Climate Change Minister speaks at NFLA All Ireland meeting

The new Irish Climate Action Minister Eamon Ryan was the keynote speaker at the NFLA All Ireland Sustainable Energy Forum webinar held in September.

Minister Ryan welcomed the work of the Forum and provided an overview of the new government plans for upsizing deep retrofitting, creating a National Land Use Strategy and making improvements to low carbon transport take-up.

Also speaking were Cathy Burns and Leo Strawbridge of Derry & Strabane Council. They outlined the Council’s climate change adaptation plans. Cross-border work they do with Donegal County Council was welcomed.

Nuclear issues were considered by Tim Deere-Jones outlining the report on a near miss between a nuclear submarine and ferry, and the NFLA Secretary on nuclear waste impacts to Ireland. The presentations and video clips are on the NFLA website.

Wylfa B & Oldbury plans end – is new nuclear in crisis?

Hitachi has decided to withdraw from the Wylfa B and Oldbury new nuclear projects, in what has been seen as a major blow for ‘big’ nuclear in the UK.

Hitachi had been an enthusiastic supporter of new nuclear and its ABWR reactor design had been approved by the nuclear regulator. However, the near financial collapse of Toshiba – due to its subsidiary nuclear company Westinghouse – and concerns over the increasing costs have had a real impact on the Hitachi Board.

Two years ago Hitachi stalled the Wylfa and Oldbury projects, but kept its options open for further talks with the UK Government. It has now decided, with the likes of Brexit & Covid-19 costs, that the financial risks to the project outweigh any benefits.

With financial challenges for EDF, and security issues with CGN, ‘big’ nuclear is in real crisis. See the NFLA media release on its website for its views on this.
NFLA plans webinar with M4P Europe & ICAN as it turns 40

November 2020 will be a major milestone for the NFLA – it will be its 40th anniversary.

With Covid-19 making public events impractical, the NFLA are seeking to develop a special webpage and are talking with the National Peace Museum to show some artefacts from the formation of the NFLA.

It is also looking into developing a couple of prominent webinars. One such event will be a joint webinar that also celebrates the first anniversary of the Mayors for Peace European Chapter. Linking with ICAN, the webinar will look at the state of peace and security in Europe, the ICAN Cities Appeal and developing safe, resilient and more peaceful cities. It will include prominent speakers.

The programme for this webinar will go out to all members & NGO groups shortly.

NFLA Secretary speaks at international stakeholder event

The NFLA Secretary was invited to be one of the speakers at an international workshop to consider ways to improve stakeholder dialogue on radioactive waste and nuclear decommissioning issues.

The workshop was co-organised between the NDA and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency. The NFLA Secretary and BEIS NGO Forum Co-Chair Professor Andy Blowers were asked to give their views on stakeholder engagement in these areas of nuclear policy, along with a speaker from NuLEAF and from the NDA Site Stakeholder Group network.

The NEA has a Stakeholder Engagement expert group which is looking at ways to improve best practice in this area. The workshop allowed for a full and frank exchange of views. NFLA are committed to improving stakeholder dialogue.

NFLA Scotland and NFLA English Forum meetings in October

The NFLA Scotland and NFLA English Forum meetings on the 22nd and 23rd October are now being advertised.

The NFLA Scotland Forum meeting will be a detailed business meeting of all aspects of its policy agenda. Policy Advisor Pete Roche will also provide a presentation on Hunterston restarts and the aging AGR programme.

NFLA England will be looking at local energy. It will include speakers from Manchester, Leeds and Hull Councils as well as a speaker giving a personal perspective on Robin Hood Energy.
NFLA Welsh Forum webinar on Geiger Bay & core issues

The NFLA Welsh Forum is holding its autumn webinar on the 9th October.

It is considering four important issues. The first is on the ongoing concern around the dumping of as much as 780,000 tonnes of mud from the Hinkley Point site to the Cardiff Deep Grounds. Tim Deere-Jones, representing the new ‘Geiger Bay’ coalition of groups, will outline the main issues of concern.

Neil Crumpton of PAWB will consider what may happen in North Wales now that the Wylfa B project has collapsed.

Dan McCullum of Egni Cooperative Energy will outline their work supporting a number of Welsh Councils developing local renewables. Thomas Pitt of CND Cymru will conclude the meeting looking at the ICAN Cities Appeal.

Registration is open for it.

NFLA speaks at Nuclear Weapons Abolition Day key event

The NFLA SC Chair was one of the speakers at a major international coalition event for the UN Day for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on September 26th.

NFLA, with the UK & Ireland Mayors for Peace Chapter, had issued a media release (now on its website) advertising the many local & national events held for International Peace Day five days earlier.

The September 26th event was held by a coalition of groups called ‘#We The People’ that also commemorated the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The NFLA Chair outlined work it was doing for its own 40th anniversary and in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace to encourage towns and cities to campaign for a nuclear weapons free world.

Other speakers in the webinar included Jackie Cabasso of Mayors for Peace, Fabian Hamilton MP and Bill Kidd MSP.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

- NFLA Welsh Forum webinar, 9th October
- NFLA Scotland Forum webinar & online business meeting, 22nd October
- NFLA England Forum webinar, 23rd October
- NFLA AGM & Steering Committee, 6th November
- Mayors for Peace / NFLA and ICAN joint webinar on peace, security and disarmament in Europe, 12th November (tbc)