

WHAT A NUCLEAR FACILITY MEANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Indiana Office of Energy Development | Community Benefits Brief

Nuclear energy facilities are economic anchors. Whether a conventional plant or a next-generation small modular reactor (SMR), nuclear facilities deliver sustained, high-impact benefits that last for generations. Communities that host nuclear plants consistently experience stronger tax bases, higher household incomes, and greater economic resilience than comparable communities without them.

BY THE NUMBERS: ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A TYPICAL NUCLEAR FACILITY

JOB	TAX REVENUE	LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT	WAGES
400–700	\$16M+	\$470M	50–65%
permanent direct jobs <i>Up to 3,500 during construction</i>	in state & local taxes annually	in annual goods & services in the local community	higher than average power sector wages

ECONOMIC BENEFITS	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
- Every \$1 spent at a nuclear facility generates \$1.04 in the local economy and \$1.87 nationally - Employment multiplier of 2.8x — every 10 direct jobs create 18 additional jobs in the community - Plants often become the largest taxpayer in their host county, funding schools, roads, and public services - Home values near nuclear plants average \$39,000+ higher than near fossil fuel facilities	- High-skilled, long-term careers in engineering, operations, health physics, maintenance, and security - Average nuclear industry wage of ~\$90,000 per year - Partnerships with community colleges, universities, and training institutions for pipeline development - Coal workforce skills are directly transferable to nuclear operations, enabling a just energy transition
ENERGY RELIABILITY & ENVIRONMENT	COMMUNITY STABILITY
- Nuclear plants operate 24/7 at 90%+ capacity factor — the highest of any energy source - Zero carbon emissions during electricity generation; lowest lifecycle emissions of any power source - Plants are designed to operate 60+ years with potential for license extensions, providing multi-generational energy security	- Nuclear plants support 20–30% of host county employment and up to 35% of total county income - Plants fund community programs, education scholarships, and local infrastructure improvements 89% of residents within 10 miles of a reactor view nuclear energy favorably (NEI survey)

WHY SMALL MODULAR REACTORS (SMRs) ARE ESPECIALLY PROMISING FOR INDIANA

SMRs can be sited on retired coal plant properties, reusing existing transmission and workforce infrastructure. DOE studies show 80% of U.S. coal sites could host an advanced reactor. A single coal-to-nuclear conversion could increase regional economic activity by \$275 million and add 65+ permanent, high-paying jobs — many directly transferable from coal operations. Indiana’s retiring coal fleet represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to anchor next-generation energy, jobs, and tax base in communities that need it most.

Sources: Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), U.S. DOE Office of Nuclear Energy, Nuclear Innovation Alliance, NREL/NICE Future Initiative, World Nuclear Association, Good Energy Collective, U.S. Nuclear Industry Council Southeast Economic Impact Study.

