

Nuclear energy 2

The Bedfordshire Climate Change Forum thinks that the following are some of the questions which need answering if we are to be satisfied that nuclear power is a solution to our energy needs:

What is to be done with the **dangerous nuclear waste** we already have and that which new generators will produce? No solution has been found yet anywhere.

How can isolated nuclear power stations be wholly protected from **terrorist attacks**?

Will not **nuclear power stations on crumbling coasts**, affected by climate change, be a huge hazard, especially as spent fuel will be stored there for at least 50 years?

Can there be a guarantee against a Chernobyl or 3 Mile Island **accident**, or from the dangers of waste transportation and adverse **health** impacts on local populations?

Are we content that **security, safety and supply** will be the responsibility of **independent businesses**, some foreign, whose priorities must include keeping costs down and maximising profits for investors?

If our energy needs are urgent, how will inevitable nuclear time and cost overruns help? If nothing will be ready until at least 2023, is that **too late**?

How much **public money** will be needed, especially for a worst case scenario? Will we have to fund British Energy style rescue packages?

What **insurance** provision is being made for nuclear power stations?

Will not nuclear swallow most available financial resources, especially investment funds, and drain the national skills base, causing research into **alternatives to wither**? What incentives will there be research other ways of combating climate change?

Given the pace and variety of development of alternative technologies, should we lock ourselves into **nuclear inflexibility** for the next 60 years, especially as uranium is a **finite resource** only available from abroad.

Is it not true that distributed energy, renewables, more efficient, restricted and reduced uses of energy can provide a **more flexible, long-term and safer solution**?

If replacement new build only provides **4% carbon reduction, 8% of total energy needs and only 20% of the electricity supply**, where is the rest coming from?

What is the **environmental cost** of building and decommissioning nuclear power?