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# How does the local and regional socio-political context fit into the energy transition process in Pima County?

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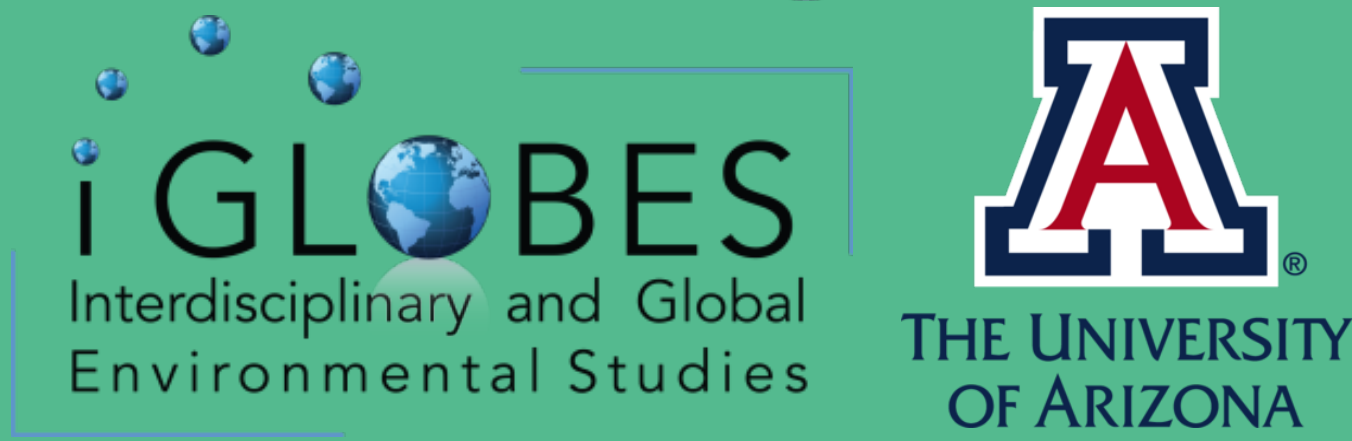
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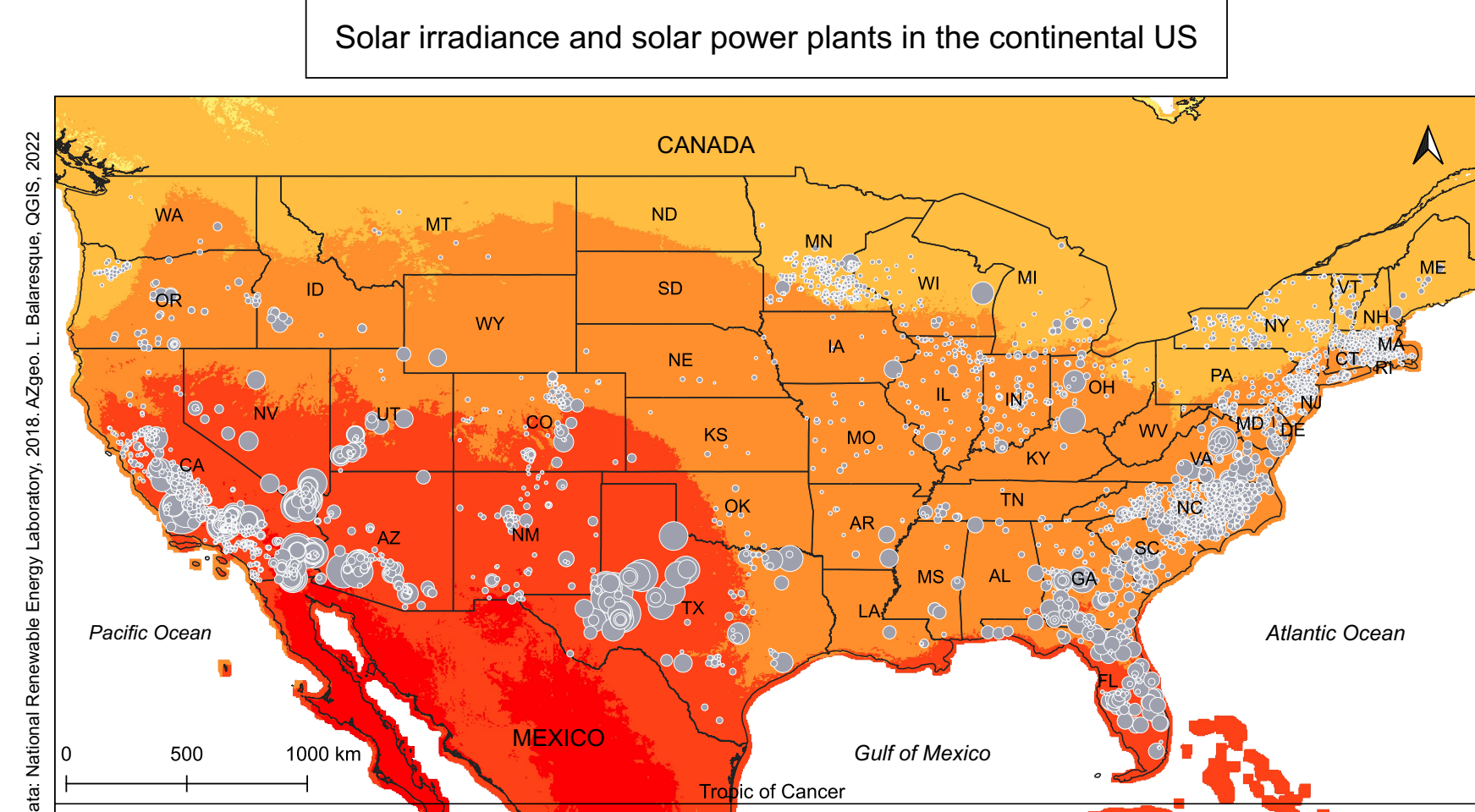
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# How does the local and regional socio-political context fit into the energy transition process in Pima County?

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## CONTEXT

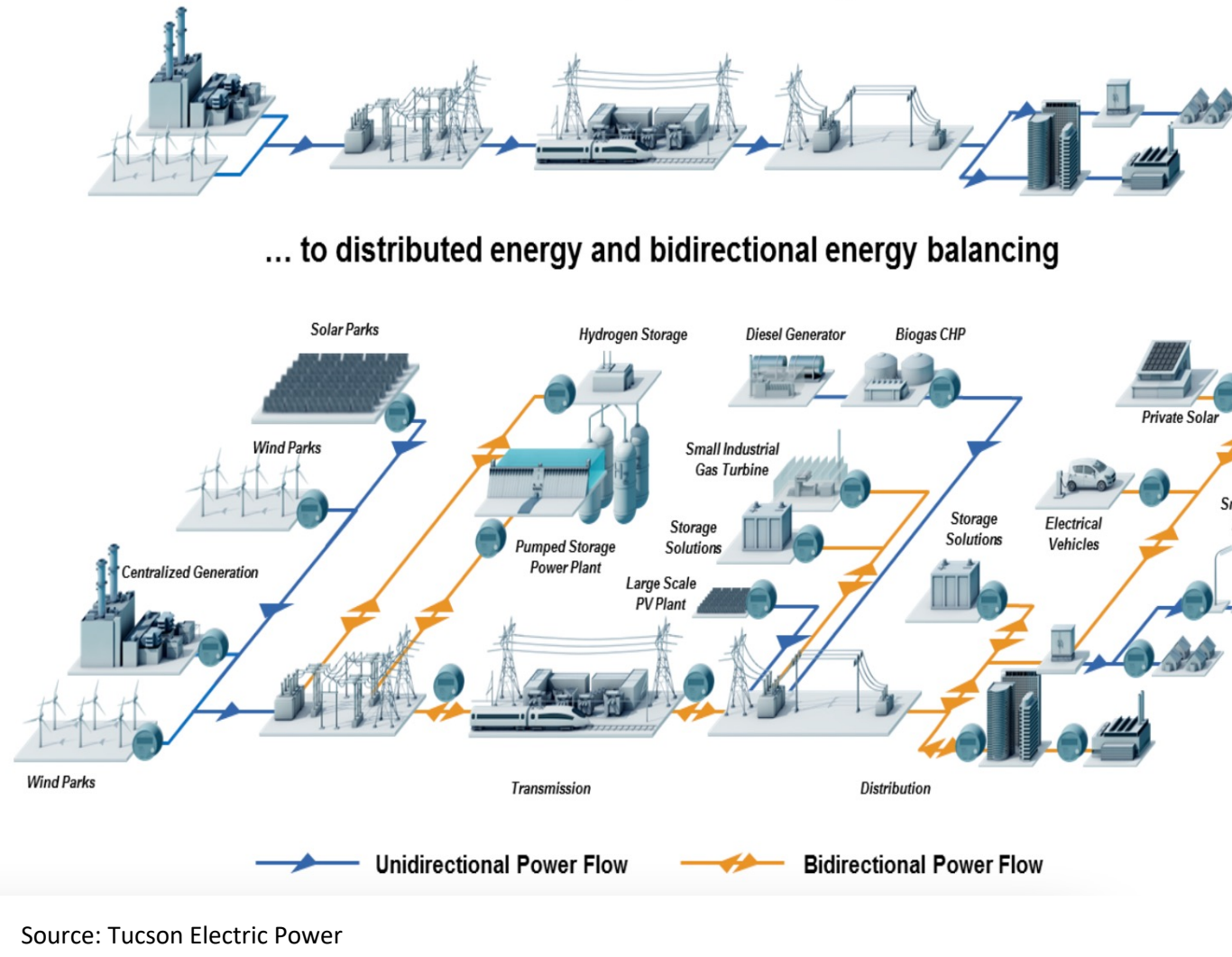


- High GHI (global horizontal irradiance)
- An energy transition focused on solar power
- An under-exploited solar potential, despite a burgeoning market
- Significant demographic growth and increasing energy needs



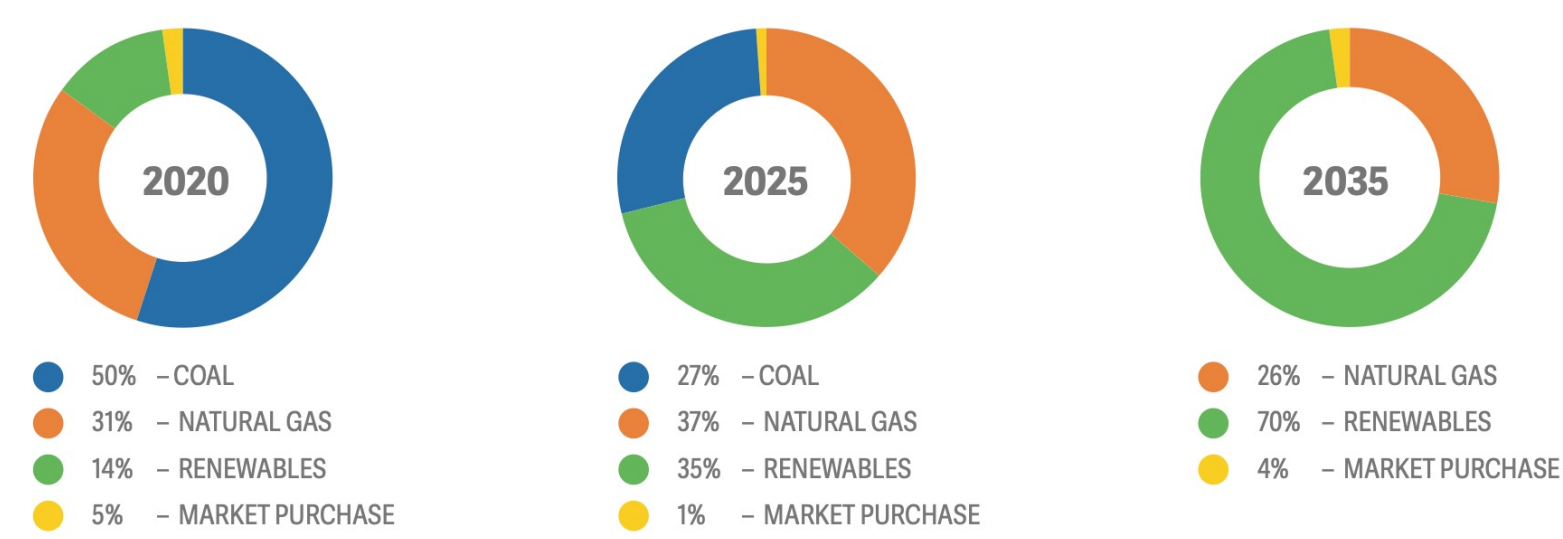
From centralized, unidirectional grid ...

... to distributed energy and bidirectional energy balancing

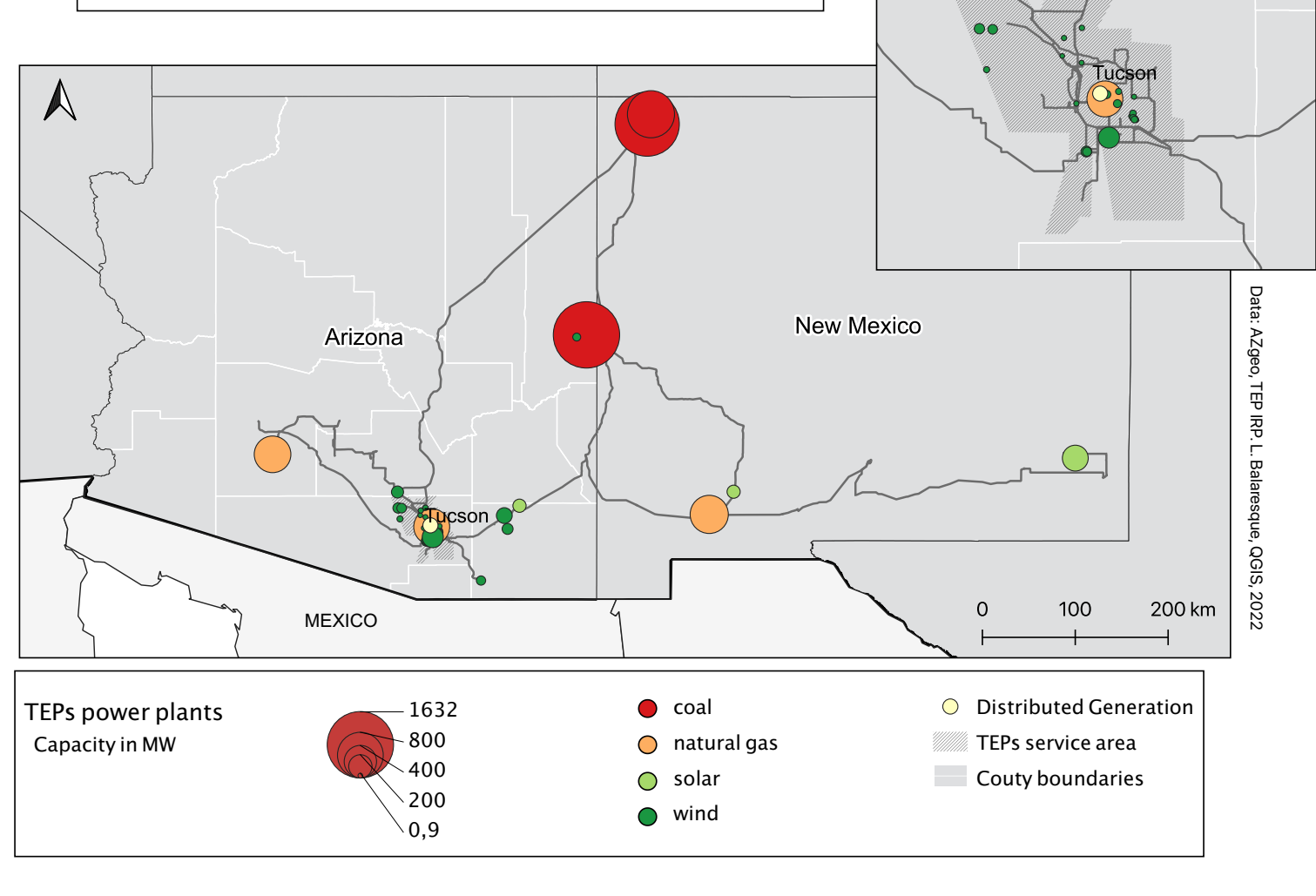


Transition Roadmap: toward 70% solar energy by 2035

RETAIL ENERGY MIX - Tucson Electric Power



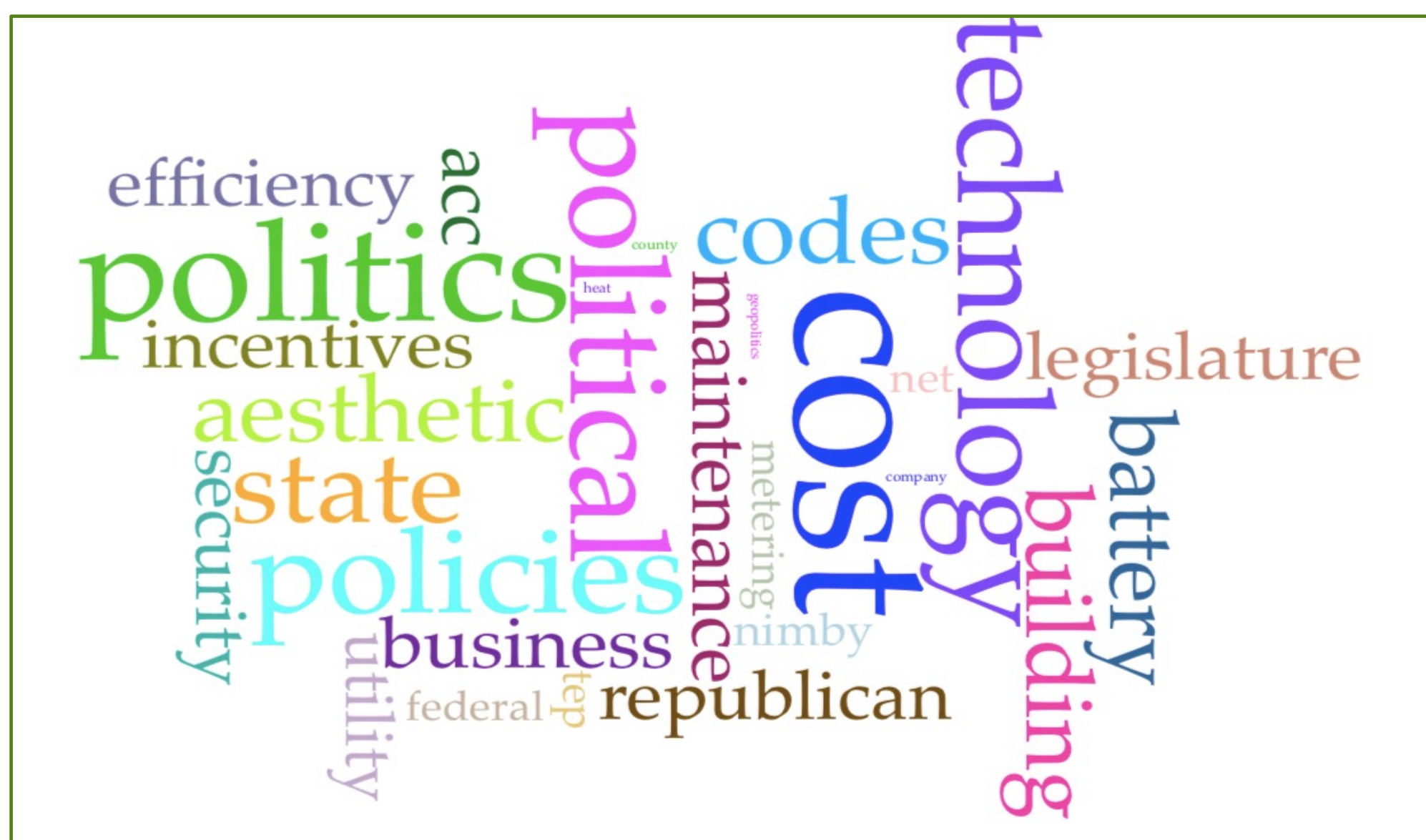
Tucson Electric Power's Energy Map



## DISCUSSION

- The local energy transition seems to be on the road towards depoliticization.
- Solar is expected to cover the energy needs of Tucson, at the price of minimizing technical and environmental challenges, with an increasing impact on landscapes.
- Additional incentives for distributed generation, which is more expensive than utility-scale generation, should be implemented to help assist the transition.

What words were most used in speaking about energy transition?



Energy transition amalgamates a number of challenges and issues

## INTRODUCTION

In Pima County, Arizona, where the consequences of global warming are particularly sensible, and where the solar potential is substantial, the deployment of solar energy has accelerated over the last years. This process of energy transition is inscribed in a complex and multi-scale network of actors, comprising of public and private sectors. Who are the protagonists of this process and what are their perceptions on the transition?

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

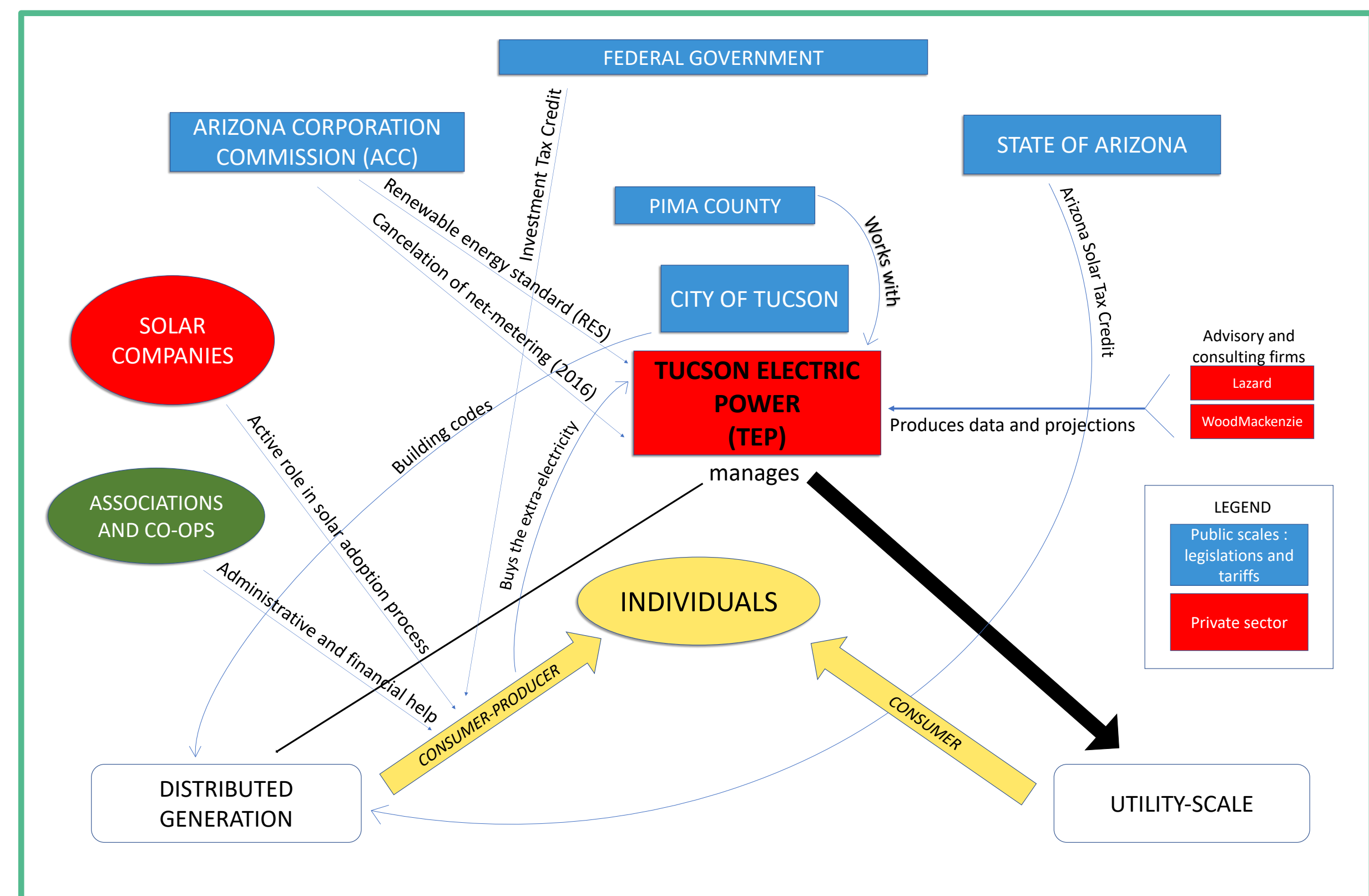
- Documentation from the utility company
- Ethnography and participant observation with local solar companies and associations
- Exploratory and semi-structured interviews with numerous local stakeholders



## RESULTS

### Actors of the energy transition in Pima County

A complex and multi-scalar interlocking of public and private actors



### Interviews: what are the blocking points and challenges to the transition?

The many and varied roadblocks explain why the solar potential is still under-exploited

