

Undeserved Good Rep(wind and solar), undeserved Bad Rep(Nuclear)

Undeserved good rep.

1. The “greens’ haven’t grasped the basic physics: manipulating the electrons surrounding the atomic nucleus can provide 3 or 4 electron volts of energy; using the binding energy of the nucleus can provide 200,000,000 electron volts.
2. They don’t take proper account of the fact that electrons, with their negative charge don’t like to be jammed together(stored). Nature is highly resistant to electron storage. The closer you try to push them, the more they resist. So, storage is a large, expensive, resource hog that can’t be bypassed.
3. They dismiss the incurable intermittency of wind and solar. They brag about towns that run on 100% renewables(wind and solar), but such places do not exist. They may have arranged for the amount they need but cannot come up with the consistency required. They don’t shut off the power when the wind don’t blow and the sun don’t shine. They have to rely on other, (usually fossil fuel) sources at greater expense.

Undeserved bad rep

1. Most people don’t really understand radiation effects and risk. There is a misperception that any radiation is damaging, but we live in a continuous bath of radiation, cosmic, sun produced, and naturally occurring radioactive isotope radiation that our bodies are designed to manage. There is growing evidence that small amounts of radiation stimulate our immune systems. We continually use x-rays to image our body parts with no great increases in cancer rates.
2. Nuclear nay-sayers insist on exaggerating the risk from nuclear power reactors which have been proved to be the safest power of any source.
With the newest reactor designs, especially molten salt reactors, the down- side of nuclear power generation can be radically diminished. Yet, nuclear hysteria is inhibiting the remaining development required to bring these reactors on-line.
3. The risk from stored nuclear reactor waste is greatly exaggerated. In the 1950s and 1960s there were over 100 open air nuclear weapons tests where readily dispersible radioactive fission products were blown into the atmosphere and widely scattered. If nuclear power operator were to allow such release they would be shut down instantly. So far, the federal government has not honored their commitment to long term storage, but in the meantime, dry-cask storage is perfectly adequate for many years. Why do people have confidence that we can invent viable electron storage bet can’t come up with ways to dispose of nuclear reactor waste?

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In summary, our perceptions about the best way to produce the energy we need is not by any stretch of the imagination a level playing field: Wind and solar get undeserved high marks and nuclear gets an undeserved failing grade.