Advocating for Safe, Renewable Energy

Vashon-Maury Community Council meeting

April 16, 2026

Advocating for Safe, Renewable Energy - Why this motion is important

- **Our elected officials supported using your tax dollars to support an industry that has a long history of failure due to cost over-runs, catastrophic physical plant failures, increased cancer risks and lower life expectancies.**

- **Other legislation would shift this industry's cost risk to us, even requiring us to pay for failed energy systems.**

- **Our taxes <u>should</u> support safe, effective, reliable energy systems that are aligned with our values.**

Our Values → Our Energy Systems

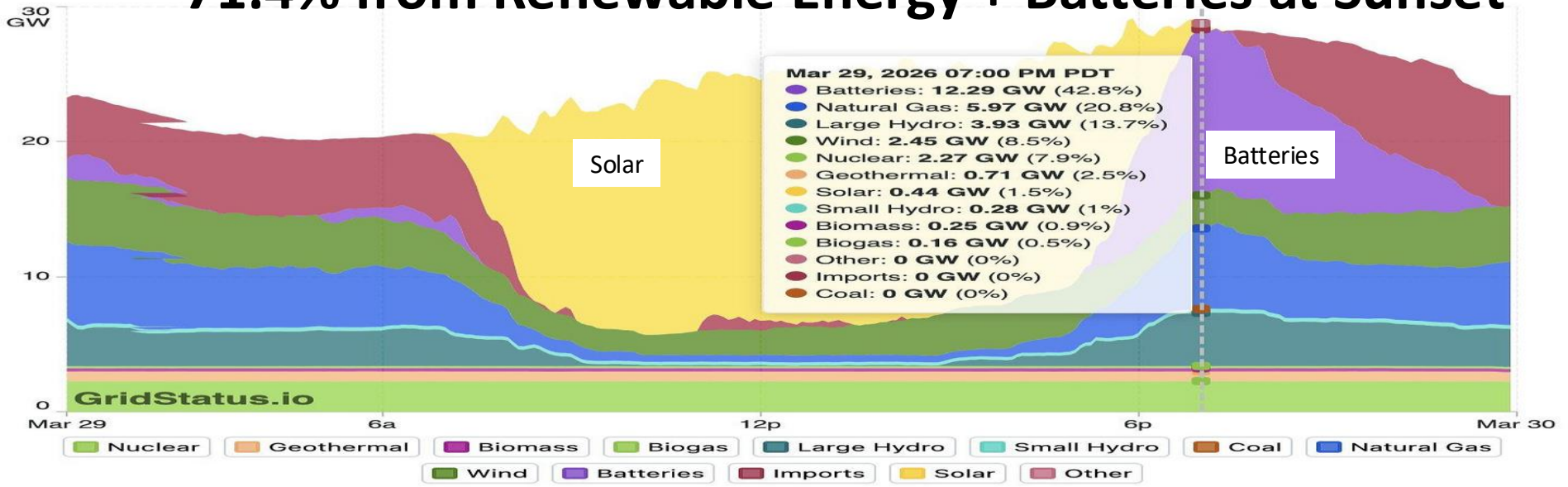
Our Values	Our Energy Systems
• Clean air and water	• Non-polluting
• Reliable	• Passive Energy Collector
• Resilient	• Distributed *
• Sustainable	• Renewable
• Equitable	• Energy Democracy
• Affordable	• Lowest Reasonable Cost
• Healthy for plants, animals & people	• Non-toxic

* Geographically / Ownership

The promise of today's renewable energy

CA Electric Grid – 3/29/2026

- **71.4% from Renewable Energy + Batteries at Sunset**



Meanwhile:

Australia will soon offer 3 hours of free power per day:

> **How much power can I consume for free?**
>
> Customers will be able to access up to 24 kWh of free electricity during the daily window, which is about what a five-person household would consume in a day, according to Ms Savage.

Renewable Energy Sufficiency

“China is building about 1,000 MW of solar PER DAY, 1,000 MW of wind PER WEEK, and 1,000 MW of batteries PER WEEK.

If the US matched China for ONE YEAR, we could meet all the needs of the forecast data centers, AND retire a quarter of the fossil energy in the country.

Four years and we'd have all of the fossil energy retired.

This is not a technological problem, and it is not an economic problem. It is an institutional inertia problem and a political problem.”

Jim Lazar - Institute for Energy Democracy Fellow

A LOT More our Legislature Can Do…

- **Community solar – subscriptions / on-bill credits**
- **Support plug-in solar for renters**
- **Add > 100KW solar to one meter – VCA limitation**
- **Expand net metering limit (which PSE has already hit)**
- **Grid expansion to support renewable energy proposals**
- **Longer duration energy storage systems (Batteries)**
- **Cost – AU solar 1/3 US cost, defer prop tax assessments**
- **Incent climate friendly energy like geothermal, tidal, etc**

Instead, we get these three bills

HB1210 – Passed into law

$M's in property tax breaks for nuclear fuel projects, while the administration is putting nuclear workers at greater risk by weakening health and safety protections.

HB2103 /SB 6004 – Failed

Despite a history of cancellations, shift the cost of failed nuclear projects to ratepayers whether or not a project produces any electricity.

HB2090/SB5821 – Failed

Integrate "advanced" nuclear in the state energy strategy - the Department of Commerce to develop and adopt a nuclear power strategic framework by December 2026.

A LOT to not like about “advanced” Nuclear

- **2017 & 2023 – Severe $$ over-runs stopped development**
- **At least 5 times more expensive than wind or solar**
- **Gov’t rollback of safety procedures / Toxic waste**
- **HALEU fuel / Weapons grade / Widely distributed**
- **Opposed by indigenous tribes**

High-assay low-enriched uranium fuel

- **"Two projects to manufacture HALEU … proposed for eastern WA"**
- **"HALEU … is preferred for many new reactor designs"**
- **"Union of Concerned Scientists warns of the higher risk of nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism"**
- **"World Nuclear Ass'n recommends strict security measures … during the manufacture, transport, use, and disposal of HALEU"**
- **"Trump Administration, safety and security directives for nuclear facilities have been slashed and oversight minimized"**

Excerpts from paper by Dr Kathleen Saul, 3/19/2026 – see notes

- **"There are even suggestions that HALEU … could be used directly in a nuclear explosive device."**

Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

“advanced” Nuclear is Opposed by…

- **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**
- **Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation**

<u>Issues with nuclear</u>:

- **Lack of clean-up of existing, leaking nuclear waste pose health risks to the Tribes**
- **Concerns for future generations currently outweigh any benefits from emerging nuclear technology**
- **Reactors would be on ceded tribal lands and harm Treaty protected cultural resources**
- **Ability to collect traditional foods as guaranteed by treaty are threatened**

The Motion

Vashon-Maury islanders want safe, affordable, timely, non-emitting, reliable and sustainable energy.

The permitting / build time delays, affordability failures and the health risks from physical plant failures and dangerous radioactive waste leave nuclear energy systems failing to deliver on all but the "non-emitting" of those aspirations.

The preferred safe, affordable, timely, non-emitting, reliable, and sustainable energy generation systems are the same renewable energy systems available and proven today – like wind, solar and geothermal energy.

Therefore, the Vashon-Maury Community Council, through this motion passed by a majority of Councilmembers assembled, calls upon our King County Council, our elected state and federal legislators and our Governor to reject any and all tax preferences, subsidies, policies and legislation which expand the nuclear energy industry in Washington State.

Summary

- **Renewable Energy has benefits**
  - **Nuclear energy has baggage**
- **<u>Tell our legislators</u>:**
  - **We strongly prefer that our tax dollars support safe, renewable energy systems**

Tell Legislators We Want Renewable Energy

Scan the QR code to see the Take Action Network action to contact your legislators about safe, renewable energy!

Open the action, tell TAN you are in the 34th legislative district (Vashon).

Many Renewable Energy Technologies

Energy Generation:

- **Offshore wind / Winter-peaking Montana wind**
- **Repower existing thermal plants with electrofuels**
- **Advanced geothermal - a truly dispatchable renewable resource deployable anywhere**

Energy Storage:

- **Home / EV batteries**
- **Pumped hydro**
- **Thermal storage**

Energy Efficiency:

- **Reconductor existing transmission lines**

Environment Impact Comparison

Carbon Emissions: Both produce very low greenhouse gases over their lifecycles.

Waste Management: Nuclear produces small amounts of high-level radioactive waste that requires specialized, long-term storage for thousands of years. Renewables produce high-volume waste, from retiring materials like turbine blades and panels, but not radioactive.

Land Use: Nuclear has the smallest footprint per megawatt of energy generated. Solar needs 63 times more land area for solar* compared to nuclear plants for similar output.

Water Usage: Nuclear reactors require huge amounts of water for cooling, which can impact local ecosystems and aquatic life.

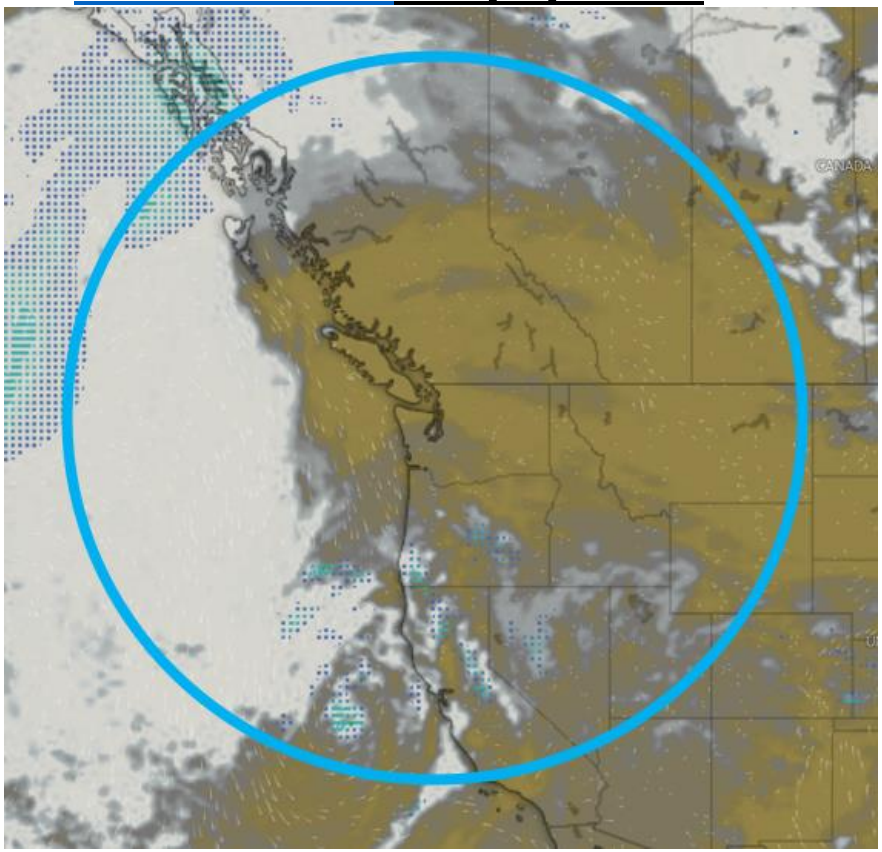
Land Use and Ecosystems: Mining uranium for nuclear fuel can contaminate waterways. Large-scale solar and wind farms can cause habitat loss* and fragmentation for wildlife.

*Roughly 34% of U.S. electricity demand could be met by rooftop solar alone.

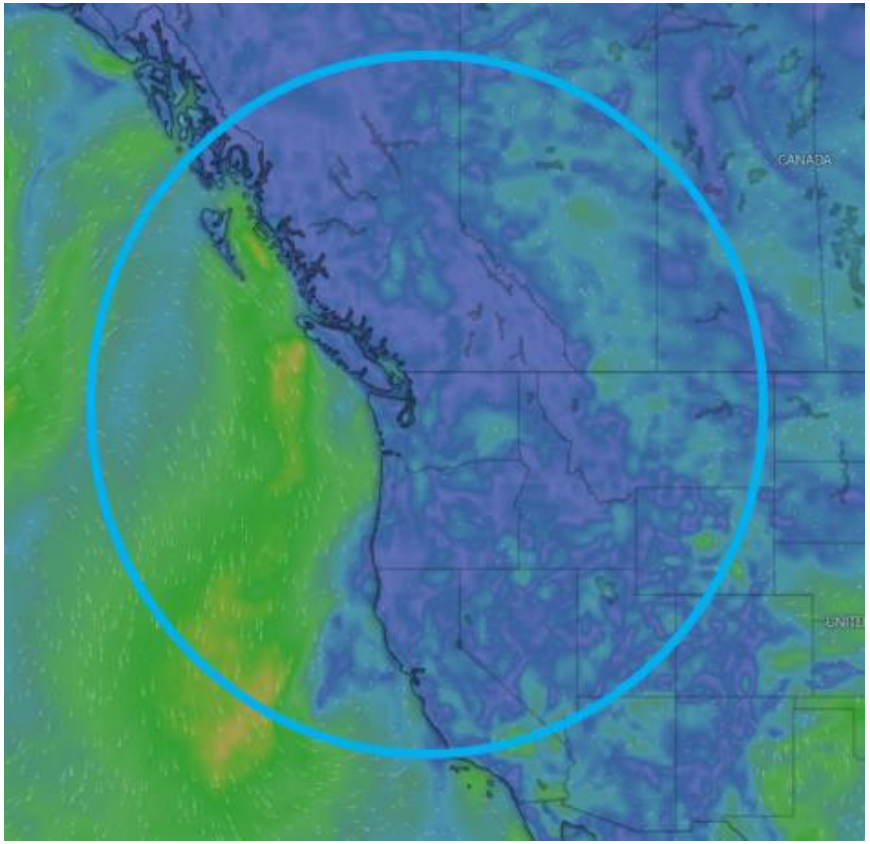
Wind Doesn't Blow / Sun Doesn't Shine

- **Bonneville sells hydro power to LA – 963 miles away**
- **PSE coal power came from Colstrip MT – 822 miles away**

Cloud Cover – 4/8/2026



Surface Winds 4/8/2026

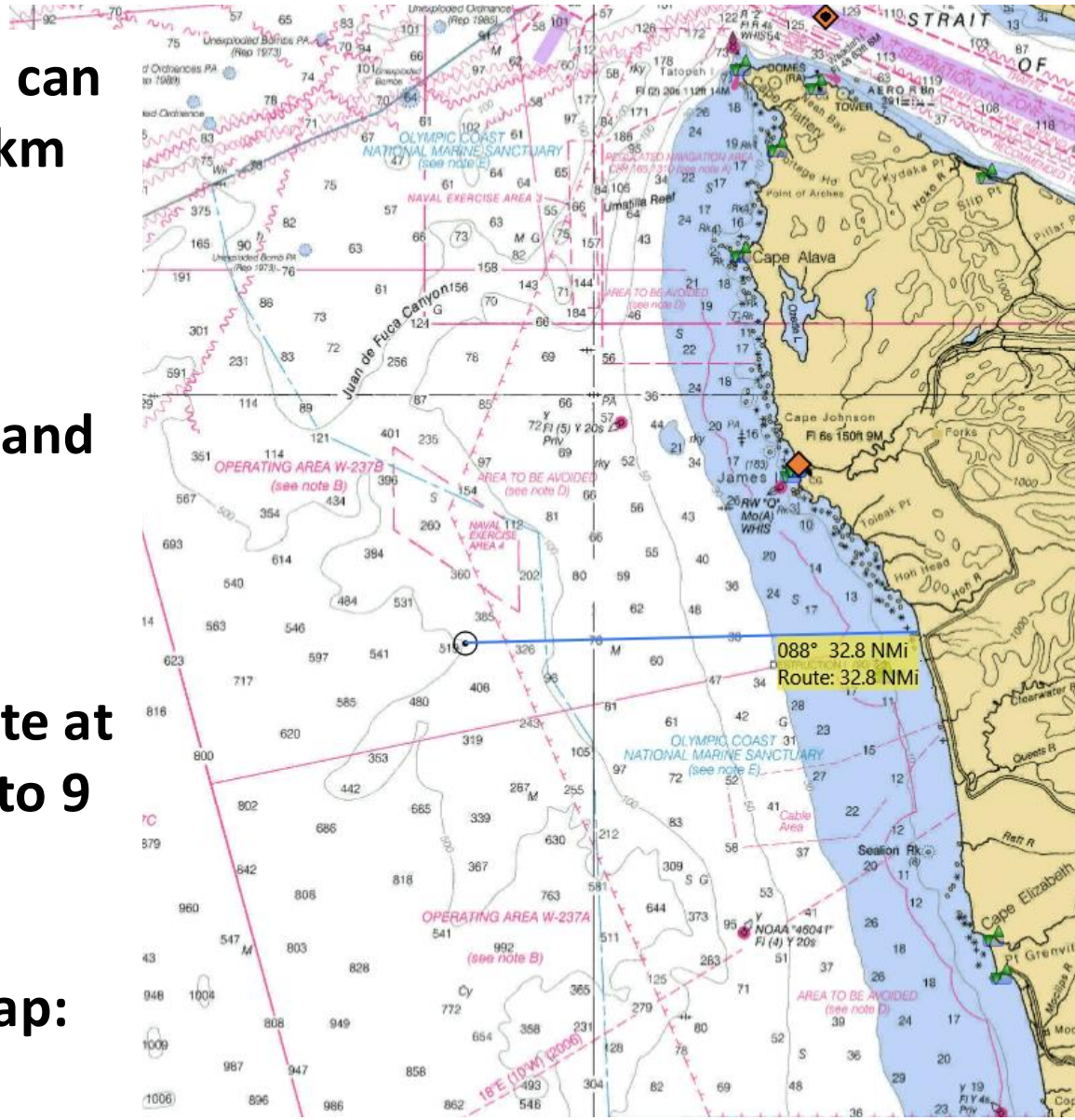


Green = 15 knots wind speed

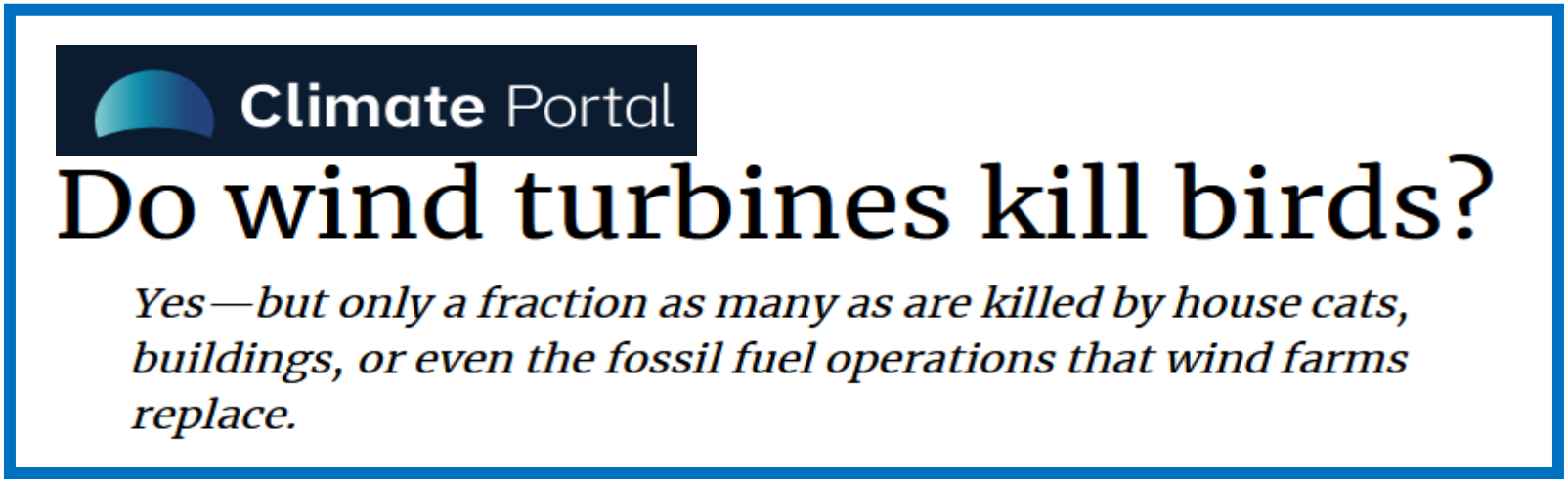
8 knots will turn a wind turbines

Wind Doesn't Blow / Sun Doesn't Shine

- **Floating wind turbines … can operate in water up to 1km (550 fathoms) deep.**
- **The 500 fathom depth contour lies between 20 and 55 nautical miles off the Washington coast.**
- **Wind turbines can operate at wind speeds as low as 7 to 9 mph (about 8 kts).**
- **Current wind forecast map: [HERE]**

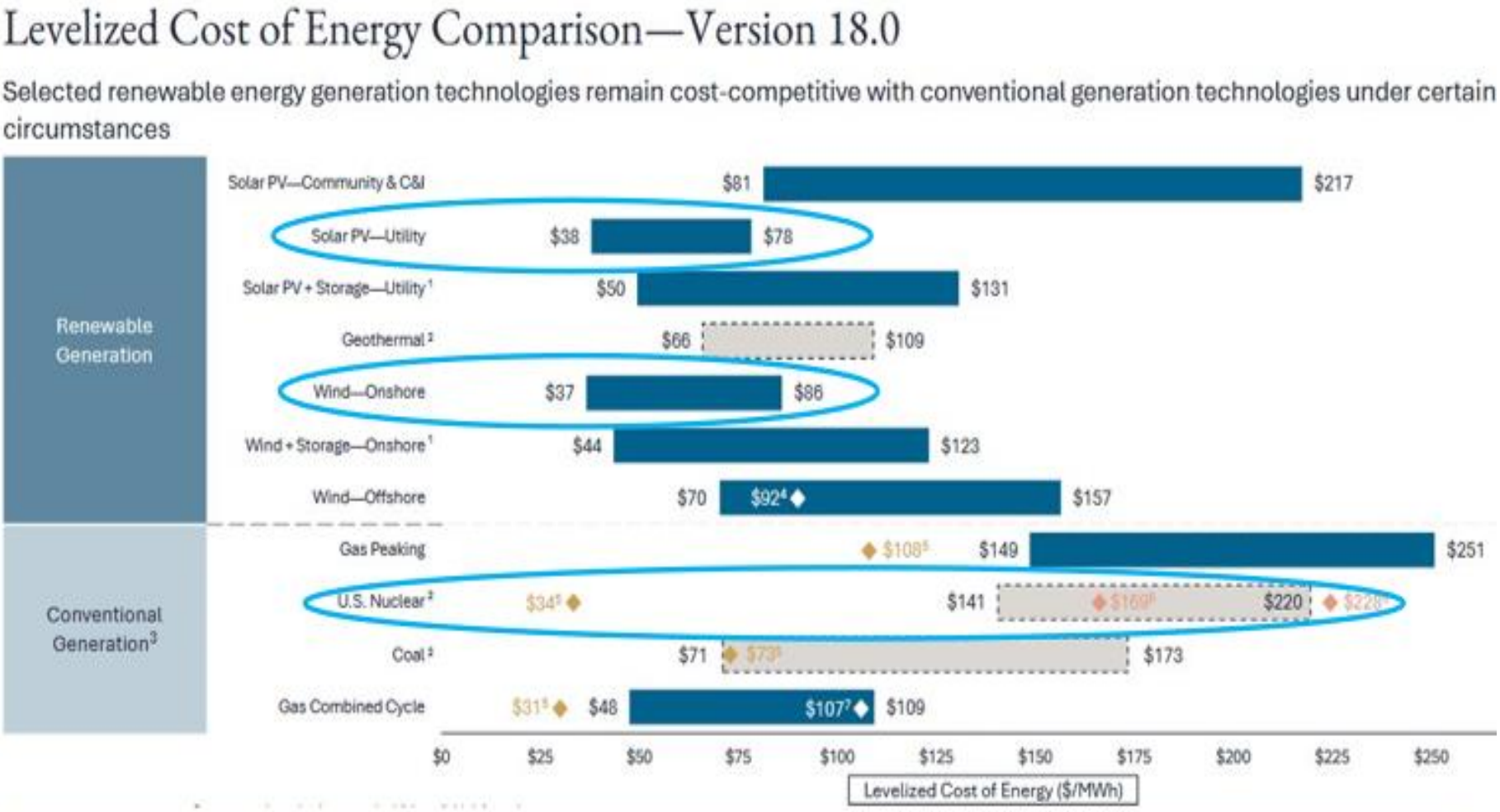


What About Bird Deaths?



- **From the MIT Climate Portal, deaths / year from:**
  - **Windmills: 0.01%**
  - **Building collisions: 19.81%**
  - **Housecats: 80.18%**
- **Audubon supports responsibly-sited windmills**

Levelized Cost of Energy



US Nuclear lowest cost ($141) is four times the lowest cost of Onshore Wind and Utility Scale Solar Photovoltaic (PV) ($38)

US Nuclear highest cost ($220) is about three times the highest cost of Onshore Wind and Utility Scale Solar PV (~$80)