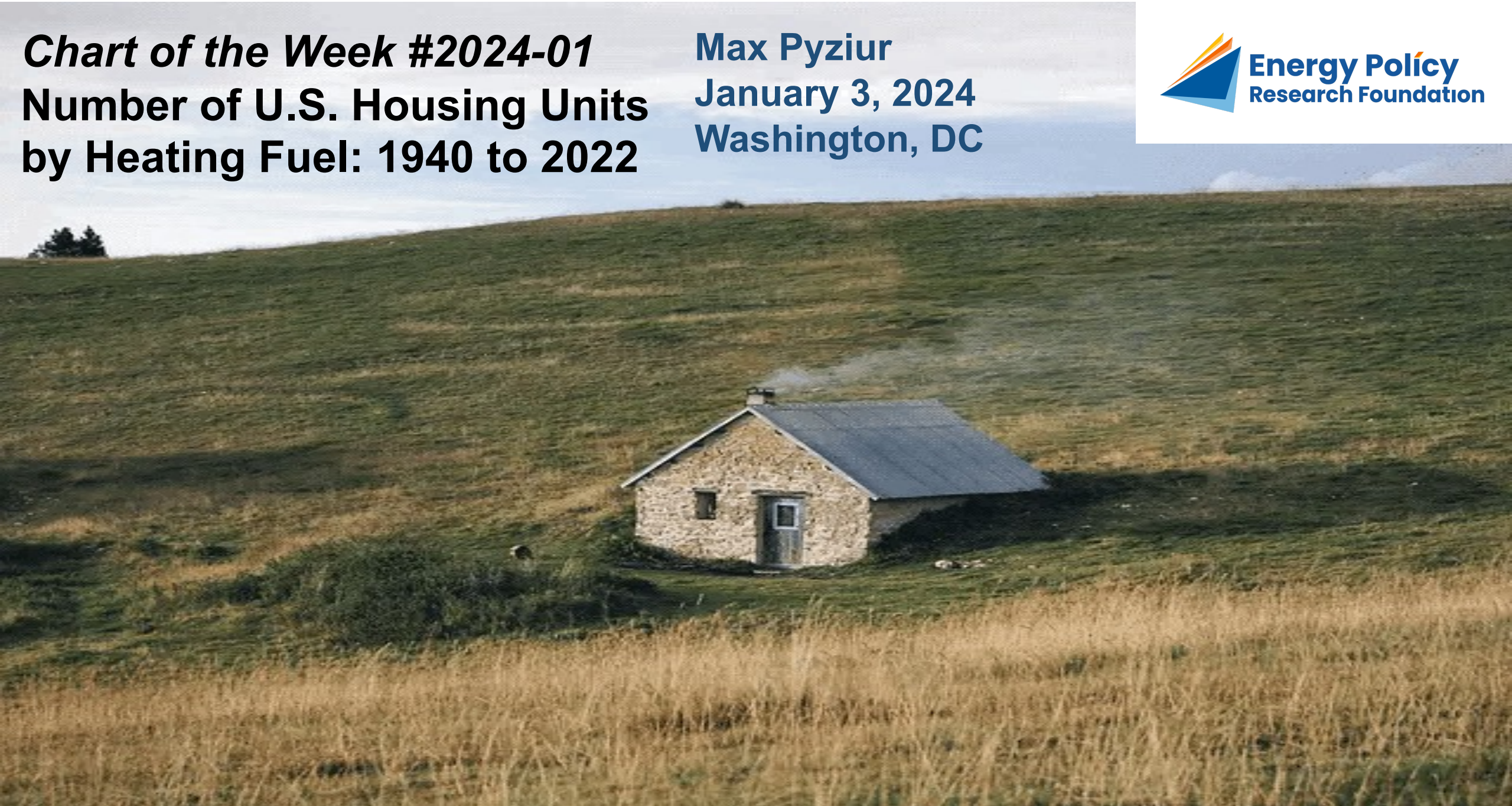
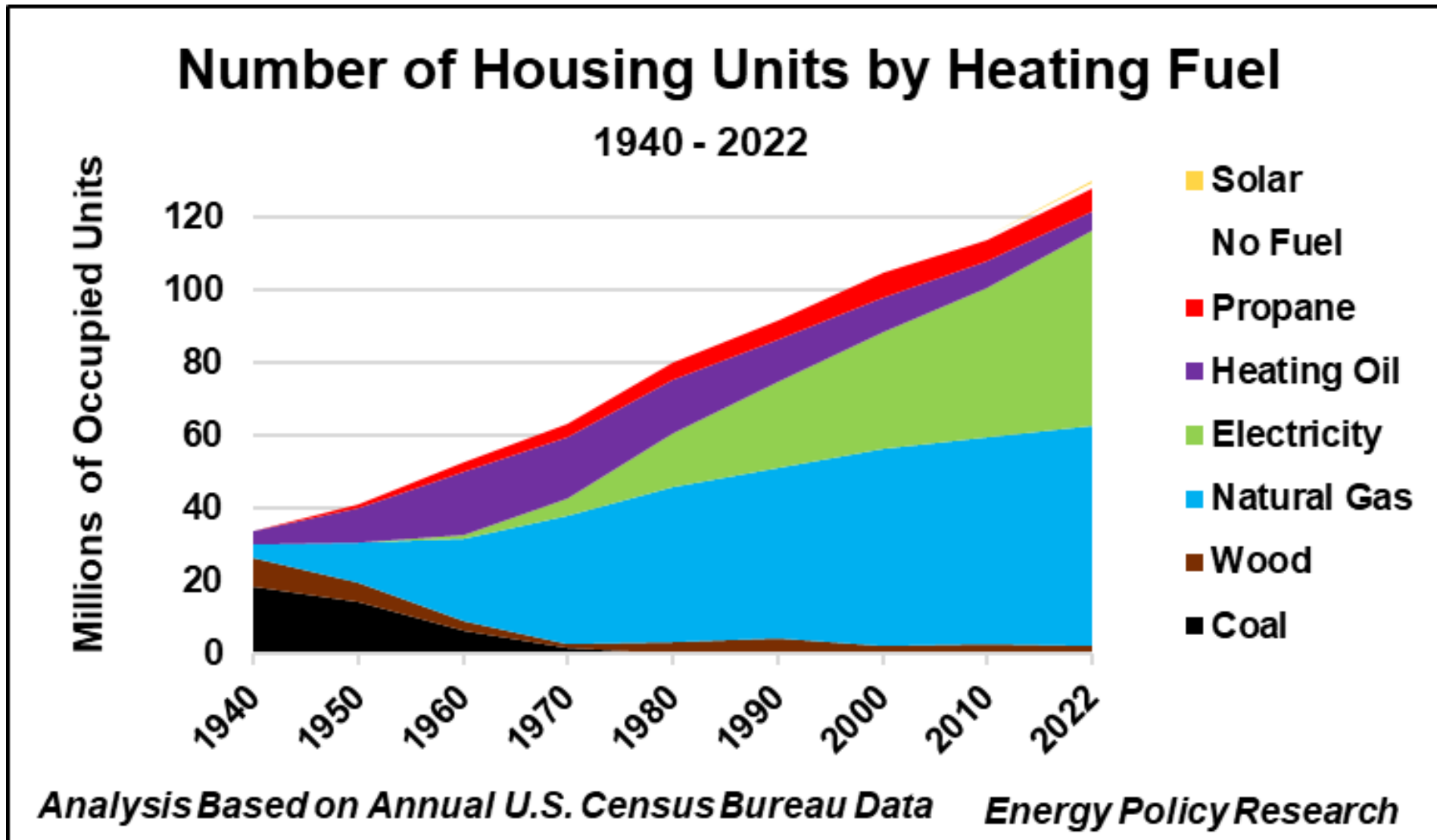


Chart of the Week #2024-01

Number of U.S. Housing Units by Heating Fuel: 1940 to 2022

Max Pyziur
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Washington, DC





Number of U.S. Housing Units by Heating Fuel: 1940 to 2022



- With the 1940 Census, the U.S. began recording responses regarding the heating of occupied housing units. The data is used by government agencies that analyze community air quality, future energy forecasts, and to manage home heating programs designed to help low-income residents.
- In 1940, the U.S. Census Bureau recorded data for 33.9 million dwellings; in 2022, the Census reported that there were 129.9 million, implying an annual housing growth rate of 1.65%.
- In 1940, coal was the dominant home heating fuel by number of dwellings, making up 54.7% of the total. Wood was a distant second at 23.2%.
- By 1970, there were 63 million dwellings. Coal and wood use declined to 2.9% and 1.7%, respectively. Natural gas was used in 55.2% of U.S. dwellings with heating oil second at 26%.
- In 2022, while the number of premises using natural gas continued to increase, that number declined as a percentage of total to 46.2%. From 1970 to 2022, electric heating increased rapidly from 7.7% to 41.3% of total number of U.S. dwellings.
- In 2010, there were 41.5 thousand dwellings using the sun as a source of heating, the first time this source was reported. In 2022, this increased to 423.6 thousand, or about 0.3% of total.
- This slide deck is available at: <https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/>
- For more information on this chart, please contact Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org).