



To :  
New York State Energy Research & Development Authority  
17 Columbia Circle  
Albany, New York 12203-6399

wePlanet™

November 11, 2024

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on New York's draft Blueprint for Consideration of Advanced Nuclear Technologies.

WePlanet is a global grassroots movement committed to **science-driven solutions to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and global poverty**. Founded in 2021 by scientists and environmentalists from diverse backgrounds, WePlanet challenges traditional environmental approaches by promoting a forward-looking vision of environmentalism that embraces innovation and technology.

At its core, WePlanet believes that **human progress and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand, with science as the guiding force**. Unlike some environmental groups, WePlanet advocates for nuclear energy, supports New Genetic Technologies in agriculture, and champions new proteins such as cultivated meat as essential, sustainable solutions to global challenges. These positions are integral to WePlanet's mission: **to harness modern technology for a future powered by abundant clean energy, resilient food systems, and large-scale land rewilding to restore ecosystems**.

Today, WePlanet has mobilized thousands of advocates across 18 chapters worldwide, from the United States to Bangladesh. With a strong emphasis on equity, the movement seeks to make scientific advancements accessible to all, especially to communities most in need. Driven by optimism and urgency, WePlanet aims to reshape environmentalism into a movement that is practical, progressive, and committed to a prosperous and ecologically balanced future.

In line with this vision, **including advanced nuclear energy in New York's energy mix** is essential to reaching the state's ambitious climate goals. Nuclear power not only delivers continuous, carbon-free electricity but also enhances grid reliability. **By complementing renewable sources like wind and solar, nuclear provides "firm" energy to meet demand when intermittent sources cannot**. With a high-capacity factor—meaning the ability to operate consistently at a high output—nuclear energy reduces the need for additional generation, storage, and transmission infrastructure, which helps to control costs and conserve natural resources. In fact, nuclear energy has the smallest environmental footprint of all energy sources. By investing in advanced nuclear, New York can maximize the protection of farmland, tribal lands, and ecosystems.

Already a leader in clean energy, **New York can benefit significantly from nuclear's proven safety, economic advantages, and capacity to provide around-the-clock power**. Driven by sectors like transportation, the semiconductor industry, and data centers, New York's demand for reliable energy will continue to grow. Advanced nuclear energy can meet that demand sustainably and efficiently. With advanced nuclear, New York can build a robust foundation for clean energy, create high-paying jobs, and secure a reliable, zero-emission backbone for its electric grid. This will not only help to address New York's energy needs, but also support long-term sustainability, equity, and prosperity across the state.

Again, we appreciate this opportunity to comment. With respect to the draft Blueprint, we also wish to lend our support for the detailed comments submitted by Nuclear New York, New York Energy and Climate Advocates, and Mothers for Nuclear.

Please do not hesitate to contact WePlanet if we can be of assistance as New York pursues this important initiative.

Footnotes:  
<https://www.weplanet.org/rethinknuclear>

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