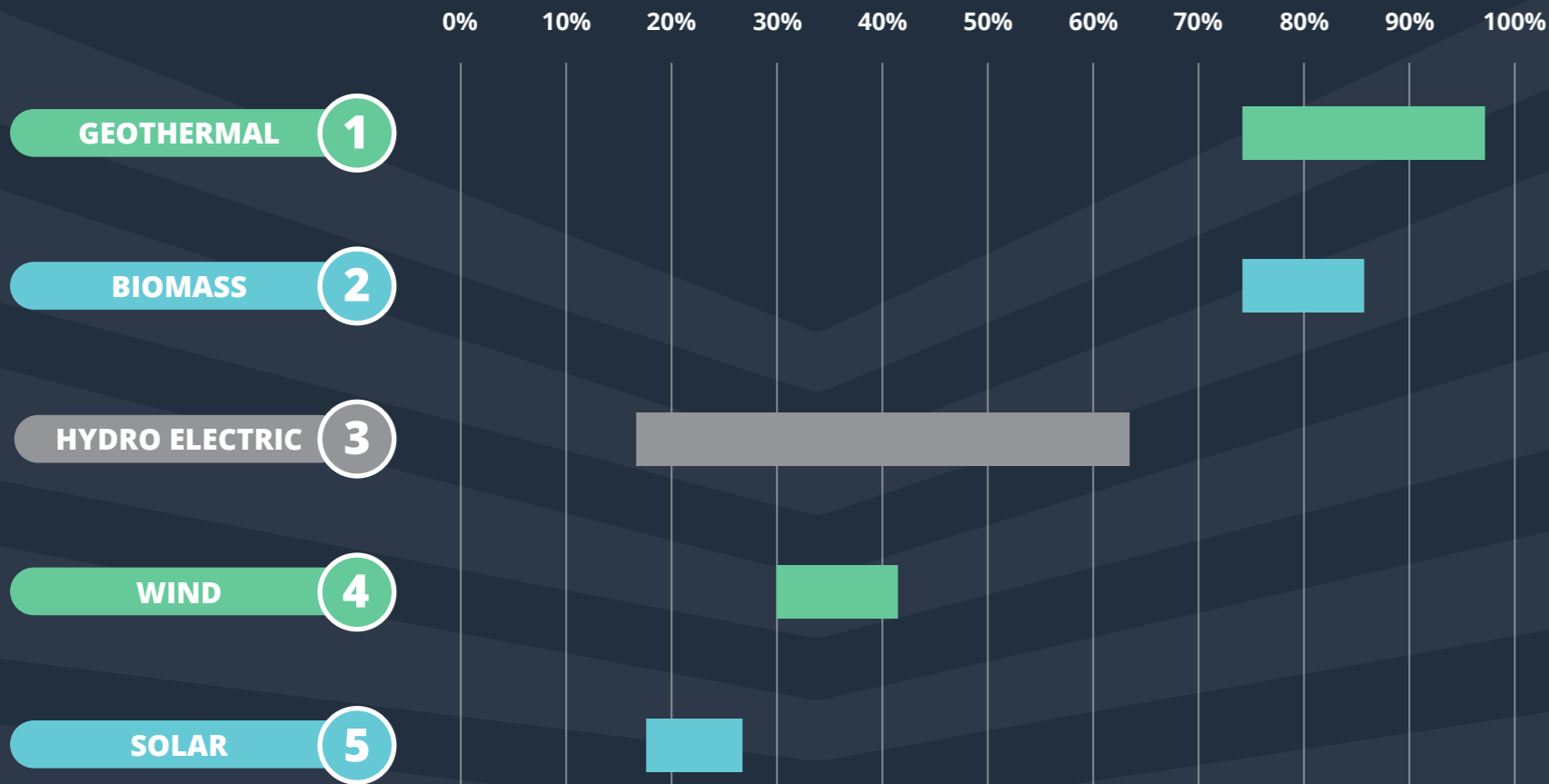


Renewable power sources ranked by intermittency

The capacity factor is the ratio of an actual electrical energy output over a given period of time to the maximum possible electrical energy output over that period. Low capacity factors generally reflect intermittent and unpredictable power sources.

Capacity Factors



Highly reliable, no carbon emissions and low production cost. It is the gold standard for data centres. Available in limited geographies and project development is long and unpredictable.

High capacity factor, but limited capacity and availability of fuel is a risk. Debatable positive environmental impact due to burning carbon-based fuels.

Dam-based hydro appropriate for baseload requirements but can impact local environment and communities. Run-of-river hydro is lower impact on local environment but risks higher intermittency.

Unsuitable as primary power source due to intermittency, complementary battery solutions prohibitively expensive. Variable availability between countries.

Low cost and quick to implement, but low capacity factor makes it unsuitable as a primary power source. Complementary battery solutions prohibitively expensive.