

Resolution Confirming Sierra Club's Policy on Nuclear Energy (Fission)

Whereas, Sierra Club has adopted policy opposing “the licensing, construction and operation of new nuclear reactors utilizing the fission process” which was first passed in 1970 and amended in 2016 (Attachment A);

Whereas, the issues with nuclear fission reactors identified in that policy, including environmental harms, risks to public safety and community health, unavailability of safe storage facilities for the nuclear waste, weapons production and proliferation have not been addressed;

Whereas, the nuclear fission industry is heavily subsidized and diverts money from cleaner and more economical sources of non-fossil energy, including wind and solar energy;

Whereas, nuclear fission advocates are pushing for favorable policies and more public support and are making unfounded claims that new designs such as so-called “small modular” and “flow” reactors will solve the long-standing problems relating to nuclear fission power;

Whereas, the Council of Club Leaders passed a resolution in 2023 asking the Board of Directors to reaffirm its opposition to nuclear power and to direct staff to integrate this into our advocacy relating to the climate emergency (Attachment B);

Now, Therefore,

1. The Conservation Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Directors reaffirm its opposition to nuclear fission power by readopting our existing policy (Attachment A)

Attachment A – [Sierra Club Policy on Nuclear Power](#)

The Sierra Club opposes the licensing, construction and operation of new nuclear reactors utilizing the fission process, pending:

1. ***Resolution of the significant safety problems inherent in reactor operation, disposal of spent fuels, and possible diversion of nuclear materials capable of use in weapons manufacture.***
2. ***Establishment of adequate regulatory machinery to guarantee adherence to the foregoing conditions. The above resolution does not apply to research reactors.***

Adopted by the Board of Directors, December 12-13, 1974; Amended September 10, 2016

Attachment B – CCL Resolution 17 (2023)

17) Ramp Up Club Opposition to Nuclear Power (Fission)

The Council of Club Leaders requests the Board of Directors to direct staff and volunteers to integrate existing Sierra Club Policy opposing nuclear power into the Club's efforts to address the climate emergency, to develop our energy transition vision without new nuclear reactors including small modular reactors while urgently replacing existing reactors with renewables and energy efficiency. Nuclear power is a false climate solution: it is too costly, dirty, and dangerous, it violates many tenets of environmental justice. It facilitates nuclear weapons production and proliferation. It creates a nearly permanent pernicious toxic waste legacy. We can decarbonize and electrify with safe and affordable wind, solar, environmentally sustainable hydroelectric, and storage. Adopted by the Council of Club Leaders on 9/8/2023 by a vote of 30-8-6.