NFLA launches Irish sustainable energy forum

The new NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum held its first meeting in October in Dublin City Hall. The Forum retains a sharp interest in nuclear matters as they affect Ireland, but is focusing more of its effort on the ways to develop decentralised and sustainable energy across the island of Ireland.

At the meeting in Dublin, the NFLA Secretary Sean Morris outlined the plans for the Forum, as well as profiling its recent report on a ‘no deal’ Brexit on energy policy.

Pete Roche provided an informative look at the benefits of local energy and some best practice in Ireland & Britain.

Seamus Hoyne of the Tipperary Energy Agency provided an excellent case study of the positive role Irish Councils can play, and Cormac Walsh noted the role of Energy Cooperatives Ireland in supporting that. See the NFLA website for the four presentations.

NFLA hold joint meeting with anti-new nuclear build groups

The NFLA English Forum held a packed public meeting in cooperation with the groups campaigning against the development of new nuclear reactors at Sizewell, Bradwell and Hinkley Point.

The meeting in Colchester was opened by the NFLA Chair and the Leader of Colchester Borough Council.

Speaking on siting, finance, waste and wider climate change concerns of each site were Katy Attwater of Stop Hinkley, Pete Wilkinson of Together Against Sizewell C and Andy Blowes of Blackwater Against New Nuclear Group.

Professor Steve Thomas of Greenwich University provided an overview of the myriad of problems facing EDF, while the NFLA Secretary outlined the local and sustainable renewable energy alternatives to new nuclear in dealing with the climate emergency.

The presentations are on the NFLA website.
NFLA Secretary meets CNFE & Alliance of Regions networks

The NFLA Secretary met with his counterparts in the Cities for a Nuclear Free Europe and the Alliance of Regions for Phasing-out Nuclear Power in Europe.

The officers were in Vienna to attend a conference organised by climate change and anti-nuclear groups as an alternative to a huge IAEA Conference across the road.

This conference looked at the state of play with big and small nuclear, the threats from climate change and the renewable alternatives with some of the leading speakers in these fields from around the world.

The three LA networks bring local and regional groups together and have recently called on the European Investment Bank to stop supporting new nuclear.

They have agreed to continue to cooperate on like-minded plans.

NFLA Scotland to look at Hunterston, energy & divestment

The NFLA Scotland Forum is planning to hold its final business meeting and seminar of 2019 in Motherwell Civic Centre in mid-November.

The announcement of a UK general election means we are checking councillors can attend it.

Assuming it can go ahead, a seminar is planned to look at the state of Hunterston B, the benefits of a Scottish Energy Company, and progress with nuclear divestment.

Dr Ian Fairlie will make his latest assessment on Hunterston after further detail has come to light on the aging of the reactors.

Dr Keith Baker will profile his report on Scottish energy policy and Linda Pearson will outline the work of the ‘Don’t Bank on the Bomb’ network on divestment.

The flyer is on the NFLA website.

Manchester reps to attend Mayors for Peace Exec Conference

The NFLA Secretary and a former Lord Mayor of Manchester, Cllr Eddy Newman, will be attending the upcoming Executive Conference of Mayors for Peace, which is being held in Hanover.

The Exec Conference is the main decision-making body of Mayors for Peace and will consider its Action Plan for 2019 – 23, as well as its plans in 2020, the 75th anniversary of the atomic bomb.

The meeting will also consider very positive moves to develop a European structure. A full report will be provided next month.
NFLA / M4P Secretary speaks at IPB / CND Conference

The NFLA / Mayors for Peace Chapter Secretary was one of the speakers at a joint IPB / CND Conference in London on the security challenges and opportunities for the near future.

The talk focused on the progress with the NFLA and Mayors for Peace in supporting its members developing resolutions to support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, divestment and peace education.

The wider conference had various expert panel discussions highlighting the real need for cooperation between core groups & networks.

At the IPB Congress, CND Vice President Bruce Kent was awarded the annual Sean MacBride award. He had been a former President of the IPB and he has campaigned for a nuclear weapons free world for over 60 years.

NFLA publishes briefing on Brexit and energy/nuclear policy

NFLA have published a detailed assessment on what a ‘no deal’ Brexit could mean for nuclear, energy and environmental policy.

The assessment raised concerns around a potential divergence on environmental standards between the UK and the rest of the EU. It also suggested steep price rises for energy, particularly in Northern Ireland could occur, due to the likely demise of the all-island Single Electricity Market.

The plans for the ONR to take control of the domestic nuclear safety regime from Euratom inspectors appears to be in place in the event of a deal, but may be more uncertain in the ‘no deal’ scenario.

Whilst the UK Parliament has passed the proposed deal it has delayed its implementation. This has led to an impasse and a UK general election on the 12th December. The NFLA report can be found on its website.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

ONR NGO Forum, London, 7th November

Mayors for Peace Exec Conference, Hanover, Germany, 10-12 November

NFLA Scotland Forum, Motherwell Civic Centre, 14th November (at present this is still going ahead but could be subject to possible change)

NFLA SC, AGM and Annual Policy Seminar, Manchester Central Library, 31st January 2020 (moved from 6th December due to UK general election)

Norwich becomes 5th UK Council to pass TPNW resolution

Norwich City Council has become the fifth UK Council to pass a resolution giving its support to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty.

The unanimous vote from the 3 political parties on the Council – Labour, Green and Lib Dem – calls on the UK Government to get actively involved in this multilateral disarmament process.

Norwich joins with Manchester, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire & Hebden Royd Town Council in passing resolutions and over 130 cities globally. See the ICAN ‘nuclear ban website for more detail.

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