

# “For whom the wind blows”

## A short piece of street theatre on green versus nuclear energy, peace and human rights

Designed to be accompanied by the distribution of a leaflet on nuclear power and renewables\*, this piece would take around 6 - 7 minutes and can be done on a repeated, 'loop' basis, allowing time to speak to bystanders about the issues between performances.

\* The text of the leaflet follows the script below. We would suggest adding one or more cartoons or graphics to the leaflet which can be run off A4 size from a printer and reduced when printing or photocopying to an A5 (half A4) leaflet for distribution.

***Dramatis personae*** (Some of the 'Renewable' roles can be played by the same people but ideally there would be around 8, i.e. 6 actors and two leafletters):

Narrator  
Ms/Mr Nuclear Power  
Ms/Mr Wind Power  
Ms/Mr Solar Power  
Ms/Mr Biomass  
Ms/Mr Wave Power  
Leafletter(s)

### ***Props:***

Flashing light and radiation symbol (for Nuclear Power – the symbol can be downloaded from doing an 'image search' on the web); child's plastic windmill (for Wind Power); sunglasses/bikini (can be worn over clothes)/frying pan (for Solar Power); cigarette lighter (for Biomass); sign saying 'Wave power' for Wave Power; Large banner with title of street theatre piece or 'Green power v. nuclear power' to inform passers by what is going on; 'Word bubble' or sign with arrow saying with 'Green with envy'.

Actors can dress according to their role and add anything else appropriate. The narrator should be brightly and/or eccentrically dressed (e.g. with top hat).

The script is certainly not sacred and, if you can improve on it, feel free.....likewise for those using this outside Ireland you will need to make changes in the script and the leaflet.

The other prop needed is good weather – when INNATE performed this in Belfast on UN International Day of Non-violence in October 2008 we became a good advertisement for Water Power.....it rained heavily.....

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### **Narrator -**

Come here, my tale to tell  
Come here and I will spell  
The story of the Powers  
And what their powers be

Ireland has no nuclear power  
Though some reckon it a shame  
So let's start with that,  
And call him/her by name

Come forth, Nuclear Power – (*Nuclear Power steps forward*)

**Nuclear Power** (*flashing red light*) -  
My name is Nuclear Power  
I am the biggest there is,  
When you hear of my technology  
You'll all go 'gee whizz'

Dangers? They are few  
Who has heard of Three Mile Island  
or Chernobyl, to be true?  
Terrorists are too nice to attack me

Waste not, want not,  
My mother used to say  
Nuclear waste will last  
For ever and a day

Uranium is needed  
And it's getting scarce  
Even scarcer than oil  
Which makes me fit to burst

Nuclear power plants  
Can be grown by anyone  
The dangers of it,  
Could blot out the sun

And it's all so centralised  
It helps keep citizens in line  
If they don't behave  
We'll cut the powerline

So you can trust me,  
Your friendly, wonderful giant,  
For I am Nuclear Power,  
Me and my Trident (*steps back*)

**Narrator –**

Come forth, Wind Power – (*Wind Power steps forward*)

**Wind Power** - (*blows on child's windmill*)  
I'll huff and I'll puff,  
I won't blow your house down  
But if there's a breeze at all,  
I'll make the dials go round

Ireland is well placed  
On the east of the Atlantic  
There's no one with wind power  
Who needs to go frantic

I'll keep your houses warm,  
I'll blow the cobwebs off,  
I'll keep the blades moving  
And electric wheels spinning *(steps back)*

**Narrator –**

Come forth, Solar Power – *(steps forward)*

**Solar Power -** *(adjusts sunglasses/sunhat)*

You might think in this climate  
I'm not worth the risk  
But the sun still shines  
And will heat your water with ease

Feel the heat, feel the sun  
That gets my work done  
Feel the power and the glory  
I'm part of the green story *(steps back)*

**Narrator –**

Come forth, Biomass *(Biomass steps forward)*

**Biomass –** *(flicks on cigarette lighter)*

Elephant grass and methane gas  
Coppicing wood for fuel  
You'd be a right old fool  
To let this opportunity pass

Everything that grows has energy  
Let's just harness that  
I've an important part to play  
Or I'll eat my renewable hat

I may be carbon based  
But it's the current account  
I can get the current running  
To keep your home a-humming *(steps back)*

**Narrator –**

Come forth, Wave Power *(Wave Power spends a short while waving to passers by (!) and steps forward)*

**Wave Power -**

We have the sea, we have the tide  
We'll soon be making waves  
Don't let them say,  
We can't get any energy that way

Have you seen surfers  
Glide along with ease?  
There's great power in the waves  
As much power as you please (*steps back*)

**Narrator:** (*steps forward*)  
I'd like to say it all ends splendid  
Without us all upended  
But the choices are still  
Like grist to the mill

Do we take the nuclear route?  
Some wouldn't give a hoot  
But the dangers are too many  
For liberty, happiness and plenty

Uranium is dirty and deadly to mine,  
Nuclear plants dangerous and take time,  
The risk of accident or attack  
Should give them all the sack

Nuclear weapons are a threat,  
They depend on nuclear plants -  
Without the latter the weapons would be  
Impossible and we would be Bomb-free

Renewables are down to earth  
They will not cost the world  
They're local and peaceful  
And no great risks for all

And don't forget our insulation  
Not difficult for the installation  
Soon we'll all be warm and cosy  
Without carbon we can still be toasty

So let's go the renewables way  
That way we can live another day  
Live and enjoy our island homes  
And forget the dangers of nuclear tombs

Global warming must be tackled  
Of that we are sure  
But with a mix of the greens  
We can live contented once more

[Actors bow to indicate The End while Nuclear Power holds sign with arrow saying 'Green with envy']

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# 2<sup>nd</sup> October - UN International Day of Non-violence

**Presentation of street theatre  
“For whom the wind blows”  
by INNATE\*  
on green energy versus nuclear power**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> October was made ‘International Day of Non-violence’ by the United Nations, marking the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi himself was very strongly into self-reliance and cottage industry so it is certainly appropriate to mark his birthday with a piece about the local generation of power.

At first sight the links between ‘non-violence’ and green energy might seem small. But actually the links are extremely strong. There are many dangers associated with nuclear power – dangers to health through radiation leaks (a common phenomenon from Sellafield, previously Windscale, in Cumbria), the high security required to protect the plant and waste, the dangers of ‘terrorist’ attack. And given that uranium is in even shorter supply (in terms of years) than oil it seems crazy to put our eggs in the nuclear basket. This is without even mentioning the link of nuclear power with nuclear weapons which threaten the whole world. So we would argue strongly that nuclear power is violent – against people and the planet.

Of course there are many issues and problems in transferring to green and renewable energy. But this is the way to go – along with massive investment in insulation of homes and buildings of all kinds. Nuclear power is a cul de sac leading to increased problems down the road – like storage of waste which has not yet been solved. –we would be bequeathing this problem not just to our children but untold future generations.

Go straight to green! Avoid the nuclear cul de sac.....

\* INNATE an Irish Network for Nonviolent Action Training and Education  
See [www.innatenonviolence.org](http://www.innatenonviolence.org) including the story of the success of the Irish anti-nuclear power movement of the 1970s, click on ‘Pamphlets’