

Europe Looks To Coal Again

Europeans are switching back to coal. Over the next five years, Italy will increase its reliance on coal to 33 per cent from 14 per cent. Power generated from coal by energy company Enel will rise to 50 per cent. Italy is not alone in its return to coal. Driven by rising demand, record high oil and natural gas prices, concerns over energy security and an aversion to nuclear energy, European countries are slated to build around 50 coal-fired plants over the next five years that will be in use for the next five decades. European power-station owners emphasise that they are making the new coal plants as clean as possible. Enel, like many electricity companies, says it has little choice but to build coal plants to replace aging infrastructure, particularly in countries like Italy, which prohibit nuclear power. Fuel costs have risen 151 per cent since 1996, and Italians pay the highest electricity costs in Europe. Enel says it will start experimenting with carbon capture and storage technology in 2015.

[Source essa news]