



Stakeholder Engagement

for Nuclear Power Programmes



IAEA staff member answers questions about nuclear energy during the Long Night of Research, a nation-wide event promoting science and research in 2024, Austria. (Photo: IAEA)

Why stakeholder engagement?

Nuclear energy plays a vital role in achieving energy security, climate goals, and sustainable development. However, the success of nuclear power programmes and related activities requires effective stakeholder engagement.

Engaging stakeholders across the nuclear fuel cycle and throughout the life cycle of nuclear facilities, from uranium mining up to the disposal of radioactive waste, strengthens public confidence, informs decision-making, and fosters collaboration among key organizations responsible for a nuclear power programme. Understanding public concerns and responding with clarity and consistency are essential to building trust and fostering meaningful dialogue.

To support Member States in their stakeholder engagement efforts, the IAEA provides a comprehensive set of services, including:

- Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement School;
- Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Service;

- Technical meetings, workshops, and training courses;
- Webinars;
- The Nuclear Communicator's Toolbox;
- Guidance publications.

Stakeholder engagement is also one of the 19 nuclear infrastructure issues included in the Milestones Approach, a phased comprehensive method to assist countries that are considering or planning their first nuclear power plant.



Participants of the IAEA Interregional Training Course on Nuclear Communication and Public Information Centres tour the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation Visitor Centre in 2024, South Africa. (Photo: Necsa)



Interactive session during the IAEA Interregional Training Course on Effective Stakeholder Engagement for New Nuclear Power Programmes in 2023, Russian Federation. (Photo: IAEA)

Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement School

The Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement School is a five-day training course designed to enhance participants' understanding of stakeholder engagement as a core element of a successful nuclear power programme. Through a mix of theoretical and practical learning, the school provides the knowledge and tools necessary to design and implement effective stakeholder engagement strategies across various nuclear activities, including uranium mining, radioactive waste management, and facility decommissioning. The school is intended for executives, managers, and professionals from government agencies, regulatory bodies, technical support organizations, operating entities, and the broader nuclear industry involved in stakeholder engagement.

The first Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement School was held from 25 to 29 November 2024 in Trieste, Italy, jointly organized by the IAEA and the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics. Other editions are hosted by Member States.



Participants of the IAEA-ICTP Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement School in 2024, Italy. (Photo: IAEA)



IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi addresses the participants of the IAEA Workshop on Reimagining Nuclear Energy in 2023, Austria. (Photo: IAEA)

Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Service

Stakeholder Engagement Advisory Service (SEAS) provides expert assessments and advice to help Member States enhance stakeholder engagement within their nuclear power programmes. SEAS objectives are:

- Providing expert guidance to improve stakeholder engagement strategies and activities;
- Evaluating national stakeholder engagement efforts and identifying areas for enhancement;
- Facilitating the exchange of international good practices and experiences.

A SEAS mission assesses and provides tailored recommendations for a Member State's stakeholder engagement strategy, covering areas such as:

- Stakeholder mapping and prioritization;
- Establishing national stakeholder coordination mechanisms;
- Public information centers and community engagement;

- Social media strategy and media relations;
- Capacity-building for outreach and message development.

Each SEAS mission is customized to meet the specific needs of the Member State.



Participants of the IAEA Workshop on Stakeholder Involvement and Nuclear Power Communications included representatives of the local community in 2024, Kenya. (Photo: Nuclear Power and Energy Agency)



A side event on sharing experience of communities hosting nuclear facilities during the 68th IAEA General Conference in 2024, Austria. (Photo: IAEA)

Engaging nuclear host communities

As hosts of nuclear facilities – or potential hosts – local stakeholders play a central role in nuclear programmes. Their interests, concerns, and support are fundamental to the success and sustainability of nuclear energy projects. Recognizing this, the IAEA provides guidance and a unique platform for dialogue among representatives of nuclear host communities.

In 2023, the IAEA brought together mayors and decision-makers from over 50 countries to discuss challenges and success stories in hosting nuclear facilities. This meeting led to the establishment of the Global Partnership of Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities, uniting the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC), the Group of European Municipalities with Nuclear Facilities (GMF Europe) and the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) from the United States, while efforts are ongoing to expand to include host communities from other countries.

By placing local communities and their leaders at the center of the conversation, the IAEA reinforces the idea that success of nuclear projects relies not only on technology and regulations, but on inclusive, transparent, and trust-based engagement.



Representatives of the Global Partnership of Nuclear Communities at the IAEA Nuclear Energy Summit in 2024, Belgium. (Photo: IAEA)



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Participants of the Workshop on Stakeholder Engagement for a Nuclear Power Programme for Phase 3 on a visit to Mishkat Interactive Centre in 2025, Saudi Arabia. (Photo: IAEA)

Other services

IAEA's Nuclear Communicator's Toolbox was designed to help scientists, engineers, and communication professionals effectively convey nuclear technology's benefits, risks, and applications in medicine, industry, and energy. It features communication principles, practical methods, proven tools, and a resource center for reliable information.

The IAEA webinar series aims to strengthen the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, manage and adapt effective stakeholder involvement programmes for nuclear power. Webinars cover a variety of topics, from the basics of stakeholder engagement to conducting public surveys to communicating about radioactive waste. The webinar series is available online.

The IAEA publications provide theoretical and practical guidance on the development and implementation of stakeholder engagement activities across the nuclear fuel cycle and throughout the life cycle of nuclear

facilities. They are intended to assist senior management and experts responsible for stakeholder engagement and public communication at the key organizations involved in a nuclear project or facility, including government, the regulatory body and the licensee.



Participant of the IAEA Expert Mission on Nuclear Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Strategy for Uganda taking a virtual tour of nuclear power plants in 2025, Uganda. (Photo: IAEA)



Department of Nuclear Energy
International Atomic Energy Agency

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stakeholder engagement, please visit:

