

# **New Supply-side Economics of Green Transition: Scale Matters**

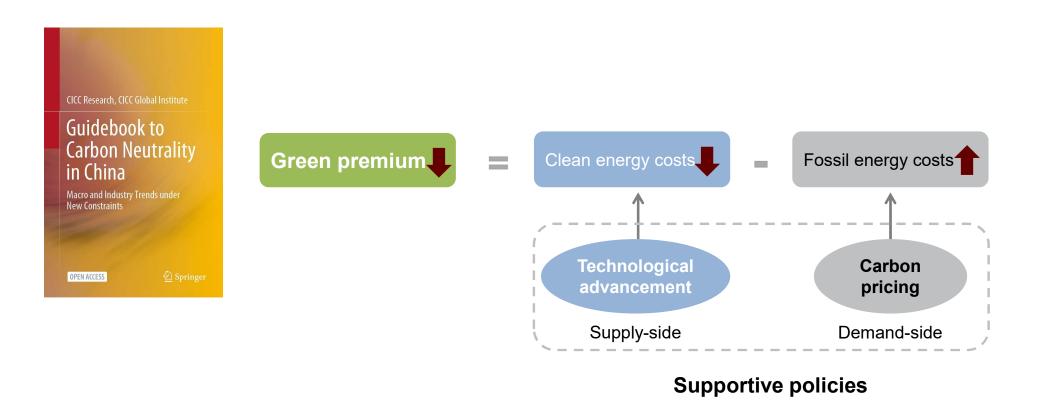
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## Two ways to reduce green premium; supportive policies are needed to correct externalities









## Two different approaches

## China focuses on the supply-side, while the EU emphasizes the demand-side; the US is in between





## **Supply-side**

### **Typical policy tools**

- Innovation subsidies
- Production and promotion of NEVs (tax exemption)
- Administrative regulation (requirements on energy storage)





- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Supply chain
   assurance strategy
   to realize clean
   energy transition



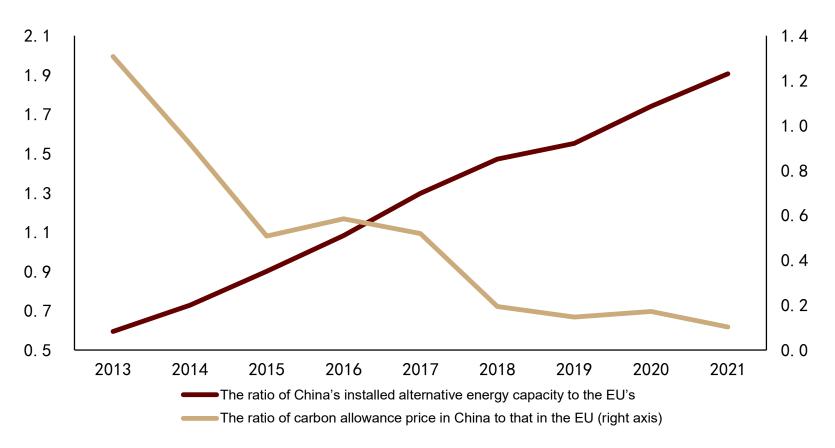
### **Demand-side**

### Typical policy tools

- Carbon market
- Carbon tax
- Purchase tax of fossil-fuel vehicles increases

## China has seen falling carbon prices but rising capacity of alternative energy, relative to the EU



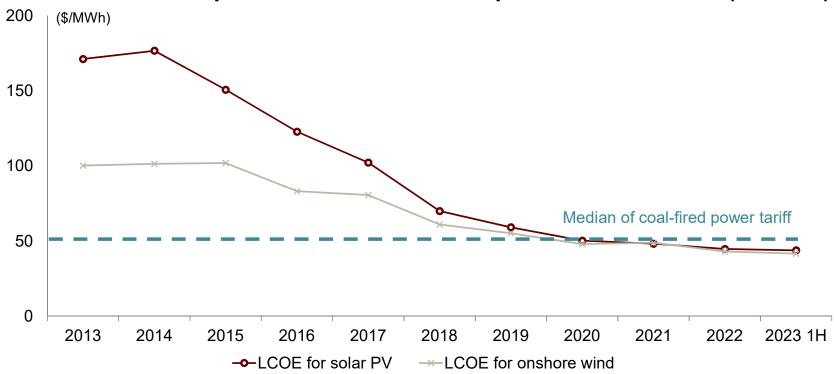


Source: BNEF, Wind, CICC Global Institute. Note: The carbon market price in China is the average price in nationwide and regional markets. The installed alternative energy capacity is the sum of cumulative wind and solar installed capacity.

## Green premium in China's power generation has become increasingly negative

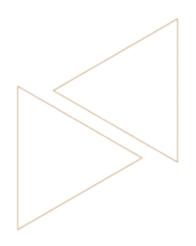


Comparison of levelized costs of energy (LCOE) for solar PV and onshore wind power with the coal-fired power tariff in China (2023 1H)



Source: BNEF, provincial development and reform commissions, CICC Global Institute. Note: The data for solar PV is the LCOE of fixed-axis PV systems, the LCOE per kWh of solar power and onshore wind power is the national average, and the benchmark coal-fired power tariff is the median of various provinces.

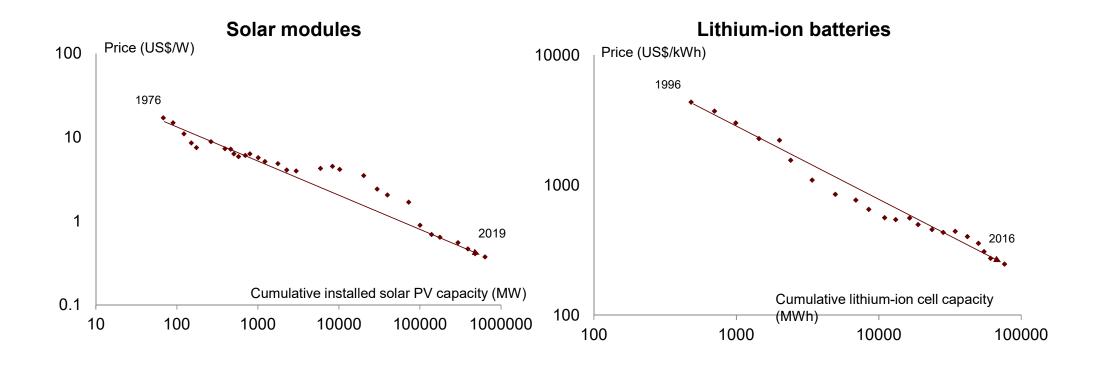




# **Economies of scale drive China's green premium down**

## The new energy industry exhibits economies of scale similar to the manufacturing industry

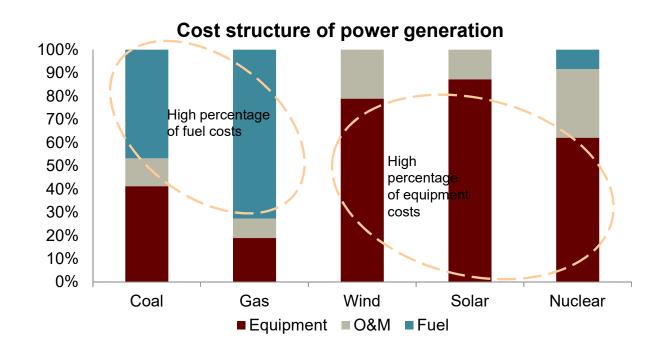




## Reason 1: High equipment investment costs



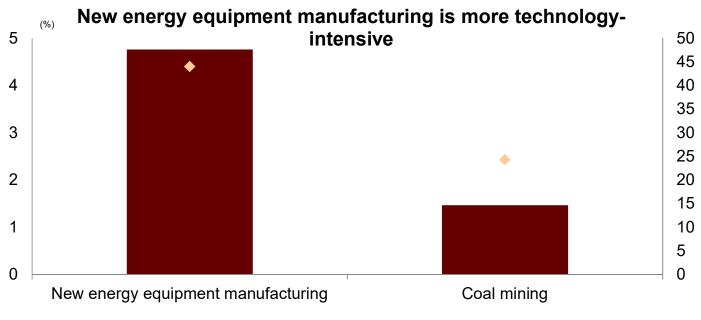
■ The share of equipment costs in total expenses is higher in the new energy industry than that in the fossil fuel industry





## Reason 2: Large R&D investments

New energy industry has shorter technologies iteration cycle, higher percentage of R&D investments, and more patent applications

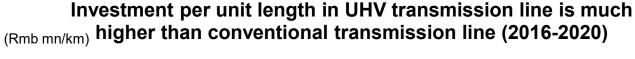


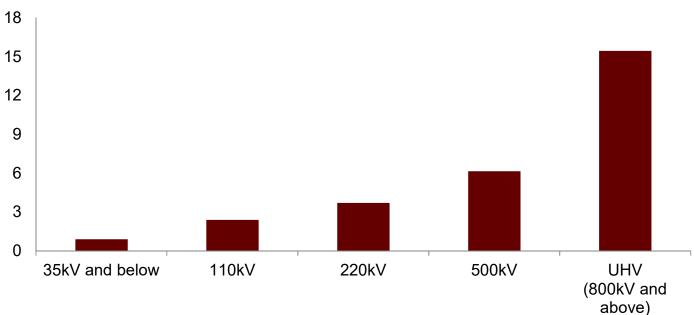
- R&D investment as a proportion of operating income
- Average number of patent applications (RHS)

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## Reason 3: Dependence on infrastructure

■ New energy industry has high requirements for long-distance transmission capacity and the quality of short-distance power grids





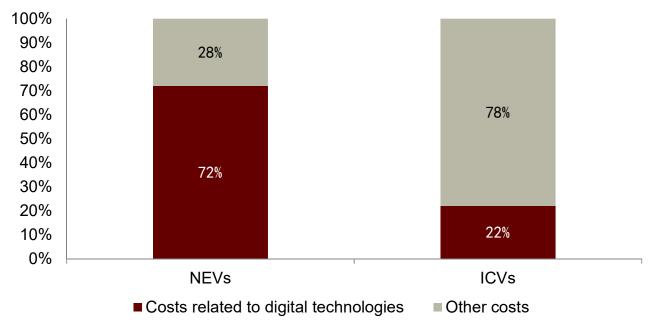
Source: China Electricity Council, State Grid Corporation of China, CICC Global Institute. Note: Data spans from 2016 to 2020.

## Digital economy amplifies economies of scale



■ Data as a factor of production can contribute to lowering the marginal cost of green products and enhancing their service attributes (e.g., auto driving)

### Costs related to digital technologies in NEVs and ICVs



Source: Autohome.com, CICC Research. Note: Data is from 2021.



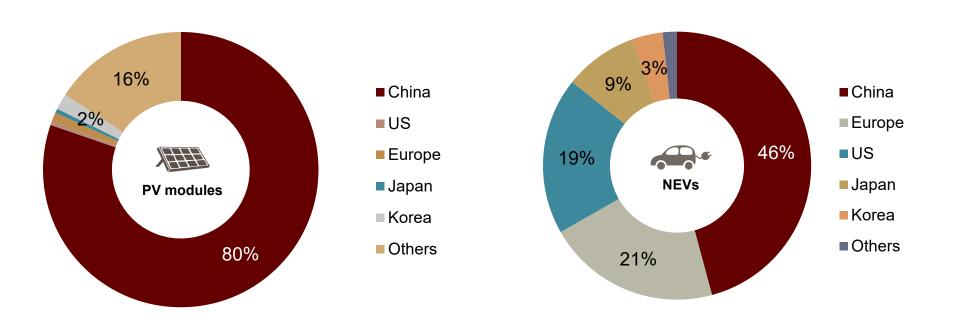


## **Opportunities and challenges**

# Economy of scale helps green transition, but may increase protectionism with global implications

China's PV modules production capacity accounts for 80% of the world

China's NEVs production accounts for nearly 50% of the world





## Thank you!





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