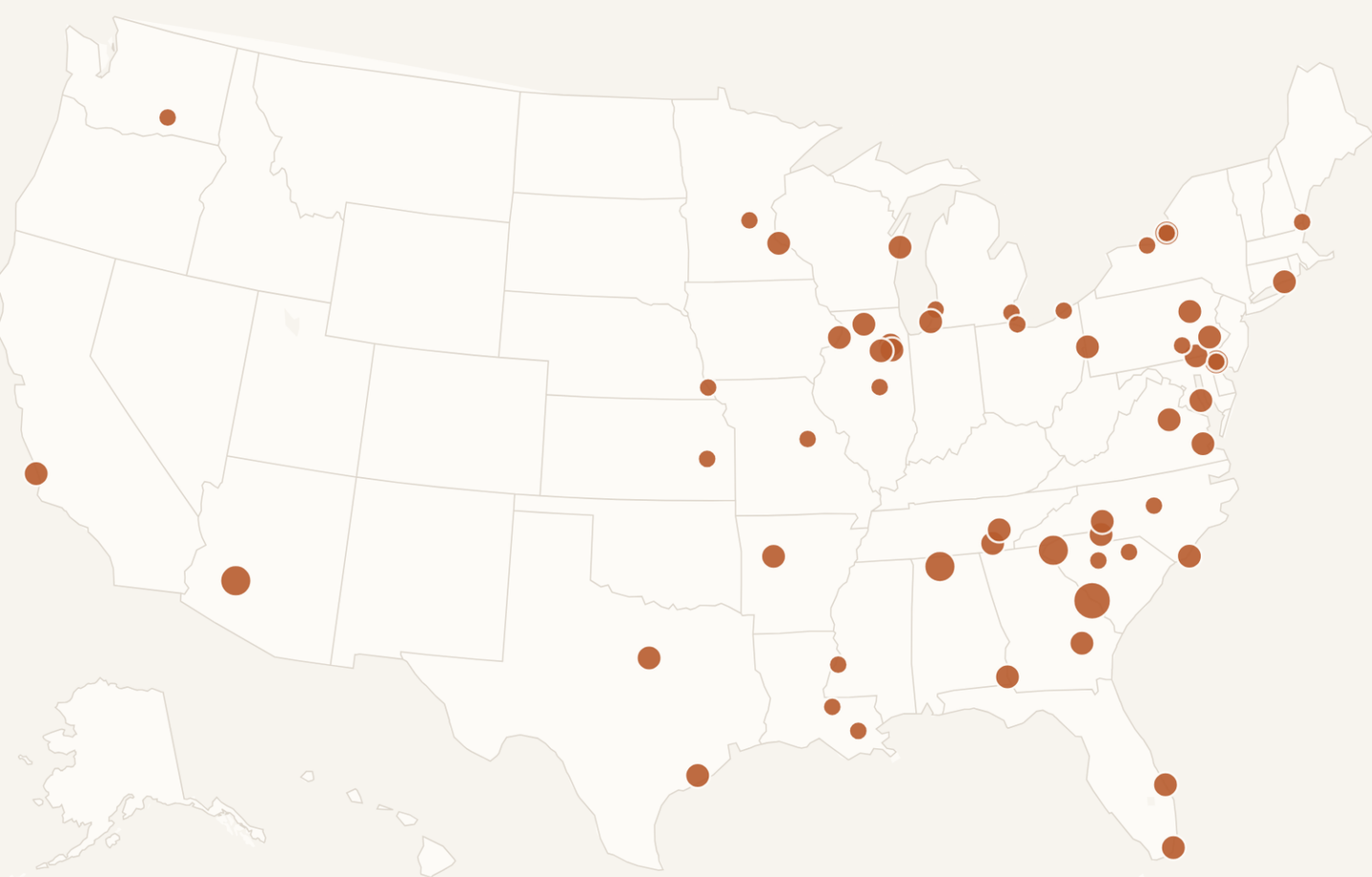




Opportunity Data



Good Energy Collective

A COLLABORATION · POLICY BRIEF

The Nuclear Energy Workforce: What Workforce Pell Can Reach, and Why the Window Is Now

Which occupations the program can fund, where the training exists,
and what the five Innovation Campus finalist states have decided so far.

Where AI compute is being built

53 major AI data center campuses and 9 data-center nuclear power deals, over the operating reactor fleet.



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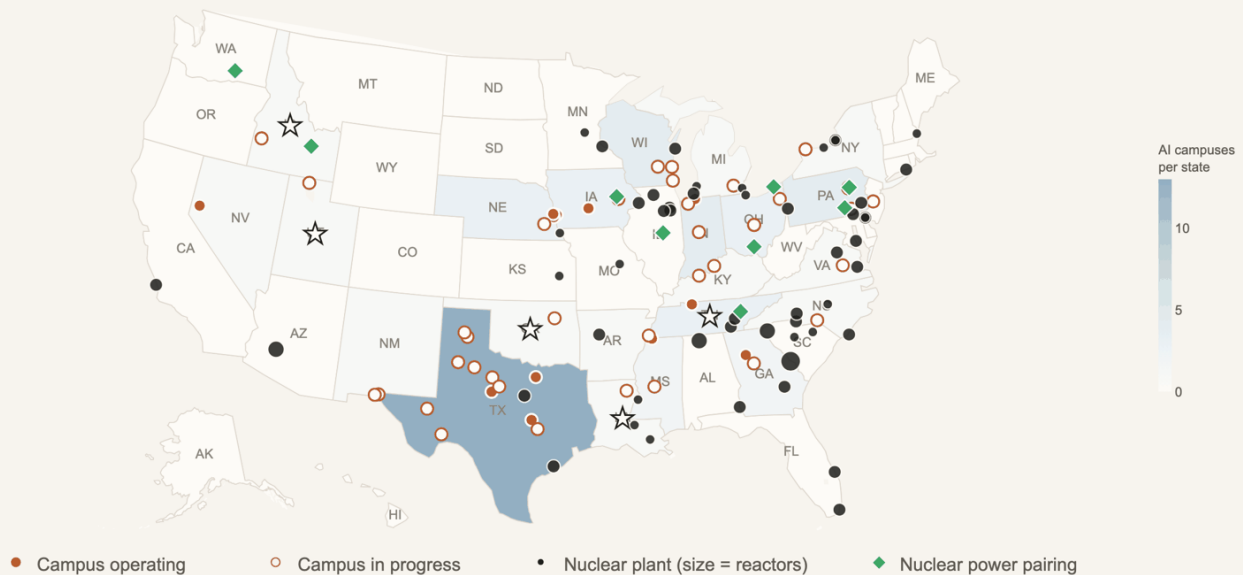


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Where AI compute is being built

53 AI campuses and 9 data-center nuclear power deals, mapped over the operating reactor fleet

Shading: AI campuses per state. Stars: Innovation Campus finalist states.



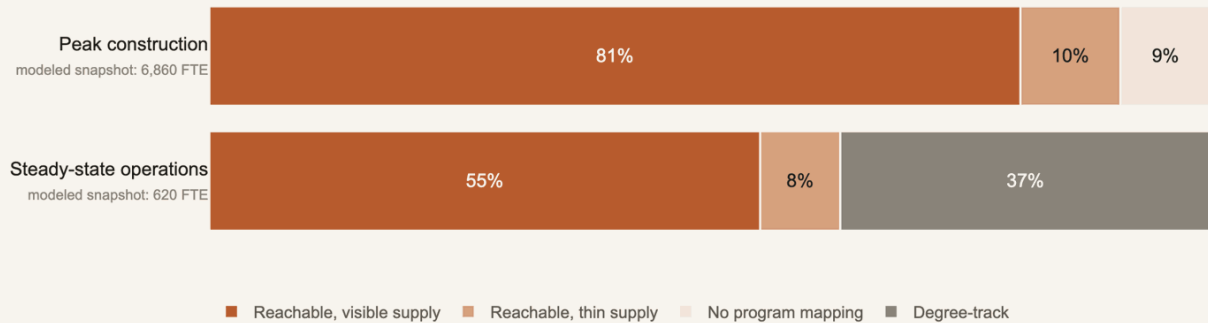
Every site sourced to a company, state, or utility announcement. Shaded states: AI campuses per state. Stars: Innovation Campus finalist states.

KEY INSIGHT

Nuclear power and AI data centers sit in the same geographical corridor. Both draw on the same construction trades, the data center schedule is years ahead of the nuclear one, and states are planning the two buildouts on separate tracks. Workforce policy is where the tracks could meet.

The first stage of a nuclear power plant build is Workforce Pell territory

Demand-weighted disposition of staffing need by build phase (34 staffing-sourced roles, medium build scenario).



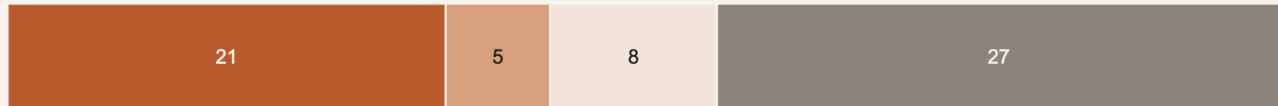
Weighted by demand, 81 percent of peak-construction need is in occupations Workforce Pell can reach; by steady-state operations the reachable share falls to 55 percent.

KEY INSIGHT

Screen for the future you want, not the status quo you have: a state expecting a build in a few years needs to plan the educational pipeline today, and putting an occupation on the screen now means the programs built for it can qualify as they launch. The phase the instrument can fund is the phase that arrives first.

What a full staffing taxonomy shows

All 61 occupations of a nuclear power plant staffing taxonomy, classified by whether Workforce Pell can reach them.



■ Reachable, visible supply (21) ■ Reachable, thin supply (5) ■ No program mapping (8) ■ Degree-track (27)

21 occupations are reachable with visible training supply; 5 are reachable but nearly invisible federally; 8 map to no instructional program anywhere; 27 are degree-track.

KEY INSIGHT

The gaps are structural. Boilermakers show 25 sub-baccalaureate completions nationally and clear no Workforce Pell eligibility screen that currently exists in any finalist state, and the fuel-cycle occupations the Innovation Campuses are meant to host are among the eight no Title IV program anywhere can be classified as training.

Where the programs are

States shaded by how many of the 61 occupations have any sub-baccalaureate completions in IPEDS (2023-24).



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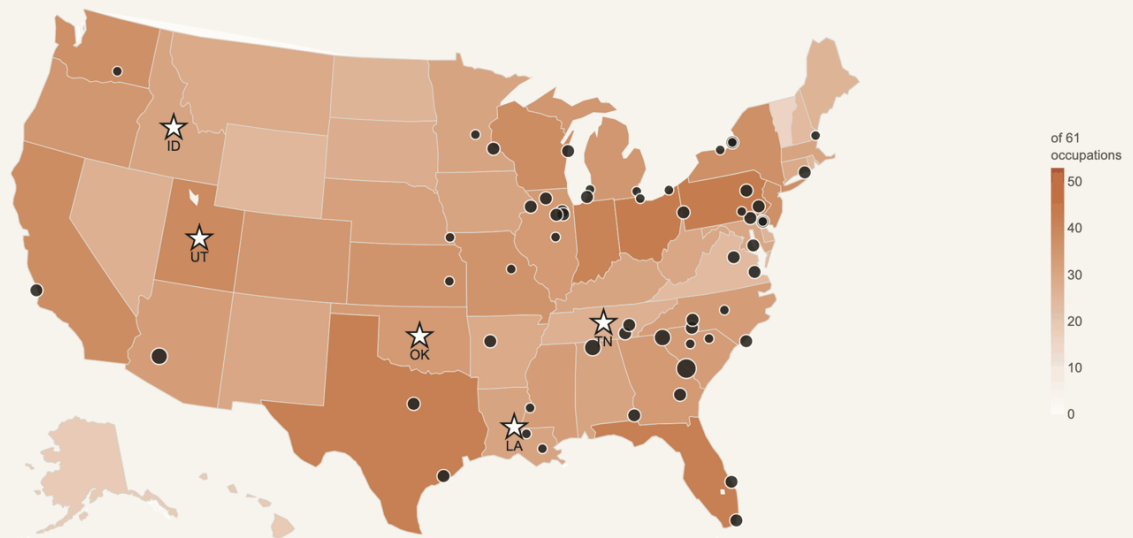


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Where the programs are: the full nuclear power plant staffing taxonomy

States shaded by how many of the taxonomy's 61 occupations have any sub-baccalaureate completions, AY 2023-24

dots = operating fleet; stars = Innovation Campus finalist states



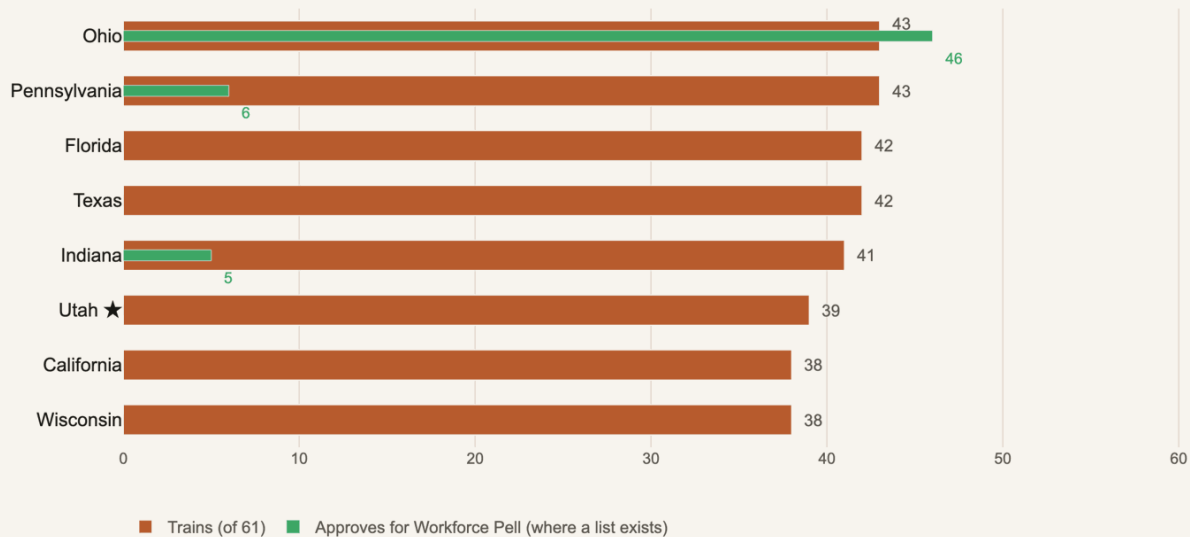
Eight of the 61 map to no instructional program anywhere, so 53 is the ceiling; the deepest states reach 43. Dots: operating fleet. Stars: finalist states.

KEY INSIGHT

None of the five finalist states has posted an approved Workforce Pell occupation list or program roster. Tennessee, Louisiana, and Idaho have live application processes; Utah has board policy but no application channel; Oklahoma has named a coordination venue and nothing more.

State training capacity

Occupations trained (terracotta) and, where a state has published a Workforce Pell occupation list, occupations approved (green).



Utah, the strongest finalist bench, ranks 6th nationally; Tennessee ranks 39th. Star marks an Innovation Campus finalist.

KEY INSIGHT

Training capacity and Pell approval are separate constraints: Pennsylvania trains 43 of the 61 but approves 6; Ohio approves 46, including occupations it does not yet train. A state needs both before Workforce Pell can fund a single nuclear-relevant seat.

Sources: IPEDS Completions 2023-24; NCES CIP-SOC crosswalk; BLS Employment Projections Table 5.4; EIA-860M; LBNL 2024 US Data Center Energy Usage Report; state Workforce Pell documents verified against each state's own publications; Nuclear Workforce Compass staffing taxonomy with Vogtle-sourced demand weights. A collaboration between Opportunity Data (opportunitydata.org) and Good Energy Collective (goodenergycollective.org).