

43<sup>rd</sup> LCA Discussion Forum

**LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT OF ELECTROMOBILITY  
ANSWERS AND CHALLENGES**

April 6, 2011, 9h15, Zürich, ETH Central Building, Semper Aula

# Comparative life-cycle assessment of electric and conventional vehicles in Portugal

Pedro Marques and Fausto Freire

Center for Industrial Ecology, University of Coimbra, Portugal

<http://www2.dem.uc.pt/CenterIndustrialEcology/>



# Outline

- Scope of the study
- Energy and environmental life-cycle results
- Vehicle life-cycle GHG emissions per GHG intensity of electricity: sensitivity analysis
- Concluding remarks

# Vehicle Characteristics and Assumptions

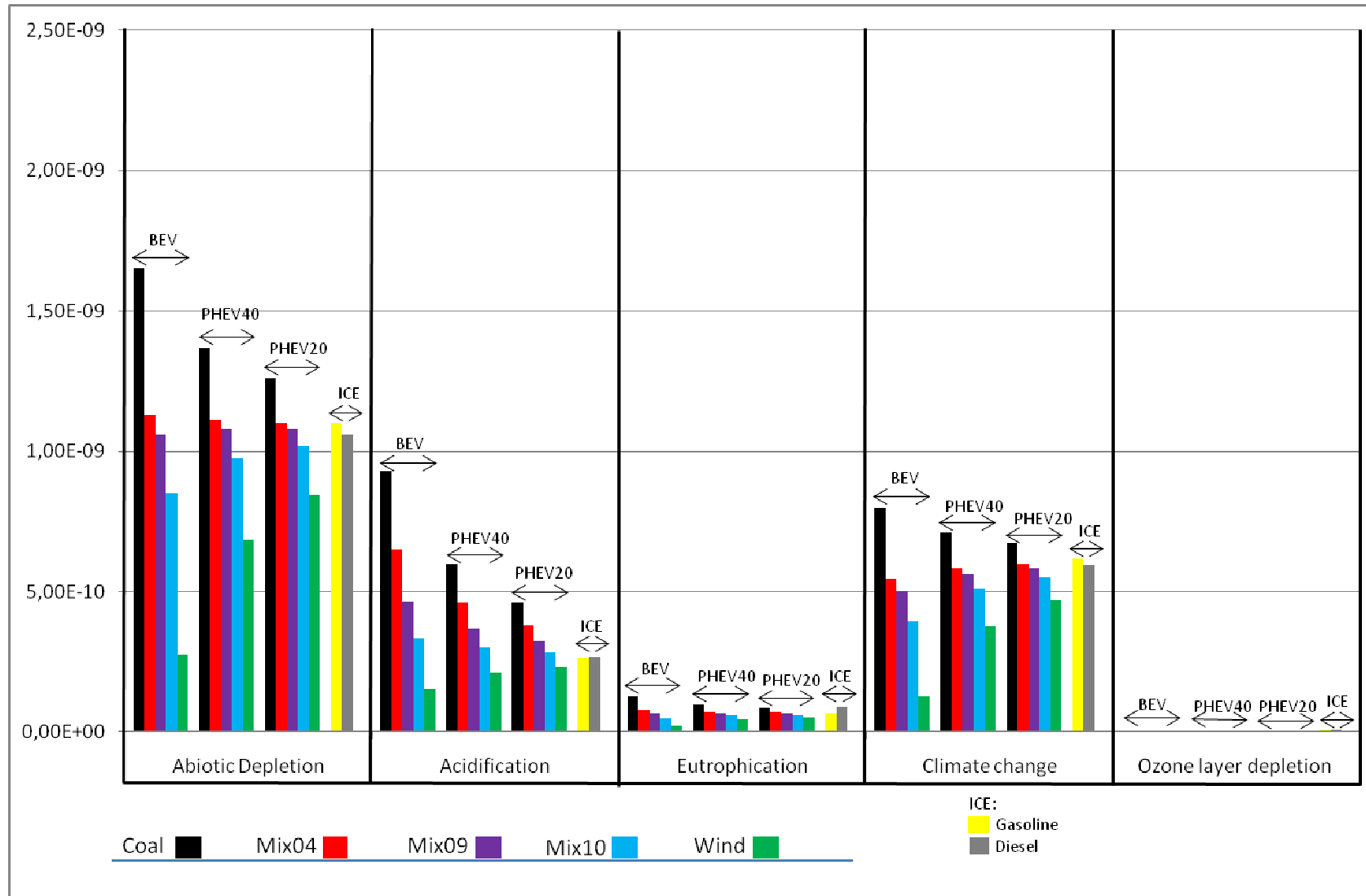
		Urban ("city car")   Suburban (based on "Golf" car)									
Vehicle type		BEV		PHEV40		PHEV20		Gasoline (ICE)		Diesel (ICE)	
Weight of vehicle (battery incl.) [kg]		883	1202	962	1284	927	1231	800	1058	800	1058
Gasoline   Diesel [l/km]		-	-	0.04	0.052	0.04	0.052	0,04	0,052	0.036	0.045
Energy consumption	Normal Charge (η=80%)   Electricity [kWh/km]	0.125	0.1875	0.125	0.1875	0.125	0.1875	-	-	-	-
	Average mix consumption [l/km & kWh/km]	-	-	0.02 & 0.063	0.026 & 0.094	0.028 & 0.038	0.036 & 0.056	-	-	-	-
	Weight [kg]	220	329	71	106	36	53	-	-	-	-
Li-Ion Battery pack (Oxide Manganese)	capacity [kWh]	25	37.5	8	12	4	6	-	-	-	-
	Driving Range (EV) [km] Full charge/discharge up to 30%	140	140	44.8	44.8	22.4	22.4	-	-	-	-
Maximum Driving Range (EV) [km] Full charge/ full discharge		200	200	64	64	32	32	-	-	-	-
Number of batteries in 200 000 km, 10 years		2	2	3	3	3	3	-	-	-	-

## Portugal Electricity Mix

Energy Source	2004 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)	2020 (%)	
Coal	29.8	29.9	17.8	15	↓
Oil	10.6	0.8	0.1	0	↓
Natural Gas	21.5	28.8	29.2	45	↑
Hydro	20	15.6	30.1	23.2	Annual variability ↑
PV	9.58E-4	0.3	0.4	0.18	
Wind	1.6	15	17.3	16.6	↑
Imported	16.5	9.6	5.1	0	↓
Total	100	100	100	100	
<b>GHG intensity (gCO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh)</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>340</b>	

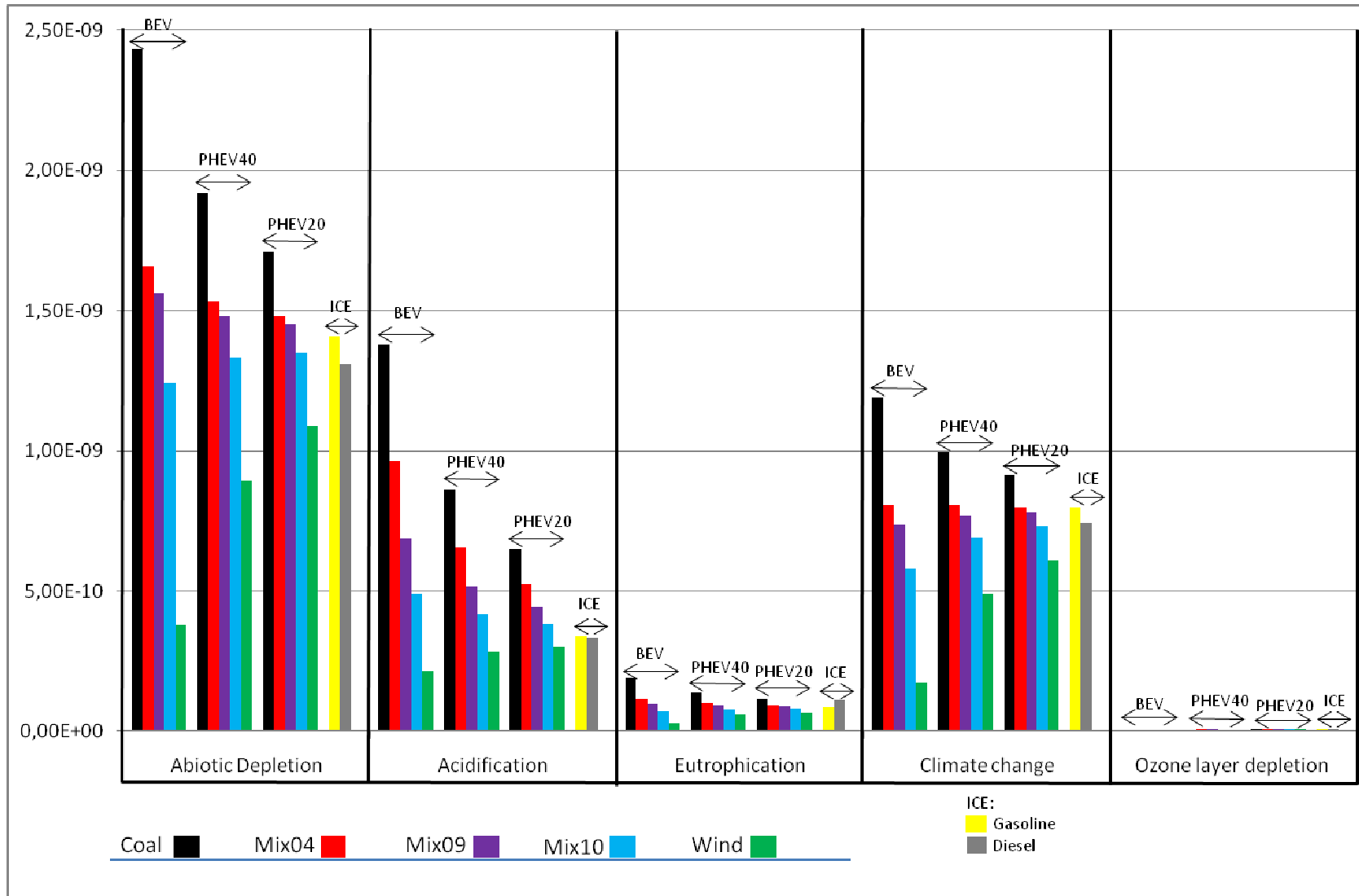
Sources: Portuguese REN (2004, 2008, 2009, 2010);  
Ecoinvent (for year 2004)

# LCIA normalized results for Urban Vehicles (200 000 km; CML 2000: World 1995)

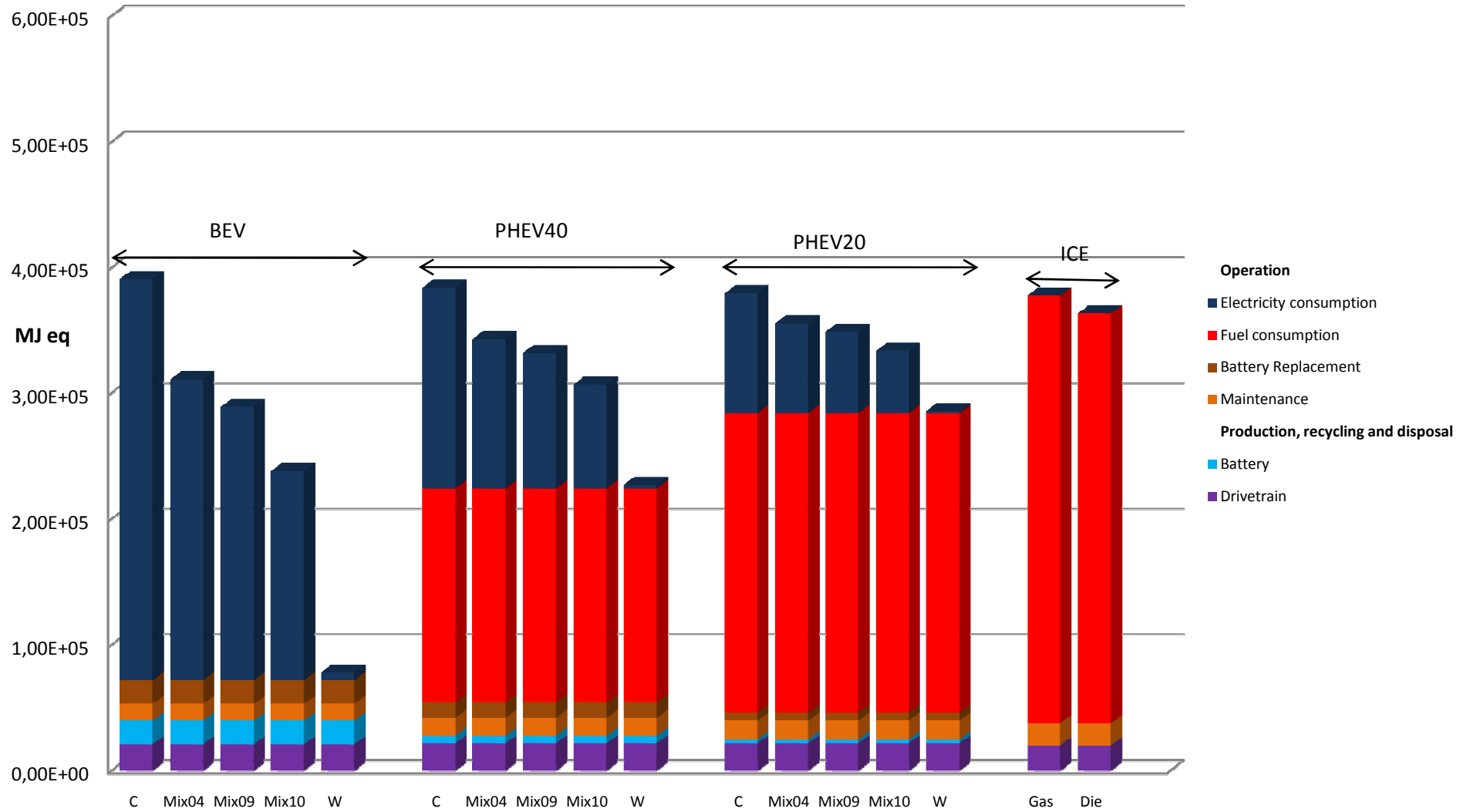


# LCIA normalized results for Suburban Vehicles

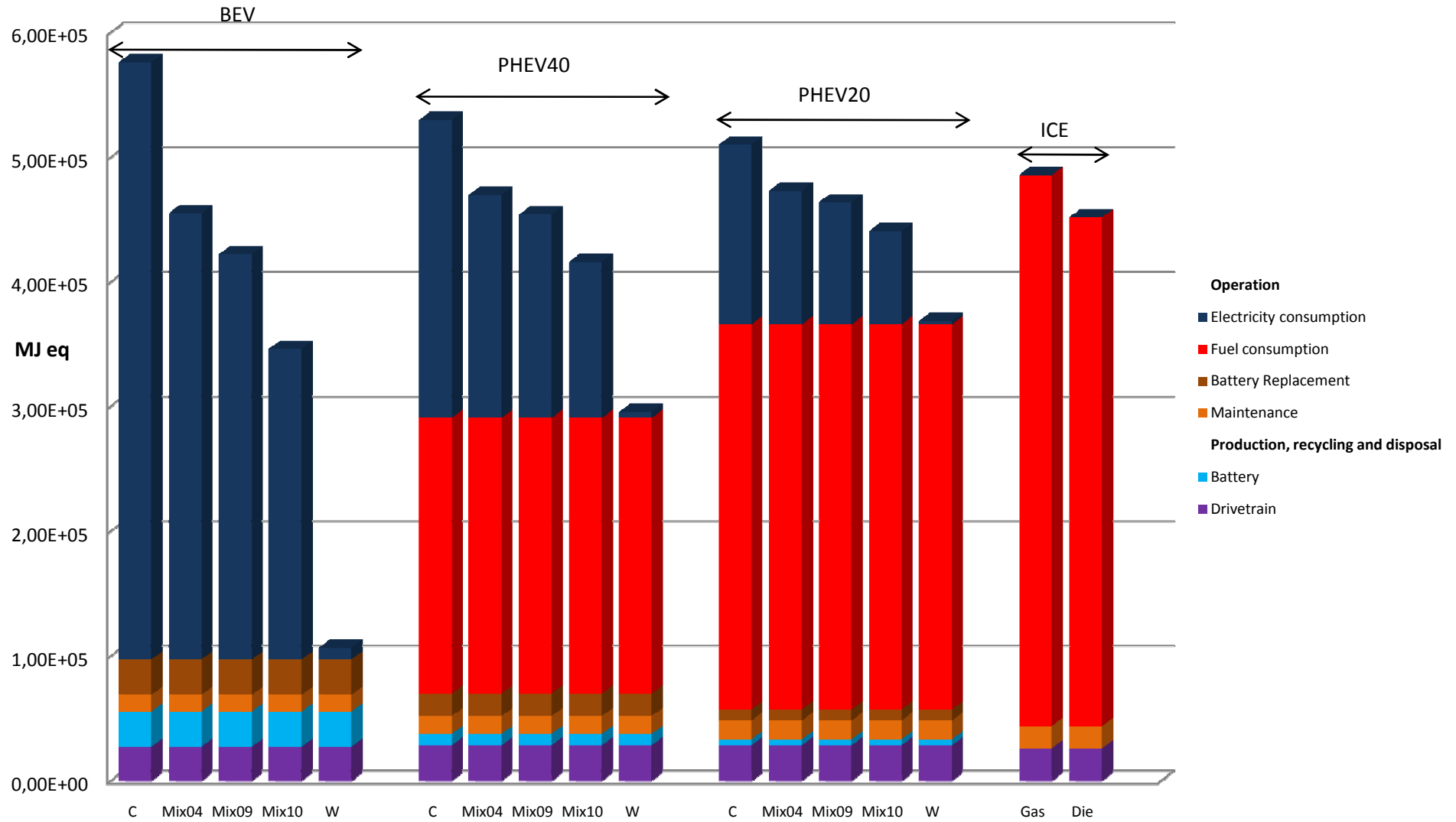
(200 000 km; CML 2000: World 1995)



# Total Primary fossil energy (CED, MJ eq) of Urban Vehicles (200 000 km)

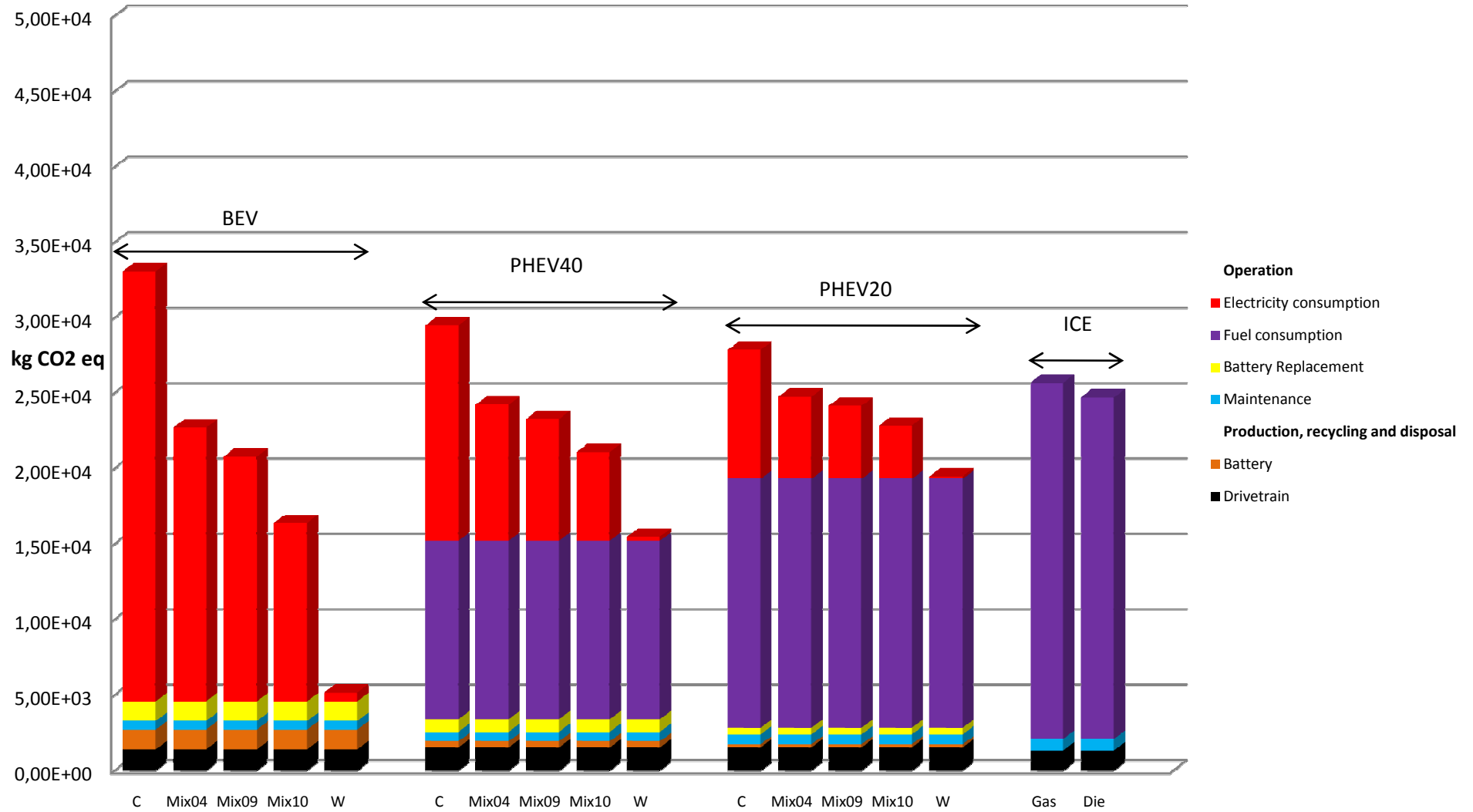


# Total Primary fossil energy (CED, MJ eq) of SubUrban Vehicles (200 000 km)

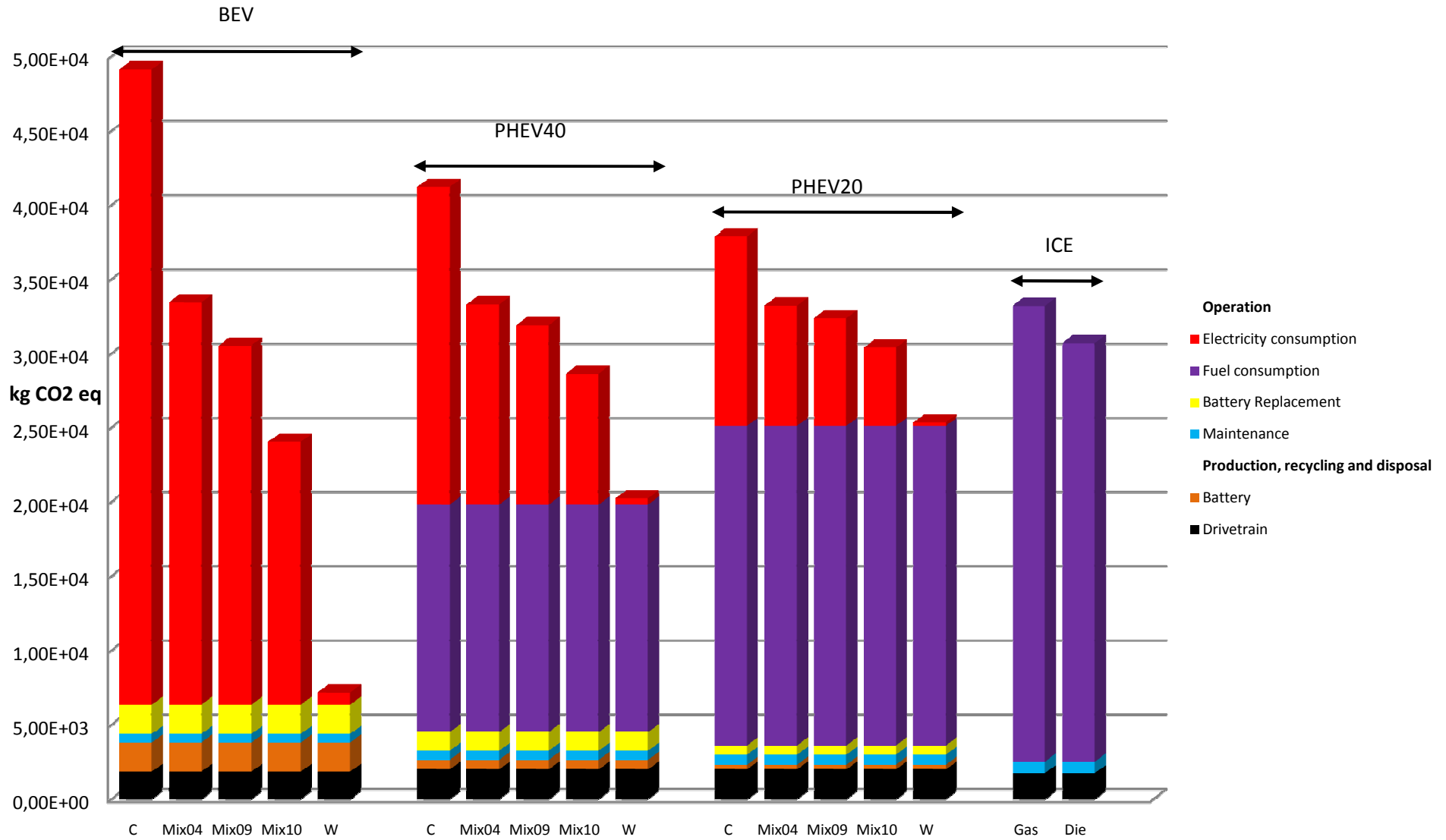




# Climate Change (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>) of Urban vehicles (200 000 km)



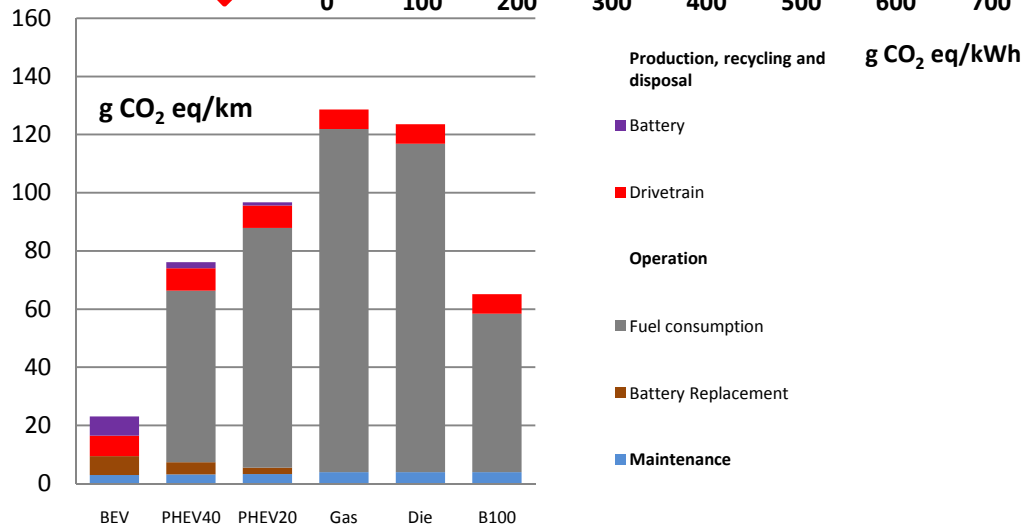
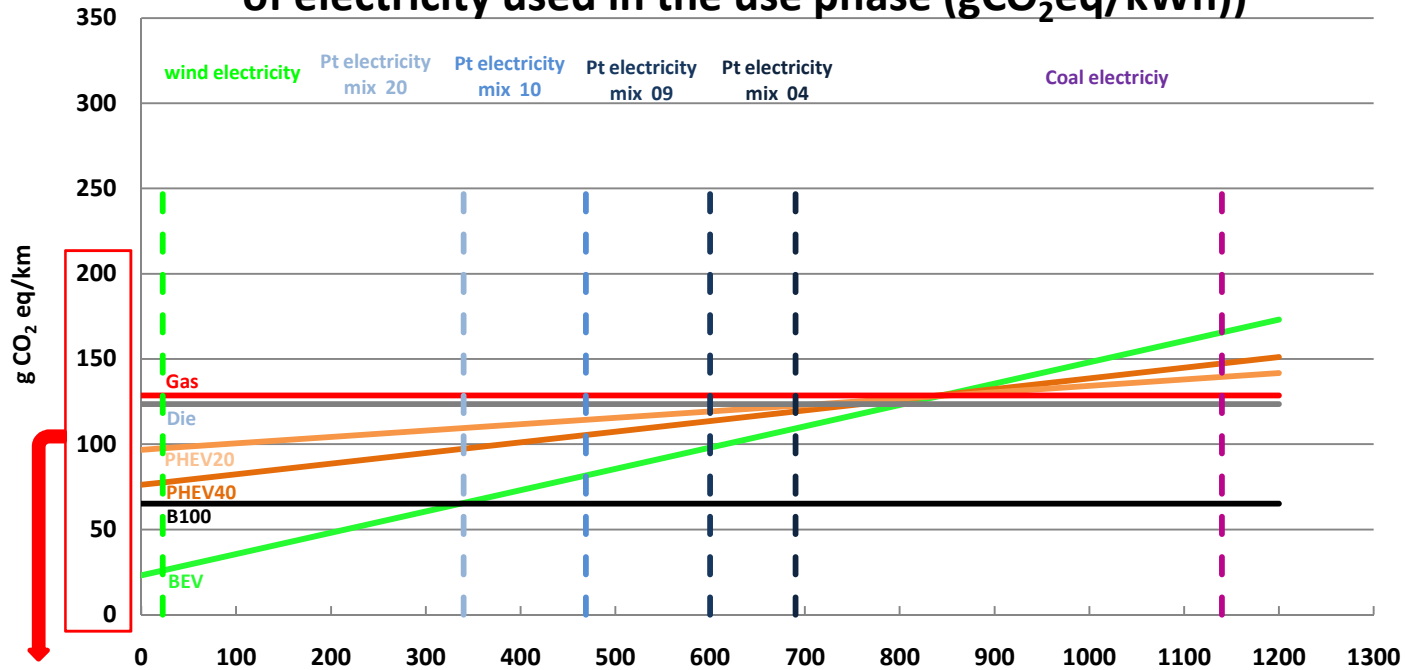
# Climate Change (kg CO<sub>2eq</sub>) of SubUrban vehicles (200 000 km)



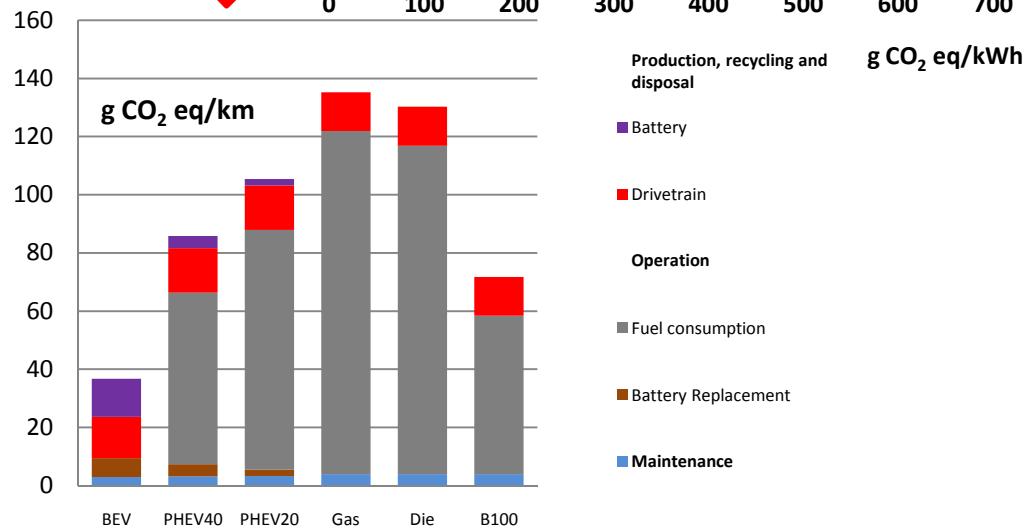
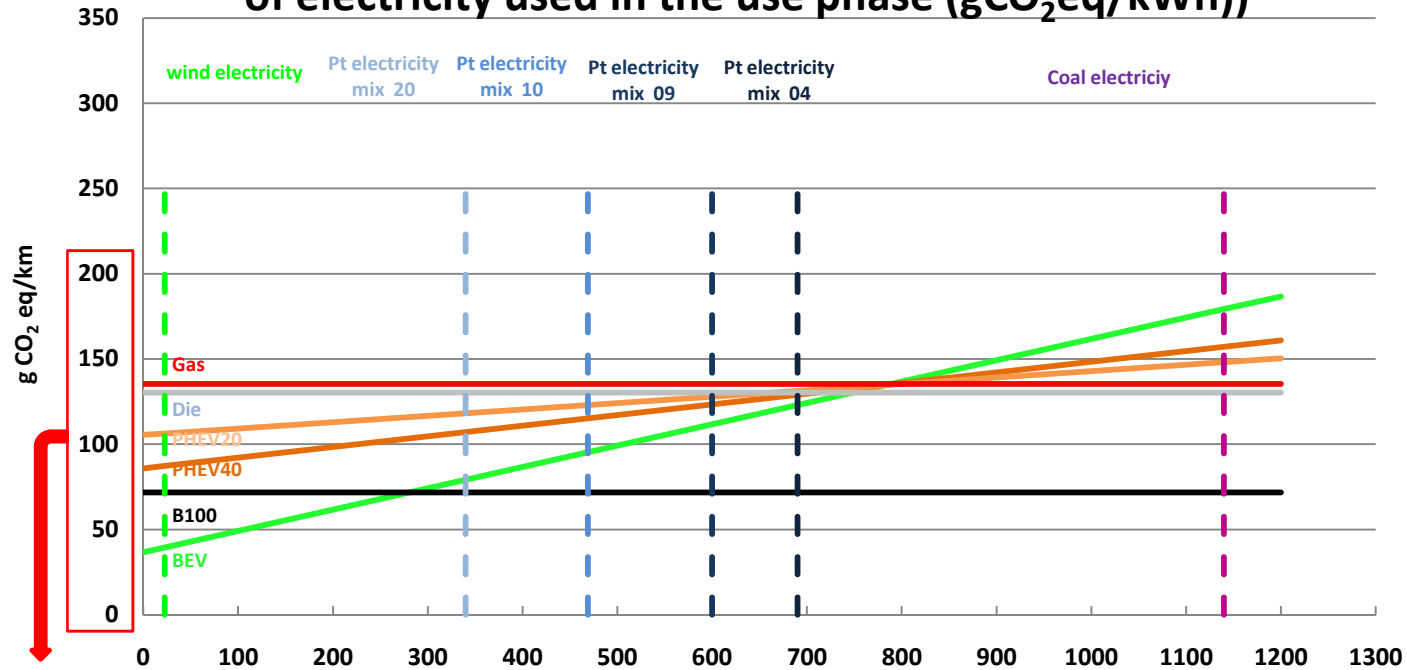
Vehicle LC GHG emissions per GHG intensity  
of electricity used in the operation phase:

## Sensitivity Analysis

# Urban 200 000 km (20 000 km/year) driven (Vehicle Life-Cycle GHG emissions (gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/km) per intensity of electricity used in the use phase (gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh))



## Urban 100 000 km (10 000 km/year) driven (Vehicle Life-Cycle GHG emissions (gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/km) per intensity of electricity used in the use phase (gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh))



# Concluding Remarks

- Vehicle operation is the most important phase (energy and environmental) for all vehicles, except with 100% wind based electricity.
- No significantly different results have been obtained for urban and suburban vehicles.
- Electric vehicles (BEV & PHEV) performance is highly dependent of the electricity mix. Urban EVs have an overall GHG performance superior for an electricity intensity below 800 gCO<sub>2</sub>eq/kWh (700 for suburban).
- The recent evolution of the Portuguese electricity mix is determining for the environmental benefits of EV displacing conventional vehicles.

**For more information, please contact:**

[fausto.freire@dem.uc.pt](mailto:fausto.freire@dem.uc.pt)

Two new Projects (2010- 2013)

- Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Electric Vehicle Systems.
- Capturing Uncertainty in Biofuels for Transportation. Resolving Environmental Performance and Enabling Improved Use

Partners: UC, FCTUC, ADAI-LAETA, INESC, IRS in Portugal and MIT (Materials System Laboratory), in USA

For details: <http://www2.dem.uc.pt/CenterIndustrialEcology/>