

# Electrification in China: Overview

Daniel Wetzel

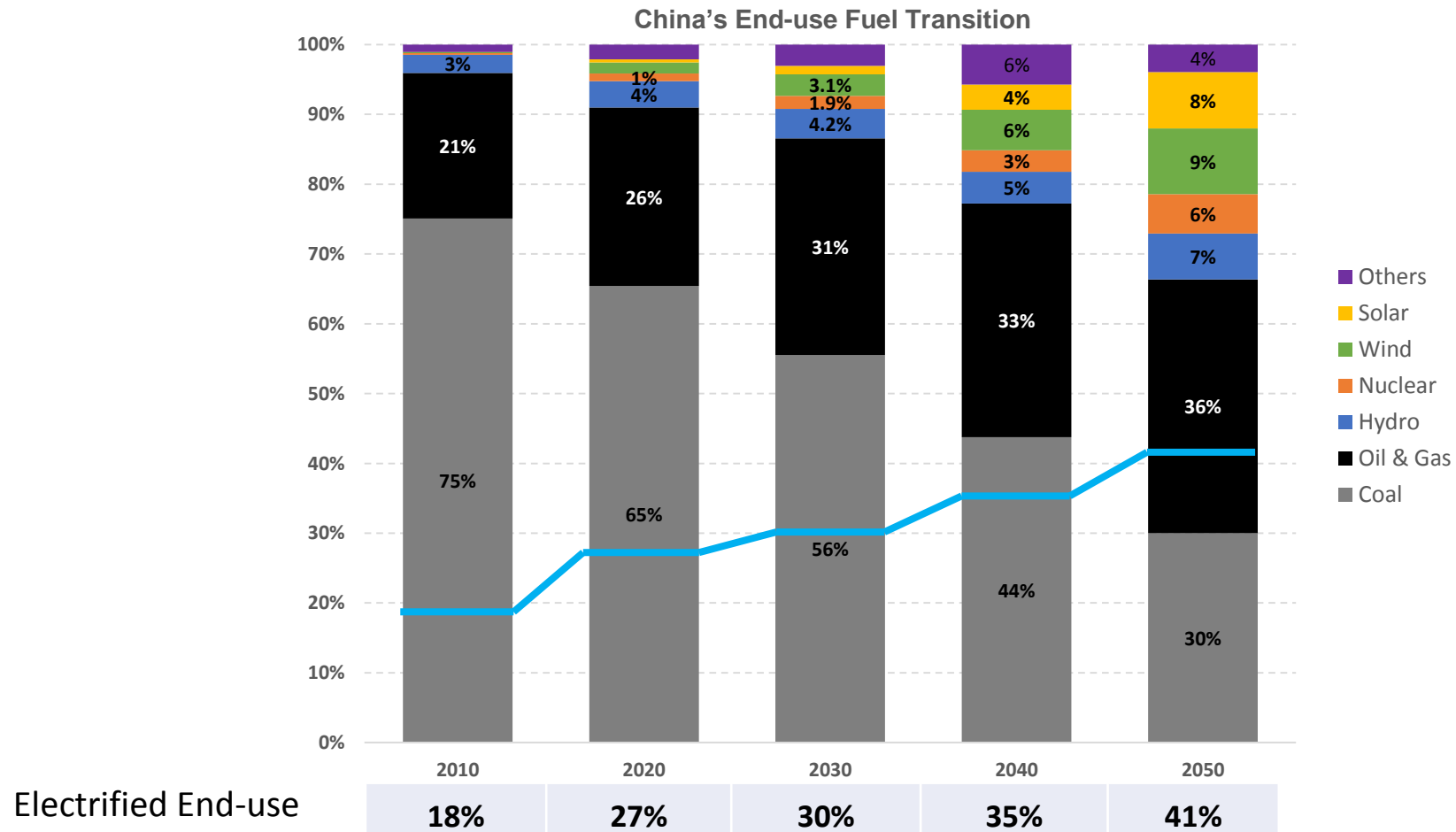
Manager, Rocky Mountain Institute

November 8th, 2018



# China's electrification pathway

**Primary motivation: air pollution reduction**



\* Primary electricity converted using the direct equivalent method (consistent with IPCC) and consists of non-fossil electricity only. Electricity converted to primary energy using the direct equivalent method. Shares may not add to 100% due to rounding.  
Source: Reinventing Fire: China team analysis.

# Major drivers in each sector



## Buildings

**2010->2050  
levels**

22% → 66%

**Major levers**

Rural and district  
heating  
Water heating



## Transportation

1% → 22%

Passenger vehicles  
Rail and buses  
Light freight

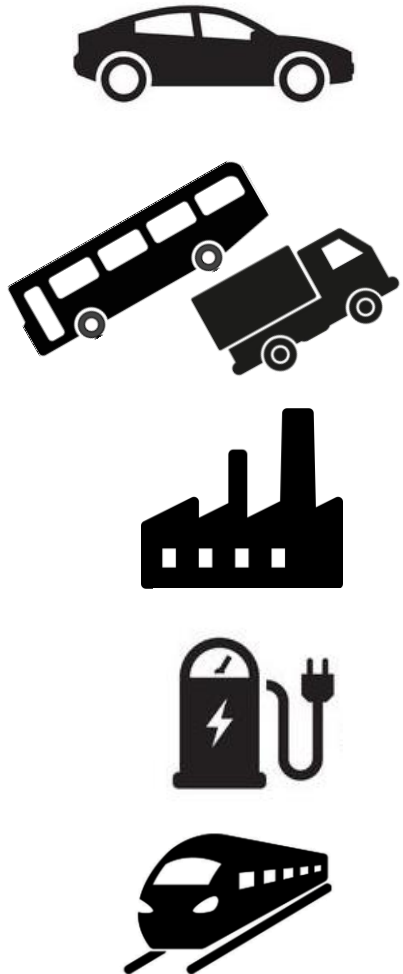


## Industry

19% → 38%

Key processes (e.g.  
electric arc  
furnaces)

# Vehicle Electrification: Huge growth



## 2017 Estimates

**579,000** passenger EVs sold annually

**198,000** commercial medium- and heavy-duty EVs (mostly **large buses**) sold annually

**1.7 million** total electric vehicles in China

**794,000** electric vehicles were **manufactured** in China, **10%** of all vehicles manufactured

Estimated **475,000 chargers**, 210,000 publicly accessible

Estimated **43%** of train travel electrified

## 2020 Goals

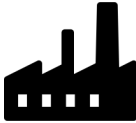




**5 million electric vehicles** on China's roads

EVs are **12%** of all vehicle **manufacturing**

**5 million chargers** by 2020

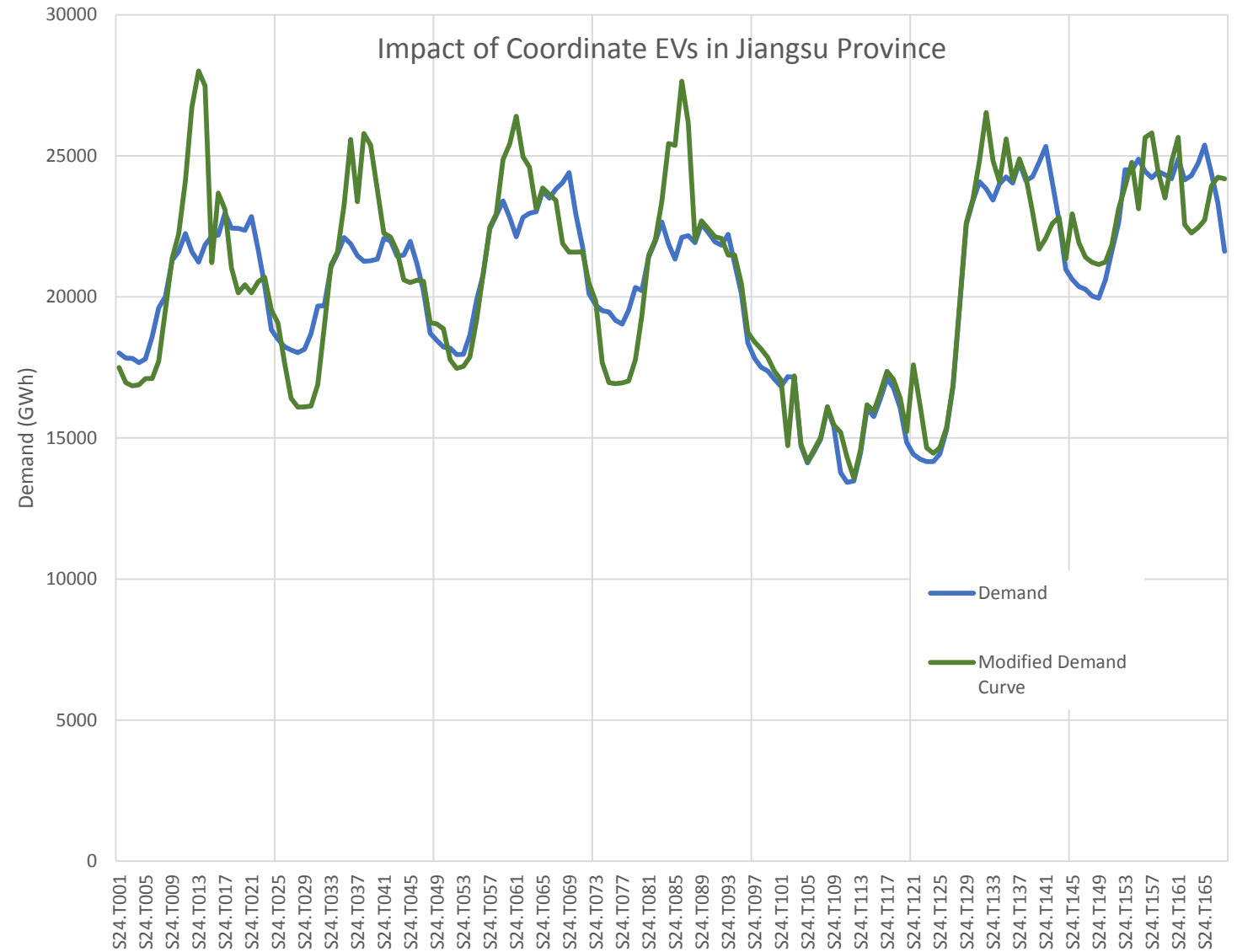
**70%** of all **trains electrified**

# Vehicle Electrification: Policy-driven

	Policy applied to...	Types of policies
	Manufacturers/retailers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subsidies for cars produced</li><li>• Targets for imports and manufacturing</li></ul>
	Fleet Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subsidies for vehicles purchased</li><li>• City targets for fleet electrification (bus, cabs, etc.)</li></ul>
	End Customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Priority registration and parking, no travel restrictions</li><li>• Subsidies and tax exemptions</li></ul>
	Charging Station Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Subsidies for public charging</li><li>• Grid company allowed to rate base in some cities</li></ul>
	Railway Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engine import subsidies</li><li>• Restrictions on road freight to increase rail use</li></ul>

# Vehicle Electrification: Misaligned incentives for smart charging

- China has no electricity markets, hard to value EV demand shifting
- Chargers have TOU rates, but not coordinated with grid operation and investment
- Coordinated EV charging reduces 130 GW of additional plants by 2030





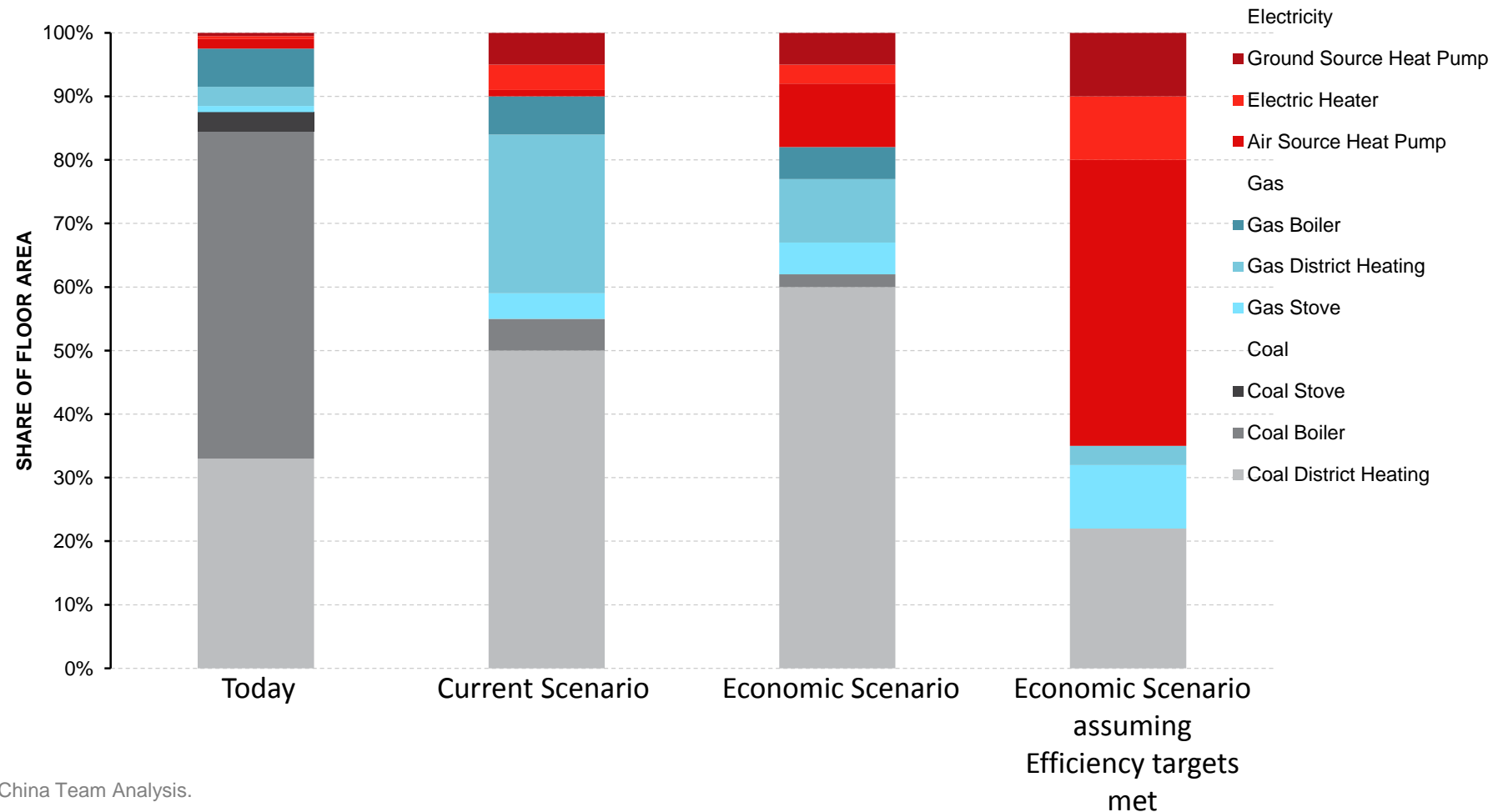
# District Heating: Growing demand

- District heating only in the North, South typically uses minimal heating.
- The dividing line has been moved further South, meaning huge growth in CHP
- Development in the south means increased heating demand



# District Heating: Electrification potential

**FIGURE 5.13:**  
**SHARES OF RESIDENTIAL SPACE HEATING EQUIPMENT BY FLOOR SPACE**  
**2010 AND 2050, FOR NORTHERN CLIMATE**





# Heating: Policy directives

Urban	Rural
<p><b>Now:</b> Mostly coal CHP</p> <p><b>Switching to:</b> natural gas or district geothermal heat pumps</p> <p><b>Policies:</b> Restrictions on standalone boilers, forced conversion to NG/electricity (regional or city), retrofit CHP to increase flexibility (heat storage and electric heating)</p> <p><b>Challenge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Earlier heat pump campaign encountered quality issues</li><li>• Coal plants more profitable, jobs, GDP, sells electricity</li><li>• Heat pumps don't buy at market rates yet</li><li>• Inflexible CHP plant operation increases renewable curtailment</li></ul>	<p><b>Now:</b> Mostly standalone coal boilers, kang stoves</p> <p><b>Switching to:</b> heat pumps, electric radiant heat, LPG or NG boilers</p> <p><b>Policies:</b> Ban on burning coal, subsidies to use heat pumps or LPG or NG</p> <p><b>Challenge:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low enforcement</li><li>• Unreliable infrastructure</li></ul>

# Industry: Too costly and low motivation

## Current situation:

- Industrial power prices are the highest, cross-subsidize other users
- Industries built their own generation

## Future situation:

- Market reforms are lowering on-grid power prices
- May make electrification competitive
- Industry is overcapacity, little new build, no cash on hand to retrofit
- Captive generators will be targeted by new air quality laws