



## **Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum Spring 2014 Meeting** **NFLA All Ireland Forum business meeting & seminar -** **Ireland's future energy policy and UK nuclear update**

- Renewable energy in Ireland and gaining public support for it
- UK nuclear policy update and its potential impact on Ireland
- Fracking and Ireland – energy solution or environmental danger?

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014, Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monaghan Road, Newry, BT35 8DJ.**

The NFLA All Ireland Forum's Spring 2014 meeting and seminar will allow councillors, council officers and interested groups to discuss more about relevant energy issues affecting Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The meeting will commence with a NFLA All Ireland Forum business meeting to allow members and non-members to discuss how the NFLA takes forward its policy agenda in Ireland and how it may respond to major changes in local government in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

The seminar will consider three major issues of interest to councillors, council officers and community groups:

- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has calculated that renewable energy has saved Ireland €1 billion in fossil fuel imports in the last five years. Sustainable Energy Communities is a concept NFLA would very much wish to support. However, there has been some public disquiet over some wind development projects being built or proposed in Ireland. How can the benefits of renewable energy be squared with the visual amenity issues of some of these projects? How can community support of renewable energy be encouraged?
- A major European Commission decision on the UK Government's deal with EDF to build new nuclear reactors will be made shortly. What impact will this have on European energy policy and how does it affect Ireland? Also, what remain the continuing concerns of the Sellafield site to Ireland? What is NFLA doing in this debate? A full nuclear policy update will be provided.
- Shale gas fracking in Ireland has been lauded by some as a major future energy solution, but to others is full of environmental and health risks. What information should local authorities be aware of as they consider such planning developments?

This FREE seminar will consider these matters. It is open to councillors, council officers, environmental and public health officers, local energy companies & local interested groups.

### **PROGRAMME (speakers may be subject to change)**

- 10.30am NFLA All Ireland business meeting – for NFLA members, non-members are welcome to observe
- a) Key energy issues in Ireland – renewables, fossil fuels, fracking
  - b) Radiation discharges and UK new nuclear build and its effects on Ireland
  - c) Local government reorganisation in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and impact on NFLA membership
  - d) Issues that NFLA All Ireland members wish Secretariat to take forward
- 11.30am NFLA All Ireland seminar
- Opening welcome by Councillor Michael Carr, Newry & Mourne Council and Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum.
- 11.35am The benefits of renewable energy in Ireland and how to ensure public support and co-operation for it – Matthew Kennedy, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (confirmed).
- 12.05pm Update on nuclear issues in the UK and the risks to Ireland – Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary (confirmed).
- 12.30pm Shale gas fracking in Ireland – energy solution or environmental danger? Declan Allison, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (confirmed).
- 1.00pm Panel discussion chaired by the Co-Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum, Councillor Mark Dearey, Dundalk Town Council and NFLA All Ireland Forum Chair.



## NFLA All Ireland Forum Spring 2014 Meeting

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014, Council Chamber, Council Offices, Monaghan Road, Newry.

### Registration Details

The seminar is a free event open to all NFLA members and officers and interested environmental groups.

If you are planning to attend, could you please fill in the appropriate details and post, email or fax to the address at the bottom of this form:

Name	Authority / Group	Correspondence address (email or postal)

### Venue and accommodation details:

Newry and Mourne District Council Offices (O'Hagan House) are off Monaghan Row in the city centre. To download a map go to Google maps and type in the postcode BT35 8DJ. The train station is a 10 minute walk or short bus / taxi ride to the Council Offices and it is on the main Dublin – Belfast train line.

### Hotels in and around Newry:

Canal Court Hotel, Merchants Quay, BT35 8HF 02830 251234

Belmont Hall B&B, 18 Downshire Road 02830 262163

Francis Court Hotel, 13 – 19 Francis Street, BT35 8BQ 02830 66326

Mourne Country Hotel, 52 Belfast Road, BT34 1TR 02830 267922

### Please return this form to: Patrick McVerry, Acting Secretary, NFLA All Ireland

Forum - [patrick.mcverry@newryandmourne.gov.uk](mailto:patrick.mcverry@newryandmourne.gov.uk) Fax: 00 44 (0)2830 264482 Tel: 00 44 (0)2830 313096.

For more general queries of the seminar or the NFLA please contact the NFLA UK and Ireland Secretary, Sean Morris – [s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:s.morris4@manchester.gov.uk) Tel: 00 44 (0)161 234 3244. <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

**NFLA thanks Councillor Michael Carr and Newry & Mourne District Council for kindly agreeing to host this meeting.**