



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

## **NFLA report shows how Scotland can lead a renewable energy revolution by following Germany's 'nuclear free' vision**

The NFLA Scotland Forum publishes today an important and highly detailed report assessing how the Scottish Government's move towards developing renewable energy and other positive energy policies is shaping up and offers a whole raft of examples where dramatic improvements can be made. (1)

The NFLA Policy Briefing gives a thorough update of Scottish energy policy and welcomes the positive moves the Scottish Government has made towards developing a wide renewable energy mix, increased support for energy efficiency programme and microgeneration projects. However, it is disappointed with the Government's decision to allow 'life extensions' to Scotland's existing nuclear reactors, which may allow some of them to continue operating until 2033, meaning some of them will be much older than the age of the now stricken Fukushima reactors when finally closed.

The NFLA briefing also compares Scotland's energy policy to that of Europe's economic powerhouse Germany. It makes a series of recommendations that could move Scotland on from the gradual increases in renewable energy production it currently plans to more dramatic, swift improvements that would allow for the closure of Scotland's nuclear power stations much earlier, whilst providing large numbers of new highly skilled jobs to the country. It advocates that Scotland should follow Germany's example with a much more extensive programme of energy efficiency and microgeneration.

Key conclusions of the report, compiled by NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor Pete Roche, include:

- There is no need for the Scottish Government to support 'risky' life extensions for EDF Energy's two nuclear stations at Hunterston and Torness.
- Scotland could phase out all conventional fossil fuel and nuclear power stations by 2030, and still produce 185% of Scotland's electricity needs, and maintain a secure electricity supply.
- Scotland should aim to cut electricity consumption by around 25% by 2050 as is planned in Germany.
- The fact that energy bills will rise over the next decade irrespective of the energy path which is followed underlines the need to prioritise domestic energy efficiency programmes on a much more ambitious scale than is currently proposed to reduce the scourge of fuel poverty.
- Regulation should be used to improve the EPC rating of Scottish housing, both social and private.
- Combined Heat and Power with district heating networks should be promoted as a major contributor to meeting renewable heat targets.
- Geothermal Energy should be promoted as a major source of heat for district heating networks.
- Anaerobic digestion should be developed both as a source of renewable heat and electricity as well as a possible source of "green gas".
- Microgeneration should be expected to provide 15-20% of Scottish electricity supplies by 2030.
- The increase in demand caused by the electrification of the transport sector need only be modest.
- Security of supply can be boosted by grid links between Scotland and other countries; deferring demand; making use of electric vehicles for storage; and boosting storage capacity. CHP plants can be used to balance variability from wind power if used in conjunction with heat stores.

NFLA Scotland Convenor-elect Councillor Fariha Thomas said:

"I commend this excellent report to the Scottish Government and to Scottish Councils as a practical and sensible way forward to provide Scotland with its future energy needs. This report comprehensively shows that Scotland can become a European and world leader in renewable

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energy, microgeneration and energy saving measures whilst allowing it to close its nuclear reactors much earlier than 2033. I will be sending this report to the Scottish Government and seeking a meeting with them to encourage them to take up the many imaginative ideas the NFLA suggests.”

NFLA UK and Ireland Chair Councillor Brian Goodall added:

“This report does not just show to the Scottish Government how it can dramatically scale-up its renewable energy and energy efficiency vision, but it also highlights practical examples with which the UK Government and the devolved governments in Wales and Northern Ireland can take forward a future energy policy that is low carbon and nuclear free. Whilst the UK Government is wasting copious amounts of money and valuable amounts of time trying to facilitate the construction of new nuclear reactors this report shows an effective and sensible alternative to developing sufficient amounts of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency to both drive our economy and help to combat climate change. I commend the Government and energy experts to read it.”

Ends

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**Notes to editors:**

- (1) The NFLA Policy Briefing on Scottish energy policy is attached with this briefing.

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