

10 NUCLEAR POWER FACTS

1. Too expensive; Diverts funding from Renewables

Nuclear reactors' kilowatt-hour costs to build and operate are far higher than renewables; small modular reactors (SMRs) will be even more expensive. Nuclear energy diverts funds from immediately accessible renewable energy.

2. Too slow to address the climate emergency

A new nuclear power plant takes 10 to 15 years to generate power. We can rapidly scale up affordable renewable energy and energy conservation. SMRs, still designs on paper, will never arrive in time or in enough quantity to address the current climate crisis.

3. “Low-carbon” is a red herring

No energy source is “zero carbon” including nuclear power. Carbon reductions can be made faster for the same investment by choosing renewables (solar, wind, efficiency).

4. Not reliable

Nuclear power needs cooling water and must be shut down when the intake water is too hot, the water level is too low, and during extreme weather events. For maintenance they power down about 10% of the time. Renewables are far more reliable.

5. Will not deliver on jobs

Most nuclear jobs are temporary. Time wasted waiting for new nuclear jobs is better spent bringing on renewable projects that stimulate the supply chain and deliver more long-lasting jobs faster over a wide range of sectors.

6. Deadly radioactive waste for thousands of years

The high-level radioactive waste all nuclear power reactors have produced since 1942 remains deadly to all life for tens of thousands of years. But no storage solution exists. SMRs will actually generate more radioactive waste than conventional nuclear reactors.

7. Harmful to health of humans and all living things

Ionizing radiation released at every phase of nuclear power operations is harmful to life.

8. Violates human rights

Nuclear facilities (mines, mills, enrichment and processing factories, reactors, waste dumps) violate the rights of people least able to resist: poor communities and people of color. The nuclear corporations ignore communities' democratic votes, violate treaties with Indigenous peoples, plunder sacred sites, and contaminate land, air and water.

9. Nuclear power is too dangerous

No other energy technology has the same capacity for catastrophic and long-lasting harm as nuclear power. We are now seeing nuclear power plants recklessly embroiled in war zones in Ukraine and Iran. The costs of a major accident are astronomical.

10. The pathway to nuclear weapons

Countries with a “civilian” nuclear power program have the technology, skills and materials to develop nuclear weapons.

Excerpted from: Linda Pentz Gunter's *No To Nuclear. Why Nuclear Power Destroys Lives, Derails Climate Progress and Provokes War*. Pluto Press. 2026. www.beyondnuclear.org