

What's the truth about nuclear power?

Info sheet answers.

1) For each article, find three things which are a fact and three things which are an opinion.

Malcolm Grimston article.

Facts:

- Oil has reached \$100 a barrel
- Oil cost less than \$10 a barrel in 1998
- Britain imports more gas than it exports
- Main gas and oil reserves in Middle East and former USSR
- World is using more energy than in 1992
- Uranium is widespread
- Uranium doesn't add to serious releases of CO₂

Opinions:

- We need three things from our electricity: it's got to be cheap, reliable, etc.
- We need to use energy efficiently
- We need to look for ways to capture CO₂
- We need to use more renewables
- etc.

John Sauven article.

Facts:

- Even with ten new reactors, nuclear power could still only deliver 4% cut in carbon emissions
- 86% of oil & gas consumed is not used for producing electricity
- Most gas used for heating, hot water, etc.
- Nuclear power can only produce electricity
- UK committed to generate 40% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020
- Germany has 300 times the solar power & 10 times the wind power generation of the UK

Opinions:

- Nuclear isn't the answer
- It's too little, too late, at too high a price.
- Unless the govt. is proposing nuclear cars, etc, nuclear is almost irrelevant
- Renewable technologies will be strangled if all cash and political energy goes to nuclear power
- Going nuclear will not solve our energy problems other low carbon technologies will.
- etc.

2) Imagine you have to help an MP write a speech about nuclear power. Choose whether you will be for or against. Write a list of five facts from this sheet that you could put into the speech.

See answer to Q1 for list of facts.

3) Look at what IAS (*I'm a Scientist*) scientists have said about their work. Is it all facts, or are there some opinions? If there are opinions, are they supported by facts? Think of a question to ask them about what facts their opinions are based on.

This question can be completed when pupils log on to the *I'm a Scientist* website. They should read scientists' Project Briefs and answer the question based on what they read.