JOSH WHEELING PORTFOLIO

I excel at turning numbers into compelling narratives through design. I have experience in climate finance, education, housing, healthcare, and sports journalism, in a diverse array of roles. Common chart types include sankeys, bars, lines, maps, and waffles.

Sr. Data Visualization Specialist, Climate Policy Initiative, 2019 – March 2024
Managed the quantitative graphics for a nonprofit that helps federal governments and global actors increase finance to fight climate change. Each year I created graphics from multiple reports that were presented at COP – including what was described as the "most well-known graphic in climate finance," the Global Landscape of Climate Finance sankey.

Co-Founder and Partner, Disaggregated, 2017 – 2019
Facilitated data-driven decisions for clients through analysis and visualization.

Manager, Data & Analytics, Philadelphia School Partnership, 2015 – 2017
Data expert for an education foundation and school-choice nonprofit.

Program Manager, CamConnect, 2011 – 2015
Ran a small data nonprofit that analyzed and designed data for Camden, NJ.

University of Pennsylvania
Bachelor of Arts and Sciences, Economics Major, 2008
Master of Public Administration, Fels Institute of Government, 2011

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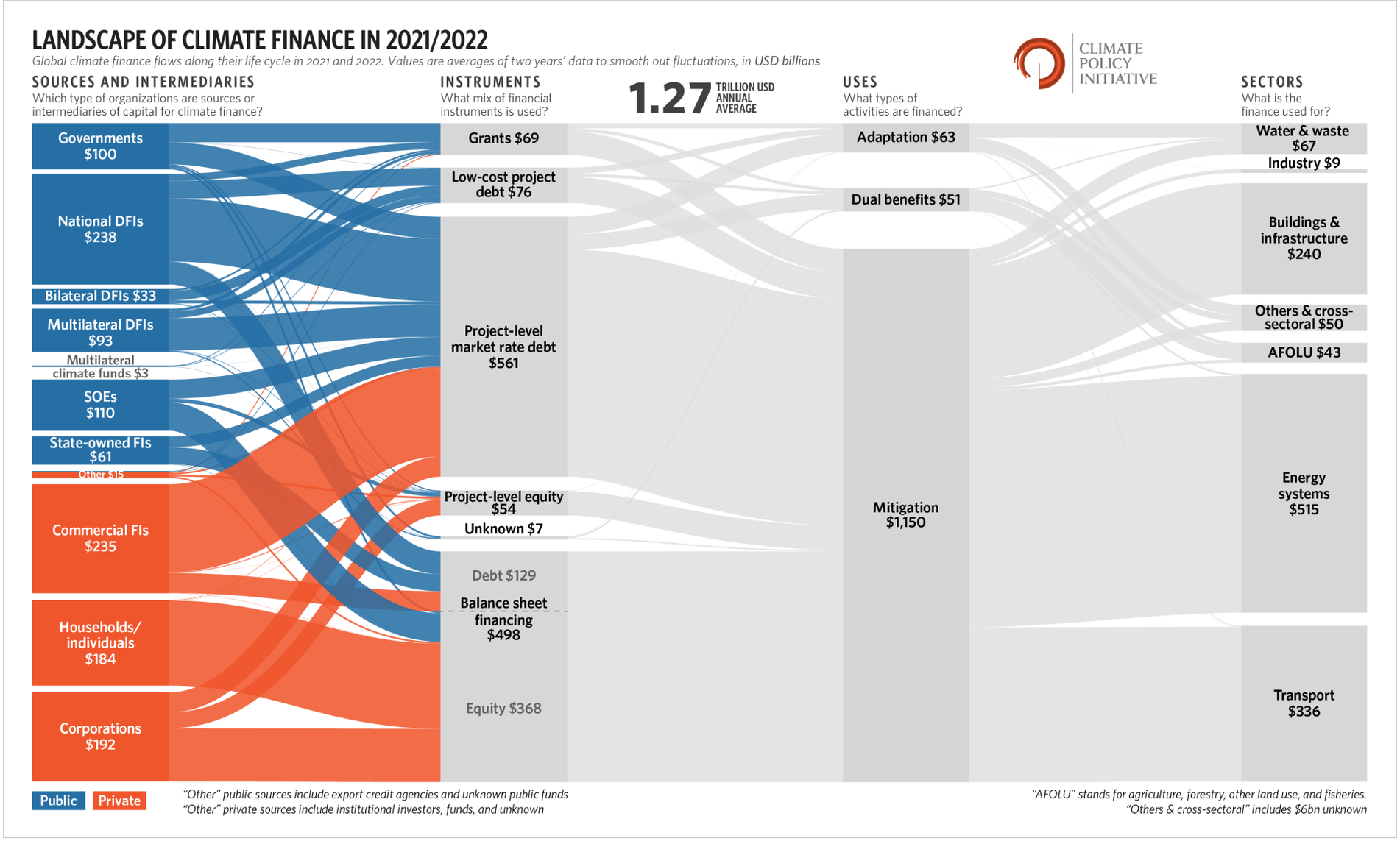
My [Global Landscape of Climate Finance sankey] is said to be CPI's most recognizable product. It is both a bar chart in the columns, and a flow diagram in between – where the thickness of each line directly correlates to the climate finance dollars flowing from actors into different areas. First I check and prepare the data in Excel, then work with analysts to customize it, and then build it in Adobe Illustrator. It contains an enormous amount of information, so a clean design is essential.



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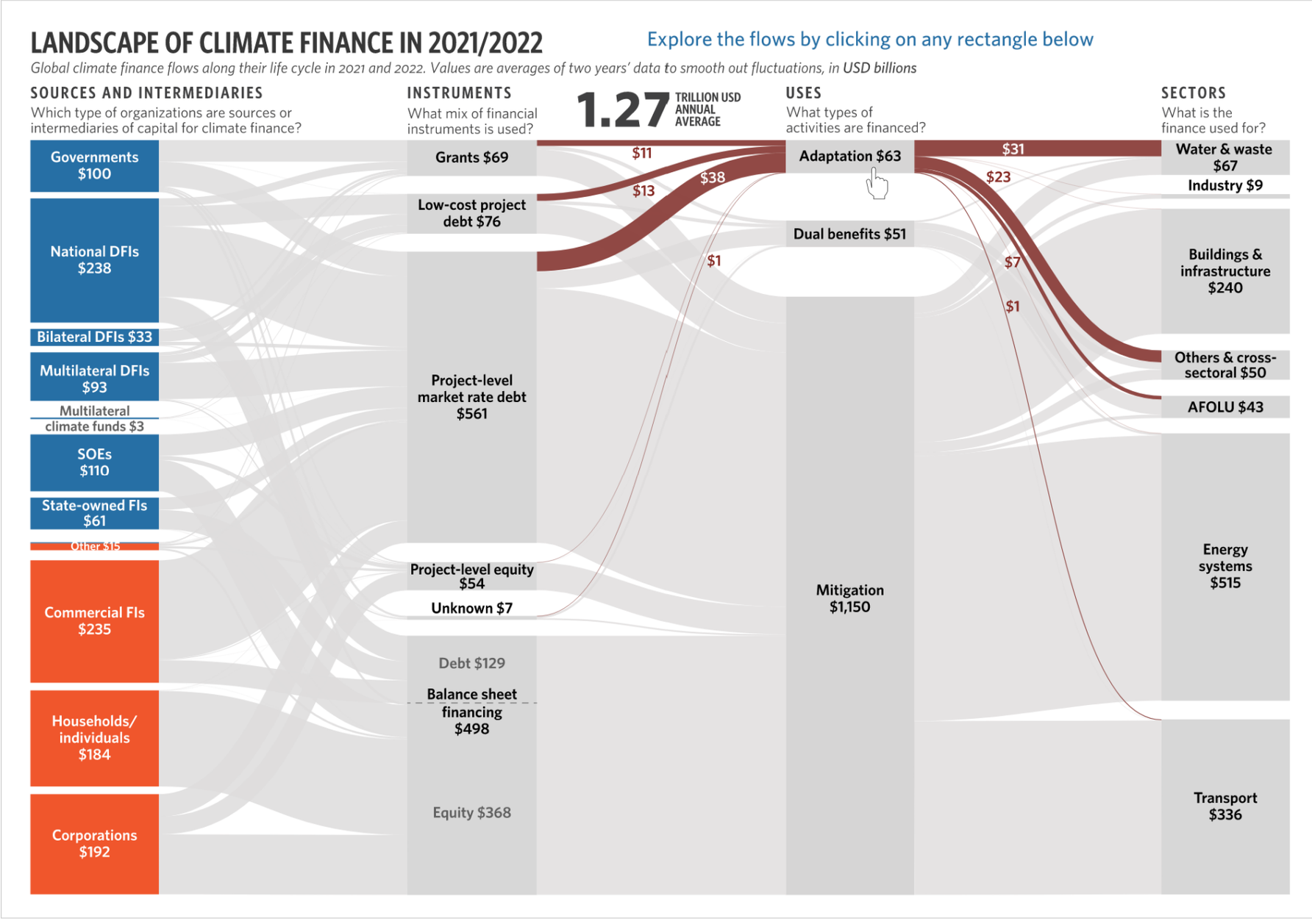
Even if well-designed, a large sankey can be hard to follow. So as more people consume CPI's content online, I created [an interactive version, where users click on any variable to see highlights and labels on specific flows](#).



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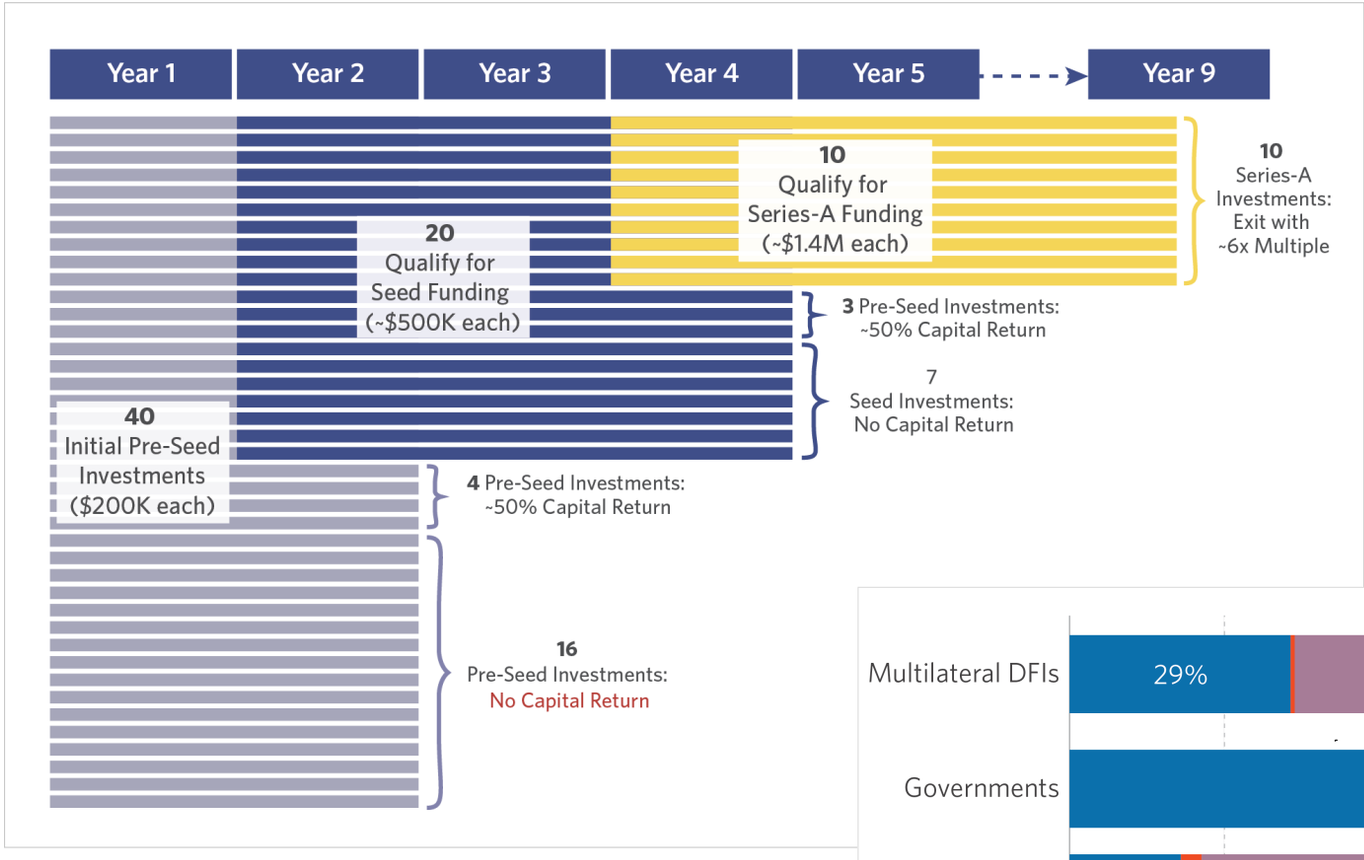
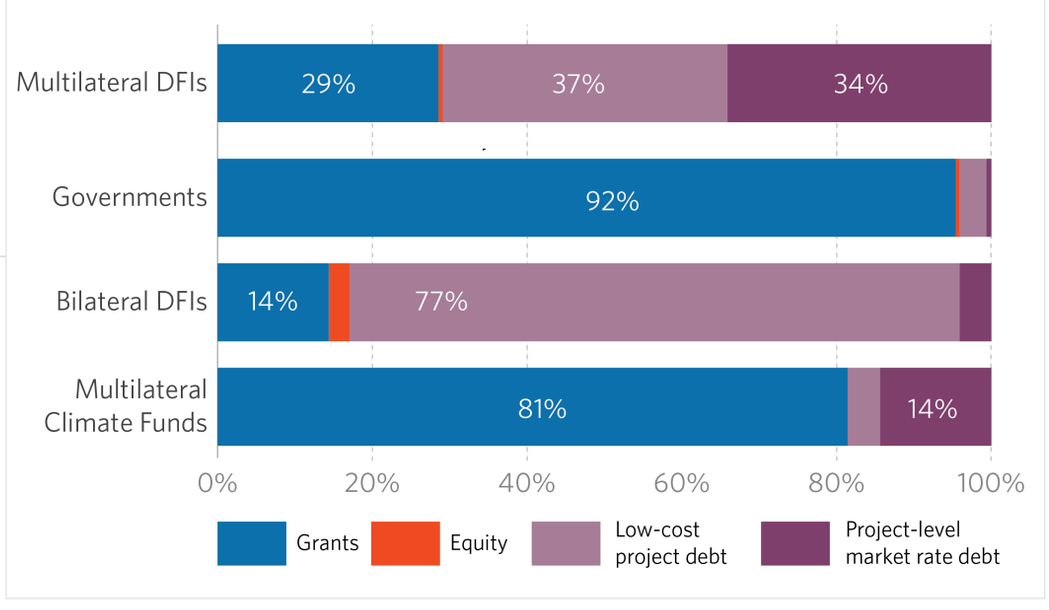
Bar and line charts are simple and versatile. The timeline directly below was for a CPI Lab instrument, CPI's incubator that has mobilized $4 billion. On the bottom right, a stacked bar chart makes it easy to visually compare variables.





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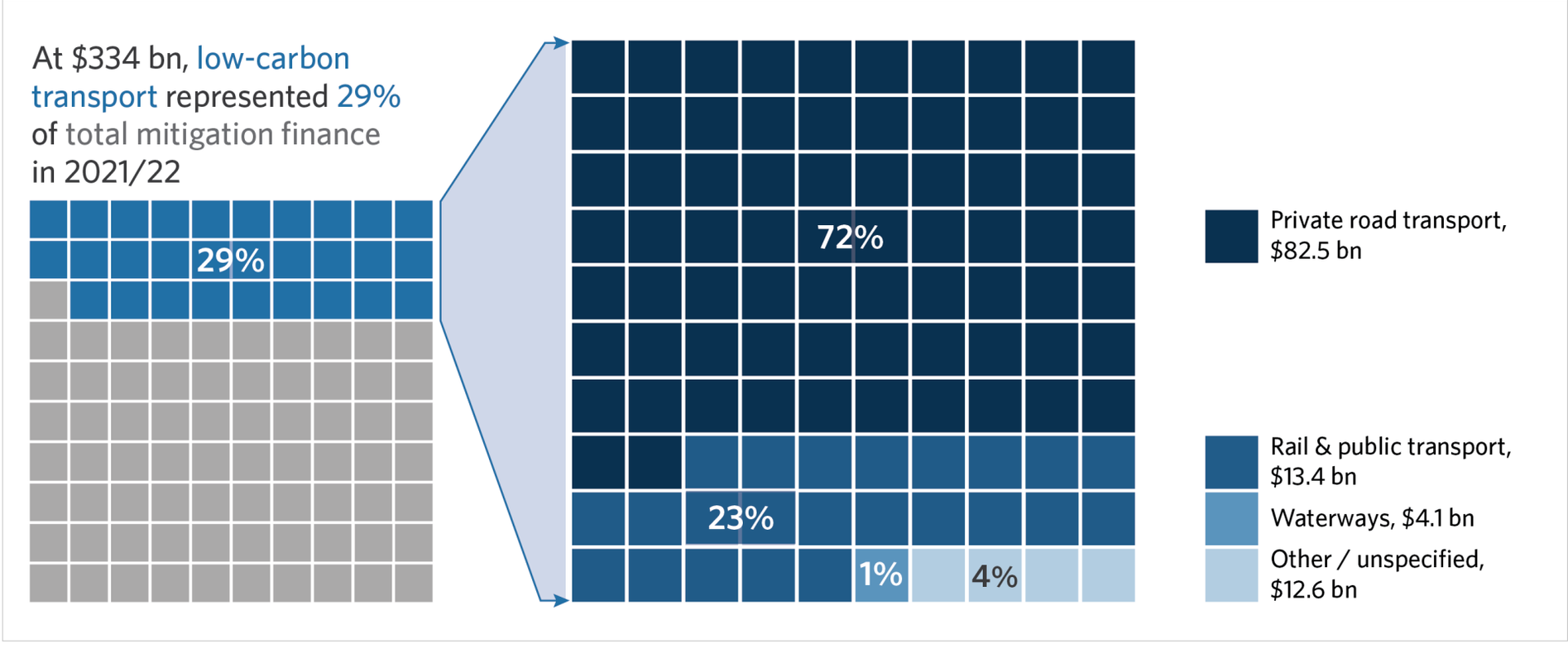
Our brains struggle to compare the sizes of slices of a circle. So when showing percentages, waffle charts, where each square equals one percent, are a clear way of distinguishing the proportions. The graphic below, in CPI's Global Landscape of Climate Finance, first shows the transportation sector's proportion of total mitigation finance, and then the breakdown of subsectors that make up transport.



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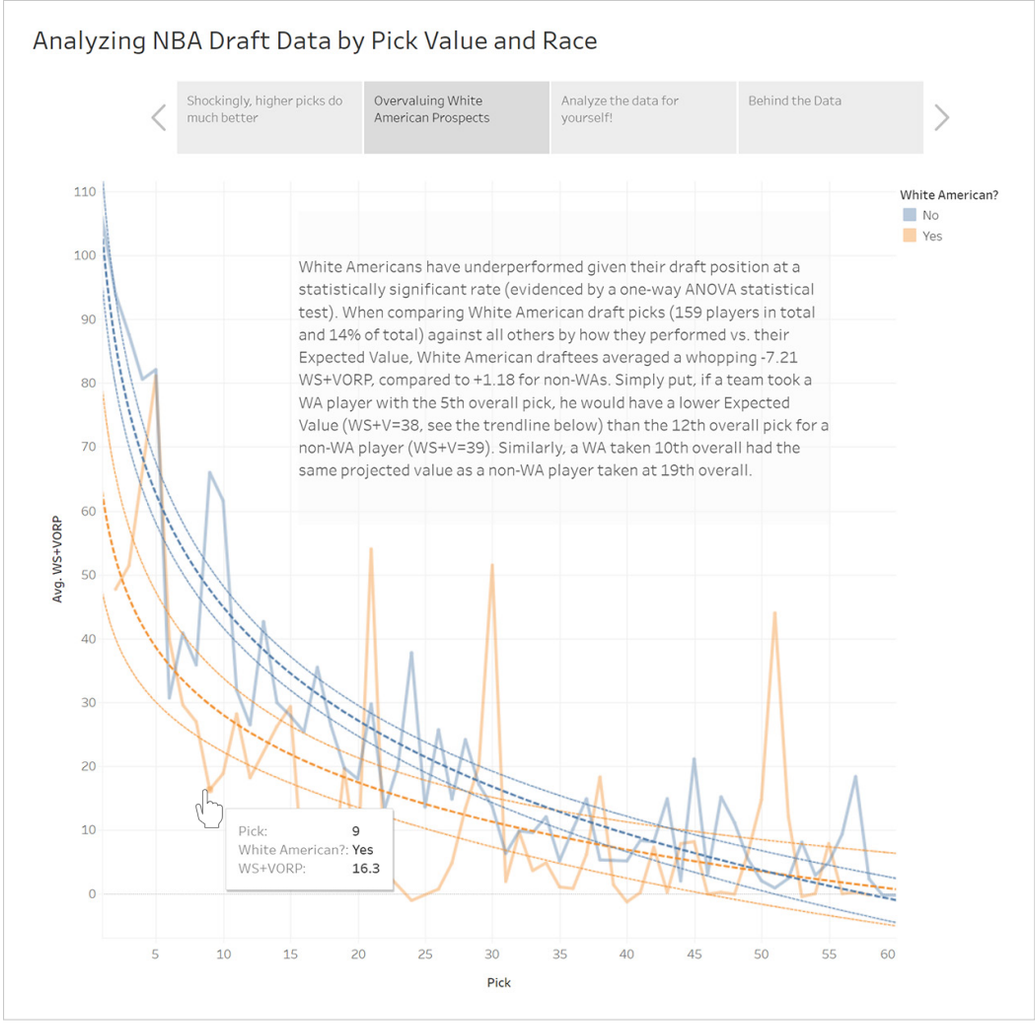
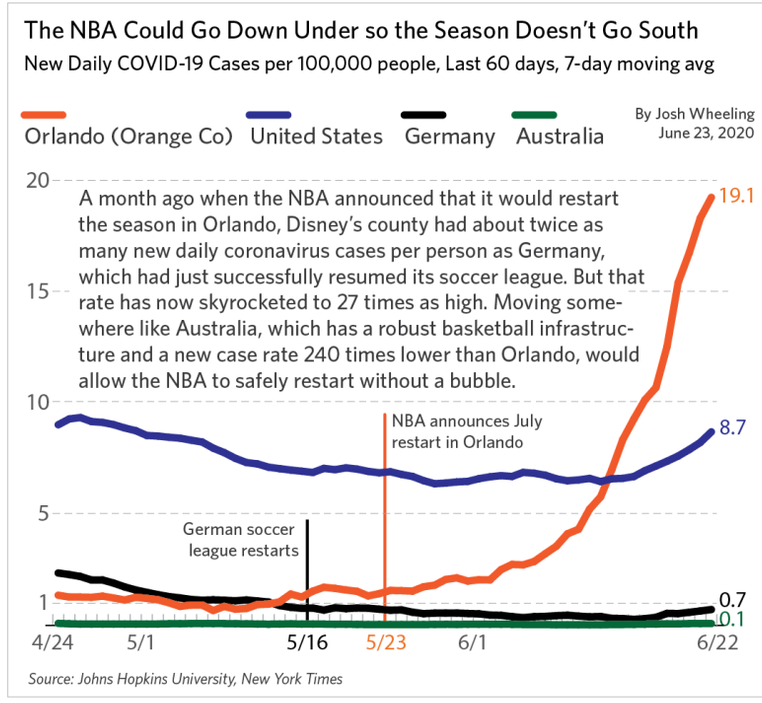
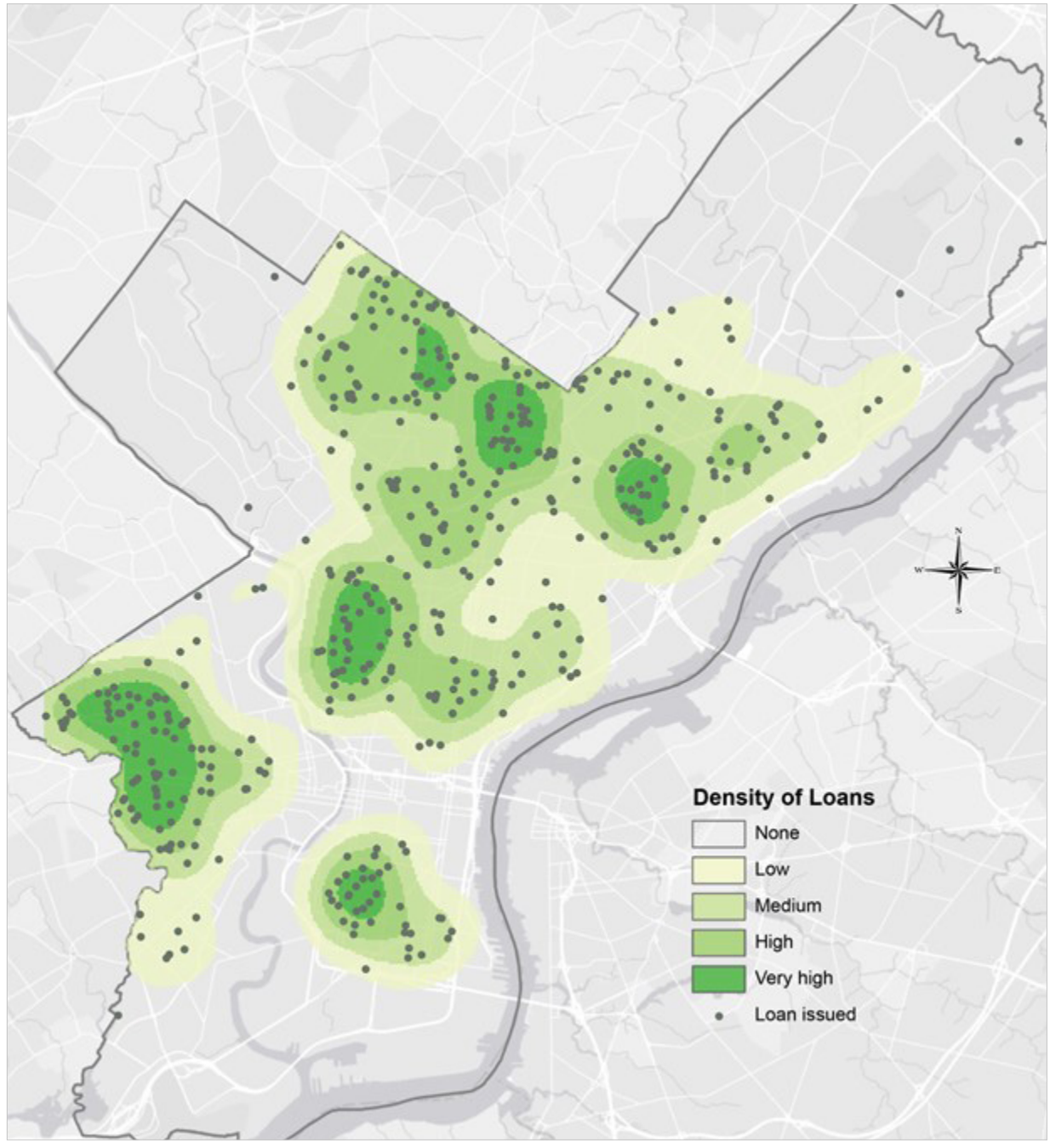
I find it essential to be constantly learning new programs, as well as doing projects for fun outside of work. To practice with the program Tableau, I analyzed a dataset of every NBA basketball draft pick from 1988-2007. Initially I didn't find much interesting, but then I coded every player by race and country of origin. The non-overlapping confidence intervals made it clear that in this span, white Americans picked in the first round underperformed their draft position at a statistically significant rate. Back in 2017, this was "too controversial" for major news outlets but was still viewed 8,000 times on Tableau Public.



This line graph was an analysis of covid rates as the NBA planned to resume games. I was interviewed about it on The Bay Area's 97.5 The Game.



Heatmaps are a great way to show spatial trends when working with a large geospatial dataset. This map illustrates the density of house improvement loans to low-income Philadelphians.



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