

## **The Intersection—Ending Nukes and a Green New Deal are Indispensably Intertwined**

**How Will “Warheads to Windmills” Affect Our Lives, the World Economy, and Future Generations?**

[The Coalition for Peace Action](#) actively supports the Treaty on Abolition of Nuclear Weapons of 2017 (“Nuclear Ban Treaty”). We also support building a Green Energy economy, to save the planet from climate catastrophe, and, we would argue, from many wars for oil, and for resources that will otherwise happen in the decades to come. Thus, we have a “No Wars, No Warming” campaign, which we began in 2015. See, for example, our participation in the March for Green Energy in Philadelphia, Princeton, and many other cities that year.

Today, with the rise of authoritarian Nationalism in several parts of the world and attempts to undermine even the limited progress we made with the 2015 Paris Climate Accords, we feel it’s time to get even more serious about No Wars, No Warming. We support not just the idea of a Green New Deal, but also a remarkable blueprint coming out of ICAN, the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons, and its US affiliate and a partner of ours, NuclearBan.US.



**ican**  
international campaign to  
abolish nuclear weapons

**NOBEL  
PEACE  
PRIZE  
2017**

The **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)** is a coalition of non-governmental organizations in one hundred countries promoting adherence to and implementation of the United Nations nuclear weapon ban treaty. This landmark global agreement was adopted in New York on 7 July 2017.

**ICAN has Partners in 103 countries.** The Coalition for Peace Action, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, is proud to be one of the US partners with ICAN. To join our efforts, or learn of our next meetings and events, you can go to [www.peacecoalition.org](http://www.peacecoalition.org), or contact [aguilarcfpa1@gmail.com](mailto:aguilarcfpa1@gmail.com), or [cfpa@peacecoalition.org](mailto:cfpa@peacecoalition.org) . Thanks!





A recent report released by [NuclearBan.US](http://NuclearBan.US), "[Warheads to Windmills: How to Pay for a Green New Deal](#)," shows how eliminating nuclear weapons will play a crucial part in preventing the worst of the climate crisis. The report is focused on the US in particular, but it offers a blueprint for all nine of the nuclear nations.

### **Warheads to Windmills: 3 ways ending nukes will help us solve the climate emergency**

July 11, 2019

#### **How are nuclear weapons and climate change related?**

Nuclear weapons and climate change are both existential threats to the future of life on earth. Both can impact billions of people with catastrophic weather disruption, crop failure, famine, and mass migration. Both can result in the end of civilization and the extinction of humanity.

Nuclear weapons are as dangerous as ever – and they are also a climate issue. Scientists have calculated how much soot could be drawn into the upper atmosphere if these weapons were detonated on large cities like Moscow, New York, Beijing or London. They found that as much as 150 million tons of soot could be blasted into the upper [atmosphere](#). This could lower global temperatures by as much as 7 degrees C (or 12 degrees F) for an extended period of time, plunging major food-producing regions of the world to below-freezing temperatures for several summers in a row and causing widespread [famine](#). Even a "limited" nuclear war could lower global temperatures enough to starve more than 2 billion [people](#).

Unfortunately, the two potential climate catastrophes do not cancel each other out. That is, a little bit of nuclear winter is not the antidote for a little too much carbon



Report launch in Congress on June 20th, with the endorsement of the Sierra Club and support of Representatives Jim McGovern and Barbara Lee

dioxide in the atmosphere. But we can use one to solve the other, if we abolish nuclear weapons and shift the funding, brainpower, and infrastructure to green technologies. And this can be done, by combining two profound solutions: the [Nuclear Ban Treaty](#) & a Green New Deal — swiftly, before it's too late. Warheads to Windmills offers a road map to get there.

### How would scrapping nuclear weapons help achieve a Green New Deal?

#### #1 BY MAKING FEDERAL FUNDING AVAILABLE

Right now, a staggering amount of US federal funding is going into the production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons. This is not a capital investment in things that will bring a return of income at a later date — this money is turned into weapons that can quickly lead to an end-of-the-world scenario. These funds need to be plowed back into the economy to create millions of jobs in sustainable technologies.

How much money? It's notoriously difficult to glean exact figures from government documents, but according to the report, in 2019, the best estimate is that the US alone is spending \$54.8 billion per year. As it happens, that amount of federal funding is about what an effective Green New Deal would require.

#### #2 BY REDIRECTING TALENT

We need the best and brightest experts currently employed building nuclear weapons of mass extinction to tackle the climate crisis. To implement a Green New Deal, we need scientific, technical, engineering, and mathematical (STEM) expertise to solve the remaining challenges of sustainable energy generation, storage, and transport, and use. However, in 2016, in the US, 5 out of 10 STEM graduates went to work with companies that design, build and maintain [nuclear weapons](#).

We need these people to help solve the problems of climate change. Thus, scrapping nuclear weapons would mean the STEM talent currently wasted on obsolete and unthinkably dangerous nuclear weapons could be put towards building a sustainable and green future.

#### #3 BY FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The United States, China, Russia and India account for more than half of the world's total carbon emissions between them. Together with the other five nuclear-armed nations and their nuclear allies, these countries collectively emit nearly three quarters of all the world's greenhouse gases.

The climate crisis requires unprecedented cooperation among all nations. But countries are busy spending trillions of dollars on arms races and on "modernizing" their nuclear stockpiles and targeting each other instead of working together to solve the climate crisis. A significant first step toward the necessary cooperation would be to stop threatening each other with nuclear annihilation.

The nuclear countries will all need the money, skills and other resources going into their nuclear weapons programs in order to adequately address the climate crisis in their respective countries. We need to improve international cooperation and cultivate the mutual goodwill of the major carbon emitters and nuclear weapons states to dismantle their stockpiles and move toward reducing their carbon emissions.

### How would the US joining the TPNW impact a Green New Deal?

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Nuclear Ban Treaty) outlaws everything to do with nuclear weapons. It provides a pathway for multilateral negotiations toward global disarmament — not unilateral disarmament that would leave any country feeling more vulnerable than it already is. While the United States and the other nuclear-armed nations did not participate in the treaty negotiations and so far refuse to sign it, sooner or later, pressure from the rest of the world (and from within those countries) will force each country to address this lingering relic of the Cold War and eliminate its nuclear weapons. The need for global climate action makes this even more urgent.

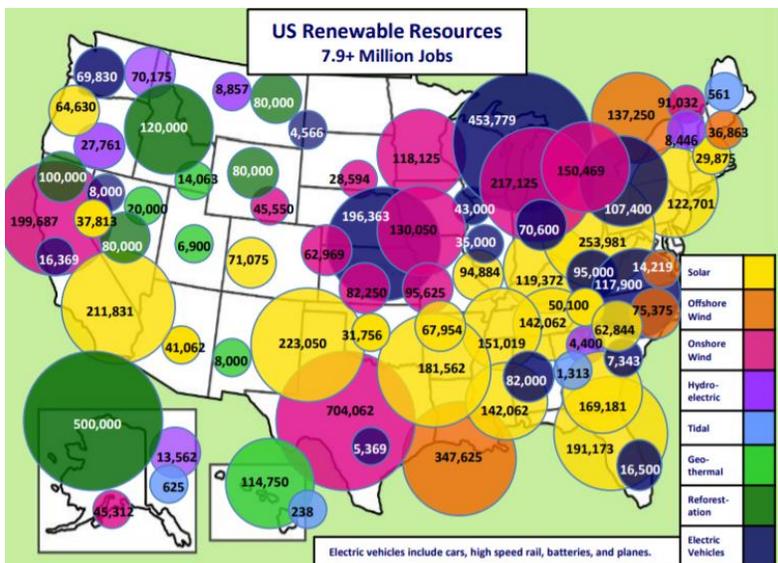
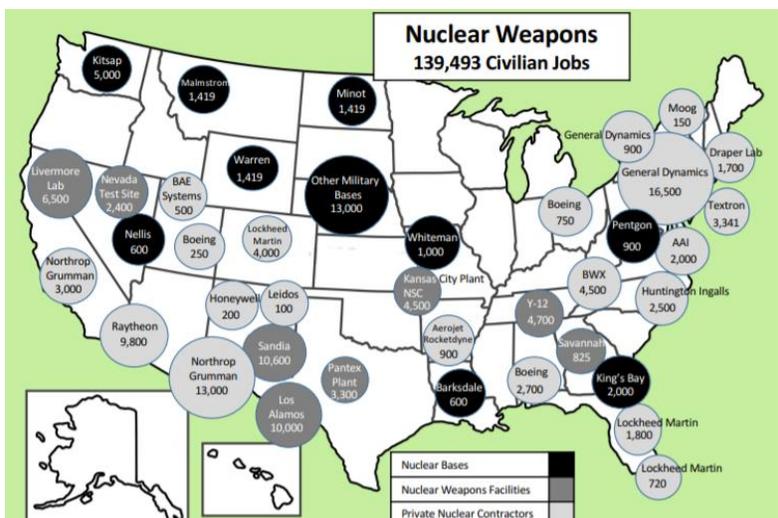
The impact of the Nuclear Ban Treaty will be felt most immediately by the two dozen or so private companies that build, maintain and invest in nuclear weapons for the nuclear-armed states, as well as the financial institutions that support them. The Treaty is the beginning of the end of nuclear weapons, and those who currently profit from them will need to convert to more socially acceptable products. The age of fossil fuels is also ending, so companies, investors, and governments must shift to sustainable products to help tackle the climate emergency.

**And what about jobs?**

A successful Green New Deal would create millions of good jobs in construction, forestry, operations, production, maintenance, research, engineering, design, and other fields.

The nuclear weapons industry currently employs a wide variety of highly skilled people. The good news is that these skills can be fairly easily transferred to green energy innovations. For instance, a [2014 study](#) in the UK mapped 170,000 people employed in making nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, and then mapped the 300,000 or more jobs that would be needed to build and maintain enough offshore wind farms and marine energy projects to put the country on the path to net-zero carbon emissions. The study found that the necessary skills are similar, and that these workers could convert from one industry to the other without even having to move house!

These two maps show very roughly where and how many jobs there are currently in the nuclear weapons industry, along with where and how many jobs there could be by implementing a Green New Deal. Take a look:



# **WE HAVE A TREATY.**

## **CLICK HERE FOR 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP ACHIEVE ITS GOALS**

(Click on picture) - This page summarizes government positions on the treaty:



(Click on picture) - ICAN receives 2017 Nobel Peace Prize



### The Facts



[Which countries have nuclear weapons and how many?→](#)



[What are their effects on health and the environment?→](#)



[Who supports a global ban on nuclear weapons?→](#)



[What are the most significant events of the nuclear age?→](#)



“Let’s act up! Ban nuclear weapons completely and unconditionally.” - Ai Weiwei, Artist and activist



“Governments say a nuclear weapons ban is unlikely. Don’t believe it. They said the same about a mine ban treaty.” - Jody Williams, Nobel laureate



“If Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr were alive today, they would be part of ICAN.” - Martin Sheen, Actor and activist



“With your support, we can take ICAN its full distance – all the way to zero nuclear weapons.” - Desmond Tutu, Nobel laureate



“I salute ICAN for working with such commitment and creativity.” - Ban Ki-moon, Former UN chief



“Because I cannot tolerate these appalling weapons, I whole-heartedly support ICAN.” - Herbie Hancock, Jazz musician



“We *can* do it together. With your help, our voice will be made still stronger. Imagine peace.” - Yoko Ono, Artist



“I can imagine a world without nuclear weapons, and I support ICAN.” - Dalai Lama, Nobel laureate