

THE NETHERLANDS SHOULD ADOPT NUCLEAR ENERGY MORE



C: AP NEWS

One of the biggest problems the world is facing at this moment is climate change, while over the past few years strides have been made to promote wind and solar based energy sources, these sources aren't yet advanced enough to get us to reach our climate goals. One very ignored source of energy is nuclear energy.

There are a fair amount of countries trying to harvest nuclear energy but the top five are

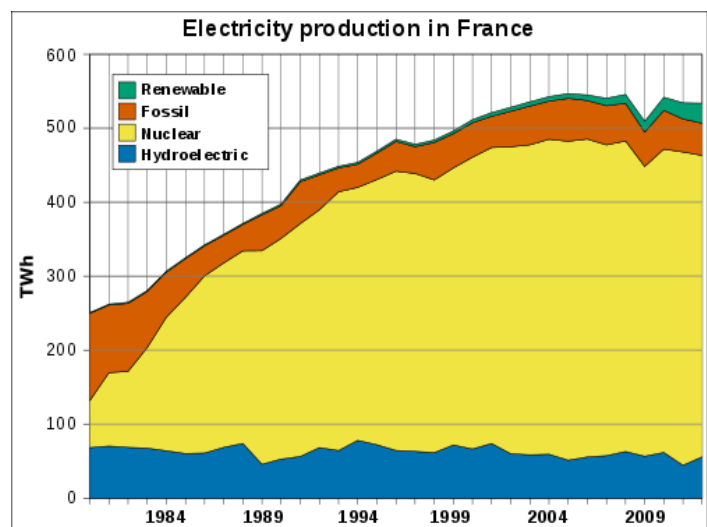
1. *United States of America*
2. *France*
3. *China*
4. *Japan*
5. *Russia*

With the United States having by far the biggest amount of nuclear plants with 96 total, France is 2nd with 56. But there is still a big difference between these countries while the USA's plants provide around 20% of the total electricity, Frances' nuclear plants provide 72%. Making France by far the most efficient, while china has around 48 plants as of right now, they are currently building 11 new ones.

One of the big advantages of a nuclear plant is that it doesn't emit any CO₂, making it a very clean energy source. So this would make nuclear energy something green activists would be in favour of, right? Well, this is mostly not the case. Greenpeace, as an organization, has been against nuclear energy for years. Citing reasons as nuclear plants being expensive while solar and wind energy is cheaper, radioactive waste, and the fact something can go wrong with nuclear plants, case in point Chernobyl and Fukushima. Greenpeace has also stated that many nuclear plants are outdated and dangerous.

But let's look at some facts. In the Netherlands we have 1 nuclear plant in Borssele, that produces around 3% of the electricity in the Netherlands. While the plant is only in use 80% of the time and it is set to be decommissioned in 2033 but that may change. Mark Rutte has wanted more nuclear plants but this hasn't materialised into any sort of concrete plans because of costs and protests.

But a main example of how good energy can be is France, because of their efficient plants they produce a lot more energy than they use and can sell their extra energy. Their CO₂ emissions per kWh are even lower than that of Denmark from statistics out of 2007, their air quality is much higher than their neighbouring countries like Germany, who relies more on burning brown coal. And because of the nuclear energy electricity is a lot cheaper which helps them make electric cars more appealing.



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And due to the Fukushima accident they have even increased the safety of almost all of their reactors. The Fukushima accident is something of course very recent in everyone's memory, but some on television have tried to paint Fukushima as a positive thing. Arjen Lubach from Zondag Met Lubach (ZML) for example. He argues that because of the fact a earthquake with a magnitude of 9. Which then caused a tsunami of 40 meters high and shifted the earth axis where thousands of people died we all remember the nuclear plant melting down. The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the people in the area being impacted by health risks are low, with 1 person having died on record and only 1500 max being predicted to suffer in the future. ZML points out that we shouldn't think of Fukushima as a safety hazard or something dangerous but as something that explains how safe nuclear plants are.

The Ukraine, a country that has had the worst nuclear disaster in history is also an example of why such a unique accident didn't deter them. Because Ukraine still has 15 plants in operation to this day and is actually building 2 more. One of the countries that's most heavily hit with nuclear disaster is also heavily investing into it.

The reason stated for no one wanting to invest in new plants is that it's too expensive. 9 billion euro's for a singular plant. But a new nuclear plant lasts about 80 years according to estimates. While a windmill lasts about 20 years. In 2011 it almost happened in the Netherlands but it all came down to money. The new plant was supposed to create 10% of our energy.

In Europe about 27.5 percent of our electricity comes from nuclear energy, out of a study of the Massachusetts institute of Technology nuclear energy is one of the cheapest forms of energy.

Nuclear energy is cheaper, safer, and cleaner but for some reason no one wants to this. Many people are against it when the evidence clearly seems to be stacked against them. We as a small nation can do a lot with just a couple of plants that can last decades and provide us cheap and clean energy. If we just make the investment.

https://www.greenpeace.org/nl/klimaatverandering/10570/de-onbelangrijke-rol-van-kerncentrales-in-de-toekomst/?gclid=Cj0KCQiAjKqABhDLARIsABbJrGmjdB53-FRrHfhDqKPfhBpkZk4RlrYKRHEqWcWBIX7nloCCmxvyYlMaAkohEALw_wcB

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