



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

**MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

- **NFLA report shows the need for Wales to be given full control of its energy policy to develop a new energy revolution**
- **NFLA makes submission to the Welsh Assembly energy inquiry urging a non-nuclear future energy policy**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) publishes today a detailed briefing on potential future energy policy in Wales to show how the country, if it had full devolved control of its energy policy, can use its beneficial geography to meet its future energy needs without recourse to new nuclear power, whilst reducing the scourge of fuel poverty (1). The report also shows how the long-held NFLA energy policy of a wide renewable energy mix, a concerted energy efficiency programme and increased efforts to develop local microgeneration projects can provide more than adequate levels of electricity across Wales, with Councils being at the cutting edge of this 'new energy revolution'. This policy briefing has also been adapted in a formal submission to the Welsh Assembly's Environment and Sustainability Committee inquiry into Welsh energy policy (2).

The NFLA Policy Briefing is part of a series of four briefings showing how Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland can co-operate with each other to develop a wide variety of renewable energy, energy efficiency and microgeneration projects to generate its future needs, protect its energy security and could provide a financial and jobs bonanza to each country in these difficult economic times.

The briefing's main conclusions are:

- It would benefit the Welsh Government to have the same level of devolved control over its energy policy as is given to Scotland. It is unable to completely develop its wide ambitions and impressive targets to develop a low carbon economy in the same manner that is occurring in Scotland.
- The UK Government says there is a need for 59GW of new generating capacity by 2025, of which 33GW needs to be renewable. This leaves industry to decide what type of generating capacity should supply the remaining 26GW, but the UK Government says as much as possible of this should be nuclear. For Wales this would mean the development of a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa over which its devolved Government has no direct decision-making role. The NFLA opposes new nuclear build at Wylfa.
- If instead of planning for a doubling or tripling of electricity demand by 2050 the UK Government was planning for a reduction of 25%, as is the case in Germany, this could remove the need for new nuclear reactors in England and Wales.
- The Welsh Government has developed ambitious energy plans for significant increases in a variety of renewable energy technologies, microgeneration and energy efficiency. There have been some excellent successes but in some areas of energy policy the reality does not mirror the aspiration. Potential policy drift, particularly in the areas of onshore wind and tidal energy, needs to be addressed as a matter of real urgency.
- Welsh Councils and Welsh Regional Bodies need an industrial strategy to make sure they make the most out of the rapid growth in the offshore wind industry and other forms of renewable energy.

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- Wave, tidal and hydro-electric energy could provide up to 20% of the UK's electricity consumption with a practically extractable resource of 36GW, with over 2GW by 2020, with Wales providing a significant part of this new and exciting form of energy.
- Industrial Combined Heat and Power (CHP) has the potential to generate as much electricity as 10 nuclear power stations (16GW of new electricity generating capacity) and halve gas imports using a combination of new and extended CHP plants.
- According to National Grid, 15% of the UK's electricity production could come from "micro-generation" in homes and offices by 2020.
- The European Photovoltaic Industry Association expects solar energy to be providing 12% of Europe's electricity by 2020. The difference between this 12% and the 2% the Government expects to be provided by all micro-generation would be enough to obviate the need to build new nuclear reactors in England and Wales.
- Most Welsh local authorities are leading the way in energy efficiency and micro-generation programmes. From fuel poverty busting solar panel installations on council housing to energy efficient street lighting schemes, to wood fuel biomass boiler installations in schools, councils are demonstrating how sustainable energy schemes can be used to tackle climate change and fuel poverty at the same time as raising much needed revenue.

This report will be further considered at the next NFLA Welsh Forum meeting, which will be held in Gwynedd Council Offices on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October (3). The NFLA is meeting with the Welsh Environment Minister John Griffiths in mid October to discuss these reports in more detail.

NFLA Welsh Forum Vice Chair and Cardiff City Councillor Ed Bridges says:

"I am delighted with this briefing as it outlines what the NFLA has consistently said for a number of years – that Wales can, with the full control of its energy policy and sufficient political will, develop a local energy revolution involving renewables, energy efficiency and microgeneration. I urge the Welsh Government to consider it seriously and we will be discussing it with the Minister next month. We are sending it to Councils across Wales to show the importance of being involved pro-actively in promoting innovative energy projects. We challenge Welsh Councils and the Welsh Government to be as imaginative as the ideas outlined in the briefing and call for full control from Westminster of Welsh energy policy."

Ends

For interviews contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 07771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) The NFLA Policy Briefing on Welsh energy policy is attached with this media release.
- (2) The NFLA submission to the Welsh Assembly Environment and Sustainability Committee is attached with this media release.
- (3) The NFLA Welsh Forum is on Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> in Gwynedd's Arfon Area Office in Caernarfon. Details are as follows:

**Is it possible to build an alternative 'Welsh Energy Revolution' without new nuclear?**  
**Glyder Fawr Conference Room, Arfon Area Office, Penrallt, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 BN**

10.30am

**Registration**

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10.45am	<b>Welcome:</b> Councillor Stephen Churchman, Gwynedd County Council and NFLA Welsh Forum Chair
10.50am	Wylfa B – will it be built, and who pays for it? Dr Carl Clowes, member of the Nuclear Consulting Group (confirmed)
11.20am	The NFLA report to the Welsh Assembly on Welsh energy policy – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed)
12.20am	Wales – a leader in renewable energy? – Neil Crumpton, Independent energy consultant (invited)
12.50pm	Panel discussion
1.20pm	<b>Conclusion</b>

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