

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE,
SIERRA CLUB CALIFORNIA

Resolution: Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free Statement of Principles

Enacted January 24, 2009

Resolution: *CNRCC endorses said "Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free Statement of Principles" and recommends that national Sierra Club do the same. National Sierra Club is requested to recommend the Statement and Roadmap to the Obama Administration for appropriate consideration in coming energy-climate policy decisions.*

Background

For many years Arjun Makhijani, Ph.D., has been a leading figure in the fight against nuclear power. He has created a "Statement of Principles to Achieve a Carbon and Nuclear Free U.S. Energy System by 2050". Arjun founded and runs the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research in Takoma Park, Maryland, which has helped to inform and train many anti-nuclear activists. He has been informally a member of the national Sierra Club Global Warming and Energy Committee, and has attempted to get some attention for this Statement at the national Club level. His "Carbon-Free, Nuclear-Free" thesis concludes that the United States must adopt a more aggressive target for the energy sector -- going eventually to carbon-free -- if we are to get the necessary reduction in both national and global greenhouse gas emissions. He argues that this is technologically and economically feasible without more nuclear power. For full text, see below and <http://www.ieer.org/carbonfree/signon.php>

- The resolution is consistent with Sierra Club's policy of phasing out fossil fuels within this century and reducing human GHG emissions 80% by 2050.
- It poses a viable timeframe for transformation of the US energy system that is also in line with climate protection recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- It is well thought out and is supported by a comprehensive plan.
- It is a healthful, aggressive and realistic alternative to the highly problematic Pickens Plan, the less defined but more radical Gore Plan, and the American Solar Energy Society's 2007 report (which, although not providing a complete roadmap to the 80% reduction goal, was endorsed by the Club's Executive Director).