

Nuclear Power



Pros:

- ✓ Technology is readily available and does not have to be developed.
- ✓ Large amounts of electricity can be generated from a single plant with the use of minimal fuel.
- ✓ Considered green energy because it adds minimal amounts of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere compared to the burning of fossil fuels.
- ✓ Nuclear power plants are improved and more safely constructed with a greater number of failsafe measures that minimize the chance of a nuclear accident.
- ✓ Recycling of spent nuclear fuel which generates new reactor fuel. This reduces the amount of nuclear waste that must be stored.
- ✓ Creates new jobs.
- ✓ Boost to the local economy.

Cons:

- ✓ Even though nuclear plants are better designed with more safety features, meltdowns can occur.
- ✓ High level nuclear waste products are highly radioactive and can stay this way for thousands of years.
- ✓ Safe storage containment sites must be developed that can house radioactive wastes until they are no longer harmful.
- ✓ Public fear of nuclear power
- ✓ The “not in my backyard syndrome” particularly in finding sites for nuclear power plants or storage of nuclear wastes. One currently controversy is the proposed long-term storage site in Yucca Mountain, Nevada.
- ✓ During the spent fuel recycling process, uranium and plutonium are recovered. Some people fear that recovered plutonium fall into the wrong hands and could be used to make nuclear weapons.
- ✓ High costs of building nuclear plants and nuclear fuel recycling centers.