



MARTIN ANDERSON

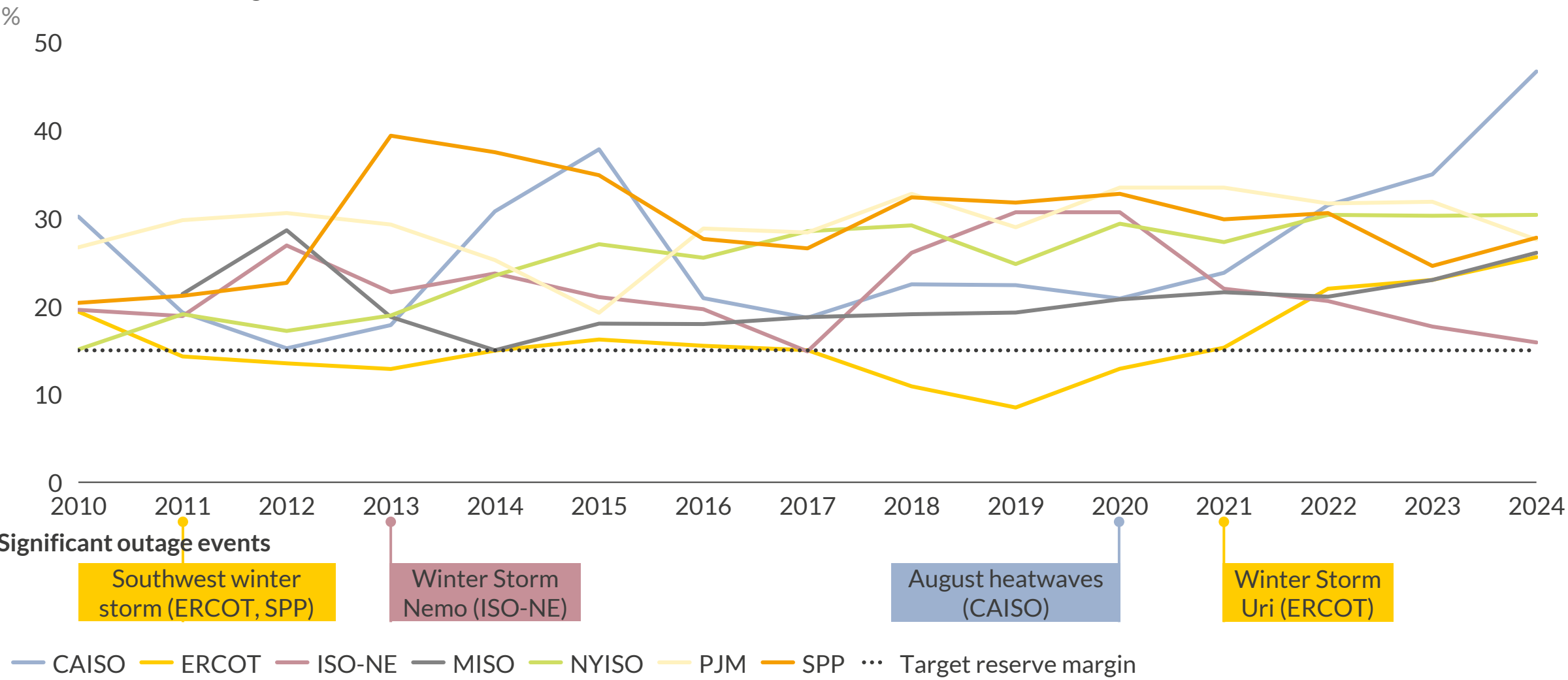
Head of Research USA,
Aurora

AURORA KEYNOTE
ENSURING CAPACITY ADEQUACY
THROUGH THE ENERGY TRANSITION

AURORA
ENERGY
TRANSITION
FORUM 2024

Margins across ISOs have largely exceeded targets for the past 15 years, yet outage events have continued

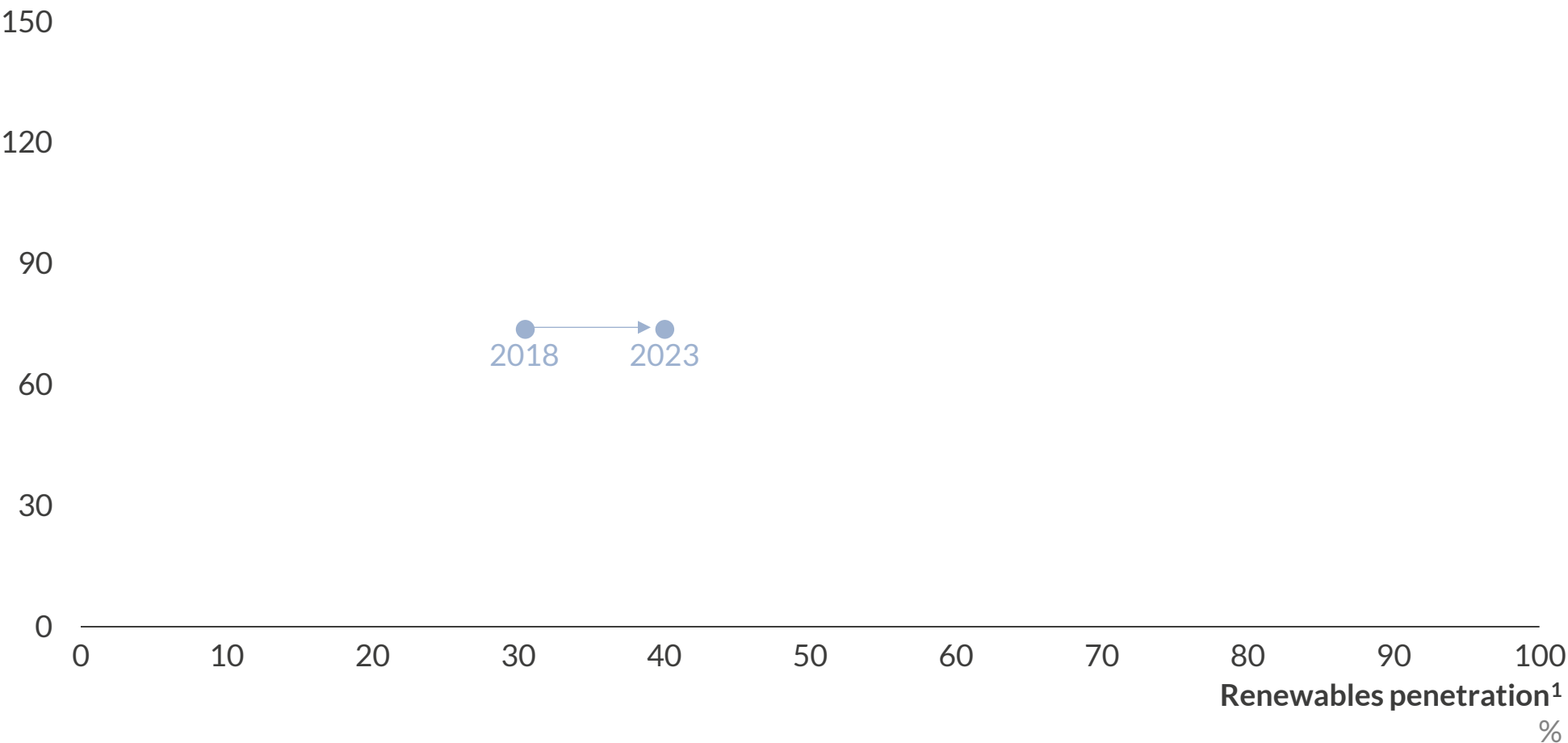
Summer reliability margins by US ISO



Regions are targeting high renewables deployment; the role of unabated thermal capacity remains unclear

Unabated dispatchable thermal nameplate capacity vs. ISO peak demand

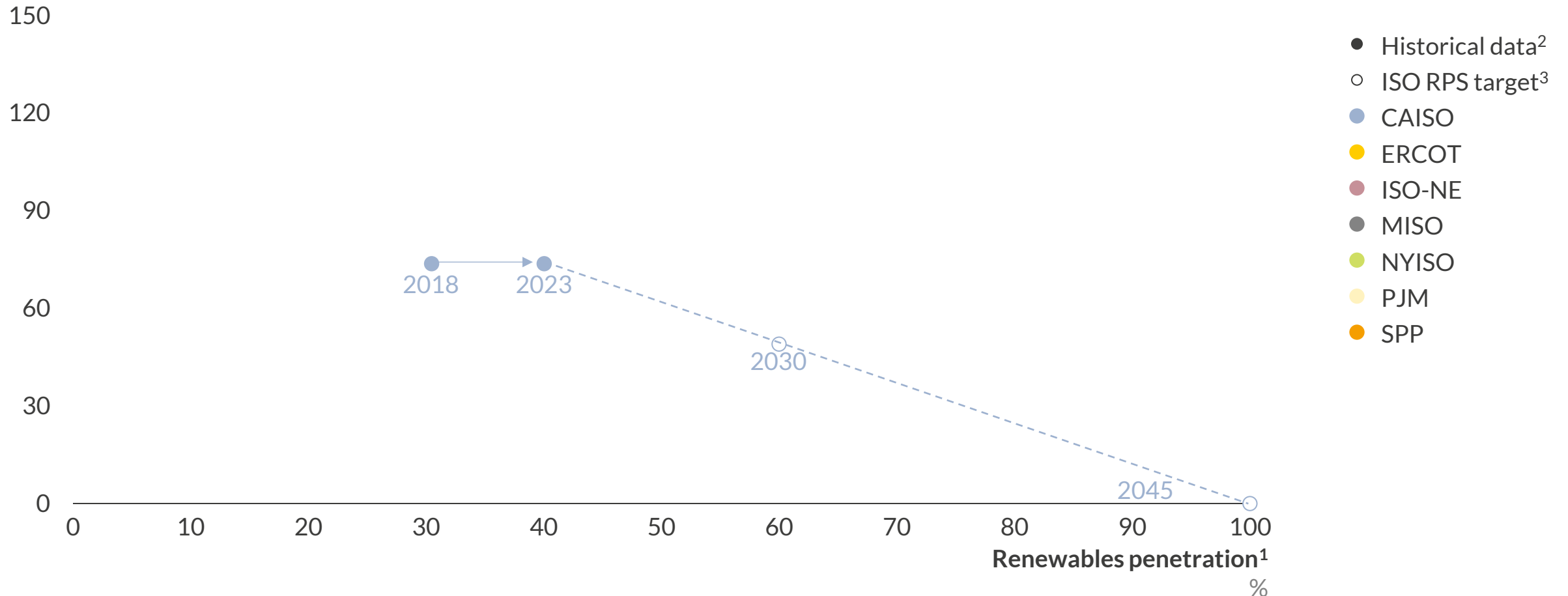
%



1) Sum of metered solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric (excluding pumped storage). 2. Shown for 2018 and 2023. 3) Shown for 2030 and 2050 unless otherwise indicated. ISO values are a weighted average of state RPS targets by share of total demand. Targets already exceeded not shown.
Sources: Aurora Energy Research, EIA

Regions are targeting high renewables deployment; the role of unabated thermal capacity remains unclear

Unabated dispatchable thermal nameplate capacity vs. ISO peak demand
%

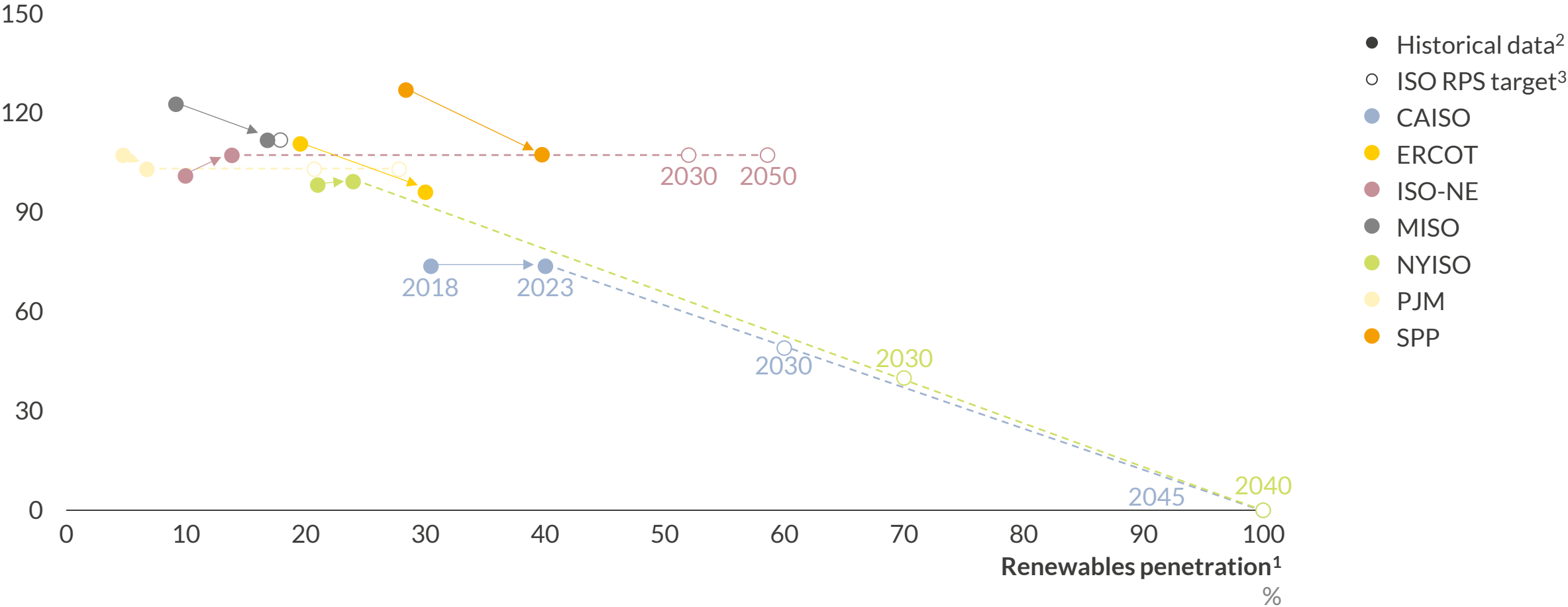


1) Sum of metered solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric (excluding pumped storage). 2. Shown for 2018 and 2023. 3) Shown for 2030 and 2050 unless otherwise indicated. ISO values are a weighted average of state RPS targets by share of total demand. Targets already exceeded not shown.

Regions are targeting high renewables deployment; the role of unabated thermal capacity remains unclear

Unabated dispatchable thermal nameplate capacity vs. ISO peak demand

%

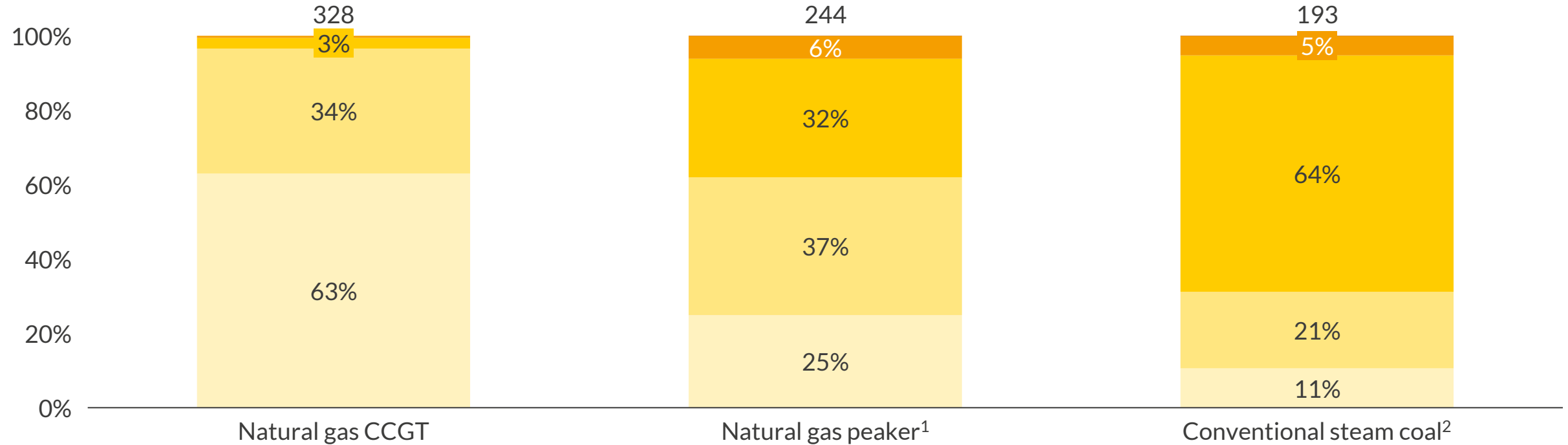


1) Sum of metered solar, wind, geothermal, and hydroelectric (excluding pumped storage). 2. Shown for 2018 and 2023. 3) Shown for 2030 and 2050 unless otherwise indicated. ISO values are a weighted average of state RPS targets by share of total demand. Targets already exceeded not shown.

Sources: Aurora Energy Research, EIA

The existing thermal capacity is aging; over 227GW of thermal capacity across the US is over 40 years old, representing 31% of installed capacity

Age of plants by capacity in 2024
%



Installed capacity in 2024, GW

328GW

244GW

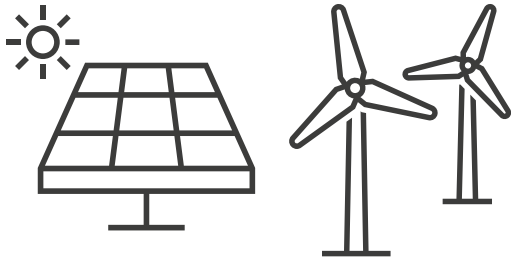
193GW

0-20 years 20-40 years 40-60 years 60-80 years 80-100 years

1) Includes combustion turbine, steam turbine, internal combustion engine. 2) Includes lignite.

A high-renewables system increases the need for flexibility and reliability

Characteristics of renewables



Unpredictable

Variable

Undispatchable

High-renewables system requirements



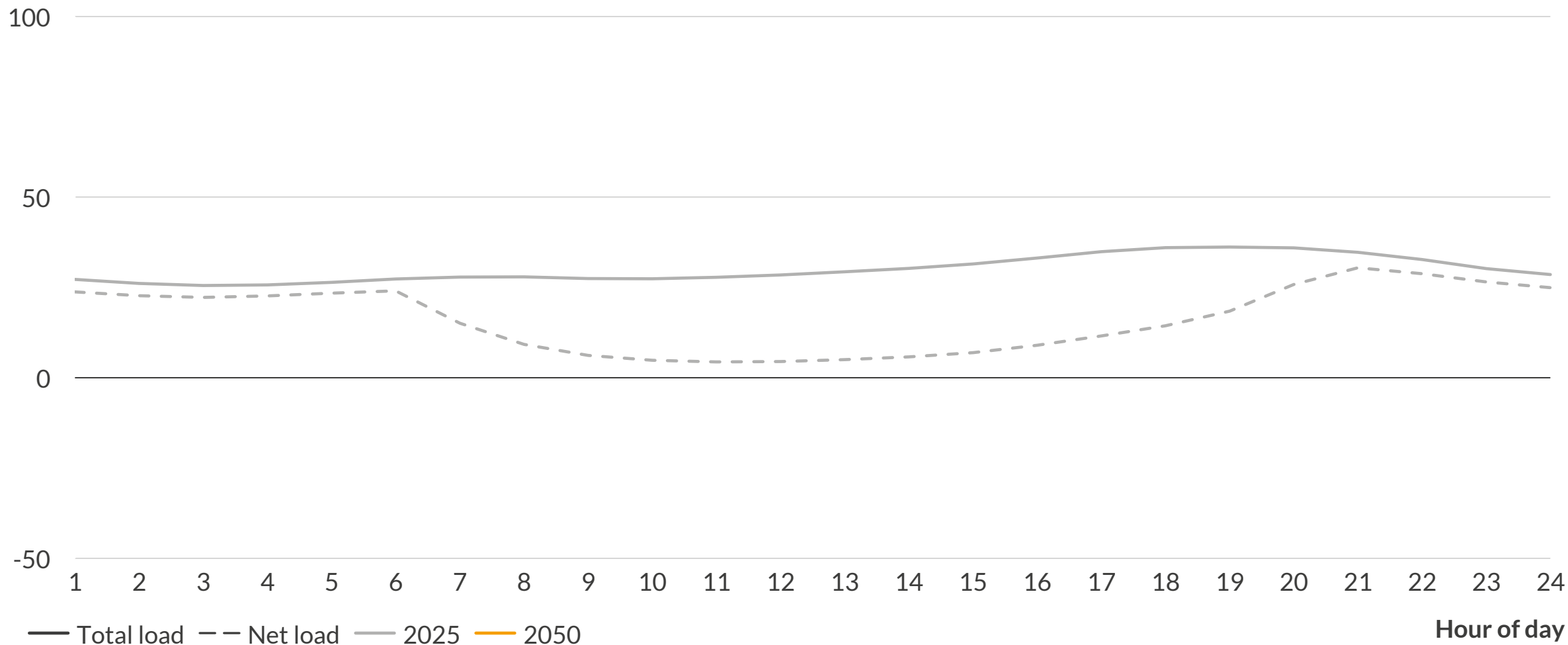
Ramping

Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching

Reliability

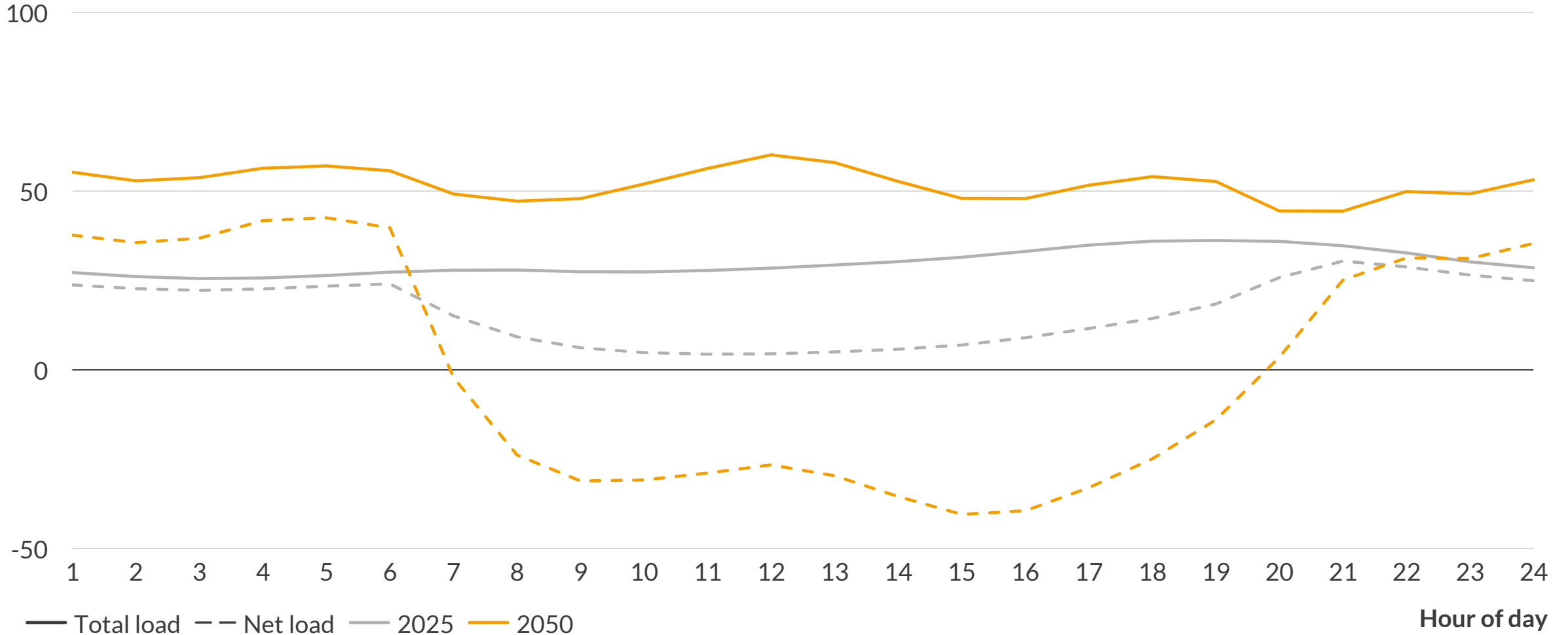
Ramping: increasing renewables penetration is expected to exacerbate the “duck curve,” leading to a 30-40 GW summer net load ramp by 2040

CAISO summer total and net load
GW



Ramping: increasing renewables penetration is expected to exacerbate the “duck curve,” leading to a 30-40 GW summer net load ramp by 2040

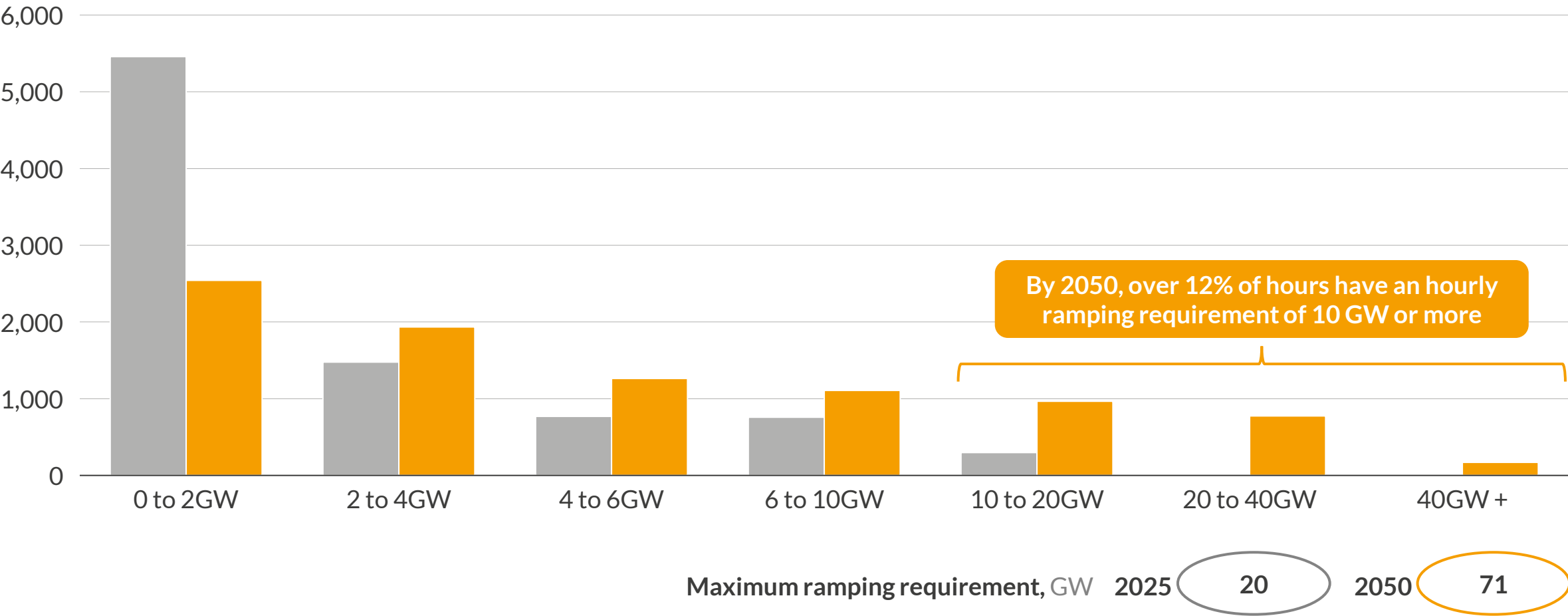
CAISO summer total and net load
GW



Ramping: as a result, we expect a 20% of hours to have a ramping requirement of at least 6 GW by 2050, up from 4% today

Frequency distribution of hourly ramping requirement¹ in CAISO

Number of hours

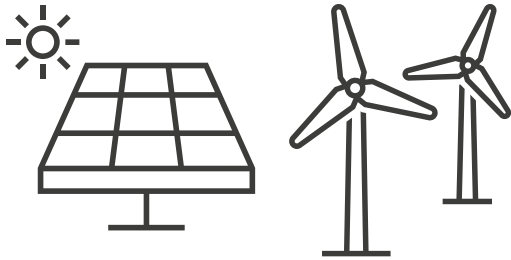


■ 2025 ■ 2050

1) Ramping requirement is the difference in net load between consecutive hours. Net load is calculated as the difference between total load and generation from renewables (wind and solar).

A high-renewables system increases the need for flexibility and reliability

Characteristics of renewables

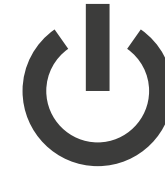


Unpredictable

Variable

Undispatchable

High-renewables system requirements



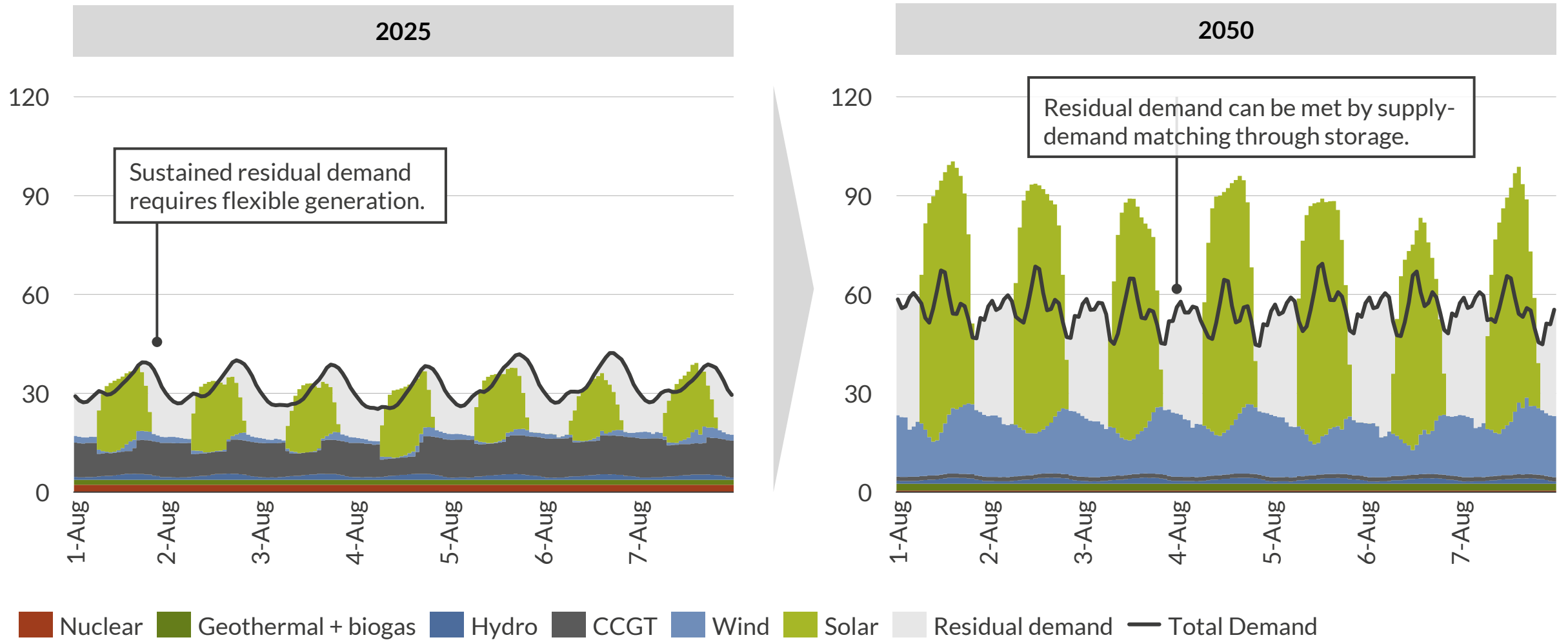
Ramping

Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching

Reliability

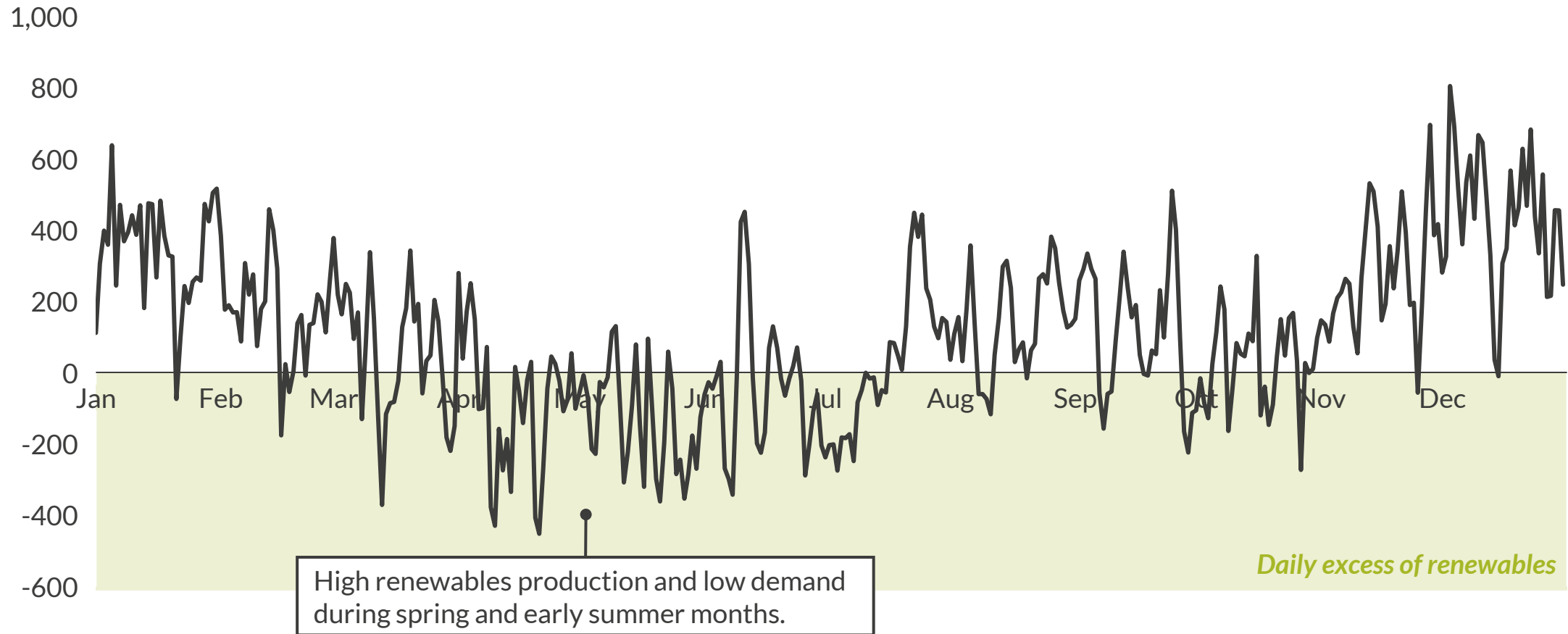
Supply-demand matching: high levels of storage are required for the effective utilization of intermittent renewables

Illustrative power demand and generation in CAISO for a typical summer week
GW



Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching : Storing excess daily renewables for use later in the year will require 15GW of 1-month duration storage

2050 daily net load
GWh

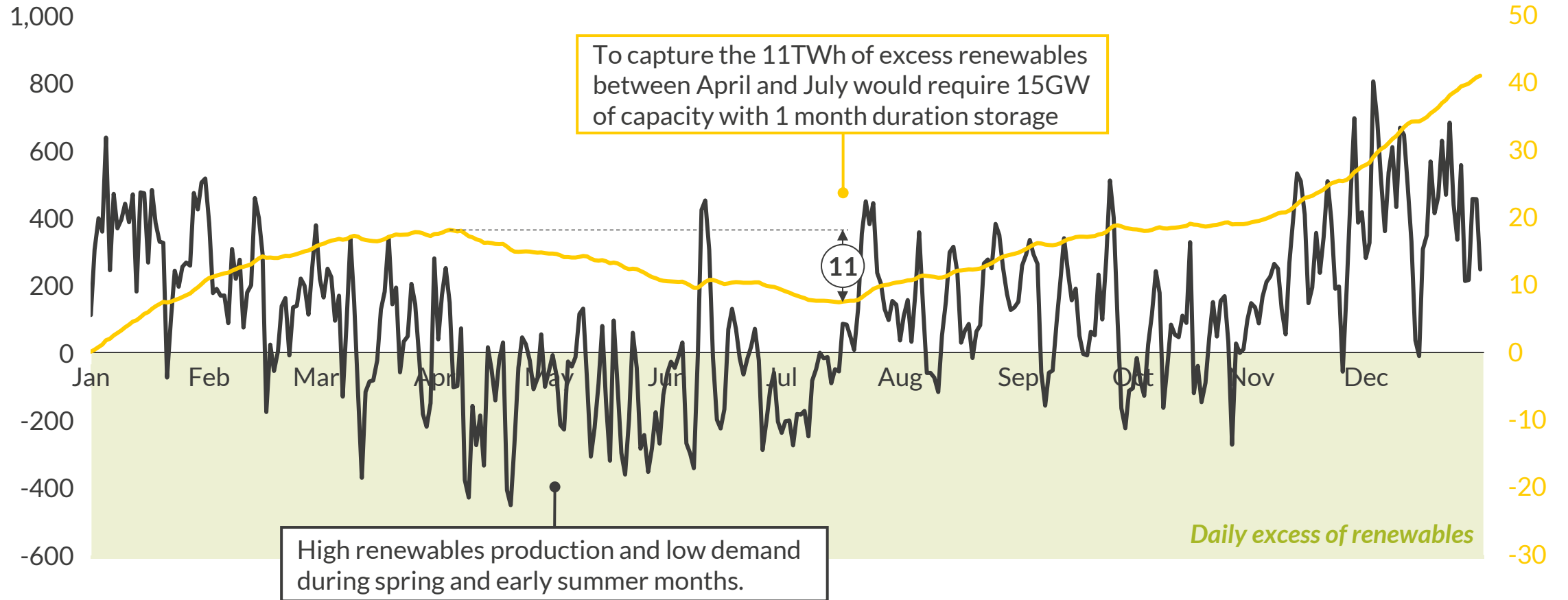


— Daily net load

Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching : Storing excess daily renewables for use later in the year will require 15GW of 1-month duration storage

2050 daily net load
GWh

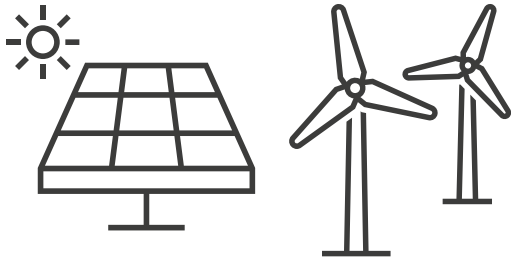
Cumulative daily net load
TWh



— Daily net load — Cumulative net load (right axis)

A high-renewables system increases the need for flexibility and reliability

Characteristics of renewables



Unpredictable

Variable

Undispatchable

High-renewables system requirements



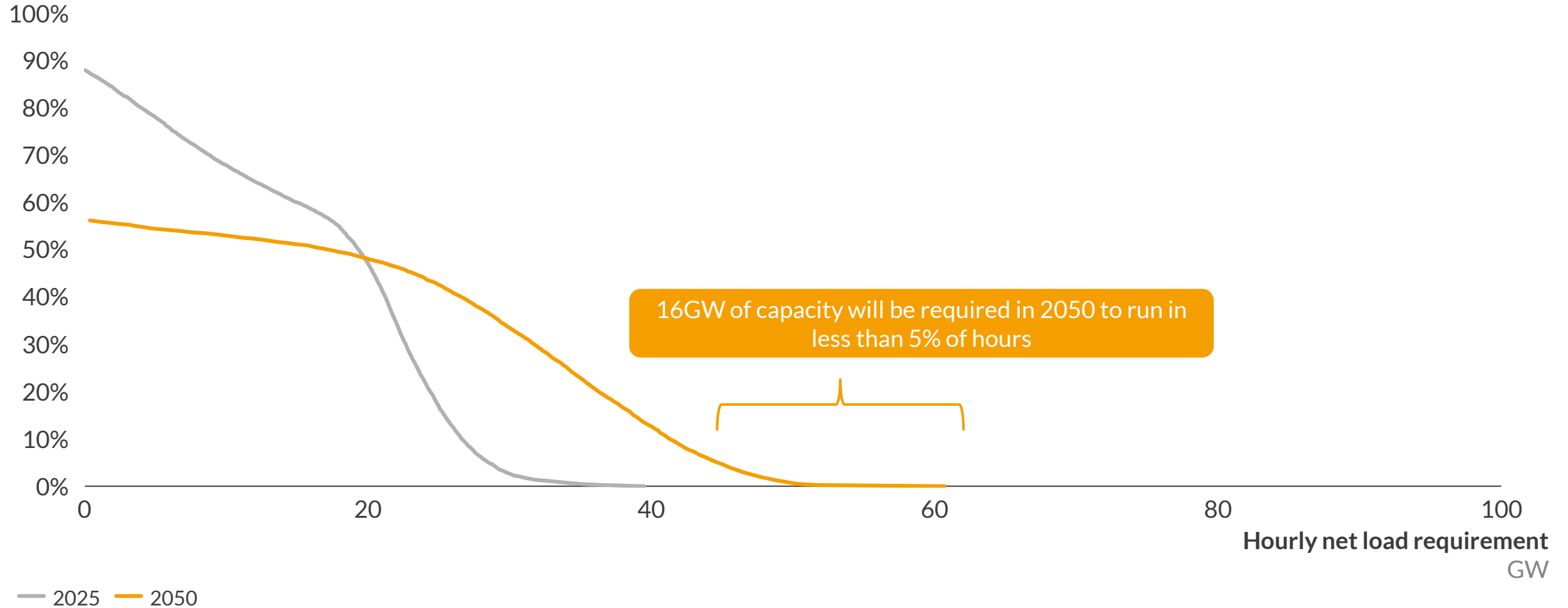
Ramping

Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching

Reliability

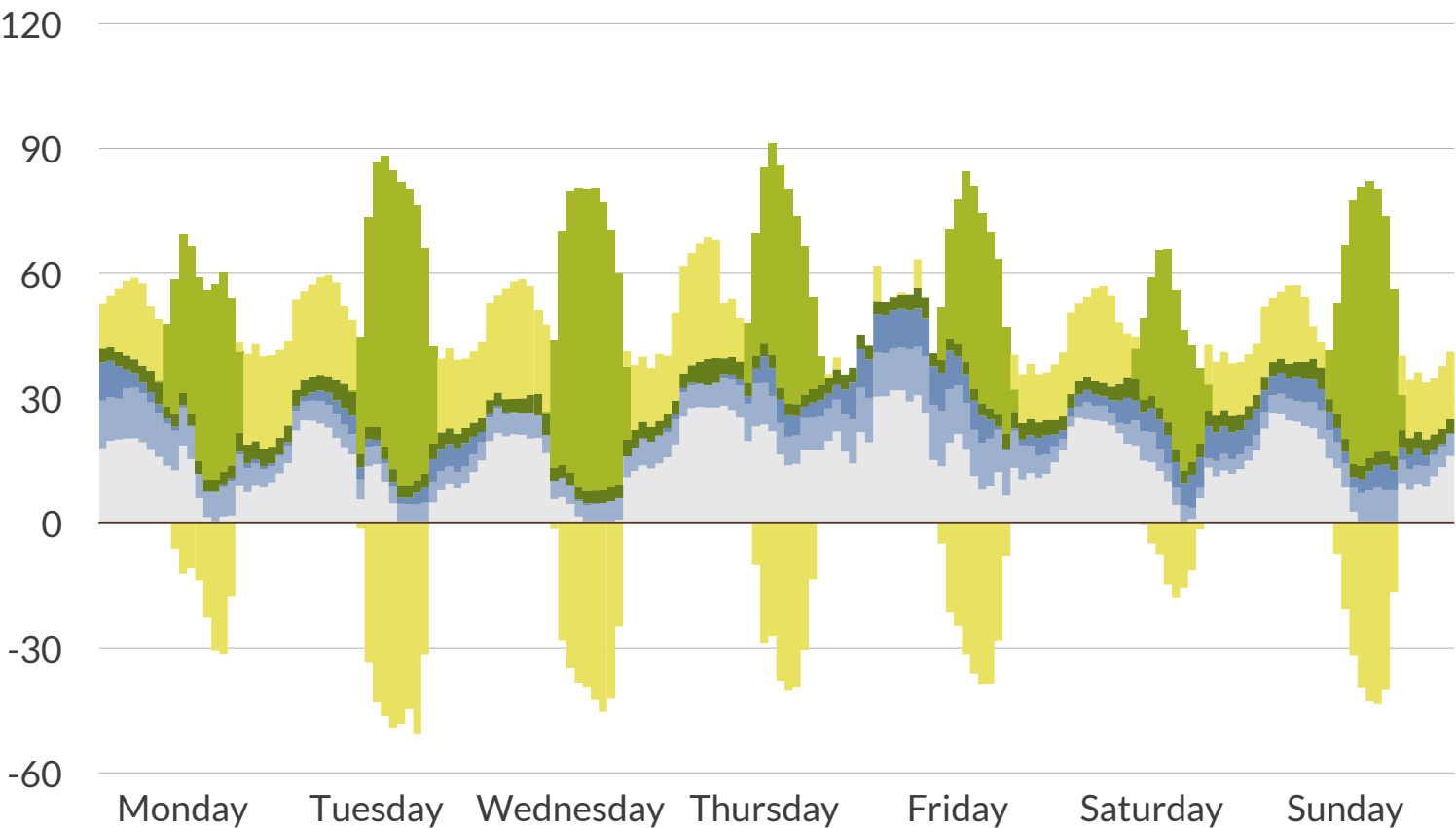
Reliability: flexible technologies are necessary to complement renewables growth; over 60GW of net load will need to be met

Hours per year with hourly net load requirement



Reliability: replacing the output of ~31GW of thermal dispatch in a high demand week would require over 10x the battery CAPEX investment of CT

Production throughout the week of December 18-24, 2050 in CAISO
GW



Net load Onshore wind Offshore wind Other renewables¹ Solar Battery

1) Includes hydro, pumped storage, geothermal, and biomass. 2) Using 2024 CAPEX values. Assumes 1 cycle/day for batteries. Pre-ITC value.

During this period, net load makes up 2,418GWh of electricity (or 31GW of firm capacity)

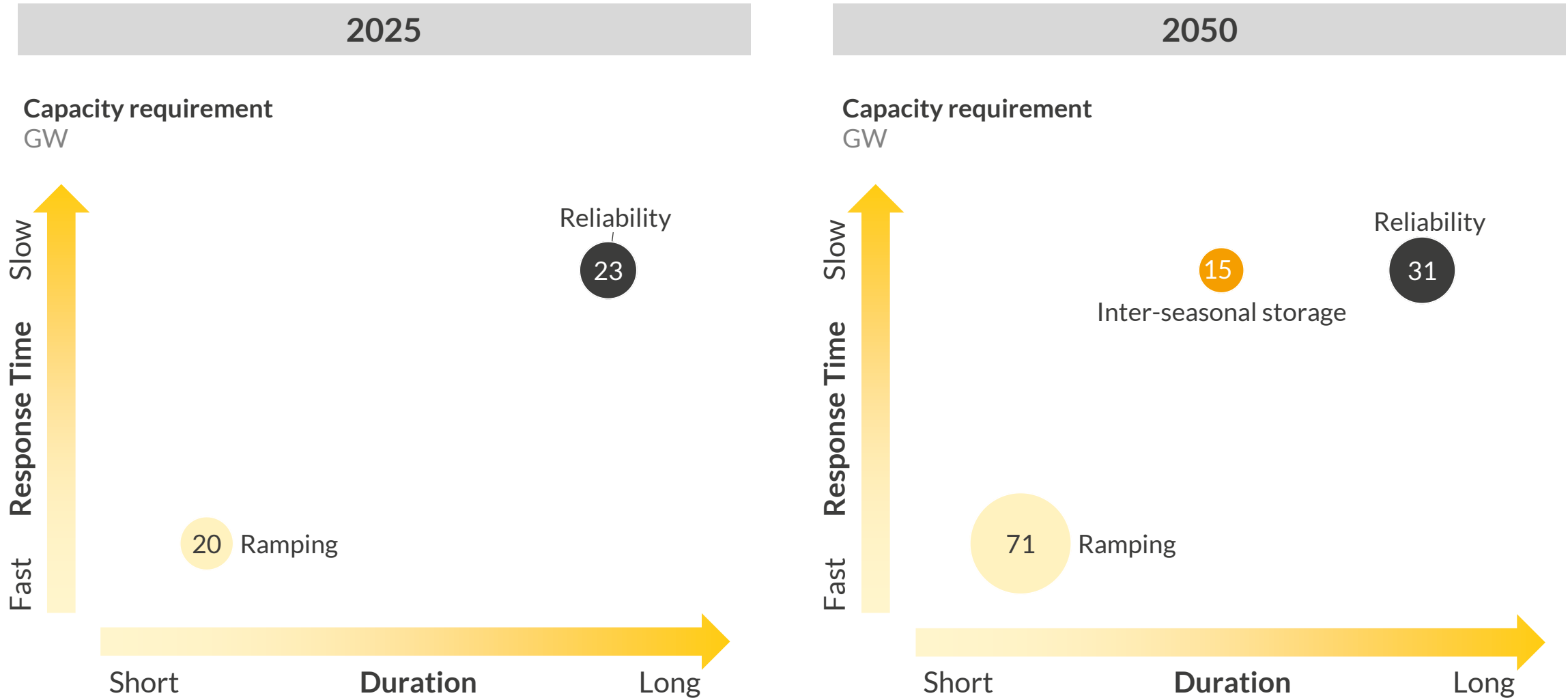
1 Peaking generation required to fill this gap requires investment of \$31bn

Technology	GW	Plant CAPEX ²
Peaker (CT)	31	\$31bn

2 Battery storage required to fill the gap requires significantly higher investment

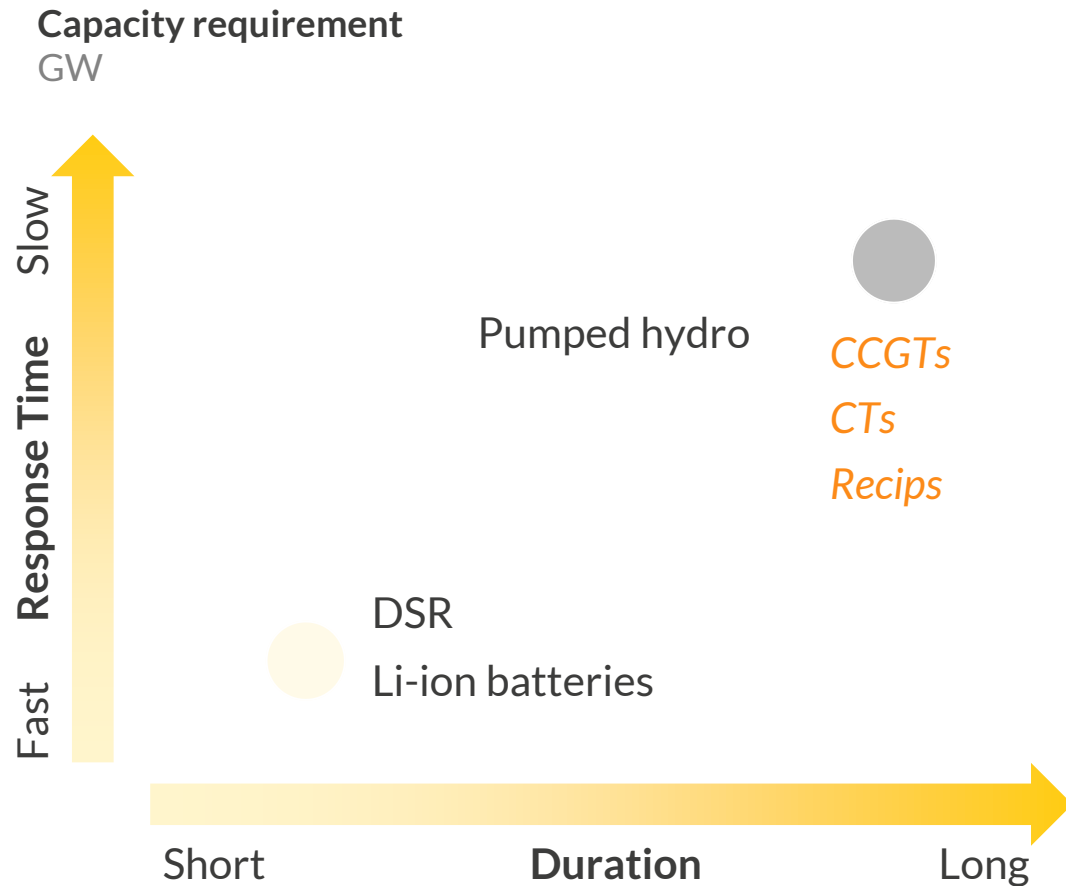
4-hour battery	605	\$516bn
8-hour battery	302	\$358bn

Reliability: the system's requirement for quick-response, long-duration generation increases as renewable penetration increases

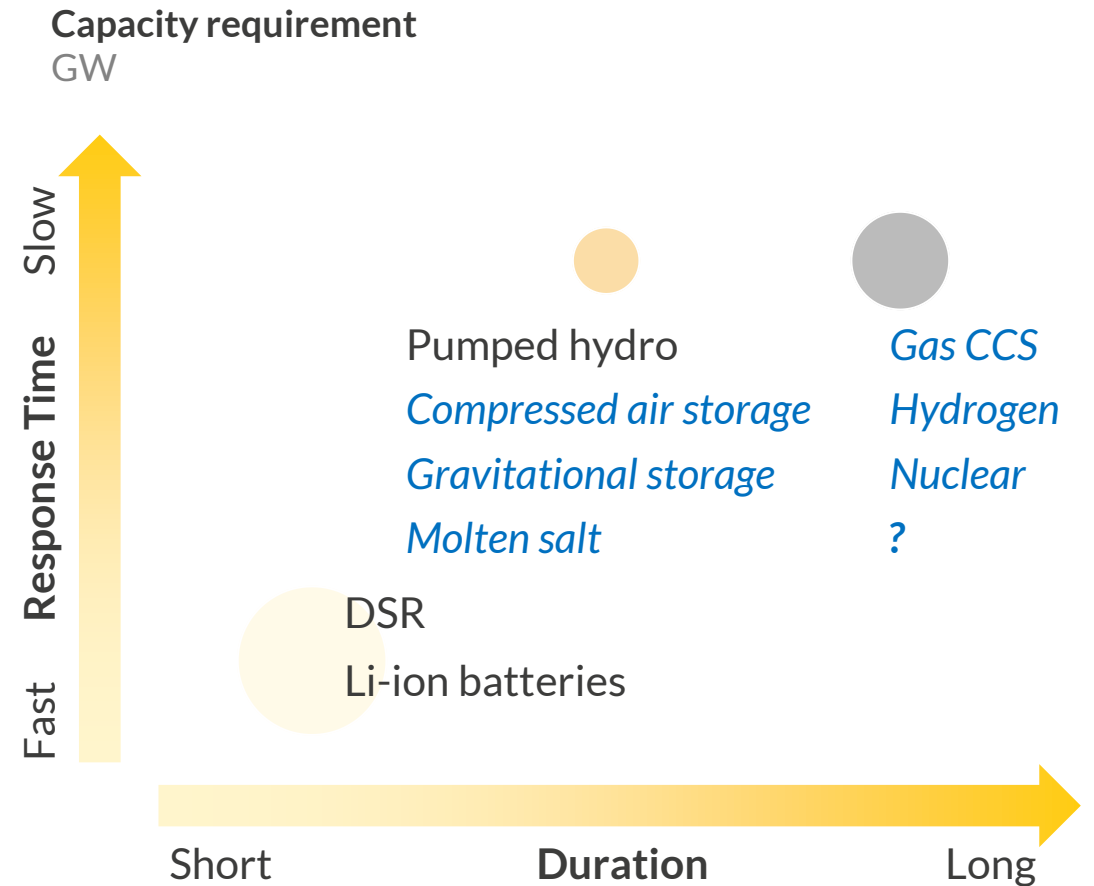


Reliability: the system's requirement for quick-response, long-duration generation increases as renewable penetration increases

2025



2050



Even in a highly decarbonized scenario, thermal plants will still be the marginal resource in 40-50% of hours

CAISO generation mix in 2050

% of total generation

200

150

100

50

0

-50

-100

Middle of day hours during months when supply is tight, batteries still cycle to capture spreads.

Periods of tightest of supply in CAISO require firming from thermal assets and external resources to meet load.

During low demand and high solar output hours, batteries charge to optimize for large spreads

Hourly average price, ascending¹

 Storage  Renewable  Thermal  Net imports

1) For presentation purposes, the hourly data has been grouped into 24-hour intervals.

Current market design rewards ramping and reliability; there is no market signal for inter-seasonal supply-demand matching

High-renewables system requirements	Existing market design			Policy principles
	Wholesale market (RT/DA)	Ancillary Services	Capacity Market	
Ramping	✓	✓		Price the externalities
Inter-seasonal supply-demand matching				Define the system needs
Reliability	✓	✓	✓	Let the market decide

AURORA

ENERGY RESEARCH