

Exploratory Modeling & the CESAR Pathways Project: Reframing the Climate Challenge



greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.





□ For Canada to meet its 2030 and 2050 climate change commitments, transformative / disruptive changes are needed in the human systems that give rise to

> Decision makers would benefit from projections detailing the nature and timing of the **technological**, infrastructure, and behavioural changes (called 'Pathways') capable of achieving the stated commitments.

To identify & characterize such pathways, a new approach is needed for technology-rich energy systems modeling.









References: [1] <u>http://www.cesarnet.ca</u> [2] <u>http://www.whatiftechnologies.com/caness</u>



• CESAR [1] has been working what If? Technologies Inc. [2] to use their Canadian Energy Systems Simulator (CanESS) as

Disruptive Technology Deployment in US Household Sector

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The **CESAR Pathway Project** uses the following exploratory modeling approach:

1. Understand strengths, weaknesses and unintended consequences of existing human systems incl. GHGs) **2. Identify** possible disruptive technologies

3. Build technology-rich 'Narratives' that describe a compelling vision for an improved future for human

4. Extract 'levers' (metrics) for an energy system that would need to change (how far and when) to realize the alternative energy future;

5. Model impacts on energy flows and GHG emissions 6. Assess costs, benefits & trade-offs; readjust 'levers'

7. Identify policy and investment options for

> An integrated, multi-fuel, multi-sector model with detailed accounting for the sources and uses of energy and the GHG emissions across Canada;

> A dynamic tool for scenario analysis with a long-term horizon, and therefore a platform for exploring energy

Disaggregated by province and accounts for energy production, use and trade for all fuels and feedstocks; Calibrated with observed historical data from 1978 to the present, and enables projection of scenarios forward in one-year time steps to 2050 and beyond; Present-day and future harvest, conversion and service technologies are explicitly represented \succ As such, the impact of any technological change deemed suitable can be explored through scenarios.