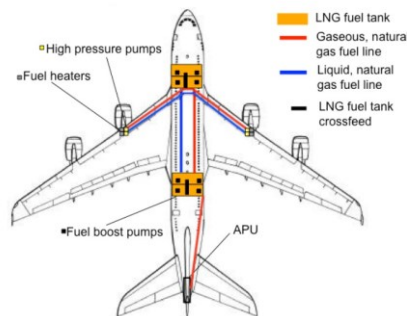
[2] Figure 3.4: Hydrogen Powered Aircraft (HPA) in Clean Aviation Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2024, <https://clean-aviation.eu/clean-aviation/our-energy-efficiency-and-emission-reduction/our-strategic-research-innovation-agenda>

Aircraft revolution option 2 LNG and its potential in aviation [1]



- Despite clear benefits compared to hydrogen aviation, **LNG** studies from the 1970's and 1980's have not been continued
 - Volumetric energy density of **LNG** / LH2: 35% / 75% less compared to kerosene

☞ **2012(!): LNG/CNG** fuel line at commercial Jet-A airplane (A318, A300, A380) [1]



[1] J. Gibbs, D. Seigel, and A. Donaldson, A natural gas supplementary fuel system to improve air quality and energy security, in 50th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting including the New Horizons Forum and Aerospace Exposition. 2012, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

Aircraft revolution summary

Comparison of LH2/LNG/SAF



■ Simplified e-fuel assessment (far from complete)

	LH2	LNG	e-SAF
propulsion system	H2 turbine / FC to be developed	gas turbine to be adapted to aviation / SOFC to be developed	80 years of turbine improvement
Fuel is global commodity	No	Yes	Yes
Vol. energy density (fuel, excl. system)	24 %	61 %	100 %
Wet wing fuel storage	No	No	Yes
In-flight emissions	Extensive H ₂ O contrails, combustion: NO _x	H ₂ O, less: CO ₂ , NO _x , CH ₄ slip	H ₂ O, CO ₂ , NO _x , reduced H ₂ S, soot



21 [1] taken from: M. Raab (2025) A techno-economic "Well-to-wake" evaluation of the aviation fuels LH2, LCH4 and Jet A-1. PhD Univ. Stuttgart

Aircraft revolution summary

Comparison of LH2/LNG/SAF

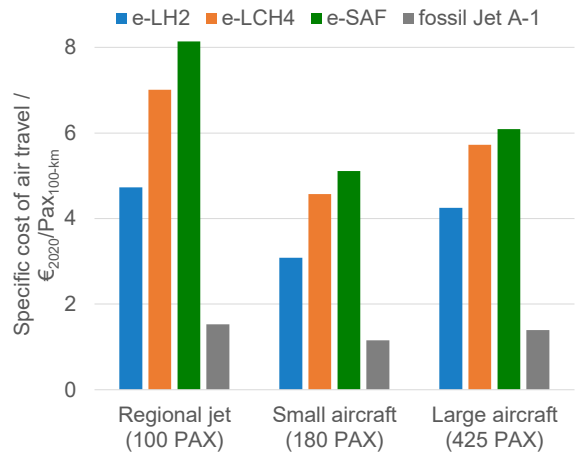


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relative eFuel costs	lowest	moderate	highest
Fuel versatility	moderate	high	low



■ Specific Cost of flying with e-fuels [1]



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Aircraft revolution summary

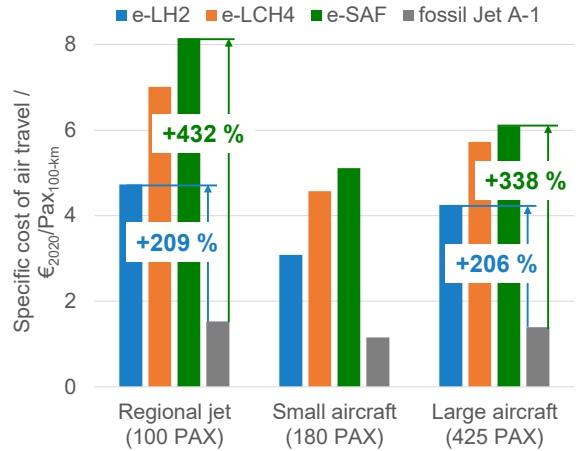
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Fuel versatility	moderate	high	low
	Preferred / safe	medium	Worst / risky

■ Specific Cost of flying with e-fuels [1]

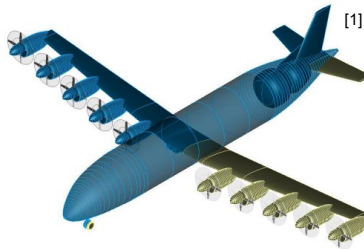


23

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Aircraft revolution assessment

LCA of H2-FC regional jet (70 PAX)



[1]

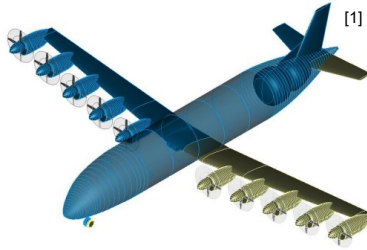
Hypothetical DLR aircraft design study

- Power train: 10 FCS* á 312 kW [2]
- Simplified well-to-wheel LCA:
 - German wind power + AEL hydrogen production
 - w/o hydrogen leakages / aircraft / inflight emissions

24

* Fuel Cell System (FCS) includes stacks, hydrogen tank, compressors, humidifier, heat exchangers, pumps
 [1] G. Atanasov (2022): Comparison of Sustainable Regional Aircraft Concepts, presented at Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrtkongress (conference), Dresden, Germany
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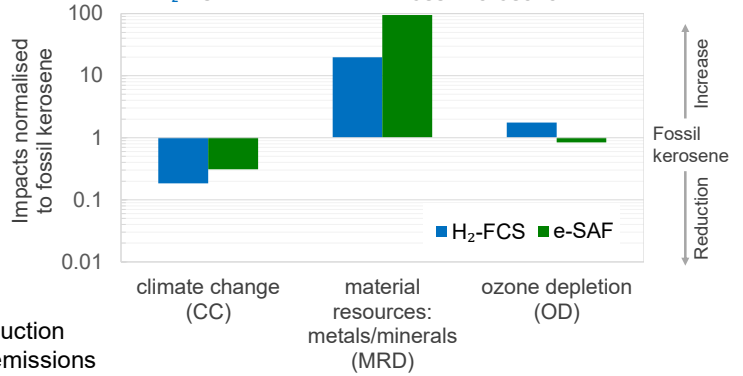
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Simplified environmental impact comparison per 1 PAX*km
H₂-FCS vs. e-SAF [3, 4] vs. fossil kerosene aircraft



- CC: FCS lower than SAF → lower power consumption during fuel production
- MRD: FCS and SAF higher than fossil (longer supply chain) → more minerals and metals used
- OD: FCS highest impact → tetrafluoroethylene for gaskets

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[1] G. Atanasov (2022): Comparison of Sustainable Regional Aircraft Concepts, presented at Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrtkongress (conference), Dresden, Germany
 [2] Schröder et al. (2024): Optimal design of proton exchange membrane fuel cell systems for regional aircraft
 [3] Rojas-Michaga et al. (2023): Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production through power-to-liquid (PtL): A combined techno-economic and life cycle assessment
 [4] Bardow et al. (2021): Life-cycle assessment of an industrial direct air capture process based on temperature-vacuum swing adsorption



B) SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUELS – FOR SURE

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FT-based Biomass-to-Liquid and Power&Biomass-to-Liquid SAF [1]



Challenges for sustainable aviation fuel provision in Europe:

- ReFuel EU^[2]: SAF blending rate increase from 2 % (2025) to 70 % (2050)
- Unreliability regarding energy imports → local production required

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[1] Habermeyer et. al (2023) Sustainable aviation fuel from forestry residue and hydrogen. A techno-economic and environmental analysis for an immediate deployment of the PBtL process in Europe. Sustainable Energy and Fuels, 7, p. 4229-4246. doi: 10.1039/d3se00358b.

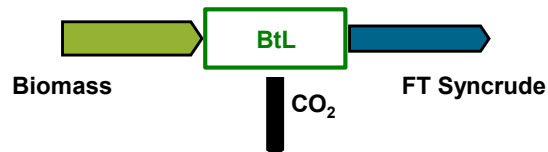
[2] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0561> [Accessed: 31.8.2022]

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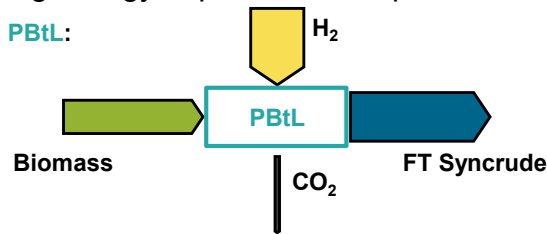
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BtL vs. PBtL:



Advantages PBtL

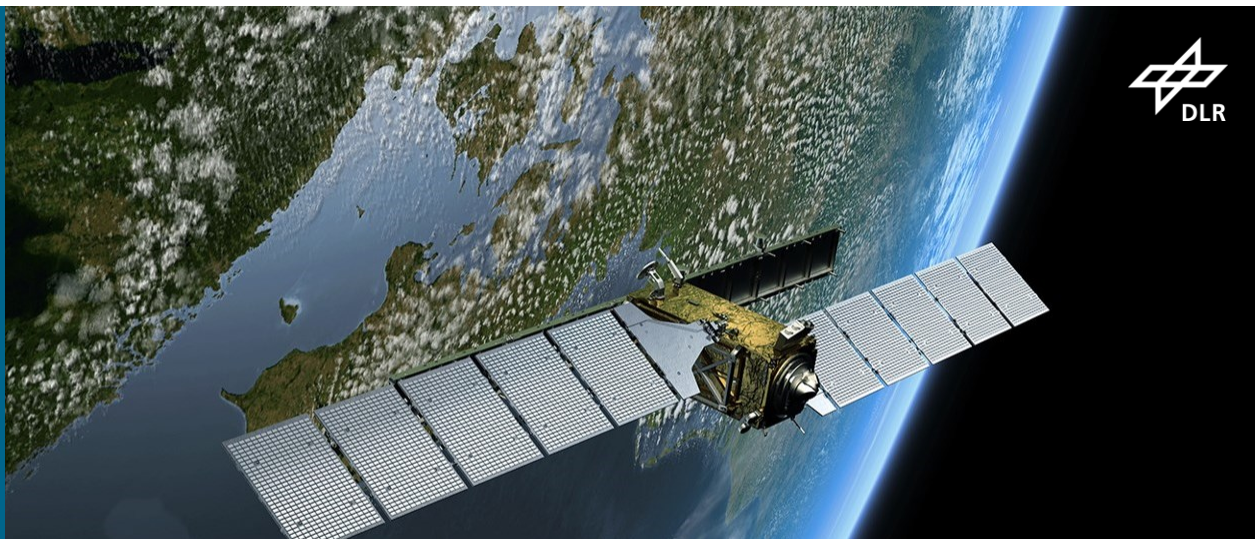
- + High conversion of limited biomass feedstock

Disadvantages PBtL

- Additional cost for electrical power
- Additional GHG impact due to electricity production

[1] Habermeyer et. al (2023) Sustainable aviation fuel from forestry residue and hydrogen. A techno-economic and environmental analysis for an immediate deployment of the PBtL process in Europe. Sustainable Energy and Fuels, 7, p. 4229-4246. doi: 10.1039/d3se00358b.

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TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT OF SAF CONCEPTS

Assessment of BtL and PBtL SAF



Carbon / energy flows [1]

Key assumptions:
 $\eta_{AEL} = 77.8\%_{HHV}$
 $H_2/CO = 2.05$
 FT-Recycle = 95 %



FlexCHX project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 763919



	Carbon flow	Energy flow
Winter BtL		
Summer PBtL		
50/50		

[1] Habermeyer, et. al (2021). Techno-economic analysis of a flexible process concept for the production of transport fuels and heat from biomass and renewable electricity. Front. Energy Res., Nov. 2021 | Volume 9 | Article 723774

Assessment of BtL and PBtL SAF



Technical efficiencies [1]

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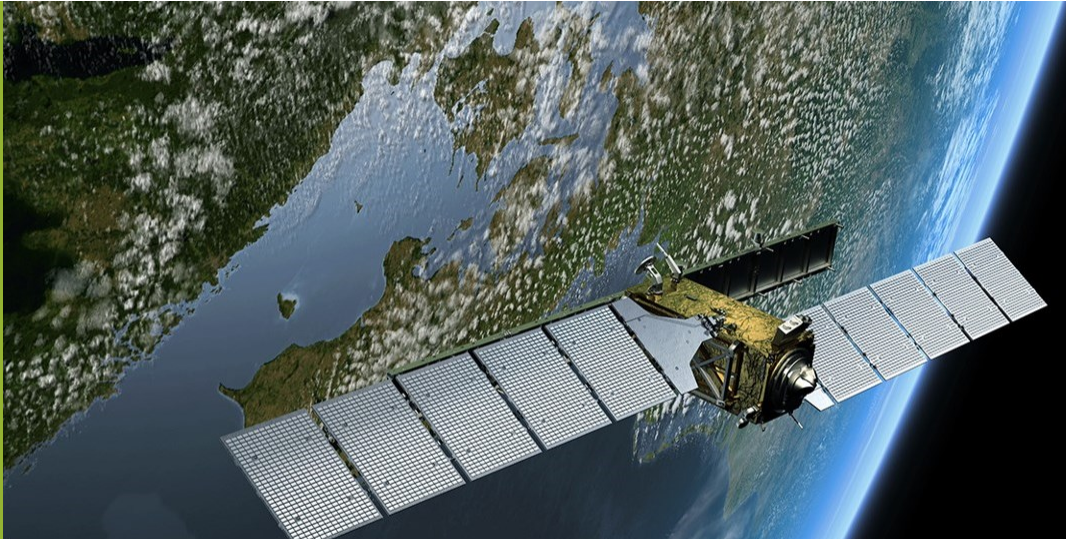


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	Carbon efficiency η_C [%]	Fuel η_F Process efficiency η_E [%]
Winter BtL	$\eta_C = 35.4$	$\eta_F = 57.6$ $\eta_E = 77.4$
Summer PBtL	$\eta_C = 61.1$	$\eta_F = 55.2$ $\eta_E = 73.6$
50/50	$\eta_{C,av.} = 48.3$	$\eta_{F,av.} = 56.4$ $\eta_{E,av.} = 75.5$

[1] Habermeyer, et. al (2021). Techno-economic analysis of a flexible process concept for the production of transport fuels and heat from biomass and renewable electricity. Front. Energy Res., Nov. 2021 | Volume 9 | Article 723774

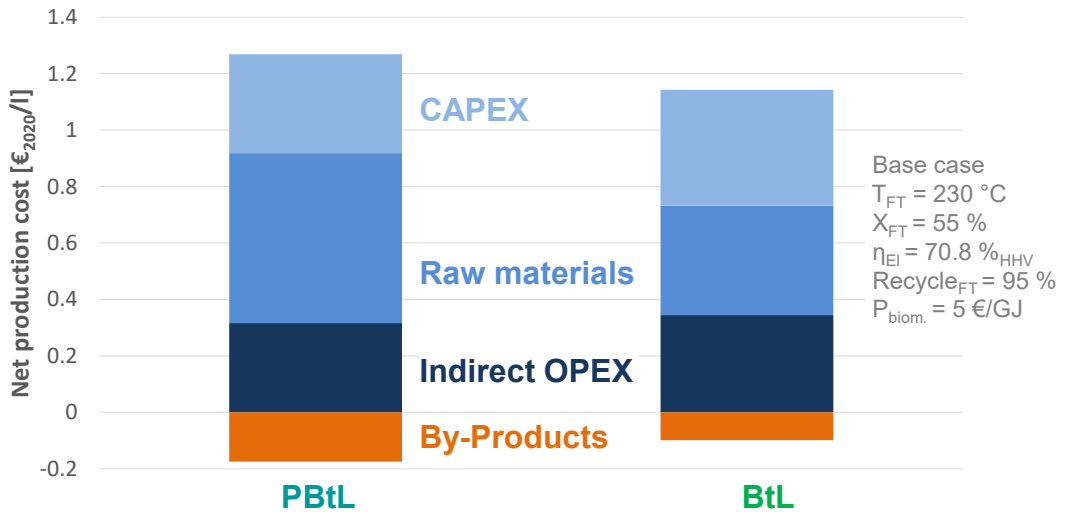


ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT OF FT-SAF

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BtL / PBtL comparison [1]: Net Production Costs



[1] Habermeyer, et. al (2023) Power Biomass to Liquid — an option for Europe's sustainable and independent aviation fuel production. Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery. Springer Nature. doi: 10.1007/s13399-022-03671-y. 723774

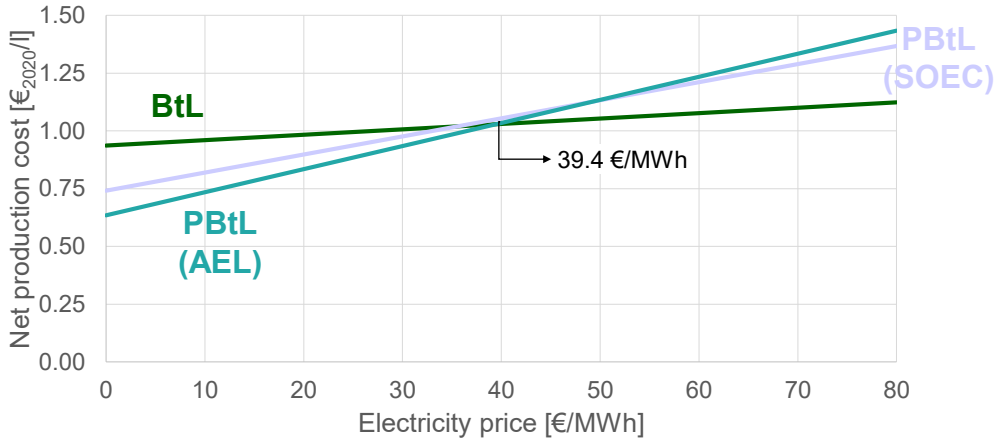
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Assessment of BtL / PBtL SAF net production cost (NPC)



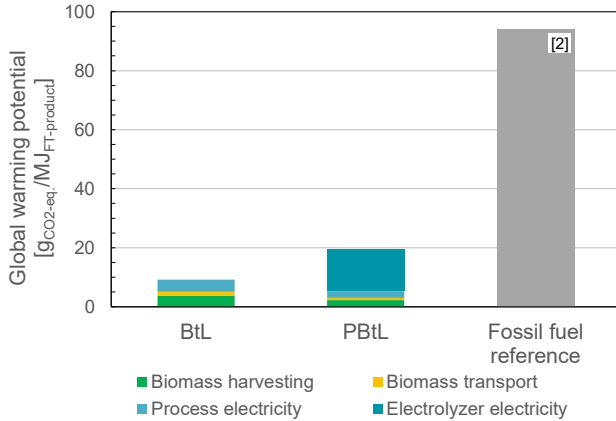
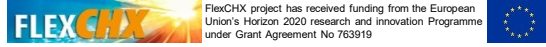
Net production cost sensitivity [1]:



[1] Habermeyer, et. al (2023) Power Biomass to Liquid — an option for Europe's sustainable and independent aviation fuel production. Biomass Conversion and Biorefinery. Springer Nature. doi: 10.1007/s13399-022-03671-y. 723774



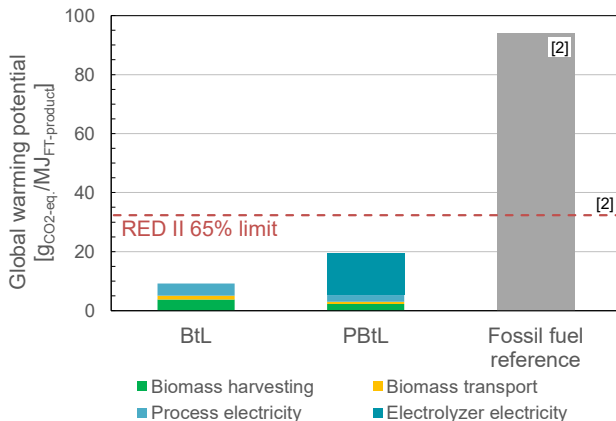
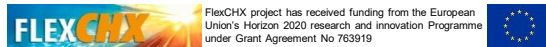
Global Warming Potential (GWP) of dual configuration SAF plant ^[1]



- **Transportation: 100 km, one-way by truck (69 g_{CO2-eq.}/(t*km))**
- **Biomass: Forest residues harvesting (19.7 g_{CO2-eq.}/kg)**
- **Electricity: Finnish grid @2020 (68.6 g_{CO2-eq.}/kWh)**

[1] Habermeyer et. al (2023) Sustainable aviation fuel from forestry residue and hydrogen. A techno-economic and environmental analysis for an immediate deployment of the PBtL process in Europe. Sustainable Energy and Fuels, 7, p. 4229-4246. doi: 10.1039/d3se00358b.
 [2] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ...on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union

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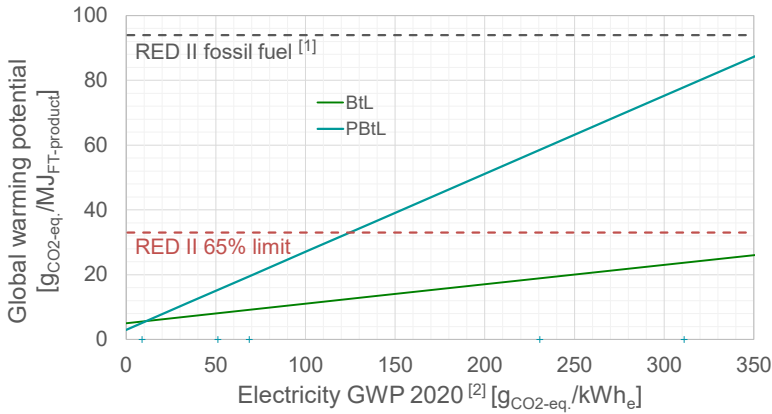
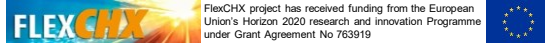


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Conclusion
REDII target accomplished @ FLEXCHX base case

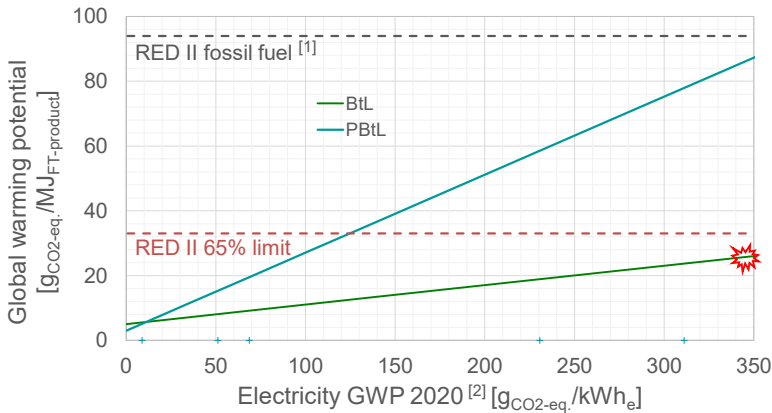
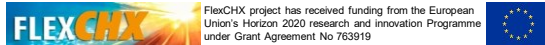
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 [2] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ...on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union

GWP sensitivity of Biomass-to-L / Power&Biomass-to-L



[1] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ... on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union
 [2] https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/daviz/co2-emission-intensity-9/#tab-googlechartid_googlechartid_googlechartid_chart_1111

GWP sensitivity of Biomass-to-L / Power&Biomass-to-L



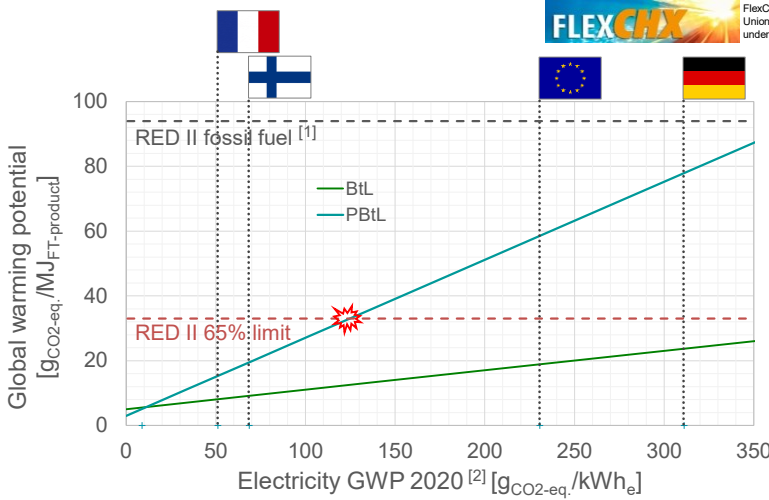
➤ REDII 65 % limit can be reached for all depicted electricity grid mixes for BtL

[1] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ... on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union
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GWP sensitivity of Biomass-to-L / Power&Biomass-to-L



FLEXCHX project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No 763919



➤ REDII 65 % limit can be reached for all depicted electricity grid mixes for **BtL**

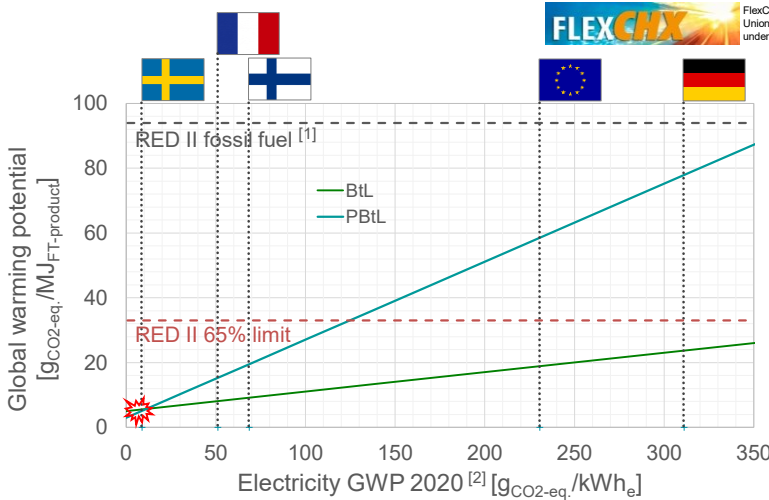
➤ **PBtL** requires electricity with GWP <120 gCO₂-eq./kWh_e to reach REDII 65 % limit

[1] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ... on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union
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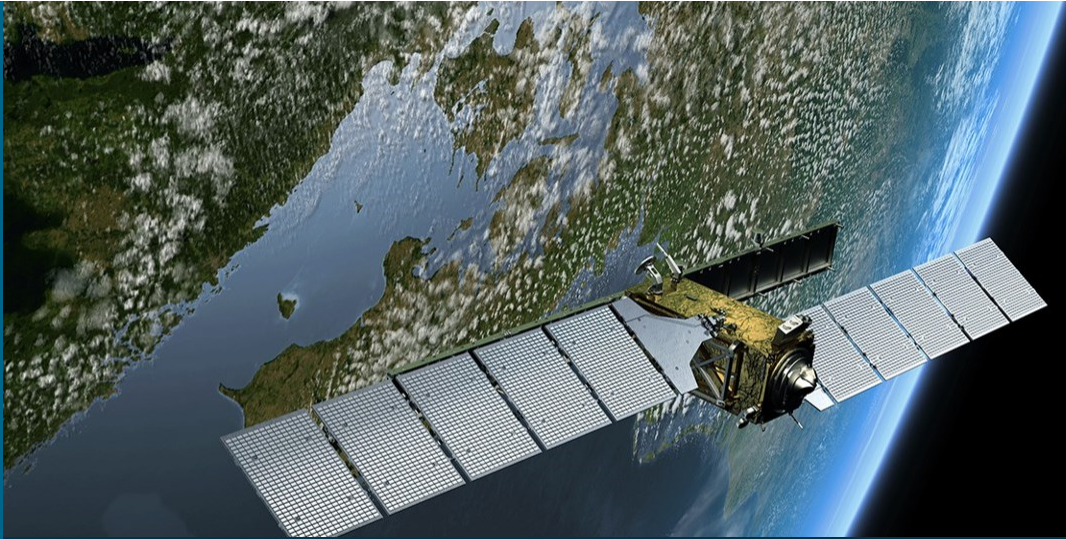


➤ REDII 65 % limit can be reached for all depicted electricity grid mixes for **BtL**

➤ **PBtL** requires electricity with GWP <120 gCO₂-eq./kWh_e to reach REDII 65 % limit

➤ **PBtL** could have lower GWP than **BtL** with Swedish grid mix

[1] European Union (2018) "Directive 2018/2001 of the European Parliament ... on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (recast)", Official Journal of the European Union
 [2] https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/daviz/co2-emission-intensity-9/#tab-googlechartid_googlechartid_googlechartid_chart_1111



TOWARDS A EUROPEAN PBTL SAF ROADMAP

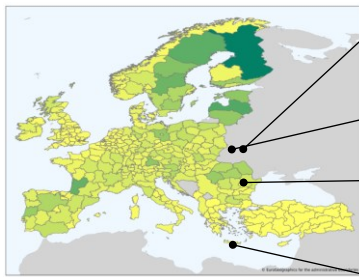
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Local PBtL production potential TEPET linked to Aspen Plus



For feedstock potential: TEEA for 300 NUTS2 regions



Biomass density^[2]:
(1/3 of forest residue)
+ Transport distance

Local labor cost^[3]

National grid:
- Price^[4]
- GHG footprint^[5]

Biomass price^[2]

NUTS2 regions specific results:

- Local fuel production cost
- Local fuel production GWP
- Local fuel potential

Key economic assumptions: see ^[1]

[1] Habermeyer, et. al (2023) Sustainable aviation fuel from forestry residue and hydrogen. A techno-economic and environmental analysis for an immediate deployment of the PBtL process in Europe. *Sustainable Energy and Fuels*, doi: 10.1039/d3se00358b.

[2] dataset codes MINBIOFSR1 and MINBIOFSR1a), excluding secondary residues from: Ruiz, P., et. al. (2019). ENSPRESO-an open, EU-28 wide, transparent and coherent database of wind, solar and biomass energy potentials *Energy Strategy Reviews*, 26, 100379.

[3] Eurostat. (2021). Labour cost levels by NACE Rev. 2 activity (Online) https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/product/page/LC_LCI_LEVDEFAULTVIEW [Accessed 19.01.2022]

[4] Eurostat. (2021). Electricity prices for non-household consumers - bi-annual data (Online) <http://appso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/mui/submitViewTableAction.do> [Accessed 19.01.2022]

[5] European Energy Agency. Greenhouse gas emission intensity of electricity generation by country 2022. [cited 2022, 31.1.].

Available from: https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/daviz/co2-emission-intensity-9/#tabgooglechartid_googlechartid_googlechartid_chart_1111.

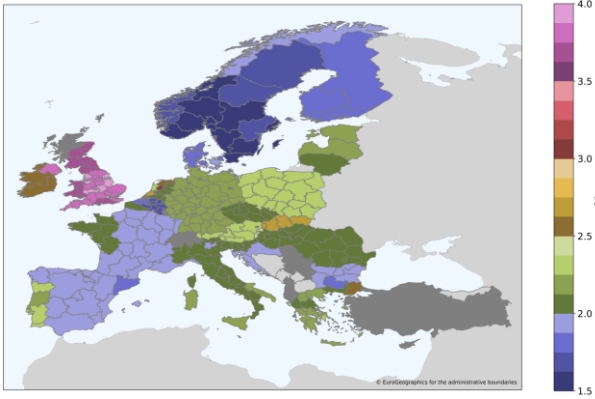
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PBtL potential for Europe

Grid based PBtL: Northern Europe



Net production cost [€₂₀₂₀/kg_{C5+}]:



Net Production cost

- + Abundant cheap woody biomass and low carbon electricity in Scandinavia

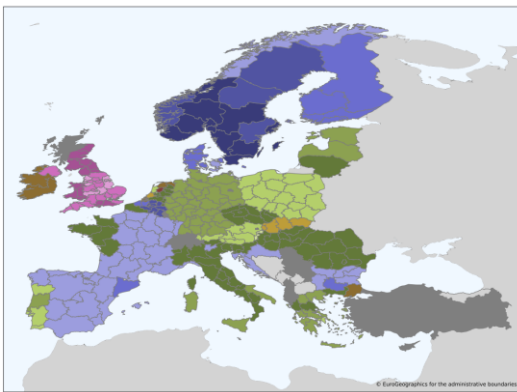
45

PBtL potential for Europe

Grid based PBtL: Northern Europe



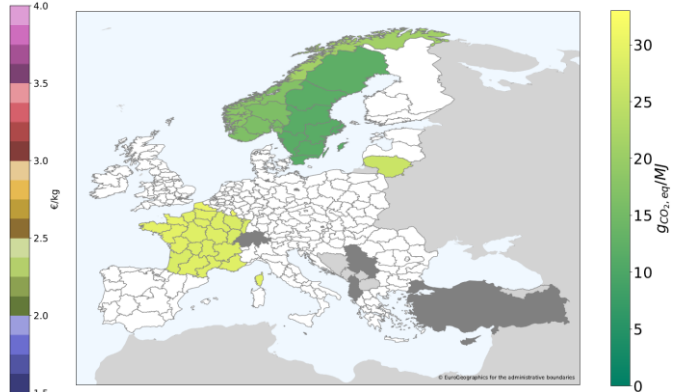
Net production cost [€₂₀₂₀/kg_{C5+}]:



Net Production cost

- + Abundant cheap woody biomass and low carbon electricity in Scandinavia

Fuel GWP 2020 [g_{CO2,eq}/MJ]:



Greenhouse Gas Abatement

- High carbon footprint of power production in most European countries

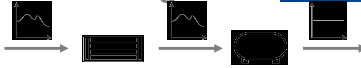
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PbTL potential for Europe

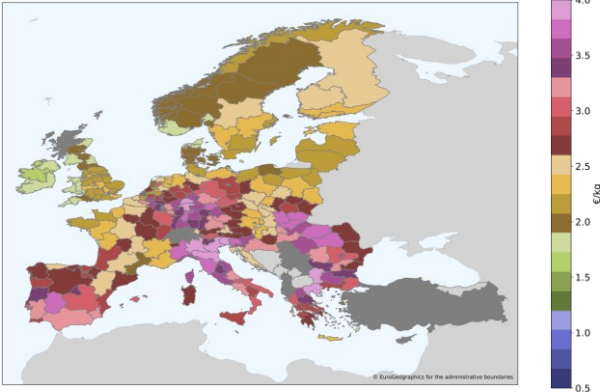
On-shore wind PbTL: Costal regions



Hydrogen storage included:



Net production cost [€₂₀₂₀/kg_{C5+}]:



Net Production cost

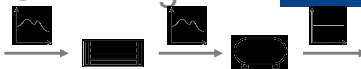
+ High full load hours of wind power required

PbTL potential for Europe

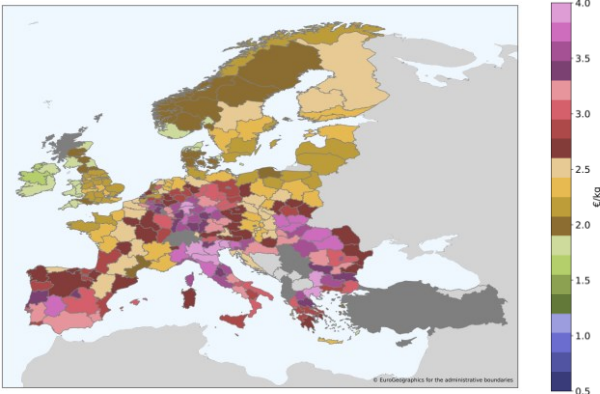
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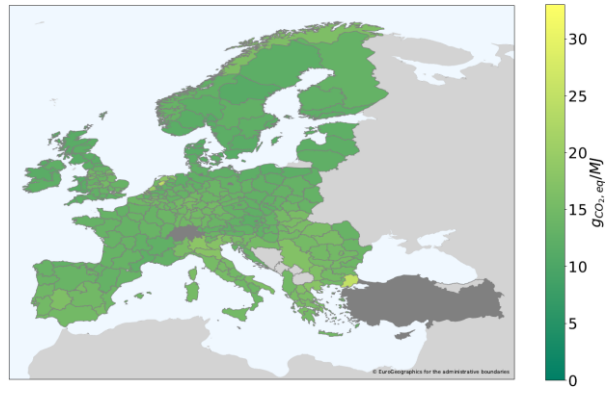
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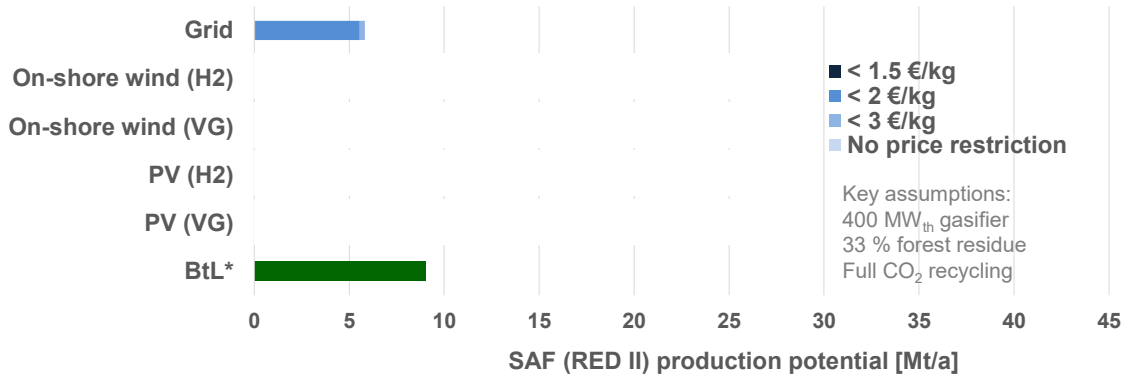


Greenhouse Gas Abatement

- No Net Zero SAF anywhere

PBtL potential for Europe

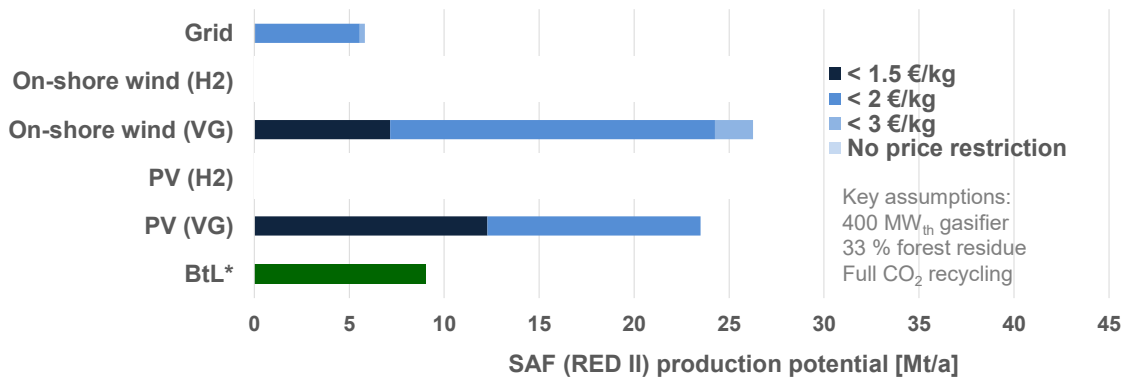
Aggregated SAF potential



*Assumptions: 19.9 % biomass conversion, entire potential under RED II limit

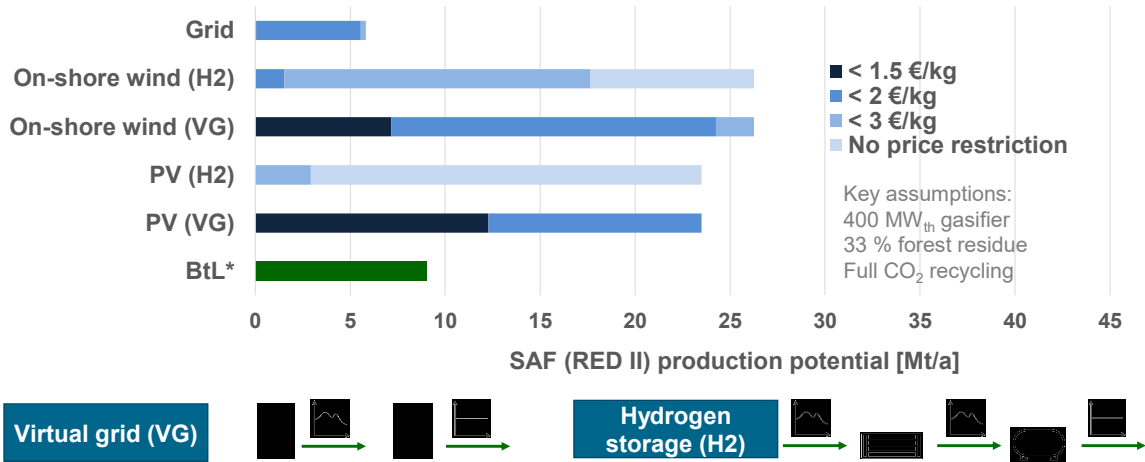
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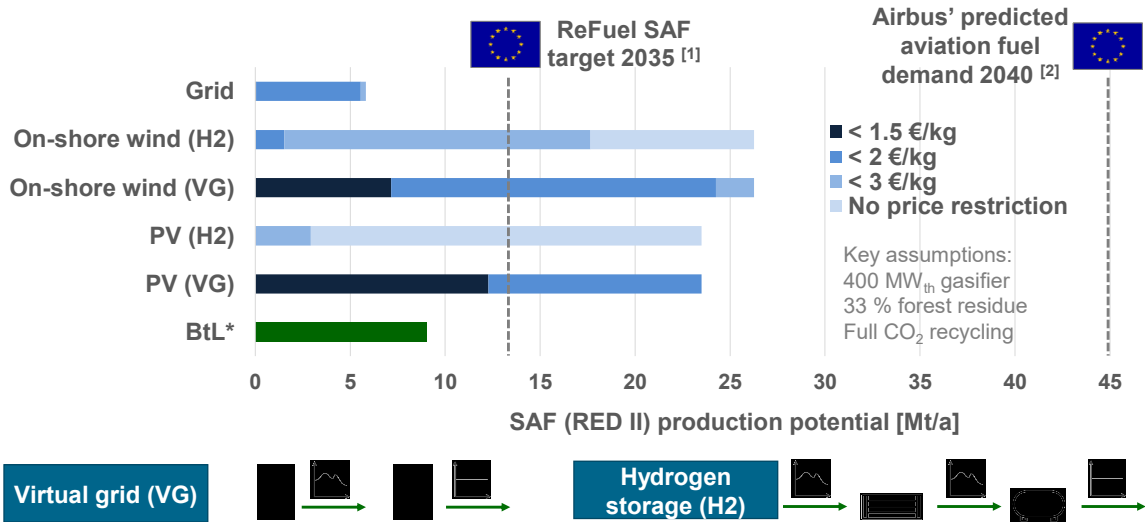


*Assumptions: 19.9 % biomass conversion, entire potential under RED II limit

PBtL analysis for Europe Aggregated SAF potential



PBtL analysis for Europe Aggregated SAF potential



[1] ... ensuring a level playing field for sustainable air transport [Online] <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52021PC0561>. SAF should account for at least 5% of aviation fuels by 2030 and 63% by 2050.
 [2] Airbus Global Market forecast 2021 – 2040 [Online] <https://www.airbus.com/en/newsroom/press-releases/2021-11-airbus-forecasts-demand-for-39000-new-passenger-freighter-aircraft> (Accessed 02/2022)
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CONCLUSION & OUTLOOK

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Toward Sustainable Aviation in Europe



- Large-scale decarbonization of aviation using **RE-supported SAF** is technically feasible, economically challenging, ready to go
 - Massive rollout of **European renewable energy (RE) production** is mandatory
 - New **SAF** industry to be established – competing with fossil kerosene supply
 - Net Zero aviation by 2050 not realistic – actual GWP to be considered

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- **LNG** much easier to handle than **hydrogen**, but doesn't look sexy

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- **LNG** much easier to handle than **hydrogen**, but doesn't look sexy
- DLR provides standardized assessment for any fuel supply technology, feedstock, location, regulation, ... !



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DAY 1 - Tuesday, 28. January 2025

ENERGY AND PROPULSION - OVERVIEW



TSAS2025
"Towards Sustainable Aviation" Summit
Toulouse • France • January 28-30, 2025



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!
QUESTIONS?**

Alternative fuels and new propulsion systems towards sustainable aviation

Ralph-Uwe Dietrich (ralph-uwe.Dietrich@dlr.de),

Rahnuma Bhuiyan Evon, Felix Habermeyer,
Simon Maier, Moritz Raab, Julia Weyand

