



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

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NFLA welcomes Scottish Government draft renewable heat policy and urges it to be even bolder

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) Scotland Forum responds today to the Scottish Government's draft renewable heat energy policy statement consultation. (1) It broadly welcomes the draft policy (2) and encourages the Scottish Government to be even bolder.

In 2009, the Scottish Parliament unanimously set Scotland's ambitious climate change targets, including an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To help realise this ambition the Scottish Government wants to move to a largely decarbonised heat sector by 2050, with *significant progress* by 2030. An interim target has been set for 11% of total heat demand to be supplied by renewable heat by 2020. The policy also advocates a new concept of the 'heat hierarchy' which is led first by demand reduction, then efficient supply and thirdly, by providing renewable and low carbon heat resources.

In its conclusions to the consultation, NFLA Scotland notes the following:

- It is clear to NFLA Scotland, from the modelling exercise carried out for the Scottish Government, that cost-effective delivery of an increasingly decarbonised heat (DH) system is possible. This can only be achieved by action on both the supply and demand side for heat. Energy efficiency needs to have a central role in the delivery of low carbon heat.
- The new concept of the 'heat hierarchy' will undoubtedly command widespread support, and there will be widespread agreement that demand reduction should be the priority.
- Maximising the contribution to renewable heat from DH is also welcome, as is the target to provide 1.5TWh/yr from DH by 2020.
- However, NFLA Scotland doubts that the Draft Heat Generation Strategy is ambitious enough to meet the demanding targets for 2050. It is therefore recommending that the Scottish Government should introduce an ambitious target of around **4TWh/yr by 2030** and set out a road map to achieve that.
- NFLA Scotland also urges the Scottish Government to aim to meet **50% of heat demand from renewable sources by 2030**.

A target of 50% of heat demand from renewable sources by 2030 would correspond to around 350,000 Scottish dwellings being connected to (renewables-fed) district heating schemes. Meeting this level of district heating uptake is also equivalent to 50% of all households in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow being connected to district heating systems by 2030.

NFLA Scotland's vision is of local authorities giving strong leadership and working in conjunction with the Scottish Government and the public sector to develop large scale schemes connecting a mix of building types. Although DH schemes may start off being powered by gas boilers, these would gradually be converted to being powered by a variety of renewable and waste heat sources, especially geothermal. NFLA Scotland believes geothermal energy is one of the most exciting and potentially plentiful new forms of low carbon renewable energy that Scotland (and the rest of the UK and Ireland) could benefit from.

NFLA Scotland Convener, Councillor Bill Butler said:

"I welcome the direction of travel of the Scottish Government's renewable heat draft policy. It is well formed and ambitious. In my view, it could be even more ambitious and take Scotland in a highly positive direction, leading the way in the UK and challenging even the likes of Denmark and Germany.

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With an even more ambitious target Scotland can show the rest of the UK and Ireland the important part renewable heat can play in reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the negative effects of climate change. Geothermal energy, being investigated and developed within my own City Council of Glasgow, should be a key part of such an ambitious policy.”

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 07771 930196 or NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, Pete Roche on 07821 378210.

Notes for editors:

- (1) The NFLA Scotland model response for its members is attached with this briefing.
- (2) Towards Decarbonising Heat: Maximising the Opportunities for Scotland: Draft Heat Generation Policy Statement for Consultation, March 2014
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00445639.pdf>

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