

# Carbon in transition

Systemic innovation for the fossil carbon industry



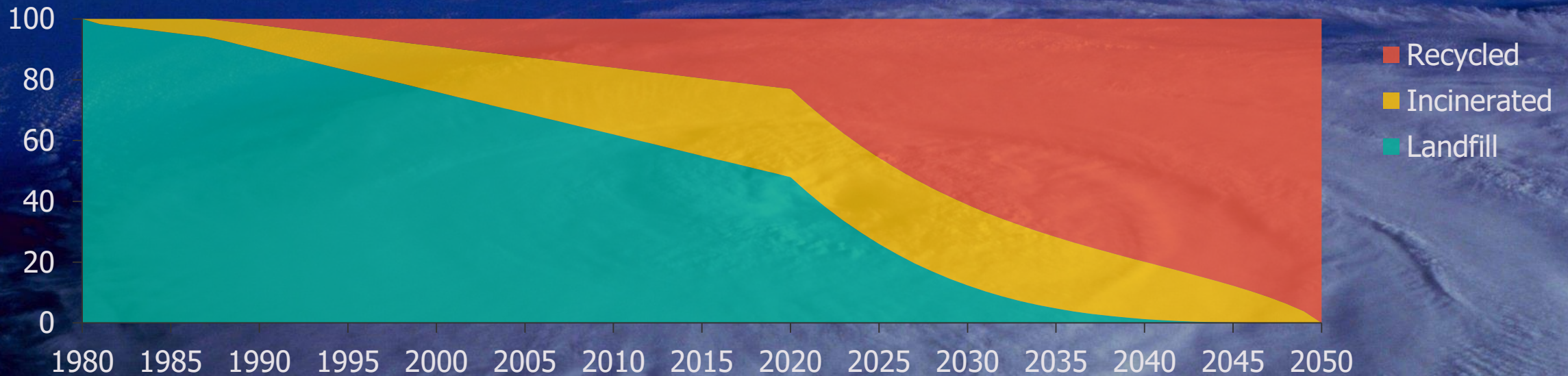
Dr Arij van Berkel

**SIEW IEEJ Roundtable 2020**

## THE PERFECT STORM BREWING FOR PLASTICS

# Environmental pressure leads to circular economy policy

Fate of plastic waste  
historic and extrapolated (%)

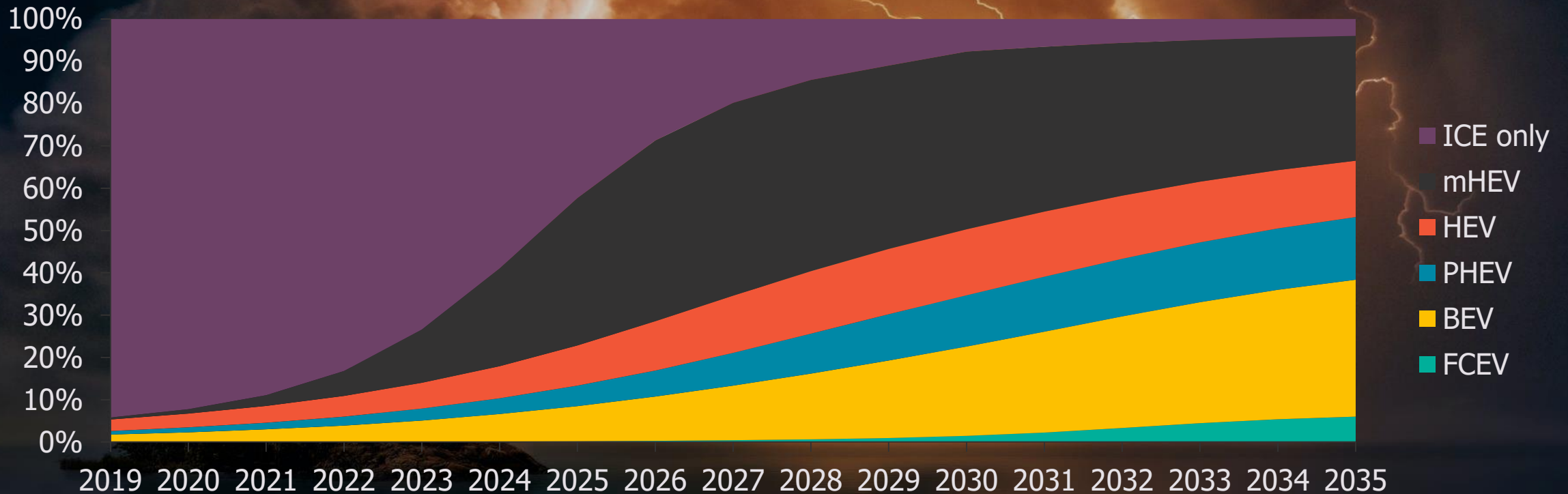


- End all landfilling by 2040
- Completely circular plastic economy by 2050
- Still 0.7 GT/a CO<sub>2</sub> emission due to losses in recycling

## THE PERFECT STORM BREWING FOR PLASTICS

# Electrification erodes the feedstock base of the industry

### Global new vehicle powertrain market share



- In 2035: 53% of global vehicle sales battery or fuel cell electric, 38% uses no fossil fuel at all
- About 18% of the fleet will not use fossil fuel by 2035
- Decline in fuel demand in 2035 is approximately 14%, compared to 2019

## AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN TWO CHEMISTRIES

# Biobased chemistry doesn't fit in

Nett Carbon price (USD/kg C)



Nett carbon price is the price of the feedstock minus the value of the energy contained in it per kg C in the feedstock.

In this graph energy costs 40 USD/MWh and carbon capture costs are 80 USD/tonne

- Carbon from biomass is not fundamentally more expensive than carbon from crude
- However the chemistry is different, making it hard to introduce biobased chemicals
- The worlds is at a crossroads: continue fossil petrochemistry or start afresh?

## IN PERIL OF DISRUPTION

# The incumbent fossil industry can adapt, but may lose

### ADAPTING

- Plastic recycling can feed the existing crackers
- Recycling will boost the image of plastics and reduce concerns in the general public
- Incumbent materials do not require redesign of products

### LOSING

- Recycling only captures 60% of the carbon
- Supplementing with biobased or CO<sub>2</sub>-based makes incumbent materials expensive
- Superior biodegradable CO<sub>2</sub> based materials may be cheaper
- New materials will hinder the recycling value chain

**Dr Arij van Berkel**

+31 20 280 7908

[arij.vanberkel@luxresearchinc.com](mailto:arij.vanberkel@luxresearchinc.com)