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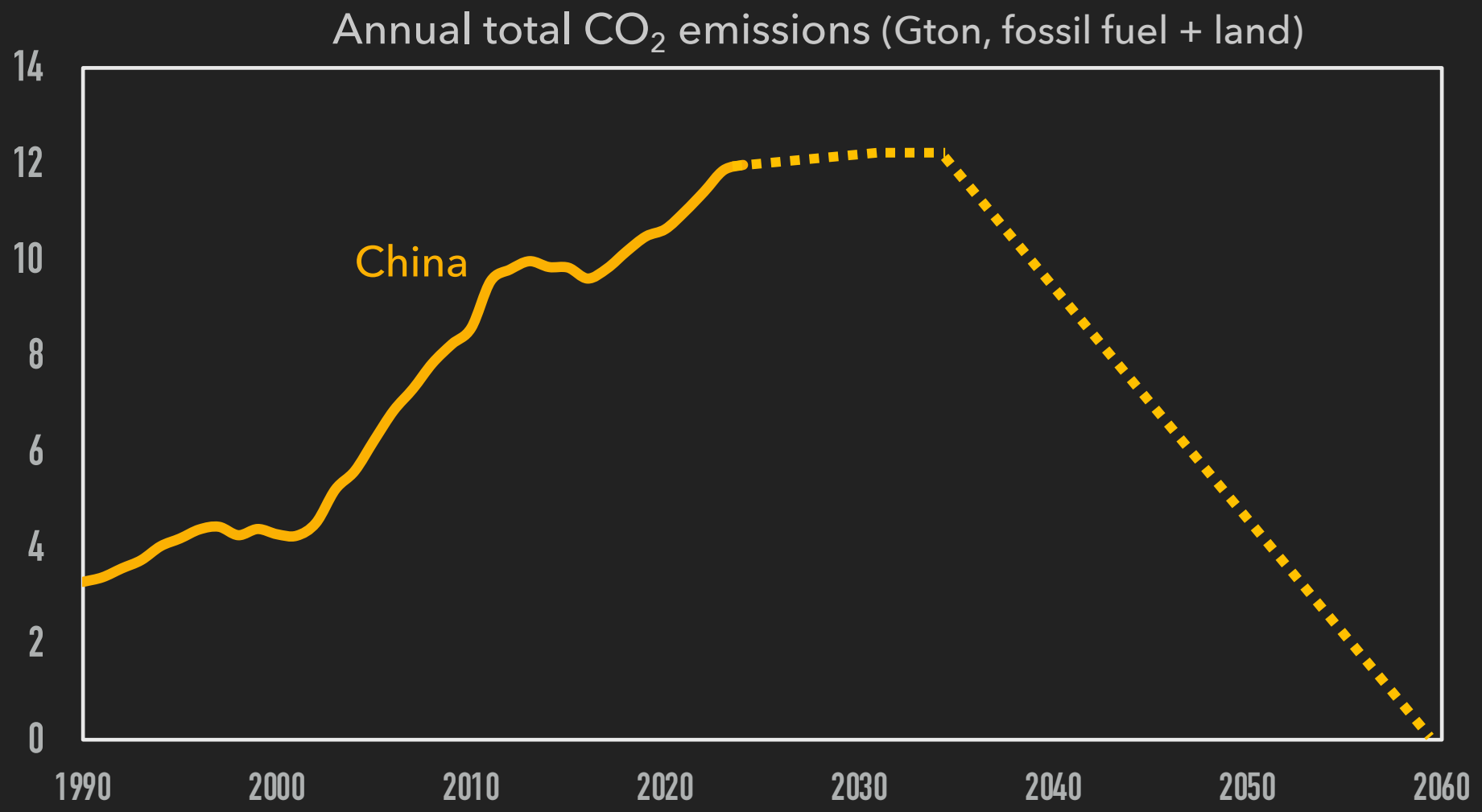
China's Energy Transition: What Comes Next?

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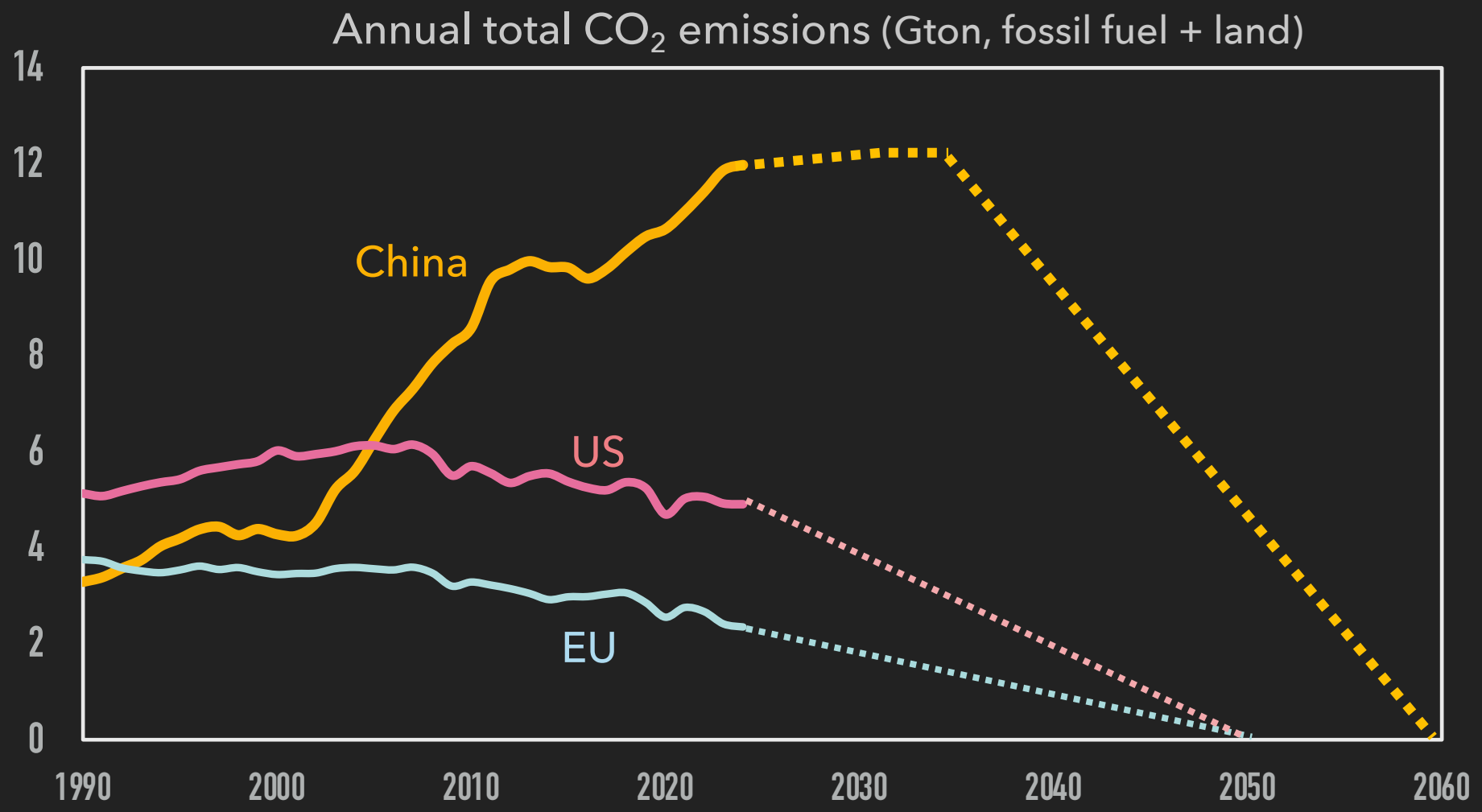
November 6, 2026

SET THE SCENE: PEAK EMISSIONS BY 2030, CARBON NEUTRALITY BY 2060



Global Carbon Budget, 2025

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Global Carbon Budget, 2025

A WAVE OF STUDIES ON PLAUSIBLE PATHWAYS TO CARBON NEUTRALITY…

Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development of Tsinghua University et al.

China's Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategies and Pathways

Comprehensive Report

iea

An Energy Sector Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality in China

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Environmental Science and Ecotechnology

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Original Research

Towards carbon neutrality: A study on China's long-term low-carbon transition pathways and strategies

Jiankun He [a], Zheng Li [a, b, *], Xiliang Zhang [c], Hailin Wang [c], Wenjuan Dong [a, **], Ershun Du [d], Shiyan Chang [c], Xunmin Ou [c], Siyue Guo [c], Zhiyu Tian [e], Alun Gu [c], Fei Teng [c], Bin Hu [a], Xiu Yang [a], Siyuan Chen [b], Mingtao Yao [e], Zhiyi Yuan [c], Li Zhou [c], Xiaofan Zhao [f], Ying Li [a], Danwei Zhang [c]

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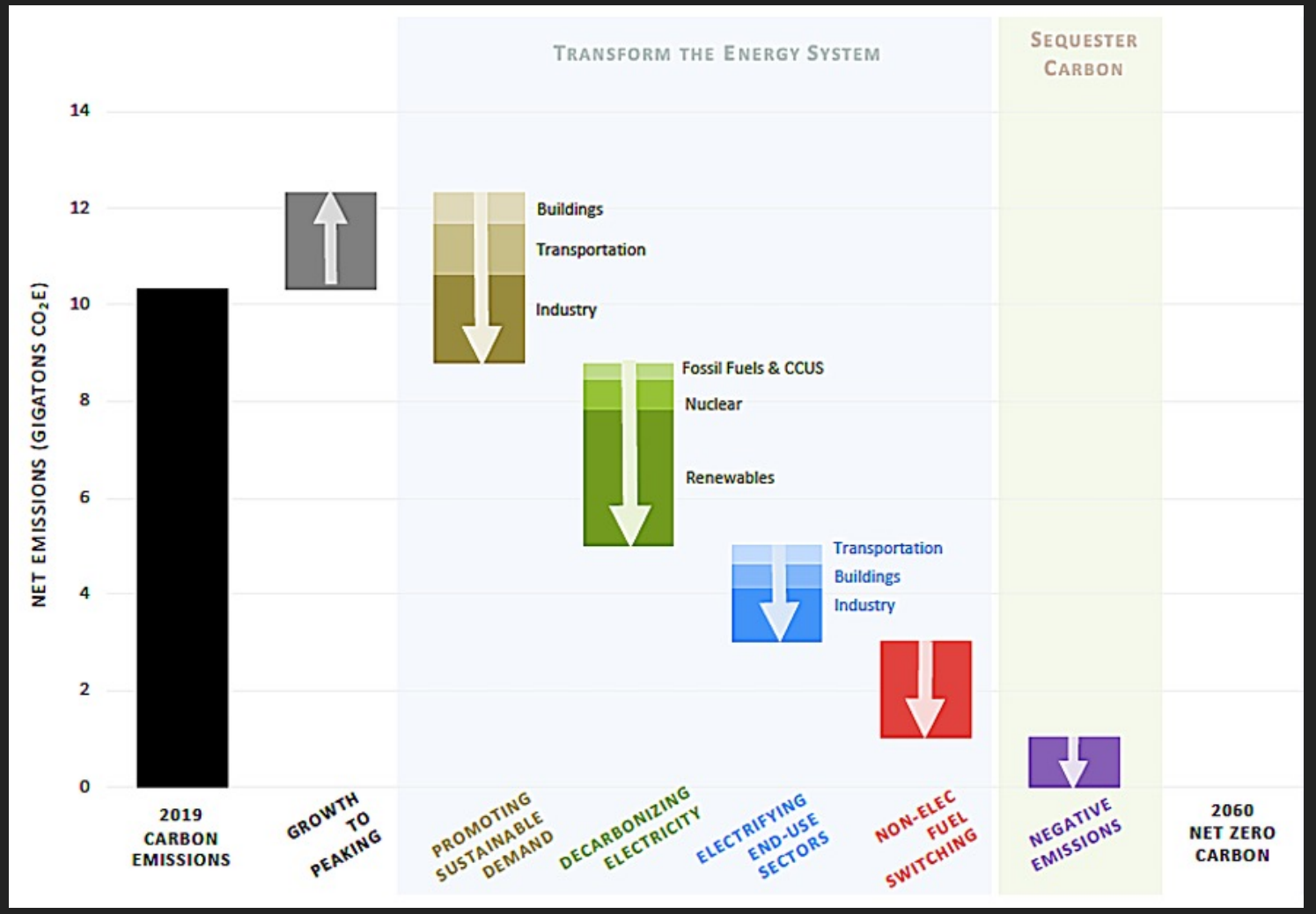
PATHWAYS TOWARD CARBON NEUTRALITY

A REVIEW OF RECENT STUDIES ON MID-CENTURY EMISSIONS TRANSITION SCENARIOS FOR CHINA

A report led by
California-China Climate Institute (CCCI)

in collaboration with
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

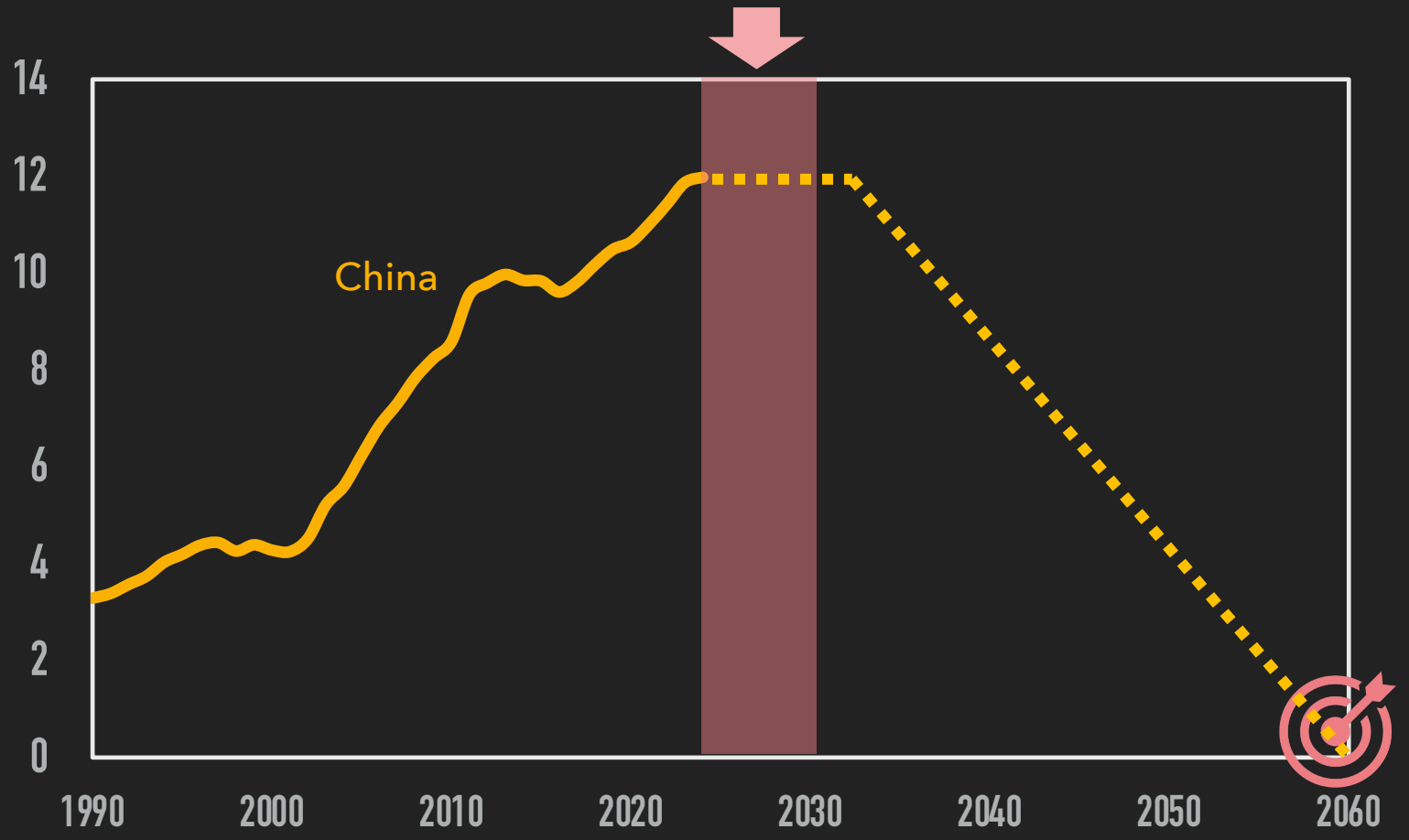
. . . BUT A NET-ZERO SYSTEM LOOKS REMARKABLY SIMILAR



Center for Global Sustainability, "Five Strategies to Achieve China's 2060 Carbon Neutrality Goal", 2020

SHIFTING FOCUS TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF CARBON NEUTRALITY

What market reforms and technology investments are needed to enable deep transformation?



What does a net-zero system look like, and what changes are needed?

THE HARD PART AHEAD: FROM SCALE TO TRANSFORMATION

Tension between green vs. brown industries

- As green technologies gain substantial market share, can China transition from “build before break” to “build to break”?

Tension between decarbonization and other societal goals

- As the air quality co-benefits diminish, can China turn green industries into key drivers of growth and resilience?