# Global Hydrogen Trends and Opportunities

Emily Beagle, PhD UT CLE 1 February 2023



### **Background**



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Hydrogen is increasingly being considered a key

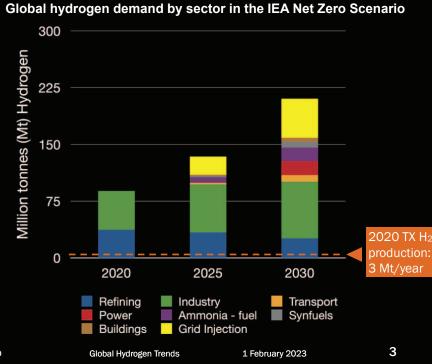
decarbonization tool

 Hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) releases no greenhouse gases when used

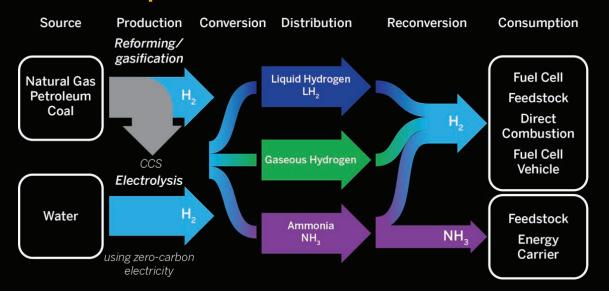
- Can serve as a fuel, feedstock, or energy carrier
- Potential emission reduction applications across many sectors (industrial, transportation, electricity)



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## Energy usage and emissions across the hydrogen supply chain are an important consideration for its use



Hydrogen supply chain may look like some version of this - illustrative of different supply chain components

Webber Energy Group

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

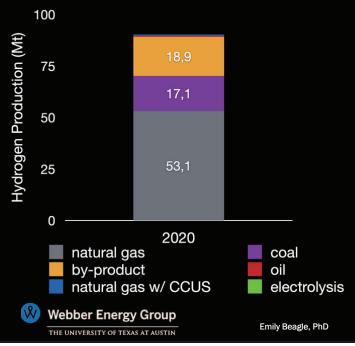
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#### Current hydrogen production methods emit greenhouse gases



- •59% of global hydrogen produced by steam methane reforming (SMR) of natural gas  $\rightarrow$  ~9 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub>
- 19% of global hydrogen produced from gasification of coal  $\rightarrow$  ~19 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub>
- •Only 0.7% of global hydrogen production from steam methane reforming of natural gas with carbon capture and storage (CCUS)  $\rightarrow$  ~0.9 - 3.6 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg  $H_2$
- Negligible production of hydrogen from electrolysis

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#### Hydrogen production coded by 'color' misses some key considerations

Steam Methane Reforming (SMR Electrolysis with Renewable Steam Methane Reforming of Natural Gas (SMR) of Natural Gas with **Electricity** 'Grey Hydrogen' **CCUS** 'Green Hydrogen' 'Blue Hydrogen' Splits methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) to produce H<sub>2</sub> Uses electricity to split water Adds carbon capture and with a by-product of CO<sub>2</sub> (H<sub>2</sub>O) into H<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> **1.**~9 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub> (at point of storage (CCUS) to SMR ·Lifecycle emissions are -~0.9 - 3.6 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg H<sub>2</sub> production) dependent on electricity •Must also consider upstream (depending on capture rates) emissions emissions •Must also consider upstream Renewable electricity use Continued reliance on fossil fuel emissions yields zero-carbon hydrogen Negligible amount of global •Continued reliance on fossil fuel I feedstocks I feedstocks production currently **I**•~95% of US hydrogen production



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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Renewable Energy Law Institute session "Trends and Recent Activity - Hydrogen Energy Projects"