

POSITIVE ALTERNATIVES

2009 and Beyond !



- New Mexico has the fourth largest wind farm in the USA (it's located near Fort Sumner) which has 136 wind turbines producing enough electricity for 94,000 homes each year.
- Not far from Albuquerque you can find a community learning center called Ampersand. This is one of many examples of sustainable, non-polluting communities. Contact Ampersand for a visit and to see how to live out these ideals.
- A reliable U.S. electricity sector with zero-CO₂ emissions can be achieved without the use of nuclear power or fossil fuels like coal.
- Compared to the CO₂ emissions from the year 2000, global CO₂ emissions need to be reduced by 85% in order to limit the average global temperature increase at 2 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial times. The U.S. goal of "zero-CO₂ emissions" (a 96% reduction from the U.S. amounts to an 85% reduction for the planet) is absolutely necessary to protect the global climate, and it is achievable at a reasonable cost.
- Positive options for electrical power that are not as harmful as current coal, fossil fuels, nuclear, etc. methods include solar photovoltaics, wind, biomass, oceanic waves, advanced batteries, ultracapacitors, geothermal heat, better building designs, plug-in hybrid vehicles.
- A legally fixed limit on CO₂ emissions declining each year until it reaches zero would provide large users of fossil fuels with a flexible way to phase out CO₂ emissions. A measurement-based physical limit on U.S. companies with appropriate enforcement by the U.S. over U.S. operators (regardless of their global position) would have a positive effect worldwide.

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A Summary of Nuclearism in New Mexico from 1942 until 2009

Nuclear Weapons

- Los Alamos National Laboratory began working on nuclear weapons in 1942. Their effort resulted in the first nuclear bomb (costing \$2 billion) detonated on July 16th 1945.
- Traditional ethical systems and sustainable human societies indicate that indiscriminate killing and other terroristic threats are unacceptable, if not worthy of condemnation. By such basic standards of life-giving cultures, the nuclear weapons work of Los Alamos National Laboratory needs to stop immediately, in compliance with the NPT and the Nuremberg Principles.
- Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque currently holds more than 1,800 nuclear weapons. The nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and common moral sense require us to dismantle and remove the nuclear weapons from the arsenal.
- Sandia National Laboratory also enhances nuclear proliferation. Civilians must work together to stop this Lab and Los Alamos from breaking international laws.

Uranium Mining

- Thousands of miners and family members across Navajo Lands have died or suffered with cancer and lung diseases as a result of uranium mining since 1945 and only half of them have been compensated.
- July 16th 1979: Church Rock Uranium Tailing Site accident polluted and contaminated 100 miles of the Rio Puerco river in New Mexico and Arizona.

Nuclear Waste

- In New Mexico, nuclear wastes are stored at Los Alamos National Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratory and the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The wastes at Los Alamos have leaked into the underlying aquifer and the Rio Grande. New monitoring wells at Sandia will soon reveal the extent of contamination there. WIPP, which was opened in 1999 as a permanent repository for transuranic waste, is a controversial choice for long term storage since it lies in one of the world's largest karst fields where water runs below ground, instead of above ground, through fractures and caverns, and has oil and natural gas surrounding the site.

Nuclear Power

- This is one of the most expensive ways of producing electricity. In the U.S. no private insurance company will cover a reactor, so the government has to subsidize the industry.
- The spent fuel of nuclear power plants creates radioactive waste that will be physically hot and biologically dangerous for thousands of years. The government promises to take care of this problem, yet no government on earth has ever lasted as long as the danger will last.
- An expansion of nuclear power could lead to the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons. It would be difficult to continue the double standard where some countries are allowed to have them and others, not.