

The Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MIT STUDY

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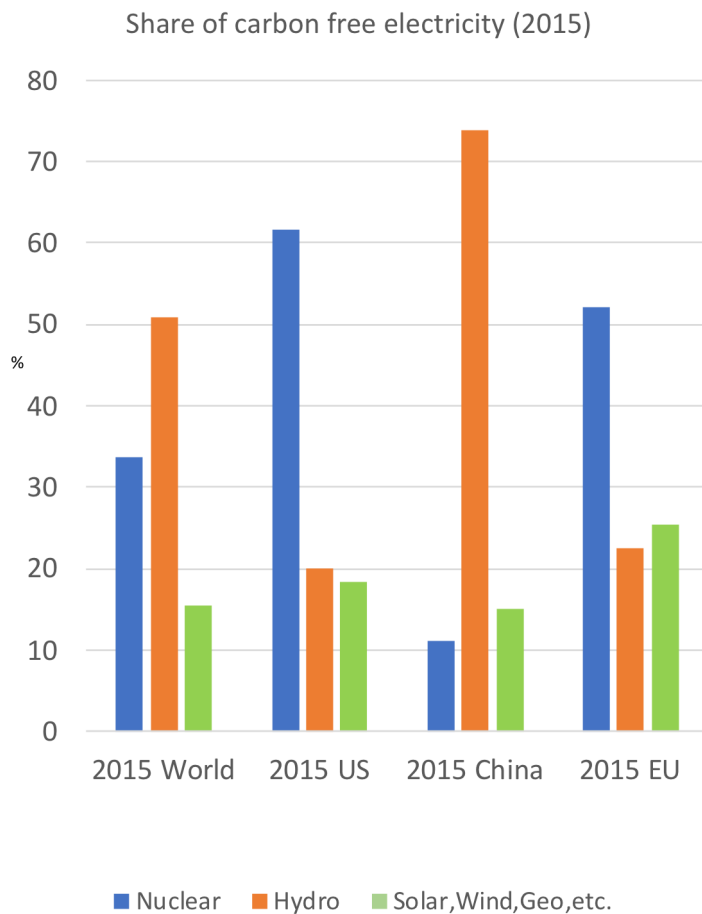
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NSE
Nuclear Science
and Engineering

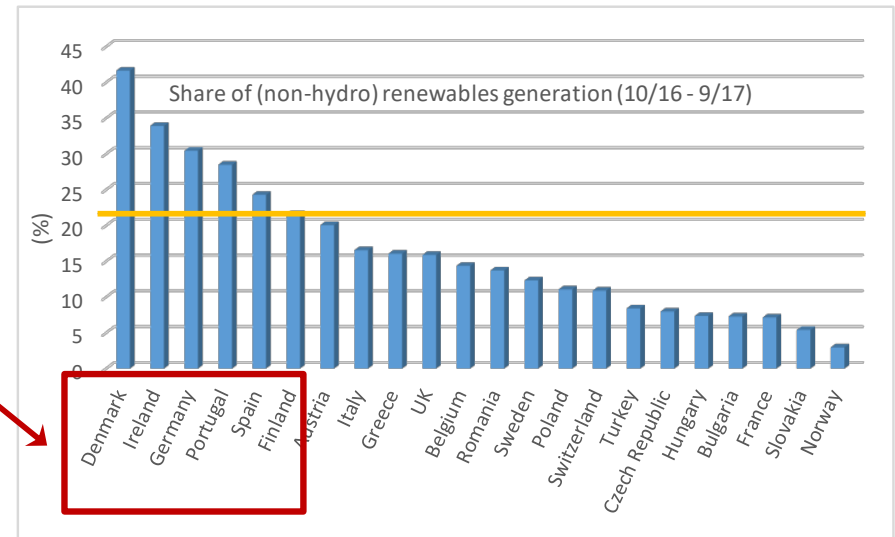
science : systems : society

Nuclear is the largest source of emission-free electricity in the US and Europe

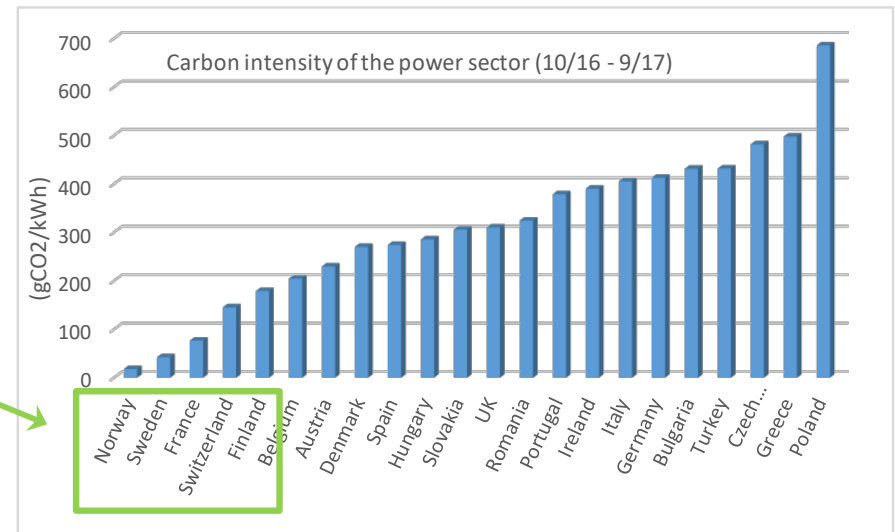


Low carbon intensity correlates with nuclear and hydro

EU countries with high capacity of solar and wind



EU countries with low carbon intensity

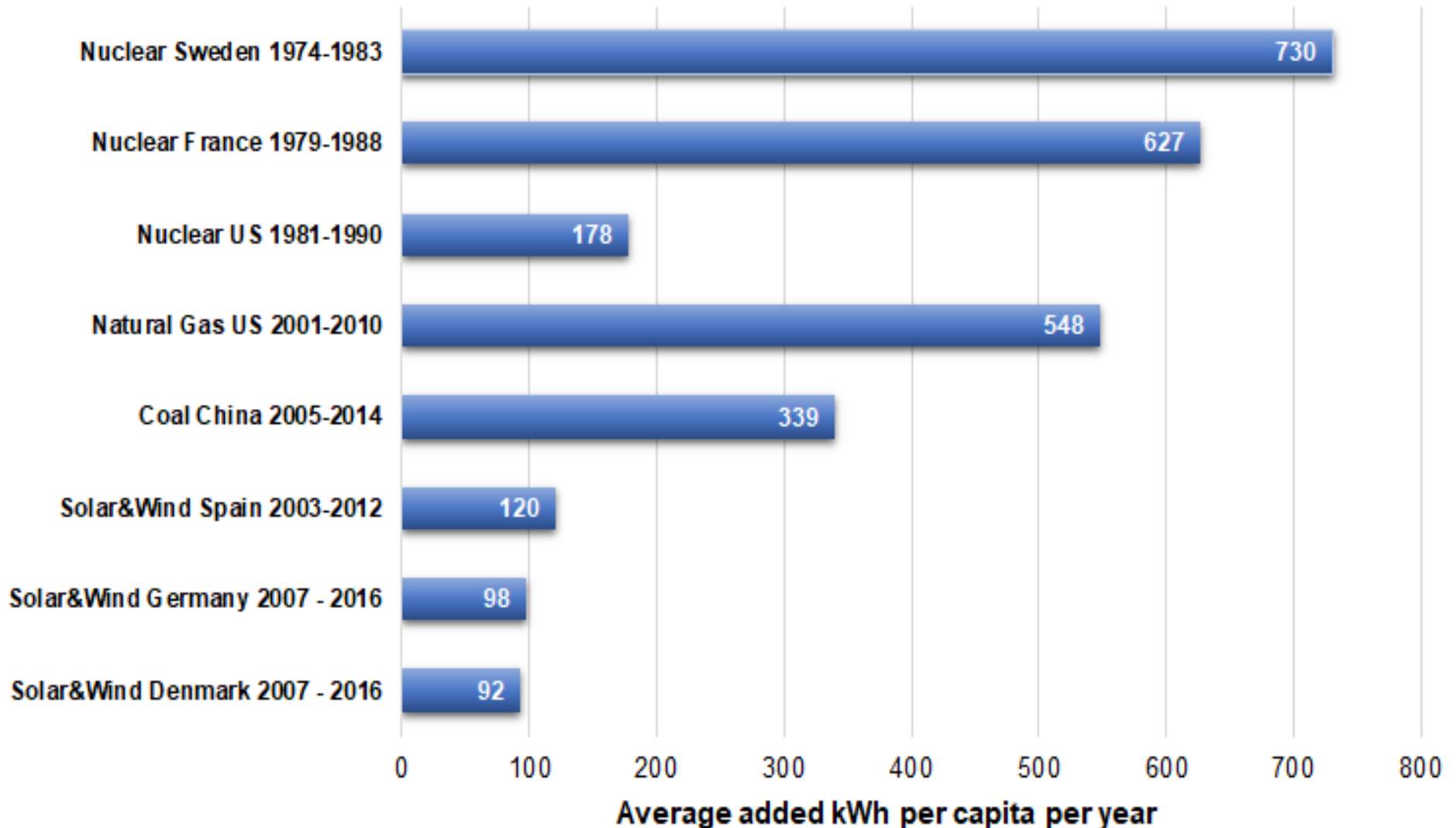


Data source: European Climate Leadership report 2017

(Energy for Humanity, Tomorrow, the Electricity Map Database)

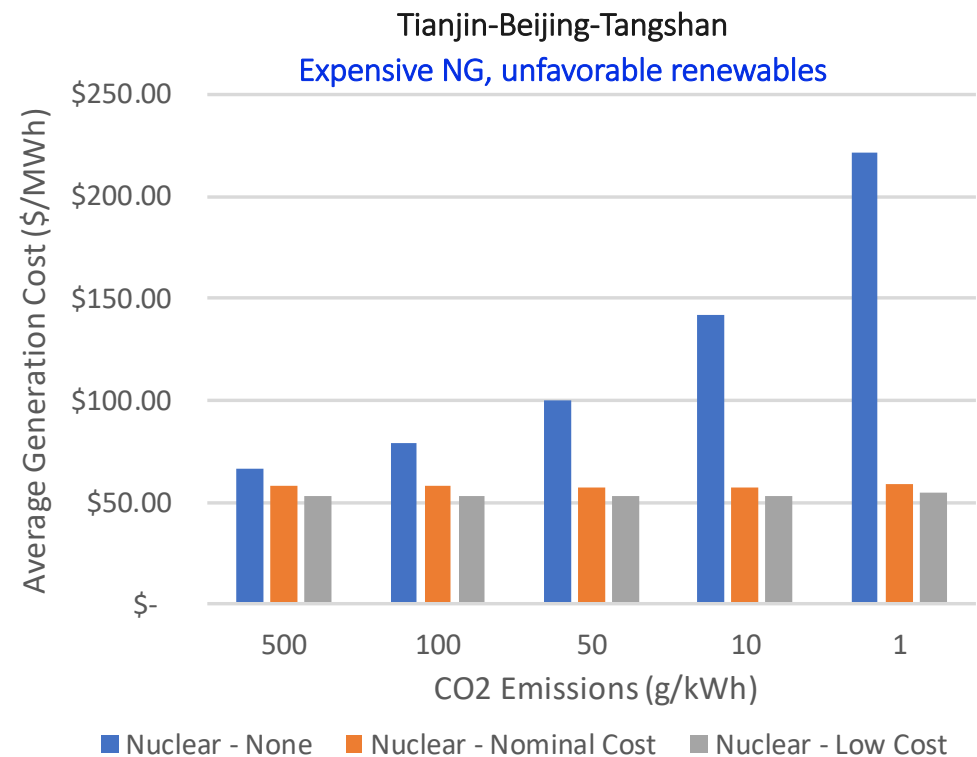
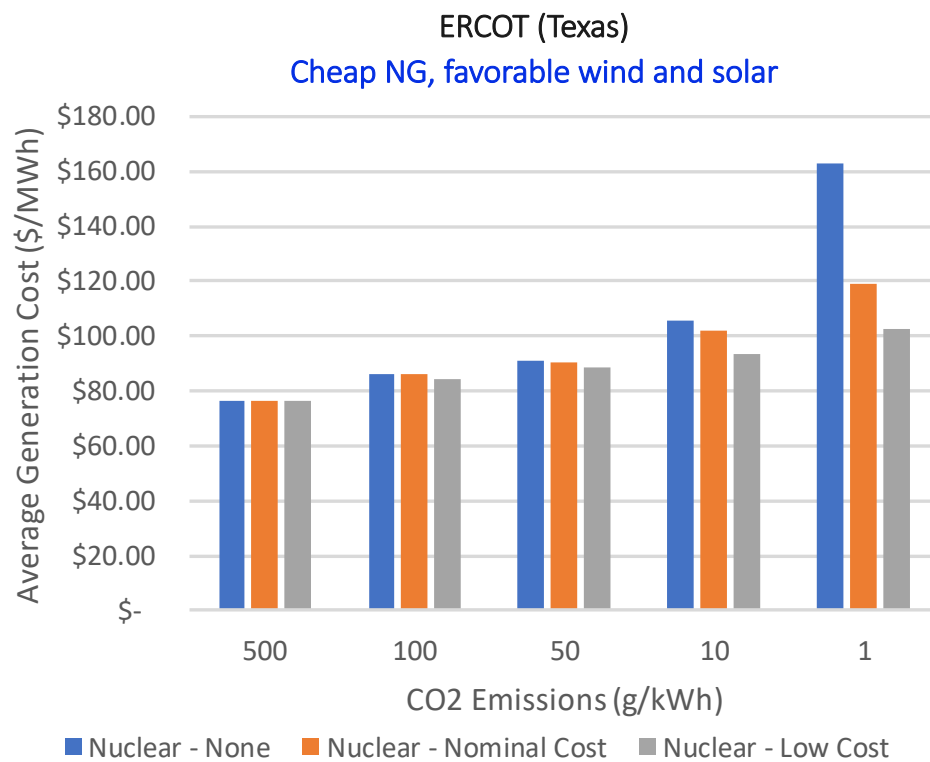
The scalability argument

Nuclear electricity can be deployed as quickly as coal and gas at a time of need



The economic argument: a look forward to 2050

Excluding nuclear energy drives up the average cost of electricity in low-carbon scenarios

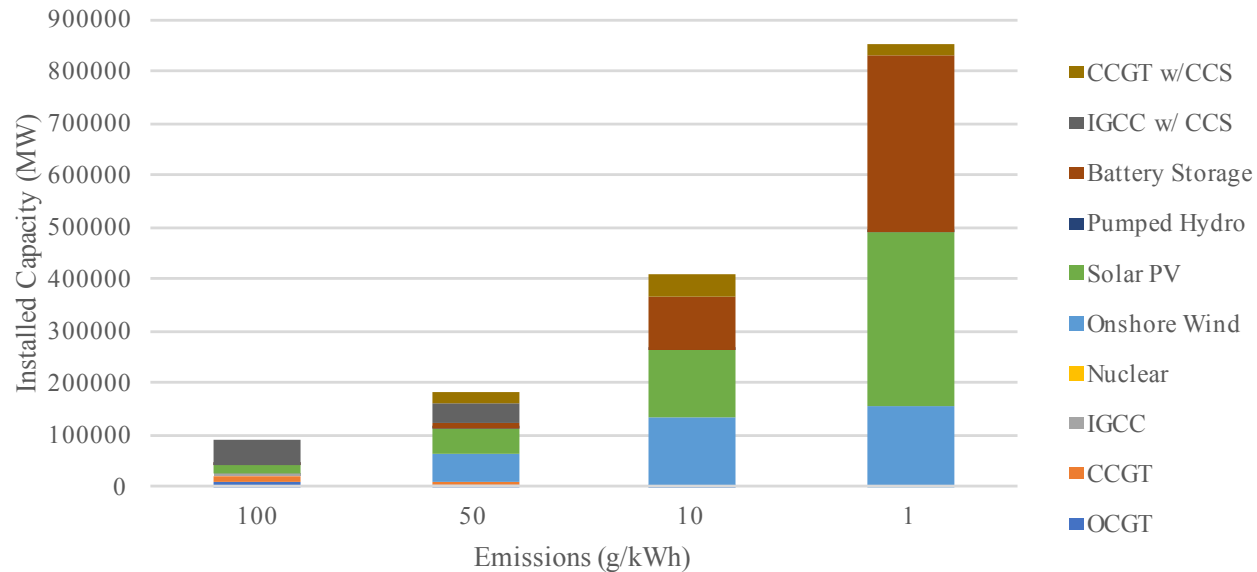


Simulation of optimal generation mix in power markets

MIT tool: hourly electricity demand + hourly weather patterns + capital, O&M and fuel costs of power plants, backup and storage + ramp up rates

Tianjin-Beijing-Tangshan Results

Installed Capacities in Tianjin: No Nuclear



To meet constraint without nuclear requires significant overbuild of renewables and storage

By contrast, installed capacity is relatively constant with nuclear allowed

Installed Capacities in Tianjin: Nuclear - Nominal

