

Jenna Kay

From: Brent Marsden <zenbrent@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 1:21 PM
To: Jenna Kay
Subject: FYI - Fw: Small Nuclear Reactors

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Jenna,

I am forwarding this exchange of messages between Don Steinke and myself for your information, and I also understand that this will become a part of the official record of our CAG process.

I want to officially comment on this. Could you remind me of how to do this - which website, etc.

I am in the final stages of completing your survey.

Best,
Brent

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Brent Marsden <zenbrent@yahoo.com>
To: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 01:14:49 PM PST
Subject: Re: Small Nuclear Reactors

Hello Don,

Thank you very much for your intelligent and informed reply. I am going to rate the policy "supporting" SMRs as a 4 on our survey, and strongly oppose it during our meeting discussion, if we are able to discuss that policy at all. I am relying on you to back me up.

When one searches SMRs on the internet, there is article after article about how great they are, with virtually no reservations. However, when one searches Disadvantages or Critiques of SMRs, one uncovers many serious reservations about this very questionable technology, as you pointed out in your message.

Here's just one quote: "Any community with an SMR will have to plan to be a de facto long-term nuclear waste disposal site."

You and I are agreed that SMRs are, in fact, a terrible idea. I am hoping to get them removed from any Clark County policy.

Brent

On Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 10:11:00 AM PST, Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks for the question Brent.

My first foray into citizen activism was against nuclear energy back in the 70s.

Then as now, it offended me that the utilities and nuclear industry were then and still are blind to other options.

Back then the easiest option was stronger building and energy codes, but the people in the utility business were then and still are oblivious to energy waste and conservation opportunities. That is based on 10 years of my engagement with utility staff and management. The Clark PUD program is based on directives from BPA, not on their own concern or observation.

As soon as some low hanging fruit gets picked, new fruit appears; such as LEDs in the 2010s, and heat pump water heaters in the 2020s. And solar is now the cheapest source of new energy. Add batteries for dispatchability.

Unfortunately, the builders oppose energy conservation measures. They don't pay the utility bills, the tenants do.

There are many reasons to oppose nuclear: waste storage, fuel diversion, operational safety, safety shortcuts in the interest of shareholder value, and impacts of uranium mining and processing, but I focus on the cost and the very long lead times. Nuclear is by far the most expensive of all energy resources.

Also In general, it takes about 9 years to get a new project sited, and about 18 years to get new transmission lines.

(Someone recently mentioned building a nuclear power plant in Amboy.)

I had an epiphany when I read this from Buckminster Fuller. He said, the only way to change the existing reality is to make it obsolete.

I modified that to say, the only way to avoid nuclear power is to make it obsolete before it becomes the only option.

In other words, I think we need a massive build-out of local solar plus batteries, coupled with strong building codes, to avoid the industry choosing nuclear.

If the PUD invested in solar plus batteries, they could shut their gas power plant down within 2 years, but it makes money for them and they're lazy.

Best,
Don Steinke

On Sat, Feb 8, 2025 at 9:37 PM Brent Marsden <zenbrent@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Don,

What is your view on small modular nuclear reactors? I have concerns about them.

Brent

On Monday, January 20, 2025 at 09:49:07 AM PST, Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com> wrote:

From Don Steinke
bcc To select members of the Climate Advisory Group

Hello everyone,

In the spirit of making our committee recommendations the best they can be, here are some suggestions:

Feedback welcome.

Under Goal 1

Change goal #1 from: Facilitate a just transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and equitably enhance community and ecological resilience to climate impacts.

To: *Promote and accelerate a just transition to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions, communitywide, by 2050 or sooner, and equitably enhance community and ecological resilience to climate impacts.*

Edit G1-P2 to say: Evaluate ***and fix*** Comprehensive Growth Management Plan amendments, and associated plans, policies, development regulations, with the primary criteria of the climate element requirements in RCW 36.70a.070(9) where proposed actions are evaluated for whether or not they

- a) Result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions generated by ,
- Add G1-P3: Develop policies to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Under G8, Improve air quality:

- Add G8-P2: Ask SWCAA to augment their public education efforts regarding the harms related to air pollution from trash burning, vehicle emissions, building emissions, and slash burning.
- Add G8-P3: Promote, Accelerate and incentivize vehicle electrification and building electrification
- Add G8-P4: Discourage slash-burning, promote carbon sequestration.
-

Under G10: Green jobs

Add G10-P4: Assign staff to apply for the \$2 billion Federal appropriation awarded to *Rewiring America* to support Building Electrification.

Add G10-P5: Consult with organized labor and NW natural about Thermal Energy Networks. See: <https://www.ilr.cornell.edu/climate-jobs-institute/public-impact-0/climate-jobs-institute-explores-building-decarbonization-approach-achieving-scale-equity-and-high>

Under G19 Transportation and land use

Prioritize P2, P4, P5, P12, P14, P15

Add and prioritize G19-P17, allow and encourage neighborhood cafes and general stores on corners.

Under G21 EVs and air quality

Prioritize G21-P4

Under G-24 Promote Energy efficient buildings

Prioritize P4

Add G24-P7: Assign staff to apply for and administer funds from the \$2 billion Federal appropriation awarded to *Rewiring America* to support Building Electrification.

Under G25 Just Transition in Buildings and energy

Edit G25 to include the word clean: Promote a just transition to 100% *clean*, renewable energy from a diversity of resources.

Revise G25- P2: The County shall not require anyone switch to a particular fuel source. However, the county shall encourage, promote, and incentivize clean and renewable sources with zero or negative greenhouse gas emissions. The county shall promote self-reliance . . .

Under G27 County Buildings and energy

Revise G27-P2 to say: Replace existing *heating and cooling* equipment with electric *heat pump systems including, but not limited to, ground-source heat pumps and thermal energy networks, using refrigerants with a low global warming potential such as CO₂, using accelerated maintenance and replacement schedules.*

Delete P4, Purchase renewable energy certificates

Add G27-P5: Conduct an engineering assessment of county owned buildings and properties for the suitability of installing solar. {Federal *Solar for All Grants* are available for installations if done to benefit low-income residents. Other grant programs allow the County to install solar for its own use and get direct pay tax credits even if the county has no federal tax liability. We're short of electricity in Clark County.}

Under G28 Buildings and energy

Edit G28 to say: If possible, adopt Green Building codes and sustainable practices

Prioritize G28-P1 and P2

Add G28-P3: Assign staff to apply for the \$2 billion Federal appropriation awarded to *Rewiring America* to support Building Electrification.

Add G18-P4: Remind existing commercial property owners of their obligations under The Clean Buildings Act.

Prioritize all of G32 for County Governance

Edit G32:P1 to include funds for grant writing and administration.

Under G33 County resilience of County operations

Edit G33:P2 to include the Fire Dept and back up communications and energy resources

Add G33:P3 Hire a grant writer. The grant writer could help navigate the maze of opportunities that benefit not only the county, but the community.