

Costly, Slow, & Unscalable: New reactors worsen affordability but can't address AI data center surge

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**“I have learned a lot of what
I know about energy economics
from Joe Romm.”**

— Paul Krugman, *NY Times*, 2016

CAPITOL HILL CITIZEN

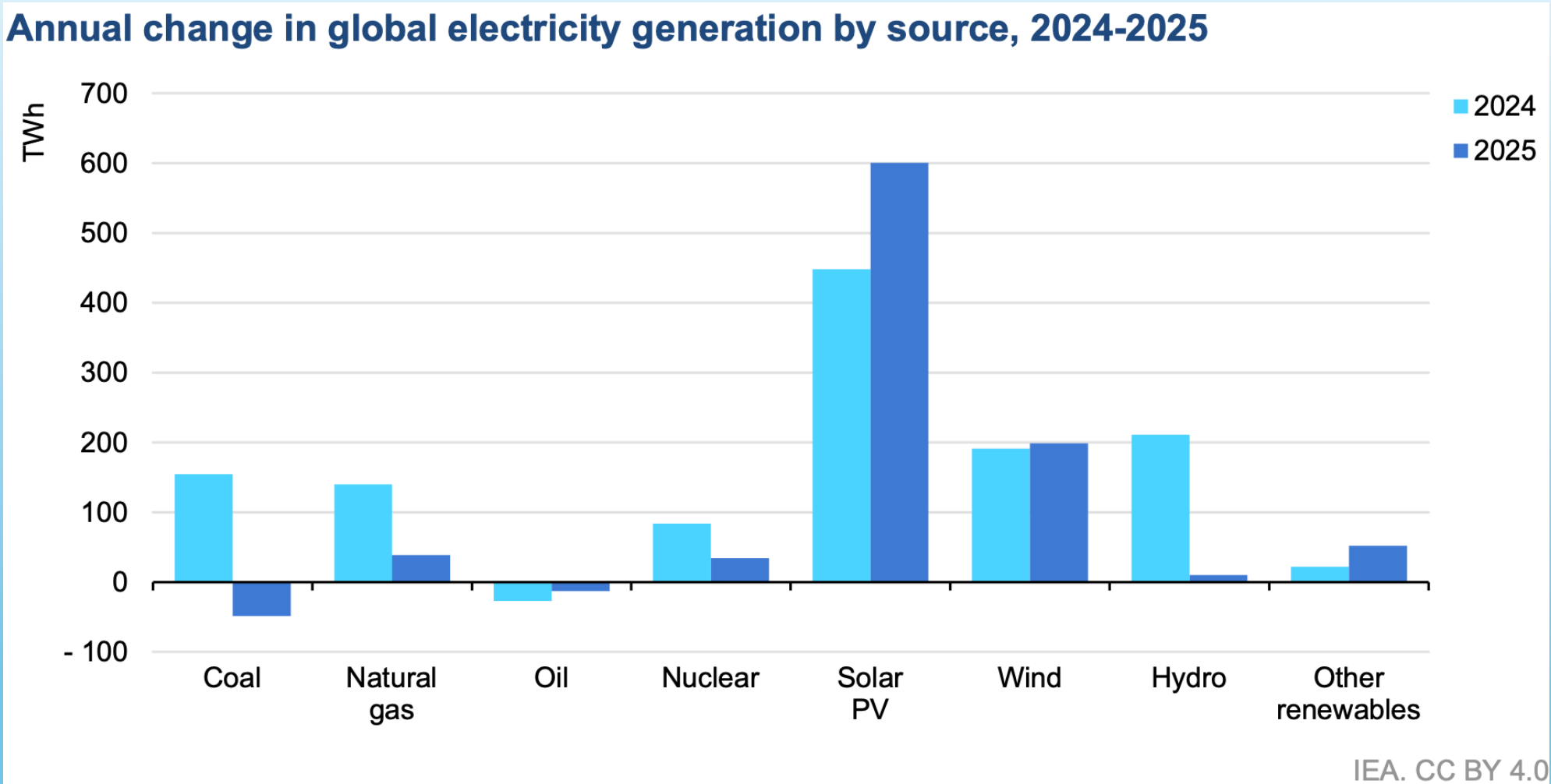
May / June 2026
Price \$5.00

Bill Gates at the Helm

Big Tech campaign to fast track nuke energy

Taken together, Breakthrough entities and the Gates Foundation have given more than \$60 million to the key pro-nuclear groups that reshaped policy, the majority since 2022.

The Non-Existent Nuclear Renaissance



**Nuclear %
Share of
global power**

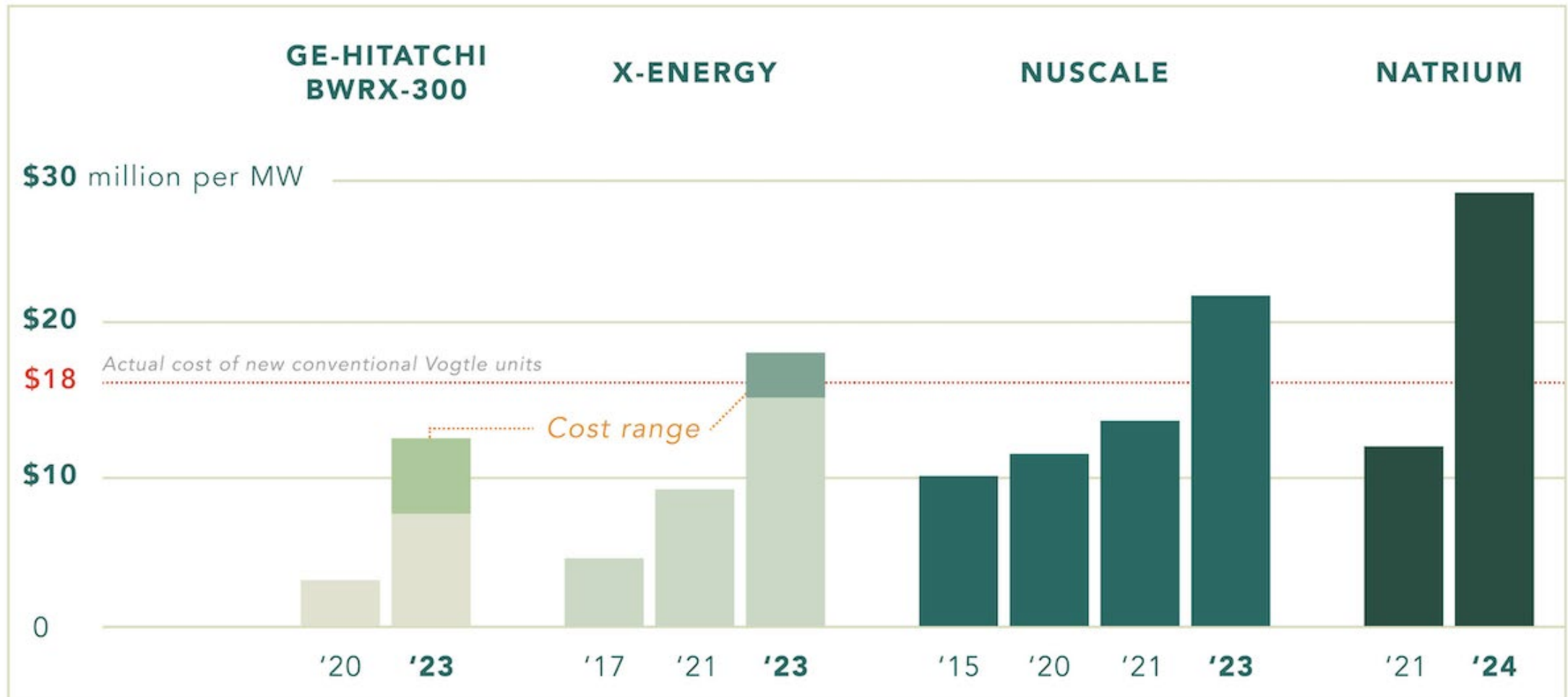
1990s: 17%
2022: 9.2%
2025: 8.9%

Trump's multi-trillion-dollar nuclear boondoggle

- Trump plans to build more reactors than France + China + ROW
- Electricity prices would soar more than the 25% Georgians saw, which led **to 2 huge upset elections for PSC commissioners.**
- Georgia's \$38+ billion Vogtle plant is "the most expensive power plant ever built" with an "**astoundingly high**" **electricity cost.**
- South Carolina residents paying off \$9 billion for 2 never-finished large reactors at VC Summer plant: **Westinghouse Bankruptcy**

U.S. Pursuing 27+ Small Modular Reactor Designs

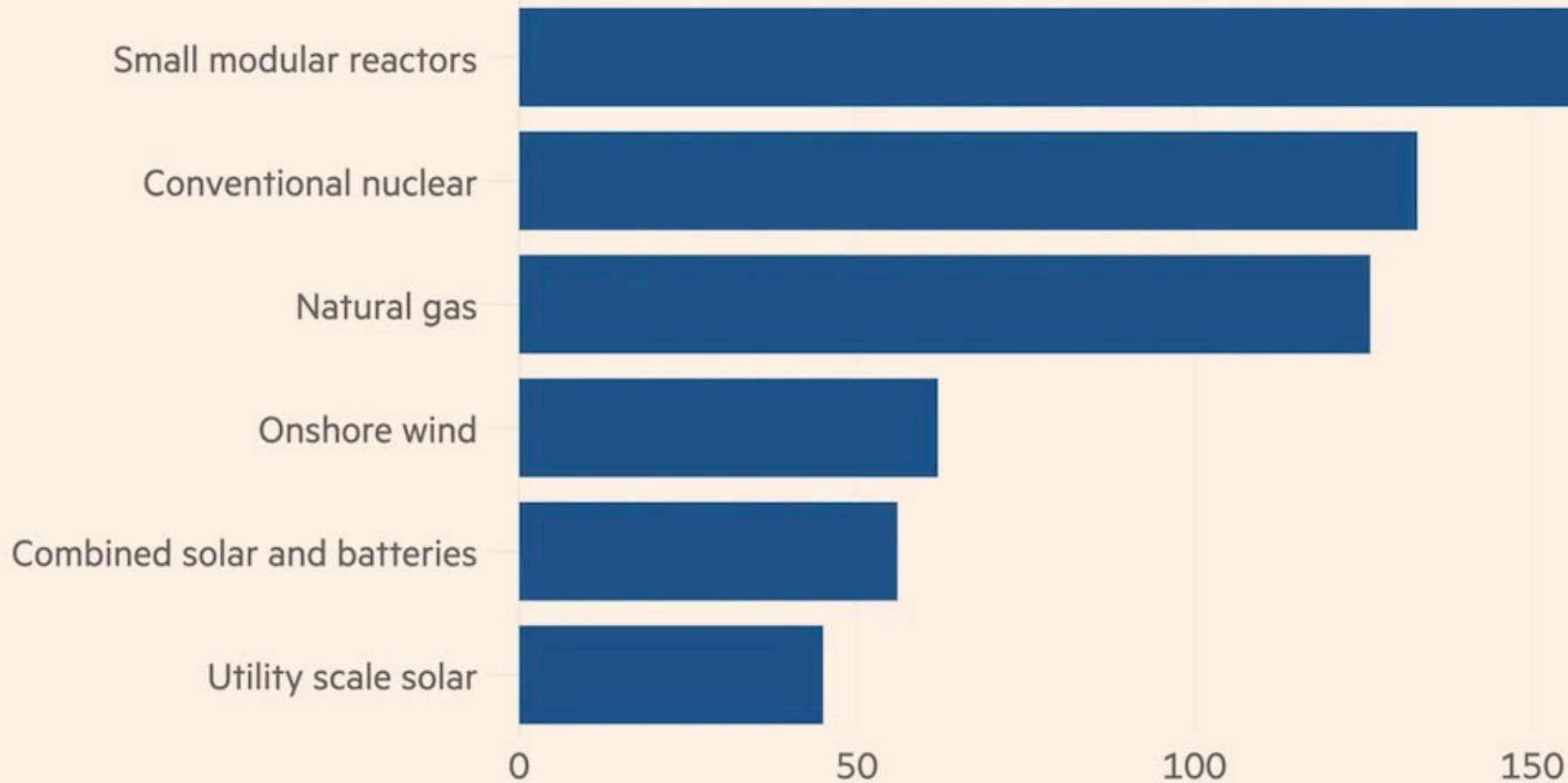
SMR Construction Costs Are Already High—And Rising



Source: IEEFA data, Penn Center for Science, Sustainability and the Media (PCSSM).

Time To Update Your Priors: Natural Gas Is Expensive *FORBES* 12-7-25

Levelised cost of energy (per megawatt hour)



“US and investors gambling on unproven nuclear technology, warn experts,”
Financial Times,
10-5-25

Values are projected US national averages for projects completed and delivered in 2030, based on state-by-state data.

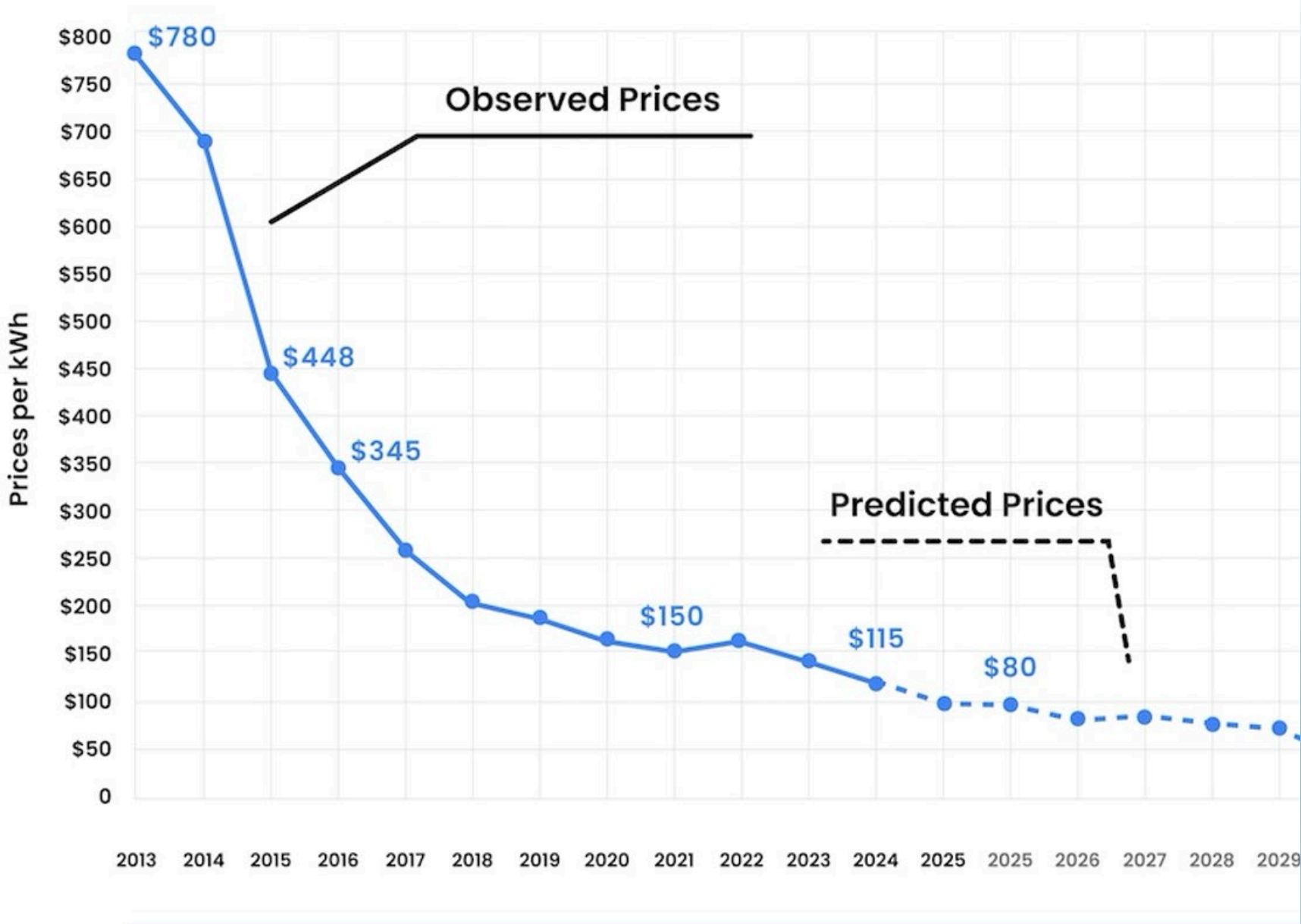
Source: Wood Mackenzie

Joseph Romm
PCSSM



EV Battery Costs Continue to Plummet

Experts estimate prices will hit \$45/kWh by 2030



Data from Bloomberg NEF, Goldman Sachs, and RMI

“The economics for batteries are unrecognisable, and the industry is only just getting to grips with this new paradigm. **Solar is no longer just cheap daytime electricity, solar is now anytime dispatchable electricity.**”
Ember 12-25

The New York Times

‘The New Price of Eggs.’ The Political Shocks of Data Centers and Electric Bills

Businessweek | The Big Take

How a Nuclear-Fossil Fuel Alliance Is Winning the Fight for Energy Dominance

North Carolina bill would prop up coal until new nuclear is approved

Canary Media, June 2026