



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

# information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2014

## **NFLA welcomes key European study which shows, under the same budgetary conditions, renewable energy is more cost effective than nuclear power**

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) welcomes a report publicised by the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe (CNFE) which analyses the comparative costs of renewable energy and nuclear power, in the light of the huge subsidy required to develop a new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point in Somerset.

Throughout 2014, NFLA and CNFE have co-operated over challenging the need for new nuclear build in the UK and across Europe, with particular focus on new nuclear build at Hinkley Point. In March they submitted a joint report to the European Commission challenging the UK Government's proposed subsidy agreement with EDF for building a new nuclear plant at Hinkley Point. (1) In October, the European Commission has, for now, approved the State Aid, but the Austria Government has announced it will formally appeal against this decision in the new year. (2)

The European Commission's discussion over state aid for new nuclear provided for the first time detailed information from the nuclear industry on the levels of financial support needed to develop the first new nuclear power plant in Europe to be built after the Fukushima disaster. It is clear to NFLA and CNFE that, without the UK Government's subsidy agreements contained in the state aid proposal, the EDF consortium would never be able to build the Hinkley Point plant. So for the first time it has also been made clear to the public how much Government finance (i.e. public money) is needed for nuclear energy.

The Vienna Ombuds-Office for Environmental Protection took this opportunity and commissioned a study for CNFE to compare the costs for nuclear power with the costs for renewable power. The main question for the study was: "How much electricity can we get out of different energy sources for a given sum of money?" (3)

For the answer the study compares the costs of renewable energy and nuclear power generation in five countries - UK, Poland, Germany, France and the Czech Republic - and the EU 28 overall.

The report concludes that, under the same budgetary conditions, it is almost always **possible to generate more electricity from renewable sources than from nuclear power**. It also concludes that generating electricity from a variety of renewable sources is more economical than using nuclear power right up to 2050 and beyond. Across the EU, **end consumers can save up to 37% on their electricity costs, and some member states up to 74%**. In order to achieve these goals it is vital that Governments act quickly, but with care, to create the infrastructure and regulatory framework this requires, or to adapt that which already exists.

NFLA Chair Councillor Mark Hackett said:

"I warmly welcome this report from the Vienna Ombuds-Office for Environment Protection and the close co-operation the NFLA has with the CNFE Network. This report lays bare two facts that the NFLA has always believed to be the case – that renewable energy can generate more electricity than nuclear power given a level playing field, and that consumers will significantly make savings on electricity costs if renewable energy is prioritised over nuclear. It shows clearly that the UK Government is making a huge mistake by developing new nuclear power at Hinkley Point, and the European Commission is making a similar mistake by approving the state aid deal as a precedent for energy across the EU. NFLA will submit this report to the UK Government and the European

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**



*Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee*

# information

Commission as a matter of urgency to think again about what could be one of the most expensive policy mistakes in UK energy history.”

Ends

For more information please contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 00 44 (0)161 234 3244.

Notes for editors:

- (1) NFLA / CNFE / Stop Hinkley joint submission to the European Commission on the UK Government state aid deal to build a new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point, March 2014: [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA\\_New\\_Nuclear\\_Monitor\\_No34.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/nuclearmonitor/NFLA_New_Nuclear_Monitor_No34.pdf)
- (2) NFLA media release on European Commission decision, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014: [http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA\\_Commission\\_state\\_aid\\_disappointment.pdf](http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/docs/news/NFLA_Commission_state_aid_disappointment.pdf)
- (3) Vienna Ombuds-Office for Environmental Protection, 'Renewable Energy versus Nuclear Power – Comparing Financial Support', December 2014:  
Summary – <http://www.wua-wien.at/images/stories/publikationen/renewable-energy-versus-nuclear-power-summary.pdf>  
Full report - <http://www.wua-wien.at/images/stories/publikationen/renewable-energy-versus-nuclear-power.pdf>

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES**

---