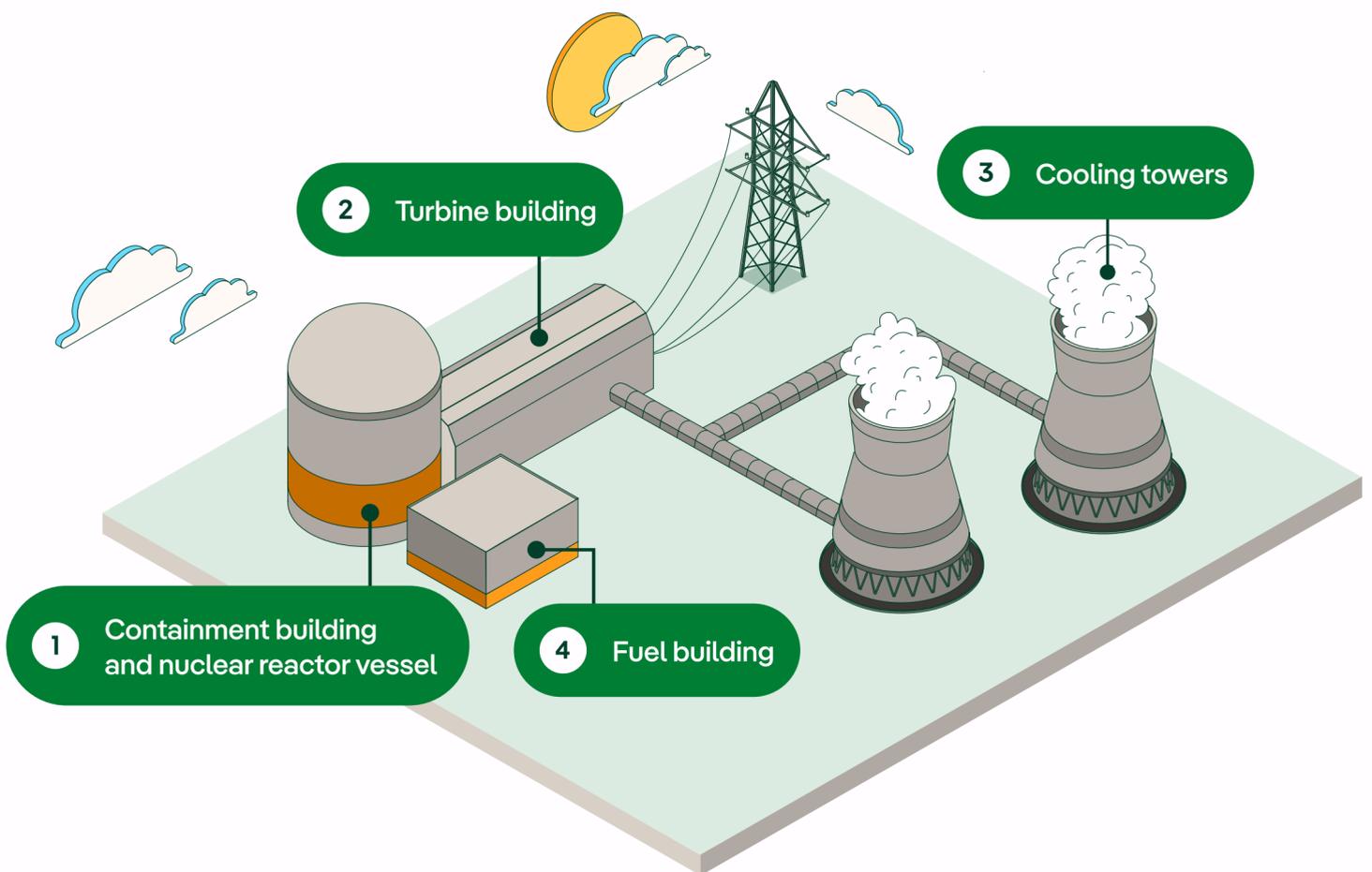
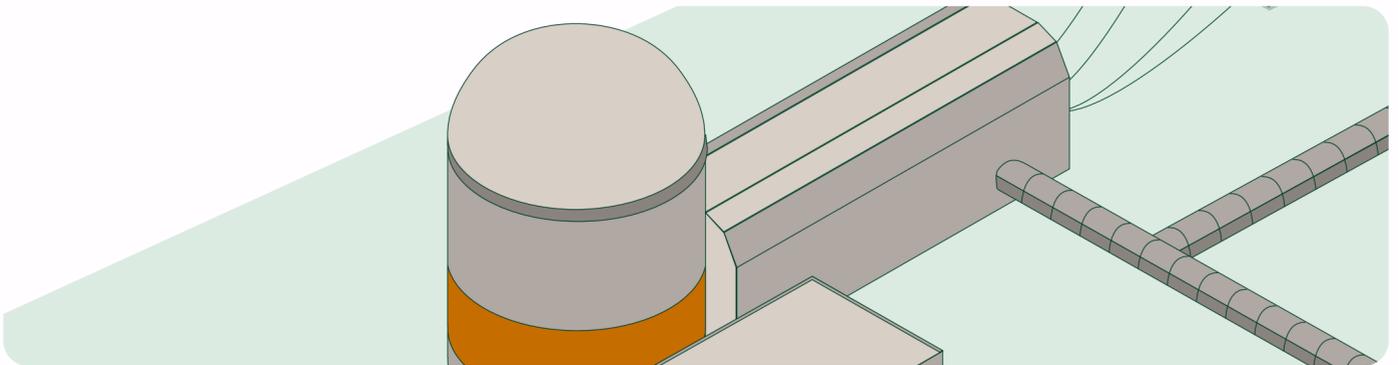


Nuclear power plant operation



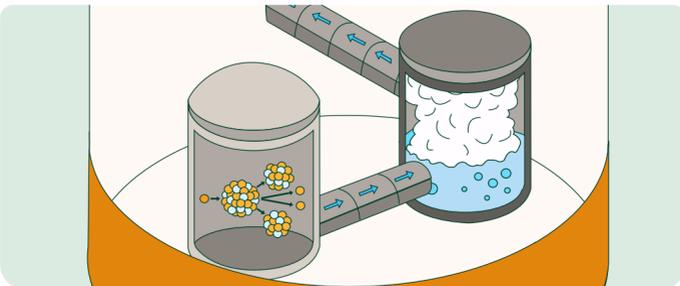
1 Containment building and nuclear reactor vessel

The external structure that houses the nuclear reactor. It has thick concrete and steel walls to contain radiation and is designed to withstand heavy loads, earthquakes and aircraft impact.

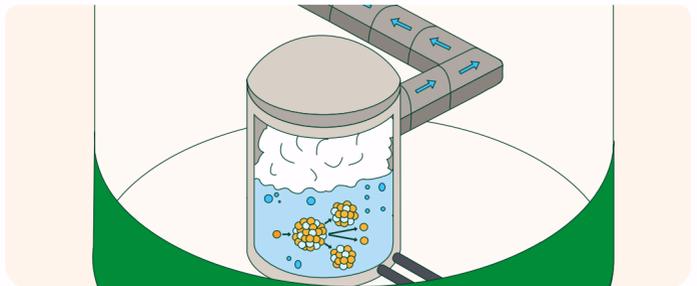


Nuclear fission: Uranium atoms are split in the nuclear reactor, releasing heat.
Steam generation: The heat warms water, turning it into steam.

PWR nuclear power plant

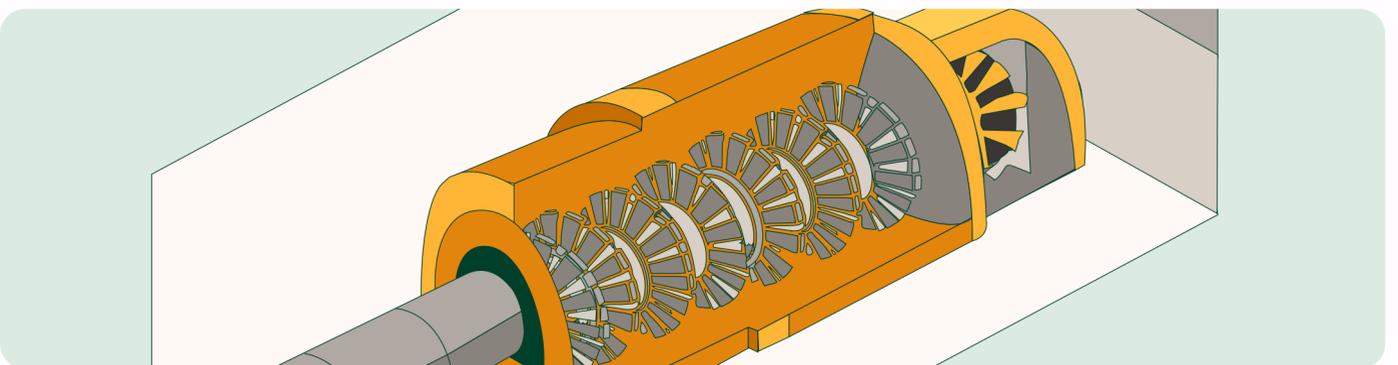


BWR nuclear power plant



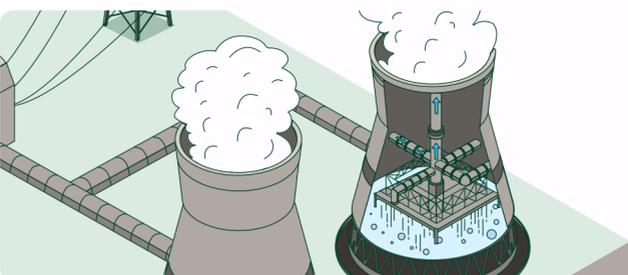
2 Turbine movement

The steam drives turbines connected to an electrical generator, which produces electricity.



3 Cooling

The steam used in the turbines is condensed by cooling water from cooling towers, rivers or the sea and is recirculated back to the reactor in liquid form.



4 Fuel building

Houses the fresh and spent fuel assemblies from the nuclear reactor in a water-filled pool.

