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Environmental Assessment of Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs)

Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality Impacts of PHEVs

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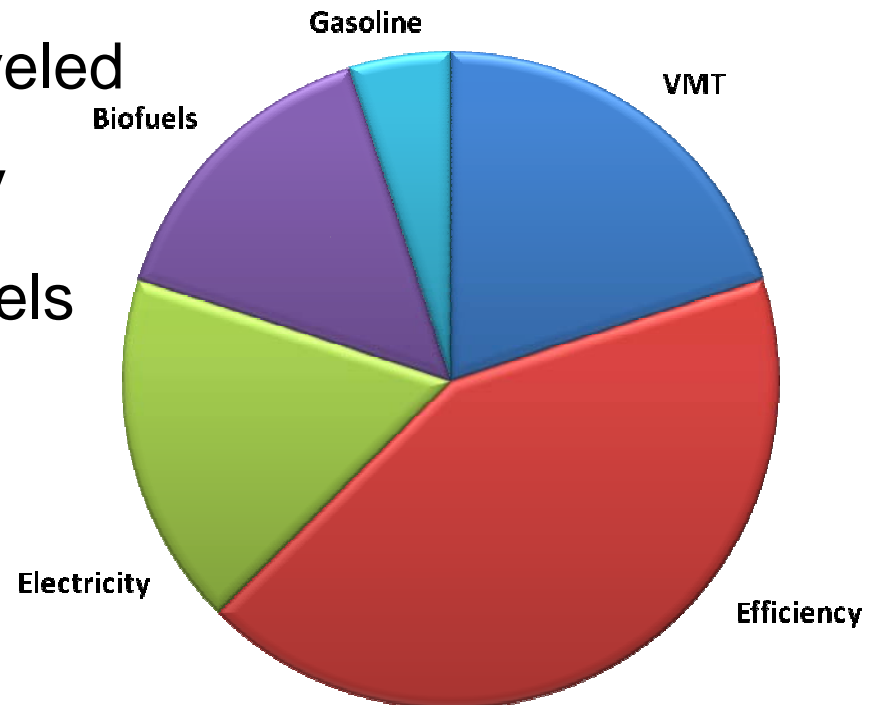
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Luke Tonachel, *National Resources Defense
Council*

Reduce Gasoline Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

NRDC Scenario for Light Duty Vehicles in 2050

- Reduce gasoline demand up to 90% in 2050
- Combination of approaches
 - Reduce vehicle miles traveled
 - Improve vehicle efficiency
 - Sustainable alternative fuels
 - Electricity
 - Biofuels



Collaborative Study



Environmental Assessment of Plug-in Hybrid Vehicles

Volume 1: Nationwide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Volume 2: United States Air Quality Analysis Based on AEO-2006 Assumptions for 2030

Joint report available at: www.epri-reports.org

NRDC plug-in policy sheet: www.nrdc.org/energy/plugin.pdf

Understanding Environmental Impacts of Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles



- Environmental impacts of shifting vehicle energy supply from petroleum to electricity not well understood
- Location and characteristics of vehicle and power plant emissions are different
 - Temporal and geographic locations
- Electricity supplied by diverse mix of fuels, plant technologies
- New technologies take time to penetrate nationwide vehicle fleet
- Generation capacity and economics evolve over time
 - Energy pathway analyses are insufficient to appropriately model these changes

Analysis Methodology for Electricity Impacts



- Least-cost economics for power plant construction, operation, maintenance
- Plant capacity expansion/retirement model
- Adherence to national, regional, local constraints on capacity (regulatory)
- Monetization of the right to emit (criteria pollutants, GHGs)
- Electricity production simulation
 - Least-cost dispatch order
 - Availability model
- Electric sector evolution over time

The Future of the Electric Sector

Three Possible Scenarios



Key Parameters

- Value of CO₂ emissions allowances
- Plant capacity retirement and expansion
- Technology availability, cost and performance
- Electricity demand
- PHEV bounding scenarios of 20%, 62%, and 80% new vehicle market share by 2050

Scenario Definition	High CO ₂	Medium CO ₂	Low CO ₂
Cost of CO ₂ Emissions Allowances	Low	Moderate	High
Power Plant Retirements	Slower	Normal	Faster
New Generation Technologies	Unavailable: Coal with CCS New Nuclear New Biomass	Normal Technology Availability and Performance	Available: Retrofit of CCS to existing IGCC and PC plants
	Lower Performance: SCPC, CCNG, GT, Wind, and Solar		Higher Performance: Solar
Annual Electricity Demand Growth	1.56% per year on average	1.56% per year on average	2010 - 2025: 0.45% 2025 - 2050: None

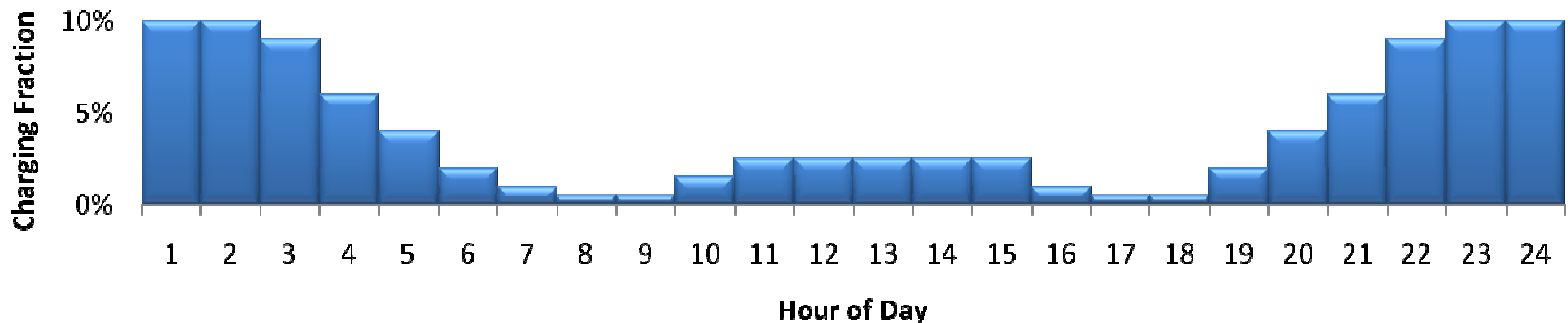
SCPC – Supercritical Pulverized Coal CCNG – Combined Cycle
Natural Gas

GT – Gas Turbine (natural gas) CCS – Carbon Capture and Storage

PHEV Charging Profile Assumptions

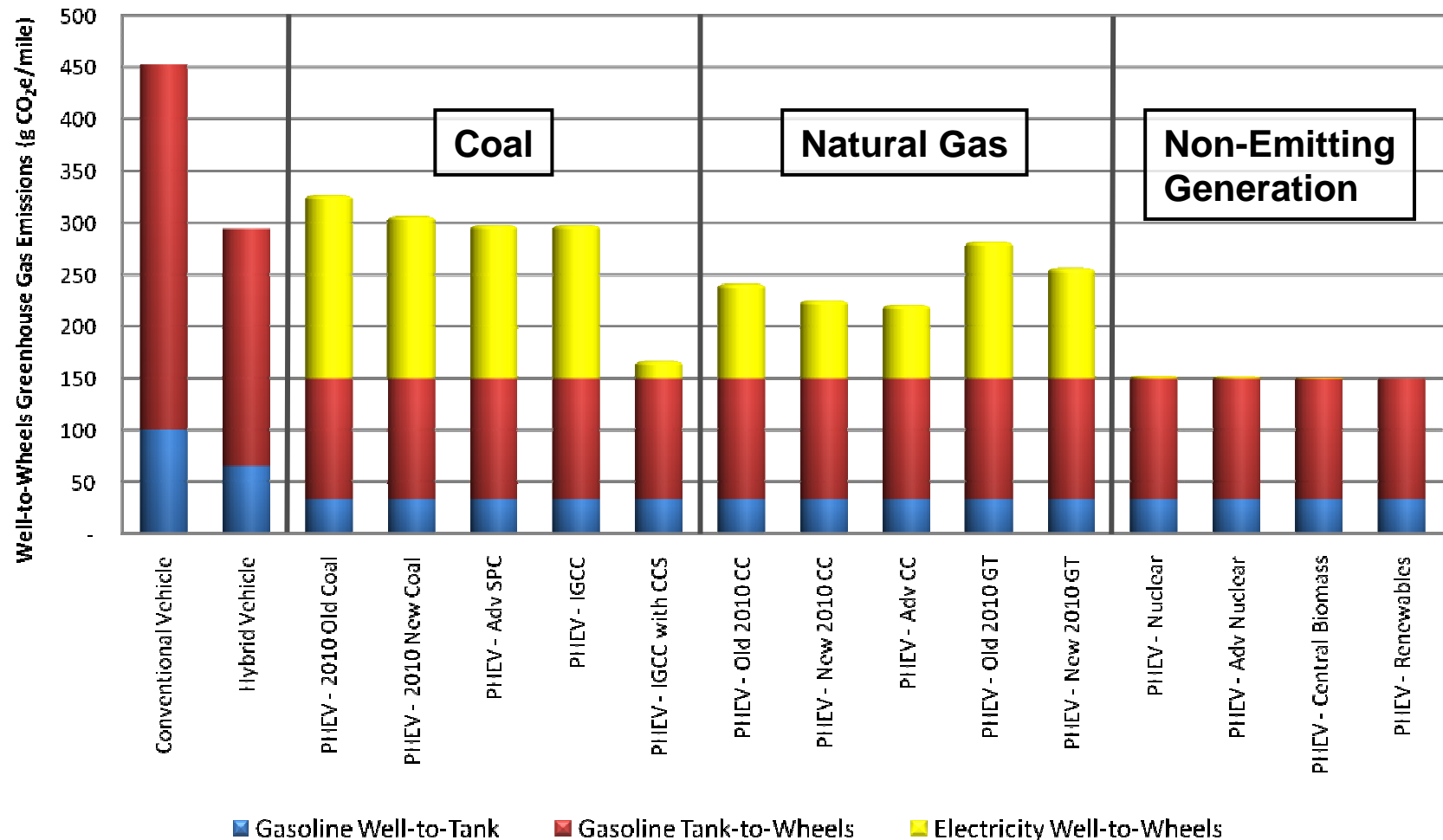


- Base Case represents 74% of energy delivered from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am, 26% between 6:00am and 10:00 pm
- Vehicle charged primarily, but not exclusively, at each vehicle's "home base"
- Owners incentivized or otherwise encouraged to use less expensive off-peak electricity
- Charge onset delays built into near-term vehicles—allow battery system rest and cooling before recharge
- Long-term with large PHEV fleets, utilities will likely use demand response or other programs to actively manage the charging load



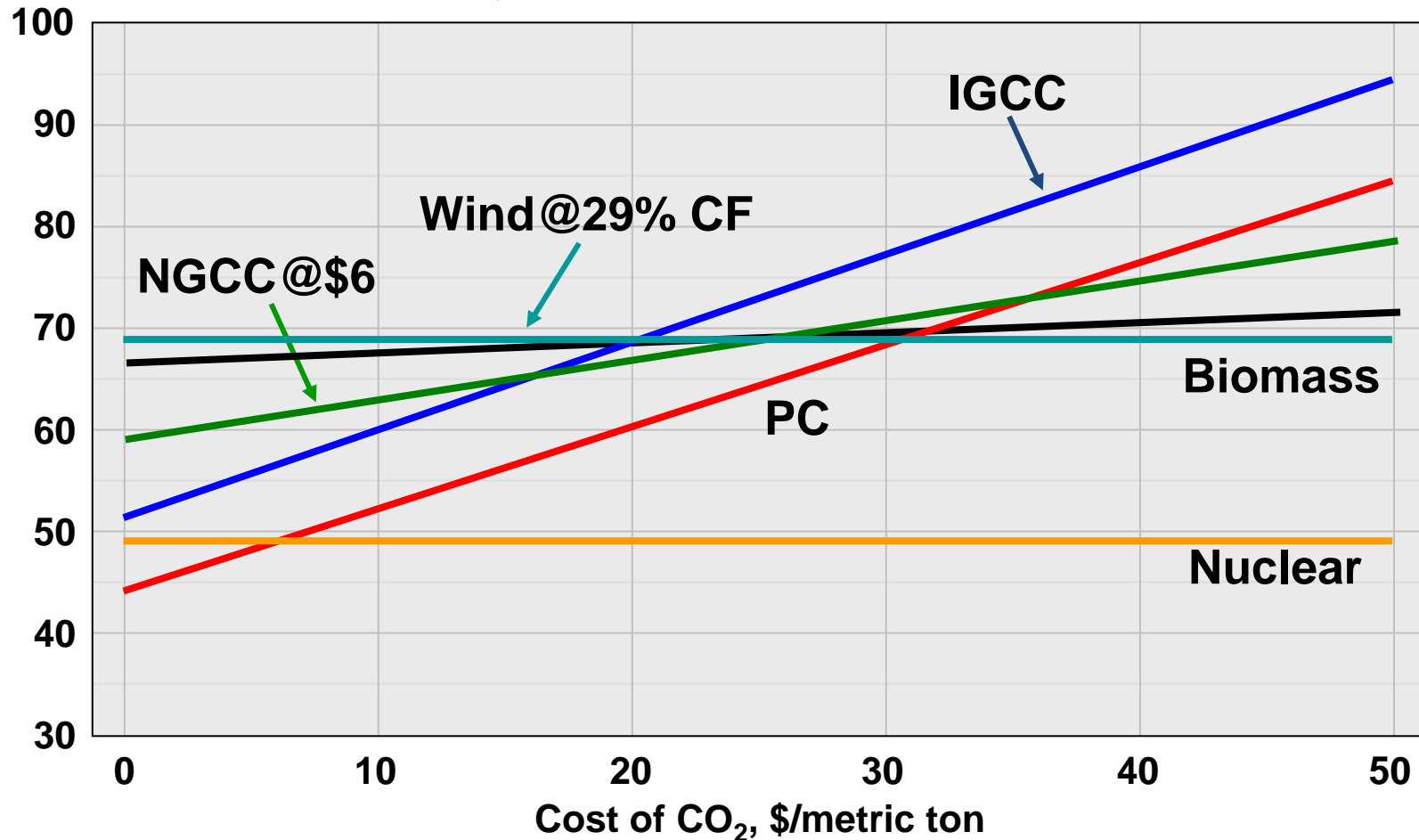
Power Plant-Specific PHEV Emissions in 2010

PHEV 20 – 12,000 Annual Miles



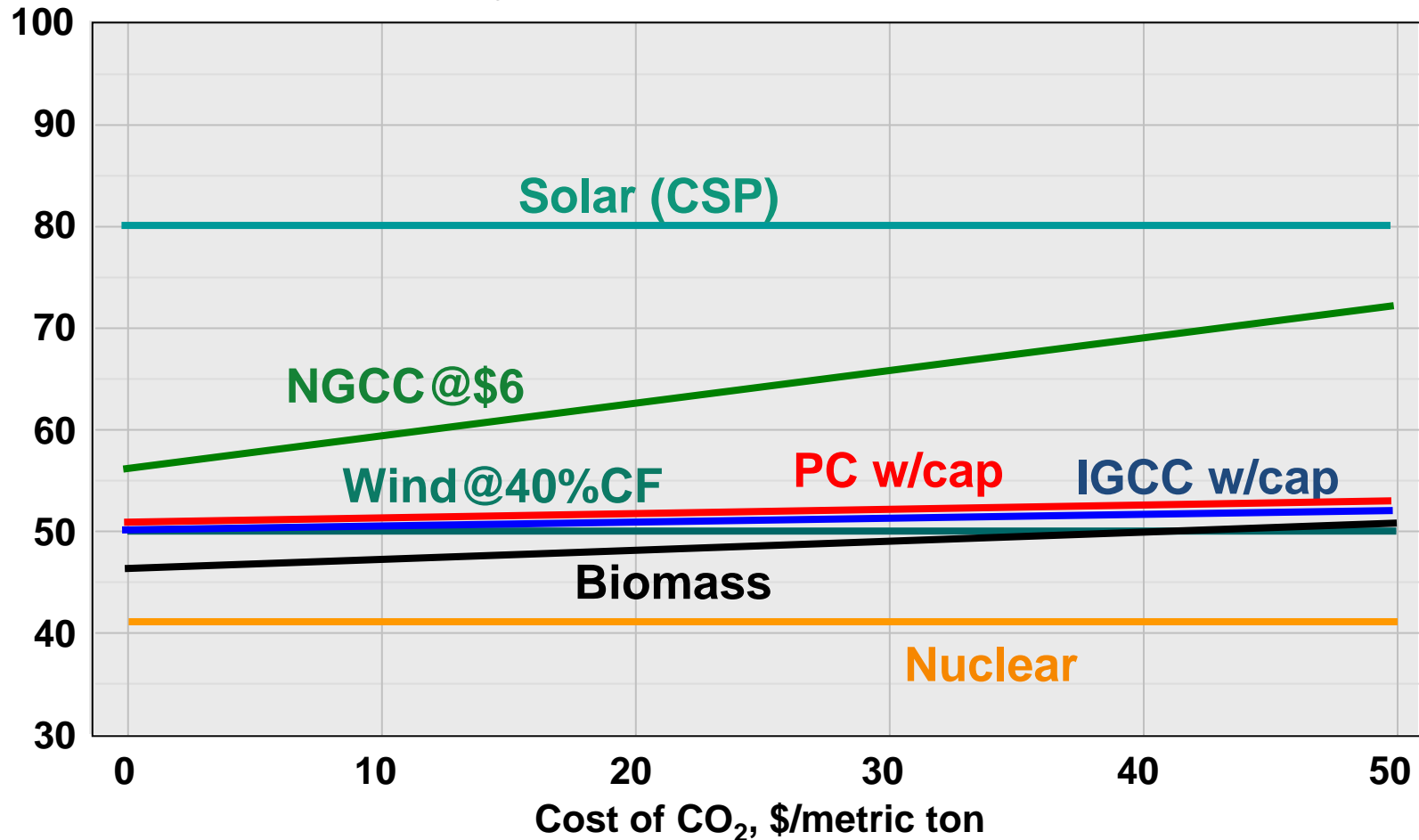
Technologies for New Generation in 2010-2015

Levelized Cost of Electricity, \$/MWh



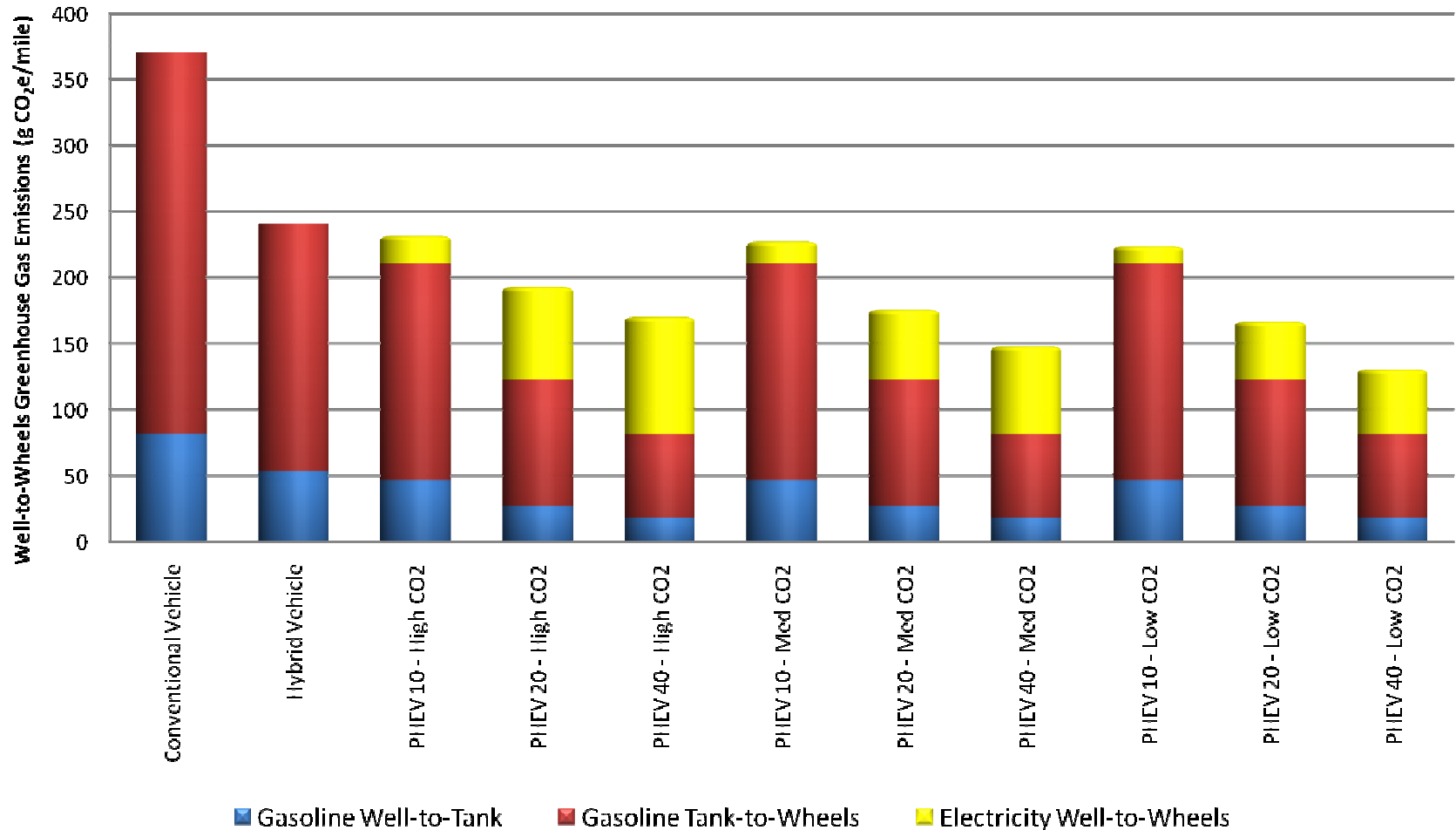
Technologies for New Generation in 2020-2025

Levelized Cost of Electricity, \$/MWh



Electric Sector Simulation Results (2050)

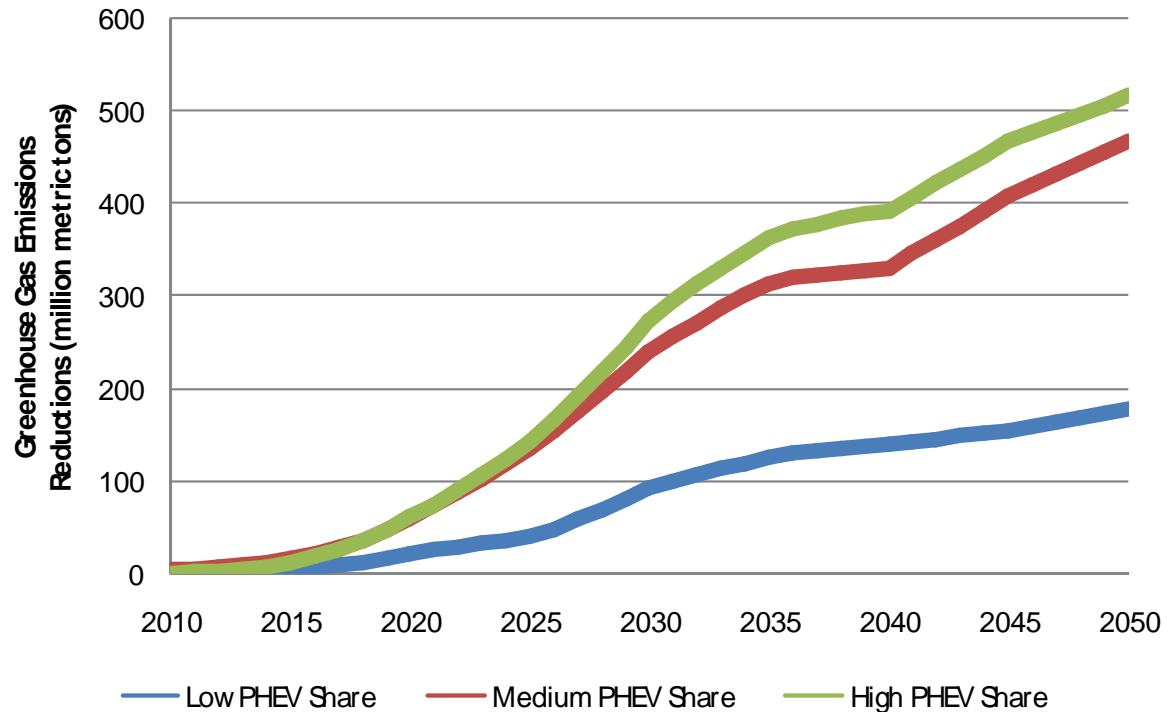
PHEV 10, 20, & 40 – 12,000 Annual Miles



Greenhouse Gas Emissions



- Electricity grid evolves over time
- Nationwide fleet takes time to renew itself or “turn over”
- Impact would be low in early years, but could be very high in future
- **A potential 400-500 million metric ton annual reduction in GHG emissions**

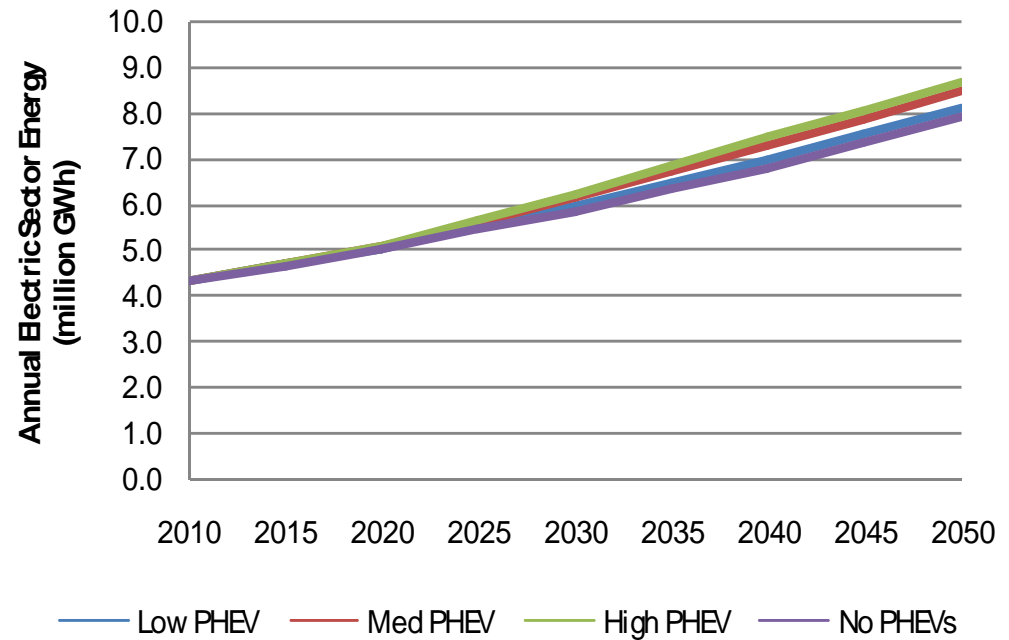


Annual Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions From PHEV Adoption

Impacts to Energy Electricity and Petroleum

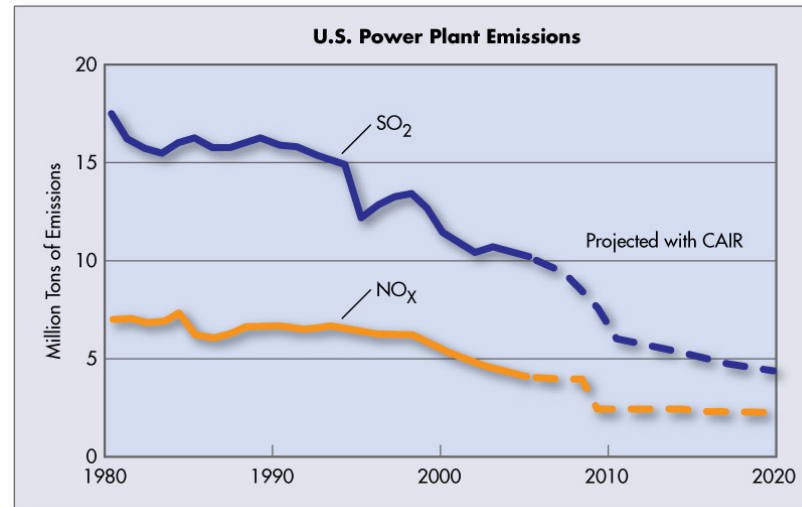


- Moderate electricity demand growth
- Capacity expansion 19 to 72 GW by 2050 nationwide (1.2 – 4.6%)
- 3-4 million barrels per day in oil savings (Medium PHEV Case, 2050)



Electricity Demand: Medium CO₂ Case

U.S. Power Plant Emissions Trends



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Power plant emissions of SO₂ and NO_x will continue to decrease due to tighter federal regulatory limits (caps) on emissions
- Other local and national regulations further constrain power plant emissions
- Air quality is determined by emissions from all sources undergoing chemical reactions within the atmosphere

Net Changes in Criteria Emissions Due to PHEVs

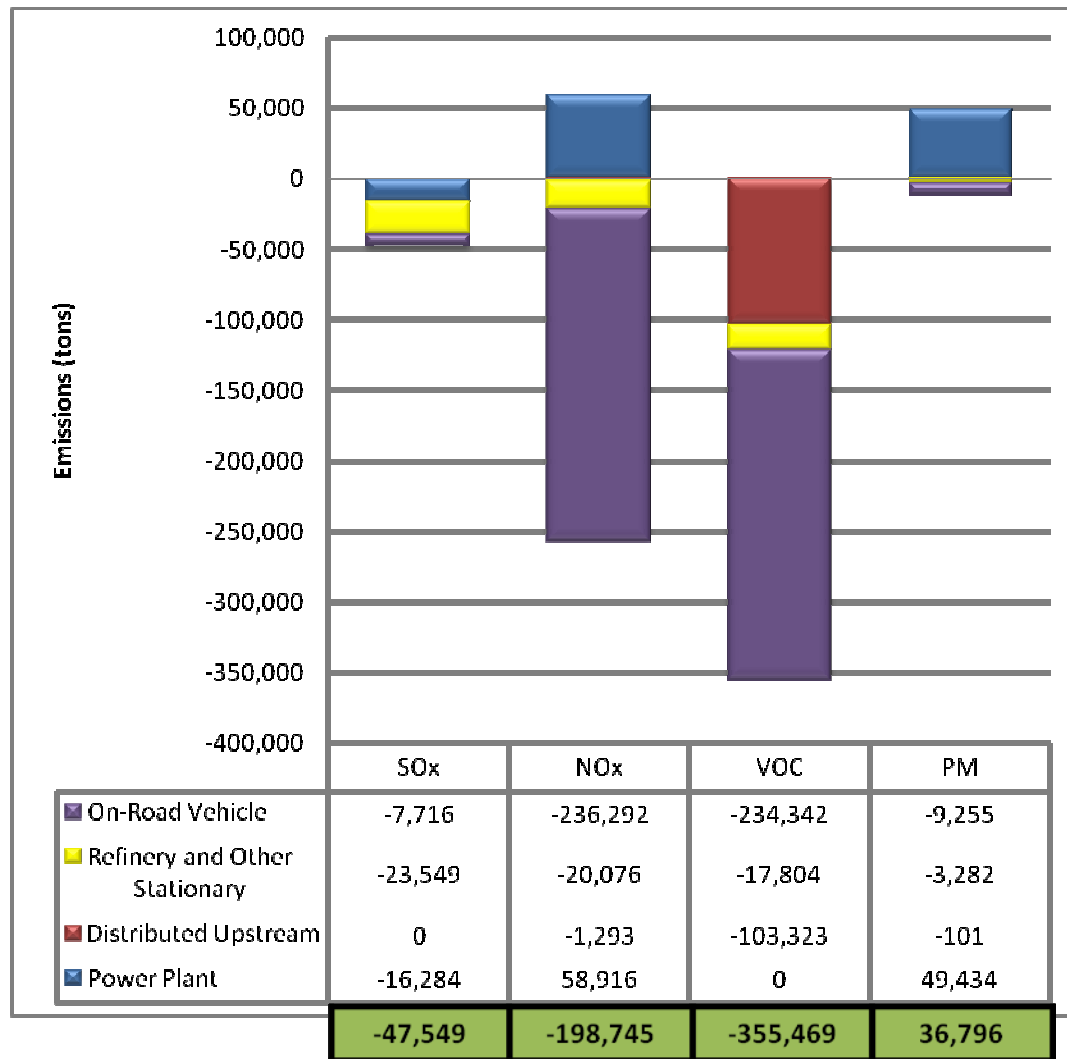


Power Plant Emissions

- Emissions capped under law (SO₂, NO_x, Hg) are essentially unchanged
- Primary PM emissions increase (defined by a performance standard)

Vehicle Emissions

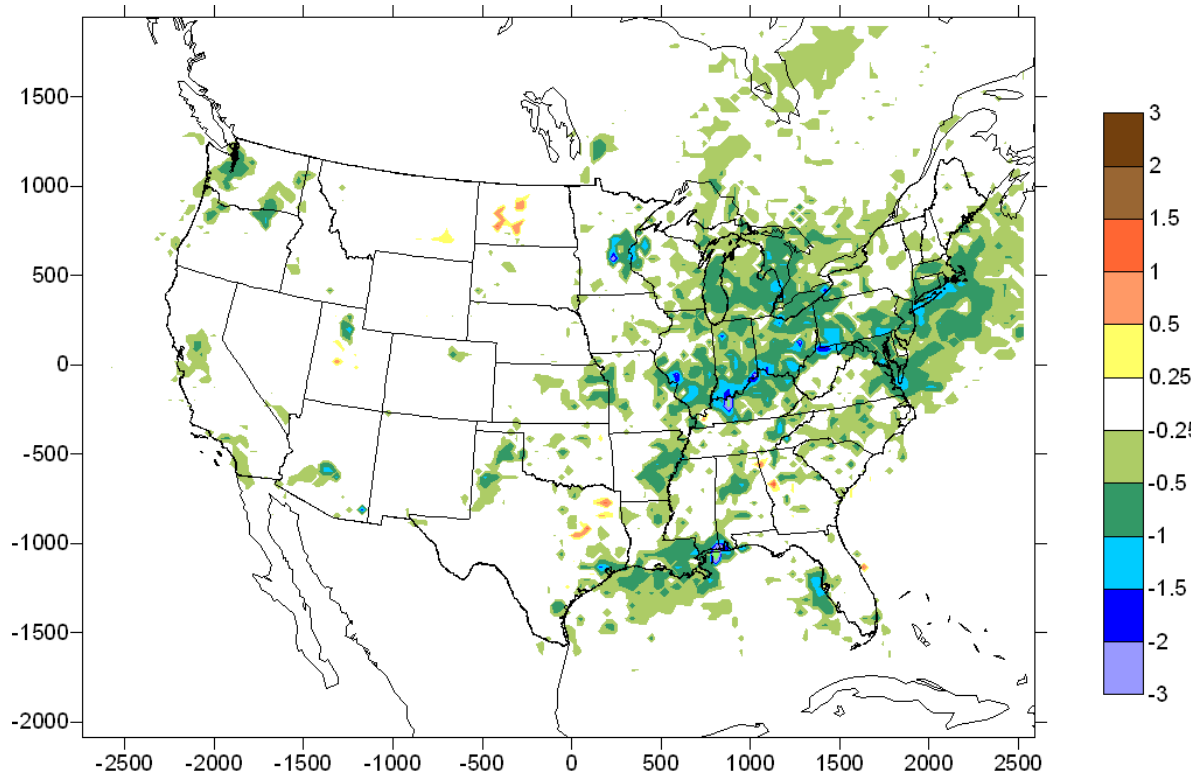
- NO_x, VOC, SO₂, PM all decrease
- Significant NO_x, VOC reductions at vehicle tailpipe
- Reduction in refinery and related emissions



PHEVs Improve Overall Air Quality

Reduced Formation of Ozone

- Air quality model simulates atmospheric chemistry and transport
- Lower NO_x and VOC emissions results in less ozone formation particularly in urban areas



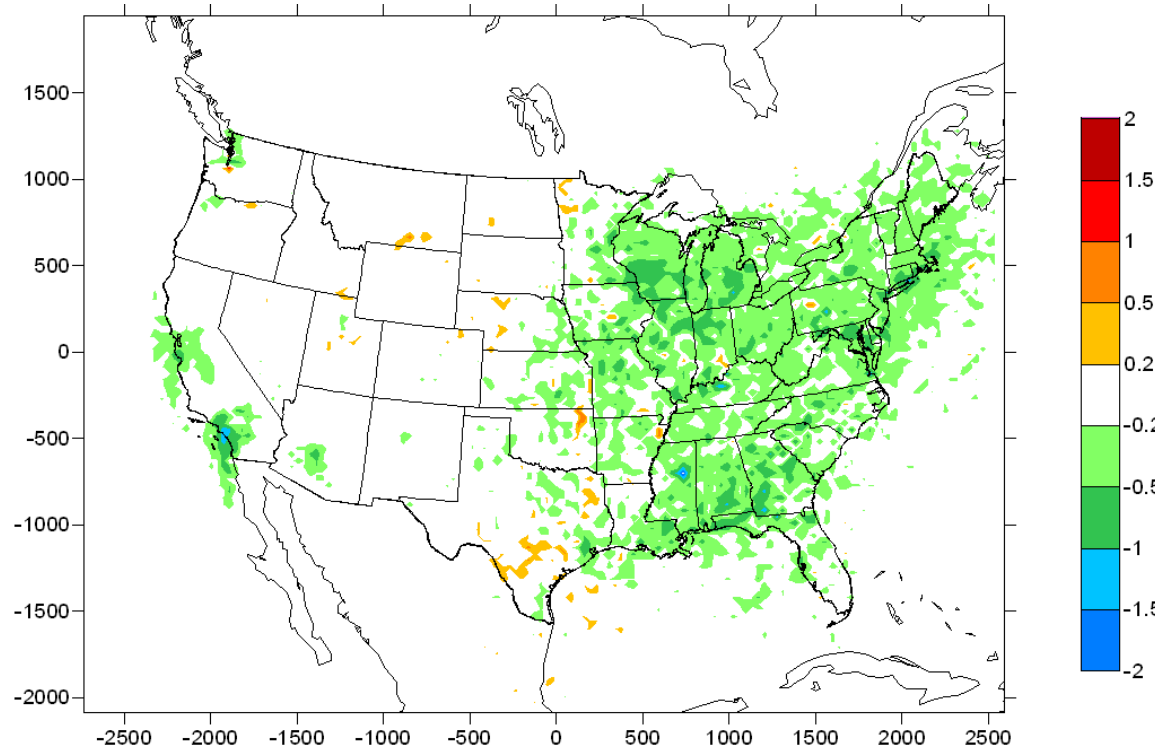
Change in 8-Hour Ozone Design Value (ppb)
PHEV Case – Base Case

PHEVs Improve Overall Air Quality

Reduced Formation of Secondary PM_{2.5}



- PM_{2.5} includes both direct emissions and secondary PM formed in the atmosphere
- PHEVs reduce motor vehicle emissions of VOC and NOx.
- VOCs emissions from power plants are not significant
- Total annual SO₂ and NOx from power plants capped by federal law
- The net result of PHEVs is a notable decrease in the formation of secondary



Change in Daily PM_{2.5} Design Value ($\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$)
PHEV Case – Base Case

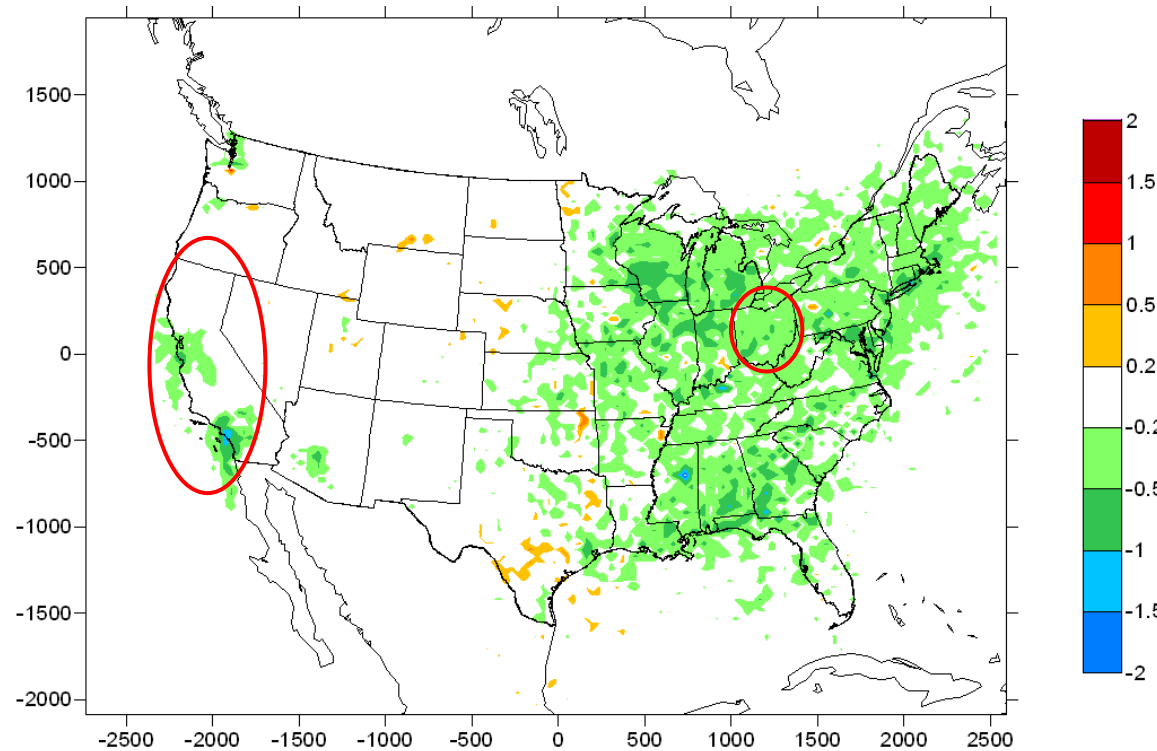
PHEVs Improve Overall Air Quality

Reduced Deposition of Sulfates, Nitrates, Nitrogen, Mercury



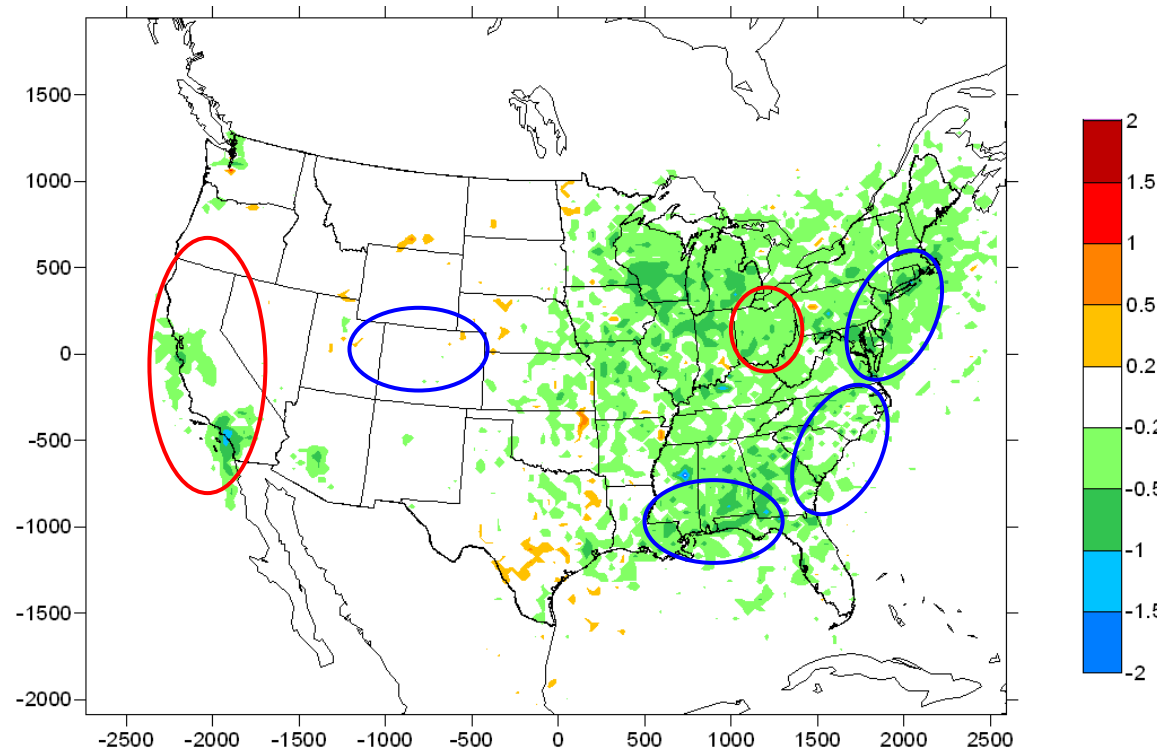
Summary – Next Steps

- State-specific results for CA, OH, due in Q1-08
- Expand air quality analysis to include carbon constraints
- Continue GHG analysis as industry economics and technology changes
- Adopt market penetration forecasts in place of bounding scenarios
- Modify vehicle assumptions as PHEV technology evolves
- Expand analysis to other regions of interest



Summary – Next Steps

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Change in Daily PM_{2.5} Design Value (µg m⁻³)
PHEV Case – Base Case

Full Presentation – Session 3A

Tuesday 8:00am to 9:30am



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