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“Real Climate Solutions are NOT Radioactive!”

Nuclear-Free Activists Join March to End Fossil Fuels

Demand Biden, UN Leaders Declare Climate Emergency, Stop Pushing Nuclear and Other False Solutions, and Act on Just Transition to 100% Renewable Energy



The Nuclear-Free, Carbon-Free Hub joined the March to End Fossil Fuels in New York City on Sunday, calling for real solutions to the climate crisis, including a transition to 100% renewable energy. The group marched to the United Nations with bright, bold signs and banners, bringing attention to the toxic impacts of nuclear energy, uranium mining, and the nuclear industry’s roles in worsening climate disruption and blocking effective, affordable solutions.

The UN Secretary General has called world leaders to a Climate Ambition Summit in New York City, ahead of the UN General Assembly. The climate justice movement is holding its own Climate Week of actions and events to call out inaction and obstruction by many countries with the world’s largest economies and demand the phase-out of fossil fuels and a just transition to renewable energy.

“Why is President Biden pushing nuclear power and other toxic, dead-end technologies instead of doing what is needed to save a livable climate?” said Tim Judson of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service. “We are wasting time and money we can’t afford on nuclear energy

instead of making the shift to safe, clean, sustainable, affordable renewable energy. The White House has to stop pushing failed, unproven, exorbitantly expensive nuclear power plants, and start paying our fair share of global climate finance. Real climate solutions are here today, and they are not radioactive,” Judson concluded.

The marchers pointed out that nuclear power is the ultimate example of a “false solution” to the climate crisis. The group showed that nuclear power is too dirty, too dangerous, too expensive, and too slow to stop global warming. Nuclear reactors take more than a decade to build, whereas renewable energy and energy efficiency can be expanded quickly and affordably. Nuclear-generated electricity is at least four times more expensive than solar and wind. And from mining uranium to producing radioactive waste, the nuclear fuel chain poisons the land, air, and water we need to survive climate disruption.



"The climate crisis is already reaching irreversible tipping points, and we're seeing the disastrous impacts of ever-worsening storms, wildfires, and blizzards as a result," said Amber Ruther, Organizing Coordinator for the Alliance for a Green Economy. "In a moment as dire as this one, we must reject the misinformation and promise of false solutions spread by the nuclear and gas industries, who profit from building infrastructure that poisons our air, water, soil, and the frontline communities forced to host these devastating impacts. We call on President Biden to take immediate action on the climate crisis by ending federal approval for all new fossil fuel projects, phasing out fossil fuel drilling, declaring a climate emergency, and providing a just transition to a renewable energy future," Ruther continued. "We also call on Governor Kathy Hochul to pass the NY HEAT Act to ensure that the gas utilities in New York finally comply with our state's climate law and stop the buildout of new fracked gas infrastructure, and build affordable, renewable heat now instead."

Activists from South Korea and Japan joined the nuclear-free, carbon-free hub. They also held a rally on Saturday protesting Japan's decision to dump radioactive waste from the 2011 triple-meltdown in Fukushima into the Pacific Ocean. In addition to pushing false climate solutions, the White House has endorsed the radiation dumping, over the objections of US citizens and people



around the world. Pacific Island nations have called on Japan to halt the dumping, as well. Several of the countries already suffer high rates of cancer and other effects of radioactive fallout from atomic weapons testing, and their very existence is threatened by sea-level rise and other effects of global warming.



“Nuclear waste water from Fukushima Daiichi NPPs has been dumped into the Pacific Ocean on Aug 24 by the Japanese government. This is the war on Ocean and humanity,” said Choony Kim, Korea People’s Action against Ocean Dumping of Japanese Nuclear Waste Water / KFEM. “When we trace this issue, there is a story of nuclear power plants that the Japanese government has promoted for years. Nuclear has been recognized as an alternative to the climate crisis. When we imagine alternative energy sources, it should be less harmful or dangerous to humans and the other living creatures. Nuclear energy is inhumane that we witnessed from Chernobyl and Fukushima. Let’s use sunlight and wind for our energy. Stop Ocean Dumping! Store on the land!”

The nuclear-free groups called for a rapid, just, and equitable transition to 100% renewable energy. They demanded the US stop promoting false solutions like nuclear power and commit to fulfilling its internationally-determined fair share toward addressing the climate crisis.

“We reject the false solutions proffered by polluting industries whether nuclear or carbon producing. They want to reinvent themselves as an answer to climate disruption. We say no!,” said Deb Katz, Citizens Awareness Network. “We need an energy revolution that meets the needs of people, not corporations. Clean air, clean water, clean land, and a safe place to live are rights we must fight for -- for ourselves and for all sentient beings.”

“The Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance felt having a nuclear free hub at the march was extremely important. Many folks who want a fossil fuel free world don’t seem to know or understand the amount of fossil fuels that go into building and producing nuclear power; nor are they making the connection of nuclear power to the perpetuation of nuclear weapons,” said Debra Stoleroff, Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance. “Nuclear power is NOT fossil free. It is NOT a solution to climate change. On top of that, it is radioactive.”

Hub Webpage: <https://nfcfhub.squarespace.com>
Fact Sheet: <https://bit.ly/NFCF-Hub-Flier-2023>
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