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# Should Nuclear Energy be More Heavily Incorporated by the United States?

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# Should Nuclear Energy be More Heavily Incorporated by the United States?

## Abstract

America is involved in one of the biggest races towards electrical efficiency, cleanliness, and productivity. Nuclear energy is a major part of the U.S.'s non-carbon emitting electricity, and has strict regulations for management. However, this form of energy has been on the decline in the past couple decades due to cost and competition with cheaper, less clean methods. Is nuclear energy feasible enough to continue?

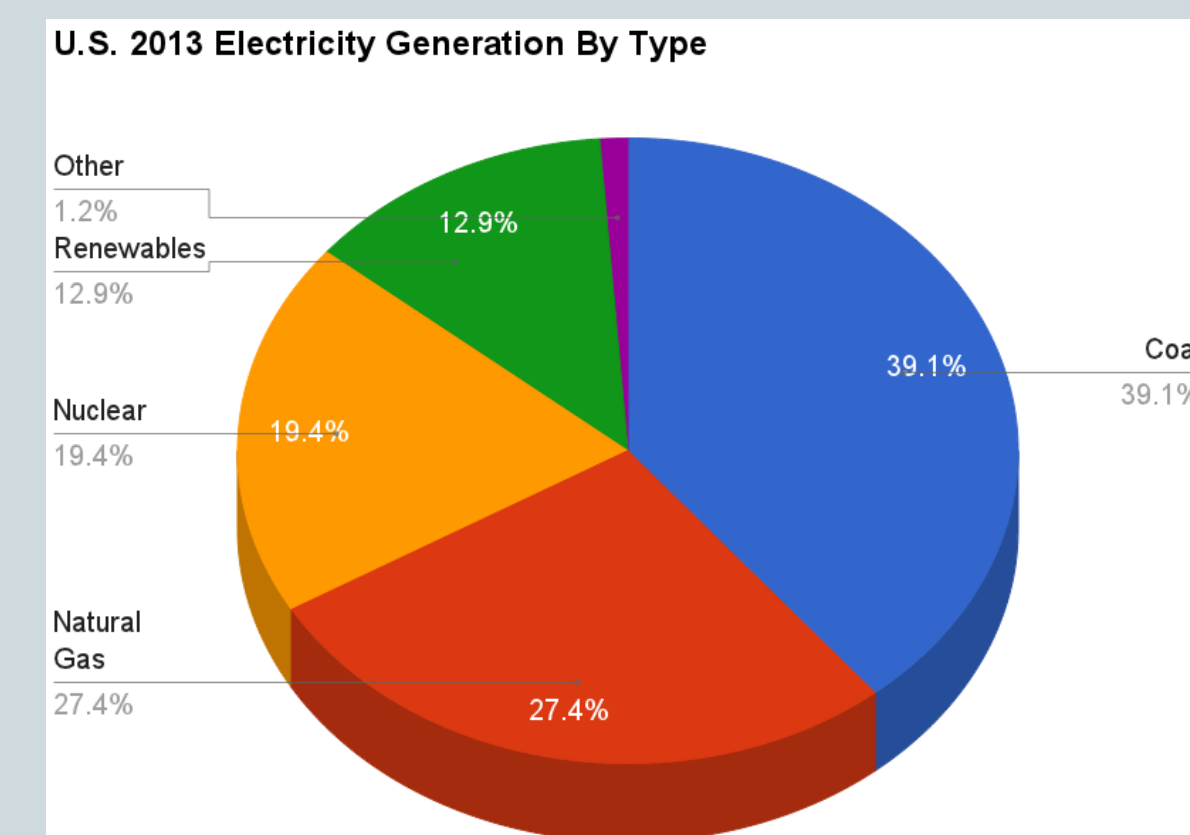
## Key Points

- Nuclear energy is 63% of America's non-carbon resources- see pie chart
- The waste is containable, and has less of a direct effect on the atmosphere than other gas or coal plants
- Chernobyl's role in solidifying regulations- current power plants are not what Chernobyl was

## Matthew Romer

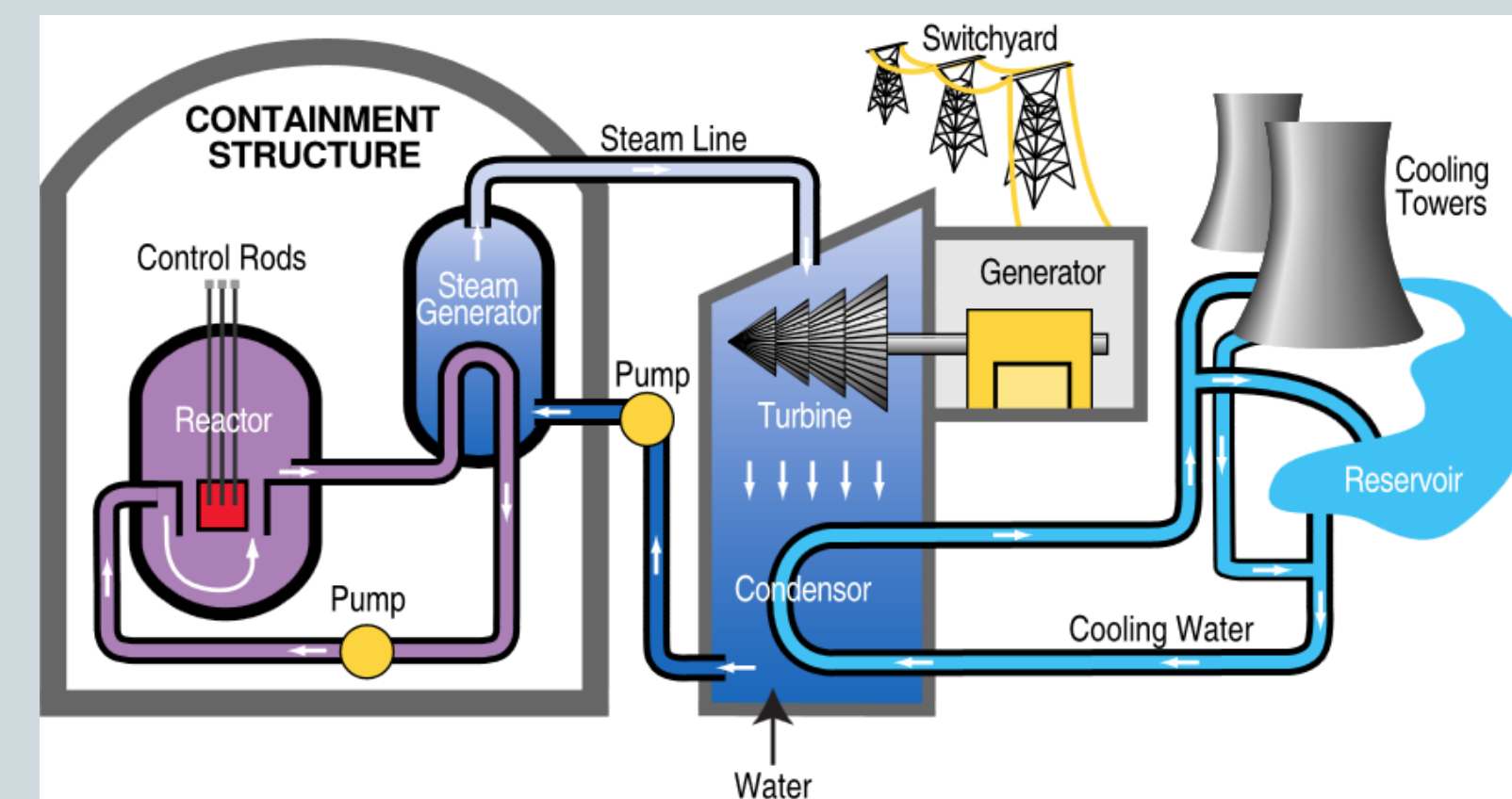
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University of Nebraska Lincoln

## Nuclear Energy Percentage



"U.S. 2013 Electricity Generation By Type Crop." *Wikimedia Commons*. 24 May 2014. Web. 27 Mar. 2015. <[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:U.S.\\_2013\\_Electricity\\_Generation\\_By\\_Type\\_crop.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:U.S._2013_Electricity_Generation_By_Type_crop.png)>.

## Nuclear Power Plant Layout



"File:PWR Nuclear Power Plant Diagram.svg." *Wikimedia Commons*. Web. 17 Mar. 2015. <[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PWR\\_nuclear\\_power\\_plant\\_diagram.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PWR_nuclear_power_plant_diagram.svg)>.

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## Conclusion

Despite the issues that nuclear energy is currently dealing with, it could prove to be valuable in the future as an asset of carbon free energy. All forms should be taken into consideration as part of the development process. Nuclear energy should be optimized and implemented by the United States in order to fulfill this availability of options.

## Future Research

- Waste disposal methods- how can they be improved? Is there more than simply displacing the used material?
- Cost of nuclear facilities- what elements are affecting cost the most, and is it fixable? The large costs are what stops growth of nuclear power plants the most, and solving the problem would be a large step.

