



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

MEDIA ADVISORY – for immediate release, 11th October 2011

NFLA Scotland report endorses positive moves towards renewables but urges the Scottish Government to develop consistent policies towards energy efficiency, district heating schemes & microgeneration

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) publishes today a detailed briefing analysing current and future energy policy in Scotland to show how it can meet its future energy needs without recourse to new nuclear power, whilst reducing the scourge of fuel poverty (1). The report also shows how the long-held NFLA energy policy of a wide renewable energy mix, a concerted energy efficiency programme and increased efforts to develop local microgeneration projects can provide more than adequate levels of electricity across Scotland, with Councils being at the cutting edge of this 'new energy revolution'.

The NFLA Policy Briefing is part of a series of four briefings showing how Scotland, Wales, England and Ireland can co-operate with each other to develop a wide variety of renewable energy, energy efficiency and microgeneration projects to generate its future needs, protect its energy security and which could provide a financial and jobs bonanza to each country in these difficult economic times (2).

The NFLA Scotland briefing analyses in particular the Scottish Government's 'Renewables Routes Map' and broadly welcomes it in terms of the policy direction in increasing the levels of Scottish renewable energy production. It is pleasing to the NFLA Scotland Forum how Scotland is becoming a world leader in these technologies. The NFLA briefing though is disappointed with the Scottish Government's cuts to the energy efficiency budget, the delays in getting small-scale renewable energy installed - particularly on social housing - and a lack of progress with district heating schemes which have been shown to be feasible and to which many Scottish local authorities wish to speed ahead with.

In the NFLA's view, the Scottish Government should:-

- Drop its support for nuclear reactor life extensions.
- Set a target to produce 100% of electricity generated in Scotland from renewables by 2030.
- Increase the target for renewable heat by 2020 from 11% to 20%.
- Aim to produce 50% of Scotland's energy from renewable sources by 2030.
- Reverse the cuts made to energy efficiency budgets and start thinking big with regard to retrofitting houses across the country in co-operation with local authorities.
- Investigate how Germany can plan for a 25% decrease in electricity demand by 2050 whereas the Scottish Government is expecting a 7% increase by 2020.
- It should investigate the Birmingham City Council energy projects financial model as a matter of urgency and start working with local authorities so that a policy of developing solar panels and other small-scale renewables appearing on social housing become a matter of course.
- It needs to increase the £2.5 million district heating loan fund to at least £25m. The two schemes in Granton and Muirhouse (where there is no gas supply) investigated by the City of Edinburgh Council and found to be feasible would cost £10m each for example.

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NFLA Scotland Convenor and Glasgow City Councillor Euan McLeod says:

“I am pleased the Scottish Government has been so vocal with the development of non-nuclear alternatives for our future energy policy and the moves it has made towards renewable energy production are warmly welcomed across the political spectrum. However, the cross-party Nuclear Free Local Authorities wants to see a more joined-up approach to other important parts of the energy revolution – energy efficiency, district heating schemes and microgeneration projects. Without these Scotland will struggle to meet its impressive carbon reduction targets and it will also miss out on the strong partnerships it can develop with Scottish Councils for making Scotland one of the pre-eminent low carbon economies in Europe. Our briefing shows how they can do it and we will be sending it to the Scottish Government requesting a meeting with the Energy Minister to address our concerns as soon as is practical.”

Ends

For interviews contact Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary on 07771 930196 or Pete Roche, NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, 07821 378210

Notes for editors:

- (1) The NFLA Policy Briefing on Scottish energy policy is attached with this media release.
- (2) The four national energy briefing can be found on the NFLA website – <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>

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