

Advanced Nuclear Energy

Oregon Senate Energy and
Environment Committee

March 3, 2025

Kati Austgen
Director, Public Engagement
& New Nuclear



Nuclear Provides Majority of Emissions Free Electricity

U.S. Clean
Generation
(2023)

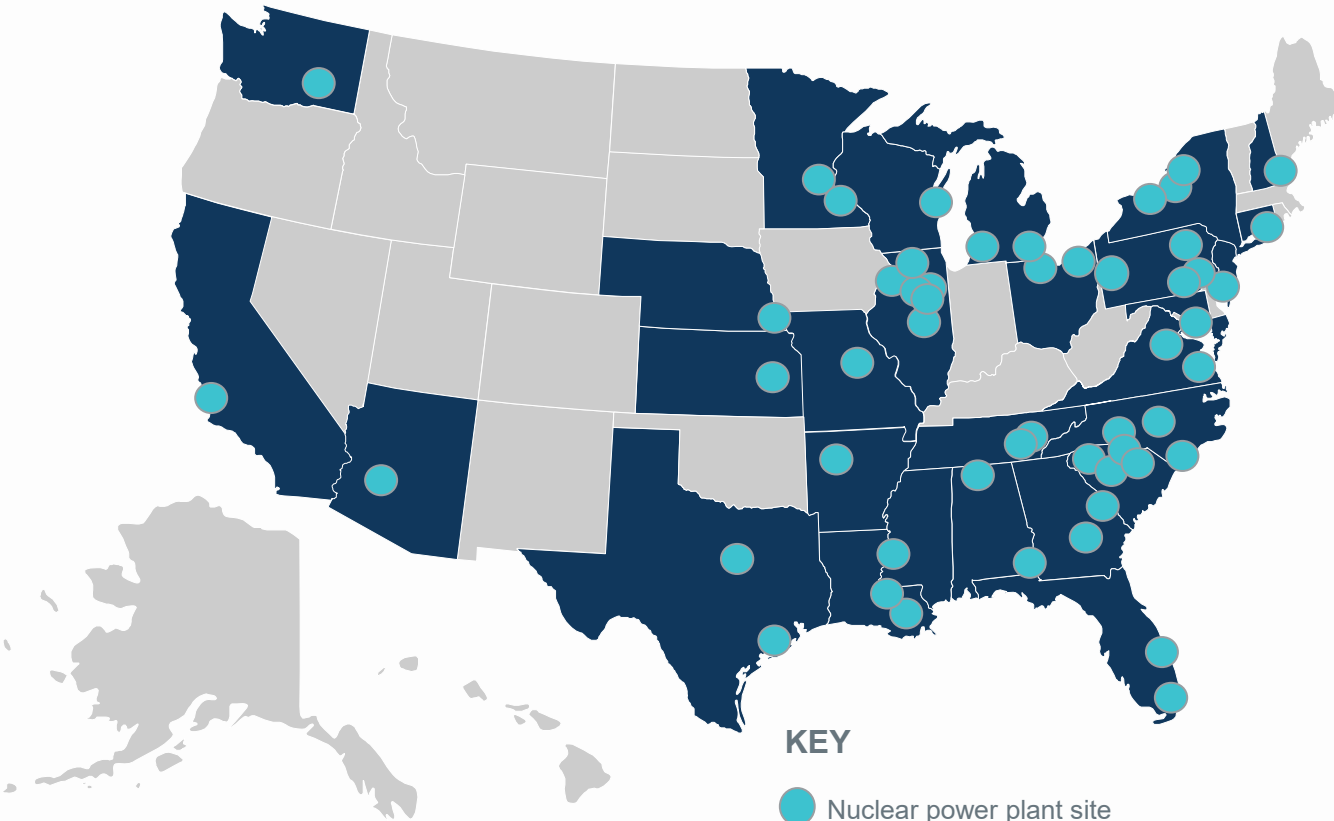
47.8%
NUCLEAR

26.2%
WIND

14.8%
HYDRO

10.2%
SOLAR

1%
GEOTHERMAL



Recent Survey of NEI's U.S. Utilities

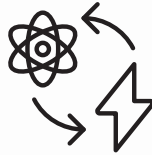
Nuclear power's potential role in meeting their company's decarbonization goals:

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)

Advanced Nuclear Designer Members



Types of Advanced Reactors

Range of sizes and features to meet diverse market needs

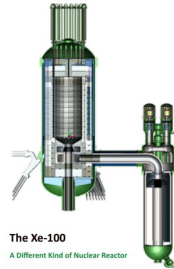
Water Cooled

Non-Water Cooled

Both

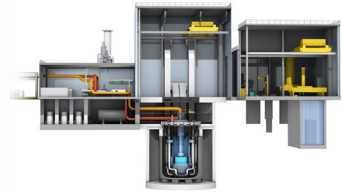


High Temp
Gas Reactors



The Xe-100
A Different Kind of Nuclear Reactor

Liquid Metal
Reactors



Molten Salt
Reactors



Westinghouse AP1000® (shown)
GE ABWR
GE ESBWR

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

X-energy
(shown)

TerraPower Natrium™
(shown)

Kairos Hermes
(shown)
Natura Resources

Oklo (shown)
Last Energy
Radiant
Westinghouse eVinci™

Large ~1000 MWe

Small Modular Reactors < 300 MWe

Micro < 50 MWe

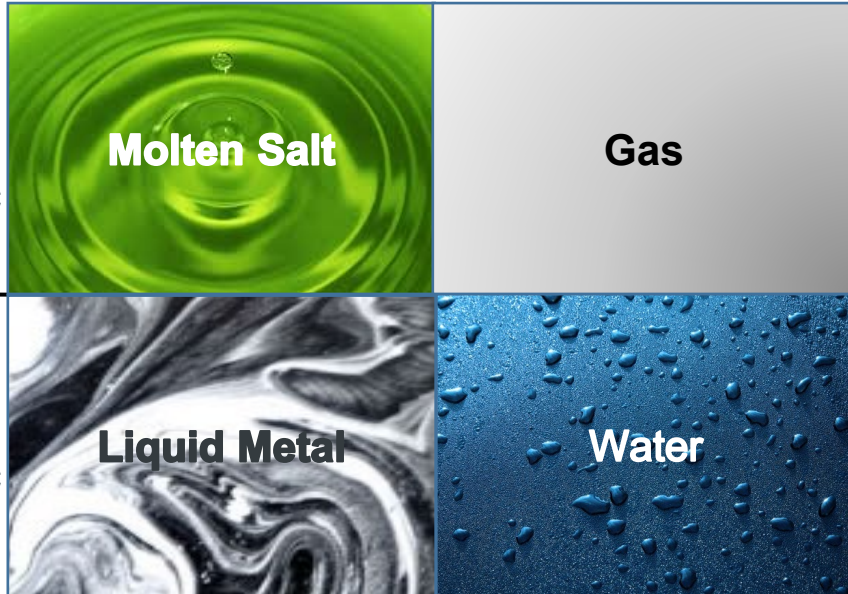


Learn more about innovative technologies with the Nuclear Innovation Alliance.

Technology and Temperature

pressure vessel cost →

↑ thermodynamic efficiency



H₂ Production (HTSE, S-I)

900 °C

High Temperature Gas Reactors

Steam Reforming of Natural Gas

700 °C

Molten Salt Reactors

Ammonia Production

500 °C

Liquid Metal Fast Reactors

Thermal Desalination

300 °C

Light Water Reactors

District Energy

100 °C

Advanced Nuclear Versatility

Spectrum of Sizes and Options



Micro



Small



Large

Variety of Outputs



Electricity



Isotopes



Hydrogen

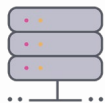


Process Heat

Multitude of New Customers



Energy Transitions



Data Centers



Military Bases



Petrochemical



Cement



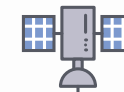
Steel



Oil & Gas



District Energy



Space



Pulp & Paper



Block Chain Mining



Transportation



Rail



Aviation



Maritime



Mining



Agriculture



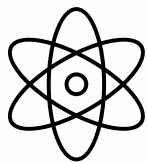
Fashion



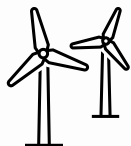
Desalination

Lowest System Cost Achieved by Enabling Large Scale New Nuclear Deployment

Lowest Cost System

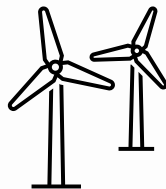


Nuclear is 43% of generation (>300 GW of new nuclear)

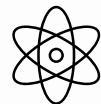


Wind and solar are 50%

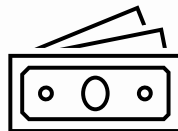
Energy System with Nuclear Constrained



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.

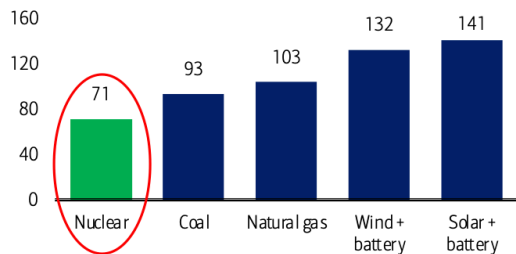
Nuclear Energy is Affordable



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

Exhibit 20: Nuclear is cost-effective...

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

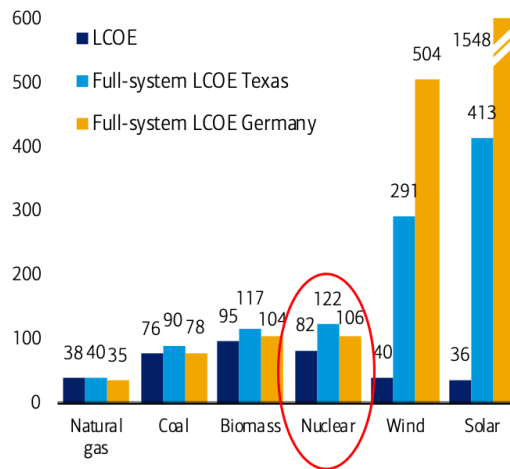


Source: BofA Research Investment Committee, Lazard, Entler, et al. (2018). Note: nuclear, coal, and natural gas price estimates from Entler, et al. Wind and solar cost estimates are from Lazard’s 2023 Levelized Cost of Energy+ report. Wind + battery and solar + battery use estimates from California’s 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.

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

LCOE & LFSCOEC calculations by energy source

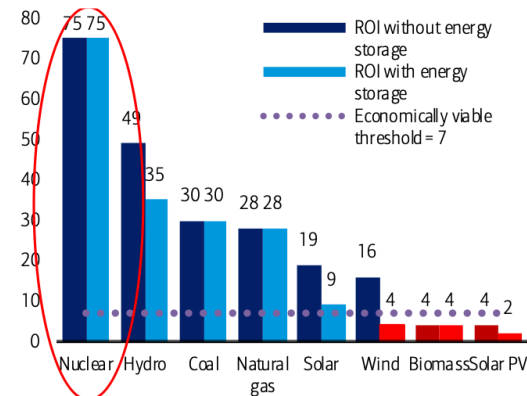


Source: BofA Research Investment Committee, Idel 2022

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

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

Energy returned on energy invested, by source



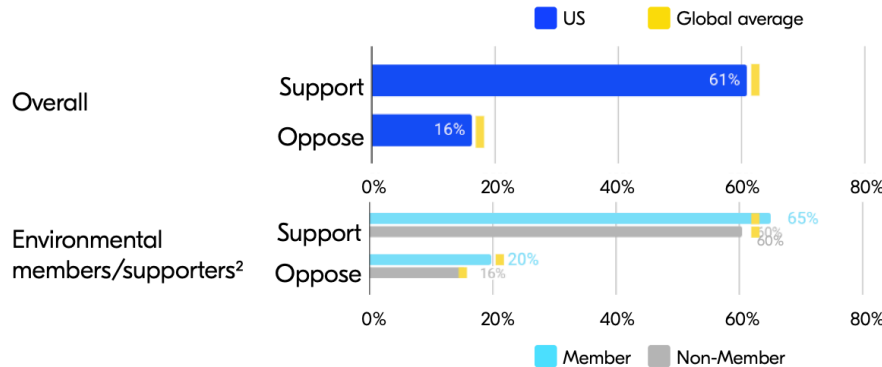
Source: BofA Research Investment Committee, D. Weißbach, G. Ruprecht, A. Huke, K. Czerski, S. Gottlie, A. Hussein; Red signals EROI below economically viable threshold

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

Strong Public Support for Nuclear Energy



Support vs. opposition¹



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

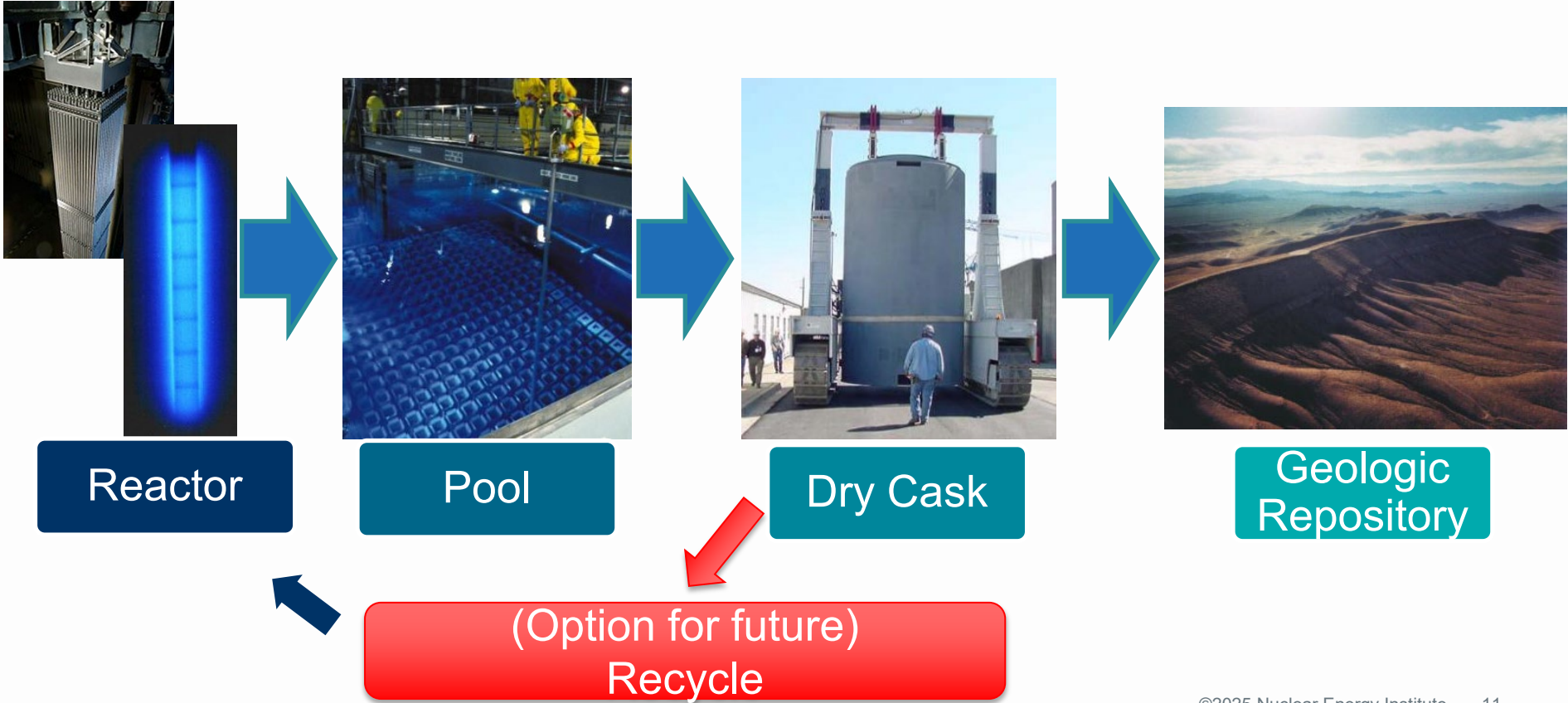
Democrat	61%
Independent	60%
Republican	66%

n=4,250

Top 5 nuclear sentiments³ (% 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%

Current (& Future) Fuel Cycle – Back End



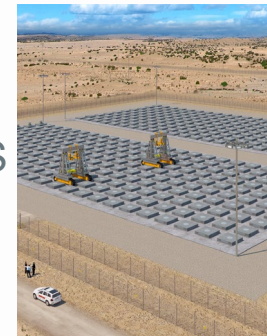
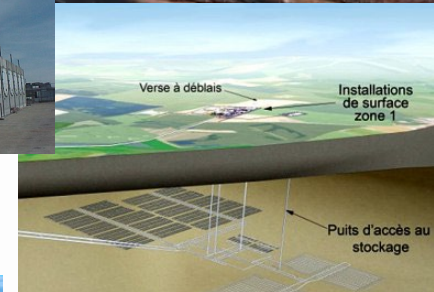
Geologic Repository or Final Disposal

- Nations making progress on used nuclear fuel disposal

- Sweden, Finland, – repository approved/licensed, under construction
- France, Canada – site identified, in public consultation toward pilot phase/geologic investigations under way
- Switzerland – geologic investigations supporting siting process underway
- U.S. – Yucca Mountain designated by law, alternatives being considered

- Consolidated Interim Storage

- France, Sweden, Switzerland have deployed CIS
- U.S. companies pursuing CIS solutions



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, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Dakota



Incentivizing Nuclear Technology and Supply Chain

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

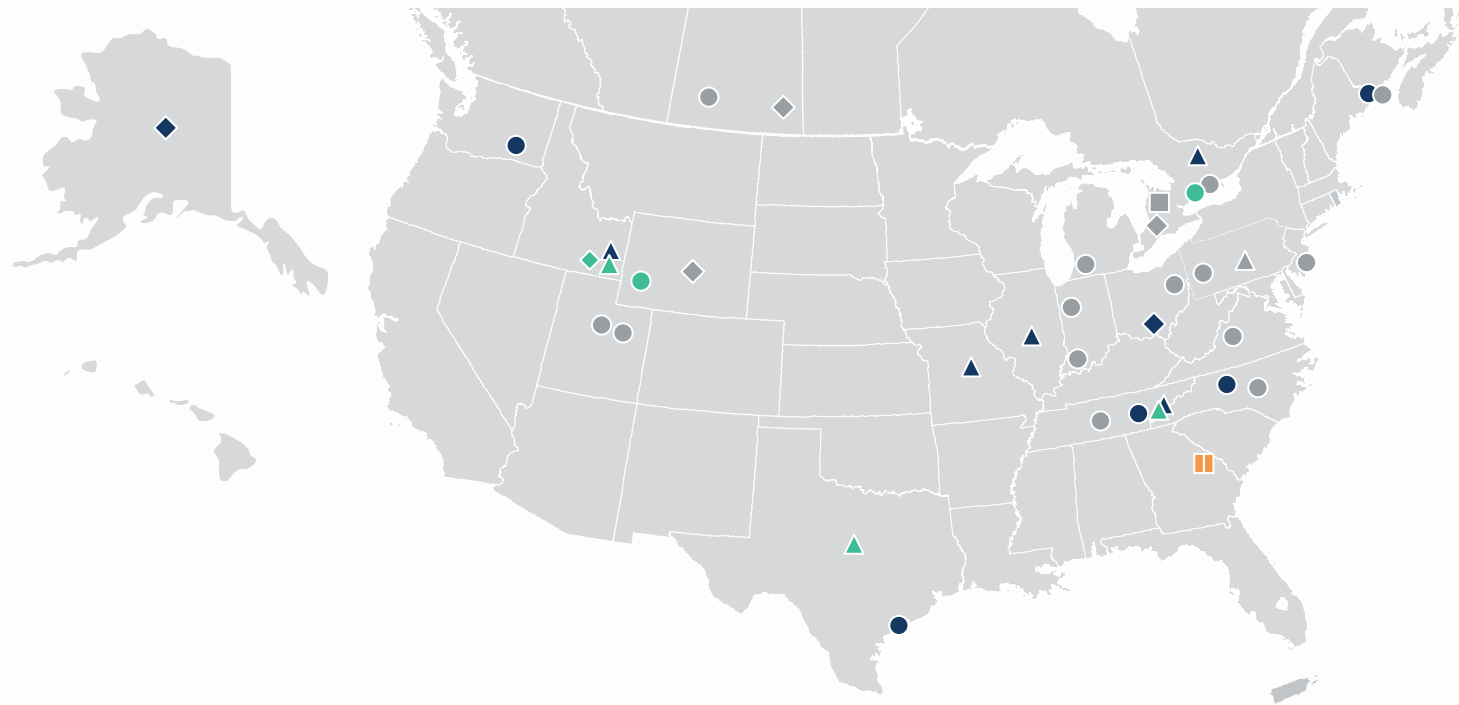
Advanced Nuclear Deployment Plans

Projects that may be in operation by early 2030s



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Updated 01/17/2025



Legend

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

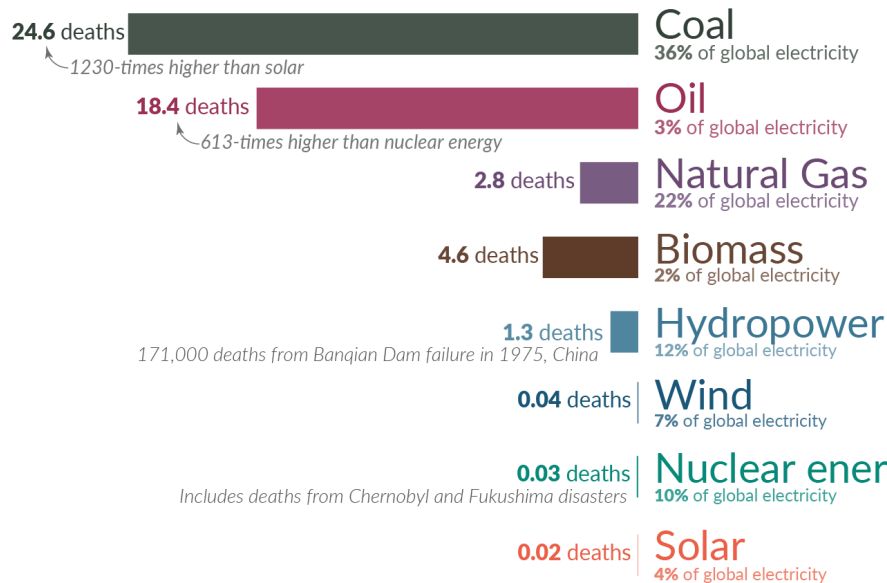
QUESTIONS?



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

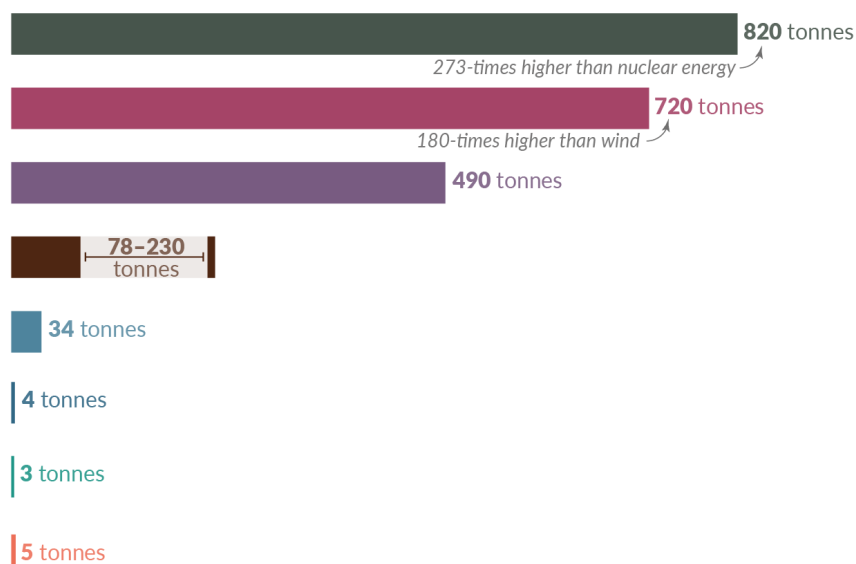
Death rate from accidents and air pollution

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 CO₂-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).

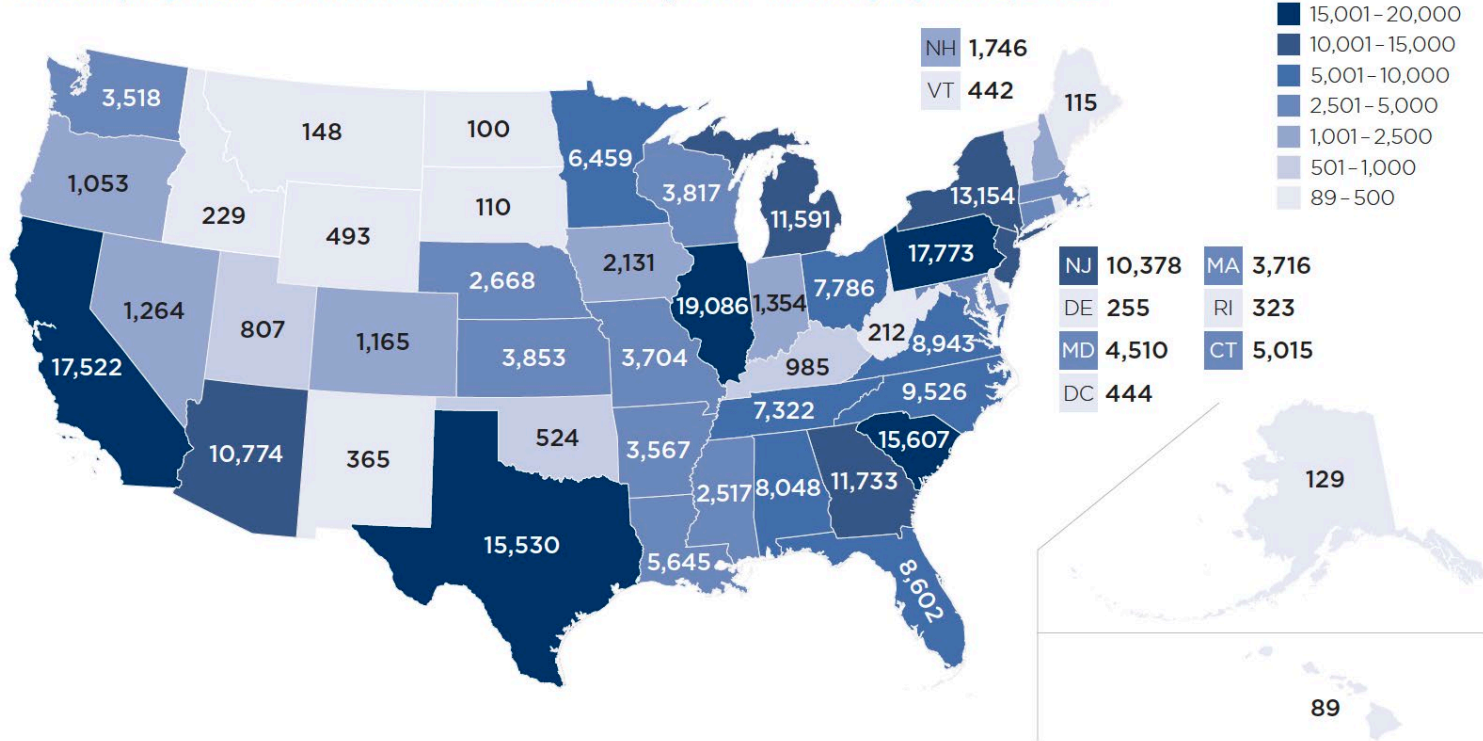
[OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org) – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

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

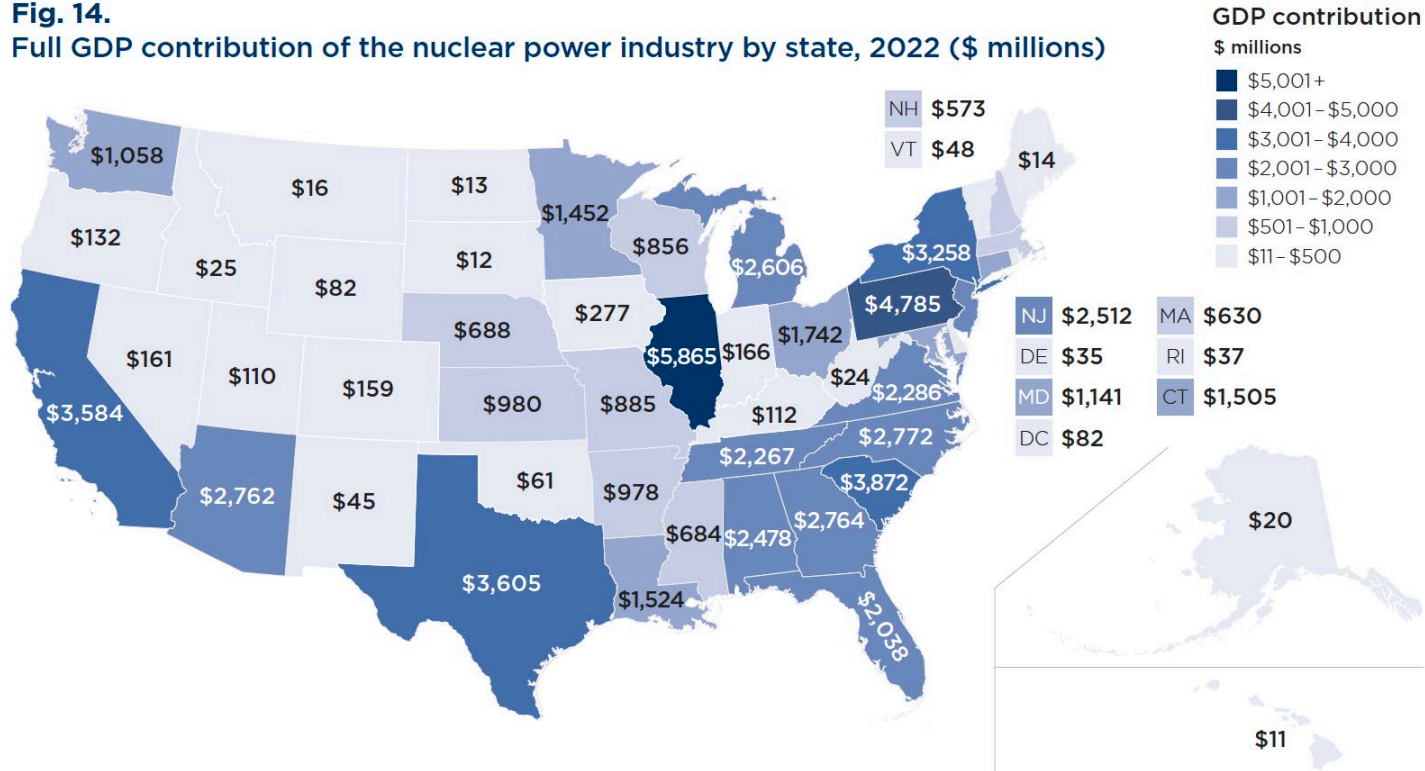
Economic Impacts of Nuclear in the U.S.

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)



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

