

Every once in a while, you see a graph that conveys a mountain of information. But in one article, "Renewables at a Crossroads", Public Utilities Fortnightly had two such charts. [If you follow the energy and utility business, you need to go to fortnightly.com and subscribe.]

Here are two charts that will help you understand where electric generation costs are in America in 2011 - the only omission, and it's too bad this wasn't covered, is coal generation "build vs. buy" costs. One assumes it's a lack of market data on such transactions.

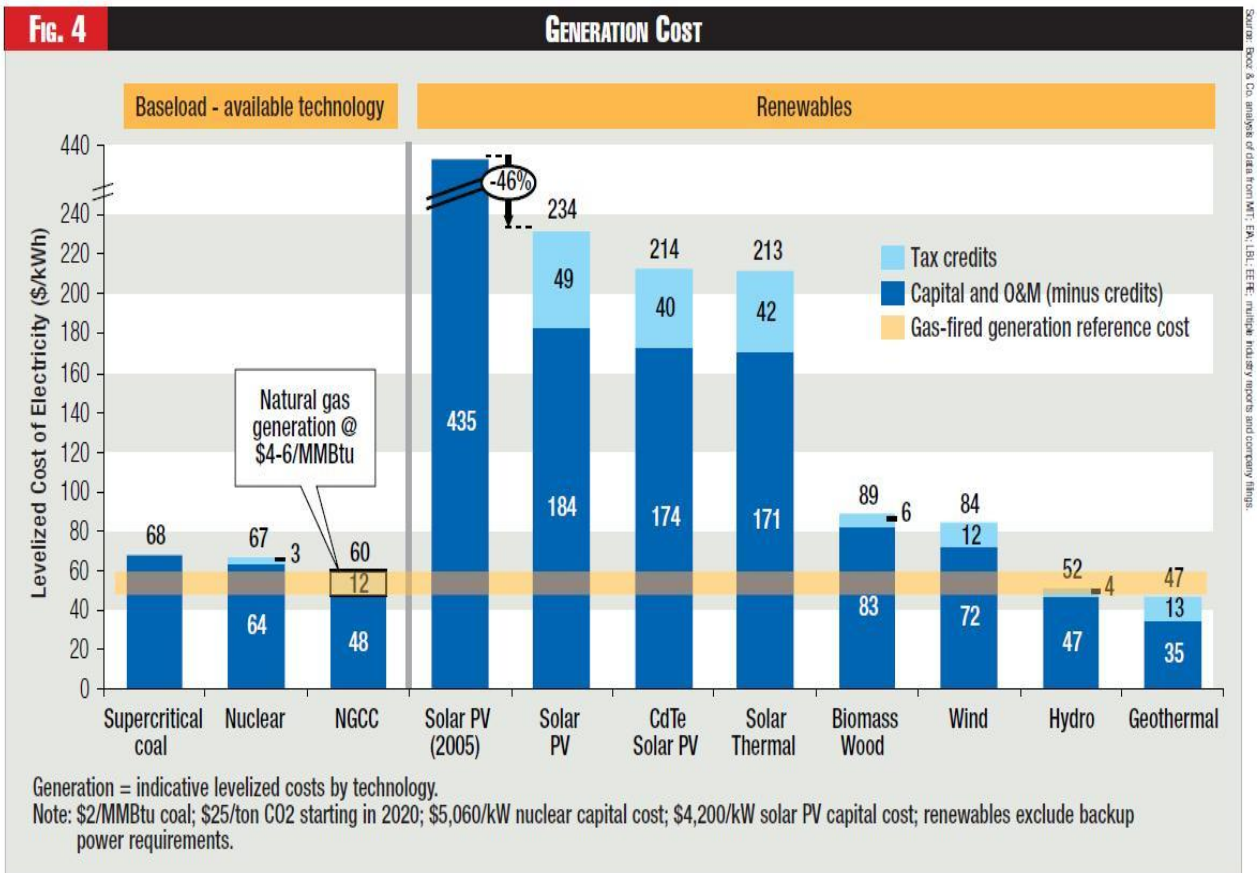
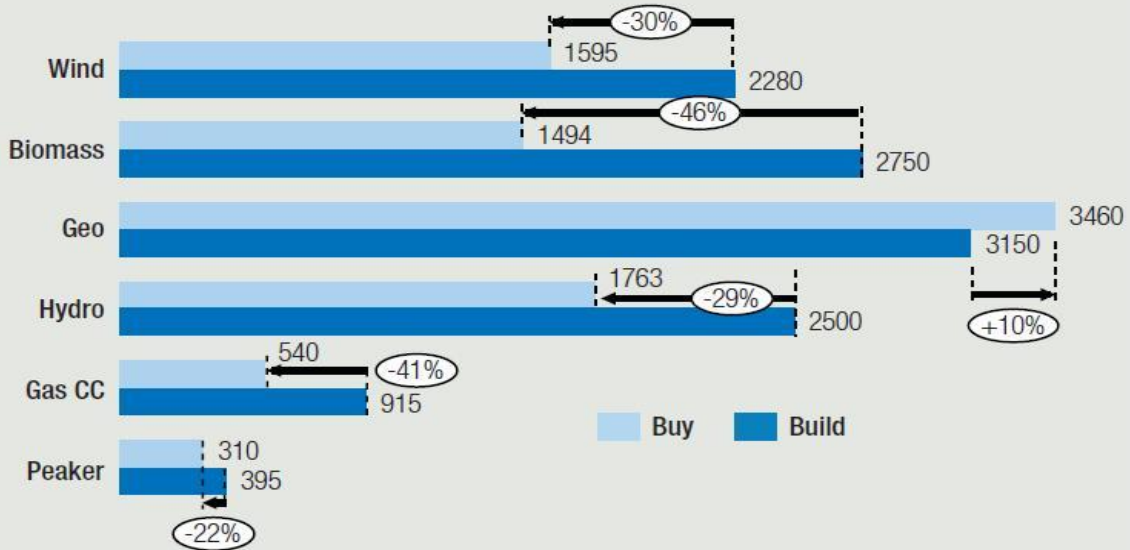


FIG. 7**BUILD vs. BUY COMPARISON (\$/kW)**

Source: Bore & Co. analysis of data from SML and GenEnergy



Notes: Biomass includes waste-to-energy only. Solar data not available. Build-cost estimate based on levelized investment costs. Buy estimate based on average values of transactions in 2008. Geothermal transactions include only one transaction in 2008.