



Nuclear Free Local Authorities Steering Committee

information

NFLA Media release - for immediate release, 1st March 2012

NFLA welcomes Guardian poll that shows 72% are opposed to new nuclear reactors being built in their area

The Nuclear Free Local Authorities Welsh Forum (NFLA) welcomes the results of a Guardian / ICM opinion poll which shows 72% of the public are broadly or strongly opposed to the construction of new nuclear reactor developments in their area. This compares with 60% who broadly or strongly support the development of new wind power developments (1).

The poll asked the question "To what extent would you support or oppose the development of wind power stations, coal power stations or nuclear power stations in your area?" This identical question was asked in Spring 2011 and Spring 2012.

Though opposition to wind power has grown, after a concerted media and political campaign against it, the poll shows that 35% strongly support the development of wind power in their area, and a further 25% 'tend to support' such developments. Interestingly, despite the negative publicity, the proportion that strongly support wind energy has actually grown from 30% – 35 % between 2010 and 2012.

In terms of the development of new nuclear reactors, only 7% strongly support such construction in their local area, and a further 7% 'tend to support' them. A huge 61% oppose construction of them in their local area with a further 11% 'tending to oppose them.'" Even the figures for developing new coal power stations are better than for new nuclear reactors.

Other key points of the poll are that 88% of rural communities and 85% of urban districts support the increase of renewable energy in the UK. Solar (88%) and wind (82%) are also favoured over a new 'dash for gas' (56%). And twice as many people think the UK Government (60%) is right to subsidise wind power as think they are wrong to do so (29%).

NFLA Chair Councillor Brian Goodall said:

"I was fascinated to read the Guardian's poll on the construction of future energy developments. I am delighted that a strong majority of the public support wind energy. With other popular renewable sources of energy it is clear there is strong public support for clean, sustainable low-carbon electricity. The opposition to new nuclear power is even more marked and shows how the public are worried about this energy source, particularly as we reach the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. I urge the UK Government and the energy utilities to study this poll carefully and understand that the public clearly does not want new nuclear. It's also clear to me that the public share our vision on energy matters, and we must continue to lobby on behalf of them for a common-sense energy policy."

Ends

Further information - Sean Morris, NFLA Secretary 0161 234 3244 or 07771 930186.

Notes to editors:

- (1) The full details of the Guardian / ICM poll can be found at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/mar/01/local-opposition-onshore-winds-tripled>

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT VOICE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES