

Letter to the Editor

In his column, David Suzuki (Nuclear not so “green” as some believe, June 6) claims that the nuclear industry is not clean because its activities produce greenhouse gases. Indeed they do. For the record, on a life cycle basis, here are the emissions for all common sources of electricity:

Coal:	975 grams/kilowatt-hour
LNG Thermal:	608
LNG Combined Cycle:	519
Solar PV:	53
Wind:	29
Nuclear:	22
Hydro-electric:	19

(Central Research Institute of the Electric Power Industry)

These life cycle numbers were produced by a Japanese research institute for utilities in Japan in 2003, but they would not be significantly different for Canada, except that the nuclear number would be somewhat lower because of the use of natural uranium fuel rather than enriched fuel.

Dr. Suzuki also neglects to mention all the facts in his discussion of the economics of nuclear power as well. He claims subsidies provided over 50 years to the industry amount to \$20 billion, but neglects to mention that this was all for research and not to the business operations of the industry. He neglects to mention that this has resulted in the production of more than \$100 billion worth of electricity, not to mention billions of dollars in the production and sale of medical radioisotopes.

Dr. Suzuki claims nuclear fuel waste is a serious issue and that the industry wants to adopt an ‘out-of-sight, out-of-mind’ policy of burial. He neglects to mention that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization has been developing a program to manage all of Canada’s used nuclear fuel and to make sure that all Canadians are informed of how the industry should and will manage all of its spent fuel. These recommendations have been adopted by the federal government of Canada.

Yours truly

Colin Hunt
Director of Research and Publications
Canadian Nuclear Association
(613) 237-4262