



The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2018 38 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2018

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Useful website Links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
 (includes links to NFLA Facebook & Twitter)
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>
ICAN global: <http://www.icanw.org>



The Lord Mayor of Manchester and her Consort with Manchester's TPNW resolution

NFLA SC Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a general summary of its work throughout 2018.

I was delighted to be elected as the new NFLA SC Chair at the NFLA AGM in Newry.

A highlight of 2018 was seeing great strides being made in renew-

able energy as new nuclear flounders. The ratification of the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty now also looks likely in 2019, with the first UK cities to support it doing so in late 2018 – Manchester & Renfrew.

The confusion that Brexit has arisen for all forms of policy has continued and will have

a major impact in some form in 2019.

As ever, NFLA has remained very much at the heart of the nuclear policy and energy policy debates in 2018. It has produced highly original research and took a focal part in all nuclear stakeholder debates.

***Cllr David Blackburn
 NFLA SC Chair***

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Over 38 years of campaigning on nuclear policy issues

The NFLA was set-up in November 1980 and is both a respected and a cogent local authority voice on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2018 it provided a high quality support service for its member local authorities by both responding to nuclear policy issues and being pro-active in influencing the national and wider

international nuclear & energy agenda.

To achieve this, NFLA works closely with groups like the Mayors for Peace, KIMO International, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, ICAN-UK and a large number of regional, national & international anti-nuclear disarmament & environmental groups.

It interacts with the LGA NuLEAF & the COSLA SCCORS radioactive waste groups, national & international government agencies, key nuclear regulators, the NDA and RWM.

The following pages, and the NFLA website, outline some of this work in more detail and the 2018 nuclear policy debate.

Mayors for Peace Briefings in 2018:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 12: Nobel Peace Prize for ICAN.

No 13: Chapter meeting and Project G.

No 14: Sheffield MFP event.

No 15: Disarmament debate & peace education.

No 16: NPT and Executive Board meeting

No 17: ICAN UK meeting and Manchester Peace Trail.

No 18: Hiroshima and Nagasaki events.

No 19: Chapter update.

No 20: ICAN Cities Appeal.

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2018:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 51: Rad waste and the UK new nuclear programme.

No 52: UK Government's updated National Policy Statement on Nuclear.

No 53: Hinkley Point C transboundary impacts Irish response.

No 54: Submission to Planning Inspectorate on proposed Wylfa B site in Anglesey.

The many organisations NFLA interacted with in 2018

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

In 2018 these included: **The UK Government** – BEIS, MOD, Foreign Office, DEFRA, Parliamentary Select Committees, MPs & Lords.

Republic of Ireland Government – Foreign Affairs, Environment and Energy Departments, TDs & Senators.

Devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulatory bodies – ONR, FSA, SEPA, NDA, PHE, CoRWM, EPA,

NRW, COMARE and the Environment Agency.

LA groups – Mayors for Peace, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE), KIMO, NuLEAF, & SCCORS.

International bodies – Euro Commission & Parliament, the OSPAR Commission, IMO, IAEA, United Nations.

NFLA Steering Committee work throughout 2018

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in the four NFLA Forums in January, March, June, September & December.

Led by the NFLA Chair & Forum Chairs, the NFLA Secretary submits reports to it on all aspects of NFLA work for discussion and decision.

Reports include updates on new nuclear build, radioactive waste policy, nuclear safety, low level radiation and health, alternatives to nuclear power, nuclear security, nuclear transportation & emergency planning.

A key part of the work is to respond to all nuclear policy consultations.

Updates on national and international nuclear weapons policy, defence diversification strategies and Mayors for Peace are also provided.

Such work will continue at the NFLA's Steering Committee meetings in 2019, which will be held in Manchester.

NFLA English Forum joint seminars in Leeds, Oxford & Hull

In 2018, the NFLA English Forum held 3 seminars for its member authorities. In March, Leeds hosted a joint meeting with the Mayors for Peace.

In June the Forum held

a seminar in Oxford on nuclear transports and local energy.

In October the Forum held a seminar in Hull on radioactive waste, hydrogen energy and how Councils are pro-

moting energy policy.

Its next meeting will be to co-host a joint meeting with the Mayors for Peace Chapter in February in Manchester.



Attendees at the NFLA Scotland / ICAN / Mayors for Peace seminar in Clydebank



NFLA Secretary, ICAN staff and MPs with the Mayor of Oslo in London



Attendees at the ICAN UK meeting held in Manchester



Anti-nuclear Welsh groups with NFLA Welsh Forum reps at joint public meeting in Machynlleth, Powys



Attendees at the Leeds NFLA / Mayors for Peace joint seminar

NFLA All Ireland Forum meets in Omagh & Newry

The NFLA All Ireland Forum provides an innovative cross-border consideration of nuclear and energy issues impacting on Ireland.

Its spring seminar held in Omagh considered the real problems around climate change, Irish renewables, the RHI crisis and nuclear

policy concerns.

An autumn seminar was planned in October for Dundalk, but has to be cancelled due to bad weather – presentations on waste are on the NFLA website.

Its winter seminar, with the SC, held in Newry, considered climate cha-

nge, nuclear impacts and Brexit.

Regular contact with the Irish Government has taken place through Dr Paul Dorfman, who is the NFLA representative to the EPA RIC.

The next meeting of the Forum will in March in Dundalk.

NFLA Scotland meetings held across the country

NFLA Scotland met four times in 2018.

It held an April business meeting and seminar on geothermal & hydrogen in Glasgow.

In June it held a business meeting, the NFLA Steering Committee and a joint seminar on key nuclear issues in

Edinburgh.

In September, it held a business meeting and joint seminar with the Mayors for Peace on nuclear weapons policy and peace education.

In November, it held a business meeting and a seminar on Hunterston B, decentralised energy

policy and concerns over nuclear transports.

It receives regular updates from its Policy Advisor Pete Roche.

Its next meeting will be its AGM and a business meeting, either in Dundee or Glasgow in February 2019.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings in Machynlleth & Cardiff

The NFLA Welsh Forum held two well attended meetings in Wales.

In June it held a joint meeting with WANA, PAWB, CADNO, Stop Hinkley & the Centre for

Alternative Technology in Powys which agreed to the Machynlleth Declaration.

In September it held a joint meeting with the SC and seminar on new

nuclear concerns and the benefits of renewables. It supported 2 debates in the Senedd. Its next meeting will be a public meeting in North Wales in March.



Speaker panel at the NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting in Omagh

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2018:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 170 – Helm review and cost of energy.
- No 171 – NFLA SC from December 2017.
- No 172 – Evacuations after serious nuclear accidents.
- No 173 – NFLA SC February 2018.
- No 174 – NFLA SC March 2018.
- No 175 – Decentralised energy and climate change imperative.
- No 176 – NFLA SC June 2018.
- No 177 – How Scotland’s energy company could revive renewable energy.
- No 178 – Creating UK domestic nuclear safeguards regime.
- No 179 – A Scottish Publicly Owned Energy Company.
- No 180 – NFLA SC September 2018.
- No 181 – Technical notes on Hunterston B safety issues.
- No 182 – Report on APSE Energy 2018 Conference.
- No 183 – NFLA SC December 2018.
- No 184 – Nuclear transportation concerns (to be published in January 2019)

Nuclear power debate – key obstacles to new build remain

A core part of NFLA work in 2018 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

The financial weaknesses in these projects has come to the fore, with the Sellafield Moorside project closed and the Wylfa B under

serious financial pressures.

Some early preparatory work has been done at Hinkley Point C, but the dumping of over 300k tonnes of mud from the site has been a major issue in South Wales. EDF remains under financial pressure.

Issues with older nuclear reactors has also come to the fore, particularly keyway root cracks to the Hunterston B plant.

NFLA have been heavily involved in these debates, as well as raising safety and finance concerns over Small Modular Reactors.

Radioactive waste debate – deep repository or near surface?

A key issue in nuclear policy remains the large radioactive waste legacy and how it is to be 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 by consensus.

In 2018 the UK & Welsh Governments launched a new attempt to seek a volunteer to host a deep underground radioactive waste repository.

However, the issues with Brexit has delayed the policy, which will be

pursued in 2019.

In Scotland, the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor attends meetings of the Scottish Government’s Project Board implementing its ‘near site, near surface’ policy.

NFLA will continue to interact in both debates with NuLeaF, SCCORS, the NDA & CoRWM.

Nuclear weapons and the Trident replacement debate

The NFLA is heavily involved in the UK and international nuclear weapons debate. NFLA has worked with Mayors for Peace and ICAN to encourage its members to pass resolutions that

support the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and oppose Trident replacement.

NFLA are also responding in detail to a House of Lords consult-

ation on UK nuclear weapons policy.

Work is ongoing in the area of defence diversification via a Steering Group chaired by the NFLA Secretary.



The NFLA Secretary with one of ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize medals



Tore Naerland of Bike for Peace with Nick Taylor from the Warrington Peace Centre during their tour of Manchester – Warrington - Liverpool

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in

2018:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 70 – Radioactive waste issues relating to the proposed Wylfa B site.
- No 71 – UK & Welsh Government radwaste policy.
- No 72 & 73 – Pre and post consultation on regulation of nuclear sites as they reach end states
- No 74 – Sellafield discharges
- No 75 – Scottish Nuclear Sector Plan for looking after its legacy waste materials

Co-operation with international partner groups

The NFLA has worked closely with a number of international groups in various nuclear policy areas in 2018.

The Mayors for Peace has now over 7,650 members & campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world. It has 90 members in the UK and Ireland with the city of

Manchester a Vice President member.

In 2018 the UK & Ireland Mayors, Provosts and Leaders for Peace Chapter held meetings in March and September.

The Executive Board of Mayors for Peace was held in Geneva in April

2018 around the NPT Preparatory Conference.

NFLA continues to work with Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe and KIMO International on issues of mutual concern with nuclear policy and the marine environment.

NFLA also works with ICAN on its TPNW work.

Rapidly delivering decentralised and renewable energy

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

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

with a Councils-led and ambitious energy efficiency programme, battery storage & local energy projects.

2018 saw continuing moves by many Councils to establish energy companies and other strategies to develop decentralised energy. This is despite

the UK Government continuing to sharply slash renewable subsidy.

In 2018 NFLA produced a number of reports on best practice in decentralised energy across the UK and Ireland. Renewable energy was generated at record levels in both countries and has a bright future.

NFLA Steering Committee Chair, Vice Chairs & Forum Chairs

The NFLA Chair is Cllr David Blackburn from Leeds City Council. He was elected at the NFLA AGM in Newry.

The NFLA SC Vice Chair

is Cllr Bill Butler of Glasgow City Council.

Forum Chairs for 2018 include Cllr Feargal Dalton in Scotland; Cllr David Blackburn in England; Cllr Mark Dearey & Cllr John

Trainor in Ireland and Cllr Ernie Galsworthy for the Welsh Forum.

Sean Morris has been the Secretary of the NFLA since 2008.



Bernard Weber and the NFLA Secretary with the famous CND peace symbol

Communication strategy in 2018:

- NFLA submitted over 70 media releases in 2018 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted over 25 letters to the media in 2018 across all aspects of nuclear policy, which were emailed to all its members.
- NFLA launched in August 2018 a new Facebook page and a Twitter page. These are already reaching as many as 2,000+ relevant individuals and nuclear policy groups.
- NFLA launched a new logo in January 2018 which has been well received, and shows the issues it works on.
- The NFLA website provides a public repository of all its reports, media releases and newsletters.

Co-operation with key non-governmental groups

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

NFLA seminar speakers in 2018 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, the Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Information Service and local site groups that are concerned with the development of new nuclear build.

The Secretariat has invited a number of experts advising local Councils on how to develop energy policy.

The NFLA Secretariat attends the BEIS NGO Forum and ONR NGO Forum meetings, NDA & RWM meetings, the Scottish Government’s Project Board on radwaste and a number of one-off nuclear policy meetings. These allow NFLA to have a direct contact with key nuclear policy makers.

Key priorities for the NFLA throughout 2019

The NFLA’s priorities for 2019 were confirmed at its 2018 AGM in Newry and they 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 issues;
- 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 & nuclear weapons policy;
- advocating the benefits of decentralised renewable energy solutions.

The NFLA Service Plan 2019 outlines this work and is on its website.

Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings

To join the NFLA please contact the NFLA Secretary for further details on our annual low, value-for-money affiliation rates. Joining NFLA allows all of its members and officers

to attend National NFLA Forum seminars and meetings, as well as five NFLA Steering Committee meetings. The 2019 NFLA AGM will be held at the end of the year in Manchester.

Next NFLA meeting:

The NFLA’s Steering Committee meets next on 8th February 2019 in Manchester Central Library. It will link in with Mayors for Peace.