



News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities

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KEY 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>

New build risks, Ireland & SECs

The NFLA All Ireland Forum held its spring seminar in Dundalk Town Hall and urged the Irish Government to be pro-active in publicly raising its concerns over the large number of proposed new nuclear facilities under consideration in the UK.

The seminar opened with the NFLA Secretary

outlining not just the new proposed nuclear reactors on the west coast of Britain, but also the proposed deep-underground radwaste repository and a possible plutonium reprocessing facility at Sellafield.

Marine pollution expert Tim Deere-Jones noted some of the risks of such developments and his

concerns over an increase in radwaste shipments across the Irish Sea.

Aideen O’Hora of the Irish Sustainable Energy Authority also outlined the good work of Irish Councils in developing Sustainable Energy Communities, a valuable initiative the NFLA fully supports.



NFLA Ireland Co Chair Councillor Mark Dearey addresses delegates at Dundalk Town Hall

Meeting with Vienna Municipality over nuclear power event

In early May the NFLA Secretary will be meeting leaders and officials from Vienna Municipality, who are proposing the possible development of a European Network of Cities concerned about nuclear power.

The City of Vienna has recently written to the European Commission to raise its concerns

over nuclear safety following the Fukushima disaster. It has been contacting cities across Europe to support its initiative.

Austria is legally a ‘nuclear free’ country after a 1979 public referendum.

Some Japanese Mayors have also written to Vienna to support this

initiative.

It is envisaged that a conference on nuclear issues post Fukushima could be held in Vienna later this year. The NFLA fully supported Vienna’s letter to the European Commission. The results of the meeting will be reported to the NFLA Steering Committee in June.

NFLA media releases
April 2012:
(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA holds important seminar on Irish attitudes to new nuclear build and sustainable energy alternatives
- NFLA publishes briefing over Berkeley radwaste shipments to Sweden

NFLA to respond to
IPC Hinkley Point
planning inquiry

Despite the decision by RWE and E-on to pull-out of new nuclear build, the planning inquiry for the first major proposed reactor to be built in England for 2 decades is being progressed at Hinkley Point, Somerset.

The NFLA is developing a response to the IPC in regard to EDF's planning application to build a new nuclear reactor in Somerset.

Despite the EDF application running to over 30,000 pages long only 6 months is being given to determining planning permission.

The NFLA are closely linking in to other groups over a suitable response. Further details will be provided on the response in the NFLA May Newsletter.

Welsh First Minister responds to NFLA Welsh Forum letter

The First Minister of Wales has responded to the NFLA over its disappointment for the Welsh Government's decision to support a new nuclear reactor at Wylfa in Anglesey.

The First Minister's letter welcomes the NFLA's support for its policy on renewable

energy, microgeneration and energy efficiency.

The First Minister argues in the letter that the Welsh Government's nuclear policy has not fundamentally changed. The new Energy Statement notes its support for Wylfa B is in reference to low-carbon energy development in

the country. It believes Wylfa B will provide jobs and investment into North Wales.

The letter does not refer to the recent decision of RWE and E-on to pull out of nuclear new build at Wylfa. The NFLA plans to respond to the letter and continue to engage with the Government.

Chernobyl 26th anniversary – What next for nuclear power?

The NFLA has co-operated with the Chernobyl Children's Project and Greater Manchester CND to host a public meeting in Manchester on the April 26 anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

The meeting – 'What next for nuclear power?' had presentations from 3

expert speakers. Dr Paul Dorfman of the NCG compared the Chernobyl disaster to the 2011 Fukushima incident.

Anna Gorchakova, the founder of the first children's hospice in Belarus, highlighted the ongoing effects of the disaster on the health of

many children in the country today.

Mike Koefman of the Campaign for a Hydrogen Economy also provided an overview of renewable alternatives to new nuclear build.

A campaigner's planning meeting is being held on the 30th June.

Green Deal under threat as Scotland develops renewables

Reports in the media suggest that the UK Government's flagship energy policy – 'The Green Deal' - is under severe pressure of being cut or even abandoned.

The policy is planned for a launch this autumn. It will provide support to renewables and energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Government reported

that in 2011 renewables accounted for 31% of Scotland's electricity.

The NFLA is updating its national energy reports to take account of this debate.



Tim Deere-Jones addresses NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting



Aideen O' Hora of the SEAI addressing the NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting

NFLA letters to the media, April 2012

(all emailed directly to NFLA members)

- Where is the coherence in UK energy policy?
- Wylfa and future Welsh energy policy
- Wylfa and Rosatom – a flawed match?
- Geothermal links and the wider European renewable super-grid



Norwegian poster raises concerns over Sellafield in Oslo city centre, April 2012 (courtesy of Doua Weir, TCBUW)

Mayors for Peace gears up for the 2012 NPT PrepCon

The NFLA Secretary will be part of a Mayors for Peace delegation that will attend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference in early May.

This first 'PrepCon' will seek to progress the positive proposals made in 2010 and formalise a Middle East Nuclear

Weapons Conference, planned to be held in Finland later this year.

The Conference takes place around concerns over proliferation in Iran and North Korea and the possible use of a nuclear device by a terrorist organisation.

The NFLA Secretary will

also be attending the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign board meeting. This will be discussing in detail organisational matters for the development of the Mayors for Peace.

An improved Mayors for Peace website is well worth consulting (www.mayorsforpeace.org).

NFLA develops Policy Briefing on Berkeley waste shipments

The NFLA Secretariat has developed an initial briefing outlining its concerns over the transport by sea of heat exchangers from the now decommissioned nuclear plant at Berkeley in Gloucestershire to Sweden.

The briefing notes that a similar proposed

shipment from Canada to Sweden has been postponed after the licence lapsed.

The briefing notes NFLA concerns over such transports and the actions it is taking to understand more about the content and safety of such shipments. Concern is also raised about the

dispersal of decontaminated steel for use in the consumer chain.

The briefing and a media release can be found on the NFLA website. A more detailed briefing is being developed in liaison with other groups.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Mayors for Peace board meeting and a delegation to the NPT, 2nd – 6th May, Vienna. Further details on the Mayors for Peace website.

NFLA Steering Committee, 29th June, Manchester Town Hall.

Nuclear groups planning meeting, 30th June, Manchester.

Dates for national NFLA Forum meetings will be confirmed after the May local elections.