

We believe our current dependency on non-green energy sources; coal, oil and nuclear power needs to be replaced with green energy. We envision a future where all of our energy supply will come from green energy sources. We believe the shift to green development can occur if we reduce our overall per capita energy demand through conservation and more efficient use of energy. Utilizing renewable energy sources in concert with energy efficiency measures and conservation makes them sustainable. If our future energy supply is green and sustainable, we will become self sufficient.

Energy is green if it is sustainable, non-polluting and safe. Green energy has two primary characteristics. It is renewable and has a low impact on the environment, health, and public safety. Renewable energy derives from naturally occurring energy sources that can be harnessed with little environmental impact during any stage of exploration, extraction, conversion, generation, recycling and disposal. The use of green energy sources does not deplete natural resources, pollute the environment, negatively affect public health, or adversely affect public safety or security.

The green energy sources which are low-impact and renewable are wind, solar thermal, photovoltaic, biomass, hydropower, geothermal and renewable hydrogen.

Nuclear power is not a green energy as it is not renewable and does not have a low-impact on the environment, our health or our safety. On the contrary, nuclear power's fuel cycle and its by-product, highly irradiated nuclear waste, have a long-term negative impact on the environment, our health and safety.

***Nuclear fuel cycle production from the mining of the uranium ore that goes into the fuel, the milling of that ore into fuel rods, the extraction, and refining cycles relies on fossil fuel CO2 emissions to process, enrich and fabricate nuclear fuel.**

*** Uranium enrichment plants are the largest contributors of CFC-114, a chemical coolant that destroys the earth's o-zone layer.**

*** Nuclear plants discharge large amounts of erosive chemicals and radioactive isotopes into our water and into the air we breathe.**

*** Nuclear power plants take in over a billion gallons each day of water from our ocean or rivers through their "once through" cooling systems adversely heating water temperatures and killing fish and water mammals in this process.**

*** Nuclear power plants leak radioactive isotopes and chemicals in the soil and groundwater through unplanned and unmonitored leaks.**

***Nuclear power plants produce tons of chemical and radioactive waste and to-date we have no safe long-term storage disposal system for high-level radioactive waste requiring close monitoring and security for 300,000 years.**

*** the dismantling of retired nuclear power plants and the transport of large and highly irradiated plant structures, parts, and waste is energy intensive and has an adverse impact on the environment.**

***After, The Nuclear Energy Institute(NEI) released in 2004, “Vision 2020: Powering Tomorrow with Clean Nuclear Energy” where they claimed that nuclear power was “the largest source of clean air, carbon free energy in North America”, the National Advertising Division(NAD) of the Council of Better Business Bureau requested that NEI discontinue its “inaccurate” advertisements and unqualified claims that nuclear power was “environmentally clean” and “ produced electricity “without polluting the environment”.**

In their decision NAD noted that nuclear power cannot be considered “environmentally clean” for several reasons. First, the uranium enrichment process relies heavily on electricity generated from coal-burning plants that produce “a significant amount of greenhouse gases”. And perhaps most importantly, unlike other forms of energy, nuclear power produces toxic, radioactive waste, for which no safe method of disposal has been approved.”

Sources:

1 Union of Concerned Scientists “Clean Energy” www.ucsusa.org

2 Renewable Energy Policy Project www.repp.org

3. Harvard International Review:Combating Global Climate Change