

Nuclear Energy Racecards

Overall:

- Make it personal, make it real
- Simple, straightforward language
- Use of metaphors, examples
- Emphasise how nuclear protects values

Eg.

- e.g. “We, in the UK, are facing a shortfall in *our* supply of energy versus our demand for energy. We must take action now if we’re to avoid this situation.”
- CO² Emissions = Climate Change = *Irreversible damage to our environment*
- If we don’t act now we will not have enough energy to meet our needs. *This will impact on our home lives, our work lives and our economy.*

Nuclear Energy Overview

Objectives:

- To inform and educate as to the reality, threat and opportunities facing people with regard to energy today.
- To inform people of the benefits of Nuclear Energy

Provide readers with an overview of current reality:

Eg.

- Nuclear Energy generation produces electricity for use in our homes, workplaces and for public services. Nuclear has been a source of energy for British people since the 1950s and currently supplies 20% of the UK’s energy needs.

- The decision was taken by government in 198X that nuclear would not form a part of Britain's energy future. As a result no new power stations have been built and there are no plans to replace existing power stations once they reach the end of their working lives. Most will have shut down by 2010, the last one will close in 2023.

Provide readers with an understanding of the threats:

Eg.

- The world has changed...
 - Climate change is threatening our environment
 - Global oil and gas demand is increasing
 - Fossil fuel supplies are depleting
 - There is further uncertainty over middle east stability
- The UK has changed too...
 - We are now a net importer of gas
 - Carbon emission levels continue to increase
 - Electricity prices have increased
 - Some nuclear stations are reaching the end of their lives
 - To date, the contribution of renewable energy sources like wind, solar and hydro have failed to meet expectations

In the face of these changes, the role for nuclear needs to be reconsidered...

Without Nuclear...:

- At least **Xbn tonnes more CO2 emissions** will be pumped into our environment every year
- We will be vulnerable to the risk of **significant energy price rises** due to increased global competition for gas, oil and coal supplies.
- We will be **reliant on other countries** for our energy supplies.
- We are likely to face supply interruptions and shortages resulting in **power cuts**

Furthermore...

- the British nuclear industry's **safety record is excellent**. Rigorous safety and security measures are in place. Modern reactor designs have state of the art safety features and in the light of the evolving climate of global security security procedures are even more stringent.
- The nuclear industry takes the management of nuclear waste very seriously. Technological breakthroughs means that **modern reactors produce less waste** than older ones and the make-up of that waste means that it is comparatively simple to manage.
- There are **several options being considered for the** ultimate disposal of the **waste legacy** and government needs to decide which of these options will be pursued.