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NUCLEAR MYTH:
*“The world’s
supply of
uranium is
running out.”*

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REALITY:

The worldwide nuclear industry currently uses around 68,000 tons of uranium a year and the world's uranium reserves are at around 5.7 million tons, so we have approximately 80 more years ready to use.

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FAST FACTS ABOUT NUCLEAR:

Fuel Sources In Nuclear Power

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A common fear that circulates every couple years is that the world is rapidly running out of uranium, [the most widely used fuel in nuclear reactors](#). But this is strictly untrue; according to the IAEA in 2016, [the world's uranium reserves are at around 5.7 million tons](#), which doesn't even factor in alternative sources of uranium. Since the worldwide nuclear industry currently uses around [68,000 tons of uranium a year](#), that means we have [approximately 80 more years ready to use](#).

Additionally, uranium is not the only potential source of nuclear fuel. Thorium is far more abundant than uranium, but requires a [“driver” fissile material like plutonium to cause the chain reaction](#) required for energy production. Though this is inconvenient, thorium-salt reactors, [such as those being explored by the Canadian, French, Indian, and Chinese governments](#), are essentially self-regulating and relatively fail-safe due to the way the [fuel expands over a certain heat point and the structure of the reactors themselves](#).

Small modular reactors provide other options, including [fast neutron reactors \(FNR\)](#) like GE Hitachi's PRISM reactor design, [high temperature gas-cooled reactors](#) like General Atomics' Gas Turbine Modular Helium Reactor (GT-MHR), and [modified Light Water Reactors \(LWR\)](#) like NuScale Power's 45-MW reactor.