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Summer School on Energy Giacomo Ciamician

# Raw materials & the energy transition

*Alois Bonifacio*

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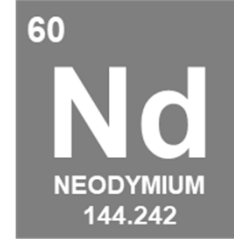
*Kreuzbergpass, Sexten (BZ), Italy*

*June 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>st</sup>, 2022*



Centro Interdipartimentale  
per l'Energia, l'Ambiente e i Trasporti  
Giacomo Ciamician





H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra		Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
			La	Ce	Pr	<b>Nd</b>	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu
			Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr



[figure from: A. King, Critical Materials, Elsevier 2021]

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Cs	Ba		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra		Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu			
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr			

1983

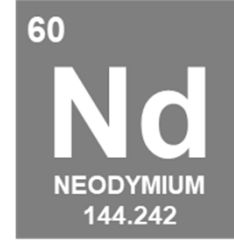


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Cs	Ba		Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra		Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Ds	Rg	Cn	Nh	Fl	Mc	Lv	Ts	Og
La	Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu			
Ac	Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr			

2020

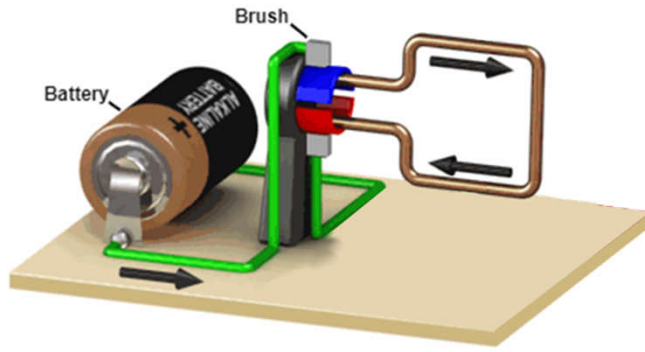


[figure from: A. King, Critical Materials, Elsevier 2021]

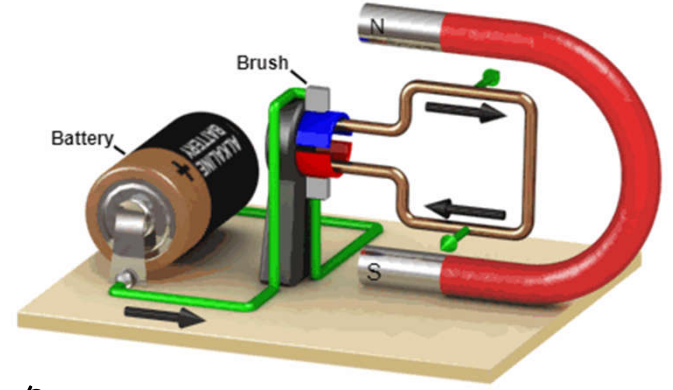


magnets  
**NdFeB**

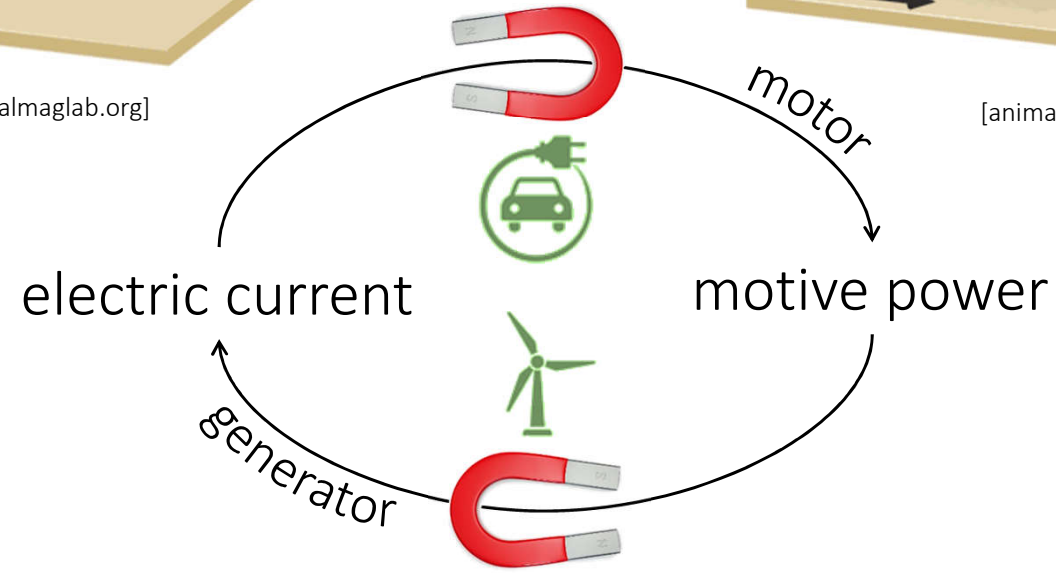




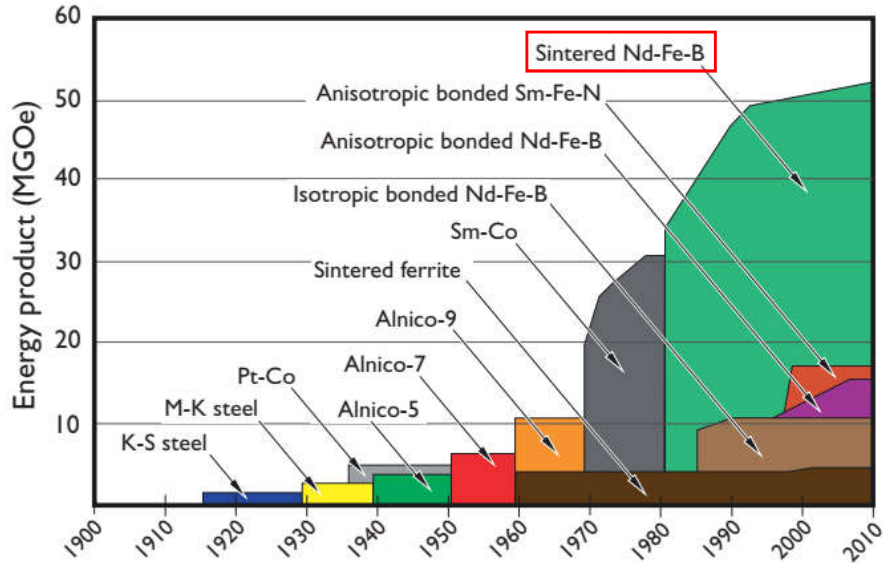
[image adapted from: nationalmaglab.org]



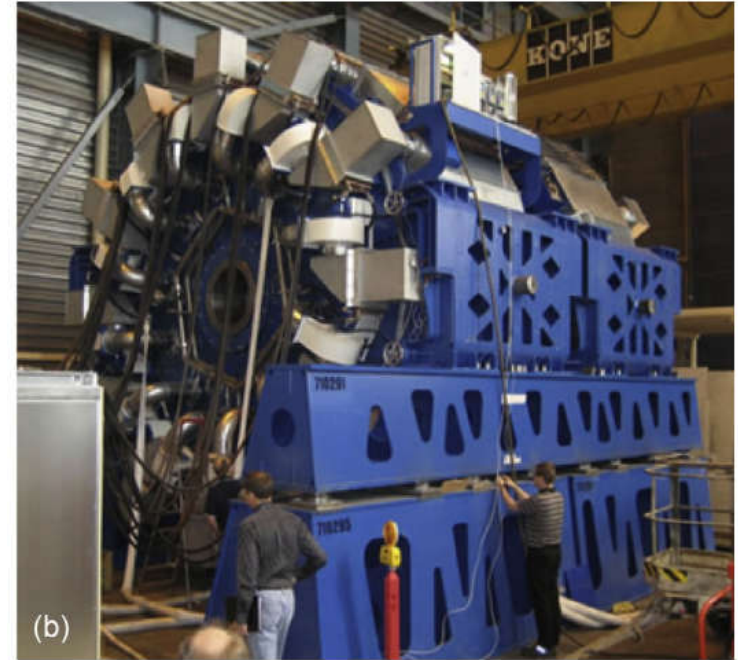
[animation from: nationalmaglab.org]







[figure from: A. King, Critical Materials, © Elsevier 2021]



[figure from: J. Lucas, ed., Rare Earths, © Elsevier 2015]

~2t **NdFeB** magnets ( > 500 kg of Nd )

1 H HYDROGEN 1.0079																	2 He HELIUM 4.0026
3 Li LITHIUM 6.941	4 Be BERYLLIUM 9.0122											5 B BORON 10.811	6 C CARBON 12.011	7 N NITROGEN 14.007	8 O OXYGEN 15.999	9 F FLUORINE 18.998	10 Ne NEON 20.1797
11 Na SODIUM 22.989	12 Mg MAGNESIUM 24.305											13 Al ALUMINUM 26.981	14 Si SILICON 28.085	15 P PHOSPHORUS 30.974	16 S SULFUR 32.065	17 Cl CHLORINE 35.453	18 Ar ARGON 39.948
19 K POTASSIUM 39.098	20 Ca CALCIUM 40.078	21 Sc SCANDIUM 44.955	22 Ti TITANIUM 47.867	23 V VANADIUM 50.9415	24 Cr CHROMIUM 51.9951	25 Mn MANGANESE 54.938	26 Fe IRON 55.845	27 Co COBALT 58.933	28 Ni NICKEL 58.6934	29 Cu COPPER 63.546	30 Zn ZINC 65.39	31 Ga GALLIUM 69.723	32 Ge GERMANIUM 72.63	33 As ARSENIC 74.921	34 Se SELENIUM 78.971	35 Br BROMINE 79.904	36 Kr KRYPTON 83.798
37 Rb RUBIDIUM 85.467	38 Sr STRONTIUM 87.62	39 Y YTRITIUM 88.906	40 Zr ZIRCONIUM 91.224	41 Nb NIOBIUM 92.9063	42 Mo MOLYBDENUM 95.96	43 Tc TECHNETIUM 98	44 Ru RUTHENIUM 101.07	45 Rh RHODIUM 102.905	46 Pd PALLADIUM 106.42	47 Ag SILVER 107.8682	48 Cd CADMIUM 112.414	49 In INDIUM 114.818	50 Sn TIN 118.710	51 Sb ANTIMONY 121.757	52 Te TELLURIUM 127.60	53 I IODINE 126.905	54 Xe XENON 131.293
55 Cs CAESIUM 132.905	56 Ba BARIUM 137.327	57-71 * RE	72 Hf HAFNIUM 178.49	73 Ta TANTALUM 180.94	74 W TUNGSTEN 183.84	75 Re RHENIUM 186.207	76 Os OSMIUM 190.23	77 Ir IRIDIUM 192.225	78 Pt PLATINUM 195.084	79 Au GOLD 196.966	80 Hg MERCURY 200.59	81 Tl THALLIUM 204.38	82 Pb LEAD 207.2	83 Bi BISMUTH 208.98	84 Po POLONIUM (209)	85 At ASTATINE (210)	86 Rn RADON (222)
87 Fr FRANCIUM (223)	88 Ra RADIUM (226)	89-103 ** ACT	104 Rf RUTHERFORDIUM (261)	105 Db DUBNIUM (262)	106 Sg SEABORGIUM (263)	107 Bh BOHRIUM (264)	108 Hs HASSIUM (265)	109 Mt MEITNERIUM (266)	110 Ds DARMSTADTIUM (268)	111 Rg ROENTGENIUM (269)	112 Cn COPECHEVIUM (284)	113 Nh NIHOIUM (285)	114 Fl FLEROVIUM (289)	115 Mc MOSCOWIUM (288)	116 Lv LIVERMORIUM (293)	117 Ts TENNESSINE (294)	118 Og OGANESSON (294)
* 57 La LANTHANUM 138.905			58 Ce CELESIUM 140.12	59 Pr PRASEODYMIUM 140.907	60 Nd NEODYMIUM 144.24	61 Pm PROMETHIUM (145)	62 Sm SAMARIUM 150.36	63 Eu EUROPIUM 151.964	64 Gd GADOLINIUM 157.25	65 Tb TERBIUM 158.925	66 Dy DYSPROSIUM 162.50	67 Ho HOLMIUM 164.930	68 Er ERBIUM 167.259	69 Tm THULMIUM 168.933	70 Yb YBBIUM 173.054	71 Lu LUTETIUM 174.967	
** 89 Ac ACTINIUM (227)			90 Th THORIUM 232.0377	91 Pa PROTACTINIUM 231.036	92 U URANIUM 238.0289	93 Np NEPTUNIUM (237)	94 Pu PLUTONIUM (244)	95 Am AMERICIUM (243)	96 Cm CURIUM (247)	97 Bk BERKELIUM (247)	98 Cf CALIFORNIUM (251)	99 Es EINSTEINIUM (252)	100 Fm FERMIUM (257)	101 Md MENDELEVIUM (258)	102 No NOBELIUM (259)	103 Lr LAWRENCIUM (260)	

RE: rare earths  
REE: rare earths elements  
REO: rare earths oxides

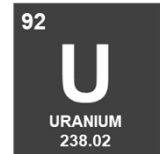
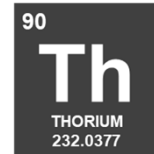
in **2040** we will need **from 3 to 7 times more** the amount of REE used in **2020**  
(source: IEA)

*Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS)*      *Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS)*

[figure from: [www.japantimes.co.jp](http://www.japantimes.co.jp), © Reuters]



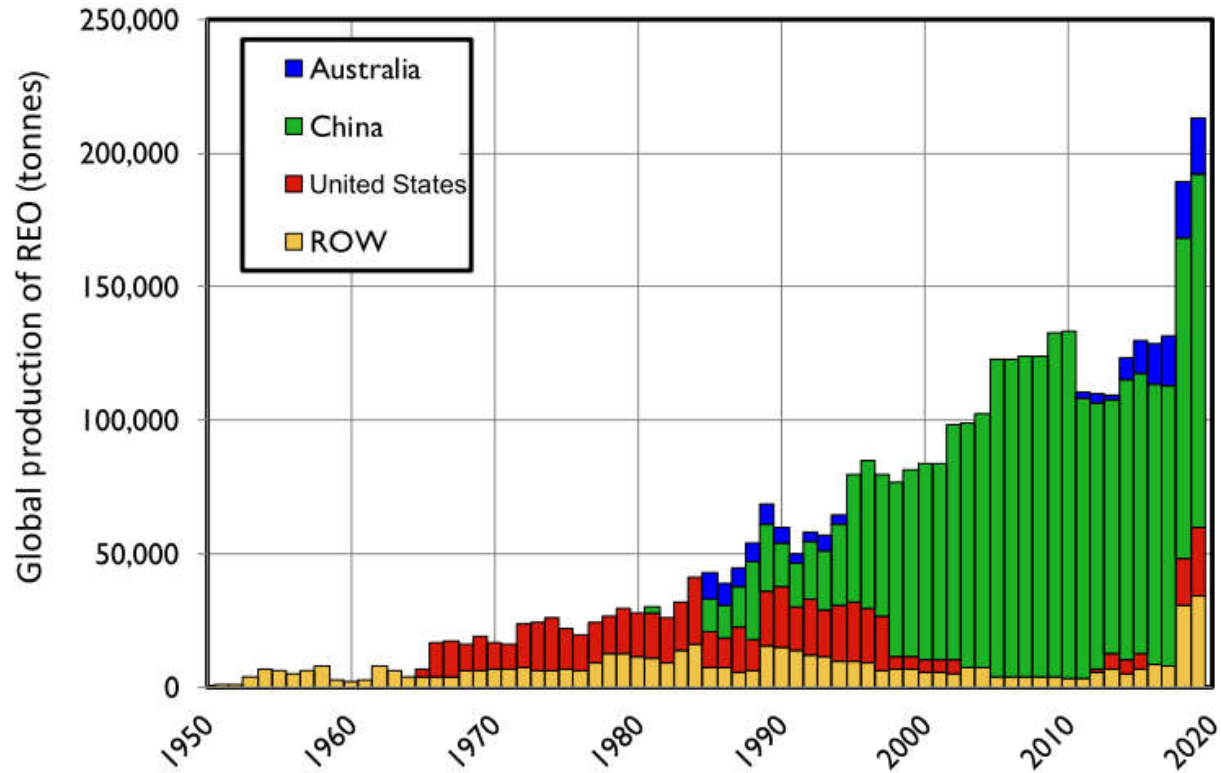
*Bayan Obo mine,  
China (inner Mongolia)*



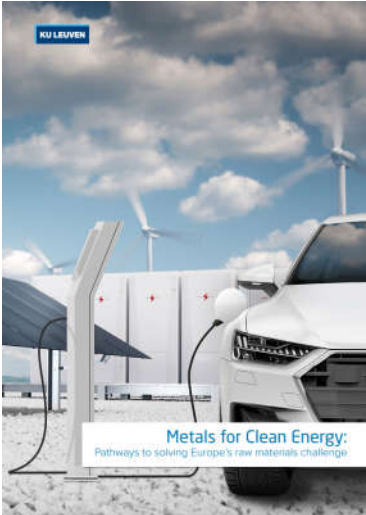
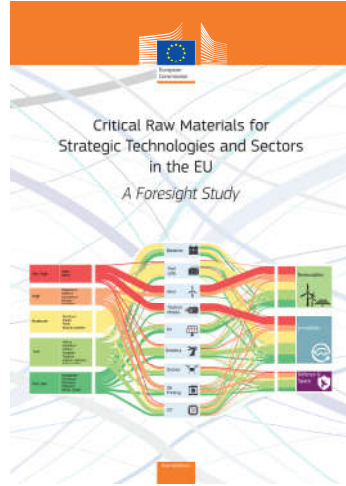
[figure from: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20150402-the-worst-place-on-earth>]

*Baotou tailing dam, China (inner Mongolia)*






[figure from: A. King, Critical Materials, © Elsevier 2021]



**The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions**

World Energy Outlook Special Report



 IRENA  
International Renewable Energy Agency

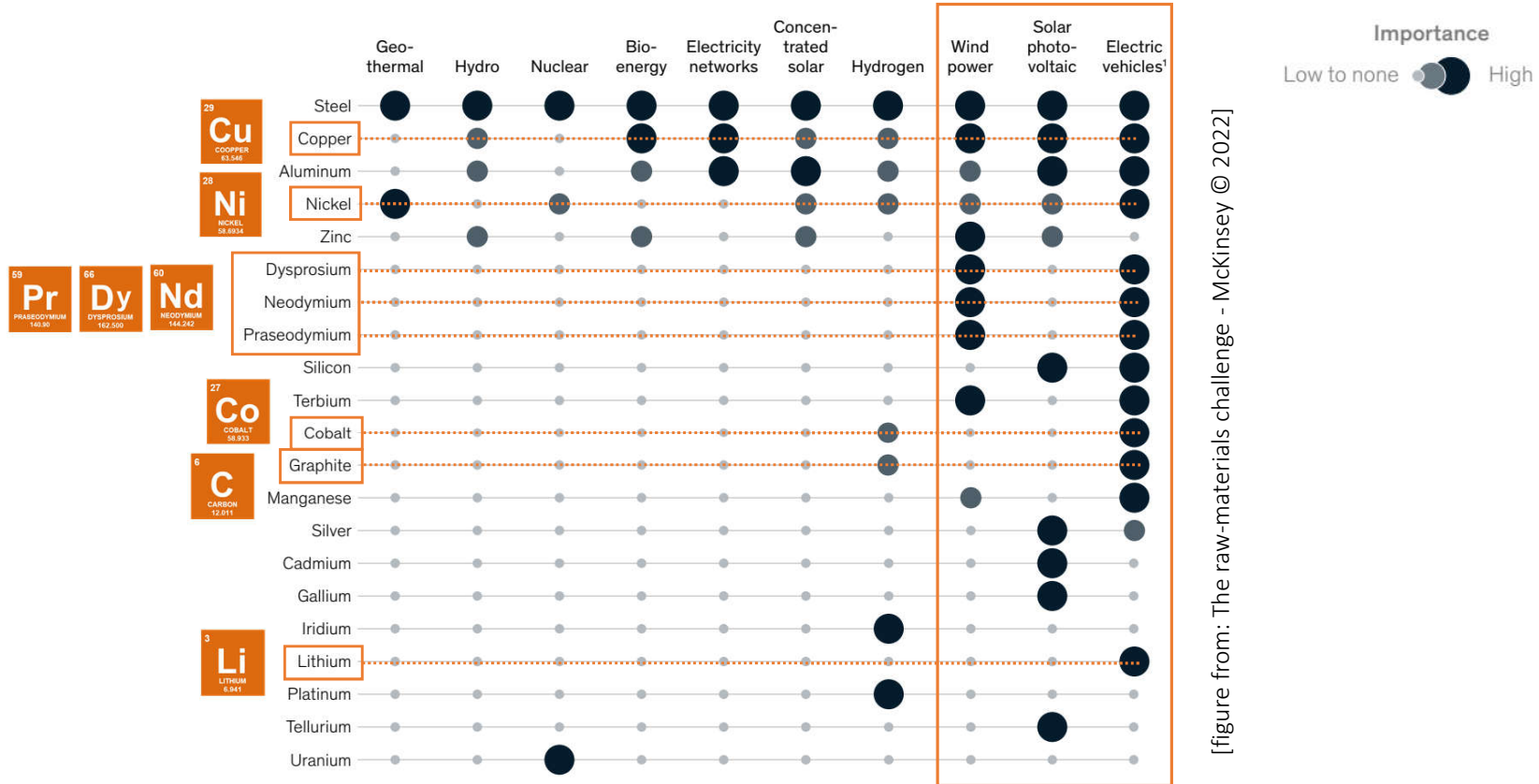
**CRITICAL MATERIALS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

TECHNICAL PAPER 5/2021  
BY DOLF GIJLEN

# elements involved in the *energy transition*

1 <b>H</b> HYDROGEN 1.0079																	2 <b>He</b> HELIUM 4.0026						
3 <b>Li</b> LITHIUM 6.941	4 <b>Be</b> BERYLLIUM 9.0122																	5 <b>B</b> BORON 10.811	6 <b>C</b> CARBON 12.011	7 <b>N</b> NITROGEN 14.007	8 <b>O</b> OXYGEN 15.999	9 <b>F</b> FLUORINE 18.998	10 <b>Ne</b> NEON 20.1797
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37 <b>Rb</b> RUBIDIUM 85.467	38 <b>Sr</b> STRONTIUM 87.62	39 <b>Y</b> YTRIUM 88.9058	40 <b>Zr</b> ZIRCONIUM 91.224	41 <b>Nb</b> NIOBIUM 92.9063	42 <b>Mo</b> MOLYBDENUM 95.95	43 <b>Tc</b> TECHNETIUM (98)	44 <b>Ru</b> RUTHENIUM 101.07	45 <b>Rh</b> RHODIUM 102.90	46 <b>Pd</b> PALLADIUM 106.42	47 <b>Ag</b> SILVER 107.8682	48 <b>Cd</b> CADMIUM 112.414	49 <b>In</b> INDIUM 114.818	50 <b>Sn</b> TIN 118.710	51 <b>Sb</b> ANTIMONY 121.760	52 <b>Te</b> TELLURIUM 127.60	53 <b>I</b> IODINE 126.90	54 <b>Xe</b> XENON 131.293						
55 <b>Cs</b> CAESIUM 132.905	56 <b>Ba</b> BARIUM 137.327	* 57-71	72 <b>Hf</b> HAFNIUM 178.49	73 <b>Ta</b> TANTALUM 180.94	74 <b>W</b> TUNGSTEN 183.84	75 <b>Re</b> RHENIUM 186.207	76 <b>Os</b> OSMIUM 190.23	77 <b>Ir</b> IRIDIUM 192.217	78 <b>Pt</b> PLATINUM 195.064	79 <b>Au</b> GOLD 196.96	80 <b>Hg</b> MERCURY 200.59	81 <b>Tl</b> THALLIUM 204.38	82 <b>Pb</b> LEAD 207.2	83 <b>Bi</b> BISMUTH 208.98	84 <b>Po</b> POLONIUM (209)	85 <b>At</b> ASTATINE (210)	86 <b>Rn</b> RADON (222)						
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			* 57 <b>La</b> LANTHANUM 138.90	58 <b>Ce</b> CERIUM 140.116	59 <b>Pr</b> PRASEODYMIUM 140.90	60 <b>Nd</b> NEODYMIUM 144.242	61 <b>Pm</b> PROMETHIUM (145)	62 <b>Sm</b> SAMARIUM 150.36	63 <b>Eu</b> EUROPIUM 151.964	64 <b>Gd</b> GADOLINIUM 157.25	65 <b>Tb</b> TERBIUM 158.92	66 <b>Dy</b> DYSPROSIUM 162.500	67 <b>Ho</b> HOLMIUM 164.93	68 <b>Er</b> ERBIUM 167.259	69 <b>Tm</b> THULIUM 168.93	70 <b>Yb</b> YTTERIUM 173.054	71 <b>Lu</b> LUTETIUM 174.9668						
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# materials critical for the energy transition, by technology type

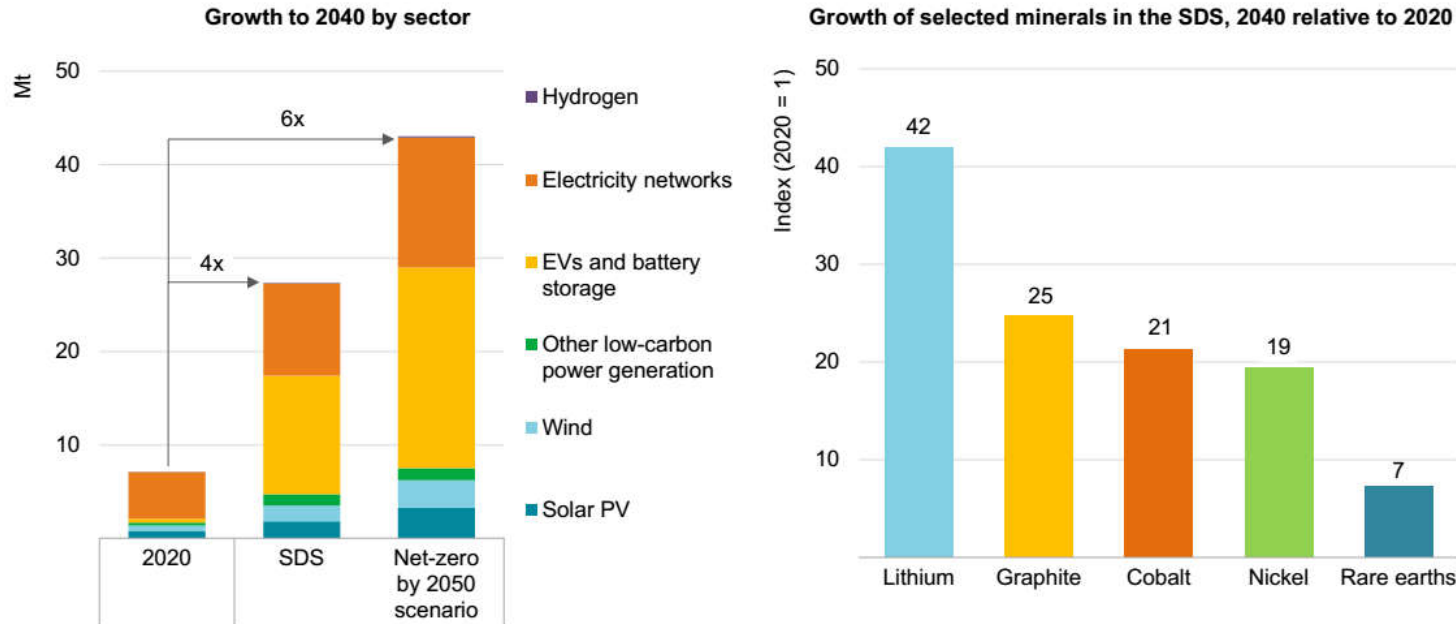


[figure from: The raw-materials challenge - McKinsey © 2022]

¹Includes energy storage.

Source: *Critical raw materials for strategic technologies and sectors in the EU*, A foresight study, European Commission, Mar 9, 2020; *The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions*, IEA, May 2021; McKinsey analysis

# mineral demand for clean energy technologies by scenario



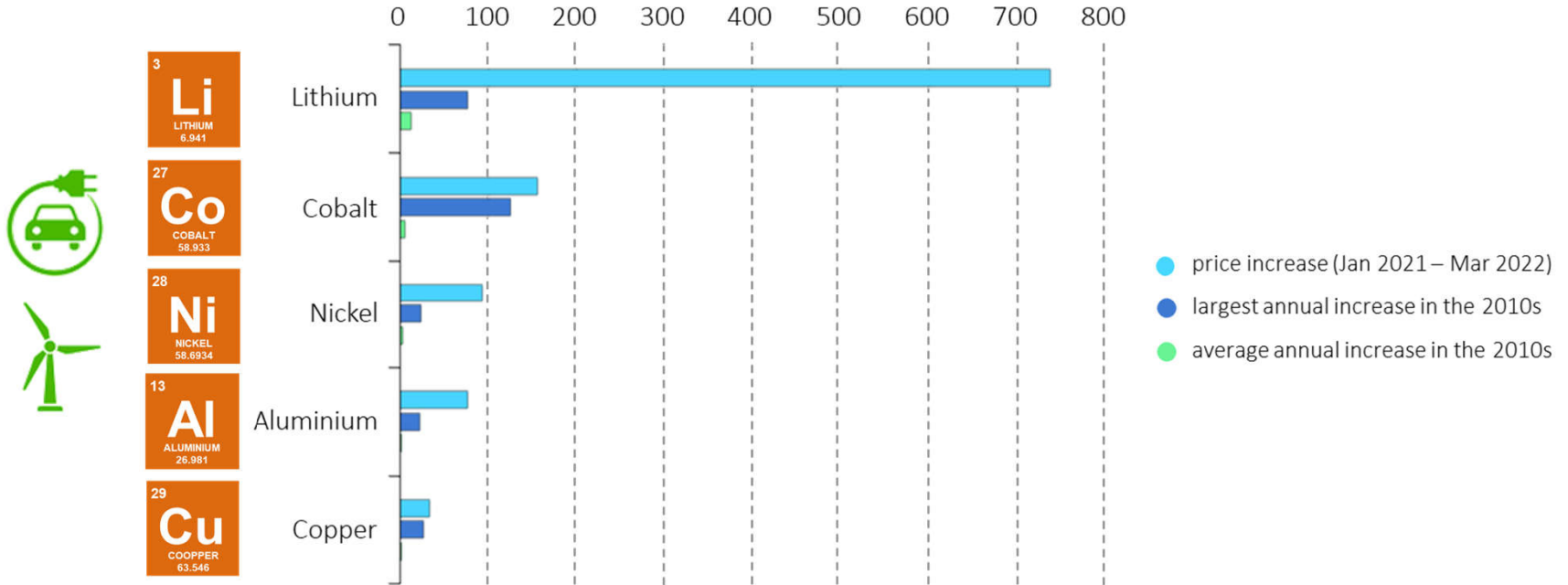
IEA. All rights reserved.

Notes: Mt = million tonnes. Includes all minerals in the scope of this report, but does not include steel and aluminium. See Annex for a full list of minerals.

[figure from: The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions, © IEA 2021]



# price increase (%) for selected energy transition materials



[figure adapted from: IEA (2022), [www.iea.org/commentaries/critical-minerals-threaten-a-decades-long-trend-of-cost-declines-for-clean-energy-technologies](https://www.iea.org/commentaries/critical-minerals-threaten-a-decades-long-trend-of-cost-declines-for-clean-energy-technologies). Licence: CC BY 4.0]

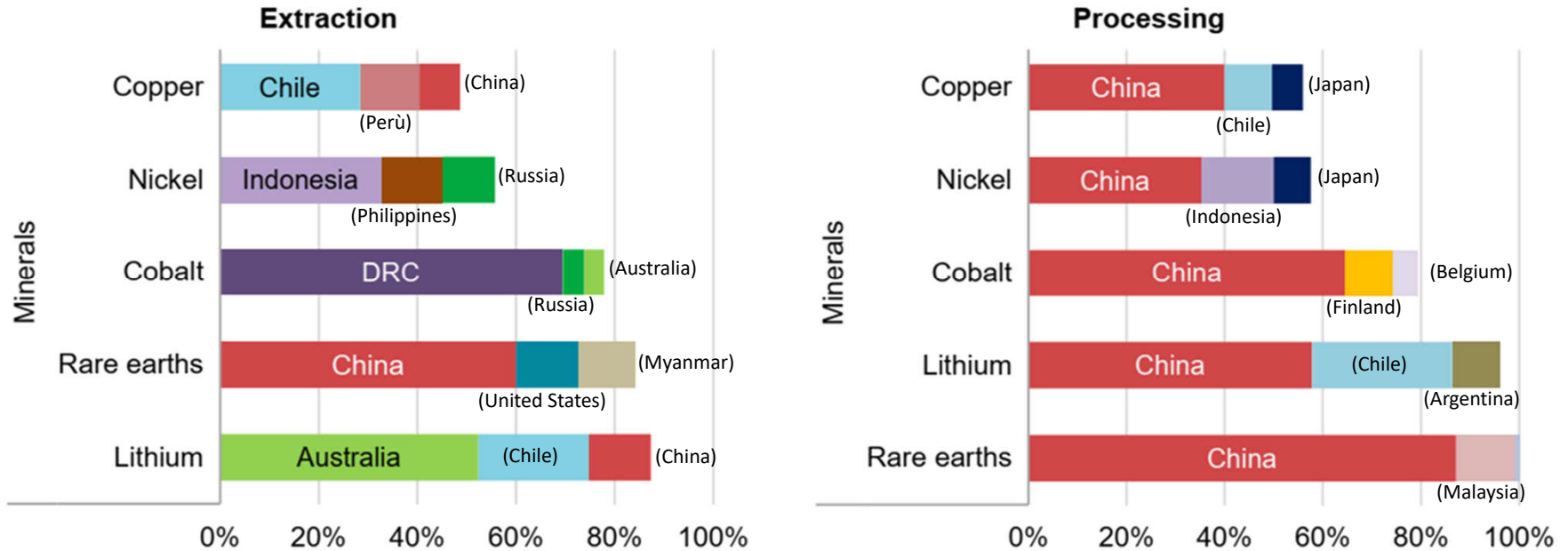
## Not In My Backyard (NIMBY)



[Belgrade 2021, demonstration against Li mine opening – source: bloomberg.com – © Oliver Bunic/Bloomberg]



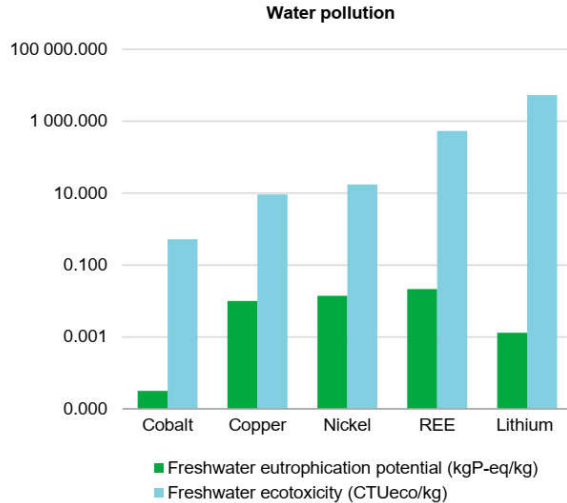
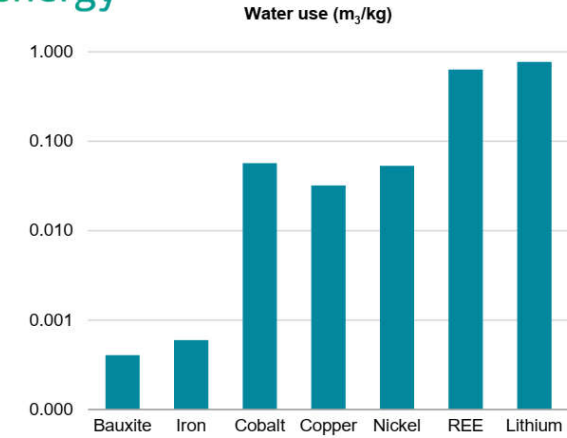
share of **top three producing countries** in production of selected minerals, 2019



[source: IEA 2021, dati: IEA (2020a); USGS (2021), World Bureau of Metal Statistics (2020); Adamas Intelligence (2020)]

[figure adapted from: The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions, © IEA 2021]

[figure adapted from: The role of critical minerals in clean energy transitions, © IEA 2021]



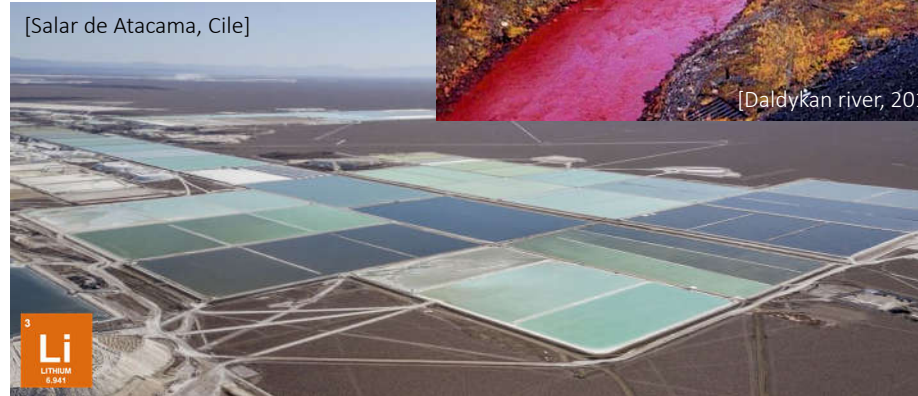
## environmental impacts

- biodiversity loss
- water depletion and pollution
- waste-related contamination
- air pollution

[picture from: siberiantimes.com - © Vkontakte]



[Salar de Atacama, Chile]



[Daldykan river, 2016, Russia]

[picture from: bloomberg.com - © Cristobal Olivares/Bloomberg]

[2021]

# IN BROAD DAYLIGHT

Uyghur Forced Labour and Global Solar Supply Chains



“We are concerned about the impacts of extracting minerals [...] for renewable energy technologies on communities, workers and ecosystems around the world”

[Declaration on Mining and the Energy Transition, HRW, Oct 2021]



IISD [2017]

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**“THIS IS WHAT WE DIE FOR”**

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO POWER THE GLOBAL TRADE IN COBALT

[2016]



NYROLA ELIMÄ  



# sustainability ↔ responsibility

**sustainable  
price**

e.g. REE extraction costs in Ganzhou: **4.500 USD/ton**,  
including environmental remediation: **30.000 USD/ton**

[source: [www.chinawaterrisk.org](http://www.chinawaterrisk.org)]



# *energy transition* heavily relies on many **raw materials**

## *issues of concern*

- the **demand** for these materials will greatly **increase** in the near future
- mining/processing of these materials is **concentrated** in few countries
- mining/processing of these materials can have big **environmental & social impacts**

## *solutions*

- increase production & investments in mining
- plan for the long term
- increase **research/innovation**
- scale up **recycling** for specific materials
- **diversify supply**
- promote **awareness / social consensus** on mining activities (*no NIMBY*)
- foster **corporate responsibility & accountability**
- promote **certified / transparent supply chains**
- promote **sustainable mining / processing** (*use of renewables, environmental remediation*)
- promote awareness about **real costs** (*environmental, social*) & critical consumption

“A truly clean, **just** and **equitable** energy economy will require not just a transition to cleaner sources of energy, but transformation on an individual and collective level. We urge you to join us and ensure that the move to clean energy [...] helps to build climate change solutions that put **communities, workers** and **the environment** first.”

[Declaration on Mining and the Energy Transition, Human Rights Watch, Oct 2021]

# essential readings

## The Role of Critical Minerals in Clean Energy Transitions

World Energy Outlook Special Report



[2021]



## The Material Basis of Energy Transitions

Edited by  
Alena Bleicher  
Alexandra Pehlken



[2021]

## popular books

