

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Seminar

Nuclear developments across the Irish Sea and Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland

Date: Friday 20th April 2012

Location: Council Chamber, Dundalk Town Hall, County Louth

Despite just passing the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, the prospects for new nuclear reactors and other nuclear facilities being built across the Irish Sea in the UK appear to be increasing. A strong political will behind these initiatives is evident in the UK Government and the UK nuclear industry is proposing to develop up to 8 new nuclear reactors – 5 of which will be on or near the Irish Sea coast.

What does this mean for Ireland and should Irish Councils and the Irish Governments (north and south) be worried about it? What developments are being considered in England and Wales and what are the risks arising from them? Does the Fukushima nuclear disaster raise wider concerns around a UK 'nuclear renaissance'? This seminar will provide a view from the Republic of Ireland Government of Irish energy needs and a NFLA perspective on the UK new nuclear programme.

And what are the alternatives to nuclear? At previous NFLA All Ireland Forum meetings considerable mention has been made about the benefits of the UK, Republic of Ireland and devolved governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (and the local authorities in each country) in co-operating further on the development of various forms of renewable energy.

As this meeting will be in Dundalk, consideration of the first 'Sustainable Energy Community' – the Dundalk 2020 Project (which also includes other Louth Councils and Newry and Mourne Council) – will be given. Five other Councils – Dublin City, Galway County, Kerry County, Roscommon County and South Dublin County – have been short-listed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland as exemplar councils to lead the development of a Sustainable Energy Community Network. This seminar will provide information to Councils on this positive development and how Irish Councils can get further involved in it.

FINAL PROGRAMME (Speakers may be subject to change)

10.30am	Registration, tea and coffee.
11.00am	Opening welcomes by Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.
11.05am	Irish energy needs and energy developments in the British & Irish Isles – Fergus O'Dowd TD, Republic of Ireland Energy Minister (invited)
11.35am	Lessons from Fukushima, one year on, and the UK new nuclear programme – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed)
12.00am	What may be the risks of new UK nuclear developments on the Irish Sea? – Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine pollution consultant (confirmed)
12.30pm	The Dundalk 2020 Sustainable Energy Zone and the Irish Sustainable Energy Community Network– Aideen O'Hora, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (confirmed)
1.00pm	Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne District Council.
1.30pm.	Seminar conclusion / lunch.



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Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to all NFLA members and officers and local interested community groups.

If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

Name	Authority / Group	Correspondence address (email or postal)

Venue and hotel details:

This seminar will be held in the recently refurbished Dundalk Town Hall, which is in the centre of Dundalk on Crowe Street by Parnell Park. There is a regular train service to Dundalk on the main Belfast-Dublin train line and car parks at the nearby Marshes Shopping Centre.

A map of Dundalk Town Centre can be downloaded from the following website: http://www.mytown.ie/dundalk./map or http://www.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&tab=wl

There are 10 hotels in and around Dundalk. For further details see http://www.booking.com/Dundalk-hotels. The Imperial Hotel is the most central, with the Crowne Plaza and the Carrickdale Hotel also nearby and well recommended.

Please return this form to: Sinead Trainor, NFLA Ireland Secretary - sinead.trainor@newryandmourne.gov.uk Fax: 00 44 (0)2830 264482 Tel: 00 44 (0)2830 313096.

For more general queries please contact the NFLA UK and Ireland Secretary, Sean Morris – s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244.