

COP23 - Bonn Report

Note from Eric:

Many of our adventures were expertly detailed by Finnish bloggers Iida Ruishalme and Rauli Partanen. Rather than reproduce their efforts, I'll paste the relevant sections and fill in the gaps! There is much video yet to come as well.

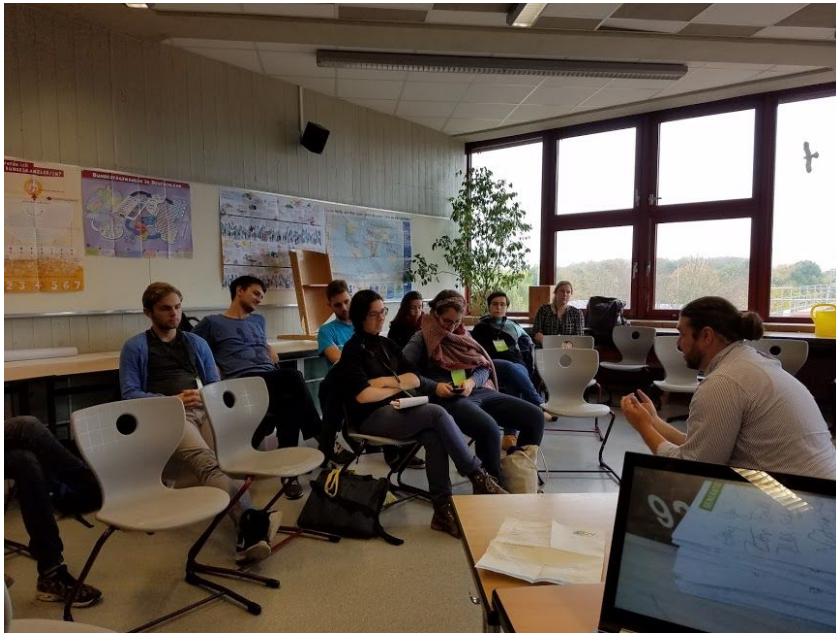
Conference of Youth:

Tay, Grant, and Eric all arrived in Germany together on Nov. 3rd, meeting up with Mathijs Beckers for doener and a run to an art supply store, for the next day we were going to be running an arts advocacy session at the Conference of Youth, a conference that runs parallel to the COP and focuses on the climate advocates of tomorrow.

We ran our session, and roughly 15-20 people attended to paint and have conversations. Conversations ranged from polite and inquisitive to contentious and cantankerous.



Our second session of the day was supposed to be about different advocacy tactics that can be used in any clean energy campaign-- until one of the ~15 people in attendance asked, "But wait, why

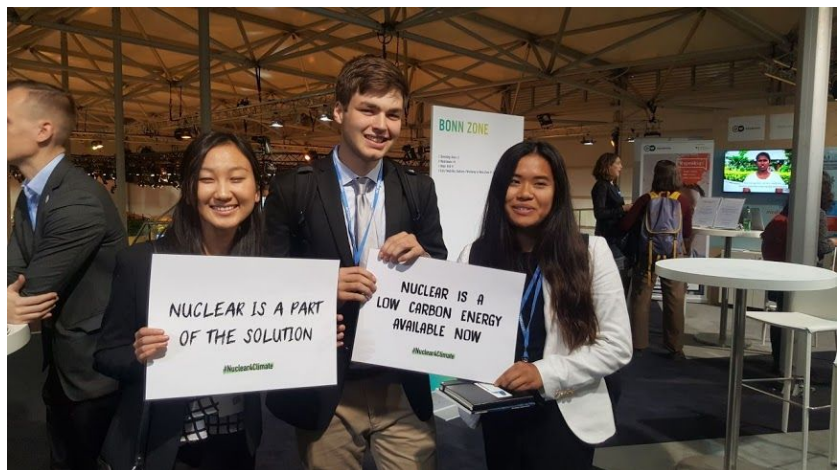


nuclear?"

The "presentation" quickly evolved into a circle of chairs and open conversation where we addressed their concerns and shared why we support nuclear.

Booth Activities:

Gen A was tasked with setting up the Canadian Nuclear Association booth on the first morning, did so and staffed it through part of the day. Over the course of the two weeks we helped staff the two nuclear booths, having scores of conversations about nuclear energy with attendees and other booths close to us.



Press Conference / Nuclear Side Event:

On the second day, Eric and Rauli Partanen gave a press conference on decarbonizing the heat and transportation sectors with advanced nuclear.

Later that day, Tay took the stage in an at-capacity conference room in the Turkish pavilion with Anouk, Petros, (Dutch Nuclear Society, Swiss Nuclear Society), Kirsty Gogan, and Wolfgang Denk for the official nuclear side event. Anouk and Petros shared personal stories about why they became

nuclear engineers, Kirsty talked about Energy for Humanity's new report on climate leadership, and Tay spoke about our door-to-door work in Ohio. [Here's a clip](#): What followed was a heavily contentious Q&A period for over an hour, driven by representatives from the Austrian Friends of the Earth and German anti-nuclear representatives from "NIRS" -- Nuclear Information Resource Service. After the event concluded students from Taiwan, Brazil, and other places came up in thanked the panelists for their presentations, knowledge, and patience dealing with the anti-nuclear activists.

Banana Action:

[Day 5 – COP23 in Bonn – Would you like a banana for breakfast or a melting permafrost for dinner?](#)

Day 5 started with an early wake-up. We packed our stuff and called a taxi to get to the conference center (Bonn Zone) before others arrived there. In the trunk of the taxi, we had about 250 bananas, each with a sticker saying:

Radiation facts: This normal, every-day banana is more radioactive (0.1 microsieverts) than living near a nuclear plant for a year (0.09 microsieverts). Don't let fear hurt our climate – we need all tools to stop climate change. Learn more at our booth or visit www.nuclearforclimate.org.

A banana.

We then distributed those bananas, 2 to each booth, at the area. The bananas proved to be a splendid way to start a conversation, and we used them throughout the day



until we ran out. The most hilarious moment was in the morning when I was still handing out bananas I heard someone nearby saying:

What! I nuclear Banana!? I don't think so!



To which I shouted out:

It's just a normal banana. Enjoy your breakfast!

Hansen also had a short interview with us after the press conference, basically condemning the actions of UNEP to ban World Nuclear Association from the sponsorship and presence in Sustainability Innovations Forum. We will have big stuff coming out later on this, so stay tuned.



Eric getting that interview with Jim. Reminds me of the Finnish Army service: first a lot of waiting and then everything happens in a hurry real fast

Anti-Nuke Rally:

Wild Wild Bonn: Anti-nuke protestors get up close & personal, try to get me seized by the police

Three things happened today, two of them very exciting, one, intense. I heard Eric Meyer of the [Generation Atomic](#) sing several pieces of nuclear opera (wow!), I got my official observer



badge for the conference (yay!)... **and** I had a confrontation with anti-nuclear protesters and the police (o_o). Frankly, I had not thought that my time in Bonn would be *quite* so eventful.

The morning started by me meeting up the bright young minds behind Generation Atomic and Bright New World at their crowded airbnb, among a veritable sea of laptops, dirty mugs, and half-awake nuclear advocates. After preparations, we navigated to the



entrance of the very-official Bula Zone of the conference, where Eric poetically sang about the future of the human race in the rain. I am to blame for any shaking or needless movements in the film (which will be up later). I also got my badge and the free public transport chip, wouhouu. We decided to head to a museum cafe for late lunch, when we walked into... an anti-nuclear demonstration. We decided to dive right in.

Friends of the earth were on a scene making speeches to a crowd of perhaps 50-100 people (not good at estimating that). There were 'nuclear waste' barrels (you know, those you use for oil, but painted yellow and with a radiation warning sign) sprinkled around the scene, and an anti-nuclear van fitted with so much scary 'nuclear' props that they doubled its height. They talked and sang about the horrors of nuclear power, the message of the German lyrics went something like 'they are threatening us all, the disaster is around us' and 'we should be angry, we have to act now for our future,' and so on. So much will to make the world better, but laden with such mistaken, simplistic, and fear-inducing messages. It was sad.

Surprise turn: an anti-nuclear protest followed by a pro-nuclear opera

GENERATION ATOMIC



Eric sombre, watching the crowd

When they were done, Eric, who **clearly lacks any kind of survival instinct**, climbed onto the scene to let the protestors hear his nuclear opera. I stood right in front of the scene and filmed him (apologies to my husband about that promise to try and not get beaten by anti-nuclear activists). The microphone was still on when Eric began singing, but the protestors soon turned it off. That didn't slow him down, you should hear that voice – he just stepped away from the mic and continued. A lady from Friends of the Earth went to him with a false smile, trying to say “how nice that you've come over to our side” and Eric smiled and shook his head and held up his colourful “nuclear yes please” badges.

“History-yy will show / [nuclear] was the right way to go”, he sang on, and by that time it was too much – the anti-nuclear demonstrators turned on their equipment to drown him out with cacophony. Eric took a bow, several people clapped! He jumped down, and was directly approached by a guy who had a nice smile on his face, who said ‘you should be really thankful that you are not getting beaten’. I was still filming Eric at that time. Another anti-nuclear demonstrator, a tall black-clad man with an ‘organiser’ armband, came and jerked at my hand that was holding the camera, trying to get it. I refused to let it go, and he

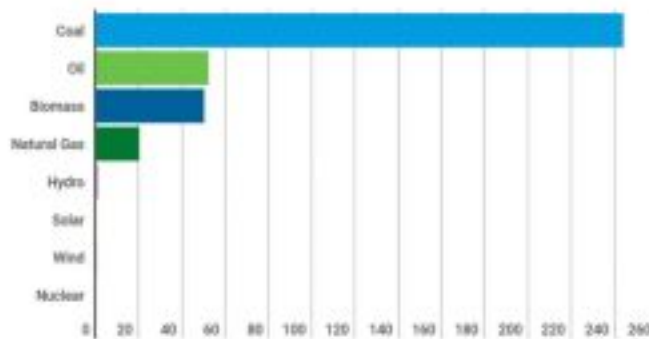
told me repeatedly 'let me show what you filmed' and 'you're coming with me now to show me what you've filmed'. I refused and stowed the camera away securely among my many pockets. While I was being heckled by him, Eric was trying to show flyers with graphs to people in the audience. This so angered a stout old man in a bright yellow vest that he struck the flyer from his hand and threw it.

Things heat up

If you found out that nuclear energy

Was the safest way to make electricity

Deaths per terawatt hour by energy source



The top of that offensive flyer Eric was handing out.

Soon the old man was pushing Eric and was really angry, spitting and yelling. He kept pushing Eric bodily away, and he kept putting his hands up, not budging, and saying 'I'm a peaceful protester' and asking the man to stop. The old man did not care, he screamed in his face that he was a fascist, and other unintelligible phrases, and kept shoving. None of the other activists thought this seemed like an objectionable way to behave, and they were happy to let Eric get pushed some 30 meters down the street – when I joined the two of them, the old man started screaming, spittle flying, a centimeter or two away from my face that I too was a fascist. I looked at him and asked if he was going to use force against me too.



At about this point some of the people on his side made a half-hearted effort to tell him to cool off and step away.

With him backed up for a moment, we tried to have discussion with a Mexican woman (*correction: a New Mexican woman. She [confronted me later at the US panel](#), said she'd read this piece, and said I was a racist. I asked if she really thought I was racist for not hearing her words perfectly amidst a group of people shouting on top of each other. I did say I would be more than happy to correct the piece with the more accurate information, and said how nice it was to be able to talk to her without all that shouting.) holding on to a large yellow banner. She kept asking us if we knew about uranium mining. I asked her whether she was concerned about climate change and interested in what the IPCC had to say about solutions. She said "that's just one name. You listen only to one organisation", to which I replied that hundreds of scientists for years and years had worked there trying to get at how to best understand the problem. She told us we should listen to hundreds of native people instead.

Enter the German law enforcement

At this point it turned out that the tall guy in black had gone to fetch the police. Two stern German policemen came and physically held me still and started asking about what I had been filming and they wanted to see the footage. The anti-nuclear people rejoiced, took out their cameras and turned them on us instead(!). I said I had done nothing wrong, and I was not going to give them my camera. The police were being gruff and told me if I knew about privacy rights, and "that it was against the law in Germany to put any of it online". I said I naturally understood that there were laws protecting people's privacy. They kept asking to see the footage, but I kept the camera safely in one of the pockets of my three jackets – Finnish cloth layering for the win! We asked them if we could then also see the anti-nuclear protestors cameras, to make sure they had not filmed us. The lady from Friends of the Earth let out an incredulous burst of laughter and said "of course I will not show you my phone. You'll break it!" Eric asked if the police could do something about the man who had been pushing him around.



My 'say what' -face at the anti nuke demonstration.

The police decided to selectively not hear anything about the pusher or about our demands to see the other people's phones for their footage of us, and the anti-nuclear protestors were smirking. Instead the police took my name and address and said "if we see anything online, you will get legal consequences in Germany". (What a load of crap btw – filming a crowd in a public area is supported by the law as long as one does not specifically focus and follow someone – in that case, permission for publication is needed. We had been filming Eric, and made general sweeps of the audience – later someone had insisted on walking into the frame to tell Eric he was lucky he was not being beaten. Threats and shoving people around a-OK, a mention of someone filming a public situation warrants an intimidation by the police? Wow.)

Conspiracy over the World Health Organisation?

The police left, and the New Mexican woman again brought up uranium mining. We tried to explain that there were drawbacks to all kinds of mining, and that we should make fair comparisons between energy forms. She – thankfully not tempted to get physical – raised her voice to drown out our arguments, and asked repeatedly if we knew how uranium was mined and enriched, and that the centrifugation of uranium in the enrichment process demanded energy – coal energy, because her country had no nuclear power – so HA. Nuclear needed coal. We tried to explain that all mining and construction requires energy. She said we were getting our information from the wrong places.



I said we needed to look at the health impacts – and I mentioned the World Health Organisation (WHO). I wanted to draw her attention to impacts of coal, but I never got a word in. She told me the WHO would never tell the truth, because they had signed a contract with IAEA ([International Atomic Energy Agency](#)) that they would never publish anything on nuclear power (weird because I have referenced several of their studies on it). To try to get a better insight into her thinking, I asked if she indeed thought there was a conspiracy at the WHO to ignore evidence on nuclear power, and she said yes – in fact, they “were obliged to do so due to this contract”. She declared that I should “do my homework look it up.”

Somewhat resigned, I promised to look that up IF she would also look up the scientific resources I had collected. Small victories: she accepted my [Mothers for Nuclear](#) flyer with a picture of me and summary and graphs of my reasons for supporting nuclear, and promised she would go online and read. I shook her hand and thanked her for talking to us. I am now left with the task of looking for a contract between IAEA and the WHO, proving that the WHO will not publish anything about the ‘true impacts of nuclear power’... any tips on where I might find such a contract?

Update: thanks to two fellow [Finnish Ecomodernists](#) for their quick help with my homework! Behold, [the conspiracy](#). UPDATE – more on that in the piece where I account my second meeting with her, after she has read this piece and has complaints: [Conversations with an Anti-Nuclear Protester, Take Two](#).

Only an hour after my first visit to the COP23, and wow, I was spent! We went for a well deserved lunch of what I introduced to Eric as “Swiss Pizza” (flammkuchen – I take no responsibility over which German speaking part of Europe deserves the honours for the dish’s true ancestry).

By the time we were done eating and calmed down from the shower of adrenaline, we saw that the protestors, including the pusher, had sat down at the same cafe. As we were walking out we waved and smiled at them, and got the finger. Classy.

Lessons learned?

Surprise surprise, we found that anti nuclear protestors might not be the most fertile ground for a calm discussion about evidence. Still, I am sad and amazed both at the style of their behaviour and the content of their arguments. I can’t help but hope that some of them may



feel unhappy about the behaviour of the people “on their side”, and perhaps wonder “what really motivates these people who were being yelled at and pushed around but kept trying to talk calmly about the importance of stopping climate change?”

The answer is that most of us are motivated by love toward our fellow humans and nature. The question is, what is the best way to find out how we can best take care of each other and our environment? Is it all a conspiracy, and one slogan is as good as the next? Or is there a way to actually know, instead of simply assuming?

Frankie Shows Up:

Irish Filmmaker Frankie Fenton arrived on the scene at the end of the first weekend to follow our coalition and capture footage for his upcoming documentary “Reactor”. His first day on the ground was marked with a visit with Tay and Ben to the Lignite Mines only 30 miles away from the conference center.



Give Nuclear a Seat at the Table

Posted on [November 20, 2017](#) by [Thoughtscapism](#)



I first saw the giant inflated bubble-igloos at the COP23 area at night, illuminated from inside with a green and violet light, giving them a sort of futuristic bouncy castle -vibe. The circus-sized igloos were to be the location for the UN Environmental Program's (UNEP) Sustainable Innovation Summit (SIF) – the largest official side event of COP23. This was a major event for tech companies to present their ideas about how to steer the modern society in a direction that would help protect the planet and mitigate climate change.

This was not something for the general public – with tickets 1000 dollars a piece (500 for NGOs), the two day event, a few hundred meters from the official Bula Zone of the Bonn conference, was definitely industry centric. But not just any industry.

The UNEP had selected those it deemed most suitable for its sustainability goals. With that in mind, you might find it surprising that car and coal power companies were not only among the event's participants, but among their gold sponsors, with their names displayed all over the event. Granted, it is hardly realistic to believe we could do away with all cars or all coal power plants tomorrow (sentiment echoed by many among the [controversial US panel on energy](#)), and while these technologies are here, it can be argued that it would be irresponsible not to make an effort to seek developments that can minimise their environmental harm. I don't have a problem with that, as long as we also commit to moving

away from fossil fuels, and our efforts will result in an **actual large scale reduction in pollution and carbon emissions**, not merely gestures of good will.

A woman with long brown hair, wearing a dark coat and a thick green scarf, is smiling and holding a black report titled "European Climate Leadership Report 2017". She is standing in front of a white backdrop that features the COP23 Fiji logo (two palm trees on a blue wave) and the text "COP23 FIJI UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE BONN 2017".

When measuring our progress in resisting Climate Change, it is crucial to use metrics that matter.

While most people would agree that *green house gas emissions* are the determining factor of how much a country contributes to the Climate problem . . .

GERMANY – the host of this year’s United Nations Convention on Climate Change – recently *shut down* a huge amount of its *carbon-free energy* capacity by closing down many of their nuclear power plants.

Conference leaders have also been dismissive of groups discussing nuclear power innovation, so the Non-Profit Energy for Humanity went to the conference to present the 2017 European Climate Leadership Report measuring each country’s carbon emissions.

Which country do you think scores the worst ?
See the link in this caption for the results.

Kirsty Gogan from [Energy for Humanity](#), one of the authors of the [Climate Leadership report](#).

Graphic and copyright, Klara Ingersoll.

I don’t object to giving these industries a seat at the table *as well*. Every technological sector has room for improvement (say, the gold sponsor BMW, while among the lesser offenders, long had more than double the NOx emissions their regulatory tests suggested – read more about the [dieseltgate](#), on how car sensors were [rigged to give false readings](#)). We are in need of a wide variety of

innovations to can help us fight climate change, protect human health and wellbeing, as well as that of the environment.

I am inclined to think that an open discussion about these industries’ past, present, and future realities can indeed facilitate change in a better way than simply shutting them out of the conversation. UNEP seems to think so too.

Unless the industry in question is the world’s second largest provider of carbon-free energy.



In that case, the UNEP strikingly sees **no place for open discussion** about any part of their past, present, or future at their forum. Half a century of documented, reliable, carbon-free energy production is not something the UNEP values enough to allow nuclear power (of the present or the future) even a low-profile participation spot at their summit.

Technology that can rid us of nuclear weapons and [nuclear waste](#)? No go, says the UNEP. Building small reactor suited for decentralised energy supply? Nope, nope. Quickly adapting modular reactors that can support the deployment of renewable energy? No way. Don't want to hear it. The UNEP prefers to put their fingers firmly in their ears and go 'la la la.'

UNEP's biased inner workings

Not quite everyone at UNEP shares this peculiar view – or that is the conclusion I must draw, considering that when [the World Nuclear Association \(WNA\) first offered to pay 68 000 dollars to sponsor the event](#), in order to reach out to other fields with sustainable goals and to present their perspective, people at the UNEP considered this to be perfectly appropriate.

Everything was in order and all that was left was to write the final signatures and transfer the money. But it never happened. At this point someone higher up must have stepped in (Erik Solheim, the director, is a good candidate – [he rejoices the rejection of nuclear power](#) on his personal twitter, happily ignoring what IPCC says about us needing all low carbon energy forms). Suddenly UNEP rescinded the agreement. They offered WNA a low-profile 12 000 participation instead. But not for long – very soon that became an unacceptable thought for someone within the UNEP as well. It quickly turned into a blank 'no thank you, go away', to the energy form with the greatest potential for, and fastest proven historical track record of decarbonization. You can read more about it over at Bright New World: [UNEP's institutionalised energy discrimination is placing our future at risk](#).

This move makes me deeply ashamed to be part of any of the nations that have united under UN's banner in the hypocritical name of an 'Environmental Program'. I and all the citizens of the world deserve better. UNEP picking personal favourites instead of relying on the best evidence on solutions to the biggest environmental threat in human history just does not cut it.

I am not alone in this view. To give UNEP a chance to realise their mistake, several environmental organisations, together with the world's arguably most prominent climate



scientist James Hansen wrote an open letter to the UNEP. The [petition created by Generation Atomic](#) gathered more than a thousand signatures within the space of days. They, the [Bright New World](#), [Energy for Humanity](#), Ecomodernist Society of Finland, Mothers for Nuclear, Environmental Progress, and the African nuclear development forum Thyspunt, appealed to the UNEP to make them see that nuclear deserves A Seat at The Table.

Is anyone surprised to hear that the UNEP did not care?

Enter grass roots action



We brought our own table. Wolfgang Denk (standing), Taylor Stevenson, Ben Heard, me and Eric Meyer.

While the big bureaucracy machinery of the UN picked and chose its favourites of the corporate world, holding up appearances of sustainability inside, a handful of environmentalists took up the dropped cause of climate mitigation outside in the cold. Working late into the night in their [messy airbnb](#) meant to accommodate less than half their number, buying furniture from IKEA across the carnival-jammed city (huge props to Sam and Grant), carrying projectors and screens and tables and croissants in taxis and trams through

Bonn in the dark of night to avoid over-zealous security stopping us before we could even start, we set up **the only table that served the radical idea of relying on evidence on actual climate mitigation power.**

We talked to a lot of people at our table, and it was a positive experience to realise that many people just don't know much about nuclear power – it is not that they are irrevocably entrenched, like the very loud and angry minorities I'd met before. They were cautious and curious. One man did laugh in our face about our recount of the [WHO information on Chernobyl](#), instead making comments about children without arms, but he did take my flyer on nuclear accidents, and promised he would check the WHO website (Chernobyl resulted in no congenital effects).

A class of students sat down and listened to the speeches by Ben Heard, director of [Bright New World](#), and Kirsty Gogan and Wolfgang from [Energy for Humanity](#). I was very impressed by Kirsty's manner: never raising her voice, she had a calmness and clarity of speech that immediately made you listen with care (example [here](#)).

She and Wolfgang summarised in their brand new report [European Climate Leadership](#) the metrics that matter: not the theoretical or wished-for impacts of various campaigns, but the actual current carbon emissions per unit of energy produced in the countries across Europe.

The simple, accurate, and inconvenient truth.

Climate leaders? Norway, Sweden, France, Switzerland, Finland, Belgium. Laggards? Germany, Bulgaria, Turkey, Croatia, Greece, and on last place, Poland.



GENERATION ATOMIC

Inconvenient why? Because nuclear power produces half of the carbon-free energy in Europe. Out of the top six green countries, five (Sweden, France, Switzerland, Finland, and Belgium) rely largely on nuclear power for their supply of clean energy. The other important source is hydro power, and the top green country, Norway, is blessed with plenty of mountains and flowing water. Mountains and waterways, unfortunately, are not a resource that can simply be extended without environmental consequences, or beyond a point where all the major flows are harnessed (in Europe not many untapped resources remain).

Most people we talked to could not guess outright that the most decarbonised countries in Europe relied largely in nuclear power.

Some people who came by, on the other hand, were very aware of the achievements of nuclear power. I was very happy to meet Lenka Kollar, a young nuclear engineer and a panelist at the [intense US energy presentation](#) at the COP23 that same evening, representing NuScale (a company that builds small modular reactors). She stopped by and shared her disappointment about UNEP's blanket rejection of nuclear sector at their summit.

We also talked and took photos with [Dr. John Barrett](#), the president of the non-profit Canadian Nuclear Association, a genuinely warm and friendly gentleman, whose enthusiasm was most infectious to listen to, as he told us more about the exciting future of small molten salt reactors using old [CANDU](#) fuel rods for carbon-free energy.



Me, Dr. John Barrett, Taylor Stevenson and Kirsty Gogan. I'm holding a copy of Nuclear Science & Sustainable Development.

I got hold of a copy of their brochure [Nuclear Science & Sustainable Development](#) about the seventeen UN sustainable development goals formulated before



COP21, nine of which nuclear science can help the world meet.

We told him that we were deeply impressed by Ontario becoming completely decarbonized, and regretted the fact that the Canadian's were too polite to loudly proclaim the value of their achievement.

UNEP rejects report on decarbonisation

We also made the effort of initiating open discussion about the actual state of European decarbonisation with the participants of the summit, respectfully handing out free copies of the European Climate Leadership Report 2017 at the entrance to the event.



Eric Meyer from [Generation atomic](#), Kirsty Gogan from [Energy for Humanity](#), and me at the entrance of the Sustainable Innovation Summit. Photo and copyright Klara Ingersoll.



Many people showed interest, received their copies, and also stayed a moment to discuss the data with us. The UNEP organisers appeared soon after, very grim, and told us to leave or they would have the security escort us away.

We did not try to make a scene. We were not interested in picking a fight, we only wanted polite, sincere discourse. When that was denied, we politely walked out. We couldn't understand why the UNEP would not think that the world's most pressing issue would not warrant looking at the actual evidence. We tried our best to open lines of discussion in a friendly, rational way.



The organiser (left) is NOT happy. Being kicked out in excellent company: Taylor Stevenson from [Generation Atomic](#), Ben Heard from [Bright New World](#), and Kirsty Gogan from [Energy for Humanity](#). Photo Klara Ingersoll.

Many people were receptive to that message, but the UNEP did not want to hear any of it.

As Ben said: it's like having a friend ill with cancer, who won't stop smoking cigarettes and keeps refusing to discuss treatment. How far do we have to go before we can make our



friend see that the cancer is spreading, and while they are refusing the treatment it will only get worse?

Only in our case, sadly all of us will suffer the consequences.

Environmentalists around the world are realizing that nuclear power may be our only hope to decarbonize our planet and prevent catastrophic Climate Change, because it . . .

- Is our second largest source of clean energy (after hydro)
- Has the smallest environmental footprint of clean energy sources
- Is the safest way to make reliable energy that exists

To call attention to next-generation nuclear power's place in the Climate solution (in addition to hydro and other new renewables), 3 international environmental NGO's staged a demonstration setting up their table outside the United Nations Climate Conference this year in in Bonn to call on the world's political leaders to

#GiveNuclearASeatAtTheTable

A photograph showing three people sitting at a table outdoors. On the left is a man in a dark suit, in the middle is a woman in a black and white patterned jacket, and on the right is a man in a dark jacket. They are looking towards the right. The table has a laptop, a basket of fruit, and some papers on it. The background shows a grassy area and trees with yellow autumn leaves.

Ben Heard from [Bright New World](#), me, and Eric Meyer from [Generation Atomic](#), sitting down to talk. Infographic by Klara Ingersoll.

If there ever was a topic that warranted another good look at the evidence, this is it. Scientists, environmentalists, and private citizens the world over are waking up the



realization that nuclear energy is one of the most important tools at hand for protecting ourselves and the beautiful earth we live on. When we all speak up, the others will have to listen.

We simply cannot let them shut our future out of the discussion.

US Event:

Excerpts from: [**Backstage, front row experience of the controversial US panel on energy at COP23**](#) and [**The Right Price for Saving the Planet Depends on the Energy Form**](#)

The [controversial US energy panel at COP23](#) was over, and people began pouring out of the room at the climate conference in Bonn. While most panelists left, nuclear engineer Lenka Kollar from [NuScale](#) stayed and gave interviews to several camera crews. I was impressed by how she continued to answer countless of questions in a calm and friendly fashion. One of the interviews was with Amy Goodman of Democracy Now, but so far I haven't seen any published material relating to their interviews of Lenka or Eric* from [Generation Atomic](#).

The segregated economics of low-carbon energy

Meanwhile, Lenka continued kindly answering questions. There was one German interviewer, in particular, who grilled her on the exact price per kWh on her suggested type of nuclear power. Even after Lenka gave him the numbers for the US, he kept demanding to hear the price in other countries. Lenka politely noted that each market was different, and she couldn't give him a specific number on that. He kept insisting, citing prices on solar panels, trying to pit renewables against nuclear – an unfortunate but rather common tenet of many environmental activists, which distracts from the important discussion on the common goal of decarbonisation.

* Eric from [Generation Atomic](#), ever the spontaneous artist, had been itching to get to join in on the [protest choir -action during the panel](#), by singing his nuclear opera. We decided it was not an appropriate moment, but luckily he got his chance in the same room soon after. The singer behind the choir protest performed once more for the cameras of Democracy Now.

Eric thought it only fair to ask for them to also hear his. I would love to see Democracy Now post *that* on their news...

The action, and Lenka's speech can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RB2aFJnxjY4>

Hambach

Gen A Staff traveled to the Hambach forest with Frankie Fenton and Ben Heard to meet the activists that are occupying the forest in treehouses to attempt to stop the cutting and mining of the land underneath. We brought food and interviewed them about the experience. At a key moment, we



asked Cici aka "Fossil" if he would support nuclear if it meant saving the forest. The answer? "No."



Solheim --

Eric had a brief conversation with Erik Solheim, ED of the UNEP after a nauseatingly joyous celebration of the circumnavigation of the globe with a solar airplane. He implored Erik to consider his legacy and his place in history as the UNEP Executive Director, and stand up for fact based energy policy. Erik obfuscated, alluding to political ramifications for doing so. In the last month, we've garnered well over a thousand signatures on the petition and open letter to Solheim and delivered it to him in a tweet with this image. The fight goes on to ensure that nuclear has a prominent place at next year's climate talks in Poland.

"More than 10 years ago the UN excluded nuclear power as a clean development mechanism.

That's crazy.

Its actual carbon footprint is lower than that of most renewables.

It makes no scientific sense."

"[UNEP Director] Erik [Solheim], we're on the same page with regard to climate change, but boy, if we don't allow nuclear a fair seat at the table, I don't see how we're going to solve this problem on the timetable that it has to be solved."



-Dr. James Hansen