NFLA / CNFE strategy meeting held

The NFLA Chair and NFLA Secretary met with the Deputy Mayor, Environment, Ulli Sima, and Vienna City Council officers to discuss the 2015 strategy of the Cities for a Nuclear Free (CNFE) Network.

The meeting in Vienna City Hall allowed for a discussion on the recent decision by the European Commission to approve the Hinkley new nuclear state aid deal. CNFE are liaising with the Federal Austrian Government, who are considering a legal challenge to the EC decision, once it is fully published. Other EU states may support this challenge, along with renewable energy associations and companies.

The meeting also looked at holding a European Parliament event on this subject. It considered how to recruit new members and what key plans it would like to develop in 2015. The Network is now playing a useful role in the nuclear debate across Europe.

Mayors for Peace at ICAN event and holds board meeting

The NFLA Chair and the NFLA Secretary also took part in a Mayors for Peace board meeting and activities around the ICAN Civil Society Forum in Vienna.

Over 600 people packed in for the ICAN event, which was held around the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons.

The Forum included speakers from across the disarmament field and gave opportunity for lobbying & campaigning. A ‘marketplace’ allowed groups like the Mayors for Peace to discuss their work.

An evening board meeting discussed the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign budget and its ongoing project work leading upto and beyond the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

This included discussion of the ‘Ypres 100’ Conference and the ‘I Was Her Age’ Peace Boat world tour. Mayors for Peace staff also took an active part in the Vienna Conference.
NFLA Ireland Forum holds winter seminar in Dublin

The NFLA All Ireland Forum met in Dublin City Hall to discuss key energy and nuclear issues of interest to Irish councils.

Marine consultant Tim Deere-Jones opened the seminar by critiquing the RPII’s report on the marine pollution impact to Ireland of a UK new nuclear programme.

The NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche provided the NFLA’s energy vision for Ireland.

The NFLA Secretary considered whether Irish Councils could consider developing more definitive energy policies and Energy Service Companies.

Donal Traynor of UC Investment outlined the role community energy could play in Ireland.

A business meeting was also held to discuss Irish local government change and catalyzing NFLA membership. The NFLA website has more detail.

CNFE report compares renewable and nuclear costs

The NFLA has welcomed a detailed report prepared by the Vienna Office for Environment Protection which seeks to compare the cost structures of nuclear and renewable energy.

The study, prepared for the CNFE & NFLA, compares both energy sources by looking at the quantities of power they can generate and the level of financial support this requires. 5 EU states were considered – UK, France, Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic.

The study concluded that, under the same budgetary conditions, it is almost always possible to generate more electricity from renewable energy than nuclear power. The remuneration needed for renewables is also less. The more that is realised, the cheaper renewables will be.

NFLA will place this critical piece of research on its website shortly.

NFLA briefing shows unreliability of aging nuclear reactors

NFLA has published a detailed analysis which shows the unreliability of the UK’s existing and aging nuclear reactors.

In the past 3 years, UK nuclear reactors have had on average 20 unplanned shutdowns a year.

This has had a major impact on National Grid planning. At the same time renewable energy generation have hit record levels, particularly in Scotland.

The full NFLA report and media release can be found on the NFLA website.
NFLA submits views on Wylfa Newydd

The NFLA Secretariat submitted a detailed response on the proposed development of new nuclear reactors at Wylfa in Anglesey.

The submission is part of the pre-application process that Horizon needs to undertake in seeking local and national approval for the proposed reactors.

In the NFLA’s view, the global electricity market has changed rapidly away from centralised baseload models. NFLA argue that the project is likely to skew the island’s economy and could actually have a long-time negative effect on unemployment.

The ABWR reactor proposed for Wylfa does not have a good operating record, with none being built to date anywhere else. There are also key radwaste and emergency planning concerns with it.

NFLA New Nuclear Monitor 36 is available on its website.

Civic reception for 20th anniversary of Chernobyl charity

In January, NFLA will formally welcome the 20th anniversary of the formation of the Chernobyl Children’s Project in the UK.

The charity provides recuperative holidays for many children from Belarus who have contracted cancers and other illnesses which could be linked to exposure to contaminated areas after the Chernobyl disaster.

The group was formally established after a meeting in Manchester Town Hall on January 26th, 1996 and there are now local branches all over the UK and Ireland.

The charity also does a lot of important work in Belarus with local hospitals, schools and training staff.

The civic reception will be hosted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester and will bring leading members of the group together.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Civic reception for the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl Children’s Project UK, Manchester Town Hall, 23rd January.

NFLA Steering Committee, Manchester Town Hall, 30th January.

UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, Manchester Town Hall, 30th January.

NFLA Scotland AGM, Glasgow City Chambers, 6th February.

Other NFLA Forum meeting dates will be determined in January.