5000+ Mayors for Peace members

On September 21st, the United Nations Day for Peace, Mayors for Peace announced they had passed the milestone of 5000 members.

By the end of the month Mayors for Peace had reached 5,020 members from 151 countries, effectively representing close to a billion people globally.

The Mayor of Hiroshima said: "We hope that international moves to seek to eliminate nuclear weapons will gain further momentum. We will make efforts to draw more cities to speedily achieve a treaty to ban nuclear weapons."

The NFLA welcomed this milestone in a media release and reiterated its desire to continue to closely co-operate with Mayors for Peace.

As a Vice President city, Manchester will attend the Mayors for Peace Executive meeting taking place in Granollers in November. This will consider the development of Mayors for Peace as it reaches its own 30th anniversary in 2012.

Fukushima and marine pollution – NFLA report

As part of its detailed submission to the Fukushima UK nuclear safety review, the NFLA has also tabled a report on the marine pollution issues arising from the Fukushima disaster.

Developed by the marine pollution consultant Tim Deere-Jones, this 25 page report considers the major concerns around the huge volumes of radioactive discharge in the Pacific Ocean from the stricken reactors. The Japanese Atomic Energy Agency reports a remarkable 15 quadrillion (1000 trillion) bequerels of radioactivity leaked out from March 20th – April 30th. 4,700 drums of radioactive waste also remain on the site.

The NFLA submission refers the serious issues around sustained marine pollution to the UK generic design assessment for new nuclear reactors. The submission is on the NFLA website.

The Weightman nuclear safety review will issue its final report in mid October.
The alternative energy revolution – NFLA national reports

The NFLA Secretariat has completed and issued energy reports now for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

The report on Irish energy policy noted how it could become a major exporter of offshore wind energy creating large numbers of new jobs.

The report on Welsh energy advocates that the Welsh Assembly seeks to lobby for full control of its future energy needs.

The English report will be considered in a special seminar on how Councils can play a major role in demand management and the promotion of renewable energy.

The Scottish report provides progress on the work of the Scottish Government in pushing Scotland forward as a leader in this technology.

All reports are on the NFLA website.

Joint complaint to the BBC over ‘pro-nuclear’ documentary

The NFLA has sent a further joint complaint to the BBC over what is felt to be a highly unbalanced documentary on Fukushima and the safety of nuclear power.

The ‘Horizon’ programme was presented by Professor of Nuclear Physics, Jim Al-Khalili, and downplayed the health effects of nuclear accidents. It also advocated the development of thorium reactors and that the fear of radiation was the biggest negative factor in the nuclear debate.

The NFLA complaint to the BBC, supported by a number of other national groups claims a number of inaccuracies, a lack of interviews with those concerned about nuclear power and the lack of a right to reply.

This concern follows a previous complaint to the BBC on a documentary about the health effects of Chernobyl. See the NFLA website for further details.

NFLA submission to Welsh energy inquiry

The NFLA Secretariat has issued a detailed submission to the Welsh Assembly’s Environment Committee considering the future direction of energy policy in the country.

The NFLA submission reflected its recently published overview of Welsh energy policy and urged for a cross-party lobby to Westminster to seek greater powers in this area.

The NFLA have indicated they are happy to give an oral submission to the inquiry. The submission can be found on the NFLA website.
NFLA submission to DECC on deep-waste options

The NFLA Secretariat has submitted a detailed response to DECC on considerations for the options in identifying sites for deep radioactive waste storage, once Councils have expressed a formal interest to host such a site.

The key conclusions of the NFLA submission is that the siting consultation is an overly premature exercise as the public still has not enough evidence in determining the factors behind a deep underground waste dump.

It also notes that the Cumbrian process is flawed as the 3 Councils concerned could impose a dump on a local community. A dump in Cumbria could also affect the nearby Lake District National Park.

The NFLA submission, transferred into a Radioactive Waste Briefing, can be found on the NFLA website.

NFLA SC and National Forum meetings

NFLA Scotland Forum business meeting - NFLA Scotland held a very useful business meeting prior to the NFLA National Steering Committee. The Forum meeting considered the wide media coverage following 'The Guardian' profiling its concerns over the movement of highly active radioactive waste from Dounreay to Sellafield. The meeting also endorsed the draft report on Scottish energy policy.

NFLA Steering Committee – The NFLA Steering Committee held a wide ranging meeting on all aspects of its policy agenda. It agreed, amongst other matters, to take a full part in the upcoming MOD consultation on submarine dismantling. It also welcomed Newry & Mourne's decision to host the NFLA AGM.

Upcoming NFLA Forum seminars – a running order of speakers is attached on the left.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings

NFLA Scotland Forum, 16th Sept, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Steering Committee, 16th Sept, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Welsh Forum, 14th October, Gwynedd Council Offices.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 11th November, Wexford Council Offices.

NFLA English Forum, 18th November, Rotherham.

NFLA AGM and seminar, 25th November, Newry.