



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>



David Toke talks to the NFLA Scotland Forum on decentralised energy

NFLA SC Chair & Welsh Chair
Councillor Ernie Galsworthy

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
Councillor Feargal Dalton

NFLA Scotland Vice Convener
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland)
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA Policy Advisor
Pete Roche

Nuclear emergency plans to change

The NFLA has given detailed comments to the UK Government in a major proposed change to nuclear emergency planning arrangements.

The European Basic Safety Standards Directive has been developed out of the learning points from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in NE Japan.

The Government has noted that, in order to transpose it into UK law, significant changes are required of the REPPIR plans that surround civil and defence nuclear sites. Minor changes are also required to the laws on the transport of nuclear materials as well.

The proposed new

regime seeks to move from a prescriptive to a more flexible regime, with planning focused on the highest risk activity.

NFLA welcomes some of the changes, but is worried about the potential for inconsistency in new plans. The full NFLA response can be found on the NFLA website.

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NFLA are delighted to note that Fermanagh & Omagh Council have decided to become its newest member.

The NFLA Secretary spoke to councillors at a special meeting held in November about its work.

Councillors are keen to see greater moves going forward across the island of Ireland to

develop renewable and decentralised energy.

Councillors also noted concern of how the island could be affected by a major accident at a UK nuclear site, and were keen to be kept informed by the Secretariat on these issues.

The Council is also strongly against the need or potential use of nuclear weapons, and is

keen to work with NFLA in the campaign to prohibit them.

A NFLA All Ireland Forum meeting in Enniskillen in 2018 is being planned.

A number of other Councils are actively considering membership. Should you wish to see your Council join the NFLA please contact the NFLA Secretariat.

Fermanagh and Omagh Council join the NFLA

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

- NFLA prepares for joint seminar with Mayors for Peace on nuclear weapon & peace policies
- NFLA welcomes Public Accounts Committee report that the poorest will be affected by the Hinkley Point C new nuclear deal
- NFLA submits its views on changes to nuclear emergency planning
- NFLA raises concerns over the Dounreay decommissioning contract
- NFLA submits views on Irish renewable support schemes



Tim Deere-Jones talks to the NFLA Welsh Forum seminar on concerns over radioactive mud from a Hinkley Point C reactor

NFLA Scotland queries Dounreay decommissioning contract

The NFLA Scotland Forum has written to the Scottish Government raising concerns over the decommissioning contract at Dounreay.

A BBC 'File on 4' radio documentary has looked at the NDA's failed contract process for its Magnox reactor clean-

up programme.

It follows a High Court ruling that the NDA has to pay £122 million of public money in compensation for an inadequate procurement exercise to manage Magnox sites. A recent NAO report has been highly critical of the NDA. An

independent inquiry is also highly critical.

The BBC uncovered evidence that the Dounreay contract may have been 'fudged' in a similar way. The Scottish Government is also concerned over site safety & performance. A NFLA media release is on its website.

NFLA prepares for its 2017 Annual General Meeting

The four NFLA Forums will be joining together for the 2017 NFLA AGM in Manchester on the 1st December.

2017 has been one of the worst years in living memory for the nuclear industry. Major questions remain over whether the proposed new nuclear sites at Hinkley, Wylfa

and Moorside will go ahead amidst key issues in raising the finance for them.

Meanwhile, the cost of renewable energy is falling to record low levels. Many Councils are continuing to develop new & exciting decentralised energy schemes in areas like

solar, wind, anaerobic digestion, district heating, energy efficiency and energy storage.

2017 has also seen the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons be agreed. ICAN also won the Nobel Peace Prize. All of these matters will be discussed in Manchester.

NFLA responds to Irish renewable energy support plans

The NFLA has submitted detailed comments to the Irish Government on how it should support innovative ways to fund renewable energy.

The Government is

consulting on setting up support schemes for renewables.

NFLA welcome this new initiative and call on it to be widened beyond support for wind, to

also focus on solar and tidal energy. The NFLA note the success of such schemes in other EU states and calls on a bolder approach. The submission is on the NFLA website.

NFLA plan detailed response to radioactive waste management strategy

The UK Government were expected by October 2017 to publish its views on taking forward its policy on the management of high & intermediate level radioactive waste.

This date was delayed, and it was then expected to be published in November. It is now anticipated that they will now go out in early January. No reason for the delay has been given.

There will be two consultations – one on the definition of a ‘host’ community for the siting of a deep underground waste facility, and the other on land use planning with a National Policy Statement.

This issue is of real interest to all Councils. NFLA will respond whenever the consultations are announced. It will also monitor any Scottish and Welsh policy changes as well.



The Hunterston nuclear power station complex in North Ayrshire, Scotland

NFLA plans responses to Clean Growth Plan & Helm review

In November the UK Government announced a consultation on the ways forward to deliver low carbon energy.

The Clean Growth Plan, which has been delayed for some time, outlines how Government will meet commitments to reduce national carbon emissions and promote

a low carbon economy.

While there are some positive parts to the plan, it remains overly focused on support for large and small nuclear reactors, which would take up huge levels of resource at a time when renewable energy is rapidly coming down in price. The NFLA are

planning a detailed response to it.

In a separate initiative, energy specialist Prof Dieter Helm has published a review on the energy market for the Government seeking major reform. NFLA is also looking at this report and will also respond in detail to it.

NFLA & Mayors for Peace event on peace & nuclear weapons

The NFLA will be hosting a joint seminar with Mayors for Peace in Manchester to consider the way forward in promoting peace and a nuclear weapons free world.

The 1st December seminar will focus on ICAN’s award of the Nobel Peace Prize and the momentum it will

bring at the international level as states ratify the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.

The seminar will also consider the debate with Trident in the UK.

A key new initiative of the Mayors of Peace is to encourage local peace programmes, and

the seminar will see some focus on how Manchester has responded to the May terrorist incident in the city. The seminar will conclude with a short assessment of how Councils can promote peace initiatives at the local level. Both NFLA and Mayors for Peace members are encouraged to attend.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Scotland business meeting, 1st December, LEAF Centre, Portland St, Manchester

NFLA Steering Committee and Annual General Meeting, 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