
No Nukes for Climate

The IAEA's Nuclear Energy Summit, held in Brussels, Belgium on March 21, 2024, leads the world's nations down a false nuclear path while genuine climate crisis remedies are at hand.

New nuclear power is too slow to tackle the climate emergency. Nuclear power plants under development have been severely delayed and won't be able to meaningfully contribute to cutting carbon emissions this decade.

Greenhouse gas emissions must be drastically cut by 2030 to limit global temperature rise to less than 1.5 degrees. Any new nuclear plants announced today would not be connected to the grid until well past this deadline. New nuclear power plants are a distraction that slows down the energy transition. A rapid shift away from fossil fuels should instead focus on building a 100% renewable energy system coupled with energy efficiency and measures to avoid excessive energy use.

Nuclear power is much more expensive than renewables. While nuclear projects face huge budget overruns and cancellations due to skyrocketing costs, renewables are cheaper than ever before, declining sharply in relative costs compared to nuclear. New nuclear power plants are up to nearly four times as expensive as wind power, according to the 2023 World Nuclear Industry Status Report. Governments need to invest in proven climate solutions, such as home insulation, public transport, and renewable energy, rather than expensive experiments like small modular reactors, which have no guarantees of actually delivering.

Nuclear power is dangerous. From mining for uranium to radioactive waste, nuclear power is a risk to people's health, safety, and the environment. Nuclear power plants can be used as military targets and increase the risk of spreading nuclear weapons across the world, as well as the use of depleted uranium. The climate crisis also augments the risks involved in nuclear power, as increased heatwaves, droughts, storms and flooding all pose significant threats to the plants themselves and to the systems that aim to prevent nuclear accidents.

Nuclear power violates human rights. At every phase of nuclear power operations, from uranium mining, milling and processing, to electricity generation and the production of nuclear waste, the nuclear industry harms Indigenous peoples, communities of color, low-income and marginalized societies, and women and children the most. It has a colonial history of predatory discrimination against those with the fewest resources to fight back.

We are living in a climate emergency. Time is precious and too many governments are wasting it with nuclear energy fairy tales. What is urgently needed is a just transition towards a safe, renewable and affordable energy system that secures jobs and protects life on our planet.

Join our fight to stop the expansion of nuclear power. Under the umbrella campaign of Don't Nuke the Climate we are many! Contact us:

dont-nuke-the-climate.org ♦ BeyondNuclear.org

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THE IAEA'S NUCLEAR FAIRY TALES

The International Atomic Energy Agency's promotion of nuclear power enables nuclear weapons production, delivers false promises on climate and puts millions at risk.



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The IAEA mission statement reads...

*"The International Atomic Energy Agency. . . works for the **safe, secure and peaceful** uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security."*

But...

Nuclear power is not safe, secure or peaceful.

Using and expanding nuclear power contributes to precisely the opposite conditions. The IAEA has seized upon the climate argument as the only way to keep nuclear power in the mix, by persuading governments to heavily subsidize an unaffordable and uninsurable energy technology.

Wasting time and money on the needless expansion of expensive, slow and dangerous nuclear power is in effect a climate crime because it takes away essential resources from renewable energy and energy efficiency that would rapidly, safely and affordably address the climate crisis, none of which nuclear power can achieve.

The IAEA cannot guarantee safe operation of nuclear power because the technology is inherently dangerous. By aggressively promoting nuclear power around the world, the IAEA is increasing the likelihood of another major nuclear disaster.

The IAEA is mandated "to deter the spread of nuclear weapons". But encouraging countries to develop nuclear power programs increases the likelihood that more countries will transition to nuclear weapons development once in possession of the materials, technology and know-how to do it.

The IAEA...

- ◆ Led the COP28 delusional announcement to triple global nuclear energy capacity by 2050. To achieve this goal, at least 500 new reactors would need to be built by 2050 — a fantasy. No nuclear construction has ever come anywhere close to this pace. The costs of new reactor construction continue to soar to obscene heights — the two EPRs at Hinkley Point C in the UK are now expected to exceed \$59 billion if completed. The only thing nuclear energy is capable of tripling is its own cost.
- ◆ Deliberately covered up and minimized findings of harm to human health from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and its aftermath through its poorly designed and misapplied International Chernobyl Project. The Project either ignored or omitted key scientific data, which led to the on-going mythology that there were no negative effects from the world's worst nuclear power accident.
- ◆ Exercises undue influence over the work of the World Health Organization due to a 1959 UN agreement that allows an agency (the IAEA) with a commercial interest in promoting nuclear power to censor or suppress findings of harm by the WHO in that area.
- ◆ Worsens proliferation risks by encouraging the continued deployment of civil nuclear technology, the known pathway to nuclear weapons, as exemplified by India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea and the unclear aspirations of Iran.
- ◆ Approved the harmful discharge of radioactive water from the destroyed Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant site in Japan into the Pacific Ocean, even though the IAEA is not qualified to assess the potential health and environmental impacts of such an action.
- ◆ Nukewashes the true harms of nuclear power through its Raising Rays of Hope, #CancerCare4All campaign. While noting that "the global annual cancer burden is expected to grow", the IAEA promotes the expansion of a technology that causes cancer.
- ◆ Through the IAEA Atoms4NetZero propaganda campaign, suggests nuclear power can serve as the "reliable backbone of clean, affordable, resilient and more secure energy transitions". But nuclear power produces lethal waste; is the most expensive way to generate electricity; is far from resilient in the face of increasing weather extremes; is technically unreliable with frequent outages; and, given the connection to nuclear weapons, further jeopardizes security.
- ◆ Lobbies international climate bodies to influence research, presenting nuclear power as an indispensable solution when the reverse is true.
- ◆ Sounds the alarm about the danger posed by Russia's war in Ukraine to that country's 15 nuclear reactors while at the same time claiming "the problem in Ukraine and in Russia is they are at war. The problem is not nuclear energy". But clearly the problem *is* nuclear energy. Wind farms and solar arrays caught in a war zone would not raise such dire concerns.