

# Resource efficiency in the transport sector

Dr Karla Cervantes Barron



"The views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies."

## University Partnership:





Climate Compatible Growth (CCG) is a £38 million **priority-driven** research programme.

- CCG is funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO).
- CCG promotes **investment** into **sustainable transport and energy systems** in our partner countries (2020-2025).
- **Long-term objective:** Local experts delivering **low-emission policy and investment** recommendations that support growth.



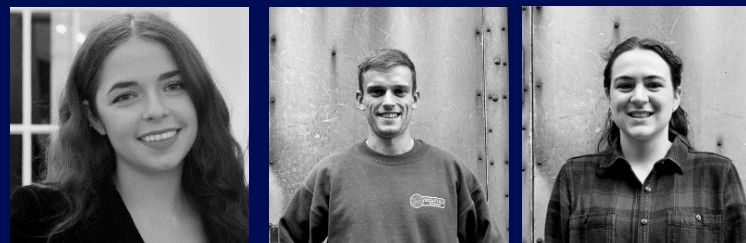
"The views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies."

#### University Partnership:





resource  
efficiency  
collective



**Resource Efficiency Collective** is a research initiative at Cambridge University. Together, we seek answers to a challenging question: how can we deliver future energy and material services, while at the same time reducing resource use and environmental impact?

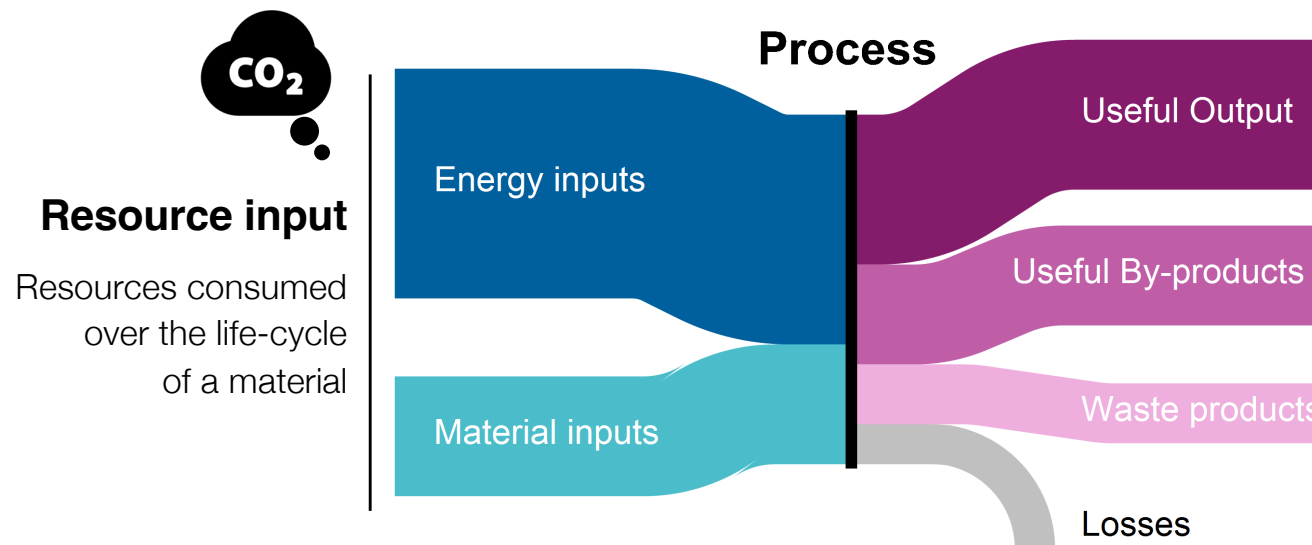


UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

[www.refficiency.org](http://www.refficiency.org)

# Resource efficiency

Can we deliver future energy and material services, while reducing resource use and environmental impact?



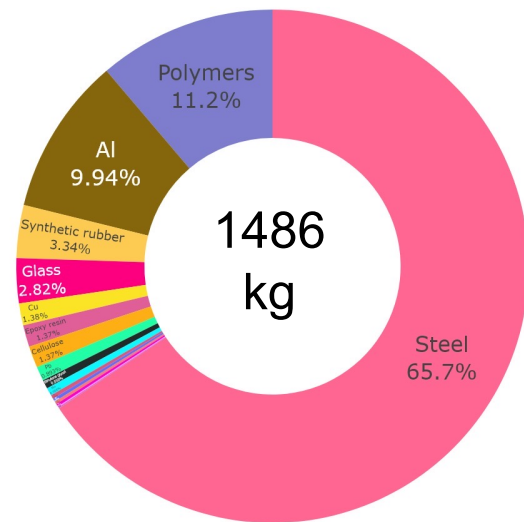
Resource  
efficiency =

$$\frac{\text{Useful output}}{\text{Resource input}}$$

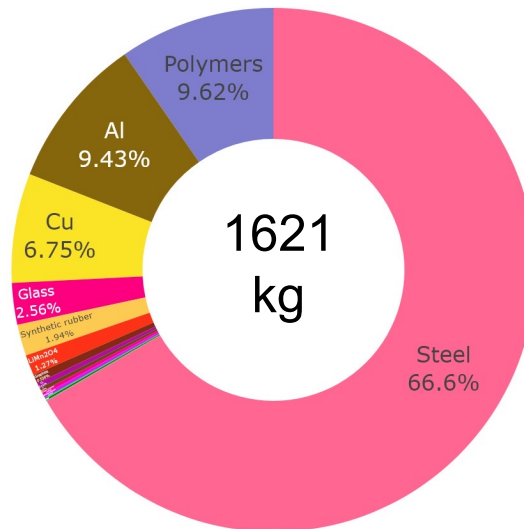
# Electrifying vehicles and decarbonizing electricity reduces emissions



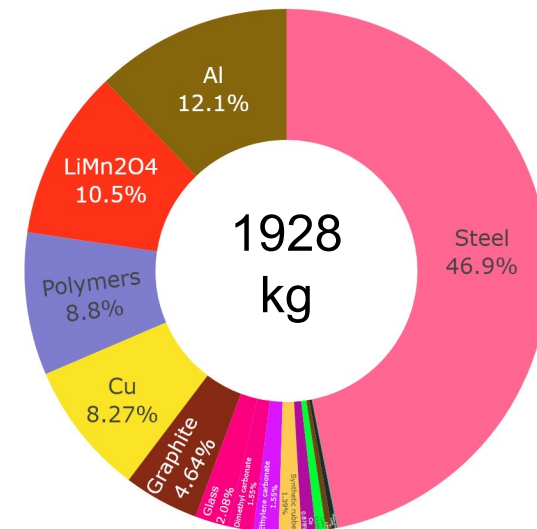
**ICE**  
241 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/km



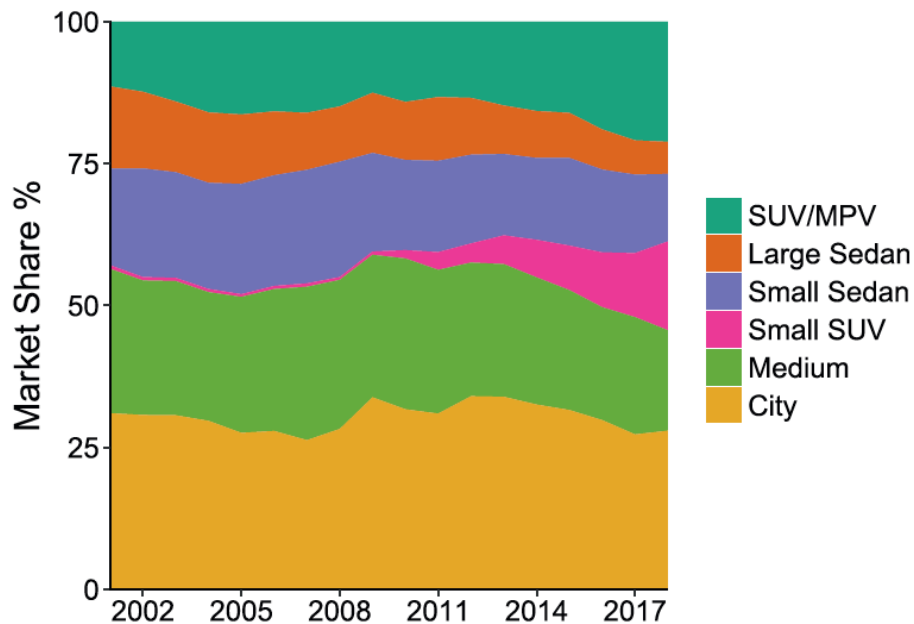
**PHEV**  
152 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/km



**BEV**  
75 gCO<sub>2</sub>e/km



# But, we are using bigger cars

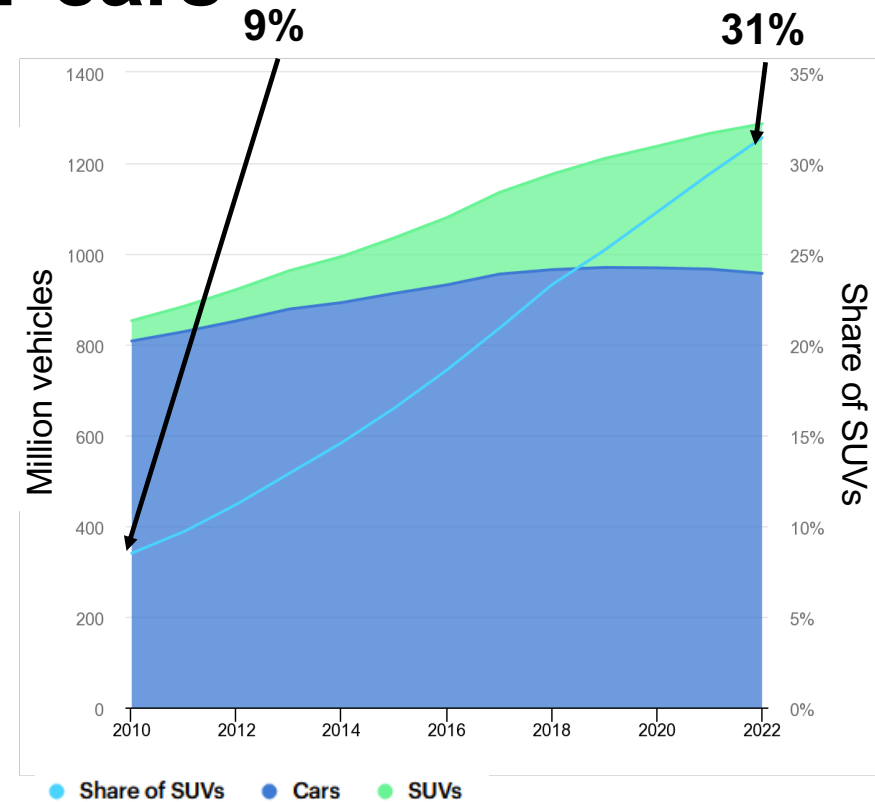


UK vehicle size segment market share 2001-2018.

Source: Craglia & Cullen, 2019

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0301421519305786>

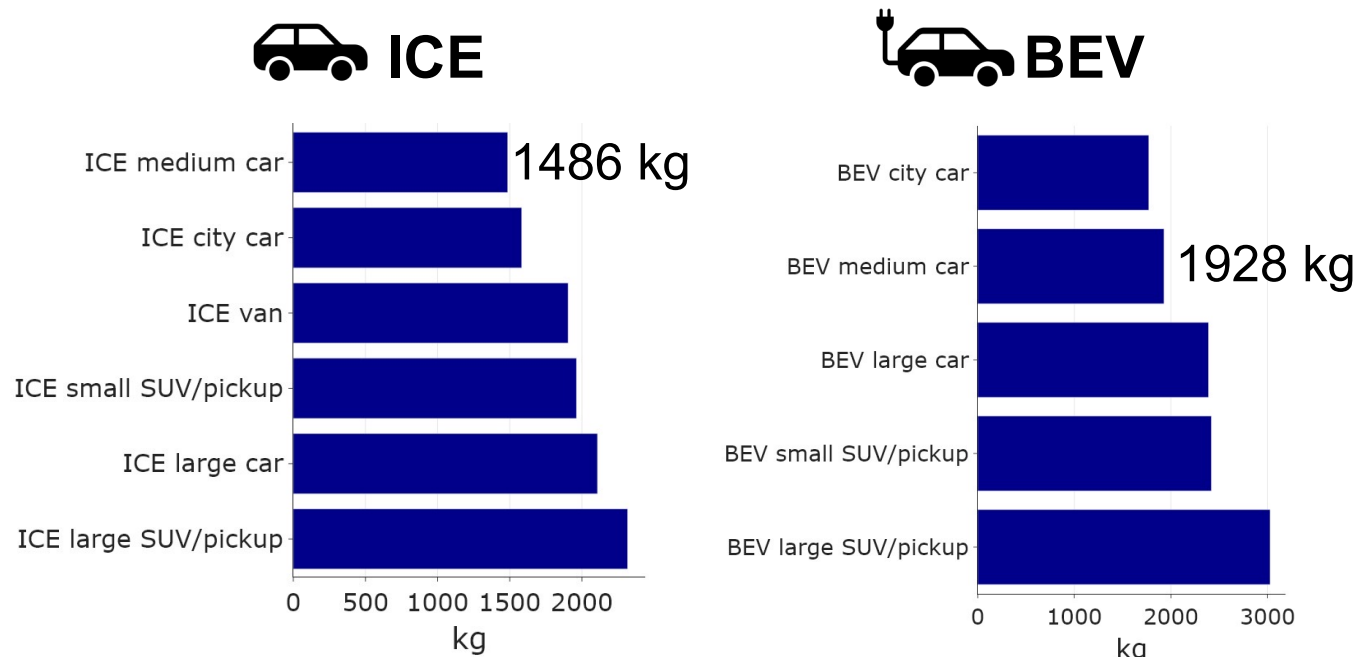
5786



Passenger car fleet and share of SUVs in total car emissions, 2010-2022.

Source: IEA, 2023

# Bigger cars mean more resources, emissions and space - even if they are EVs



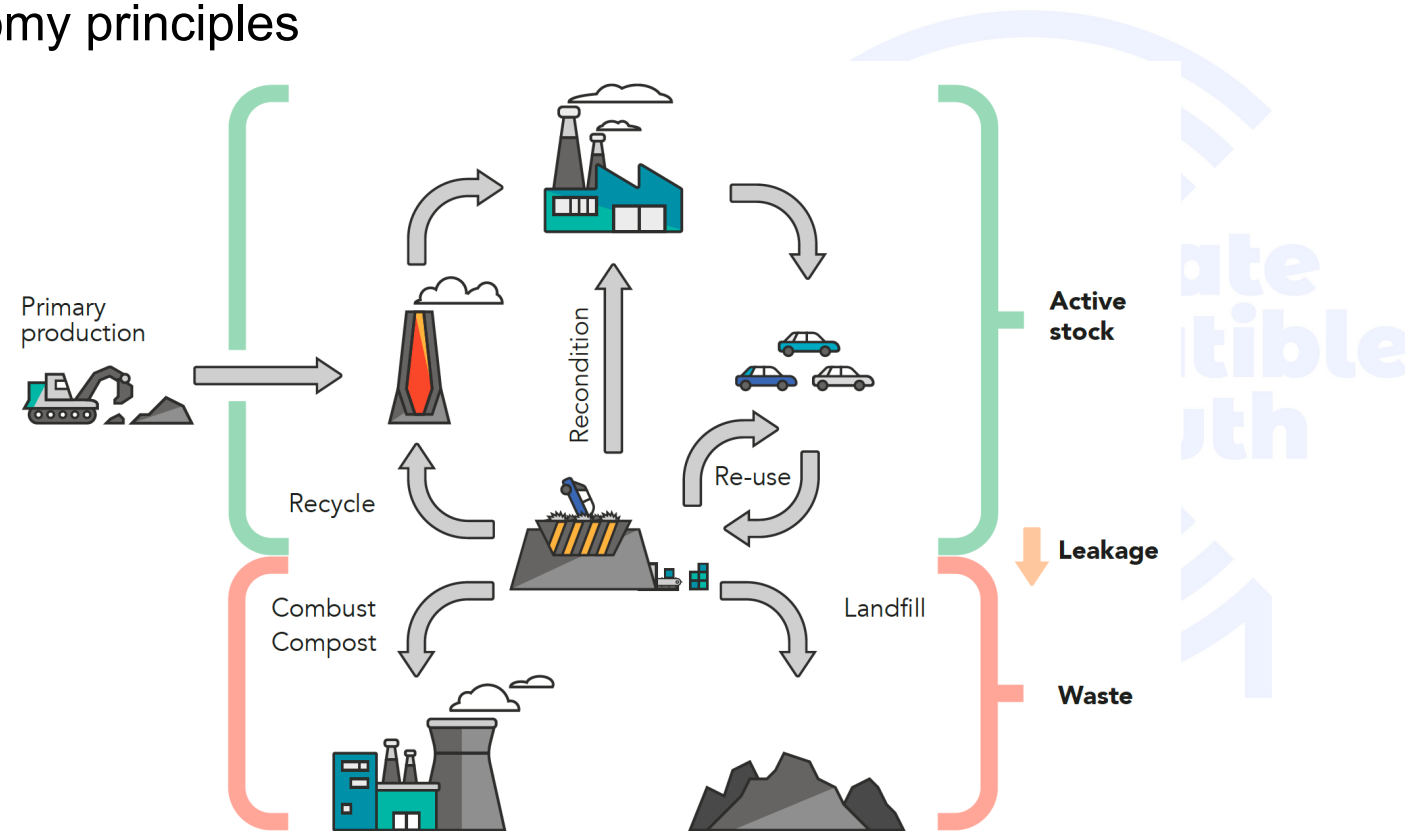
Source: Cervantes Barron, Cullen, 2023

$330 \text{ million } eSUVs * 3 \text{ tonne}/eSUV = 990 \text{ tonne}$   
 $330 \text{ million } e \text{ med car} * 1.9 \text{ tonne}/e\text{car} = 627 \text{ tonne}$

**57% more material**

# What alternatives are there?

## Circular economy principles



Ashby, 2017

# What alternatives are there?

Primary  
production



## 1. Design innovations

- Reduce raw material use
- Reduce energy use

## 2. Vehicle attributes

- Reduce car size
- Efficiency standards

## 3. Use low-carbon materials

- Novel processes for steel, or cement

## 1.1 Design car parts differently



**Sheet metal** accounts for **25%** of car frame manufacturing emissions.

- **Traditional:** 47% of waste steel
- **DeepForm:** 14% waste steel



<https://deepform.co.uk/>

## Active stock



## Stock measures/ alternative mobility

Reduce number of cars used  
Car infrastructure

- Car sharing
- Low-carbon transport networks

## Waste



## Waste management

- Use for longer
- Reuse
- Recycle

# Different countries need different solutions

## Existing and new infrastructure

Roads

EV charging

Bike &  
micromobility

Low-carbon  
electricity

## Existing and new fleets

**Existing cars**

- Size
- Specs

**Second-hand cars**

- Size
- Specs
- Age

**New cars**

- Size
- Specs

# What are we working on in CCG?

Tools and data to support decision-making and country engagement.

## Material demand projections model

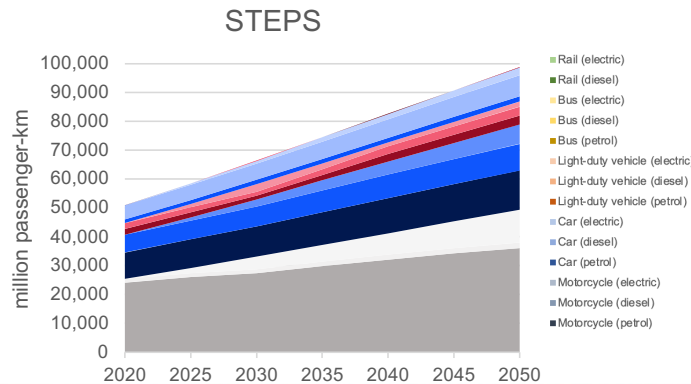


- 102 bulk and critical materials
- electricity technologies
- transport technologies
- battery technologies
- T&D technologies
- road types

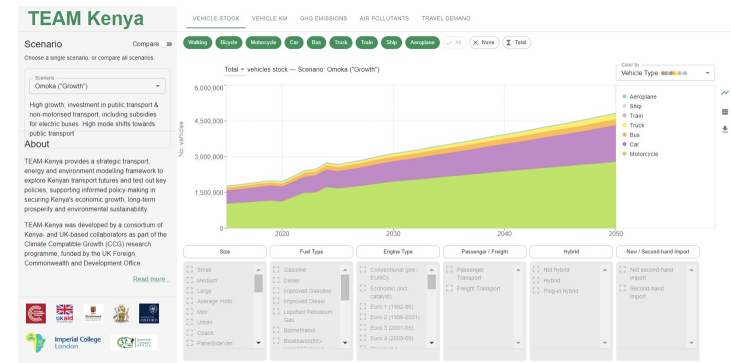
## Transport starter data kits



### Datasets on transport from 1990 to 2021 for 60 countries



## Demand-led transport modelling in Kenya



**Access to finance is crucial – Kenyan policymakers can leverage int'l development finance**



This requires **strong policy action** on public transport and e-mobility adoption



**Strong public transport support increases access to mobility for low-income groups**

**Thank you!**

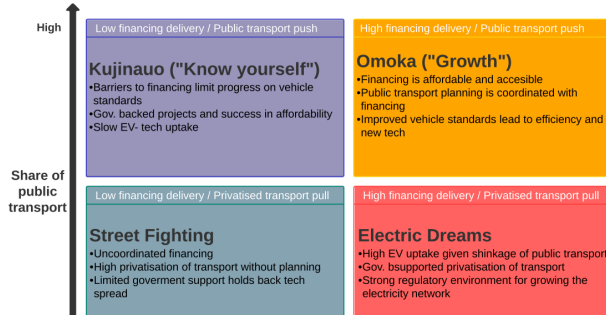


"The views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the UK government's official policies."

**Dr Karla Cervantes Barron**  
**kc512@cam.ac.uk**

**climatecompatiblegrowth.com**

# Climate-compatible transport pathways for Kenya



Kenya can **increase transport service provision** in a climate-compatible manner

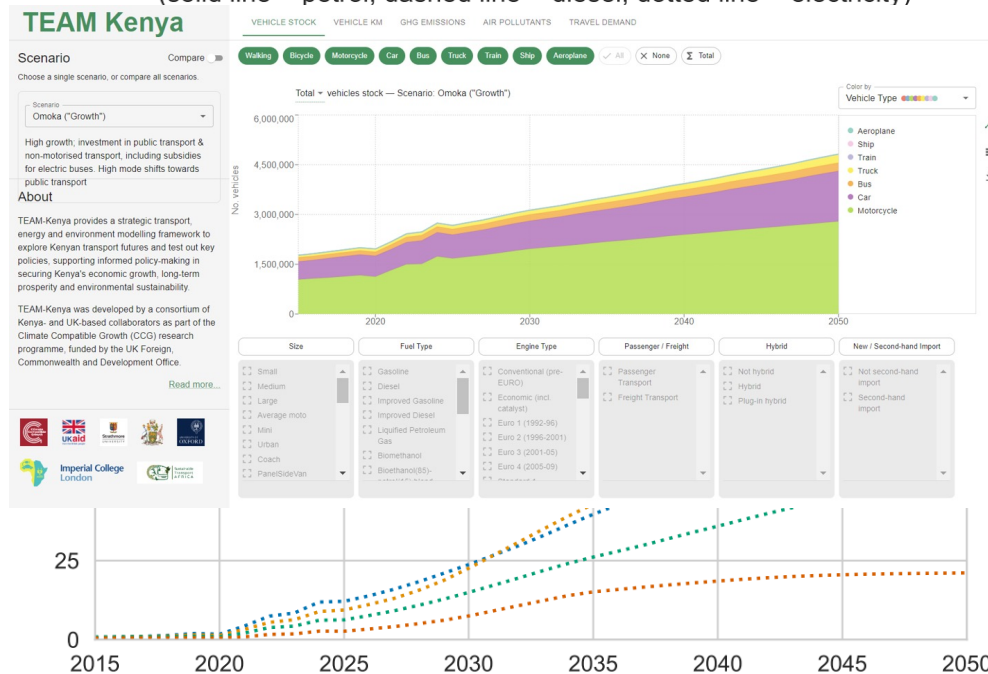


**Emissions intensity** (CO<sub>2</sub>/GDP) can be in-line with an industrial nation in 2-3 decades



This requires **strong policy action** on public transport and e-mobility adoption

Taxation from fuel sales by scenario and year (solid line = petrol; dashed line = diesel; dotted line = electricity)



Dwindling **fuel tax revenues** are largely compensated for by electricity taxes *due to increasing service demand*



**Strong public transport** support increases access to mobility for low-income groups



**Electricity demand** ↑13-41% by 2040 relative to IEA 'Stated Policies' scenario (4-5x increase vs. 2022 overall!)



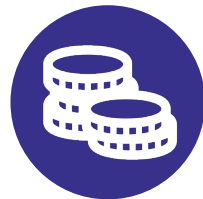
**Access to finance** is crucial – Kenyan policymakers can leverage international development finance; the int'l community must make it available!

# Starter data kits - What are they?

**Dataset on transport from 1990 to 2021 for 60 developing countries**



**Population** (total, growth, urban, rural)



**GDP** (total, growth, sector)



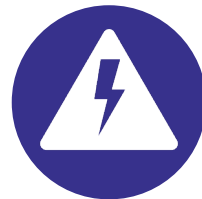
**Passenger activity**



**Freight activity**



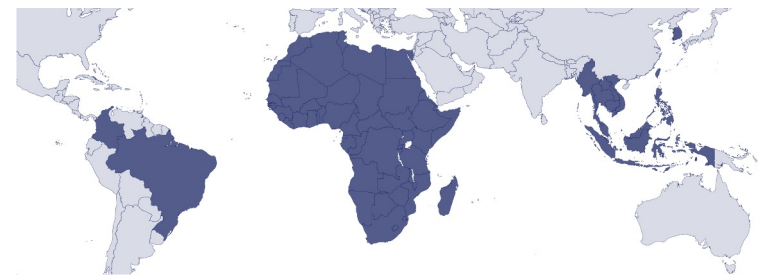
**Vehicle fleet no.**



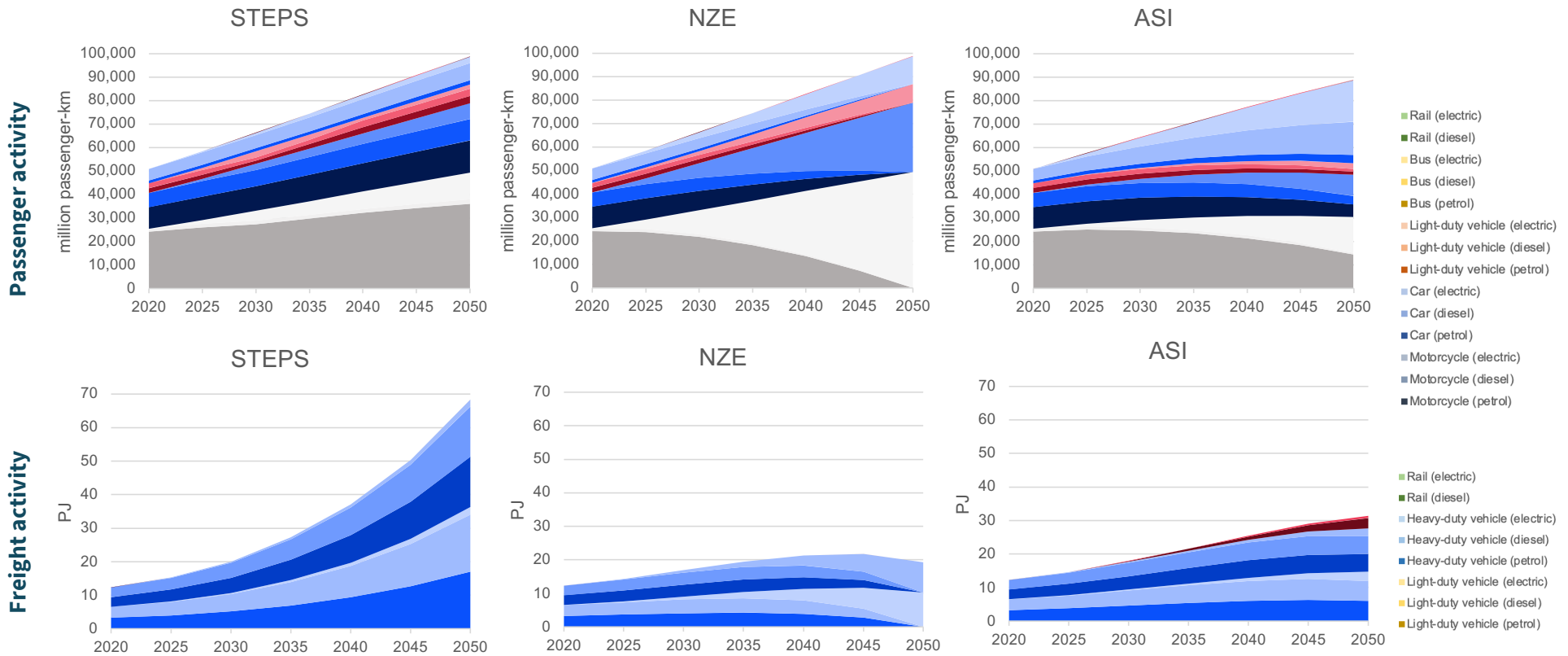
**Energy intensity**



**Load factor**



# How can it be used?



## How can it be used?



A set of data and an initial model

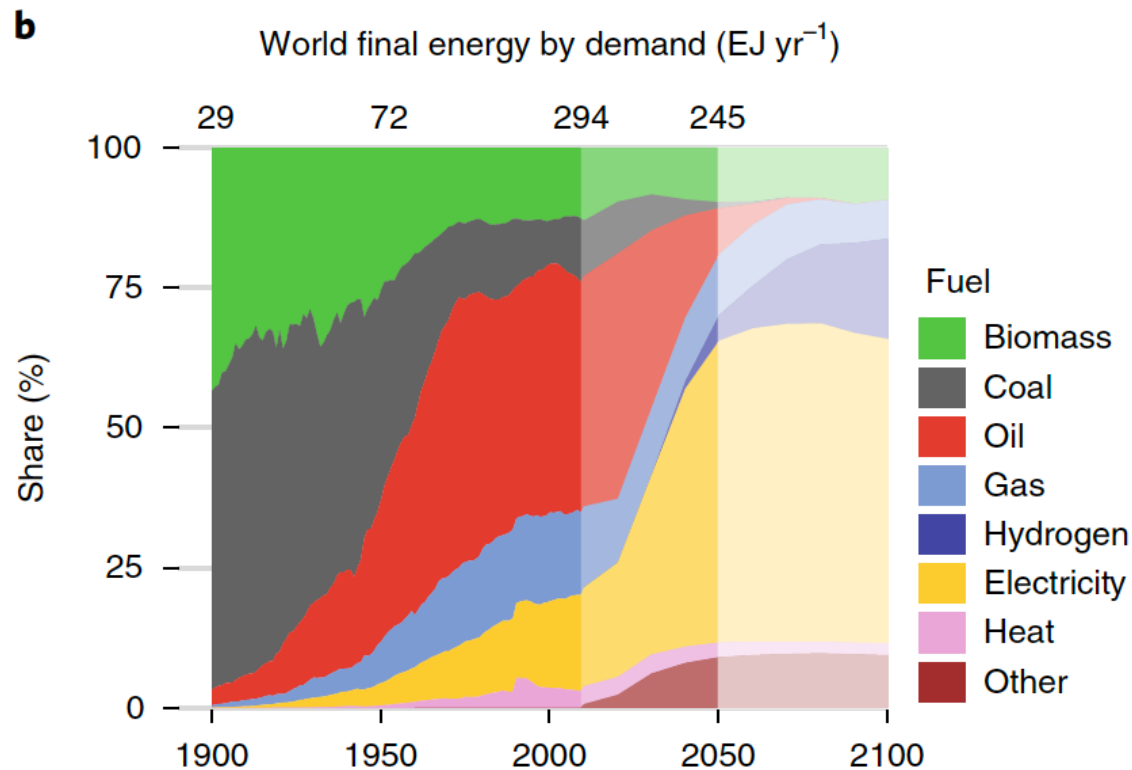


Analysis can be quickly updated, adapted, adopted and applied



Clear policy targets and loan applications, fast policy analysis, and slower burn academic processes.

# Electrifying vehicles and decarbonizing electricity reduces emissions



Halving the demand for energy makes the transition away from fossil fuels and towards electrification much easier

Source: Grubler et al., 2018. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-018-0172-6>