Climate emergency and local action – the next steps

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Agenda

- NFLA, climate change and the climate emergency
- Importance of local authorities in tackling the emergency
- Good examples of best practice
- Finding the Finance
- Low carbon procurement
- Renewable transport and heating
- Smart Energy
- ‘Meaningful consent’
NFLA – at the heart of climate policy

- NFLA has advocated low carbon local energy since the early 1990s
- Look at national / international LA low carbon best practice
- 3 reports past 5 months on the ‘climate emergency’
- Calls for more powers and central resource
- Also advocates Councils to look and follow best practice
- In comparison – RAB model and copious subsidy for nuclear
- Nuclear is not the answer – expensive, slow, waste, safety
LA’s unique position on carbon targets and fuel poverty

- Democratic route – public consent
- Offers opportunity to share benefits of energy revolution equitably
- Planning powers
- Large number buildings
- Large fleet of vehicles
- Responsibility for social housing, economic regeneration, transport and social care
Local energy revolution

- Exciting local energy revolution
- Nottingham and Bristol leading the way
- Nottingham has over 40 renewable energy projects
- Bristol has launched a £1bn “City Leap” prospectus to finance a range of projects
Recent developments

- Warrington to become the 1st LA to produce all its own electricity
- Landmark funding deal with Investec Bank and Leapfrog Finance
- Build solar farms at two sites in York and Hull
- Will generate ‘millions of pounds’ in profits every year for 30 years
Warrington

- bought 50% stake in Together Energy – Clydebank-based utility
- installed 3,000+ PV on factory in Warrington which makes plastic car components
- bought bonds in Swindon solar farm
- PV on at least 1,500 homes
Finding the finance

- Prospectus to attract £1bn for low carbon investment in Bristol

Other examples include:
- Setting up arms-length energy companies which can raise their own finance through borrowing against a Business Plan
- Partnering with community energy to issue shares for renewable projects
- Buying a ready-made solar farm or building a new one, using capital reserves, to generate income
- Launching a solar bond to fund new solar farms
Finding the finance 2

- Using a management company to install solar PV on council-owned buildings & share income;
- Using Power Purchase Agreements;
- Using Salix Finance Ltd
- European Union (or successor body?)
Finding the finance 3

- Nottingham’s Workplace Parking Levy
- £61m back for public transport
- Being replicated in Scotland
- Newham Council requires every privately rented home to pay for a licence - funds used to check homes meet minimum efficiency standards
Low carbon public procurement

- Stop pension funds financing dirty energy – Swansea to reduce by 50% over next 4 years;
- Waltham Forest divestment a great example – unlocked funds for low carbon
- Purchase only renewable electricity
- Bristol Energy will take 3.55MW of power generated by wind farms in Suffolk and Aberdeenshire
Green transport & procurement

- Announce no longer buying fossil fuel vehicles
- Ensure rapid transition to EVs for vehicles used by council staff but not owned by the council
- Use the licensing system to ensure that all taxis are electric by a certain date
- Introduce a differential charging for residents parking permits depending on the cars carbon emissions
- Support car-sharing schemes
Dundee – solar EV charging

- Dundee at vanguard;
- largest no. of electric minicabs in UK (134)
- UK’s largest local authority fleet, with 117 electric cars and vans
- council-owns four solar-powered charging hubs
- highest number of rapid chargers of any UK city
Vehicle to Grid (V2G)

- Central & Local Government across the UK has a fleet of 75,000 vehicles;
- EVs will come back to depots probably with a 90% charge
- Could be sold back to the grid during the peak (red zone) period of 4.30pm to 7pm
- Charge up again in the small hours
Promote walking and cycling

- Parliament report: widespread personal vehicle ownership not compatible with decarbonisation
- address traffic jams, urban sprawl and wasted space for parking, pollution & obesity
- Edinburgh – close the roads day so successful widening pedestrianisation
Enhance energy efficiency

- LED bulb replacement – Solihull plans to cut street lighting costs in half by 2024
- All new buildings should be zero carbon
- Use powers to go beyond building standards
- Wolverhampton – Passivhaus schools
Stirling – solar and storage

- Stirling Council has installed solar on over 2,600 council homes
- Over 7MW of capacity
- Has now installed batteries in 94 properties
- Resident bills plummeted
Planning for zero carbon heating

- By 2050 virtually all buildings will need to be heated without fossil fuels
- Over half UK’s principal councils have declared a climate emergency – usually means zero by 2030
- Tyndall Centre for GM – 2038 using annual carbon budgets etc
Zero carbon heating

- Heat networks are projected to meet 17% of demand in homes & up to 24% in industrial and public-sector by 2050
- Green Hydrogen might be less disruptive for householders but likely to be more expensive than natural gas
- Solar thermal & biomass
Stirling District Heating Network

- New £6m renewable energy scheme providing low-cost heat from wastewater from the city’s sewage works
- Initially network will deliver low-carbon heat to key public buildings, but could expand to housing
- Many other good examples – Leicester, Leeds, Southampton, Manchester, Aberdeen
Electric heating

- Favoured by Committee on Climate Change
- Electricity costs 4x gas;
- Could be too expensive if done wrong way
- The best way to make heating affordable - massive energy efficiency programme.
- Use new technologies e.g. heat storage plus off peak electricity
Smart Energy

- Community projects leading smart revolution – converting surplus renewables to hydrogen or stored heat
- Surf n’ Turf; Garmony Hydro; Tower Power
- In Cornwall Centrica is using ‘blockchain’ technology so consumers can buy & sell from each other
- Manchester – City Verve, use of ‘internet of things, smart energy heating IT systems
Conclusion - meaningful consent

- Things done without new funding
- Ways to find funding
- Putting in place the detailed policies needed require sustained electoral support
- Avoid a populist backlash
- Consult - ask people how they can contribute
- Convene citizen assembly