

# Nuclear power statements

1. Nuclear power already provides 18 per cent of the world's electricity, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. It could provide far more.
2. With a fifteen-year period before any power is generated, and even longer before any return on the investment is seen, nuclear power is not for the impatient.
3. Nuclear power is uneconomical compared to other sources.
4. Nuclear reactors produce plutonium, and plutonium is terrible because it can be used to make bombs.
5. Plutonium symbolises nuclear war.
6. Nuclear energy must be bad, because so many people are against it.
7. Nuclear waste is a threat.
8. At present, the reserves of uranium that can be profitably sold are enough for at least a hundred years.
9. Solar energy would involve considerably greater cost if relied upon for most of the world's energy.
10. Giving up on nuclear energy is unlikely to reduce the danger of nuclear wars.
11. Nuclear energy is energy released from the atomic nucleus.
12. The United States produces the most nuclear energy, with nuclear power providing 20 per cent of the electricity it consumes. France produced the highest percentage of its electrical energy from nuclear reactors – 80 percent as of 2006.
13. The use of nuclear power is controversial because of the problem of storing radioactive waste for indefinite periods, the potential for possibly severe radioactive contamination by accident or sabotage, and the possibility that its use in some countries could lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
14. Nuclear power does not directly produce carbon dioxide, which has led some environmentalists to advocate increased reliance on nuclear energy as a means to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (which contribute to global warming).
15. Nuclear power is not cost-effective because of the huge costs of constructing a nuclear plant, tax expenditures, involved in research and security, and the undetermined costs of storing nuclear waste. The real cost of nuclear power is very high if all the expenses are honestly taken into account including public scientific research and long-term management of nuclear waste.
16. The life-cycle energy impacts of nuclear plants undermine their potential as an alternative energy source.

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