



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 15th December 2011

NFLA endorses Committee on Climate Change's report around 'green taxes'

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities fully endorses the Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) report that steep increases in gas and electricity bills are predominantly down to wholesale gas price spikes and not due to the levies to develop new forms of renewable energy, as is often claimed in a continuing fierce media-driven campaign. (1)

In the CCC report, published today, it calculates that energy bills will rise by around £190 by the end of the decade. Charges on developing renewable energy and energy efficiency make up £110 of this increase, but could be as low as £25 if the full energy savings of energy efficiency projects (many led by forward-thinking Councils) can be realised. This compares to wide and alarming suggestions made by various think-tanks and reported in much of the media that bills could double in this decade to as much as £3,000 per household.

The CCC calculated that 84% of the recent rises in energy bills are due to steep increases in wholesale gas prices on the international market. The NFLA furthermore believes that, if a concerted development of renewable energy and energy efficiency continues, it will greatly improve energy security across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and reduce vulnerability to such short-term spikes in wholesale prices.

The NFLA also notes a Sunday Times / You Gov poll on public attitudes to future energy use (2), which very much chimes with the NFLA's view of developing renewable energy and energy efficiency programmes (3). The poll shows huge support for developing more solar power (74%), just at a time when the UK Government has cut the popular feed-in tariffs, and strong support for more wind power (56%). This compares to support for new nuclear at just 35%, with a majority 50% wanting to see either no more nuclear power stations or a complete phase out. Oil and coal come out even less favourably.

NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"In recent weeks I have observed a strong and well organised media campaign constantly arguing that the large increases in gas and electricity bills is almost entirely due to 'green taxes' for the development of renewable energy. I am delighted to hear the Committee on Climate Change confirm that this is a huge red herring. I believe this co-ordinated campaign has been orchestrated by those interests who are determined to stop the positive, clean, sustainable and huge economic potential that exists with developing renewable forms of energy.

The parallel benefits of promoting energy efficiency noted by the Committee should also be welcomed in reducing the alarming rise in fuel poverty, and it will directly help to cut fuel bills. As the recent poll of public attitudes has clearly shown, the public strongly support our view on the development of renewable energy. But why do we not hear about such support across the UK media? I believe the UK Government should look carefully at the poll, and start amending their energy policies accordingly."

Ends

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

For further information contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 00 44 (0)161 234 3244 or 00 44 (0)7771 930196.

Notes for editors:

- (1) The UK Parliament Committee on Climate Change – ‘CCC report shows that household energy bill increases caused primarily by rising cost of gas, not environmental policies’, 15th December 2011.
<http://www.theccc.org.uk/news/latest-news/1133-ccc-report-shows-that-household-energy-bill-increases-caused-primarily-by-rising-cost-of-gas-not-environmental-policies-15-dec-2011>
- (2) You Gov / Sunday Times opinion poll on public attitudes to energy needs, 11th December 2011.
http://cdn.yougov.com/cumulus_uploads/document/gm4jg0973n/Sunday%20Times%20Results%20111125%20VI%20and%20Trackers.pdf
- (3) The NFLA have produced detailed responses on the future potential development of energy policy in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These can be found on the homepage of the NFLA website – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>.

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES