



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

## **NFLA Welsh Forum holding cross-party panel on the future direction of Welsh energy policy**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities Welsh Forum (NFLA) is holding a cross-party panel for its next seminar this Friday 2nd March in Cardiff County Hall (1).

The cross-party panel will be complementing the Welsh Assembly Environment and Sustainability Committee's inquiry into the future direction of Welsh energy policy. This Committee has been holding meetings in recent months and its final report is due out shortly. The NFLA Welsh Forum submitted a detailed response to the inquiry arguing for further support in renewable energy and energy efficiency and to oppose the development of a new nuclear power station at Wylfa (2).

The NFLA Welsh Forum seminar in Cardiff County Hall is seeking to include representatives from the five main political parties in Wales – Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru and Greens. Confirmed speakers include Jill Evans MEP, Eluned Parrott AM and former Welsh Green Party Leader Jake Griffiths.

The panellists have been asked to consider responding to the following questions:

- Is there cross-party support for the best energy mix for Welsh energy policy?
- Should the Welsh Government consider supporting nuclear new build in and around Wales?
- How should concerns over the development of onshore and offshore wind projects in Wales be sensitively dealt with?
- What potential is there for solar, tidal and wave energy in Wales?
- Should Wales be concerned about new nuclear developments at Hinkley Point being undertaken in 2012?
- What conclusions may, and should, the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry come to?

Each panellist will be given time to give their views to these questions and how they see the future energy mix in Wales taking shape over the next decade.

The seminar will also allow the wider audience time to query party representatives in a 'Question Time' format chaired by the NFLA Welsh Forum Chair.

NFLA Welsh Forum Chair Councillor Stephen Churchman said:

"This NFLA Welsh Forum meeting is a timely opportunity for a discussion on how each Welsh political party sees the development of energy policy in Wales over the next 3 decades. I welcome the fact that the Welsh Assembly is considering this important issue and I hope it can comment positively on the NFLA submission for a renewable energy revolution in Wales. I believe Wales could create thousands of new jobs and a clean, sustainable energy policy by pursuing the development of a wide renewable energy mix, microgeneration and energy efficiency. I look forward to hearing what each party representative has to say on the matter."

Ends

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

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**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



# information

**Notes to editors:**

- (1) NFLA Welsh Forum Seminar, Committee Room 4, County Hall, Cardiff, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012  
**The future direction of Welsh energy policy – what is the right mix**
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|---------|---|
| 10.30am | <b>Registration</b>   |
| 10.55am | <b>Welcome:</b> Councillor Ed Bridges, Cardiff City Council and NFLA Welsh Forum Vice Chair   |
| 11.00am | What should be the future direction of energy policy in Wales? Each speaker will have 15 minutes to provide their views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservative representative (invited)</li><li>• Councillor Ray Davies (Labour, Caerphilly County Council) (confirmed)</li><li>• Jill Evans MEP (Plaid Cymru) (confirmed)</li><li>• Eluned Parrott AM (Liberal Democrat, South Wales Central) (confirmed)</li><li>• Jake Griffiths (former leader of Welsh Green Party) (confirmed)</li></ul> |
| 12.15pm | Panel discussion led by the NFLA Welsh Forum Chair, Councillor Stephen Churchman.   |
| 1.00pm  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |
- (2) NFLA submission to the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
[http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA\\_Welsh\\_Assembly\\_energy\\_inquiry\\_submission.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/consultations/NFLA_Welsh_Assembly_energy_inquiry_submission.pdf)