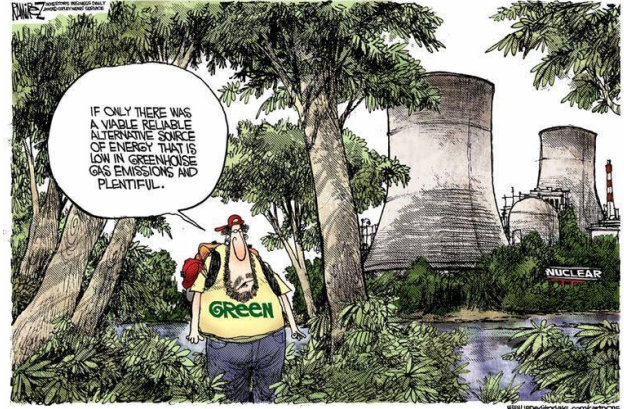


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Carbon free nuclear energy: cheap, plentiful, safe, and proven

By Steve Bakke  January 12, 2022



Before discussing my favorite “green” energy source, I’d like to give a “shout out” and sincere thanks to fossil fuels for bringing civilization to where it is today in terms of the overall health and prosperity of planet earth. Fossil fuels, Mother Nature’s green technology, advanced the planet farther than any other alternative could have.

Mother Nature, one of God’s earthly “shop foremen,” is a mighty pesky character to deal with. But her imagination, when it came to providing energy for early humans, was phenomenal. When early humans needed survival solutions, they discovered Mother Nature’s rudimentary, but ingenious, recycling solution. Organic materials had been transformed from dead plants and animals into precisely the kind of energy source needed. For millennia, humans used kindling and wood for cooking, warmth, and safety at night.

As humans developed knowledge and talents, they discovered many more plentiful and useful resources available in nature. Resources such as coal, oil, natural gas, and natural organic fertilizers, allowed modern society to develop and thrive.

But we shouldn’t rest on our laurels. It’s a good thing to use our “wits” to continue improving our lives. And always, God’s gift of wisdom must be used to carefully manage and use the earth’s resources. Otherwise potentially advantageous technology breakthroughs can be useless if impetuously employed. Our physical and financial security can be seriously impaired.

We humans often aren’t patient enough to deliver otherwise smart solutions. Recently for example, after achieving long sought and highly coveted energy independence, the new administration quickly cancelled pipeline development and reduced drilling opportunities on public lands. The reduction in natural gas and oil production, so precious to our economy and national security, caused our still fragile energy independence to disappear within just a few months.

Soon after throwing away our precious energy independence, the President found it necessary to approach OPEC, “hat-in-hand,” requesting them to increase oil production. We needed help to get through a self-imposed energy shortage and price inflation. Let’s be realistic. We’re not ready to be a prime-time player for delivering on the idealistic dreams of removing fossil fuels from our lives. That promise was proclaimed in the Green New Deal and Build Back Better legislative proposals.

Wind, sun, and other natural phenomenon abound, and we hear predictions about developing battery technology for energy storage. But we're not even fractionally ready to rely on them to carry the burden of our energy requirements? These sources are intermittent at best. The sun doesn't always shine, and winds don't always blow. You can't store wind and sunshine like you can oil and gas. Without massive and clean energy storage capability, it won't matter how plentiful those alternatives are.

The requirement for having baseload energy available on a moment's notice isn't possible when depending on intermittent sources of energy. That's where fossil fuel baseload energy capabilities will be front and center for a long time to come. We must not impetuously dispense with using this valuable resource.

My appreciation for clean energy is why I'm astounded by the decades-old refusal by green energy zealots to permit the building of nuclear energy plants. Nuclear power is well established as a proven provider of baseload energy requirements, and it deserves high, and improving, marks for being environmentally safe.

If CO2 emissions is your major concern, be assured that nuclear energy produces none of it. I don't see how you can be a serious proponent of discontinuing fossil fuels unless you are a proponent of nuclear power. Without nuclear power as part of your strategy, I don't believe you can be sincerely concerned with environmental CO2.

Modern technology has significantly reduced safety and waste management issues of nuclear energy. Its problems are well understood and controllable. Fusion and other more exotic processes for generating and delivering nuclear power are in the works. It's now time to resume the exploitation of our nuclear energy capabilities.

And I say again, the next time you hear fossil fuels being referred to as a disgusting pariah, speak up and give a salute to fossil fuels for getting mankind over those tough early millennia. Eventually, knowledge and technology gave us a dependable green energy supply such as nuclear energy. "Much obliged," Mother Nature!