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Websites / partner links:

NFLA:

<http://www.nuclearpolicy.info>
(Also links to Facebook and Twitter)

CNFE: <http://www.cnfe.eu>

MFP: <http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

KIMO: <http://www.kimointernational.org>

ICAN: <http://www.icanw.org>

ICAN UK: <http://www.ican-uk.org>

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NFLA sets up video calls for its June Forum meetings

With public meetings and events curtailed by the Covid-19 outbreak, the NFLA is moving from telephone conferences into video calls and webinars.

Using video conference software, NFLA are planning a series of short webinars in June.

This will start on the 5th June, with an All Ireland

Forum webinar on the climate emergency and Covid-19 post green stimulus.

On the 12th June, there will be a joint English and Welsh Forum webinar on the Hinkley mud and HPC issue and the climate emergency.

The NFLA Scotland Forum will hold its

business meeting on the 19th June to discuss key policy issues.

On the 26th June the NFLA Steering Committee will be holding its summer business meeting considering all core policy developments. A UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace webinar is also being considered for early July.

NFLA publishes progress report on the climate emergency

The NFLA has published a detailed report on how Councils are progressing their climate emergency plans.

The report, now on the NFLA website, is in two distinct parts. The first part reports that over 280 Councils across the UK and Ireland have now passed climate emergency resolutions

and are beginning to put together more detailed plans.

The NFLA provide the 10 key points to have in a climate strategy and then share some new ideas for Councils to move forward. This looks at reports from the likes of APSE Energy, the LGA, and Ashden / Friends of the

Earth. It says it is incumbent that plans need ambition, carbon budgets and to be well structured and funded.

The second half of the report provides 47 case studies of best practice. These show Councils promoting local renewable energy, heating, transport and energy efficiency projects. NFLA welcome comment on it.

NFLA media releases, May 2020:

(On NFLA website)

- NFLA calls Sizewell DCO application untimely
- NFLA publishes Bradwell B submission
- NFLA supports call for increased health and low carbon spending
- NFLA welcomes new film 'The Atom – a Love Affair'
- NFLA concerned over Torness PSA safety report
- NFLA publishes Covid-19 report
- NFLA publishes climate emergency report

NFLA WELCOMES THE FILM – 'THE ATOM: A LOVE AFFAIR'

The NFLA welcome the opening of a brand new film documentary on the history of nuclear power and its pull with policy makers.

'The Atom – a Love Affair' is a 10 year project that looks at how nuclear power has fared since the 1950s to the present day. It seeks to show why it has been supported and opposed in equal measure. It can be viewed on the Curzon Home Cinema website for the next few weeks.

NFLA report looks at Covid-19, nuclear and a green stimulus

In parallel with the NFLA report on climate emergency progress, it has also published its assessment of the Covid-19 lockdown, its impact on the nuclear sector, and the need for a green recovery.

The report notes that the lockdown has led to a reduction on global

carbon emissions, but not coming close to what is needed year on year to positively reduce the effects of the climate crisis.

The report includes an analysis of how the lockdown is creating stress across the civil and defence nuclear sector, amid concern

over ongoing construction at Hinkley Point C.

The report notes the world is at a critical juncture and it recommends going for a full green stimulus to ensure economic impacts are lessened. Councils need to be at the heart of this work. The report is on the NFLA website.

NFLA raises concern over Torness safety reservations

Following on from a report of the NFLA Scotland Policy Advisor, issues have been raised in the Scottish media over the Periodic Safety Review (PSR) for the Torness reactor.

A NFLA media release on the PSR highlights regulatory concerns in areas such as cybersecurity

and control and instrumentation ageing mechanisms.

The media release notes that EDF expect the graphite bricks around the reactor core to start cracking in a way similar to Hunterston B. The regulator wishes to see considerably more detail.

Of particular concern to the NFLA was that EDF do not have a clear strategy for raising the mean active core weight loss limit. These issues will be carefully monitored by the regulator.

NFLA will also keep a close eye on the issue. The media release is on the NFLA website.

NFLA supports call for divesting into healthcare & low carbon

The NFLA has supported a call by the International Peace Bureau (IPB) for governments to reprioritize core spending from nuclear weapon and offensive defence programmes into health

and low carbon energy projects.

In a media release, NFLA also note an ICAN report shows a huge increase of £7.9 billion in nuclear weapon

spending in 2019. NFLA welcome moves by 40 church groups to divest out of such spending and towards low carbon companies. The media release is on the NFLA website.

NFLA letters to the media
May 2020:
(Sent to NFLA members)

- Local Councils are a key part of a green recovery
- Councillors are right – EDF should delay its Sizewell C DCO

NFLA CALLS EDF SIZEWELL APPLICATION UNTIMELY

The NFLA has commented on the EDF decision to submit its application for Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate.

The EDF application comes during the Covid-19 lockdown and has been criticised by local MPs and councillors due to concerns of how engagement of it can take place.

EDF had held four rounds of local consultation on the proposals and local Councils and environmental groups had criticised the lack of detailed information.

NFLA see real concerns over these environmental risks and how the reactor project is financed. It argues renewable energy alternatives are cheaper and more realisable. See the NFLA website for further details.

NFLA submits response on Bradwell B – it is not needed

The NFLA has submitted a detailed response to the first stage of local consultation on the proposed new nuclear reactor at Bradwell in Essex.

The NFLA submission noted concern with the consultation taking place whilst a full Covid-19

lockdown is in place.

In terms of substantive points, NFLA argue there is no need for a new nuclear reactor at Bradwell given that the costs of renewables is reducing and their availability increasing.

NFLA also raise concerns on the high

radioactive content of the waste a new reactor would create.

There are issues of storm surges and sea rise amidst concern over climate change. Bradwell B could skew the local economy as it is being built. The submission is on our website.

Mayors for Peace briefing looks at future progress this year

A new report (on the NFLA website) of the UK and Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter looks at the nuclear weapons issue and how to hold events during this period of social distancing.

Both the UN's NPT Review Conference & the Mayors for Peace Executive and General

Conference have had to be postponed.

Mayors for Peace has supported a civil society joint statement which calls on progress to be made in the next few months on nuclear non-proliferation. The NPT Review Conference has been rescheduled to January.

The Chapter report also

looks at ways to try and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki atomic bomb attacks in August. Moves are also in place to hold a Chapter seminar in late June / early July.

Belize became the 37th state to ratify the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty in May.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA All Ireland Forum webinar, 5th June.

NFLA English and Welsh Forum joint webinar, 12th June.

NFLA Scotland business meeting and webinar, 19th June.

NFLA Steering Committee video call, 26th June.

A UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace webinar is being planned in early July.

All of these meetings will be invitation only for now.