



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Ireland Autumn Seminar:

Key energy and nuclear policy issues affecting Ireland – should it be concerned about UK new nuclear build and how can it take advantage of renewable energy?

Friday 12th October 2012, Council Offices, Downpatrick, County Down

The NFLA All Ireland Forum's autumn seminar will allow councillors, council officers and interested groups to hear more about how future proposed development of new nuclear facilities could affect Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It will also consider the potential development of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency across the island of Ireland and whether the pace of it needs speeding up.

The seminar will commence with an assessment of the major nuclear developments taking place across the Irish Sea, particularly focussing on Sellafield. Despite major continuing problems over the financing, safety, insurance and radioactive waste management around developing a new nuclear programme, the UK Government is still strongly committed to building new nuclear facilities.

Amongst the facilities being considered are up to 14 new civil nuclear reactors, many of which will be on or near the Irish Sea coast at Sellafield, Heysham, Wylfa, Oldbury and Hinkley Point. The UK Government is also proposing the construction of a new facility to reprocess its stockpile of weapons-usable plutonium. A decision on whether to move forward with the next stage of investigating potential sites for a huge deep-underground radioactive waste repository near to Sellafield is being currently considered by three Councils in West Cumbria.

Should the Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland Governments and Irish Councils be concerned about such developments and what may be the environmental, safety and practical issues around an expanded UK nuclear programme? The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland have produced an analysis of the UK's proposed new nuclear programme and this seminar will allow opportunity to present their findings. The NFLA will also inform Irish councillors of independent concerns around such developments.

As Ireland – north and south – is in terms of civil nuclear power, a nuclear free island, this seminar will also consider how its own energy policies should develop. Across the island of Ireland the dependence on harmful fossil fuels still remains too high. How could and should the island of Ireland produce low carbon energy as well as develop new jobs at a time of economic recession? Can Irish Councils play a key role in this policy? Should the policy be one of slow evolution or radical revolution over the next 30 years?

This FREE seminar is open to councillors, council officers, health officers and interested groups to find out more about all of these issues.

PROGRAMME (speakers may be subject to change)

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| 10.30am | Registration, tea and coffee. |
| 11.00am | Opening welcomes by Councillor Eamonn O'Neill, Down District Council and Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne District Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum. |
| 11.05am | Developing Northern Ireland's energy policy – Arlene Foster MLA, Northern Ireland Energy Minister (invited) |
| 11.30am | Evolution or revolution – how should Ireland (North and South) develop renewable energy and is it going too slowly? Speaker from Energy Ireland (invited) |
| 11.55pm | Analysis of the risks of the UK's new nuclear programme – Ciara McMahon, Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland (invited) |
| 12.20pm | Developments in nuclear power around Sellafield and West Cumbria: a critical view – Jean McSorley, independent radioactive waste consultant (invited) |
| 12.35pm | Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council. |
| 1.00pm | Seminar conclusion (followed by buffet 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:

To follow.

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.