

Nuclear Power Bullet Points: Claims vs. Facts

- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear is a solution to climate change.* **FACT:** Nuclear is the hottest human activity and a climate change accelerant. Every dollar spent on nuclear delays action and continues reliance on dirty extractive energy.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear is “clean” energy.* **FACT:** Nuclear produces highly toxic emissions, greenhouse gases (Carbon 14, methane), and radioactive waste that lasts for thousands of years. Uranium mining releases radon, heavy metals and uses large amounts of fossil fuels.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear can be economic.* **FACT:** Since its inception, nuclear has been dogged by huge cost overruns and delays. The only new reactors built in the US over the past 30 years, Vogtle Units 3 & 4, took 15 years to build and ballooned in cost from \$14 billion to over \$36 billion. And Vogtle’s electricity costs are the highest in the US.
- **CLAIM:** *We’ll forget history, new small modular reactors (SMRs) will be cheaper.* **FACT:** Actually SMRs were tried decades ago and failed because of poor economies of scale. Nothing has changed. NuScale’s SMR in Utah was scrapped after a decade of planning because the cost of its electricity was going through the roof - and it hadn’t even begun construction.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear is reliable all the time.* **FACT:** Nuclear plants routinely go offline and can be forced to shut down for prolonged periods due to safety problems, extreme weather, and excessive heat & drought. Solar and wind with back-up storage and smart grid management will improve reliability. In sharp contrast to nuclear, costs of solar, wind and battery storage have plummeted in price in recent years and can be built far more quickly.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear is “safe”.* **FACT:** The insurance industry doesn’t believe this, neither does the nuclear industry itself. Hence the 1957 Price-Anderson Act liability protection has been repeatedly extended, with the burden of catastrophic accident risk carried by the public.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear can be protected from bad actors.* **FACT:** The proliferation of privately owned SMRs will be an unprecedented national security risk.
- **CLAIM:** *Nuclear will power our AI data centers.* **FACT:** SMRs and so-called “Advanced” novel reactors are unproven and will not be available for a decade or more.
- **CLAIM:** *We don’t have to worry about nuclear waste. We will figure it out.* **FACT:** After 70 years and hundreds of billions spent, there is still no safe solution to nuclear waste. Simply put, nobody wants it in their community.