

A How-To Guide To Fusion Day- 2024

What Is Fusion Day?

Fusion Day is an opportunity for the fusion community to educate Members of Congress and their staff about the importance and promise of fusion energy research. **These meetings, which are set up individually by each institution, company, or lab, are enormously important to encourage understanding and support for fusion energy and plasma science research programs.**

Fusion Day is a chance to educate your home state Senator and Representatives about your program, research, and/or company, as well as the federal research programs that fund your work and will make commercial fusion energy a reality. The goal is to leave congressional offices with a stronger understanding of, and enthusiasm for, the benefits of fusion energy and plasma science research, as well as a list of actions their members can take to show support for this work.

Fusion Day Events:

- 1) Fusion Day activities begin with a **webinar a week or two before Fusion Day**, during which the Fusion Day organizers will give an overview of what to expect on Fusion Day, how to communicate with Congressional staff, and discuss Fusion Day messaging.
- 2) There is an optional networking event for participants that takes place the night before Fusion Day. Stay tuned for details on location, time, and the registration process.
- 3) Fusion Day itself begins with a breakfast, during which we hear from a guest speaker from Congress about their expectations for the upcoming legislative year. This is also an opportunity to collect handouts for your meetings and ask any final questions of the Fusion Day Planning Team.

After breakfast, everyone departs – either individually or in groups – for meetings with lawmakers or congressional staff. These meetings need to be set up ahead of time (see below).

How do I participate in Fusion Day?

- **The first step is to find out if your institution or laboratory has a government affairs or federal relations office.** If so, you should contact them and let them know that you are interested in participating in Fusion Day. They will be able to provide guidance on setting up meetings and can help coordinate your visit.
- **States with multiple stakeholders (such as California) should coordinate to do their meetings together.** When you register to confirm your participation, you should also confirm which state delegations you plan to meet with. Aaron McClendon (aaronvm@princeton.edu) can put you in touch with other participants from your state.
 - **Graduate Students-** If you are **not** working with your university or institution to plan your Fusion Day meetings, please reach out to Aaron McClendon to identify which Members of Congress you plan to visit. This will avoid multiple meeting requests to the same office.

If you do not have a government affairs or federal relations office (or if they are unable to help you), below is a guide for setting up meetings on your own:

- Find out who your Senators are (go to [senate.gov](https://www.senate.gov)) and who your Representative is (go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov) and put your zip code into the top-right corner). You may also want to meet with a few other Members from your state (depending on how much time you have), especially if they sit on the House or Senate Appropriations Committees, the House Science Committee, or the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (we will provide a list of those Members).
- Call the Washington offices of your Senators and Representative to find out the name and email address of the **legislative assistant** who handles energy issues (you may also be able to find this information out online). It is often difficult to get meetings with the lawmakers themselves, but their staffers are usually happy to meet with constituents. The format for staffer email addresses is usually as follows:
 - House staffers: firstname.lastname@mail.house.gov
 - Senate staffers: firstname_lastname@lastnameofsenator.senate.gov
- Send an email to that staffer and request a meeting. An example is below

To: Jane_Doe@smith.senate.gov

From: ProfessorX@fusionuniversity.edu

Subject: Meeting Request – Fusion University – March 19th 2024

Hi Jane,

I am a professor of plasma physics at Fusion University and I am hoping to set up a meeting with you for Tuesday, March 19th to discuss the importance of fusion energy and its role in the country's near- and long-term energy security strategy. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this exciting area of research, give you an overview of the work going on at my institution, and highlight the program's needs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Professor X

Because Hill staffers are usually very busy, you may not get a response right away. A follow-up (in the form of a polite reminder email or phone call) may be necessary

- **NOTE: Meetings typically run between 15 minutes to a half-hour (maximum)**
- The Fusion Day Team will provide you with general handouts that explain what fusion energy is, the importance of the fusion energy research programs, and the funding needs for FY 2025. **You are encouraged to prepare a handout on your program or research project in particular.**

Looking Forward

You will receive more information on Fusion Day activities as we get closer to the date, but in the meantime, you can look into travel and hotel. There is not a set hotel for Fusion Day, but a few conveniently located ideas are below. Airbnb is also an increasingly popular choice.

Capitol Hill Hotel (near the House buildings)
200 C Street, SE (Tel: 202-543-6000)

Hyatt Regency (near the Senate buildings)
400 New Jersey Ave, NW (Tel: 202-737-1234)

The Yotel Washington DC– Capitol Hill (near Senate buildings)
415 New Jersey Ave, NW (Tel: 202-638-1616)

The Royal Sonesta Washington, DC Capitol Hill (near Senate Buildings)
20 Massachusetts Ave, NW (Tel: 202-888-1850)