



# Nuclear Energy Information Service

*"Illinois' Nuclear Power Watchdog for 25 years"*

Office and Mail: 3411 W. Diversey Avenue, #16, Chicago, IL 60647-1245  
(773)342-7650; -7655 fax [www.neis.org](http://www.neis.org) [neis@neis.org](mailto:neis@neis.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate use:  
Friday, April 21, 2006

Contact: David Kraft, Director  
(773)342-7650; [neis@neis.org](mailto:neis@neis.org)

### Group Touts Earth-Day 36 Energy Message: "You Can't 'Nuke' Global Warming!"

**CHICAGO**—If there is one energy message the public needs to hear this Earth Day, it's simply that, "You Can't 'Nuke' Global Warming!" according to Nuclear Energy Information Service, an Illinois nuclear power watchdog organization based in Chicago.

"Using nuclear power to fight the global warming problem is much like the old bad joke about using cancer to cure smoking," asserts NEIS Director, Dave Kraft. "It merely substitutes one catastrophic, planet-threatening condition for another. There are more effective, quicker, cheaper and less-environmentally threatening ways to get the job done – and these will be done by people, not by the nuclear industry, paralyzed governments, or co-opted institutions," Kraft states.

"Since the 1990's the nuclear industry has attempted to use the worsening global warming crisis as a disingenuous cover for nuclear power expansion," Kraft continues. "Our message this Earth Day is, 'no more, no way, no thanks!' to the nuclear industry. We can do it ourselves."

The message is more than rhetoric. NEIS is using the Earth Day anniversary and next week's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl accident to teach people how *they, themselves* can make a difference in their daily lives to reduce global warming gases coming from human activities.

"Our first suggestion might not be popular at first glance. We need to go on a diet - a **low-carb(on) diet**, to be exact," Kraft says, half-jokingly. "We are launching a personal involvement campaign – a low-carb(on) diet -- on Earth Day, which will result in participants removing 1,000,000 pounds of carbon from the atmosphere by December 31<sup>st</sup>. It's doable, and it's measurable," Kraft maintains. The campaign will eventually be expanded to involve other environmental organizations, schools, church groups, and other citizen groups, greatly expanding both the effort and the results.

While removing carbon is the first goal of the campaign, it's just as important that this be done by individuals in their daily lives, Kraft explains. "The people of the Planet have been waiting for effective, assertive governmental and institutional response to a Planet and Civilization-threatening crisis for nearly two decades. These institutions have failed miserably in their charge," Kraft asserts.

"They had their chance, and they blew it. They must now be made irrelevant to the solution, by-passed totally, moved out of the way if necessary. No longer can humankind afford the ignorance and obstructionism of the Bush Administration; we no longer have the luxury of time for entities like the G-8 or the UN to both set and abide by greenhouse gas targets. Civilization is at stake, and they play games. We will no longer tolerate this life-threatening situation to continue. We must act in our own behalf," Kraft concludes.

NEIS will be making available "low-carb(on) diet calculator sheets," for people to decide what commitments they can make to reduce their carbon load. Participants will be asked to return the sheet by mail with their "diet pledge" goals, which will be tallied and followed up on later in the year by phone. They will also be sent a set of cards with individual messages stating "What You Can Do..." in your daily life that day to help reduce global warming; and also a series of explanations as to why nuclear power is not the correct response to the need for global warming gas reductions.

"Global warming is a condition that will require planet-wide, individual action. Our societal institutions have failed us miserably, resulting in a threat characterized by many scientists as more serious than even terrorism, or nuclear weapons and war," Kraft observes. "Using nuclear power to meet this threat will only compound it, wasting precious resources and the little time we have remaining to act effectively," he concluded; "...and thus we drift towards unparalleled disaster...' to borrow a phrase from Einstein."

Copies of the low-carb(on) diet pledge sheets, cards, and a fact sheet on why "You Can't 'Nuke' Global Warming," will be available for download after Earth Day on the NEIS website.

# YOU CAN'T “NUKE” GLOBAL WARMING

## WHY NOT NUCLEAR POWER IN THE GLOBAL WARMING FIGHT?

- X **it'll “break the bank;”** not remotely cost-effective in carbon displacement compared to other currently available means; far better, faster and cheaper ways exist to reduce global warming gases in a timely manner (e.g., 1990 EPRI study; *Natural Capitalism*); efficiency is 6-1/2 times more effective/dollar spent
- X **implementation time line too long (5-10 years/reactor)**, compared both to other available energy options (e.g., efficiency: 6 mos.-2 years), and to the timeline required for effective climate intervention
- X increased nuclear reliance also means **increases in nuclear’s currently unsolved problems** like:
  - nuclear wastes of all kinds
  - probability of accidents, unintentional leaks, more uranium mining, other contamination
  - proliferation of technology, expertise, materials, and ultimately nuclear weapons
  - increased risk from terrorist attacks in a post-9/11 world
- X **questionable operational effectiveness** under expected global warming conditions (i.e., thermal effects on rivers; rising coastlines; more frequent and violent weather events; e.g., like summer of 1988 and 2003), without creating other forms of unacceptable environmental damage
- X engenders a form of **economic dependency** at best, **nuclear “neo-colonialism”** at worst in non-industrialized nations poorly positioned to run complex, capital-intensive systems
- X **stifles development, implementation, and expansion of market share of true local, sustainable and renewable energy resources, and energy efficiency**; further, ties up inordinate amounts of available investment capital required to expand these resources
- X **proliferates** internationally the same unsolved problems nuclear power has in developed countries (waste, weapons, accident threats, emissions, high costs, terrorist targets) to countries lacking the capital, expertise, and political stability to manage it even at our current level of questionable standards
- X **vastly increases likely negative health and genetic effects** from allowable radiation releases, accidental releases, and statistically expected increases from large accidents

## WHAT WE RECOMMEND:

- X **real** emission reduction targets and programs, with carrots if possible, sticks if necessary, to achieve a 60% carbon reduction by 2050, beginning no later than 2007
- X **aggressive Manhattan-Project-Scale expansion** of energy efficiency and renewable energy resources where appropriate and maximally efficient, both domestically and internationally
- X **methodical preparation** for real, but not necessarily painful or economically disruptive lifestyle changes in areas where technologic or market innovation cannot succeed, exacerbate the old problems, or create/substitute new ones
- X **remove** nuclear power and carbon “sinks” from consideration for CDM credits