

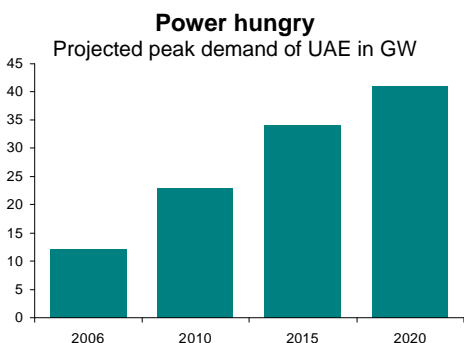
EEnergy Informer

The International Energy Newsletter

Does It Make Sense For Oil Rich UAE To Go Nuclear?

Concerns about climate change have created new impetus for atom but why on Earth would UAE want to build a nuke?

Oil rich **United Arab Emirates**, a federation of 7 oil-rich states in the Middle East, sits atop some of the biggest oil reserves in the world. But exponential growth has created pressure on UAE to generate sufficient capacity to meet the electricity needs of its population, while feeding the massive desalination plants that provide drinking water for its affluent and energy guzzling citizens (see related story on Masdar).



Source: UAE

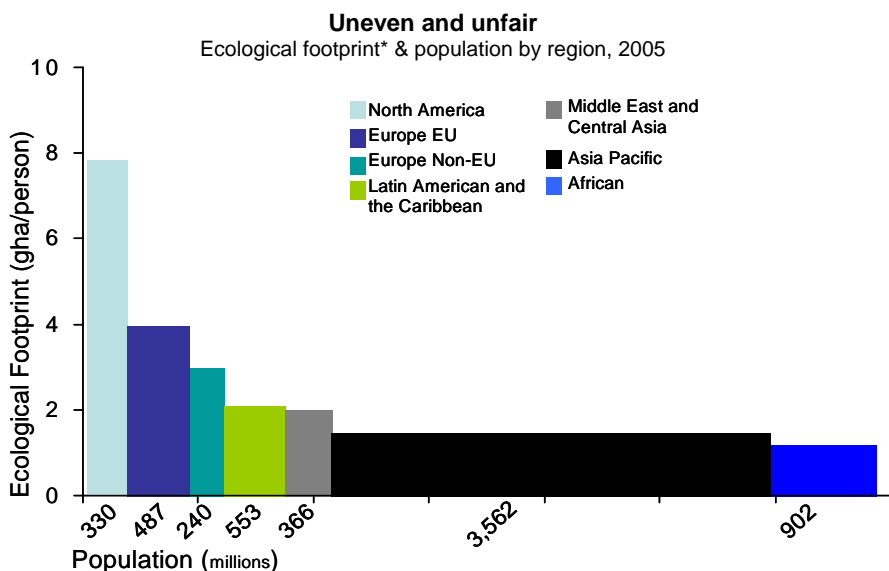
Despite its big oil endowment, **Abu Dhabi**, one of the most prosperous members of the federation, is short of natural gas, which it must import from **Qatar** for power generation and to feed the energy hungry water desalination plants. These and other considerations – notably ample reserves of cash – has led UAE’s rulers to pursue the nuclear option – ironic given that the region is literally floating on vast oil and gas reserves. Moreover, the US and the EU are supportive of the initiative since UAE has no ambitions to become a nuclear power in the *other* sense of the word – in contrast to **Iran**, on the other side of the Persian Gulf.

See **Nuclear** on Page 4

US Poised To Fire On All Cylinders In Copenhagen

After 8 years of dragging its feet, US is preparing to play a pivotal role on climate change

Under **President Bush**, the US position on climate change could be summarized as *deny, delay and frustrate*. It was highly successful in frustrating all attempts to reach any international agreements during Bush’s 8 years in office. **President Obama**, on the other hand, has indicated that US will join the international community to find a resolution to this critical issue but has made it clear that *all* major emitters must join the effort for it to be effective. Not a bad position for starters. He is also acknowledging a new reality that the days of US as an all-powerful superpower are waning as other economies grow relative to the US (see graph on page 2).



* Ecological footprint is a measure of the land area needed to sustain a population’s current standard of living including energy and food consumption and CO2 emissions. 1 US acre = 0.405 hectares

Source: Living Planet 2008

See **Copenhagen** on Page 2

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