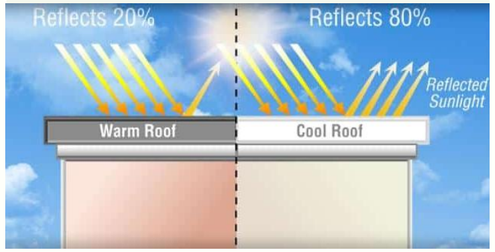
Planet Pulse

A rhythmic check-in on climate issues

Roofs can be cool too

- Residents of Philly's Strawberry Mansion neighborhood have an opportunity to cool off and save money, all without taking a trip to the beach.
- The city, in cooperation with the nonprofit Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA) hopes to outfit 150 homes with a "cool roofs" coating.
- The Energy Star website (yes - it's still up) has a page devoted to cool roofs.
- It cites Lawrence Berkley National Lab data that found on a typical summer afternoon that a roof with the white coating stays about **50°F cooler.**
- **The potential costs savings varies from 10% to 30%, with commercial buildings in hot climates garnering the highest savings.**
- **An added benefit: the protection can extend a roof's life by 5-10 years.**
- This is such an easy way to gain energy efficiency, it seems like a no brainer.



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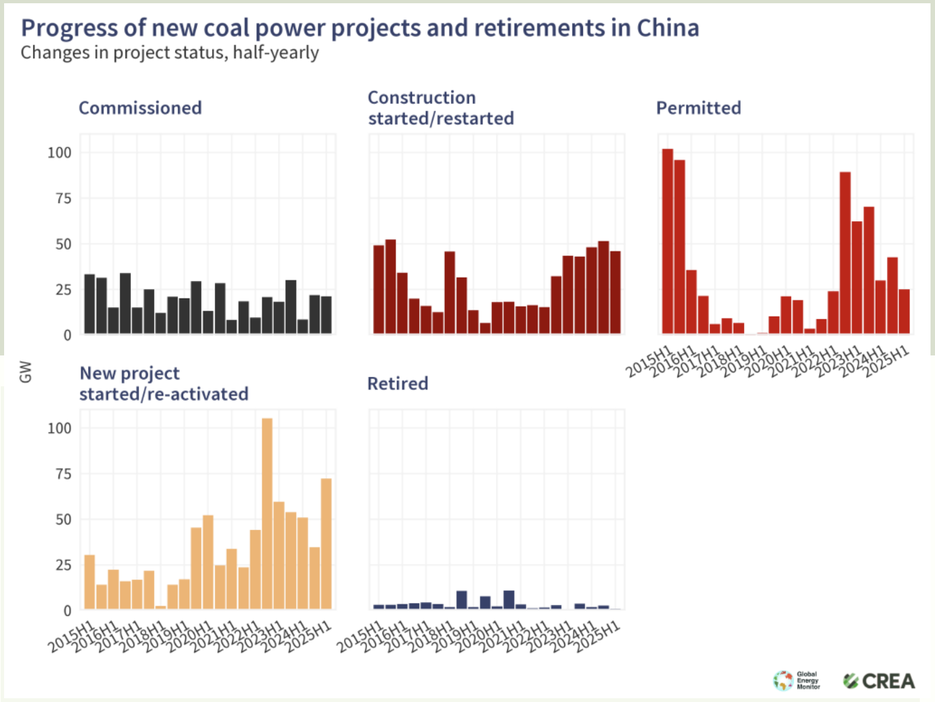
Whack a mole – the mole is winning

- The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air and Global Energy Monitor released their H1 2025 review of China's coal projects and the news is discouraging.
- China added 21 GW of coal power, the most since the first half of 2016.
- It's anticipated that a total of 80 GW will come on line before year's end.
- To put that number in perspective, in 2024, the U.S installed a total of 49 GW of clean energy capacity.
- One step forward, two steps back to net-zero.



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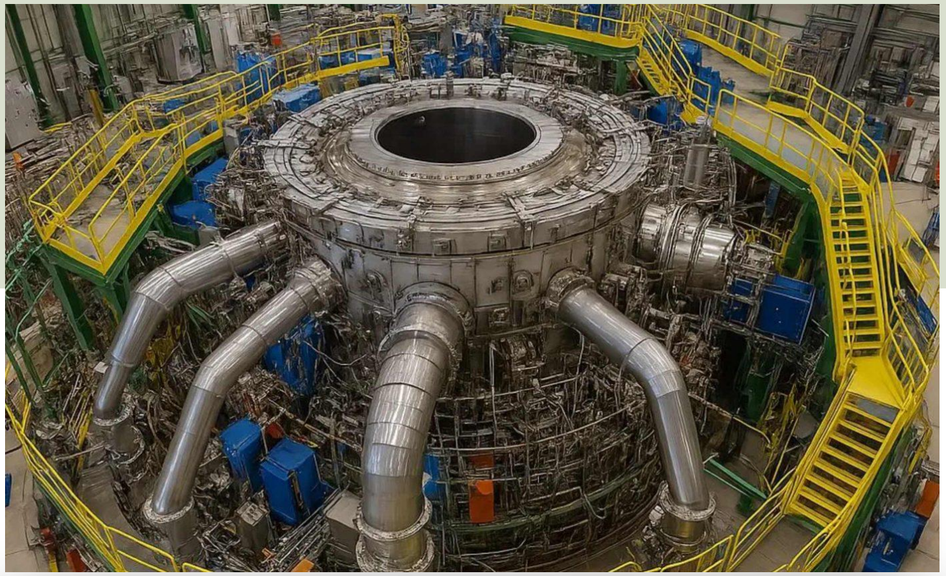
Squeezing juice from electric lines

A theme of my posts is that we're paying too little attention to upgrading the foundation for all clean energy: the grid.

A weak foundation spells trouble for progress, and grids around the world are poorly positioned for the new world of rising demand, unpredictable weather, and distributed energy.

That's why startups like Splight get my attention. It has the potential to squeeze more out of the existing infrastructure.

- The company recently raised $12.4 million to fund its U.S. expansion.
- The technology uses temperature and weather data to determine when the grid can carry more electrons.
- The hope is to increase existing wire capacity by up to 30%.



Chatter about, and investments in fusion technology has boomed of late.

The question is: can anyone actually make it work?

1,337 seconds closer to reality

- **France’s WEST tokamak held hot plasma for a little over 22 minutes.**
- **That may not sound like much, but it’s a record, and 25% longer in duration than China’s EAST tokamak set just weeks ago.**
- **A tokamak is a donut-shaped chamber that uses strong magnetic fields to confine and superheat plasma.**
- **Fusion becoming reality requires controlling/confining the same reactive processes found in stars.**
- **No easy task, but we’re 1,337 seconds closer to the goal.**

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Unbiased and Unfiltered

An honest assessment of the cleantech industry and the effort to stem climate change.