Cllr Brian Goodall new NFLA Chair

The 2011 NFLA AGM was held in Newry, Northern Ireland and elected a new NFLA Chair – Councillor Brian Goodall from Fife Borough Council.

Councillor Goodall takes over from Bailie George Regan, who has been the chair since 2009. A warm tribute to Bailie Regan was given by Councillor Goodall and it was warmly supported by all attendees.

Councillor Goodall also noted his own personal commitment to the work of the NFLA and its involvement in two local and important nuclear issues in Fife – submarine dismantling and contamination at Dalgety Bay.

Realising the 2020 Vision – Mayors for Peace moves forward

Manchester Councillor Mark Hackett and the NFLA Secretary Sean Morris attended the 8th Mayors for Peace Executive Conference held in Granollers, Spain.

Board meetings of the 2020 Vision and the Executive were held. With over 5050 members the board has also expanded with new representatives from Belgium, Israel, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil and Cameroon attending the meetings.

The meeting agreed a new financial strategy and the development of continental sections. A special Organisational and Finance meeting in Hanover will address how such an expanded membership can be organised & maintained to remain a major player in the global United Nations nuclear weapons disarmament debate. The meeting also agreed to consider nuclear power issues at its next meeting in Vienna around the NPT ‘Prep Con’ in May 2012.

A full report and photos will be placed on the NFLA website shortly.
How do Councils fund energy projects in a time of austerity?

An excellent speaker panel at the NFLA English Forum meeting in Rotherham, South Yorkshire considered innovative ways that Councils can fund local energy projects in these difficult economic times.

Colin Hines from the ‘New Green Deal’ group outlined how assistance had been provided to councils in Birmingham & Newcastle to establish large funding regimes to support renewable energy projects, energy efficiency and micro generation initiatives.

Andrew Cooper, an independent energy consultant and Kirklees councillor also provided further ideas developed by the West Yorkshire Council to fund solar panels and energy insulation.

Case studies on Manchester’s demand management and the Dearne Valley Eco-vision were also given. The presentations will go on the NFLA website.

Discharges in the Irish Sea from new build – a real concern?

The NFLA All Ireland Forum met in Wexford County Hall and heard about a large range of radioactive isotopes that could be discharged into the Irish Sea from a new nuclear build programme in England and Wales.

A detailed submission is being prepared for the NFLA by Tim Deere-Jones, and he outlined various concerns over building a new nuclear reactor at Hinkley Point.

The seminar also heard from John McCann of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland on how Irish Councils need to assist in developing renewable energy plans across the island.

NFLA attends ONR meeting with Chief UK Nuclear Inspector

The NFLA Secretary attended a constructive second meeting of the ONR NGO dialogue held in London.

The meeting seeks to improve communication between various nuclear concerned groups and the nuclear regulator.

Detailed discussion on the ONR’s Fukushima report, the safety of new nuclear reactors and wider openness & transparency issues took place.

The dialogue was welcomed and further meetings are being timetabled.
NFLA questions Scottish Government on energy / waste

The NFLA Scotland Chair has written to the Scottish Energy and Environment Ministers requesting a meeting and raising concerns over fuel poverty and a variety of radioactive waste matters.

At its Forum meeting, concern was raised around cuts to the Scottish Government’s budget for energy efficiency and to tackle fuel poverty.

The meeting also noted concern over the transport of radioactive material from Dounreay to Sellafield and a crucial change to SEPA policy on contaminated land. The NFLA letter contained additional concerns over the lack of action in dealing with significant radioactive contamination at the Dalgety Bay site in Fife.

It is hoped that Scottish Ministers will meet with the NFLA. The two letters are attached on the NFLA website.

NFLA attends NDA Stakeholder Dialogue / Other NFLA news

The NFLA Secretary attended the national meeting of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) held in Manchester.

The NFLA Secretary raised concerns over the transport of radioactive material from Dounreay to Sellafield. The meeting also discussed integrated waste management, the deep underground radio-waste repository, Magnox and future NDA strategy.

Other NFLA news –

The NFLA Secretary is developing NFLA Forum meetings in the new year on Welsh energy policy in Cardiff, the Scottish AGM in Paisley and a Mayors for Peace / nuclear emergency planning seminar in Leeds. Further details will follow in December.

A number of briefings and official submission responses will be issued in December and placed on the NFLA website.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings (see the NFLA website)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee</td>
<td>27th January, Town Hall, Manchester.</td>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee, 27th January, Town Hall, Manchester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFLA Scotland</td>
<td>10th February, Town Hall, Paisley (date tbc).</td>
<td>NFLA Scotland, 10th February, Town Hall, Paisley (date tbc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFLA Welsh Forum</td>
<td>3rd February, County Hall, Cardiff (date tbc).</td>
<td>NFLA Welsh Forum, 3rd February, County Hall, Cardiff (date tbc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFLA All Ireland Forum</td>
<td>9th March (date and location tbc).</td>
<td>NFLA All Ireland Forum, 9th March (date and location tbc).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee</td>
<td>16th March, Town Hall, Manchester.</td>
<td>NFLA Steering Committee, 16th March, Town Hall, Manchester.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NFLA letters to the media, November 2011 (directly emailed to members):

- Nuclear waste trains put Scottish towns at risk
- Wind farms clearly work Prince Philip!
- Renewables or new nuclear for our future energy policy?
- It would be energy madness for Ireland to choose the nuclear option
- Proposed cuts to wind energy sends out the wrong signal
- Why is the Government putting thousands of solar jobs at risk?
- If solar subsides are unattainable, what about nuclear?
- MOD need to compensate nuclear test veterans now, not after lengthy court case

Cllrs Danny Forde, Michael Carr, Ollan Herr, Wexford County Manager Eddie Breen & NFLA Secretary at the NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting, Wexford (courtesy Wexford Echo)