

Why Nuclear is a Good Neighbor

Nuclear is Clean

Nuclear energy provides nearly half of America's carbon-free electricity and is the largest domestic source of clean energy.

Nuclear does not emit greenhouse gases while generating electricity.

Nuclear is Safe

U.S. nuclear plants are among the safest and most secure industrial facilities in the world. They are designed, built, and operated according to rigorous safety standards and use redundant layers of protection to ensure safe operation.

Safety at commercial nuclear reactors in the United States is overseen by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC sets stringent regulations for operations, security, and emergency preparedness at nuclear power plants and employs full-time on-site inspectors to make sure they are followed.

No matter what, the safety of nuclear plant employees and neighboring communities always comes first.

Nuclear is Reliable

Nuclear power plants operate at full capacity more than 90% of the time. On average that's about 1.5 to 2 times more reliable than natural gas and coal plants, and roughly 2.5 to 3.5 times more reliable than wind and solar.

Nuclear power plants are designed to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week because they require less maintenance and can operate for longer stretches before refueling (typically every 1.5 or 2 years).

Any time you need it, day or night, nuclear energy will be there for you. Now that's a neighbor you can count on!

Nuclear is Good for Business

Nuclear energy drives job creation.

The U.S. nuclear energy sector directly employs 60,000 people in high-quality, long-term jobs — many of which don't require a college degree.

It takes thousands of workers to build a nuclear power plant. An average plant employs between 500 and 800 people with salaries 30 percent higher than the local average.

According to NEI, for every 100 nuclear power plant jobs, 66 more jobs are created in the community. And nuclear plants contribute millions of dollars every year to their communities via taxes.

A national survey of communities with nuclear power plants found that over 90 percent of neighbors believe that nuclear energy provides good jobs for local people and helps the local economy.

Nuclear Keeps a Low Profile

Nuclear energy has one of the smallest footprints of any electrical generation source.

An average nuclear power plant requires about 1.3 square miles per 1,000 megawatts of energy, making it an ideal source of electricity in areas without large amounts of open space. And that footprint is expected to get even smaller with new small modular reactor and microreactor designs nearing deployment.

Nuclear power plants also don't need massive infrastructure like pipelines, shipping terminals, or coal trains for fuel transportation and storage.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy