

STORAGE DEVELOPER CONFERENCE



BY Developers FOR Developers

Sustainability Opportunities in Cloud Storage

Swapna Yasarapu, Principal PM, Microsoft Azure

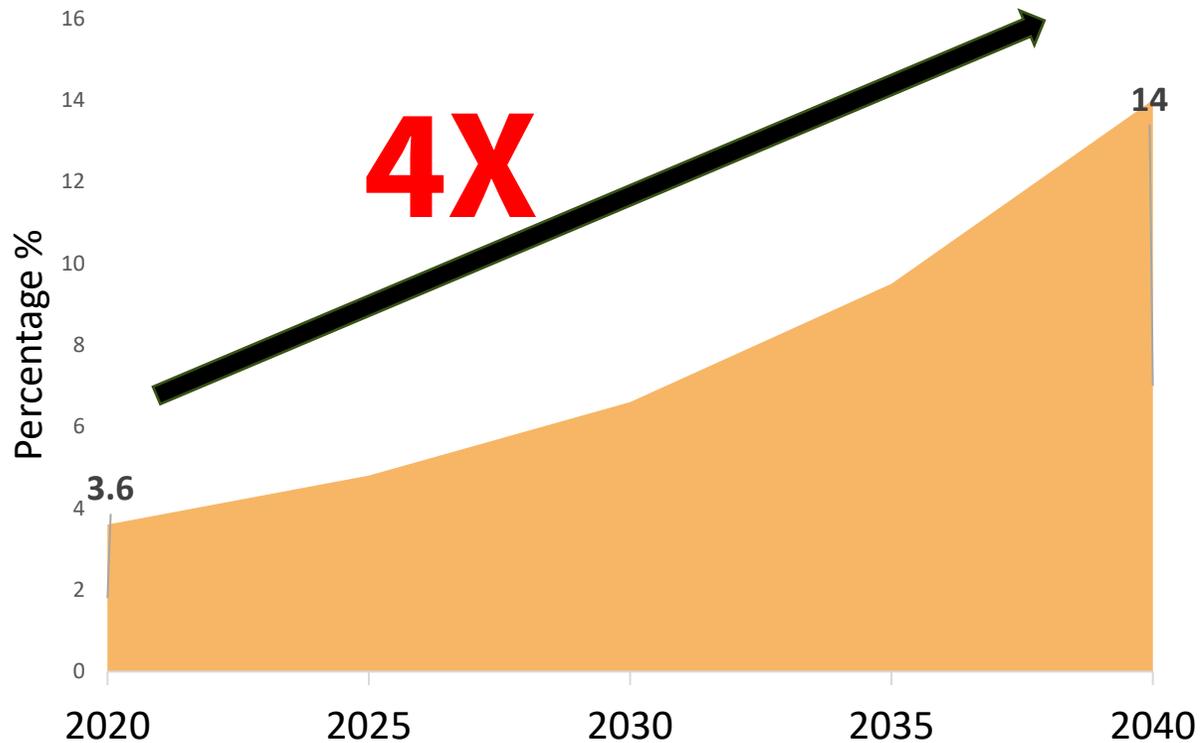
Shruti Sethi, Sr TPM, Microsoft Azure

AGENDA

- Carbon Emissions Landscape
- Datacenter Industry - Carbon Goals
- Storage – Capacity Growth & Carbon Growth
- Major Contributors of Storage Infrastructure Carbon
- Opportunities for Storage Carbon Footprint reduction

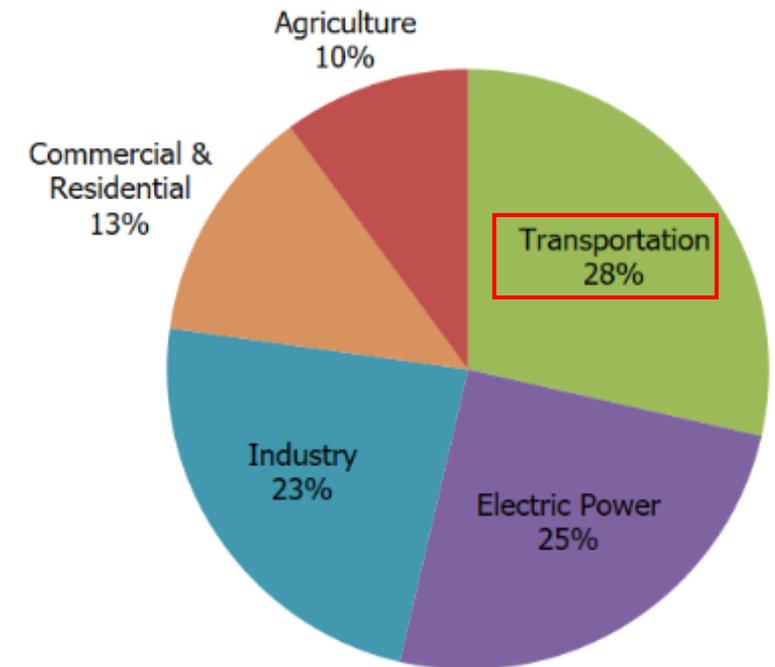
Carbon Emission Landscape

IT Communication & Tech (ICT) Industry's Contribution to Carbon Emissions



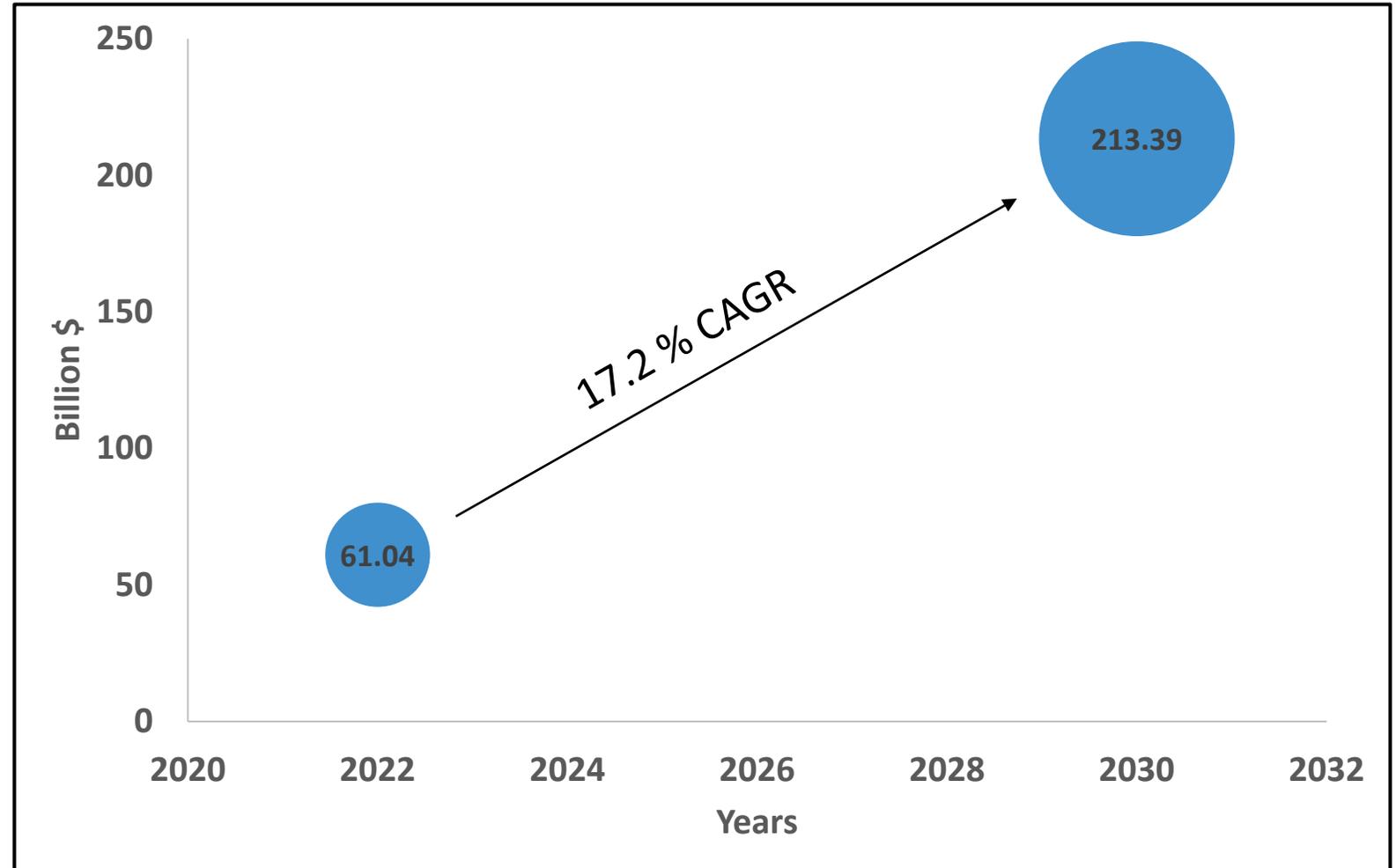
Sources: Science Direct: Assessing ICT global emissions footprint: Trends to 2040 & recommendations

Half of entire Transportation sectors' current Emissions



Source: US Environmental Protection Agency

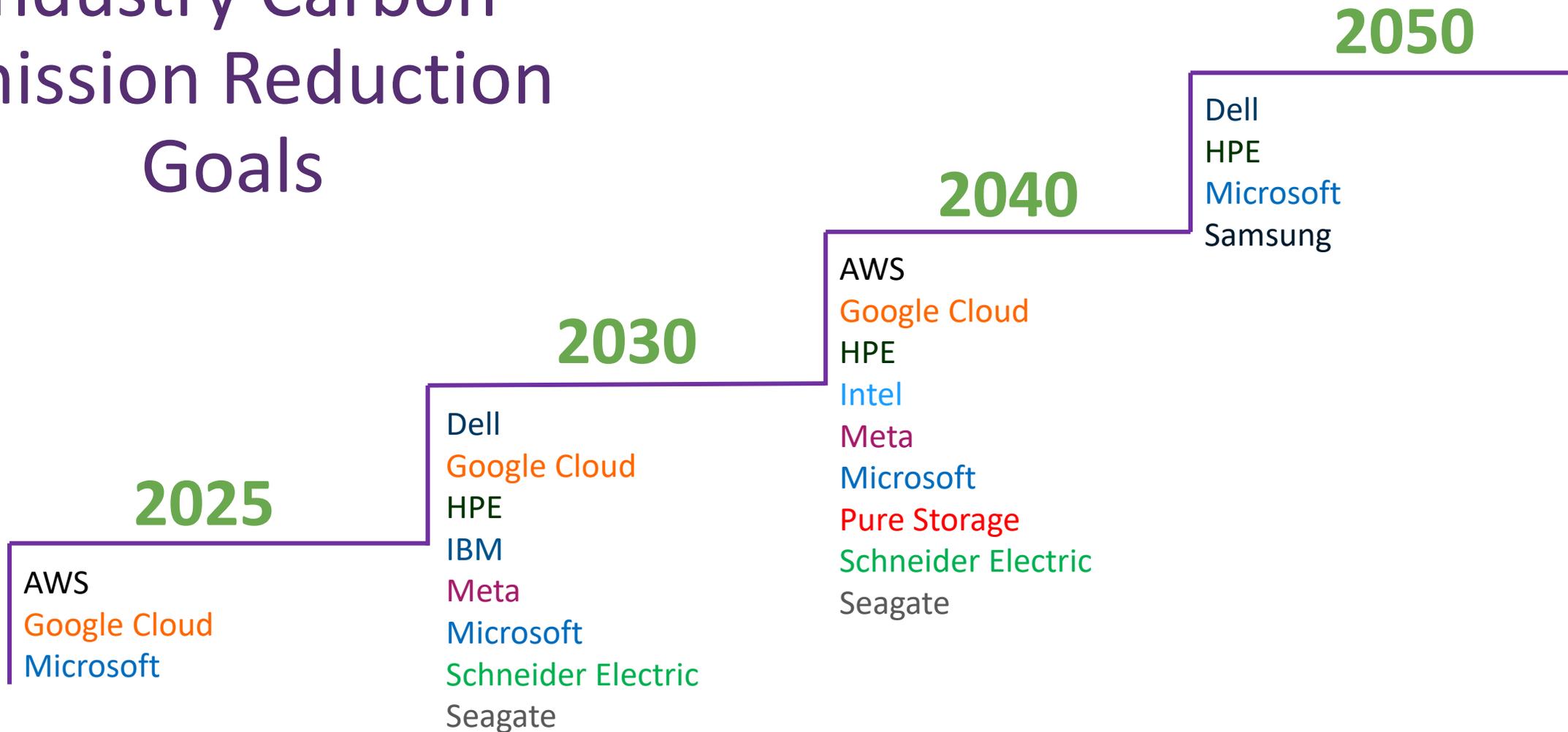
Green Datacenter Market Revenue Prediction – 2022 to 2030



Sources: Fortune Business Insights

Datacenter Industry – Carbon Goals

Industry Carbon Emission Reduction Goals



Microsoft Sustainability Goals 2030

**CARBON
NEGATIVE**

2030: Offset or remove more carbon from the atmosphere than we emit

2050: Remove an equivalent amount of carbon Microsoft has emitted, since we were founded in 1975

**WATER
POSITIVE**

2030: Replenish more water than our global consumption

**ZERO
WASTE**

2030: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling to drive no waste direct-to-landfill

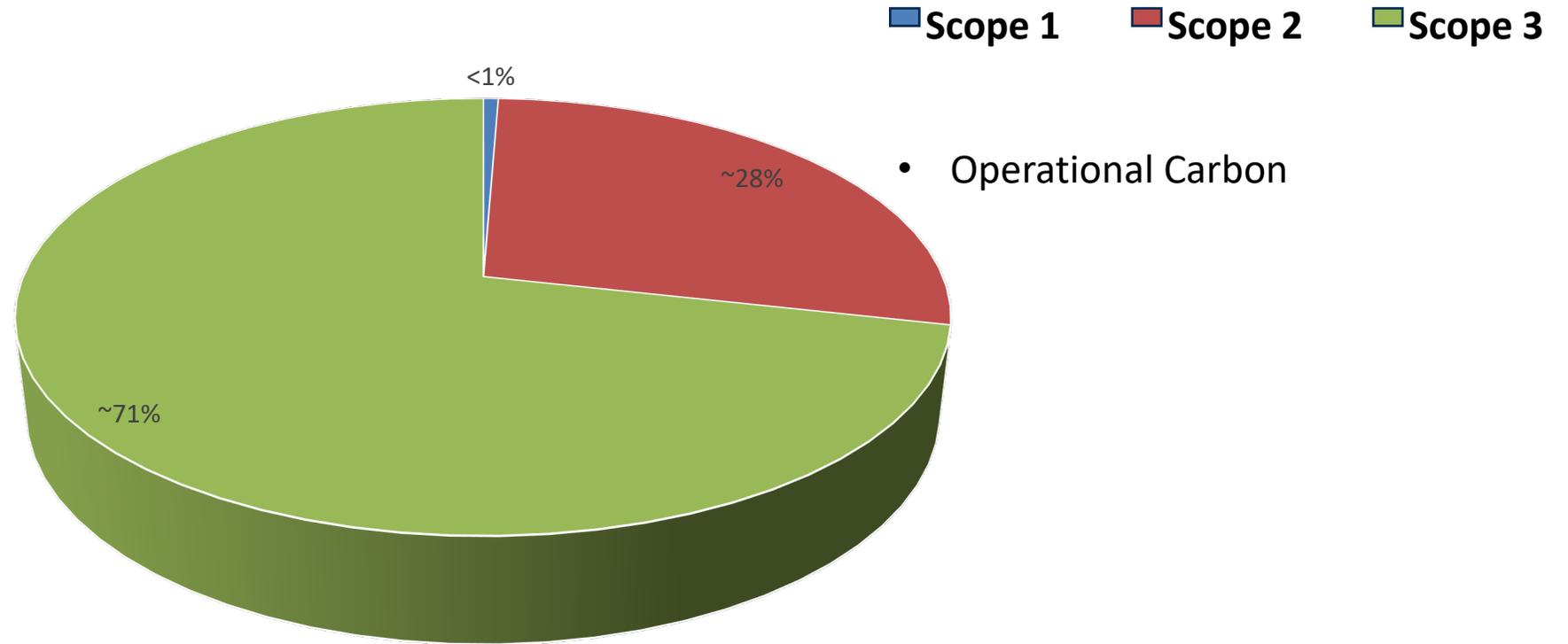
Source: [\[MSFT Sustainability Report 2022\]](#)

Carbon Emission Categories

CATEGORIES OF EMISSIONS	DESCRIPTION	SUB-CATEGORY OF INTEREST <small>**Cloud Storage Provider's Perspective</small>
Scope 1 Carbon Emissions	<p>“BURN”</p> <p>Carbon emission due to direct combustion / burning of fuel purchased. (Direct sources of emission)</p>	
Scope 2 Carbon Emissions	<p>“BUY”</p> <p>Carbon emissions associated with purchased electricity/energy. (Indirect sources of emission)</p>	<i>Operational Carbon (Power)</i>
Scope 3 Carbon Emissions	<p>“BEYOND”</p> <p>Carbon emissions due to all the other products, machinery, services, etc. that one uses or powers.</p>	<i>Embodied Carbon</i>

Carbon Emissions – Microsoft - 2022

- Largest section of emissions
- Includes “Embodied Carbon” as a major contributor



Detailed 2030 Sustainability Goals:

- **Scope 1,2** : Near Zero Emission Target
- **Scope 3**: Reduce by more than half from 2020 baseline

Source: [[MSFT Sustainability Report 2022](#)]

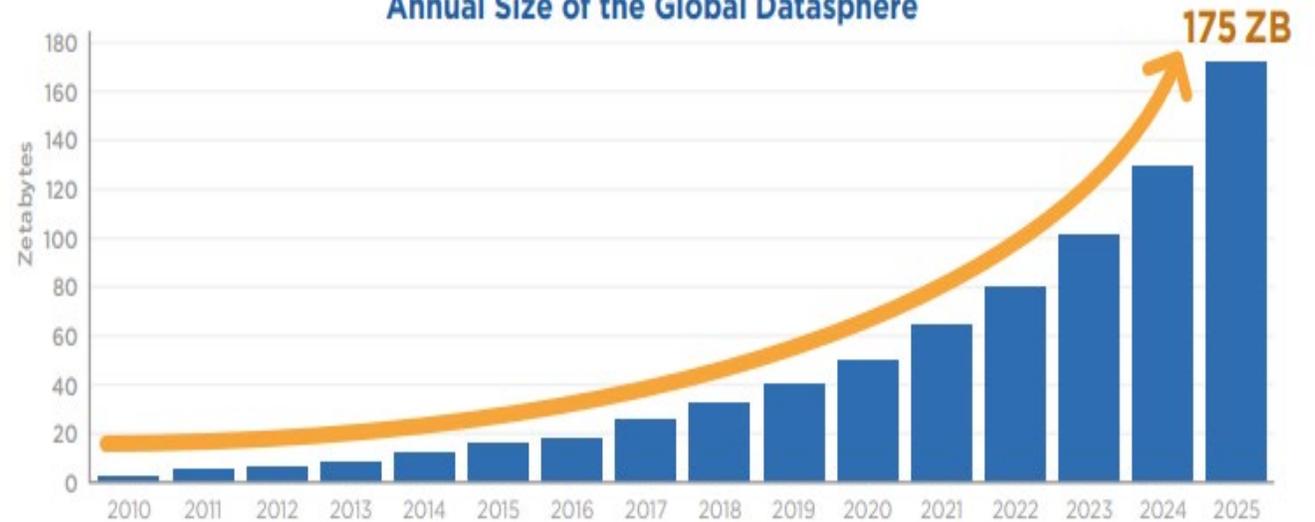
Storage – Capacity Growth & Carbon Growth

Nearly **~175** Zettabytes
Data Created - 2025

~5 zettabytes storage
media installed base - 2025

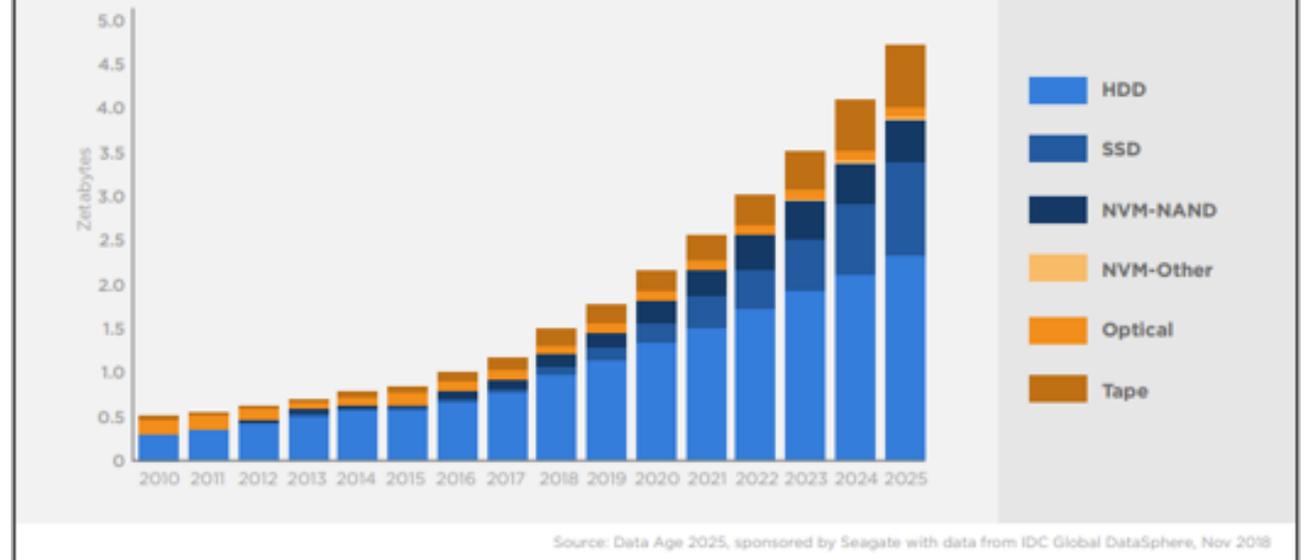
~17% compound annual
growth of installed capacity

Annual Size of the Global Datasphere



Source: Data Age 2025, sponsored by Seagate with data from IDC Global DataSphere, Nov 2018

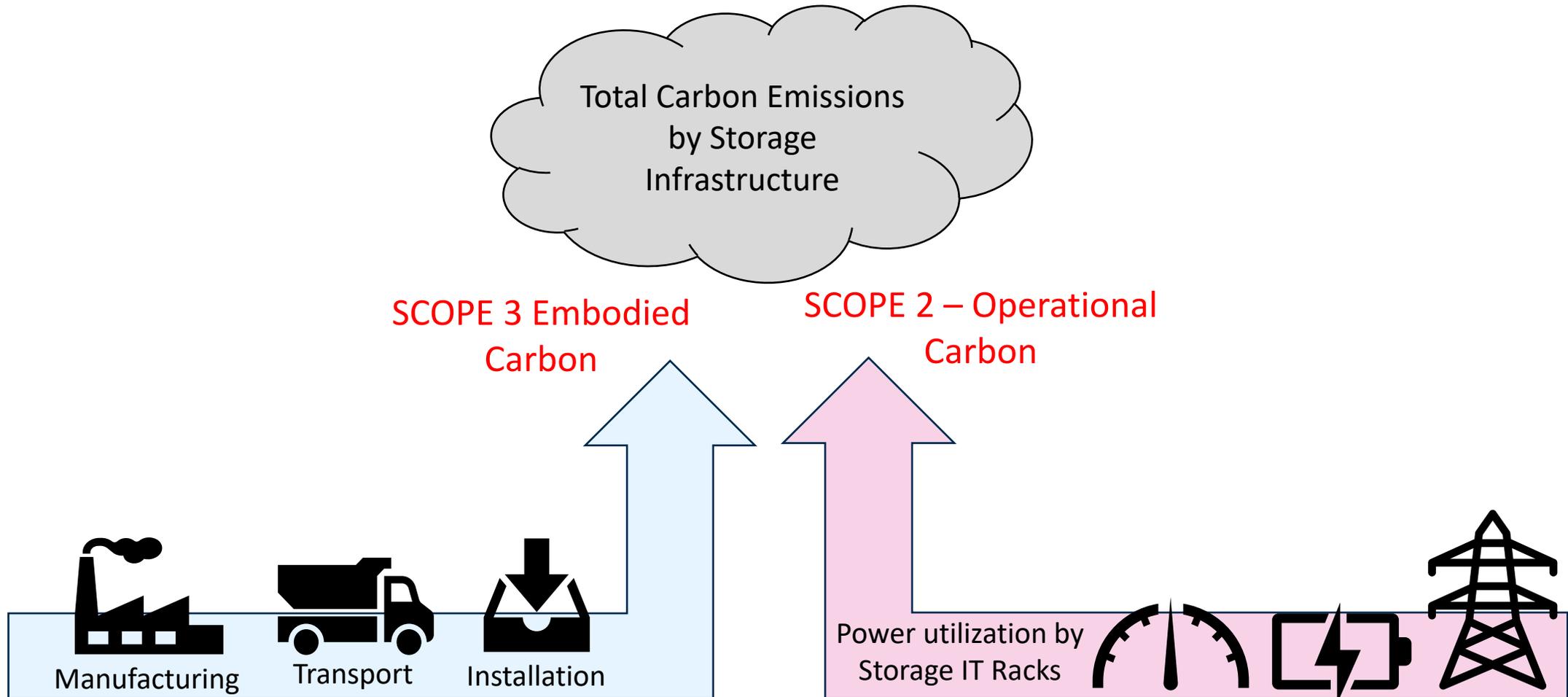
Worldwide Byte Shipments by Storage Media Type



Source: Data Age 2025, sponsored by Seagate with data from IDC Global DataSphere, Nov 2018

Major Contributors of Storage IT Infrastructures' Carbon Emissions

**Cloud Storage Provider's Perspective*



Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

Upfront Cost



Operational Cost

Per unit performance

Total Carbon Cost of Ownership (TCCO)

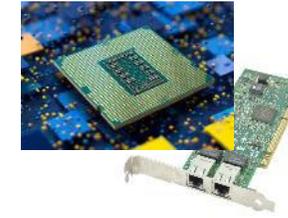
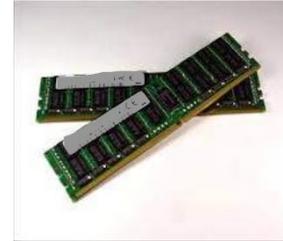
Embodied Carbon



Operational Carbon

Per unit performance

Major Carbon Contributors of Storage IT Infrastructure



HDDs

SSDs

Memory

Processors /
NICs / ICs

Chassis /
Enclosure

Limitations - in Comparing Carbon Reports from various devices / vendors:

- Lack of ready Carbon Assessment reports (via LifeCycle Assessment (LCA))
- LCA methodologies not industry standardized

Attempt – To run a similar assessment methodology for comparison on all device categories

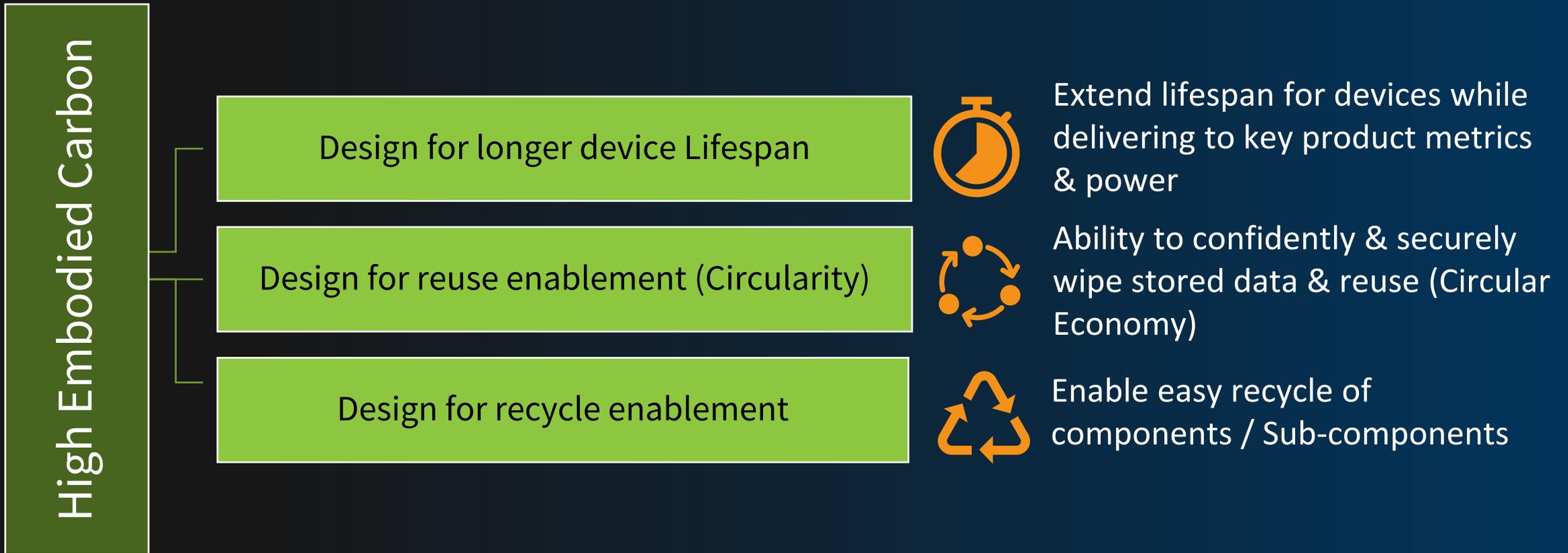
Major Carbon Contributors of Storage IT Infrastructure



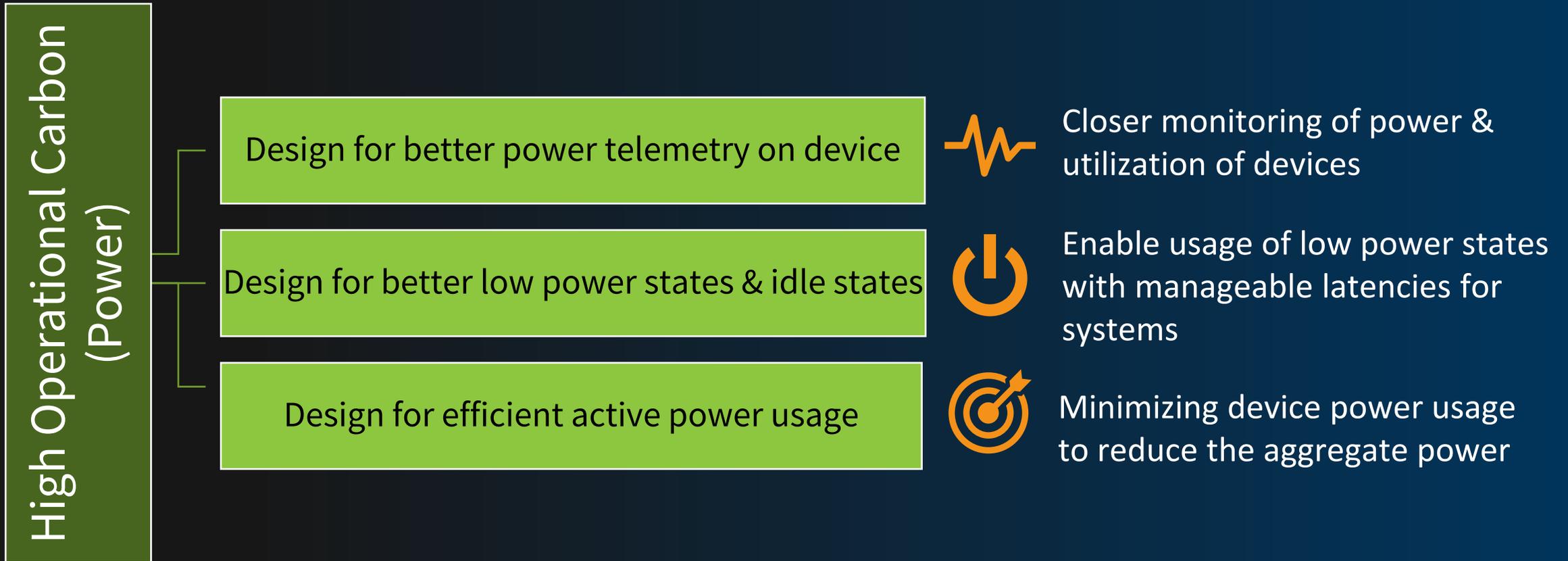
	HDDs	SSDs	Memory	Processors / NICs / ICs	Chassis / Enclosure
Embodied Carbon (Scope 3) Contribution	Med	High	High	Med	High
Operational Carbon (Power - Scope2) Contribution	Med	Low	Med	High	--
% of Storage Fleet Infrastructure	High	Med	Low	Low	High

Storage – Carbon Reduction Opportunities

Opportunities – Design For Sustainability



Opportunities – Design For Sustainability



Additional - Continuous Effort to use Renewable Energy for Power Usage

Longer Term Opportunities – New media with lower Carbon Footprint



SILICA



DNA / Molecular

Recyclable media material

No power used in the Storage phase (after writing data)
Less data refreshes needed as the storage media lasts longer

CALL TO ACTION

With rapid growth of Cloud Storage,

- Design for reducing embodied carbon
- Design for reducing operational carbon
- Explore new media with lower carbon footprint

THANK YOU!

