


# Nuclear Energy

Nuclear energy has long been vilified by mainstream environmental groups and disavowed as a climate solution. Yet, nuclear energy remains one of – if not *the* – the cleanest, safest, and most reliable forms of energy we have at our disposal. To secure a clean energy future, we *must* expand the role of nuclear energy. Conservatives should lead the way on promoting the expansion of nuclear energy both here and abroad.

**Nuclear energy is safe, reliable, and clean.**

| <br><b>DO'S</b> | <br><b>DON'TS</b>  | <b>AND NOW SOME CONTEXT</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| <p>“Nuclear energy is a key part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy.”</p>                    | <p>“Nuclear is better than all other forms of energy.”</p>  | <p>This is a conversation fueled by “yes, and” – not “either, or.” It’s imperative that even when championing nuclear energy, it’s not at the expense of wind, solar, hydropower, or fossil fuels.</p>  |
| <p>“Nuclear can work <i>with</i> renewable sources to ensure reliable and clean energy.”</p>     | <p>“We don’t need wind and solar if we have nuclear.”</p>   | <p>Pitting clean energy sources against each other is unproductive and doesn’t resonate with young conservatives. Wind and solar enjoy high levels of popularity across demographics.</p>   |
| <p>“50+ nuclear power plants operate safely and reliably throughout the U.S. every day.”</p>     | <p>“Nuclear energy is safe.”</p>  | <p>Some Americans only associate nuclear energy with meltdowns like Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. Yet, when compared to other energy sources, nuclear energy is one of the safest. It’s important to illustrate this – not just say it – with an audience that has preconceived notions.</p>                   |
| <p>“Nuclear energy can be generated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.”</p>     | <p>“Nuclear energy is a dispatchable, baseload source that is crucial to U.S. energy security.”</p> | <p>While the second statement is absolutely true, it includes very wonky terms that wouldn’t resonate with the average young American. Explaining <i>how</i> nuclear is so reliable in layman’s terms is important.</p>   |
| <p>“Nuclear waste is stored safely at nuclear plants all over the country.”</p>                  | <p>“We don’t have to worry about nuclear waste.”</p>  | <p>The nuclear energy industry is the only energy industry that is 100% responsible for the waste that it produces. Nuclear waste can be – and is – stored safely onsite. This continues to be one of the largest sticking points on support for nuclear, so it’s important not to dismiss concerns outright.</p> |
| <p>“It’s time to unleash next-generation nuclear power.”</p>                                     | <p>“Next-generation nuclear power is the future of the industry.”</p>                               | <p>Next-generation nuclear energy technologies will be crucial to the future of the industry. That said, it is not either next-generation nuclear <i>or</i> our current fleet. We need both and want to avoid disregarding traditional nuclear facilities.</p>  |

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2023/06/28/majorities-of-americans-prioritize-renewable-energy-back-steps-to-address-climate-change/>

2. <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=207&t=21#>

3. <https://www.nei.org/fundamentals/safety>

4. <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2019/01/f58/Ultimate%20Fast%20Facts%20Guide-PRINT.pdf>

5. <https://world-nuclear.org/nuclear-essentials/what-is-nuclear-waste-and-what-do-we-do-with-it.aspx#>