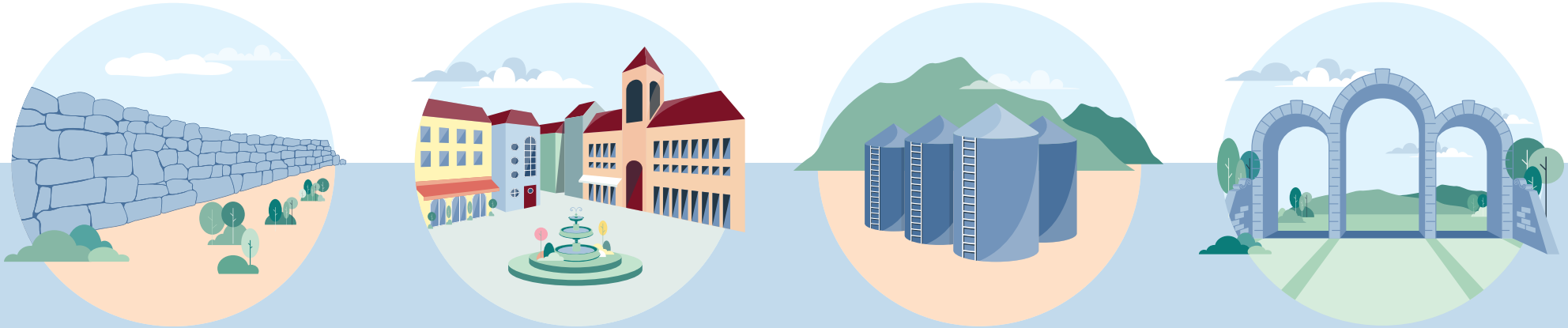


2026

Energy Perspectives

Global macroeconomic and energy market outlook

Christian Becker
Senior Vice President
Global External Analysis

11.06.2026

The energy crisis will reshape policy trade-offs

Security and affordability will be prioritised – with accelerated decarbonisation where the trilemma aligns

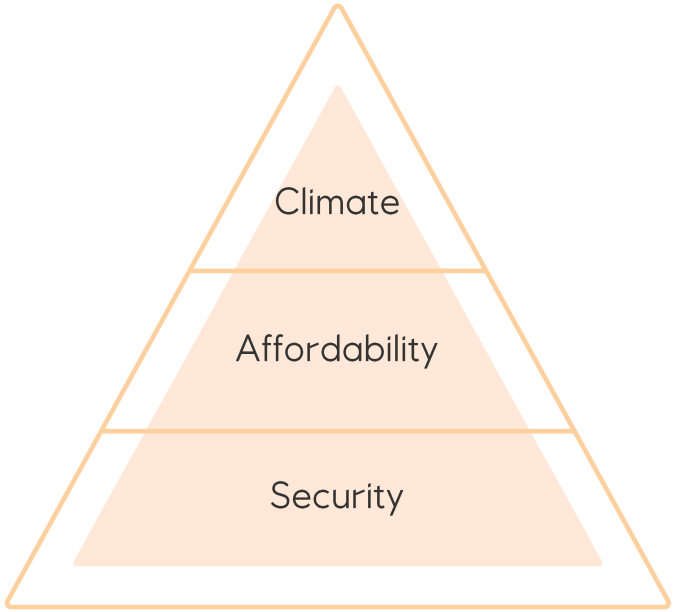
Drivers

- Security and resilience
- Affordability and economics

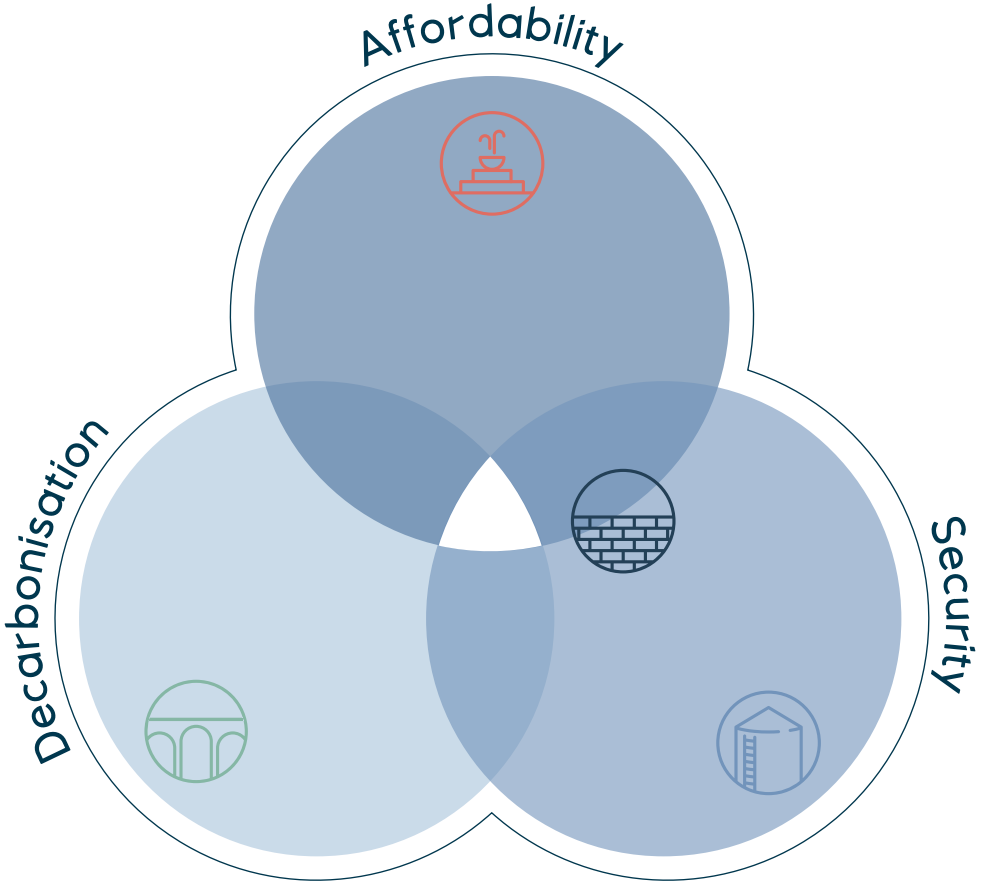
Policy direction

- Diversification
- De-risking
- Government intervention
- Industrial policy

Hierarchy



Four scenarios to explore the dimensions of the energy trilemma

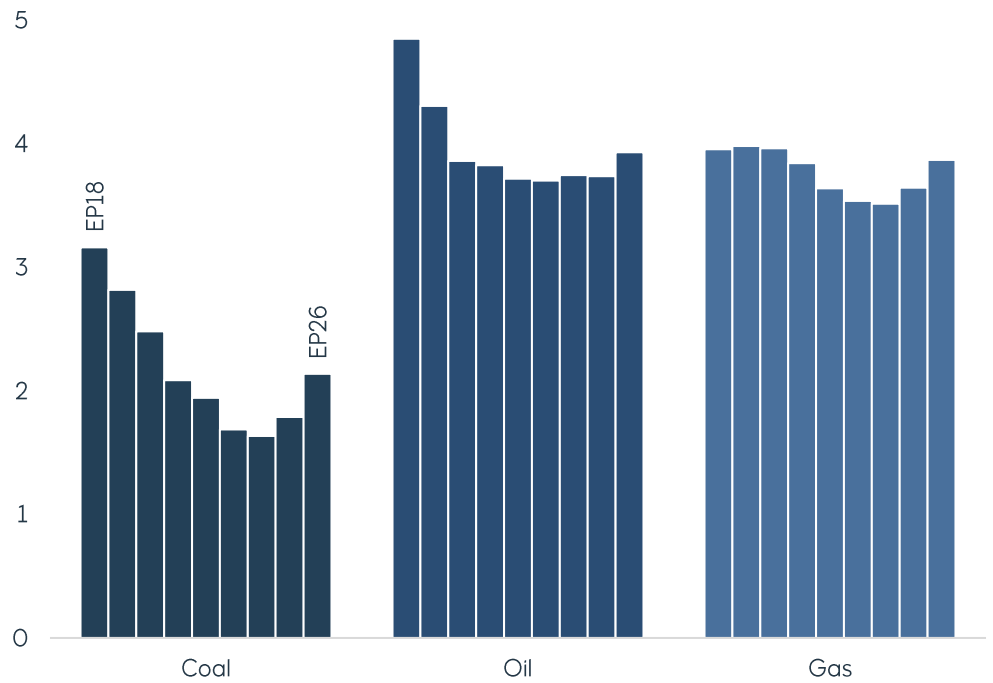


How have Energy Perspectives outlooks changed over the years?

Increasing electrification – rise of cheap solar – recent struggle of wind – return of fossil fuels

Fossil fuels in total primary energy demand in 2050

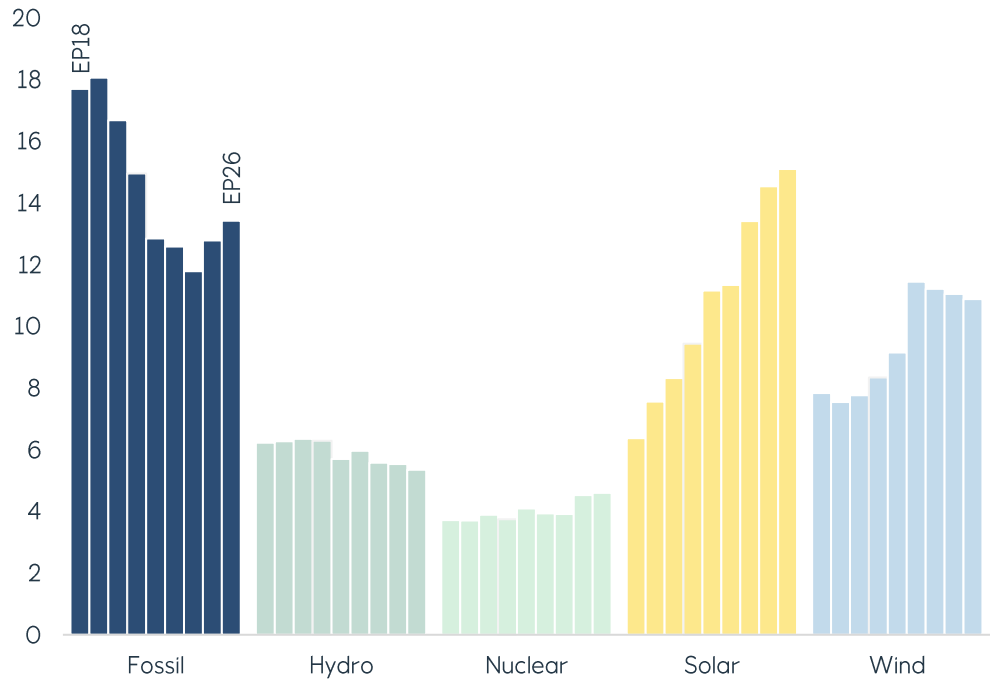
Gtoe



Source: Equinor

Electricity generation in 2050

Thousand TWh



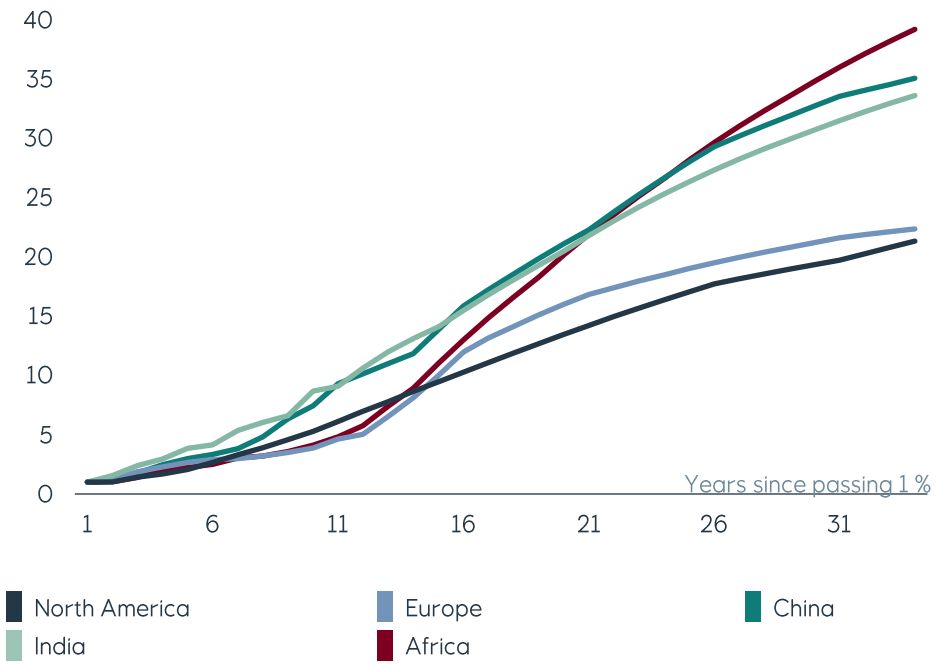
Source: Equinor

Emerging regions are leapfrogging the fossil stage

Enabled by cheap solar and batteries

Solar share of electricity generation

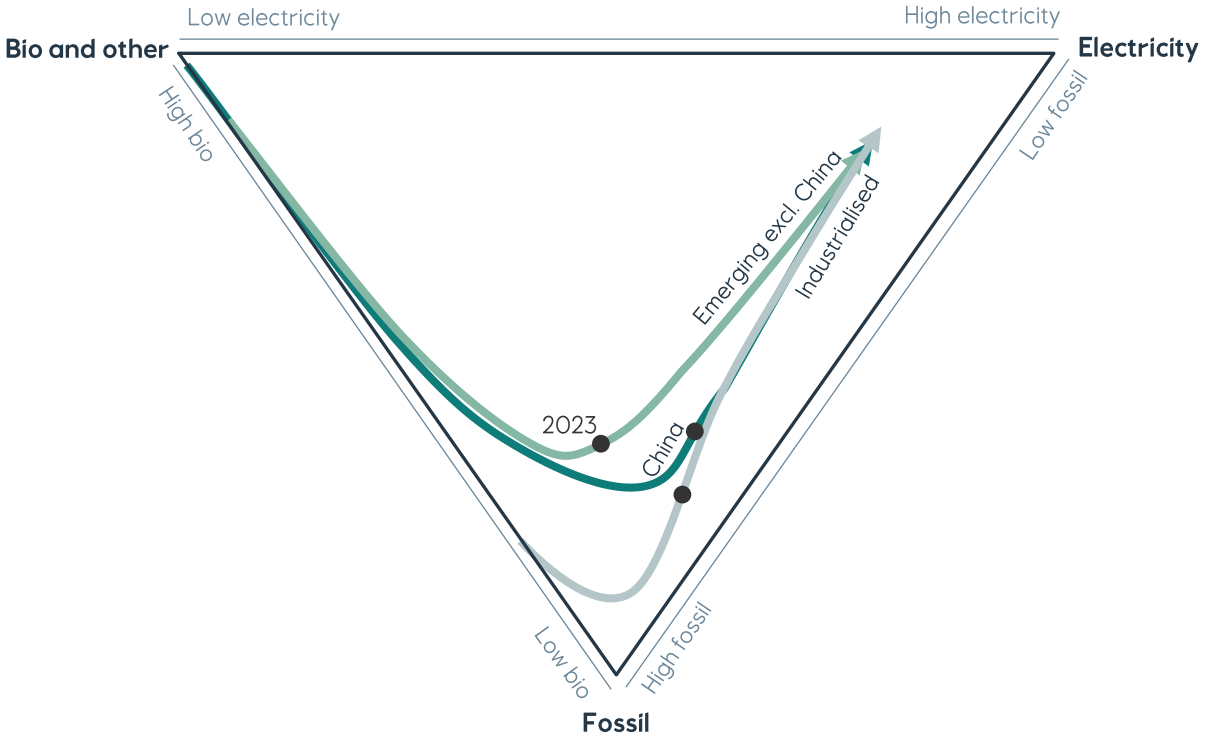
%



Source: IEA, Equinor

Share of energy demand, 1900-2050

%



Source: IEA, IIASA (history), Equinor (projections)
*Slight deviations in region definitions between IIASA and IEA and Equinor

Walls - current trajectory

- not business as usual
- builds on current trends
- climate action accelerates slowly

Plazas - affordability

- open trade and investment
- stronger growth and consumption
- low climate focus

Silos - security of supply

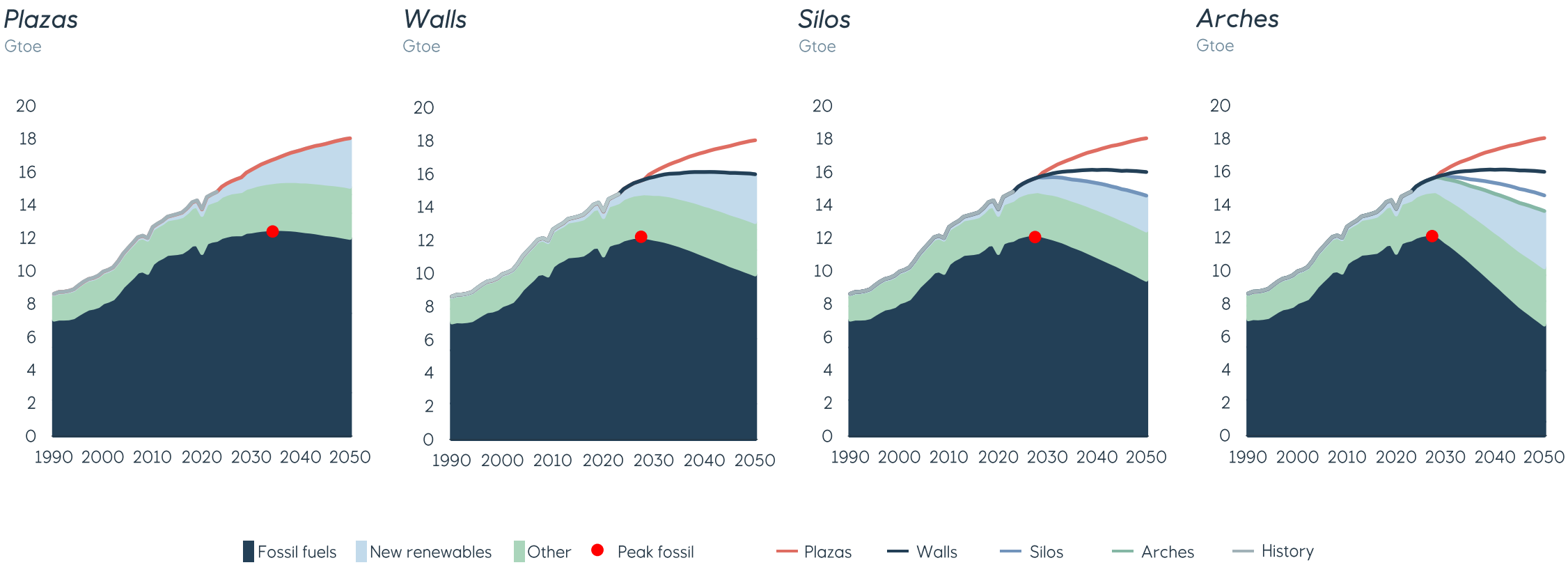
- fragmented world
- restricted trade
- slower growth impacting consumption
- low climate focus

Arches - decarbonisation

- pragmatic collaboration
- accelerated technology progress
- uneven growth
- national and regional climate action

Energy demand is a balance

between energy additions and transition



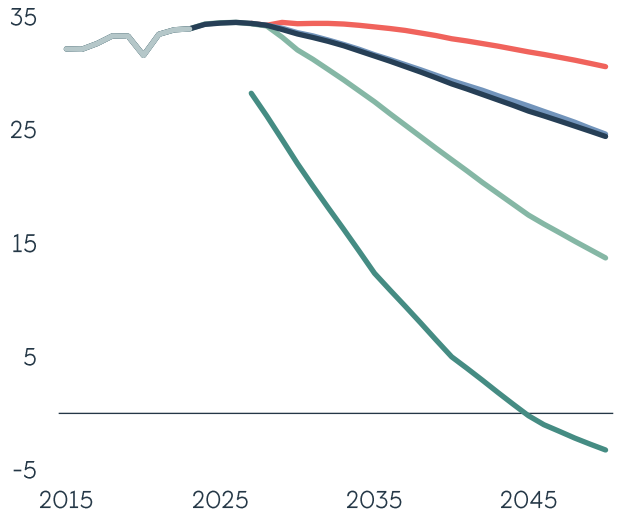
Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Emissions to peak soon – but decline at very different speeds

Deep reductions require explicit policy support for carbon capture, storage and removal

Annual energy-related emissions, incl. CCS and carbon removal

Gt CO_2

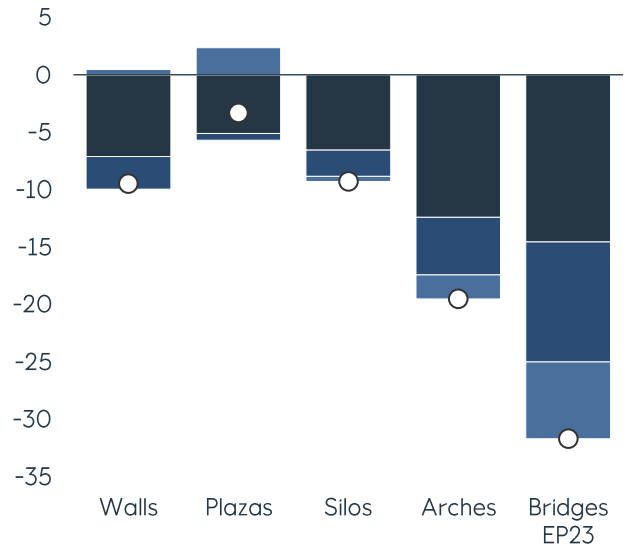


Walls · Plazas · Silos · Arches · Bridges EP23 · History

Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Net energy-related emissions: change by 2050 vs. 2023

$GtCO_2$

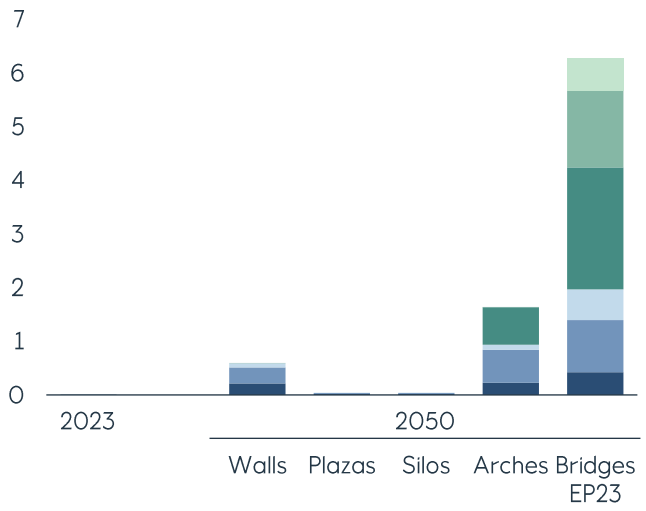


Coal · Oil · Gas · Net change

Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

CCS and carbon removal

Gt CO_2



CCS industry · CCS power · CCS blue H_2 · NBS · BECCS · DAC

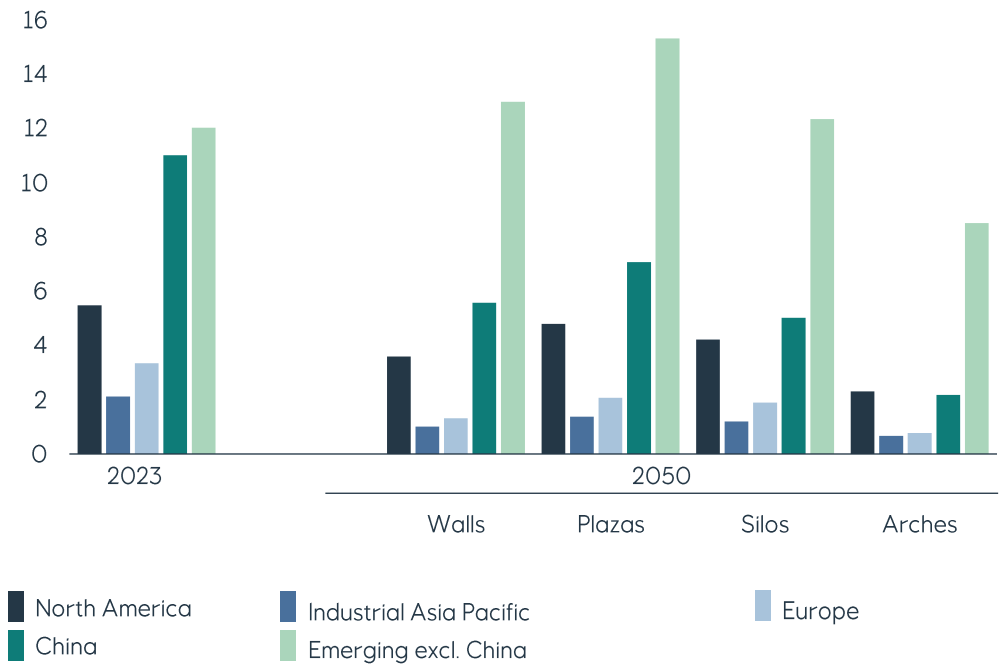
Source: Equinor

Emissions shift towards emerging regions – but per capita gaps persist

Key drivers are economic and population growth, as well as regional policy

Energy-related emissions* by region

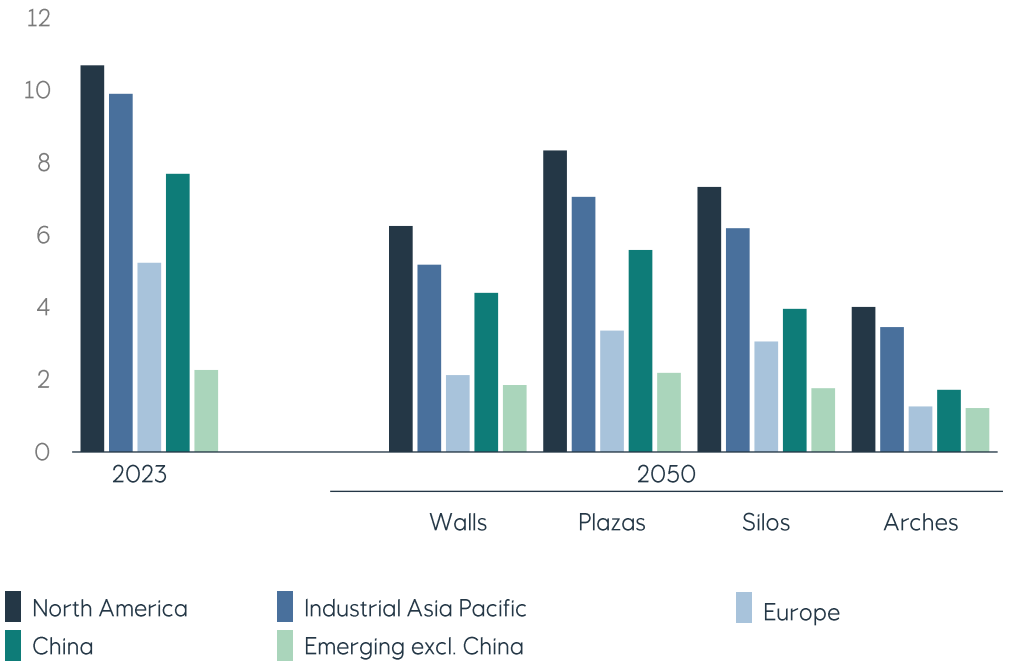
Gt CO_2



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections), *Emissions include CCS and Carbon removal

Energy-related emissions* by region per capita

Tonnes CO_2 per capita



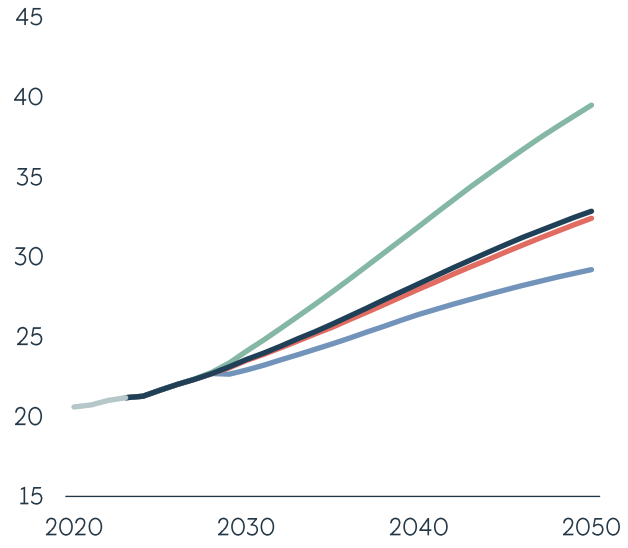
Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections), UN

Electrification and clean electricity generation is the key to the energy transition

Enables decarbonisation and efficiency improvements

Electrification in end-use sectors

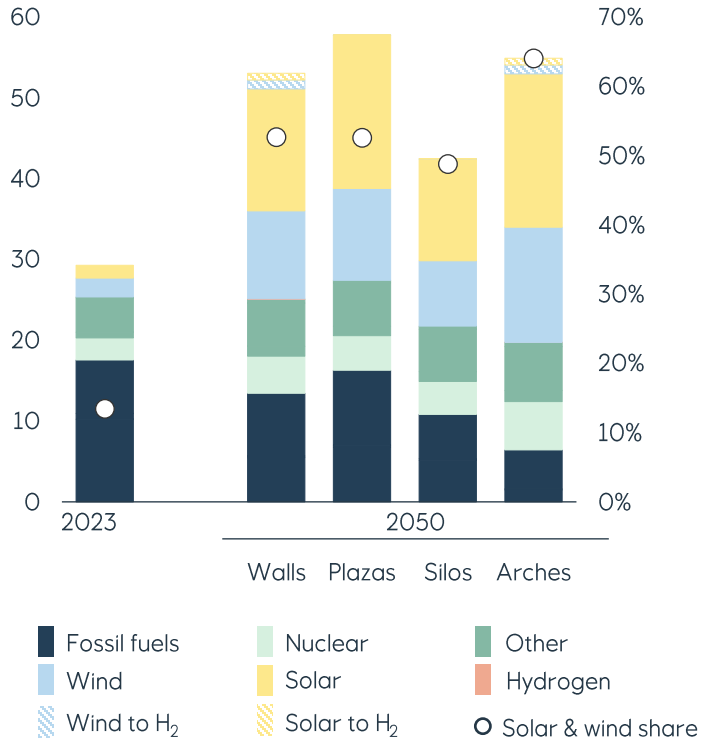
%



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Electricity generation

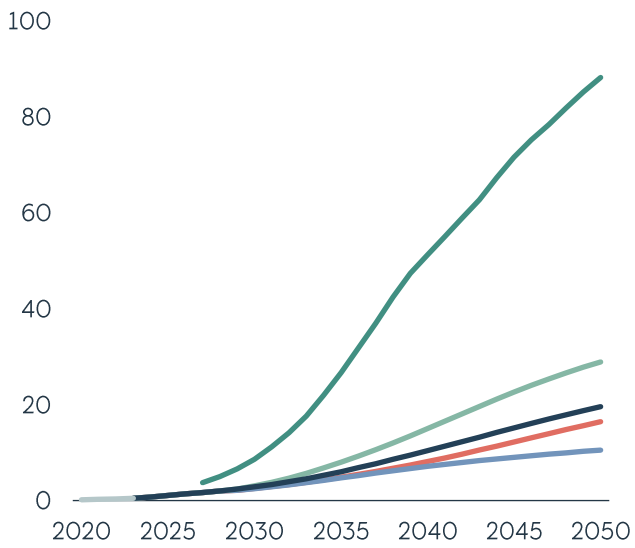
Thousand TWh



Source: © 2025 IRENA (history), Equinor (projections)

Electrification of the LDV* fleet

% of energy use



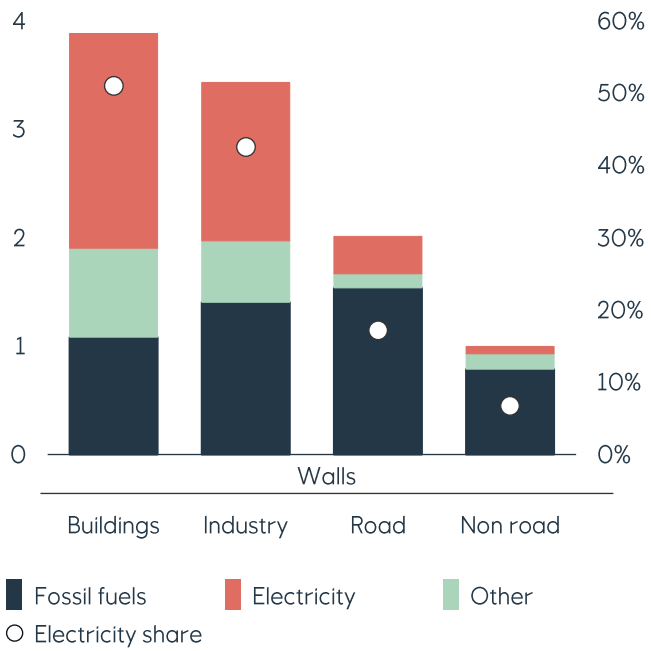
Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections) *Light duty vehicles

Electrification advances – but not across all sectors

Hard-to-abate sectors and petrochemicals sustain fossil fuel demand across the scenarios

Sector demand in Walls in 2050

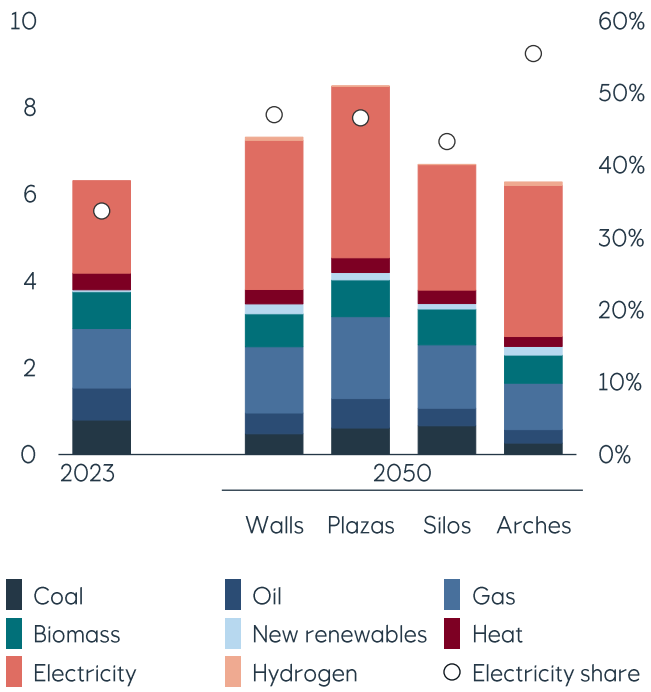
Gtoe



Source: Equinor

Buildings and industry demand

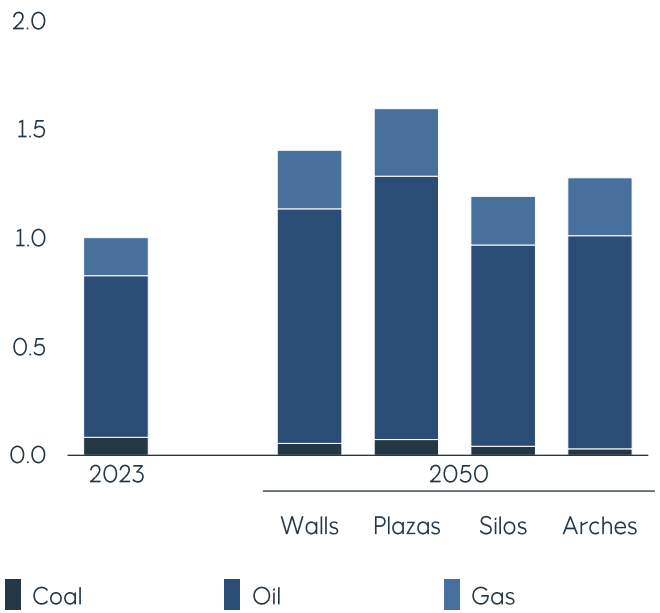
Gtoe



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Non-energy demand

Gtoe



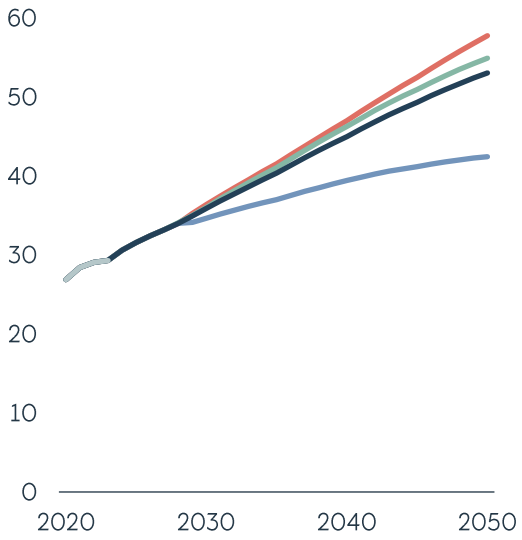
Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Commodity demand outcomes diverge widely across scenarios

Electricity is set to grow, while fossil fuels depend on economic growth, policy, and transition speed

Global electricity generation

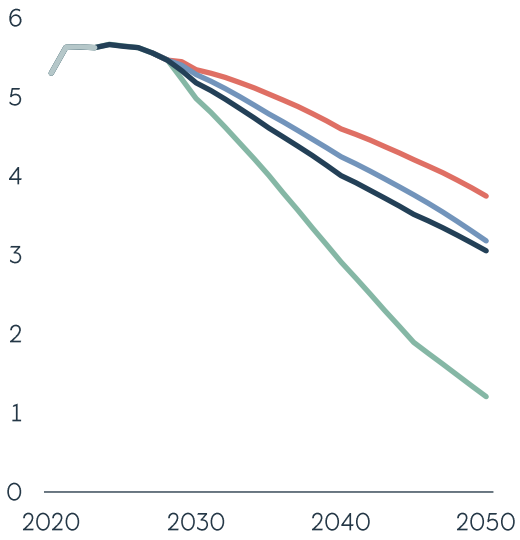
Thousand TWh



Source: © 2025 IRENA (history), Equinor (projections)

Global coal demand

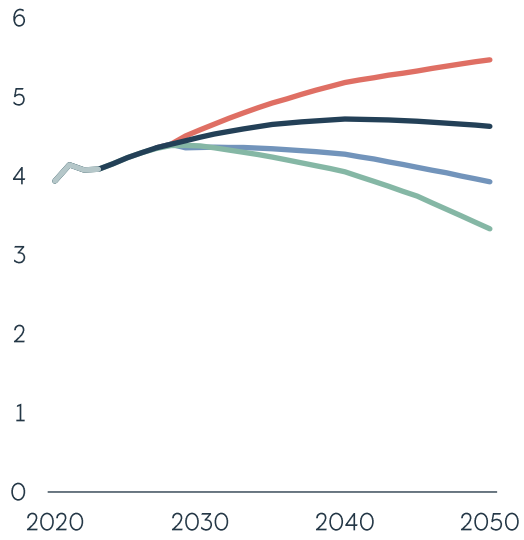
Gtce



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Global gas demand

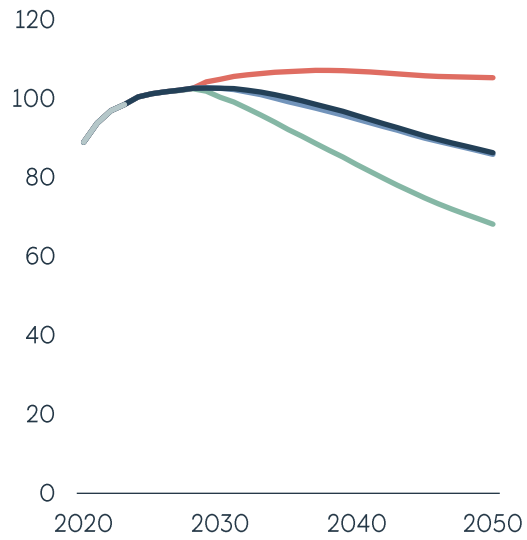
Thousand bcm



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

Global oil demand

mbd



Source: IEA (history), Equinor (projections)

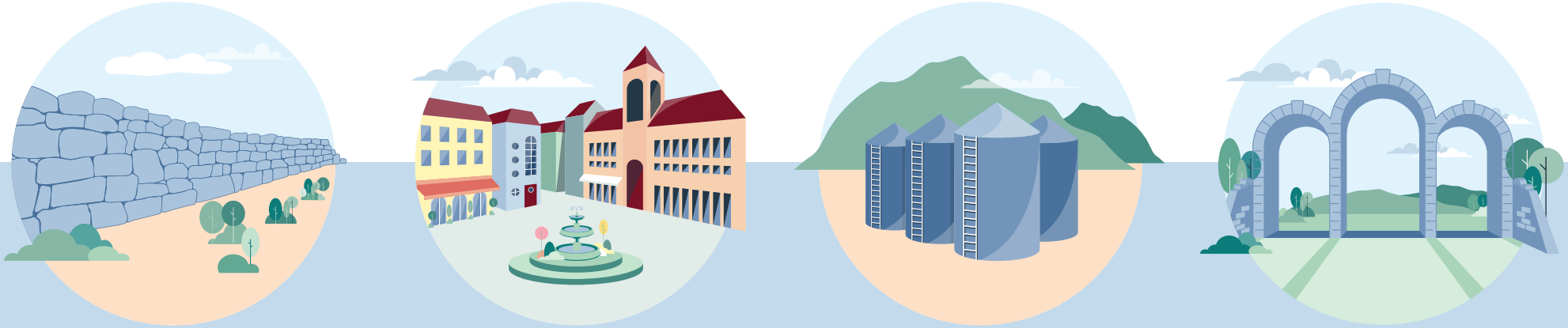
Key messages

Energy transition is progressing,
but faces headwinds

Growing energy demand is still partly met by fossil fuels
even as renewables scale rapidly

A 1.5°C pathway is no longer within reach
and even a 2°C trajectory is very challenging

Future outcomes diverge widely, depending on economic,
geopolitical and policy developments



Thank you for your attention!