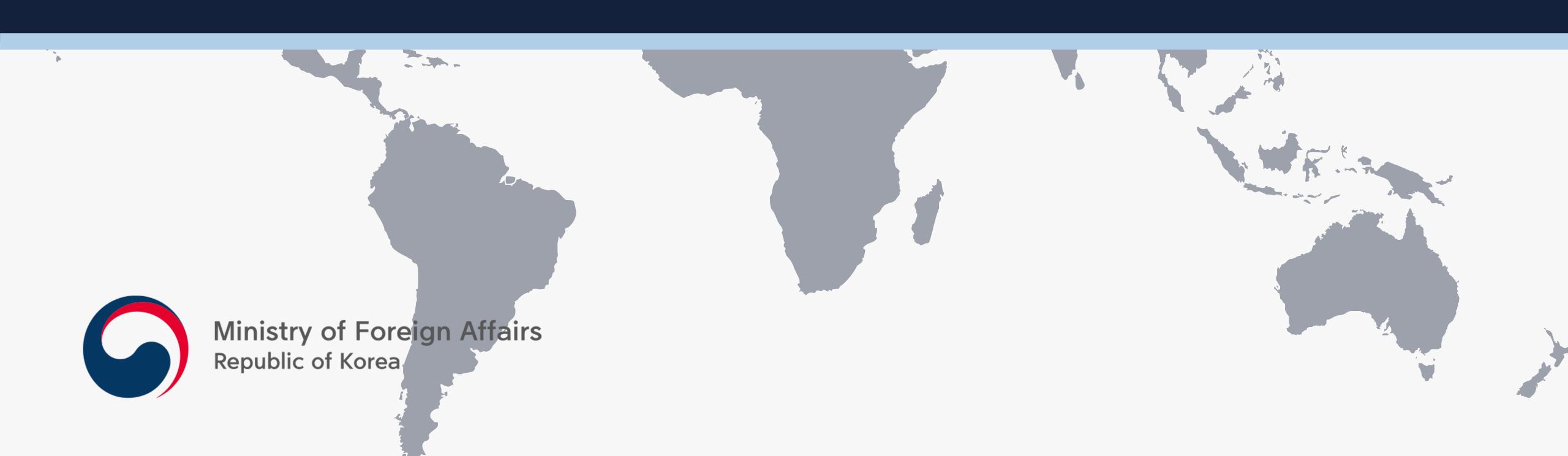
# KEY TAKEAWAYS OF COP29 AND KOREA'S ENERGY POLICY

TONGKYU KIM, RESEARCHER AT THE CLIMATE & ENERGY COOPERATION CENTER MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REPUBLIC OF KOREA



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAST OUTCOMES OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES 1.

Global narrative on clean energy transition

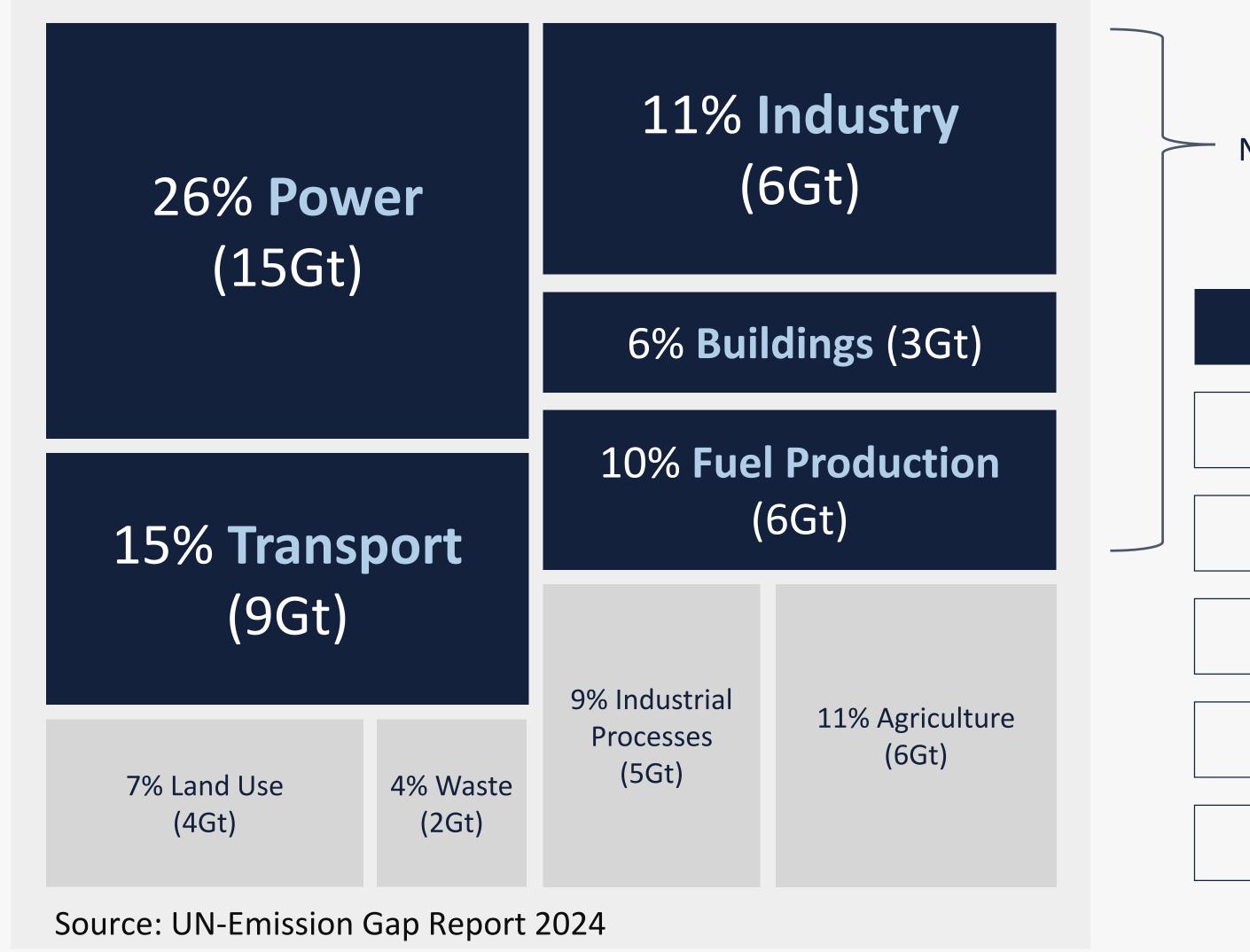
Recent development in the energy sector

Carbon free energy initiative

KOREA'S ENERGY POLICY AND CURRENT PROJECTS

Korea's energy landscape Korea's energy policy

### WHY DO WE NEED TO DECARBONIZE ENERGY



Nearly 70% of all GHG emissions come from Energy

Recurring ideas

Phase out of fossil fuels

Improving energy efficiency

Expansion of renewable energies

Methane emission reduction

Financing and equitable transition



### **ENERGY RELATED DISCUSSION AT PAST COPS**













**COP3** Kyoto, 1997

The Kyoto Protocol established binding emissions reduction targets for industrialized nations, focusing heavily on energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**COP17** Durban, 2011

Green Climate Fund (GCF)
launched, aimed at
financing clean energy
projects in developing
countries.

**COP21** Paris, 2015

The landmark agreement set a goal to limit warming to 1.5–2°C, with energy system decarbonization central to achieving these targets. Countries submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), many focusing on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**COP26** Glasgow, 2021

Coal Phase-Out
Commitment
Global Methane Pledge
Climate Finance for Energy
\$100 billion annual
commitment reaffirmed,
with funding for renewable
energy projects in
developing nations.

COP27 SSH, 2022

Just Energy Transition
Partnerships (JETPs)
South Africa's JETP was
expanded, with additional
partnerships for countries
like Indonesia and Vietnam.
Focused on funding the
coal phase-out while
ensuring equitable
transitions.

**COP28** Dubai, 2023

Global Renewable Energy
Target Proposal
Discussions began on
setting a global target
to triple renewable energy
capacity and double
energy efficiency by 2030
laying the groundwork for
the COP28 pledge.



### **KEY RESULTS OF COP28 & COP29**



- Completion of Global Stocktake (GST)  $\rightarrow$  Transitioning away from fossil fuels (phase out of unabated coal)
- Tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling energy efficiency by 2030









#### **Accelerating Renewables and Grids**

- Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge: Tripling renewable capacity by 2030.
- TeraMed Initiative: 1 TW renewable capacity by 2030; \$700B investment.
- No More Coal in Latin America: Regional commitment to phase out coal.

#### **Doubling Energy Efficiency**

- Latin America and Africa Programs: Efficiency targets across key sectors.
- Regional strategies to improve appliances, buildings, transport, and agriculture.

#### **Advancing Hydrogen and Hydropower**

- Hydrogen Action Declaration: Scaling clean hydrogen production globally.
- Hydro4NetZero Initiative: Modernizing hydropower in Latin America.

#### **Collaboration and Policy**

- Utilities for Net Zero Alliance: Doubling membership and investments.
- Breakthrough Agenda: Priority actions for sectoral decarbonization.
- Call for removal of trade barriers to clean energy technologies.



### WHAT TO EXPECT FOR COP30



Belém, Brazil: November, 10–21, 2025

### Nuclear energy as a key decarbonization strategy

Building momentum on COP28, nuclear energy has been recognized as an essential part of the global decarbonization strategy to complement renewables.

Apart from traditional nuclear power players such as the USA, UK, Japan, France, and Korea, many countries from Central and Eastern Europe are joining the initiative to finance and invest in nuclear projects.

### Brazil's stance on fossil fuels:

Ana Toni, Climate Envoy of Brazil has stated that "Brazil will not shy away from addressing fossil fuels at COP30," despite being a major oil producer.

COP30 is the third consecutive UN climate conference hosted in a country planning to expand its fossil fuel production (UAE → Azerbaijan → Brazil).

While fossil fuel phase out discussions have been somewhat avoided, Brazil has deliberately stated that it will highlight this aspect in COP30.





### **CARBON FREE ENERGY INITIATIVE**

Timeline

**UNGA 78** 

**CF Alliance formed** 

20 member firms including Samsung, SK Hynix, Hyundai, etc.

**COP28 & IEA Declaration** 

**Need for CFE acknowledged** 

**Support from 10 countries** 

Saudi, UK, Japan, UAE, etc.

Fatih Birol, IEA E.D.
Endorsed global CFE
adoption.

Launch of CFE Global Working Group (2024.10.)

#### 1. Imperative

- Major countries expanding on Carbon-Free Energy (CFE) like renewables, nuclear, and hydrogen.
- EU: ESG disclosure starting 2025, Japan & UK: Non-fossil fuel energy mandates, contract-for-difference for CFE

#### 2. Limitations to RE100

- Only recognizes renewable energy (high costs, limited scope, technology-specific).
- Focuses only on Scope 2 (energy use), excluding Scope 1 (industrial processes)

#### 3. Carbon Free Energy Initiative (CFEI)

- Covers Scope 1 & 2 emissions.
- Includes all CFE sources (nuclear, hydrogen)

#### **Key Elements:**

- CFE standards (verification, scope)
- Public-private alliance (CFA)

#### **Strengths of CFEI**

Tech-neutral: All CFE sources, not just renewables. Encourages the gradual adoption of 24/7 CFE. Scalable, cost-effective for all nations.

#### **4. Current Progress**

CFEI introduced at UNGA 78 (2023).

- CF Alliance launched (Oct 2023), led by ex-IPCC Chair
- COP28 Decisions, IEA declarations recognized the necessity to deploy CFE
- Support from 10 countries (e.g., Saudi, UK, Japan, UAE)
- CFE Global Working Group launched at the 15<sup>th</sup> CEM (2024.10.)

#### **Future Plans**

• Develop CFE standards through global task force (2024+)

Source: Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy

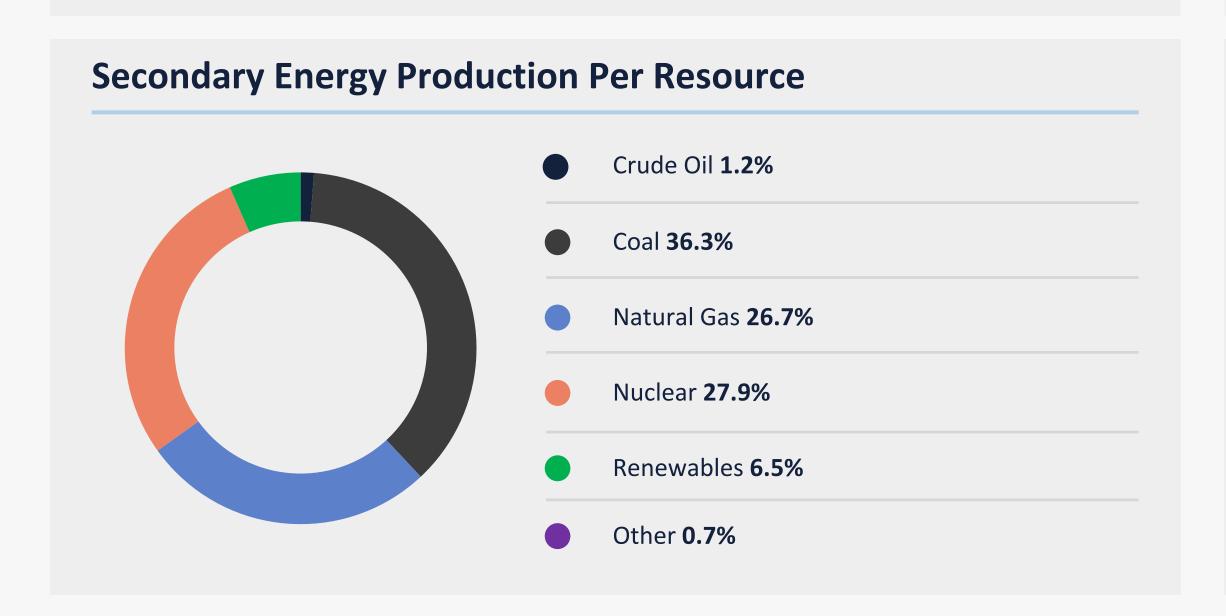
- Raise global awareness at APEC, G20, COP29 (2024).
- Industry and government collaboration to expand CFE.

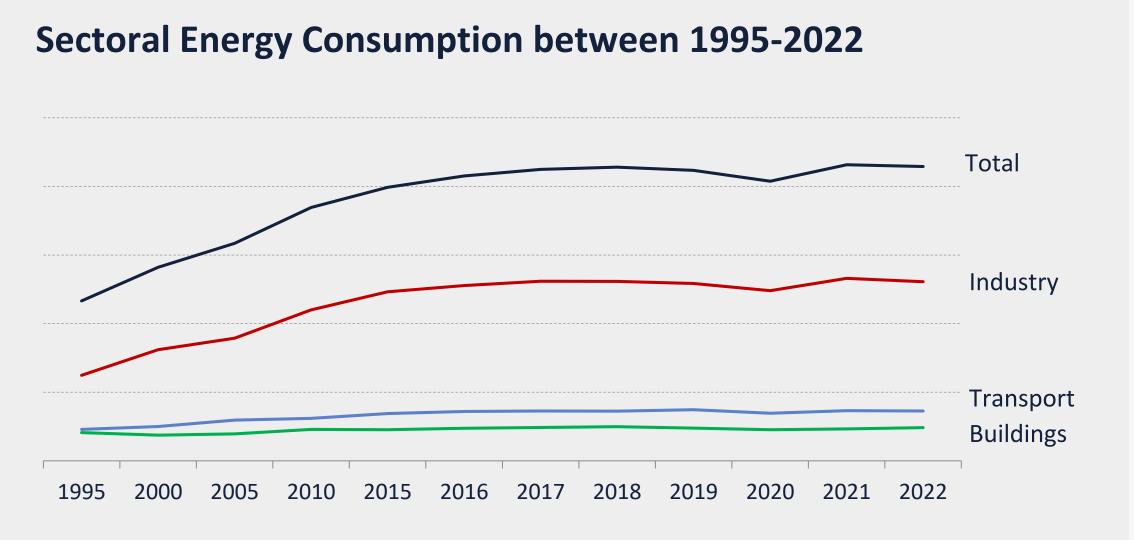


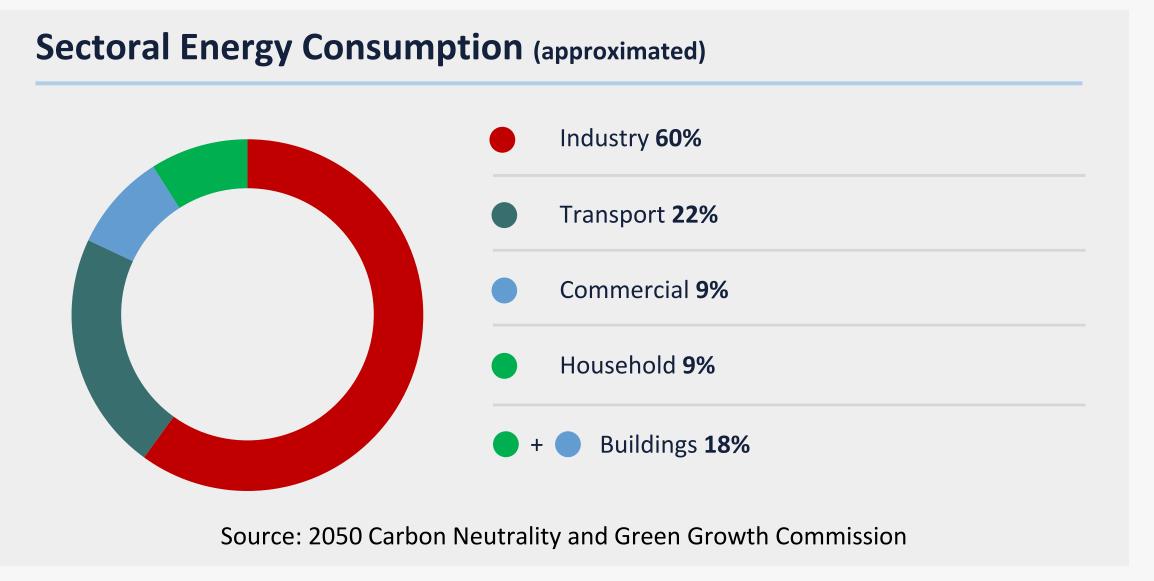
### STATUS QUO ON ENERGY

#### **Characteristics of Korea's Climate Action**

- High economic reliance on industrial sector makes it difficult to decarbonize, especially given hard-to-abate sectors (i.e. steel & cement)
- The **high import reliance** on foreign resources create great imperative for Korea to transition to renewables, but **less-optimal geography**, **passive public support**, **and limited grid capacity** is making such transition difficult.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Basic Plan of Long-Term Electricity Supply and Demand currently under development (current draft open to public)







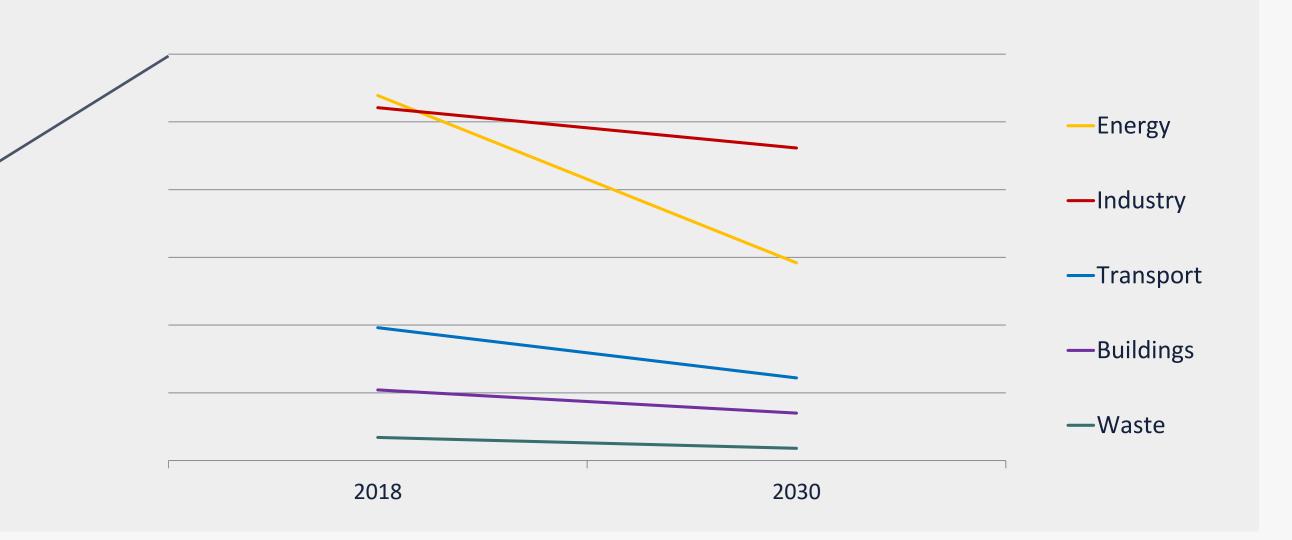


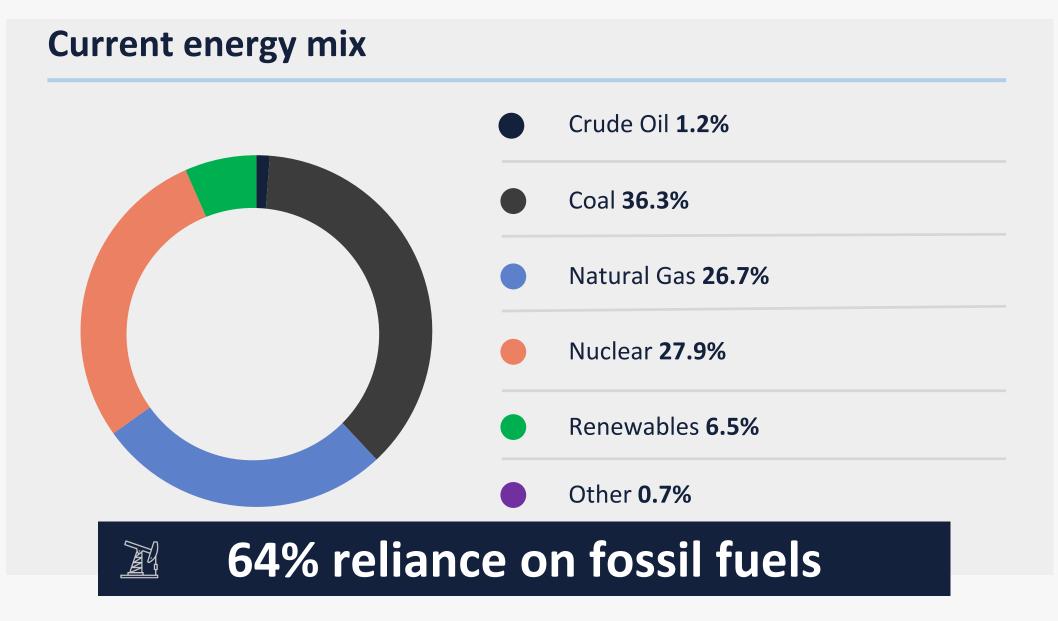
### **ENERGY TRANSITION FOR 2030 NDC**

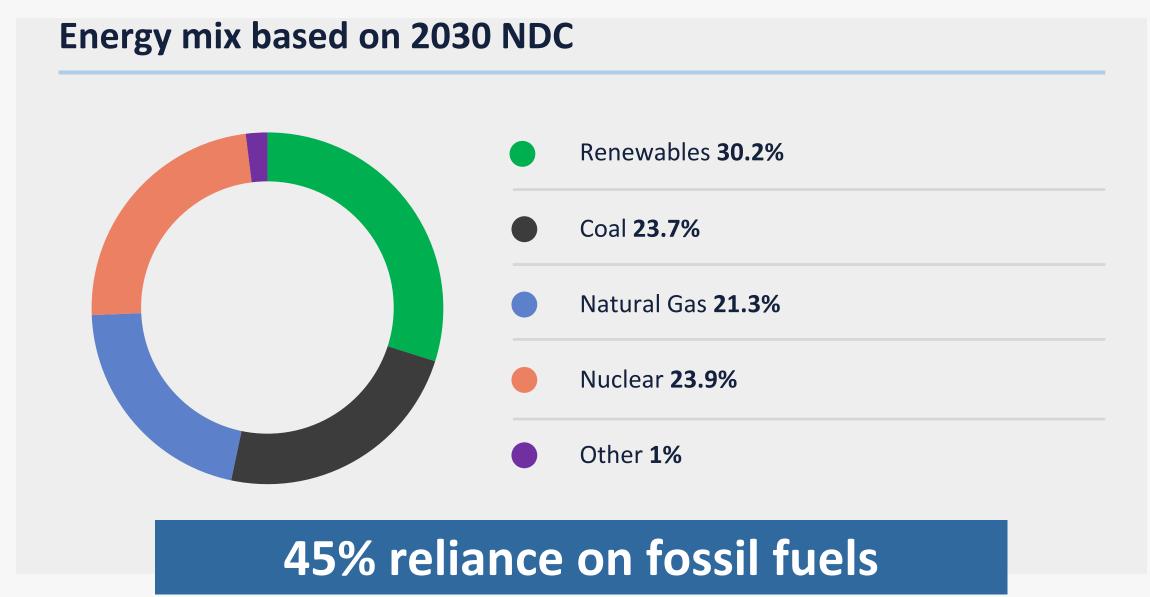
• Baseline Emissions: **727.6 MtCO₂e in 2018** 

Target Emissions: 436.6 MtCO₂e by 2030

	2018	2030	Reduction
Energy	269.6	145.9	45.9%
Industry	260.5	230.7	11.4%
Building	52.1	35.0	32.8%
Transport	98.1	61.0	37.8%
Waste	17.1	9.1	46.8%









### DOMESTIC ENERGY POLICIES



#### **Renewable Energy**

#### **Market Mechanisms**

- Feed-in-tariffs until 2011
- Renewable Portfolio Standards since
   2012

#### **Regulatory Support**

- Incentives for Direct Power Purchase
   Agreements (PPA): Subsidizing
   transmission network fees
- Legislative Frameworks for Offshore
  Wind: Offshore Wind Special Act
  (Under legislation) to simplify complex
  approval processes, ensuring faster
  project development.



#### **Nuclear Energy**

#### **Korea's Nuclear Policy**

- Construction of Shin-Hanul Units 3 & 4.
- Ambition to decarbonization through nuclear energy

## **Development of Indigenous Nuclear Technologies**

- Focus on Korea's proprietary reactors: APR1400, SMART (small reactors), and advanced SMRs.
- Exploring export opportunities (Recent deals with Czech Republic)



#### **Hydrogen Economy**

#### **Hydrogen Economy Committee**

• Launched in 2020, led by the Prime Minister.

## **Hydrogen Economy Promotion and Safety Management Act**

• First comprehensive hydrogen law enacted 2021.

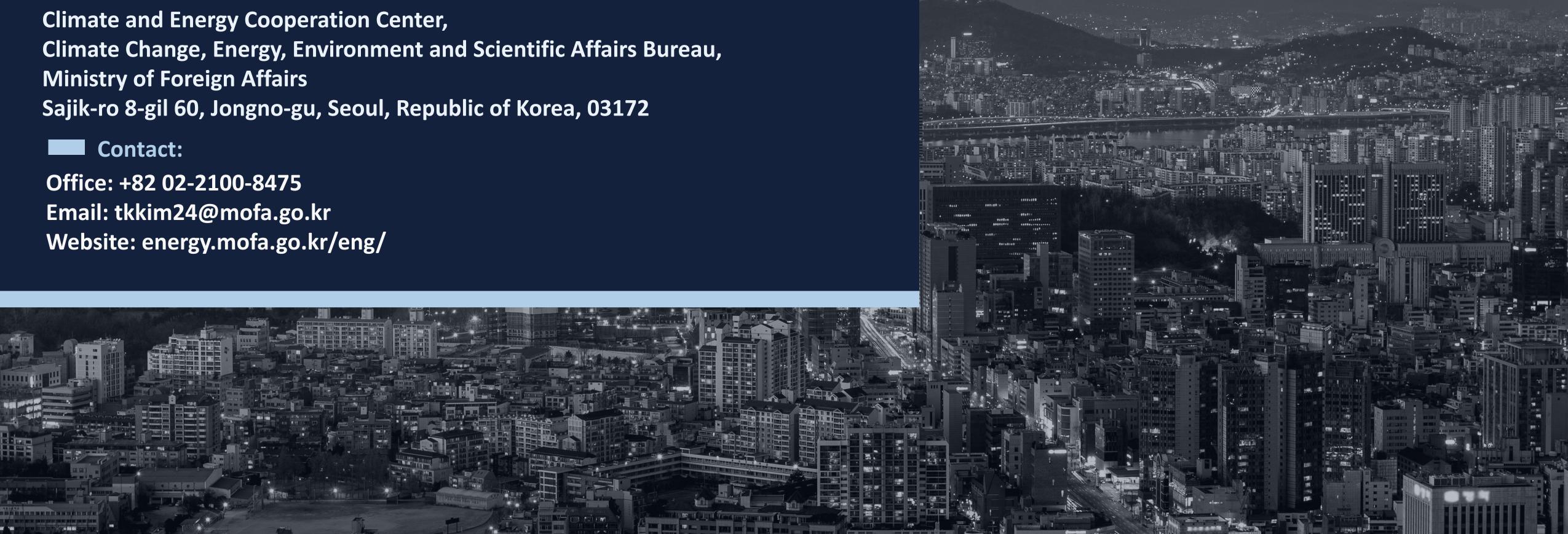
#### Clean Hydrogen Portfolio Standards (CHPS)

Establishment of the world's first Clean
 Hydrogen Bidding Market (2024)

#### **Hydrogen Safety Roadmap 2.0**

• Announced in 2024 to enhance safety across the hydrogen value chain.





### **ABOUT KOREA**

51,940,000

**Total Population** 

\$3.2 Trillion

**Gross Domestic Production** 

213.7M TOE

Total Energy Use per year

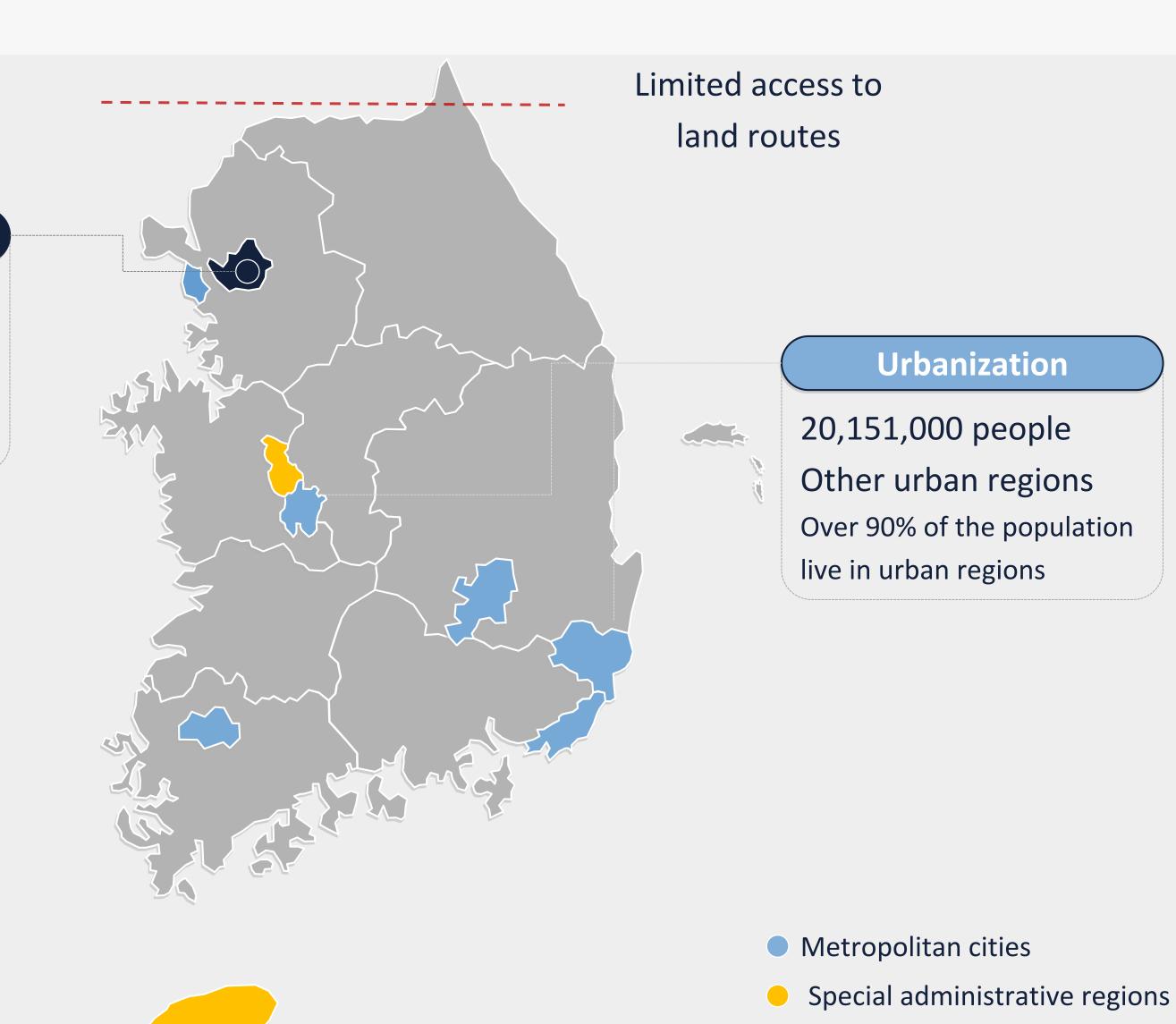
### Seoul metropolitant

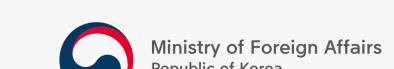
26,190,000 people

13.2M TOE

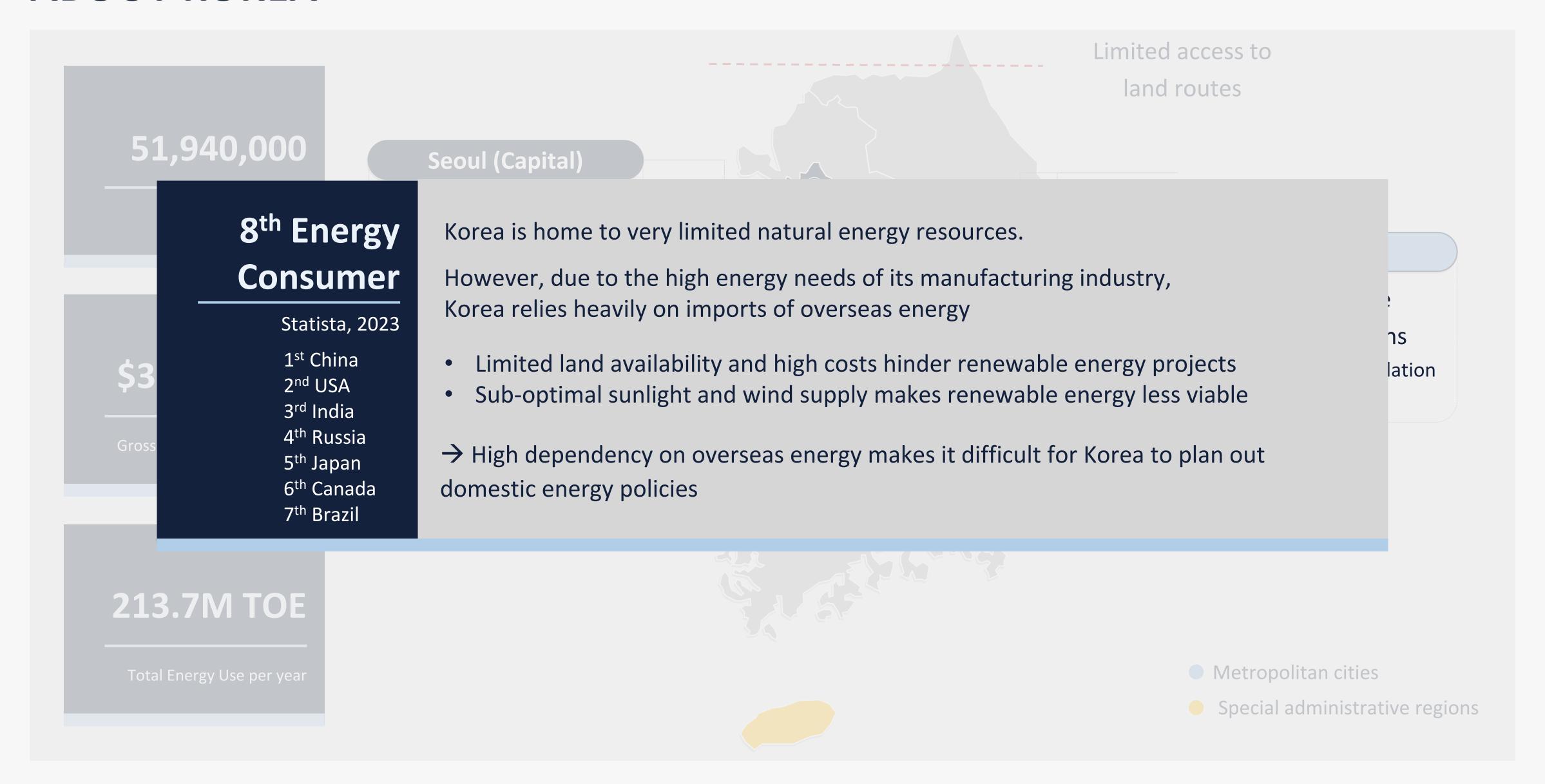
50.84% of total population

Total energy use: 5.6%





### **ABOUT KOREA**





### APPENDIX: KOREA'S COMMITMENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

#### 2030 NDC

291.0MT

Emission reductions by 2030 compared to 2018 levels

40%

Reduction compared to 2018 levels

# **Consecutive** reduction

Two year consecutive reduction exceeding target goals (2022-23)

- On December 10, 2020 Korea announced its national goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Korea aims to cut on emission from 727.6MT (2018)  $\rightarrow$  436.6Mt (2030)
- Major areas include:  $\Delta$  Transition,  $\Delta$  Industry,  $\Delta$  Buildings,  $\Delta$  Transpiration,  $\Delta$  Agriculture,  $\Delta$  Waste,  $\Delta$  Hydrogen,  $\Delta$  Carbon sinks,  $\Delta$  CCUS  $\Delta$  Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcome (ITMO)

### **GREEN ODA EFFORTS**

- Budget support for developing regions
- \$7M for loss and damages
- Voluntary support for climate finance

GCF \$600M pledge **GGGI** \$4.5M Annually 2022-26 Adaptation Fund \$1M Annually 2023-25



### **APPENDIX: GRID CAPACITY IN KOREA**

144,421MW

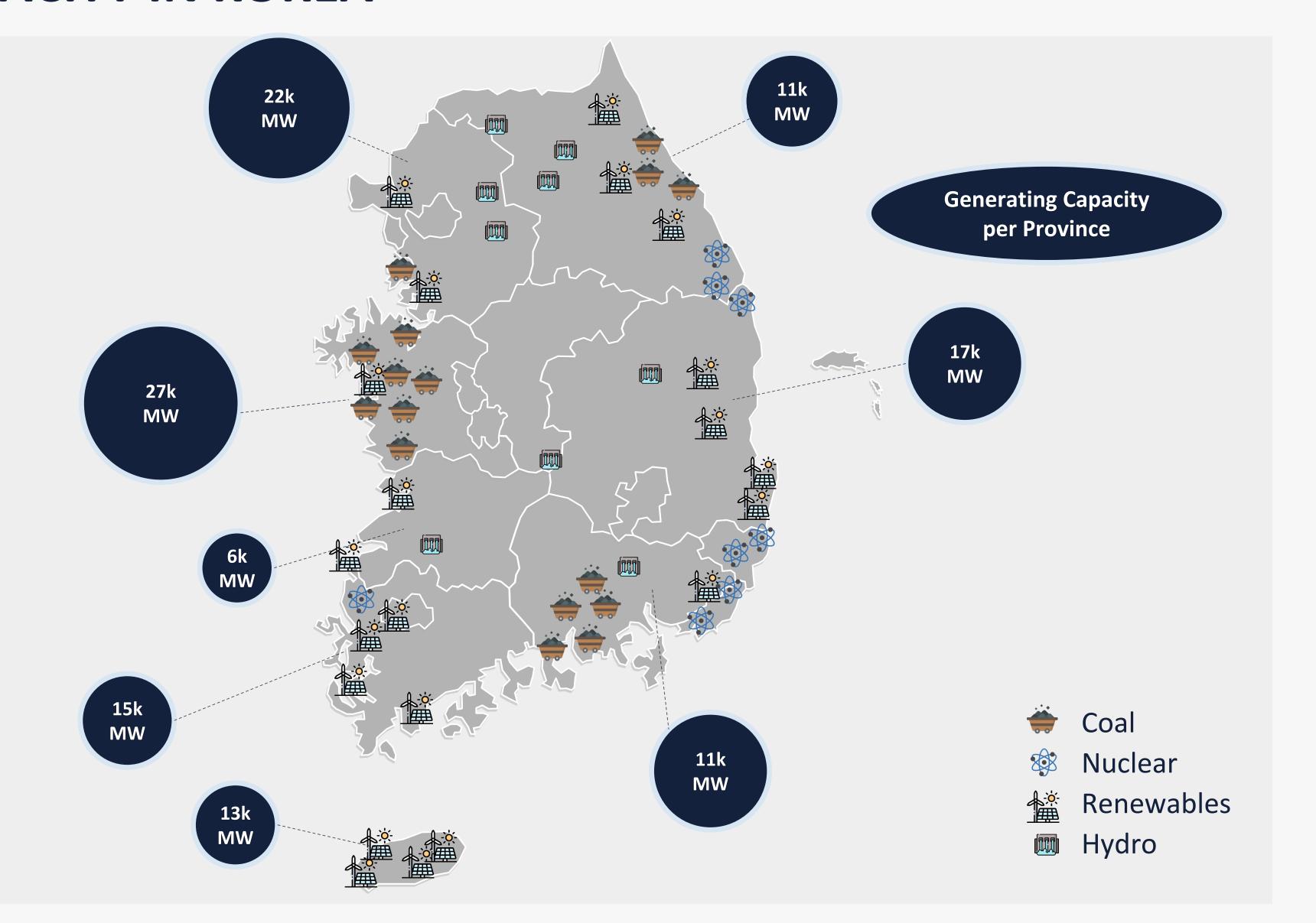
Total Installed
Generating Capacity

31,396MW

Generating Capacity from Renewable Sources

64%

Reliance on Fossil Fuels to Support Our Grid





### **APPENDIX: CARBON FREE ENERGY PROJECTS**

\$61B

Green New Deal Investment for carbon free energies (CFE)

31,396MW → **52,000MW** 

Generating Capacity from Renewable Sources

**CEF** Technology

R&D for CCS, ESS, EV deployment(4.5M by 2030)



First Commercial Scale Electrolysis

Jeonbuk Technopark



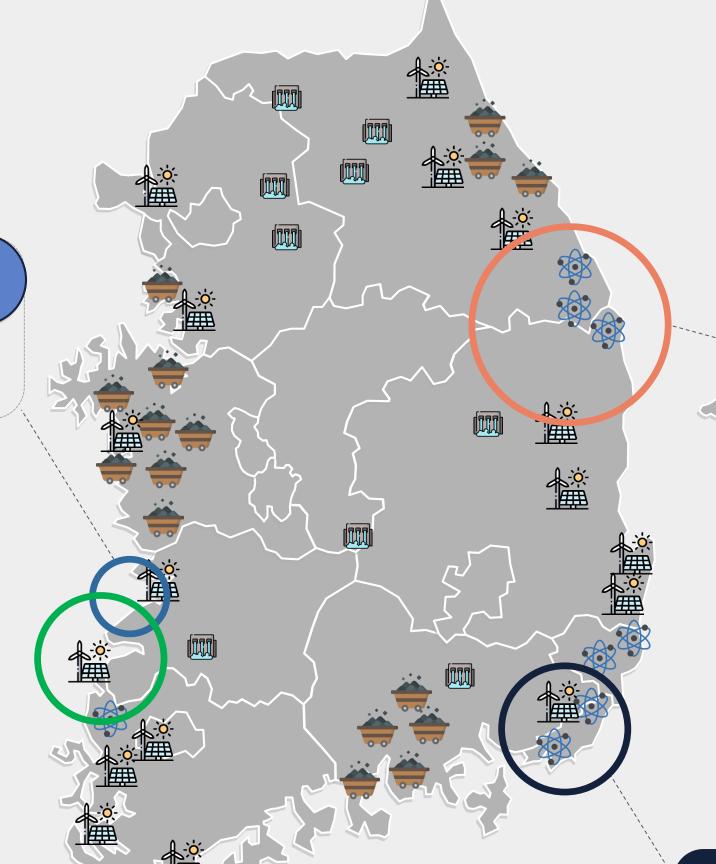
### **Offshore Wind Power**

4GW capacity

Construction cost: \$2B

Region: Boryeong, Taean,

Dangjin

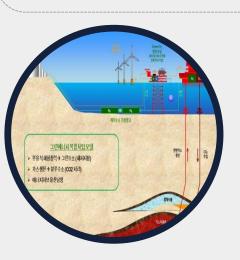


### 100 GW each

Shin-Hanul 3 & 4

Construction cost: \$1.17B

Period: 2023-2033.10



### **Ulsan Offshore Wind**

6GW capacity

With KNOC, Hyundai, ACE E&T

Region: Ulsan

