

Principles for Clean Energy Policies

Nuclear energy provides more than half of America's carbon-free electricity, nearly 20 percent of U.S. electricity overall and operates 24/7. Due to significant efforts on the part of the commercial power industry, carbon emissions from electricity production in the U.S. have declined over the last decade. However, experts agree that substantial additional reductions will be needed to meet environmental goals while maintaining the affordability and reliability of our electric power system. Policymakers considering how to accelerate carbon reductions should support legislative and regulatory initiatives that embrace all carbon-free sources of electricity. In support of these goals, NEI will advance:

- Policies that meet clean energy goals by including nuclear energy. The central tenet of these approaches must be on reducing carbon emissions, maintaining reliability and affordability, and should seek to maintain a mix of technologies. Policies aimed at reducing carbon emissions should apply to both existing and new generating plants and to all non-emitting technologies.
- Policies that will appropriately value nuclear energy's non-emitting attribute.
- Recognition that a shift to a carbon-free emission electricity system should set aggressive objectives that also enable an affordable and sustainable transition by moving quickly to preserve today's nuclear plants and to accelerate innovation in pursuit of advanced nuclear energy systems.
- State policies that include nuclear to achieve state environmental goals, at the direction of member companies operating there.
- National policies that accommodate and leverage state and regional efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

In order to reach any decarbonization goal, the nation's clean energy portfolio must include nuclear energy. Nuclear energy will continue to be a critical component of the clean, reliable and resilient grid needed to support an economy that will increasingly depend upon electricity to drive transportation and power industry. Policies that do not fully account for the value nuclear energy will undermine the progress otherwise being made in reaching the emissions reductions needed, when they are needed, to achieve our nation's environmental goals in an affordable manner.

For nuclear to fulfill its potential in this future, nuclear plants must receive appropriate compensation for the clean energy attributes and other benefits that are inconsistently valued across regulated and organized electricity markets. Policymakers should pursue approaches that build upon the growing consensus that including nuclear energy is the most cost effective way to quickly transition a clean electricity system.

NEI will continue to work closely with our members to ensure alignment on specific policy proposals as they are developed.