



# NFLA in 2010



## The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2010 30 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2010

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**NFLA website:**  
<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>  
**Mayors for Peace website:**  
<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>  
**KIMO website:**  
<http://www.kimointernational.org>

## NFLA Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a summary of the policy work which has been provided to it in 2010. As the NFLA Chair, I commend this Annual Newsletter to you. A 2011 Service Plan is also being developed.

2010 has been an important year across

the nuclear policy debate. There has been considerable movement in policy – potential new nuclear build, radioactive waste and a deep waste repository, low level radiation and health, nuclear safety issues, nuclear weapons and delays to Trident replacement with slow moves forward with nuclear sub dismantling.

2010 has also been an important milestone for the NFLA, with its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary marked in November. Our ongoing relevance to local government in providing a critique on these issues remains as high as ever. I encourage you to be fully involved in this debate in 2011.

***Baillie George Regan***  
***NFLA Chair***



Lord Mayor of Manchester, Mayor of Nagasaki and NFLA Chair ceremonially cut 'NFLA at 30' celebration cake at NFLA civic reception.

## 30 years campaigning on nuclear policy issues

The NFLA was inspired by the concerns of a large number of Councils on the local effects and dangers of the decision to place US nuclear weapons on UK soil in 1980/1. There was additional concern, as a result of the Three Mile Island reactor incident, of the safety of nuclear power.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> 1980, Manchester City Council

passed a resolution on these concerns raised by Councillor Bill Risby. The resolution sought to develop an association of local authorities on nuclear issues - and the NFLA was created.

The NFLA's Steering Committee determines policy. National NFLA Forums in England, Scotland, Wales and All Ireland hold seminars

and pursue issues of concern to members.

The NFLA works closely with Mayors for Peace, KIMO and like-minded NGOs for its aims around securing public protection with, and alternatives to, nuclear power; and a nuclear weapons free world. The following pages and NFLA website outlines this work in more detail.

**NFLA consultation responses 2010**

***All can be found on the NFLA website.***

***a) Nuclear New build -***

- Justification of new build reactors (DECC)
- Waste issues from new build (Env Agy)
- National Energy Policy Statement on Nuclear (DECC)
- Energy & Climate Change Select Committee inquiry on new build
- North West Select Committee inquiry on new build

***b) Radioactive waste -***

- NDA Draft strategy on radioactive waste
- NDA Low Level Waste Management Strategy
- Scottish Government draft policy on radioactive waste
- Finance arrangements for waste & decommissioning (DECC)
- EU consultation on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (EU Comm'n)

***c) Health standards -***

- Exemptions for radioactive substance levels (DECC)
- Joint NFLA / KIMO report on marine pollution (OSPAR)

**Who does the NFLA interact with?**

On behalf of its members, the NFLA interacts with a large body of organisations on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2010 these included:

The UK Government – DECC, DEFRA, MOD, Foreign Office, Dept of Health. MPs and Lords.

The Republic of Ireland Government – Dept of Environment. TDs and Senators.

Devolved assemblies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulatory bodies – NDA, HSE, Environment Agency, HPA, RPII, CoRWM, COMARE, FSA.

Local Authority bodies – Mayors for Peace, NuLEAF, SCCORS, ACC, KIMO International.

International bodies – European Commission, OSPAR Commission, UN Disarmament Office.

NGO's – national and locally based nuclear policy groups.

**NFLA Steering Committee work in 2010**

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in Manchester in January, March, June, September and November 2010.

Led by Bailie Regan and Forum Chairs, the NFLA Secretary submitted regular reports to it on all aspects of NFLA work. A large amount of time was given to its

policy on challenging the need for new nuclear build and on the developments to UK radioactive waste management policy.

There were reports on radiation safety and health, alternatives to nuclear power & nuclear emergency planning. All consultation responses

were approved by the SC. The co-operation with Mayors for Peace and policy work on nuclear weapons proliferation was also outlined and discussed.

Such work will continue in 2011 – the next meeting is in Dundee in January 2011. See the website for more detail.

**NFLA English Forum seminars in Oxford & Manchester**

In 2010, the NFLA English Forum held special seminars in Oxford and Manchester, along with hosting the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in November.

The March seminar in

Oxford looked at nuclear proliferation issues and concerns over the Aldermaston weapons facility.

The Manchester seminar raised concerns over nuclear emergency

planning guidance.

Liverpool became the English Forum's newest member.

The next seminar is planned for March / April 2011.



Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Board Meeting in Manchester



Nagasaki delegates with Tony Lloyd MP & Manchester Councillor Afzal Khan at NFLA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary civic reception.



Jenny Randerson AM speaking at NFLA Wales meeting, Cardiff

### **New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2010:**

***All can be found on the NFLA website.***

- No. 17 – Energy National Policy Statements (NPS)
- No. 18 – Draft nuclear justification decision
- No. 19 – NPS on nuclear power
- No. 20 – Further info on justification of new nuclear reactors
- No 21 – Finance arrangements for waste of new nuclear reactors
- No 22 – Concerns over aquatic discharges from new nuclear reactors
- No 23 – NPS re-consultation.

## NFLA All Ireland Forum seminars in Newry and Fingal

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is an innovative cross-border initiative with Co-Chairs from the North and the Republic.

By its terms of reference, it holds two seminars / meetings a year – in 2010 these were held in Newry and Swords, Fingal.

The Newry seminar had presentations on low level radiation, marine discharges, non nuclear alternatives and Mayors for Peace.

The Fingal seminar concentrated on the OSPAR Commission and radioactive discharges into the Irish Sea.

Membership of the Forum has remained constant in 2010. A number of non-members attended 2010 events and are being pursued to join a strongly cross-party and cross-border Forum. Newry & Mourne Council provide valuable support to the Forum.

## NFLA Scotland meetings in Fife, W Lothian, Glasgow & Perth

The NFLA Scotland Forum met four times in 2010; with one meeting held in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace.

At business meetings the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor and the NFLA Secretary outlined key developments in Scottish and UK nuclear policy.

A February seminar in Inverkeithing looked at issues around Trident replacement and impacts on Scotland.

A June seminar in Livingston considered Scottish radioactive waste policy. Business meetings in Glasgow and Perth in September and in November

discussed the 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Perth & Kinross became the Forum's newest member.

Glasgow City Council provides valuable Secretariat support for NFLA Scotland. Its AGM will be held in January.

## NFLA Welsh Forum in Cardiff, Gwynedd & Ceredigion

The NFLA Welsh Forum met in north, mid and south Wales in 2010 and considered new build issues at Wylfa and alternatives to nuclear power.

A pre-election seminar

was held in Cardiff with candidates from the main parties talking on their nuclear policies.

A seminar in Gwynedd considered whether Wales needed a new nuclear reactor or should

it develops renewable alternatives.

The Ceredigion seminar looked at the costs of energy. Membership of the Forum remained constant in 2010.



NFLA Chair meets UN Secretary General and NPT Conference



John Ainslie speaking at NFLA Scotland Meeting, Fife

**NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2010:**

*All can be found on the NFLA website.*

- No. 73 – Actions from March NFLA Steering Committee
- No. 74 – Safety and emergency planning for nuclear weapons convoys
- No. 75 – Safety of radioactive waste shipments through the Irish Sea
- No. 76 – Scotland’s electricity needs: can they be achieved without new nuclear?
- No. 77 – Report to the OSPAR Commission on radioactive discharges
- No. 78 – Actions from the November NFLA Steering Committee
- No. 79 – Health risks of nuclear power

## Nuclear power debate – new build pushes forward

A focal point of NFLA work in 2010 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

The NFLA took an active part in the official consultations and gave written and verbal evidence to relevant Select Committees.

The NFLA has focused its work on the key weaknesses of new build – the financial costs, health and safety concerns, intractable waste issues and the alternative renewable energy sources that are being developed.

The UK Government formally ‘justified’ new

reactor designs in November, but the HSE / EA have to formally sign them off in 2011.

The debate is essential in determining the UK’s future energy needs & requirements. The NFLA will continue to put forward its concerns on all aspects of this debate in 2011.

## Radioactive waste debate – repository or near surface?

A critical part of the debate on the need for new nuclear build is whether the existing huge, radioactive waste burden is being adequately dealt with.

The NFLA believe that the waste burden still requires much work to make it safe and secure. No new waste

should be permitted until long-term solutions are found.

The NFLA opposes the policy of building a deep-waste repository as many scientific, technical and geological issues remain unresolved.

It is more amenable to

the Scottish Government policy of ‘near site, near surface’ monitorable and retrievable waste. It has concerns over European developments to insist on national deep-waste repositories.

NFLA interfaces with NuLeaF, SCCORS and CoRWM on all aspects of the waste issue.

## Nuclear weapons – some progress in 2010?

There has been some limited success on the nuclear weapons issue with the partially successful Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference at the UN in May 2010. NFLA played a role in this as part of a Hiroshima / Nagasaki

led Mayors for Peace delegation.

The new UK coalition government has put off a main decision on ‘Trident’ replacement until 2015, but has signed a key treaty with France to co-operate on

nuclear weapons research.

The NFLA 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary focused on the weapons issue and a major A-bomb exhibition was held in Manchester. It will travel widely in 2011.



NFLA / Mayors for Peace delegation meet  
Foreign Office Minister Ivan Lewis



NFLA All-Ireland Co-Chairs and  
speakers at Forum meeting in Newry

## Co-operation with Mayors for Peace and KIMO International

The NFLA has close co-operation with a large number of groups, but works in particular with two influential local government groups – Mayors for Peace and KIMO International.

Mayors for Peace has over 4,400 members and campaigns for a nuclear weapons free

world. It has 75 members in the UK and Ireland with Manchester and Glasgow on its international board.

The Board held a meeting in Manchester in November to determine its 2011 priorities.

KIMO International is an

international marine pollution local authority organisation. The NFLA provide key support on radiation issues and joins with it to raise concerns at the OSPAR Commission meetings on marine pollution in the NE Atlantic. Mutual support makes all three groups much more effective.

### **Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in 2010:**

***All can be found on the NFLA website.***

- No. 22 – Overview of Scottish radioactive waste management policy
- No. 23 – NFLA model response for Scottish waste policy
- No. 24 – Overview of Euro Commission consultation on radioactive waste and nuclear decommissioning
- No. 25 – Overview of Environment Agency consultation on waste element of new build designs
- No. 26 – Overview of DECC consultation on the exemptions regime for radioactive substances

## Alternatives to nuclear power – a renewable energy mix

A key part of the work of the NFLA is offering an alternative to nuclear power.

Its policy is that energy needs can be provided by a wide renewable energy mix including wind, wave, hydro-electric, tidal, CHP and solar sources. This is coupled with a

concerted local authority led energy efficiency programme to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty.

Innovative use of micro-generation projects can also provide up to 10% of electricity and move the UK & Ireland away from an over centralized

national grid. At NFLA seminars these policies are detailed and papers for each country's energy needs are being devised – the Scottish briefing shows how Scotland does not need recourse for new nuclear as public policies are rapidly bearing fruit. Watch the NFLA website for further excellent case studies.

## NFLA Chair and Vice Chair changes in 2010

The NFLA Chair, Bailie George Regan has been involved with the NFLA since 1996 and is also the SCCORS Chair.

New Vice Chairs elected in 2010 include Cllr Stephen Churchman as the Welsh Forum Chair;

he is Environment Chair of Gwynedd Council.

Cllr Ollan Herr of Dundalk Council is the new Co Chair of the NFLA All Ireland Forum. He joins Cllr Michael Carr from Newry & Mourne Council to promote Irish

nuclear concerns.

In 2010, Scottish and English NFLA Chairs remained constant – Cllr Euan McLeod from Glasgow City Council and Cllr Ralph Pryke from Leeds City Council.



Delegates at NFLA Scotland / UK Mayors for Peace meeting in Glasgow

**Media releases and letters to the press in 2010:**

- NFLA submitted 26 media releases in 2010 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are all on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted 65 letters to the media in 2010 across all aspects of nuclear policy, which were emailed to all its members.

These were published in a number of outlets, such as:

- The Guardian
- The Observer
- The Times
- The Scotsman
- The Herald
- N Wales Daily Post
- Western Mail
- Irish Independent
- E Anglia Daily Times
- Reading Post
- Whitehaven News
- Dundee Courier
- Manchester Ev News
- Newry Democrat
- Belfast Telegraph
- Clydebank Advert'er
- BBC Online / Radio
- RTE
- LGA First
- Ekklesia

**Co-operation with environmental & non-proliferation groups**

The NFLA co-operates with a number of like-minded groups when necessary to promote its aims and objectives.

NFLA seminar speakers in 2010 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, BNTVA, the Acronym Institute, Nuclear Information Services, Energy Fair and local site groups concerned with the development of new nuclear build.

A key highlight of co-operation was the 2010 Low Level Radiation & Health Conference in

Manchester – hosted and organised in full co-operation with the NFLA. A report of proceedings can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA benefits greatly from the co-operation with such local community groups and national groups across nuclear policy.

**Key priorities for 2011**

The NFLA's priorities for 2011 will be confirmed at its AGM in Dundee in late January & include:

- challenging the need for new nuclear build;
- promoting safe long-term solutions for radioactive waste;
- advocating further research on the effects of low level radiation;
- marking the 25<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster and concerns over nuclear safety;

- seeking improvements in nuclear emergency planning standards;
- co-operating in the movement seeking nuclear weapons non-proliferation;
- seeking reductions in airborne and marine

radioactive discharges;

- highlighting the need for sound environmental and ethical principles across energy and nuclear weapons policy;
- advocating the benefits of renewable energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency.

The NFLA Service Plan 2011 will outline in more detail in January 2011.

**Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings**

To join the NFLA just contact the Secretariat for affiliation rates. Affiliation rates range from £871 - £3884 (670 – 2904 euros). For this you get access to the services noted in this newsletter.

NFLA members and officers are entitled to go to each Forum meeting – Steering Committee members are determined by each national NFLA Forum.

**Next NFLA meeting:**

NFLA SC, AGM and special seminar, 28<sup>th</sup> January – Dundee City Hall. The NFLA Finance & Admin Committee & a Civic Reception are being held on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan.