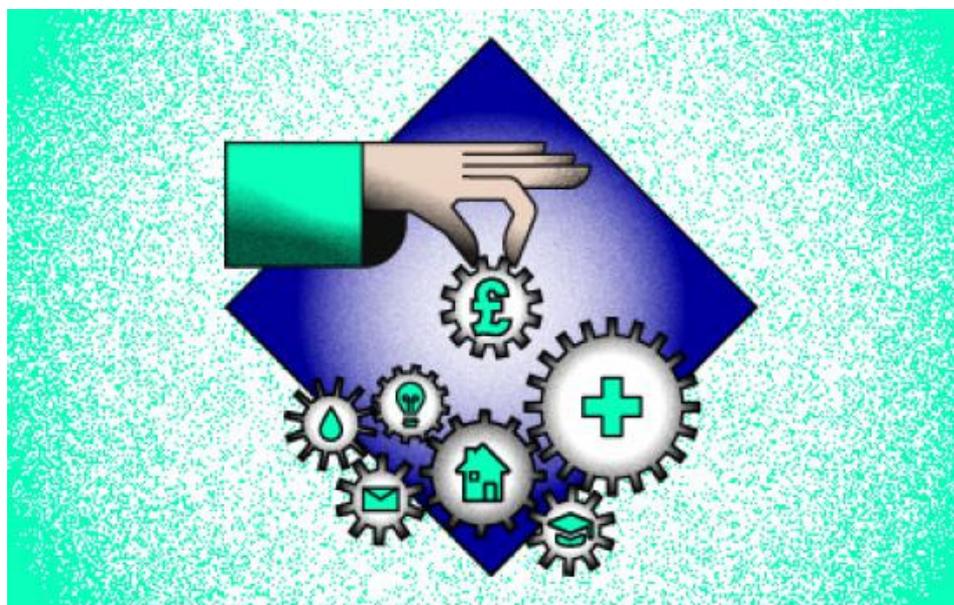


# Covid-19 – the essential need for a ‘green’ recovery / NFLA update



**Sean Morris / Pete Roche**  
**UK & Ireland NFLA Secretary / Policy Advisor**  
**NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum webinar**  
**June 2020**



# Agenda

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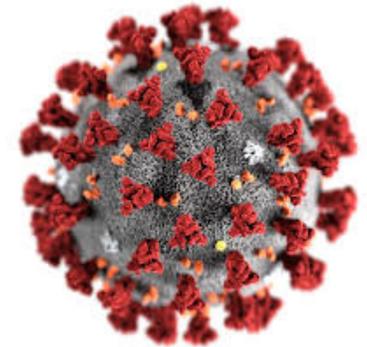
- **Covid-19 – a global crisis like no other**
- **Has it benefited the climate?**
- **Its impact on the nuclear industry**
- **The push for a green stimulus**
- **A local green response to recovery**
- **A local and central government partnership**
- **Update on NFLA reports**
- **Conclusions**



# Covid-19: a global crisis like no other

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- The biggest public health emergency for decades
- Highly infectious and spreads remarkably quickly
- 1<sup>st</sup> June – 6.26 million infections, over 375,000 deaths globally
- 25,002 infections in Rep Ireland with 1,650 deaths
- 4,728 infections in N Ireland with 524 deaths
- Ireland 12.4 – 17% contraction in economy (IMF)
- NI 12.7% contraction in economy / unemployment double (Ulster University)
- A major €10bn in ROI / £1.2bn in NI stimulus will be required for 3 years
- Longer-term tax rises and spending cuts to deal with debt deficit?





## Has Covid-19 benefited the climate?

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- Covid-19 lead to carbon cuts 1,600m tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Just 4% of global total in 2019
- Led to cleaner air in our town and cities
- More walking and cycling but less use of public transport
- Post pandemic ‘business as usual’ is not sustainable
- “A critical juncture” – propping up fossil fuel & big business or ‘build back better’?
- Climate crisis remains urgent and could focus a national and global economic recovery
- Opinion polls suggest support for a green stimulus



# Covid-19 and its impact on nuclear

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- Nuclear is a critical sector requiring adequate staffing levels
- Pandemic is a major risk to the sector
- Sector has had to put in place extensive business continuity
- Sellafield had to cease all reprocessing
- Staffing infections at the Faslane Trident nuclear base – only 2 of 4 submarines in action (CSAD still in action?)
- Large scale construction at Hinkley Point C has continued, despite early media photos of poor social distancing
- Heysham statutory outage has been delayed and it will close in June until lockdown is ended / Torness as well?
- EDF made Sizewell C application and Bradwell B local consultation
- Nuclear costs rising as renewables are falling



# The push for a green stimulus

- Across the world large policy push for a green stimulus
- 3 key factors – an extensive state, political moves forward in NI and ROI, EU plans include a green stimulus, and suggestions UK Government may do likewise
- Clear parallels with the need for extensive action on both crises
- Potential Green Party involved in new Irish Government is predicated on major funding on the climate crisis
- New NI Government / NI Assembly has consensus of the need for increased action on climate emergency
- Councils and Parliaments have declared climate emergency





# What could a green stimulus look like?



**GRANTS FOR HOUSE /  
BUSINESS RETOFITS LED BY  
COUNCILS TO TACKLE FUEL  
POVERTY**



**FUND FOR COMMUNITY / LA  
ENERGY SCHEMES**



**MORE RESEARCH IN LOW  
CARBON ENERGY**



**PUBLIC & PRIVATE LOW  
CARBON INVESTMENT**



**MORE PUBLIC TRANSPORT,  
CYCLING AND REMOTE  
WORKING**

# A local response to green recovery

- Many Councils declared ‘climate emergency’ resolutions
- Oil prices are at historic low
- Low carbon investment is critical
- Flagship projects like Dingle Peninsula 2020 could be prioritised
- Resilience / climate adaptation plans, e.g. Belfast
- World Bank – local retrofits have real stimulus benefits
- Local authorities understand their local economic and climate change needs far better than central government
- ALL Councils will have economic issues – so a new low carbon relationship with the centre is a critical response to the pandemic



# A local and central partnership

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- **New Governments – north and south – can spur a new relationship between the centre and local authorities**
- **The climate crisis needs urgent action from the state**
- **Economic challenges needs local and national action**
- **Local government need new powers, resource and a general renaissance to catalyse low carbon action**
- **This decade is critical – central government action alone is inadequate**
- **Across Europe, Councils are playing a central role in this action**
- **It is time the island of Ireland did the same**





## NFLA update

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- **Since lockdown NFLA published reports on climate emergency, Covid-19, Hinkley mud, Bradwell B, Sizewell C, Mayors for Peace**
- **Held 2 NFLA Steering Committee telephone conferences**
- **Met nuclear regulator and Radioactive Waste Management**
- **4 NFLA webinars in June**
- **Strong support for climate emergency best practice**
- **Further research into green recovery**
- **Lobby both governments on energy policy**
- **Raise public safety issues on nuclear across Europe**
- **Hold events with Irish councillor organisations for increased profile**





# Conclusions

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- **The world and Ireland at a critical juncture – post pandemic recovery needs to include a green recovery**
- **Island of Ireland has to move much 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 are low cost and high quality in our research**
- **This decade is absolutely critical for climate crisis**
- **2020 could be the year of renewables – and decentralised energy should be a part of that**
- **Questions / comments?**

**Conclusions?**