



NFLA in 2014



The work of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities in 2014 34 Years as the Local Government Voice on Nuclear Issues

Annual Newsletter 2014

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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>



Launch of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, including many NFLA members

NFLA UK & Ireland SC Chair:
Councillor Mark Hackett

NFLA SC Vice Chair:
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 SC Chair's Introduction

This Annual Newsletter provides all NFLA member authorities with a concise summary of the work of the organisation in 2014.

As the NFLA Chair, I commend it to you and your fellow councillors. A 2015 Service Plan is also available on the website which outlines its plans for the year.

2014 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 still 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 2014.

The NFLA will remain at the heart of these debates in 2015 and I look forward to playing a leading role in it.

Cllr Mark Hackett
NFLA SC Chair

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Over 34 years of campaigning on nuclear policy issues

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

In 2014 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 & the COSLA SCCORS radioactive waste groups, national & 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 2014 nuclear policy debate.

Mayors for Peace Briefings in 2014:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 2: Full paper and Executive Summary on the proposed development of a UK and Ireland Chapter.

No 3: Agreement of a UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter.

New Nuclear Monitor Briefings in 2014:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

No 34: Joint submission to the European Commission on why subsidies to EDF will distort UK & European energy market

No 35: Submission on NIA application to justify the ABWR

No 36: Submission on Horizon Nuclear pre-application to build new reactors at Wylfa

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 2014 these included: The UK Government – DECC, DEFRA, MOD, the Foreign Office, Departments of Health, Transport, MPs & 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, HPA, CoRWM, RPII,

COMARE and the Environment Agency.

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

International bodies – European Commission & Parliament, the OSPAR Commission, IMO, IAEA, United Nations.

NFLA Steering Committee work in 2014

The NFLA Steering Committee (SC) met in Manchester in January, June and October; in Leeds in March; and for its AGM in Edinburgh in November 2014.

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 2015.

NFLA English Forum meetings: Leeds, Manchester, Oxford

In 2014, the NFLA English Forum held 3 seminars for its members.

In March it held a seminar in Leeds on LA energy policy, health and weapons issues.

In June it hosted a special visit in Manchester to the NFLA archive.

In October it held a seminar in Oxford on defence nuclear safety and weapons issues.

English membership has remained stable over 2014. Its first seminar in 2015 will be in March in Manchester Town Hall.



Bike for Peace delegation meet Lord Mayor of Manchester for civic reception and launch of World Tour.



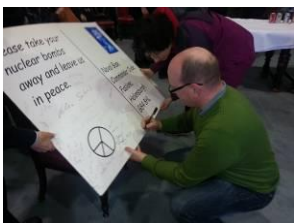
Lord Mayor of Manchester formally receives seeds from Hiroshima



Manchester's ginkgo tree seeds from Hiroshima second generation A-bombed tree



NFLA Secretary and NFLA Chair at Mayors for Peace stall within the ICAN Civil Society Forum



NFLA West Dunbartonshire councillor Lawrence O'Neill signs CND Scotland nuclear free pledge.



Mayors for Peace board meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia

NFLA All Ireland Forum meetings: Newry & Dublin

The NFLA All Ireland Forum is an innovative cross-border initiative with Co-Chairs from the North (Cllr Michael Carr) and the Republic (Cllr Mark Dearey).

In 2014 it held a spring seminar in Newry looking at energy strategies, fracking and the impacts of UK new

nuclear build.

Its winter seminar held in Dublin considered the environmental impacts of UK new nuclear; and the NFLA's energy vision for Ireland.

The NFLA Chairs and NFLA Secretary have remained in regular contact with both Irish

Governments over the year. Major local government reorganisation has been a major challenge, but it is hoped membership may increase in 2015.

Sinead Trainor from Newry & Mourne District Council provides great support to the NFLA Secretariat.

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 reappointed its Chair, Councillor Bill Butler.

In April it held a business meeting in Clydebank.

In October it held a business meeting and seminar in Perth on decommissioning, LA energy policy and radwaste transport.

In November it hosted the UK & Ireland AGM in Edinburgh. A seminar was held on likely trends in nuclear policy in 2015.

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

Its first meeting in 2015 will be its AGM and a business meeting in Glasgow on the 5th February.

NFLA Welsh Forum meetings: Caernarfon and Cardiff

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

Its first seminar in Caernarfon in March 2014 was a well attended public meeting

with PAWB, CND and FOE.

An autumn seminar in Cardiff in November considered Fukushima, Welsh nuclear policy and FED waste.

Welsh membership has remained stable in 2014.

Its next meeting is planned for North Wales in March 2015.



National demonstration in Westminster to abolish nuclear weapons

NFLA General Policy Briefings in 2014:
All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 119 – NFLA SC January 2014
- No 120 – Concerns over radwaste transport
- No 121 – NFLA SC March 2014
- No 122 – Decarbonising heat submission
- No 123 – NFLA SC June 2014
- No 124 – Irish Government future of energy mix submission
- No 125 – Development of local authority energy policies
- No 126 – NFLA SC October 2014
- No 127 – Concerns over aging nuclear reactors
- No 128 – NFLA SC & AGM November 2014
- No 129 – Trident replacement and nuclear weapons debate in 2015
- No 130 – Nuclear emergency planning and security
- No 131 – Fukushima update (published early January)

Nuclear power debate – investment decision delayed to 2015

A focal point of NFLA work in 2014 has been challenging the UK Government’s assertion of the need for new nuclear build.

A key milestone for new nuclear build was the ratification by the European Commission that the Hinkley Point new nuclear deal was a

legal form of state aid.

The EC decision has still not been made public, and the Austrian Government has said it will legally challenge it. Meanwhile, reports suggest EDF are looking for new funding partners for Hinkley Point. Its investment decision has been delayed till 2015.

NFLA is working with the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe Network to challenge the deal for Hinkley and other UK new nuclear projects.

In 2014 NFLA produced a number of New Nuclear Monitors and other policy reports to challenge new build and offer real alternatives.

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 is fully involved in discussion with the UK Government / RWM’s updated

policy process.

The NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor is on the Scottish Government Project B’d to take forward its ‘near site, near surface’ policy. In 2014 it has also submitted its views on Welsh policy. It regularly interacts with NuLeaF, SCCORS, NDA & CoRWM.

Nuclear weapons and Trident replacement

The NFLA also remains heavily involved in the UK and international nuclear weapons debate. NFLA staff attended major nuclear weapons conferences in Sarajevo and Vienna in 2014.

NFLA invites disarmament speakers to outline developments in the debate. With its links to Mayors for Peace, it took an active part in the international debate on nuclear weapons.

NFLA signed up to the ‘Rethink Trident’ statement and it works with major disarmament groups like ICAN & CND. Trident will be a major issue in the 2015 UK election.



Lord Provost of Renfrew with Bike for Peace group at Paisley Abbey



Lord Provost of Glasgow speaks at CND Scotland rally



NFLA Chair, Mayor Vestby, Tore Naerland

Radioactive Waste Policy Briefings in 2014:

All can be found on the NFLA website.

- No 46 – NDA ILW & FED waste
- No 47 – OSPAR RSC submission
- No 48 – ONR dismantling subs at Rosyth
- No 49 – Governments joint strategy on NORM waste
- No 50 – Management of overseas waste located in UK
- No 51 – Welsh Government radwaste policy
- No 52 – SEPA consultation on authorizations at Hunterston & Torness

Co-operation with international partner groups

The NFLA has increased its cooperation with a number of international groups in nuclear policy areas in 2014.

The Mayors for Peace has 6,400+ 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.

In October 2014, it was agreed to set up a UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter – a real milestone for the future.

In 2014 NFLA increased its co-operation with the Vienna-led Cities for a

Nuclear Free Europe, which it met with in December. It also co-operated with the marine pollution group KIMO International by attending the Feb 2014 OSPAR RSC meeting.

NFLA also gave its formal 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 a realistic alternative to nuclear power.

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

with a Councils-led and ambitious energy efficiency programme and local community micro-generation projects.

It developed this policy further with a report advocating the development of Local Authority energy policies and establishing new Energy Service Companies.

NFLA welcomes the growth of ESCOs in a number of UK Councils, and is encouraging the same growth in Ireland.

In 2015 it is expected that a number of big city ESCOs will be launched, encouraging the NFLA vision of decentralised energy to move forward across its four Forums.

NFLA Steering Committee Chair and Vice Chairs

The NFLA Chair Cllr Mark Hackett was re-elected as Chair at the 2014 AGM. As a Manchester councillor, Mark has played an influential role in various key meetings.

NFLA Forum Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2015 were also approved at the 2014 AGM and are: Scotland – Cllr Bill Butler; England – Cllr David Blackburn; Ireland – Cllr Mark Dearey (RoI)

& Cllr Michael Carr (NI); Wales – Cllr Ed Bridges and Cllr Ray Davies. The NFLA Steering Committee's Vice Chair is Cllr Norman McDonald.



Bike for Peace group with Stirling councillors during Scottish tour

Media releases and letters to the press in 2014:

- NFLA submitted 55 media releases in 2014 across all aspects of nuclear policy. These are on the NFLA website.
- NFLA submitted over 40 letters to the media in 2014 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
- The Ecologist
- Perth Advertiser
- Caithness Times
- 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, when it can, to promote its aims and objectives.

NFLA seminar speakers in 2014 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 the likes 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 NGO Forum meetings, the NDA's UK Stakeholder Meeting and the MoD's Submarine Dismantling Advisory Group. These allow NFLA to have a direct contact with key nuclear policy makers and Ministers.

Key priorities for the NFLA in 2015

The NFLA's priorities for 2015 were confirmed at its 2014 AGM in Edinburgh 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 2015 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 & officers to

attend National NFLA Forum seminars and meetings and the five NFLA Steering Committee meetings. The 2015 NFLA AGM will be held at the end of the year in Ireland.

Next NFLA meeting:

The next NFLA Steering Committee is on 30th January in Manchester Town Hall. NFLA Forum meetings are being scheduled.