



News from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)

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Useful website / partner links:
NFLA: <http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>
Mayors for Peace: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>
2020 Vision: <http://www.2020visioncampaign.org>
KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>
ICAN-UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>



Caroline Lucas MP opens Westminster seminar on UK and German energy direction co-sponsored by the NFLA

NFLA SC Chair
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy

NFLA SC Vice-Chair
Councillor Norman McDonald

NFLA UK & Ireland Secretary
Sean Morris

NFLA All-Ireland Forum Chairs
Councillor John Trainor (North)
Councillor Mark Dearey (RoI)

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary
Sinead Trainor

NFLA English Forum Chair
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA Scotland Convener-elect
Councillor Feargal Dalton

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Scotland / SC Policy
Advisor Pete Roche

NFLA Wales Forum Chair
Cllr Sue Lent

Wind half the price of new nuclear

The energy world was taken aback with the results of the UK Government 'Contracts for Difference' energy auction that two off-shore wind projects are now almost half the price of the proposed Hinkley Point C project.

The auction is the main way the Government supports low carbon

investment. 2 projects came in at a strike price of £57.50, compared to the £92.50 for Hinkley (which with inflation is likely to be over £100 by the time it is proposed for construction).

Politicians, media and the NFLA welcomed this news as proof that UK energy investment should now be focused on

renewables.

At a NCG Westminster seminar (co-sponsored by NFLA) this news was welcomed. The seminar compared the German and UK energy approach and suggested that the planned new nuclear projects at Hinkley, Wylfa and Moorside may fail. The presentations are on the NFLA website.

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The alarming 'war of words' between the United States and North Korea intensified in September.

This followed North Korea conducting an underground nuclear weapon test, which was widely condemned, including a sharply worded letter from the Mayor of Hiroshima, and more sanctions on

North Korea at the UN.

At the UN General Assembly, US President Trump threatened to 'destroy' North Korea if it persisted with its nuclear programme. North Korea has responded with new missile tests.

In the same meeting, 52 states have formally signed the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty with 3

immediately ratifying it. This makes it likely that it will come into law in mid-2018.

NFLA is supporting a CND-led rally and petition to the UK PM at Downing St calling on a rapid de-escalation of the crisis. NFLA will also support ICAN & Mayors for Peace in calling for early ratification of the Ban Treaty.

US / N Korea tensions grow but 52 sign Nuclear Ban Treaty

**NFLA media releases
September 2017:
(On NFLA website.)**

- NFLA concerned over radioactive mud that could be dumped in Cardiff Bay from Hinkley C
- NFLA welcomes Ireland signing Nuclear Ban Treaty and talks about decentralised energy at its meeting
- NFLA / CNFE issues letters to May and Macron on energy policy
- NFLA supports Abolition 2000 appeal on N Korean crisis



The NFLA All Ireland Co Chair, Mayor of Meath and NFLA Secretary at its meeting in Navan



Gordon Edwards talks about Canadian waste policy at Medact / IPPNW Conference in York.

NFLA attends BEIS and ONR NGO Forums

September has seen a profusion of nuclear stakeholder forums. As the principal voice for local government on nuclear issues, NFLA has attended all of them.

In Westminster, the UK Government Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) held

its Forum with NFLA and NGOs like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth.

The meeting focused on radiation and health issues and a detailed interface with the health experts committee COMARE. There was also discussion on nuclear safety, Brexit

and new build.

NFLA was also present at the Office for Nuclear Regulation Forum with the same type of groups. The meeting looked at Brexit, health and the Generic Design Assessment process for new reactors. Both meetings allowed for full & frank discussion.

The 'Big Waste Debate', NDA Summit and NuLEAF meeting

The NFLA had four representatives in West Cumbria for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Summit with its stakeholders.

The two day event saw both the new Chair & CEO of the NDA note a difficult year and that they had to listen more to all its stakeholders.

The meeting included a 'Big Waste Debate' at which contrasting views on radioactive waste management were provided.

NFLA welcomed the views of Professor Andy Blowers and others at this debate over future policy. The summit also considered socio-econ-

omic policy and a workshop noted potential changes in the process to decommission nuclear reactors.

The NFLA reps also attended the LGA NuLEAF group where discussion took place on future waste consultations and international waste engagement.

NFLA All Ireland Forum calls for decentralised energy powers

The NFLA All Ireland Forum looked at ways Irish Councils should be given more powers and latitude to develop local energy solutions and assist Ireland meet its low carbon targets.

John McCann of SEAI outlined ways which the agency was seeking to assist Councils in creating new renewable energy strategies. Justin Brown of Power Capital and the NFLA Secretary

called for a more adventurous approach from government, which will be reflected in a NFLA response to a new consultation. The presentations will be on the NFLA website shortly.

NFLA letters to the media,**September 2017:**
(Emailed to members.)

- NFLA / CNFE letters to Macron and May on future direction of energy policy
- NFLA welcomes The Guardian's support of renewables over new nuclear for future energy policy

What are the radiation risks from the fracking process?

A special NFLA SC seminar held after its business meeting looked at a major energy issue of concern – are there serious radiation dangers from the fracking process and from the storage of what may be contaminated fracked waste water?

Radiation health expert Dr Ian Fairlie noted that radioactivity could come from gas wells bringing up such material, through waste & through methane gas (which includes radon gas). His presentation argued that Councils and communities need to request detailed data on the levels of radiation from each process.

Engineering expert John Busby also noted real concern over low level radiation and harmful chemicals that are likely to be in wastewater arising from the fracking process. Their presentations will go on the NFLA website shortly.

NFLA England, Wales & Scotland to host engaging events

The speaker programmes for October NFLA meetings in Hull, Cardiff and Glasgow have all been sent out to member and non-member Councils.

The English Forum will be discussing a number of exciting renewable energy projects with speakers from Siemens,

The Spencer Group and Northern Gas Networks.

The Welsh Forum are considering proposed new nuclear projects at Hinkley and Wylfa, marine energy and community energy.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Forum will be looked at nuclear transports, the

development of Scottish radioactive waste policy and the safety of aging reactors, and renewable energy developments.

Flyers for the meetings can be found at the NFLA website and registration is open for them. Reports on them will be provided in the October newsletter.

NFLA speaks at Medact / IPPNW Conference

The NFLA Secretary was a speaker at two workshops at the Medact / IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War) Conference held at York University.

Over 450 attendees took part in the 'Health through Peace' Conference with a number of very high profile

speakers.

The Conference called for renewed vigour in encouraging more UN states and international NGOs to support the Nuclear Ban Treaty.

A workshop strand looked at concerns with nuclear power. The NFLA Secretary spoke in a session on

international solutions for dealing with the nuclear legacy.

A second workshop looked at renewable alternatives and the NFLA considered links between civil and defence nuclear.

All presentations are on the 'Health through Peace' website.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

**NFLA English Forum,
6th October, Guildhall,
Hull**

**NFLA Wales Forum,
13th October, Cardiff
City Hall**

**NFLA Scotland, 26th
October, Glasgow
City Chambers**

**NFLA SC and AGM,
1st December, LEAF
building, Portland
St, Manchester**

**NFLA & Mayors for
Peace joint seminar
on nuclear weapons
and peace building,
1st December, LEAF
building, Portland St,
Manchester**