



The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2011 31 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2011

NFLA Secretariat
c/o PO Box 532
Town Hall Manchester
M60 2LA
s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk

NFLA website:
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
Mayors for Peace website:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
KIMO website:
<http://www.kimointernational.org>



2011 was the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Worldwide commemorations were held, including this one in Manchester city centre.

Tel: 0161 234 3244
Fax: 0161 274 7397

NFLA Chair's Introduction

NFLA Chair:
Councillor Brian Goodall

NFLA Secretary:
Sean Morris

NFLA England Chair:
Councillor Ralph Pryke

NFLA All-Ireland Co Chairs:
Councillor Michael Carr (North)
Councillor Ollan Herr (Republic)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary:
Sinead Trainor

NFLA Scotland Convenor:
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Wales Chair:
Councillor Stephen Churchman

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a summary of the policy work which has been provided to it in 2011. As the new NFLA Chair, I commend this Annual Newsletter to you. A 2012 NFLA Service Plan is being published in early January.

important and varied year across the nuclear policy debate. There has been some movement in policy across potential new nuclear build, alternatives to nuclear, radioactive waste and a deep waste repository, low level radiation and health, nuclear safety issues, nuclear weapons and the debate around replacing Trident.

The Fukushima disaster in March has dominated much of the nuclear debate in 2011. It made the 25th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster all the more poignant.

2012 is a critical year in all of these debates and NFLA will remain at the heart of all of them.

Cllr Brian Goodall
NFLA Chair

2011 has been an

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Over 31 years of campaigning on nuclear policy issues

The NFLA was formed following a resolution on November 5th 1980 in Manchester City Council, raised by Councillor Bill Risby, to develop an association of local authorities concerned about major nuclear developments.

The NFLA's Steering Committee determines policy and it meets quarterly in the Town

Hall in Manchester. National NFLA Forums in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland hold seminars and pursue issues of concern to its members.

The NFLA also works closely with the International Mayors for Peace, KIMO International and like-minded NGOs for its aims around securing

public protection with, and alternatives to, nuclear power; and a nuclear weapons free world.

The following pages and the NFLA website outline this work in more detail. Monthly NFLA newsletters also go to its members profiling its hugely varied nuclear policy work programme.

NFLA consultation responses 2011

All can be found on the NFLA website.

a) Nuclear New build:

- Waste Transfer Pricing (DECC)
- Funded decommissioning (DECC)
- Electricity market reforms (DECC)
- Third party liability changes (DECC)
- North West Select Committee inquiry on new build

b) Radioactive waste:

- Scottish waste policy (Scottish Governm't)
- Dounreay fast breeder reactor fuel credible options (NDA)
- Assessment of sites for a 'geological disposal' facility (DECC)
- Potential discharges from proposed Hinkley Point reactor (Environment Ag'y)

c) Nuclear safety:

- Fukushima and UK nuclear safety (ONR)

d) Energy policy:

- Future Welsh energy policy (Welsh Govt)
- Analysis of energy policy in Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland

e) Low level radiation

- Critique of COMARE report

f) Nuclear weapons:

- Trident replacement (Trident Commiss'n)

Who does the NFLA interact with?

On behalf of its members, the NFLA interacts with a large body of organisations on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2011 these included:

The UK Government – DECC, DEFRA, MOD, Foreign Office, Dept of Health. MPs and Lords.

The Republic of Ireland Government – Dept of Environment. TDs and Senators.

Devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulatory bodies – NDA, ONR, Environment Agency, SEPA, HPA, RPII, CoRWM, COMARE.

Local Authority bodies – Mayors for Peace, NuLEAF (LGA), SCCORS (COSLA) & KIMO.

International bodies – European Commission, OSPAR Commission, UN Disarmament Office.

NGO's – national and locally based nuclear concerned groups.

NFLA Steering Committee work in 2011

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in Manchester Town Hall in January, March, June and September 2011; and in Newry for its AGM in November 2011.

Led by the NFLA Chair & Vice Chairs, the NFLA Secretary has submitted regular reports to it on all aspects of NFLA

work. A large amount of time was given to the Fukushima incident, to concerns over the development of possible new nuclear build and on the developments to UK radioactive waste management policy.

There were reports on radiation safety and health, alternatives to

nuclear power & nuclear emergency planning. All consultation responses were approved by the SC. The co-operation with Mayors for Peace, KIMO and policy work on nuclear weapons proliferation was also outlined and discussed.

Such work will continue throughout 2012.

NFLA English Forum meetings: London, Oxford & Rotherham

In 2011, the NFLA English Forum co-operated and supported a NCG special seminar in the UK Parliament on the possible effects of the Fukushima disaster on UK nuclear policy. Over 120 attended it.

It also held a joint seminar with Mayors for Peace on UK nuclear weapons policy in Oxford Town Hall.

Its autumn seminar in Rotherham Town Hall considered how English

Councils could support financing renewable energy projects in austere times.

Its next seminar in Leeds will consider issues around nuclear emergency planning.



Former NFLA Chairs Mike Rumney and George Regan and the Lord Provost of Dundee



NFLA Secretary, NFLA 2010/11 Chair George Regan and 2011/12 Chair Brian Gindall at Westminster seminar



Mayor of Oxford and attendees to July NFLA English Forum meeting

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2011:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No. 24 – Funded decommissioning and waste transfer pricing for new nuclear reactors
- No. 25 – Proposed discharges from Hinkley Point proposed new reactor

Consultations & Inquiries 2011:

- Electricity market reforms
- Nuclear third party liability changes
- Welsh Assembly energy inquiry
- Submissions to the ONR interim & final Fukushima reports

NFLA All Ireland Forum meetings: Newry (twice) & Wexford

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is an innovative cross-border initiative with Co-Chairs from the North and the Republic.

In 2011 it held a spring seminar in Newry seminar with various presentations on the Fukushima incident, the Mayors for Peace, and local groups supporting

children affected by the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus. Newry & Mourne and Dundalk also hosted 'A-bomb' exhibitions.

Its autumn meeting in Wexford looked at renewable energy in Ireland and concerns over the impact of new nuclear build in the UK.

The NFLA UK & Ireland AGM and seminar was also held in Newry in November. Northern Ireland's Environment Minister Alex Attwood was the keynote speaker in a quality programme.

Newry and Mourne District Council provide support to the Forum.

NFLA Scotland meetings: Dundee, Glasgow & Manchester

The NFLA Scotland Forum met four times in 2011, of which two meetings were held in Manchester to coincide with NFLA Steering Committee meetings.

At business meetings the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor and the NFLA Secretary outlined key developments in all

aspects of Scottish and UK nuclear policy. Reports are also provided by John Ainslie of CND Scotland. The NFLA has been invited to join the Scottish Parliament's nuclear weapons group.

A January seminar (as part of the 2010 AGM) in Dundee considered

issues around the effects of low level radiation on health.

A summer seminar in Glasgow considered issues around nuclear emergency planning.

Glasgow City Council provides support to the Forum and develops local policy work.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings: Cardiff (twice) & Caernarfon

The NFLA Welsh Forum held a strategy meeting in Cardiff City Hall with all the major nuclear concerned groups in Wales and the south west in order to discuss developments at Wylfa,

Oldbury & Hinkley Point.

Its autumn seminar was held in Gwynedd and considered the potential for new build at Wylfa and wider Welsh energy policy.

NFLA staff also met Environment Minister John Griffiths. The NFLA Welsh Forum Chair spoke at a Welsh 'green' groups nuclear conference held in Caernarfon.



Delegates to the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference



NFLA Wales Vice Chair with Welsh Environment Minister, Cardiff

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2011:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No. 80 – January NFLA Steering Committee
- No. 81 – Floating and submerged nuclear reactors
- No. 82 – Critique of COMARE report
- No. 83 – Fukushima nuclear incident
- No. 84 – June NFLA Steering Committee
- No. 85 – Radioactive waste shipments from Canada to Sweden
- No. 86, 87, 89, 90 – National energy reports for England, Scotland, Ireland & Wales
- No. 88 – NFLA submission to ONR Fukushima review
- No. 91 – November NFLA AGM & SC
- No. 92 – Trident Commission report
- No. 93 – Nuclear emergency planning and Fukushima

Nuclear power debate – new build slowly pushes forward

A focal point of NFLA work in 2011 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

The NFLA took an active part in the official consultations & directly put forward its concerns to the Ministers at the DECC NGO Forum & to

senior officials at the ONR NGO Forum.

The key weaknesses of new build – the financial costs, health and safety concerns, intractable waste issues and the alternative renewable energy sources that are being developed – were all researched in detail.

The Fukushima disaster has had a major impact on the debate as Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and Taiwan all decided to phase out nuclear power in 2011.

In 2012, the NFLA will continue to focus on challenging these major developments.

Radioactive waste debate – repository or near surface?

A critical part of the debate on the need for new nuclear build is whether the existing huge, radioactive waste burden is adequately being dealt with.

The NFLA believe that the waste burden still requires much work to make it safe and secure. No new waste

should be permitted until long-term solutions are found.

The NFLA opposes the policy of building a deep-waste repository as over 100 scientific, technical and geological issues remain to be resolved. In 2012 it will respond to the local consultation on whether

West Cumbria should host such a repository.

It is more amenable to the Scottish Government policy of ‘near site, near surface’ monitorable and retrievable waste.

NFLA interfaces with NuLeaF, SCCORS and CoRWM on all aspects of the waste issue.

Nuclear weapons and Trident replacement

The NFLA remains concerned around the increasing possibility of the positive initiatives on nuclear weapons non-proliferation, through the United Nations disarmament talks, unraveling.

The NFLA works closely with Mayors for Peace on international lobbying on the weapons issue.

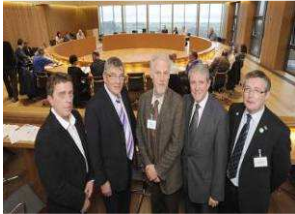
In the UK, NFLA submitted a response to the Trident Commission

on the UK’s nuclear weapons policy. £2bn is already being spent on Trident, despite a formal decision to replace it being deferred until after the 2015 UK election.

Co-operation with Mayors for Peace and KIMO International



KIMO President Albert de Hoop opens the 2011 KIMO Conference



NFLA All-Ireland Co-Chairs, Councillor Forde, Wexford County Manager & NFI A Secretary in Wexford



Proceedings of the Mayors for Peace Executive Conference in Granollers

The NFLA has close co-operation with a large number of groups, but works in particular with two influential local government groups – Mayors for Peace and KIMO International.

Mayors for Peace has 5,092 members and campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world. It

has 83 members in the UK and Ireland with the cities of Manchester and Glasgow both on its international boards.

The Board held a meeting in Granollers in November to determine its 2012 priorities.

KIMO International is an international marine

pollution local authority organisation. The NFLA provide key support on radiation issues and joins with it to raise concerns at the OSPAR Commission meetings on marine pollution in the NE Atlantic.

Mutual support makes all three groups much more effective.

Alternatives to nuclear power – a renewable energy mix

A key part of the work of the NFLA is offering an alternative to nuclear power.

Its policy is that energy needs can be provided by a wide renewable energy mix including wind, wave, hydro-electric, tidal, CHP and solar sources. This is coupled with an

ambitious Councils-led wide energy efficiency programme to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty. The geography of the British and Irish Isles is ideal for renewable energy.

Innovative use of micro-generation projects can also provide up to 10% of electricity and move

the UK & Ireland away from an over-centralized national grid.

Detailed studies of how this policy can be progressed in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales were produced in 2011. They will be updated, with linked NFLA Forum events, throughout 2012.

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in 2011:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No. 27 – Assessment of Scottish radioactive waste management policy
- No. 28 – NFLA submission on UK long-term plutonium management
- No. 29 – Exotic fuel at Dounreay Fast Reactor: Credible and Preferred Options
- No. 30 – Desk-based options of potential candidate sites for 'geological disposal'

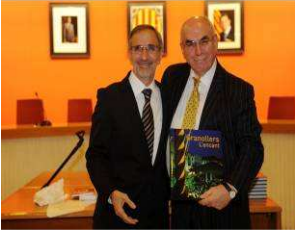
NFLA Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair changes

The NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan stood down as NFLA Chair after a 3 year term. Fife councillor Brian Goodall is the new NFLA Chair. Warm wishes were given to Bailie Regan.

NFLA Chairs in England, Wales & Ireland remain the same – Cllrs Ralph Pryke (Leeds), Stephen Churchman (Gwynedd), Ollan Herr (Dundalk) and Michael Carr (Newry & Mourne).

NFLA Scotland will elect a new Chair in February, with Cllr Audrey Doig (Renfrewshire Council) the acting chair.

The Forum Chairs act as NFLA SC Vice Chairs.



Mayor of Granollers and Councillor
Hackett of Manchester

Media releases and letters to the press in 2011:

- NFLA submitted 47 media releases in 2011 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are all on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted 80 letters to the media in 2011 across all aspects of nuclear policy, which were emailed to all its members.

These were published in a number of outlets, such as:

- The Guardian
- The Independent
- The Times
- Daily Telegraph
- The Scotsman
- The Herald
- N Wales Daily Post
- Western Mail
- Irish Times
- Belfast Telegraph
- E Anglia Daily Times
- Dundee Courier
- Manchester Ev News
- Newry Democrat
- Wexford Echo
- Clydebank Advert'er
- BBC / Online / Radio
- RTE / Irish radio
- 'C'Ilr' magazine
- Ekklesia

Co-operation with environmental & non-proliferation groups

The NFLA co-operates with a number of like-minded groups, when necessary, to promote its aims and objectives.

NFLA seminar speakers in 2011 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, BNTVA, the Acronym Institute, BASIC, the Nuclear Information Service, Energy Fair and local site groups concerned with the development of new nuclear build.

A key highlight of co-operation was a joint statement of minimum

demands to the UK Government after the Fukushima disaster.

Liaison has improved with the creation of the DECC NGO and ONR NGO dialogue meetings, the NDA National Meeting and the MOD's Submarine Dismantling Advisory Group.

Key priorities for 2012

The NFLA's priorities for 2012 were confirmed at its AGM in Newry and include:

- challenging the need for new nuclear build;
- promoting safe long-term solutions for radioactive waste;
- advocating further research on the effects of low level radiation;
- raising continuing

concerns over nuclear safety;

- seeking improvements in nuclear emergency planning standards;
- co-operating in the international movement that seeks to reduce the proliferation of nuclear weapons;
- seeking reductions in airborne and marine radioactive discharges;

- highlighting the need for sound environmental and ethical principles across energy and nuclear weapons policy;
- advocating the benefits of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency.

The NFLA Service Plan 2012 will be on the NFLA website in January 2012.

Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings

To join the NFLA just contact the Secretariat for affiliation rates. Affiliation rates have been frozen again for 2012/13. Members get access to all NFLA services noted above.

NFLA members and officers are entitled to go to each National Forum meeting & NFLA Steering Committee meetings. The 2012 AGM will be held in Manchester in December 2012.

Next NFLA meeting:
NFLA SC – 27th January, Manchester.
NFLA Forum meetings are being organised for February and March 2012.