

The Secretary of State
Department of Energy & Climate Change
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Dear Secretary of State,

Nuclear energy and the energy review

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of new nuclear power stations in the UK.

- They would make almost no difference at all to global warming and climate change, since nuclear power provides such a small proportion of our overall energy (just 3.6%). What we really need is a focus on transport, manufacturing industry, and other energy uses. These make up over 70% of our contribution to the problem of global warming.
- Nuclear energy is not renewable energy. With a tripling of nuclear power worldwide, high-grade uranium would last only around 15-20 years. Using lower grades of uranium would contribute more to the problem of global warming.
- The problem of nuclear waste remains unsolved. Currently, we have an estimated volume of dangerous nuclear waste that is five times the size of the Albert Hall. With today's waste still not successfully disposed of, it would be grossly irresponsible to generate more.
- Everyone accepts that nuclear power stations are potentially deadly terrorist targets. A successful strike on the Sizewell complex could put the metropolitan area of London at great risk. A strike on Sellafield in Cumbria could threaten a large swathe of the north of England.
- More nuclear power would require electricity companies to levy a "tax" of £150 per year on electricity bills. Why should we pay to subsidize profits made by private companies in the nuclear industry?
- Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy have none of these drawbacks. According to the Prime Minister's Cabinet Office Strategy Unit, renewables could meet half our energy needs by 2025. They *are* delivering and they *can* deliver, but further investments in nuclear power will undermine them. Sooner or later, we must embrace a sustainable, low-carbon economy. With intelligence and commitment, we could be world leaders in renewable energy and set a positive example for other nations.

I urge you not to support a return to nuclear power by subsidizing it in any way or by making it a more attractive proposition for investors.

Yours faithfully,