

# Sustainability Speaker Series 2018

**DRAWDOWN**

# CO<sub>2</sub>

parts per million (ppm)

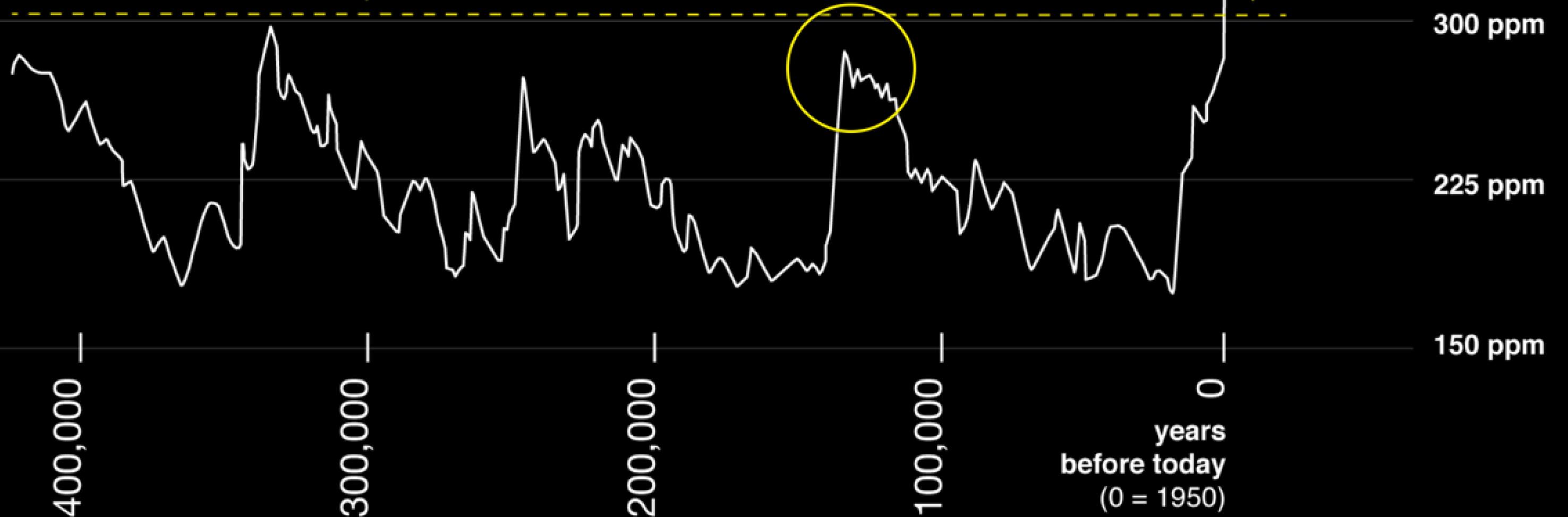
## 400,000 years

For centuries, atmospheric carbon dioxide had never been above this line

actual level 490 ppm

← current level

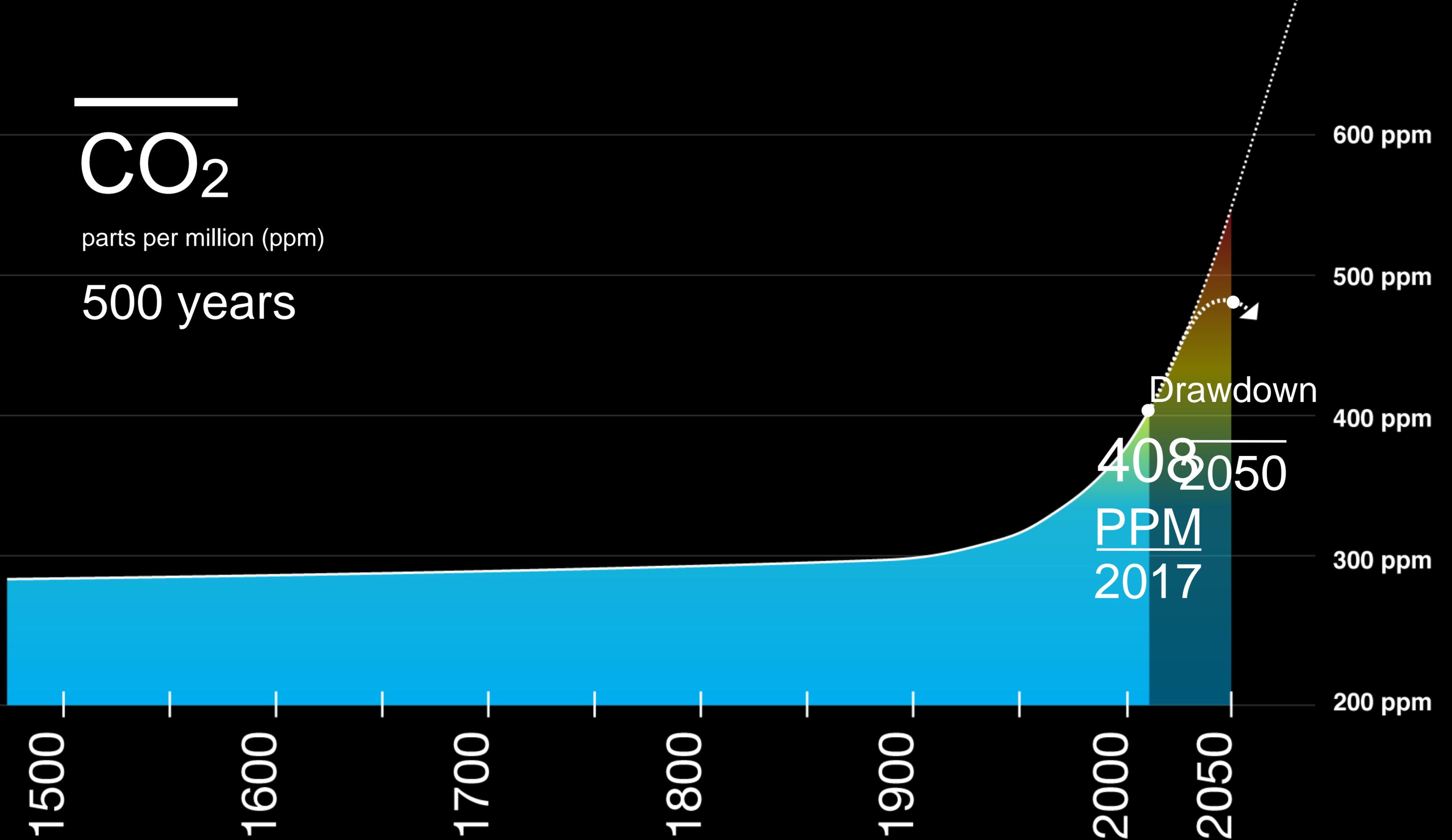
← 1950 level



CO<sub>2</sub>

parts per million (ppm)

500 years



How do we get the news  
about global warming?

# Global warming could wipe out millions in world's major cities with catastrophic 'THREE METRE sea level rise'

18:44, 18 MAY 2016

UPDATED 19:22, 18 MAY 2016

BY JESSICA HAWORTH , STEPHEN BEECH

London, New York and Hong Kong are among the cities which could be underwater if global warming continues

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## ENERGY

THE DAILY CALLER NEWS FOUNDATION



Noah's ark during a rain and lightning storm. (Credit: Amanda Carden/Shutterstock)

## 'Potential Apocalypse': NYT Warns Of Global Warming Floods Of Biblical Proportions



MICHAEL BASTASCH

7:08 PM 05/20/2017


3013

182






The New York Times has taken warnings about global warming to a whole new level, publishing a three-part series suggesting a “potential apocalypse” from melting ice sheets if humans keep pumping carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

“If that ice sheet were to disintegrate, it could raise the level of the sea by more than 160 feet — a potential apocalypse, depending on exactly how fast it happened,” NYT reporter Justin Gillis [wrote](#) of what some scientists predict could happen to Antarctica.

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CELEBRATE VICTORY

**DRAWDOWN**

# 100 SOLUTIONS TO REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING BY 2050

RANKED BY IMPACT

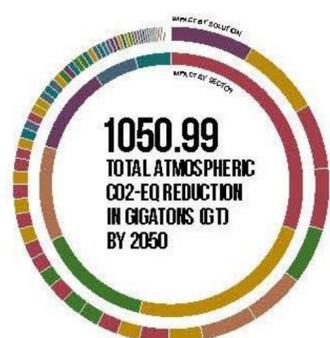
drawdown.org

DRAWDOWN IS THAT POINT IN TIME WHEN THE CONCENTRATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE BEGINS TO DECLINE ON A YEAR-TO-YEAR BASIS.



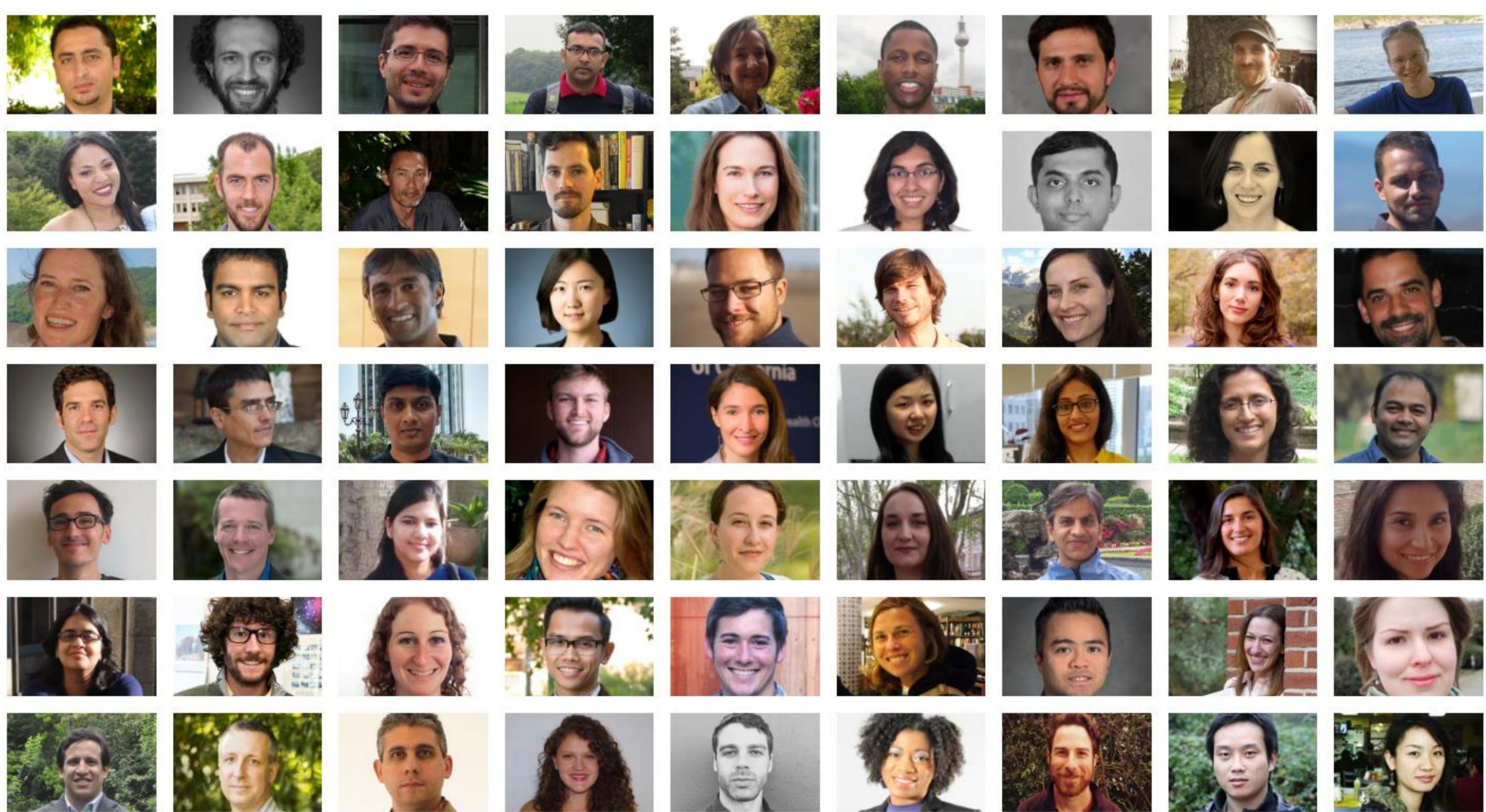
Project Drawdown is the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming. Our organization did not make or devise the plan—we found the plan because it already exists. We gathered a qualified and diverse group of researchers from around the world to identify, research, and model the 100 most substantive, existing solutions to address climate change. What was uncovered is a path forward that can roll back global warming within thirty years. It shows that humanity has the means at hand. Our work is to accelerate the knowledge and growth of what is possible. We chose the name Drawdown because if we do not name the goal, we are unlikely to achieve it.

EACH SOLUTION REDUCES GREENHOUSE GASES BY AVOIDING EMISSIONS AND/OR BY SEQUESTERING CARBON DIOXIDE ALREADY IN THE ATMOSPHERE.



<p><b>Alforestation</b>—re-creating forests where there were none before—creates a carbon sink, drawing in and holding on to carbon and distributing it into the soil.</p> <p>18.06 Gt REDUCED CO2 #15</p>	<p>The airline industry produces at minimum 2.5 percent of emissions, and it is growing. Fuel efficiency measures are on the rise to reduce that impact.</p> <p>5.05 Gt REDUCED CO2 #43</p>	<p>Carbon, a vital material for infrastructure, generates 5 to 6 percent of annual emissions. The key strategy to reduce them is to change its composition.</p> <p>6.69 Gt REDUCED CO2 #36</p>	<p>The artificial leaf is technology inspired by photosynthesis. It combines solar energy, water, and carbon dioxide, to feed bacteria that synthesize energy-dense fuel.</p>	<p>Autonomous vehicles are on the rise. They have the potential to shrink the auto fleet and accelerate ride-sharing and the adoption of electric vehicles.</p>	<p>Biomimicry sequesters carbon in biomass and soil and can thrive on degraded lands. It has more than 1,000 uses, from buildings to food to paper.</p> <p>7.22 Gt REDUCED CO2 #35</p>	<p>2.31 Gt REDUCED CO2 #59</p>	
<p><b>Food BIOCHAR</b></p> <p>Biochar results from slowly baking biomass in the absence of oxygen. Retaining most of the feedstock's carbon, biochar can be buried for sequestration, while enriching soil.</p> <p>0.81 Gt REDUCED CO2 #72</p>	<p><b>Materials BIOPLASTIC</b></p> <p>Ninety percent of plastics could be derived from plants instead of fossil fuels. Bio-plastics can be biodegradable and often have lower emissions.</p> <p>4.30 Gt REDUCED CO2 #47</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities BUILDING AUTOMATION</b></p> <p>Building automation systems serve as the "brain" of large commercial buildings. Controlling temperature, lighting, and more, they can improve energy efficiency and occupants' comfort.</p> <p>4.62 Gt REDUCED CO2 #45</p>	<p><b>Building with Wood</b></p> <p>High-performance wood materials are transforming construction. They can reduce emissions by (1) sequestering and storing carbon and (2) avoiding emissions of cement and steel.</p>	<p><b>Transport CARS</b></p> <p>Hybrid cars pair an electric motor and battery with an internal combustion engine. The combination makes them more efficient, improving fuel economy and lowering emissions.</p> <p>4.00 Gt REDUCED CO2 #49</p>	<p><b>Food CLEAN COOKSTOVES</b></p> <p>Traditional cooking practices produce toxic smoke and 2 to 5 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions. Clean cookstoves reduce emissions and protect human health.</p> <p>15.81 Gt REDUCED CO2 #21</p>	<p><b>Land Use COASTAL WETLAND</b></p> <p>The world's salt marshes, mangroves, and sea grasses provide vital habitat, flood protection, and water filtration, and sequester huge amounts of carbon in plants and soil.</p> <p>3.19 Gt REDUCED CO2 #52</p>	
<p><b>Energy COGENERATION</b></p> <p>Power plants produce large amounts of waste heat. Cogeneration systems capture that heat and energy and put it to work—for district heating or additional electricity.</p> <p>3.28 Gt REDUCED CO2 #50</p>	<p><b>Food COMPOSTING</b></p> <p>From backyard bins to industrial-scale operations, composting food waste converts organic material into stable soil carbon and valuable fertilizer, averting methane emissions.</p> <p>2.28 Gt REDUCED CO2 #60</p>	<p><b>Energy CONCENTRATED SOLAR</b></p> <p>Concentrated solar power uses solar radiation as its primary fuel. Arrays of mirrors concentrate incoming rays to heat a fluid, produce steam, and turn turbines.</p> <p>10.90 Gt REDUCED CO2 #25</p>	<p><b>Food CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE</b></p> <p>Conservation agriculture avoids tilling and intensive power crops and crop rotation. By protecting the soil, it makes land more resilient and sequesters carbon.</p> <p>17.35 Gt REDUCED CO2 #16</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions DIRECT AIR CAPTURE</b></p> <p>Direct Air Capture systems are a nascent separation technology. Functioning like a chemical sieve and sponge, they capture carbon dioxide from air and release it in purified form.</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions A COW WALKS ONTO A BEACH</b></p> <p>Asparagopsis taxiformis, a species of seaweed, shows promise for reducing methane emissions from livestock—currently 4 to 5 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions.</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities DISTRICT HEATING</b></p> <p>With district systems, a central plant channels hot and/or cool water via a network of pipes to many buildings— heating and cooling them more efficiently.</p> <p>9.38 Gt REDUCED CO2 #27</p>	
<p><b>Women and Girls EDUCATING GIRLS</b></p> <p>Education lays a foundation for vibrant lives for girls and women, their families, and their communities. It also avoids emissions by curbing population growth.</p> <p>59.60 Gt REDUCED CO2 #6</p>	<p><b>Transport ELECTRIC BIKES</b></p> <p>Electric bikes get a boost from a small battery-powered motor. They are the most environmentally sound means of motorized transport in the world today.</p> <p>0.96 Gt REDUCED CO2 #69</p>	<p><b>Transport ELECTRIC VEHICLES</b></p> <p>Electric vehicles are the cars of the future. If powered by solar energy, their carbon dioxide emissions drop by 95 percent compared to gasoline-powered vehicles.</p> <p>10.80 Gt REDUCED CO2 #26</p>	<p><b>Energy ENERGY STORAGE (DISTRIBUTE)</b></p> <p>Standalone batteries and electric vehicles make it possible to store energy at home or work. They ensure supply even when variable renewables are not producing.</p> <p>AN ENABLING TECHNOLOGY COST AND SAVINGS ARE EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY #77</p>	<p><b>Energy ENERGY STORAGE (UTILITIES)</b></p> <p>Energy storage—daily, multi-day, and longer-term or seasonal—is vital to reduce emissions from polluting "peaker" plants and accommodate the shift to variable renewables.</p> <p>AN ENABLING TECHNOLOGY COST AND SAVINGS ARE EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY #77</p>	<p><b>Food FARMLAND IRRIGATION</b></p> <p>Pumping and distributing water requires large quantities of energy. Drip and sprinkler irrigation, among other practices and technologies, make water use more precise and efficient.</p> <p>1.33 Gt REDUCED CO2 #67</p>	<p><b>Energy GRID FLEXIBILITY</b></p> <p>For electricity supply to become predominantly or entirely renewable, the grid needs to become more flexible and adaptable than it is today.</p> <p>AN ENABLING TECHNOLOGY COST AND SAVINGS ARE EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY #77</p>	
<p><b>Food FARMLAND RESTORATION</b></p> <p>The world's abandoned farmland is an opportunity for drawdown. Restoring it sequesters carbon and can improve food security, farmers' livelihoods, and ecosystem health.</p> <p>14.08 Gt REDUCED CO2 #23</p>	<p><b>Land Use FOREST PROTECTION</b></p> <p>With mature canopy trees and complex understories, primary forests contain 900 billion tons of carbon and are the greatest repositories of biodiversity on the planet.</p> <p>6.20 Gt REDUCED CO2 #38</p>	<p><b>Energy GEOTHERMAL</b></p> <p>Geothermal power—literally "earth heat"—taps into underground reservoirs of steamy hot waters which can be piped to the surface to drive turbines that produce electricity.</p> <p>16.60 Gt REDUCED CO2 #18</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities GREEN ROOFS</b></p> <p>Green roofs use soil and vegetation as living insulation. Cool roofs reflect solar energy. Both reduce building energy use for heating and/or cooling.</p> <p>0.77 Gt REDUCED CO2 #73</p>	<p><b>Women and Girls FAMILY PLANNING</b></p> <p>Securing women's right to voluntary, high-quality family planning dramatically improves the health and well-being of women and their children. It also avoids emissions.</p> <p>59.60 Gt REDUCED CO2 #7</p>	<p><b>Energy IN-STREAM HYDRO</b></p> <p>Placed within a free-flowing river or stream, in-stream turbines capture water's energy without a dam. In remote communities, they can reduce expensive, dirty diesel generators.</p> <p>4.00 Gt REDUCED CO2 #48</p>	<p><b>Land Use INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Growing the acreage under secure indigenous land tenure can increase above- and belowground carbon stocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.</p> <p>6.19 Gt REDUCED CO2 #39</p>	
<p><b>Buildings and Cities HEAT PUMPS</b></p> <p>Heat pumps transfers heat from a cold space to a hot one. Highly efficient, they can dramatically lower building energy use for heating and cooling.</p> <p>5.20 Gt REDUCED CO2 #42</p>	<p><b>Transport HIGH-SPEED RAIL</b></p> <p>High-speed rail is the fastest way to travel distances between 100 to 700 miles. Compared to driving or flying, it reduces emissions up to 90 percent.</p> <p>1.52 Gt REDUCED CO2 #66</p>	<p><b>Materials HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING</b></p> <p>Household recycling can reduce emissions because producing new products from recovered materials often saves energy. It also reduces resource extraction and creates jobs.</p> <p>2.77 Gt REDUCED CO2 #55</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions HYDROGEN-BORON FUSION</b></p> <p>Tri Alpha Energy has achieved one-half of the nuclear fusion equation. It could herald clean, safe, affordable energy to take the world beyond fossil fuels.</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions HYPERLOOP</b></p> <p>The promise of Hyperloop is speed. The virtue is moving people and cargo with 90 to 95 percent less energy than planes, trains, or cars.</p>	<p><b>Food IMPROVED RICE CULTIVATION</b></p> <p>Rooded rice paddies produce large quantities of methane—10 percent of agricultural emissions. Techniques exist to reduce methane, while improving production and sequestering carbon.</p> <p>11.34 Gt REDUCED CO2 #24</p>	<p><b>Energy LED LIGHTING (COMMERCIAL)</b></p> <p>Lighting accounts for 15 percent of global electricity use. LEDs (light emitting diodes) require less energy and create less waste heat than other bulbs.</p> <p>5.04 Gt REDUCED CO2 #44</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities LED LIGHTING (HOUSEHOLD)</b></p> <p>By transferring most of their energy use into creating light—rather than heat, like older technologies—LEDs reduce electricity consumption and air-conditioning loads.</p> <p>7.81 Gt REDUCED CO2 #33</p>
<p><b>Coming Attractions INDUSTRIAL HEMP</b></p> <p>Hemp is a global warming solution primarily because of what it can replace: cotton. Cotton has high chemical use and depends on fossil fuel inputs.</p>	<p><b>Materials INDUSTRIAL RECYCLING</b></p> <p>Industrial recycling reduces emissions when new products are made from recovered materials, rather than virgin resources. It can also address the challenge of resource scarcity.</p> <p>2.77 Gt REDUCED CO2 #56</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities INSULATION</b></p> <p>Insulation is one of the most cost-effective ways to make buildings more energy efficient—both in new construction and through retrofitting older buildings.</p> <p>8.27 Gt REDUCED CO2 #31</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions INTENSIVE SILVOPASTURE</b></p> <p>Intensive silvopasture in temperate areas uses woody shrub with grasses and trees. Through rapid rotational grazing, livestock yields increase alongside carbon sequestration in soil.</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities LANDFILL METHANE</b></p> <p>Landfills are a top source of methane emissions. Instead, landfill methane can be captured, preventing emissions, and used as a fairly clean energy source.</p> <p>2.50 Gt REDUCED CO2 #58</p>	<p><b>Transport MASS TRANSIT</b></p> <p>Riding a subway, bus, or subway—rather than driving a car or hailing a cab—averts greenhouse gases, relieves traffic congestion, and reduces air pollution.</p> <p>6.57 Gt REDUCED CO2 #37</p>	<p><b>Energy METHANE DIGESTERS (LARGE)</b></p> <p>Industrial-scale anaerobic digesters control decomposition of organic waste, and thus its methane emissions. They also produce biogas, an energy source, and digestate, a nutrient-rich fertilizer.</p> <p>8.40 Gt REDUCED CO2 #30</p>	<p><b>Energy METHANE DIGESTERS (SMALL)</b></p> <p>At backyard- and farm-yard-scale, anaerobic digesters are used to manage organic waste. They control methane emissions, while producing biogas (an energy source) and digestate (a nutrient-rich fertilizer).</p> <p>1.90 Gt REDUCED CO2 #64</p>
<p><b>Energy MICRO WIND</b></p> <p>With capacity of 100 kilowatts or less, micro wind turbines are often used to pump water, charge batteries, and provide electrification in rural locations.</p> <p>0.20 Gt REDUCED CO2 #76</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions LIVING BUILDINGS</b></p> <p>The Living Building Challenge radically defines how buildings can benefit both people and planet. One key criteria: Living buildings produce more energy than they use.</p>	<p><b>Food MANAGED GRAZING</b></p> <p>Managed grazing imitates the activity of migratory herds to improve soil health, carbon sequestration, water retention, and forage productivity.</p> <p>16.34 Gt REDUCED CO2 #19</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions MARINE PERMA CULTURE</b></p> <p>Marine permaculture utilizes floating, lattice-like structures designed to grow rich kelp forests and foster marine life. It could sequester billions of tons of carbon dioxide.</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions MULTISTRATA &amp; GROFORESTRY</b></p> <p>Multistrata agroforestry blends tall trees and one or more layers of crops. It achieves high rates of carbon sequestration, similar to forests, while producing food.</p> <p>9.28 Gt REDUCED CO2 #28</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities NET ZERO BUILDINGS</b></p> <p>A net zero building is one that has zero net energy consumption, producing as much energy, through onsite renewables, as it uses in a year.</p> <p>COST AND SAVINGS EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES #79</p>	<p><b>Energy NUCLEAR</b></p> <p>Nuclear power is complex, expensive, and risky but it has the potential to avoid emissions from fossil fuel electricity. We consider it a "regrets solution."</p> <p>16.09 Gt REDUCED CO2 #20</p>	<p><b>Food NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>When overused, nitrogen fertilizer destroys soil organic matter, clogs waterways, and creates nitrous oxide. They can be more efficiently managed to reduce these negative impacts.</p> <p>1.81 Gt REDUCED CO2 #65</p>
<p><b>Energy MICROGRIDS</b></p> <p>A microgrid is a localized grouping of distributed energy sources, like solar and wind, together with energy storage or backup generation and load management tools.</p> <p>AN ENABLING TECHNOLOGY COST AND SAVINGS ARE EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY #78</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions MICROBIAL FARMING</b></p> <p>Microbes have the potential to dramatically reduce the need for synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, while improving crop yields and plant health.</p>	<p><b>Food MULTISTRATA &amp; GROFORESTRY</b></p> <p>Multistrata agroforestry blends tall trees and one or more layers of crops. It achieves high rates of carbon sequestration, similar to forests, while producing food.</p> <p>9.28 Gt REDUCED CO2 #28</p>	<p><b>Buildings and Cities NET ZERO BUILDINGS</b></p> <p>A net zero building is one that has zero net energy consumption, producing as much energy, through onsite renewables, as it uses in a year.</p> <p>COST AND SAVINGS EMBEDDED IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES #79</p>	<p><b>Energy NUCLEAR</b></p> <p>Nuclear power is complex, expensive, and risky but it has the potential to avoid emissions from fossil fuel electricity. We consider it a "regrets solution."</p> <p>16.09 Gt REDUCED CO2 #20</p>	<p><b>Food NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>When overused, nitrogen fertilizer destroys soil organic matter, clogs waterways, and creates nitrous oxide. They can be more efficiently managed to reduce these negative impacts.</p> <p>1.81 Gt REDUCED CO2 #65</p>	<p><b>Coming Attractions OCEAN FARMING</b></p> <p>Small-scale ocean farms have the potential to provide sustainable food and biofuel, while oysters filter nitrogen pollution and seaweed sequesters carbon dioxide.</p>	

# The Coalition



Leo Burke  
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Government College University  
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Bill McKibben  
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Chris Pyke, PhD  
IPCC

Brendan Mackey, PhD  
Griffith University, Australia

# Project Drawdown maps and models solutions

# The Models

- **Reduction and Replacement Solutions (RRS) Model** → energy and energy efficiency solutions.
- **Land Use Solutions (LAND) Model** → land-based solutions with biosequestration potential.
- **Food System** → integrated supply-side solutions based on country-scale consumption patterns.

# Modeling Solutions

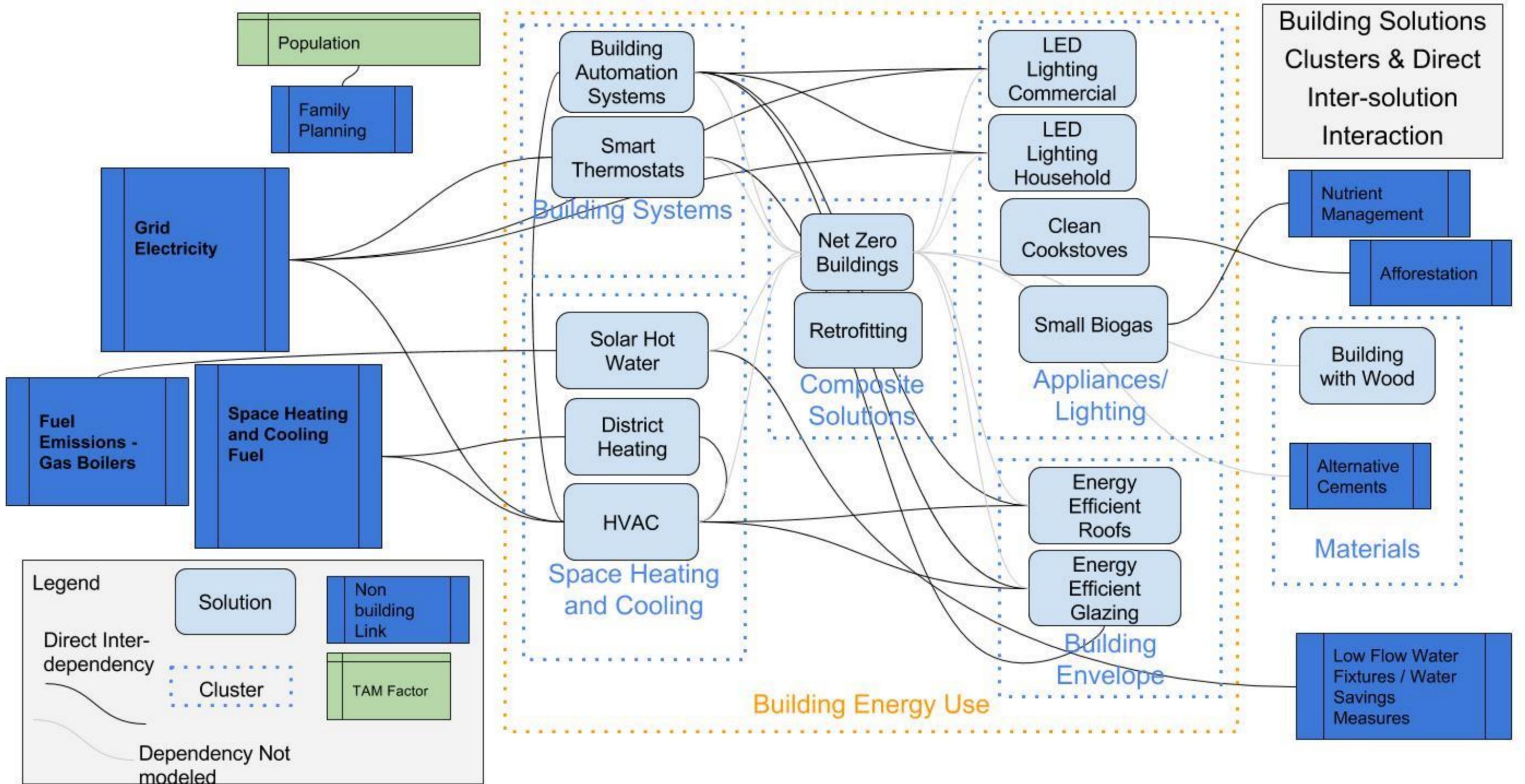
- We Compared a High Growth of Solution to Relatively Low Reference Adoption
- Each Solution was Compared to the Conventional High-Emitting Option
- Adoption Projections Are Used to Estimate Emissions and Financial Impact (first and operating cost differences)

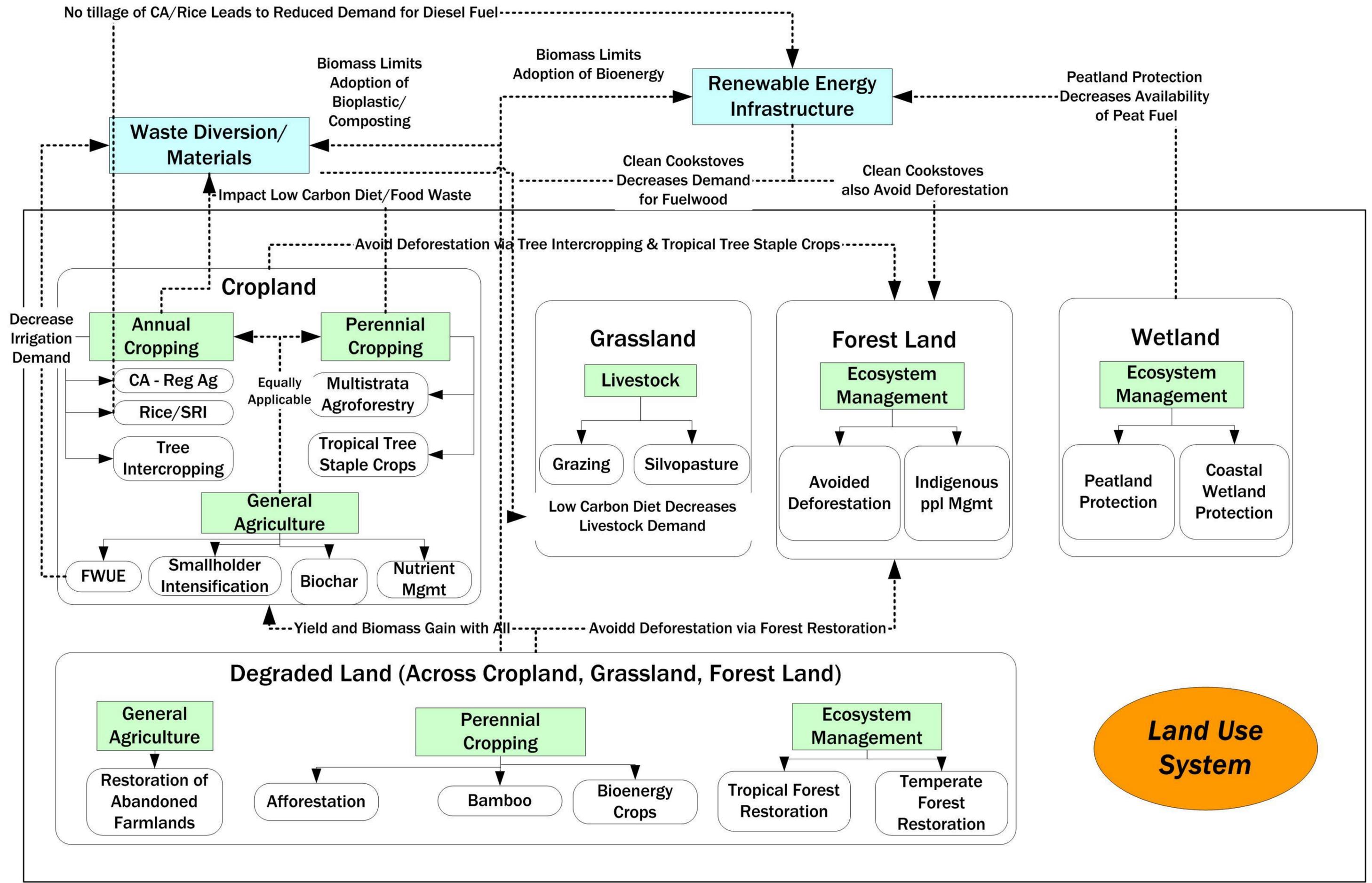
# The Scenarios

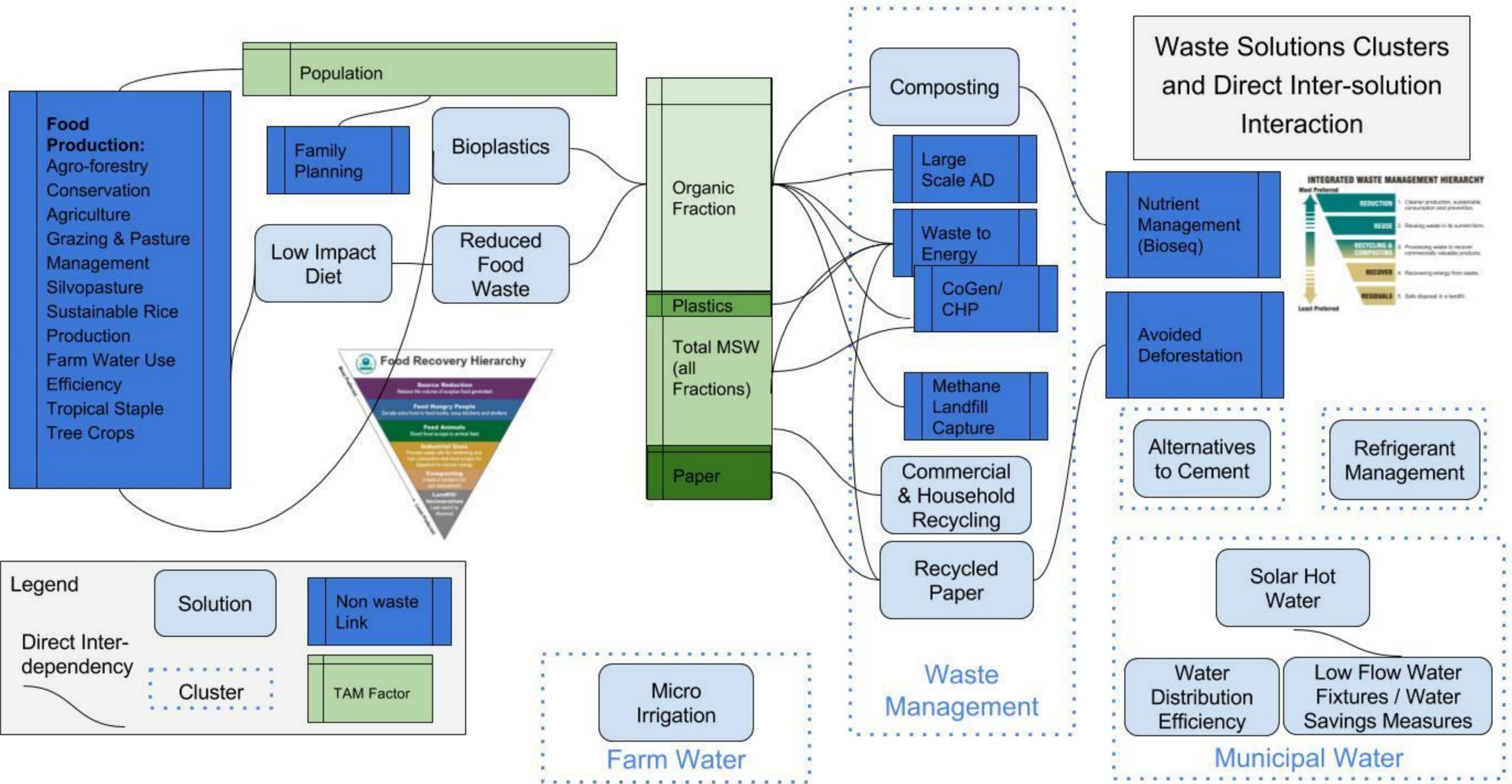
**High adoption scenarios** assume a reasonably vigorous global adoption path.

Three scenarios were developed:

1. Plausible Scenario
2. Drawdown Scenario
3. Optimum Scenario







# The Results

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# DRAWDOWN

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE  
PLAN EVER PROPOSED TO  
REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING  
EDITED BY PAUL HAWKEN



# ENERGY

## ROOFTOP SOLAR

#15

RANKING AND RESULTS BY 2050

17.81 GIGATONS  
REDUCED CO2

\$1.07 TRILLION  
NET COST

\$4.82 TRILLION  
LIFETIME SAVINGS

The year was 1884, when the first solar array appeared on a rooftop in New York City. Experimentalist Charles Fritts installed it after discovering that a thin layer of selenium on a metal plate could produce a current of electricity when exposed to light. How light could turn on lights, he and his solar-pioneering contemporaries did not know, for the mechanics were not understood until the early twentieth century when, among other breakthroughs, Albert Einstein published his revolutionary work on what are now called photons. Though the scientific establishment of Fritts' day believed power generation depended on heat, Fritts was convinced that "photoelectric" modules would wind up competing with coal-fired power plants. The first such plant had been brought online by Thomas Edison just two years earlier, also in New York City.

Today, solar is replacing electricity generated from coal as well as from natural gas. It is replacing kerosene lamps and diesel generators in places where people lack access to the power grid, true for more than a billion people around the world. While society grapples with electricity's pollution in some places and its absence in others, the mysterious waves and particles of the sun's light continuously strike the surface of the planet with an energy more than ten thousand times the world's total use. Small-scale photovoltaic systems, typically sited on rooftops, are playing a significant role in harnessing that light, the most abundant resource on earth. When photons strike the thin wafers of silicon crystal within a vacuum-sealed solar panel, they knock electrons loose and produce an electrical circuit. These subatomic particles are the only moving parts in a solar panel, which requires no fuel.

While solar photovoltaics (PV) provide less than 2 percent of the world's electricity at present, PV has seen exponential growth over the past decade. In 2015 distributed systems of less than 100 kilowatts accounted for roughly 30 percent of solar PV capacity installed worldwide. In Germany, one of the world's solar leaders, the majority of photovoltaic capacity is on rooftops, which don 1.5 million systems. In Bangladesh, population 157 million, more than 3.6 million home solar systems

have been installed. Fully 16 percent of Australian homes have them. Transforming a square meter of rooftop into a miniature power station is proving irresistible.

Roof modules are spreading around the world because of their affordability. Solar PV has benefited from a virtuous cycle of falling costs, driven by incentives to accelerate its development and implementation, economies of scale in manufacturing, advances in panel technology, and innovative approaches for end-user financing—such as the third-party ownership arrangements that have helped mainstream solar in the United States. As demand has grown and production has risen to meet it, prices have dropped; as prices have dropped, demand has grown further. A PV manufacturing boom in China has helped unleash a torrent of inexpensive panels around the world. But hard costs are only one side of the expense equation. The soft costs of financing, acquisition, permitting, and installation can be half the cost of a rooftop system and have not seen the same dip as panels themselves. That is part of the reason rooftop solar is more expensive than its utility-scale kin. Nonetheless, small-scale PV already generates electricity more cheaply than it can be brought from the grid in some parts of the United States, in many small island states, and in countries including Australia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The advantages of rooftop solar extend far beyond price. While the production of PV panels, like any manufacturing process, involves emissions, they generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases or air pollution—with the infinite resource of sunlight as their sole input. When placed on a grid-connected roof, they produce energy at the site of consumption, avoiding the inevitable losses of grid transmission. They can help utilities meet broader demand by feeding unused electricity into the grid, especially in summer, when solar is humming and electricity needs run high. This "net metering" arrangement, selling excess electricity back to the grid, can make solar panels financially feasible for homeowners, offsetting the electricity they buy at night or when the sun is not shining.

Numerous studies show that the financial benefit of rooftop PV runs both ways. By having it as part of an energy-generation portfolio, utilities can avoid the capital costs of additional coal or gas plants, for which their customers would otherwise have to pay, and broader society is spared the environmental and public health impacts. Added PV supply at times of highest electricity demand can also curb the use of expensive and polluting peak generators. Some utilities reject this proposition and posit contradictory claims of rooftop PV being a "free rider," as they aim to block the rise of distributed solar and its impact on their revenue and profitability. Others accept its inevitability and are trying to shift their business models accordingly. For all involved, the need for a grid "commons" continues, so utilities, regulators, and stakeholders of all stripes are evolving approaches to cover that cost.



The first solar array installed by Charles Fritts in 1884 in New York City. Fritts built the first solar panels in 1881, reporting that the current was "continuous, constant and of considerable force not only by exposure to

Off the grid, rooftop panels can bring electricity to rural parts of low-income countries. Just as mobile phones leapfrogged installation of landlines and made communication more democratic, solar systems eliminate the need for large-scale, centralized power grids. High-income countries dominated investment in distributed solar until 2014, but now countries such as Chile, China, India, and South Africa have joined in. It means rooftop PV is accelerating access to affordable, clean electricity and thereby becoming a powerful tool for eliminating poverty. It is also creating jobs and energizing local economies. In Bangladesh alone, those 3.6 million home solar systems have generated 115,000 direct jobs and fifty thousand more downstream.

Since the late nineteenth century, human beings in many places have relied on centralized plants that burn fossil fuels and send electricity out to a system of cables, towers, and poles. As households adopt rooftop solar (increasingly accompanied and enabled by distributed energy storage), they transform generation and its ownership, shifting away from utility monopolies and making power production their own. As electric vehicles also spread, "gassing up" can be done at home, supplanting oil companies. With producer and user as one, energy gets democratized. Charles Fritts had this vision in the 1880s, as he looked out over the roovescape of New York City. Today, that vision is increasingly coming to fruition. ●

**IMPACT:** Our analysis assumes rooftop solar PV will grow from .4 percent of electricity generation globally to 7 percent by 2050. That growth can avoid 16.4 gigatons of emissions. Implementation costs continue to decrease. Operating costs, will save \$2.97 trillion in home energy costs over thirty years.

An Uros mother and her two daughters live on one of the 42 floating islands made of totora reeds on Lake Titicaca. Their delight upon receiving their first solar panel is infectious. Installed at an elevation of 12,507 feet, the panel will replace kerosene and provide electricity to her family for the first time. As high tech as solar may be, it is a perfect cultural match: The Uru People know themselves as Lupihaques, Sons of the Sun.



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# WIND TURBINES (OFFSHORE)

#22

RANK BY 2050

14.1 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub>-eq

\$542B

NET FIRST COST

\$763B

NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

# ROOFTOP SOLAR

#10  
RANK BY 2050

24.6 GT  
REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq

\$453B  
NET FIRST COST

\$3.46T  
NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS



---

# ELECTRIC BIKES

#69

RANK BY 2050

.96 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub>-eq

\$106B

NET FIRST COST

\$226.1B

NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

---

# TELEPRESENCE



#63

RANK BY 2050

1.99 GT

REDUCED CO2 -eq

\$127B

NET FIRST COST

\$1.31T

NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

---

# COASTAL WETLANDS

#52  
RANK BY 2050

3.19 GT  
REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq

53.34 GT  
CO<sub>2</sub> PROTECTED

---

# FOREST PROTECTION

#38  
RANK BY 2050

6.2 GT  
REDUCED CO2 -eq

896.2 GT  
CO2 -eq PROTECTED



---

# TROPICAL FORESTS

#5

RANK BY 2050

61.23 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq

---

# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

#11

RANK BY 2050

23.15 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq

\$57.2B

NET FIRST COST

\$1.93T

NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS

---

# MANAGED GRAZING

#19

RANK BY 2050

16.34 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq

\$50.5B

NET FIRST COST

\$735.3B

NET OPERATIONAL SAVINGS



---

# REDUCED FOOD WASTE

#3

RANK BY 2050

70.53 GT

REDUCED CO2 -eq



---

# PLANT-RICH DIET

#4

RANK BY 2050

66.11 GT

REDUCED CO<sub>2</sub> -eq



---

# EDUCATING GIRLS

#6  
RANK BY 2050

59.60 GT  
REDUCED CO2



---

# FAMILY PLANNING

#7

RANK BY 2050

59.60 GT

REDUCED CO2 -eq

---

# TOP 20

RANK	SOLUTION	SECTOR	REDUCED CO2
1	Refrigeration	Materials	89.74 GT
2	Wind Turbines (Onshore)	Energy	84.60 GT
3	Reduced Food Waste	Food	70.53 GT
4	Plant-Rich Diet	Food	66.11 GT
5	Tropical Forests	Land Use	61.23 GT
6	Educating Girls	Women and Girls	59.60 GT
7	Family Planning	Women and Girls	59.60 GT
8	Solar Farms	Energy	36.90 GT
9	Silvopasture	Food	31.19 GT
10	Rooftop Solar	Energy	24.60 GT
11	Regenerative Agriculture	Food	23.15 GT
12	Temperate Forest	Land Use	22.61 GT
13	Peatlands	Land Use	21.57 GT
14	Tropical Staple Tree Crops	Food	20.19 GT
15	Afforestation	Land Use	18.06 GT
16	Conservation Agriculture	Food	17.35 GT
17	Tree Intercropping	Food	17.20 GT
18	Geothermal	Energy	16.60 GT
19	Managed Grazing	Food	16.34 GT
20	Nuclear	Energy	16.09 GT

---

# TOP 20

Materials is  
only one, but  
top solution

RANK	SOLUTION	SECTOR	REDUCED CO2
1	Refrigeration	Materials	89.74 GT
2	Wind Turbines (Onshore)	Energy	84.60 GT
3	Reduced Food Waste	Food	70.53 GT
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17	Tree Intercropping	Food	17.20 GT
18	Geothermal	Energy	16.60 GT
19	Managed Grazing	Food	16.34 GT
20	Nuclear	Energy	16.09 GT

---

# TOP 20

Electricity  
Generation  
is only  
5 of top 20

RANK	SOLUTION	SECTOR	REDUCED CO2
1	Refrigerant Management	Materials	89.74 GT
2	<b>Wind Turbines (Onshore)</b>	<b>Energy</b>	<b>84.60 GT</b>
3	Reduced Food Waste	Food	70.53 GT
4	Plant-Rich Diet	Food	66.11 GT
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19	Managed Grazing	Food	16.34 GT
20	<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>Energy</b>	<b>16.09 GT</b>

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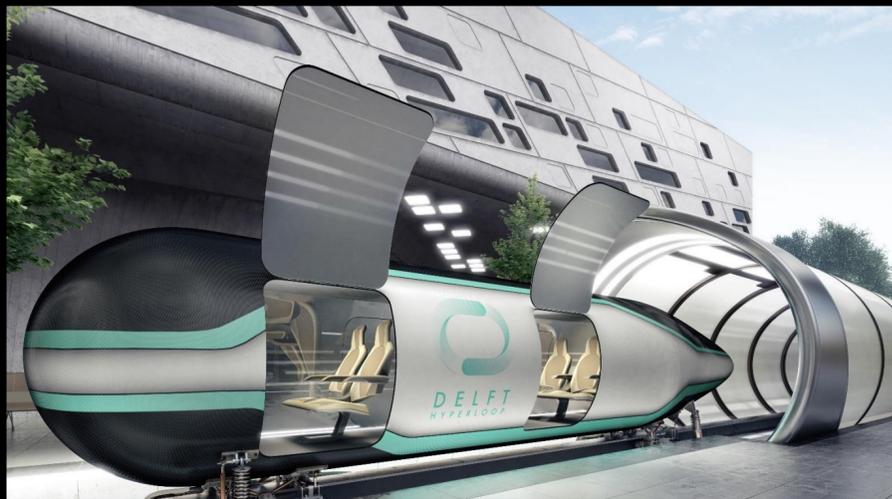
# TOP 20

Food is  
8 of top 20

RANK	SOLUTION	SECTOR	REDUCED CO2
1	Refrigerant Management	Materials	89.74 GT
2	Wind Turbines (Onshore)	Energy	84.60 GT
3	Reduced Food Waste	Food	70.53 GT
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19	Managed Grazing	Food	16.34 GT
20	Nuclear	Energy	16.09 GT

# Coming Attractions

HYPERLOOP



ARTIFICIAL LEAF



IMPROVED LIVESTOCK FEED



AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

DIRECT AIR CAPTURE

ENHANCED WEATHERING

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

INTENSIVE SILVOPASTURE

LIVING BUILDINGS

MICROBIAL FARMING

OCEAN FARMING

PASTURE CROPPING

PERRENIAL CROPS

REPOPULATING THE MAMMOTH

STEPPE

SMART GRIDS

SMART HIGHWAYS

SOID-STATE WAVE ENERGY

BUILDING WITH WOOD



HYDROGEN-BORON FUSION

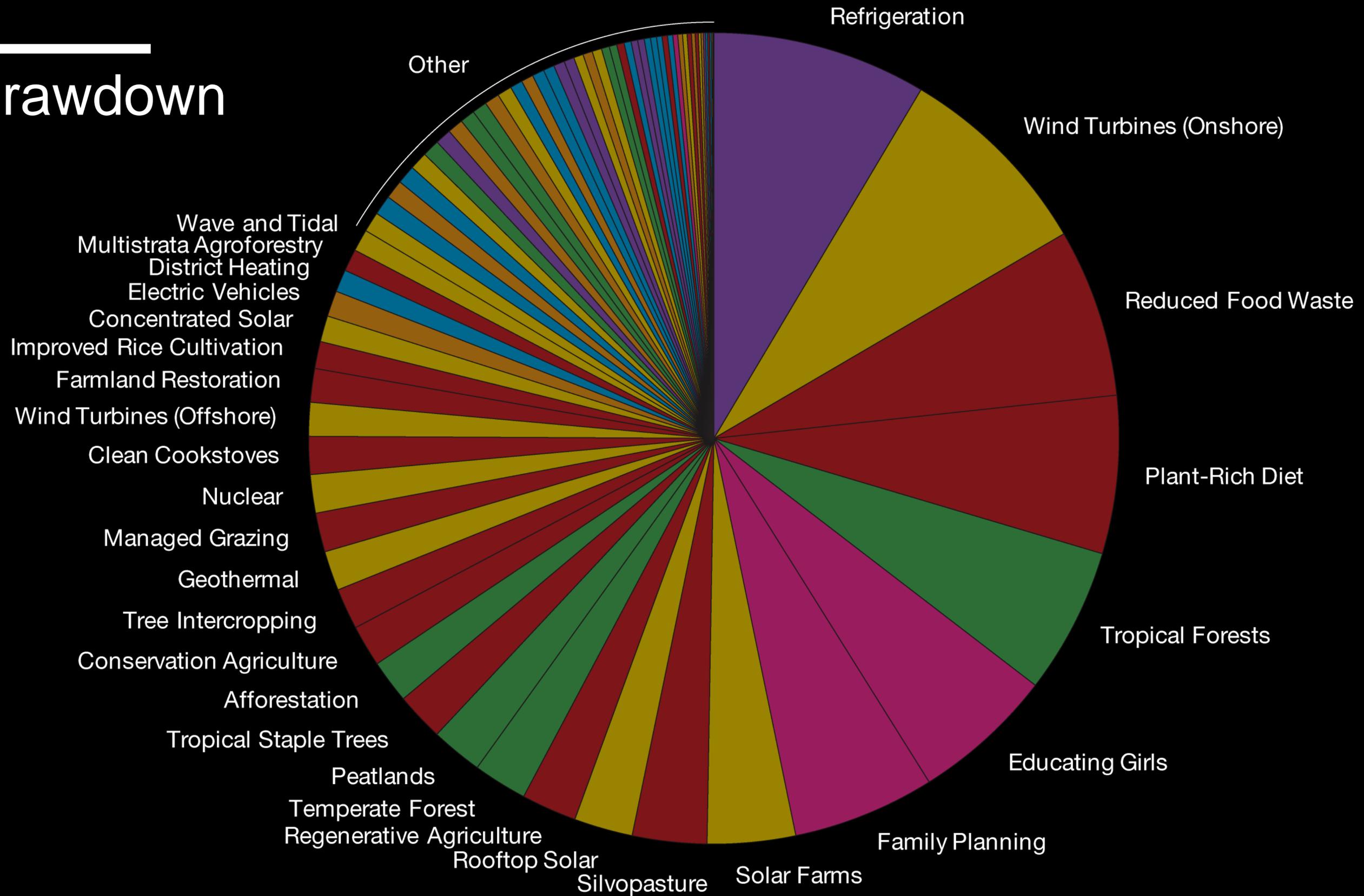


MARINE PERMACULTURE



Is Drawdown possible by 2050?

# Drawdown



# DRAWDOWN

**Contact us at:**

**[research@drawdown.org](mailto:research@drawdown.org)**

What's next?

## RESEARCH



### Ongoing Work

To ensure our work remains meaningful and useful to current and future audiences, all data must be continually **monitored, refreshed, updated, and corrected** when better data arises.

Project Drawdown will continue to act as a **clearing house for the status of solutions.**

## RESEARCH

### Research Phase 2

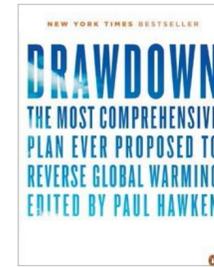
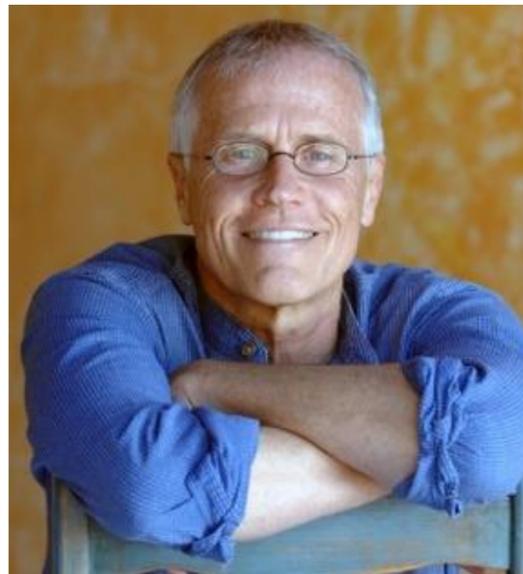
The next phase of our work is to undertake research related directly to the goals of **economic and ecological regeneration at regional, country, and local scales.**

- Perform **collaborative research and modeling** evaluating Drawdown solutions within the contexts of defined boundaries.
- A new version of the model will be developed to take into consideration **possible accelerators** of adoption.
- **Incorporate context-specific data** – including price variations, sequestration rates, capacity factors, etc.
- **Map results to social and economic indicators** most relevant to decision-makers at scale.

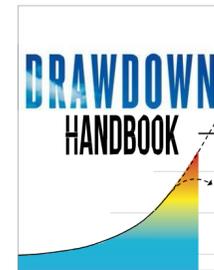
## COMMUNICATIONS

Publications  
Research and  
communications  
are the two legs  
upon which  
Drawdown stands  
and moves

Communications takes many forms: publications, social media, documentary(s), TV series, short form videos for digital media, short form videos for curriculum, teaching guides, handbooks, and more.



Drawdown—The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming



Drawdown Handbook  
This is “*Drawdown* for Dummies” or the Reader’s Digest version, intended to be a more digestible and less expensive publication that will help spread our work and message beyond existing *Drawdown* audiences.



D2 – Coming Attractions  
This version of *Drawdown* will be a follow-on book that will codify and bring to life 60-80 more solutions that are taking hold, as well as the people and organizations behind them. D2 will include “back of the envelop” models, offering ranges of possible emissions reductions for each solution.



## PARTNERSHIPS



*The Drawdown Challenge Working Group began the first set of student-orientated challenges in October, 2017, with the public site planned to be launched on January 1, 2018.*

### Drawdown Challenge partners:



## The Drawdown Coalition

The Drawdown Coalition is the fulcrum upon which our work becomes actionable and serves to accelerate the implementation of solutions globally.

This global Coalition is comprised of individuals and organizations utilizing Drawdown as a platform for engaging their communities and constituencies.

Partnership within the Coalition is based on three principles:

- 1) a common agenda centered on **reversing global warming** through solutions-focused, data-rich communications and implementation strategies;
- 2) willingness to **work collaboratively** within the Coalition through shared learning, co-creation, and mutual support; and
- 3) a **shared measurement and feedback** system through our ongoing research program.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Working groups are formed based on the expressed interest of individuals and organizations wanting to take part in making drawdown a reality. There is no limit to the creation of different working groups, or subgroupings; rather, they form organically as more partners come on board.

The following working groups are currently being formed:

### Research and Data

Individual experts and research organizations and networks are assisting with our ongoing research efforts. Partners will contribute by collecting and validating data sources, reviewing, developing and improving the Project Drawdown research methodology and models, and sharing resources and new data.

### Higher Education Curriculum

Higher and mid-level education instructors and organizations are developing educational tools, lesson plans, syllabi, etc. for teaching grammar, high school, undergraduate and graduate level courses related to Drawdown.

### The Drawdown Challenge

Based on the gamification of drawdown actions and solution implementation, organizations engage their constituents by inviting them to participate in structured programs that provide a blueprint for their actions with the purpose of educating participants and having contributors educate others about Drawdown solutions.

### Local Communities and Governments

Community organizations and governments are co-developing Drawdown Action Plans relevant to local contexts.

### Solution Implementers

Organizations and companies that are implementing solutions on the ground can profile their work, share resources, and connect with other Coalition partners through this common portal.

### Drawdown Funds

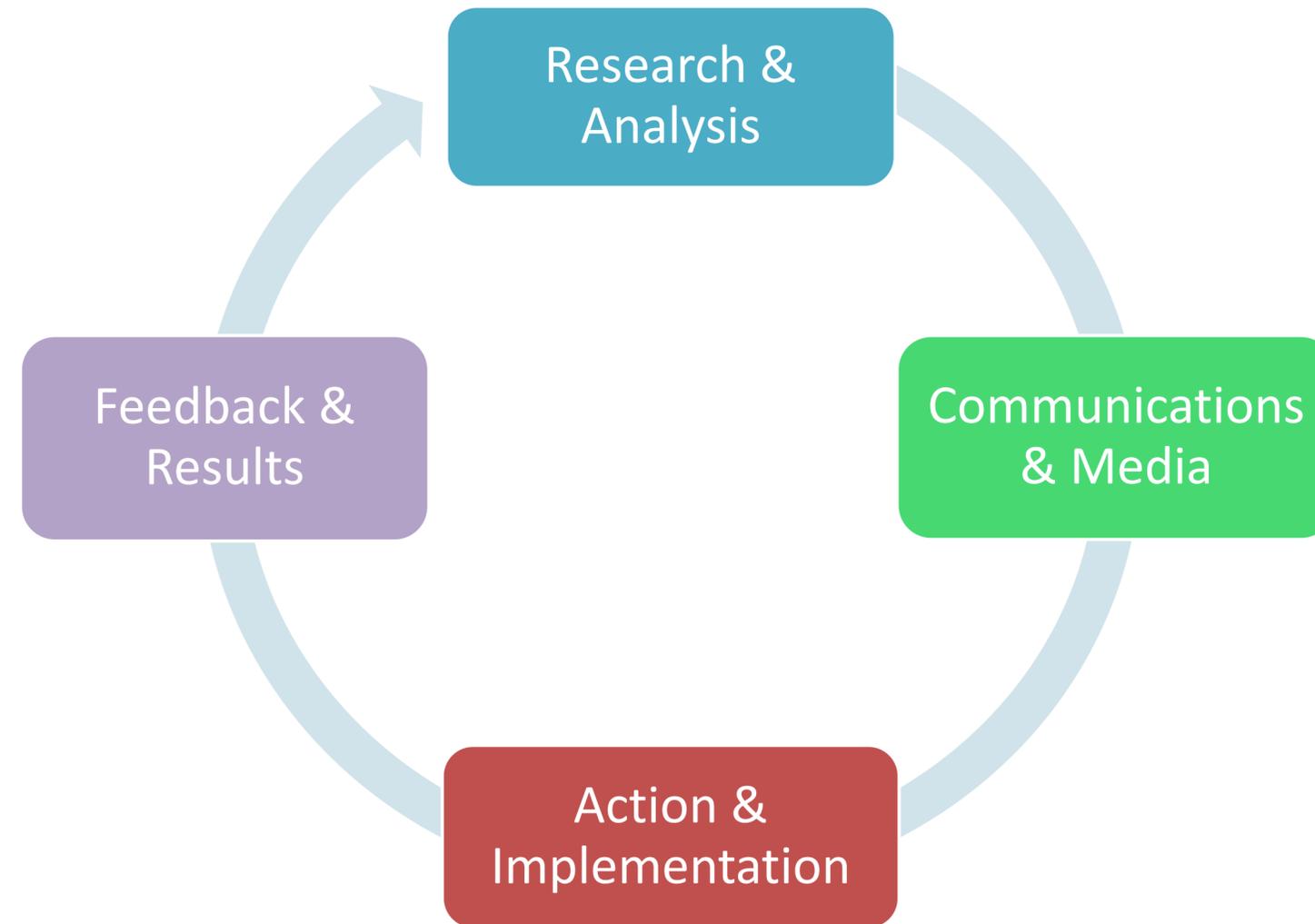
Philanthropic and investment groups are seeking to establish funds to provide capital in support of solution projects globally. This working group aims to pool expertise and share information to reduce risk and maximize impact.

### Content Creators

Artists, designers, curators and data visualizers are keen to offer their skills to develop multimedia, data visualizations and infographics based on drawdown. Resulting materials will be shared and under creative common license.

## THE DRAWDOWN MODEL

A virtuous cycle of collaborative research, communication, and action – built on the principles of collective impact.



# DRAWDOWN

**Contact us at:**

**[research@drawdown.org](mailto:research@drawdown.org)**