The launch of the All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum – what we are about / Brexit – what does a ‘no deal’ mean for Irish energy policy?

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NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum seminar, October 2019
Agenda

- NFLA - 39 years of advocating a nuclear free, renewable rich vision
- NFLA structure
- The work of the All Ireland Forum 1998 - present
- The benefits of an All Ireland Forum on energy
- Your views matter!
- NFLA report on a no deal Brexit and Irish energy issues
- Brexit and renewables
- Conclusions
NFLA - a long, rich history of campaigning

- NFLA came out of concerns over Cold War & nuclear accidents
- Established November 5th, 1980 by Manchester & other Councils
- Chernobyl disaster changed many minds on nuclear safety
- Fukushima has done the same
- Consistently advocated renewable energy for over 30 years
- Climate emergency now concentrates the mind
- A best practice repository across UK & Irish energy policy
- Lobbying governments, Councils, industry and international bodies
- Links with CNFE, Alliance of Regions, KIMO and Mayors for Peace
How NFLA works

- UK & Ireland Secretariat & SC - Manchester
- 4 National Forums – All Ireland, England, Scotland & Wales
- Secretariat engages on behalf of members and responds to / drives the nuclear & energy policy agenda
- Forums focus on specific issues – e.g. England new nuclear & waste, Scotland renewables & decommissioning, Wales the same, All Ireland renewables & threats from nuclear
- Secretariat produce original research & themed seminars
- Councillors drive our agenda
- Climate change will dictate much of our future
The work of the All Ireland Forum since ‘98

- UK & Ireland Conferences on Nuclear Hazards 1998 - 2006
- NFLA All Ireland Forum established in 2006
- Led by Newry, Mourne & Down and Louth County Council
- Identified risks to Ireland of UK nuclear developments
- Advocate the benefits of renewable / decentralised energy
- Met Ministers / officials on a regular basis
- Engaged (with KIMO) at OSPAR intergovernmental meetings
- Represented at EPA Radiation Issues Committee
- Look at All Ireland energy issues – like the single electricity market
The benefits of an All Ireland Forum on sustainable energy

- We will still raise concerns with Sellafield and other nuclear hazards that would impact on Ireland
- We will continue to advocate renewable & decentralised energy solutions and best practice
- We advocate the common sense of an all-island energy system for the 4 million inhabitants
- We can call for greater LA powers and resource on energy
- We have to move much faster to decentralised energy solutions
- Councils are essential at promoting behavioural change with the climate emergency in energy, heat and transport
- Ireland has to go faster for zero carbon solutions – it needs advocates such as this Forum
Your views matter!

A WIDE RENEWABLE ENERGY MIX – YES!

• NFLA is a member-driven organisation – we actively respond to your views and you determine how we move forward
Brexit has profound issues for the British and Irish Isles
We are concerned over potential dilution of environmental laws
Could lead to big increase in NI fuel bills
In UK £42bn per year required on climate emergency – Brexit will create a huge hole in such spending
Reduce cooperation on tackling climate crisis
Cross-border flows of electricity may no longer flow
Operation Yellowhammer – interconnectors will still work but will lead to significant price increases (£2bn increase in fuel bills since 2016 vote)
In a ‘no deal’ there would be rapid break-up of single electricity market
Brexit and renewables

- Brexit could impact on European grid connections
- Integrated supply chains in the EU are vital to utilities / investors
- A robust carbon price is essential to support investment
- Comprehensive carbon reduction plans
- Will the low carbon skilled labour move elsewhere?
- Diverging environmental standards could affect consistent products and a joint knowledge base, and trade between UK and Ireland
- A ‘no deal’ could also impact on UK nuclear safety regime despite contingency measures being in place if there is a deal
- This week we may know more what may happen
- Political change and economic stress is almost inevitable
Conclusions

- Our Forum comes out of almost 40 years high quality service to Councils
- Ireland has to move faster on low carbon developments
- Councils are essential to that and we offer a unique all-Ireland way to do that
- We can learn from each other and lobby Government for more powers / money
- We only cost around £800 / €820 - £1000 / €1030 a year for membership
- Work with us for a renewable, safe and peaceful future
- Work with us to understand the impact of Brexit on energy
- Work with us as it makes common sense to do so