



Keeping the “Know” in Nova Scotia:
The facts about nuclear energy and small modular reactors

Nuclear energy is slow to build

- The development of both traditional nuclear power plants and small nuclear reactors (SMRs) is slow and costly. SMR development in Ontario, New Brunswick and across the globe takes over a decade, which means the required infrastructure will not be built in time to meet climate goals.

Nuclear energy is costly

- Both traditional nuclear energy and “new” SMRs have cost Canadian taxpayers billions of dollars. All projects have gone drastically over budget. Additionally, the development of SMRs further ties us to the U.S. and exposes Canada to more tariffs.

Nuclear energy is bad for human health

- Radon exposure and radiation is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers.

Nuclear energy is wasteful and bad for the environment

- Nuclear energy in Canada has produced millions of litres and tonnes of water and waste rock that are exposed to radiation and buried deep underground.
- Spills and leaks cause surrounding areas to be exposed to radiation, which is harmful to plants and wildlife and can negatively affect the health of humans and communities.

Nuclear energy development often ignores communities

- In the U.S. and in Canada, including Nova Scotia, there have been several attempts in legislation to speed up or increase resource extraction without informing the public or residents of affected areas. This undermines community agency and ignores public opposition to nuclear development.
- The money earned by large industries is at the cost of community and environmental health, and taxpayers are left to pay for the cost of clean up when these industries leave.

Nova Scotia has better ways forward

- Renewable energy provides a cleaner, more affordable energy source.
- Combining renewables with battery storage and improved transmission lines increases grid security and reliability.
- Nova Scotia has a unique opportunity to pursue a green energy grid that benefits Nova Scotians. This can be achieved without expensive, wasteful and inefficient technology such as nuclear energy.

For the full fact sheet and reference list please visit:
ecologyaction.ca/Keeping-theKnow-in-NS

