

# The CAN-Did Press

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK  
ACT TODAY TO CHANGE TOMORROW...

## The Resurrection of Nuclear Power

The resurrection of nuclear power as a solution for anything is a travesty. For all its claims, nuclear power is neither clean nor green. It is a dirty toxic technology. It relies on its invisibility to keep its lies going while communities suffer the burden of its broken promises. High level nuclear waste (HLNW) is stranded at reactor sites across the country with no solution. The government and industry abdicated their responsibility to develop a scientifically sound and environmentally just solution to its monstrous waste problem.

### **The resurrection of nuclear plants to power Artificial Intelligence adds insult to injury**

AI uses massive amounts of energy to run and, like nuclear power, massive amounts of water to cool its systems. It is a potential blight on the environment—all for instant gratification. We need real solutions, not worn out propaganda from a failed industry and a willing regulator.

There are lots of cheerleaders for nuclear power—the nuclear industry is desperately trying to reinvent itself as “clean.” The people you never hear from, the impacted communities, have suffered the broken promises of the nuclear industry and the government. Our communities were targeted for “clean” nuclear

power because we are working poor, rural, people of color, and Indigenous. Forced to choose between short-term economic survival and long term health and safety, we live with contamination of our waterways, air, and land; intimidation when a corporation controls our resources; increases in diseases; and radioactive waste with nowhere to go. This is environmental racism.

New England is ground zero for the nuclear industry. Our project and advocacy for impacted and targeted communities is vital. As more reactors shutter, the pressure to make the High Level Nuclear Waste problem “disappear” will increase. We must inoculate people without a clear position on nukes, as well as states, to the industry’s opportunistic initiatives. The industry counts on its lobbying campaigns flying below radar. Our work ensures that there is a public debate on nuclear waste and the escalating climate disruption problems. It can lead to a permanent “solution” commitment and can undermine the industry’s propaganda and opportunism.

A public debate on nuclear waste and nuclear power exposing the industry’s opportunism, its false claims regarding climate disruption, and environmental racism is needed. We need to grow a New England grassroots campaign to support an effective resilience

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## PFAS Contamination Revealed at VY Site

NorthStar and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reported at the September 22, 2025 VT NDCAP meeting that “one minor exceedance having to do with PFAS,” — or as they are known more generally, “forever chemicals”— has been found at Vermont Yankee. Clearly, the worst of this contamination is from the use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) used to extinguish a transformer fire in 2004.

Vermont already has a tragic and ongoing history with these chemicals (“Vermont National Guard facility set to reopen after major PFAS spill”—Vermont Public and “Bennington, Vt., region has the most severe PFAS contamination problem in the state, and new research finds it is getting worse”—Valley News). In even very small quantities—concentrations are measured in PPTs or parts per trillion—PFAS, which are ubiquitous in both consumer goods, industrial processes, and industrial waste, can cause a variety of health issues including cancer. They have as well proved

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## **Massachusetts: Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy and Safe Energy**

What you gonna do when your Governor tries to trash democracy and resurrect nuclear power in your state? Call Nuke-busters!

Or, more precisely, create a campaign to organize resistance and make the Governor’s strategy so controversial, legislators won’t go for it. That’s the origin of the Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy and Safe Energy (CCFDSE).

Governor Maura Healey has become pro-nuclear! In the last legislative session, she managed to slip a provision into an otherwise pretty good bill that added nuclear power to the list of “clean energy” sources. Even anti-nuclear legislators were more or less forced to vote for it. Then, in May, she very quietly included a provision in a consumer electric affordability bill (H.4144) that would repeal a law based in a very popular citizen initiative from 1982 that said no new nuclear without a statewide vote and a permanent repository for the waste (this repository doesn’t exist).

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## CAN Welcomes Joey D'Angelo, Kala Garrido

Kala Garrido (she/they) is the new Massachusetts organizer for CAN!

At 20, Kala graduated with a B.A. in Social Thought and Political Economy from UMASS. She enters her eighth year of community organizing, with experience doing mutual aid, struggling for climate and environmental justice, educating about and organizing for the abolition of police and prisons, and fighting against the military industrial complex, in solidarity with Palestine.

Kala is excited to join CAN's rich history of resistance, and draw ties between fighting nukes and fighting against data centers and AI—especially military AI technology, given the industry's use of small modular reactors. In the coming year, Kala will be doing international accompaniment in Guatemala with the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala (NISGUA) in order to dissuade attacks against organizers and community leaders, and create a safer space for them to carry out their human rights and social justice work.

Joey D'Angelo (they/she) is a queer, gender non-conforming, neurodivergent person whose portfolio spans branding, event production, digital content creation, and mentorship. As a Creative Digital Strategist, their mission is to build equitable and joyful online and offline communities where everyone's rights and voices are honored.

[www.joeydangelo.squarespace.com](http://www.joeydangelo.squarespace.com).



## Seabrook, Healey, and Political Subterfuge

Currently, citizen researchers within the ingestion pathway for the Seabrook atomic plant are working to counter NextEra's attempt to degrade inspections and public access to inspection reports for their New Hampshire reactor—the rationales for which are laid out within the ADVANCE Act (Accelerating Deployment of Versatile, Advanced Nuclear for Clean Energy Act of 2024), passed during the waning days of the Biden Administration (Advance Act of 2024 / [nrc.gov](http://nrc.gov)).

The Advance Act serves as an important reminder that the nuclear industry is an equal opportunity political donor—greasing the skids for uninformed approval and deregulated operations with the Democratic party as well as the MAGA right. One need to look no further than our ostensibly “liberal” Massachusetts, where Governor Healey seeks to revoke the 1982 law—passed by a referendum ballot question—requiring voter approval before any new nuclear facility can be built in our state. This revocation measure has been slipped quietly into two bills working their way through the legislature: Section 45 of H.4144, the Energy Affordability bill, and Section 80 of Cusack's bill H.4744, an Act Relative to Energy Affordability, Clean Power and Economic Competitiveness.

If you live in Massachusetts, you can help head off Healey's gambit.

Please join our letter campaign to tell our state representatives and senator that they must act to remove Sections 45 and 80 from their respective bills. Forty years ago, voters acted correctly to protect our families' future safety. Don't let them take this away!

Sign our letter campaign here: <https://www.nukebusters.org/>

- Chris Nord, CAN Vice President

## PFAS Contamination at VY

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very difficult to “manage” once released into the environment.

Characterized by NorthStar as “not a big deal,” PFAS concentrations in one test well onsite have thus far been measured at well over 100 times the regulatory limit, with lesser amounts at numerous other wells. Equally concerning was a statement by DEC, “By the time it actually gets to the Connecticut River, it's probably not going to be detectable.”

Such begs the question, where will these “forever chemicals” have actually gone?

Panel-member David Eastman, who has extensive knowledge of toxicology and PFAS, has suggested the Panel could use a “deep dive” into how difficult it is to manage these chemicals. “Worst case scenario,” we are informed by NorthStar, “there may be a deed restriction for a shallow well in that area.”

There is currently being developed on behalf of NorthStar a Corrective Action Plan by Haley and Aldrich, an environmental consulting firm.

- Schuyler Gould, CAN Board of Directors

# The Resurrection of Nuclear Power

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ience plan to address the vulnerability of Yankee Rowe, Vermont Yankee, and other New England reactor sites to climate disruption and press for a just transition to clean energy.

## The major elements of our campaign are:

- Create Bridges between reactor and targeted interim storage communities through education in terms of the sacrifice both communities face indefinitely.
- Advocate for hardening high-level radioactive waste storage onsite to protect reactor communities and validate their concerns in keeping the waste on site.
- Organize reactor and waste communities to advocate for a scientifically sound, environmentally just, long-term solution.
- Conduct outreach and education with student groups, college classes, youth organizations to reject nuclear power, understanding nuclear pollution, the environmental hazards, and Environmental Justice (EJ) issues.
- Expand our Outreach Campaign to climate and peace action groups and religious institutions. All of this work is based on developing relationships and earning trust between reactor and targeted communities, anti-nuclear and environmental groups, grassroots and national groups. Our work is to replace competition with cooperation, division with unity, and recognize that we have to lift all boats, not just our own.
- Continue our Spring-Fall monthly radioactive waste tours in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, as well as begin outreach to the environmental community in Connecticut. We will also participate in the ongoing demonstrations against the Trump administration and use the opportunity to distribute our literature.

This remains the hardest campaign that CAN and our partners created. It's not "sexy" like shutting a power plant. Talking about the threat posed by nuclear waste, climate disruption, opportunism of the industry, and irresponsibility of the government to protect the public are daunting and overwhelming. We work to open the public square so that people can participate in the democratic process and advocate for just solutions.

To counter the industry, we build alliances between reactor and waste communities, alliances with activists in climate action, pro-democracy, environmental justice, and peace movements. A major educational campaign is necessary—we need to educate young people, legislators, and other groups to the false solution of nuclear power as well as what constitutes real solutions.

- Deb Katz, CAN Executive Director

# Vermont Action Needed

The Scott Administration has attempted to amend the Renewable Energy Standard to include nuclear generation for the past two legislative sessions. The proposed changes would define nuclear power as "clean." We expect that Governor Scott and Republican Legislators will attempt to amend the RES once again in the coming session. It is important that we fight this outrageous proposal and preserve the law as it stands.

Earlier this century, CAN and our allies in Vermont hosted many visitors who represented communities from different parts of the nuclear fuel cycle. These incredible presenters toured all parts of Vermont over several years. What they shared most assuredly demonstrated that nuclear is not clean.

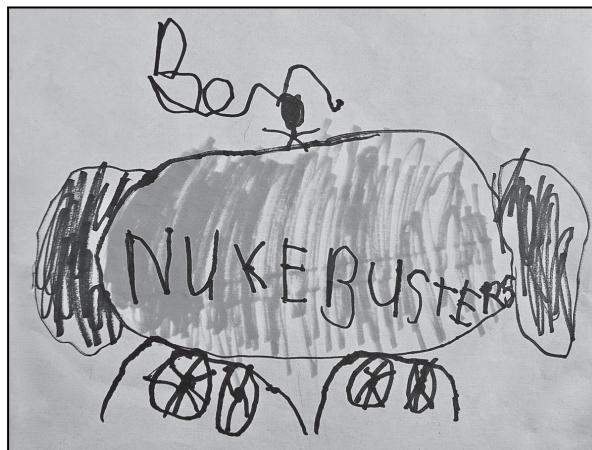
## The presentations included:

- Representatives from Diné, the Navajo Nation, reminding us of the thousands of abandoned uranium mines on their land and the devastating community health effects of the mining and milling.
- Representatives of the Anishinaabe people in Ontario, reminding us of the chain of contaminated lakes and long-lasting negative health effects resulting from decades of hard rock uranium mining.
- Representatives of the Western Shoshone Nation, reminding us of their struggle to stop the dumping of irradiated fuel rods at Yucca Mountain. The site was found to be earthquake prone and subject to unacceptable water flow.
- Representatives from Andrews County (TX), reminding us that many residents were and are opposed to the dumping of low-level power plant waste in their community. In the end, hundreds of rail shipments from Vermont Yankee have been dumped at the Waste Control Specialists site in Andrews County.
- Scientists from Germany, who presented the results of an extensive study linking the presence of nuclear power plants to higher incidences of childhood leukemia in host communities.

As the decommissioning of Vermont Yankee (VY) continues, the Town of Vernon will be the host to 58 giant casks of irradiated fuel rods. These highly-radioactive containers will sit on the edge of the Connecticut River for years to come. The waste legacy of VY is without question the most significant toxic contamination problem facing the State of Vermont. To label nuclear power as clean is offensive and insulting!

Watch for CAN Action Alerts and let your legislators know that calling nuclear power clean is unacceptable.

- Chris Williams, NIRS Chair, VCAN Organizer, and CAN Board of Directors



Artwork by Benjamin Katz-Age 8

# Massachusetts: Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy and Safe Energy

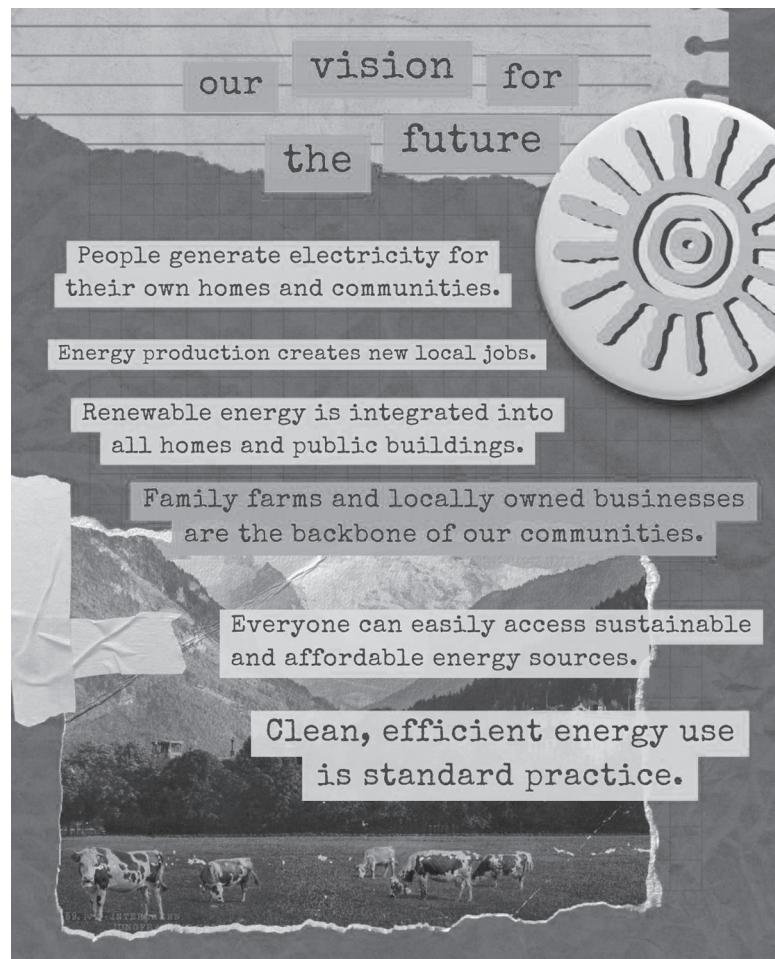
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Now there is a second bill in the House (H.4744) which would also repeal the 1982 law and is much worse than the Governor's bill in terms of reducing carbon emissions. Unfortunately, legislative repeal of a citizen-initiated bill without going back to the voters is not illegal.

In June 2025, CAN helped convene a multi-group response to the Governor's anti-democratic moves. Other groups include Massachusetts Peace Action, Clamshell Alliance, Cape Downwinders, Beyond Nuclear, Greenfield Solar, Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS), Our Revolution Massachusetts, Save Our Bay Massachusetts, and Warheads to Windmills. This developed into the Commonwealth Coalition for Democracy and Safe Energy (CCFDSE).

The campaign to stop the repeal and to keep nuclear power out of the state's energy portfolio is ongoing. The Governor seems to have an absolute love affair with Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as a means of reducing carbon emissions. This provides several strategic angles for activists.

- One is the attack on democracy inherent in the repeal of the 1982 law, particularly in a time when the federal government is rapidly tearing down what is left of our democracy. It's hard for Massachusetts to claim it's a beacon of democracy given the



pro-nuclear shenanigans here.

- Another is the insanity of investing state resources in SMRs to address climate change when they are years away from having reliable manufacturing and cost parameters and are being promoted by an industry with a track record of cost overruns and gaslighting on risks. We are already decades behind where we should be in addressing climate disruption. Let's invest in less expensive, less dangerous green technologies that are available now!

- Another is the danger of building out nuclear—we'd probably need more than 60 SMRs to meet demand—at the same time the federal government is decimating the industry regulator (the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and increasing allowable limits for radiation exposure.

The Commonwealth Coalition has stimulated testimony in the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy (TUE); initiated campaigns of letters to the editor and direct contact with legislators; met with legislators; done outreach to the districts of the TUE co-chairs as well as other organizations such as Mothers Out Front and Climate Action Now, and hosted a very successful event to educate legislators and the public about SMRs featuring Edward Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists. All this has helped slow down the progress of the two bills, but they are not dead. Work needs to continue! To keep abreast of the situation, please respond to CAN's alerts, check our website, and most important, talk with your legislators and neighbors.

- Ann Darling, CAN Board of Directors

## Thank You from CAN Board & Organizers We couldn't do it without you!

Prof. Sasha Adkins (UMass) • ARIA Foundation

Lindsay Arruda • Bob Bady • Katelyn Beirne

Paul Burton • Cape Downwinders • Claire Chang

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

Commonwealth Coalition for

Democracy & Safe Energy

Connie Childs • Clamshell Alliance

Dean's Beans • Lionel Delevingne • Court Dorsey

Reed Effenson • Florence V Burden Foundation

Jerry Greenfield & Elizabeth Skarie

Guacamole Foundation • Gerry Hersh

Benjamin Katz • Lintilhac Foundation

Lynn Loflin & Stuart Wexelbaum • Sam Lovejoy

Nuclear Information and Resource Service

Bonnie Raitt • Rothschild Foundation

Nelia Sargent & Scott Neilsen • Sigrid Schmalzer

Shantigar Foundation • Bob Stannard • Jim Thornley

Prof. Seth Tuler (WPI) • van Itallie Foundation

Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance

John Ward • Western Mass Science

for the People • Eesha Williams