



Oppenheimer Project

Grantee Spotlight: Oppenheimer Project

The [Giving Green Fund](#) is awarding a restricted grant to the [Oppenheimer Project \(OP\)](#) for its Oppenheimer Dialogue Funder Roundtable program, which convenes current and prospective philanthropic funders of nuclear energy. OP is a U.S. nonprofit that works to broaden and better coordinate philanthropic support for nuclear power.

The Oppenheimer Project's work falls within our philanthropic strategy of [Unleashing Clean Energy in the U.S.](#). Please see Giving Green's strategy report for more information, including potential risks and co-benefits, recommended sub-strategies, theory of change, and key uncertainties.

Last updated: October 2026

What Is the Oppenheimer Project?

Founded in 2019, the Oppenheimer Project is a U.S. nonprofit that honors J. Robert Oppenheimer's vision by transforming nuclear fission from a source of fear into a force for peace.

Most organizations working on nuclear energy engage policymakers, project developers, or the public. OP instead works "upstream," focusing on the small pool of philanthropic funders whose decisions determine how much nonprofit capacity exists to address nuclear's barriers. It has mainly concentrated on U.S. funders, with a growing focus on international ones. OP's main mechanism is the Oppenheimer Dialogue Funder Roundtable, a private, off-the-record series it has convened since 2024 for current and prospective nuclear funders. OP's theory of change is that, on a contested subject like nuclear energy, funders move from curiosity to commitment through education and trusted relationships with credible peers, not information alone.

What Are We Funding, and How Could It Help Address Climate Change?

In our strategy report on unleashing clean energy in the U.S., we identified opening new sources of financing, building demand support, and addressing permitting and siting

challenges for clean firm power as promising sub-strategies. While our strategy is technology neutral, we note in our report that nuclear fission, as well as geothermal power, requires additional technology-specific support and interventions because of their unique challenges. Additionally, given the current interest and support for nuclear energy in the U.S. and other countries looking to meet rising demand, we think now is an opportune time for philanthropic engagement to help drive positive change. As a result, OP will use our grant to expand and deepen the community of philanthropists prepared to fund work on those barriers, by:

- **Sustaining and expanding the Oppenheimer Dialogue Funder Roundtables**, giving current and prospective nuclear funders a setting in which to learn from peers and identify high-impact opportunities
- **Engaging prospective funders directly**, through individual briefings and small-group conversations with foundations, family offices, and high-net-worth individuals whose existing interests in climate, clean energy, energy security, and innovation align with nuclear philanthropy
- **Strengthening the pipeline into the [Global Coalition for Nuclear Philanthropy](#)**, an international group of funders coordinating their nuclear giving, by using selected Dialogues to prepare prospective members

Rather than engaging policymakers or project developers directly, OP builds support for the technology and increases philanthropic funding directed towards nuclear energy. By widening the pool of informed funders, OP's work will increase the resources available to organizations advancing nuclear financing, demand support, and permitting reform, which we think will support faster clean firm power deployment, replace fossil fuel generators, and ultimately reduce emissions.

Why Do We Think the Oppenheimer Project Will Use This Funding Well?

OP has been educating funders on nuclear energy for over two years and has successfully introduced new philanthropies to nuclear energy. According to OP, every founding member of the Global Coalition for Nuclear Philanthropy has attended at least one Oppenheimer Dialogue. In 2025, The Rockefeller Foundation selected OP to support its nuclear exploration strategy, including a meeting at the Bellagio Center on philanthropy for nuclear adoption in emerging economies. The Coalition concept was first proposed at that convening. OP co-developed the Coalition from concept to its launch in May 2026 by the Rockefeller Foundation and Temasek Trust, and it now serves as the Coalition's strategic partner. We think the Coalition would not have come together without OP's work.

Given OP's two-year record of convening funders on nuclear energy, its established relationships across the nuclear and philanthropic communities, and a team that pairs

senior grantmaking experience with technical knowledge of the sector, we think OP is well suited to moving funders from interest to commitment.

We publish grant spotlights to offer transparency to [Giving Green Fund](#) donors and resources for those interested in the impact strategies each grant supports. Giving Green believes our [Top Climate Nonprofits](#) have the greatest impact potential for large, unrestricted gifts. [For several reasons](#), we also disburse and recommend grants to other organizations surfaced through [our research process](#) for work that we believe is at least as impactful as grants to our top recommendations.

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OP is a registered nonprofit in the U.S.