

Are renewables better for the environment than nuclear power?

Nuclear power is the ideal power source by any measure. It produces no significant air pollution or water pollution, and uses fewer resources than solar or wind power.

When it comes to toxic waste, solar is king. Solar panels contain numerous toxic materials and are not recycled. Spent fuel from nuclear power has never hurt anybody, and it can be reused more than 30 times through a recycling process called "reprocessing." Fresh nuclear fuel is manufactured from spent fuel at reprocessing plants in France, Russia, Japan and UK.

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<https://www.amazon.com/After-Fukushima-History-Nuclear-Radiation/dp/1534946306/>

Is uranium mining dangerous or environmentally destructive?

Mining is always destructive to the environment. However, we need so little uranium that we could use nuclear power for all our electricity sustainably.

Globally, each year we consume :

- ➔ 80,000 tonnes of uranium
- ➔ 3 billion tonnes of iron
- ➔ 8 billion tonnes of coal
- ➔ 16 million tonnes of copper

No mining sector is as dangerous or devastating as coal mining. The MORE uranium we use, the better it is for the environment, as 1 lb of uranium can replace 80 000 lbs of coal.

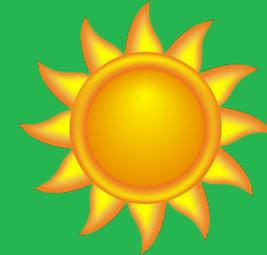
While modern technology can be the cause of environmental degradation, it can also be the solution.

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Is nuclear power too expensive to be an effective solution?

When it was reported that 1000 MW of solar had become cheaper than 1000 MW of nuclear, some imagined economics made nuclear the clean energy source of the past. Unfortunately, for most of the year, solar power produces little or no power at all.



Solar is lucky to generate electricity for 15% of the year; it is not unusual for solar panels to only operate 8-11% of the year. Nuclear power plants run continuously, and it's possible for them to operate 365 days without pause. Since nuclear power plants run an average of 90% of the year, so solar does not come close to being able to replace as many fossil fuels as nuclear.

Nuclear's greatest merit is how it is land-efficient. Diablo Canyon generates 2300 MW from 12 acres, while solar requires over 5500 acres for the same output. It may be impossible to eliminate dangerous air pollution without relying primarily on nuclear.

Rather than a history of blighted environments, radioactive waste and unfulfilled promises, nuclear power has made cheap electricity without real danger or environmental damage. Nuclear power plants built in the 1960s are still excellent sources of emission-free electricity.

The global merchant ship fleet could use nuclear propulsion, instead of dirty fuel oil. Electrically-powered trains allow for sustainable and efficient rapid transport. Desalination powered by nuclear electricity or surplus heat can make water abundant enough for arid lands to be irrigated.



Atoms for Peace program shared American nuclear technology with 30 countries

Nuclear power plants provide unlimited energy, land, food and water

No history of nuclear power shows the relevant issues as clearly. *After Fukushima* will change your perspective about energy, the environment, and reshape how you see modern technology.

Easy to read, this book is aimed at readers with no background in science or nuclear power.

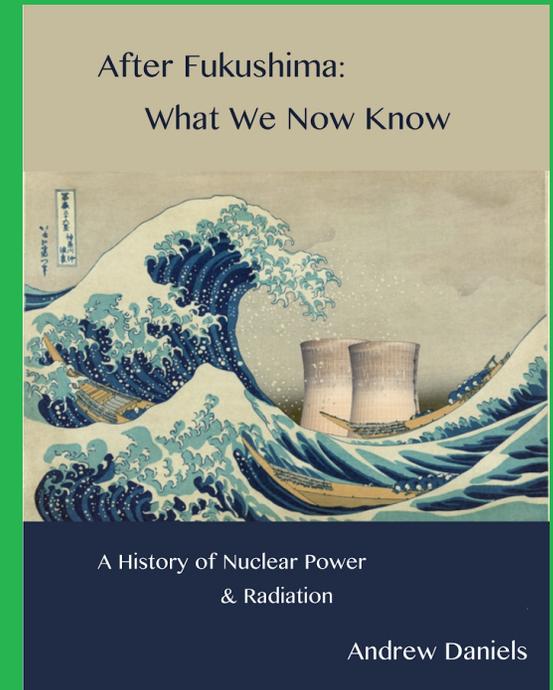
The history of nuclear power shows we should have had clean energy, but we ignored the ideal power source

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After Fukushima: What We Now Know



Did Chernobyl and Fukushima prove we shouldn't use nuclear power?

Actually, it proves the opposite: the worst meltdowns are less dangerous than a fossil fuel plant operating correctly. Chernobyl killed 45-54 people over 30 years, and Fukushima is estimated to kill less than one. In contrast, the worst hydro disaster killed 200,000 people, and air pollution kills 8 million people (WHO) every year. Even a Chernobyl-type disaster every year is better than continuing to use fossil fuels. Nuclear power never suffered from serious safety issues.