Twitter Thread by Glen Peters



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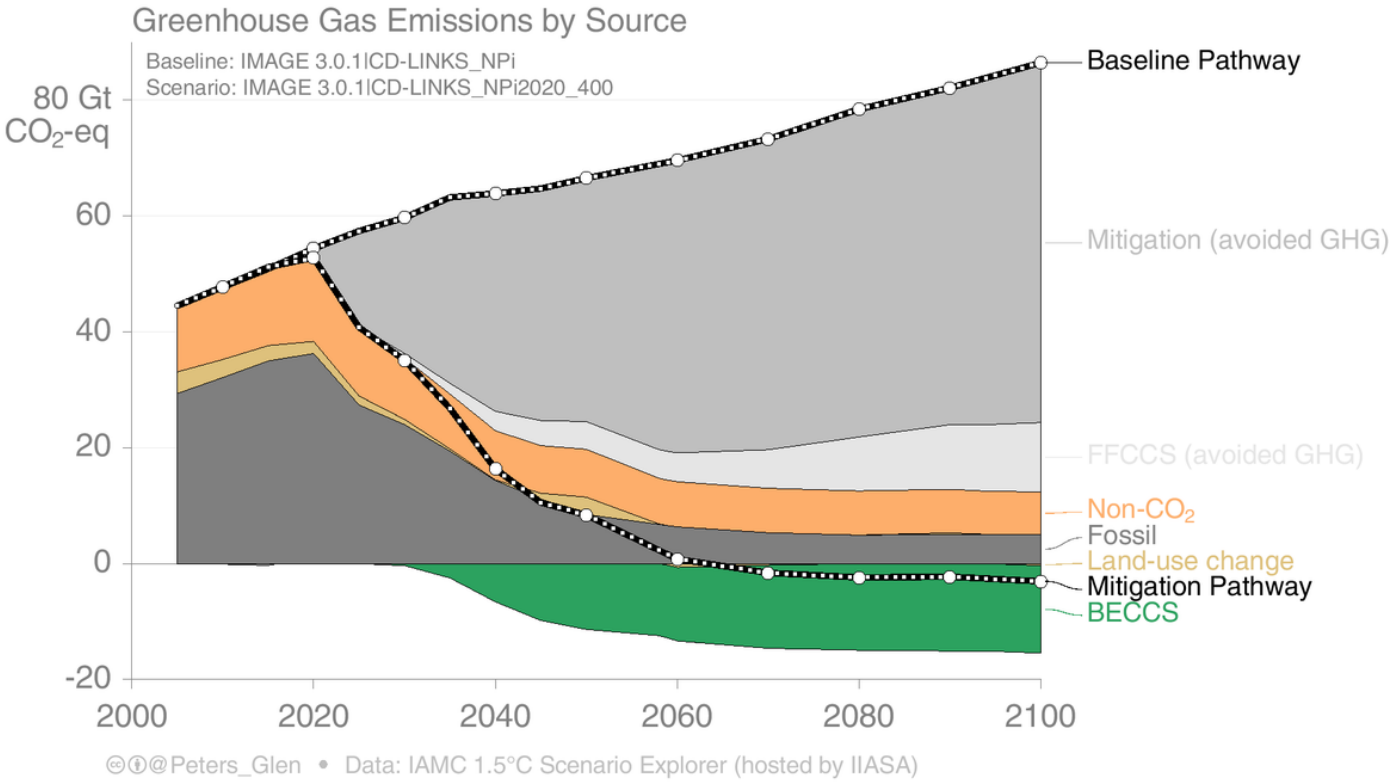
The anatomy of a scenario...

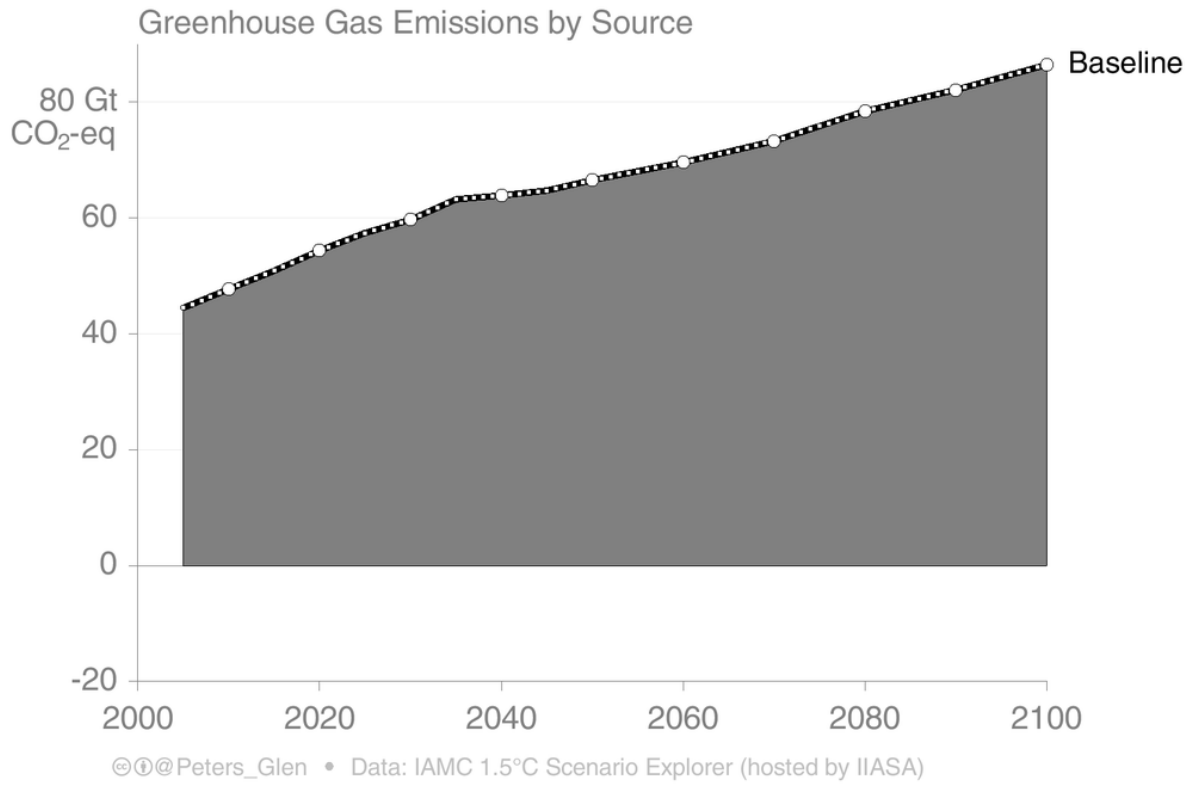
A ■■■■■■ on how mitigation works, why we probably need some level of carbon capture & storage (CCS) & carbon dioxide removal (CDR) - just not as much as in scenarios.

Based on my presentation ■ https://t.co/j5uLxUi0xF



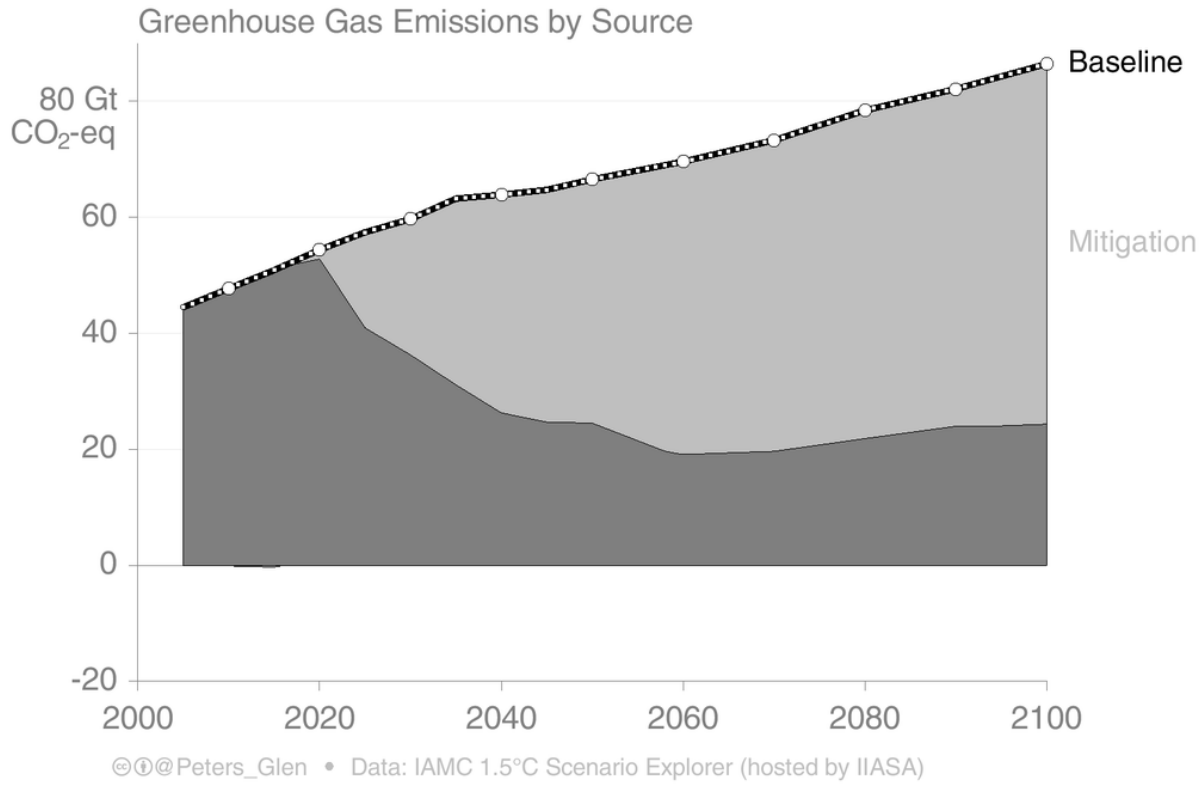
2. We start with a baseline or reference scenario, that assumes no or limited mitigation. If we want to stay "well below 2°C" we need to get rid of the dark grey & be net-zero!

We can argue about the baseline, but for the purposes here, it doesn't matter https://t.co/C0dAdj65tl



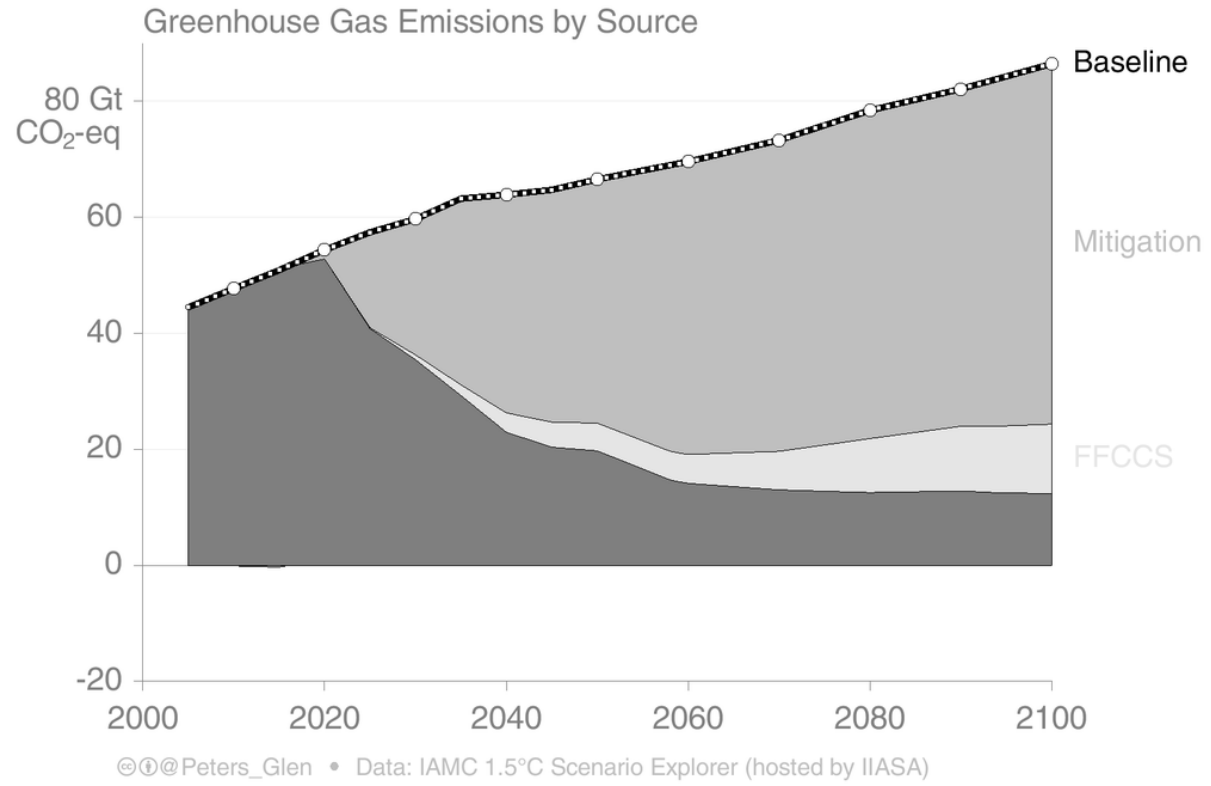
3. The heavy lifting is done by conventional mitigation: behavioural change, energy efficiency, fuel switching (fossils to non-fossils), changed transport, dematerialisation, etc, etc...

But, scenarios suggest this is not enough to get rid of all greenhouse gases.



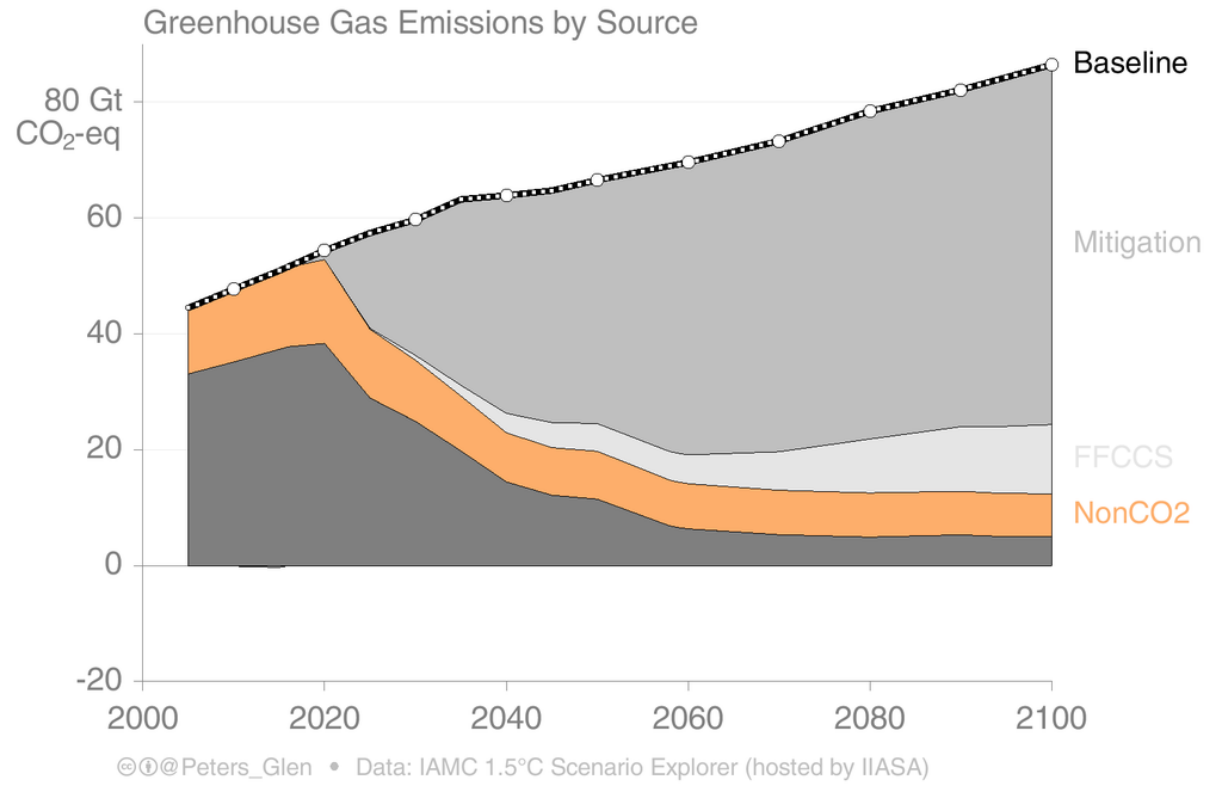
4. In some sectors, particularly some industrial sectors, perhaps the cheapest or only way to mitigate is with carbon capture & storage (CCS), eg, cement, steel, chemicals, etc

This is one reason we need CCS...



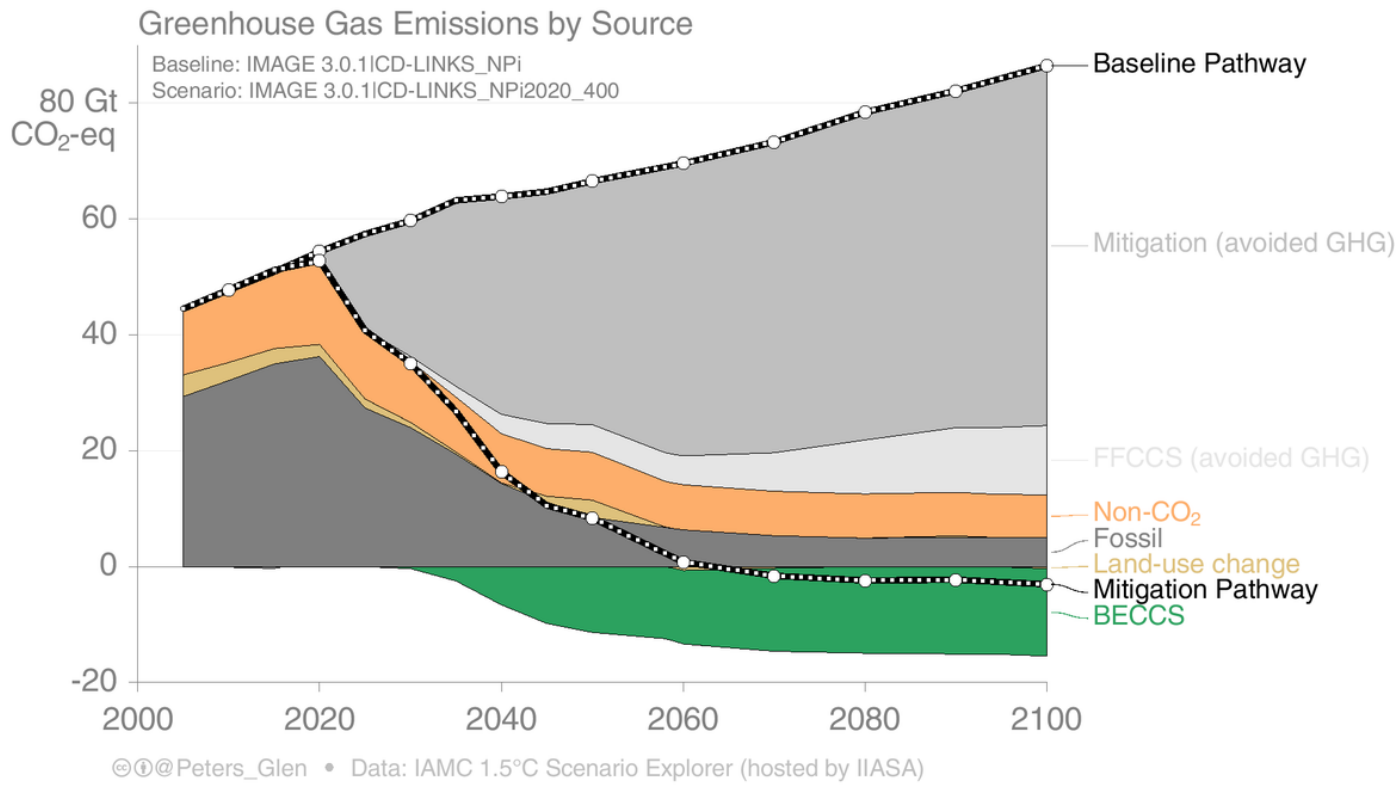
5. We can't forget about non-CO■ emissions. We can probably get most non-CO■ out of industry, but what about agriculture? Even if we change diet, reduce food waste, etc, we may not be able to eliminate CH■ or N■O from agriculture.

Some CO■ & non-CO■ remains (dark grey)...



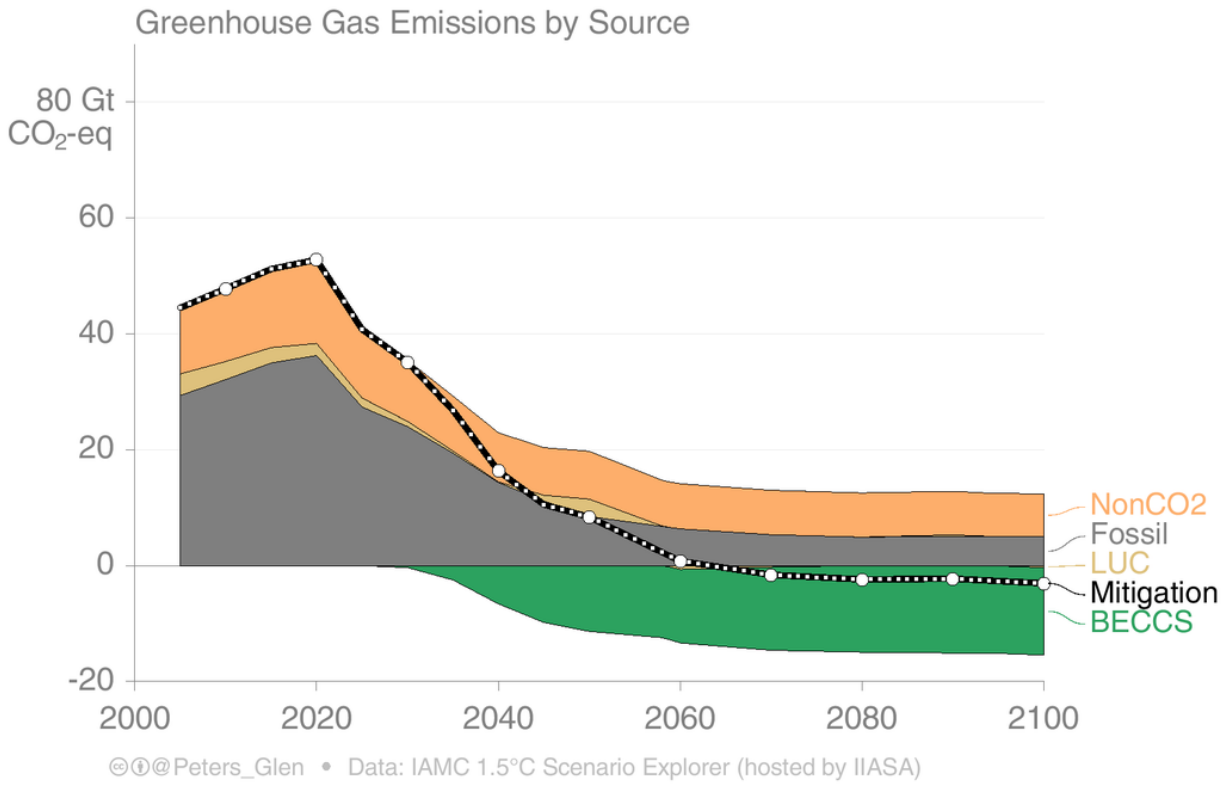
6. Since we can't get rid of all CO■ & non-CO■, we need some carbon dioxide removal (CDR), shown as bioenergy with carbon capture & storage (BECCS).

This is how mitigation works in an IAM: we need lots of conventional mitigation with CCS & CDR to clean up the remaining mess.



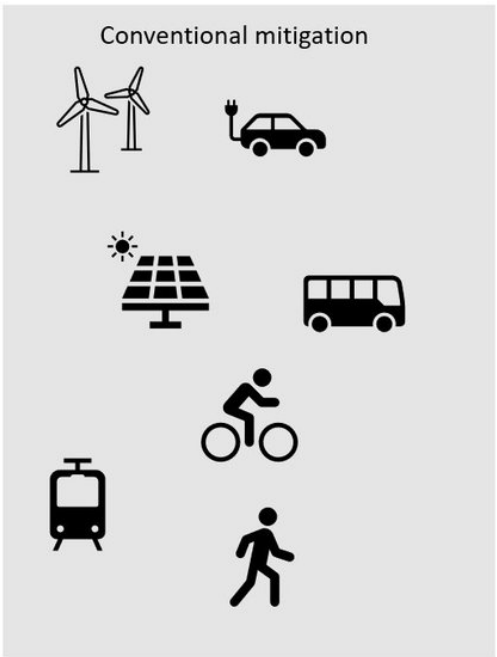
7. When we show scenarios, we often miss the large slice that has come from standard mitigation. Most of the standard mitigation we already know how to do...

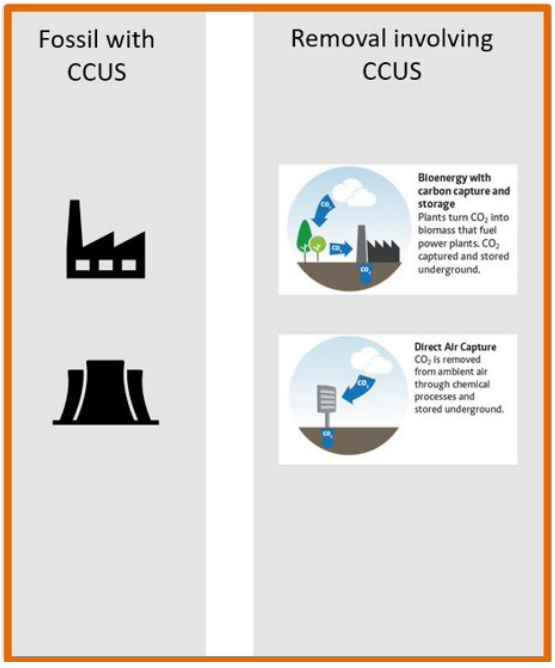
This scenario goes below zero & will have temperature overshoot, but I am not going down that rabbit hole today!

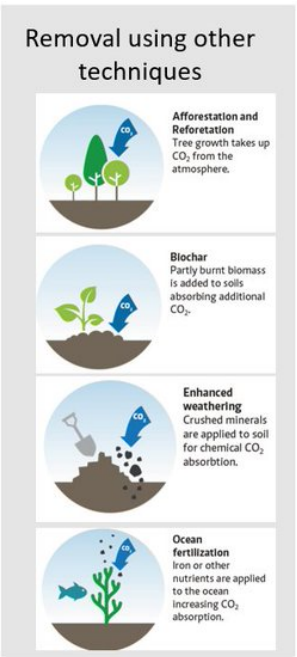


8. CCS fits into scenarios in two ways:
1. Avoid emissions in the continued use of fossil fuels
2. As an element of some types of CDR (BECCS & DACCS) - other forms of CDR don't need CCS

There is a lot of confusion between CCS & CDR, & some like using CCUS (not a fan myself)

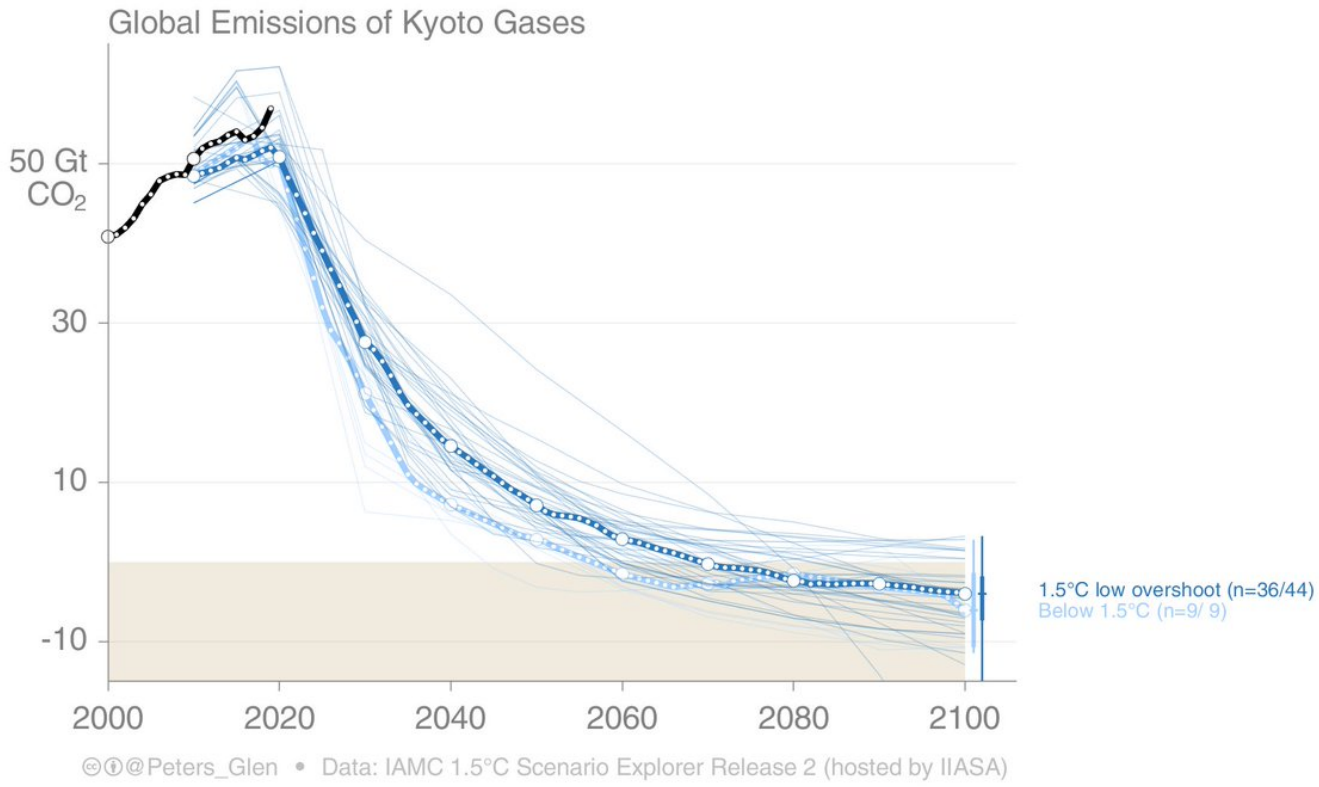






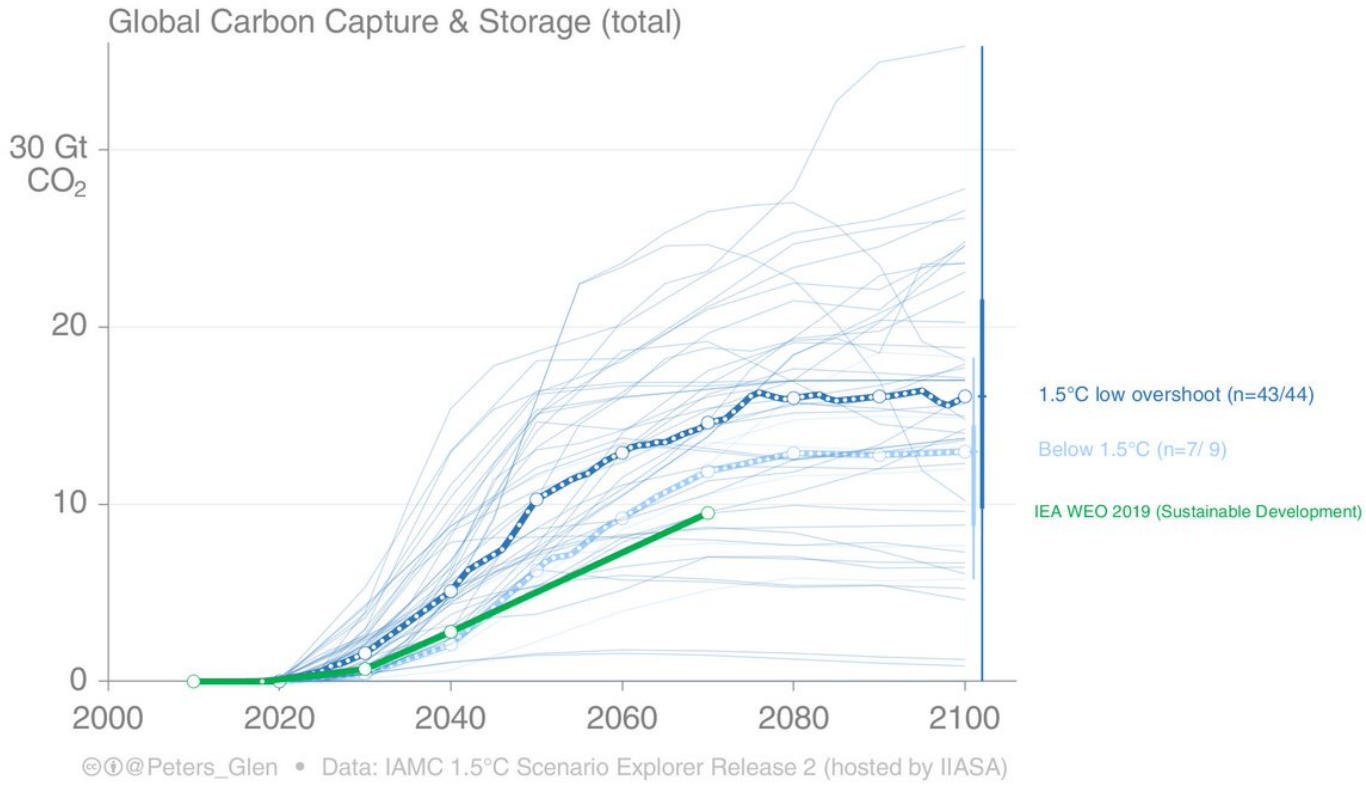
9. I have just shown one scenario, but there are lots of pathways to 1.5°C. They all have similar characteristics, but they also differ in details.

It may be possible to get to 1.5°C with more or less CCS & CDR...



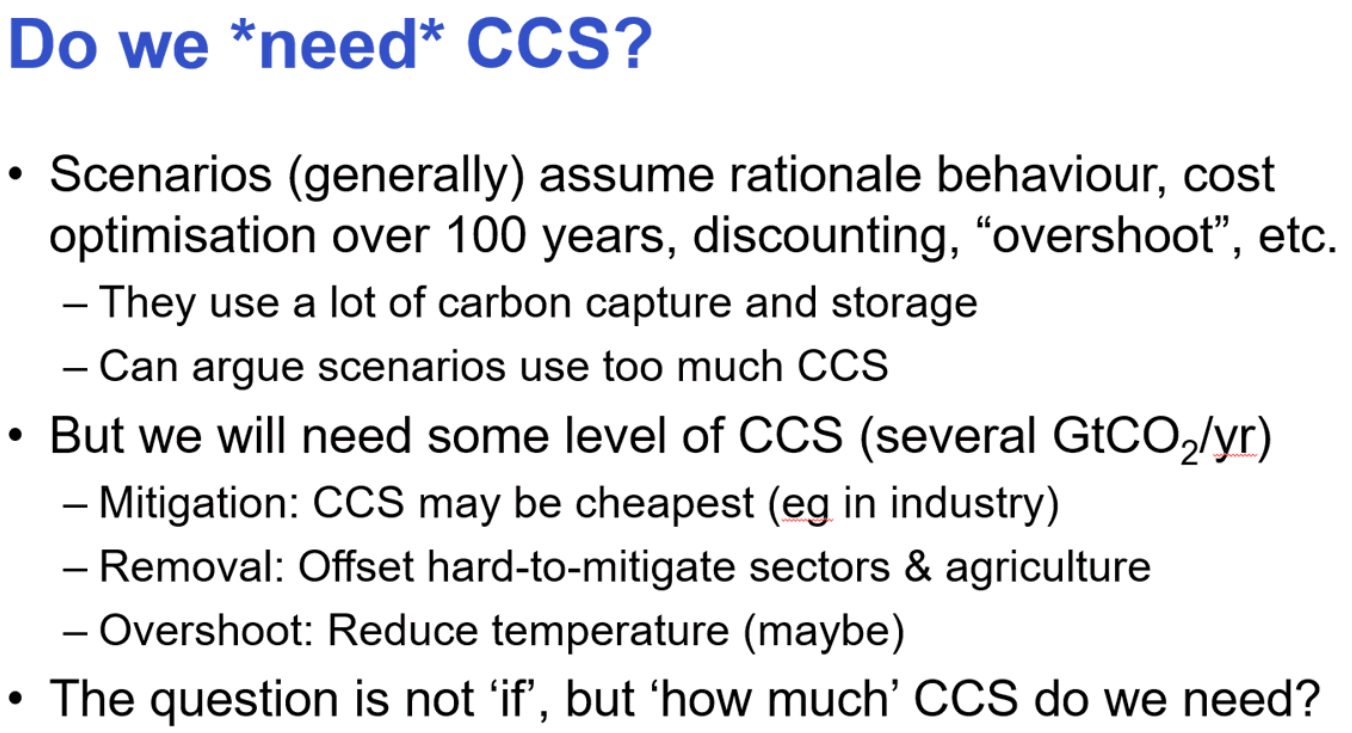
10. Unfortunately, most scenarios use loads of CCS (a lot of which is BECCS). The scales are big...

If you assume an average CCS facility is 1MtCO■/yr, that is on average ~10,000 facilities by 2050. In the 2040s, growth is 1GtCO■/yr or a new ~3MtCO■ facility every day!



11. I would argue this level of CCS on these time scales is not feasible, but IAMs disagree with this point (my view is the outlier view).

But, that does not meant we don't needs CCS. Back to fundamentals:
* Hard-to-mitigate industry
* Offset agricultural emissions
* Overshoot



12. Together with my colleague @idasogn, we wrote a post on why CCS may be necessary, even if the level in scenarios seems excesssive.
https://t.co/Wp4MsOTQmU

13. It is not a question of ■■ we need CCS, but a question of ■■■ ■■■■...

But, don't forget, the heavy lifting is done by conventional mitigation...

You can check my presentation here https://t.co/j5uLxUi0xF

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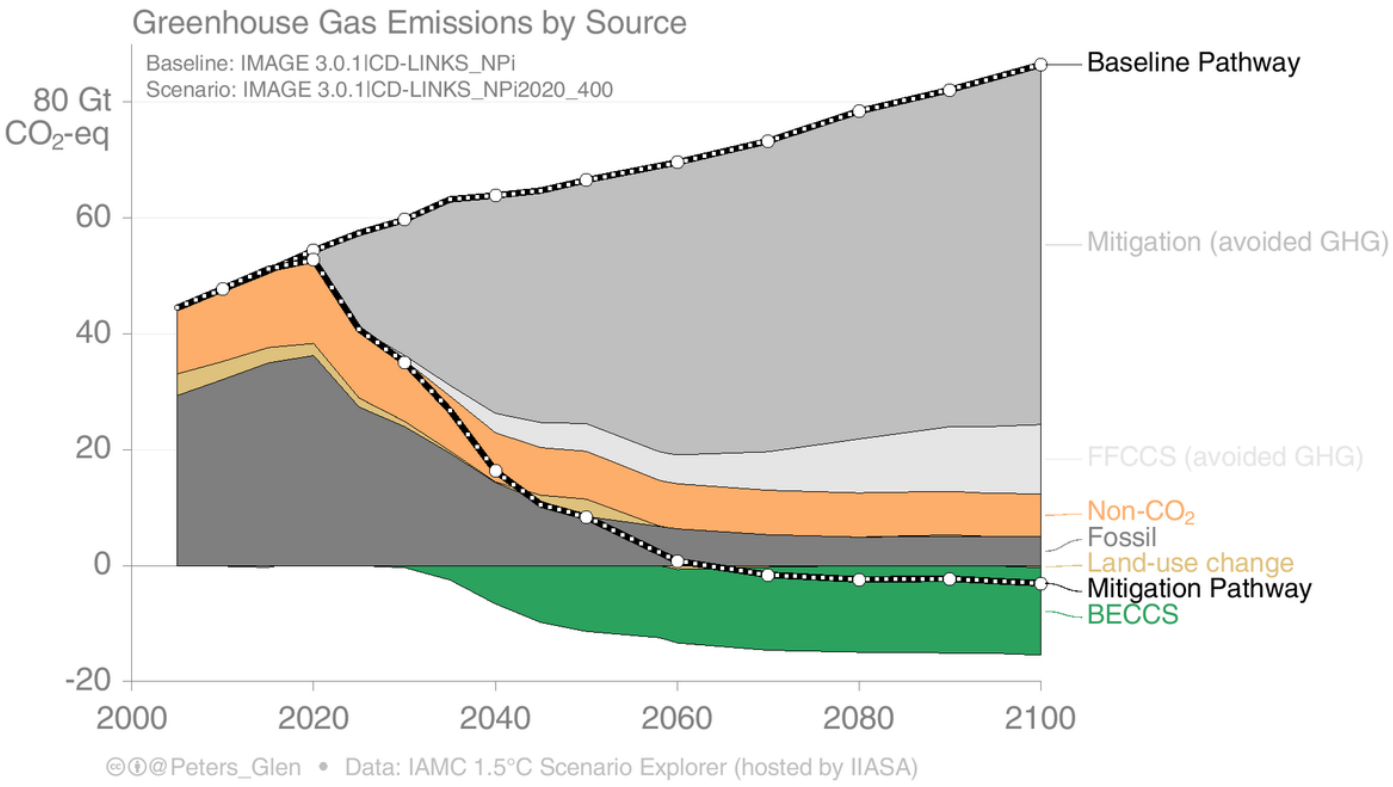
Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Source
Baseline: IMAGE 3.0.1|CD-LINKS_NPi
Scenario: IMAGE 3.0.1|CD-LINKS_NPi2020_400
80 Gt
CO2-eq
60
40
20
0
-20
2000
2020
2040
2060
2080
2100
Baseline Pathway
Mitigation (avoided GHG)
FFCCS (avoided GHG)
Non-CO2
Fossil
Land-use change
Mitigation Pathway
BECCS
@Peters_Glen • Data: IAMC 1.5°C Scenario Explorer (hosted by IIASA)