

# WHY #SALVEMOSALMARAZ?

## OUR CONTEXT:

We need an **energy transition** towards climate neutrality, using all **emission-free generation sources** at hand, with the combination of renewables and nuclear being the key to meet the increasing energy demand (industry, electricity, transportation...). The burning of fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and oil) has devastating effects on the environment and human health, with 3.5 million premature deaths in 2020 due to air pollution.

## THE ALMARAZ NUCLEAR POWER PLANT:

Located in Cáceres (province of Extremadura, Spain), it consists of two nuclear reactors that have been operating **safely, reliably, and respectfully toward the environment and people** for over 40 years.

- **Generation:** it covers **7% of the annual electricity demand**, and its output is equivalent to the consumption of **4 million homes**, making it the largest contributor to the Spanish electricity system.
- **Availability:** in 2023, it operated 95% of the year's hours at full power, reflecting the reliability and stability of its operation.
- **Clean energy:** in 2023, it avoided the emission of **7.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>**, representing 25% of the net emissions of the Spanish electricity system.
- **Safety:** the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), which inspects hundreds of nuclear power plants in various countries, places it in its **highest category** due to its excellent safety and operational standards.
- **Cost:** the long-term operation of nuclear power plants, which many countries consider up to 80 years, is one of the **cheapest** ways to produce electricity.
- **Employment:** it generates around **2,900** direct, indirect, and induced **jobs**; while during refuelling periods (every 18 months per reactor), 1,200 additional workers are hired. Its closure would lead to the abandonment of **1 out of every 3 inhabitants** of the region and a 36% decrease in the active population in the area.
- **Wealth:** it contributes over **97 million euros annually** to its surroundings, representing one-third of the industrial fabric of Extremadura, and the cessation of its activity would result in a negative impact on the economy the region of 91 million euros.

## #SALVEMOSALMARAZ

The “Salvemos Almaraz”<sup>\*\*</sup> initiative was created to raise awareness about the need to extend the operation of Units I and II of the Almaraz nuclear power plant, whose closures are scheduled for 2027 and 2028, respectively. 2024 is a key year to achieve this goal, as it corresponds to the deadline to reverse the closure decision.

Jóvenes Nucleares<sup>\*\*</sup> has an inherent interest in the long-term future, as it represents the generation most affected by the decisions made today regarding the environment, economy, and energy supply. Therefore, we advocate for extending the operation of the Almaraz nuclear power plant beyond 2027, to avoid the negative consequences of its closure in terms of emissions, energy security, and social and economic development.

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## REFERENCES:

- **World Health Organisation (WHO):** Household air pollution 2020.
- **Almaraz - Trillo Nuclear Power Plants (CNAT):** Publications - Half-yearly report Almaraz NPP - Second half of 2023 CNAT .
- **Nuclear Forum:** Daily production of Spanish nuclear power plants 2023.
- **Spanish Electricity Grid (REE):** Emissions and CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emission factor of generation in 2023 (national electricity system).
- **Association of Municipalities in Nuclear Power Plant Areas (AMAC):** Economic and Socio-demographic Impact Study in response to the closure of the Almaraz nuclear power plant. November 2021.
- **International Energy Agency (IEA):** Projected Costs of Generating Electricity 2020.

\* "Save Almaraz" in Spanish.

\*\* "Spanish Nuclear Young Generation" in Spanish.