NFLA launches LA energy report

The NFLA Secretariat has published its own detailed report analysing how Councils are progressing with the development of more comprehensive energy policies. A number of Councils are considering the ways to develop them as drivers of low carbon renewable electricity.

The report considers the wider energy policy debate and provides an outline on how an ESCO can be developed. It also analyses reports by the IPPR and the ‘Green New Deal’ which provide detail to Councils on taking such energy policies forward.

International examples like Munich, Copenhagen and Vienna are looked at as radical ways forward. The NFLA report argues bold action could realise LA decentralised energy. The report is on the NFLA website.

The world remembers Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bombings

In ceremonies in Hiroshima & Nagasaki, replicated in many towns & cities around the world, the victims of the atomic bombs, and of conflicts over the past 69 years, were remembered.

In their Annual Peace Declarations, both the Mayors of Hiroshima & Nagasaki mentioned the importance of working with other towns and cities, and disarmament NGOs, for a nuclear weapons free world.

The ceremonies in Japan are held in the presence of the Prime Minister of Japan and Ambassadors of over 60 countries.

Ceremonies were also held by NFLA and Mayors for Peace members across Britain and Ireland on August 6th and 9th 2014.

Preparations are now taking place for events marking the seventieth anniversary of the A-bombings in 2015. These events include a 3 day major conference in Ypres, the NPT Review Conference in New York and the ‘I Was Her Age’ tour.
NFLA responds to SEPA consultation on Scottish waste

NFLA Scotland has sent a detailed response in to SEPA giving its views on EDF’s application to amend waste transfer authorisations between Hunterston & Torness.

EDF are requesting significant changes in the way it transfers low and intermediate level radioactive waste between the two sites and other nuclear sites. It is also looking to send more of its waste for incineration and for ‘recycling’.

The NFLA opposes such moves, believing it to be a significant breach of the ‘concentrate and contain rather than dilute and disperse principle’. The Scottish Government’s policy also appears to be ignored in key areas. There is real concern from NFLA of a likely increase of road transports of radioactive waste, with all their ensuing risks.

The full response and media release is on the NFLA website.

NFLA raise safety concerns on Heysham & Hartlepool closure

The NFLA has raised in a media release concerns about why it has taken 9 months to close Heysham & Hartlepool after safety issue was discovered?

A crack was identified on the boiler spine in November 2013, but more detailed inspections only began in June, and were considered serious enough to require closure of the four reactors in August.

The reactors will be out of action for at least 8 weeks. With planned outages at Dungeness and Hunterston sites it meant around 25% of UK nuclear output was temporarily out of action for a period.

NFLA note other nuclear safety concerns at Dungeness and Sellafield shows the fragility of the UK’s ageing nuclear plants.

NFLA autumn meetings and seminars take shape

The dates and locations of the four NFLA Forums meetings in autumn are now almost finalised.

The NFLA English Forum is holding a seminar in Oxford on defence nuclear safety issues on October 24th.

NFLA Scotland is meeting in Perth on October 31st with an energy seminar.

The NFLA Welsh Forum is planning to meet in Cardiff, and a meeting of the NFLA All Ireland Forum in Dublin on key nuclear / energy issues is being arranged, both in November.
NFLA agree to co-sponsor UN event for weapons abolition

The NFLA have agreed to be one of a large number of sponsoring organisations to a UN event commemorating the first International Day for the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons. The September event is being held at the UN’s offices in Geneva and is being organised by a new initiative called ‘Unfold Zero’.

The day was instituted by the United Nations in a resolution passed on September 26th, 2013. ‘Unfold Zero’ was set up in May 2014 to provide a platform for governments, parliaments and civil society to mark this notable anniversary.

The UN event will include representatives from the Governments of Kazakhstan, Mexico, Indonesia and Austria, from Mayors for Peace and from PNND. NFLA members are asked to support the day through supportive events & media releases.

Mayors for Peace questionnaire goes out to members

The NFLA Secretary, in his role as Manchester’s Mayors for Peace UK and Ireland Secretary, has written to its 90 members seeking co-operation in the launch of a UK and Ireland Chapter. Many of these members are also in the NFLA, so its members have been encouraged to support it as well.

A discussion paper and questionnaire was sent to all members and a request to attend a special meeting in Manchester on the 3rd October.

The Mayors for Peace agreed in August 2013 that national chapters should be set up, along with a system of voluntary membership fees and changes to the Hiroshima and Ypres Secretariats.

NFLA members who are also in Mayors for Peace are strongly encouraged to complete the 3 page questionnaire & attend the meeting, which will be chaired by the Lord Mayor of Manchester.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA SC, Town Hall, Manchester, 3rd October**

**NFLA English Forum, Oxford Town Hall, 24th October.**

**NFLA Welsh Forum, Cardiff County Hall, 7th November.**

**NFLA All Ireland Forum, City Hall, Dublin, 14th November (tbc).**

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NFLA letters to media, August 2014: (eailed to members)

- Government needs to fully support the renewables revolution
- It is time to reassess the costs & risks of Dounreay
- Is Plymouth a sensible location for Trident relocation?
- The urgent need to democratise our energy!