

Experts Agree!

CLIMATE NEEDS NUCLEAR

“The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report is clear that at this time of great urgency we need to use all instruments at our disposal to address the scourge of climate change: renewables, increased efficiency, nuclear, carbon capture and storage, and carbon removal.”

Andrew Steer, CEO and President of World Resources Institute

“We have to be open to all low-carbon and zero-carbon potential sources of energy, given the urgency of this effort.”

Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington

“The anti-nuclear stuff makes me so very very tired. Most of the environmental community recognizes that existing, safe nuclear plants are essential to solving this crisis. How many times will we have this debate? I do not understand.”

Leah Stokes, Professor of Political Science at UC Santa Barbara

“Democrats who are serious about climate should maintain an open mind on nuclear energy.”

Brian Schatz, Senator (HI)

“Nuclear has to be recognized as a low-carbon option.”

Ernie Moniz, Nuclear Physicist and Former Secretary of Energy, serving under President Barack Obama

“Nuclear energy remains our largest source of fuel that produces no carbon emissions. To meet our growing energy needs and prevent the worst consequences of climate change, we’ll need to increase our supply of nuclear power. It’s that simple.”

Barack Obama, Former President of the United States

“Nuclear energy should be part of the decarbonization toolbox. Currently in the U.S., nuclear energy provides 60 percent of all carbon-free electricity. Next-generation advanced nuclear reactors currently being developed have the potential to play an important role in helping us decarbonize at the speed and scale that scientists are telling us is necessary to avoid the worst impacts from climate change.”

Cory Booker, Senator (NJ)

“If climate change is indeed an existential threat, isn’t the loss of 40 TWh a year of carbon-free energy a four-alarm emergency?”

David Roberts, Energy Journalist at Vox

“Nuclear energy must be part of any solution to transitioning to a clean energy future because nuclear power provides over 55% of our carbon-free energy.”

Elaine Luria, Representative for Virginia’s 2nd Congressional District

“If we were smart, we’d see nuclear power for what it is: A good bet to save the world.”

Eric Holthaus, Meteorologist and Columnist for Grist

“Without an important contribution from nuclear power, the global energy transition will be that much harder.”

Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency

“Like many scientists, I’m not against nuclear energy. If it can be done safely & *affordably*, here + in developing nations, I want to see it!”

Katharine Hayhoe, Atmospheric Scientist, Professor of Political Science at Texas Tech University and Director of the Climate Science Center

“To solve the climate problem, policy must be based on facts and not prejudice. Alongside renewables, Nuclear will make the difference between the world missing crucial climate targets or achieving them.”

James Hansen (Earth Institute), Kerry Emanuel (MIT), Ken Caldeira (Carnegie Institute for Science) and Tom Wigley (University of Adelaide) Climate Scientists

“Policy must not rule out the carbon reduction value of the existing nuclear fleet and the potential contributions of future advanced nuclear technologies.”

John Podesta, President and CEO of the Center for American Progress



THIRD WAY

“Nuclear power works 95 percent of the time at large scale without emissions, and new passively safe designs are available. We can create a reliable emission-free electricity system for both rich and poor nations by combining CCS, nuclear power, and renewables.”

Jane Long, Senior Contributing Scientist at Environmental Defense Fund

“In particular, low-carbon dispatchable baseload resources such as nuclear, biomass, hydropower, or CCS, are an indispensable part of any least-cost pathway to deep decarbonization.”

Jesse Jenkins, Energy Systems Engineering Professor at Princeton University

“I realized there isn’t enough conversation about nuclear power, particularly among groups and advocates who were saying we need to do everything possible to get to zero emissions and at the same time were sort of ignoring our largest source of carbon free energy.”

Jessica Lovering, Researcher and Fellow at the Energy for Growth Hub

“If we discovered nuclear power today, we would be working like mad to make it as safe and cheap as possible.”

Ken Caldeira, Atmospheric Scientist at Carnegie Institution

“Reducing global energy emissions to zero — for power, transport, and industry — during the next few decades would be daunting enough using all options available; restricting our options to just a few such as wind and solar, and excluding nuclear, makes the risk of failure unacceptably high.”

Armond Cohen, Executive Director of Clean Air Task Force

“No plan to decarbonise the global economy can be considered credible if it does not deal explicitly with #nuclear power.”

Michael Liebreich, Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Board at Bloomberg New Energy Finance

“I think it’s clear right now that nuclear power is a carbon-free source and we need to maintain the plants that we have online in a safe fashion.”

Kathy Castor, Representative for Florida’s 14th Congressional District

“It’s heartbreaking to me to see a safely operating nuclear plant close down so that a gas burner can be put up to replace it. All because nobody is paying the nuclear plant for the carbon free value of its power compared to the gas plant which gets to pollute for free.”

Sheldon Whitehouse, Senator (RI)

“If we want to make a serious dent in carbon dioxide emissions -- not to mention having cleaner air and cleaner water -- then nuclear power has to be on the table.”

Stephen Chu, Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist and Former Secretary of Energy under Barack Obama

“I consider myself a lifelong environmentalist and part of what went with that was opposing nuclear. About 15 years ago, I rethought that position. I realized it wasn’t appropriate to have my views of nuclear and my concern about climate change. Climate change is the biggest crisis we face in the world and to take nuclear off the table is to take a carbon free source off the table.”

Carol Browner, Former Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy under Barak Obama and Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Bill Clinton

“IPCC report reminds us that we are running out of time and will have to make hard choices. Preserving the capacity of safely operated nuclear plants or ensuring that this capacity is replaced with zero carbon alternatives is an imperative that cannot be ignored.”

Ken Kimmel, President of the Union for Concerned Scientists

“Nuclear, especially next-generation nuclear, has tremendous potential to be part of the solution to climate change.”

James Hansen, NASA Scientist and Director of Climate Science, Awareness and Solutions Program at the Earth Institute

“...the [National Climate Assessment] report also underscores the absolute necessity of decarbonizing the U.S. economy. We must dramatically step up these efforts using all tools at hand – including improved energy efficiency, electric vehicles, and renewables, as well as carbon capture and nuclear.”

Bob Perciasepe, President of the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

“It’s extremely low-carbon; it’s similar to wind in terms of its whole lifecycle carbon emissions. We also know that among policy experts there’s actually a widely spread opinion that tackling [environmental] challenges would be much, much easier if we could quickly and cheaply build a lot of nuclear plants.”

Kristy Gogan, Co-founder and Executive Director of Energy for Humanity

