



ADDITIONAL CLIMATE CRISIS TALKING POINTS

We encourage you to use our fact sheet — [Climate change and why nuclear power can't fix it](#) — as well as our longer [eponymous handbook](#) — for talking points with your Members of Congress. However, here are a few suggested additional questions you might ask, or messages you could deliver.

- **TIME:** Would you agree that we are in a climate crisis? Did you know that new nuclear power plants are taking on average at least 12 years to build, while running billions of dollars over budget? Given these realities, how can new nuclear power plants play any useful role in time in addressing the climate crisis?
- **WASTE:** Do you think it is justifiable to continue to use nuclear power, which generates deadly radioactive waste, given there is no safe, permanent solution for the secure management of those wastes?
- **GEN IV:** While nuclear proponents rely on the idea of so-called Generation IV reactors, are you aware that these designs are still on paper, with unsolved safety issues and decades away? How can we justify spending taxpayer dollars on Gen IV, given the climate crisis needs to be addressed in the next 5 years?
- **SMR:** Are you aware that because the economies of scale for small modular reactors are so poor — in other words no one wants to make the huge upfront investment for a factory to assemble the thousands that would be needed — there are virtually no buyers? Wouldn't it be better to invest that money in rapid development and implementation of renewables?
- **OLD NUKES:** Nuclear proponents claim that closing existing nuclear power plants will mean their replacement with fossil fuels. But so far that has not happened. For example, Nebraska replaced its closed nuclear plant with wind power and California will transition to 100% renewables once its last nuclear plant closes.
- **WATER:** Nuclear plants need billions of gallons of water a day to function. All use water drawn from oceans, lakes or rivers. This vast water consumption makes them counter-productive to addressing the climate crisis and human needs.
- **RENEWABLES:** The price of renewables keeps falling and battery storage technology is rapidly advancing, solving the “intermittency” issue. Renewables don't produce deadly waste and their fuel is basically free. Why not focus on an Apollo-style mission to go 100% renewable as fast as possible?

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