

Nuclear Power is Not a Climate Solution

The earth's climate is in crisis. We must achieve sharp declines in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Proponents of nuclear power argue we must use "every tool available" to meet this goal, including aging nuclear power plants and a "new generation" of nuclear reactors—such as "advanced" or Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMNRs). It is essential, however, that we choose the right tools to address climate disruption—to employ solutions that are sustainable and equitable, protecting health, safety, and our fragile environment. Nuclear power is a dangerous distraction from the need to take immediate and effective action to address the climate crisis:

- New nuclear power plants cannot make a timely contribution to climate change mitigation and will impede the development of safe and readily available renewable energy resources.
- Nuclear power plants are costly and impossible to build and operate without enormous taxpayer subsidies and government loan guarantees. New nuclear power plants will only add to the burden of consumers who struggle with energy costs.
- Dollars spent on the unproven "new generation" of nuclear plants should instead be used for enhancing the resilience of the electrical grid by investing in safe renewable sources, distributed generation, microgrids, retrofits, energy efficiency, and conservation.
- Nuclear power threatens the health and economic well-being of communities near reactors and radioactive waste, as well as those downwind and downriver.
- Nuclear energy is not clean, carbon-free, or sustainable when taking its entire fuel cycle into consideration.
- Indigenous people in the United States and worldwide have disproportionately borne the harms from uranium mining, fuel processing, and radioactive waste disposal.
- Nuclear energy is inherently risky due to unavoidable cascading accidents from human error, internal faults, and external causes such as extreme weather events.
- New reactor designs increase the risk of nuclear weapons proliferation as proponents seek to market new reactors worldwide.

Nuclear power poses an ongoing threat to life on earth due to its unresolved legacy of radioactive waste and operational disasters. While no energy source is without environmental impacts, we owe future generations our best effort to address the climate emergency with solutions that do not leave a legacy of further environmental degradation.

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