

# The True Costs: Solar Photovoltaics

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# Renewable cost analysis at IRENA

Fills an important gap in knowledge

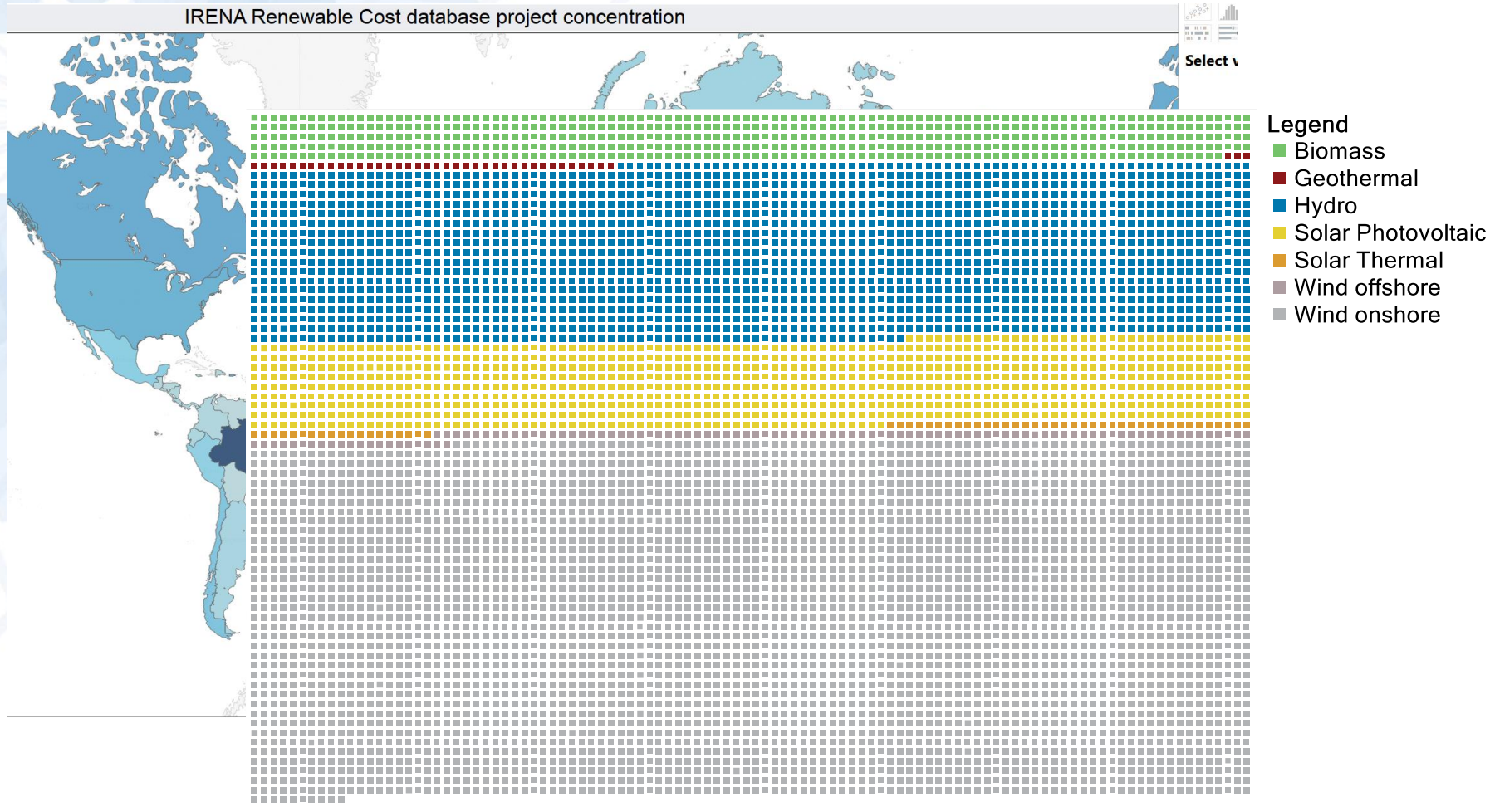
World-class database of costs

Cutting edge analysis, not just data

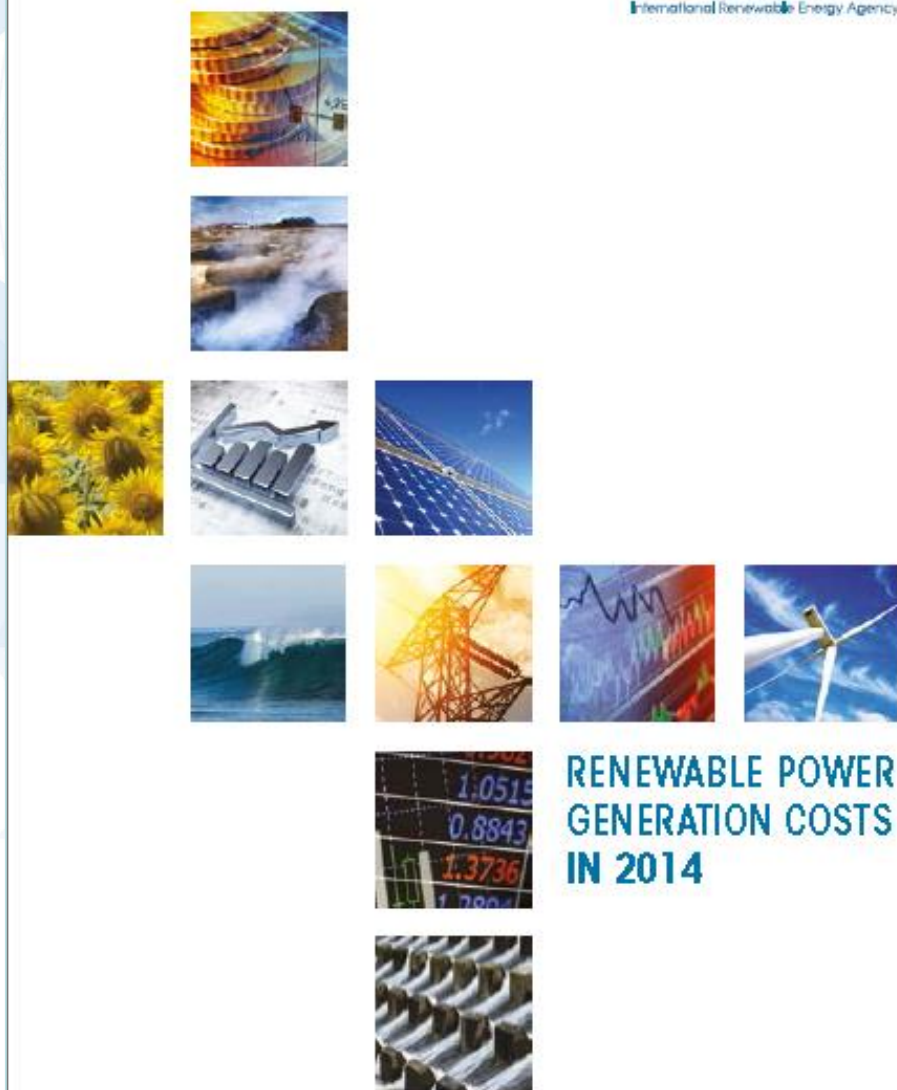
More products and analysis coming

Costing Alliance deepens engagement

# Power generation database



15000 utility-scale projects, 9000 with LCOE data



# Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2014



# Highlights

The relentless improvement in competitiveness continues

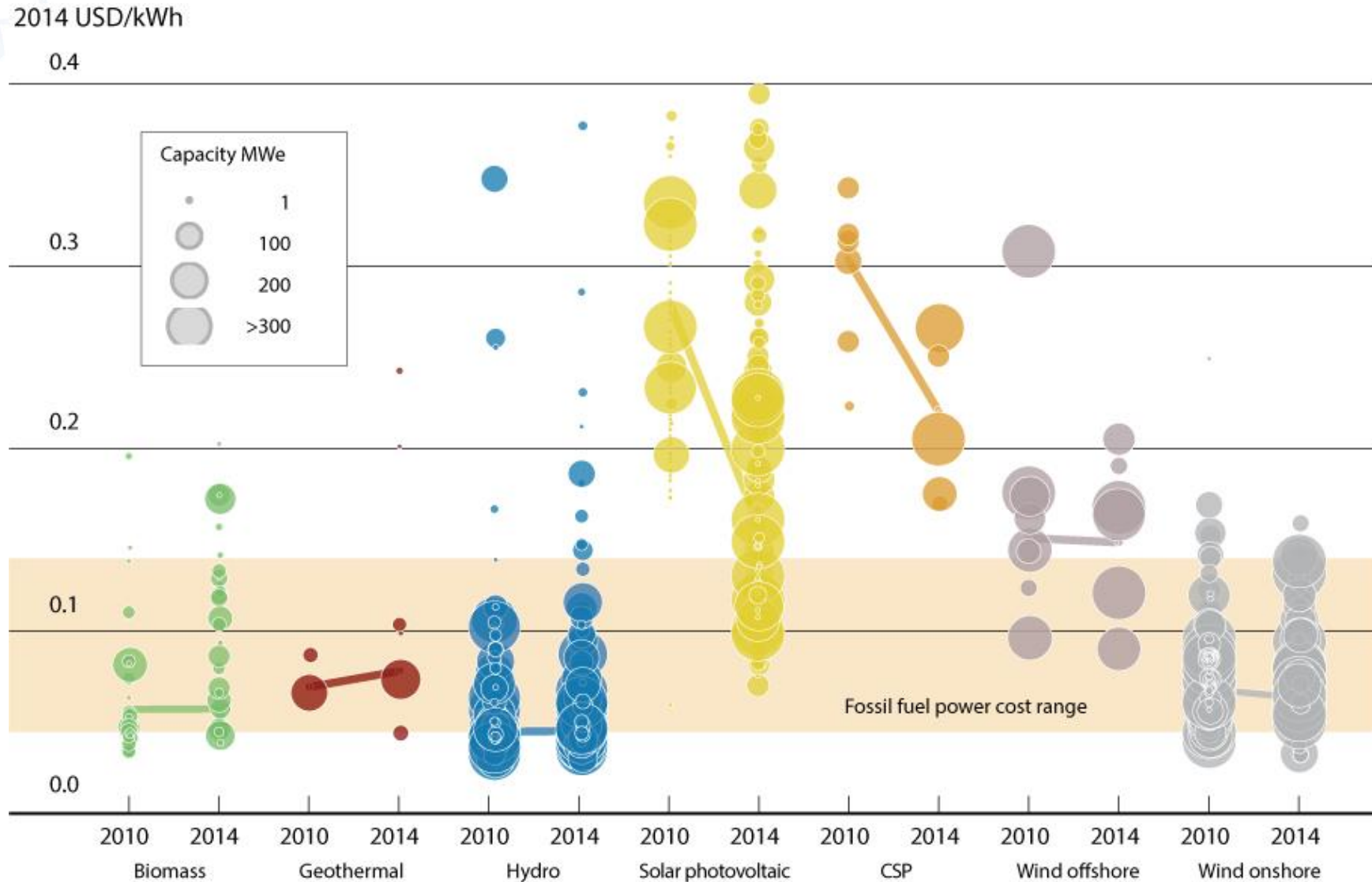
Renewables competing head-to-head with fossil fuels

Integrating variable renewables doesn't change the conclusions

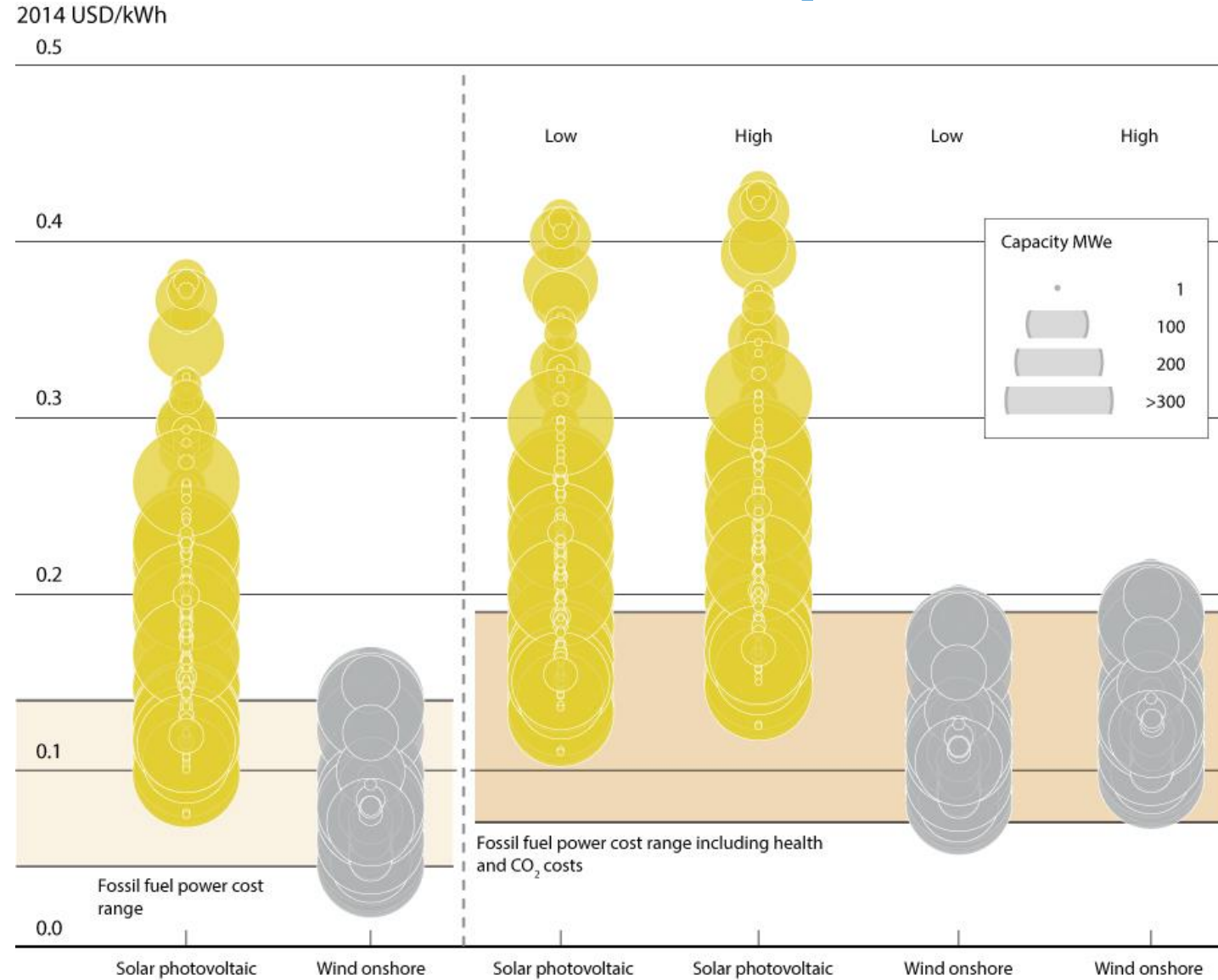


Future cost reductions will be more challenging, policy driven

# Renewables competitiveness continues to improve

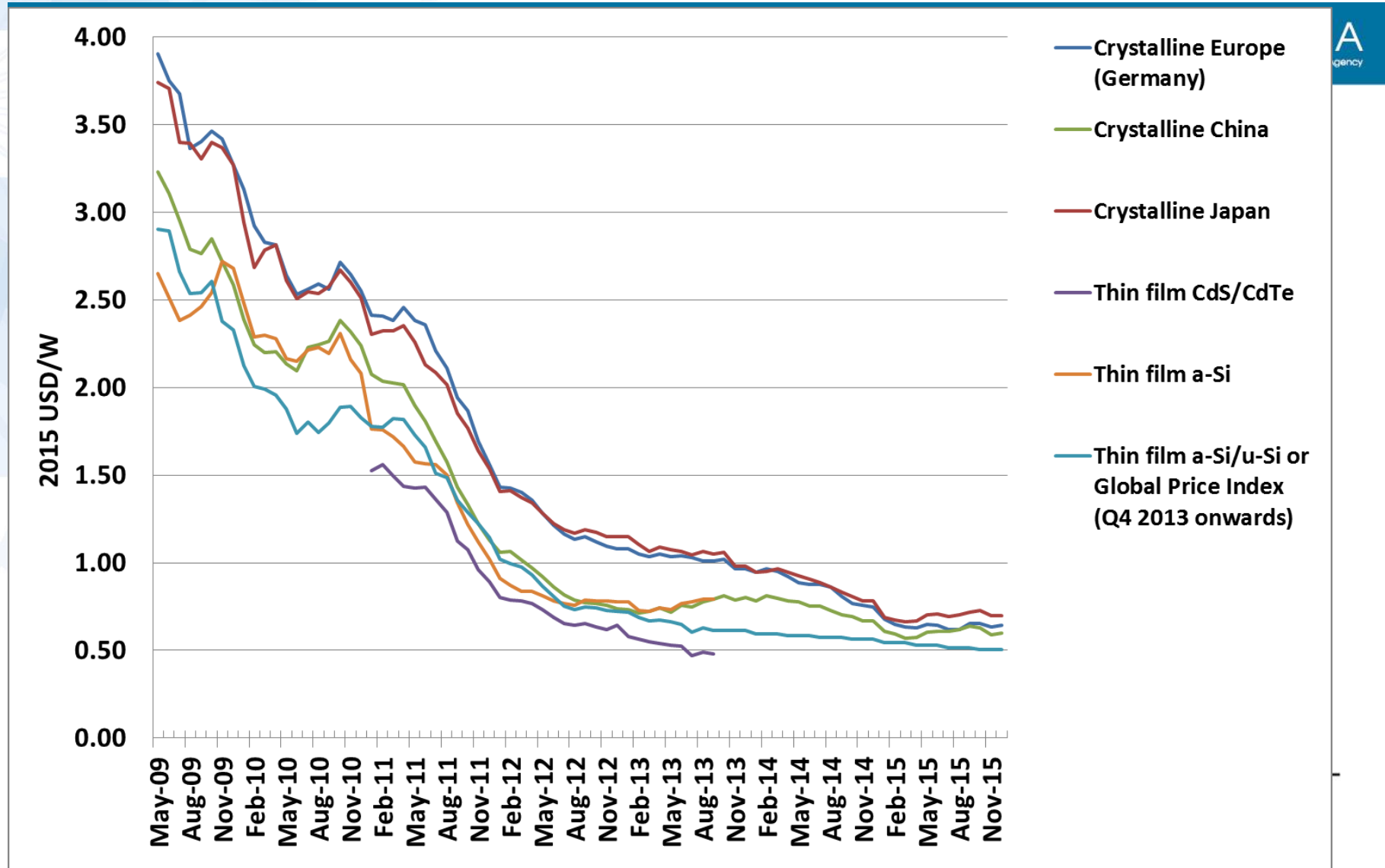


# Integrating high levels of variable renewables is competitive



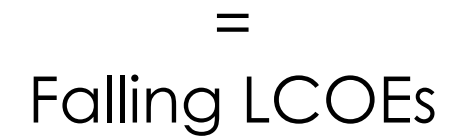
# SOLAR PV COSTS

# Solar PV module prices



Sources: Based on data from IFA and the Photovoltaic Technology Platform, 2011; GlobalData, 2014; GTM Research, 2014; Liebreich, 2011; pvXchange, 2014 and IRENA analysis.

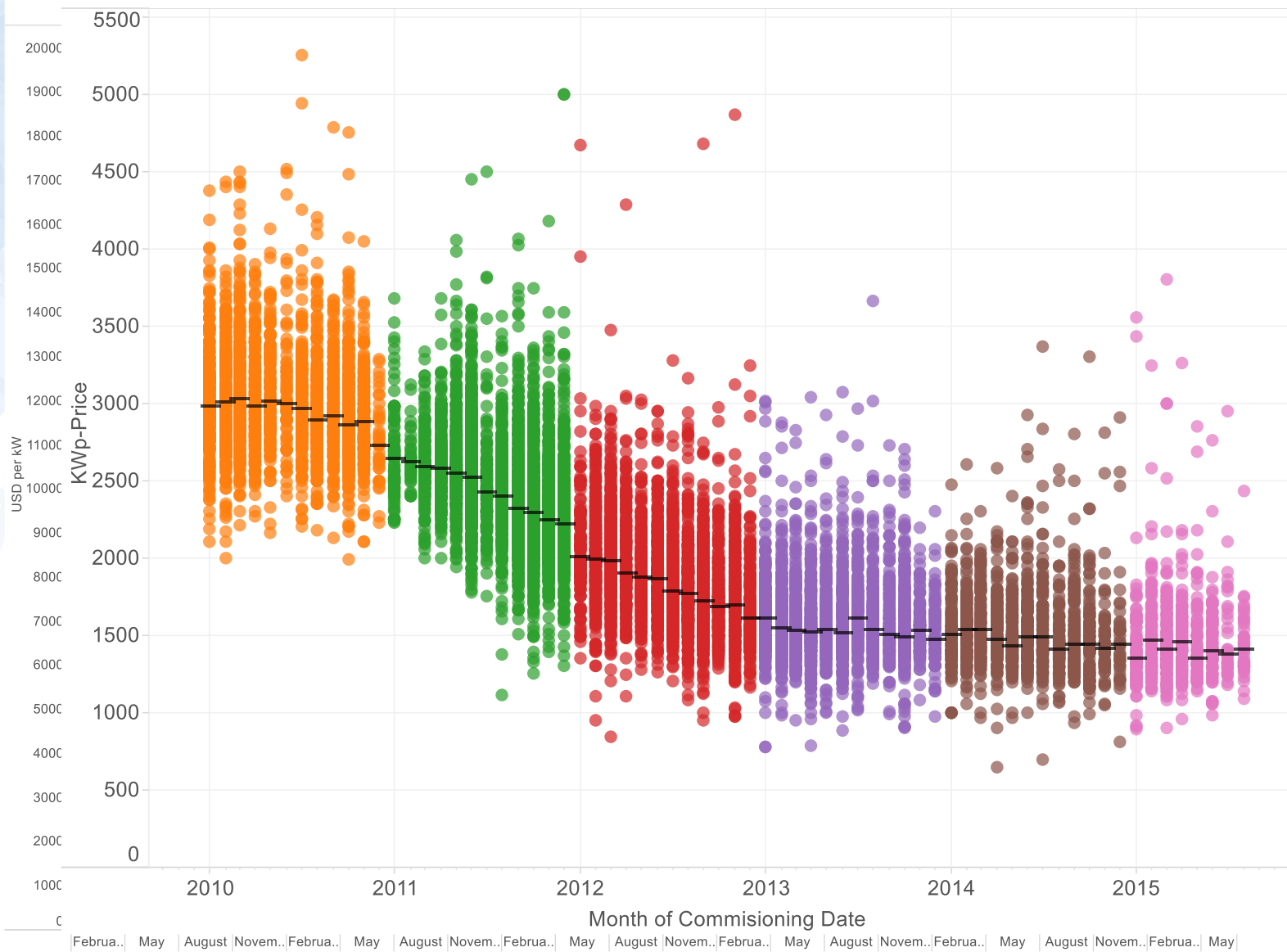
Sources: (





# Residential installed costs continue to edge lower

German residential PV system costs (2010 to 2015) source: EuPD



California

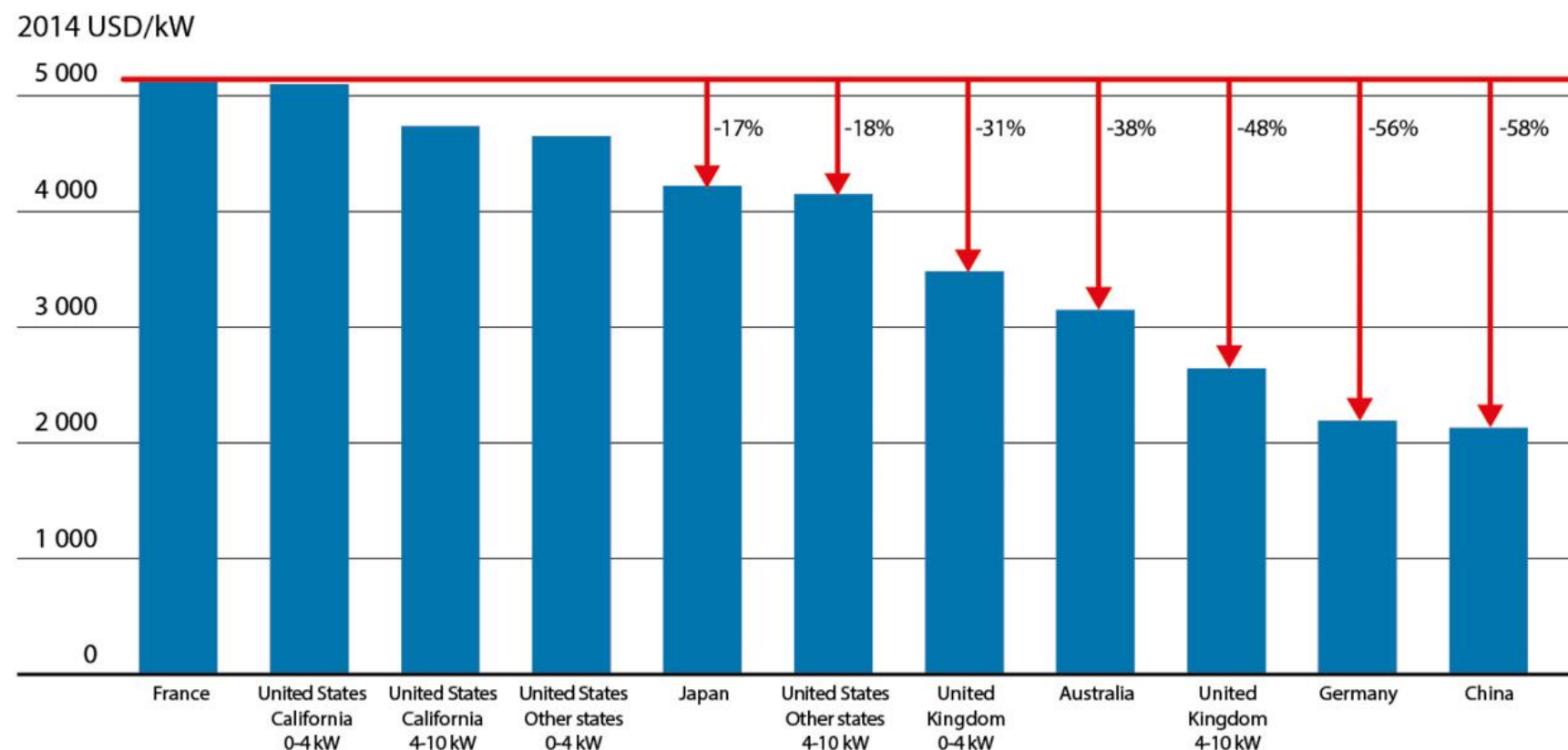
Germany



# Residential solar PV: Average cost differentials



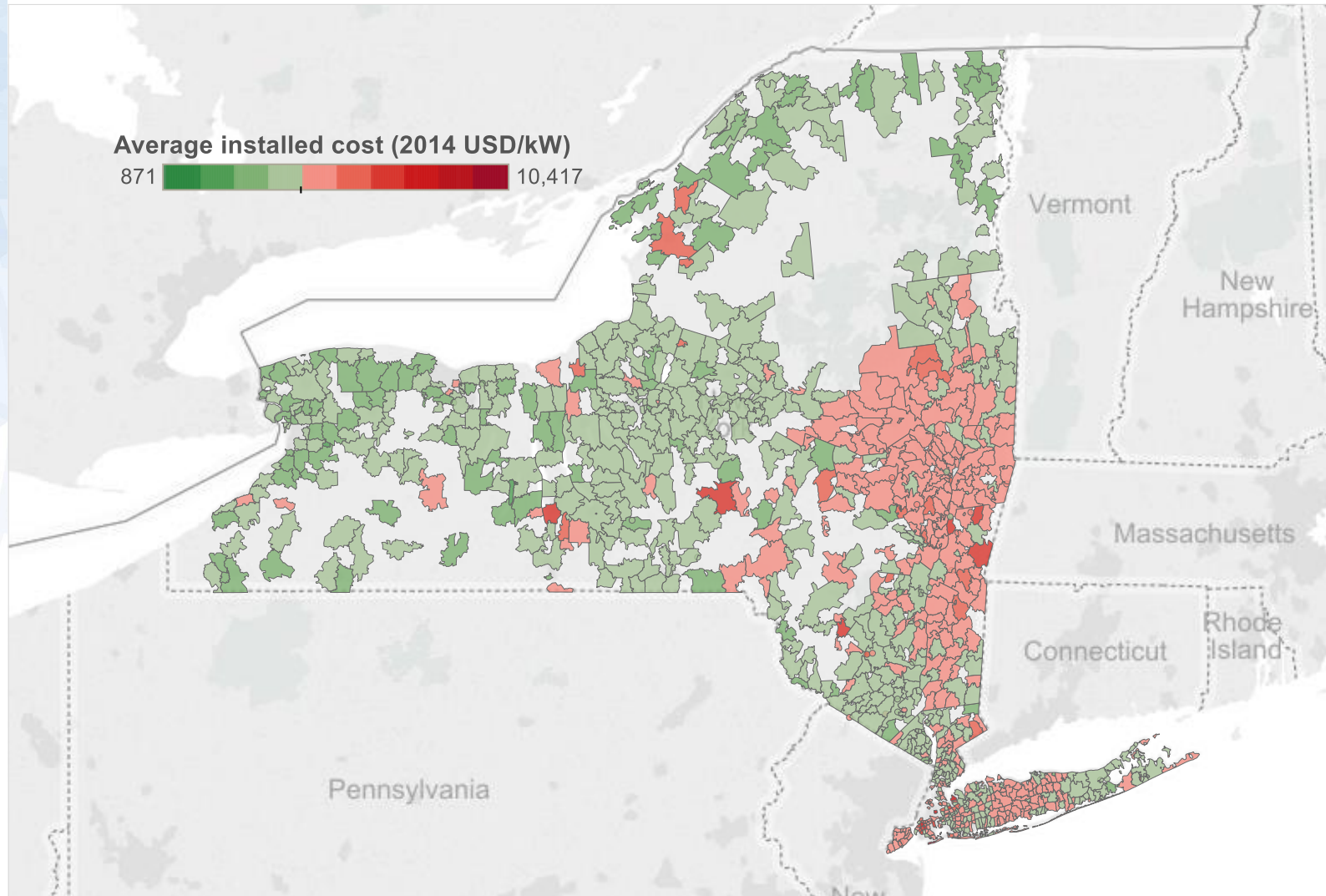
FIGURE 5.11: ESTIMATED AVERAGE TOTAL INSTALLED PV SYSTEM COSTS IN THE RESIDENTIAL SECTOR BY COUNTRY, 2014



Source: IRENA Renewable Cost Database; DECC, 2014; GSE, 2014; IEA PVPS, 2014; and Photon Consulting, 2014.

# Where do costs differ? Why?

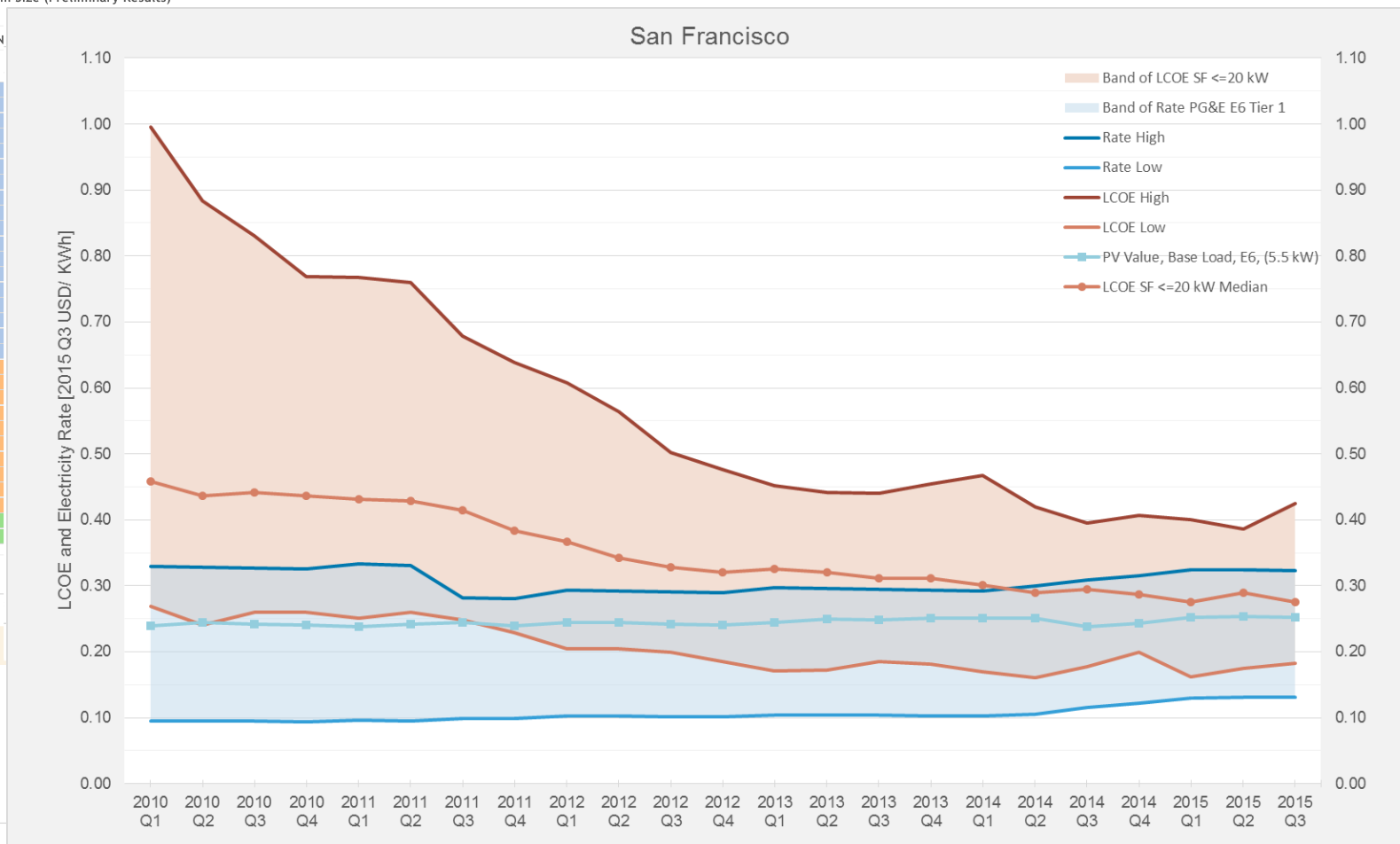
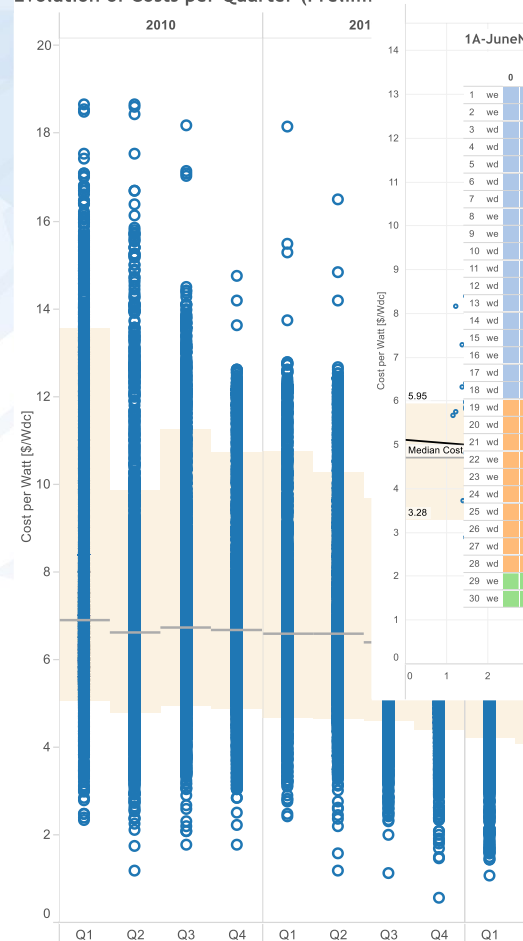
Average residential PV system cost (relative to 2014 median)



# PV Parity Indicators (Preview)

## Real Projection of Electricity Rates Analysis

Evolution of Costs per Quarter (Preliminary Results) Costs in 2014 vs System Size (Preliminary Results)



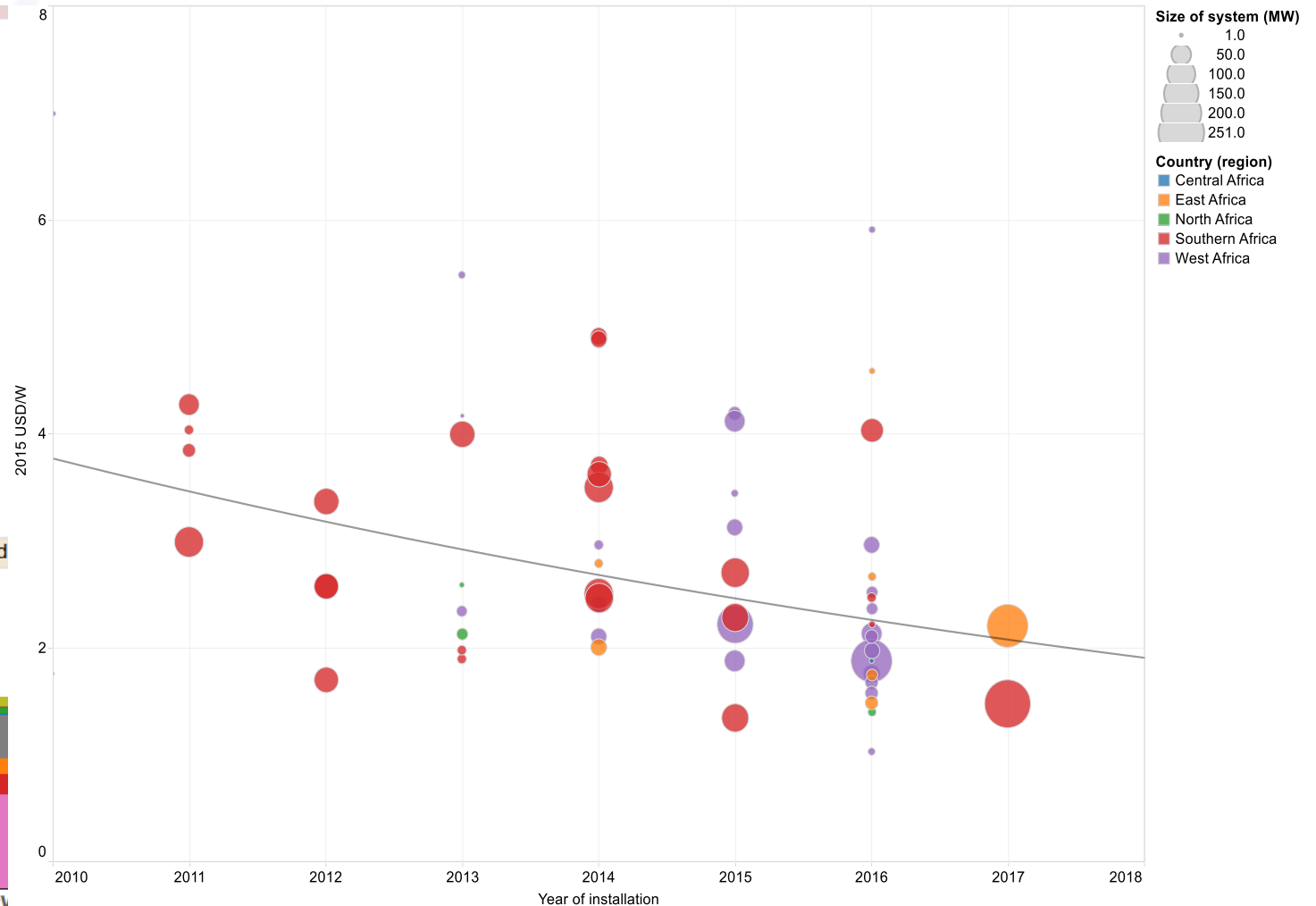
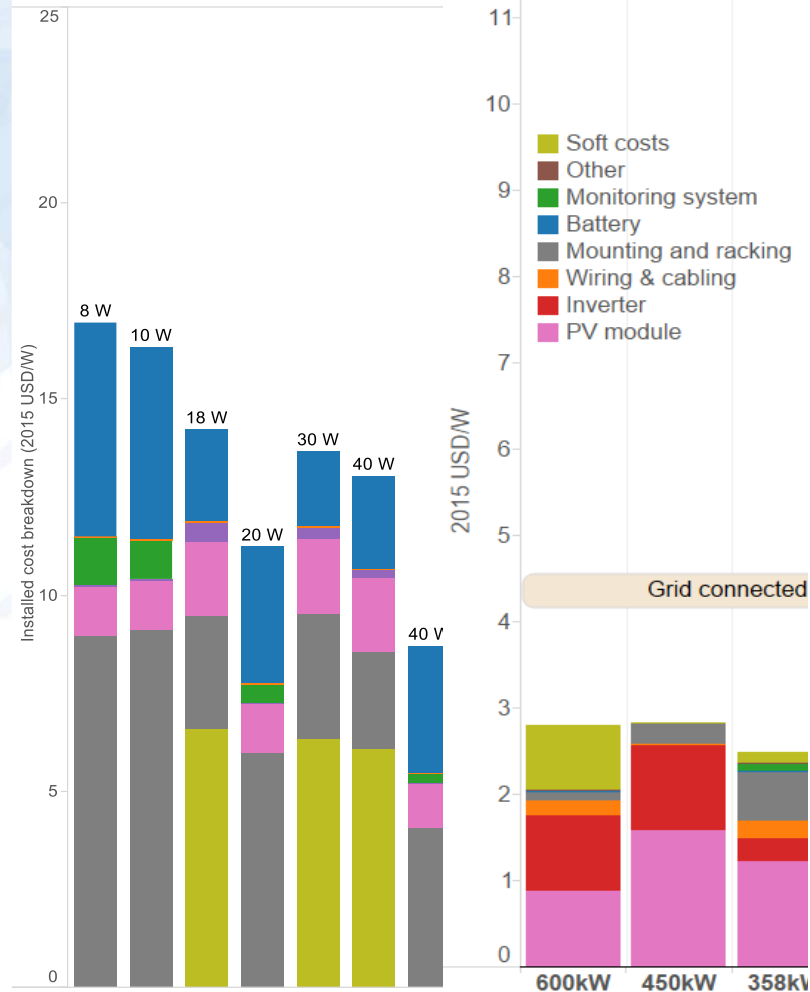
# Solar PV Costs in Africa

## Solar home systems

## Mini-grids

## Utility-scale

SHS<1kW non-institutional



Mini-grid project

# **COST REDUCTION POTENTIALS**

# Cost reduction drivers are changing

Low equipment costs change the dynamics

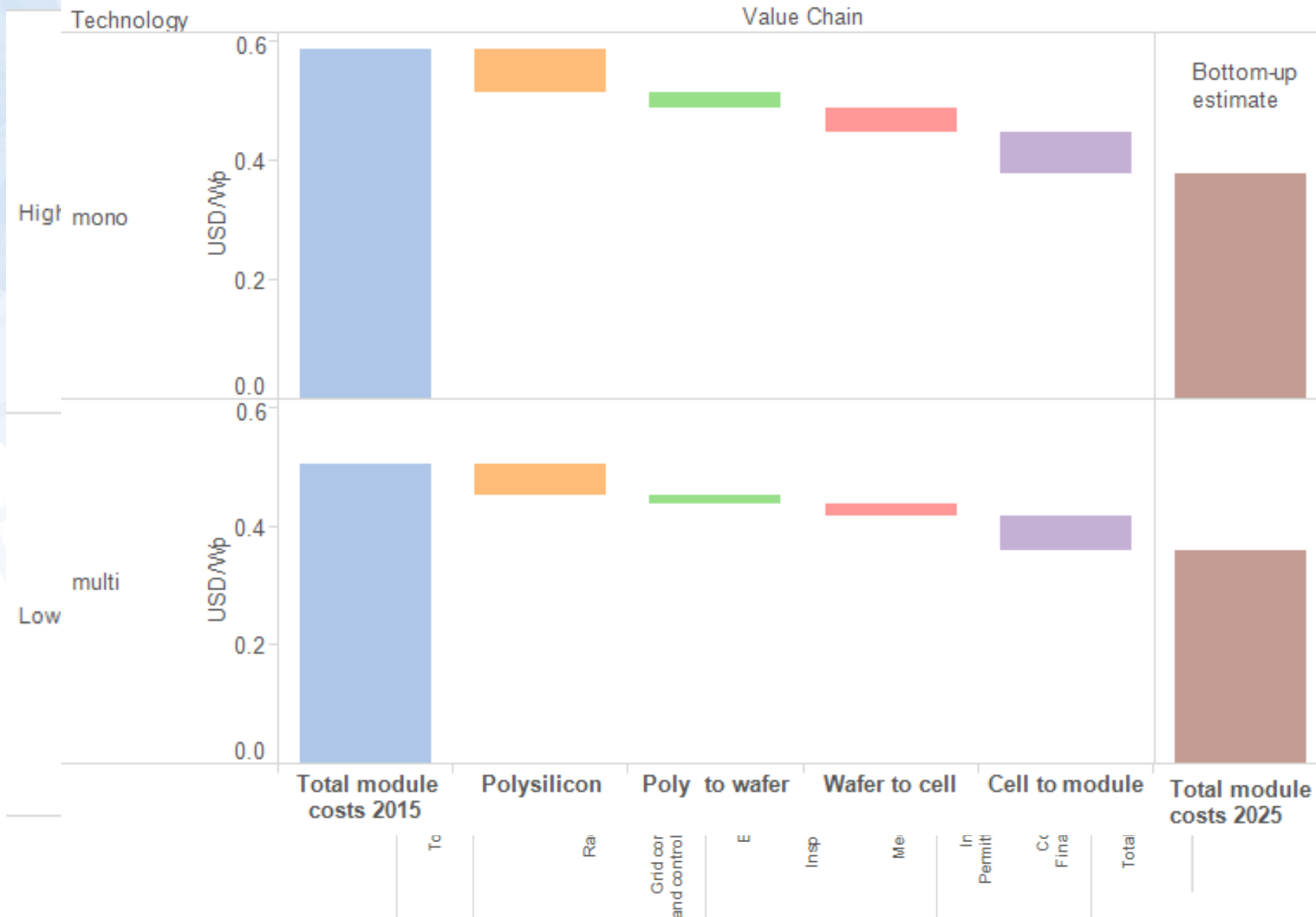
Balance of project costs, O&M, financing  
will grow in importance

In some cases more challenging to unlock

But cost differentials are large and  
the policy levers exist



# Solar PV cost reduction potentials



Large average cost reduction potential

BoS to dominate



# Upcoming cost analysis: Firm

PV parity indicators

Global wind learning curve

Stationary applications

Energy security

RE power cost reduction potentials

RE financing costs

Solar PV costs in Africa



# IRENA's Cost Analysis

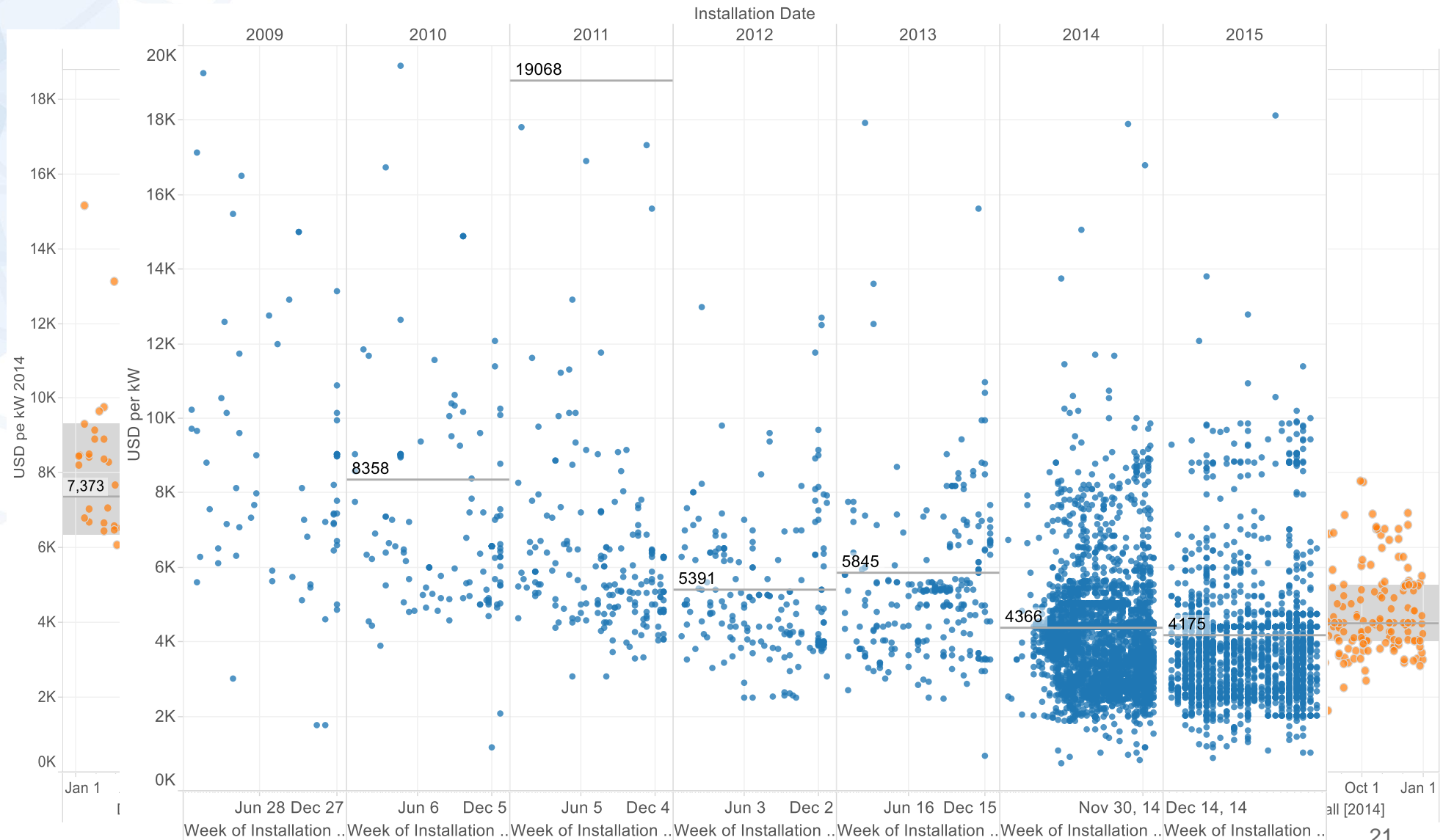


## Bringing Our Future Forward

Thank you!  
[mtaylor@irena.org](mailto:mtaylor@irena.org)

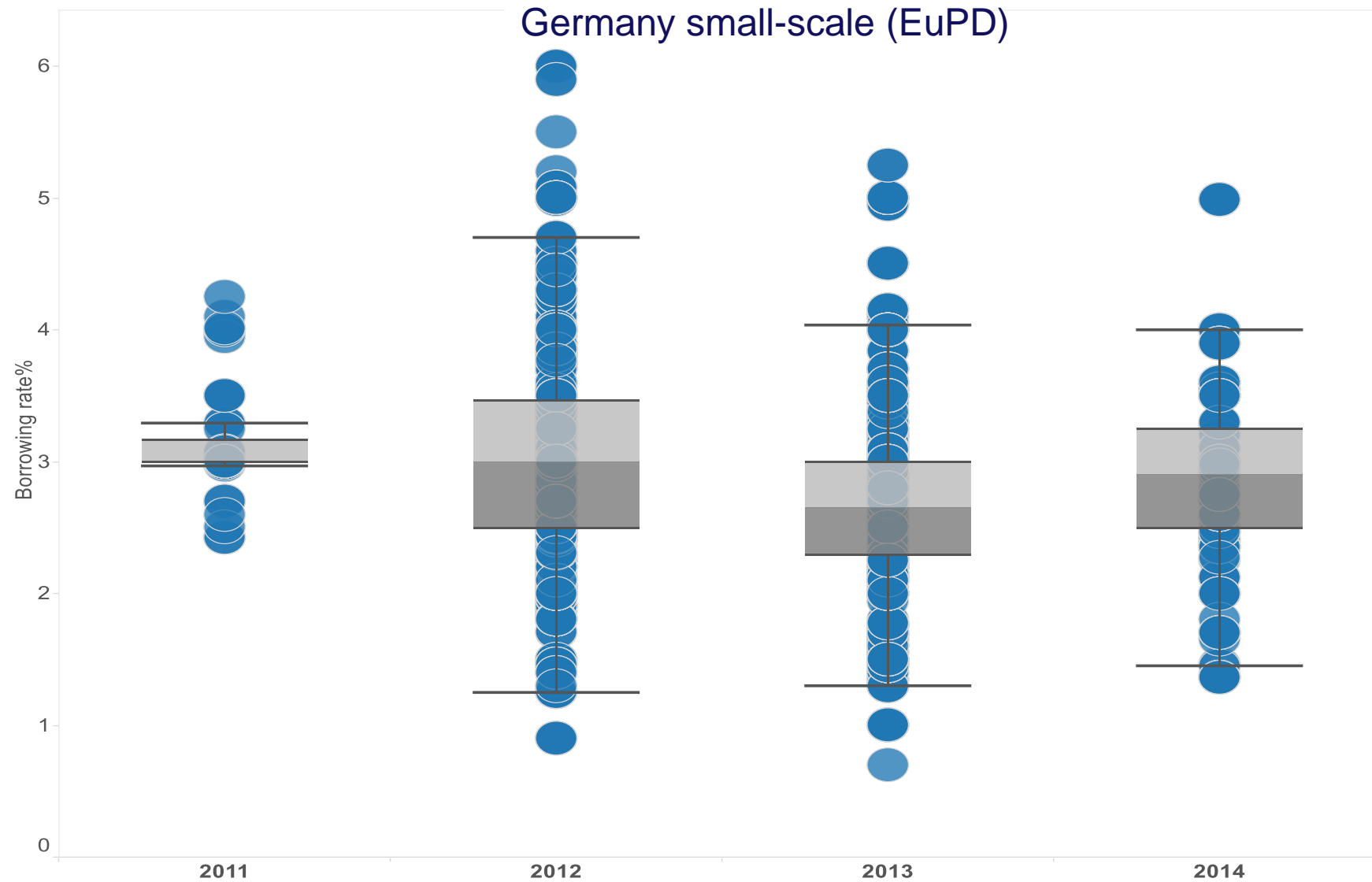
# COMMERCIAL SOLAR PV COSTS

Arizona  
New York State



# The cost of finance

16%

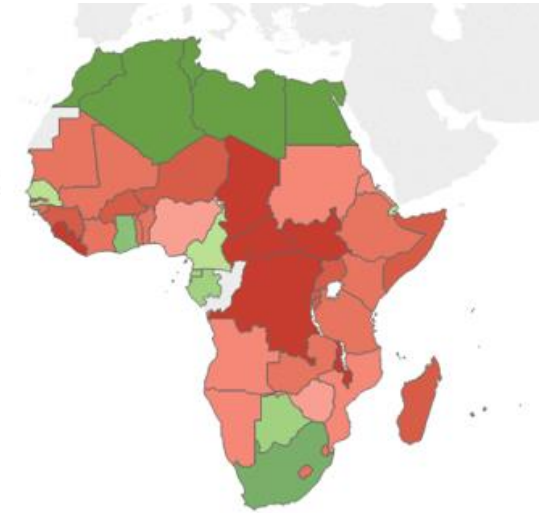


Source: Renewable Energy Finance Tracking Initiative

# Solar PV Costs in Africa

Data collection challenging, but encouraging results

- Some markets relatively competitive
- Significant cost reductions appear possible for hardware and soft costs
- Very small SHS cost structures are challenging
- Government bodies should be aware of the “reasonable” cost range for their procurement process
- Regional deep-dives necessary for greater clarity



National electrification rate  
0.0 1.0

