



# Ammonia combustion emissions

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**AMMONIA ENERGY**  
ASSOCIATION



# Ammonia Energy Association

- The Ammonia Energy Association (AEA) is a global industry association that promotes the responsible use of ammonia in a sustainable energy economy
- **Supply:** decarbonize ammonia production
- **Demand:** adopt ammonia in energy markets
- **Members:** global and cross-sectoral



## MEMBER LIST — May 2022

**PLATINUM:** bp, CF Industries\*, CWP Global, Denbury Inc., The Hydrogen Utility\*, InterContinental Energy\*, KBR\*, LSB Industries, Mitsui & Co., Monolith Materials, Nutrien\*, OCI\*, Starfire Energy\*, Yara\*. **GOLD:** AFC Energy, Airgas, Aker Clean Hydrogen, Asian Renewable Energy Hub, Casale\*, Enaex, Engie, Equinor, Fortescue Future Industries, FuelPositive, Haldor Topsøe\*, Hamilton Locke, Marnco, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Origin Energy\*, Proton Ventures\*, S&P Global Platts, Syzygy Plasmonics, thyssenkrupp Industrial Solutions\*, Trammo, Trigon, Tri-State Generation & Transmission. **SILVER:** AES Gener, Air Products, Ammonigy, AmmPower, Amogy, Argus Media, BASF, Black & Veatch, Bureau Veritas, Burns & McDonnell, Casa dos Ventos, Consorcio Eólico, CRU Group, CS Combustion Solutions, Copenhagen Atomics, Cummins, EIFER, Enterprize Energy, Fertiberia, GenCell Energy, GTI Energy, Gunvor Group\*, H2Site, Heraeus, Horizont Energi, HyFuels Holdings, IHI Americas, Inherent Solutions Consult, inodú, Intecsa Industrial, Johnson Matthey, Koch Fertilizer, Linde, Lotte Fine Chemical, Mabanaff, Maersk\*, Mercuria, MineARC Systems, Mitsui OSK Lines, Nel Hydrogen\*, Pacific Green Technologies, SagaPure\*, Schoeller-Bleckmann Nitec, Shell, Skeiron, Sperre Industri, Stamicarbon, Talos Energy, Thorium Energy Alliance\*, TotalEnergies\*, Tsubame BHB, Universal H2, Wonik Materials, Woodside Energy. **MEMBERS:** AB Achema, Advanced Ionics, Advanced Thermal Devices, AHMON, Air Liquide, Airthium, Apex Clean Energy, Arizona Public Service, Ark Energy, Arranged, AustriaEnergy, Avaada Energy, Axetris, BLG, Brittany Ferries, C-Job Naval Architects, Carbon-Neutral Consulting\*, CHZ Technology, ControlRooms, Cozairo, Cura IT, Danaos Shipping, Duiker Combustion Engineers, El-H2, Energy Estate, Eneus Energy, ESNA, Evergy, Exmar, George Propane, GESCA, Greenfield Nitrogen, GTT North America, Idemitsu Kosan, Incitec Pivot, Ingenostrum, IT Power Australia, JGC Holding Corporation, John Cockerill, Jupiter Ionics, Keppel Infrastructure, Koole, Mainspring Energy, MAN Energy Solutions, MicroEra Power\*, Moda, Nebraska Public Power District, Neology, Netsco, New Energy Technology, NGLStrategy, Nordex, Northern Nitrogen, NovoHy, NYK Energy Transport (USA), Oceanic Vessels, Oiltanking, Osaka Gas USA, Renewable Hydrogen Corporation Canada, SAFCell, SBM Schiedam, Shrieve Chemical Company, Syntex, Terrestrial Energy, Tokyo Gas, Unconventional Gas Solutions, UPC\AC Renewables, Vahterus, Varo Energy, Vopak.



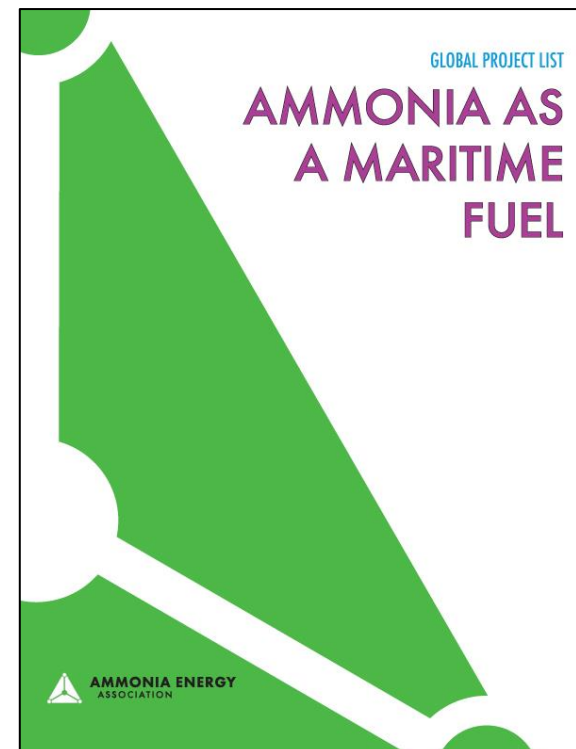
# Ammonia Energy Association



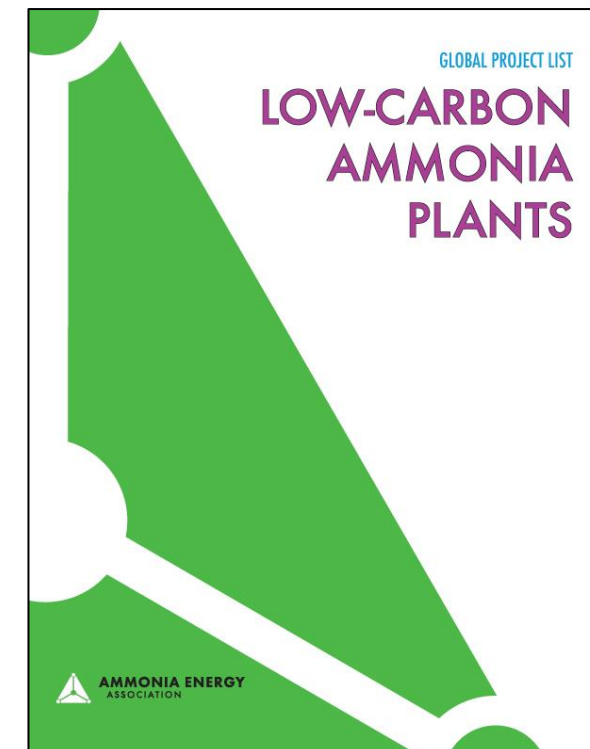
Develop certification  
scheme for low carbon  
ammonia



Innovation Outlook:  
Renewable Ammonia.  
(collaboration with  
IRENA)



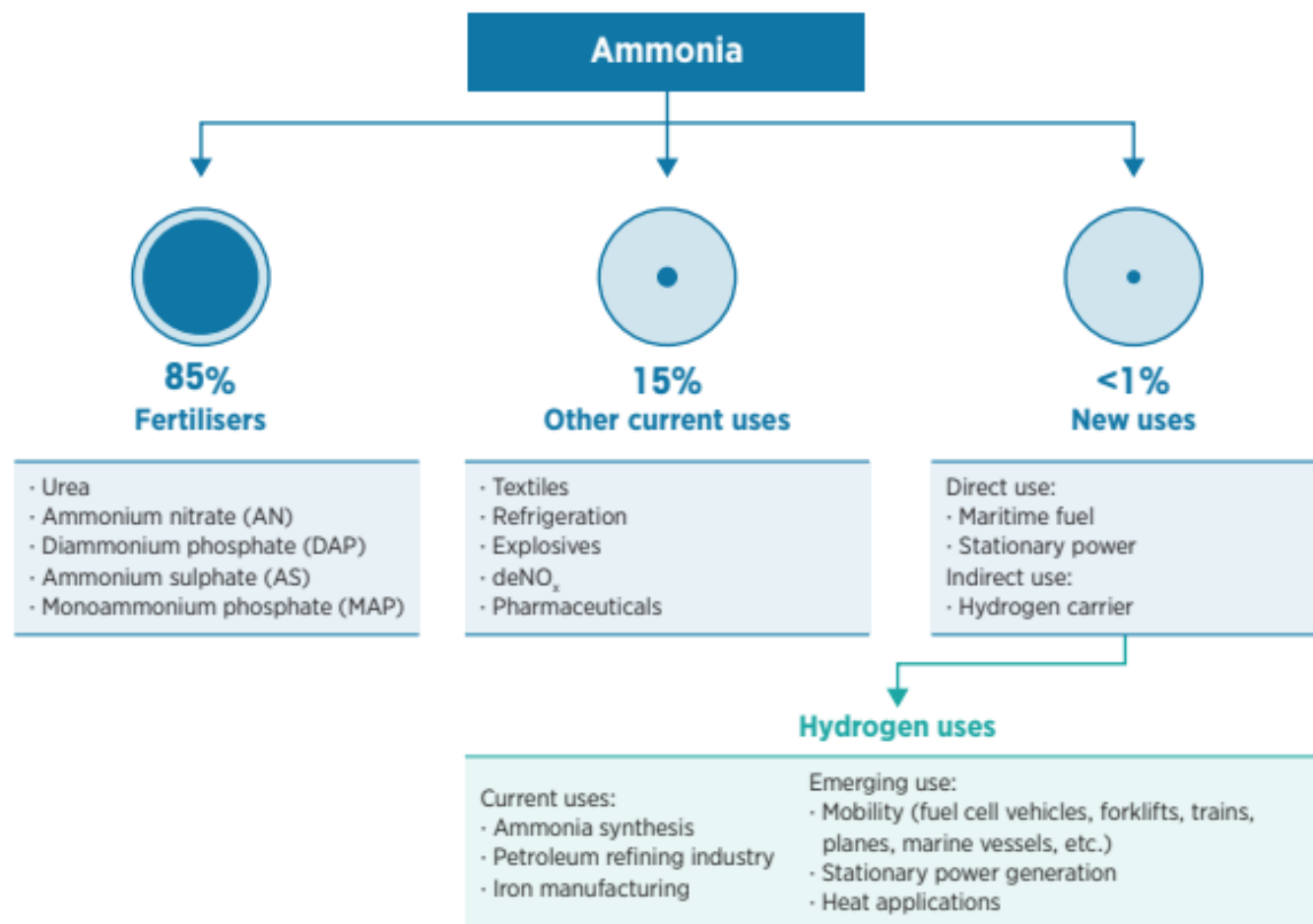
Mapping maritime  
ammonia projects  
(+ webinars)



Mapping low carbon  
ammonia plants  
(+ webinars)

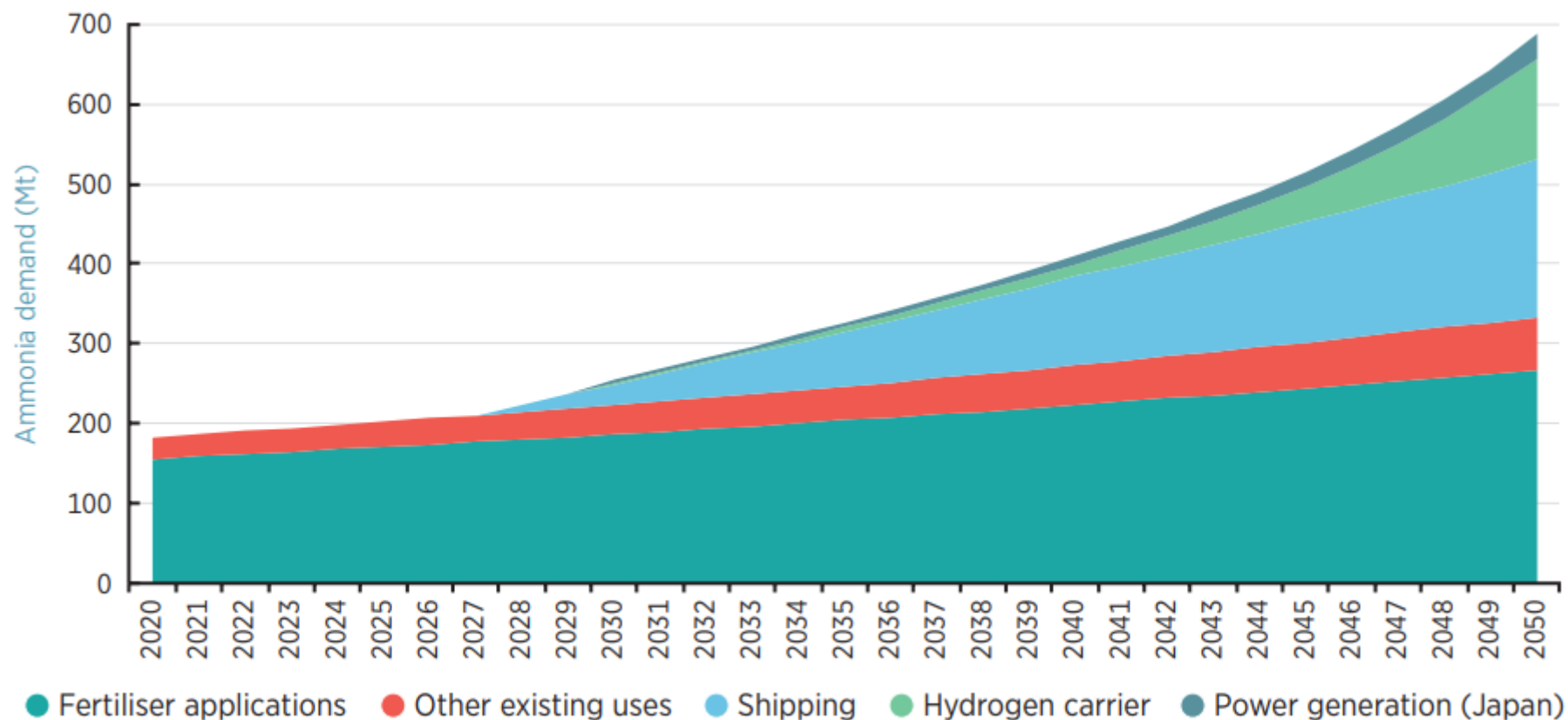


# Ammonia demand



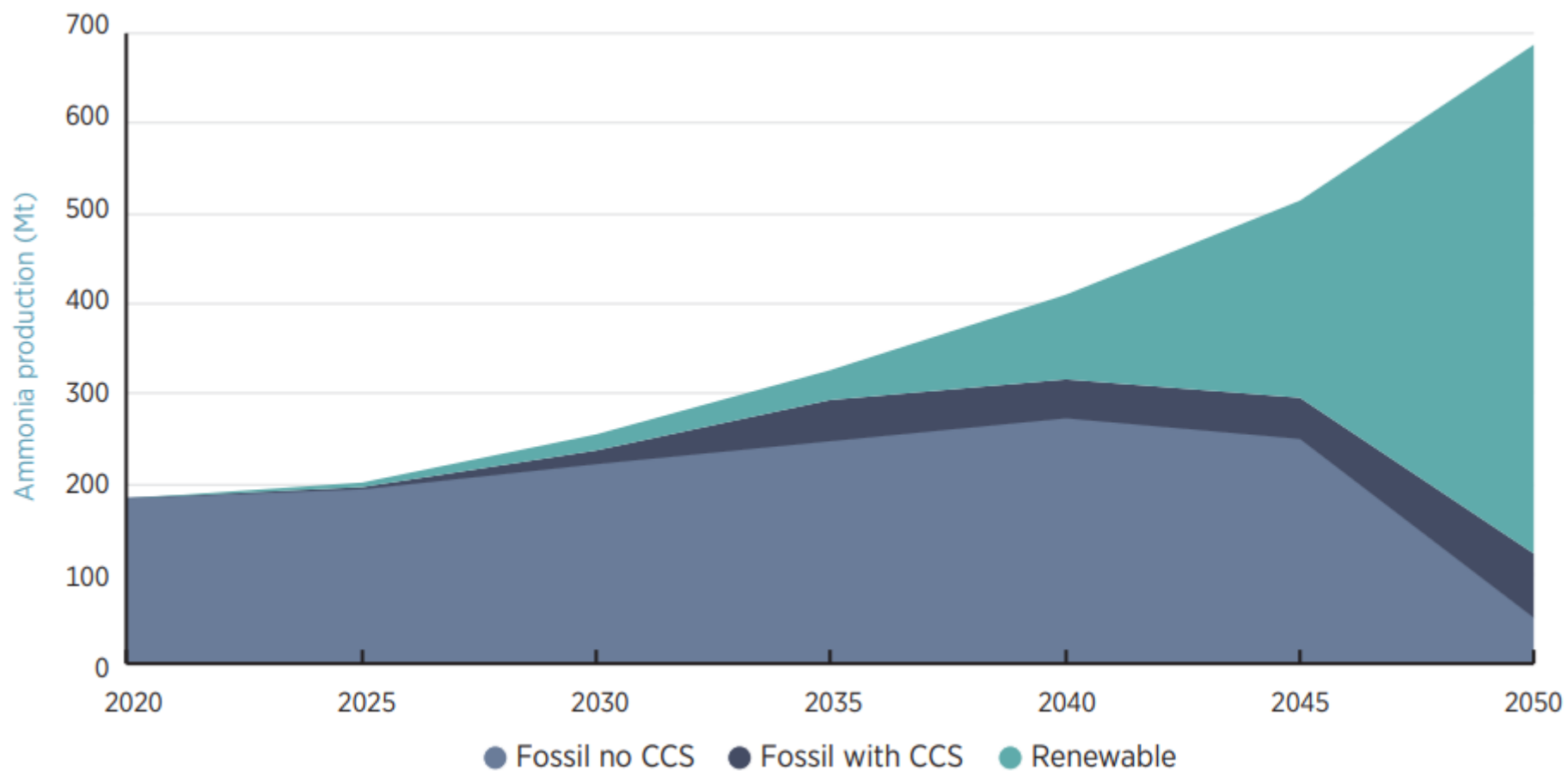


# Ammonia demand



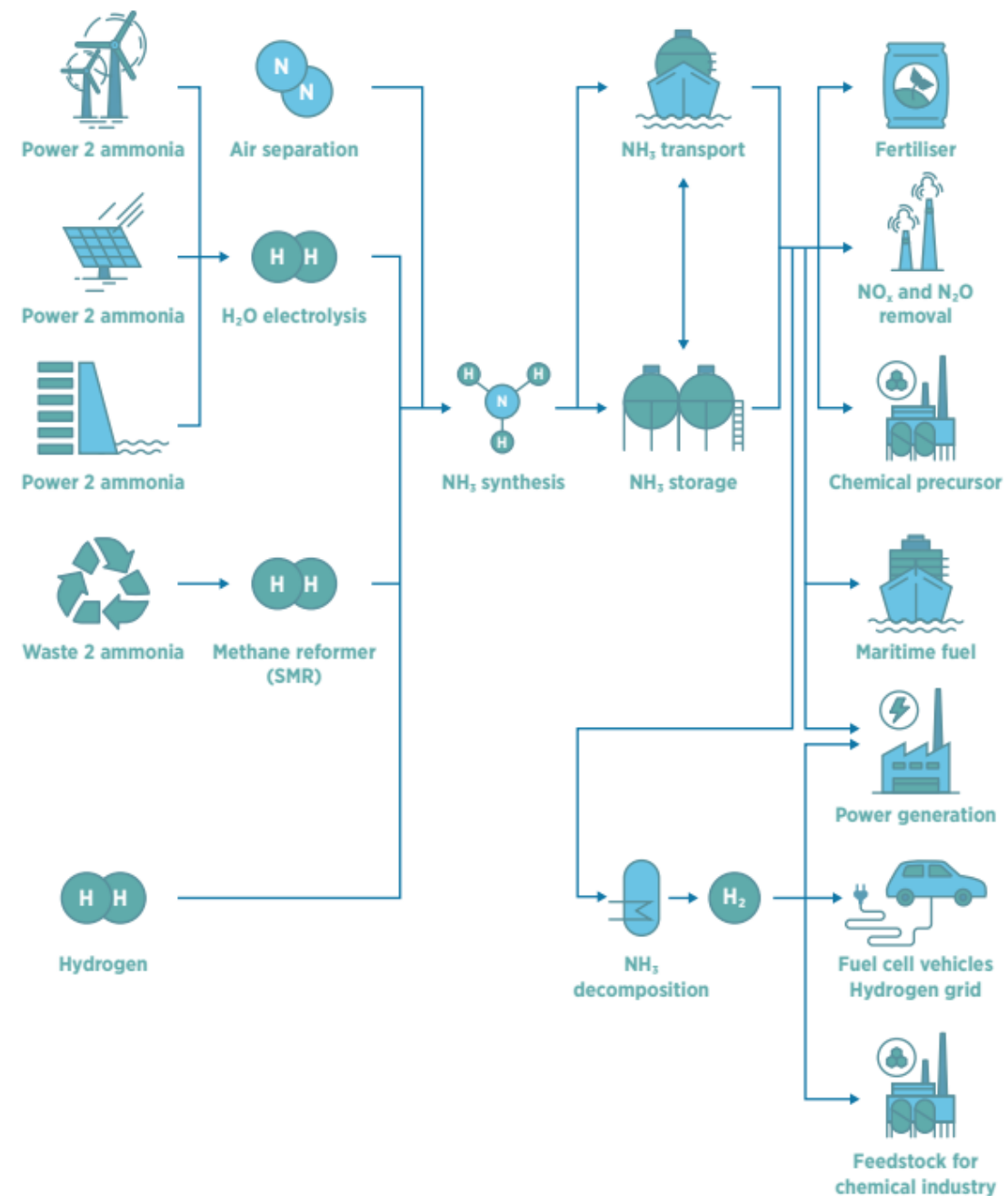


# Production pathways



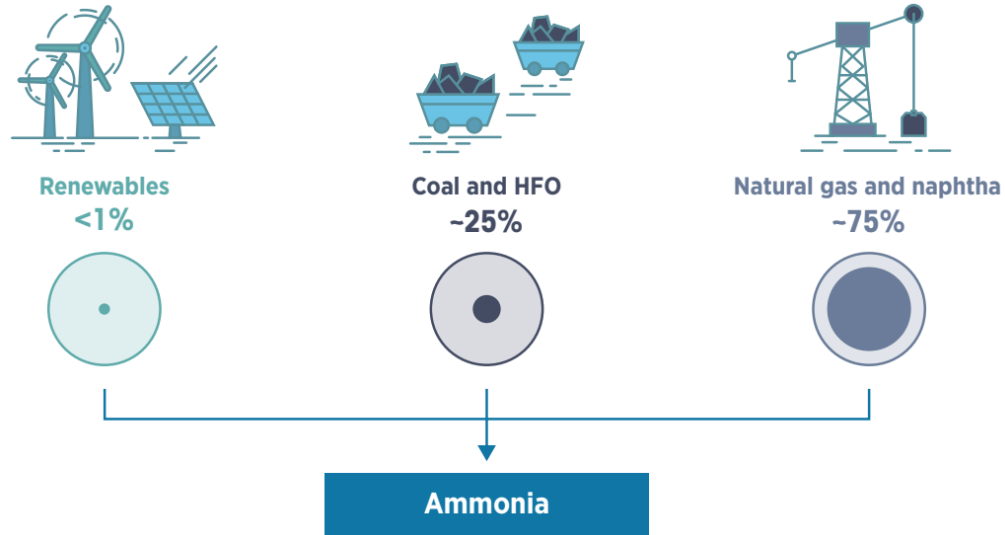
# Emissions

- Upstream ammonia emissions (cradle-to-ammonia product)
- Direct / indirect ammonia conversion emissions

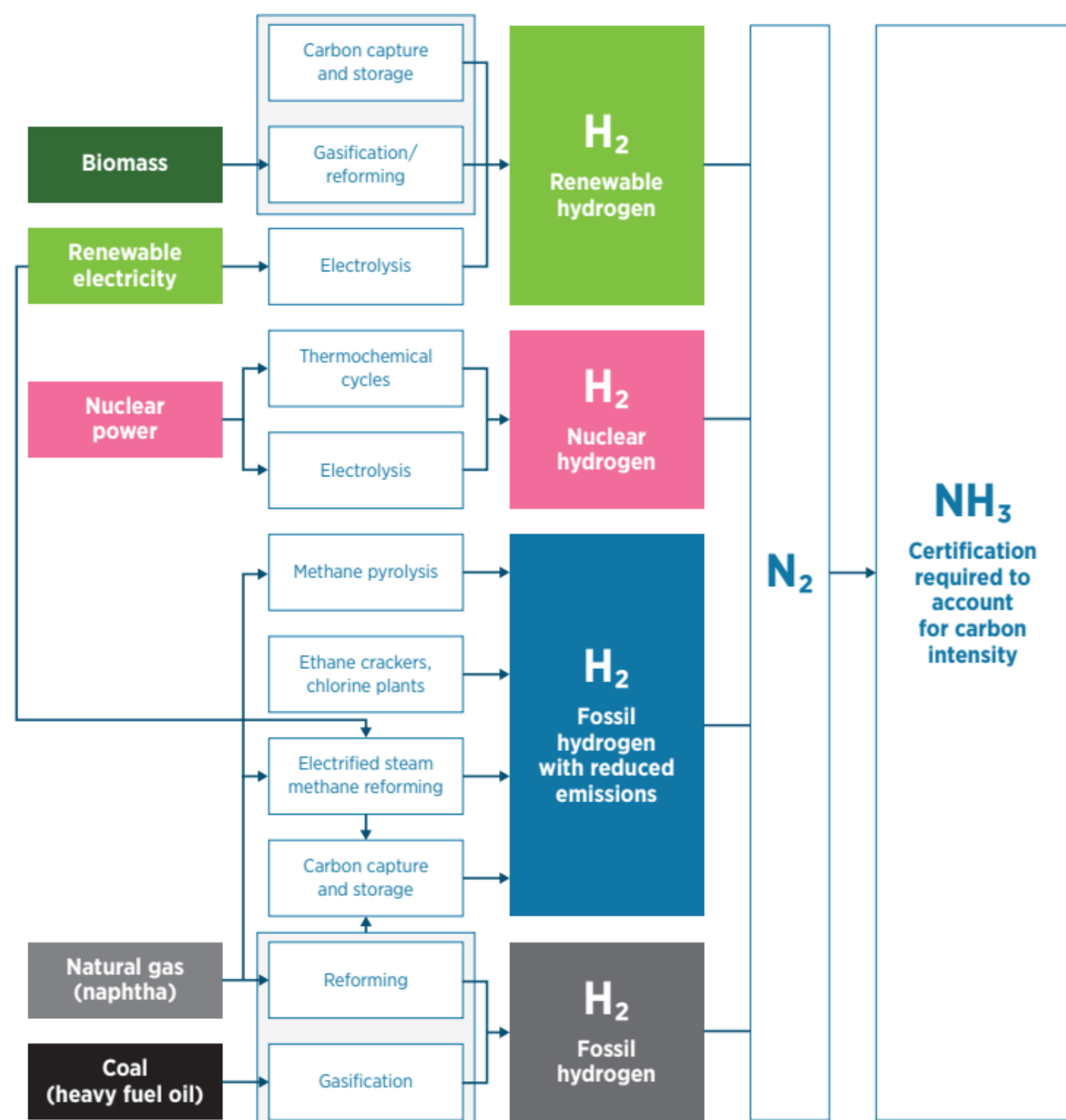


# Production pathways

Current production (**185 Mt**) exclusively fossil:



- About **90% of the energy input** for H<sub>2</sub> production, so determines CO<sub>2</sub> footprint!
- Colours of ammonia ≠ carbon footprint, as depends on Scope 1-3 emissions

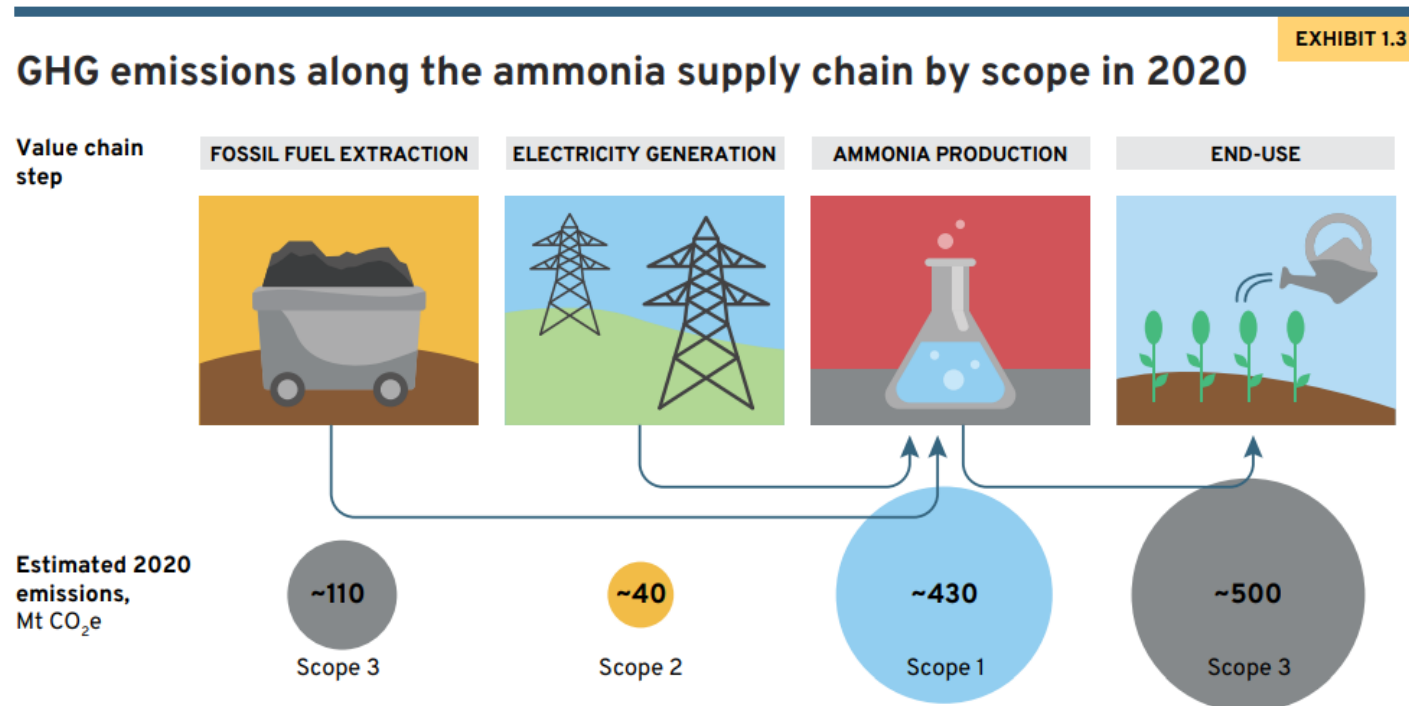






# Upstream ammonia emissions

- **From cradle to ammonia product:**  $\sim 3.1 \text{ t-CO}_{2,\text{eq}}/\text{t-NH}_3$  on average in 2020



Note: Due to their nature, upstream and downstream Scope 3 emissions are highly uncertain with many different estimates from different sources. These emissions have been calculated using estimated emissions factors for each region.

Source: MPP analysis; IEA; IPCC<sup>7</sup>



# Case study: SCR for Nitric acid production

- EU integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) directive effective from October 2007. EU ETS covers N<sub>2</sub>O
- Uses ammonia, aqueous ammonia, or urea
- $2 \text{NO} + 2 \text{NH}_3 + 1/2 \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2 \text{N}_2 + 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$
- In Europe, N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from nitric acid have been abated successfully

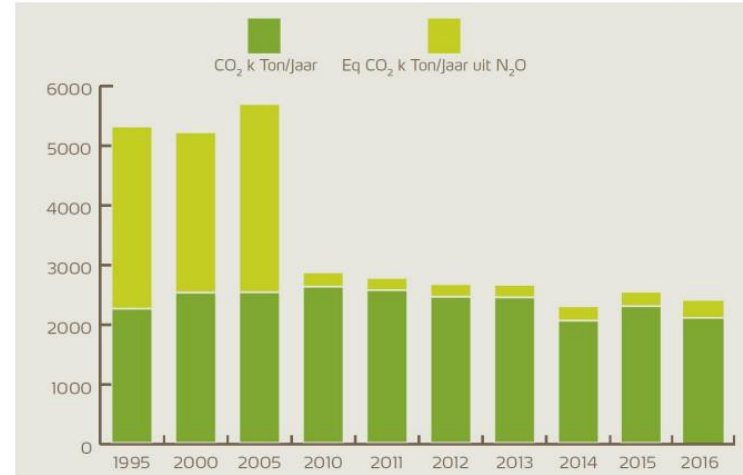
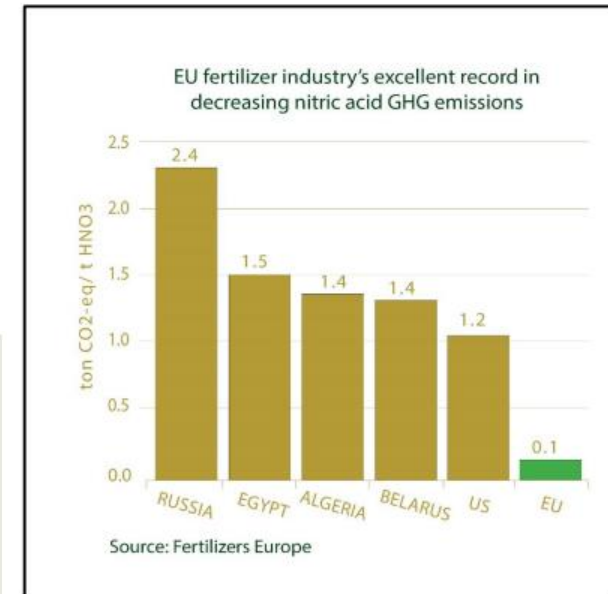


Figure 4 Greenhouse gas emissions from Yara Sluiskil's sustainability report (Yara Sluiskil B.V., 2017)





# Fundamentals of ammonia conversion

## Ammonia combustion:

1. Pure NH<sub>3</sub> combustion
2. Partially cracked NH<sub>3</sub> combustion (mixture H<sub>2</sub>/NH<sub>3</sub>/N<sub>2</sub>)



$$\Delta H = -1130 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

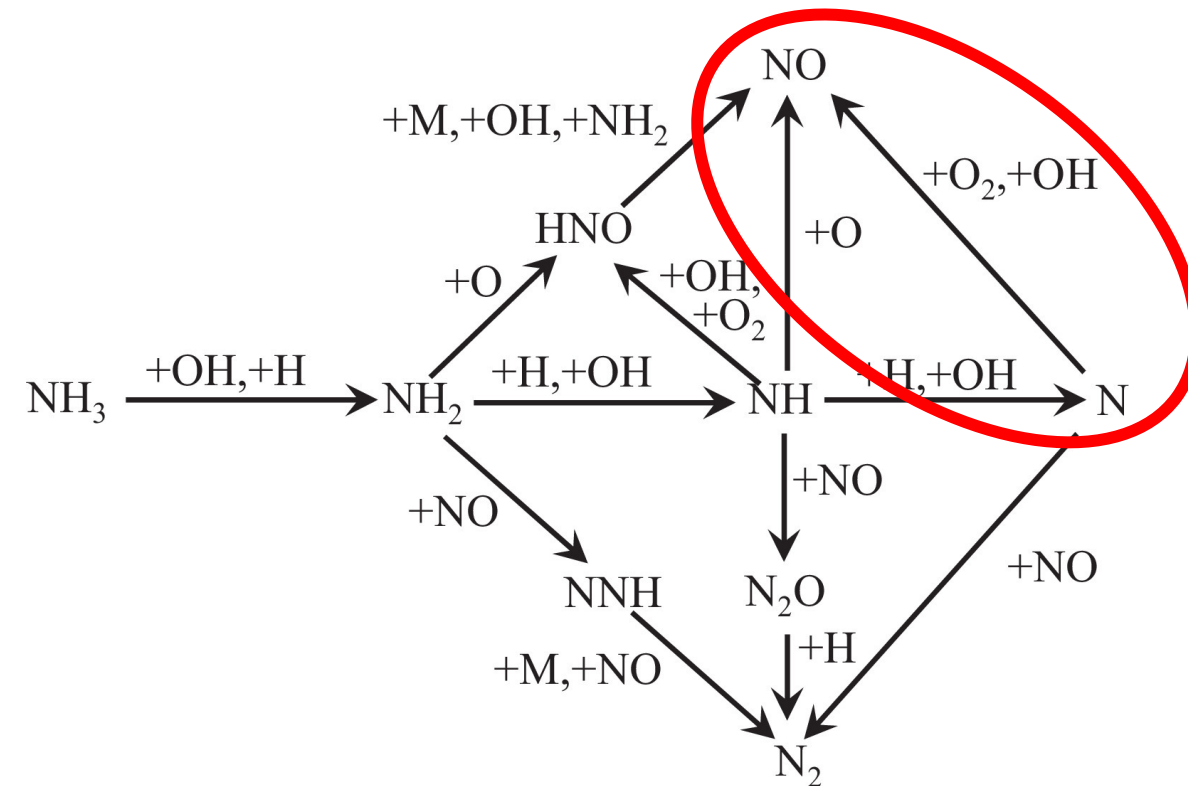


$$\Delta H = -572 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$



# Fundamentals ammonia conversion emissions

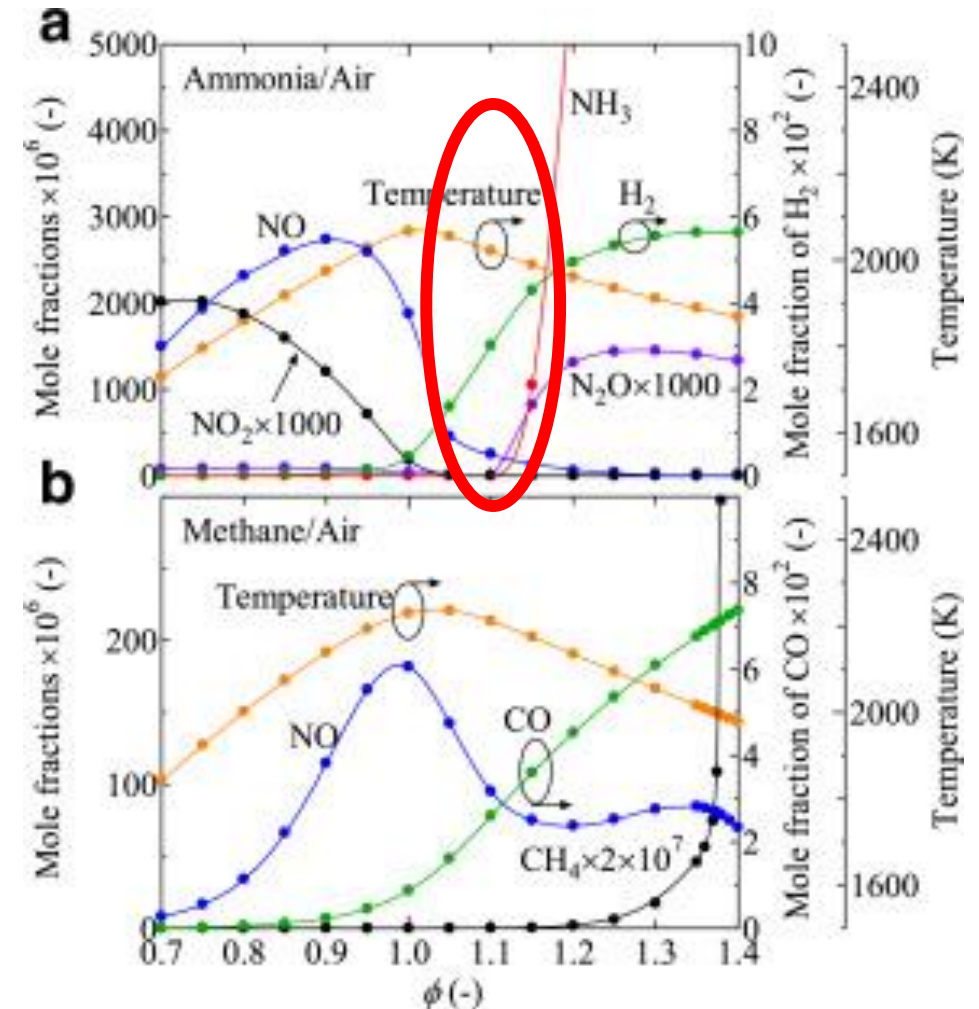
- **Ideal:**  $4\text{NH}_3 + 3\text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{N}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$   
 $\Delta H = -1130 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$
- **NH<sub>3</sub> slip:** some ammonia may not have converted
- **Thermal NO formation (Zeldovich):** At high temperatures ( $>1200^\circ\text{C}$ ), N, O radicals are formed, and molecules vibrationally activated, resulting in NO formation
- **NO formation from feedstock:** Ammonia may convert to NO





# Strategies to minimize ammonia combustion emissions

1. Optimize performance & minimize emissions
2. Perform after treatment for  $\text{NO}_x$ ,  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  &  $\text{NH}_3$  slip mitigation



# Initial conclusion: Applications

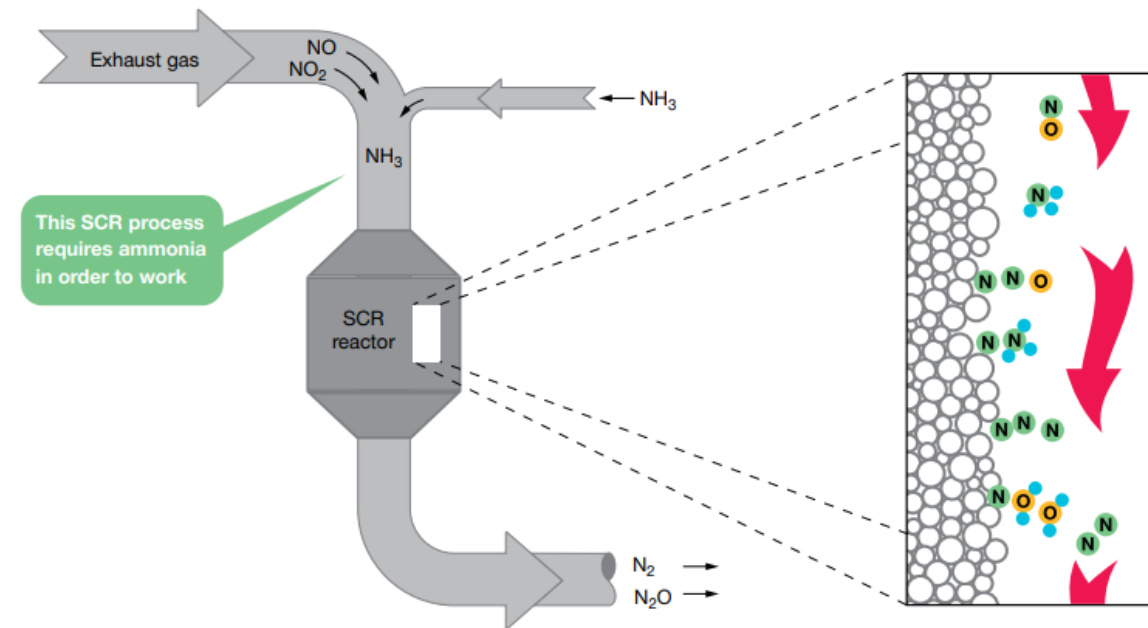
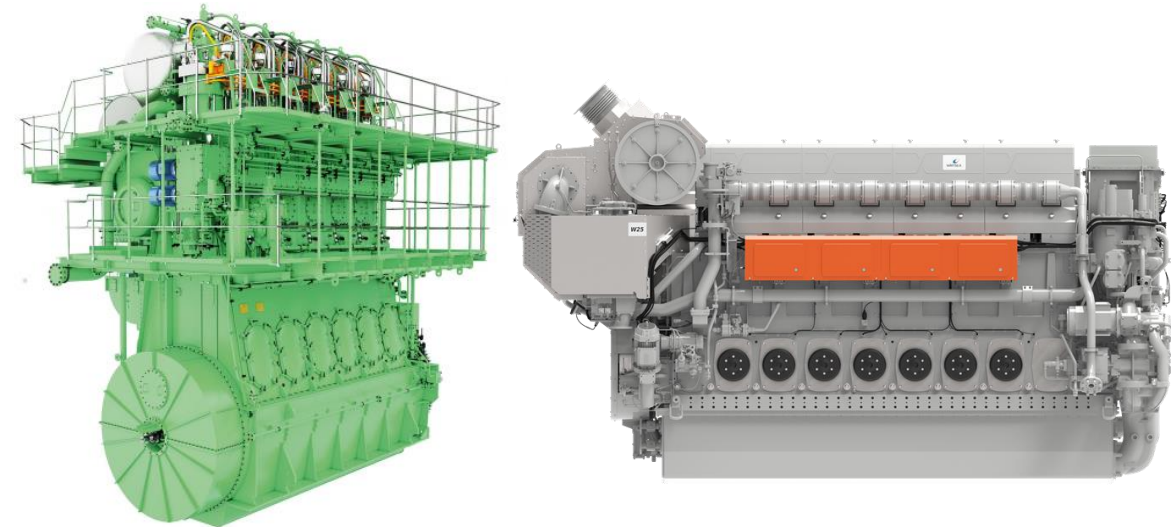
- The following applications are relevant for ammonia conversion:

Application	Size	Commercial development (fleshed out in case studies)	Emissions expected (unmitigated)
Transportation fuel with engines (shipping)	Medium	Under development / demonstration	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O
Transportation fuel with engines (locomotives)	Medium	Under development	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O
Transportation fuel with turbines (aviation)	Medium/large	Under development	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O
Power generation (gas turbines)	Medium/large	Under development / demonstration	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O
Power generation (boilers / coal power plants)	Large	Under development / demonstration	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O (PM and SO <sub>x</sub> from co-fuel)
Power generation / transportation (SOFCs)	Small/Medium	Under development / demonstration	NH <sub>3</sub> slip
Hydrogen production (ammonia cracker & H <sub>2</sub> purification)	Small to Large	Commercially available (on paper), but not yet operated	NH <sub>3</sub> slip, NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O
Nitric acid fertilizer production	Large	Industrially applied	NO <sub>x</sub> , N <sub>2</sub> O



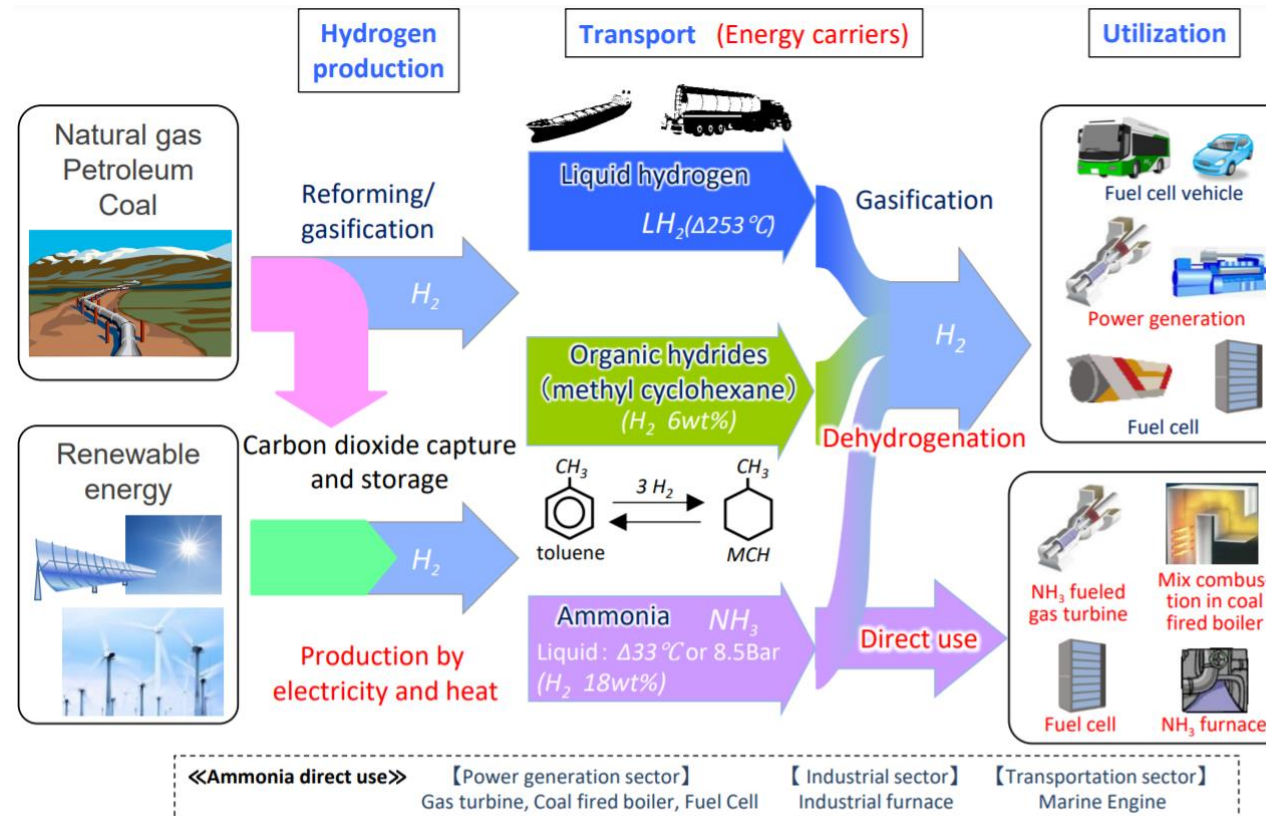
# Example: Shipping

- Two-stroke engines & four-stroke engines can be operated with  $\text{NH}_3$  as fuel, to be commercially available by 2023-2024
- $\text{NO}_x$  emissions,  $\text{NH}_3$  slip may be an issue
- $\text{NO}_x$  emissions can be mitigated with  $\text{NH}_3$  in an **SCR system**
- Exhaust Gas Recirculation (**EGR**) can reduce  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions further
- **Observation:**  $\text{NH}_3$  slip mitigation (**AMOX**) is similar to preventing  $\text{CH}_4$  slip from LNG engines



# Low carbon ammonia utilization: Power

- **Japan:** Imports LNG for energy, SIP energy carriers to decarbonize energy sector <sup>[1]</sup>
  - Current high LNG prices spur decarbonization







# Low carbon ammonia utilization: Power

- **Co-firing ammonia** in existing coal plants (20% in 2025 <sup>[1]</sup>), and gas turbines
  - Gradual increase to fully ammonia-fired power plants by 2040s
  - **2025: 40 MW 100% ammonia-fed gas turbine** <sup>[2]</sup>
- **30 Mt** ammonia demand for power by 2050, according to Japanese government <sup>[3]</sup>
- **Supply of ammonia:** Australia, Chile, Middle-East, United States
- Similar scenario for **South Korea** <sup>[4]</sup> (possibly Northern Europe)
- Retrofit existing infrastructure, rather than stranded assets



[1] <https://www.yara.com/corporate-releases/yara-and-jera-plan-to-collaborate-on-clean-ammonia-to-decarbonize-power-production-in-japan/>

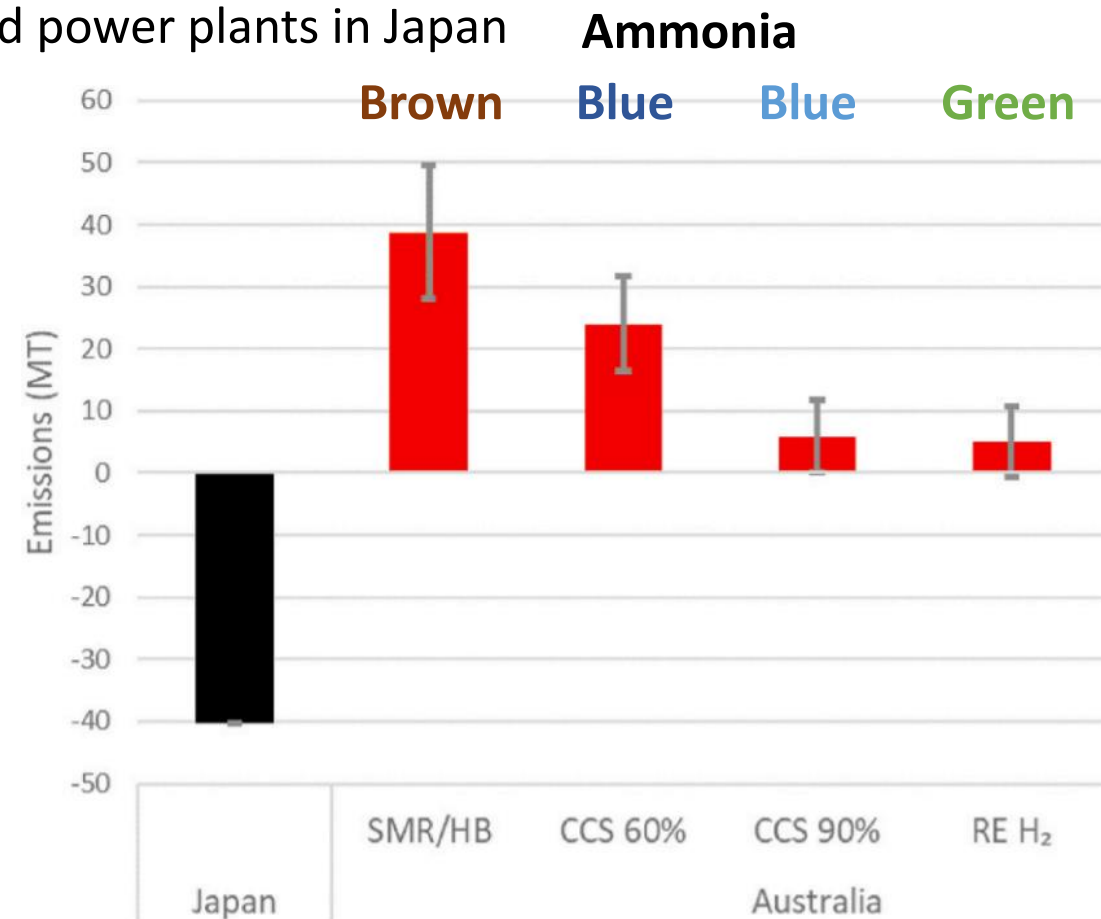
[2] <https://www.powermag.com/mitsubishi-power-developing-100-ammonia-capable-gas-turbine/>

[3] <https://www.argusmedia.com/en/news/2184741-japan-targets-3mn-tyr-of-ammonia-fuel-use-by-2030>

[4] [https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042\(21\)00871-3](https://www.cell.com/iscience/fulltext/S2589-0042(21)00871-3)

# Low carbon ammonia utilization: Power

- **Australia-Japan case:** need low carbon ammonia for decarbonization versus fossil fuels
  - 20% co-firing of ammonia in all coal-fired power plants in Japan





# Initial conclusion: Emission mitigation technologies & strategies (page 1)

Cracker type	Commercial development	Pathway to commercialization for ammonia combustion (fleshed out in case studies)
<b>Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercially applied for deNO<sub>x</sub> in nitric acid production</li><li>• Commercially applied for deNO<sub>x</sub> in natural gas-fired turbines &amp; coal-fired power plants, engines in vehicles</li></ul>	Application of SCR to commercial ammonia-fired gas turbines & coal power plants, demonstrate low NO <sub>x</sub> emissions
<b>Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction (SNCR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercially applied for deNO<sub>x</sub> for coal-fired power plants</li></ul>	Application of SNCR for commercial ammonia-fired coal power plants, demonstrate low NO <sub>x</sub> emissions
<b>Ammonia Oxidation (AMOX)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercially available to prevent ammonia slip down to below 10-20 ppmv</li></ul>	Demonstrate ammonia slip mitigation for commercial ammonia energy application
<b>SCONOX / Lean NO<sub>x</sub> trap (LNT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercially available for deNO<sub>x</sub> of engines in vehicles</li></ul>	Demonstrate SCONOX/LNT for NO <sub>x</sub> mitigation for commercial ammonia energy application



# Initial conclusion: Emission mitigation technologies & strategies (page 2)

Cracker type	Commercial development	Pathway to commercialization for ammonia combustion (fleshed out in case studies)
<b>Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Already applied to limit temperature (and thermal NOx formation) in engines</li></ul>	Apply EGR to ammonia-fueled engines to prevent thermal NOx formation
<b>Low NOx burners (DNL or ULN)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Swirl burners are developed to enhance ammonia combustion in research institutes</li></ul>	Demonstrate low NOx burners at commercial pilot scale, with subsequent scale-up to commercial scale
<b>Water &amp; Steam injection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Already applied in some gas turbines, needs development for ammonia combustion applications</li></ul>	Demonstrate NOx reduction upon water/steam injection to ammonia combustor at a relevant scale
<b>Secondary air injection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposed for ammonia combustion applications</li></ul>	Demonstrate practical NOx & NH <sub>3</sub> emission reduction in experimental set-up, thereafter in demonstrator unit



# Key conclusions

- Ammonia emissions require a value chain approach, also including ammonia emissions during ammonia production
- Downstream emissions from ammonia as zero-carbon fuel and hydrogen carrier should be essentially zero, as opposed to ammonia and derivatives for fertilizers
- Technologies for ammonia conversion emission mitigation are commercially applied, albeit under different conditions



Thank you for your attention!