



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 17th April 2012

NFLA All Ireland Forum holds spring seminar on the risks of UK new nuclear build and the benefits of Irish Sustainable Energy Communities

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) All Ireland Forum is holding its spring 2012 seminar this Friday 20th April in the Council Chamber of Dundalk Town Hall, County Louth (1).

The seminar will consider two key energy issues which have an impact across the British and Irish Isles – the prospects for major new nuclear developments in England and Wales and the potential for developing sustainable energy communities in Ireland.

The NFLA Secretary and the independent marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones will outline the wide range and the potential risks to the Irish Sea and the Irish coastline of new nuclear developments in England and Wales. Along with up to 8 coastal sites for hosting new nuclear reactors – 4 of which are on the Irish Sea coast - there are also possible developments of a plutonium reprocessing facility at Sellafield and eventually a deep-underground radioactive waste repository that may also be located in West Cumbria - the only area currently interested in progressing such a development.

The seminar will allow councillors from across Ireland to understand the issues relating to all of these developments and encourage them to lobby the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland Governments to be more pro-active in challenging the UK Government over new nuclear build.

The seminar will also outline the development of Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland with a presentation from Aideen O’Hora of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). These Council-led projects seek to encourage the development of local renewable energy projects and the improvement of local housing schemes through useful energy efficiency measures. The first such scheme has been in existence in County Louth for some years – the Dundalk 2020 Sustainable Energy Zone. Now the SEAI have chosen 5 more Councils to pilot the scheme before a national roll-out takes place - Dublin City Council, South Dublin County Council, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council and Kerry County Council.

NFLA All Ireland Forum Co-Chair Councillor Mark Dearey said:

“This NFLA All Ireland Forum seminar is a timely opportunity for Irish Councillors to understand the large number of new nuclear developments being considered across the Irish Sea, and what risks may arise from them. The major expansion of proposed new nuclear developments in Cumbria, just a short distance from the Irish coast, particularly concerns me and I hope the seminar can help to send a message to the Irish Governments to be more vocal in their opposition to them. I am also delighted to see that the development of Sustainable Energy Communities is taking off in Ireland. I firmly believe Irish Councils can play a leading role in making our housing stock more energy efficient and they can work with local industry to create a jobs-rich renewable energy revolution. I urge Councillors from across Ireland to attend the seminar and find out more about these important developments. ”

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186.

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Notes to editors:

- (1) NFLA All Ireland Forum spring 2012 seminar: Nuclear developments across the Irish Sea and Sustainable Energy Communities in Ireland, Friday 20th April 2012, Council Chamber, Dundalk Town Hall, County Louth.

FINAL PROGRAMME:

10.30am	Registration, tea and coffee.
11.00am	Opening welcome by Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.
11.05am	Lessons from Fukushima, one year on, and the UK new nuclear programme – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary.
11.35am	What may be the risks of new UK nuclear developments on the Irish Sea? – Tim Deere-Jones, independent marine pollution consultant.
12.05pm	The Dundalk 2020 Sustainable Energy Zone and the Irish Sustainable Energy Community Network– Aideen O’Hora, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.
12.35pm	Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne District Council.
1.00pm.	Seminar conclusion / lunch.
1.30pm	NFLA All Ireland Forum business meeting (members only till 2.15pm).

- (2) See Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland – Dundalk Sustainable Energy Zone and Sustainable Energy Communities webpages, 2012 -
http://www.seai.ie/SEC/The-Communities/Dundalk_2020/
http://www.seai.ie/SEC/SEC_Programme/

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