Annual Utility Decarbonization Report



2050



2030



2040

2020

Foreword

For the third year, the Annual Utility Decarbonization Report evaluates and ranks the leading U.S. investorowned utilities based on their decarbonization efforts.

And this year, for the first time, it includes industry spotlights on public utilities and natural gas providers, shedding light on their progress and responsibility in lowering emissions.





As the utility sector continues on the critical path to decarbonization, collaboration across all types of utilities—investor-owned, public, and gas—is paramount.

A pragmatic approach to a changing fuel mix must be adopted, all the while putting emphasis on:







Technology investment



Workforce development

Each sub-sector, therefore, has the opportunity to play a vital role in shaping a sustainable future for the U.S. and beyond, with the success of the transition hinging on the ability of these entities to work together.

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NPUC ANNUAL UTILITY DECARBONIZATION REPORT 2024



The Context

The energy landscape in which utilities operated in 2022–2023.

The Decarbonization Landscape

Decarbonizing an energy system that has been dominated by fossil fuels for decades is no easy feat.

Since the inception of the Annual Utility
Decarbonization Report in 2022, we've
witnessed U.S. investor-owned utilities (IOUs)
demonstrate innovation in this endeavor.

There remain, however, significant challenges in the path forward, especially within the context of an uncertain politicaland regulatory environment. Here are some of them.



01

Technological Costs & Availability



02

Intermittency of Renewables



03

Regulatory & Policy Barriers



04

Aging & Insufficient Transmission Infrastructure



05

Socio-Economic Divide



06

Workforce & Skill Gaps

Looking Back At 2022-2023

Even within the context of the present challenges, the past two years have been a period of change and transformation for the U.S. utilities sector, driven by a confluence of factors including the rising effects of climate change, technological advancements, and regulatory shifts.

Here are some highlights.

REGULATORY & POLICY LANDSCAPE

The First Year of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

The first year* of the IRA led to some incredible developments in the U.S., including:



\$278B In Investments



New Clean Energy Projects



170,606 **New Clean Energy Jobs**



Some of the largest announced IRA funding programs to date are the **National Clean Investment Fund,** which provides clean technology financing to the private sector, and the Solar for All program, which provides grants to low-income and disadvantaged communities to install solar panels.

*As of July 25, 2023

Source: Climate Power.¹ The White House²

MARKET TREND

State-Level Climate Policies on the Rise

State governments have been implementing bolder policies to promote decarbonization.



Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) & Clean Energy Standards (CES)

Several states, such as Minnesota and Michigan, have expanded their RPS and/or implemented CES, requiring utilities to procure more electricity from renewable sources.



Bolder Targets

Several states, such as Delaware and Colorado, are setting more ambitious emissions reduction goals across their power sectors and beyond.



Building on the IRA

Many states are developing strategies to leverage and build on IRA funding. Certain programs allow stacking of IRA and state-level funding, while others are developed to match funds or support recipients access IRA funds.

Source: DSIRE Insight³

Cost Pressures for Renewables

While onshore wind and utility-scale solar power still have the **lowest levelized cost of electricity** (LCOE) in the U.S., inflation and supply chain issues have put cost pressures on renewables in 2022–2023. As a result, the average unsubsidized LCOE for onshore wind and solar PV has risen for the first time since 2009.



Rising costs have kept large, well-funded companies leading the growth of the country's renewable assets, while smaller companies face higher barriers to entry.

Source: Lazard⁴

Distributed Energy Resources (DERS) & Virtual Power Plants (VPPS)

As electricity demand surges in the U.S. and conventional fossil fuel power plants retire, VPPs are emerging as a solution.

VPPs aggregate DERs—small, decentralized energy sources like solar panels and batteries—into a coordinated network that functions as a large power plant. By doing so, VPPs can enhance the integration of renewable energy into the grid and offer greater demand flexibility.

In 2022–2023, several states including Colorado and California have taken steps to investigate and implement VPPs. Many utilities have also proposed programs to aggregate DERs, potentially representing a shift towards more decentralized, flexible, and sustainable energy systems in the long run.



Source: U.S. Department of Energy,⁵ DSIRE Insight³



U.S. Utilities Decarbonization Index

An evaluation of the state of decarbonization across the largest U.S. investor-owned utilities.

Methodology & Changes08Decarbonization Index10Metric Breakdown12Yearly Progression28



Introducing the Largest

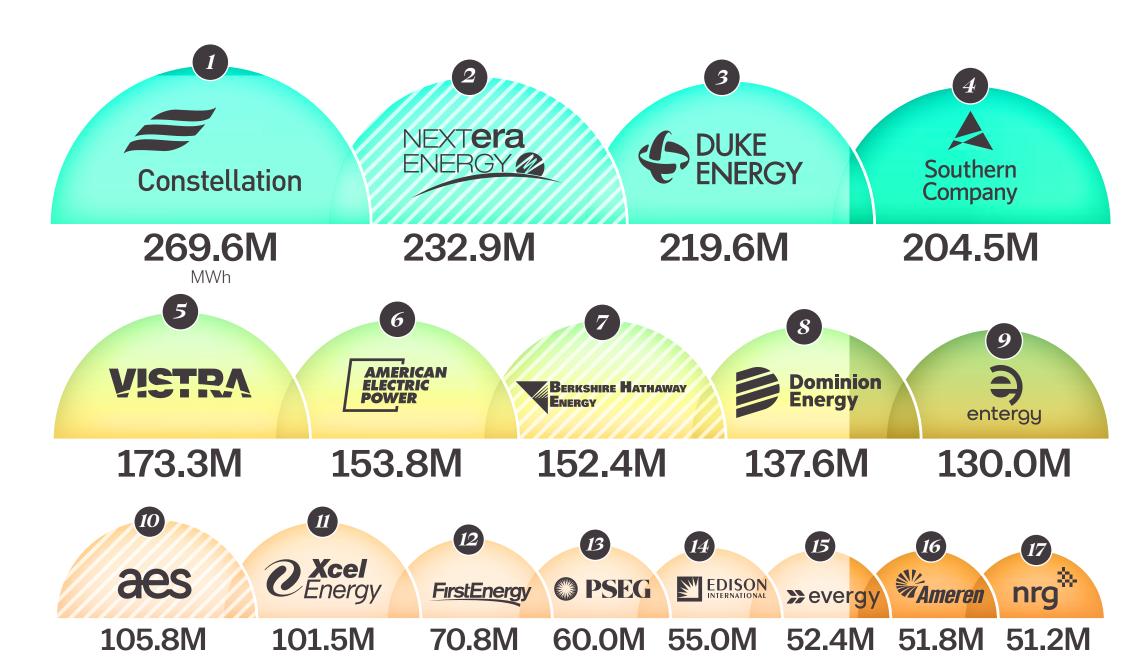
Investor-**Owned Utilities In** The U.S.

By 2022 Net Owned and Purchased **Electricity Generation, MWh**



U.S. Operations Only

Data updated December 2024.















Consumers Energy



Emera











PSE PUGET SOUND ENERGY





PGE



conEdison



















NorthWestern Energy



national**grid**





transalta









Shows U.S. generation only.

Methodology

How The Utility Decarbonization Index Is Scored

The 2024 Annual Utility Decarbonization Index uses the latest* available data (2022) at the time of collection (December 2024†) to track the decarbonization progress of the 47 largest U.S. investor-owned utilities (IOUs) using the following six metrics.

Its aim is to rank companies, not based on how close they are to net zero, but how well they are doing in their efforts to get there in comparison to the others.



† The original edition of this report was published September 2024, using data from June 2024.



Owned net generation Metric 01 The share of carbon-free sources from carbon-free sources in a company's owned generation Fuel Mix mix (nuclear and renewables) Total owned net generation Total CO₂ emissions from Metric 02 The amount of CO₂ emitted owned and purchased generation per megawatt-hour of electricity CO₂ Emissions Total owned and generated and purchased Intensity purchased net generation Sum of CO₂ emissions Metric 03 Absolute CO₂ emissions from from owned and purchased owned and purchased Total CO₂ energy generation electricity generation **Emissions** Total CO₂ emissions from owned Metric 04 CO₂ emissions from owned and purchased generation and purchased electricity CO₂ Emissions Total residential customer generation per customer Per Customer equivalent (RCE) Metric 05 An evaluation of a company's Comparative ranking against interim greenhouse gas reduction identified baselines **Decarbonization** goal, ultimate net-zero target, (See next page) Goals and reported progress

The share of planned capital expenditure (CAPEX) for electricity generation allocated to carbon-free sources

Planned CAPEX for carbon-free generation

Total planned CAPEX for generation

How The Index Has Changed In 2024

In an effort to continually improve the Decarbonization Index and remain up-to-date with industry trends and best practices, the 2024 Decarbonization Index methodology has evolved from previous years.

Unreported Data

2023

Companies that did not report data for certain calculations were excluded from that metric, and their total decarbonization score was an average of five or fewer metrics, as opposed to all six.

2024

The 2024 report assigns a score of zero where numbers are unreported in order to emphasize the importance of sustainability reporting.

Metric 4 Emissions Per Customer

2023

Total CO₂ emissions from owned and purchased generation

Total number of retail, commercial, and industrial customers

2024

Total CO₂ emissions from owned and purchased generation

Total residential customer equivalent (RCE)

To account for the different electricity needs of residential, commercial, and industrial customers, the updated metric uses residential customer equivalent (RCE), where each commercial customer is equivalent to seven residential customers and each industrial customer is equivalent to 89 based on national averages.

Metric 5 Decarbonization Goals

2023

This metric tracks each utility's interim and long-term emissions reduction goals against a baseline (as indicated below, which receives a 50% score of 2.5), and the rest are comparatively scored based on their ambition.

Baseline

► Interim goal

A 50% emissions reduction by 2030

▶ Ultimate goal

Net zero by 2050

2024

The updated metric now includes emission scopes in baseline targets and adds a third variable: reported progress toward net zero.

Baseline

Reported progress

Minimum 38% reduction in all scopes between 2005–2022 or 45% reduction in scopes 1 & 2 between 2005–2022

Interim goal

A 50% reduction in scope 1 & 2 emissions and minimum 20% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2030

Ultimate goal

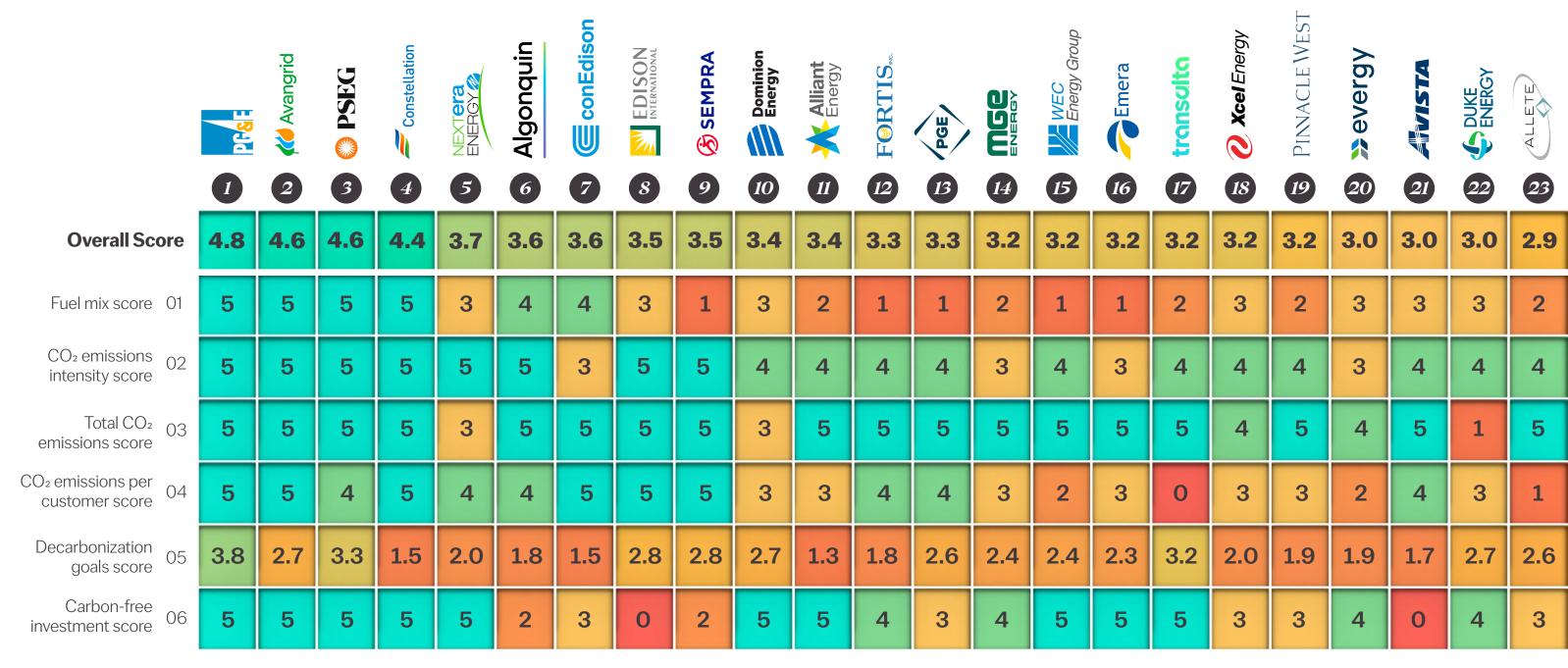
Net zero scope 1 & 2 emissions and a minimum 70% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2050

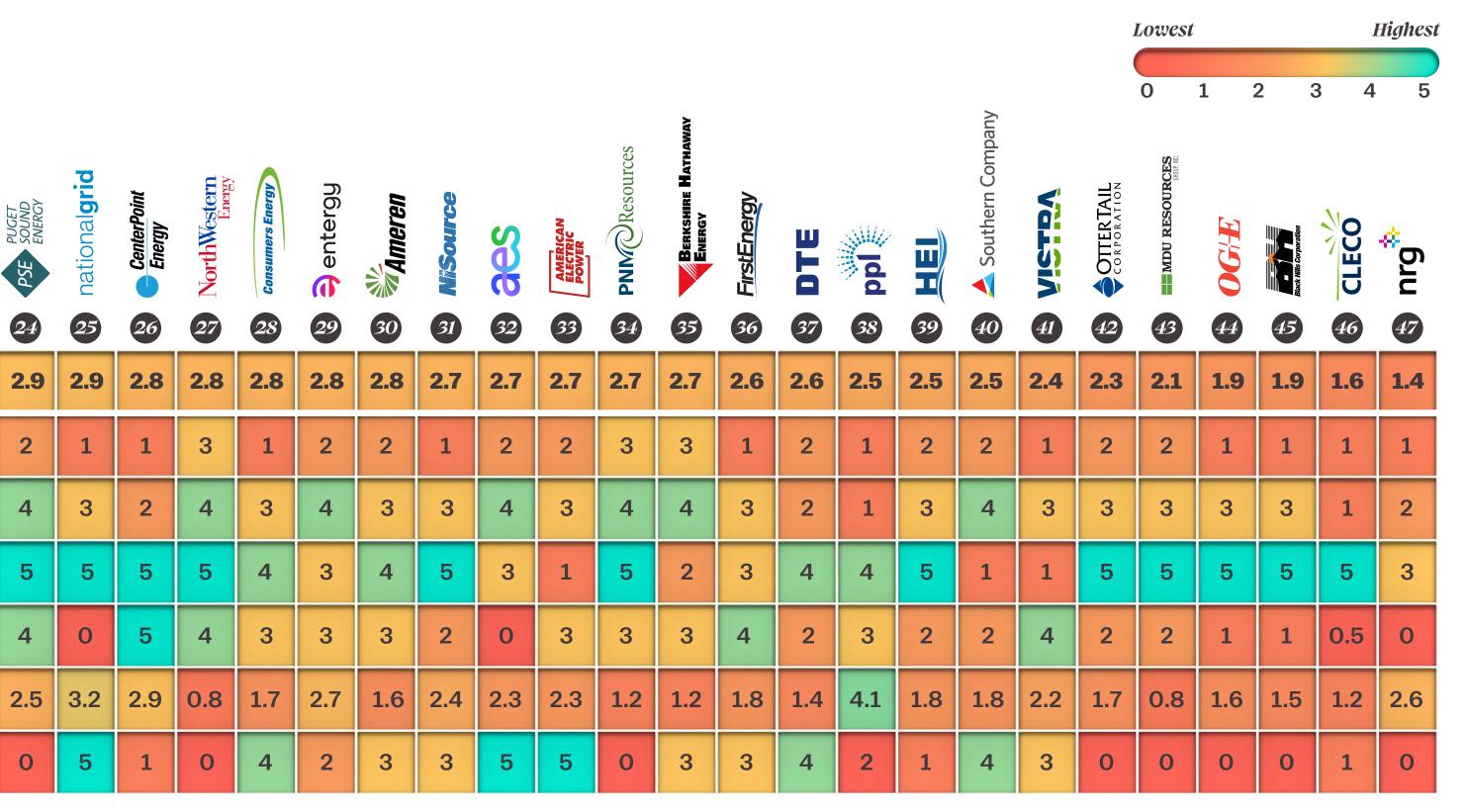
The 2024

Utility Decarbonization Index

IOUs are evaluated against six metrics based on their 2022 reports, which are averaged to find their overall decarbonization score.







Fuel Mix

Measures the share of carbon-free owned electricity generation in each utility's portfolio.

Key Takeaways

- ► Total electricity generation and its sources are virtually unchanged from 2021, with fossil fuels still making up around 60% of the total 2.4 billion MWh of generation.
- ► Coal's share in the total electricity mix persisted in 2022, as natural gas prices increased in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ► The number of IOUs with clean generation over 80% (i.e. a score of 5) doubled year-over-year, moving from 2 to 4.

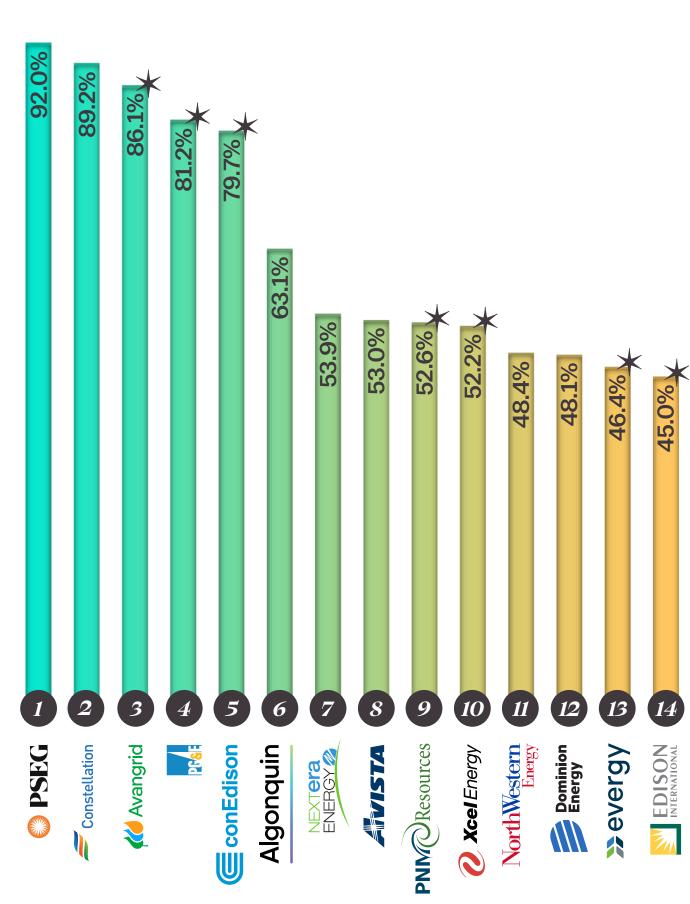
Share of Carbon-Free Sources in Owned Electricity Generation

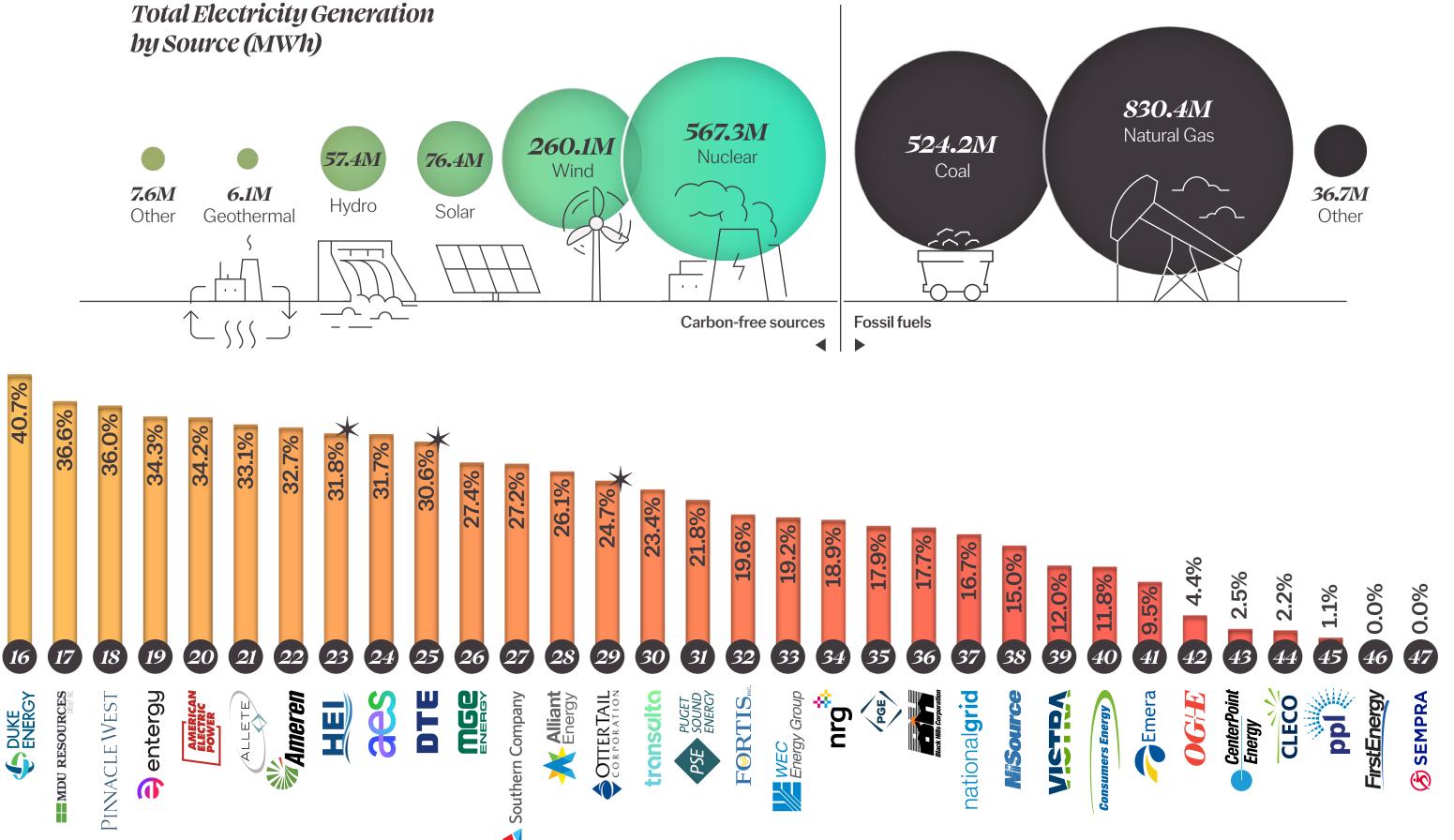
Nuclear & Renewables

Greater than 80%	<i>5</i>
60-80%	4
40-60%	3
20-40%	2
Less than 20%	1

Score

★ Includes purchased power





43.7%

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
ENERGY

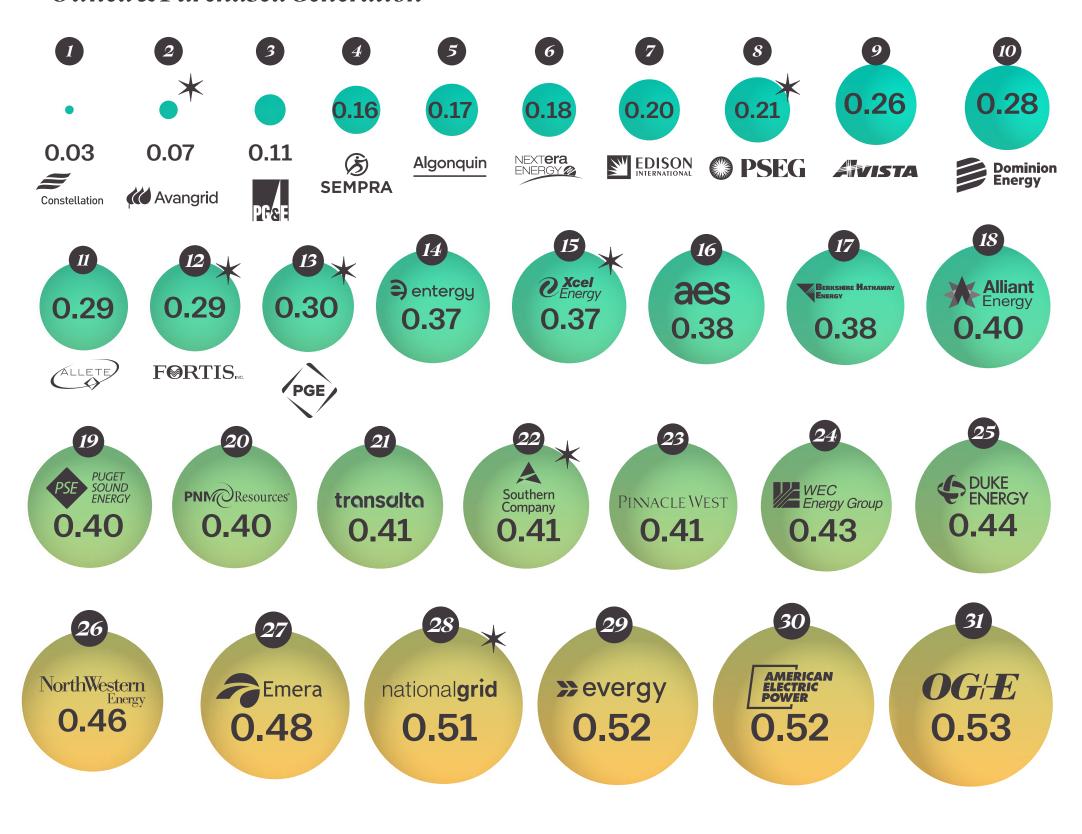
Emissions Intensity

Measures how many metric tons of CO₂ each utility emits per MWh of owned and purchased electricity generation.

Score 5 Less than 0.23 metric tons/MWh 4 0.23-0.47 metric tons/MWh 3 0.47-0.70 metric tons/MWh 0.70-0.93 metric tons/MWh 2 Greater than 0.93 metric tons/MWh

* Represents CO2-equivalent emissions Data updated December 2024.

Metric Tons of CO2 Per MWh of Owned & Purchased Generation





Key Takeaways

- ► Progress on emission intensity is essentially flat, year-over-year, up 0.03% from 2021.
- ► The top three IOUs with the lowest emission intensities,







all rely on carbon-free sources for 80% or more of their owned electricity generation.

Total CO₂ Emissions

Measures each utility's absolute CO₂ emissions from owned and purchased electricity generation.

Metric Tons of CO₂ Emissions From Owned & Purchased Generation

Less than 18.9M metric tons	
18.9–37.7M metric tons	4
37.7–56.6M metric tons	3
56.6–75.5M metric tons	
Greater than 75.5M metric tons	1

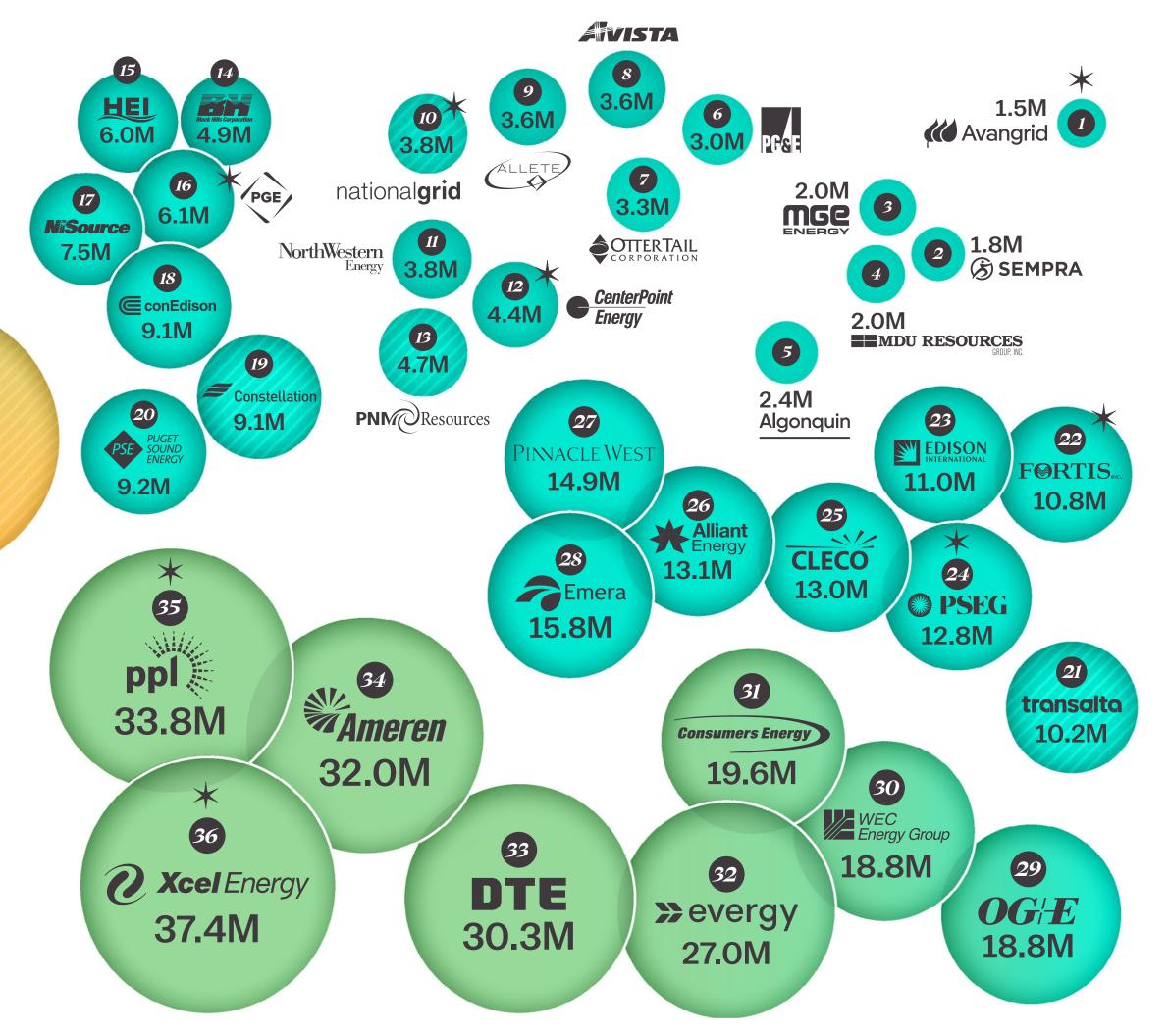
Represents CO₂-equivalent emissions

Does not report purchased power emissions

Dominion Energy Southern Company 37.9M 83.0M aes 94.8M 39.7M **NEXTERA ENERGY** 41.3M 79.7M entergy Score 47.9M 95.8M Metric tons BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY ENERGY 41.6M 58.0M **FirstEnergy** 48.2M

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NPUC ANNUAL UTILITY DECARBONIZATION REPORT 2024



Key Takeaways

- ► Total emissions from all IOUs increased from 1.046 billion metric tons of CO2 to 1,078 billion yearover-year, representing a 3% rise.
- **DUKE** ENERGY
 - **VISTRA**
 - **A** Southern Company

 - BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

Total emissions from the top 5 emitting IOUs are up 9% year-over-year.

► Duke Energy is now the top emitter, moving from 77 to 96 million metric tons between 2021–2022.

Emissions Per Customer

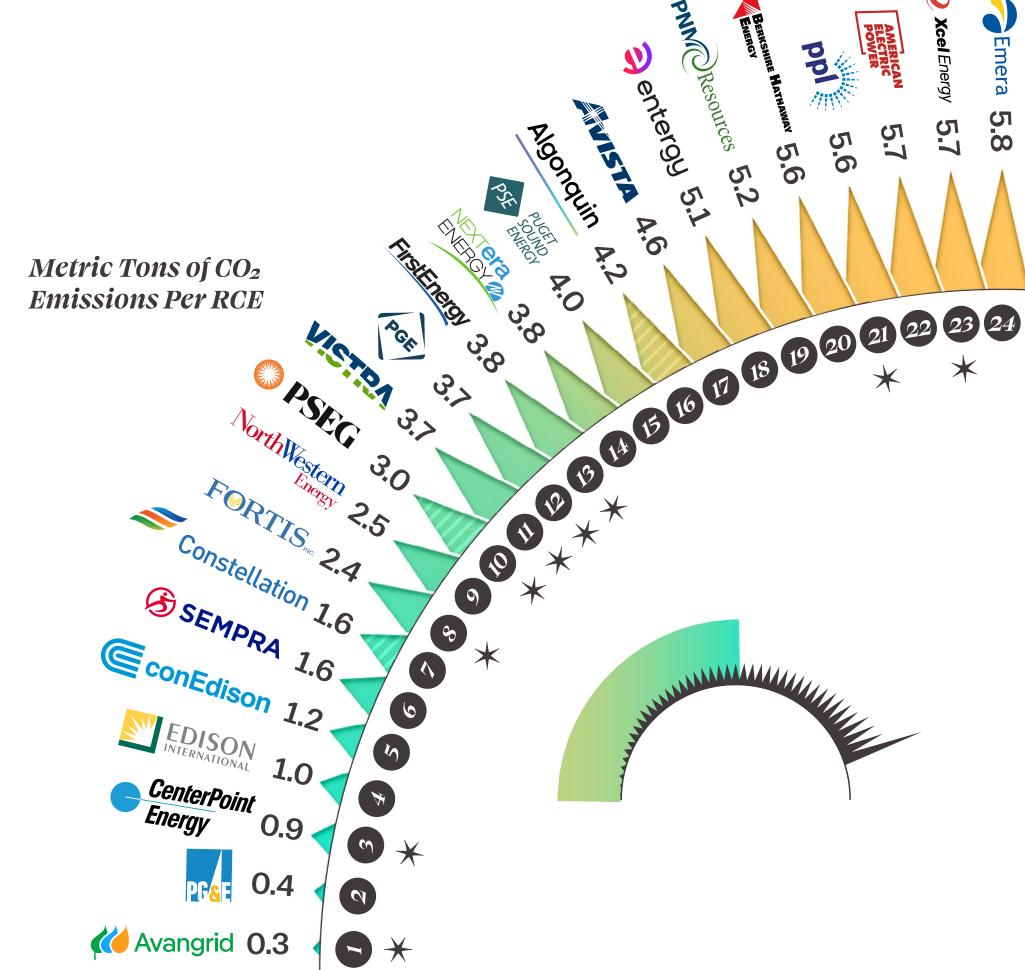
Measures how many metric tons of CO₂ each IOU emits per residential customer equivalent (RCE) from their owned and purchased generation.

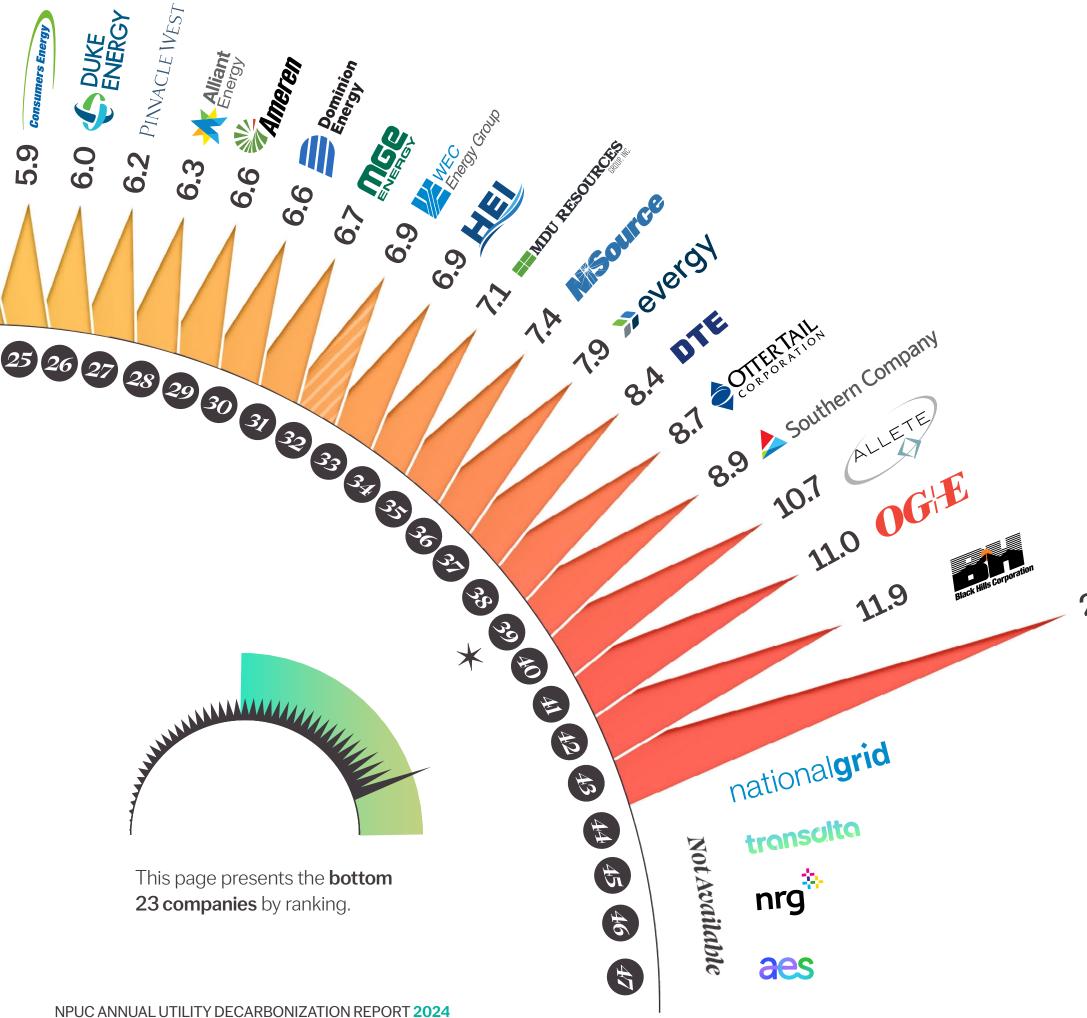
Each commercial customer is equivalent to seven residential customers and each industrial customer is equivalent to 89 based on national averages.

	Score
Less than 2.3 metric tons	5
2.3–4.6 metric tons	4
4.6-6.9 metric tons	3
6.9–9.2 metric tons	2
Greater than 9.2 metric tons	1

Represents CO₂-equivalent emissions

Reports commercial and industrial customers as one number. RCE calculation assumes all as commercial





Key Takeaways

- On average, the IOUs included in this metric emitted 5.7 metric tons of CO₂ per RCE in 2022.
- ► The top two companies for this metric,





generate 80% or more of their electricity from carbon-free sources.



- ► Cleco's emissions per RCE is an outlier and was excluded when determining quintiles in order to avoid skewed scoring.
- In general, factors such as energy mix, generation efficiency, demand-side management, purchased power, and transmission/distribution losses can all contribute to how an IOU ranks for this metric.

Decarbonization Goals

Tracks each utility's interim greenhouse gas reduction goal, ultimate net-zero target, and reported progress toward net zero. Companies aligned to the baseline receive a 50% score of 2.5, and the rest are comparatively scored based on their ambition and progress.

Included	Not included
	or differentiated

Baselines

REPORTED PROGRESS

A 38% reduction in all scopes between 2005–2022

Ol

A 45% reduction in scopes 1 & 2 between 2005–2022

INTERIM GOAL

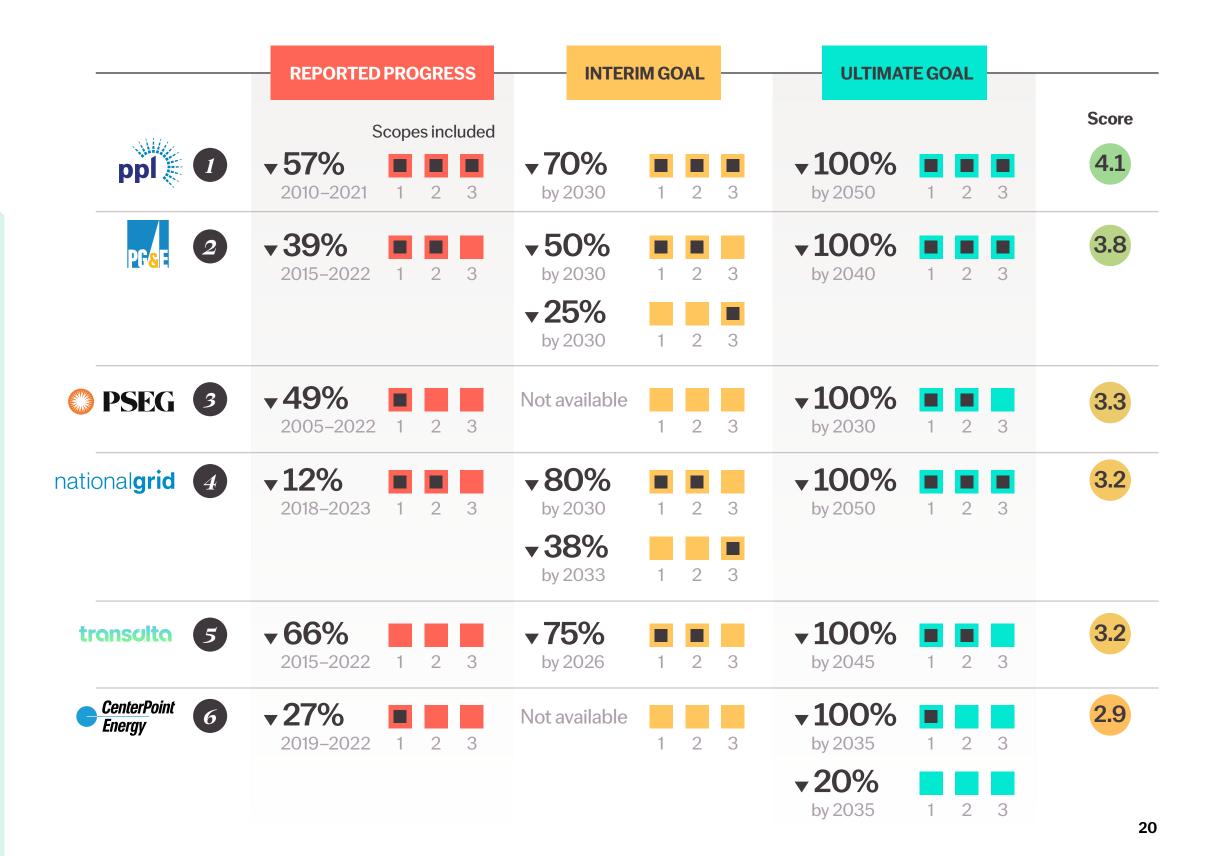
A 50% reduction in scope 1 & 2 emissions and minimum 20% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2030

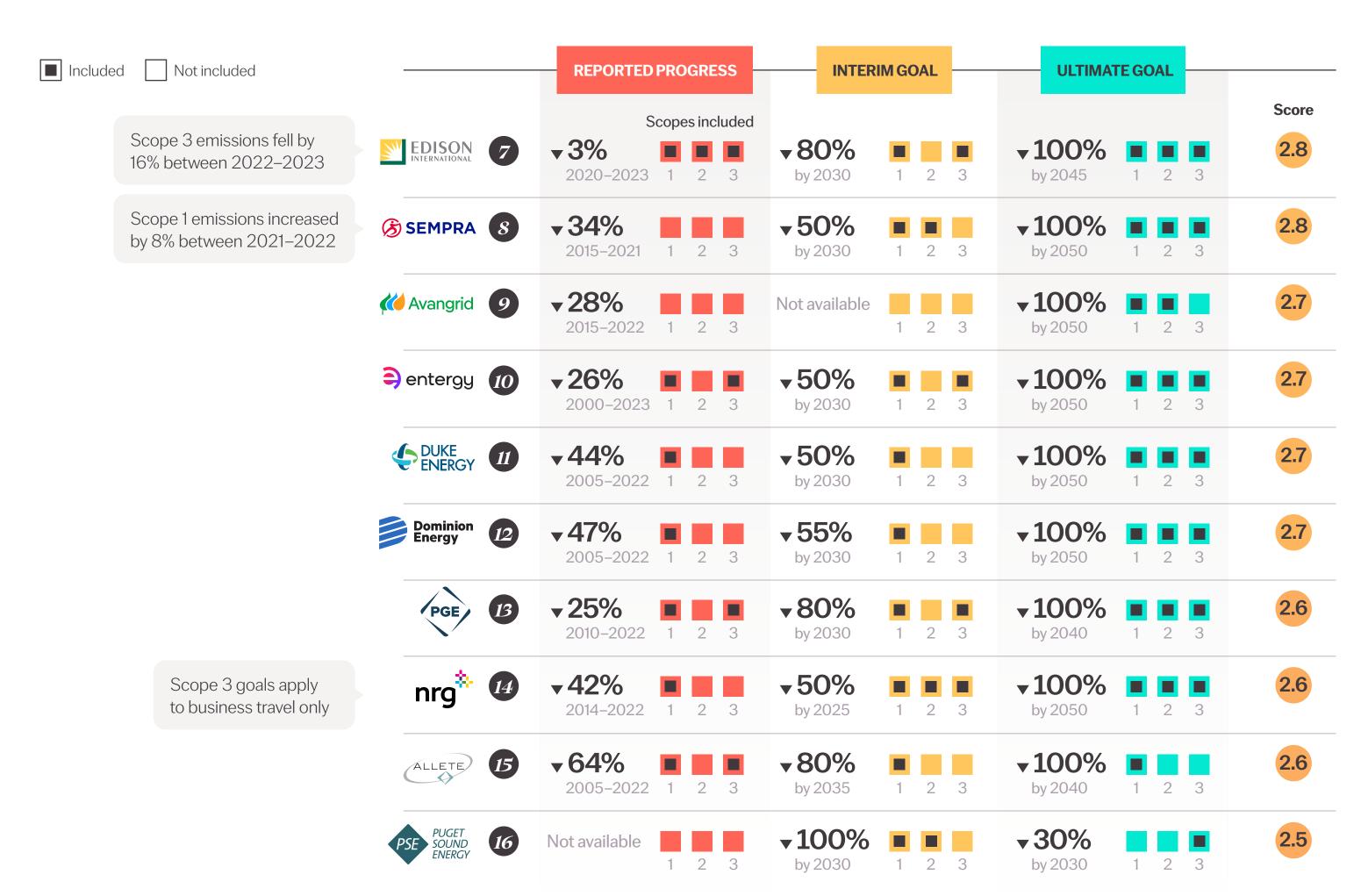
or

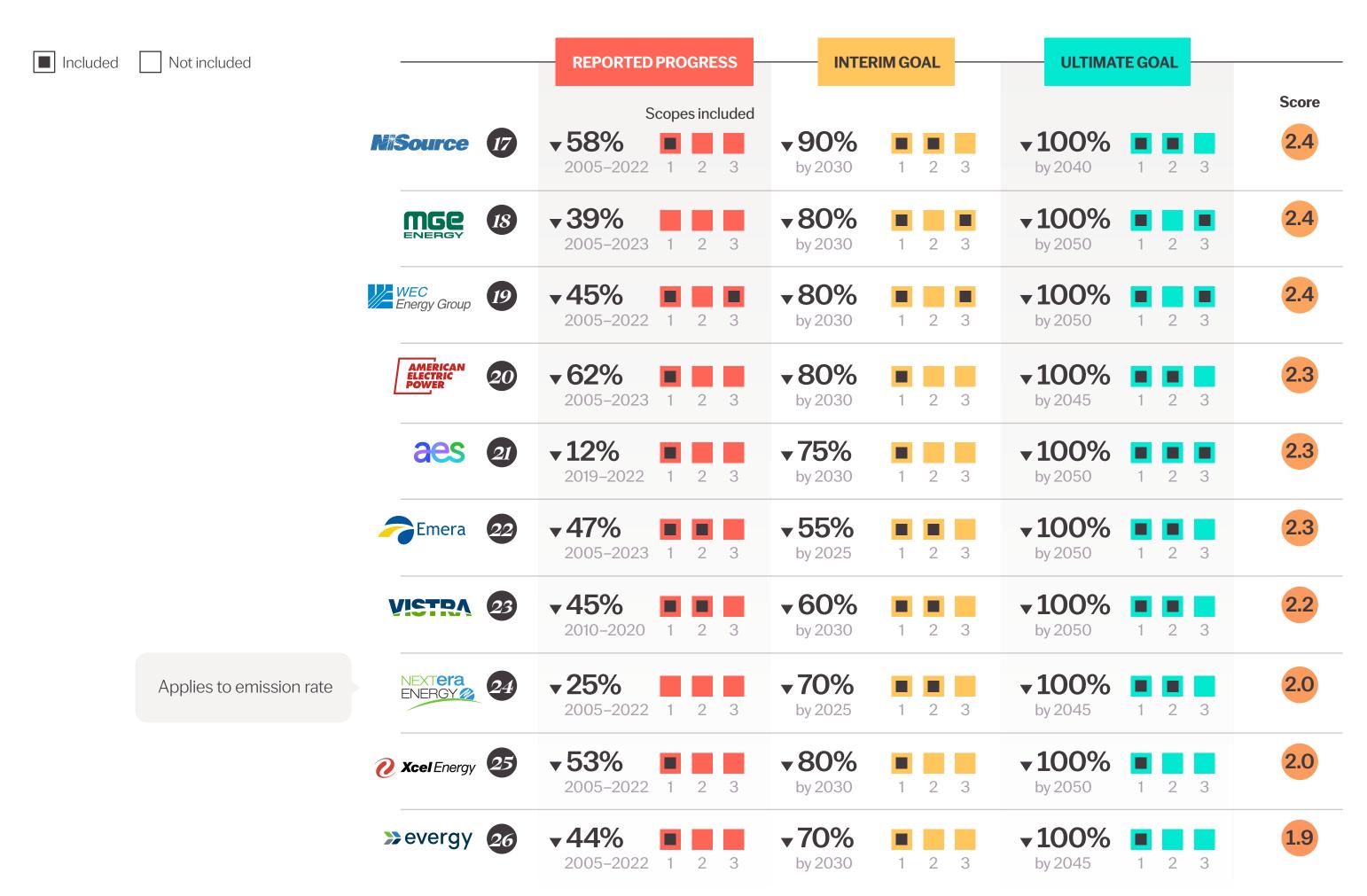
A 70-80% reduction in scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2030 (No mention of scope 3)

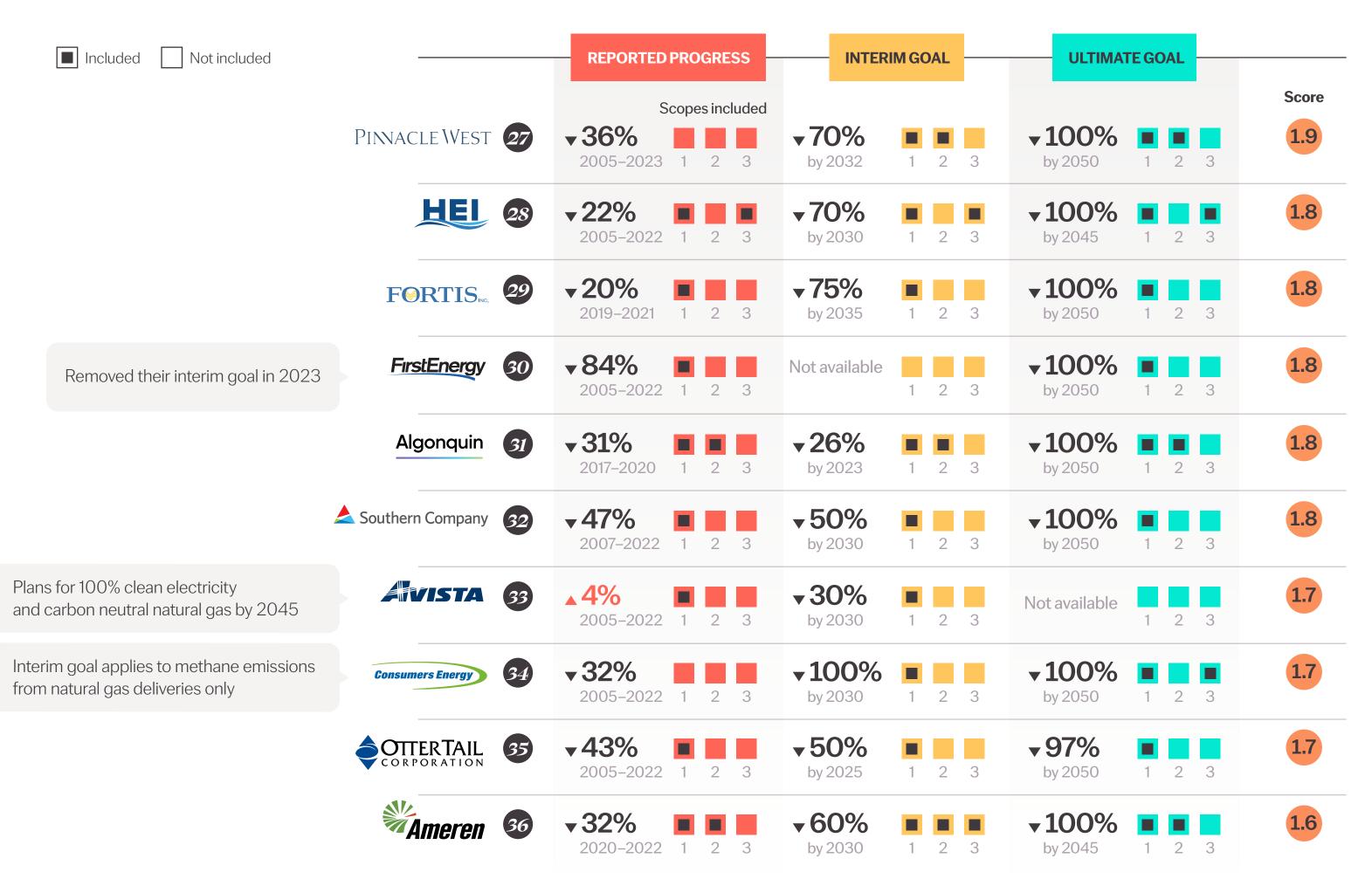
ULTIMATE GOAL

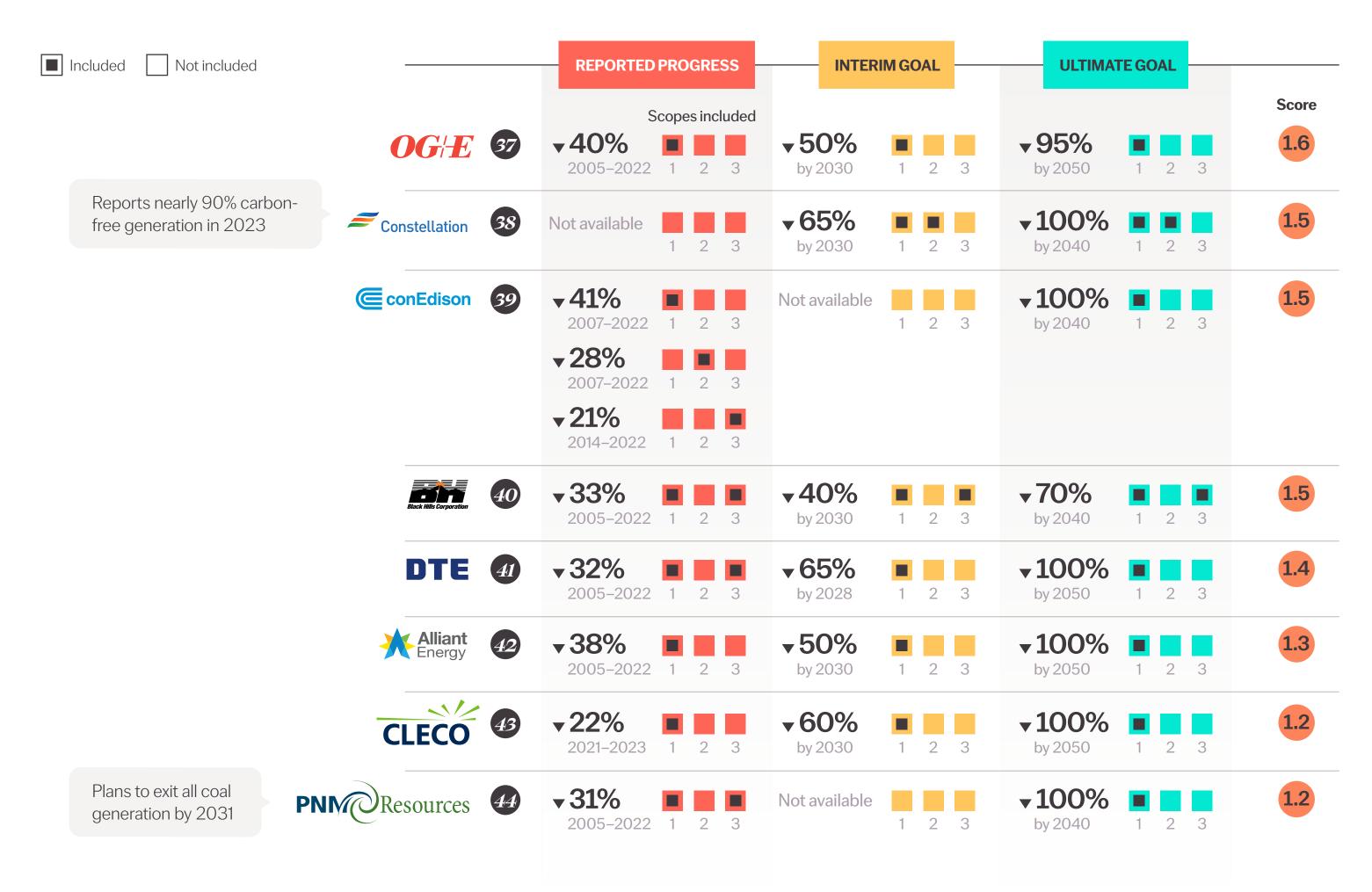
Net zero scope 1 and 2 emissions and a minimum 70% reduction in scope 3 emissions by 2050

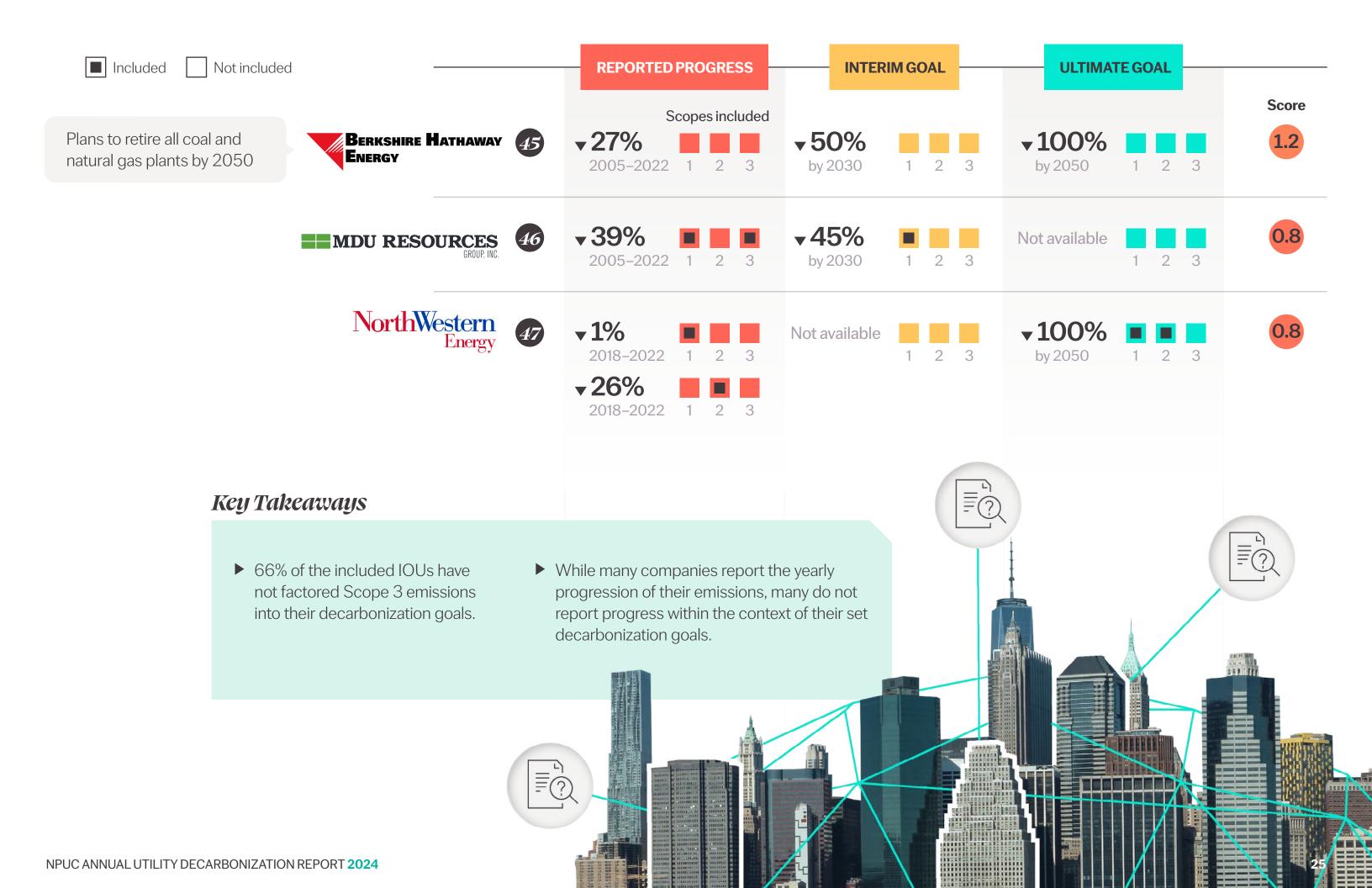






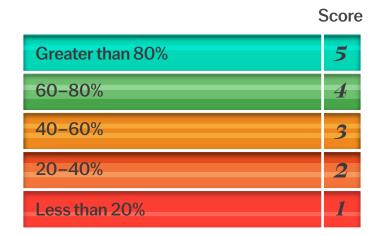




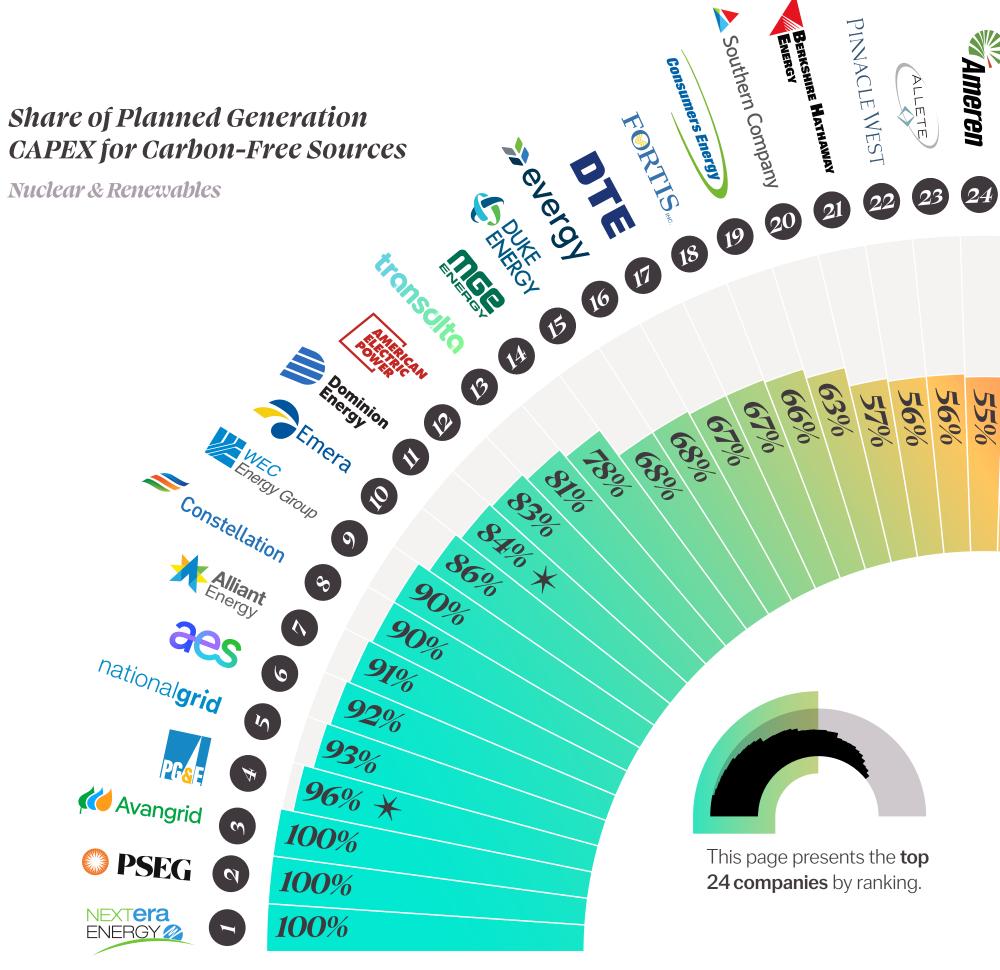


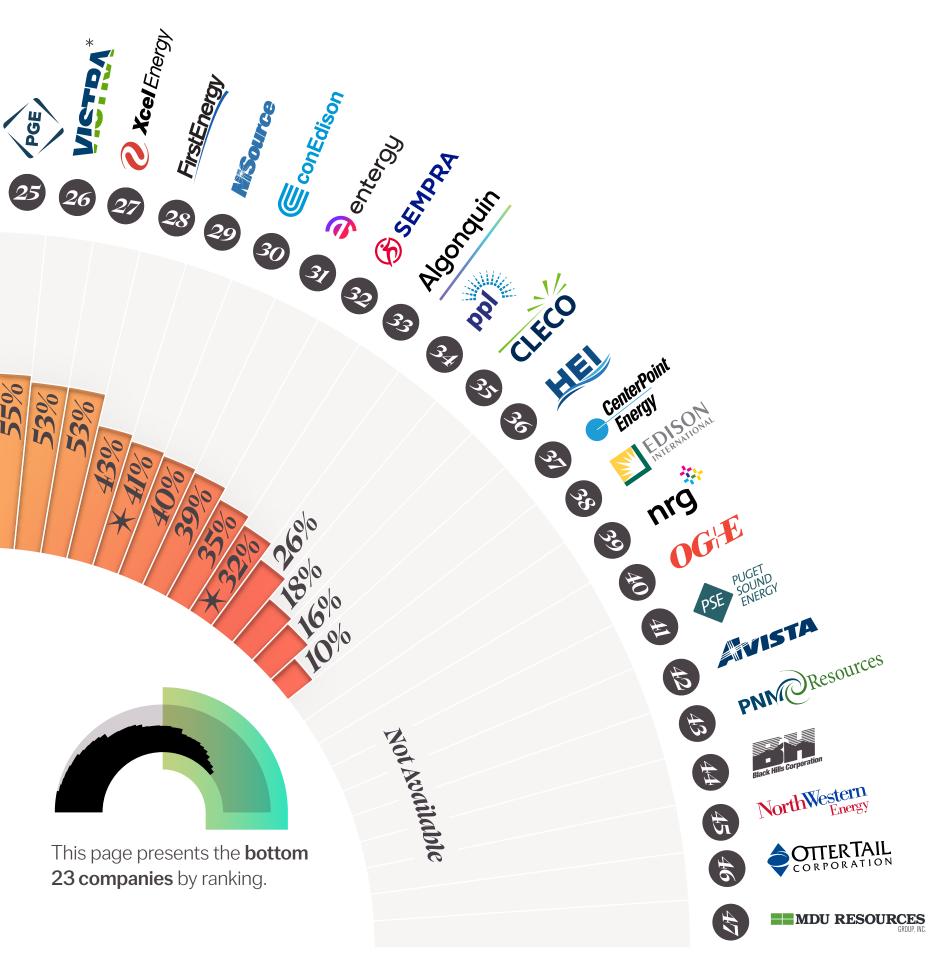
Carbon-Free Investment

Measures the share of each utility's planned capital expenditure (CAPEX) for carbon-free electricity generation.



Planned CAPEX unreported, shows 2022 realized CAPEX Data updated December 2024.





Key Takeaways

- Almost two-thirds of reported CAPEX was allocated to carbonfree sources in 2022, up slightly from 63% in 2021.
- ► CAPEX for electricity generation is the least-reported metric in the Decarbonization Index.

Nonetheless, there has been a slight improvement in reporting year-over-year:

10 companies

did not report in 2022 (2024 report)

12 companies

did not report in 2021 (2023 report)

^{*}Some nuclear spend is included in fossil fuel spend.

Yearly Progression

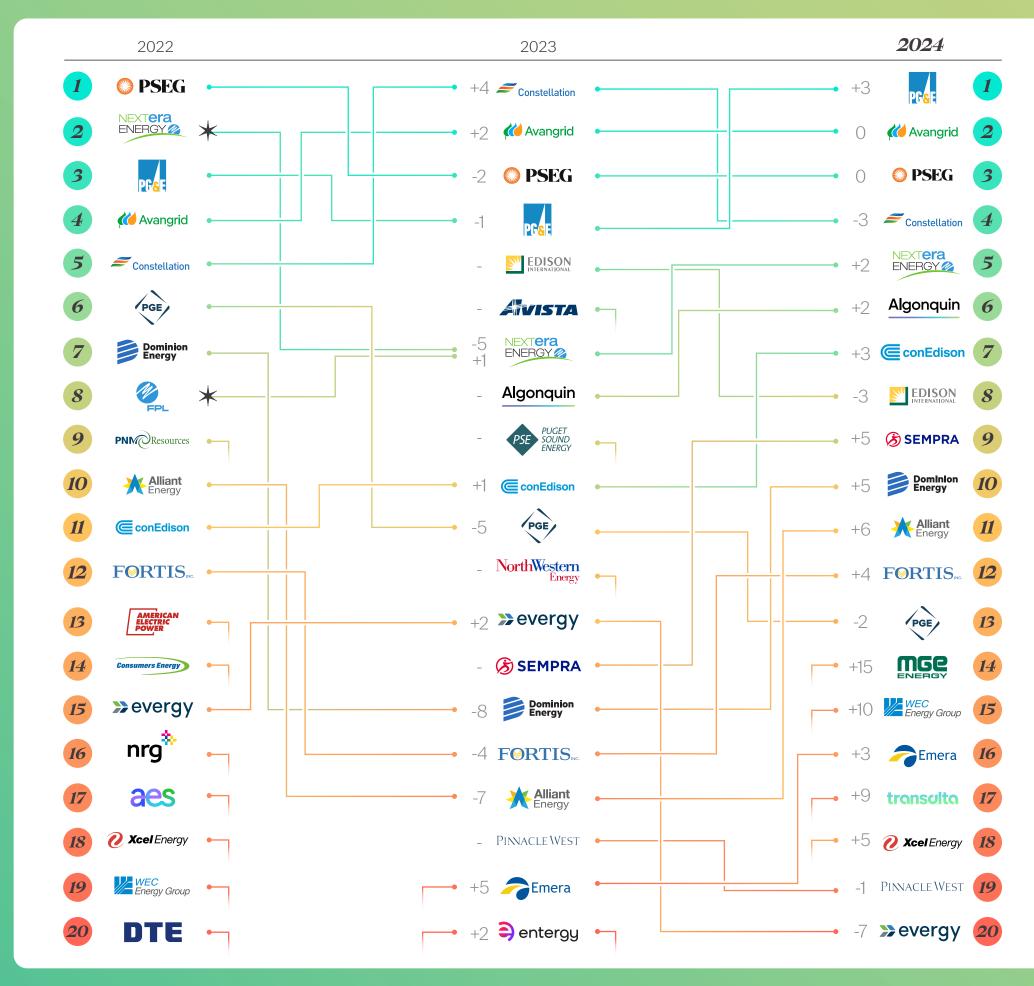
A key goal of the Index is to provide an independent, outside assessment of U.S. utilities' decarbonization efforts, and to hold them to account for emissions reduction commitments, but it is also to celebrate the progress made on their clean energy transition.

The very first Decarbonization Index in 2022 focused solely on parent companies, and in 2023 was expanded to include even more utilities. This year, in 2024, the Index was updated yet again to further refine the methodology used.

Notwithstanding these updates, here is how the Index rankings have changed for the top 20 companies, year-over-year.

NextEra Energy Resources and Florida Power and Light are subsidiaries of NextEra Energy.

Data updated December 2024.



The U.S.

Utilities Impact Report Card

Why impact reporting is paramount and the state of reporting across U.S. investor-owned utilities.

Relevance & Methodology — 30

Impact Report Card & — 33 Key Takeaways

Regulatory & Policy — 37 Landscape Deep Dive



What Is Impact Reporting?

Impact reporting is an emerging field within accounting that focuses on measuring and reporting the social, environmental, and economic impacts of an organization's activities.

It goes beyond traditional financial accounting by incorporating non-financial metrics that reflect the broader consequences of business operations on stakeholders and the environment.

The goal is to provide a more comprehensive view of an organization's performance and its contribution to sustainable development.

While there are different frameworks of impact reporting, disclosures are generally made up of the three following components:

Materiality **Assessments** Explanation of how the company determines the materiality of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

Description of the governance processes in place to oversee ESG disclosures.

Narrative **Disclosures** Qualitative information to provide context and insights into quantitative ESG metrics.

Discussion of the company's ESG strategies, goals, and performance against those goals.

Climate-Related Financial Risks Detailed disclosures on how climate-related risks and opportunities are identified, assessed, and managed.

Impact of climate-related risks on the company's strategy, business model, and financial planning.

Scenario analysis, including the resilience of the company's strategy under different climate-related scenarios.

Source: Motive Power⁶

Why Is It Important?

According to expert organizations, such as the Climate Disclosure Project and the IFRS Foundation, these disclosures are crucial for several reasons:

Market Transparency & Efficiency Misinformation, or a lack of information, can cause investors and other stakeholders to incorrectly price or value assets, resulting in misallocation of capital and market inefficiencies.⁷

Enhanced Reputation By participating in globally recognized disclosure frameworks, companies can enhance trust through transparency and address growing public concerns about climate issues.⁸

Accountability & Risk Management Uncovering company-specific inefficiencies, risks, and performance can guide strategic planning and risk management.

Remember: What gets measured gets done!⁷

A Level Playing Field

Established disclosure frameworks allow companies, investors, and other stakeholders to have access to globally comparable information, which can support the tracking and benchmarking of progress and the correct allocation of capital.⁹

Future-Proof Businesses Capturing and reporting impact metrics can allow companies to leverage data to get money, make money, and save money.⁶

Did you know?

Impact accounting can enable utilities to document and justify investments in cost-effective energy efficiency initiatives.

Since 2010, utilities have consistently reported that the average cost of saving electricity through efficiency programs is significantly lower than generating new power, averaging around 3 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Source: Berkeley Lab¹⁰

Better Information, Better Decisions.



Methodology

How The Impact Report Card Is Scored

The Impact Report Card evaluates whether each utility publicly disclosed the following information in 2022.

Scope 1 **Emissions**

Direct emissions resulting from owned or controlled sources.

Scope 2 **Emissions**

Indirect emissions resulting from the consumption of purchased electricity, heat, or steam.

Scope 3 **Emissions**

Indirect value chain emissions from upstream and downstream operations (17 categories in total).

Projected Energy Mix

The projected share of each energy source in a utility's owned generation mix.

Water Withdrawal

The amount of fresh water withdrawn for electricity generation and other operations.

Waste Generation

The amount of waste generated during electricity generation and other operations.

Political Contributions

Financial donations made by the company to political candidates, parties, or advocacy groups.

This year's report includes several new metrics that align with internationally recognized disclosure frameworks.

New in 2024

Assessment of Climate-Related Risks

The potential negative impacts of climate change on the utility, including physical and transitional risks.

New in 2024

Strategy for Mitigating and Adapting to Risks

The utility's plans to reduce emissions to lessen climate change (mitigation) and enhancing their capacity to manage and recover from its impacts (adaptation).

New in 2024

Strategy for Achievina Decarbonization **Targets**

The utility's plans to walk the talk when it comes to their announced decarbonization targets.

New in 2024

Progress Toward Decarbonization Targets

Advancement made in reducing emissions, reported within the context of announced decarbonization targets. New in 2024

Workforce **Development Efforts**

Initiatives aimed at equipping employees with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate in and support the clean energy transition.

New in 2024

Technology Investment

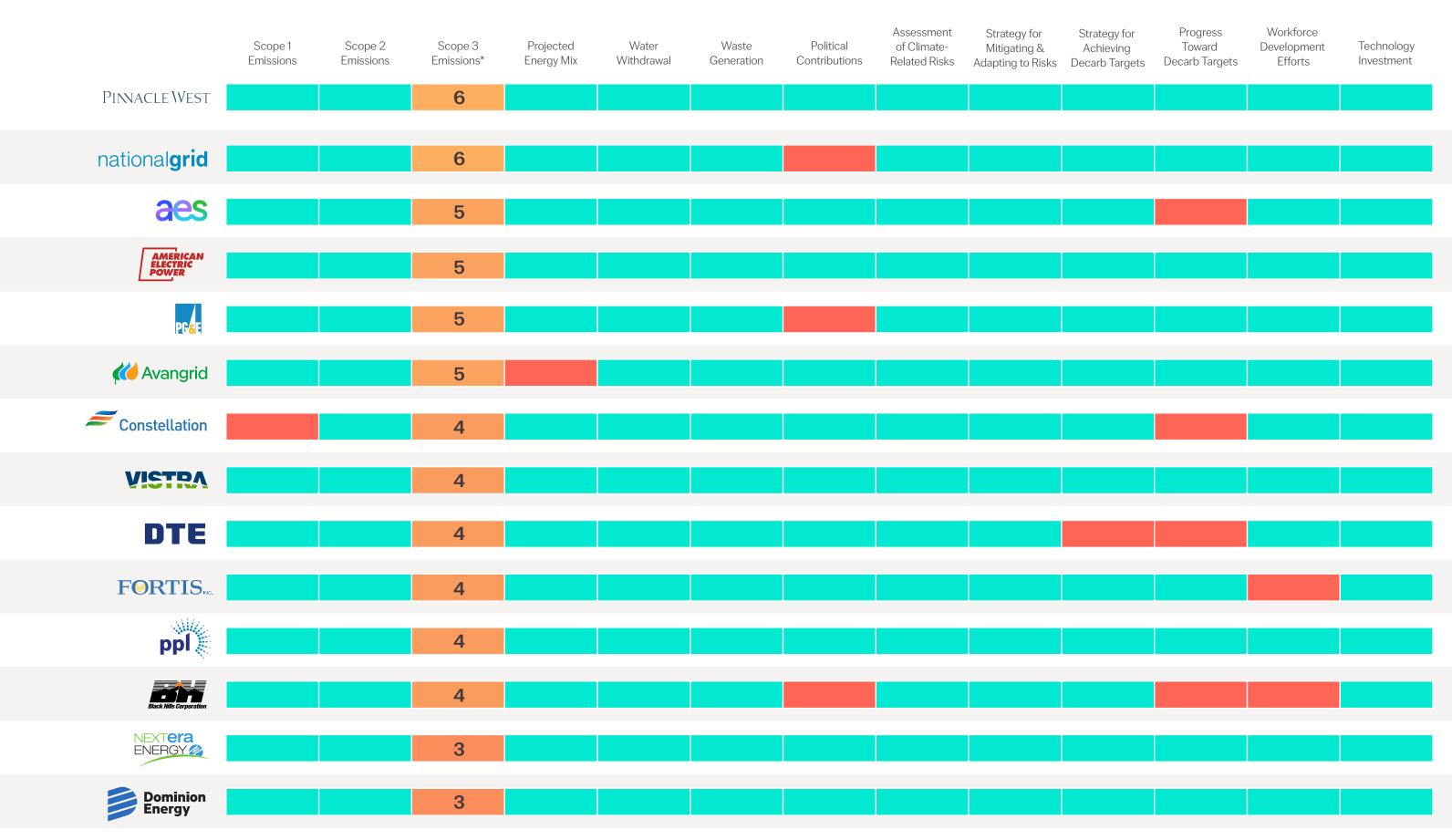
How resources are allocated toward the research, development, and deployment of innovative technologies that facilitate the clean energy transition.

The 2024 U.S. Utilities **Impact Report Card**

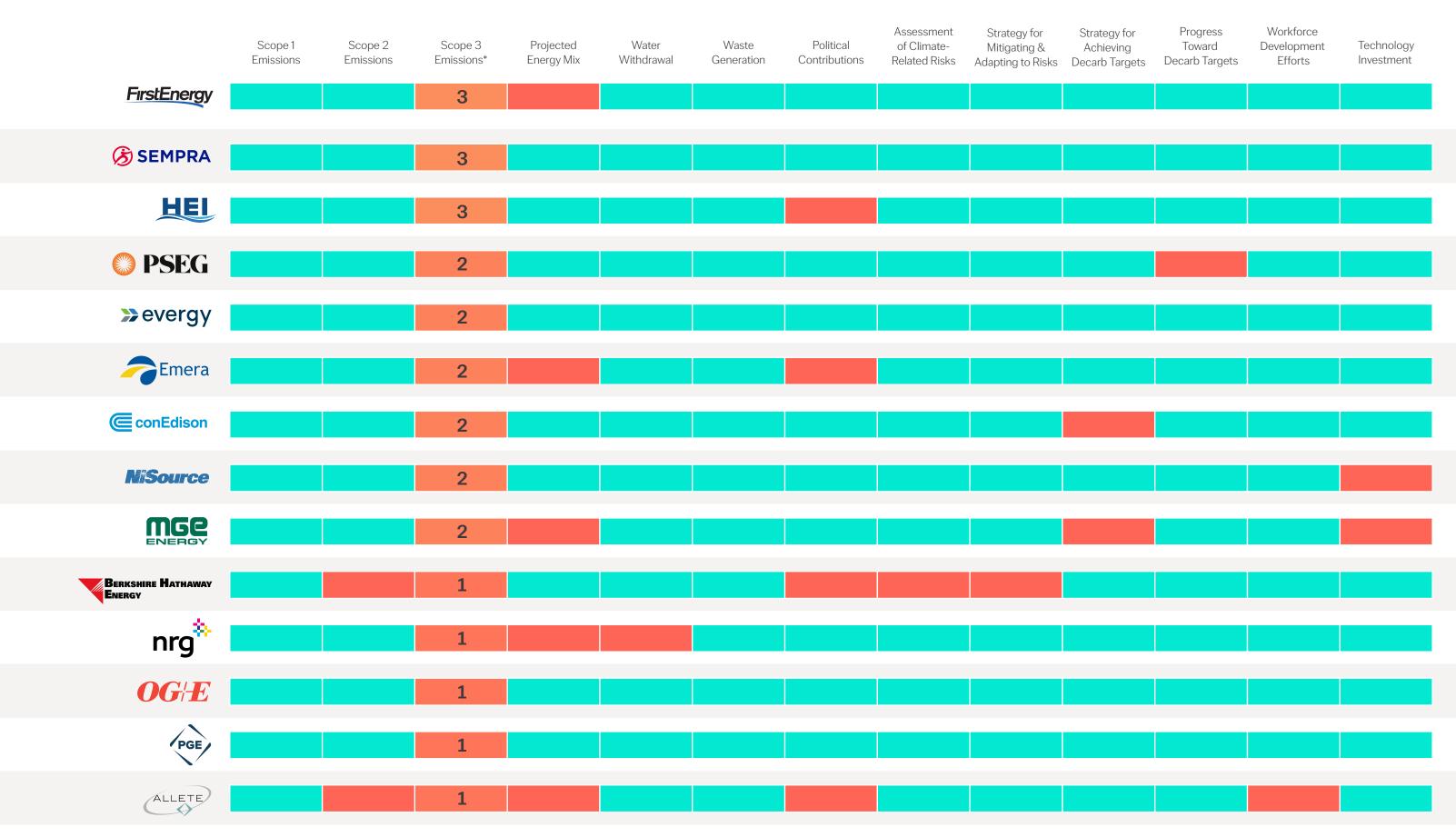
The Impact Report Card evaluates whether each utility publicly disclosed the following metrics in 2022. The red indicators represent information that a utility has failed to report.



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NPUC ANNUAL UTILITY DECARBONIZATION REPORT 2024



NPUC ANNUAL UTILITY DECARBONIZATION REPORT 2024



Impact Report Card Takeaways

► Reported progress toward decarbonization goals are often vague and lack key details.

Many IOUs provide limited updates in the context of their goals, forcing stakeholders to calculate emission reductions from fragmented data.

▶ In 2022, over 50% of IOUs reported less than four scope 3 emission metrics, showing an improvement from 2021 (60%).

Nonetheless, more efforts are needed from utilities—and quickly—as mandatory scope 3 emission reporting is expected to be implemented in the near future.

▶ The level of detail and comprehensiveness of climate-related risk assessments and adaptation strategies vary significantly across IOUs.

A Deep Dive Into The

Regulatory & Policy Landscape Of Impact Reporting Here are some recent of

Here are some recent changes to impact reporting regulations, policy, and frameworks in 2024.

Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures

(TCFD)

The TCFD was established in 2015 to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information around the world

Having fulfilled its mandate, the TCFD was disbanded in late 2023. with the IFRS Foundation now taking over the monitoring of climate disclosure progress.⁷

California Climate Accountability Package

California's Senate Bills 253 and 261. known as the Climate Accountability Package, now require large businesses operating in the state to disclose both their greenhouse gas emissions and the financial risks they face due to climate change.

These bills were signed into law in November 2023 and are first of their kind in the U.S.¹¹

U.S. Securities & **Exchange Commission** Disclosure Enhancement

(SEC)

SFC disclosure rules ensure that investors have access to essential information before participating in the stock market.

As of March 2024, public companies in the U.S. are required to report on how climate change impacts their business, finances, and strategy for the first time. 12

EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

(CSRD)

In January 2023, CSRD went into effect in the FU. The initiative mandates a standardized format for reporting on environmental and social metrics, including governance, human rights, and climate change. 13

The CSRD supersedes the Non-Financial Reporting Directive and significantly expands the number of companies affected, from 11,700 to nearly 50,000.14

New In 2024

A Look At Public And Gas Utilities

For the first time, the Annual Decarbonization Report features industry spotlights on public utilities and natural gas providers.

While their inclusion is less uniform than that of IOUs due to limited data availability, it underscores that IOUs are not alone in the fight toward decarbonization.



Publicly-owned electricity providers and gas utilities are vital contributors to the nation's energy mix, serving millions of consumers.

By including them in this report, we aim to present a more comprehensive view of the energy industry and identify areas where further progress is needed.

This is particularly important for gas utilities, which will continue to influence the U.S. fuel mix for years to come. As they do, a pragmatic approach will be essential in balancing cleaner fossil fuels, nuclear energy, and renewables.



The U.S.

Public Utility Spotlight

An analysis of the fuel mix among the largest U.S. public utilities.

Fuel Mix Ranking

41

Introducing The Largest

Publicly Owned Utilities In The U.S.

By 2022 Net Electricity Generation, MWh

Public power utilities are electricity providers that are divisions of local governments and owned by the communities they serve. 15

They are highly localized, not-forprofit, and an important part of local economies.











of all electricity customers

by **publicly-owned** utilities.

in the United States are served



7







15%





















9.2M

8.9M

AMP

8.4M

7.8M

7.6M

7.1M

6.6M

6.2M

U.S. Public Utilities

Fuel Mix Ranking

Share of Carbon-Free Sources in Owned Electricity Generation

Nuclear & Renewables

	Score
Greater than 80%	5
60-80%	4
40-60%	3
20-40%	2
Less than 20%	1

Key Takeaways

- ► Geography is a big factor in the fuel mixes of public utilities. The top 3 utilities are all located in Washington state and rely on renewables for 100% of their owned generation.
- ► In 2022, 49% of the total electricity generated by the top 20 U.S. public utilities came from carbon-free sources, compared to 42% for investor-owned utilities, demonstrating that public utilities are playing a key role in the industry's decarbonization efforts.



98.7%

72.0%

100.0%

Source: Public utility websites and reports

The U.S.

Gas Utility Spotlight

The role gas utilities can play in decarbonization and analysis of emissions from the largest U.S. gas utilities.

GHG Emissions Ranking — 45



Gas Utilities

In The Context Of Decarbonization

The height of this cube would be nearly 12x taller than the world's tallest building.

Natural gas is an integral part of the U.S. economy.

In 2022, the fossil fuel accounted for 1/3 of U.S. total primary energy consumption, equivalent to roughly 32.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.17

2,717 ft
Height of
Burj Khalifa

31,847 ft
Height of natural gas cube consumed in the U.S. in 2022

Even though natural gas is often touted as clean burning and as a transition fuel for many hard-to-abate sectors like shipping, its outsized role in the U.S. economy resulted in 1,774 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions in 2023.¹⁸

Until a complete transition to carbon-free energy sources is achieved, reducing these emissions will be essential for U.S. climate goals. This can be supported through:



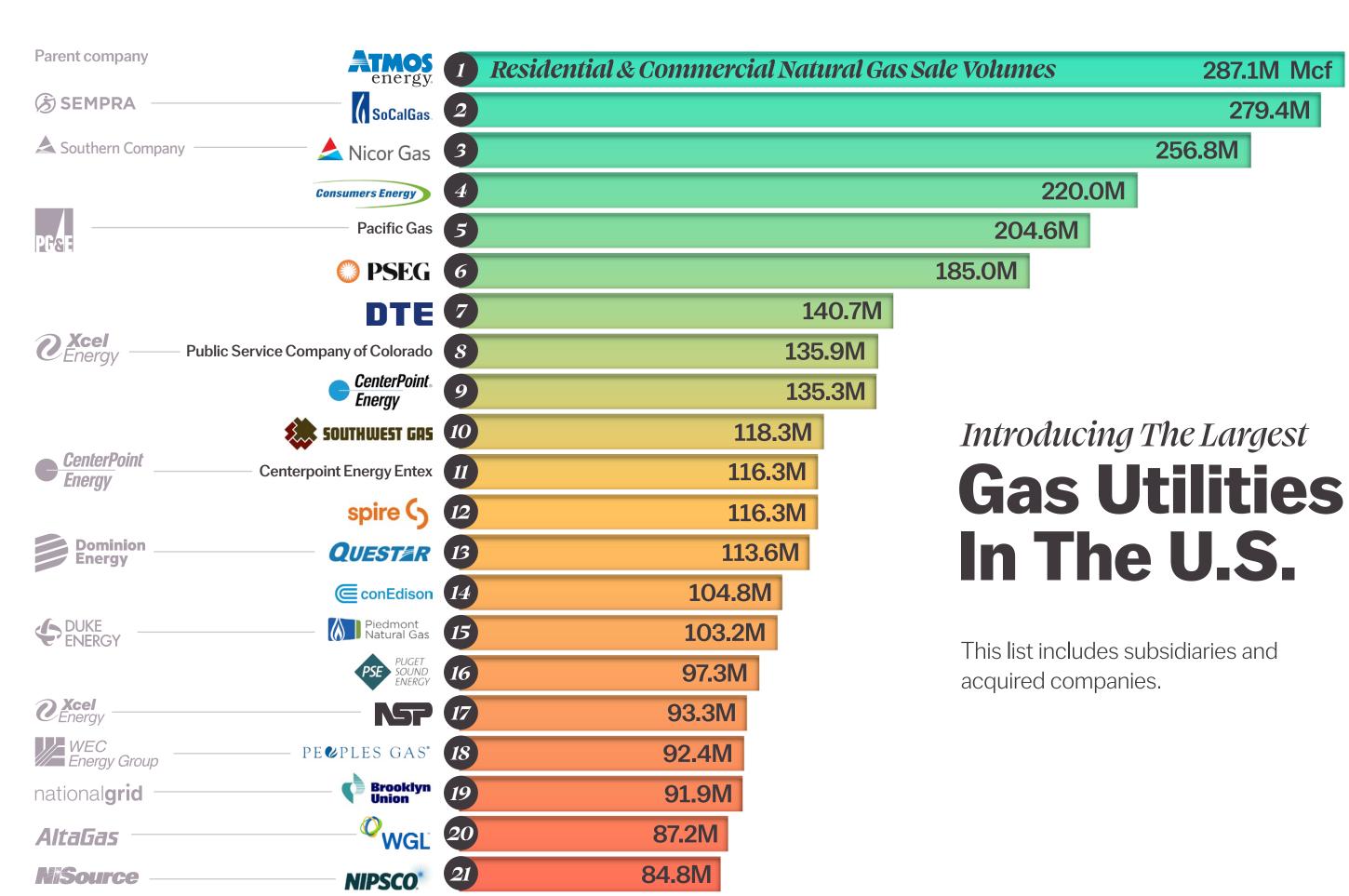
Carbon capture and storage technologies



Reducing methane leaks



Blending natural gas with renewable gases like hydrogen or biogas



77.9M

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY

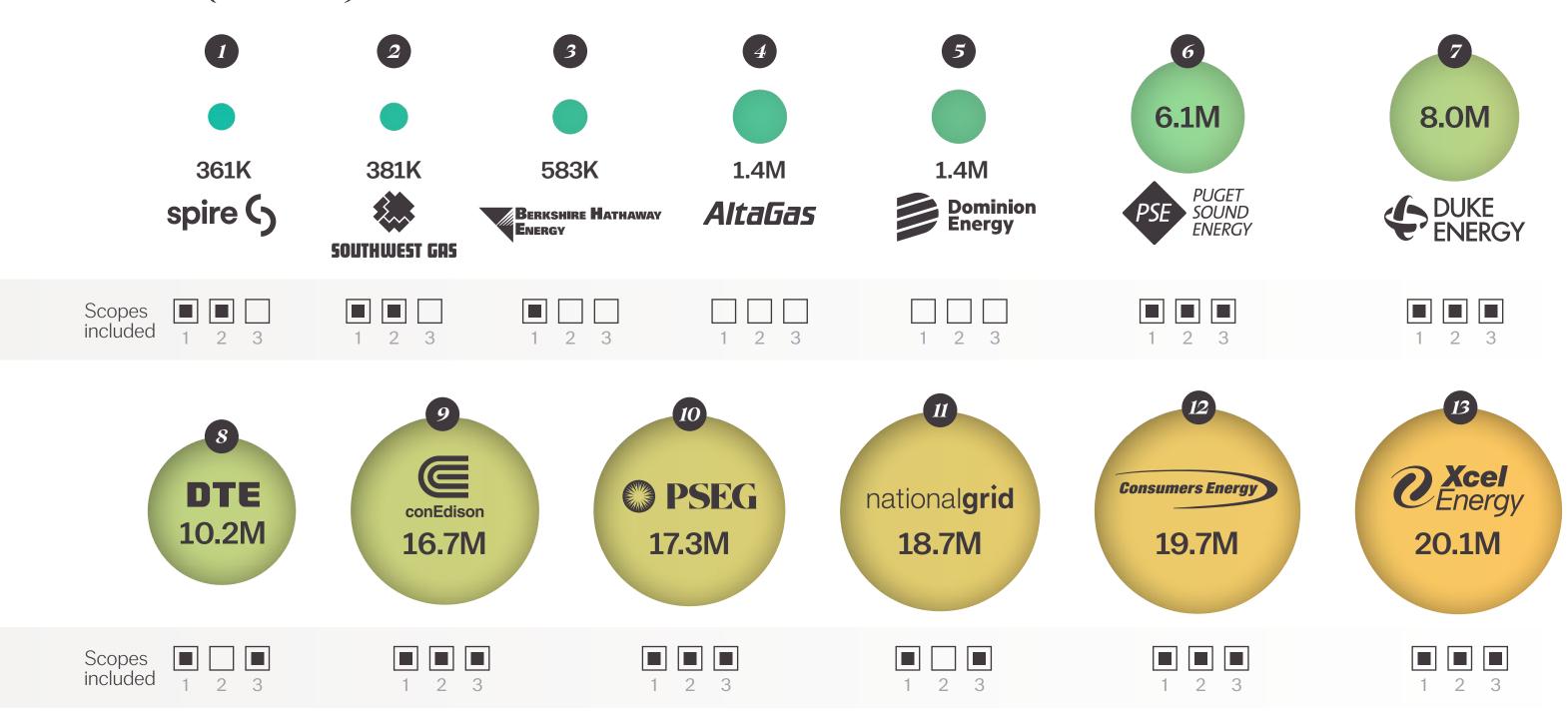
ENERGY

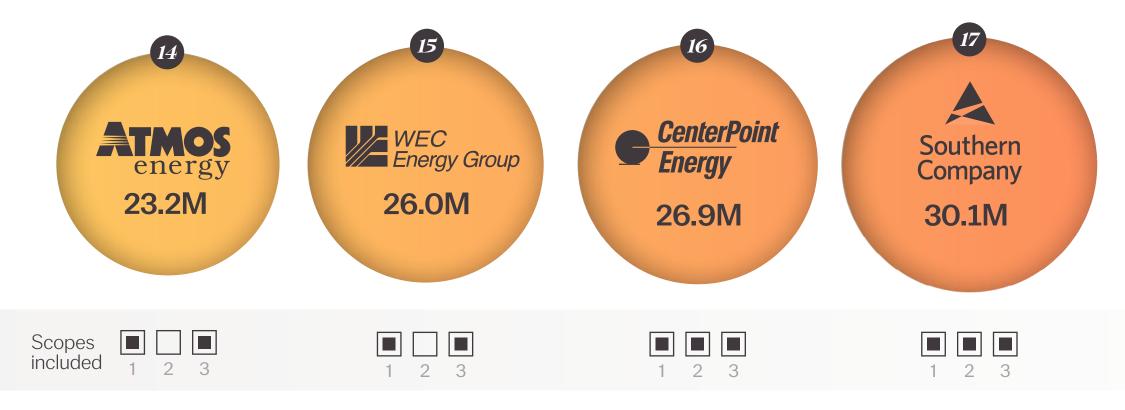
Mcf = volume of 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas Source: American Gas Association¹⁹

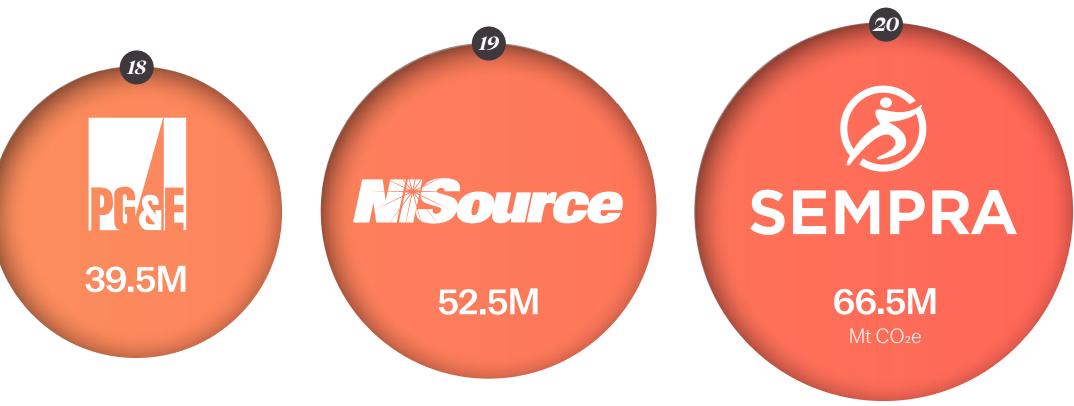
U.S. Gas Utilities Total Emissions Ranking

By 2022 Reported CO₂-Equivalent Emissions (Metric tons)

This list shows gas-related emissions from parent companies only, with the exception of AltaGas (Washington Gas Light Company).







Key Takeaways

- As a pragmatic path toward clean energy is navigated, carbon capture, utilization, and storage technology will be critical to mitigating natural gas-related emissions.
- ► Emission reporting across gas utilities in the U.S. is inconsistent and several companies do not report scope 3 emissions.
 - These companies make up the top scorers for this metric as their total reported emissions are undercounted.
- ► Companies that do not currently report scope 3 emissions must be pragmatic in measuring and reporting these numbers as new mandatory reporting regulations loom.

Scopes Included 1 2

1 2 3

1 2 3

Source: Gas Utility Reports



The Path Forward

Closing thoughts by the National Public Utilities Council.

Looking Ahead

While notable progress has already been made, the decarbonization journey for utilities is fraught with challenges, particularly as regulatory, technological, and operational landscapes continue to evolve.

As we look toward 2025, several key areas require attention and strategic action to ensure a successful transition to a sustainable future.



Regulatory Challenges and Supply Chain Sustainability

The SEC's proposed climate disclosure rules, especially the potential requirements for Scope 3 emissions reporting, represent a significant challenge for the energy and utility sectors. Given the industry's complexity and extensive geographic reach, complying with these rules demands a comprehensive approach to emissions tracking and reporting. Although the timeline for mandatory Scope 3 reporting has been delayed, this extension should not be seen as a reason to postpone action.

Utilities must use this time to develop robust systems for capturing and reporting their full emissions profiles, particularly those associated with upstream and downstream activities.

As Scope 3 reporting becomes a focal point, utilities will increasingly depend on their suppliers to provide accurate Scope 1 and 2 emissions data. Smaller suppliers, especially those with limited resources, may struggle to meet these requirements. Forward-thinking utilities are addressing this by offering training and support to help their suppliers set goals, manage emissions data, and leverage reporting platforms. This collaborative approach not only ensures compliance but also strengthens the entire value chain's commitment to sustainability. Any potential near term cost will be offset by long-term value.

Real-time monitoring technologies are instrumental in this effort, providing crucial data that supports enhanced reporting and decision-making.

Leveraging Reporting Platforms and Tools

Advanced reporting platforms and tools are becoming essential for utilities to streamline the process of tracking and reporting sustainability efforts. These platforms can automate data collection, analysis, and visualization, thereby simplifying the demonstration of progress toward sustainability goals. By offering a comprehensive view of an organization's environmental performance, these tools enhance transparency, credibility, and accountability.

Effective use of these platforms allows utilities and their suppliers to identify areas for improvement, set meaningful targets, and monitor progress toward net-zero goals.

Moreover, these tools facilitate collaboration. knowledge sharing, and benchmarking against industry standards, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and sustainable economy. However, while these tools provide immediate benefits, their use should be seen as part of a broader, phased strategy that prepares for future challenges.

Data Management for the Future

As reporting requirements become more stringent, utilities face the challenge of compiling, managing, and cleansing data across multiple platforms and departments. While advanced reporting platforms offer short-term solutions that enable continued operations within the current landscape, these may come at the cost of efficiency and scalability in the long run.

The uncertain regulatory environment presents an opportunity for utilities to invest in future-proof and cyber-secure data management systems that offer integration across all business functions.

This dual approach ensures that utilities not only address current demands but also build the capacity to meet evolving regulatory and sustainability challenges head-on.

Infrastructure Investment Imperatives

The pace of investment in generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure is accelerating, driven by the anticipated growth in electricity demand and the need to modernize aging systems. Projections indicate that U.S. electricity usage will increase by 27% by 2050²⁰, with significant growth in peak demand expected over the next decade. To meet these demands, investor-owned utilities are set to significantly increase capital investments, with a focus on transmission, distribution, and battery storage.²¹

The scale of these investments underscores the importance of strategic planning and execution in ensuring that the infrastructure not only meets future demands but also supports the broader goals of decarbonization and sustainability.



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About



The National Public Utilities Council

is a leading research organization dedicated to driving progress in the decarbonization of power generation.

The council fosters collaboration between public utilities, providing a platform for sharing ideas and finding innovative solutions to the challenges of reducing carbon emissions.

NPUC's Goals



Share knowledge and experience across utilities and assist in lessons learned on decarbonization efforts.



Create a knowledge repository for utilities to use in pursuit of their decarbonization goals.



Gather research and information for utilities.

The Decarbonization Solutions Forum

Every year, in partnership with a regional utility, the NPUC hosts the **Decarbonization Solutions Forum**, our signature event designed to unite utility leaders, policymakers, and industry innovators in the pursuit of a carbon-neutral energy future.

This forum serves as a catalyst for collaboration and knowledgesharing, with a focus on the latest advancements in clean energy, regulatory strategies, and technological innovations.

Join us at the next NPUC **Decarbonization Solutions Forum in 2025**

decarbforum.com

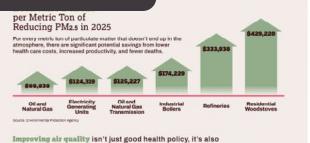
About the

DecarbonizationChannel

In partnership with NPUC and Visual Capitalist, the Decarbonization Channel hosts content that shines a light on the progress towards net-zero goals in the U.S. and drives the utility decarbonization conversation forward.

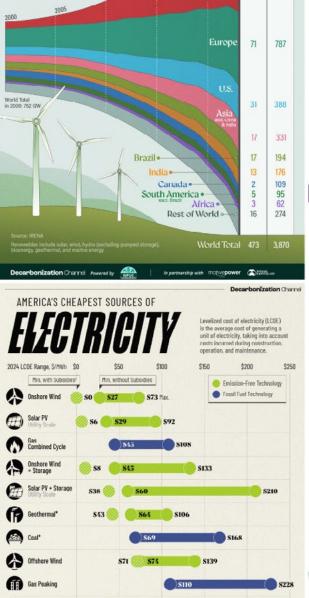
The website provides utilities, administrators, investors, and utility customers a data-driven look at all things decarbonization with a focus on the U.S. energy sector.

Dive into content now at decarbonization.visualcapitalist.com

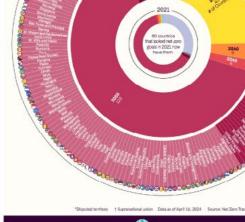


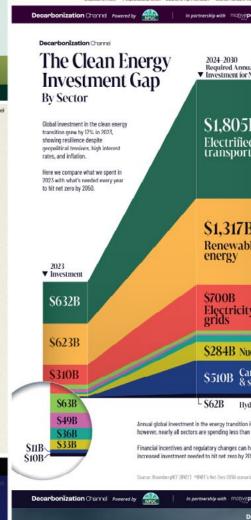
Improving air quality isn't just good health policy, it's also good economic policy: eliminating energy-related PM2.5 emissions nationwide could on its own prevent 53,200 premature deaths annually and provide \$608B in benefits from avoided illness and death.

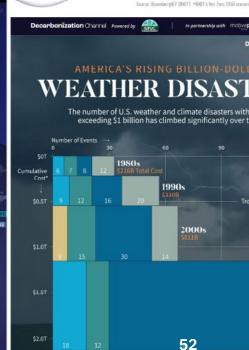












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