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# Establishing a Framework for Evaluating Environmental and Socio-Economic Impacts by Power Generation Technology Using an Input–output Table—A Case Study of Japanese Future Electricity Grid Mix

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**Abstract:** Input–output (IO) analysis is a useful economic method to evaluate the potential socio-economic and environmental impacts associated both directly and indirectly with energy technologies. Using an IO table, this study establishes a scenario analysis framework to evaluate the socio-economic and environmental impacts arising from future power generation technology mixes. The impact indices selected are employment generation and greenhouse gas emissions. The study adopts a hybrid method for the framework it establishes: a combined bottom-up and IO life cycle inventory analysis approach to reflect the technological differences by power generation technology. Using an IO table for future analysis is limited because the industrial structure is fixed to the IO table benchmark year and it is thus not possible to reflect any potential inter-sector transaction changes that may arise from technological progress. However, the framework is valuable in estimating the future potential impacts that might arise from the current industrial structure and technology level. A case study is conducted using the established framework on the potential impacts of Japan’s future grid mix scenarios. The case study considers the differences in lead-times and durable years per power generation technology to ascertain the continuous and temporary jobs and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

**Keywords:** scenario analysis; future grid mix; socio-economic and environmental impacts; input–output table; life cycle inventory analysis

## 1. Introduction

In the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 2011, the entire Japanese energy demand and supply system faces a turning point. Nuclear power plants were regarded as the core power supplies prior to the earthquake and the previous Basic Energy Plan [1] assumed an increase in the ratio of electricity supply from nuclear and renewable sources from 34% in 2007 to over 50% in 2020 and 70% in 2030. To achieve its targets, the Plan called for the construction of nine new nuclear power plants and an 85% improvement in nuclear power plant capacity factors by 2020, with a further fourteen or more new plants and an improved capacity of 90% by 2030. The current administration reviewed the Basic Energy Plan subsequent to the Fukushima nuclear accident that

was a direct result of the March 2011 earthquake. The current Plan [2] stipulates that nuclear energy remains an important source of electricity and that a mix of nuclear, renewables and fossil fuels will be the most reliable and stable electricity source to meet Japan's energy needs. However, the current Plan does not specify the exact future power mix and some factors remain uncertain such as the number and timing of nuclear power plant recommencements.

In terms of renewable energy deployment, the Japanese government implemented a feed-in-tariff (FIT) scheme in July 2012 for renewable energy sources such as geothermal, wind, photovoltaic (PV), small hydro and biomass power generation [3]. This FIT scheme is expected to stimulate growth and generate employment in the industries related to environmental technologies, in addition to improving energy self-sufficiency and reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in Japan. JREF [4] estimates that the ratio of renewable sources (with the exception of hydro) has risen from 1.4% of the national electricity supply in 2011 to 2.4% in the first half of 2013 as a result of the FIT scheme. Moreover, approximately 90% of the PV contractors and installers have experienced a sales increase and employee numbers have increased in approximately 80% of PV power producer companies [5]. However, the current FIT scheme does not include exact mid- and long-term targets for renewable energy installations [6], and 94% of the renewable energy facilities approved under the FIT scheme are for PVs [7]; thus, renewable energy deployment faces similar uncertainties to nuclear power plants.

Various studies have focused on nuclear and renewable energy policies toward achieving the Japanese greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol [8]. Nakata [9] analyzed the relationship between carbon tax and nuclear power plants in the future using an energy partial equilibrium model. Takase and Suzuki [10] assessed the impact of nuclear power plants on gross domestic product (GDP) and on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions using the LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning) software system that can simulate the energy use in line with the relevant future scenario. In terms of scenario analysis for nuclear power plants after the Great East Japan Earthquake, Zhang *et al.* [11] evaluated the impact of future nuclear power supply scenarios in consideration of technological, economic and environmental restrictions using an hour-by-hour energy demand-supply model. Pereira *et al.* [12] studied cumulative non-renewable energy consumption, global warming potential, terrestrial acidification potential, particulate matter formation and the power generation cost in 2030 by combining the life cycle intensity of each power technology and the future grid mix scenarios. These scenario analyses mainly focus on the environmental and economic impacts of nuclear and renewable energies: few studies have investigated the industry impacts or the employment generation effects associated with the selection of future power generation technologies. Employment generation is particularly identified as one of the essential dimensions for measuring the well-being of societies [13]. Japan's MHLW [14] aims to increase and improve the quality of employment generated in new growing fields to foster a sustainable and vital economic employment system. On the other hand, the econometric input–output (IO) tables are useful in evaluating the direct and indirect socio-economic and environment impacts of energy technologies simultaneously within the same system boundary. IO tables offer sectoral structures in terms of costs, employment generation and GHG emissions; however, IO analyses are restricted by (1) the economy of the country or region being expressed in a matrix form comprising a limited number of sectors; and (2) the IO structures being sector-level averaged. Therefore, it is necessary to make certain adjustments to assess energy technologies through IO tables by reflecting the technological properties of the target system or product. The methodologies that have been applied in previous studies can be classified into three categories. The first category evaluates the socio-economic impact associated with renewable energy technology introduction by allocating the cost of the technologies to the sectors of the IO table based on detailed technical data [15–18]. The second category creates an extended IO table from the original IO table using detailed cost and employment data obtained by interviews and statistics. Ciorba *et al.* [19] and Lehr *et al.* [20] used this method to evaluate the impact on the Moroccan and German labor markets,

respectively, of the introduction of renewable energy technologies. The current authors [21,22] have previously calculated the life cycle employment intensity of renewable energy technologies using an extended IO table by disaggregating the sectors related to renewable energy from the original Japanese 2005 IO table. The third category applies a so-called hybrid method of bottom-up and IO approaches to life cycle inventory analysis, to which the characteristics of the target technology can be reflected. From an employment analysis perspective, this category estimates the specific technology’s direct employment from interviews and statistics, while the indirect impacts are calculated using an IO table. Silalertruksa *et al.* [23] used this hybrid method to calculate the impact of introducing energy technologies on employment in Thailand. Tsurugai *et al.* [24] and Hondo and Kikuchi [25] also applied this method to establish the employment impact on the Japanese economy of introducing biomass energy.

A further restriction imposed on IO table assessments is that the IO structure and the technological level of the sectors are fixed to the IO table base year so that projections cannot reflect all the possible future changes that may occur in industrial structures. Acknowledging this restriction, however, IO tables are valuable in grasping the future socio-economic and environmental impacts that may ensue from the current technological information available and in determining a future direction for technology selection and policy implication from a macroscopic perspective. Therefore, this study established a scenario analysis framework to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of selecting a power generation technology. Using the framework established, a case study was conducted as to the potential socio-economic and environmental impacts on the Japanese economy from the future grid mix scenarios.

## 2. Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact Estimations

Figure 1 shows the overview of the framework established in this study. From the amount of electricity generated and grid mix in 2012 and 2030, the breakdown of electricity per year during this period are estimated by each source considering the resume operation (in nuclear power plant), new manufacturing, new construction, replacement, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.

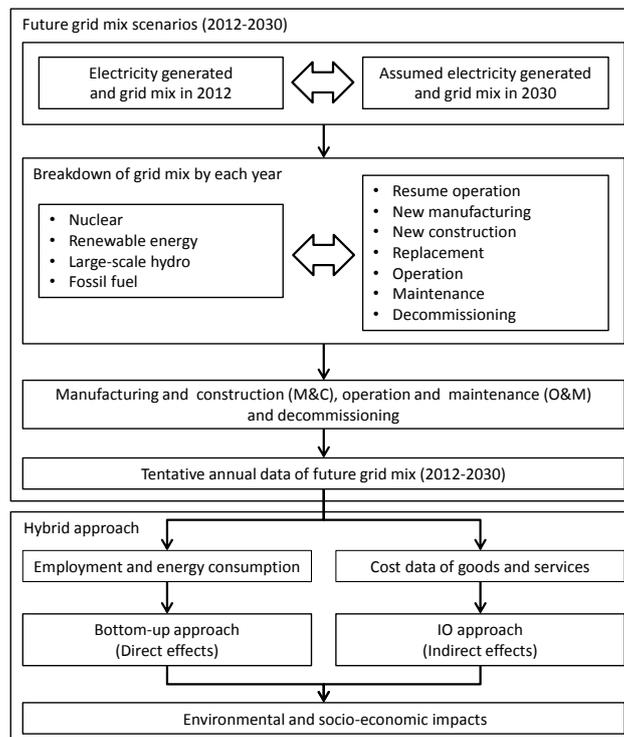


Figure 1. Framework overview.

This study applies a hybrid of bottom-up and IO approaches for life cycle inventory analysis to reflect the socio-economic and environmental impact characteristics of each power generation technology. The socio-economic and environmental indices selected are employment generation and GHG emissions. In the Japanese IO table, the power generation technology construction stage belongs to the electric power facilities construction sector and the power generation stage is classified under the electricity sector. This classification is common to all power generation technology types; hence, the conventional IO approaches cannot reflect the characteristics of each power generation technology in the estimation. To address this shortcoming, a bottom-up approach is used to estimate the direct impact of the target power generation technology by gathering detailed data regarding, the employment generated and the energy consumption for each technology. For the indirect impact, the IO approach is adopted to estimate the required goods and services by providing detailed final demand cost data for each power generation technology.

The employment and GHG emissions that are directly and indirectly induced by each power generation technology can be estimated using Equations (1) and (2).

$$L_{t,i} = L_{d,t,i} + \hat{l} \cdot (I - A)^{-1} \cdot f_{t,i} \quad (1)$$

$$G_{t,i} = G_{d,t,i} + \hat{g} \cdot (I - A)^{-1} \cdot f_{t,i} \quad (2)$$

where  $L_{t,i}$  is the direct and indirect employment created by power generation technology  $i$  in year  $t$ ,  $G_{t,i}$  is the direct and indirect GHG emissions,  $L_{d,t,i}$  is the direct employment,  $G_{d,t,i}$  is the direct GHG emissions,  $\hat{l}$  is the diagonal matrix of employment coefficient,  $\hat{g}$  is the diagonal matrix of GHG emissions,  $I$  is the unit matrix,  $A$  is the input coefficient matrix and  $f_{t,i}$  is the final demand.

This study uses the latest 2005 competitive import type Japanese IO table [26] that comprises 520 rows and 407 columns in a rectangular matrix form for the basic sector classification: some sectors are aggregated to a 401-dimensional square matrix for the analysis.

The employment coefficient  $\hat{l}$  represents the number of employees per unit of production and is estimated using the 2005 employment table that is published as a supplement to the IO table. The GHG emissions  $\hat{g}$  uses the embodied GHG emissions estimated from the Japanese IO table [27].

### 3. Case Study Assumptions and Scenarios

#### 3.1. System Boundary

As shown in Figure 2, the case study power generation technology life cycle stages are manufacturing and construction (M&C), operation and maintenance (O&M), safe storage (for nuclear only) and decommissioning. Granted that currently large amount of money is invested in research and development (R&D) of renewables, in particular power generation by wind and solar PV, the R&D stage is out of the system boundary of this study due to the difficulty to obtain reliable cost data for this stage. Notably among the target life cycle stages, the generated employment and the GHG emission impacts associated with the O&M stage are ongoing while the power plant is in operation, whereas their M&C and decommissioning stage impacts are only apparent during the respective life cycle stages. Hence, it is important to consider the lead-time and the durable years of each technology in the long-term scenario analysis.

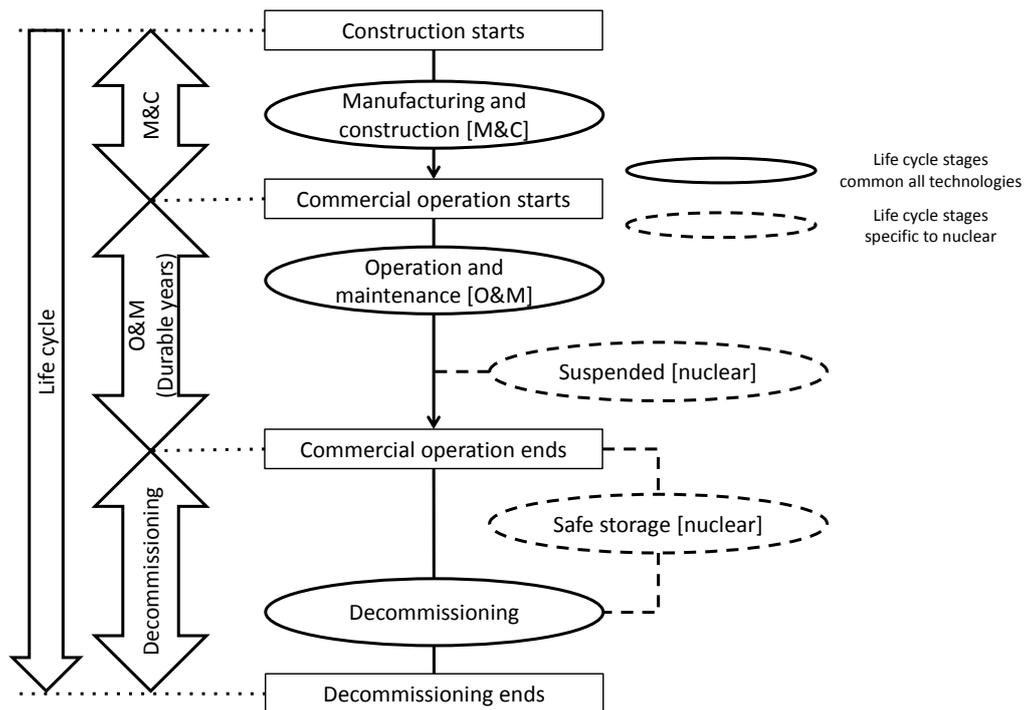


Figure 2. Assumed system boundary to all technologies.

### 3.2. Power Generation Technology Specifications

The power generation technologies selected for the case study are nuclear, fossil fuels (coal, oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG)), large-scale hydro power plants and three renewable sources (geothermal, wind and solar PV). Table 1 shows the specifications assumed for each power generation technology [28–43]. The assumed decommissioning costs in Table 1 are 15% and 5% of the O&M cost of nuclear and other power plants respectively [31]. Importantly, the O&M stage cost for each power plant shown in Table 1 excludes any additional costs that may be incurred because of unexpected accidents.

To reflect the technical characteristics of each power generation plant, items such as direct value added  $V_{d,i}$ , direct employment  $L_{d,i}$ , direct GHG emissions  $E_{d,i}$  and final demand  $f_i$ , are estimated from data obtained by interviews, previous studies and statistics [21,22,26,43,44]. The Japanese 2005 IO table is used for the calculations, hence it is assumed that the future industry structure remains the same as that of 2005 and all costs are adjusted to 2005 prices using the GDP deflator [45].

The M&C and decommissioning stage embodied intensities are calculated by dividing  $L_{t,i}$  and  $G_{t,i}$  in Equations (1) and (2) by the generation capacity of each power plant shown in Table 1. The O&M stage embodied intensity is estimated by dividing,  $L_{t,i}$  and  $G_{t,i}$  by the annual amount of power generated ( $E_i$  (kWh)) that can be calculated from Equation (3). The annual employment generated and GHG emissions can be calculated by multiplying the generation capacity (in kW unit) and power generation amount (in kWh unit) of each year by the calculated embodied intensities.

$$E_i = C_i \cdot 365 \cdot 24 \cdot u_i \cdot (1 - au_i) \tag{3}$$

where  $C_i$  is the generation capacity,  $u_i$  is the capacity factor of power generation technology  $i$  and  $au_i$  is the auxiliary power ratio.

**Table 1.** Power plant specifications.

2005 Prices: Million JPY *		Nuclear	Coal	Oil	Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	Large-Scale Hydro	Geothermal	Wind	PV
Generation capacity	(kW)	1,150,000	650,000	530,000	530,000	-	50,000	2000	3.5
Load factor	(%)	80	-	-	-	-	80	20	12
Internal consumption rate	(%)	4.3	-	-	-	-	5.0	5.0	0
Manufacturing and construction cost	(million yen/MW)	123	130	-	92	-	583	150	486
Operation and maintenance cost	(million yen/GWh)	5.4	5.4	9.7	6.4	4.2	12.8	7.1	25.9
Decommissioning cost	(million yen/MW)	18.4	6.5	4.6	4.6	-	29.2	7.5	24.3
Manufacturing and construction	(years)	7	4	-	2	-	1	1	1
Operation and maintenance	(years)	40	40	30	30	-	40	25	25
Safe storage	(years)	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Decommissioning	(years)	3	1	1	1	-	1	1	1

\* USD equivalent can be calculated using the currency rate of 110.22 JPY per USD in 2005 [46].

To reflect the specific year difference for the M&C, safe storage and decommissioning stages of each power generation technology, the estimated employment generated and GHG emission amounts from these stages are divided by the required years and allocated to each year.

It is clear that some of the parameter settings for conducting case studies using the framework established may affect the final results. The parameters that may significantly influence the final results but were necessarily assumed because of data restrictions are discussed next.

In the wake of the Great Eastern Japan earthquake, it is difficult to obtain detailed data for Japanese nuclear power plants. Nuclear power plants that are presently suspended but are under review—or are ready for safety reviews—to resume operations are required to allocate additional costs for safety measures against tsunami and earthquake damage [47]. However, the securities reports of the ten Japanese electric power companies show that the total nuclear power generation cost has dropped from 1.7 trillion Japanese yen (JPY) before the earthquake to 1.3 trillion JPY after the earthquake [48]; however, the cost breakdown is not provided. Therefore, the case study presumes that the same O&M stage goods and services inputs are required for the maintenance of the suspended nuclear power plants. Fifteen years of safe storage to reduce the radiation level of the plant components are required prior to the decommissioning stage [49,50]. As there is a lack of cost data for the safe storage stage, the study assumes that the stage requires the same goods and services inputs as the O&M stage.

In terms of electricity from renewable energy sources, a residential solar PV system with a 3.5 kW capacity is assumed for the solar PV estimation. Although the number of mega solar power plant installations are currently increasing under the FIT scheme and it is anticipated that large-scale industrial use solar PVs will play an important role in increasing the amount of electricity generated from renewables in the future, the reason behind this assumption is that in 2005 (the IO table benchmark year used in the case study) approximately 90% of domestic shipments of solar PV cells were for residential use [51]. Biomass and waste are also candidate renewable energy sources for power generation. However, Japan [52] estimates that the proportion of electricity generated from these sources will only be 3% of the total electricity generated in 2030 and they are therefore included in electricity generated from fossil fuel-powered plants in this case study.

### 3.3. Scenario Settings

The case study period is 2012–2030. The total electricity supply in 2012 is set at 1093 TWh [53] and the amount of electricity generated in 2012 is estimated for each power generation technology by

utility and by non-utility power [53,54]. Although there are various estimations of future electricity demand and supply, the case study assumes that the total supply will decrease by approximately 10% to 1000 TWh in 2030 [52]. This case study configures three power generation scenarios based on the grid mix scenarios for 2030 [52]: their transitions and breakdowns by electricity source are shown in Figure 3.

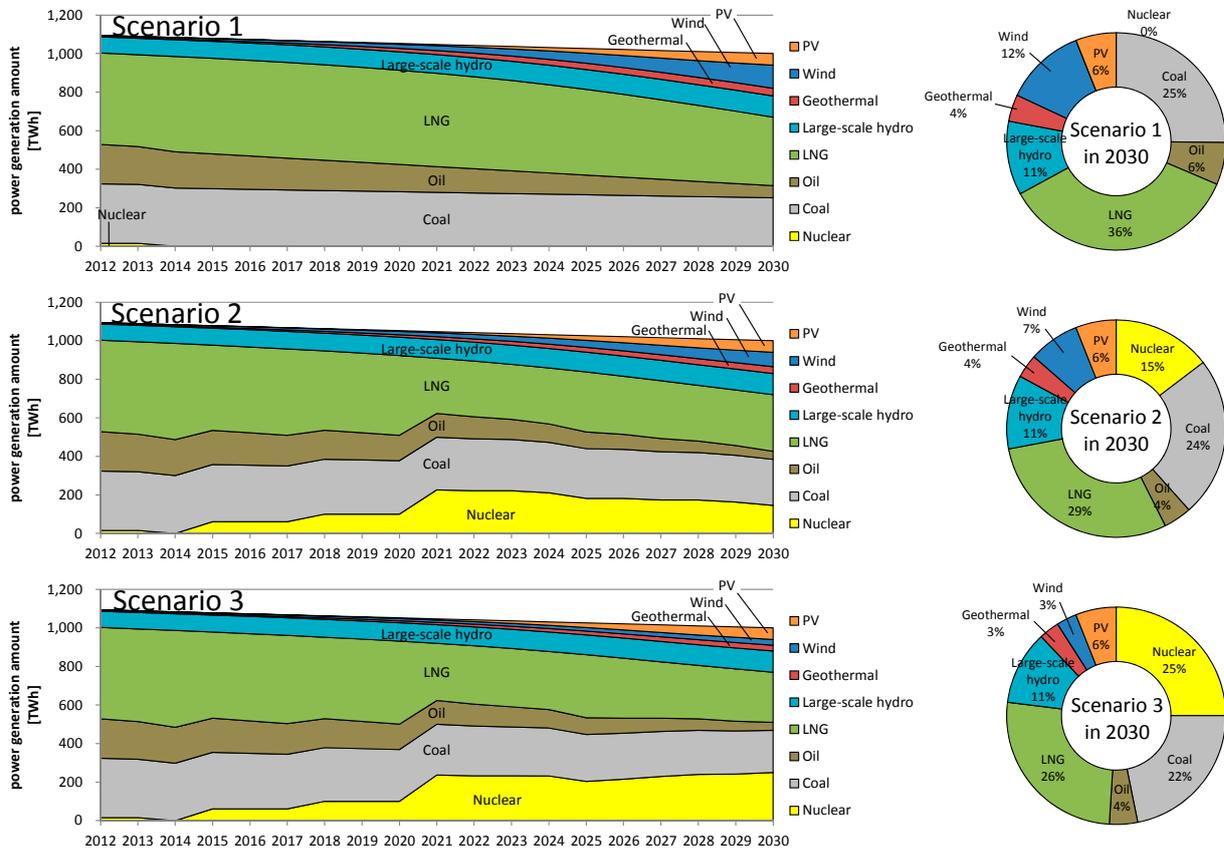


Figure 3. Future grid mix scenario settings.

### 3.3.1. Nuclear

Table 2 shows the assumptions made for nuclear power plants in each scenario [50]. Every scenario assumes that the ten reactors in Fukushima Daiichi and Daini that were damaged as a result of the 2011 tsunami are in a safe storage stage until 2030 and will eventually be decommissioned. In Scenario 1, there will be no resumption of operation, replacement of facilities or new construction; all the existing plants are suspended until 2014, will enter a 15-year safe storage stage after 2015 and will then be decommissioned. Scenario 2 considers the recommencement of operations at existing power plants but not facility replacement or new construction. Scenario 3 assumes the recommencement of operations at existing power plants and also permits replacements and new construction with certain restrictions as shown in Table 2. The nuclear power plants that resume operations in Scenarios 2 and 3 will enter a safe storage stage at the end of their commercial life-span. The existing power plants that are currently under review—or are ready for safety reviews—are assumed to resume operations in 2015, 2018 or 2021, depending on the current safety review situation [55].

Although some nuclear power plants operated in 2012 and 2013, all are currently suspended and hence the amount of electricity generated from nuclear energy in 2014 is zero for each scenario. As the plants resume operations, the electricity generated from nuclear sources in 2020 will be 226 TWh in Scenario 2 and 237 TWh in Scenario 3. The 9 TWh difference between the two scenarios is attributable

to the assumed commencement of commercial operation at one nuclear power plant in Scenario 3. In Scenario 2, the capacity of existing nuclear power plants that reach their 40-years commercial life-span is approximately 16,000 MW in the period 2021–2030 and the power generated from nuclear sources gradually decreases. In Scenario 3, the nuclear electricity generated increases in the late 2020s because of facility replacement and new plant construction.

**Table 2.** Settings for nuclear power plants.

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3
Existing power plants	Resumed operation is aborted and all existing power plants are decommissioned after a safe storage period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power plants resume operation by permission.</li> <li>• Ten power plants in Fukushima Daiichi and Daini are decommissioned.</li> <li>• 40 power plants are operated for 40 years (durable years) of commercial operations.</li> <li>• The durable years of two power plants are extended by 8 and 10 years by permission.</li> </ul>	
New construction of power plants			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of 12 power plants that were planned before the Great East Japan Earthquake are delayed by 10 years.</li> </ul>
	All new construction and replacement are aborted.	All new construction and replacement are aborted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 power plants are constructed between 2021–2030.</li> </ul>
Replacement of power plants			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 power plants are replaced.</li> <li>• New construction and replacement costs are increased by 20% due to safety measures against tsunami and earthquake.</li> </ul>

### 3.3.2. Three Renewables (Geothermal, Wind and PV)

METI [52] assumes an overall target for power generation from renewable energy in 2030, however the breakdown per year is not provided. Some scenario analysis studies use diffusion curves to estimate the timeline trend by the future deployment of the technologies [56–58]. The case study uses a logistic function expressed by Equation (4) to evaluate the geothermal, wind and solar PV power generation amounts.

$$E_{t,i} = \frac{a_i}{1 + b_i e^{-c_i(t-2000)}} \tag{4}$$

where,  $t$  is the target year,  $i$  is the target renewable energy,  $E_{t,i}$  is the amount of generation capacity in year  $t$ ,  $a_i$ ,  $b_i$ ,  $c_i$  are the coefficients (Table 3) and  $e$  is Napier’s constant. Coefficient  $a_i$  shows the upper limit of the power generation capacity for each technology that can be estimated from MoE [42]. Considering the maximum capacity that is envisaged by the assumed significant equipment cost reduction through the FIT implementation and technological innovations [42] and the model plant’s power generation amounts shown in Table 1 that can be calculated by Equation (4), the estimates are 6.45 GW for geothermal, 415 GW for wind and 72 GW for solar PV. Coefficients  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  are estimated, using the time-series electricity generation amounts for the three renewables from 2000 to 2012 [53] and the expected amount of generation capacity in 2030.

**Table 3.** Estimated parameters and  $R^2$  for each scenario.

		a	b	c	$R^2$
Geothermal	Scenario 1	6.5	546.5	0.3	0.80
	Scenario 2	6.5	257.9	0.2	0.84
	Scenario 3	6.5	168.0	0.2	0.87
Wind	Scenario 1	414.8	1362.4	0.2	0.87
	Scenario 2	414.8	946.8	0.2	0.88
	Scenario 3	414.8	490.4	0.1	0.90
PV	Scenario 1	72.2	69681.3	0.4	0.68
	Scenario 2	72.2	69681.3	0.4	0.68
	Scenario 3	72.2	69681.3	0.4	0.68

Although the power generated from the three renewables in 2012 is only 8 TWh, this increases in line with the assumed logistic function to 43 TWh, 34 TWh and 26 TWh in 2020 and 220 TWh, 170 TWh and 120 TWh in 2030 for Scenarios 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Scenario 1 reflects the largest renewable electricity generation capacity of all the assumed scenarios: here solar PV electricity records the largest growth of 375 times from 0.16 TWh in 2012 to 60 TWh in 2030, whereas geothermal increases by 15 times (from 3 TWh in 2012 to 40 TWh in 2030) and wind increases by 24 times (from 5 TWh in 2012 to 120 TWh in 2030).

### 3.3.3. Large-Scale Hydro

The Japanese candidate cites for new large-scale hydro schemes are located in remote and mountainous areas, and estimates show them to be economically inefficient [59]. Therefore, the case study does not include the replacement of large-scale hydro power plants and only assumes the impact associated with the O&M stage. The large-scale hydropower generation capacity is assumed to remain the same from 2012 to 2030.

### 3.3.4. Fossil Fuel (Coal, Oil and LNG)

Each of the three scenarios assume a preferential electricity supply from nuclear and the three identified renewable sources; hence, the case study assumes that fossil fuel-powered (coal, oil and LNG) plants generate the additional electricity required to meet the demand. Wind and solar PV are particularly considered unstable as their outputs fluctuate with the weather condition; thus, it is necessary to introduce supply-demand balancing capabilities such as storage batteries and strengthen the grid infrastructures to ensure a stable power supply as the electricity supplied from unstable sources increases [60]. Therefore, the case study assumes the operation of fossil fuel-powered plants—particularly LNG plants—are to back up and stabilize the electricity grid.

The total amount of electricity generated from fossil fuel-powered plant in 2012 is 987 TWh; this decreases by 7%, 17% and 16% in 2020 and 32%, 42% and 47% in 2030 for Scenarios 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

### 3.4. Replacement of Power Plants

The case study considers the entire power generation capacity of all power plants operated in 2012 by general electrical utilities, wholesales electric utilities, and wholesale supplier utilities [61]. If a power plant except for nuclear reaches the end of its durable lifecycle, the case study assumes that it will be replaced in a timely fashion by a new plant so that the same uninterrupted power generation capacity is assured for the particular technology.

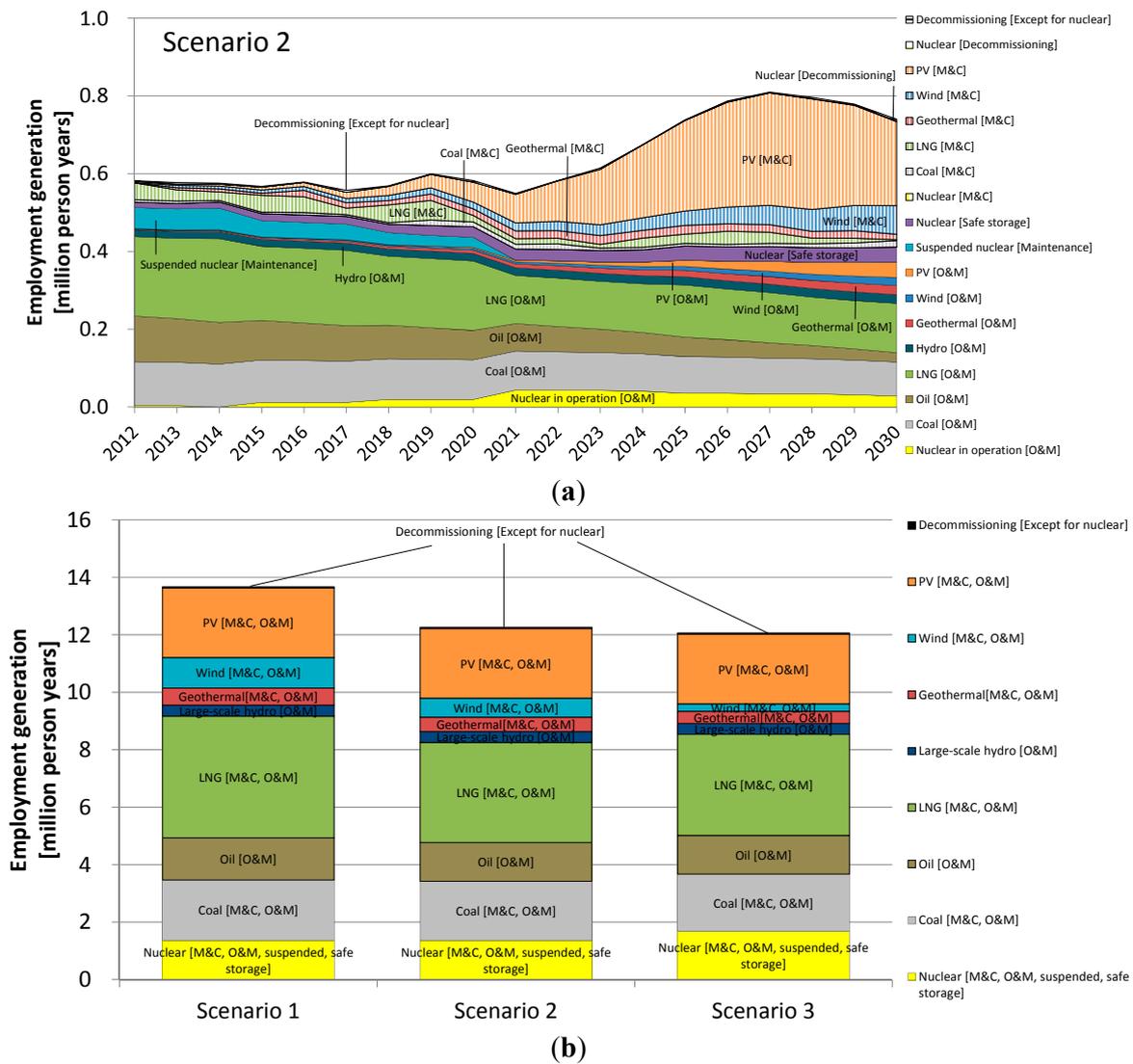
In accordance with the 1979 “Principles for IEA action on coal” that precluded the new construction or replacement of base load oil-fired power plants [62], there are no current plans for new oil-fired plant construction. Further, most aging oil-fired plants in Japan are to be substituted by coal- and LNG-fired power plants [63,64]. Hence, this case study considers only the O&M and

decommissioning stages of oil-fired power plants and, if needed, that old oil-fired plants are replaced with LNG-fired capacities.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

##### 4.1. Employment Impact

Figure 4a shows the transition of employment generated during 2012–2030 for Scenario 2 and Figure 4b shows the total employment generated for all scenarios in the same period. Table 3 provides a snapshot of employment generated in 2012, 2020 and 2030. The transitions for Scenarios 1 and 3 are shown in Figures A1 and A2 as reference, whose trends are almost the same as Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Employment generated by electricity source in Japan, 2012–2030: (a) Employment generated transitions of scenario 2; and (b) Total employment generated per scenario, 2012–2030.

Figure 4a and Table 4 show that the employment in 2020 will be +10%, ±0% and ±0% for each respective scenario compared with 0.58 million person years in 2012. Employment increases as the electricity supplied by the three renewables expands, and the final M&C stage demand increases after 2020, peaking in 2027 (+58%, +39% and +35% compared with 2012 for each respective scenario) due to the shape of logistic function. After 2027, its growth will gradually balance out because of a decrease

in electricity demand that leads to an employment reduction in the O&M stage and it will be +46%, +27% and +18% in 2030 compared with 2012 for each respective scenario.

The total O&M stage employment reduces continuously because of a decrease in electricity demand. From 0.46 million person years in 2012, it will decrease by −12%, −19% and −23% in 2030 for each respective scenario. Table 4 shows that the decrease in this stage is attributed to the employment impact of the three renewables being less than the impacts of nuclear and fossil fuel-powered plants. In terms of employment in the M&C stage, Table 4 demonstrates that an increase of the three renewables has a greater impact than those associated with nuclear, coal and LNG power plant replacements.

The total employment generated in the 18 year period shown in Figure 3b is 14 million person years for Scenario 1, and 12 million person years for Scenarios 2 and 3. The difference arises because there is a greater proportion of both fossil fuel and renewable plants in Scenario 1 than in the other scenarios. Figure 3 and Table 4 indicate that the O&M employment decrease seen for nuclear and fossil fuel-powered plants is balanced out in 2020 and 2030 by an increase in employment in the renewable M&C stage. However, the employment generated during the O&M stage takes place continuously during the durable years of the specific power generation technology, whereas that from the M&C stages only occurs for a short period.

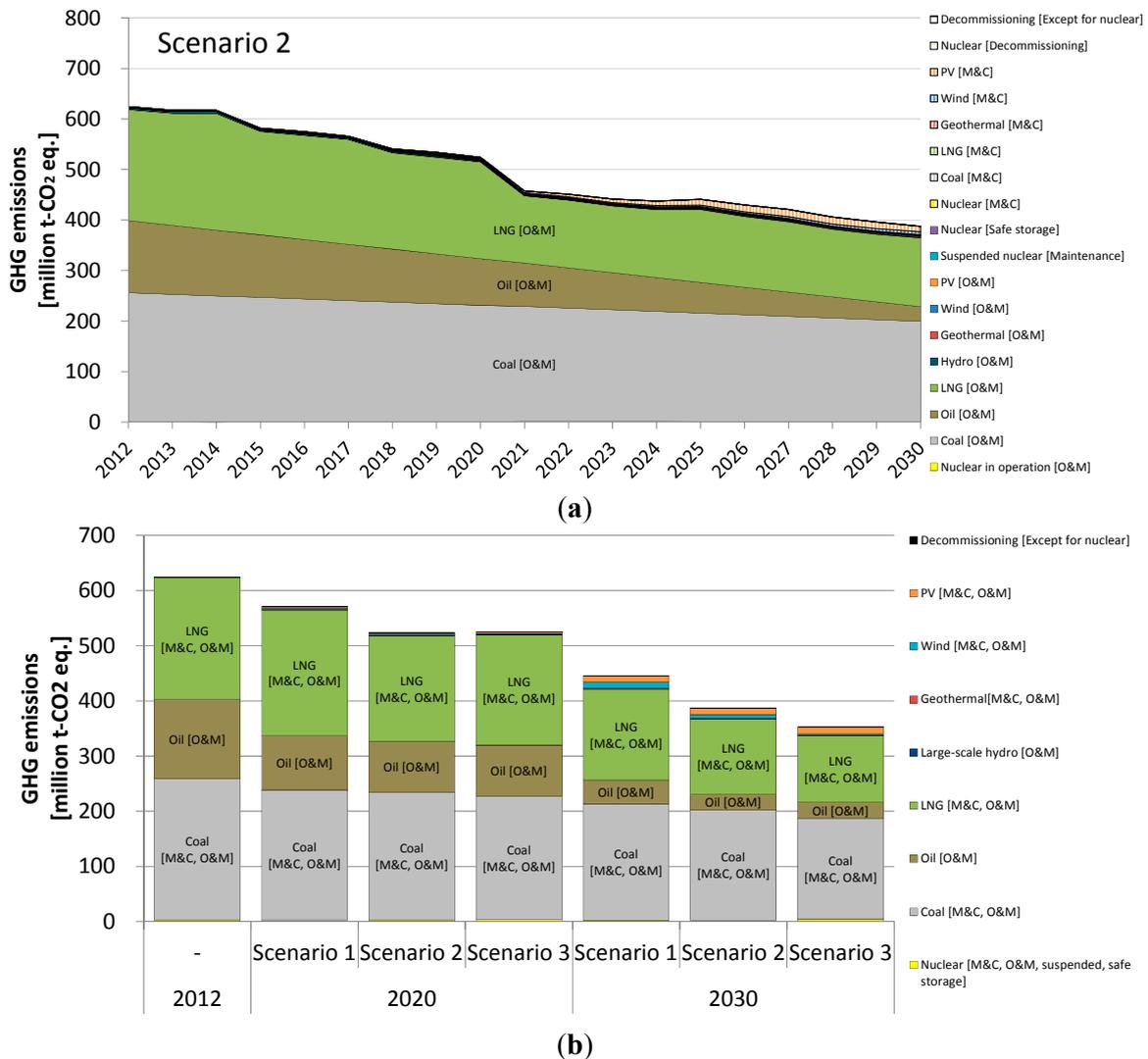
**Table 4.** Employment impact by electricity source in Japan: 2012, 2020 and 2030.

		2012	Scenario 1		Scenario 2		Scenario 3	
			2020	2030	2020	2030	2020	2030
Total (million person years)		0.58	0.64	0.85	0.58	0.74	0.58	0.69
Nuclear	M&C	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
	O&M	1%	0%	0%	3%	4%	3%	7%
	Suspended	9%	0%	0%	4%	0%	4%	0%
	Safe storage	2%	11%	8%	5%	5%	5%	6%
	Decommissioning	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coal	M&C	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	O&M	19%	16%	11%	17%	12%	17%	12%
Oil	M&C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	O&M	20%	13%	4%	13%	3%	13%	3%
LNG	M&C	7%	3%	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%
	O&M	35%	33%	18%	31%	17%	32%	16%
Large-scale hydro	M&C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	O&M	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Geothermal	M&C	0%	3%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	O&M	0%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%	3%
Wind	M&C	0%	4%	15%	3%	10%	1%	3%
	O&M	0%	1%	4%	1%	3%	1%	1%
PV	M&C	1%	8%	25%	9%	29%	9%	31%
	O&M	0%	0%	5%	0%	5%	0%	6%
Decommissioning (Except for nuclear)		0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### 4.2. Impacts on GHG Emissions

Figure 5a shows the transition of GHG emissions during 2012–2030 for Scenario 2 (the same estimates for Scenarios 1 and 2 are shown in Figures A3 and A4) and Figure 5b shows a snapshot of GHG emissions in 2012, 2020 and 2030 for each scenario. Reductions are observed for all the scenarios;

the 624 million t-CO<sub>2</sub>eq. emissions in 2012 will be reduced by 8%, 16% and 16% in 2020 and 29%, 38% and 44% in 2030 for each respective scenario. This indicates that GHG emissions are expected to reduce because of an increase in electricity supplied by the three renewables and a decrease in electricity demand, regardless of nuclear power operations. The 6% GHG reduction effect difference between Scenarios 2 and 3 is attributed to the proportion of electricity from nuclear and the three renewables as they have small GHG emission intensities.



**Figure 5.** GHG emissions by electricity source in Japan, 2012–2030: (a) GHG emissions transitions of Scenario 2 and (b) Japanese GHG emissions in 2012, 2020 and 2030.

## 5. Conclusions

The study established an IO table scenario analysis framework to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the future power generation technologies in Japan. Using IO tables for future analyses cannot reflect the possible changes in inter-sector transactions or that arise because of technological progress; however, the framework established is useful to estimate the future potential expected from a macroscopic view arising from the current industrial structure and technology level. A hybrid bottom-up and IO approach for life cycle inventory analysis in the established framework enables a reflection of the technological difference per power generation technology in the estimates. The framework is also effective in evaluating the potential environmental and

socio-economic impacts in terms of employment generation and GHG emissions at the same time using the IO approach.

Using the framework, a case study is undertaken to investigate the potential impacts of future grid mix scenarios in Japan. The results suggest that the reduction in employment generation in the O&M stage that is associated with both an electricity demand decrease and the suspension of nuclear power plant operations might be balanced with the expansion of employment through an increase in the electricity generated from three renewables (geothermal, wind and solar PV) in their M&C stage. However, there is a difference in O&M and M&C stage employment: the former occurs continuously while the power generation plants are in operation, whereas the latter is for relatively short periods while the plants are built. This indicates that the growth of employment arising from the expansion of electricity generated from the three renewables in the late 2020s is a temporary impact. It might contribute to assuring the employment of the future Japanese society towards 2030. The magnitude of the FIT scheme towards the environmental and socio-economic impacts will be of a great interest; however, it is not considered in this study. This effect can be evaluated using our framework by formulating different scenario if the relationship between future deployment target of the renewables and the tariff becomes available.

This paper introduced the framework established and conducted a case study as an application of the framework. However, the following issues should be addressed to improve the framework and to produce case study results that reflect detailed and precise technological aspects relating to the power generation technologies.

- The authors are currently establishing an extended IO table where the different IO structures per power generation technology are reflected by disaggregating the original IO sectors or by creating new IO sectors related to renewable energies based on detailed technological data. Although the hybrid bottom-up and IO approach for life cycle inventory analysis used in the framework established here reflects the power generation technology differences, the authors' plan to use the extended IO table in the framework so that a wide range of potential impacts can be estimated using input coefficient matrices that are adjustable to different power generation mixes.
- The various assumptions made in the case study are based on current data, and the case study results strongly depend on these assumptions. In particular, data relating to the maintenance stage of suspended nuclear power plants and the safe storage and decommissioning stages of nuclear power plants may influence the results. A further important activity related to nuclear power not included in the case study is the back-end stages of its fuel cycle.
- Power generation by PV and wind power generation is fluctuated by the weather so that increasing supply-demand balancing capacities shall become important to assure stable power supply when such unstable power sources are connected to the grid in full-scale. Since it requires additional capital investments to production, transmission and distribution of electricity, it is necessary to include the parameters and scenarios to evaluate the environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with this capacity enhancement in our framework developed.
- Quantitative environmental and socio-economic impact information may help decision makers choose future energy systems; hence, as detailed and precise data becomes available, there is a clear need to conduct a new case study using the framework and to produce updated results. It is also important to conduct a sensitivity analysis to identify hotspots and to understand the uncertainties related to the potential environment and socio-economic impacts.

**Author Contributions:** Shunichi Hienuki conducted the research and wrote the paper under the supervision of Hiroki Hondo and Yuki Kudoh. All authors checked and approved the final draft.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendix

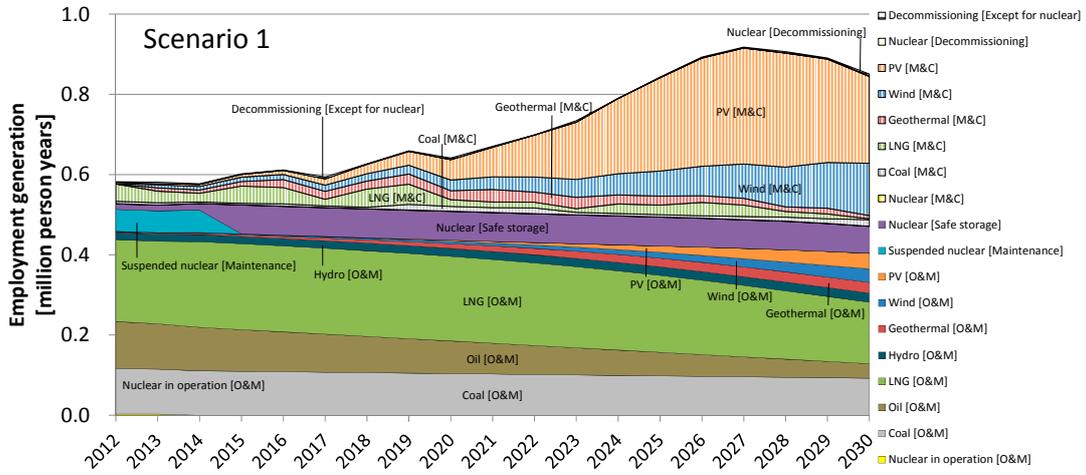


Figure A1. Employment generated transitions of Scenario 1.

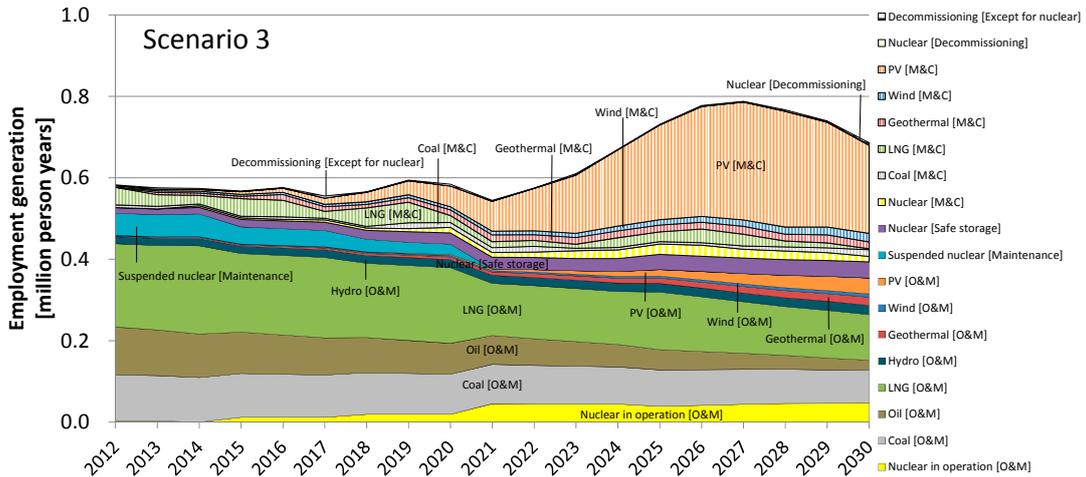


Figure A2. Employment generated transitions of Scenario 3.

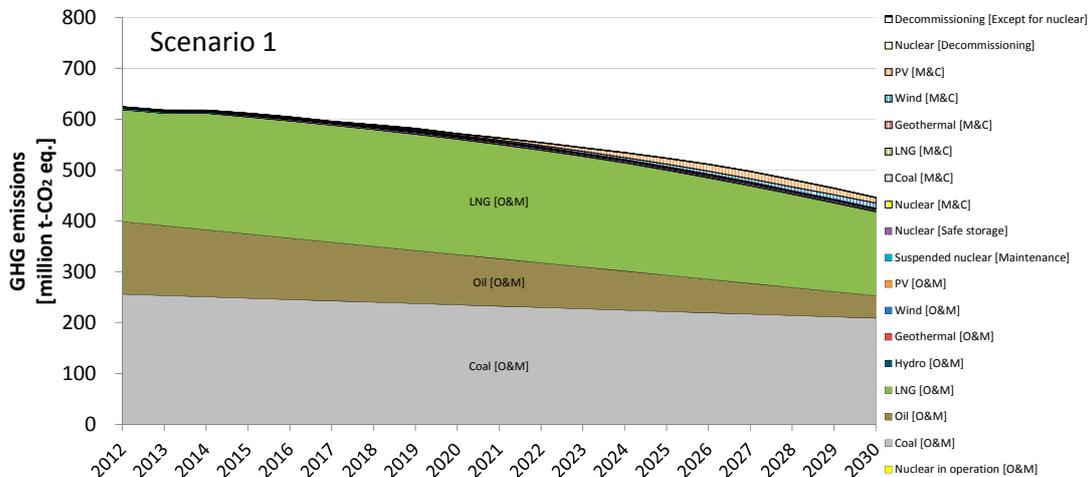


Figure A3. GHG emissions transitions of Scenario 1.

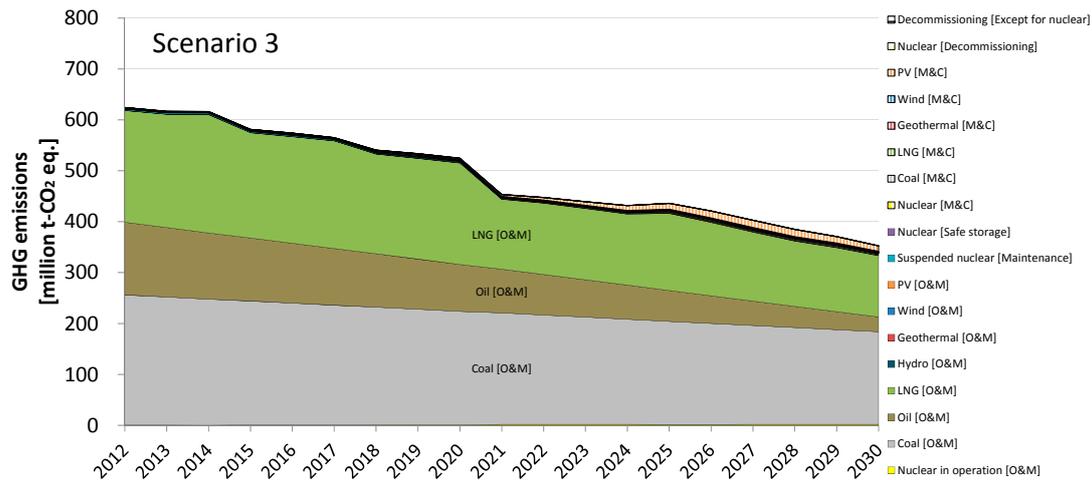


Figure A4. GHG emissions transitions of Scenario 3.

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