

[MARKETS](#) [TECHNOLOGY](#) [MONEY](#) [HEALTHCARE](#) [ENERGY](#) [MINING](#) [GREEN](#) [POLITICS](#) [FEATURED COMPANIES](#) [REPORTS](#)

# Decarbonization Targets for the Largest Utilities



Published 5 months ago on April 23, 2021

By **Sponsored Content** Article/Editing: **Omri Wallach**

*The following content is sponsored by the National Public Utility Council*

**DECARBONIZATION TARGETS FOR THE LARGEST U.S. UTILITIES**

**How does the U.S. get to zero-carbon electricity?**

Here's a breakdown of the decarbonization targets set by the largest investor-owned and local utilities in the nation.

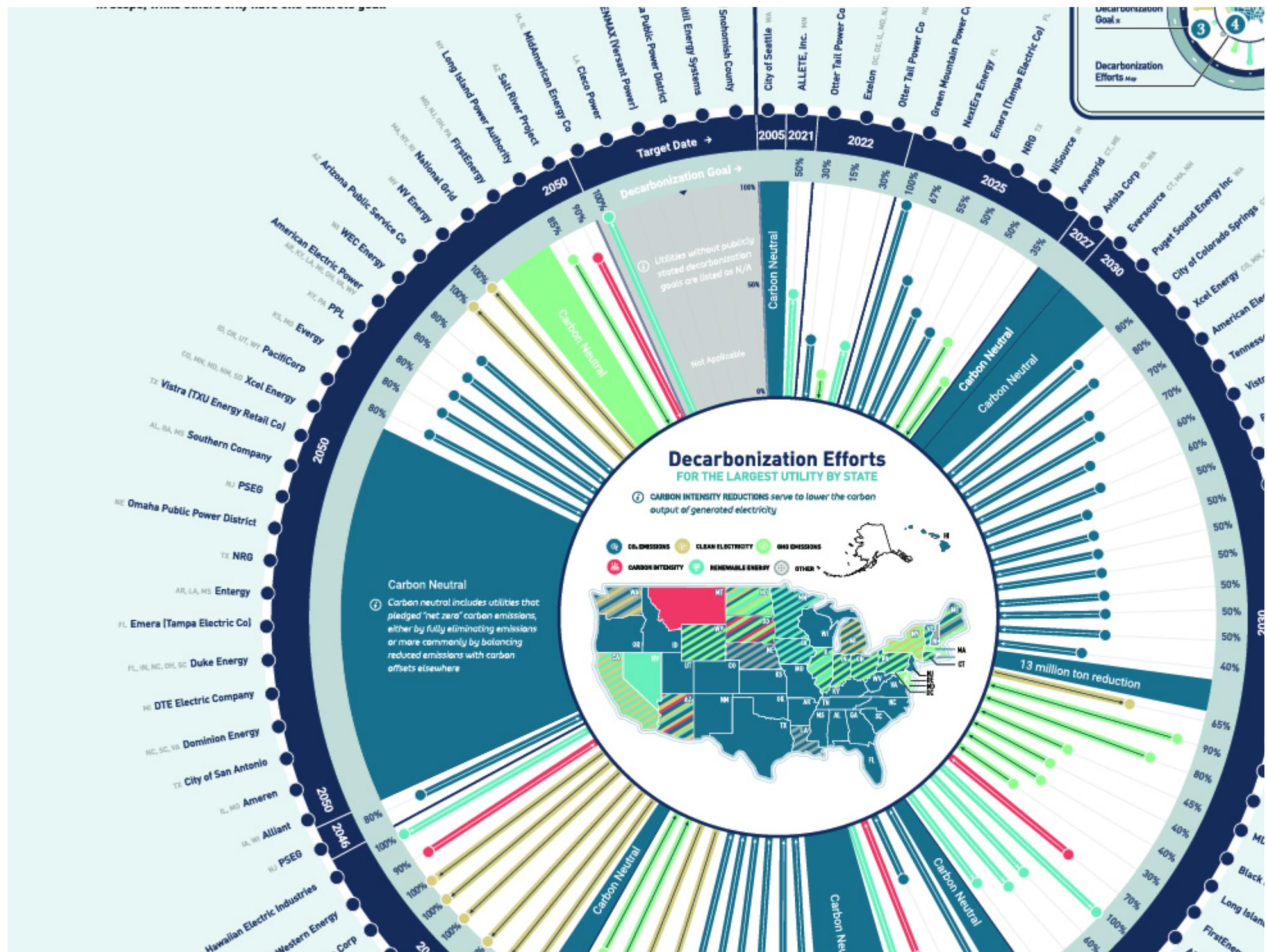
Some companies have multiple goals spread out over different years that increase in scope, while others only have one concrete goal.

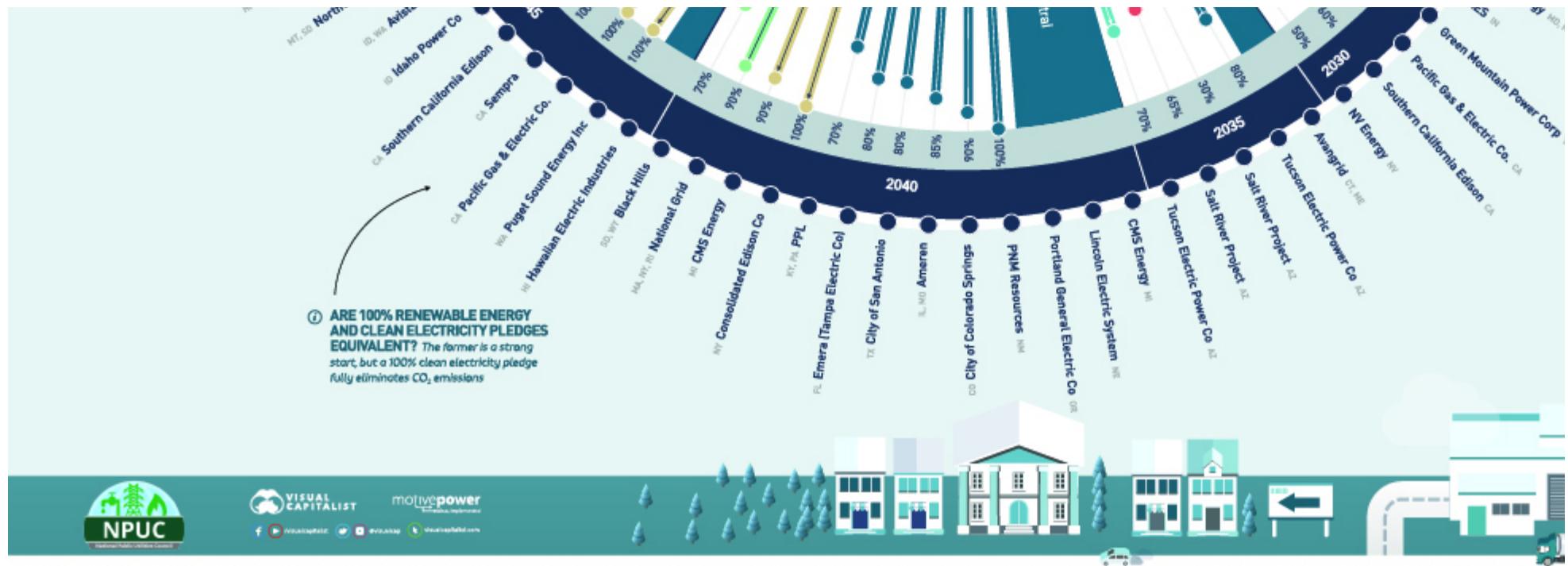
**Start**

① **MOST OF THE EARLY GOALS** are smaller in scope, but the City of Seattle has already been carbon neutral since 2005

② **How To Read This**

## Decarbonization Targets for the Largest U.S. Utilities





## Decarbonization Targets for the Largest U.S. Utilities

The U.S. recently rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement and **decarbonization** is back on the minds of government officials and companies alike.

Though every sector plays a major role on the path to net zero carbon emissions, none are as impactful as the energy sector. In 2016, almost **three-quarters** of global GHG emissions came from energy consumption. With organizations looking to either curb energy consumption or transition to cleaner forms of energy, the pressure is on utilities to decarbonize and offer green alternatives.

How are U.S. utilities responding?

This infographic from the [National Public Utility Council](#) highlights the decarbonization targets of the largest investor-owned and public U.S. utilities.

## U.S. Utility Decarbonization Targets Through 2035

The American energy sector has many players, but the largest utilities account for the bulk of production.

For each state, we looked at the largest investor-owned and public electric utilities by retail sales as tracked by the [U.S. Energy Information Administration](#). Decarbonization targets were taken from each utility's stated goals or sustainability report.

After narrowing down from 3,328 different entities and subsidiaries, the final list of 60 utilities **accounted for 60% of U.S. energy sales** in 2019 at just under 1.93 trillion MWh (megawatt hours).

Many companies on the list have multiple goals spread across different timeframes, but they can be grouped into a few distinct categories:

- **Reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:** These measures are either percentage-based or flat reductions, and also include becoming carbon neutral or “net zero” by balancing reduced emissions with carbon offsets.
- **Reducing carbon intensity:** These measures work on reducing the impact of electricity generated by fossil fuels, rather than reducing the amount directly.
- **Increasing renewable energy production:** These measures focus on adding renewable energy with a lower carbon footprint to the production mix and can be either percentage-based or flat additions.
- **Increasing clean electricity production:** These measures are centered around ensuring that electricity produced is 100% carbon free.

Utilities with decarbonization targets set for 2035 and earlier vary wildly in scope, from completely carbon neutral to minimal reductions.

Search:

Entity	◆ State (Largest Provider)	◆ Decarbonization Goal	◆ Target Year
Avangrid	CT, ME	Carbon neutral	2035
Salt River Project	AZ	▽65% Carbon intensity, ▽30% CO2 emissions	2035
Tucson Electric Power	AZ	▽80% CO2 emissions, △70% Renewable energy	2035

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

It's also important to note that carbon emission reductions are not equal across the board.

Reduction is traditionally based on a base-year measurement (usually 2000 or 2005) that changes for each utility, and a small reduction at a major energy producer can be more impactful than 100% clean energy at a small local utility.

## U.S. Utility Decarbonization Targets 2040 and Beyond

From 2040 and beyond, the decarbonization efforts become more ambitious.

In line with many states and the federal government making sweeping clean energy commitments, most of the utility companies with decarbonization targets from 2040 to 2050 are aimed at either carbon neutrality or significant reductions.

For some companies these are their first and only targets, while others are building on smaller goals from earlier years. In the case of the few utility companies marked \*N/A, a decarbonization target goal couldn't be found.

Search: 

Entity	◆ State (Largest Provider)	◆ Decarbonization Goal	◆ Target Year
PUD 1 of Snohomish County	WA	N/A	N/A
Utilit Energy Systems	NH	N/A	N/A

 [Previous](#) [Next](#) 

While the targets set above are significant, they are also a long time away from being met. With pressure to decarbonize increasing across the board, utility companies may need to reassess the impact or timeliness of their decarbonization targets.

*The National Public Utilities Council is the go-to resource for all things decarbonization in the utilities industry. [Learn more.](#)*

Receive free **Visual Capitalist**  
content straight to your inbox.

**Get your mind blown on a daily basis:**

**Sign up for free**

**RELATED TOPICS:** #Energy #Power #America #Ghg #Electricity #US #Climate Change #Carbon #Emissions #Global Warming #Greenhouse Gases #Decarbonization #Sponsored #Decarbonize #Greenhouse Gas #Utility #Utilities

#### DON'T MISS

## How to Invest in Change: A Guide to Thematic Investing

#### UP NEXT

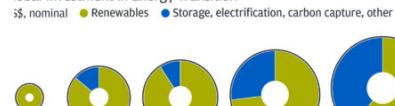
## A Golden Future: Visualizing the Economic Case for Gold

CLICK FOR COMMENTS

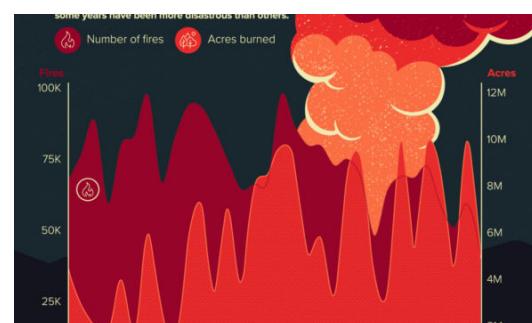
#### YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

illions of dollars are flowing into sustainability, creating significant opportunity.

lobal Investment in Energy Transition



## 7 ESG Essentials Investors Need to Know



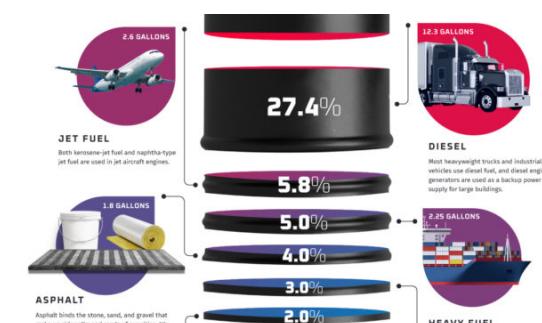
## Ranked: The 50 Companies That Use the Highest Percentage of Green Energy



## The Top-Selling Vehicles in America



## The Best Selling Vehicles in America, By State



**Chart: 30 Years of Wildfires in America**

**Mapping The Biggest Companies By Market Cap in 60 Countries**

**What's Made from a Barrel of Oil?**

**SPONSORED**

# 7 ESG Essentials Investors Need to Know

Want to invest in ESG, but not sure where to start? Begin with these 7 ESG essentials every investor should know.



Published 12 hours ago on September 28, 2021

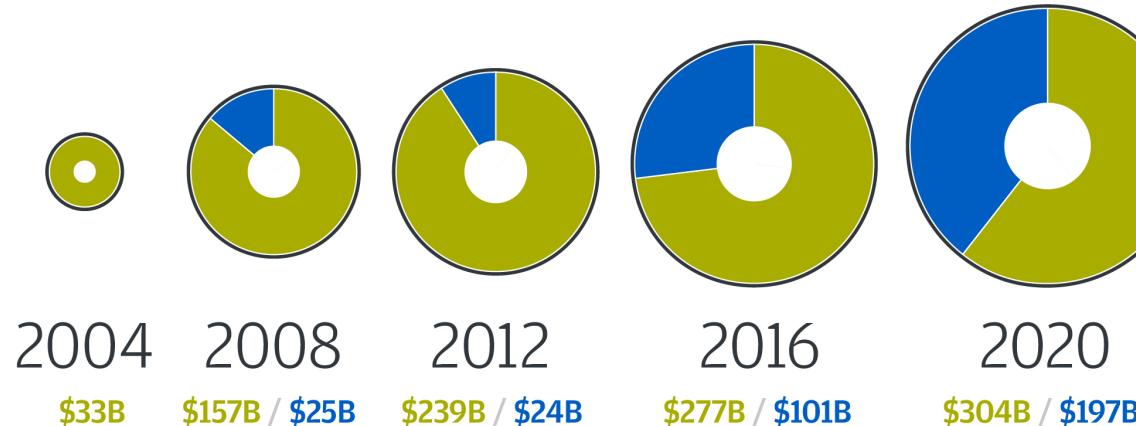
By **Sponsored Content**



**Billions of dollars are flowing into sustainability, creating significant opportunity.**

Global Investment in Energy Transition

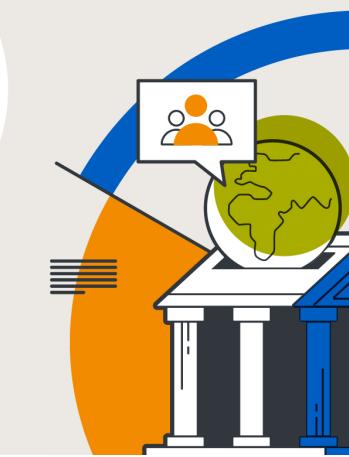
us\$, nominal ● Renewables ● Storage, electrification, carbon capture, other



Source: J.P. Morgan Asset Management; BP Energy Outlook 2020. As of June 30, 2021.

## J.P.Morgan Asset Management ESG Explained

7 Essentials You Need to Know



### 7 ESG Essentials Investors Need to Know

From consumers to policy makers, many economic actors are backing sustainability—and creating a powerful portfolio opportunity for investors.

The use of environmental, social, and governance factors (altogether known as ESG) is increasingly informing investment decisions. But although ESG investing has grown in prominence in a few short years, there's a disconnect:

- 69% of retail investors are interested in ESG, yet...
- Only 10% **actually invest** in products that incorporate ESG factors

To properly capitalize on this trend, it's important to first fully understand it.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

---

**SPONSORED**

# Antimicrobial Copper: The Germ-fighting Metal

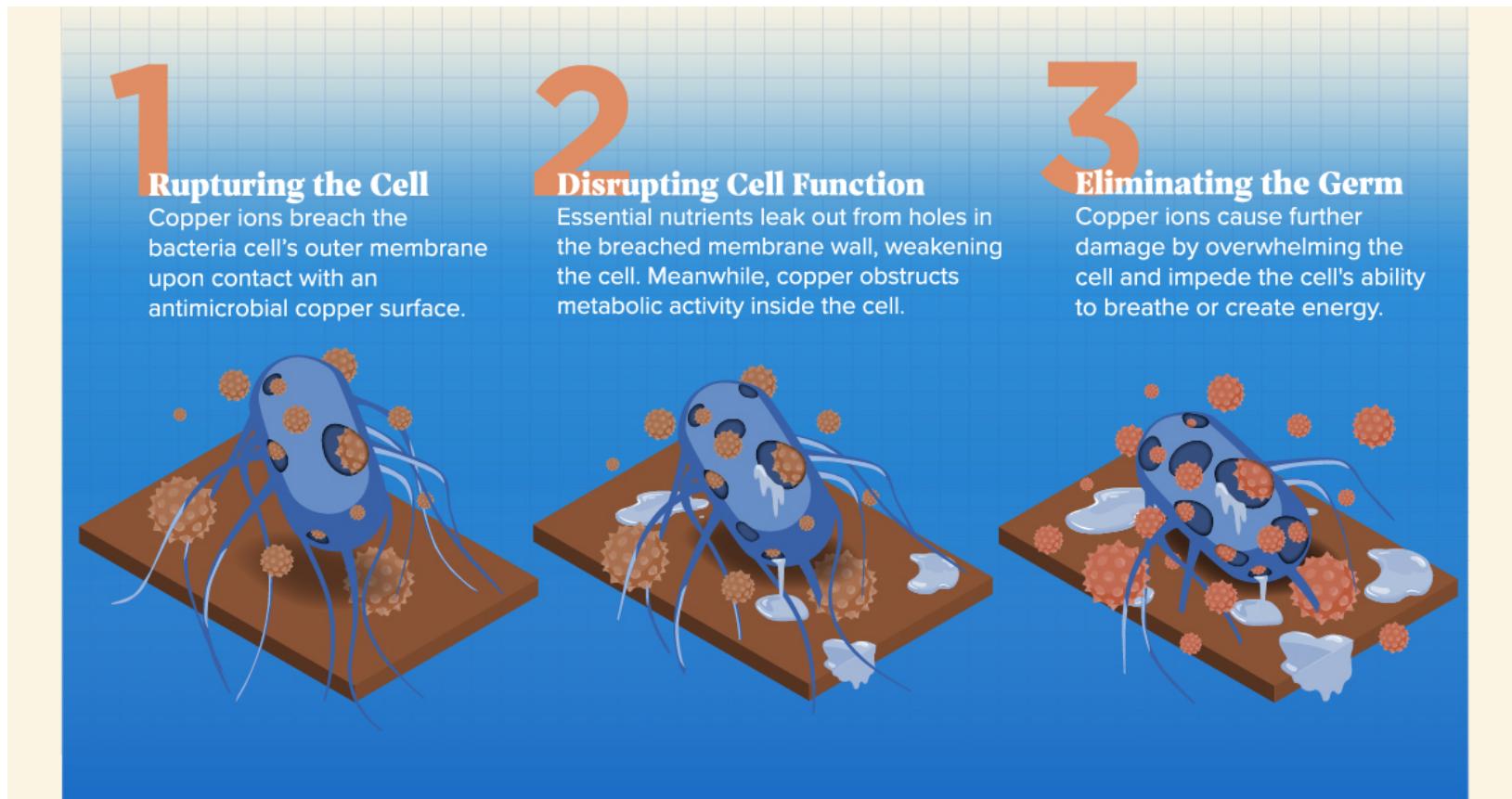
Antimicrobial copper kills over 99.9% of certain bacteria within two hours of exposure. How does copper kill germs?



Published 1 day ago on September 27, 2021

By **Sponsored Content**





### Antimicrobial Copper: The Germ-fighting Metal

Copper has a wide range of uses in electronics, infrastructure, and energy technologies. The red metal is virtually everywhere, from the wires in our devices to the buildings we live in.

However, copper's medicinal applications, which go back thousands of years, aren't as widespread in the modern world.

In this infographic from our sponsor Trilogy Metals, we explore copper's ability to fight bacteria and its expanding role in modern healthcare.

# Dr. Copper: How Copper Fights Germs

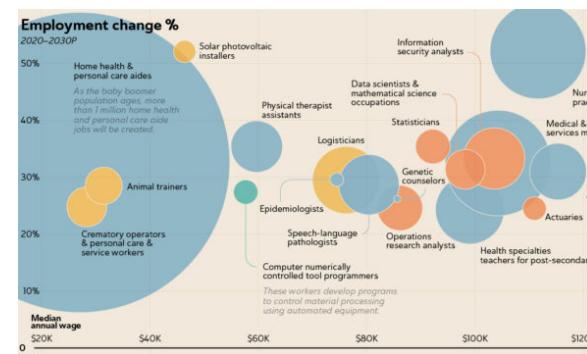
**CONTINUE READING**

POPULAR



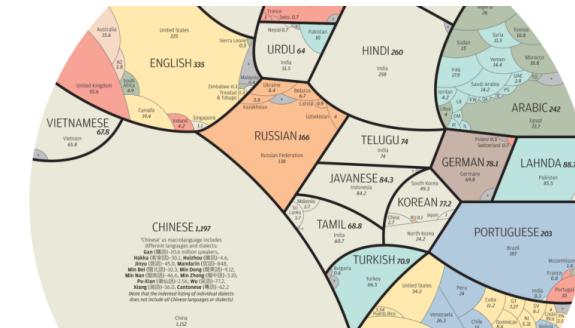
GREEN / 3 weeks ago

# The World's 25 Largest Lakes, Side by Side



ECONOMY / 2 weeks ago

## The 20 Fastest Growing Jobs in the Next Decade



MISC / 2 weeks ago

# All World Languages in One Visualization

# The Bigges

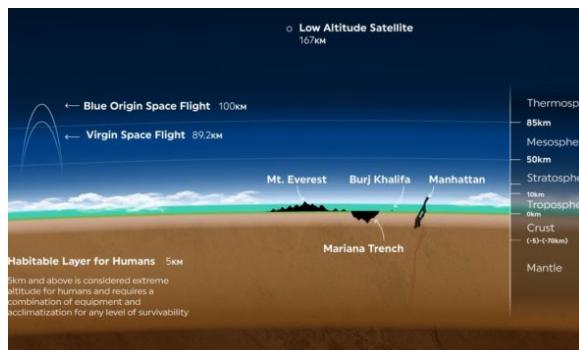
## By country, 2021

Market capitalization (billions) on August 16, 2021

Country	Market Capitalization (billions)
Australia	\$180
United States	\$7208
China	\$36.3B
India	\$21.0B

# MARKETS /

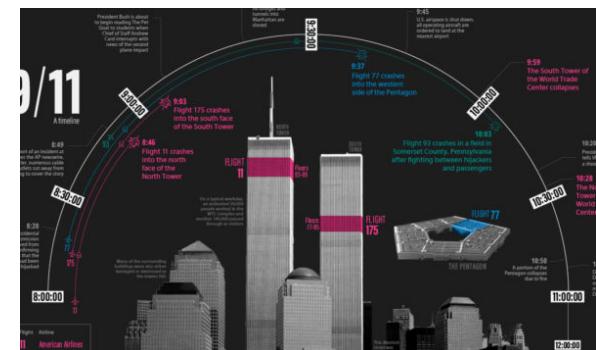
## Mapping Market C



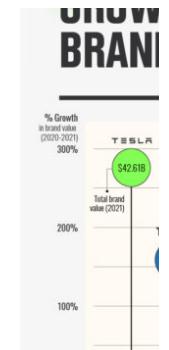
MISC / 4 weeks ago



HEALTHCARE / 2 weeks ago



MISC / 3 weeks ago



DATASTREA

**Razor Thin: A New Perspective on Earth's Atmosphere**

**Visualizing the World's Biggest Pharmaceutical Companies**

**9/11 Timeline: Three Hours That Changed Everything**

**Ranked: 1 Brands in**



[ABOUT](#)   [SUBSCRIBE](#)   [VC+](#)   [MASTHEAD](#)   [PRESS CENTER](#)   [CAREERS](#)

[CONTACT US](#)   [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)   [STORE](#)   [USE OUR VISUALIZATIONS](#)   [LICENSING](#)   [ADVERTISE](#)

Copyright © 2021 Visual Capitalist