



National Radioactive Waste Coalition

The Facts of the Matter

How Using Nuclear Energy Actually Promotes Coal and Gas Use

**Even in the realm of old nuclear plants,
when you spend a dollar on old nuclear,
it causes an increase in fossil fuel usage to occur.**

Though it has less of a negative impact than new nuclear energy spending, old nuclear electricity is a bad deal also, and creates more global warming for every dollar spent on it.

\$1 spent gives you 8 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of old nuclear electricity. Nationwide on average, nuclear production costs are about 6¢/kilowatt-hour, including the oft-neglected major component replacement (generators, condensers, cooling towers, water inlet systems, major wiring and plumbing overhauls, etc.). Nongenerating, or utility delivery, costs average about (also) 6¢/kWh.

\$1 spent gives you 10 kWh of solar, wind, and battery storage back-up. That is 4¢ for generation and 6¢ for nongeneration, or delivery, costs.

- 8kWh (nuclear) less 10 kWh (solar) gives you a *deficit* of 2 kWh for every dollar spent on old nuclear electricity.
- This means an extra 2kWh will need to be produced by the grid; with the average U.S. breakdown of grid power production being about 75% from fossil fuel, that 75% ▪ 2 kWh = 1.5 kWh will need to be produced by fossil fuels, every time you spend \$1 on electricity from existing nuclear reactors.

