



## Environmentalists Must Focus on Real Solutions



By: Dr. Patrick Moore

From my work as a co-founder and former leader of Greenpeace to my current focus on sustainability, I have witnessed many in the environmental community say no to wind energy, no to hydro power, no to wood burning, no to fossil fuels, and no to nuclear energy. Considering that these power sources make up over ninety-nine percent of all power generated worldwide, the obvious question is: How do environmentalists propose that we get electricity?

Some environmentalists want to shut down the 99% of power that allows our society to run. They won't tell you that the things they support are technologically unachievable in this day and age. They even want to halt wind farms, complaining about "so-called" visual pollution offshore and on ridgelines, the ideal locations for wind energy.

But there is more than one perspective. And as an environmentalist I believe that hydro and nuclear energy are crucial energy sources that must play a role in handling the environmental challenges that we face today.

Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and electricity generation are real threats to the ecosystem. Other toxic emissions from these sources, such as nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter are linked to health complications such as asthma and heart disease.

From an environmental standpoint, a mix of nuclear and renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, wind, and geothermal is the best combination to meet energy demand while working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As a high-capacity, base-load energy source, nuclear energy is the most efficient source of energy available and produces near zero carbon dioxide emissions. In many parts of the U.S., hydro has already been built to capacity, thus limiting its expansion.

New York State would be wise to keep its six nuclear reactors on-line, as they play a key role in meeting the state's energy needs while mitigating millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise result from fossil fuel power plants.

If New York State is serious about reducing greenhouse gases and improving the environment and air quality, retaining its current clean energy sources while working to integrate renewable sources is critical.

Overlooking the importance of nuclear energy in today's energy mix could be a costly mistake.

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