

# **GreenChoice Repurposing Proposal**

*Resource Management Commission*

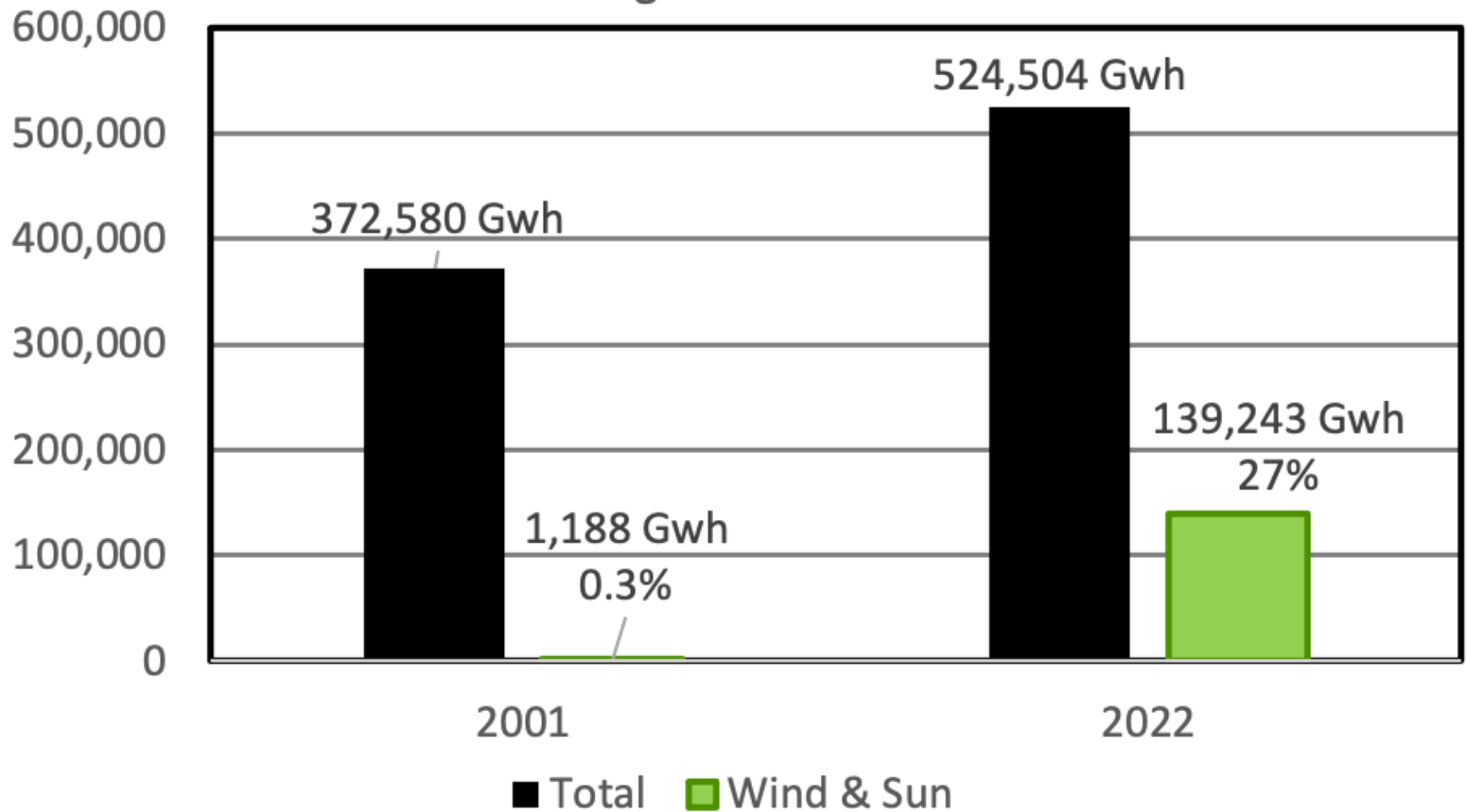
Paul Robbins  
September 19, 2023



**GreenChoice®**

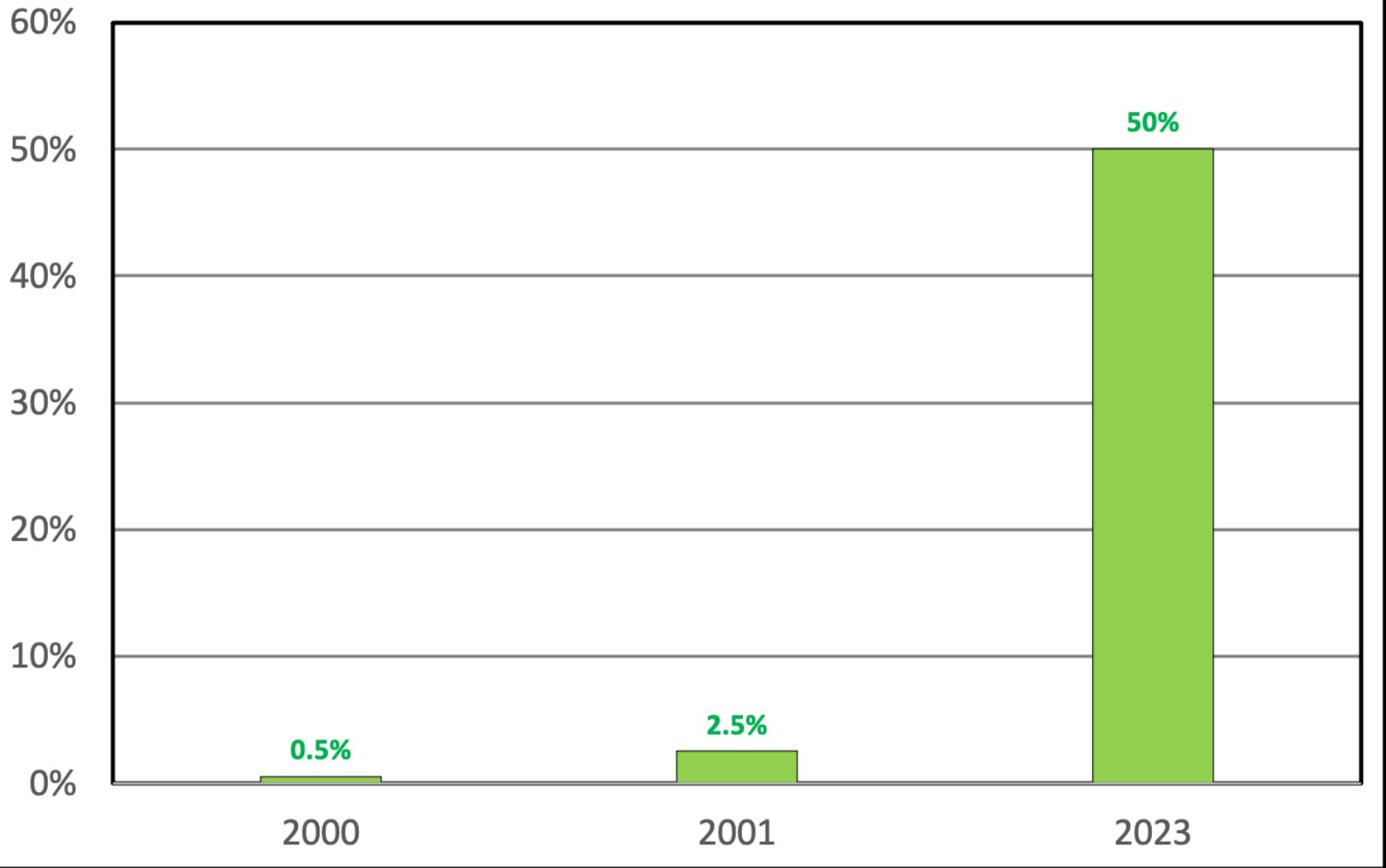
- Started in 2001 to Allow Customers to Virtually Buy 100% Green Power
- Currently 0.75¢/kwh More/ About 6% Increase in Total Bill
- 984 Million Kwh Sold in 2022 / 7% of Total Austin Energy Consumption
- About \$7.4 Million in 2022 Additional Revenue
- About 28,000 – 5% – of 2022 Customer Base

## Texas Wind & Sun Quantity and Percentage in Gigawatt Hours



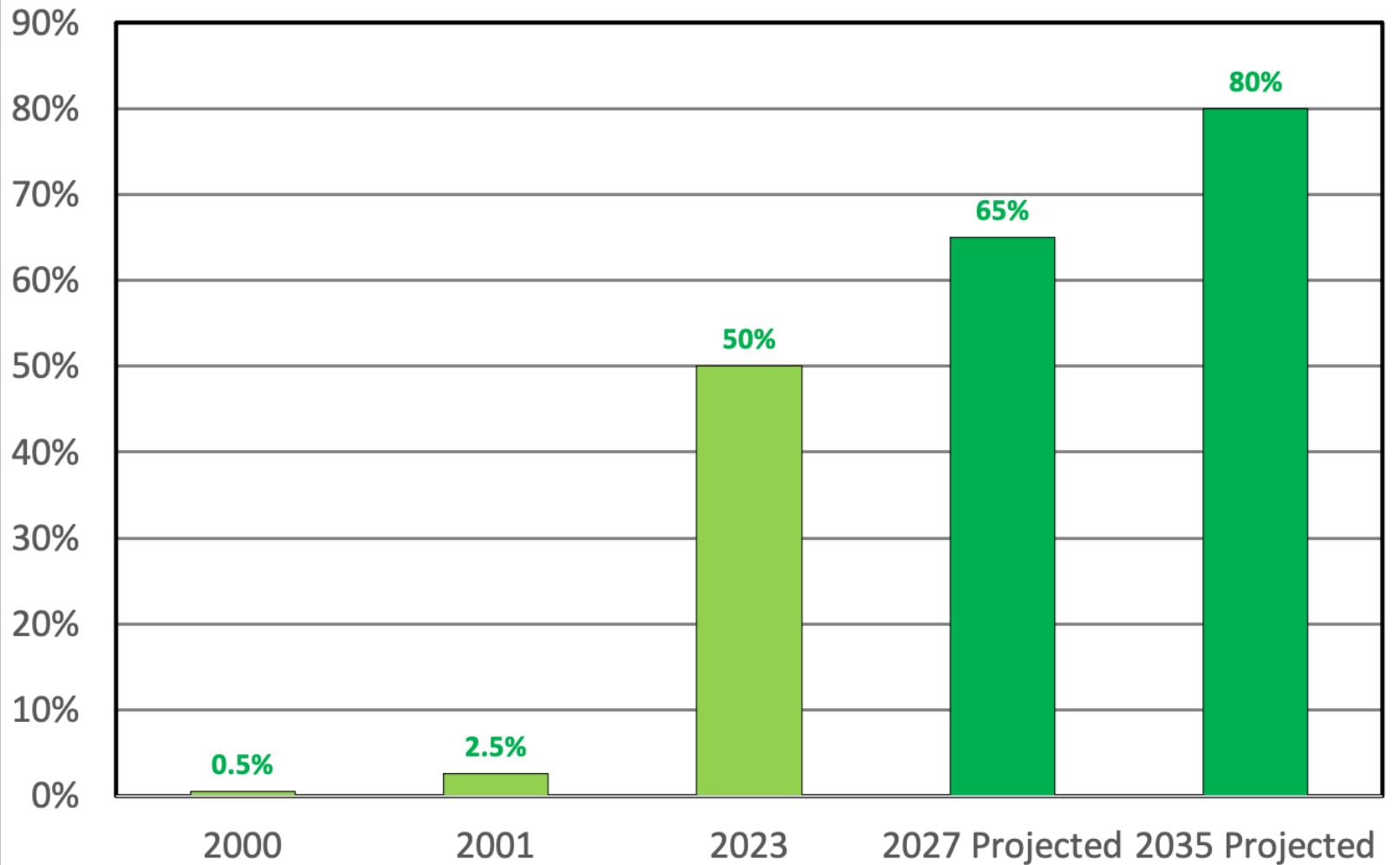
**Wind & Solar Increased 117 Times Since 2001**  
**On Track to Reach 32% in ERCOT in 2023**

## Austin Energy Renewable Energy Percentage of Total Consumption Historical



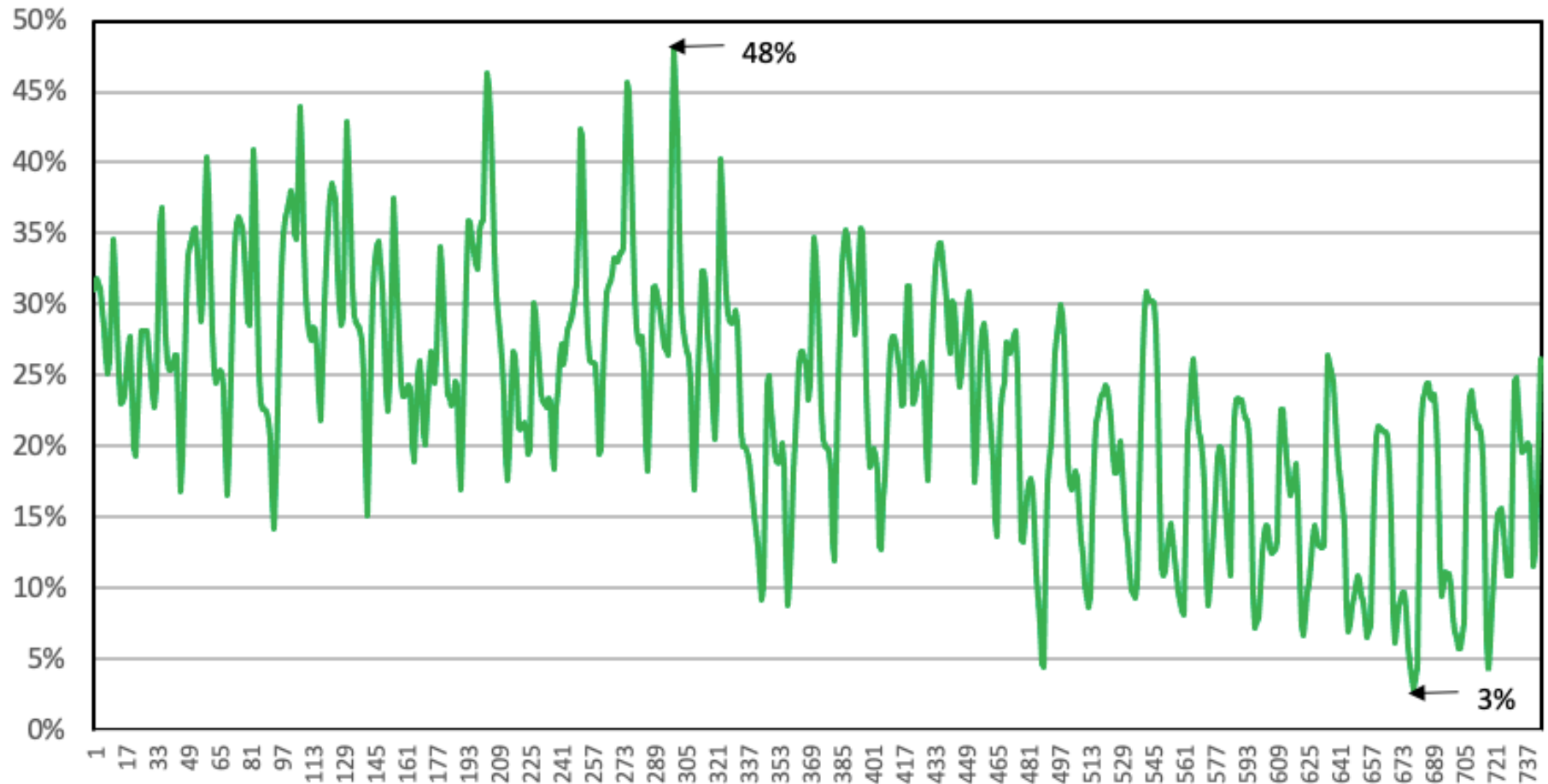
**In Austin, Renewable Energy has Increased from  
Almost Nothing in 2000 to Half Of Electric Supply in 2023**

## Austin Energy Renewable Energy Percentage of Total Consumption Historical and Projected



**And It is Projected to Hit About 80% by 2035.**

**ERCOT Solar/Wind Hourly Percentage of Total Demand  
August 2023**



**But All the Renewable Energy in the World Will Not Allow It  
To Be "Dispatchable" – To be Used When It Is Needed**

# Why Should We Ask Customers to Pay More for What the Utility Is Doing Anyway?

## GreenChoice Was Never Intended to Last

*AE General Manager Roger Duncan expressed doubts about the future of a program that attempts to separate green and brown power. "It was our intent to stimulate the market for renewables...It was never intended to go on forever."*

**The Austin Chronicle, November 10, 2010**

**To Get Greater Renewable Percentages,  
ERCOT Needs More Transmission and  
Dispatchable Renewable Power, Including  
Energy Storage**

**What are the Possibilities to Repurpose  
GreenChoice Money?**



# **Lithium Ion Batteries are the Standard Today But Several Problems**



- 1. Expensive Metal in High Demand**
- 2. So Expensive That They Are Only Used for Short Time Periods**
- 3. Metal Usually Imported, With Supply Concerns**
- 4. Fire Suppression Systems Add Additional Expense**
- 5. Degradation Before End of Life**
- 6. Need Energy-Consuming Heating and Cooling**
- 7. Cycling Limitations**

# **Eos – Zinc/Bromine Battery**

## **Inexpensive Materials That Can Operate at Most Ambient Temperatures**

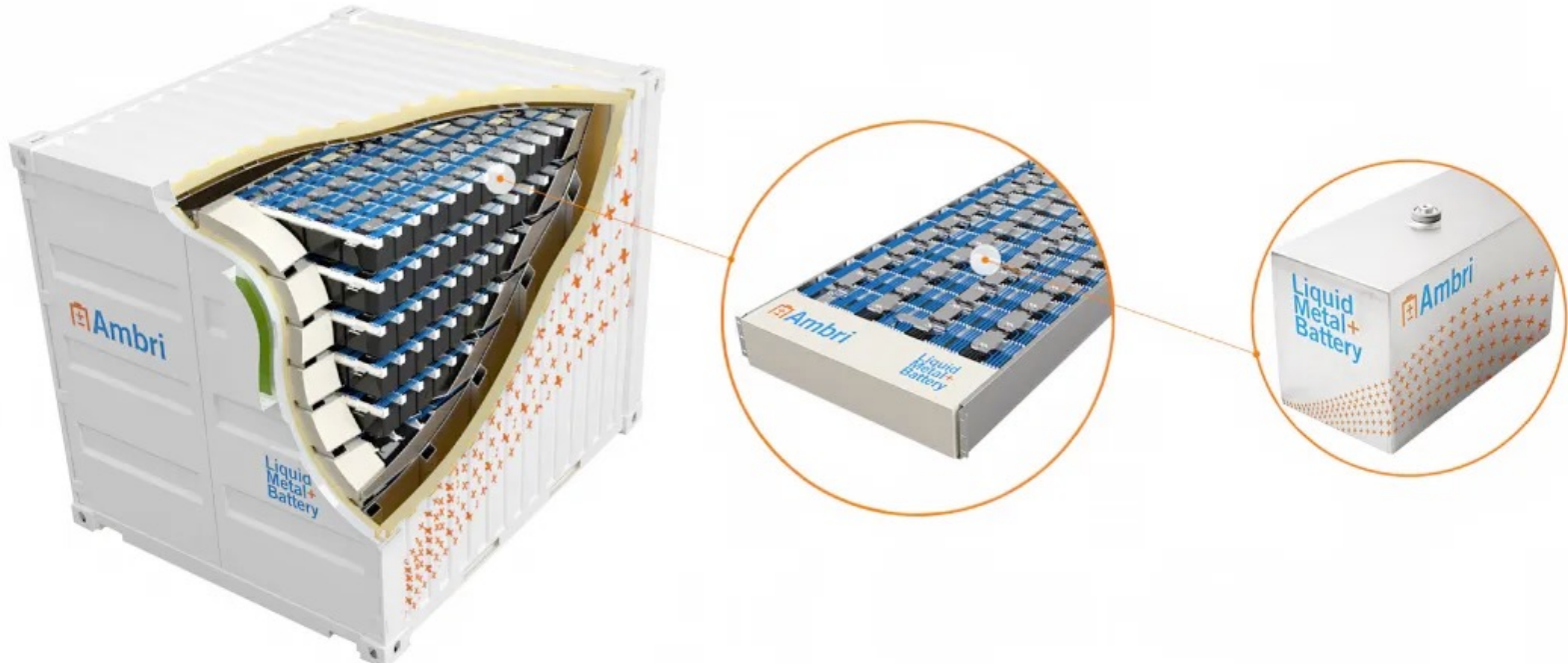


### **Company Direction**

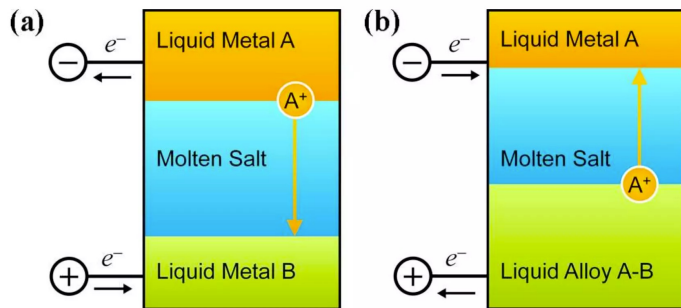
- **Long-Term Goal of 3 to 12 Hours Per Installation**
- **35 Mwh project on California Indian reservation**
- **39 Gwh in queue worth over \$10 Billion**

# Ambri – Liquid Metal Calcium/Antimony Battery

## Heated to 500° C to Create Chemical Reaction to Store Electricity (Not Heat)



### CHARGING AND DISCHARGING



• Discharging

Charging

### U.S. Pilots

- Microsoft Data Center
- Xcel 300 kwh in Aurora, Colorado

### Major (Megawatt) Interest

- South Africa
- India



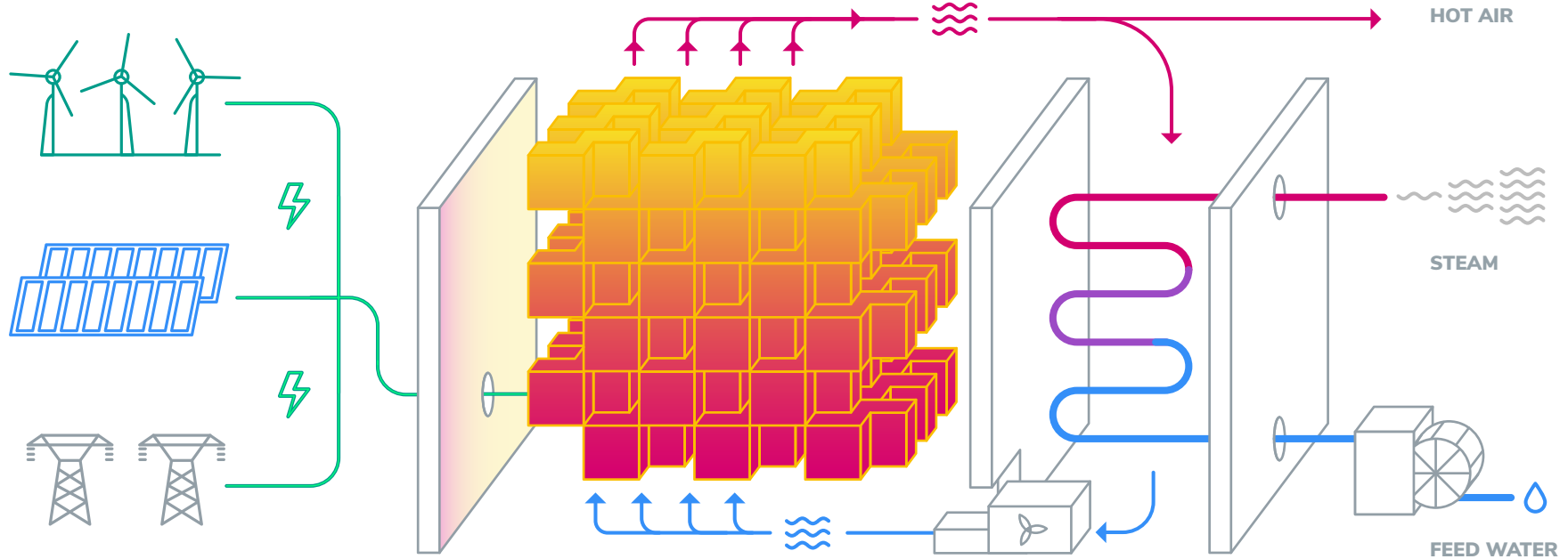
# Rondo Energy – Aluminum, Silica, Oxygen Refractory Bricks

## 80 to 1,500° C

VARIABLE ELECTRICITY INPUT

HIGH TEMPERATURE HEAT STORAGE

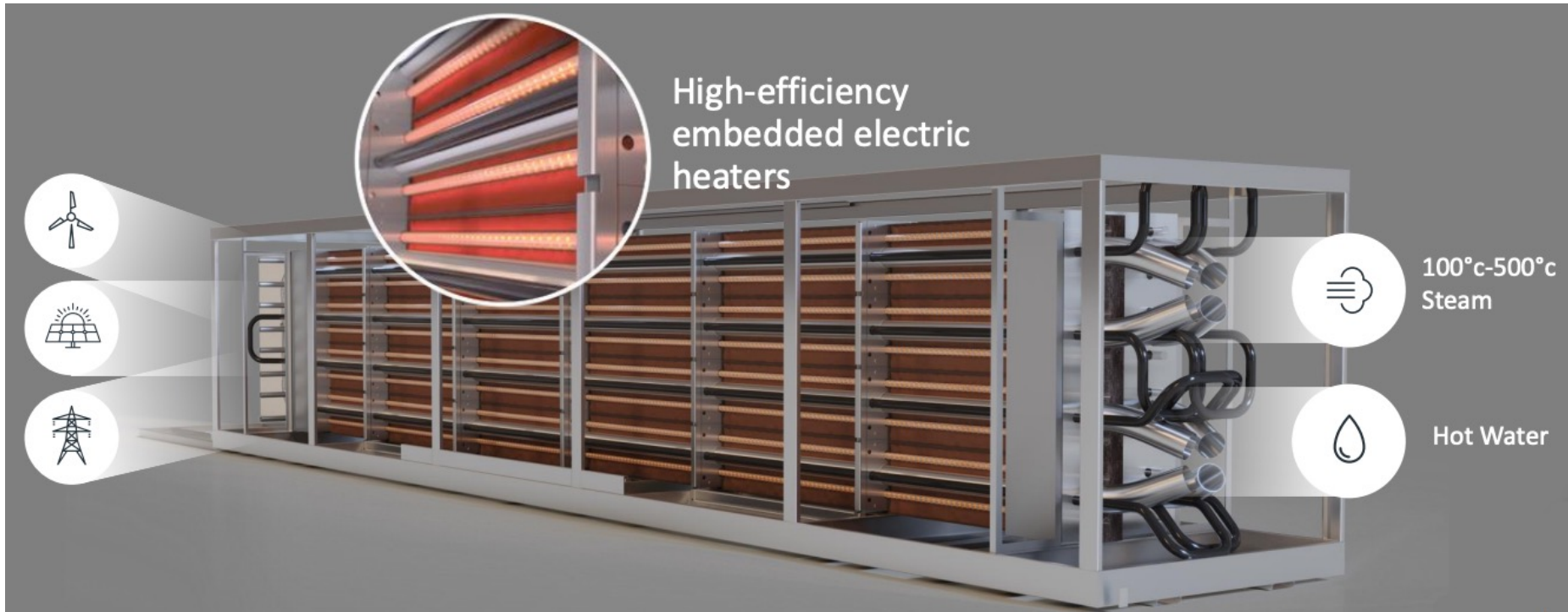
CONTINUOUS, CONFIGURABLE  
HEAT OUTPUT



**Calgren Ethanol Plant**  
**Industrial Process Heat**



## Brenmiller Energy – Volcanic Rocks 350 to 750° C



## Enel Italian Power Plant Steam Turbine Supplement 24 Mwh of Heat Storage

# Leveraging Funds



- 20% from Austin Energy
- 20% from Storage Company

**Balance from:**

- Grants (Federal, State, Non-profit)
- Other Utility/Government Partners
- Private Investors

# Governance

- **Placement in Administrative Department of the Austin Energy (Possibly Technology and Data Division)**
- **Academic Partner/Consultant for Technical Evaluations of Projects**
- **Council Approval for Annual Workplan with Commission Input**

# Public Outreach



- **Polling of GreenChoice Subscribers and the General Public to Gauge Support and Determine Best Messaging**
- **Possible Public Hearing or Hearings to Gain Insight into New Technologies and Approaches**



# Arbitrage



**Example:**

**1.5¢ Overnight Power ↔ 50¢ Peak Demand 5 PM**

**Perhaps New GreenChoice Program Can Deliver  
A “Dividend” to Subscribers**

# Equity



**Austin's Carver Library Solar System**