

What to do about global warming? Is it nuclear v wind turbines?

Now scientists are certain greenhouse gases are rapidly changing the planet's climate, we must seek new energy sources and change our lifestyles. The longer we take to do that, the more people will be killed through climate extremes and agricultural damage. If we care about the future of our grand children, we must act now.

A reminder – the key facts you need to know: -

* **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** has warned that average temperatures could rise by 5.8°C and sea levels could rise by nearly 1 metre by 2100 - unless we reduce greenhouse gases dramatically. (See their reports at www.ipcc.ch.) Our neighbours in Burnham and Mersea will suffer terrible flooding.

* **Billions will face hunger and starvation** The United Nations Environment Programme has warned of mass starvation if temperatures increase by just 2°C in the tropics!

* **The World Health Organisation** has confirmed that 150,000 people are now dying annually due to an increase in diseases caused by global warming. Deaths will rise dramatically as CO² emissions increase.

Energy efficiency.

The single most important step we can take to avert climate catastrophe is to use less energy.

Energy is squandered in the UK. We have poorly insulated homes and offices and shops. We leave lights on and too many people drive gas guzzlers. The UK could reduce energy consumption by 30%, simply by adopting energy efficiency measures. (For more information on saving energy. See: Energy Saving Trust (www.est.org.uk))

This is where you can make a difference - **write to your MP and to the Prime Minister. Demand a programme of energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption by 30% by the year 2025.**

Oil and gas are running out fast.

North sea oil production has already peaked, and UK gas supplies are in rapid decline. **Last year North Sea oil production fell by 10%.** So, Government is set to import oil and gas from some of the most politically unstable countries in the world. **Geologists argue when global oil production will peak, but it's likely to be around the year 2014.** Not only will the price then rise much more quickly, but international conflict will be inevitable. If we don't want British troops to be killed securing our energy supplies we must look to the alternatives.

Why not use nuclear power? 1. Uranium is a finite resource.

If the world chooses nuclear power to supply all electricity needs, the uranium will be exhausted within just 30 years. (Source BBC research: Money Programme)

If the UK gets the energy needed for all road vehicles (hydrogen for fuel cell vehicles), we will either need 100 new nuclear power stations or 96,000 of the largest wind turbines. (Warwick University - see: www2.warwick.ac.uk)

If 30% of the world's total energy supply was sourced from uranium it would last just 20 years (Source: Energy Beyond Oil: Paul Mobbs – see: <http://www.fraw.org.uk/ebo/index.html>)

2. Nuclear proliferation, dirty bombs, terrorism and war.

Iran has decided to move into nuclear power, but Israel fears that that this is a disguise to develop nuclear bombs. **The USA may soon take military action against Iran to stop its nuclear programme.**

North Korea has used a civil nuclear programme to develop nuclear bombs and has recently threatened the USA. **Pakistan and India have both ignored the nuclear proliferation treaty and developed nuclear bombs under cover of civil nuclear power programmes.**

So, if the governments of the world chose nuclear power to avert climate catastrophe, and replace diminishing oil and gas supplies, **every nation will have access to the technology to build the bomb.** And, as the wars of the future start and end, desperate people will use nuclear power plants as weapons against their enemies.

If terrorists flew a plane into Sellafield over 2 million people could be killed in the UK.

Dirty Bombs - terrorist groups have already tried to buy contaminated nuclear materials and may soon use this with a conventional bomb, spreading deadly radiation in one of our cities.

So - * Military experts are understandably horrified by the prospects of a nuclear powered world; and

* The British public oppose nuclear power because of fears over radiation leaks and storage of waste.

Wind turbines - they can't solve the problem alone, but they can provide up to 25% of UK electricity needs now, and all the energy we need for our cars as the oil supply begins to diminish.

Most people agree they are quiet, clean, majestic and beautiful. Over 80% of people in the UK support wind power.

In the 17th century Britain had 90,000 windmills, most in rural areas. So why not look at this option again?

Tidal, wave and photovoltaic power are all much more expensive than electricity generated from wind.

But, let's not pretend wind turbines don't kill birds. Very occasionally this does happen

But, deaths are dwarfed by the tens of thousands of creatures killed by planes and cars every year. And, the thousands of bird planes and cars every year will be dwarfed by the total extinction of whole species of wildlife if global warming is not tackled - NOW.

There are lots of anti-wind turbine myths about. If you want facts, write or e-mail us: jobhandari101@hotmail.com.