

# The Other Energy Source

It is probably cheaper than other greenhouse-effect-friendly energy sources such as solar cells or wind power. And, unlike oil and natural gas, it is both plentiful and geopolitically secure. That's right, we're talking nuclear power.

A political non-starter, you say? An ecological poison, not to mention irresistible bait for terrorists? Perhaps. But there are serious drawbacks to every source of energy. And it's hard to see how the world will manage to feed developing countries' exploding demand for power, while containing global warming, without help from the nuclear genie.

Actually, much of the world is already dependent on nuclear power. Herewith, a selective list of countries hooked (and yet to be hooked) on the atom.

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF PLANTS (2002)	PERCENT OF ELECTRICITY FROM NUKES (2002)
United States	104	20.3
Brazil	2	4.0
Mexico	2	4.1
Belgium	7	57.3
France	59	78.0
Germany	19	29.9
Sweden	11	45.7
United Kingdom	31	22.4
Hungary	4	36.1
Lithuania	2	80.1
Russia	30	16.0
Ukraine	13	45.7
India	14	3.7
China	7	1.4
Japan	54	34.5

**SOURCE:** International Atomic Energy Agency, July 2003

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