

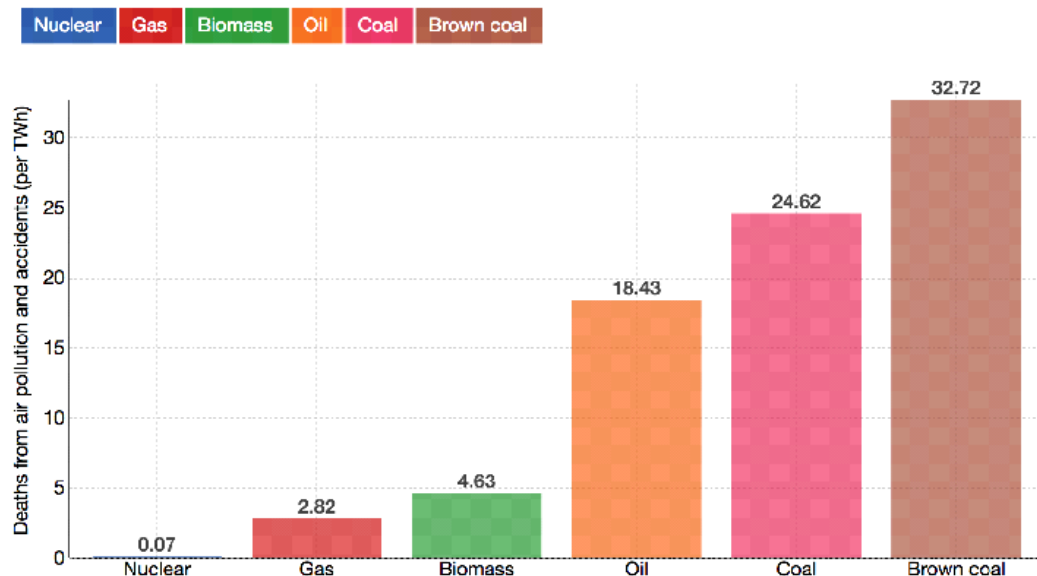
"Out of all major energy sources, nuclear is the safest"

Why is it that most people think the safest form of electricity generation is the most dangerous?

A new report by "[Our World in Data](#)" shows that, despite its scary reputation, nuclear energy is actually one of the safest ways to generate electricity. Air pollution from coal and gas is much more harmful, having a far more devastating impact on human health, leading to [millions of premature deaths](#) per year. In contrast, nuclear electricity is pollution-free, and by replacing coal and gas can save millions of lives, as shown in this [study](#) from NASA's Goddard Institute authored by Pushker Kharecha and James Hansen in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. Previous studies comparing the health impacts of different energy sources, such as [Swiss Paul Scherrer Institute PSI](#) reached similar conclusions. The tragedy is that by glamorising potential risks from nuclear energy, the real harm caused by fossil fuels is downplayed or ignored, leading to millions of premature deaths every year.

Death rates from energy production per TWh

Death rates from air pollution and accidents related to energy production, measured in deaths per terrawatt hours (TWh)



Source: Markandya and Wilkinson (2007)

Note: Figures include deaths resulting from accidents in energy production and deaths related to air pollution impacts. Deaths related to air pollution are dominant, typically accounting for greater than 99% of the total.

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