

Advances in U.S. Manufacturing

Congressional Climate Camp

Nora Efram, PhD. (nesram@aceee.org)

February 26, 2025





About ACEEE:

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), is a nonprofit research organization that develops policies to reduce energy waste and combat climate change. Its independent analysis advances investments, programs, and behaviors that use energy more effectively and help build an equitable clean energy future.

Learn more at [aceee.org](https://www.aceee.org)

Presenter



Nora Wang Eram, Sr. Director for Research, ACEEE

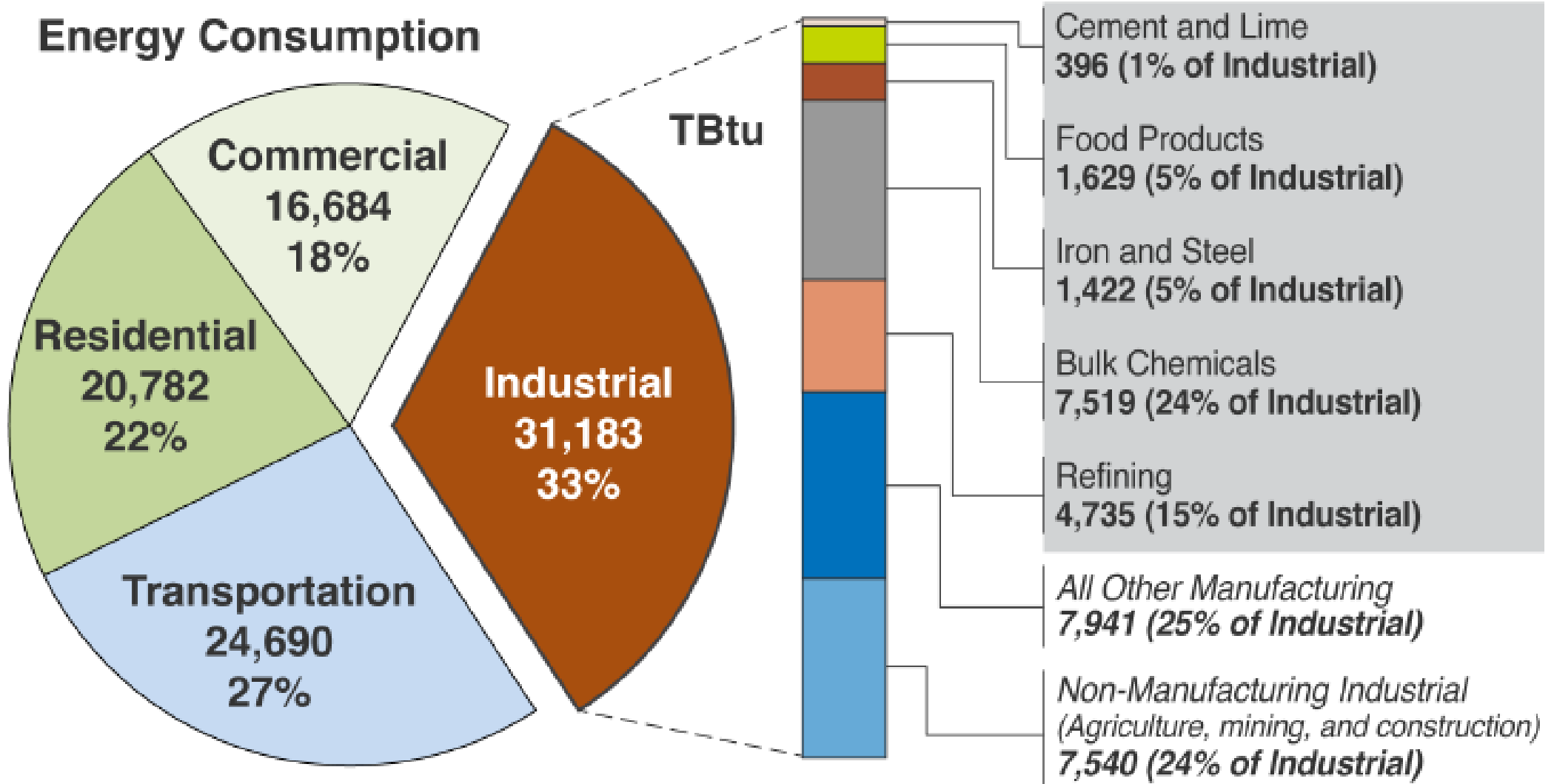
Dr. Eram oversees ACEEE's research programs including Buildings, Industry, Transportation, Behavior, and Health and Environment. She joined ACEEE in 2020. Prior to ACEEE, she was a chief engineer and team lead at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and spearheaded multi-disciplinary projects advancing building energy efficiency and decarbonization.

Industrial energy use and emissions

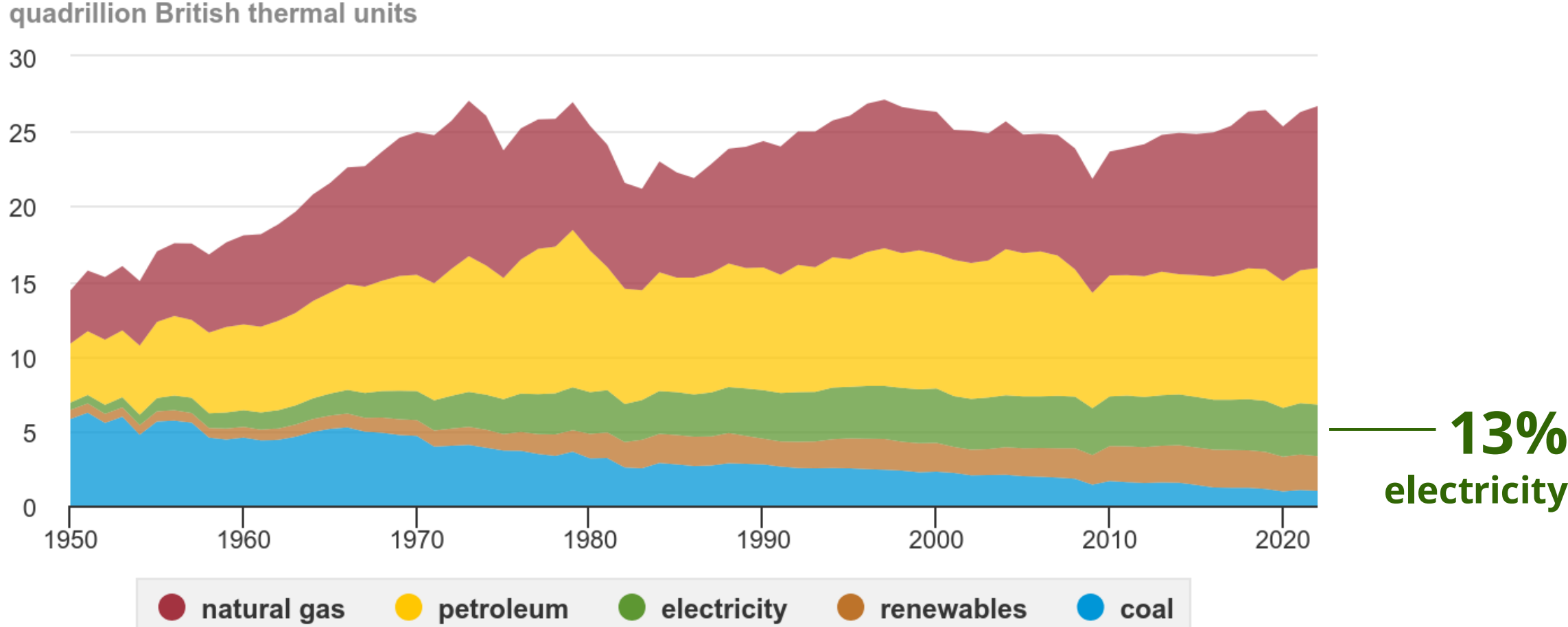
ACEEE::



Industrial Sector Uses 33% of U.S. Energy



Industrial Energy Use is Mostly Fossil Fuels

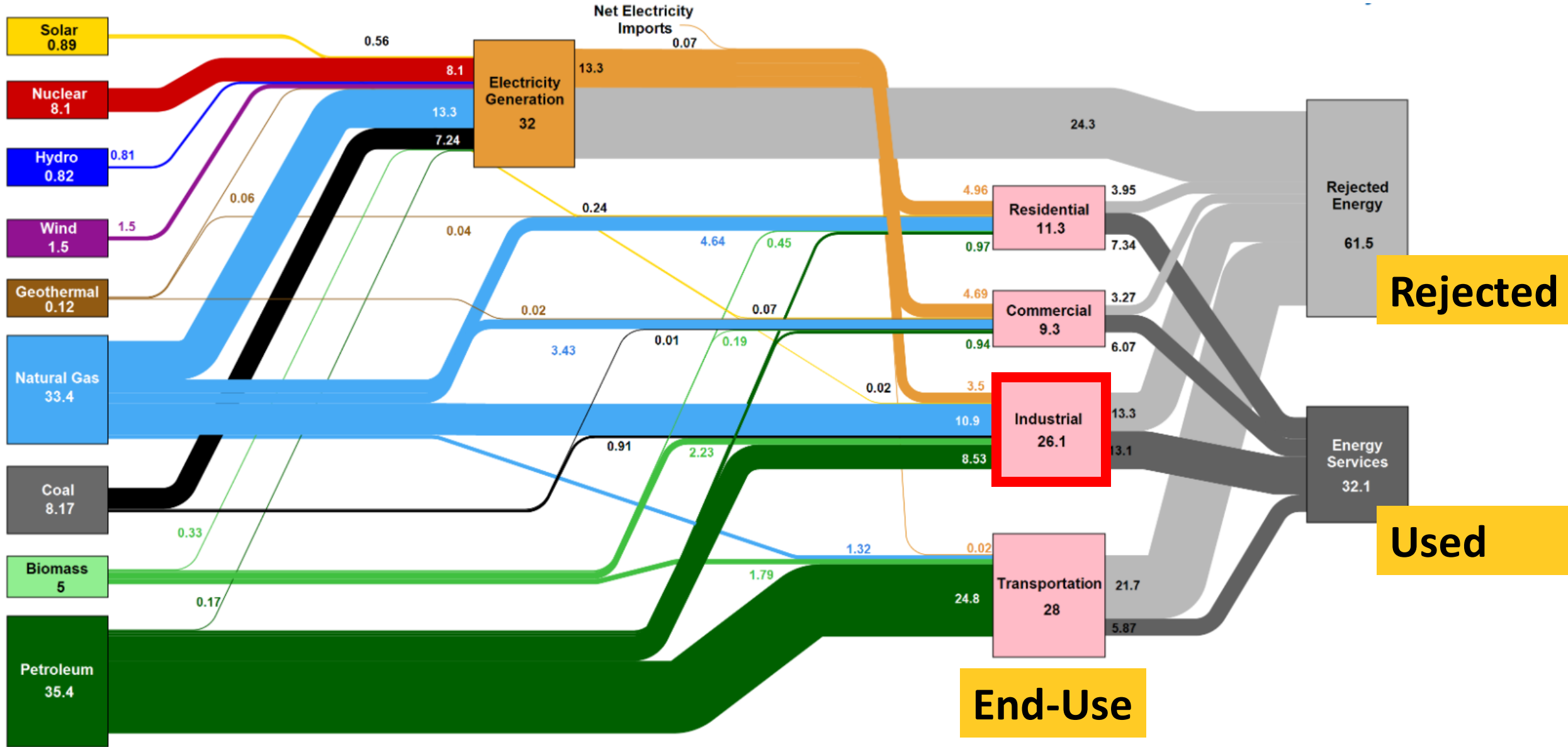


Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 2.4, June 2023, preliminary data for 2022



Note: Includes energy sources used as feedstocks in manufacturing products. Electricity is retail sales of electricity to the sector and excludes electric system energy losses associated with the retail sales.

Wasted (rejected) energy is a huge problem: 50% wasted in Industry



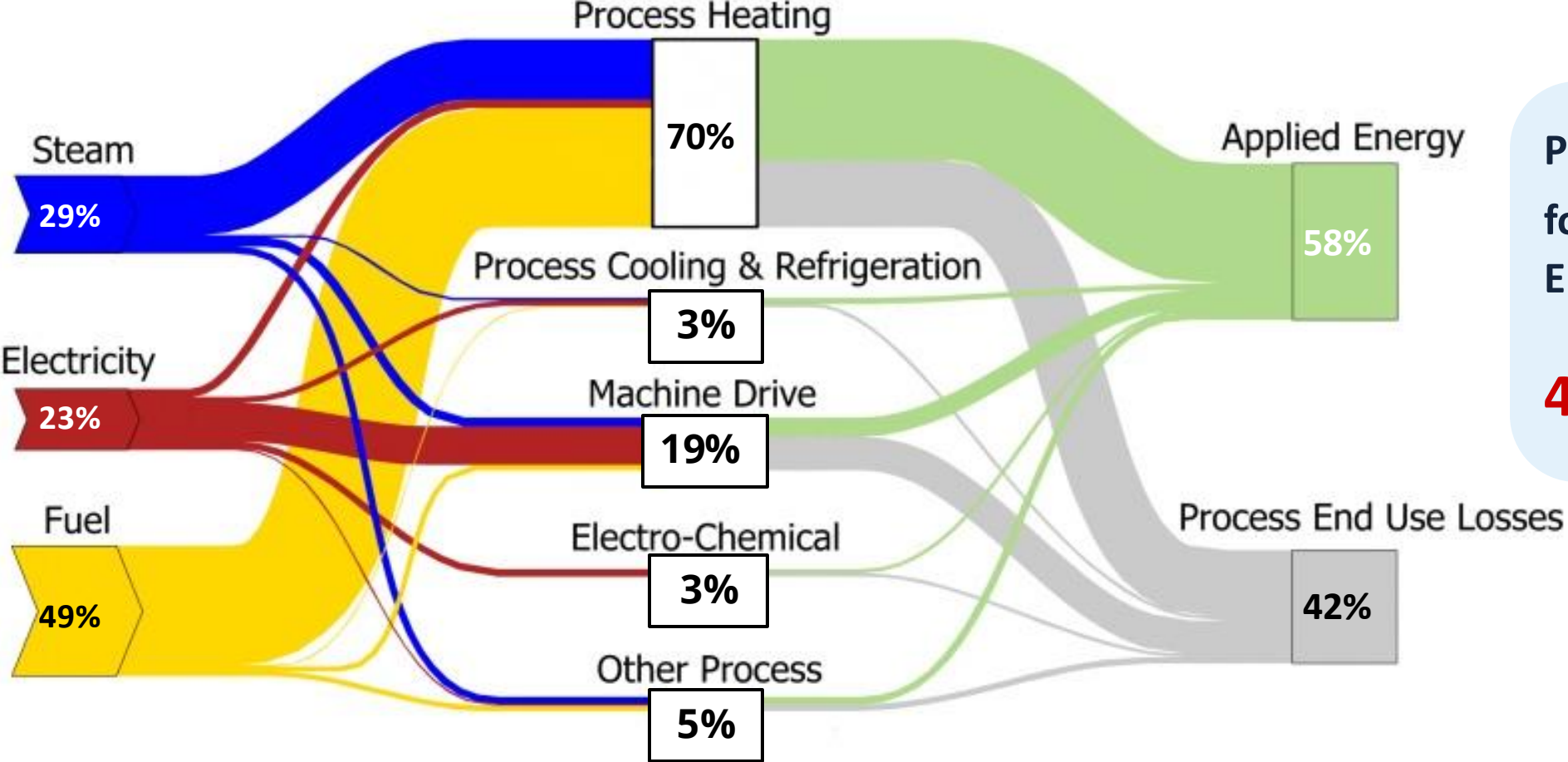
Generation

Industrial Energy Strategies

ACEEE::



Minimize Energy Lost in U.S. Manufacturing Process

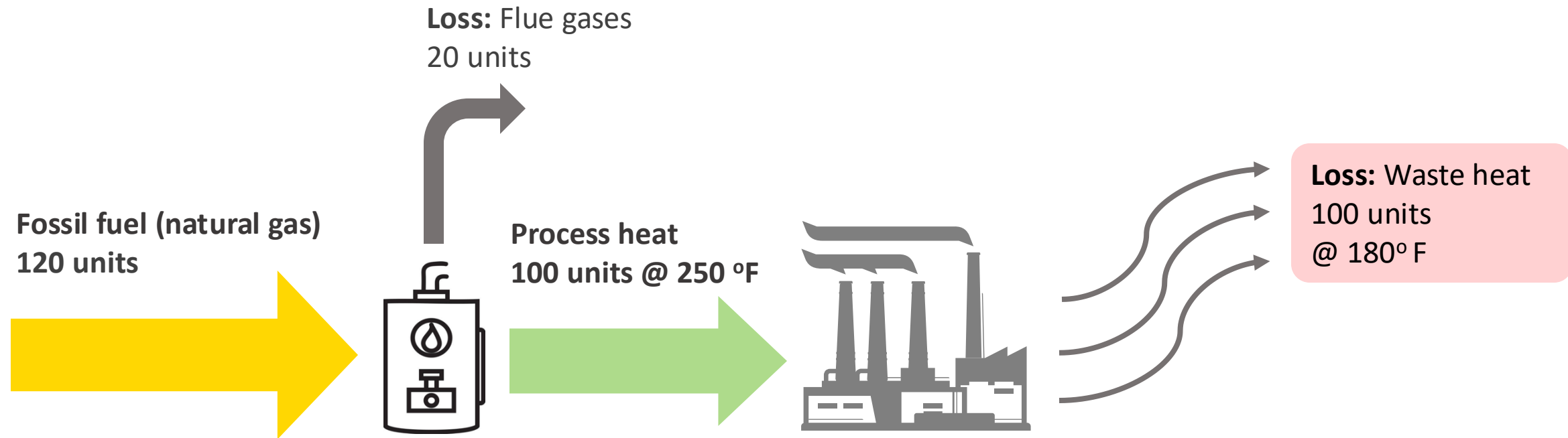


Process Heat Accounts for **70%** Industrial Energy Use.

42% of energy is lost.

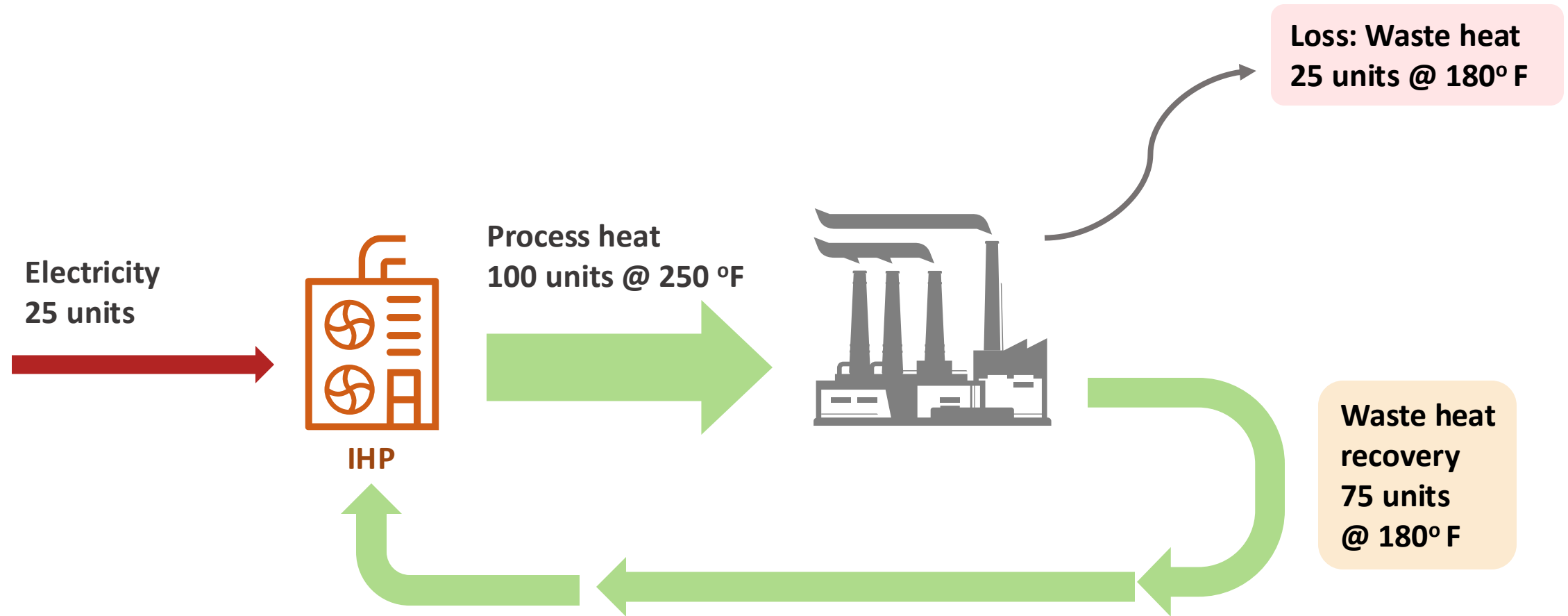
Source: www.energy.gov/eere/iedo/static-sankey-diagram-process-energy-us-manufacturing-sector-2010-mecs

Current Process: Steam Boiler since 1867...



Boiler Efficiency is **83%**; the overall process efficiency is even lower.

Emerging Process: Industrial Heat Pumps (IHP)



IHP Efficiency is **400%**; the overall process efficiency can be higher.

IHPs can offer payback periods of less than **2** years.

Temperature range	Technology readiness?	Example process
<80 °C	yes	Paper Food Chemical
80 °C to 100 °C	yes	
100 °C to 140 °C	Yes	
140 °C to 160 °C	Yes	Paper Food Chemical Various industries: Steam production
160 °C to 200 °C	Need Demonstration	Various industries: High-temperature steam production
>200 °C	Need Validation	Various industries: High-temperature processes

Commercially available IHPs could serve **30%** of industrial thermal demand, and higher-temp could increase this to **60%**.

Source: adapted from [IEA 2022](#)

Industrial Electrification Has Momentum



We Need Integrated Strategies to Reimagine the US Industry

• Energy Efficiency

- **Equipment-level:** variable frequency drives, optimizing boiler efficiency, avoiding energy losses.
- **Facility-level:** right sizing equipment and pipes, waste heat recovery, combined heat and power, automation.
- **Supply chain-level:** seeking out suppliers that achieve certain energy efficiency or emission metrics, locating production near suppliers or markets.

• Electrification

- **Low-temp:** heat pumps
- **Medium-temp:** electric resistance, infrared heating, dielectric heating (microwave, radio wave)
- **High-temp:** electric arc (arc furnaces, arc welding, plasma cutting, plasma torches), induction, lasers, electron beams (for precision applications)
- **Thermal batteries**

• Alternative Fuels, Feed Stocks, Energy Sources

- Strategies include fuel flexible processes, clean hydrogen fuels and feedstocks, biofuels and feedstocks, nuclear, concentrating solar energy, and geothermal



Opportunities and Challenges

ACEEE::

Challenges

- **Complexity:** Industrial Heterogeneity
 - Tailored implementation and integration is needed.
 - Manufactures needs vary with size, resources, and workforce capabilities.
- **Competition:** Incumbent Technologies
 - Equipment replacement requires years of planning.
 - Validated performance of new technologies is needed.
- **Costs:** Upfront Costs and Scale-Up
 - Reaching industrial scale is a challenge.
 - Vendor support for scaling and integration is needed.

Policy instruments meet different needs

Grants

(R&D, FOAK, Supply Chain, State Govt)

Tax Credits

(Investment, Production)

Loans

(DOE, Green Banks)

Performance Incentives

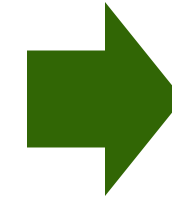
(Energy, Carbon)

Technical Assistance

(Nat. Labs, Colleges, Implementers)

Regulation (state / local)

(Carbon, NOx, Fossil Gas)



**Cleaner
Economy
Cleaner
Plants**

- ACEEE industrial decarbonization resource page: <https://www.aceee.org/program/energy-efficiency-in-industry>
- A. Johnson, K. Campbell and N. Elliott, 2023. *Sustainable Metals Manufacturing Opportunities in Indiana*. Washington, D.C.: ACEEE.
- N. Efram, A. Johnson, and N. Elliott . 2024. How to Decarbonize Industrial Process Heat While Building American Manufacturing Competitiveness. Washington, D.C.: ACEEE.
- Rissman, et al, 2019. *Technologies and policies to decarbonize global industry: Review and assessment of mitigation drivers through 2070*. Applied Energy; 266 (202) 114848.
- Rissman, 2024. Zero-Carbon Industry: Transformative Technologies and Policies to Achieve Sustainable Prosperity. Columbia University Press.
- U.S. Department of Energy, 2022. *Industrial Decarbonization Roadmap*. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Energy, 2023 (a). THE PATHWAY TO: INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION COMMERCIAL LIFTOFF. Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Energy, 2023 (b). [Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Carbon Management](#). Washington, D.C.
- DOE Industrial Clean Energy Demonstration awards: <https://www.energy.gov/oced/industrial-demonstrations-program-selections-award-negotiations>

Additional Slides (Discussion)

ACEEE::



IHP and Other Clean Manufacturing Have Many Other Benefits beyond Energy Savings and Cost Reduction

Benefits that accrue to implementing facilities



Workplace health and safety



Reduced permitting costs and risks



Reduced insurance costs



Future proofing and modularity



Reduced maintenance costs



Improved product quality



Resource conservation

Benefits that accrue to the workforce, economy, and neighboring communities



Lower pollution, improved air quality



Local jobs with job retention

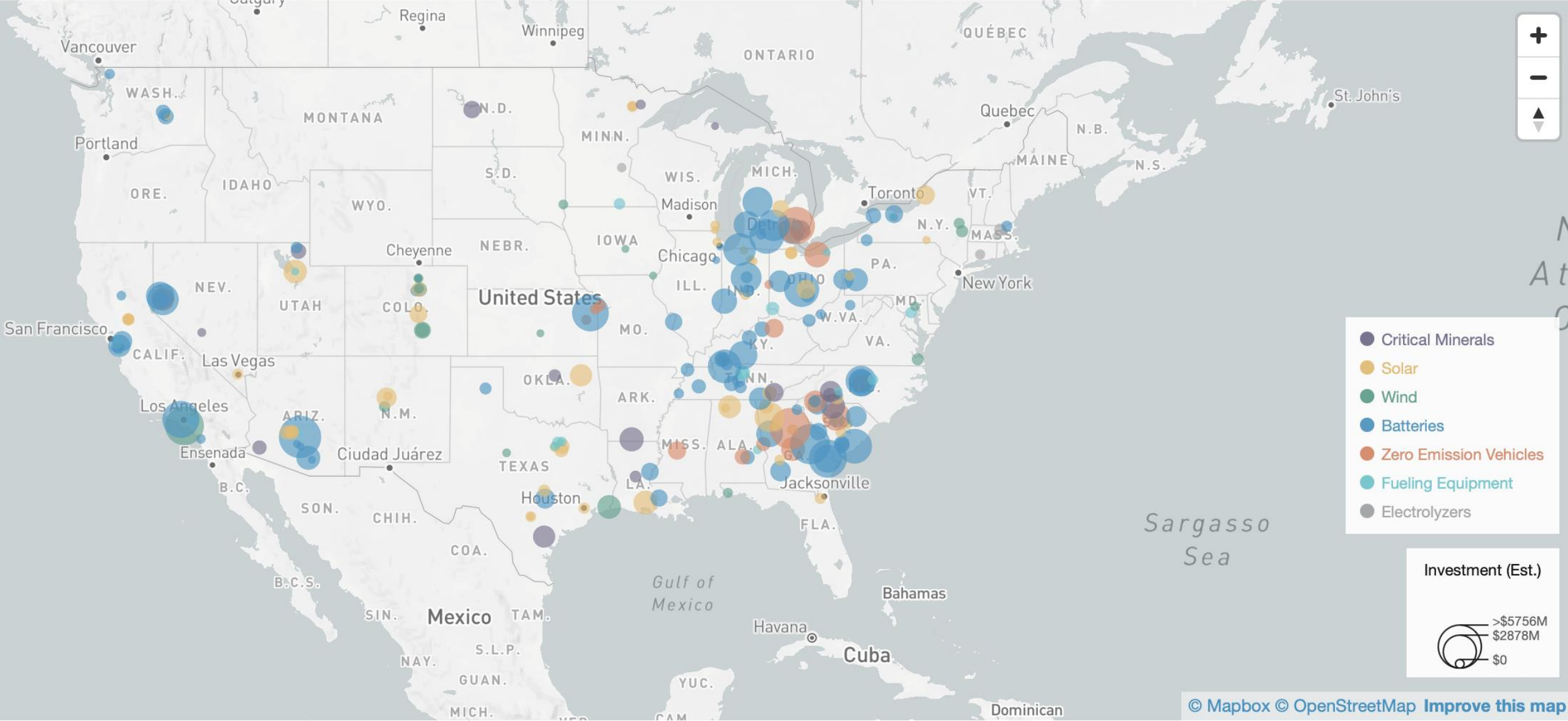


Reduced noise pollution



Wider economic benefits

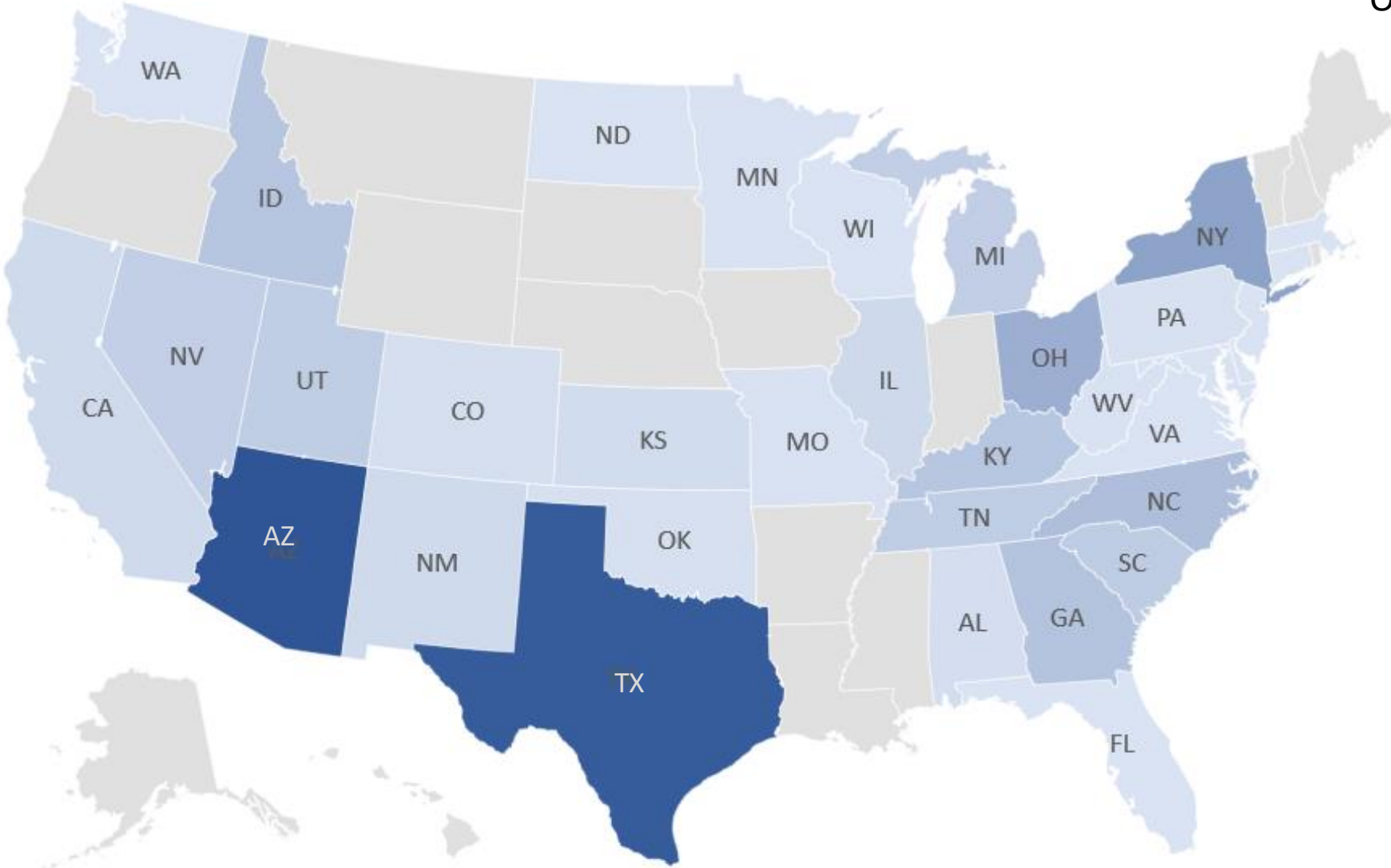
Manufacturing Investment Announcement (Oct 2021–Sep 2023)



Economic Development Opportunities



\$ 70,000 million investment
OR 1 million jobs (if \$70K = 1 job)



Electricity Demand Growth in Industry

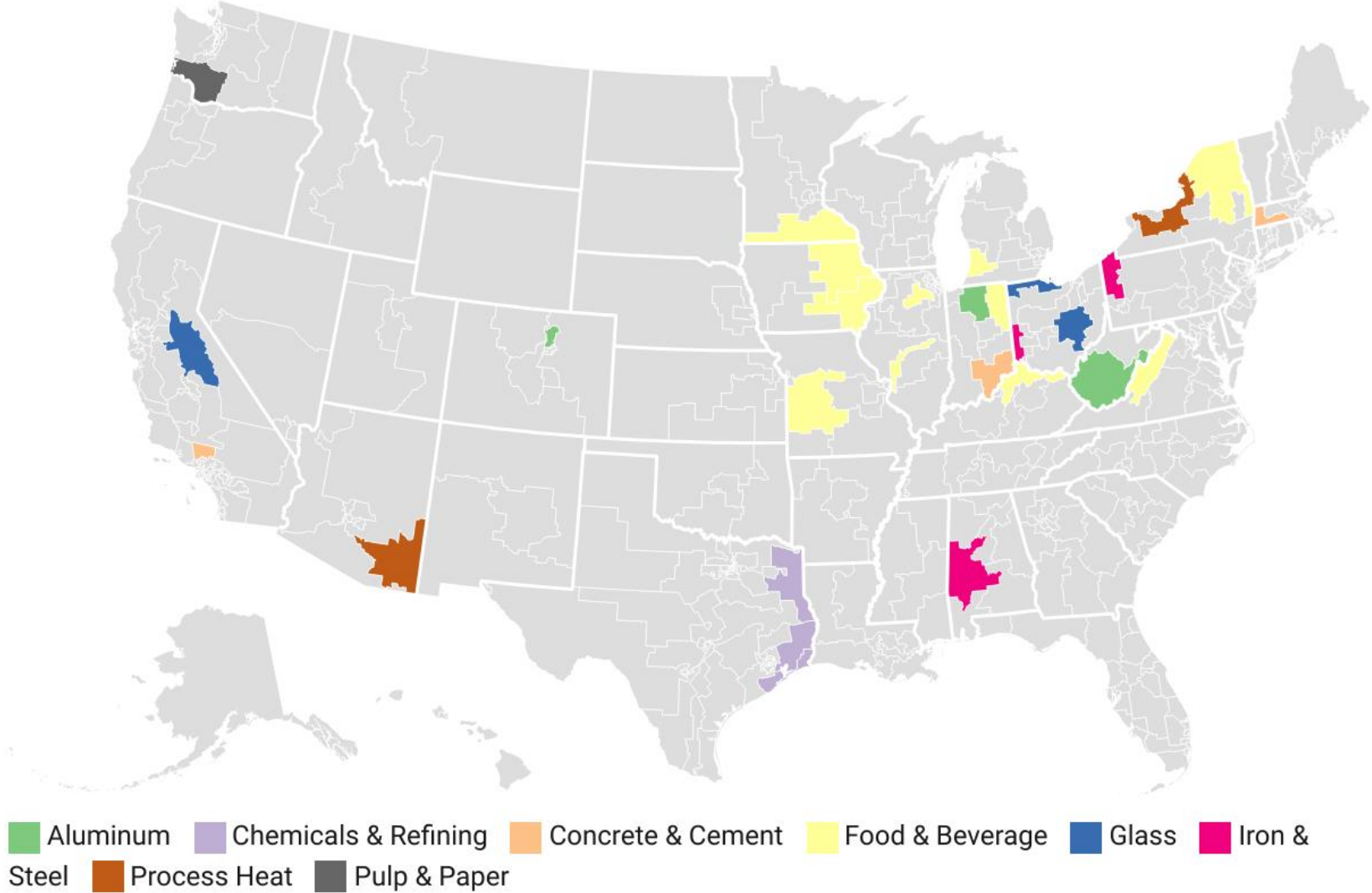
A map of the United States is shown in the background, with a semi-transparent blue box overlaid on the right side. The box contains three lines of white text. The text is centered within the box and provides key statistics and drivers for electricity demand growth in the industrial sector.

Grid planners forecast peak demand growth of **38 GW** through 2028.

The nationwide forecast of electricity demand shot up from 2.6% to **4.7%** growth over the next 5 years.

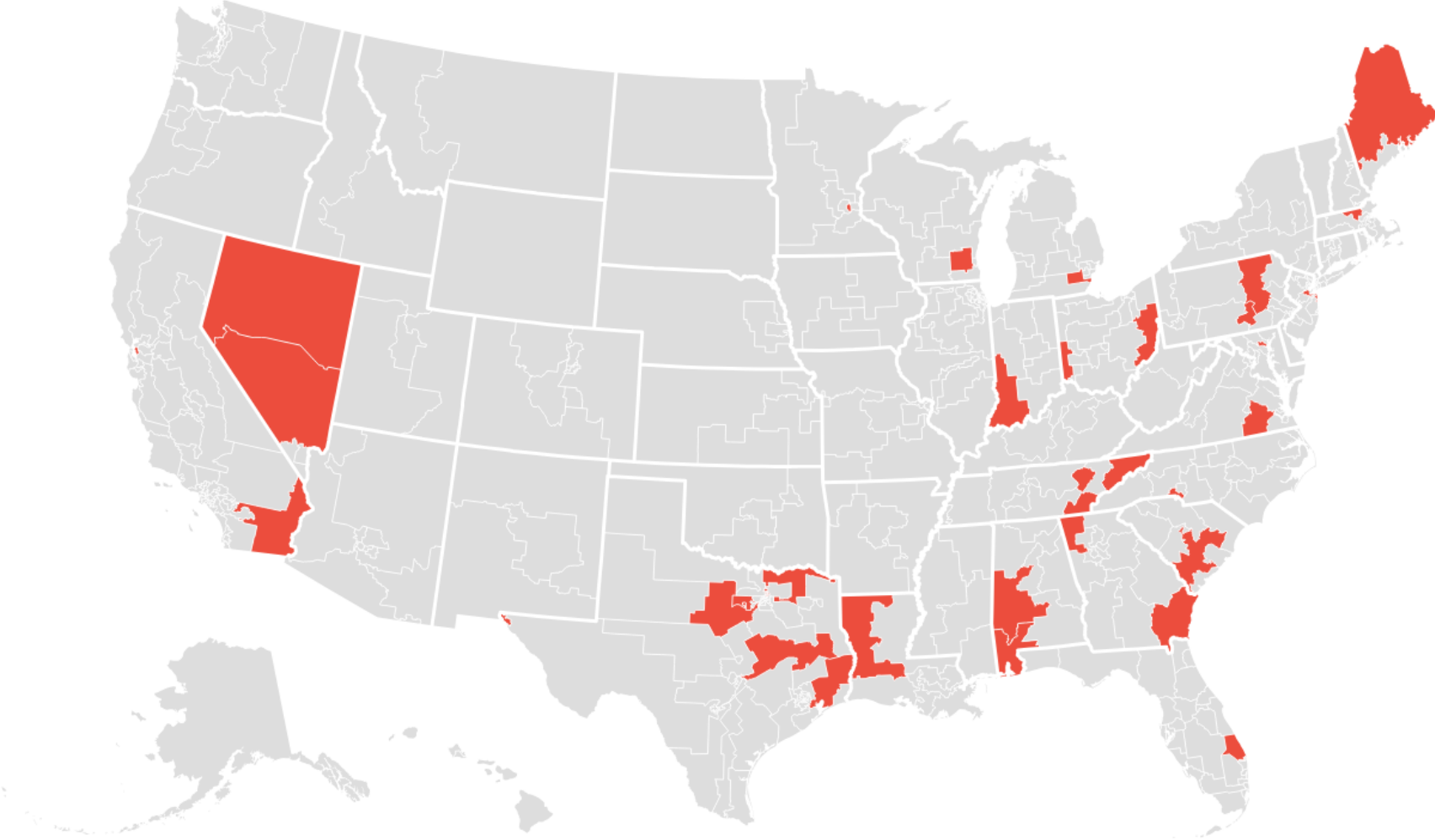
Key drivers include data centers (crypto and AI) and **industrial** facilities (battery and automotive sectors).

Congressional Districts with IDP Projects



Created with Datawrapper

Congressional Districts with disclosed 48C projects



Created with Datawrapper

Main Points to Remember

- Make plants **efficient**
- **Electrify** as much as possible
- Reduce **embodied carbon**
- Stop the **emissions** from flames and leaks
- Ensure transition benefits **communities**
- Make **smart** interventions