

Can Anything Better Come Along? Reflections on the Deep Future of Hydrogen-Electricity Systems

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Sometimes, for some things, we can project the deep future better than tomorrow. This is particularly relevant to our energy system where, *if we focus on energy currencies*, looking further out allows us to leap the tangles of today's conventional wisdom, vested mantras and ill-found hopes.

We will first recall the rationale that sets out why—by the time the 22nd century rolls around—hydrogen and electricity will have become civilization's staple energy currencies. Building on this dual-currency inevitability we'll then evoke the wisdom that, while we never know everything about the future we *always* know something. For future energy systems that “something” is the *role* and *nature* of the energy currencies. From this understanding, our appreciation of the deep future can take shape—at least for infrastructures, energy sources and some imbedded technologies—but not service-delivery widgets. The long view provides more than mere entertainment. It should form the basis of strategies for today that, in turn, will avoid setbacks and blind alleys on our journey to tomorrow.

Some people accept that hydrogen and electricity will be our future, but only “until something better comes along.” The talk will conclude with logic that explains the response: “No! Nothing better will ever come along.”