

Nuclear Power as Carbon-Free Energy? The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

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ABSTRACT

The world today relies heavily on carbon-intensive fossil fuels for energy, inexorably linking energy and climate change. In order to meet growing energy demand while alleviating the escalating impacts of climate change, all possible sources of carbon-free energy must be considered. This Note evaluates the potential of nuclear power to serve as part of the solution to climate change through the lens of a voluntary international partnership: the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership ("GNEP"). It investigates the extent to which GNEP makes progress in overcoming the major barriers confronting the widespread use of nuclear power, including: perceptions of public health and safety, disposal of nuclear waste, proliferation, and the difficulties of implementing nuclear power in the developing world. While GNEP, at least in its current form, does not appear to constitute a particularly robust answer to the problems of nuclear power expansion, its strategic plans may represent valuable strategies for overcoming these barriers in the future.

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