

# NUCLEAR ENERGY OVERVIEW



## Nuclear Energy in the U.S.

Nuclear energy has been quietly powering the U.S for over 70 years. Today, 94 nuclear reactors operate at 54 sites across the nation to help supply electricity to homes and businesses. These reactors generate about 20% of our total electricity and half our emissions-free energy supply.

## Nuclear Energy in Utah

Nuclear energy is not currently part of Utah's energy mix. However, the state is exploring the possibility of building new nuclear reactors. Adding nuclear generating capacity could address future energy and economic challenges for Utah and the whole Intermountain West. The benefits of adding nuclear energy as a resource in our state could help Utahns protect our way of life for years to come.

## Why Nuclear Energy?

Nuclear energy delivers dependable, emissions-free electricity to communities across the country and offers many advantages when added to the grid. As Utah continues to explore adding nuclear generating capacity, here are some key benefits we're considering:



### Reliable

Current nuclear reactors produce power more than 92% of the time, making nuclear energy the most reliable source on the grid.



### Clean

Nuclear reactors generate electricity without burning fuel or emitting pollutants, protecting our air and the environment.



### Safe and Secure

U.S. nuclear plants are among the safest and most secure industrial facilities in the world and have operated safely for decades.



### Long-Lasting

Commercial nuclear reactors can operate for up to 80 years, resulting in a long-lasting, reliable source of power.



### Small Footprint

A 1,000-megawatt nuclear facility requires just over 1 square mile, using far less land than other energy alternatives.



### Efficient

Nuclear fuel is extremely energy dense, meaning you get a lot of energy from a small amount of material. One Utahn's lifetime energy needs can be supplied with uranium that fits inside a soda can.

