



NFLA in 2012



The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2012 32 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2012

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Mayors for Peace website:
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
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<http://www.kimointernational.org>



Members of the NFLA Steering Committee meeting in Manchester Town Hall at the 2012 NFLA AGM

NFLA Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a concise summary of the work of the organisation in 2012. As the new NFLA Chair, I commend this Annual Newsletter to you and your fellow councillors. A 2013 NFLA Service Plan is also available on the website which outlines its plans for the year.

2012 has been an ever-changing year in the nuclear policy debate. The moves to develop new nuclear build have progressed a little, but key and varied issues still remain.

The radioactive waste debate is at a critical crossroads, as are the moves to improve UK nuclear safety. The NFLA

has also benefited greatly from its co-operation with a number of like-minded groups and a new European Cities nuclear free network.

The NFLA is at the heart of the nuclear policy debate & I am pleased to lead it into 2013.

Cllr Mark Hackett
NFLA Chair

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Over 32 years of campaigning on nuclear policy issues

The NFLA was set-up in 1980 and has become a respected and vigorous local authority voice on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2012 it continued its high quality support for local government by both responding to nuclear policy issues and being pro-active in influencing the national and wider international

agendas in nuclear power, nuclear safety, radioactive waste and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons .

To achieve this NFLA works closely with the Mayors for Peace, KIMO International and now with a new 'European Network of Cities against Nuclear Power' led by Vienna City Council.

It also interacts in LGA / COSLA groups and with national NGOs to ensure adequate public protection with, and alternatives to, nuclear power; and a nuclear weapons free world.

The following pages and the NFLA website outline some of this work in more detail and key issues in the 2012 policy debate.

NFLA consultation responses 2012

All can be found on the NFLA website.

a) Nuclear New build:

- NID Hinkley Point planning inquiry
- EA Hinkley Point radiation permits (3 detailed responses)
- DECC Electricity market reforms
- Alternatives to nuclear new build

b) Radioactive waste:

- MOD's submarine dismantling project
- West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely
- NDA transport of waste from Dounreay
- SEPA Dounreay authorizations
- DECC plutonium options
- NDA options for Scottish ILW

c) Nuclear safety:

- Fukushima and UK nuclear safety (ONR)
- Fukushima and UK nuclear EP

d) Energy policy:

- Welsh Assembly energy policy
- Analysis of energy policy in Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland

e) Low level radiation

- OSPAR RSC reports

f) Transport issues:

- Transport of heat exchangers to Sweden

g) New Networks:

- European nuclear free network

h) Nuclear weapons:

- Barrow & Trident Alternatives

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 2012 these included:

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

The Republic of Ireland Government – the Environment & Energy Depts, TDs & Senators.

Devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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

Local Authority bodies – the Mayors for Peace, the European Network of Cities against Nuclear Power, KIMO, NuLEAF, & SCCORS.

International bodies – the OSPAR Commission, UN Disarmament Office.

National & locally-based anti-nuclear groups.

NFLA Steering Committee work in 2012

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in Manchester Town Hall in January, March, June and September 2012; and for its AGM in December 2012.

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

work. Reports include updates on new nuclear build, Fukushima and UK nuclear safety 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 at the NFLA's Steering Committee meetings in 2013.

NFLA English Forum meetings: Leeds & Manchester (twice)

In 2012, the NFLA English Forum held 3 seminars for its members.

In February it held a seminar in Leeds Civic Hall on key nuclear issues in England.

In September it held a special seminar for UN Peace Day on nuclear weapons proliferation in Manchester, and in December it held (in association with the NFLA SC) a seminar on international nuclear

policy developments.

The first seminar of 2013 will be held in Rotherham on the transport of nuclear materials and concerns over contaminated recycled metal.



NFLA All Ireland Forum Chairs and NFLA Secretary at Irish Government HQ



Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM speaking at NFLA Welsh Forum in Cardiff



Councillor Mark Hackett opens NFLA / Mayors for Peace UN Peace Day event in Manchester

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2012:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 25 – EA Hinkley Point radiation permits – marine discharges
- No 26 - EA Hinkley Point radiation permits – aerial emissions
- No 27 - NID Hinkley Point planning inquiry
- No 28 - DECC Electricity market reforms
- No 29 – EA Hinkley updated radioactive permits
- No 30 - Alternatives to nuclear new build

NFLA All Ireland Forum meetings: Dundalk & Downpatrick

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

In 2012 it held a spring seminar in Dundalk Town Hall with various presentations on the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear build programme and Irish

renewable energy alternatives.

Its autumn meeting in Downpatrick considered the risks to Ireland of nuclear, shale gas and fossil fuel production.

The NFLA Chairs and NFLA Secretary also met officials from the Irish Government to

discuss concerns over nuclear policy and its interaction on energy matters with the UK Government.

Sinead Trainor from Newry & Mourne District Council continues to kindly provide excellent support to the Forum.

NFLA Scotland meetings: Paisley, Glasgow & Manchester

The NFLA Scotland Forum met three times in 2012, of which one meeting was held in Manchester to coincide with the NFLA AGM.

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 were also provided by John Ainslie of CND Scotland. The NFLA is also a member of the Scottish Parliament's cross-party nuclear weapons group.

A February seminar in Paisley and an August seminar in Glasgow looked at key Scottish

nuclear issues such as Dounreay, Dalgety Bay, Scottish waste policy and Trident. The NFLA Scotland Chair & NFLA Secretary met Scottish Government officials.

Cathy Birrell from Glasgow City Council provides very useful admin support to the Forum.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings: Cardiff (twice)

The NFLA Welsh Forum held a cross-party panel debate on nuclear energy and Welsh policy in Cardiff County Hall in March 2012.

In October 2012 it also

held a very well attended seminar on key Welsh energy issues and its concerns over Trident being moved to Wales in the event of Scotland deciding to become independent in 2014.

The NFLA Welsh Forum Chair was also invited to speak to the Welsh Assembly's energy inquiry on the NFLA's submission for a future nuclear free Wales.



Delegates to the NFLA All Ireland meeting in Co Down



Mayors for Peace Forum meeting at the NPT Preparatory Committee

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2012:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No. 94 – NFLA reports to OSPAR RSC
- No 95 – Transport of contaminated steam generators from Berkeley to Sweden
- No 96 – NFLA SC March 2012
- No 97 – Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference
- No 98 – NFLA SC June 2012
- No 99 – NFLA assessment of Scottish energy policy
- No 100 – Fukushima and UK nuclear emergency planning
- No 101 – NFLA SC September 2012
- No 102 – NET survey on Barrow & Trident
- No 103 – NFLA’s international co-operative alliances

Nuclear power debate – new build slowly pushes forward

A focal point of NFLA work in 2012 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

The NFLA took an active part in all official consultations & directly put forward its concerns to UK 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 and promoted in NFLA

submissions.

The Fukushima disaster continues to influence UK nuclear policy. The UK Energy Bill has many omissions over the actual public cost of a new build programme. In 2013, the NFLA will continue to challenge the need for new nuclear.

Radioactive waste debate – repository or near surface?

A critical part of the debate on the need for new nuclear build is how the existing large radioactive waste legacy is 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 many scientific, technical and geological issues remain to be resolved. It responded to the local consultation on whether West Cumbria should host

such a repository and awaits a decision by the Cumbrian Councils on it.

It is liaising with the Scottish Government on its policy of ‘near site, near surface’ monitorable and retrievable waste.

NFLA interacts with NuLeaF, SCCORS, NDA & CoRWM on this issue.

Nuclear weapons and Trident replacement

The NFLA remains concerned around the increasing possibility of a breakdown in the positive moves to ensure nuclear weapons non-proliferation.

In 2012, the NFLA worked closely with Mayors for Peace on international lobbying on the weapons issue and participated in the NPT Preparatory Conference.

The NFLA responded to a NET consultation on Barrow & Trident Alternatives. In 2013 it will continue to submit its views and interact across all aspects of this issue.



NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall speaking at European Parliament, Brussels



NFLA All-Ireland Co-Chair Councillor Mark Dearey opens meeting in Dundalk



Lord Mayor of Manchester unveils wreath at annual Hiroshima - Naasaki event. August 2012

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in 2012:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 31 – MOD Submarine Dismantling Project
- No 32 – ‘Geological Disposal’ of radioactive waste in Cumbria
- No 33 – NDA consultation on ‘exotic fuels’ at Dounreay
- No 34 – Proposed justification of the reuse of plutonium
- No 35 – Intermediate level waste in Scotland
- No 36 – Dounreay authorisations

Co-operation with international partner groups

The NFLA has enhanced its cooperation with a number of international groups in relevant policy areas in 2012.

The Mayors for Peace has 5,490 members and campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world. It has 84 members in the UK and Ireland with the cities of Manchester and

Glasgow both on its international boards. NFLA attended the 2012 UN NPT Preparatory Conference with Mayors for Peace and will continue to co-operate with it in 2013.

KIMO International is an international marine pollution local authority organisation. In 2012,

the NFLA developed reports for KIMO, and attended a meeting of the OSPAR Radiation Substances Committee.

The NFLA are also pleased to work with Vienna Council over the development of a new and vibrant European Network of Cities against Nuclear Power.

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 15% of electricity and move

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

Detailed updates of how this policy can be progressed in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales were produced in 2012. They will be updated again, with linked NFLA Forum events, throughout 2013.

NFLA Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chair changes

The NFLA Chair Cllr Brian Goodall stood down as Chair at the 2012 AGM and was replaced by Cllr Mark Hackett. NFLA thanks Cllr Goodall for his strong leadership.

NFLA Forum Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2013 were also approved at the 2012 AGM and are: Scotland – Cllr Fariha Thomas, England – Cllr David Blackburn, Ireland – Cllr Mark Dearey (RoI)

& Cllr Michael Carr (N. Ireland), Wales – Cllrs Ed Bridges and Ray Davies. The NFLA Scotland Forum Vice-Chair (Scotland) is Cllr Norman McDonald.



Stop Sellafield poster in Oslo city centre

Media releases and letters to the press in 2012:

- NFLA submitted 42 media releases in 2012 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are all on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted 60 letters to the media in 2012 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
- Financial Times
- Morning Star
- The Scotsman
- The Herald
- N Wales Daily Post
- Western Mail
- Irish Times
- Irish Independent
- Belfast Telegraph
- E Anglia Daily Times
- Fife Courier
- Manchester Ev News
- Newry Democrat
- Galway Online
- BBC / Online / Radio
- RTE / Irish radio
- Local govt media

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 2012 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, the Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, the Nuclear Information Service and local site groups concerned with the development of new nuclear build. Official groups like SEPA, RPII and SEAI have also spoke at various NFLA seminars.

The NFLA Secretary also attends the DECC NGO

Forum and ONR / EA NGO Forum meetings, the NDA National Stakeholder Meeting and the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Dismantling Advisory Group. These allow NFLA members to have a direct contact with UK Ministers, relevant Government officials & nuclear regulators.

Key priorities for 2013

The NFLA's priorities for 2013 were confirmed at its AGM in Manchester 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 within international networks that seek a nuclear power free and nuclear weapon free Europe and wider world;
- 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 2013 outlines this work and is on its website.

Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings

To join the NFLA please contact the NFLA Secretariat for further details and our annual low and real value-for-money affiliation rates.

NFLA membership allow

members and officers to attend National NFLA Forum meetings & NFLA Steering Committee meetings. The 2013 NFLA AGM will be held at the end of the year in either Wales or Scotland.

Next NFLA meeting:

The next NFLA Steering Committee is on 25th January in Manchester Town Hall. NFLA Forum meetings are also being scheduled shortly.