



NFLA in 2013



The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2013 33 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2013

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Useful website Links:

NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



NFLA Chair with Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki,
Mayors for Peace Executive Conference

NFLA UK & Ireland SC Chair:
Councillor Mark Hackett

NFLA SC Vice Chair (Scotland):
Councillor Norman McDonald

NFLA Secretary:
Sean Morris

NFLA England Chair:
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA All-Ireland Co Chairs:
Councillor Michael Carr (North)
Councillor Mark Dearey (ROI)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary:
Sinead Trainor

NFLA Scotland Convenor:
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary:
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Wales Co - Chairs:
Cllrs Ray Davies & Ed Bridges

NFLA Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides NFLA member authorities with a concise summary of the work of the organisation in 2013. As the NFLA Chair, I commend this Annual Newsletter to you and your fellow councillors. A 2014 NFLA Service Plan is also available on the website which outlines its plans for the year.

2013 has been an ever-changing year in the nuclear policy debate. The moves to develop new nuclear build have progressed somewhat, but key and varied issues still remain for the NFLA to challenge.

The radioactive waste debate is at a critical crossroads, as are the moves to improve UK

nuclear safety and review UK nuclear weapons policy. The NFLA has effectively engaged on all of these issues throughout 2013.

The NFLA will remain at the centre of the nuclear policy debate in 2014 and I look forward to being a part of it.

Cllr Mark Hackett
NFLA Chair

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Over 33 years of campaigning on nuclear policy issues

The NFLA was set-up in November 1980 and is both a respected and strident local authority voice on all aspects of nuclear policy.

In 2013 it continued its high quality support service for member local authorities by both responding to nuclear policy issues and being pro-active in influencing the national and wider

international nuclear policy agendas.

To achieve this NFLA works closely with the Mayors for Peace, KIMO International, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, ICAN-UK and a large number of regional and national anti-nuclear & environmental groups.

It interacts with the

LGA NuLEAF & COSLA SCCORS radioactive waste groups, national and international government agencies, key nuclear regulators and the NDA.

The following pages and the NFLA website outline some of this work in more detail and some of the key issues in the 2013 nuclear policy debate.

NFLA consultation responses / wider policy 2013

All can be found on the NFLA website.

a) Rad waste policy:

- Dounreay waste authorisations
- Food Standards Agency reporting on radioactivity in food
- Dismantling of nuclear powered submarines
- Call for evidence on site selection process for GDF
- NDA consultation on FED and ILW
- Dalgety Bay and other MOD sites – report to SEPA
- GDF site selection process and radwaste policy

b) New nuclear:

- Overviews for NFLA members of new build debate

c) Energy policy:

- Analysis of radiation issues in shale gas and fracking
- Energy Scenarios 2020 – 2030
- Analysis of fuel poverty and energy efficiency solutions in UK & Ireland

d) Nuclear weapons:

- NET inquiry into UK nuclear weapons policy
- Development of Mayors for Peace following its Executive & General Conferences

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 2013 these included: The UK Government – DECC, DEFRA, MOD, the Foreign Office, Department of Health. MPs and Lords.

Republic of Ireland Government – Foreign Affairs, Environment and Energy Departments, TDs & Senators.

Devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Regulatory bodies – ONR, FSA, SEPA, NDA Environment Agency,

HPA, RPII, CoRWM, COMARE.

Local Authority bodies – Mayors for Peace, Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe, KIMO, NuLEAF, & SCCORS.

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

NFLA Steering Committee work in 2013

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in Manchester Town Hall in January, March, June and October 2013; and for its AGM in Cardiff in December 2013.

Led by the NFLA Chair & Vice Chairs, the NFLA Secretary has submitted regular reports to it on all aspects of NFLA

work. Reports include updates on new nuclear build, Fukushima and UK nuclear safety 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 are approved by the SC. The co-operation with Mayors for Peace, KIMO and policy work on nuclear weapons was also outlined and fully discussed.

Such work will continue at the NFLA's Steering Committee meetings in 2014.

NFLA English Forum meetings: Manchester and Rotherham

In 2013, the NFLA English Forum held 3 seminars for its members.

In January it held a seminar in Manchester about ongoing problems at Fukushima.

In October it held a seminar in Manchester on fracking, radwaste & contaminated metals.

In November it held a seminar in Rotherham on contaminated metals and transportation.

Its first meeting in 2014 will be a joint discussion event with the Steering Committee looking at NFLA strategy, co-operation, membership issues and finance for the rest of the year.



NFLA All Ireland Forum Chairs and NFLA Secretary at Irish Government HQ



NFLA Fingal rep & Mayor Michael O'Donovan welcomes attendees to NFLA seminar



Belarusian Government delegation and Chernobyl charities meet NFLA and Manchester City Council staff for fact-finding visit

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2013:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 31: What's wrong with new nuclear reactors?

No 32: Nuclear power – a flawed case (part 1)

No 33: Nuclear power – a flawed case (part 2)

No 34: Hinkley Point – strike prices, legal challenges & the European dimension

NFLA All Ireland Forum meetings: Swords & Galway

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

In 2013 it held a spring seminar in Fingal County Hall considering the RPII report on the effects of a nuclear accident on Ireland, and the wind energy

debate in Ireland.

Its autumn meeting in Galway considered the public engagement on Irish energy policy, discharges to the west coast and European nuclear policy.

The NFLA Chairs and NFLA Secretary also again met officials from

the Irish Government to discuss concerns over nuclear policy and its interaction with the UK Government.

Sinead Trainor from Newry & Mourne District Council provides useful support to the Forum and the NFLA wishes her well as she goes on maternity leave.

NFLA Scotland meetings: Glasgow, Stornoway & Edinburgh

The NFLA Scotland Forum met four times in 2013.

It held a February business meeting and AGM in Glasgow, where it appointed a new Convener, Bill Butler.

In April it held a seminar in Edinburgh on the nuclear weapons

issue with Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace and PNND.

In August it held a business meeting and seminar in Stornoway with overviews of the work of CADU and HANT.

In September it held a seminar in Glasgow on

nuclear emergency planning and nuclear weapon convoys with NIS, CND and Nukewatch.

Cathy Birrell from Glasgow City Council provides useful support to the Forum and Pete Roche an expert policy advice service for NFLA Scotland.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings: Pontypool and Cardiff

The NFLA Welsh Forum held two seminars in Wales in 2013.

Its first seminar in Torfaen in June 2013 considered alternatives to nuclear power, radia-

tion and food safety and the work of Mayors for Peace.

A seminar held with the Steering Committee in Cardiff in December looked at issues around

nuclear security, the wider nuclear weapons debate and new build.

A public meeting in North Wales is planned for early 2014.



National demonstration in Westminster to abolish nuclear weapons

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2013:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 105 – shale gas and fracking
- No 106 – Energy Solutions 2020 – 2030
- No 107 – NFLA SC January 2013
- No 108 – NFLA SC March 2013
- No 109 – Leak of nuclear reactor on HMS Tireless
- No 110 – Fuel poverty, energy efficiency and role of local authorities
- No 111 – The Green Deal: an analysis
- No 112 – NPT, Mayors for Peace and NFLA joint seminar on nuclear weapon policy
- No 113 – NFLA SC June 2013
- No 114 – Mayors for Peace Executive & General Conferences
- No 115 – Tackling climate change
- No 116 – NFLA SC October 2013
- No 117 – Submission to NET on nuclear weapons policy
- No 118 – nuclear EP
- No 119 – NFLA SC / AGM December 2013

Nuclear power debate – new build decision goes to the EU

A focal point of NFLA work in 2013 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

After months of long & protracted discussions, an outline deal between the UK Government, EDF and a Chinese nuclear utility was

agreed in October.

This decision has to be ratified by the European Commission to decide if it is a legal form of state aid.

The NFLA is working with the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe Network to lobby the Commission to reject

the UK deal. It is also co-operating with other groups like Energy Fair.

In 2014 NFLA produced a number of New Nuclear Monitors and other reports to challenge new build and offer alternatives. The Fukushima disaster is also a part of this very important debate.

Radioactive waste debate – repository or near surface?

A critical part of the debate on the need for new nuclear build is how the existing large radioactive waste legacy is being 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 to be resolved. It welcomed the decision in early 2013 of Cumbria County Council to not move

forward with hosting a repository. NFLA has responded to follow-up DECC consultations on this matter in 2013.

NFLA continues to co-operate with the Scottish Government’s ‘near site, near surface’ policy. It also interacts with NuLeaF, SCCORS, NDA & CoRWM on this issue.

Nuclear weapons and Trident replacement

The NFLA remains heavily involved in the UK and international nuclear weapons debate. NFLA staff attended the 2013 NPT Preparatory Conference held in UN buildings in Geneva.

NFLA also held a major seminar with Abolition 2000, PNND and Mayors for Peace on trends in nuclear weapons policy and its Annual Policy Seminar looked to the 2014 and 2015 debates.

The NFLA responded to a NET consultation on UK nuclear weapons policy. It will continue to be involved fully in these discussions in 2014.



Lord Provost of Edinburgh opens NFLA Scotland seminar in City Chambers



NFLA Chair, Lord Mayor and former Lord Mayor confer Mayors for Peace Ambassadorship to Mr Choudhry



NFLA SC, January 2013

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in 2013:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 37 - FSA monitoring radio-activity in food
- No 38 – Nuclear submarine dismantling
- No 39 – GDF siting call for evidence
- No 40 – NDA policy on FED and ILW
- No 41 – Fukushima: radioactivity in seawater
- No 42 – Dalgety Bay and the radium legacy in MOD sites
- No 43 – GDF siting process advice note
- No 44: Submarine dismantling progress
- No 45: GDF siting final NFLA response

Co-operation with international partner groups

The NFLA has increased its cooperation with a number of international groups in nuclear policy areas in 2013.

The Mayors for Peace has 5,800+ members and campaigns for a nuclear weapons free world. It has 90 members in the UK and Ireland with the cities

of Manchester and Glasgow both on its international boards. NFLA Secretariat staff and councillors attended the 2013 UN NPT Preparatory Conference and the Mayors for Peace Executive & General Conference in Hiroshima and agreed to help set up a UK & Ireland M4P chapter.

In 2013 NFLA increased its co-operation with the Vienna-led Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe. It also continued further co-operation with the marine pollution group KIMO International.

NFLA also gave its support to the groups ICAN-UK and ICBUW.

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 an

ambitious Councils-led wide energy efficiency programme to reduce carbon emissions and fuel poverty. The geography of the British and Irish Isles is ideal for renewable energy.

Innovative use of micro-generation projects can also provide up to 15% of electricity and move

the UK & Ireland away from an over-centralized national grid.

Throughout 2013 the NFLA produced a whole suite of research papers and seminars to back up this policy and highlight concerns over fuel poverty. The reports are all located on the NFLA website.

NFLA Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chairs

The NFLA Chair Cllr Mark Hackett was re-elected as Chair at the 2013 AGM. As a Manchester councillor, Mark has played an influential role in various key meetings.

NFLA Forum Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2014 were also approved at the 2013 AGM and are: Scotland – Cllr Bill Butler, England – Cllr David Blackburn, Ireland – Cllr Mark Dearey (RoI) and

Cllr Michael Carr (N. Ireland), Wales – Cllrs Ed Bridges and Ray Davies. The NFLA Steering Committee Vice Chair (Scotland) is Cllr Norman McDonald.



NFLA Secretary speaking at Mayors for Peace Conference

Media releases and letters to the press in 2013:

- NFLA submitted 44 media releases in 2013 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted over 60 letters to the media in 2013 across all aspects of nuclear policy, which were emailed to all its members.

These were published in media outlets, such as:

- The Guardian
- The Independent
- The Times
- Financial Times
- Morning Star
- Daily Telegraph
- The Scotsman
- The Herald
- N Wales Daily Post
- Western Mail
- Irish Times
- Irish Independent
- Belfast Telegraph
- Fife Courier
- Manchester Ev News
- Newry Democrat
- Galway Advertiser
- BBC / Online / Radio
- RTE / Irish radio
- Local govt media

Co-operation with key non-governmental groups

The NFLA co-operates with a number of like-minded groups, where it can, to promote its aims and objectives.

NFLA seminar speakers in 2013 have come from groups like the Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace UK, the Nuclear Waste Advisory Associates, the Nuclear

Consulting Group, CND, ICAN-UK, the Nuclear Information Service and local site groups that are concerned with the development of new nuclear build. Official representatives from like of the Environment Agency, the RPII and NuLEAF have also spoken at various NFLA seminars.

The NFLA Secretary also attends the DECC NGO Forum and ONR / EA NGO Forum meetings, the NDA National Stakeholder Meeting and the Ministry of Defence's Submarine Dismantling Advisory Group. These allow NFLA to have a direct contact with key policy makers.

Key priorities for the NFLA in 2014

The NFLA's priorities for 2014 were confirmed at its 2013 AGM in Cardiff and 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;
- raising continuing

concerns over nuclear safety & Fukushima;

- seeking improvements in nuclear emergency planning standards;
- co-operating within international networks that seek a nuclear power free and nuclear weapon free Europe and wider world;
- seeking reductions in airborne and marine

radioactive discharges;

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

The NFLA Service Plan 2014 outlines this work and is on its website.

Joining the NFLA and forthcoming meetings

To join the NFLA please contact the NFLA Secretariat for further details and our annual low and real value-for-money affiliation rates. Joining NFLA allows its members and officers

to attend National NFLA Forum seminars and meetings and NFLA Steering Committee meetings. The 2014 NFLA AGM will be held at the end of the year in Scotland.

Next NFLA meeting:

The next NFLA Steering Committee is on 31st January in Manchester Town Hall. All NFLA Forum meetings are being scheduled shortly.