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New York's Nuclear Momentum Accelerates: From Conversation to Action

State's Advanced Nuclear Summit highlights growing statewide collaboration on nuclear energy, workforce development, and economic opportunity

ROCHESTER, NY — New York's nuclear energy resurgence continues to gain momentum as government leaders, industry representatives, manufacturers, educators, organized labor, and communities come together to advance the state's ambitious nuclear energy goals.

The **2026 Advanced Nuclear NY Summit,** hosted by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of Public Service (DPS), New York Power Authority (NYPA), Department of Labor (DOL), and Empire State Development (ESD) in Rochester on November 17–18, marks another milestone in a year of significant progress toward developing reliable, emission-free electricity.

The gathering follows **Nuclear Symposium 2026**, organized by Nuclear New York and partners during Climate Week NYC in September. That symposium brought together 381 attendees, 57 speakers, and 31 sessions with senior leadership from the Governor's Office, NYSERDA, NYPA, the Public Service Commission (PSC), Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Importantly, representatives from eight upstate communities interested in hosting advanced nuclear facilities participated, bringing local economic development and community perspectives directly into discussions about New York's energy future.

"Not long ago, building another nuclear power plant in New York was difficult to imagine," said **F. Scott Cicora, Co-Executive Director of Nuclear New York**. "Yet today, we have state agencies developing deployment strategies, communities exploring opportunities to host facilities, manufacturers preparing to enter the nuclear supply chain, and educational institutions developing the workforce to make it happen. The momentum is real, and it's accelerating."

Importantly, state investment is turning policy into concrete action. Set in motion by Governor Kathy Hochul, New York's **Nuclear Reliability Backbone** initiative will expand nuclear generating capacity in the state by 5 gigawatts. This includes development of **at least one gigawatt of new nuclear with support of NYPA** and the programmatic build of another **4 gigawatts through a process established by the PSC**.

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In September, NYPA awarded **$10 million for nuclear workforce development**, the first round of a planned $40 million investment to prepare New Yorkers for careers in the growing industry. Then last week, NYPA announced that it has **qualified 10 nuclear energy developers** to potentially partner in advancing nuclear energy in the state. During yesterday's summit in Rochester, NYSERDA and DPS released the **Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development**, the culmination of a year-long effort by state agencies in cooperation with stakeholders.

"This year's Nuclear Summit with the theme 'from plan to power' represents a major milestone with the completion of the Master Plan for Responsible Advanced Nuclear Development, a framework for achieving Governor Hochul's vision for a Nuclear Reliability Backbone," said **NYSERDA President and CEO Doreen Harris. "**Going forward, NYSERDA welcomes engagement with Nuclear New York and all stakeholders to seize this moment in history so that New York can reap the economic benefits of advanced nuclear technology while ensuring future generations can rely on this zero-emissions energy source."

"At NYPA, we're diligently advancing our nuclear efforts, upgrading our hydropower assets, and advancing renewable energy projects to help ensure the lights stay on and that costs remain affordable for New Yorkers," said **NYPA President and CEO Justin E. Driscoll.** "Meeting New York's growing energy needs will require an all-of-the-above approach that leverages the strengths of every emission-free resource available. All the actions we've taken over the past year— investing in workforce development, engaging with communities, expanding our expert nuclear team and qualifying potential development partners—is helping lay the foundation for the responsible deployment of advanced nuclear energy that will help power our state for generations to come."

Beyond electricity generation, the actions taken today position the state for a bright future. Prior to the summit on Tuesday, Nuclear New York toured the Re:Build manufacturing facility in Rochester.

"We have the opportunity to build an entire nuclear energy industrial ecosystem here in New York," said **Jeff Bornheim, Senior Director of Commercial Growth at Re:Build. "**That means engineering and manufacturing modular systems for nuclear plants in New York, at the scale the industry needs, for projects here and in states across the country. That work brings long-term manufacturing jobs with it."

While significant work remains—planning, financing, regulatory approval, and community engagement—the growing coordination among government, industry, labor, academia, and potential host communities represents meaningful progress.

"Conferences and policy discussions are essential, but ultimately, success will be measured by what we accomplish," Cicora concluded. "Our goal is to build reliable, affordable, emission-free nuclear energy in the state while ensuring that New Yorkers benefit from the economic opportunities that doing so creates. **Now is the time to turn momentum into megawatts.**"

Nuclear New York is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to advancing reliable, emission-free energy and environmental conservation through education, research, advocacy, and public engagement.

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