

CRITICAL MASS ENERGY PROJECT

Since its founding in 1974, Public Citizen's **CRITICAL MASS ENERGY PROJECT** has been a powerful voice in the movement to decrease reliance on nuclear and fossil fuels and to promote safe, affordable, and environmentally sound energy alternatives. Our name is taken from founder Ralph Nader's observation that "a critical mass of people can make the critical difference" in winning a sustainable energy future.

Critical Mass prepares and disseminates reports, lobbies Congress, and acts as a watchdog of key federal and state energy regulatory agencies. In addition, **Critical Mass** works closely with other citizens' groups and individuals across the country, empowering them to participate in important decisions affecting their health, safety, and standard of living.

Critical Mass remains a forceful critic of the failed atomic power industry, which promised energy "too cheap to meter" and has instead delivered high cost, accidents, and mounting radioactive waste. **Critical Mass** also supports decreasing U.S. dependence on coal and oil and building a sustainable energy future by emphasizing efficient energy use and cleaner, safer, renewable technologies like solar and wind power. Among its many achievements, **Critical Mass** has:

1986 -- Demonstrated the economic feasibility of phasing out nuclear power plants in the U.S., following the Chernobyl accident.

1988 -- Documented the superior ability of efficiency and renewables to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that scientists predict will cause global warming.

1990-91 -- Organized a plan for "A Sustainable Energy Future," endorsed by 175 organizations nationwide, as an alternative to the Bush Administration's business-as-usual energy policies.

1990-92 -- Blocked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's attempt to deregulate large volumes of nuclear wastes by classifying them as "Below Regulatory Concern."

1993 -- Released secret documents revealing that America's nuclear reactors have more safety problems than the NRC admits in a report entitled *Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil: What the NRC Won't Tell You About America's Nuclear Reactors*.

1994 -- Analysed and compared the environmental impacts every automobile and light truck model sold in the United States.

1994 -- Persuaded Congress to terminate the Advanced Liquid Metal Reactor, a dangerous and wasteful breeder reactor program.

1995 -- Released *The Renewable Energy Sourcebook: A Primer for Action (Section I)*, a comprehensive state-by-state study of renewable energy use, resource potential, policies, programs, and utility activities.

1995 -- Released *A Roll of the Dice: NRC's Efforts to Renew Nuclear Reactor Licenses*, explaining the safety and financial risks created by the NRC's new rule allowing license extensions for nuclear reactors.

1995 -- Persuaded Congress to terminate funding for the Gas Turbine Modular Helium Reactor, an expensive and dangerous reactor design. Killing the GT-MHR will save \$2.6 billion in coming years.

For more information on the work of Critical Mass, or to find out more about how you can get involved in ensuring a sustainable energy future, contact:

Bill Magavern, Director Critical Mass Energy Project 202/546-4996 E-mail: cmep@essential.org