Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembered

Leading NFLA members joined with towns and cities around the world to remember the 67th anniversary of the nuclear weapon attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At Manchester’s civic ceremony, the Lord Mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the citizens of the city to remember those who have died in the attacks, as well as all innocent civilians killed in conflicts over the last 67 years.

Major events were also held across all the major cities of the UK and Ireland. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki their two respective Mayors both called for a national debate on Japan’s energy policy, 17 months after the Fukushima disaster.

Meanwhile, the NFLA’s Hiroshima and Nagasaki exhibition has been held in Dublin, London and Newcastle over the past few weeks. Contact the NFLA Secretary if you would like to host it.

NFLA outlines its Scottish renewable energy vision

The NFLA Secretariat has published a major report on Scottish energy policy. It urges the Government in Scotland to rapidly expand its energy vision so that Scotland becomes a world leader in producing renewable energy.

The report welcomes the desire of the Government to pursue a wide renewable energy mix, along with energy saving & localised micro-generation projects.

The Policy Briefing takes the view that Scotland could phase out all nuclear power stations much earlier than the 2033 deadline with important tweaks to this policy.

Using many examples being developed in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, the briefing shows how Scotland can radically move forward to swiftly create a future ‘nuclear free’ Scotland.

The report is on the NFLA website. Updates to reports on English, Welsh and Irish energy policies are also being developed by the NFLA.
NFLA media releases

August 2012:
(On NFLA website.)

- NFLA Scotland report outlines how Scotland can lead a renewable revolution
- NFLA members show solidarity with Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 67th anniversary of nuclear weapon attacks
- NFLA submits its views to DECC on immobilising plutonium rather than reusing it

NFLA Scotland Glasgow seminar on key nuclear issues

The NFLA Scotland Forum meets in City Chambers, Glasgow on the 31st August.

The meeting is the first after all-out Scottish elections in May and allows a number of new NFLA representatives to meet each other. Election of a new Convenor and Vice Convenor takes place at a business meeting which will set out its agenda for 2012/13.

A special seminar has also been organised and opened out for all new councillors and groups to take part in. The NFLA report on Scottish energy policy will be profiled, as will an overview of radioactive waste policy. A speaker from SEPA will outline its policy on cleaning up beaches at Dounreay and Dalgety Bay. John Ainslie from Scottish CND will also outline his influential policy report ‘Disarming Trident’.

The seminar flyer is on the NFLA website.

UN Peace Day event and NFLA English Forum seminar

Members of the NFLA Steering Committee and NFLA English Forum are joining with Mayors for Peace and other groups to attend a joint event to commemorate the United Nations Day of Peace on September 21st.

In co-operation with Manchester City Council and ‘Musicians without Borders’ the event will include a short concert and a minute’s silence for peace at midday, in co-operation with the Mayors for Peace group.

The Lord Mayor of Manchester will also formally open the 2012 Peace Festival and the Manchester Food & Drink Festival.

Along with a meeting of the NFLA Steering Committee, there will be a joint NFLA SC & NFLA English Forum seminar on nuclear and uranium weapons proliferation. Peter Burt of NIS and Doug Weir of ICBUW are amongst the speakers. An event flyer is on the NFLA website.

NFLA Ireland Downpatrick seminar on nuclear risks

The NFLA All Ireland Forum will be holding its autumn seminar in Downpatrick looking at two key issues – the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme and the prospects for developing a ‘renewable revolution’ in Ireland.

Local South Down MP Margaret Ritchie & Ciara McMahon from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland are amongst the speakers.

A meeting with the Republic of Ireland’s Environment staff on nuclear issues is also being arranged by the NFLA Secretariat.
NFLA Wales Cardiff seminar on Welsh nuclear issues

The NFLA Welsh Forum will be holding its autumn seminar in Cardiff on the 24th October.

Amongst the issues it will consider are the alternatives in North Wales to new nuclear build at Wylfa. PAWB’s Carl Clowes will outline its study of alternative economic strategy in Anglesey.

Could Milford Haven be a suitable site for Trident submarines, as suggested by the Welsh First Minister? Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM will be giving his views on this subject.

Dr Kelvin Mason of Cardiff University has also been invited to speak on a ‘citizen’s panel’ being set up to look at Welsh energy use and climate change. The NFLA Secretary will outline the NFLA energy vision for Wales.

A flyer for the seminar is on the NFLA website.

NFLA developing nuclear emergency planning briefing

Following a very well received presentation to the DECC NGO Forum, the NFLA Secretary is developing a NFLA Policy Briefing on its various concerns around nuclear emergency planning.

The aim of the report will be to feed into the UK Government review of nuclear emergency planning issues that have arisen out of the ONR’s report on the Fukushima incident.

A further meeting between DECC & NGOs on such matters is being held in the autumn.

Amongst various points, the briefing will note concerns the NFLA has over the size and use of emergency planning zones around nuclear sites and wider public information on nuclear risks. It will consider issues around security & in the transportation of nuclear materials.

The briefing will be profiled in the NFLA September newsletter.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA Scotland Forum, Glasgow City Chambers, 31st August.**

**NFLA English Forum, Manchester Town Hall, 21st September.**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, Down Civic Centre, Downpatrick, 12th October.**

**NFLA Welsh Forum, Cardiff County Hall, 24th October.**

**NFLA SC AGM & Annual Seminar, Manchester Town Hall, 7th December.**