



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

Information

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NFLA's welcome Obama's commitment to a 'Nuclear Free World' while organising new meetings around the UK and Ireland

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLAs) have written to President Obama warmly welcoming his public commitment to significantly reduce the United States stockpile of nuclear weapons and seeking a bilateral agreement with Russia to do likewise.

President Obama has committed United States foreign policy (1) to reduce the prospects of nuclear proliferation by negotiating a verifiable global ban on the production of new nuclear weapons material, to strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and to move towards a nuclear-free world by stopping the development of new nuclear weapons and making dramatic reductions in U.S. and Russian stockpiles of nuclear weapons.

Such policies tally with the aims of the NFLA to see the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons, while also firmly opposing nuclear energy new build. The NFLA are closely co-operating with the Hiroshima and Nagasaki-led Mayors for Peace organisation as they attend the upcoming Preparatory Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the United Nations in May. The NFLA Chair and Secretary will attend as part of a Mayors for Peace delegation lobbying national governments, including the UK, to support President Obama's initiative. The Mayors for Peace will put forward its '2020 Vision' which seeks the elimination of all nuclear weapons by that date.

NFLA Chair, Councillor Bill Risby, said:

"Nuclear Free Local Authorities are pleased that President Obama is making the reduction of nuclear weapons one of his key foreign policy goals. Our organisation supports this initiative and urges the UK Government and governments around the world to transform words into action and bring about the nuclear-free world the majority of us wish to see. With Mayors for Peace, the NFLA will lobby for this aspiration which is for the obvious good of all mankind."

Meanwhile, the NFLA is pleased to announce meetings around the British Isles on various aspects of nuclear policy:

- NFLA Scotland will hold its Annual General Meeting on 27th February in Dundee City Hall and showcase the 'Dundee eco-house' promoting the benefits of energy efficiency in dealing with climate change.
- The NFLA All-Ireland Forum will hold a seminar on radioactive discharges and nuclear shipments in the Irish Sea in the presence of the Irish Environment Minister, John Gormley, on 13th March in the Carrickdale Hotel in Dundalk.
- The NFLA Welsh Forum will hold a seminar on whether Wales should go for new nuclear build at Wylfa in Anglesey or tidal energy in the Severn Estuary on 3rd April in Bridgend Civic Offices.
- The NFLA English Forum will consider the regional aspects of developing a radioactive waste repository in the north west and how to engage the public and Councils in this sensitive policy area on 24th April in Lancashire County Hall, Preston.

Councillor Risby added:

"I am delighted we have such a good range of issues being discussed by national Forums over the next couple of months. The NFLA has always led the way in providing local Councils with important information on all aspects of nuclear policy. We will continue to vigorously lobby against the prospects for new nuclear build and promote the positive ways local government can play in promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and a nuclear free future."

ENDS

(1) White House website, 9th February 2009

Further information: Councillor Bill Risby 0161 681 3408

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