

# Nuclear Energy Overview & Update

NASUCA Webinar

John Kotek & Kati Austgen

December 11, 2024



# Nuclear Provides Majority of Emissions Free Electricity

U.S. Clean  
Generation  
(2023)

47.8%  
NUCLEAR

26.2%  
WIND

14.8%  
HYDRO

10.2%  
SOLAR

1%  
GEOTHERMAL

KEY

 Nuclear power plant site

# The Emissions Reduction Imperative

REUTERS

ENVIRONMENT MARCH 20, 2018 / 10:29 AM / A YEAR AGO

## McDonald's sets greenhouse gas reduction targets

Lisa Baerlein

3 MIN READ



(Reuters) - McDonald's Corp on Tuesday announced an approved, science based target to cut greenhouse gas emissions and battle climate change, saying it is the first restaurant company to do so.

Supply chains + Add to myFT

## Blue chips act to cut supply chain greenhouse gas emissions

Rolls-Royce, Nestlé and Panasonic among larger companies taking action

Michael Pooler JANUARY 29, 2018



AMERICAN BANKER

BANKING POLICY PAYMENTS TECH CREDIT UNIONS WORKPLACE

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## Regional banks join forces to tackle climate change

By Allissa Kline March 23, 2022, 5:28 p.m. EDT 2 Min Read



Two months after forming a consortium of large, international banks to address the risks associated with climate change, the Risk Management Association has established a similar group for midsize banks.

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## Levi's Plans to Slash Emissions in Global Supply Chain by 2025

The apparel giant aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a sprawling set of factories and mills in 39 countries, state suppliers



Levi's will start its effort to cut greenhouse gas emissions through energy-efficiency programs at factories run by vendors in the first tier of its supply chain, such as this supplier facility in Mexico. PHOTO: PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVI STRAUSS & CO.



Google Data Centers

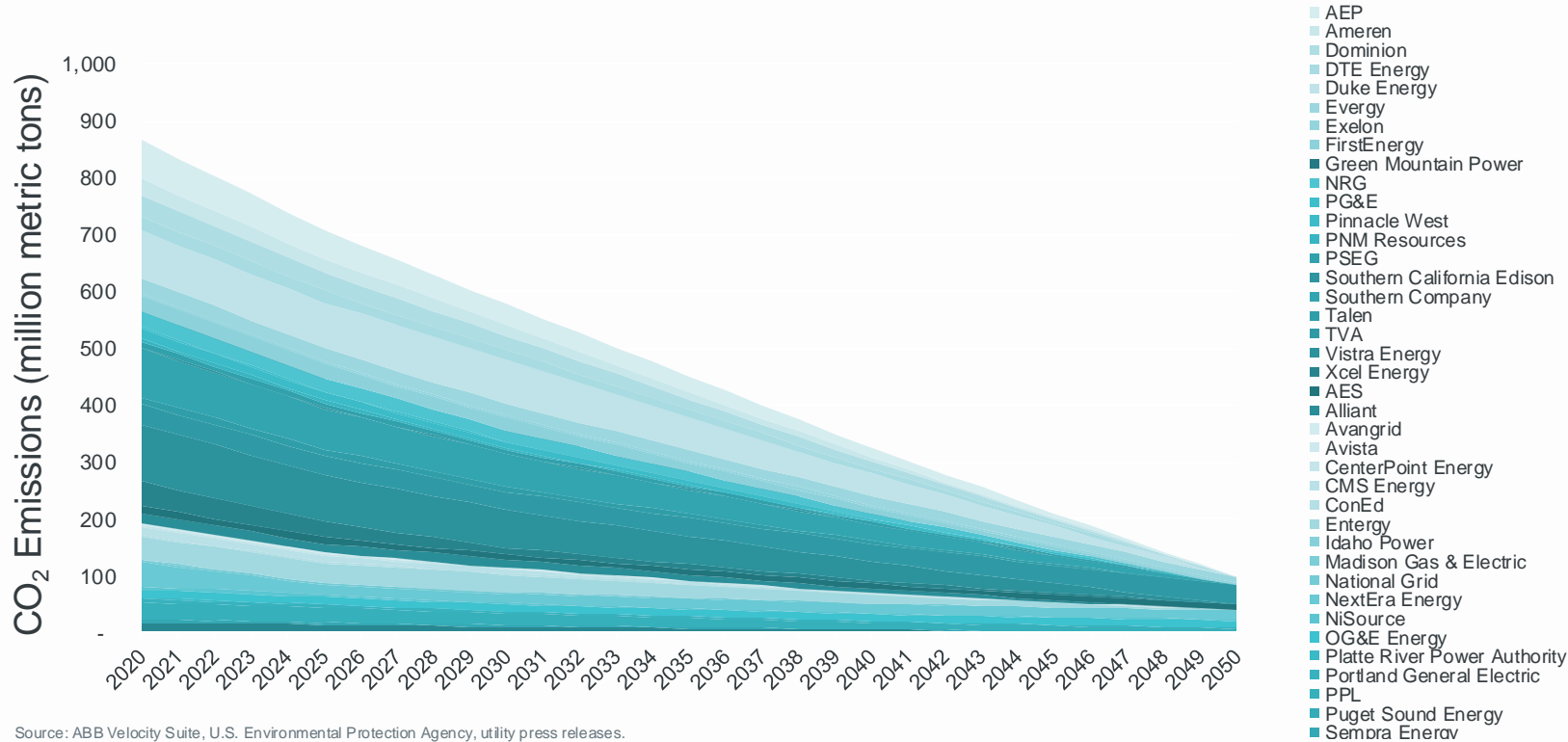
Locations Innovations Data and Security Efficiency 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy Gallery Life@ Podcast Discover

## 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy by 2030

From 2010 to 2023, we signed more than 115 agreements totaling over 14 GW of clean energy. In the third decade of climate action, we've set a goal to run on 24/7 carbon-free energy on every grid we power every hour of every day. Achieving this will also increase the impact of our clean energy procurement.

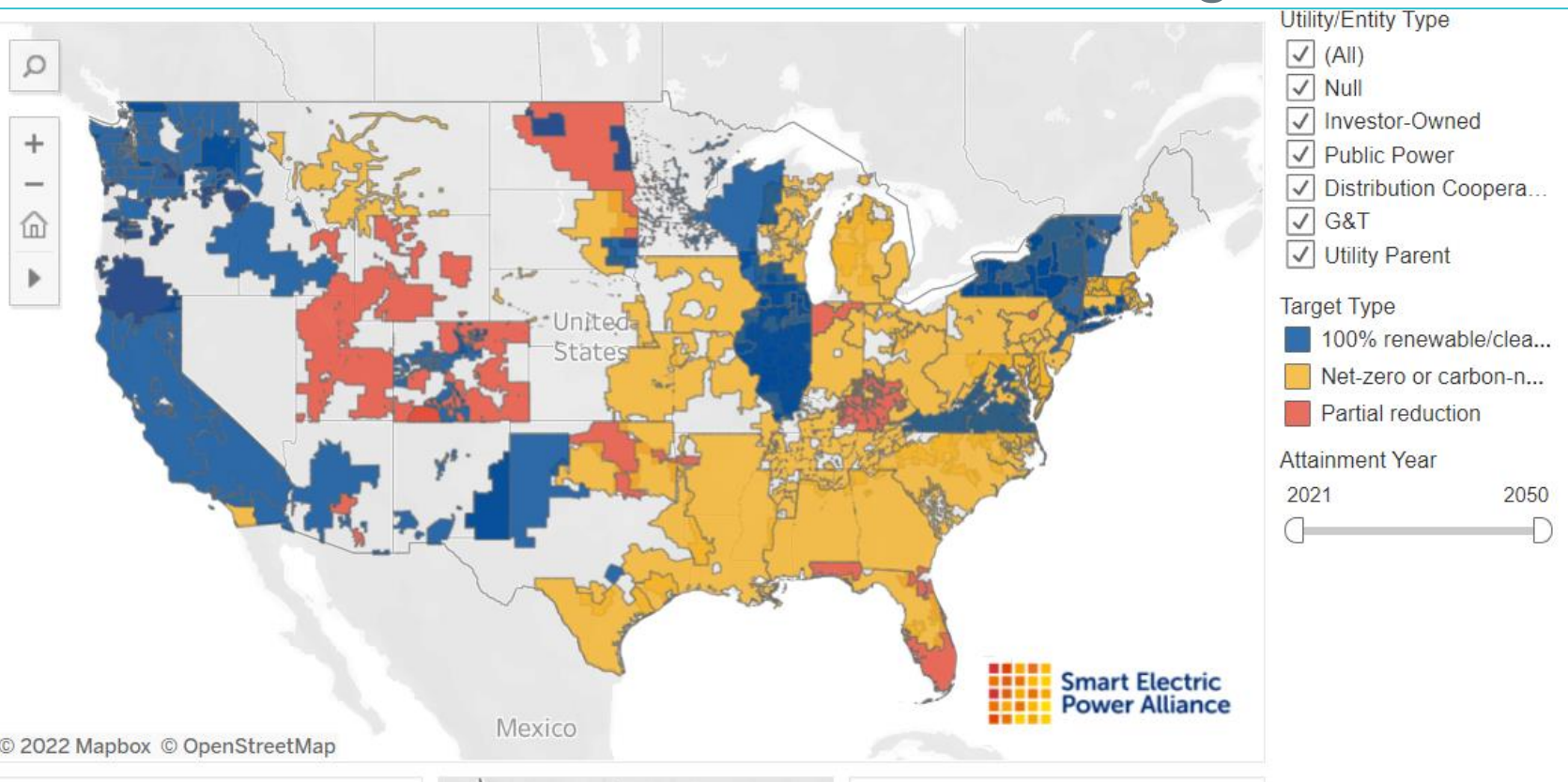
>9,700 COMPANIES WITH CARBON REDUCTION TARGETS

# Utility Carbon Emission Projections Based on Pledges



Source: ABB Velocity Suite, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, utility press releases.

# Utilities With Emissions Reduction Targets



Source: <https://sepower.org/utility-transformation-challenge/utility-carbon-reduction-tracker/>

# Growth Rates Increasing Almost Everywhere

From 2022 to 2023, the 5-year national forecast for peak demand shot up by about 50% – from 0.63% annual growth to 0.93%.

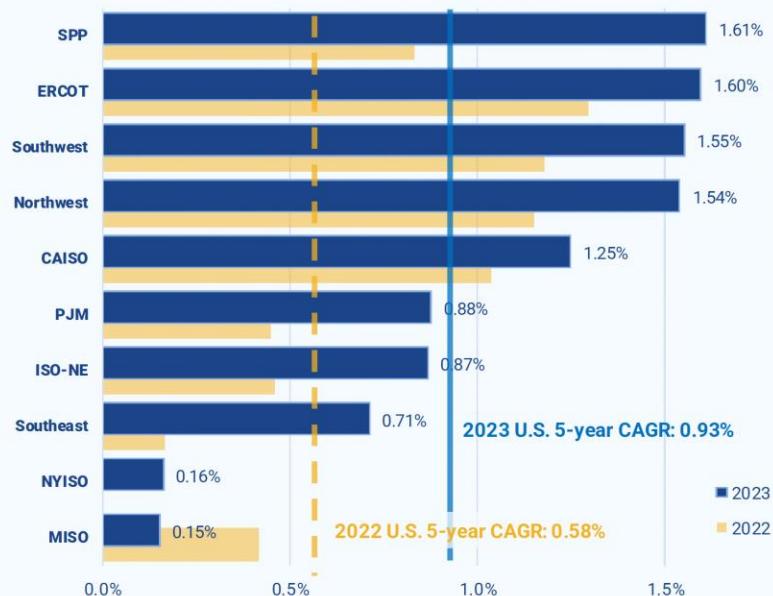
Annual growth rates are measured using the Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR). The CAGR represents the rate at which the initial load forecast or current load needs to grow annually to match the forecasted load in the final year assuming an annually compounded growth rate.

CAGRs can be useful to compare forecasted load growth of different utilities regardless of the size of the utility.

The only region where the CAGR decreased in 2023 is MISO. However, as discussed in the MISO profile, expedited new load projects are flooding MISO's planning process and should drive an increase in future load forecasts.

**NOTE** | The "Southwest" region includes some utilities that might be characterized as central western.

2023 Forecast Regional 5-year CAGR



# Utilities Including New Nuclear In Future Resource Planning



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UTILITIES STREETWISE

Nuclear Power's Surprising Future—From Duke Energy's CEO

By Jack Hough Follow Aug. 12, 2022 5:39 pm ET

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Nuclear power will be critical in race to cut carbon emissions, Dominion Energy CEO says

BY DECLAN H September 28

POWER

Featured Categories

## Amazon and Energy Northwest announce plans to develop advanced nuclear technology in Washington

10/16/2024

NEWS RELEASE

Feb 10, 2022  
by Sonal Patel

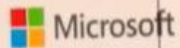
Nuclear

TVA Unveils Major New Nuclear Program, First SMR at Clinch River Site

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) will invest in a major program that will explore the construction of multiple advanced nuclear reactors—starting with a GE-Hitachi BWRX-300 small modular reactor (SMR) at its Clinch River site in Tennessee.

TVA Board members during a meeting on Feb. 10 unanimously approved TVA's "New Nuclear Program," a broad new initiative that the utility describes as a "disciplined, systematic 'roadmap' for TVA's exploration of advanced nuclear technology, both in terms of various reactor designs being proposed and potential locations where such facilities may be needed in the region to support future energy needs."

## TECH & NUCLEAR TEAM UP



Three Mile Island will power data centers

Alphabet

Purchasing power from small modular reactors

Meta

Supports carbon free energy technologies, including nuclear power

ORACLE

Building small modular reactors for data centers

amazon

Bought nuclear-powered data center

POWER LUNCH

# TECH EXECS BET ON NUCLEAR



# Reactor Restarts



Energy Secretary Granholm announces DOE loan commitment at Palisades (Courtesy: Holtec)



- Palisades
  - 800 MWe
  - Prematurely closed in May 2022
  - Broad-based support from federal, state, and community partners to repower
- Crane Clean Energy Center
  - 835 MWe
  - (Three Mile Island Unit 1)  
Prematurely closed in Sept. 2019
  - Power purchase agreement with Microsoft will return unit to service



We really need nuclear power.

Quote on TMI restart by  
PA State Rep. Tom Mehaffie  
(Courtesy: Constellation)

# Second License Renewals ensure reliable carbon-free electricity well into the 2050s

**21**

**Future  
Applications  
Expected**

H.B. Robinson 2	Millstone 2 & 3
Hatch 1 & 2	Watts Bar 1
Prairie Island 1 & 2	Farley 1 & 2
D.C. Cook 1 & 2	Nine Mile Point 1 & 2
Salem 1 & 2	Ginna
Hope Creek 1	Palisades
Cooper	Crane Clean Energy

**14**

**Reactors  
Under Review**

Point Beach 1 & 2  
Oconee 1, 2 & 3  
St. Lucie 1 & 2  
Monticello 1  
V.C. Summer 1  
Browns Ferry 1, 2 & 3  
Dresden 2 & 3

**8**

**Reactors  
Approved**

Turkey Point 3 & 4  
Peach Bottom 2 & 3  
Surry 1 & 2  
North Anna 1 & 2

# Recent Survey of NEI's U.S. Utilities

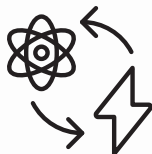
Nuclear power's potential role in meeting their company's decarbonization goals:

## SLR



**>90%** of fleet  
expects to operate  
to at least **80 years**

## GW



**100 GWe** of new  
nuclear opportunity  
by **2050s**

## SMRs



Translates to roughly  
**300 SMR-scale  
plants**

NEI utility member companies produce nearly half of all US electricity.

More than half have *more* interest than in 2022 (prior survey year)

# Key Federal Policies

## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law November 15, 2021

### Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program (ARDP) Funding

\$2.5B for two commercial demos

### Nuclear Hydrogen Hub

\$8B total

### Civil Nuclear Credit Program

\$6B to support financially challenged plants

## Inflation Reduction Act August 16, 2022

### Production Tax Credit (PTC) for Operating Plants

Up to \$15 per MWh

### Technology-Inclusive PTC for Clean Electricity

\$30 per MWh

### Technology-Inclusive Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for Clean Electricity

30% + 10% in energy communities + 10% using U.S. components

### Clean Hydrogen Credit

\$3 per kilogram

## 118<sup>th</sup> Congress

### Nuclear Fuel Security Act

LEU/HALEU domestic production authorizing legislation in FY 2024 NDAA (December 22, 2023)

### FY 2024 Appropriations Legislation

\$2.72 Billion for domestic fuel production (March 9, 2024)

Additional \$800 Million for Small Modular Reactors (March 9, 2024)

40 Year Reauthorization of the Price-Anderson Indemnification Act (March 23, 2024)

### ADVANCE Act

Increase regulatory efficiency & reduce regulatory costs (July 9, 2024)

# Federal Funding Opportunities for New Nuclear



## Tax Credits

- PTC: At least \$30/MWh for 10 years
- ITC: 30% of investment
- Bonuses for energy communities and domestic supply

## Loan Guarantees

- Up to \$40B in expanded authority

## Fuel and Supply Chain

- HALEU Fuel - \$700M
- \$2.7 Billion for fuel (conditional on Russian import ban)

## Demonstrations (Awarded)

- DOE funding 12 different designs, >\$5B over 7 years
- ARDP Demos, Risk Reduction, Early development

## Deployments (New)

- \$800 Million for utility use of light-water SMRs

## Other Support

- GAIN Vouchers
- NRIC Partnerships

September 2022

### Current Federal Policy Tools to Support New Nuclear

The following is a list of current policy tools that could directly support the deployment of new nuclear, could potentially indirectly support the deployment or planning for new nuclear, and that currently support the deployment of new nuclear.

#### Programs that Could Directly Support Deployment of New Nuclear

##### Clean Electricity Production Credit – 45Y

The Inflation Reduction Act created a new technology-neutral tax credit for all clean electricity technologies, including advanced nuclear and power updates that are placed into service in 2023 or after. The bill does not change the existing Advanced Nuclear Production Tax Credit but precludes credits from being claimed under both programs. The value of the credit will be at least \$30 per megawatt-hour, depending on inflation, for the first ten years of plant operation. The credit phases out when carbon emissions from electricity production are 75 percent below the 2022 level. The following is a link to the statutory language.

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=25&f=false&sort=&num=2&sh=true&edition=prelim&granuleid=USC-prelim-title26-section45Y>

##### Clean Electricity Investment Credit – 48E

As an alternative to the clean electricity PTC, the Inflation Reduction Act provided the option of claiming a clean electricity investment credit for zero-emissions facilities that is placed into service in 2023 or thereafter. This provides a credit of 30 percent of the investment in a new zero-carbon electricity facility, including nuclear plants. Like the other credits, this investment tax credit can be monetized. The ITC phases out under the same provisions as the clean electricity PTC.

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=48E&clean=&sort=&num=4&sh=true&edition=prelim&granuleid=USC-prelim-title26-section48E>

Both the clean electricity PTC and ITC include a 10-percentage point bonus for facilities sited in certain energy communities such as those that have hosted coal plants. The following is a link to the statutory language.

##### Credit for Production from Advanced Nuclear Power Facilities – 45I

The nuclear production tax credit 26 USC 45I provides a credit of 1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour up to a maximum of \$125 million per tax year for 8 years. Only the first 6000 MW of new capacity installed after 2005 for a design approved after 1993 are eligible for the tax credit. The credit does not include a direct pay provision, so the owner will need to have offsetting taxable income to claim the credit or transfer the credit to an eligible project partner. The following is a link to the statutory language.

<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=productiontaxcredit&clean=&sort=&num=1&sh=true&edition=prelim&granuleid=USC-prelim-title26-section45I>

# States Taking Action for Nuclear



Exploring Nuclear Technology with Studies, Working Groups, Commissions and Task Forces

Connecticut, **Florida**, **Indiana**, **Kentucky**, **Louisiana**, Maryland, **Michigan**, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, **Pennsylvania**, Tennessee, and **Texas**



Recognizing Nuclear as a Clean Energy Resource

Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, **North Carolina**, Tennessee, Utah, and **Virginia**



Removing Barriers and Signaling Support

Repealing Nuclear Moratoriums: Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, West Virginia, and Wisconsin  
Signaling Regulatory Support: **Indiana**, **Louisiana**, **Mississippi**, **New York**, **North Carolina**, and **South Dakota**













Incentivizing Nuclear Technology and Supply Chain

Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming

# DOE Pathways to Commercial Liftoff

## Nuclear offers a unique value proposition for a net zero grid

	<div> <div>High</div> <div>Low</div> </div>	Clean?	Firm?	Low land use?	Low transmission buildout?	Concentrated local economic benefits?	Direct heat applications?
 <b>Nuclear</b>							
 Geothermal							
 Hydropower							
 Renewables + LDES							
 Renewables: offshore							
 Renewables: onshore							
 Natural gas + CCS							
 Coal + CCS							
 Natural gas							
 Coal							

Source: <https://liftoff.energy.gov/advanced-nuclear/>

# Advanced Nuclear Designer Members



# Types of Advanced Reactors

Range of sizes and features to meet diverse market needs

Water Cooled

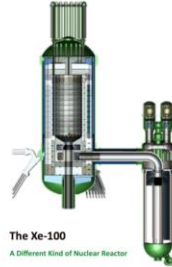


Westinghouse AP1000® (shown)  
ABWR



GEH BWRX-300 (shown)  
NuScale  
Holtec SMR-300  
Westinghouse AP300

High Temp  
Gas Reactors



The Xe-100  
A Different Kind of Nuclear Reactor

X-energy  
(shown)

Non-Water Cooled

Liquid Metal  
Reactors



TerraPower Natrium™  
(shown)

Molten Salt  
Reactors



Kairos  
Hermes  
(shown)

Both



Oklo (shown)  
Last Energy  
Radiant  
Westinghouse eVinci

Large ~1000 MWe

Small Modular Reactors < 300 MWe

Micro < 50 MWe



Learn more about innovative  
technologies with the  
Nuclear Innovation Alliance.

# Advanced Nuclear Versatility

## Spectrum of Sizes and Options



Micro



Small



Large

## Variety of Outputs



Electricity



Isotopes



Hydrogen



Process Heat

## Multitude of New Customers



Energy  
Transitions



Data Centers



Military Bases



Petrochemical



Cement



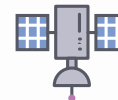
Steel



Oil & Gas



District Energy



Space



Pulp & Paper



Block Chain  
Mining



Transportation



Rail



Aviation



Maritime



Mining



Agriculture



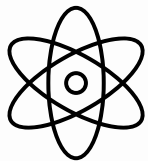
Fashion



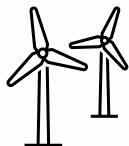
Desalination

# Lowest System Cost Achieved by Enabling Large Scale New Nuclear Deployment

## Lowest Cost System

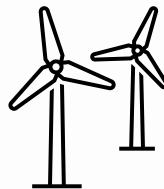


Nuclear is 43% of generation (>300 GW of new nuclear)

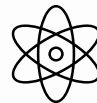


Wind and solar are 50%

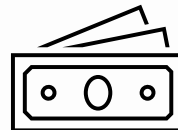
## Energy System with Nuclear Constrained



Wind and Solar are 77% of generation



Nuclear is 13% (>60 GW of new nuclear)



Increased cost to customers of \$449 Billion

Both scenarios are successful in reducing electricity grid GHG emissions by over 95% by 2050 and reducing the economy-wide GHG emissions by over 60%



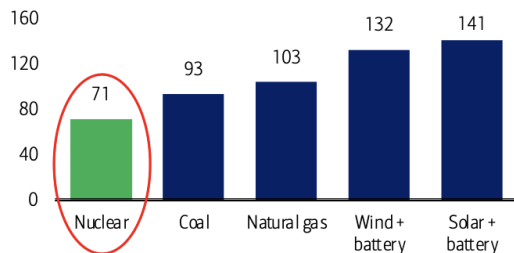
Scan to view the complete study.

# Nuclear Energy is Affordable

*“Nuclear appears to be the cheapest scalable, clean energy source by far.”*

## Exhibit 20: Nuclear is cost-effective...

Cost of generation, different sources (\$/MWh)

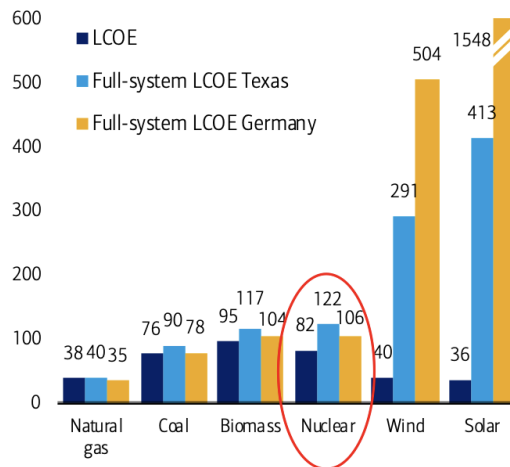


**Source:** BofA Research Investment Committee, Lazard, Entler, et al. (2018). Note: nuclear, coal, and natural gas price estimates from Entler, et al. Wind and solar cost estimates are from Lazard's 2023 Levelized Cost of Energy+ report. Wind + battery and solar + battery use estimates from California's Independent System Operator (CAISO) and assume a 4-hour lithium-ion battery storage system to account for firming costs. All cost estimates show unsubsidized costs.

BoFA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 21: ...especially on an “all-in basis”...

LCOE & LFSCOE calculations by energy source

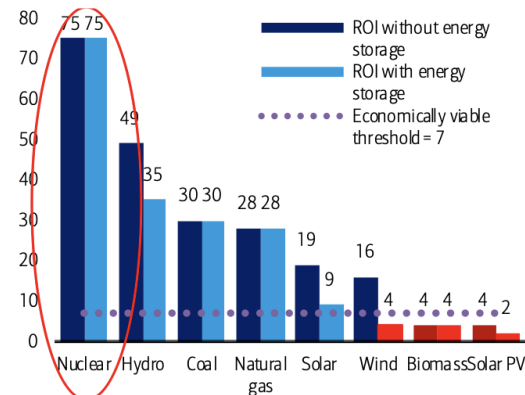


**Source:** BofA Research Investment Committee, Idel 2022

BoFA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Exhibit 22: ...and has the highest energy ROI

Energy returned on energy invested, by source



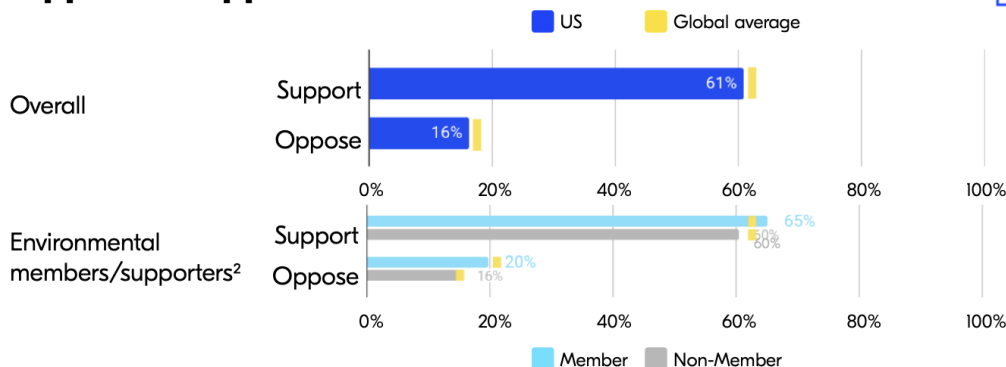
**Source:** BofA Research Investment Committee, D. Weißbach, G. Ruprecht, A. Huke, K. Zerski, S. Gottlie, A. Hussein; Red signals EROI below economically viable threshold

BoFA GLOBAL RESEARCH

# Strong Public Support for Nuclear Energy



## Support vs. opposition<sup>1</sup>



## Support by...

### Gender

Men	73%
Women	50%

### Age

18-34	58%
35-54	62%
55+	62%

### Income

Low income (under 50k USD)	52%
Medium income (50k-100k USD)	60%
High income (100k+ USD)	70%

### Political Affiliation

Democrat	61%
Independent	60%
Republican	66%

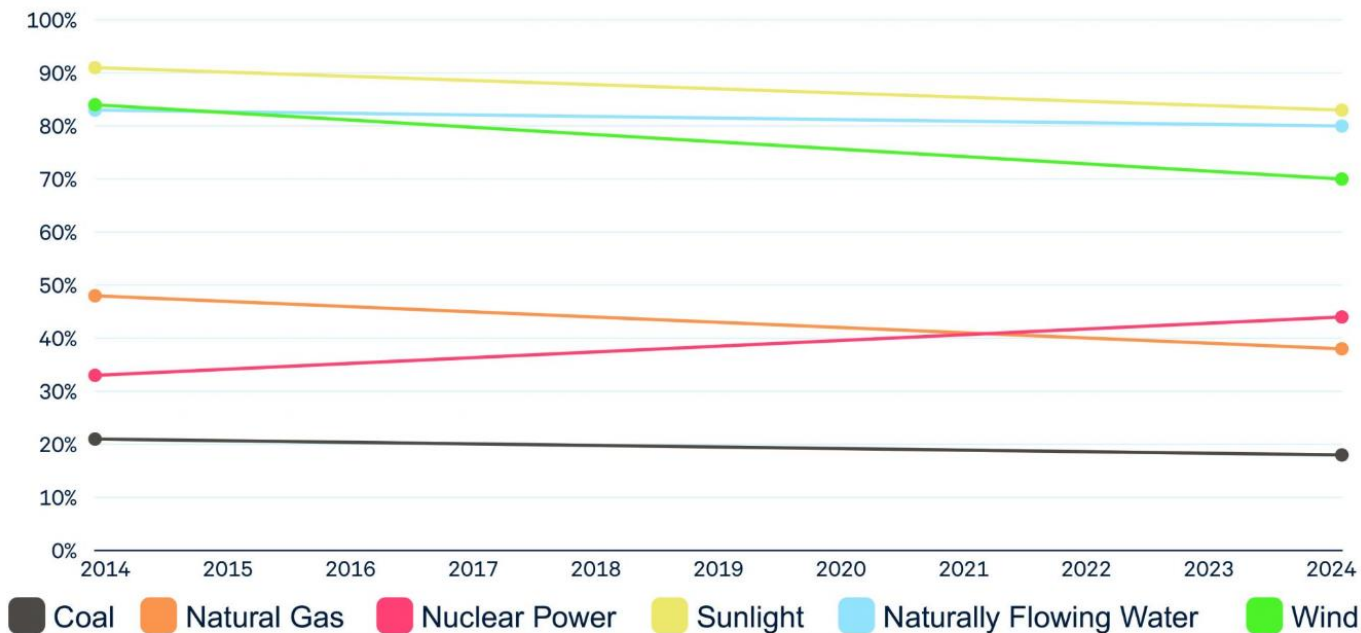
n=4,250

## Top 5 nuclear sentiments<sup>3</sup> (% agree)

We need a way to produce more and more energy for our economy to keep growing	76%
We need to be building capacity for more energy, not just trying to use less	63%
We need nuclear energy in the mix, along with renewables, if we are to meet our climate goals	60%
Leaving nuclear waste behind is just wrong, however safe it is	59%
We should use advanced nuclear energy to reduce our dependence on other countries	58%

# Growth in Favorability

## Americans who believe that making electricity from the following sources is a good idea



Nuclear was the only energy source to show a boost in public opinion over the past decade. (Graph: Jon A. Krosnick and Bo MacInnis, Climate Insights 2024: American Understanding of Climate Change; Washington, DC: Resources for the Future; 2024.)

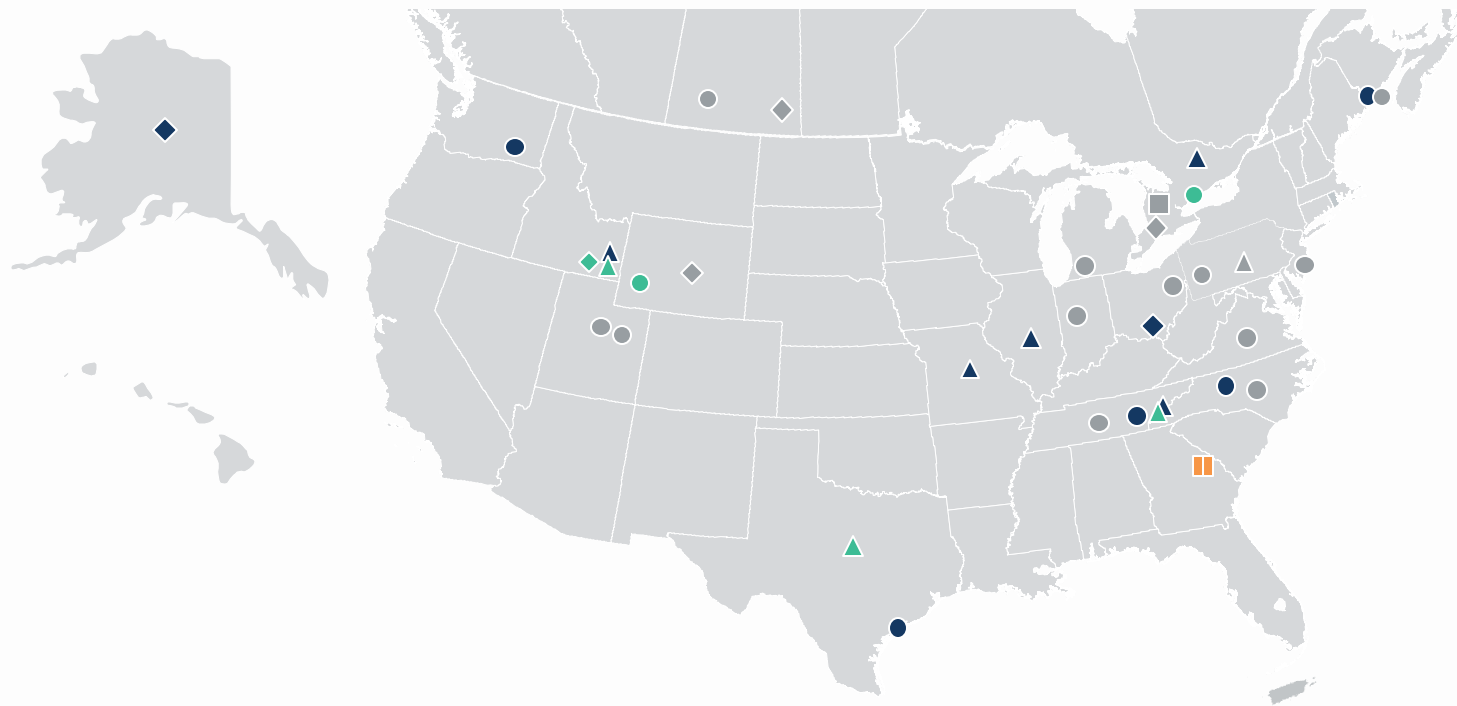
# Advanced Nuclear Deployment Plans

Projects that may be in operation by early 2030s



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Updated 09/25/2024



## Legend

- |                      |                    |                           |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ● Considered project | ● Planned project  | ● Under construction      | ● Operating                    |
| □ Large (1,000 MWe)  | ○ Small (<300 MWe) | ◇ Micro-reactor (<50 MWe) | △ University / Research / Test |

# TerraPower/GEH – Sodium™ Reactor

## Liquid Sodium Fast Reactor (SFR) SMR

- Design
  - 345 MWe; 500 MWe with storage
  - Requires HALEU for metallic fuel
  - High temperatures for expanded non-electricity applications
- Licensing
  - Construction permit application submitted to NRC March 2024
- Project Development
  - ARDP (DOE Award of \$2B for first plant and fuel facility)
  - PacifiCorp project broke ground, Kemmerer, WY June 2024
  - PacifiCorp IRP for four more Sodium reactors in early 2030s



# Kairos Power – Hermes Demo Reactors

## Fluoride Salt-cooled, High Temperature Reactor

- Design
  - Hermes, 35 MWth – will not produce electricity
  - Hermes 2, 35 MWth x2 – will demo electricity production
  - Requires HALEU for TRISO pebble fuel
  - High temperatures for expanded non-electricity applications
- Licensing
  - Hermes – received NRC construction permit Dec. 2023
  - Hermes 2 (2 units) – received NRC construction permit Nov. 2024
- Project Development
  - DOE Risk Reduction Award
  - Hermes and Hermes 2 in East Tennessee (near Oak Ridge)
  - Hermes construction began July 2024
  - Commercial design (140 MWe) expected in early 2030s
  - Google agreement to buy 500 MWe (from 6-7 reactors)



# Natura Resources – MSRR at ACU

- Design
  - 1 MWth – research reactor; will not produce electricity
  - Molten Salt coolant
  - Requires HALEU for liquid fuel; dissolved in Flibe salt
  - High temperatures for expanded non-electricity applications
- Licensing
  - MSRR – received NRC construction permit Sept. 2024
  - MSRR – OL application anticipated to NRC in 2025
- Project Development
  - DOE commitment in 2019 to provide fuel and salt for the MSRR
  - Science and Engineering Research Center at Abilene Christian University will house the MSRR
  - Commercial design (100 MWe) to provide reliable energy, medical isotopes, and clean water

## Molten Salt Reactor (MSR)



# Oklo – Aurora Powerhouse

- Design

- 15 MWe and 50 MWe
- Requires HALEU for metallic fuel
- 10+ years between refueling
- Pursuing recycling options for fuel

- Licensing

- Nov. 2024 completed the environmental compliance process addressing the DOE requirements for site characterization at Idaho National Lab
- COL expected to be submitted to NRC in 2024

- Project Development

- Demonstration planned at INL in late-2020s
- Southern Ohio: 30 MWe announced, plan for 1,000+ MWe
- Data Centers (up to 3,000 MWe): VA, AZ, OH, TX, PA
- Arizona Community: 75 MWe
- Permian Basin: 50 MWe

## Liquid Sodium Fast Reactor (SFR) Micro-reactor



# DoD Pursuit of Micro-Reactors

## Movable Project Pele



RFP  
(2019)

Operate  
(2024)

Fleet  
(TBD)

[https://www.cto.mil/pele\\_eis/](https://www.cto.mil/pele_eis/)

## Fixed e.g., Eielson Air Force Base



RFP  
(2023)

Construct  
(2025)

Operate  
(2027)

<https://www.eielson.af.mil/microreactor/>

Also, Army, Navy/Marines, Joint Base San Antonio...

# QUESTIONS?



# Addressing Waste

All Energy Sources Have Waste, and All Must Do Three Things to Address it

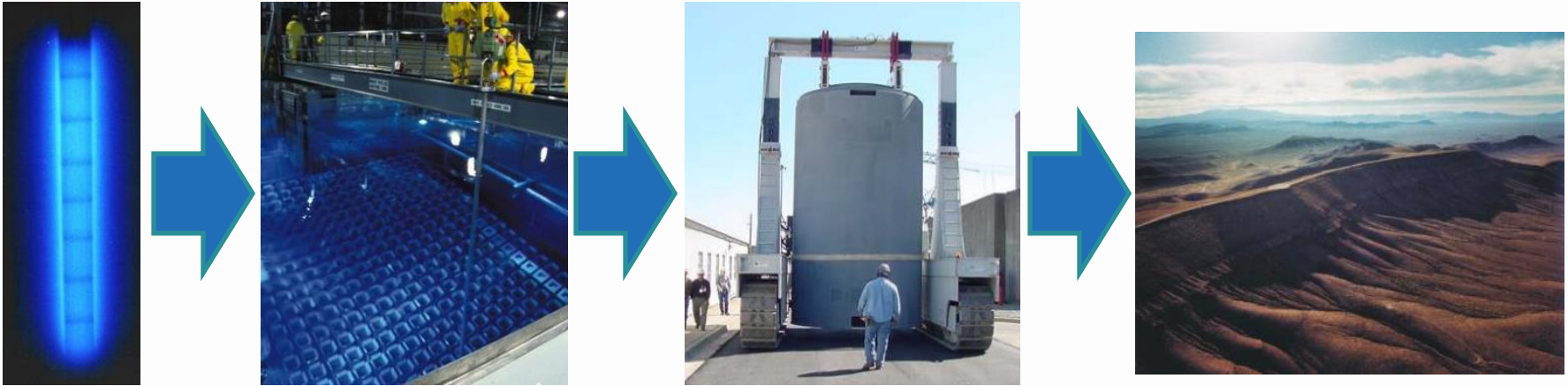


- Must be able to manage it safely
  - Used fuel is solid, compact and there is proven technology to store it safely
  - Over 1,300 used fuel shipments safely completed in U.S.
- Must be able to pay for it
  - U.S. law requires nuclear plants to fund used fuel management and decommissioning activities
  - Over \$40 billion in Nuclear Waste Fund
- Must have a place to put it
  - Department of Energy required dispose of used fuel
  - Most micro-reactor companies will take back used fuel soon after refueling

## Nuclear Fuel



# The Life Cycle of Used Fuel in The U.S.

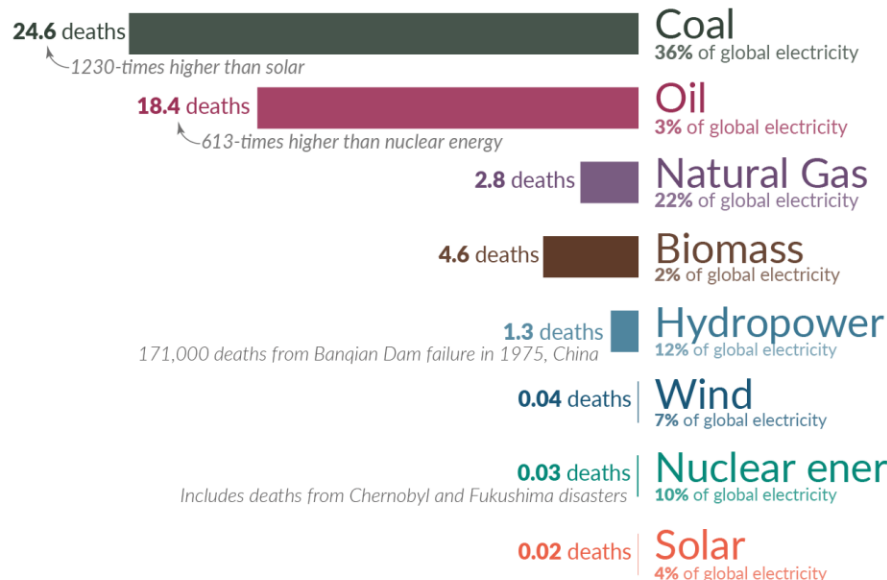


# What are the **safest** and **cleanest** sources of energy?

Our World  
in Data

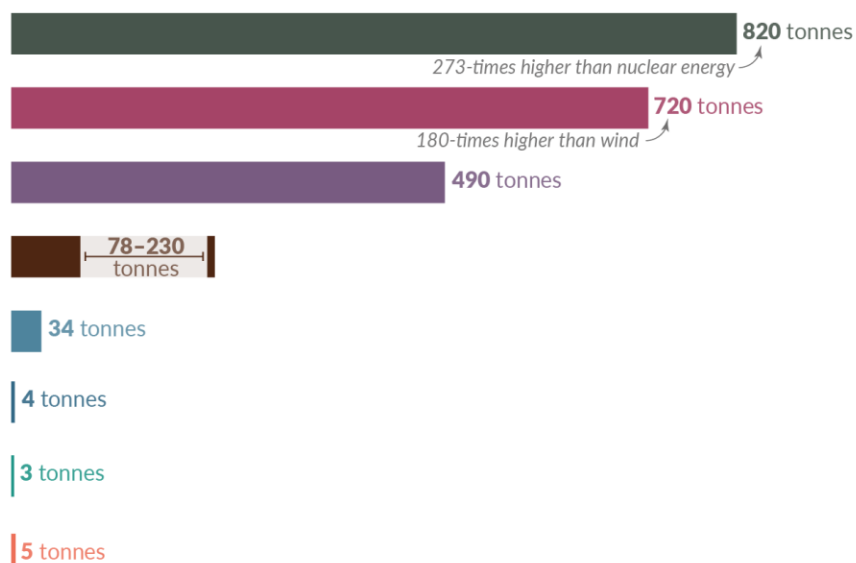
## Death rate from accidents and air pollution

Measured as deaths per terawatt-hour of electricity production.  
1 terawatt-hour is the annual electricity consumption of 150,000 people in the EU.



## Greenhouse gas emissions

Measured in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalents per gigawatt-hour of electricity over the lifecycle of the power plant.  
1 gigawatt-hour is the annual electricity consumption of 150 people in the EU.



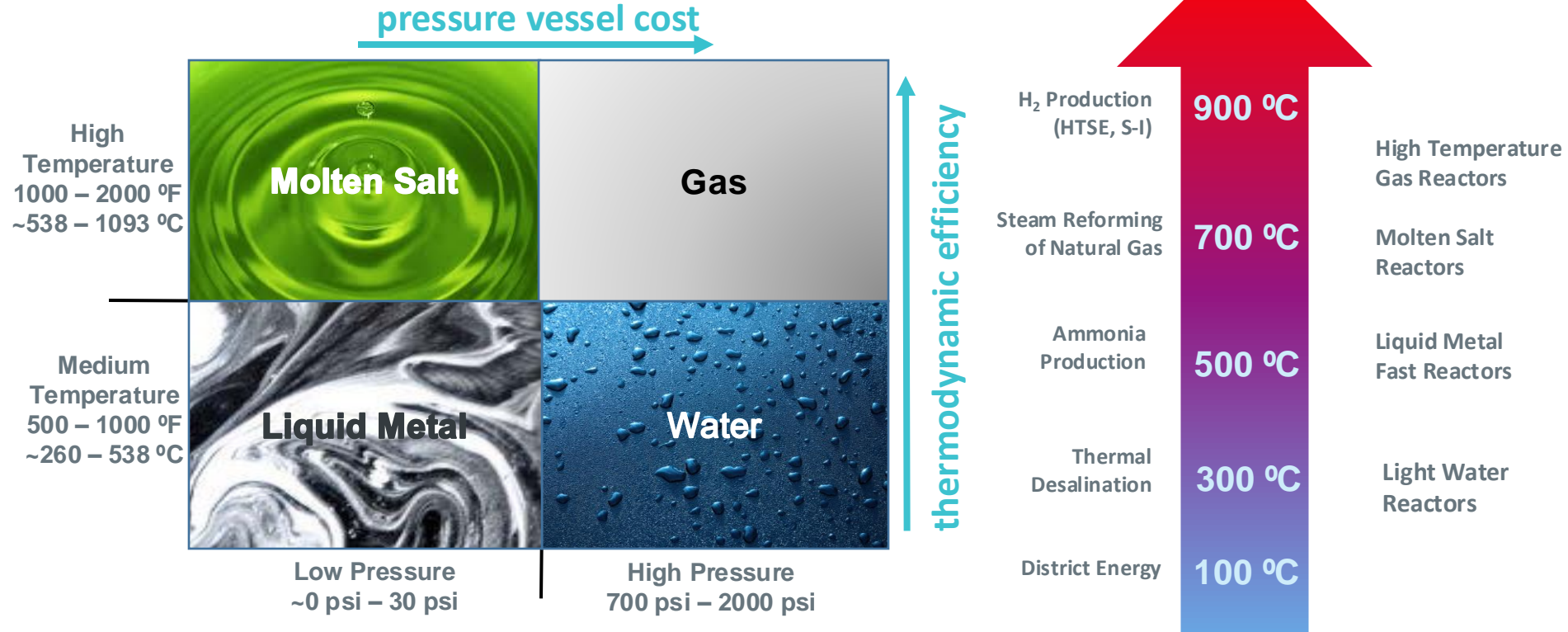
Death rates from fossil fuels and biomass are based on state-of-the-art plants with pollution controls in Europe, and are based on older models of the impacts of air pollution on health. This means these death rates are likely to be very conservative. For further discussion, see our article: [OurWorldinData.org/safest-sources-of-energy](https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy). Electricity shares are given for 2021. Data sources: Markandya & Wilkinson (2007); UNSCEAR (2008; 2018); Sovacool et al. (2016); IPCC AR5 (2014); Pehl et al. (2017); Ember Energy (2021).

[OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org) – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

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Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/safest-sources-of-energy>

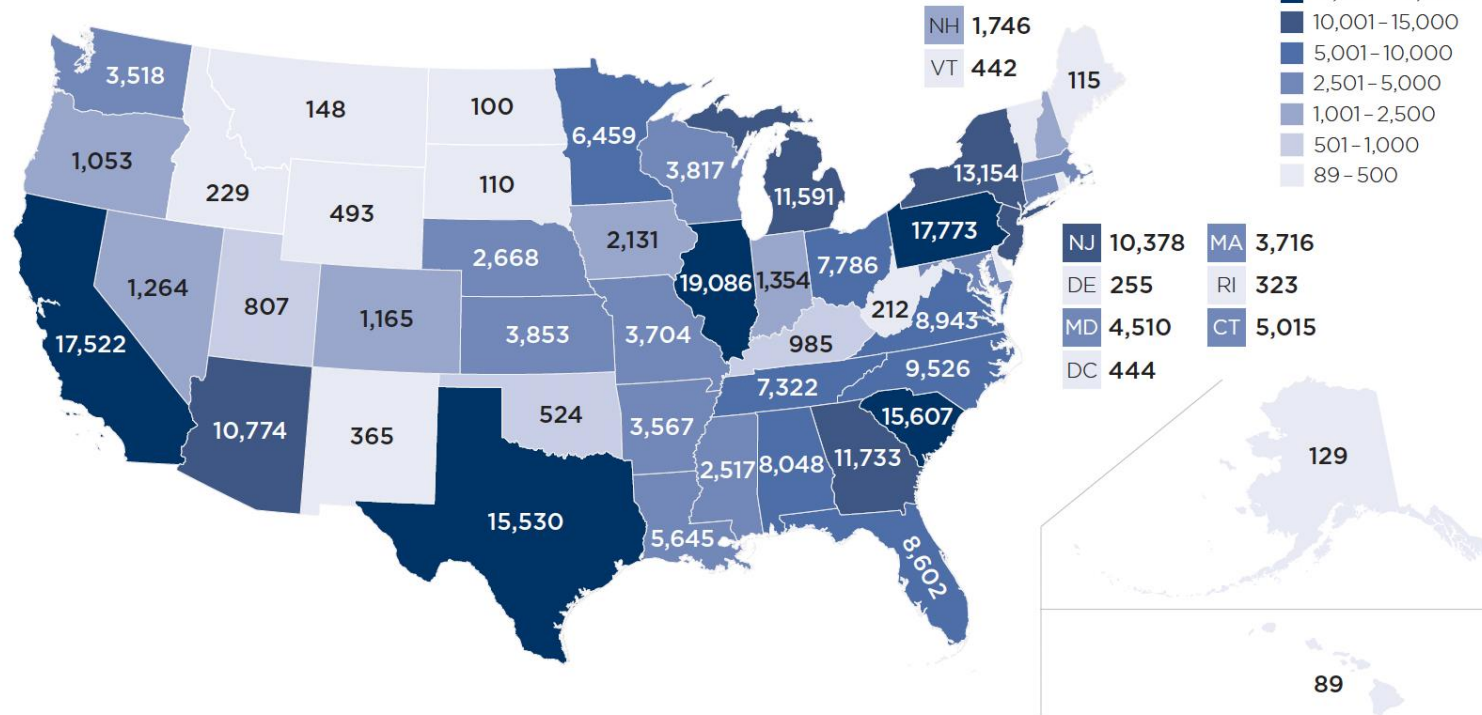
# Technology and Temperature



# Economic Impacts of Nuclear in the U.S.

**Fig. 13.**

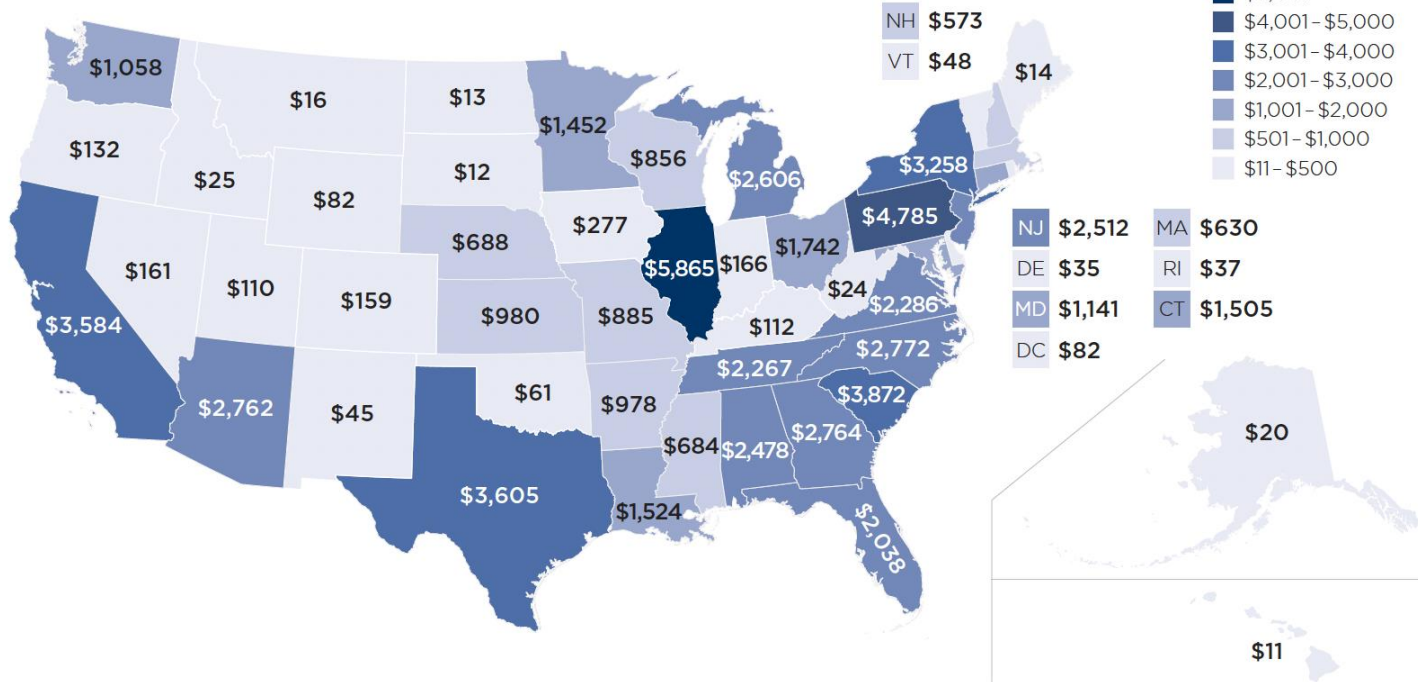
Full employment contribution of the nuclear power industry by state, 2022



# Economic Impacts of Nuclear in the U.S.

**Fig. 14.**

Full GDP contribution of the nuclear power industry by state, 2022 (\$ millions)



# Private Financing Models Emerging



## Advanced Clean Electricity RFI

Project delivery framework:

- offtake agreements for technologies early on the cost curve
- clear customer voice to policymakers on long-term ecosystem improvements
- new enabling tariff structures in partnership with energy providers and utilities

Criteria will consider (among other factors):

- operational around 2030
- leveraging the ability to produce hourly energy attribute certificates,
- project capacity of greater than 50 MWe (open to aggregating projects)