



National  
Council for  
Science and the  
Environment

# U.S. Energy Policy in Transition

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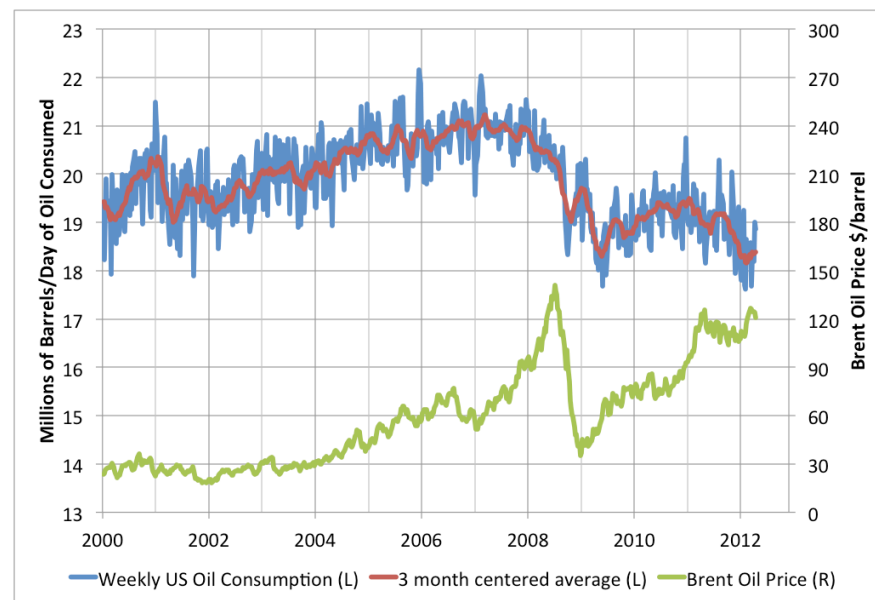
# Energy in the U.S.... In 1776

- What was the energy economy like in 1776?

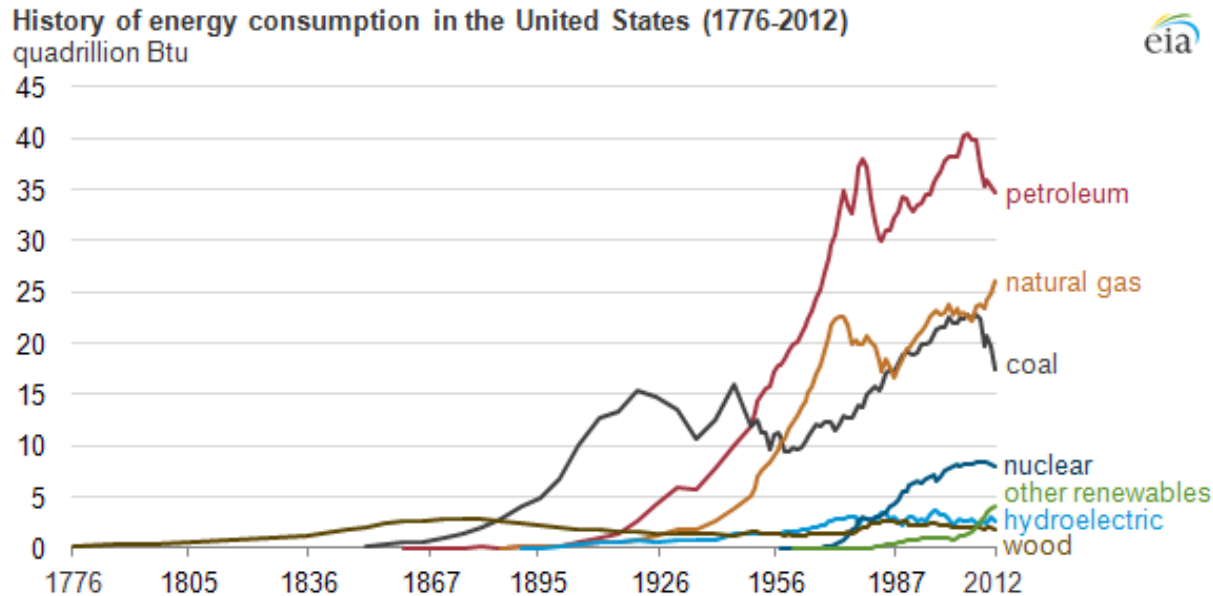


# Where were we 20 years ago?

- Coal was the #1 source of electricity
- Fossil fuels made up over 90% of our energy consumption
- Renewable energy technologies were expensive and inefficient
- Energy efficiency wasn't a major policy focus



# Lessons from History

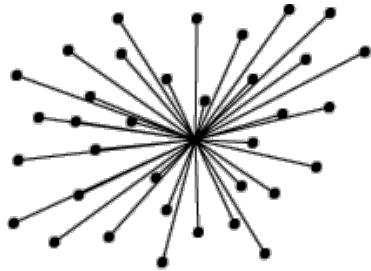


1. We go through energy transitions regularly
2. We tend to diversify our fuel mix as time goes on
3. We tend to decarbonize as time goes on

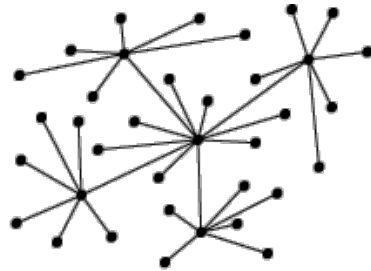




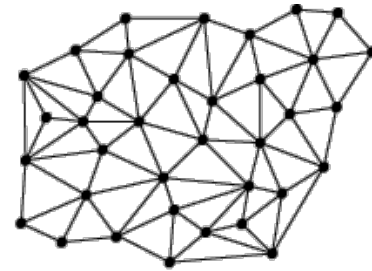
# Defining Terms



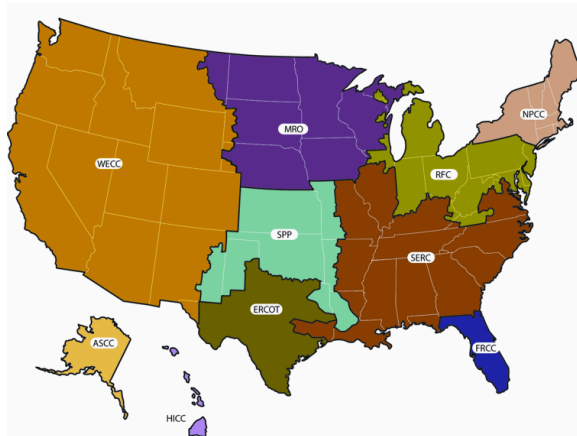
centralised



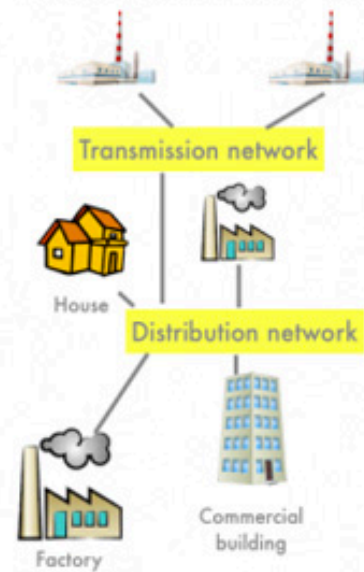
decentralised



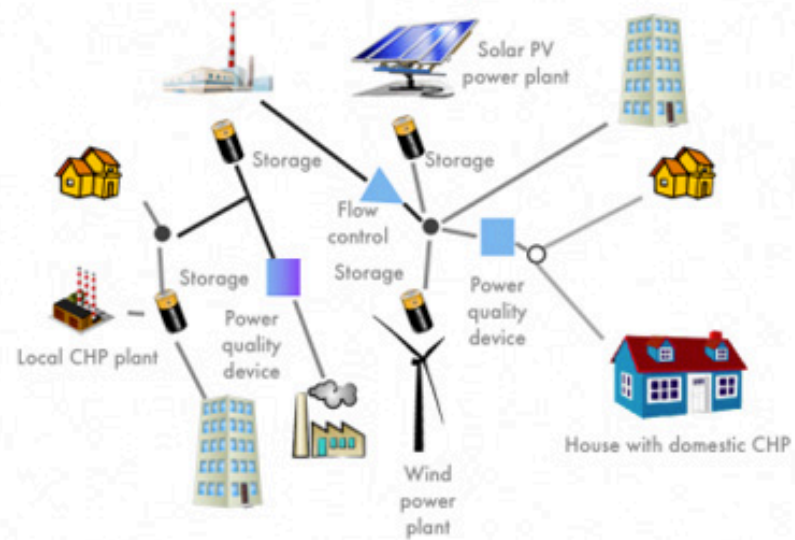
distributed



## Centralized Power



## Clean, local power



*Current challenges also demand these new energy solutions. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, wildfires and sea-level rise, can negatively impact electric reliability and the economy. Embracing new energy solutions can provide more durable and resilient infrastructure, and enable economic growth, while protecting the health of our communities and natural resources. These improvements will help secure a safe and prosperous future for our country.*

*We recognize that now is the time to embrace a bold vision of the nation's energy future. And to do so, states are once again poised to lead. We join together, despite unique opportunities and challenges in each state, to embrace a shared vision of this future:*

# **Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future**

*Our states will diversify energy generation and expand clean energy sources.*

*Expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy in a cost-effective way strengthens our states' economic productivity, reduces air pollution and avoids energy waste. Integrating more of these clean energy sources into our electricity grids can also improve the flexibility and stability of these grids. Promoting energy savings through efficiency and conservation programs is the fastest, most reliable and often cheapest way to meet our energy needs. Technologies that capture solar, wind, hydroelectric and geothermal power have become viable and cost-effective to integrate into our states' energy portfolios. These technologies are already providing energy to millions of Americans while reducing energy waste and air pollution. Amidst decreasing costs of renewable energy, and rapid advances in efficiency throughout entire energy*



# The Democratization of Energy





Thank You

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