



# Ovako's innovative future uses of hydrogen

2023-05-25, Göran Nyström

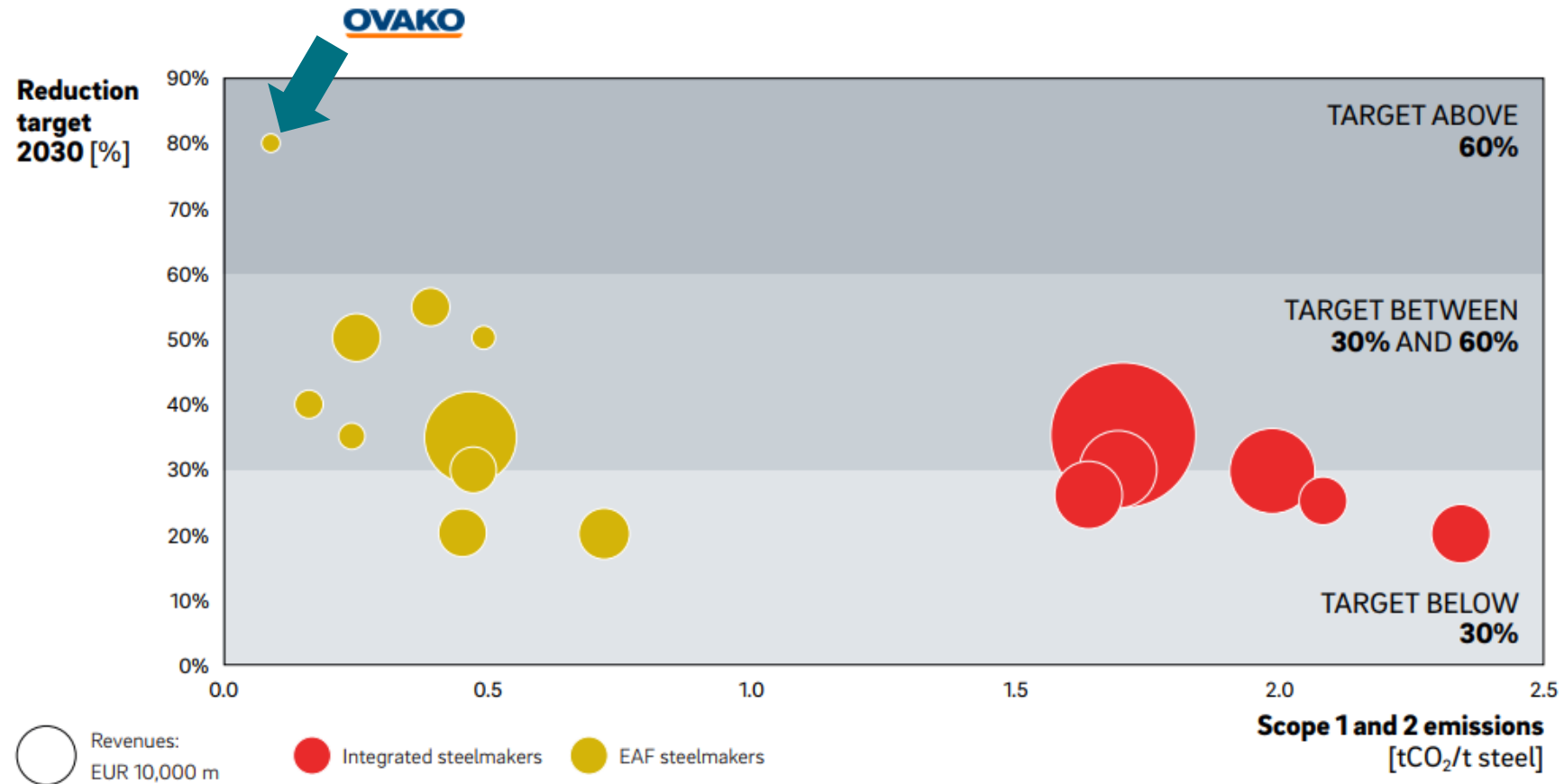
**OVAKO**

- Headquartered in Sweden, member of Nippon Steel Group
- A sustainability leader in the world of steel producers
- World-leading low carbon footprint and high recycled content (97%)
- Largest recycler of Nordic scrap, all categories
- 100% carbon-neutral operations from 2022, first in the steel world

## Circular Ovako



# A leader in a world today divided between scrap-based (circular) and ore-based (primary) steel-makers




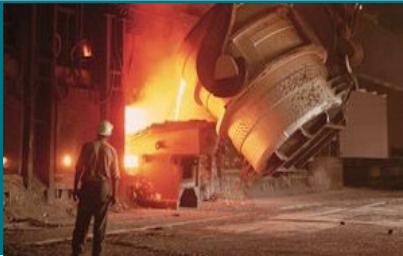



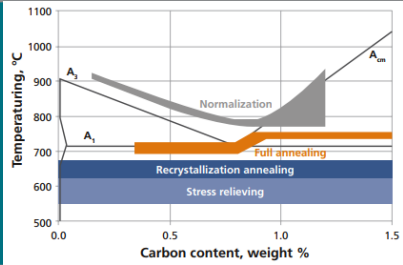
Source Roland Berger benchmarking analysis



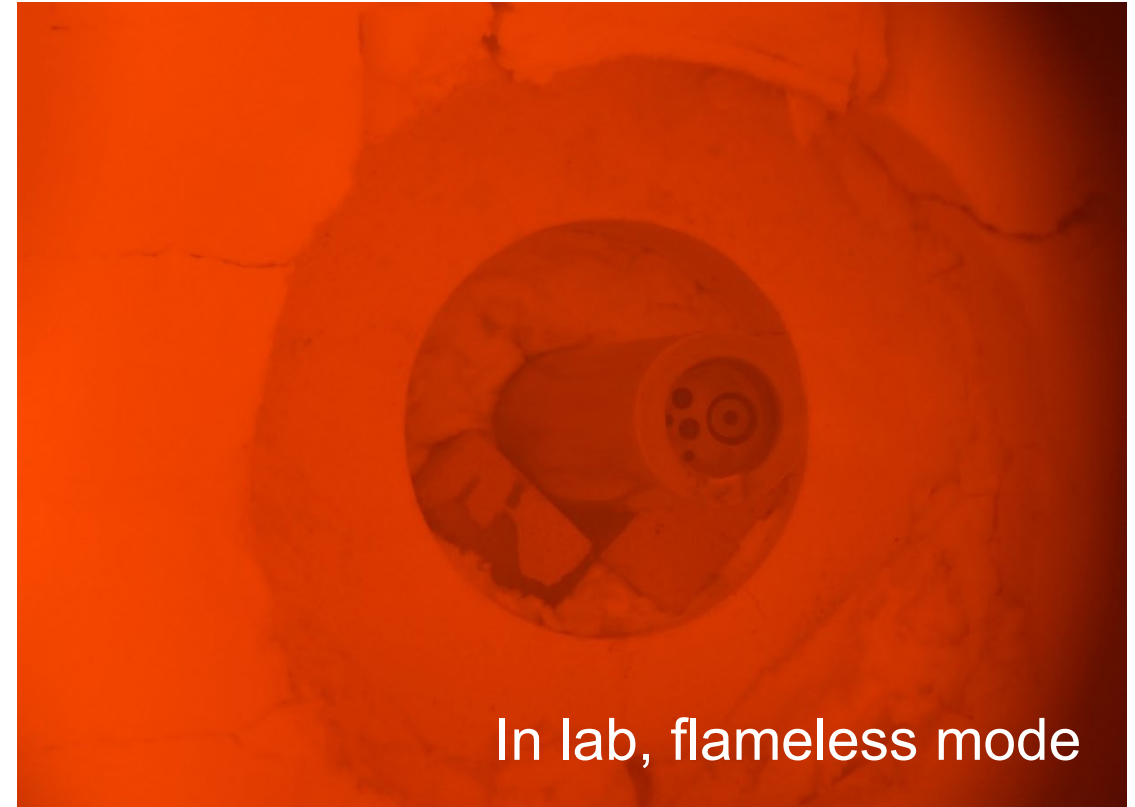
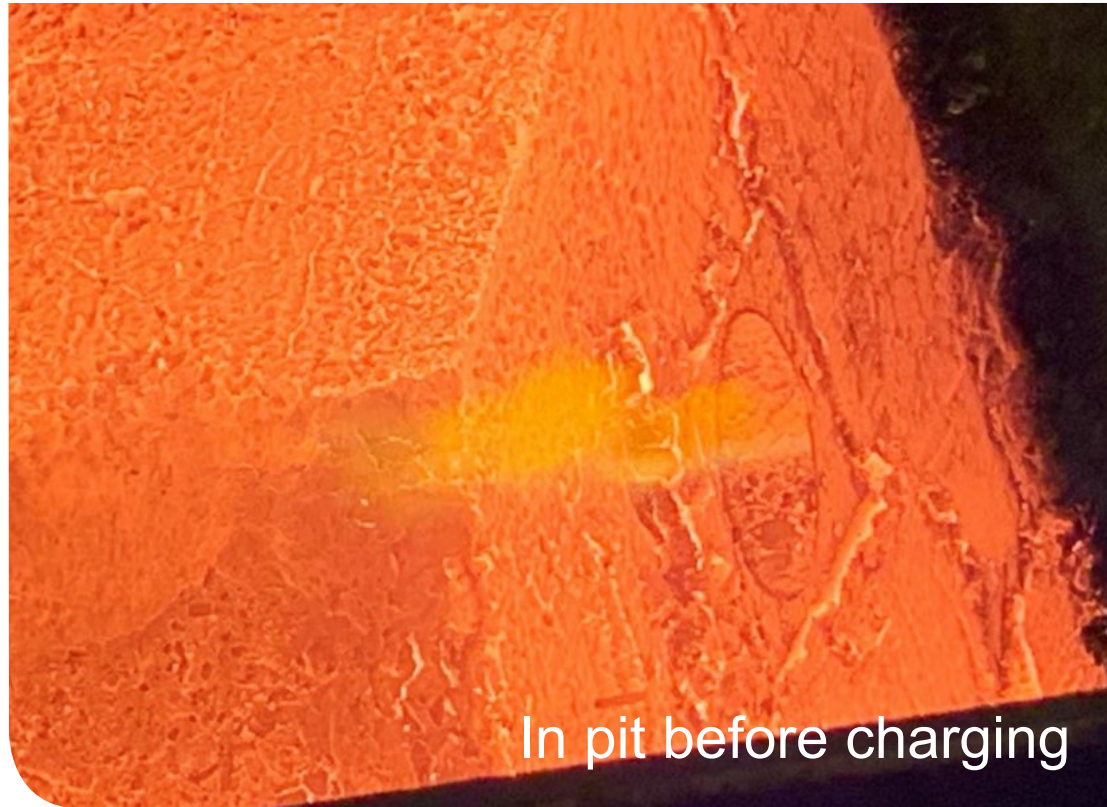
# Agenda

- Using hydrogen for
  - Industrial heating of steel for hot-forming
  - Reduction of iron-ore to create iron

# Ovako has one main area remaining for electrification

	✓ Melting steel >1400°C	
	→ Heating steel for hot-forming ~1200°C	
	✓ Heat treatment for product properties <1000°C	 <p>The graph plots Temperature (°C) on the y-axis (500 to 1100) against Carbon content (weight %) on the x-axis (0.0 to 1.5). It shows the A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>m</sub> lines, with regions for Normalization, Full annealing, Recrystallization annealing, and Stress relieving.</p>

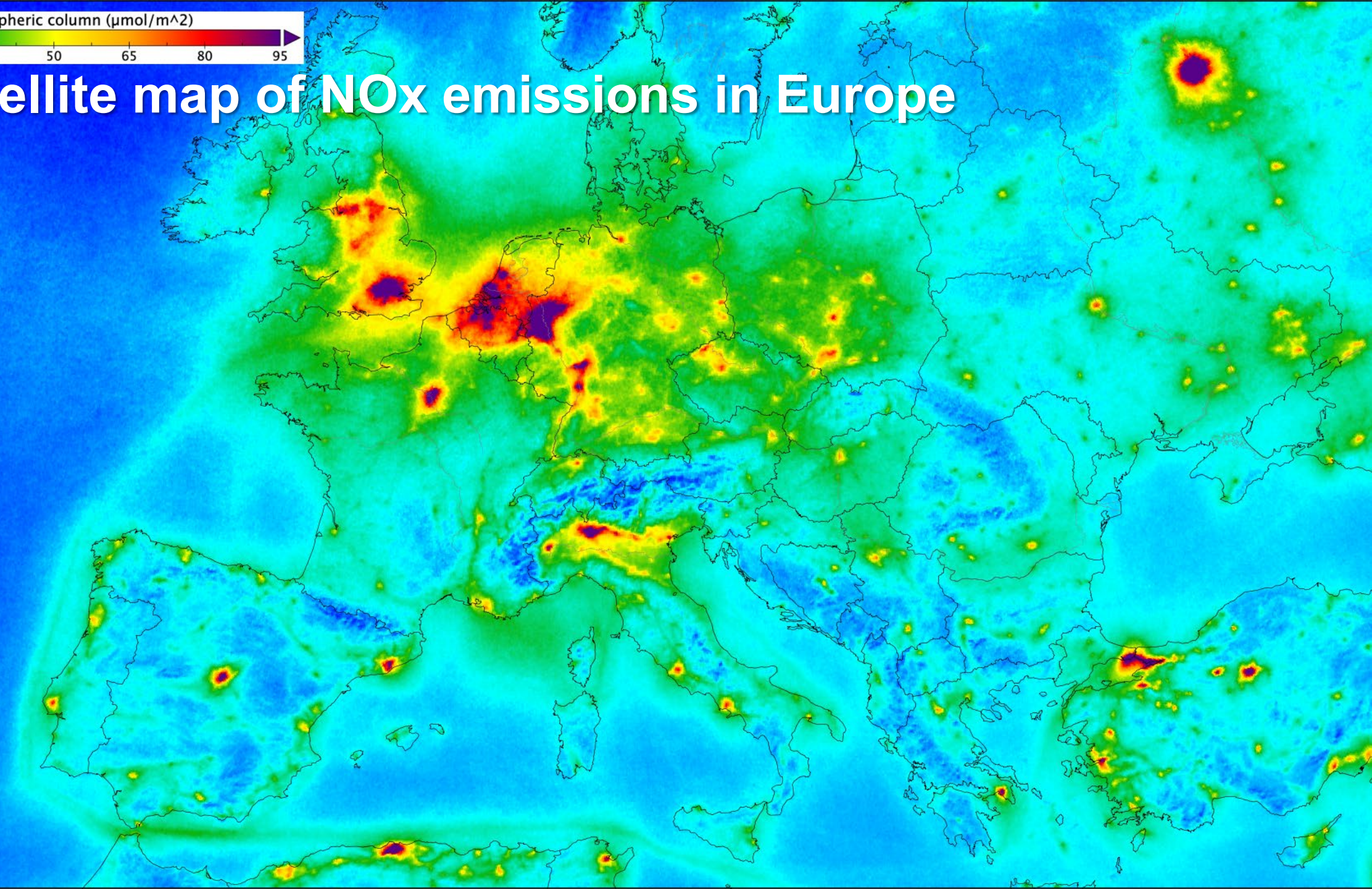
# A key enabler for cost-efficient electrolysis: Oxyfuel – also energy efficient and reduces NOx emissions



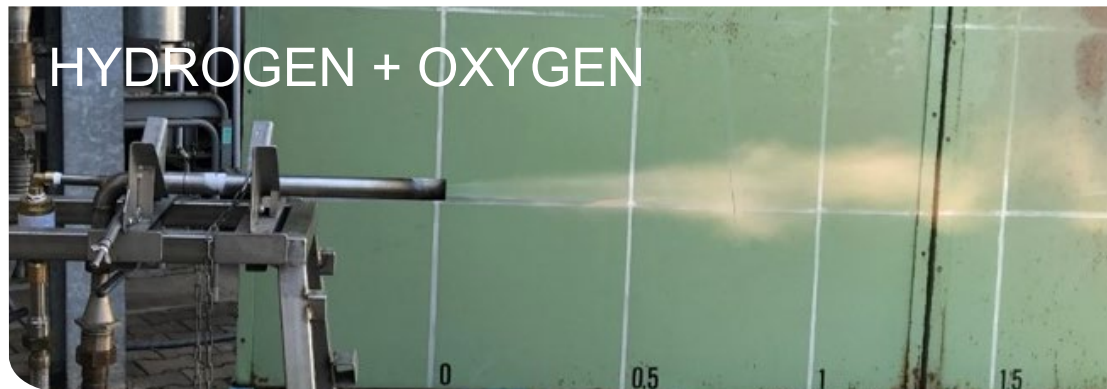
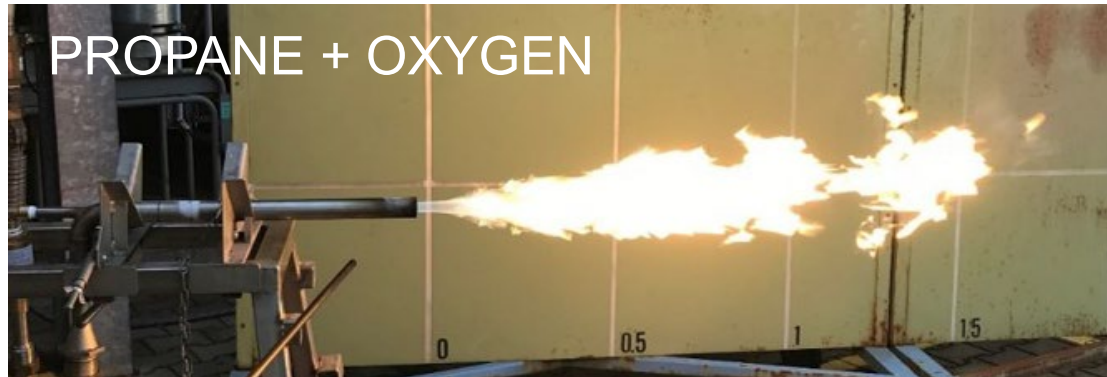
NO<sub>2</sub> tropospheric column ( $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2$ )

5 20 35 50 65 80 95

# Satellite map of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in Europe



# 2019-2020: Technical proof of concept



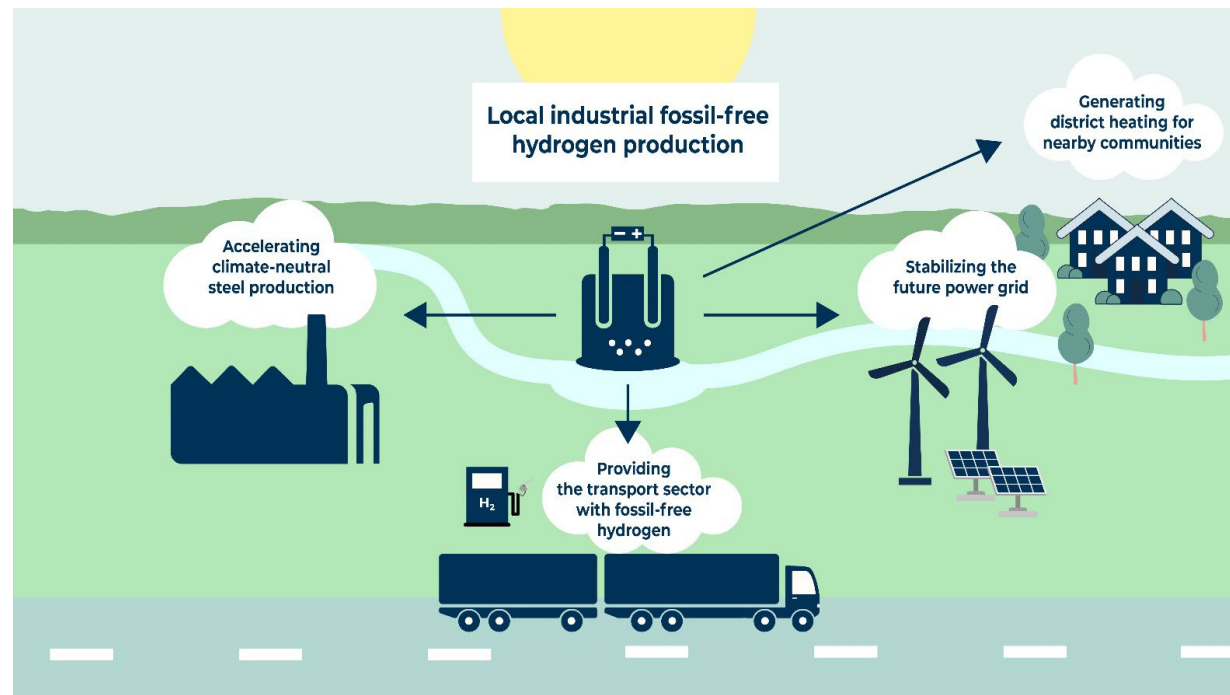


# 2021-2023: First implementation of H2 for steel heating



# The hydrogen concept

- Efficient
  - Energy-efficient
  - CO<sub>2</sub>-removal-efficient
  - No storage or transport needed
  - Calendar-time-efficient
- Scalable to many locations
- Important opportunities
  - Industrial synergy and “hydrogen valleys”
  - Power grid balancing
  - Fuel-cell trucks



- Piggy-backing!
  - 40 MW capacity covers all need for hydrogen at Hofors site
  - Could potentially add an extra 40 MW, at no extra manning and with heat and oxygen subsidizing total cost
  - In this way, cost-efficient fossil-free H<sub>2</sub> could be available for others

# Hofors soon completed Financial support for Smedjebacken received



Nya  
Ludvika Tidning

Smedjebacken

## Ovako i Smedjebacken beviljas 90 miljoner i stöd - ”Målet är en helt koldioxifri stålproduktion”

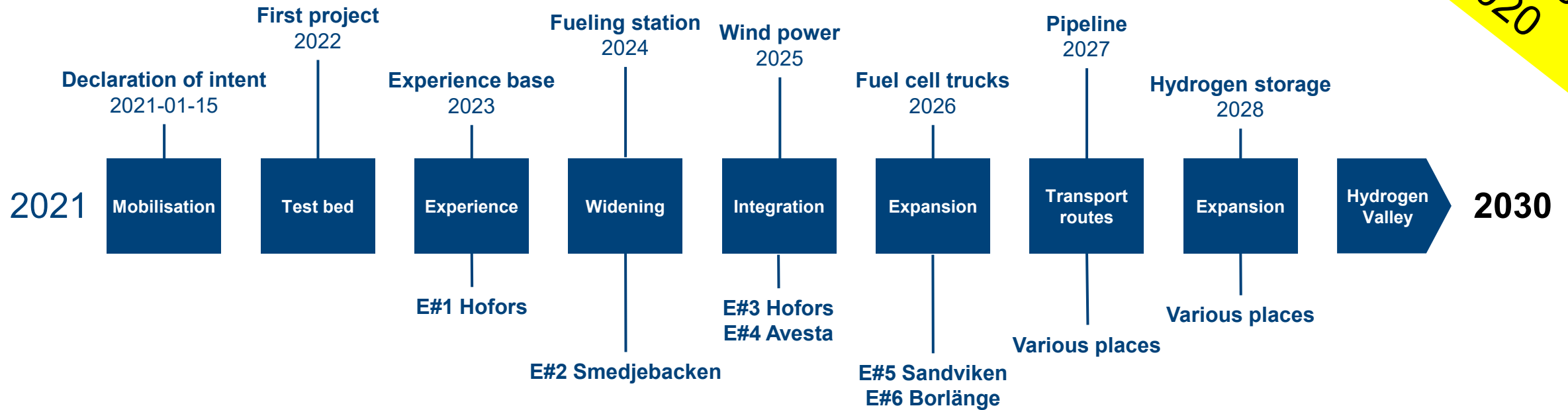
31 januari 2023 05:30

Ovako Bar AB beviljas 90 miljoner kronor i stöd till energikonvertering i Smedjebacken. Det meddelar Naturvårdsverket som delfinansierar åtgärderna inom EU-projektet, Klimatklivet.

# Mid-Sweden Hydrogen Valley

## - at the start of an important time-line

For discussion purposes  
From end of 2020



1 – proof of concept

2 - integration

3 – Hydrogen Valley

2021

2023

2024

2027

2028

2030

# Agenda

- Using hydrogen for
  - Industrial heating of steel for hot-forming
  - Reduction of iron-ore to create iron

# Debatt: Vi kan tillverka fossilfritt stål med en tiondel av elbehovet

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# Generating syngas from biomass residue

Biomass gasification is a mature technology pathway that uses a controlled process involving heat, steam, and oxygen to convert biomass to hydrogen and other products, without combustion. Because growing biomass removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the net carbon emissions of this method can be low, especially if coupled with carbon capture, utilization, and storage in the long term.

Gasification plants for biofuels are being built and operated, and can provide best practices and lessons learned for hydrogen production. The U.S. Department of Energy anticipates that biomass gasification could be deployed in the near-term timeframe.



 Alleima

 SVEASKOG

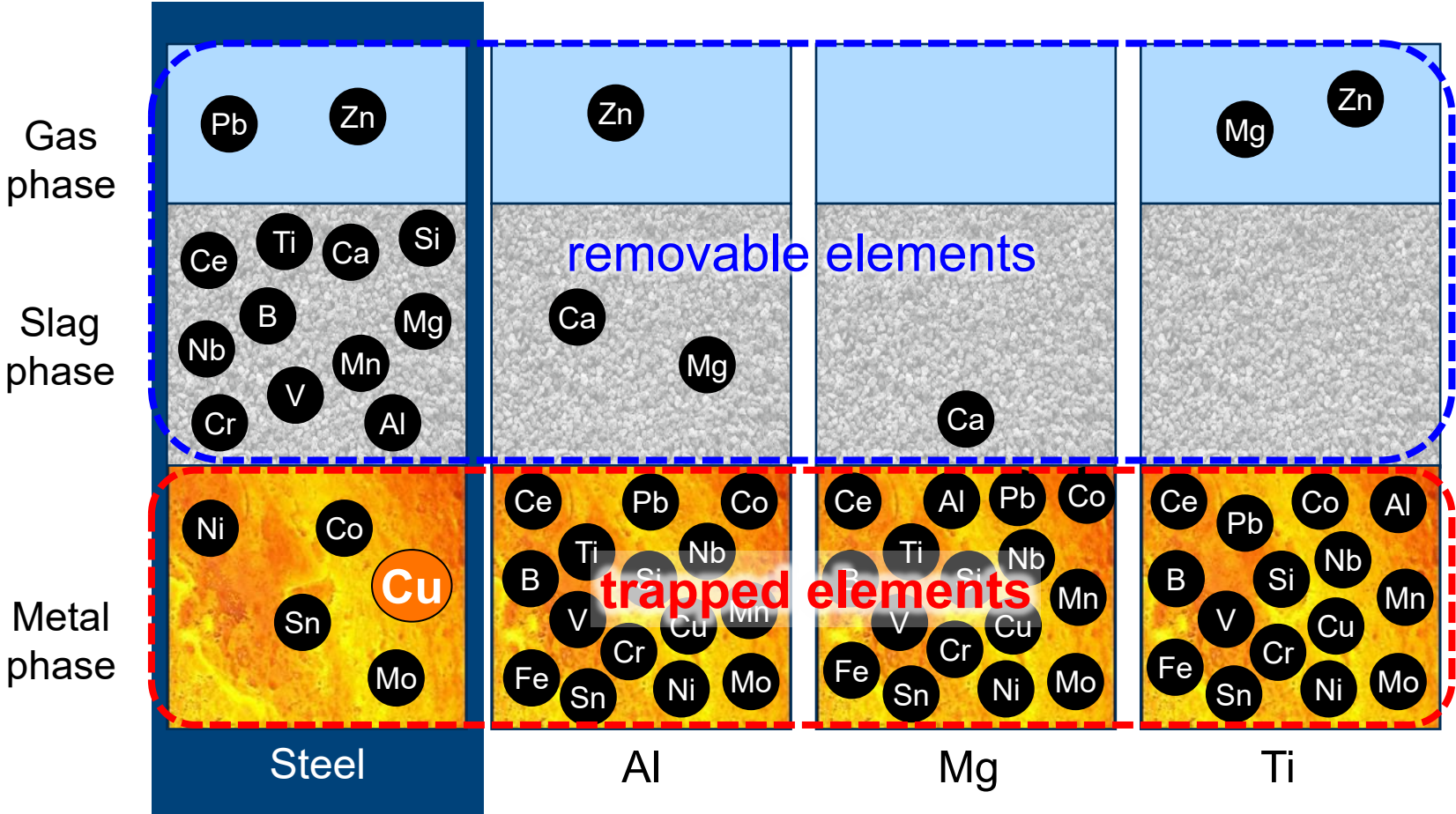
 OVAKO

 Lantmännen

 UDDEHOLM  
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 OVAKO

# Metals refining works particularly well for steel, but the copper content is a growing concern

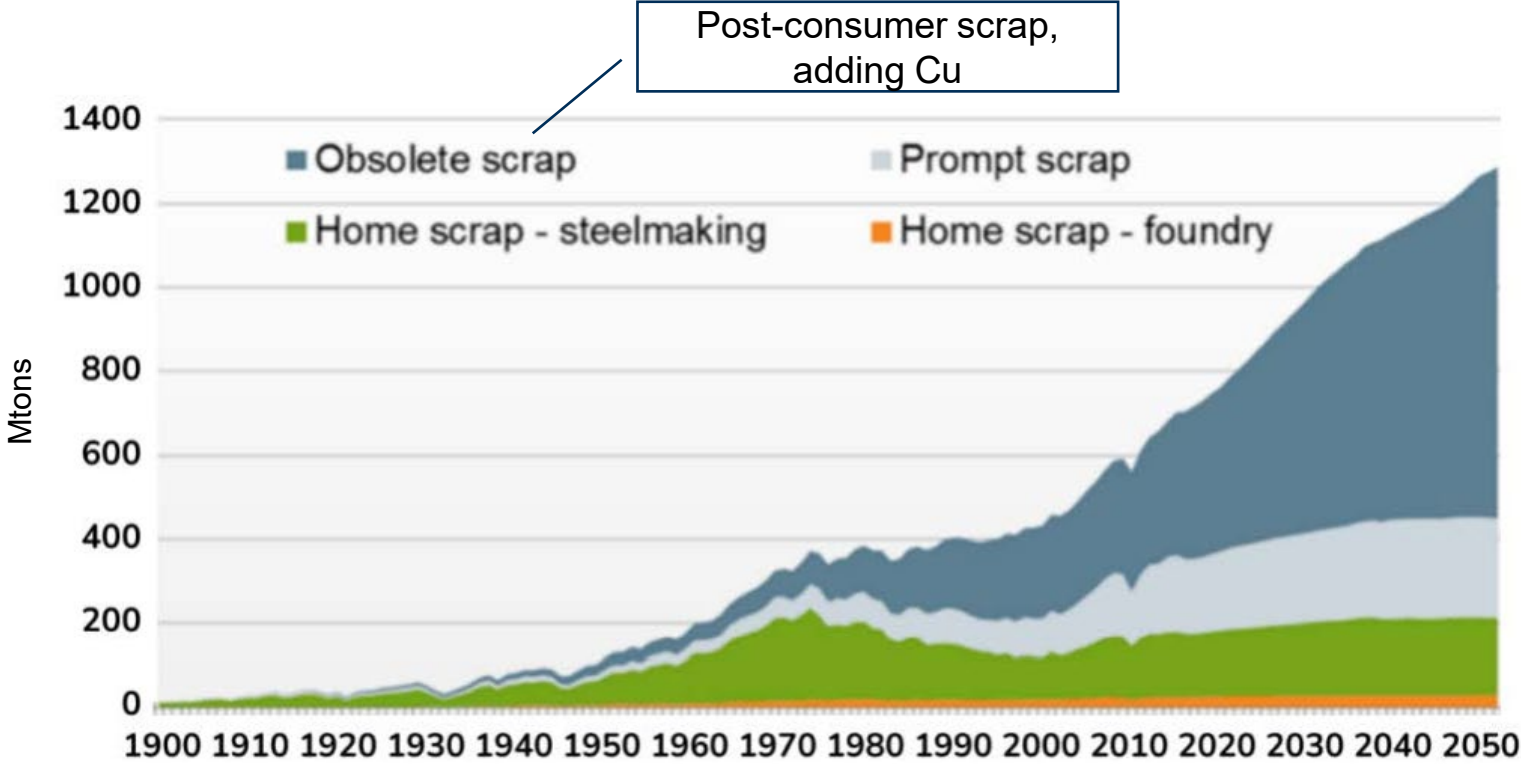


Increasing dependency on pure iron to dilute copper content

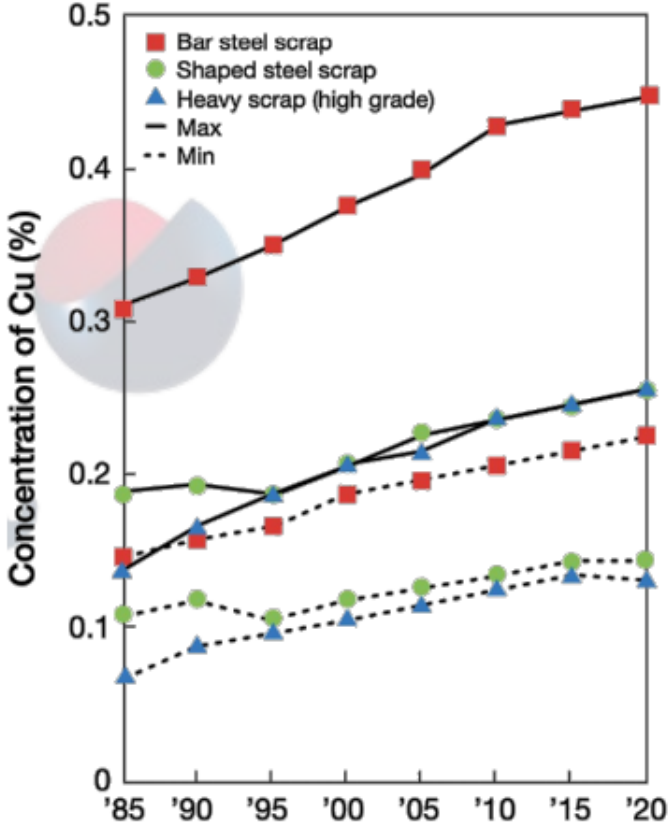
Source: Nippon Steel, Hiraki et al (2012)



# Global scrap volumes will increase but quality will deteriorate → Direct Reduced Iron is needed



Source: World Steel Association



Source: Tenova Projections of copper levels in Japanese scrap to 2020



## Vision of FerroSilva

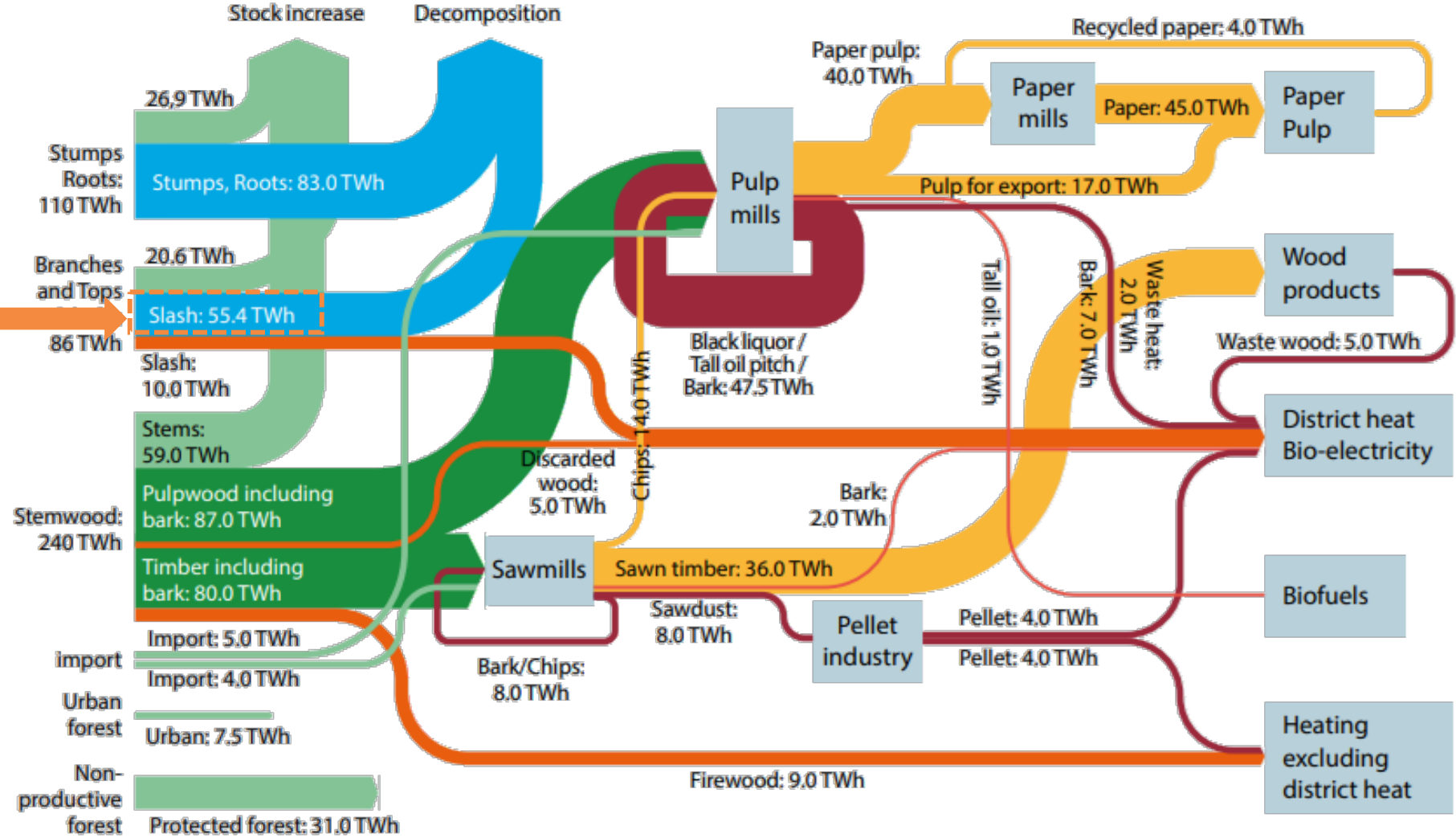
To radically reduce GHG emissions and bring the world:

- cost-competitive,
- carbon-negative,
- fully carburized

iron raw material and biochar for the Electric Arc Furnace steel production of the future.

Making best possible use of waste products from forestry and agriculture, generating only valuable by-products, such as biogenic liquefied carbon dioxide for e-fuels and more.

# The Swedish forest-bioenergy system (TWh)

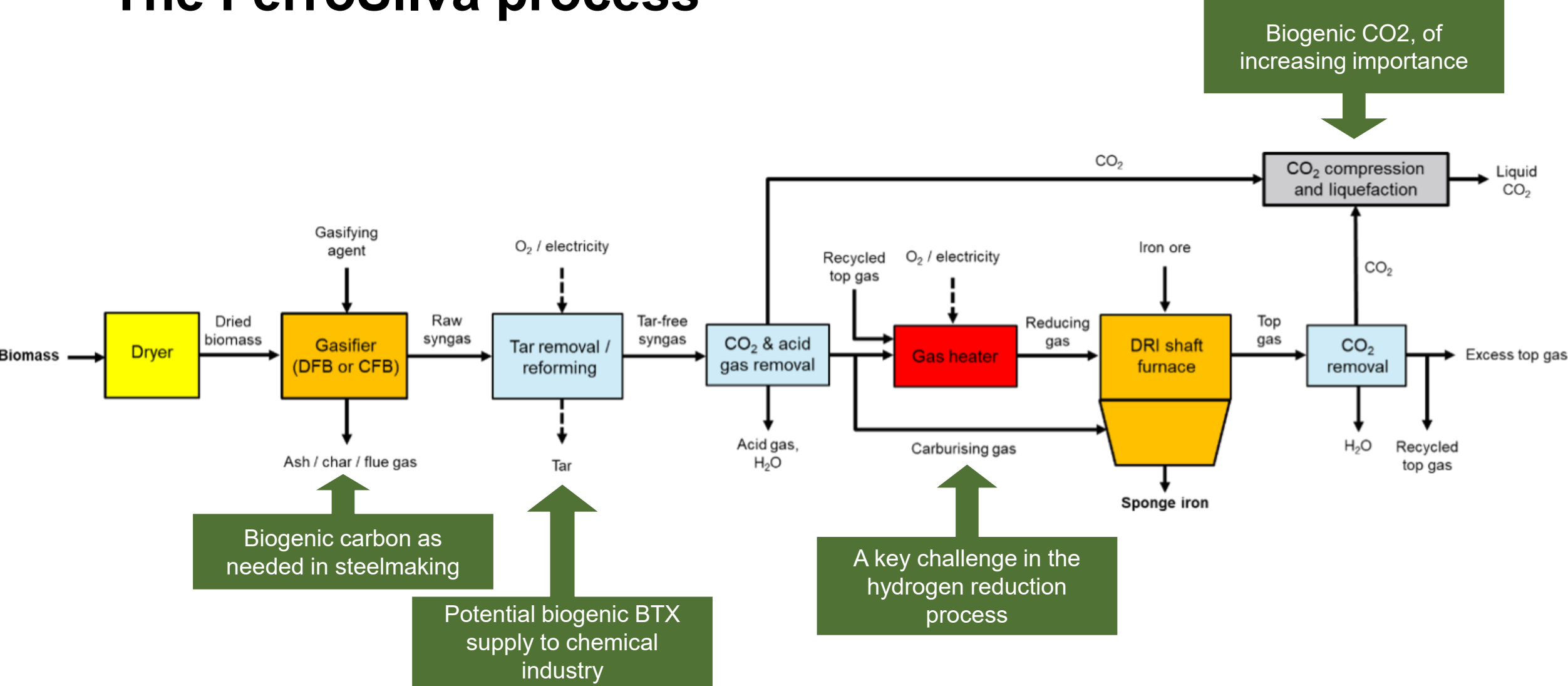


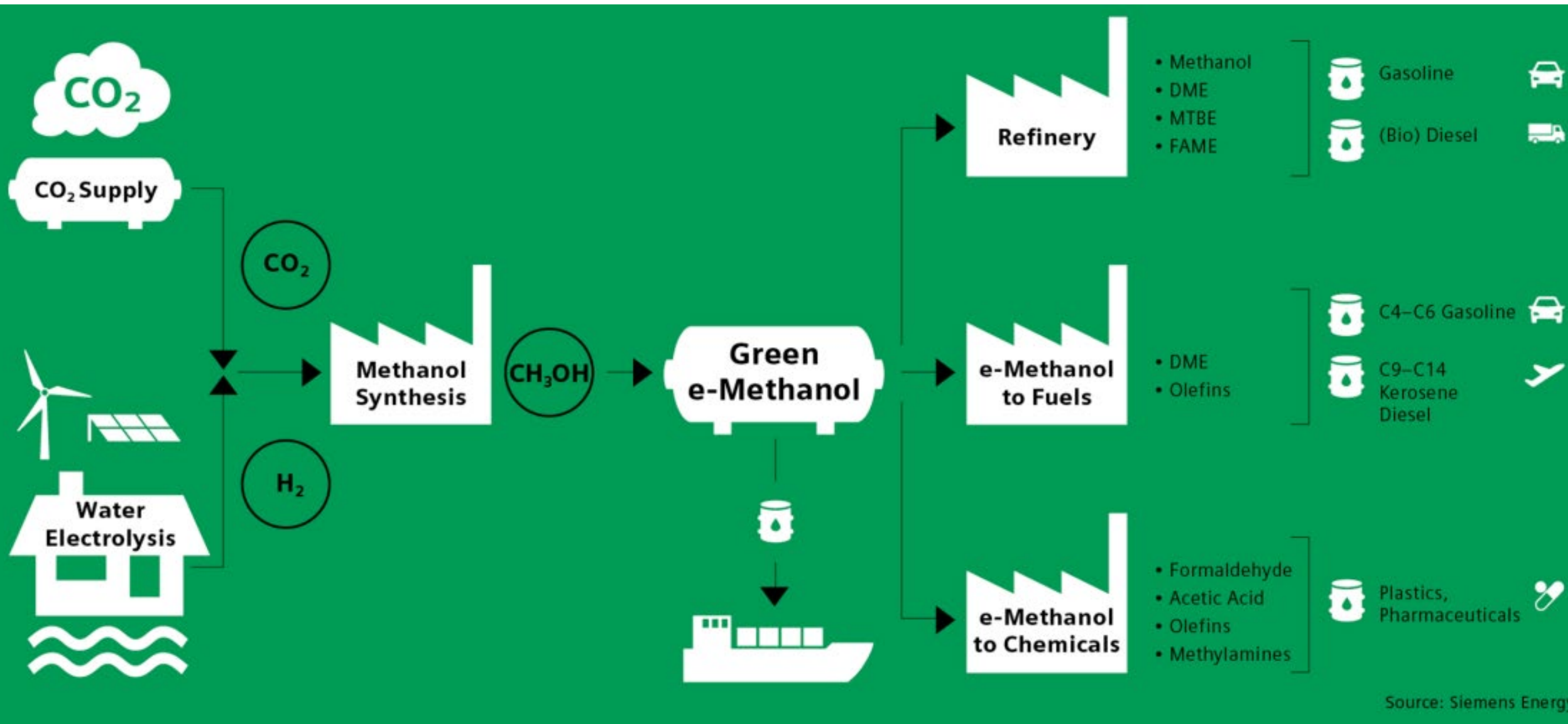
Why not efficiently use the chemical energy inherent in biomass residue?

Why not make use of residue that would otherwise emit Greenhouse Gases?

Why not collect, liquefy and deliver green carbon for value adding processes?

# The FerroSilva process





# FerroSilva vs the electrolyzer route



Significantly  
lower product  
cost



Much lower  
carbon  
footprint



A carbon-  
negative  
process



Valuable  
biogenic  
by-products



Much lower  
electricity  
needs



Higher  
technology  
maturity

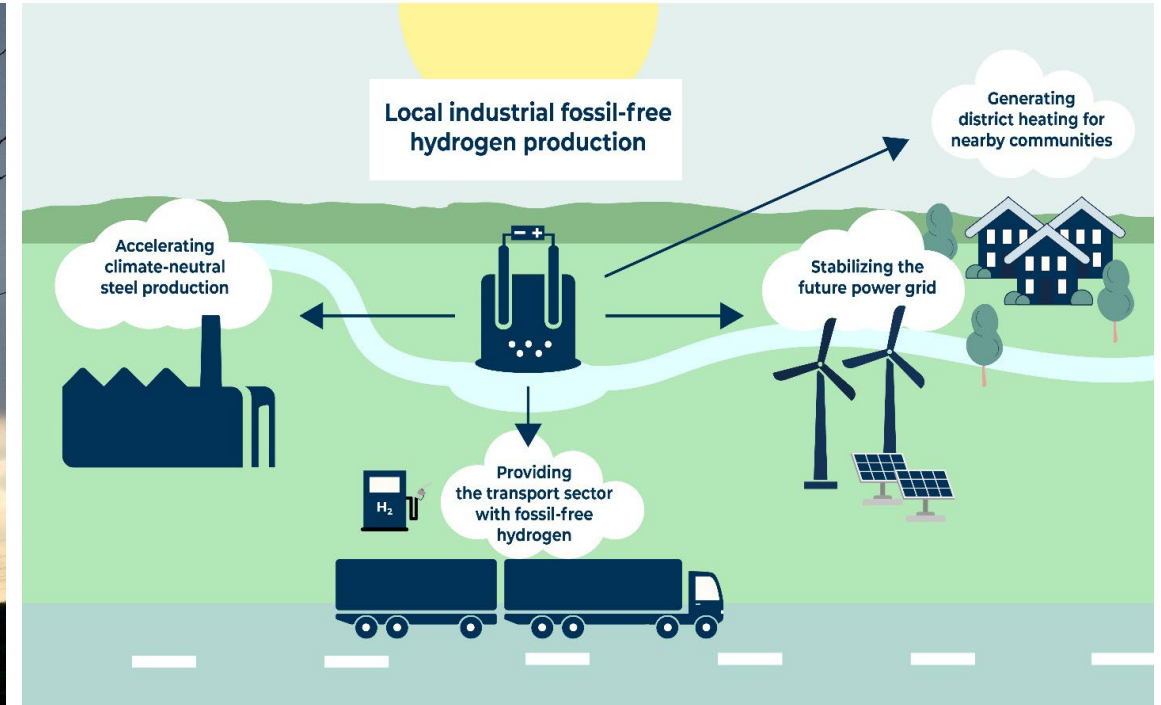


In-process  
carburized  
DRI

# In summary: Two uses of hydrogen with a large impact on GHG emissions that can be implemented rapidly



DRI with some 90% lower electricity need vs an electrolysis-based process



Hydrogen economy quick-started with no need for large initial infrastructure