

## The nuclear debate – Glossary

**atmosphere** noun [countable]

the air round the Earth or round another planet  
*Saturn's moon, Titan, has an atmosphere mainly made of nitrogen.*

**come up** phrasal verb [intransitive]

to be mentioned and need to be considered  
*A number of interesting points came up at today's meeting.*

**earthquake** noun [countable]

a sudden shaking movement of the ground

**fossil fuel** noun [countable/uncountable]

a fuel such as coal or oil, made from decayed material from animals or plants that lived many thousands of years ago

**gap** noun [countable]

something missing from a situation or a system that prevents it from being complete or perfect  
*We will then carry out research to fill in the gaps in our knowledge.*

**global warming** noun [uncountable]

the slow increase in the temperature of the Earth caused partly by the greenhouse effect increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

**greenhouse gas** noun [countable]

a gas that stops heat from escaping from the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas.

**leak** noun [countable]

an amount of liquid or gas that comes out of a hole or crack in something  
*The explosion was caused by a gas leak in the main line.*

**nuclear** adjective

relating to energy produced by changing the structure of the central part of an atom  
*nuclear power/energy*

**nuclear waste** noun [uncountable]

dangerous substances that remain after nuclear energy has been produced

**permanent** adjective

happening or existing for a long time or for all time in the future (**permanently** = ADVERB)  
*She suffered permanent brain damage as a result of the accident.*

**plant** noun [countable]

a factory that produces power, or processes chemicals etc  
*a nuclear/chemical plant*

**point out** phrasal verb [transitive]

to tell someone something  
*Thank you for pointing that out.*

**power station** noun [countable]

BRITISH a large building that contains machines which produce power, especially electricity

**pros and cons** noun [plural]

the advantages and disadvantages of something

**radiation** noun [uncountable]

CHEMISTRY a form of energy produced during a nuclear reaction that is used for making electrical power but can also kill or harm humans who receive too much of it  
*Some workers at the power station were exposed to high levels of radiation.*

**radioactive** adjective

CHEMISTRY a radioactive substance contains a very harmful form of energy that is produced during nuclear reactions. This energy is called radiation.

**range** verb [intransitive]

to be included in a group of numbers, ages, measurements etc with particular fixed limits

**renewable** adjective

renewable energy and natural materials replace themselves by natural processes, so that they are never completely used up  
*The wood in our furniture all comes from renewable sources.*

**resource** noun [countable, usually plural]

things such as coal, trees, and oil that exist in nature and can be used by people  
*Many of these countries are rich in timber and mineral resources.*

**run out** phrasal verb [intransitive]

to use all of something and not have any left  
*Many hospitals are running out of money.*

**solution** noun [countable]

a way to solve a problem or to deal with a bad situation