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**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION CONTROL OPTIONS:
ASSESSING TRANSPORTATION AND ELECTRICITY GENERATION
TECHNOLOGIES AND POLICIES TO STABILIZE CLIMATE CHANGE**

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ABSTRACT

Prioritizing the numerous technology and policy options is an important step in formulating a cohesive strategy to abate U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This work compares various options across two key sectors of the U.S. economy, electricity generation and transportation, quantifying the absolute abatement potential of each and exploring barriers each might face. Diminishing the impacts of coal is the primary route to reducing electricity generation impacts. The current grid mix with carbon capture and sequestration in all coal plants could yield 22 percent savings, while shifting half of generation to renewables would yield a 9 percent reduction. In the transportation sector, improving the efficiency of passenger vehicles is an imperative, with long term potential greatly enhanced by interaction with the electric grid. In the short term, deploying all fuel economy improving technologies available for conventional vehicles could save 10 percent of U.S. GHG emissions while bringing average fuel economy of new vehicles above the current U.S. CAFE target for 2020 (which is just 35 mpg). In the long term, plug-in hybrids running on greener electricity and cellulosic ethanol could bring a 25 percent reduction. Travel mode shifts, while an immediately viable option, are not estimated to provide savings of the same magnitude as emerging electricity generation and vehicular technologies. (E.g., shifting 10 percent of short-distance/intra-urban trips to fully occupied electric rail transit or 4-person carpools could save between 1 and 2 percent of U.S. emissions, each, while shifting 10 percent of long haul freight to rail is estimated to save about 0.5 percent.)

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Climate change presents a challenge of unparalleled magnitude and urgency. Advances in scientific knowledge of linkages between anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and global warming now enable the severity of climate change to be seen through the lens of economic fallout from irrevocable changes in the Earth's physical geography. The economic impacts arising from the 5 to 6°C rise in global average temperature predicted by the end of the century based on the current rate of emissions could be on the order of a 20% loss in global GDP (Stern Review 2006), an economic shrinkage matched only by the Great Depression during the era of modern capitalism. Attention at all levels of policy making must clearly turn to stabilizing climate change. Current estimates accounting for degradation in the Earth's absorptive capacity now find that 450 ppm atmospheric CO₂e is needed to avoid dangerous climate change; accounting for projected global economic growth this target will require the U.S. to cut emissions by 80% compared to 2000 levels by 2050 (Luers et al. 2007).

Reductions of this scale will require strategies that address the many sectors and stages of the economy. Numerous technologies and logistic strategies to reduce GHG emissions exist or are near technical maturity; however none is independently sufficient to achieve needed reductions and all face obstacles to mass acceptance. Certainly carbon pricing will help to overcome a glaring market externality in which economic actors do not perceive the true costs of their actions with respect to climate change. The urgency of climate change and barriers including upfront costs, imperfect information, risk, market distortions, and organizational and attitudinal inertia, though, mean additional policy is needed to accelerate market adjustment. Policy must be formulated that considers both the absolute reduction potential of control options if adopted at various levels and the sorts of barriers these would face. To that end, the objective of this work is to quantify the potential of a wide range of technologies and behaviors to reduce U.S. GHG emissions and discuss qualitatively barriers these will face. While cost is an important consideration, this paper assumes that increased production volumes will cause the price of most technologies considered here to fall and thus abatement options should be considered as much based on absolute reduction potential and non-cost barriers as mere considerations of dollar per ton abated. To facilitate comparison, reductions (in million metric tons of carbon equivalents [MMTCE] saved) from the adoption of options to a level of 1% of the total potential market are used here. These estimates can then be scaled to reflect various levels of adoption.

Figure 1 illustrates the sources of GHG emissions in the U.S. economy. This work highlights options to reduce emissions from electricity generation and transportation. It is strategic to target these sectors for four reasons. First, over 60 percent of U.S. GHG emissions happen when fossil fuels are combusted at power plants or on vehicles (EIA 2008a). While electricity generation emissions can be reduced through greater efficiency downstream, especially in the residential and commercial sectors, emissions from these sectors remain largely constrained by the fundamental carbon intensity of fossil fuel-fired power plants. Second, the transportation and electric power sectors are comprised of supply-side entities that are relatively consolidated, have a history of being regulated with respect to product efficiency and emissions, and whose emissions emerge from relatively homogeneous processes. Third, emissions from these sectors are rapidly growing, a scenario quite different from the industrial sector where emissions are declining as the economy transforms. Finally, as this work will reveal, electricity generation and transportation deserve to be considered side-by-side due to opportunities for synergistic interaction between the two which could yield even greater reductions in GHG emissions.

ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Electricity generation is responsible for 33% of U.S. GHG emissions (EIA 2008a). These arise predominantly due to CO₂ emissions when fossil fuel feed sources are converted to electricity sources. Theoretically, there are several paths to reducing CO₂ emissions from electricity generation. As described below, grid dispatch can be managed to minimize utilization of carbon intensive power plants.

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Retrofitting existing fossil fuel power plants and introducing new fossil fuel technologies can improve conversion efficiency or enable the capture and sequestration of CO₂ emissions. Finally, future capacity additions can be shifted to sources that emit significantly less CO₂. The array of options must be considered in light of several factors including current consumption patterns and grid composition, expected increase in demand for electricity, and available supplies of fossil fuels. In 2006, Americans consumed 3.8 million GWh of electricity¹, producing 2.7 billion tons of CO₂ (EIA 2008a). Table 1 summarizes the U.S. electricity grid composition in 2006.

U.S. demand for electricity is projected to increase 29 percent to 4.7 million GWh by 2030, driven primarily by increased growth in residential and commercial consumption. The EIA (2008a) estimates that capacity additions of 263 GW will be needed to meet the added demand. Moreover, coal power is projected to represent a greater share of the grid by 2030 (roughly 54 percent [EIA 2008a]) than it does today, thanks to its relatively low cost. Natural gas's share is expected to fall to just 14 percent, due to rising price volatility. And nuclear's share is not expected to grow significantly, due to its uncompetitively high costs.² Renewables are project to reach 13 percent of total electricity supply by 2030, primarily due to growth in wind and geothermal power (EIA 2008a).

Management of Grid Dispatch

Grid capacity and demand for electricity are variable quantities. Grid capacity at a given time is determined by the combination of power available from base-load, intermediate, and variable sources. Base-load sources generate a constant output and cannot be quickly activated and deactivated; these include nuclear, hydroelectric, and some coal plants. Intermediate and variable sources either are easily activated and deactivated or have intermittent generating capacity; these include solar, wind, oil, natural gas, and some coal plants. Demand for electricity peaks both diurnally and seasonally. These peaks can be acute: a daytime peak can be as much as twice of a nighttime trough while in warm climates a summer peak can be nearly twice a spring peak (Denholm 2008). Minimum base-load capacity is largely controlled by daily peaks such that nighttime demand typically lies well below base-load capacity and utility companies are left with excess generating capacity.

Improved management of grid dispatch could be achieved by shifting existing demand to existing excess capacity, using “smart” dispatch systems, and developing energy storage technologies. Dynamic pricing of electricity could be used to incentivize shifting demand for electricity to times when there is unused capacity reducing overall base-load capacity needed and capturing peaks of some intermittent renewables (notably wind [Denholm 2008]). A “smart” network could use real-time data and automated controllers to level power dispatch to where needs are highest and mitigate concerns about relying upon intermittent renewables for baseload generation. Storage technologies could make renewables with unstable capacities more feasible as investments by enabling these to be used as base-load sources that are collected when capacity is high and dispatched as needed. Energy storage could be implemented either at a decentralized level (batteries used by individuals or companies) or as bulk storage used by utility companies (several technologies have been proposed).

Improving Fossil Fuel Efficiency

¹ Electric consumed is lower than electric produced due to transmission losses due to 7.5 percent transmission and distribution losses which are assumed throughout this work (US Climate Change Technology Program 2005)

² The outlook for both natural gas and nuclear is unclear. Natural gas production has rebounded from years of decline behind the emergence of shale gas, but price volatility and the extent of domestic reserves remain concerns. Nuclear faces persistent concerns of safety, national security, and lack of a waste disposal plan, but has a growing advocacy due to its carbon neutrality and could become cost-effective under scenarios of carbon pricing (a price of \$100 per ton is needed for a level playing field with natural gas and coal [MIT 2003]).

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3 Fossil fuel plant efficiency must be addressed given the entrenchment of fossil fuel plants in the current
4 grid. Coal in particular is in a position to remain a part of the U.S. energy equation for years to come.
5 Absent taxes, subsidies for other generation types, and technological advancement in other types of
6 generation, coal will remain, on average, the cheapest and most reliable type of electricity thanks to its
7 low fixed costs and well distributed reserves which minimize variable and transmission costs. Estimates
8 of natural gas supplies had been trending down from a 2001 projection of 35 trillion cubic feet (TCF)
9 supplied in 2020 to a 2008 projection of less than 23 TCF supplied in 2030 (Shuster 2008). While the
10 success of shale gas has driven recent natural gas production increases concerns about supply shortages
11 and price volatility as well as use as a transportation fuel will likely diminish its role in the U.S. grid mix.
12 Coal, thus seems a likely candidate for reducing carbon emissions from power generation. Routes to
13 reduce coal-based CO₂ emissions include improving combustion efficiency and carbon capture and
14 storage (CCS).

15 The U.S. electric grid contains a substantial number of older, pulverized-fuel (PF) coal-fired power
16 plants³. The efficiency of PF coal plants can be improved by employing higher temperature and pressure
17 steam conditions to more thoroughly combust fuel inputs. This shift can improve efficiency from 30-35%
18 to 46-48% net efficiency; boiler and turbine technology currently in development could increase this
19 efficiency to 50-55% (DTI 2006). Super-critical boilers can be employed as retrofits and are cost-
20 effective as new investments, compared to sub-critical boilers due to fuel cost savings (DTI 2006).
21 *Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle* (IGCC) technology has been suggested as the next generation of
22 power plant technology which could be widely used for coal. IGCC power plants convert carbon in solid
23 fuel feedstocks into a synthetic gas which is then combusted. The gasification reaction and intermediate
24 conversion steps can be used to yield H₂ and separate out CO₂ (to facilitate CCS) and other impurities.
25 IGCC plants can achieve efficiencies around 40% which could reach 50 to 60% by 2020 (Tennant 2005).
26 Several IGCC plants exist around the world (including three in the U.S.) but cost represents a barrier in
27 the near term as cost of electricity from an IGCC is 11-27% higher than from a PF plant (Holt 2004).

28 In the longer term, *carbon capture and storage* (CCS) is perhaps the most promising method for reducing
29 the carbon emissions from fossil fuel electric generation. CCS is the process of separating and
30 compressing CO₂ from industrial or energy sources for long-term storage or use as an input in other
31 industrial processes. CCS is widely used in some industries but application in energy generation will
32 require developing methods suited to combustion reactions. A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on
33 Climate Change (IPCC 2005) found that CCS has the potential to reduce CO₂ emissions per kWh by a net
34 reduction of 80-90%. CCS is possible for all types of power plants but some types will require more
35 power than others to operate (notably IGCC will require the least power due to more concentrated CO₂ in
36 combustion gases⁴).

37 Increased demand for power to operate CCS systems and transport and store CO₂ as well as higher
38 upfront plant construction costs will make CCS significantly costlier. IPCC (2005) estimates that the
39 incremental cost of CCS could be \$0.02-0.05 per kWh for a PF plant and \$0.01-0.03 per kWh for an
40 IGCC plant. The most likely scenario in which CCS will become cost effective thus involves carbon
41 pricing. IPCC (2005) estimates abatement costs using geological storage compared to a PF plant
42 reference to be \$30-70 per ton CO₂ for a PF plant and \$20-70 per ton CO₂ for an IGCC plant. A recent
43 MIT (2007a) study concludes that to make CCS cost effective, CO₂ prices greater than \$30 per ton will be
44 needed. CCS systems could also include retrofits of existing power plants. Geisbrecht (2008) estimates
45 that to retrofit a typical PF power plant cost of energy could increase \$0.02-0.07 per kWh and \$0.01-0.03

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47 ³ 68 percent of coal capacity is from plants that went online in 1978 or earlier and thus employ older, lower
48 efficiency technology (EIA 2006b).

49 ⁴ PF power plants with CCS systems would require 24-40% more power while IGCC power plants would require
50 only 14-25% more power (IPCC 2005).
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per kWh at 90% and 30% removal efficiencies, respectively (though abatement cost declines with increasing removal efficiency). Widespread application of CCS will necessitate mature methods of sequestering CO₂. Modes of storage proposed include geological storage, oceanic storage, and storage in mineral carbonates but more research is needed in this area (IPCC 2005). Geological storage seems to have garnered the most attention. While geological storage has been successfully demonstrated in select cases (naturally occurring formations as well as Enhanced Oil Recovery), no large scale cases have been proven and blowouts pose a major risk (to safety and the GHG reduction success).

Potential for Renewables

Renewable energy sources cause no direct GHG emissions and do not give rise to concerns of safety, national security, byproduct waste management or long-term supply shortages. The U.S. energy resource base is vast (50,000 times current annual energy usage) and the overwhelming majority is renewable: fossil fuels represent only 6.5% while wind, photoconversion, and geothermal resources represent 27%, 27%, and 39% respectively (DOE 1989). Further, many renewables can be installed at a decentralized level by individuals and businesses eliminating transmission and distribution losses and simplifying grid administration while yielding savings on energy costs.

Hydroelectric power is currently the largest source of renewable electricity. While there is estimated to be a potential 30,000 MW of additional capacity⁵, this source is not expected to grow much in the future due to complex environmental issues and regulations (EIA 2008a).

Wind power is rapidly expanding in the U.S. In 2007, wind power experienced a boom year as capacity grew by 46% and represented 35% of new capacity additions (Wiser and Bollinger 2008). Wind power prices are currently \$0.04 per kWh on average, competitive with overall wholesale power prices, though wind power is more economical in regions with higher quality wind resources (i.e. the West and Great Plains) and tax credits and subsidies have caused wind to be more cost-effective both overall and in some states (Wiser and Bollinger 2008). Wind power faces significant barriers of needed transmission infrastructure to connect disparate resources and load centers and low capacity factors (due to variable wind speeds) which diminish transmission investment cost-effectiveness. Improved grid management could diminish this hurdle. Scale could also make intermittence less of an issue as more “noise” could mean a more predictable level of generation. One forecast projects wind to be producing 20% of America’s on-grid electricity by 2030, nearly 30 times its current production (Milligan 2007). Notably, wind power is also a potential power source at a distributed level, and in 2007 the 4.7 MW of off-grid capacity additions nearly matched the 5.7 MW of on-grid additions (Wiser and Bolinger 2008).

Geothermal power plants harness subterranean heat reserves stored in rock and water strata to generate electricity while yielding near negligible GHG emissions (0.6 lbs CO₂e per kWh). The U.S. has a vast geothermal resource, capable of supporting U.S. consumption for 10,000 years (MIT 2007b). With current technology it is only economical to access hydrothermal systems (characterized by high porosity and water contents) at shallow depths (3 km or less), but these represent only 0.1% of U.S. geothermal resources. Accessing further reserves is technically possible, but further development in the areas of drilling, stimulation techniques, exploration, and conversion efficiency is needed for cost-effectiveness. MIT (2007b) forecasts that a 100,000 MW geothermal capacity is possible within 50 years with modest investments in technological improvement. Geothermal resources offer the advantage of being a potential baseload source, but those suitable for electricity generation are largely concentrated in the West and away from major population centers. Unlike wind power, though, geothermal power has a high capacity factor so investment in transmission infrastructure is more cost-effective.

⁵ Total U.S. capacity presently is 1 million MW. (EIA 2008)

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Solar power has, like wind, experienced great expansion in the U.S. Solar resources in the U.S. are substantial enough that less than 2% of the land devoted to agricultural grazing could meet U.S. energy needs (Denholm and Margolis 2007). The most prominent solar power technologies are Photovoltaic (PV) and Concentrating Solar Power (CSP). PV systems use semiconductor materials to directly generate electricity from sunlight, are deployable anywhere, and are considered a possible distributed source that could “backfeed” excess power to the grid. PV generated power must fall 50-70% in price to achieve grid parity (EERE 2008). This is expected to happen between 2010 and 2015 and could happen even sooner in regions with good solar resources or high electricity prices (Margolis 2008). The Department of Energy (2004) reports that rooftop PV systems with a 30 year useful life have an energy payback period of just one to four years, an estimation that may be conservative for regions with good solar resources. Solar resources are intermittent, but the overlap between peak demand and solar availability gives solar a relatively high capacity factor. The most prominent barrier to high penetration of PVs is the difficulty in using a distributed source to generate grid electricity; the U.S. grid was not designed to communicate with small upstream sources so inverters and grid management systems to enable this must be developed and deployed. CSP systems capture solar heat to power generators and require direct sunlight but can generate significant volumes of power and are a potential centralized source. Renewed interest resulted in 65 MW of capacity going online in 2007 with another 3,600 MW planned (EERE 2008). CSPs can be located near existing transmission lines due to the flexibility of solar resources; nevertheless, the need for direct sunlight primarily limits CSP to the Southwest.

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Biomass power can be generated from a variety of biomass feedstocks including lumber and mill waste (wood residue), municipal solid waste (MSW), landfill gas, and agricultural waste. Biomass feedstocks sequester carbon prior to being used as a feedstock offsetting emissions from their combustion. Currently many industries generate their own electricity from biomass, accounting for 58 percent of the 54 million MW generated in the U.S.; electric utilities contribute the balance, primarily through co-firing with coal to help meet emission regulations (EIA 2008b). Perlack et al. (2005) estimate that the U.S. forestry and agricultural industries are capable of supplying 1.3 billion tons of biomass annually. Using Mann and Spath’s (1997) energy efficiency expectations and assuming an energy content of 15 GJ per ton biomass⁶, a 1.3 billion ton supply could yield 2 million GWh of electricity, or about half of 2006’s generation. The use of some agricultural wastes could have the added benefit of reducing emissions from the release of high GWP gases. Nevertheless, expansion of biomass power will likely face competition for biomass inputs from the biofuels and bioproducts sectors. Encouragingly, research to integrate these production processes in a single refinery is ongoing.

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Table 1 shows potential GHG reductions from shifts in the composition of the electric grid both from older generation coal-fired plants and an average grid mix. The grid shows reductions in CO₂ however these are nearly identical to reductions in GHG (grid average is 1.34 lb CO₂e/kWh, for instance). The most powerful reductions are possible by moving away from older generation coal. Notably, IGCC coal plants are competitive with natural gas in the GHG reduction offered, but offer less than half of the savings of a plant equipped with CCS. Shifting the entirety of the U.S. grid to a 50 percent nuclear/renewable mix could reduce U.S. GHG emissions by 10 percent while introducing CCS in all coal plants could abate 22 percent of U.S. GHG emissions.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation sector accounts for 28% of U.S. GHG emissions and 46% of energy-related GHG emissions growth since 1990, due to increasing national VMT and stagnant vehicle fuel economy (EIA 2008a). A variety of modes contribute to U.S. transportation emissions including light-duty vehicles, heavy-duty trucks, air, shipping, and rail, which contribute 62%, 19%, 9%, 3%, and 2%, respectively (EPA 2006b). Transportation GHG reduction paths include lower carbon intensity vehicle fuels,

⁶ The 15 GJ values is a weighted average of mid-point heat contents for wood and agricultural residues.

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3 improved fuel efficiency, and travel demand management to reduce travel and shift travel to more
4 efficient modes.
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6 **Vehicle Fuels**

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8 Vehicle fuels are sources of GHG emissions both through the energy consumed to recover, process, and
9 transport them (well-to-pump [WTP] emissions) as well as through the burning of the fuels themselves
10 (pump-to-wheels [PTW] emissions). PTW emissions depend on the efficiency of the vehicle itself; for a
11 given fuel, these are largely fixed by the stoichiometry of the fuel combustion reaction (on a per unit
12 energy basis). WTP emissions, in contrast, can vary significantly depending on efficiencies of the various
13 stages of the fuel pathway. PTW emissions are typically the majority of WTW emissions, though Wang
14 (2003) notes that declining tailpipe emissions will make WTP more significant on a per-mile basis, and
15 thus accurate assessment of vehicle and fuel technologies should consider well-to-wheel (WTW)
16 emissions, as is done here.

17 The high energy content of *fossil fuels* makes them ubiquitous as vehicle fuels in spite of their high
18 carbon content. Gasoline and diesel account for 72% and 24%, respectively, of domestic surface
19 transportation motor fuel consumption. Petroleum-based diesel fuel enjoys higher energy content than
20 gasoline and is refined at a higher efficiency resulting in a slightly lower GHG emission rate than gasoline
21 per unit energy. Diesel fuels have historically posed air quality problems. The EPA recently
22 implemented new emission standards (lower fuel sulfur contents and stricter NO_x and PM standards to be
23 fully phased in by 2009) and emission control systems to comply with these are currently in development.
24 While petroleum fuels made from crude oils are relatively uniform in their GHG emission rates, oil
25 shales, oil sands, and heavy crudes could significantly increase the emissions from oil and diesel (Wang
26 2006). Thus, as global demand for petroleum increases and high-grade crudes become harder to obtain,
27 gasoline and diesel could become even less desirable from a GHG emission standpoint. Diesel fuels can
28 also be made from other feedstocks including coal, natural gas, and low-value refinery products via
29 Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis but the more complicated refining processes to produce these give them
30 slightly higher emission rates (EPA 2002). *Natural gas* can be used in various forms with GHG
31 reductions on the order of 20 to 30% per BTU (EPA 2007a), and already represents a meaningful share of
32 public transit vehicle fuel (APTA 2008). Natural gas has received much attention as a potential light-duty
33 vehicle fuel because prices are, on average, lower than gas prices exhibited in recent years and
34 distribution could theoretically be achieved to homes with existing pipe networks. Nevertheless,
35 domestic supply uncertainties could make natural gas-based fuels problematic in the long run.

36 A wide range of *renewable biofuels* made from plant matter, including sugars, starches, and cellulose,
37 have been proposed as petroleum alternatives. *Fuel ethanols* are a biofuel substitute for gasoline. In the
38 U.S. corn-based ethanol has entered the vehicle market, expanding significantly from 1,741 million
39 gallons consumed in 2001 to 6,846 million gallons in 2007 (EIA 2007). The WTW GHG emissions of
40 ethanol fuels depend significantly on feedstock type, nitrogen fertilizer production and global warming
41 potential (GWP), farming process, energy use in the biofuel plant, and possible co-production of other
42 goods (Wang 2008). Corn based ethanol currently averages a GHG content about 20% lower than
43 gasoline but this can fall to 55% lower than gasoline if the production plant is fueled by biomass or,
44 alternatively, end up exceeding gasoline carbon intensity if coal-fired power is used in production (EPA
45 2007b). Encouragingly, the major factors in GHG emissions are nitrogen fertilizer and plant efficiency
46 which are both improving, leading to a 50% reduction in ethanol plant energy use over the past 20 years
47 (Wang 2008). Cellulosic ethanol made from feedstocks including switchgrass, corn stover, crop residues,
48 and farmed trees has been proposed as a less carbon intensive fuel that solves many issues related to corn-
49 based ethanol. Some newer proposed cellulosic feedstocks (in particular fast growing trees) could
50 actually result in a net GHG reduction via the amount of carbon sequestered to soil by the plants (Wang
51 2006).
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3 *Biodiesels* can be made from oils, recycled oils and animal fats yielding a fuel that can substitute for
4 petroleum based diesels. Biodiesel is currently consumed at a rate of 260 million gallons annually,
5 having grown dramatically from 18 million gallons in 2003 (EIA 2007). Average U.S. biodiesel carbon
6 intensity is 68% lower than petroleum diesel (EPA 2007b), and can vary greatly depending on co-
7 products (Huo et al. 2008). The potential replacement capacity of biodiesel is estimated at a small
8 fraction of diesel consumption in the U.S and fuel quality is often an issue.

9
10 Table 2 illustrates properties and potential reductions from shifting 1% of gasoline and diesel
11 consumption to alternative fuels (both neat fuels and blends, on an energy basis). These shifts would be
12 possible with no improvement in engine or driveline efficiency. Shifting all of U.S. gasoline
13 consumption to a cellulosic E85 blend could reduce GHG emissions by 5%. Concerns about biofuels
14 persist, however. The dedication of land to farming could impact GHG emissions in the larger scale via
15 land use changes (including induced changes domestically and abroad due to the profitability of ethanol)
16 and threaten water supplies in regions where heavy irrigation is needed (Wang 2008). These issues are
17 generally a larger concern for corn-based ethanol more than cellulosic ethanol. Biodiesels could push
18 cities into non-compliance with air quality regulations due to higher emissions of NO_x. Perhaps the
19 largest barrier will be equipping the vehicle fleet and fuel distribution system to handle biofuels. The
20 different fluid properties of biofuels will, in many instances, require new distribution piping and currently
21 only 290,000 vehicles in the light-duty U.S. fleet (0.01%) are capable of running on biofuels and refilling
22 stations are largely concentrated in the Midwest (EIA 2008b).

23 Electricity and hydrogen are also potential substitutes for liquid fuels in future generations of vehicles.
24 Unlike biofuels (which are typically less carbon-intensive than motor gasoline on an energy-basis)
25 electricity and hydrogen are actually more carbon-intensive than gasoline on an energy-basis. However,
26 both fuels emit zero PTW emissions and can be used at a far greater efficiency than motor gasoline is
27 burned, thus yielding significant gains on a WTW basis. For both hydrogen and electricity reductions in
28 WTP emissions are a central challenge: electricity, as noted above, largely comes from fossil-fuel
29 intensive production methods while hydrogen currently requires an energy input far in excess of the
30 usable energy. Non-liquid fuels also require a vehicle fleet that can store the fuel and a fuel distribution
31 network. Electric vehicles appear to lead here: battery technology is progressing rapidly while electric
32 vehicles could largely be charged from the existing electric grid (see below). The problem of safe on-
33 board storage of hydrogen that is central to hydrogen vehicles still lacks a solution.

34 **Light Duty Vehicle Efficiency**

35 On a per-mile basis, PTW emissions vary greatly with engine efficiency, transmission efficiency, vehicle
36 design, vehicle operating conditions, and emission treatment systems. The wide suite of options to
37 improve passenger vehicle efficiency includes conventional improvements, many of which are readily
38 cost-effective and are expected to be widely present in vehicles within a 15 year span, as well as advanced
39 powertrain technologies which are more costly and will likely be slower to penetrate the vehicle market
40 (absent policy intervention) but represent greater longer term fuel economy improvement potential.

41 Vehicles powered by spark-ignition (SI) engines and running on gasoline constitute the overwhelming
42 majority of the U.S. passenger vehicle fleet. These operate in an efficiency range of only 10-20%: most
43 of the energy in the tank is expended in thermal, frictional, and standby losses in the engine and driveline
44 while only a fraction of fuel energy powers useful accessories and makes it to the wheels (NRC 2006). SI
45 engine vehicles are candidates for *conventional improvements* which can increase overall fuel economy
46 via improved engine and transmission efficiency and vehicle design that reduces loads which must be
47 overcome. Table 3 reveals potential GHG savings from conventional improvements using fuel economy
48 benefits estimated by Jones et al. (2008). These technologies are generally already present in a few
49 vehicles currently on the market or are poised to enter the market, if proper demand for fuel economy
50 exists. Cumulatively, the technologies in Table 3 could offer a new vehicle fuel economy of 31 mpg to
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3 42 mpg, a 17 to 57 percent improvement over an average new vehicle. The technologies are, however,
4 applicable to different degrees in different vehicles so midpoints of the potential improvement ranges are
5 used in Table 3.
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7 Compression ignition (CI) engine vehicles running on diesel have achieved great foothold in the
8 European passenger vehicle market and will likely be an option domestically, pending improved emission
9 control system technology. *Diesels* combust fuel more thoroughly for an overall fuel economy
10 improvement of 20-40% (Jones et al. 2008). The associated GHG savings are less, however, since diesel
11 fuel is more carbon intensive. Diesel engines could be combined with conventional improvements to
12 transmissions and vehicle design, but the fundamentally different engine type precludes conventional
13 engine technologies. Table 3 shows GHG reductions from a conversion to diesels (without and with
14 conventional transmission and vehicle design improvements). Diesel engines with the relevant
15 conventional improvements do not offer significant savings over an SI engine vehicle including all
16 conventional improvements; both could reduce U.S. GHG emissions by 5 percent compared to baseline
17 2007 vehicle technology if adopted in all passenger vehicles.

18 *Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs)* have penetrated the market more quickly than expected in recent years.
19 In 2007, about 3% of new vehicle sales were hybrid models, up from 0.5 % in 2004. Hybrids supplement
20 SI engines with electric motors and battery packs. Fuel economy improvements are due to engine
21 downsizing and more efficient engine operating points enabled by the second onboard power source, fuel
22 cutoff during deceleration and idling, and regenerative braking. The U.S. EPA (2008) reported fuel
23 economies of four of the most popular hybrid vehicles, the Toyota Prius, Honda Civic Hybrid, Nissan
24 Altima Hybrid, and Ford Escape Hybrid are 46, 42, 34, and 32 mpg, however these vehicles employ many
25 conventional modifications so fuel economy improvements are not exclusively attributable to
26 hybridization. Table 3 shows potential GHG emission savings from conversions of the passenger fleet to
27 a hybrid (without and with all conventional transmission and vehicle design improvements). While some
28 hybrids readily pay for themselves in lifetime fuel savings, consumers often demand a shorter payback
29 period of 3-5 years which hybrids cannot always deliver. Emerging li-ion batteries which scale to high
30 production volumes, rely on cheaper commodity inputs, and can offer more power for less metal material
31 (compared to current NiMH batteries) should lower this barrier by decreasing the cost of one of the
32 priciest components (Kromer and Heywood 2007).

33 *Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)* offer the majority of US VMT from liquid fuels to electricity.
34 Both Toyota and GM are expected to release a PHEV in 2010: a plug-in Prius model and the Chevrolet
35 Volt. A PHEV runs on an initial grid charge for a specified range at which point it switches to,
36 essentially, normal hybrid operation. The GHG emission reduction potential of PHEVs depends on a
37 variety of factors. The type of electricity generation used where the vehicle is charged influences WTW
38 vehicle emissions. Vehicle range determines the fraction of a driver's VMT that will be electrified.
39 Analysis of daily mileage distributions suggests that vehicles with ranges of 20 and 40 miles could
40 capture 50 and 75 percent of an average drivers' daily driving (EPRI 2001), assuming the vehicles are
41 charged nightly. Table 3 shows potential GHG emissions reductions from a PHEV 40 and PHEV 60
42 running off of various electricity scenarios. Notably, the impact of adding additional range to the vehicles
43 is relatively small compared to electricity generation feedstock. At grid average electricity, PHEV 40s
44 and 60s could eliminate 13 and 14 percent of U.S. GHG emissions if employed in the entire passenger
45 vehicle fleet. If charged with coal, HEVs outperform PHEVs, while in the scenario of expanded
46 renewables and CCS the reductions climb to 16 and 18 percent for a full PHEV fleet.

47 Electrifying the vehicle fleet would be a fundamental shift in the nation's energy use patterns and as such
48 presents numerous policy angles to be explored. Benefits could accrue from centralizing combusive
49 processes from numerous disparate tailpipes to a small number of power plants. This centralization
50 facilitates carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) along with improvements in regional air quality and
51 public health, as emissions shift away from population centers (Pratt et al. 2007). Accommodating
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3 substantial growth in electricity demand could present a barrier, though if grid dispatch is properly
4 managed favorable interaction with the utility industry could be obtained. Pratt et al. (2007) estimate that
5 up to 43 percent of the LDV fleet could be charged overnight with available generation and 73 percent
6 using available daytime and overnight generation (Table 1 illustrates the types of power generation
7 technologies with available capacity). In the long-term overnight charging could represent an overnight
8 base-load that could increase demand for base-load generators and make investments in cleaner base-load
9 generators more cost-effective. In some scenarios, increased demand for currently underutilized
10 overnight generating capacity could even drive down electricity prices (Pratt et al. 2007). Synergy
11 between overnight peak wind power capacity and expected overnight PHEV charging also has been
12 suggested as a possibility (Short and Denholm 2006). Dynamic electricity pricing has been suggested as
13 a policy mechanism to induce owners to charge their vehicles overnight.

14 The biggest hurdle for PHEV technology will be cost. As a benchmark, currently, there are several after-
15 market kits that enable conversion of a Toyota Prius into a limited-range PHEV; these retail for \$10,000
16 to \$12,000 (Shelby and Mui 2006). Currently, the biggest factor in PHEVs high cost is the battery price,
17 but as battery technology improves cost should drop. In the longer term (2030 horizon), Kromer and
18 Heywood (2007) project incremental costs of \$3000 to \$6000 for vehicles of 10 to 60 miles of range, a
19 high enough incremental price that most consumers will not perceive PHEVs as cost effective within a
20 reasonable payback period.

21 *Efficient vehicular operation* can also reduce fuel consumption immediately, regardless of vehicle type.
22 Vigilant tire pressure maintenance can improve fuel economy and is an opportunity for 36-40 percent of
23 drivers (NHTSA 2004). Consumers can select low rolling resistance tires when they replace tires (every
24 3 to 5 years, on average), a choice that could impact 80 percent of tires currently on the road and is
25 estimated to pay for itself in fuel savings within the life of the tire (NRC 2006). Peak vehicle efficiency is
26 found at speeds between 30 and 55 mph (West et al. 1997) when vehicle engine efficiency and
27 aerodynamic loads are close to their respective maximum and minimum. Table 4 estimates GHG savings
28 from tire improvement scenarios and lowered interstate speed limits. While proposals to lower interstate
29 speed limits have met with considerable disapproval, it should be noted that fuel economy declines at an
30 increasing rate as speed grows; thus savings equal or greater than those shown here could be achieved
31 simply from enforcing speed limits to their posted levels.

32 Given the numerous technically feasible options to improve fuel efficiency and the demonstrated inability
33 of the market to favor fuel efficiency over other vehicle, fuel economy standards are considered an
34 important part of ensuring a fuel efficient vehicle fleet. *Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE)*
35 *standards* require that manufacturers' fleet averaged fuel economies meet a mandated level determined on
36 the basis of technological feasibility, economic practicability, effect of other standards on fuel economy,
37 and the need of the nation to conserve energy. After years of stagnation (EPA 2006a) CAFE standards
38 were raised in 2007 to 27 mpg for passenger car fleets and 22.5 mpg for light duty truck fleets, set to rise
39 to an overall fleet average of 35 mpg by 2020. This standard trails much of the developed world and
40 proposed standards of U.S. states (An and Sauer 2004). It also lies below estimates of technically feasible
41 fuel economy: midpoint and maximum estimates of fuel economy in conventional vehicles using the
42 ranges suggested by Jones et al. (2008) are 36.6 mpg and 41.9 mpg.

43 An often raised concern about advanced vehicle technologies is their efficacy from a *full lifecycle*
44 *perspective*. Moon et al. (2006) study the vehicle-cycle and total energy-cycle of special, low-weight
45 ("lightweighted") vehicles and HEVs compared to conventional vehicles. The advanced vehicles have
46 more CO₂ intensive materials manufacture phase because of the increased use of aluminum (to reduce
47 weights) and more advanced batteries (HEVs). However, over the total vehicle lifecycle the reductions in

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49 ⁸ The average short trip is roughly 200 miles, medium trip is 700 miles, and long trip is 1500 miles; the numbers in
50 Table 5 and 6 correspond to 0.63 lbs CO₂e/pax-mi
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3 GHG emissions from more fuel efficient use phases far outweigh the more energy intensive materials
4 production.
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6 **Passenger Travel Demand Management (TDM)**

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8 TDM strategies with potential to abate transportation GHG emissions include shifting travel to more
9 efficient modes, reducing overall passenger travel, and shifting travel to more efficient operating
10 conditions (e.g. non-peak hours). These strategies typically use existing assets thus avoiding the cost or
11 time-lag of new technologies, but institutional and attitudinal factors often work against TDM.

12 *Pricing strategies* send market signals which reflect the true costs of driving. *Gas Taxes* in the U.S.
13 contribute, on average, only 40 cents per gallon to the price of gasoline (EIA 2008a). Gas taxes in the
14 majority of other industrialized countries are significantly higher (e.g. 2.5, 2.6, 1.8, 1.8, and 2.7 times
15 higher in France, Germany, Japan, Norway, and the UK [IEA 2008]). A recent estimate places the own-
16 price elasticity of demand for gasoline at -3.4 to -7.7 percent (Hughes et al. 2008). Table 4 shows the
17 reduction in GHGs expected from various levels of gas taxation increases, using this elasticity. One
18 caveat is that the reductions could be as much as 2-3% smaller and 10-15% smaller in the short and long
19 term via a rebound effect from increases in fuel efficiency (Small and VanDender 2007)*Pricing Parking*
20 can be an effective travel demand reduction because it overcomes the temporal lapse between costs
21 drivers pay and when they decided to travel. Studies on elasticity of travel demand with respect to
22 parking price find a 10 to 30 percent span, with variation due to numerous factors including trip purpose,
23 location of parking, availability of substitute modes or other free parking, and price and fee structure (e.g.
24 hourly, first hour free, etc.). Other pricing strategies such as congestion pricing, tolls, and HOT lanes can
25 similarly diminish demand for driving and thus reduce GHG emissions, but are not quantified here.

26 *Mode Shifts* from private vehicle travel typically reduce GHG emissions by using energy more intensively
27 thus emitting lower GHG per passenger-mile (pax-mi). Streamlining travel into fewer vehicles and transit
28 also enables easier adoption of alternative fuels and technologies to improve vehicle efficiency. The
29 baseline for mode shifts here is private vehicle travel, which accounts for the majority of passenger travel
30 (NHTS 2001). Tables 5 and 6 show the potential GHG savings from shifting passenger travel from single
31 and average occupancy vehicles with the alternative mode at average and full occupancy.

32 For daily travel (i.e. intracity trips of less than 50 miles) two passengers make automobiles the most
33 efficient mode. Average automobile occupancy is only 1.63 passengers, and occupancy is even lower for
34 certain crucial trip types (e.g. 1.14 passengers for home to work trips). Clearly opportunities for
35 *carpooling* abound. At average occupancies, rail outperforms driving while buses and driving are
36 competitive (on a Btu/pax-mi basis). Rail savings are often dependent upon the carbon intensity of the
37 electricity they run on and could fall with improvement in electricity generation. Buses, if running at low
38 occupancies, actually result in a GHG emission increase; an occupancy slightly higher than average is
39 needed to make buses less CO₂ intensive than driving, though running buses on alternative fuels can
40 change this. Moreover, to the extent that bus use encourages walking and shorter trips (in order to access
41 bus stops and reduce bus travel times) and more clustered land use patterns (to reduce access costs and
42 trip distances), a one-to-one passenger-mile comparison is imperfect. Of course, much underutilized
43 capacity exists on alternative modes, so a more accurate illustration of the GHG savings from shifting
44 away from single occupant vehicles (SOVs) may simply be the reduction from eliminating one percent of
45 SOV VMT (highlighted in yellow in Table 5). This shift could also be achieved through biking, walking,
46 telecommuting, shorter trip lengths, and other measures aimed at reducing demand for travel altogether.

46 *Intercity travel* is similarly dominated by personal vehicle travel which accounts for 90 percent of PMT
47 (air, bus, and train account for 7, 2, and 1 percent); personal vehicles tend to dominate for trips less than
48 300 round trip miles while air dominates for trips of more than 2,000 roundtrip miles (NHTS 2001). In
49 intercity travel as in intracity travel, driving becomes competitive at higher occupancies. *Air travel* is
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3 presently more efficient than driving solo due to its high average occupancies though occupancy level,
4 vehicle fuel economy, and trip length cause variation in air travel emissions. Occupancies and aircraft
5 fuel economies are both trending upwards: passenger load factor is up from 62.4 in 1990 to 78.8 in 2006
6 (Davis and Diegel 2007) while technological advancements including modern high-bypass turbofans and
7 new, lightweight, high-strength materials have improved energy and aerodynamic efficiency. Improved
8 aircraft fuel economy is limited by turnovers in aircraft (which tend to have 35-40 year useful lives) and
9 capacity additions; fuel economy is forecast to improve 16% compared to a 2001 baseline while 70% of
10 aircraft should be post-2002 additions by 2020 (FAA 2005). Air travel GHG emissions also vary with
11 trip length as aircraft take-off and landing are larger energy drains than constant elevation flying.
12 According to the World Resources Institute (WRI 2006) 0.53 lbs CO₂/pax-mi is emitted for a short trip,
13 0.43 lb/pax-mi for medium trips, and 0.4 lb/pax-mi for long trips⁸. Finally, air travel emissions may be
14 conservatively estimated due to failure to account for indirect emissions from airport access and egress,
15 supportive airport vehicles, and auxiliary power units at airports as well as concerns that emissions at
16 higher altitudes (as 90% of air travel CO₂ emissions are [FAA 2005]) may have a higher GWP.

17 *High Speed Rail (HSR)* is a mode alternative not currently available in the U.S. that has been successfully
18 deployed around the world and proposed for many corridors domestically (in particular, California).
19 Based on per-passenger energy intensities from train technologies existing in other countries (Denmark's
20 IC-3 and France's TGV) or explored by the Army Corps of Engineers and assuming HSR is deployed in
21 corridors where it is competitive with flying (e.g. trips of 200-500 mi.) and nets a similar percent
22 occupancy of 0.7, HSR is very competitive with driving, even with vehicles at high occupancies. The
23 ability to reduce the carbon intensity of HSR via improvements in electricity generation may give it a
24 further edge.

25 **Freight Transportation Efficiency**

26 Freight transport contributes 38% of transportation's GHG emissions, and 11% of all U.S. GHG
27 emissions (EPA 2006b). The five major freight modes, truck, rail, air, water and pipeline carry 28.5,
28 38.2, 0.3, 13.0, and 19.9 percent of freight ton-miles and comprise 60, 6, 5, 13, and 16 percent of freight
29 GHG emissions, respectively (Frey and Kuo 2007). Freight transport is one of the fastest growing areas
30 of the economy: between 1990 and 2005 freight GHG emissions increased 69 percent (passenger
31 transport emissions, in comparison, grew only 24 percent [Davies 2007]). Moreover, the growth in
32 freight emissions greatly outpaced growth in shipping activity, as ton-miles grew less than 30 percent
33 during the same period (Davies 2006). Again, contrasting with passenger transport, vehicle miles
34 traveled by LDVs grew more than passenger transport emissions over the past 15 years. Passenger
35 transport thus became more efficient while freight transport saw its efficiency decline.

36 Two major trends help to explain efficiency losses which have driven rapid growth in freight GHG
37 emissions. First, trucking's market share has increased at the expense of other, more efficient modes (in
38 particular waterborne and pipeline transport) businesses have come to value the scheduling and routing
39 flexibility of trucking for higher value goods that must be shipped on quicker timelines. Second, the
40 energy efficiency of trucking has dropped markedly (12 percent between 1990 and 2005 [Davies 2007]).
41 While the fuel economy of trucks has not seen much drop off, operational efficiency has declined.
42 Encouragingly, rail's mode share actually outgrew trucking's while energy efficiency increased 23
43 percent during the same period. Nevertheless, trucking seems to be a baseline against which GHG
44 reduction strategies must be compared. Routes to improve trucking efficiency include fuel economy
45 improving technologies and improved operations.

46 Trucking fuel economy has, since 1996, improved slightly in single unit trucks (1.9 percent annually) but
47 declined slightly in combination trucks (1.6 percent annually). Nevertheless, a variety of technologies
48 that reduce losses from aerodynamic drag, rolling resistance, accessory loads, and transmission and
49 engine inefficiencies are available that could dramatically improve fuel economy. Table 7 summarizes
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3 potential GHG emission reductions from the deployment of a range of technologies using fuel economy
4 improvement estimates from Vyas et al. (2002). Several of these technologies are potential add-ons
5 which are currently employed in only a small percentage of the fleet, and most are mature technologies or
6 will be by 2010. Hybridization has also been discussed for medium duty trucks, and could be especially
7 beneficial for delivery-type trucks, a growing share of the fleet given growth in Just-in-Time delivery. In
8 fact 61 percent of MDTs have a range less than 50 miles (U.S. Census Bureau 2004). Idling is another
9 significant source of energy loss for trucks which can be readily addressed. A typical truck engine
10 consumes 0.85 gallons of fuel per hour powering air conditioning and electric accessories while at rest
11 stops (Lutsey et al. 2004) and an average truck used for long-haul purposes may accumulate 1830 hours
12 of parked idling annually. Technologies with the potential to reduce idling losses include direct-fire
13 heaters and auxiliary power units (APUs). Only 6 percent of heavy trucks had idle-reduction technology
14 in 2002 (U.S. Census Bureau 2004). Truck Stop Electrification (TSE) is another option to reduce fuel use
15 while idling at select truck stops. Table 7 presents potential GHG reductions from these idling reduction
16 strategies.

17 Improving trucking operational efficiency and using substitute modes with energy efficiency advantages
18 are also classes of strategies that offer great potential for freight GHG emissions abatement. Operational
19 efficiency declines in trucking seem to be the result of an industry that has yet to adjust logistically to new
20 demands. A typical long haul truck may drive 15 percent of its miles empty (EPA 2004). Better utilizing
21 existing trucking capacity is achievable by improving routing, improved load matching, and improving
22 loading and unloading procedures. The greatest potential could be through intermodal movements. Rail
23 enjoys a tremendous advantage in energy efficiency over trucking, while waterborne shipping is also
24 more efficient; both are substitutes for some major shipping routes. While numerous factors could limit
25 shifts from trucks to rail or ships such as distance, availability of infrastructure, size of cargo, schedule,
26 durability, and availability of facilities (Frey and Kuo 2007). Improved intermodal facilities could enable
27 rail to take over haul lines with trucking employed for pick-up and delivery (possibly taking advantage of
28 hybridization). Table 8 illustrates possible savings from modal substitutions of one percent of annual
29 trucking activity (1,293,326 ton-miles) and reducing one percent of empty truck miles.

30 **BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS WORK**

31 While the emissions of the residential and commercial sectors are largely dictated by the carbon intensity
32 of the electricity they use, improving downstream efficiency can reduce the amount of electricity which
33 must be generated, with all the attendant losses. Residential efficiency can be improved in various ways,
34 by smaller buildings with shared walls and ceilings, wall and ceiling insulation improvements, more
35 efficient building equipment (HVAC systems, water heaters, and heaters), improved building envelopes
36 (to lower heating and cooling loads), appliance efficiency standards, and the introduction of heat pumps
37 (particularly of the geothermal variety). (Kockelman et al. 2008) Commercial efficiency meanwhile
38 should target lighting and opportunities for co-location centered around shared distributed power
39 generation (Brown et al. 2005). The industrial sector is not addressed in this work due to the degree of
40 heterogeneity in emissions sources (which precludes abatement via a single widespread technology or
41 behavioral change) as well as the fact that U.S. industrial emissions of GHGs are falling (as the nation
42 transitions to a less manufacturing oriented economy), though clearly this key sector (producing 36% of
43 U.S. GHGs), will also need to cut emissions. In addition to reducing the GHG intensity of specific
44 industrial activities, policies involving carbon taxes, cap-and-trade schemes, and GHG emission offsets
45 are likely to prove key strategies for incentivizing lower energy demand and GHG emissions across all
46 sectors.

47 **CONCLUSIONS**

48 Table 9 compares selected GHG control strategies to top emissions reducing strategies, based on the
49 analyses described above. The list includes combinations of vehicle technologies and alternative fuels,
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3 and all strategies are considered in terms of the share they could achieve of the 80 percent reduction in
4 2000-level emissions estimated to be needed to avoid dangerous effects of climate change. The biggest
5 impacts are felt by changing electricity generation technology and addressing the footprint of older-
6 generation coal technology. Simply increasing the share of renewables in the grid without addressing the
7 high emissions emerging from existing, older coal-fired power plants could result in a dramatic
8 emissions-reduction shortfall. A “clean grid” with 100% implementation of CCS technology in coal
9 plants and 50% of generation from renewables or nuclear is expected to provide 31 percent of the target
10 reduction; absent CCS only 12 percent of this goal may be achieved. A passenger vehicle fleet of PHEV
11 60s running on a “clean grid” with CCS electricity and cellulosic E85 is expected to provide 24 percent of
12 the needed reduction; but, notably, the use of cellulosic E85 is only responsible for 2 percent of this (due
13 to the high fraction of electrified miles). In contrast, the use of cellulosic E85 can more than double the
14 contributions of improved conventional vehicles and HEVs. PHEVs running on an average grid
15 electricity mix offer little advantage over an HEV, and an HEV in turn offers little advantage over an
16 improved conventional vehicle. Shifting 10 percent of local passenger miles to a full occupancy HRT
17 could account for another 1.8 percent of the needed reduction, and this could climb to 2 percent if
18 combined with a clean grid with CCS. Shifting to 10 percent of local (intra-urban) passenger miles to 4
19 person carpools, meanwhile, could meet 1.2 percent of needed GHG savings. Simply employing
20 available technologies for conventional vehicles could equate to 12 percent of the needed reduction.
21 Long-distance passenger travel and freight movement changes do not appear to be key players.

22 From a more qualitative perspective, this analysis reveals the needs for concentrated and collaborative
23 investment into various forms of infrastructure and strategies to manage demand for existing assets. All
24 of the technologies discussed here have the potential to be affordable, and in many cases cost-saving,
25 given sufficient research and development and production volumes. The full realization of benefits from
26 many, though, is contingent upon proper supportive infrastructure (e.g., transmission and distribution
27 networks for renewables, refining and refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels, and improvements of
28 the electric grid for PHEVs) and the matching of demand to capacity to ensure more efficient utilization
29 of all resources (particularly with respect to off-peak electric generating capacity and untapped transport
30 supply, in the form of carpooling and existing transit). This work also reveals powerful synergies across
31 sectors and technologies. In a truly ideal scenario, combining a clean grid with CCS with a fleet of
32 PHEVs and the use of cellulosic E85 could account for 56 percent of the required 80 percent reduction
33 (the sum of these two strategies, from Table 9). Clearly, contributions from other transportation strategies
34 as well as improvements in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors will still be needed, to hit
35 the overall 80-percent emissions-reduction target. Fortunately, the U.S. has the assets and technical
36 understanding needed to meet the challenge of reducing its GHG emissions by such levels; public
37 engagement, political will, and comprehensive thinking will be key.

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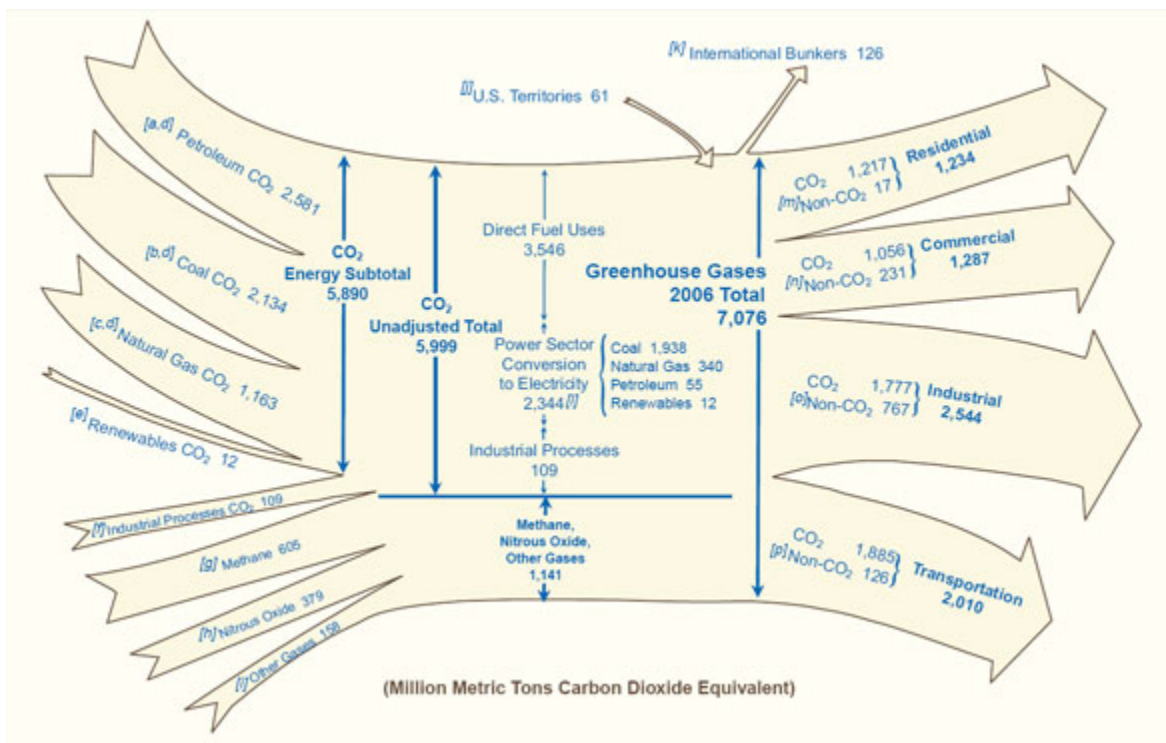


Figure 1: GHG Emissions in the U.S. Economy in 2006 (Source: EIA 2007a, Diagram 1)

Table 1: Potential GHG Reduction from Shift in Electricity Generating Technology

Plant Technology	Wholesale Cost (cents/kWh)	Current Share of (Summer) Capacity	Current Share of Generation	Plant Carbon Intensity (lb CO ₂ /kWh-Generated)	1 Percent of U.S. Generation GHG Emissions (MMTC)	Annual GHG Savings (MMTC)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions
Coal	4.2	32	50	2.109	10.17	Vs. Coal-Fired Plants	
Natural Gas	3.2-5.6	39	20	1.182	5.70	4.467	0.231
Petroleum	--	6	1	1.749	8.43	1.733	0.090
Geothermal	4.0-6.0 ⁹ 8.0-28.0 ¹⁰	0.24	0.37	0.007	0.03	10.131	0.525
Nuclear	6.7	10	20	0.000	0.00	10.166	0.527
Wind	2.0-9.5	1.6	0.80				
Solar (CSP)	12-14	0.05	0.02				
Solar (PV)	13-22						
Biomass	--	1.1	0.62				
Hydroelectric	--	8	6				
Coal with ICGG	4.6-5.3	N/A	N/A	1.294	6.24	3.926	0.203
Coal with CCS	5.2-9.2 ¹¹ 6.2-11.2 ¹²	N/A	N/A	0.316	1.52	8.641	0.448
Grid Average				1.308	6.31	Vs. Grid Average	
Expanded Nuclear & Renewable (35% Coal, 15% NG, 50% Nuclear & Renewable) Sectors				0.915	4.41	1.895	0.098
Grid Average with CCS in Coal				0.412	1.99	4.320	0.224
Expanded Nuclear & Renewable Sectors, CCS in Coal				0.288	1.39	4.919	0.255

Notes: summer capacity and amount generated from EIA (2008a) Tables 8.2 and 8.11; prices from MIT (2003), Holt (2005), IPCC (2005), Geisbrecht (2008), and NREL Energy Analysis Office (2005). The wholesale price of petroleum, hydroelectric and biomass electricity could not be easily obtained. CCS assumed present in coal plants in relevant cases at 90% CO₂ removal efficiency (IPCC 2005). Feedstock carbon intensities and plant heat rates from Aabaken (2006). Annual U.S. electricity generation and GHG emissions from EIA (2008a). IGCC efficiency improvement midpoint of estimates from Tennant (2005).

⁹ Hydrothermal

¹⁰ Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS)

¹¹ New

¹² Retrofit

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Table 2: Potential GHG Reductions from Shift in Vehicle Fuels

Fuel	WTW Emissions (lb CO₂e/Mbtu)	HHV Energy Content (Btu/gal fuel)	WTW Emissions (lb CO₂e/gal fuel)	Energy Content Ratio (gal fuel/gal fuel replaced)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	Annual GHG Savings (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions
Gasoline (weighted mix)	219	124,000	27.16	1.00	4.70	Vs. Gasoline	
Corn ethanol neat fuel	171	83,333	14.28	1.49	3.68	1.02	0.014
Corn ethanol (biomass fuel produced) neat fuel	101	83,333	8.38	1.49	2.16	2.54	0.036
Cellulosic ethanol neat fuel	20	83,333	1.66	1.49	0.43	4.27	0.060
E85 (Corn-based) blend	179	94,190	16.82	1.32	3.83	0.87	0.012
E85 (Cellulosic) blend	50	94,190	4.69	1.32	1.07	3.63	0.051
L S Diesel	213	138,700	29.57	1.00	1.72	Vs. Diesel	
Biodiesel neat fuel	69	126,222	8.70	1.10	0.51	1.21	0.017
B20 blend	184	136,444	25.16	1.02	1.46	0.26	0.004

Notes: Ethanol substitutes for gasoline (3,300 mbd [EIA 2008a]) and biodiesels substitute for diesel (1,100 mbd [EIA 2008a]). WTW emissions from EPA (2007b). “Fuel replaced” refers to gasoline for ethanol and ethanol blends and diesel for biodiesel and biodiesel blends; energy content ratio reflects the fact that more of alternative fuel must be combusted to liberate an equivalent amount of energy due to lower energy contents in alternative fuels.

Table 3: Potential GHG Reductions from Shift to Vehicle Technologies

	Technology	FE Benefit (%)		Fuel Economy (mpg)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE/yr)	Annual Savings (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions	Annual Savings (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions
		Low	High						
	Base Vehicle (2007 fleet average)	--	--	20.5	4.27	Vs. Average Vehicles		Vs. New Vehicles	
	Base Vehicle (MY 2007 achieved)	--	--	26.7	3.28	0.991	0.051		
Conventional Technologies	<i>Engine Technology</i>								
	Cylinder Deactivation	3	8	28.2	3.18	1.087	0.056	0.095	0.005
	Direct Injection	1	3	27.2	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	Turbocharging	3	7	28.0	3.18	1.087	0.056	0.095	0.005
	Valve Event Manipulation (VEM)	1	7	27.8	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	<i>Transmission Technology</i>								
	Automatic or Continuously Variable	1	8	27.9	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	Aggressive Shift Logic	1	5	27.5	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	<i>Vehicle Design</i>								
	10% Mass Reduction	4	10	28.6	3.15	1.117	0.058	0.126	0.007
	Improved Aerodynamics	1	2	27.1	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	Accessory Electrification	1	5	27.5	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	Low RR Tires	1	2	27.1	3.24	1.024	0.053	0.032	0.002
	<i>All Conventional Technologies</i>	17	57	36.6	2.39	1.876	0.097	0.885	0.046
Advanced Drivetrain Technologies	Diesel	20	40	34.7	2.74	1.524	0.079	0.532	0.028
	Diesel w/ Conventional Technologies	29	72	40.2	2.37	1.897	0.098	0.906	0.047
	HEV	17	30	33.0	2.65	1.615	0.084	0.624	0.032
	HEV w/ Conventional Technologies	34	87	42.9	2.04	2.226	0.115	1.235	0.064
	PHEV 40 (Coal-fired)				2.24	2.029	0.105	1.037	0.054
	PHEV 40 (Renewable)				1.02	3.247	0.168	2.256	0.117
	PHEV 40 (Grid Average)				1.78	2.491	0.129	1.500	0.078
	PHEV 40 (Clean Grid)				1.55	2.718	0.141	1.727	0.090
	PHEV 40 (Clean Grid and CCS)				1.19	3.081	0.160	2.090	0.108
	PHEV 60 (Coal-fired)				2.34	1.930	0.100	0.939	0.049
	PHEV 60 (Renewable)				0.51	3.758	0.195	2.767	0.143
	PHEV 60 (Grid Average)				1.64	2.623	0.136	1.632	0.085
	PHEV 60 (Clean Grid)				1.30	2.964	0.154	1.973	0.102
	PHEV 60 (Clean Grid and CCS)	0.76	3.508	0.182	2.517	0.130			

Notes: Base vehicle fuel economies from Davis and Diegel (2007), Technology fuel economy benefit estimates from Jones et al. (2008), Fuel economies assume mid-point of fuel economy benefit range, PHEVs improve upon HEV with conventional technologies, PHEV 40 has 50 percent of driving electrified, PHEV 60 has 75 percent of driving electrified, PHEVs operate at electric efficiency of 333 kWh-grid/mi (Gremban 2006), electric carbon intensities from Table 1 with additional 7 percent efficiency loss for transmission and distribution, fuel carbon intensities from Table 2

Table 4: Potential GHG Reductions from Transportation Policies

Speed Limits	Speed (mph)	FE Loss (%)	Fuel Economy (mpg)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent U.S. GHG Emissions
Base Urban Interstate (65 mph)	65	9.7	18.5	0.865	Vs. Base Urban	
Lowered Urban Interstate (55 mph)	55	--	20.5	0.781	0.084	0.004
Base Rural Interstate (70 mph)	70	17.1	17.0	0.509	Vs. Base Rural	
Lowered Rural 1 (65 mph)	65	9.7	18.5	0.467	0.042	0.002
Lowered Rural 2 (55 mph)	55	--	20.5	0.422	0.087	0.005
Combined Urban and Rural 1				1.248	0.126	0.007
Combined Urban and Rural 2				1.203	0.171	0.009
Tires	Tire Pressure (psi)	FE Change (%)	Fuel Economy (mpg)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent U.S. GHG Emissions
Underinflated Tire	24	-2.2	20.1	4.639	Vs. Underinflated/Non-RR	
Maintained Tire Pressure	32	--	20.5	4.535	0.104	0.005
Low Rolling Resistance Tires	32	2.5	21.1	4.425	0.111	0.006
Gas taxes	Price with Tax	Percent Price Increase	Gasoline Consumption Saved (mbd)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent U.S. GHG Emissions
No tax increase	4.00	0.0	0.00	4.677	Vs. Present Tax	
\$0.50/gal gas tax increase	4.50	12.5	83.88	4.644	0.032	0.002
\$1.00/gal gas tax increase	5.00	25.0	167.77	4.612	0.065	0.003
\$1.50/gal gas tax increase	5.50	37.5	251.65	4.579	0.097	0.005
\$2.00/gal gas tax increase	6.00	50.0	335.54	4.547	0.130	0.007

Notes: Fuel economy losses from speeds from West et al. (1997). Interstate VMTs from BTS (2008) Table 1-33. Fuel economy loss and gain from tires from NHTSA (2004) and NRC (2006). Gas tax savings based on elasticities from Hughes et al. (2007). Gas tax assumed to apply to motor gasoline only. Annual motor gasoline consumption from EIA (2007).

Table 5: Potential GHG Reductions from Shift from SOV to Carpool or Alternative Mode at Average Occupancies

	Mode Alternative	Average Occupancy (pax)	Average Capacity (pax)	Energy Intensity (Btu/pax-mi)	1 Percent of PMT (MMTCE)	Annual GHG Savings (MMTCE)	% of U.S. GHG Emissions
Intracity Travel	Drive (SOV, gas)	1	4	6049	5.28	--	0.27
	Drive (Avg. HBW occ., gas)	1	4	5306	4.63	0.65	0.03
	Drive (Avg. occ., gas)	2	4	3711	3.24	2.04	0.11
	Drive (2 passengers, gas)	2	4	3024	2.64	2.64	0.14
	Drive (3 passengers, gas)	3	4	2016	1.76	3.52	0.18
	Drive (4 passengers, gas)	4	4	1512	1.32	3.96	0.21
	Bus (Diesel fuel)	9	52	4230	3.59	1.68	0.09
	Bus (B20)	9	52	4230	3.11	2.17	0.11
	HRT (Electric Fuel)	23	82	860	1.45	3.83	0.20
	LRT (Electric Fuel)	25	100	1159	1.95	3.32	0.17
	Commuter Rail (Diesel)	31	114	2996	2.54	2.73	0.14
Biking/Walking	1	1	0	0.00	5.28	0.27	
Intercity Travel	Drive (SOV, gas)	1	4	6049	2.13	--	0.11
	Drive (Avg. occ., gas)	2	4	3711	1.31	0.82	0.07
	Drive (2 passengers, gas)	2	4	3024	1.07	1.07	0.06
	Drive (3 passengers, gas)	3	4	2016	0.71	1.42	0.04
	Drive (4 passengers, gas)	4	4	1512	0.53	1.60	0.03
	Bus (diesel fuel)	9	52	4230	1.45	0.68	0.08
	Air	99	125	3266	1.01	1.12	0.05
	HSR (IC-3: Diesel 99 mph)	--	138	103	0.04	2.10	0.00
	HSR (TGV: Electric 99 mph)	--	485	487	0.33	1.80	0.02
	HSR (Mag-lev: Electric, 300 mph)	--	156	1187	0.81	1.32	0.04

Notes: Annual Passenger Miles Traveled (Davis and Diegel 2007), Annual Long Distance Passenger Miles Traveled (NHTS 2001), Passenger vehicles get 22.4 mpg (fleet average based on [Davis and Diegel 2007]), HSR Options assumed to have 70% occupancy, HSR modal efficiency from Center for Clean Air Policy and Center for Neighborhood Technology (2006)

Table 6: Potential GHG Reductions from Shift to Alternative Mode at Full Occupancies

	Mode Alternative	Occupancy (pax)	Average Capacity (pax)	Energy Intensity (Btu/pax-mi)	1 Percent of PMT (MMTCE)	Annual GHG Savings (MMTCE)	% of U.S. GHG Emissions	Annual GHG Savings (MMTCE)	% of U.S. GHG Emissions
Intracity Travel	Drive (Avg. occupancy, gas)	1.63	4	3711	3.24	Vs. Avg Occupancy		Vs. 4 Person Carpool	
	Drive (4 passengers, gas)	4	4	1512	1.32	1.92	0.10		
	Bus (Diesel fuel)	9	52	711	0.60	2.63	0.14	0.72	0.04
	Bus (B20)	9	52	711	0.52	2.71	0.14	0.80	0.04
	HRT (Electric fuel)	23	82	237	0.40	2.84	0.15	0.92	0.05
	LRT (Electric fuel)	25	100	291	0.49	2.75	0.14	0.83	0.04
	Commuter Rail (Diesel)	31	114	822	0.70	2.54	0.13	0.62	0.03
Biking/Walking	1	1	0	0.00	3.24	0.17	1.32	0.07	
Intercity Travel	Drive (Avg. occupancy, gas)	2	4	3711	1.31	Vs. Avg Occupancy		Vs. 4 Person Carpool	
	Drive (4 passengers, gas)	4	4	1512	0.53	0.77	0.04		
	Bus (diesel fuel)	9	52	711	0.24	1.06	0.06	0.29	0.01
	Air	99	125	2574	0.80	0.51	0.03	(0.27)	(0.01)
	HSR (IC-3: Diesel 99 mph)	--	138	72	0.02	1.28	0.07	0.51	0.03
	HSR (TGV: Electric 99 mph)	--	485	341	0.23	1.08	0.06	0.30	0.02
	HSR (Mag-lev: Electric, 300 mph)	--	156	831	0.57	0.74	0.04	(0.03)	(0.00)

Notes: Annual Passenger Miles Traveled (Davis and Diegel 2007), Annual Long Distance Passenger Miles Traveled (NHTS 2001), Passenger vehicles get 22.4 mpg (fleet average based on [Davis and Diegel 2007]), HSR Options assumed to have 70% occupancy

Table 7: Potential GHG Reductions from Adoption of Truck Technologies

Technology	FE Benefit (%)	Fuel Economy (mpg)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions	Potential Add On
<i>All Trucks</i>						
Base Truck	--	9.0	0.750	Vs. Avg. Truck		--
Improved Aerodynamics - Airfoils, baffles, wheel covers, leading edge curvature	4.0	9.4	0.722	0.029	1.50E-03	Yes
Low Rolling Resistance Tires	2.5	9.2	0.732	0.018	9.49E-04	Yes
Advanced Transmission	2.0	9.2	0.736	0.015	7.63E-04	No
<i>Light Medium & Heavy Medium Only</i>						
Base Truck	--	10.4	0.271	Vs. Avg. MDT		--
Mass Reduction	5.0	10.9	0.258	0.013	6.69E-04	No
Engine Turbocharging	6.5	11.1	0.255	0.017	8.57E-04	No
Integrated Starter/Alternator, Auxiliary Electrification, & Idle-Off	5.0	10.9	0.258	0.013	6.69E-04	No
Improved Engine - low friction, better injectors, efficient combustion	9.0	11.3	0.249	0.022	1.16E-03	No
Hybridization	40.0	14.6	0.194	0.077	4.01E-03	No
All Improvements w/o Hybridization	34.0	13.9	0.202	0.069	3.56E-03	--
All Improvements w/ Hybridization	74.0	18.1	0.156	0.115	5.97E-03	--
<i>Heavy Duty Only</i>						
Base Truck	--	6.2	0.635	Vs. Avg. HDT		--
Pneumatic Blowing	5.0	6.5	0.604	0.030	1.57E-03	Yes
Single Wide Tires	3.0	6.4	0.616	0.018	9.58E-04	Yes
Mass Reduction	10.0	6.8	0.577	0.058	2.99E-03	No
Auxiliaries Electrified	1.5	6.3	0.625	0.009	4.86E-04	No
Improved Engine - low friction, better injectors, efficient combustion	10.0	6.8	0.577	0.058	2.99E-03	No
Improved Thermal Management	10.0	6.8	0.577	0.058	2.99E-03	No
All Improvements	48.0	9.2	0.429	0.206	1.07E-02	--
<i>Idle Reduction</i>						
Direct-Fired Heating Units	3.4	6.4	0.161	0.005	2.82E-04	Yes
Auxiliary Power Units	9.0	6.8	0.152	0.014	7.10E-04	Yes
Truck Stop Electrification	Vs. running from engine		0.007	0.044	6.22E-04	N/A

Notes: Fuel Economy benefits adapted from Vyas et al. (2002). Number of trucks in each class from U.S. Census Bureau (2004). Idle Reduction technologies assumed to apply only in sleeper trucks.

Table 8: Potential GHG Reductions from Freight Operational Efficiency Strategies

Mode Shift	Energy Efficiency (Ton-mi/lb CO₂)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions
Trucking	2	1.038	Vs. Trucking	
Rail	18	0.089	0.949	0.049
Waterborne	5	0.294	0.744	0.039
Air	1	2.715	-1.677	-0.087
Logistics	Annual Empty Miles (mi/truck)	1 Percent GHG Emissions (MMTCE)	GHG Emissions Saved (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions
Base Long Haul Truck	15000	0.229	Vs. Avg. Empty Miles	
Reduced Empty Miles	14850	0.227	0.002	1.19E-04

Modal energy efficiencies from Davies (2007). Annual trucking freight activity from BTS (2008). Annual Average empty miles from EPA (2004). Logistic improvements assumed to apply in heavy duty trucks only.

Table 9: Comparison of Selected GHG Control Options

Strategy	Potential Savings (MMTCE)	Percent of U.S. GHG Emissions	Percent of 80% Reduction
Renewable Electricity Generation	10.166	0.527	0.642
CCS Coal Electricity Generation	8.641	0.448	0.546
"Clean Grid" w/ CCS Electricity Generation	4.919	0.255	0.311
PHEV-60, "Clean Grid" w/ CCS & E85 Cellulosic	3.903	0.202	0.247
HEV w/ All Conventional Improvements, E85 Cellulosic	3.804	0.197	0.240
All Conventional Improvements, E85 Cellulosic	3.725	0.193	0.235
PHEV-60, Clean Grid w/ CCS	3.508	0.182	0.222
PHEV-60, "Clean Grid," E85 Cellulosic	3.359	0.174	0.212
Avg Occupancy Drive to Full Capacity HRT, "Clean Grid" w/ CCS Electric (Local Travel)	3.151	0.004	0.199
PHEV-60, Average Grid, E85 Cellulosic	3.018	0.156	0.191
PHEV-60, Clean Grid	2.964	0.154	0.187
Avg Occupancy Drive to Full Capacity HRT, Electric (Local travel)	2.838	0.147	0.179
Avg Occupancy Drive to Full Capacity Bus, Diesel (Local travel)	2.633	0.136	0.166
PHEV-60, Average Grid	2.623	0.136	0.166
HEV w/ All Conventional Improvements	2.226	0.115	0.141
Avg Occupancy Drive to 4 Person Carpool (Local travel)	1.918	0.099	0.121
"Clean Grid" Electricity Generation	1.895	0.098	0.120
All Conventional Improvements	1.876	0.097	0.119
Avg Occupancy Drive to HSR, Diesel	1.283	0.066	0.081
Avg Occupancy Drive to 4 Person Carpool (Long Distance Travel)	1.064	0.055	0.067
HDT to Rail Shift	0.949	0.049	0.060
Avg Occupancy Drive to Full Capacity Bus, Diesel (Long Distance Travel)	0.775	0.040	0.049
Hybrid MDT, All Improvements, B20	0.135	0.002	0.009
Hybrid MDT, All Improvements	0.115	0.006	0.007