



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

Media release - For immediate release, 16th July 2009

Nuclear Free Local Authorities call for local energy revolution.

Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes much of what is in the UK Government's Low Carbon Transition Plan (1), particular the help for households to make energy savings. It also welcomes the Renewable Energy Strategy and the target of producing 30% of the UK's electricity from renewable sources by 2020; and 15% of the UK's heat requirements. (2)

However, NFLA calls on the UK Government to follow the Scottish Government's lead and drop its plans to facilitate the development of new nuclear reactors. This is diverting attention and resources away from the real solutions to climate change – energy efficiency and renewable energy.

A coalition of environment groups in Scotland have published a study which demonstrates how Scotland can meet its climate change commitments without resorting to the construction of new nuclear reactors. (3) The NFLA believes the same solution is also available for England and Wales.

By combining increased development of renewable energy with an energy efficiency programme, the report shows how we can exceed annual electricity demand, even when a significant proportion of heating and transport demand are electrified. This is good news for jobs because renewables and energy efficiency programmes are so much better at creating jobs than nuclear power. Central to such a strategy is the need to bring all existing housing up to a high standard of insulation, with a big role for small-scale decentralised energy production. Councils can play a leading role in delivering this solution.

NFLA Chair, Councillor George Regan said:-

“Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in the local energy revolution, and are keen to get on with implementing it. Yet in 2003 we were promised a step change in energy efficiency by the UK Government – and we are still waiting. We cannot afford to wait another six years while the Government ‘facilitates new nuclear reactors’ and tries to work out how to unlock greater action by local authorities. (4) New nuclear reactors are an expensive folly, create new and concerning health and safety risks and increase the radioactive waste burden on the UK.”

NFLA fears that by placing so much attention into reviving the nuclear industry, the UK Government is distracting attention and resources from some of the excellent ideas in the Low Carbon Transition Plan.

Ends

Further information

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THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



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Notes to Editors:

(1) The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan. DECC 15th July 2009.

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=White Papers\UK Low Carbon Transition Plan](http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=White%20Papers\UK%20Low%20Carbon%20Transition%20Plan)

[WP09\1_20090714221339_e_@@_DECCTheUKLowCarbonTransitionPlanwebversion.pdf&filetype=4](http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=White%20Papers\UK%20Low%20Carbon%20Transition%20Plan%20web%20version.pdf&filetype=4)

(2) The UK Renewable Energy Strategy 2009, DECC 15th July 2009.

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=What we do\UK energy supply\Energy mix\Renewable energy\Renewable Energy Strategy\1_20090715120226_e_@@_TheUKRenewableEnergyStrategy2009.pdf&filetype=4](http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=What%20we%20do\UK%20energy%20supply\Energy%20mix\Renewable%20energy\Renewable%20Energy%20Strategy\1_20090715120226_e_@@_TheUKRenewableEnergyStrategy2009.pdf&filetype=4)

[4](http://www.decc.gov.uk/Media/viewfile.ashx?FilePath=What%20we%20do\UK%20energy%20supply\Energy%20mix\Renewable%20energy\Renewable%20Energy%20Strategy\1_20090715120226_e_@@_TheUKRenewableEnergyStrategy2009.pdf&filetype=4)

(3) The Power of Scotland Renewed, WWF (Scotland) RSPB (Scotland), FoE Scotland, WDM (Scotland). 14th July 2009.

<http://www.wdmscotland.org.uk/documents/PowerofScotlandSummaryFINAL.pdf>

(4) Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – Creating a low carbon economy. DTI. February 2003

<http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file10719.pdf>

Nuclear Free Local Authorities represent over 70 Councils in the UK and Ireland. For further information and its terms of reference go to <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

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