The year 2015 is key for global action on climate change. World leaders are expected to reach a new international agreement to address this pressing challenge at the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP21 in Paris at the end of the year.

Westinghouse strives to provide positive contributions in building a sustainable and low-carbon future with innovative technology and forward-thinking practices.

At Westinghouse Electric Company, we:

**ACKNOWLEDGE** the conclusion of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) latest report that “human influence on the climate system is clear, and recent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases are the highest in history” and that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, many of the observed changes are unprecedented over decades to millennia.”

**RECOGNISE** that the human population is increasing, with more than 10 billion people expected to live on our planet by 2050. Consequently the demand for energy is expected to double by then. Translated into policy action, this means that policies nurturing low-carbon and economically efficient sources of electricity need to be adopted.

**ACCEPT** the objective put forth by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to limit global warming to 2°C by 2050, requiring up to 80 percent of electricity demand to be met by low-carbon energy sources.

**BUILDING ON STRENGTHS**

Westinghouse is hopeful that COP21 will result in a robust international agreement that will guide us toward a low-carbon society.

Building on the strengths of existing and new low-carbon energy technologies, we address the common challenge of dangerous and irreversible climate change.

We need to build new low-carbon energy production facilities to replace outdated, unabated fossil fuel generation, while also maximizing our existing low-carbon assets. With regard to this, the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its [World Energy Outlook Special Report Energy and Climate Change](https://www.iea.org/reports/world-energy-outlook-special-report-energy-and-climate-change-2018) estimated earlier this year that a low-carbon, green future requires a stronger focus on nuclear and renewable energy sources, making a shift from gas and fossil fuel-nurturing policies. According to the investigation, gas has indeed helped curb CO₂ emissions when acting as a substitute for fossil fuels, but it is adding to emissions when acting as a substitute for nuclear and renewables.
THE POWER OF NUCLEAR

Nuclear is a natural component of the strategy to combat climate change. Westinghouse believes that nuclear energy deserves more recognition for the contribution it makes in today’s and tomorrow’s low-carbon energy system. A decisive move toward the necessary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can no longer ignore an energy source that:

- Has prevented the release of more than 56 gigatones (Gt) of equivalent carbon dioxide (CO$_{2eq}$) since 1971 (according to the International Energy Agency’s World Energy Report 2014);
- Has a total lifecycle carbon emissions estimated at 12 g CO$_{2eq}$/kWh of energy produced;
- Emits almost 70 times less CO$_{2eq}$ than coal (820 g CO$_{2eq}$), 40 times less than gas (490 g CO$_{2eq}$), three times less than photovoltaic (41 g CO$_{2eq}$), and the same amount as wind power (12 g CO$_{2eq}$); and
- Is essentially available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

Furthermore, the IPCC Assessment Report 5 clearly recognizes that “[n]uclear energy is a mature low-GHG emission source of baseload power, but its share of global electricity generation has been declining” due to a number of risks and barriers. Some of the crucial barriers to generating low-carbon electricity from nuclear, according to the report, are financial and regulatory risks. With respect to this, we believe that fair and evidence-based public policy-making should take place in order to tackle one of the biggest challenges our era is facing.

MOVING FORWARD AT COP21

Westinghouse is committed to fighting climate change. We believe this can be done through the development and maintenance of secure and low-carbon energy production that includes nuclear generation. Such a commitment, nevertheless, requires clear policies that will allow for a stable and supportive regulatory framework and non-discriminatory access to finance and funding mechanisms.

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