NFLA launch ‘manifesto’ for LA climate action

NFLA has published its latest report on how Councils should tackle the climate emergency.

The report is issued at a time when over 200 Councils have declared a ‘climate emergency’, many calling for being ‘zero carbon’ by 2030.

The NFLA report is called a ‘manifesto for climate action’ and starts with looking at the need for fairness in order to get public support for behavioural change.

It outlines 12 core actions Councils can start now to make inroads into cutting carbon. It also calls on new resource and new powers from central government.

In annexes it outlines the recent climate change action plans of Glasgow and Edinburgh as well as excellent ‘best practice’ examples from around the country.

This is the sixth NFLA report in this area and member authorities are encouraged to share it widely. It is on the NFLA website.

Kazakh artist illuminates International Peace Day seminar

The NFLA Steering Committee joined up with the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter to hold a special seminar linking in to the International Day of Peace.

Hosted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester, the seminar looked at the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapon tests and the costs and risks of the UK Trident programme. It also looked at the need for Peace Departments in central and local government.

Keynote speaker was Karipbek Kuyukov, who was born near the Soviet nuclear test site without arms, due to his parents’ exposure to radiation. As a global Ambassador of the ATOM Project, Karipbek talked movingly of the issues many Kazakhs had endured. Dr Becky Alexis-Martin talked of the wider health issues affecting nuclear test veterans & communities.

The presentations and a full report will be on the NFLA and Mayors for Peace websites shortly.
NFLA Welsh Forum holds meeting in Swansea Civic Centre

The NFLA Welsh Forum held its autumn seminar in Swansea Civic Centre.

The first part of the seminar considered the climate emergency and local authority action.

The Deputy Leader of Swansea Council, Cllr Clive Lloyd outlined its low carbon projects with particular focus on how it was using its pension fund to support renewable solutions and divest from fossil fuels.

The NFLA Secretary also outlined how Welsh Councils needed to scale up their low carbon projects and put into action dynamic strategies.

Peter Burt of NET talked about ‘Just Transition’ and defence diversification in Wales, while Tim Deere-Jones outlined radioactive waste concerns in the country. The four presentations are on the NFLA website.

NFLA Scotland Forum holds meeting & seminar in Fife

The NFLA Scotland Forum held its autumn business meeting and seminar in Dunfermline City Chambers in Fife.

The meeting considered core nuclear issues of concern such as over the reopening of the Hunterston B Reactor 4.

A seminar profiled the climate emergency report noted in page 1 and had a presentation on the positive work Fife Council was doing in developing renewable heat, energy and transport projects.

There was also a look at the risk of nuclear weapon convoys and the Scottish Government Preparedness Review. The four presentations are on the NFLA website.

Shortly after the meeting, Fife Council passed a resolution supporting the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty. A NFLA media release welcoming this is also on its website.

NFLA All Ireland and English Forum meetings for October

The NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum holds its autumn seminar in Dublin City Hall on the 18th October.

It is considering the role Councils can play in tackling climate change and cutting carbon, with two local case studies.

The NFLA English Forum is holding a joint public meeting with TASC, BANGG and Stop Hinkley on the risks of new nuclear build at the Firstsite Gallery in Colchester on 26th October.

Registration for both are open and the flyers on the NFLA website.
NFLA report critical of using RAB model for new nuclear

NFLA have submitted a report highly critical of the UK Government’s proposed use of the Revenue Asset Base (RAB) model to fund new nuclear reactors.

The RAB model has been used for some core water infrastructure projects, and in the consultation, the UK Government suggest it may assist ‘de-risking’ new nuclear projects, allowing them to be built.

In a detailed response, NFLA point out that this is likely to mean the public purse potentially providing many billions in support for such projects, which may never even get built.

The NFLA also provide detail of the lack of knowledge on the costs and risks of new nuclear. At the same time renewable energy costs are plummeting. The NFLA response can be found on its website.

NFLA raise concern on Fukushima sea dumping & meet CNIC

NFLA have raised public alarm with the prospect of the potential dumping of over 1.1 million tonnes of radioactively contaminated water, arising from the stricken Fukushima reactors, into the Pacific Ocean.

An expert panel set up by the Japanese Government is considering this matter, and is expected to come to a conclusion shortly.

The outgoing Japanese Environment Minister gave his opinion that the water should be slowly released into the sea. Independent environmental groups have said that tritium and other radioactive elements in the water risk affecting marine life and the public.

A joint NFLA / KIMO media release was issued and connections with Japanese groups have been made. Representatives of the Japanese CNIC met the NFLA in September on this and to discuss Japan’s UK-held plutonium stockpile.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA All Ireland Forum, Dublin City Hall, 18th October</td>
<td>NFLA SC, AGM and Annual Policy Seminar, Manchester Central Library, 6th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>NFLA English Forum joint meeting, Colchester, 26th October</td>
<td>Mayors for Peace Exec Conference, Hanover, Germany, 10-12 November</td>
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<td>NFLA Scotland Forum, Motherwell Civic Centre, 14th November</td>
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