

*lik maak om water teen die ou tariewe volhoubaar te lewer*

*Ter afsluiting, wil ek ook daarop wys dat munisipale water in die genoemde kategorie slegs 0,6c per liter kos - gesuiwer en by die verbruiker se huis gelewer. Is daar ander produkte wat hiermee kan vergelyk in terme van bekostigbaarheid?*

## Wind, fire and water

**Adrian Louw, 19 Mitchell Street:**

The debate on nuclear power should examine the obvious natural, inexhaustible and environmentally sound alternative: combining wind, hydro and concentrated solar power generation.

A wind farm located over the crest of our coastal mountains is high enough already, to save on the high towers required by wind generators (we are talking of big boy blades, made by the wind wizards, the Danes). The electricity thus generated goes straight into the grid - after peak demand and at night, the wind farms revert to pumping water from covered reservoirs, at the base of the mountains, to covered reservoirs hidden in the dips, at the top of our coastal hills. The minimum elevation of 100m is easily achieved from Gordon's Bay right down to Gansbaai. The reservoirs are closed systems - ergo they won't waste any water. Hydro generation is old hat. Quebec flogs power to the Yanks every day! Couple this with a canny Scot, Reverend Robert Stirling's engine, an ancient idea, but now applied for generating solar power (the Concentrated Solar Generators are also on top of the mountains, built at base of wind towers or on top of the reservoirs, still out of sight from the coastal plains), and you have plentiful, easy-on-the-eye energy. Overcast days? There's the wind and thirdly, the potential energy packed in the reservoirs.

Aesthetically the wind turbines look svelte and graceful to me, but for those who find them offensive, they need not be really visible from Hermanus without binoculars. A small price to pay for safe, responsible energy.

Pie in the sky? All the technology exists in commercial application, but, I believe, not all three have been combined, as proposed here. CSP farms work in Nevada, Arizona and California, and I have seen wind farms in the UK (Lake District nogal) Denmark, and Netherlands (our Palmiet pump scheme here should inspire energy engineers to think of the great alternatives before nuclear). Nuclear is maybe better than using fossil fuel generation, yet a sad second to the abundant wind, water and solar fire.