Key NFLA energy report developed

The NFLA Secretariat is finalising a major policy briefing which considers the way local authorities can develop more definitive & expansive energy policies.

Many Councils are considering developing ‘Local Authority Energy Service Companies’ or ESCOs. These have been gaining traction as a way Councils can develop comprehensive policies to promote low carbon renewable energy, community energy and energy efficiency projects.

The report considers the potential benefits to a Council of such policies, the barriers to overcome and compares the international experience in other European countries.

The report highlights some of the Councils leading the way in this area and a number of current energy projects moving Councils firmly in this direction.

The report will be considered at the NFLA Steering Committee in June and placed on the NFLA website shortly after this meeting.

Mayors for Peace at the NPT and holds its AGM in Sarajevo

May and June are busy months for the Mayors for Peace, the global local government anti-nuclear weapons group which NFLA regularly co-operates with.

In early May, Mayors for Peace were in New York lobbying national governments at the UN’s Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty PrepCom.

This is the last PrepCom before the five yearly review conference in 2015.

The Mayors for Peace delegation met senior UN officials and held an inspiring youth event on the conference fringe.

In the first week of June, the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision will hold its annual general meeting in Sarajevo City Hall. It will also participate in the Sarajevo Peace Weekend. This brings together many civil society groups close to the centenary of the First World War.

NFLA representatives, on behalf of Manchester City Council, will be present. A full report will be provided in the NFLA’s June Newsletter.
NFLA submit views on NORM & Sellafield overseas contracts

In May, the NFLA Secretariat submitted two detailed responses on dealing with radioactive waste.

NFLA argue such low level radioactive waste should be dealt with in the same way as all anthropogenic waste, using sound environmental principles.

NFLA also responded to the UK Government’s consultation on the management of the overseas origin nuclear fuel contracts held in the UK. NFLA argues that, by implementing sound environmental principles to decision-making on overseas spent fuel contracts, reprocessing at Sellafield should be curtailed at a much earlier date.

Both responses are on the NFLA website.

NFLA to meet IMO Secretary General over transport report

The NFLA has been invited to meet the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) over its concerns with some types of nuclear material shipments.

This follows a detailed NFLA report written by independent marine pollution specialist Tim Deere-Jones on certain mixed goods shipments, which include nuclear materials, being carried on ‘roll on roll off’ vessels.

A key part of the report is around a May 2013 fire involving such a ship, ‘Atlantic Cartier’, in Hamburg. It was loaded with a wide variety of dangerous goods and uranium hexafluoride.

The report has been sent to the IMO, UK, Irish and the Devolved governments, MPs and trade unions. The IMO meeting will be held in early July.

The report is on the NFLA website.

NFLA Steering Committee to visit its 34 year old archive

The NFLA Steering Committee will be holding its first meeting after local elections in England and Ireland. This is being held on the 27th June in Manchester Town Hall.

The meeting will consider a number of Secretariat reports and consultation responses.

A special tour has also been arranged for members to visit the NFLA’s archive in the reopened Manchester Central Library. The archive contains key documents from the NFLA’s rich 34 year history. Contact the Secretary for details.
NFLA raise concerns after publication of Dalgety Bay report

The NFLA welcomes the publication of a report by the independent COMARE group which assesses the public health issues around radium contamination at Dalgety Bay in Fife. The report notes that the contamination on the beach poses a potential risk to human health. It calls for a swift remediation of the site.

This contamination arises from radium tipped dials found on planes dumped on the site in the 1950s.

The COMARE report notes a further 25 MOD sites of concern. The NFLA are investigating these. The NFLA media release can be found on its website.

NFLA to respond to key Irish, Scottish & Welsh consultations

Over May and June the NFLA Secretariat are responding to three key energy and radwaste consultations of interest to its members in Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

In Ireland, the Irish Government has issued a Green Paper looking at the country’s future energy mix. It mentions the possibility of a small nuclear reactor at a site in Co. Clare. NFLA will respond arguing nuclear should never be part of Ireland’s energy mix, and has issued a media release on the matter.

In Scotland, the NFLA have put together a model response for the Scottish Government’s renewable heat policy. NFLA are keen this policy is more dynamic and involves Councils.

In Wales, the NFLA are responding to the Welsh Government’s radioactive waste policy consultation. All these responses will go on the NFLA website.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

Mayors for Peace board meeting, City Hall, Sarajevo, 7th and 8th June

NuLEAF seminar on radwaste regulation issues, London, 16th June

NFLA Steering Committee and tour of NFLA’s restored archive, Manchester Town Hall Extension / Manchester Central Library, 27th June

Bike for Peace global tour arrives in Scotland, 16th – 19th July

NFLA National Forum seminar meetings will be confirmed shortly.