

Alternative Energy Source: Nuclear power
Stakeholder: Scientist

My name is Dr. John Deutch and I am a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. I am on a committee of scientists that released a report about using nuclear power in the future. The committee firmly believes that over the next 50 years, unless patterns change dramatically, energy production and use will contribute to global warming through largescale greenhouse gas emissions — hundreds of billions of tonnes of carbon in the form of carbon dioxide. Nuclear power could be one option for reducing carbon emissions. At present, however, this is unlikely: nuclear power faces stagnation and decline. One of the reasons for this is because the public remains uneducated about the importance and benefit of nuclear power and overestimates the risks involved. We believe the nuclear option should be retained, precisely because it is an important carbonfree source of power that can potentially make a significant contribution to future electricity supply. It is one of the only alternative energy sources available that can provide enough energy to replace the burning of fossil fuels. We believe that nuclear power should be used in conjunction with other forms of alternative energy such as wind, hydroelectric and solar power.