

STATEMENT ON SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTORS (SMRS)

New Nuclear Reactors are a “dirty, dangerous distraction” from tackling climate change.



More than 120 public interest, Indigenous and civil society groups from across Canada have signed a public statement critical of federal funding for small nuclear reactor development and are challenging the government to release the research and data that support its strategy.

The groups say “**next generation**” nuclear reactors are a dirty, dangerous distraction from tackling the climate crisis. Nuclear energy is not green, not clean, too costly and too slow to build.

The groups charge that the federal government is trying to save the nuclear industry rather than saving the environment, being prudent with taxpayer dollars, or protecting human health.

Small Modular Reactor (SMR) development is too slow to address the climate crisis:

The 2020 *World Nuclear Industry Status Report* says that developing new nuclear energy is too slow to address the climate crisis – as well as more expensive – compared to renewable energy and energy efficiency. No SMRs have yet been built and the models being proposed will take a decade or more to develop, with no guarantee that the experimental technology will even work.

SMRs will be more expensive than renewable energy:

A *Canadian study* found that energy from small nuclear reactors would be up to ten times the cost of renewable energy. In the past decade, the cost of building solar, wind power and battery storage has gone down dramatically, while the cost of building new nuclear reactors has gone up. Small reactors will be even more expensive per unit of power than the current large ones.

Nuclear power creates fewer jobs than renewable energy:

Renewable energy is one of the fastest-growing job sectors in North America. An American study found that solar energy leads to six times as many jobs as nuclear power for each gigawatt-hour of electricity generated.

There are better sources of energy:

The federal minister of natural resources has said repeatedly, without providing evidence, that there is no path to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions without nuclear energy. He should be better informed. In fact, on the contrary a new study of 123 countries over 25 years found that countries that invested in renewable energy lowered their carbon emissions much more than those reliant on nuclear energy.

SMRs are dirty and dangerous:

The new “small” reactors, proposed to be built across Canada, will produce more radioactive waste per unit of electricity generated than existing reactors. Some proposed models would extract plutonium from irradiated fuel, worsening concerns about weapons proliferation and creating new forms of radioactive waste that are especially dangerous to manage. The federal government currently has no detailed policy or strategy for what to do with radioactive waste, and no design or location for a deep underground repository where industry proposes to store high-level radioactive waste for hundreds of thousands of years. The federal government has never consulted the public about small modular reactors, which would create environmental risks and financial liabilities for Canadians.

<https://cela.ca/statement-on-small-modular-reactors>

Public Interest Groups Opposed to public SMR Funding: (current to June 2022)

- Action Climate Outaouais (Québec)
- Action Environnement Basses-Laurentides
- Algoma-Manitoulin Green Party of Ontario Constituency Association
- AQLPA Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique – AQLPA
- AWARE Simcoe
- Below2C.org
- Bruce Peninsula Environment Group
- Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (Ontario)
- Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Canadian Engaged Buddhism Association
- Canadian Federation of University Women – CFUW
- Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
- Citizens Against Radioactive Neighbourhoods – CARN)
- Citizens in Action
- Citizens' Network on Waste Management (Ontario)
- Climate Action Muskoka
- Climate Action Network
- Climate Crisis Legislation NOW
- Climate Justice Saskatoon
- Coalition Against Nuclear Dumps on the Ottawa River (Ontario)
- Coalition for a Clean Green Saskatchewan
- Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury
- Coalition for Responsible Energy Development in New Brunswick – CRED-NB
- Committee for Future Generations (Saskatchewan)
- Concerned Citizens of Manitoba (Manitoba)
- Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (Ontario)
- Concerned Citizens of Saint John (New Brunswick)
- Conseil provincial des femmes du Québec
- Council of Canadians – Inverness County Chapter (Nova Scotia)
- Council of Canadians – Fredericton Chapter (New Brunswick)
- Council of Canadians – Ottawa Chapter (Ontario)
- Council of Canadians – Saint John Chapter (New Brunswick)
- Council of Canadians – South Shore Chapter (Nova Scotia)
- County Sustainability Group
- Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet – CUSP
- David Suzuki Foundation
- Durham Environment Watch
- Durham Nuclear Awareness
- Eco-Justice Working Group Maritime Regions, United Church
- Ecology Ottawa
- Electric Vehicle Council of Ottawa
- eMERGE Guelph Sustainability (Ontario)
- Environment North
- Environmental Defence (Ontario)
- ENvironnement JEUnesse
- EOS Eco-Energy (New Brunswick)
- Équiterre (Québec)
- Extinction Rebellion (New Brunswick)
- Faith & the Common Good
- Fondation Rivières
- Friends of the Earth Canada (Ontario)
- Greenpeace Canada (Québec)
- Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
- Green Arrow Healing Inc.
- Groupe des stratégies d'adaptation aux changements climatiques (Montréal, QC)
- Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Coalition
- Huron Grey Bruce Citizens Committee on Nuclear Waste
- Imaginons la Péninsule acadienne autrement
- Inter-Church Uranium Committee Educational Cooperative (Saskatchewan)
- Just Earth
- Kebaowek First Nation
- Leap Montreal
- Leap4wards (Saint John)
- MiningWatch Canada
- National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC)
- New Brunswick Anti-Shale Gas Alliance
- New Clear Free Solutions (New Brunswick)
- Nipissing Environmental Watch
- Noor Cultural Centre
- North Bay Peace Alliance
- Northwatch (Ontario)
- Nova Scotia Voice of Women for Peace
- Old Fort William Cottagers' Association (Quebec)
- Ontario Clean Air Alliance
- Ottawa River Institute
- Oxford Coalition for Social Justice
- Peace River Environmental Society
- PEACE-NB
- PEI Fridays for Future Climate Action Group (Prince Edward Island)
- Petawawa Point Cottagers Association
- Peterborough Pollinators
- Pollute Free Initiative
- Pontiac Environment Protection
- Port Hope Community Health Concerns Committee
- Prevent Cancer Now
- Protect Our Waterways No Nuclear Waste
- Provincial Council of Women of Ontario – PCWO
- Ralliement contre la pollution radioactive (Québec)
- RAVEN (University of New Brunswick)
- Regroupement des organismes environnementaux en énergie – ROÉÉ
- Regroupement pour la surveillance du nucléaire (Québec)
- Regroupement Vigilance Hydrocarbures Québec – RVHQ
- Renewable Power the Intelligent Choice
- Rotarians to Prevent Nuclear War
- Science for Peace
- Seventh Generation Initiative – Sustainability Project
- Shift Action for Pension Wealth & Planet Health
- Sierra Club Canada Foundation (Ontario)
- Société pour vaincre la pollution – SVP
- SOS Great Lakes
- Sustainable Development Association
- Sustainable Development Group (New Brunswick)
- Sustainable Energy Group (New Brunswick)
- The Council of Canadians
- The Leap
- The United Church of Canada
- Vancouver Island Quakers (British Columbia)
- Vegans & Vegetarians of Alberta (Alberta)
- VOICES for Sustainable Environments and Communities (New Brunswick)
- Voice of Women for Peace, Fredericton Chapter (New Brunswick)
- WaterCare Allies – First United Church (Ottawa)
- Wellington Water Watchers
- West Coast Environmental Law Association (British Columbia)
- Wolastoqey Grand Council (New Brunswick)
- Women's Healthy Environments Network
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Canada Section