

The Role of National Governments in Developing Deep Decarbonization Pathways

PRESENTATION BY:

NOAH KAUFMAN, PH.D.

WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE; NEW CLIMATE ECONOMY PROJECT

FORMERLY: WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



United States Mid-Century Strategy

FOR DEEP DECARBONIZATION

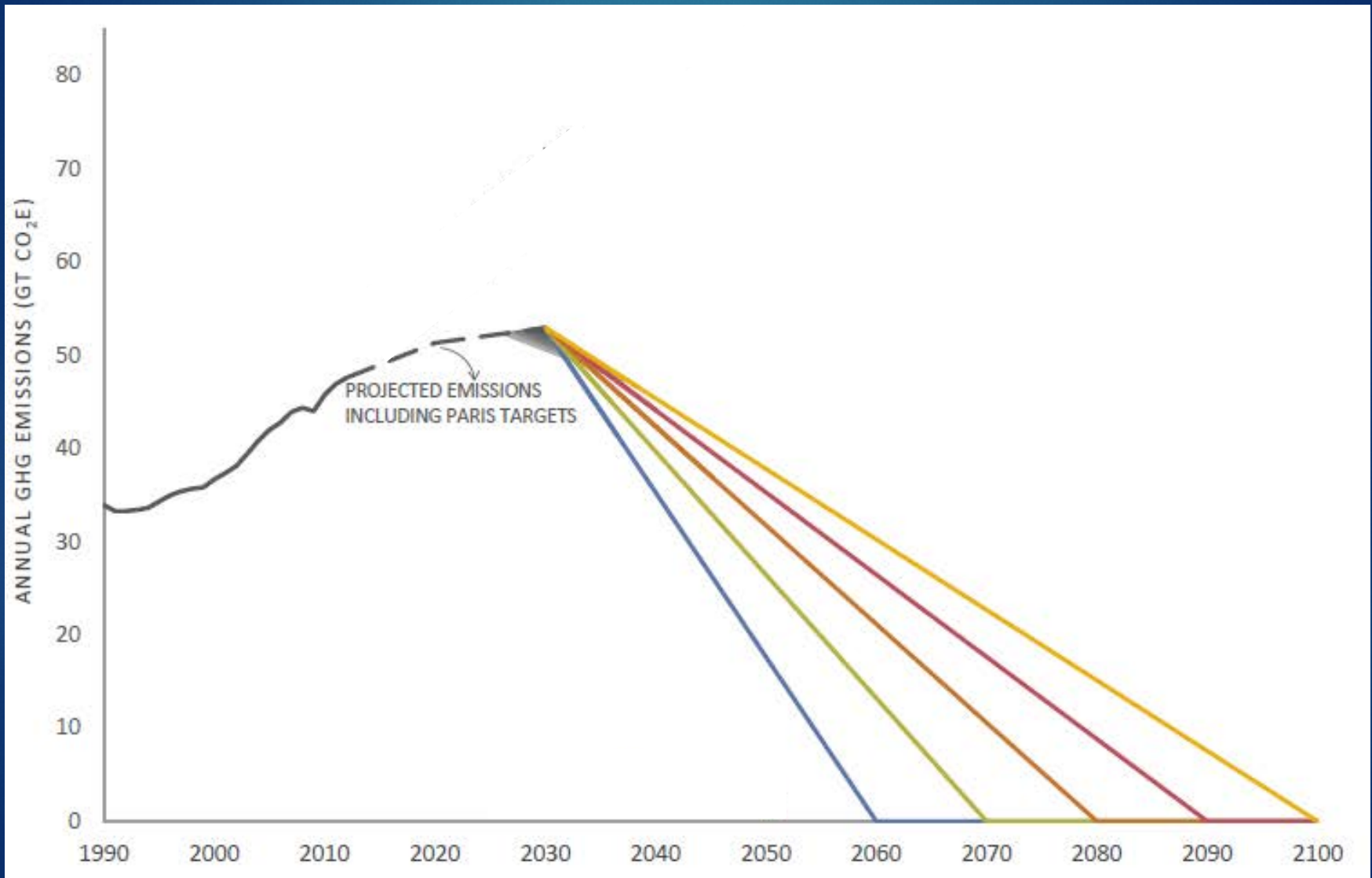


NOVEMBER 2016

3 Reasons National Governments Should Develop Deep Decarbonization Pathways

1. Input to international process
 - ▶ Article 4.19 of Paris Agreement
 - ▶ Six countries have submitted to UNFCCC
2. First step in domestic policy process
 - ▶ Inform scale of policies
 - ▶ Inform scope of policies
3. Unique platform for influence
 - ▶ Power of persuasion (“We can do this!”)
 - ▶ Market signal

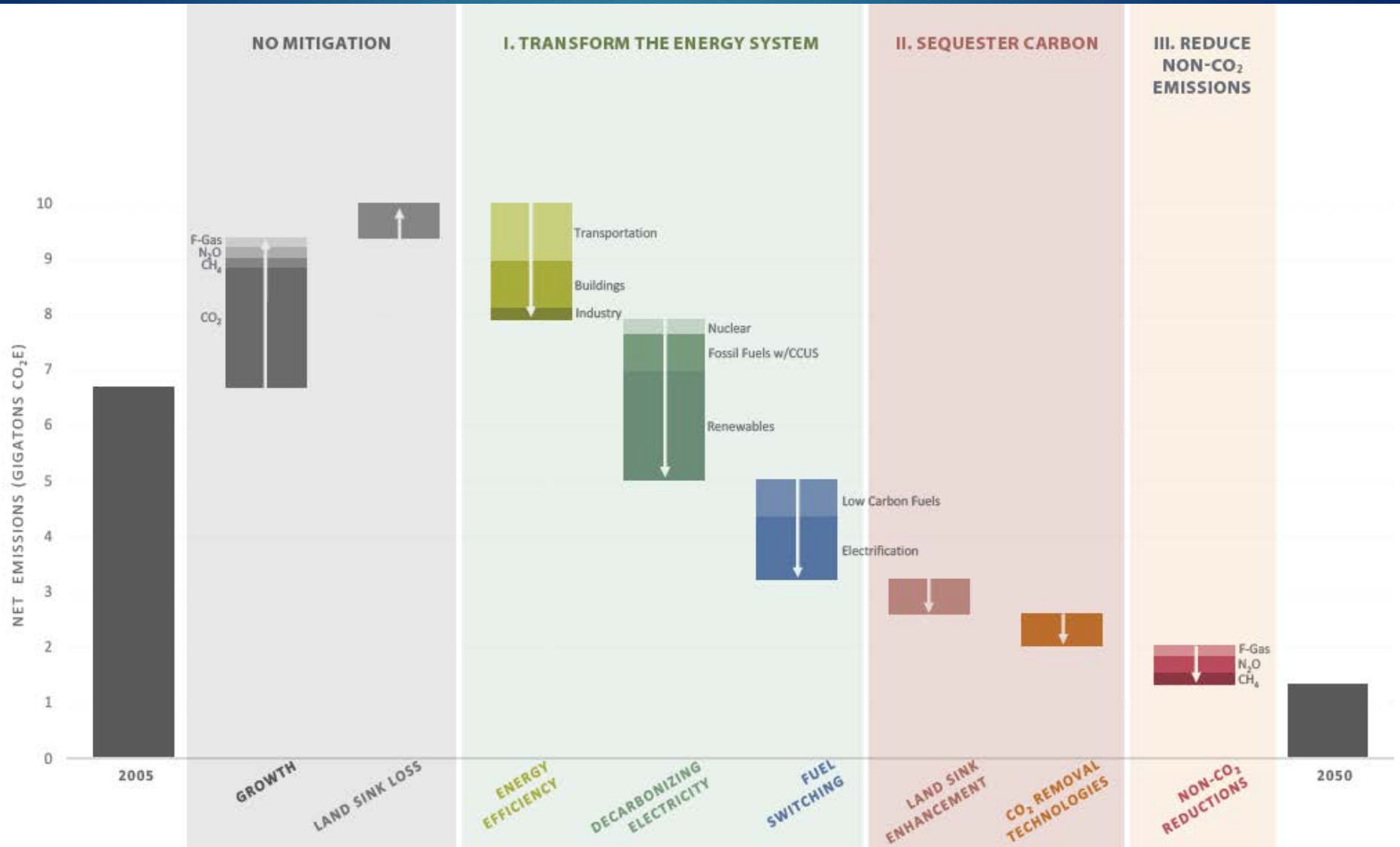
Global Pathways to Net-Zero Emissions



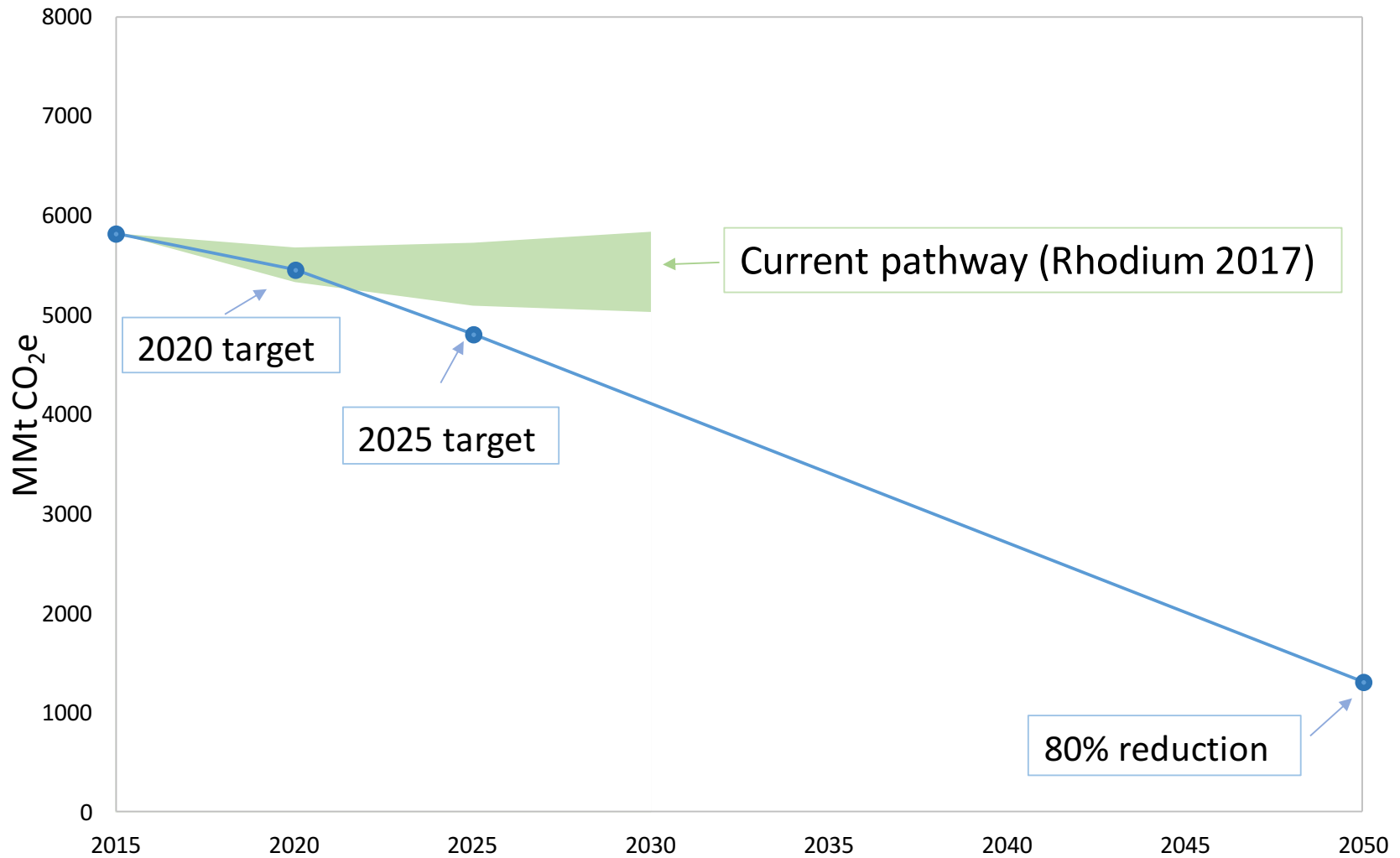
3 Challenges of National Government Deep Decarbonization Pathways

1. Emissions targets are assets in international negotiations
2. Government approval process may lead to conservative pathways
3. Gov't reports are political documents
 - ▶ Wary of results taken out of context
 - ▶ Problematic messaging (“We are not doing this!”)

Components of Emissions Reductions in U.S. Mid-Century Strategy Benchmark Scenario



Obama Emissions Targets vs Current Path



The end

Contact Info:

Noah Kaufman, Ph.D.

World Resources Institute

nkaufman@wri.org

Reference:

U.S. MCS (and data) available on the UNFCCC website:

http://unfccc.int/focus/long-term_strategies/items/9971.php

