

Young Nuclear Environmentalists Plan to Take COP26 by Storm

A group of young climate activists are heading for COP26 with a clear message for policymakers - Net Zero Needs Nuclear! The group are part of the Nuclear Institute Young Generation Network and have been working hard for the last 12 months in the lead up to COP26 to educate, inspire and advocate for nuclear energy to have a clear role in Net Zero Policies.

The backbone of their activities has been the international #NetZeroNeedsNuclear campaign launched in February 2021. The campaign aims to promote and raise awareness of nuclear as a low carbon energy source and influence policymakers who are involved in COP26 to take a scientific and technology neutral approach to energy policy and financing.

The team have penned a [scientifically underpinned position paper](#) and are calling for people to 'follow the science and act now!' through their [petition](#) which is close to 5,000 signatures and have a host of attention grabbing plans for COP26 itself including a 3m high inflatable gummy bear and flash mob dance to the tune of their COP26 anthem 'We Need Net Zero' inspired by the classic power ballad 'Holding Out for a Hero' by Bonnie Tyler.

Some successes of the campaign to date include:

- Authoring the [Nuclear for Climate Net Zero Needs Nuclear Position Paper](#) which has been translated to over 15 languages.
- [Declaration of support](#) from over 100 nuclear societies globally for the Position Paper.
- [Coverage](#) of the campaign in several online articles including local news, and speaking on a variety of podcasts and webinars.
- Nearly 5,000 signatures on our [call to action](#).

The YGN is calling on COP26 President, Alok Sharma, or a member of the high-level COP26 team, to make a positive speech at COP26 about the role of nuclear energy in the global journey to net zero. To enable this, the YGN have organised an exciting programme of activities at COP26 including:

- a 3 metre high inflatable gummy bear that will be taken on a tour of COP26 and Glasgow City Centre offering great photo opportunities;
- a Net Zero Flash Mob which will be performed by professional dancers with 50+ nuclear advocates in attendance. The flash mob will be performed to our newly recorded song "We Need Net Zero". You can watch a video we have made for the song [here](#). The flash mob will be professionally filmed;
- a music night featuring nuclear rapper and advocate, Baba Brinkman, on 9th November in collaboration with Generation Atomic;
- an NGO networking event at the Glasgow University Union on 2nd November;
- #NetZeroNeedsNuclear advertising on double deckers in Glasgow and at Edinburgh Haymarket Train Station;
- handing out bananas to COP delegates each morning while wearing banana costumes – another great photo opportunity. The bananas will feature eco-friendly stickers with radiation facts of bananas;
- a gummy bear counting competition with a 3 litre jar filled with gummy bears;
- a pop up quiz about nuclear energy;
- staffing the Nuclear for Climate booth which can be found in the blue zone;
- attending a variety of blue zone side events to raise the flag for nuclear in wider discussions about clean energy and decarbonisation.

In addition, all nuclear advocates at COP will be kitted out with special t-shirts and fleeces with nuclear messaging. You can see a sneak peak of these activities below.



Note for editors:

The Young Generation Network (YGN) is the young members branch of the Nuclear Institute (NI), which is the professional body and learned society for the UK nuclear sector. The YGN consists of approximately 1,250 young professionals and is run by passionate volunteers across the industry. Their aim this year is to ensure young voices are heard in shaping the future of the nuclear sector and driving collaboration between nuclear and renewable technology. In order to do this, the YGN have formed a diverse team of international volunteers and partnered with Nuclear for Climate to coordinate nuclear representation at COP26 and run a series of pre-COP activities.



If you would like any more information about the above activities and would like to cover them in an article, please email us at ygncop26@nuclearinst.com.

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