

MYTH

Waste

**Nuclear waste has to be stored for
tens of thousands of years.**

BUSTED!

We all use electricity, and making energy always creates waste. Nuclear power is no exception. But in the nuclear industry, the waste is handled and stored very carefully. Radioactivity associated with nuclear waste *"...diminishes with time... In fact, after 40 years, the radioactivity of used fuel has decreased to about one-thousandth of the level at the point when it was unloaded."

The UK creates enough regular household waste EVERY DAY to fill the Royal Albert Hall once. But ALL the radioactive waste the UK has ever produced would only fill the Royal Albert Hall about five times — and over 90% of that is low-level waste.

* World Nuclear Association –
correct at time of printing

MYTH

Waste

The nuclear waste problem
can't be solved.

BUSTED!

There are various effective ways to manage radioactive waste, and there is broad scientific consensus on disposal.

More than 90% of spent fuel can be recycled.

Low Level and Intermediate Level waste is currently safely packaged and stored worldwide as it has been since the 1940s.

The burden of unmitigated climate change is much, much worse.

And also, we shouldn't consider all by-products as "waste" - medical isotopes can be harvested.



MYTH

Waste

We are running out of space. We can't possibly store the volume of waste created by nuclear power generation.

BUSTED!

As nuclear energy is very dense, the waste created is incredibly small.

The nuclear used fuel a person would generate over a lifetime, if all their energy needs came from nuclear, would fit in a small aluminium drink can. The high level waste would be about 1/10th of this can in volume.

MYTH

Waste

Nuclear power generation emits gases and other elements which are dangerous to health.

BUSTED!

The lifecycle assessment of nuclear power shows that it emits very low levels of pollutant gases during its lifetime which includes mining of uranium through to decommissioning.

The majority of these emissions are lower than renewable technologies.