Tackling the climate emergency post pandemic

NFLA has published a detailed analysis on how Councils can tackle the climate emergency in a post-pandemic era.

The response has also been adapted for a formal submission to the Irish Government’s ‘Climate Conversation’ and to its expert Climate Change Advisory Forum.

The report starts from the growing recognition that Councils are going to be essential in the drive to a ‘net zero’ economy mitigating the impacts of climate change.

It notes though that to do this, Councils need both new powers and resources from central government. This is particularly the case due to the huge challenges from the pandemic.

The report outlines new ideas for funding green energy, transport and heating projects. It notes how essential it is to get public support for this work. It should be read by climate policy officers & members and is on the NFLA website.

Glasgow & Bangor support the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty

Glasgow City Council & Bangor City Council have become the latest to pass resolutions to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It now means 20 UK Councils support the ICAN Cities Appeal.

As the NFLA Scotland lead city, and a long-term supporter of the Mayors for Peace, Glasgow has played a prominent role in Scotland and the UK in the call for a nuclear-weapons-free-world.

Its resolution was passed by a broad cross-party coalition of councillors following a resolution brought by the NFLA Scotland Convener. Glasgow follows on from resolutions also passed by Edinburgh, Fife, Renfrewshire, East Ayrshire in Scotland.

Bangor’s TPNW resolution makes them the first Welsh Council to support the Treaty. It was put forward by its new Mayor, and it received wide support.

NFLA welcomes both decisions.
NFLA publishing review of nuclear transport concerns

The NFLA is publishing in early June a new report which consolidates its long-standing work raising issues around the transport of nuclear materials.

The report focuses on the transport of nuclear materials for both the UK nuclear weapons programme and the many types of civil and medical nuclear transports that take place.

A large section on nuclear weapon road convoys highlights the work of NIS, ICAN UK and Nukewatch and the real concerns they all have in the event of a major accident involving such transports.

The report also looks at the issues around civil nuclear road, rail, sea and air transports. It outlines a number of serious incidents in all of these areas and notes a growth in all such transports.

The report will go on the NFLA website and is well worth reading.

NFLA provides nuclear fusion briefings to Welsh Councils

The NFLA has reiterated its views on nuclear fusion. This follows an ongoing ‘competition’ by the UKAEA to encourage a Council to raise an interest to host an experimental nuclear fusion reactor.

This follows two Welsh Councils – Vale of Glamorgan & Pembrokeshire – considering putting sites forward for such a reactor. Other Councils have done likewise.

The new push for fusion follows ’Brexit’ as the UK pulled out of an international project and it is now looking at a ‘STEP’ project to develop a Tomahak reactor that may one day generate electricity.

NFLA note fusion has been looked at for over 70 years, but it is always around 10 – 20 years from completion. It has serious waste, safety & security issues and would not challenge the climate emergency.

NFLA Secretary attends key nuclear stakeholder forums

A core part of the NFLA Secretary’s role is to attend several nuclear stakeholder forums.

Two held in May including interaction with nuclear policy NGOs and the UK Government and UK nuclear regulator.

The BEIS NGO Forum included a useful and robust discussion with the UK Energy Anne-Marie Trevelyan.

The ONR NGO Forum had a wide discussion with senior nuclear regulators and a full look at the regulatory issues around small modular reactors. The Forums are very useful.
NFLA planning major report on divestment and Councils

The NFLA is planning to publish in June a new report which considers the benefits and issues around Council Pension Funds divesting investments in fossil fuels and nuclear weapons.

There have been several notable examples of fossil fuel divestment around the world, such as with New York City, and in the UK some councils have started to develop ethical initiatives to do likewise.

Groups like ICAN and the ‘Don’t Bank on the Bomb’ network are calling for the same from banks and financiers funding companies linked to nuclear weapons.

The NFLA report will focus on these issues.

Mayors for Peace meetings and plans for joint webinar

Mayors for Peace have finalized two dates for online meetings to focus their future work programme.

The new Mayors for Peace European Chapter will meet on June 10th to agree its statutes, website, operational plans and protocols. With funding over the next few years in place, it will seek to deepen interest in the nuclear weapon issue and in promoting safe and peaceful cities around the continent.

The global Mayors for Peace Secretariat will meet on July 7th and is looking to agree an Action Plan from 2021 – 23. This will also include its interaction with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

The first TPNW States Parties Conference is planned for January 2022, but it may be delayed if the NPT Review Conference is moved again. A joint ICAN / NFLA / Mayors for Peace webinar preparing for the TPNW Conference is being planned with prominent speakers being invited for it.

Forthcoming dates or meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Steering Committee web meeting, 4th June

NFLA Scotland Forum and webinar, 25th June

Mayors for Peace European Chapter Board Meeting, 10th June

Mayors for Peace Global Executive Conference, 7th July

Other NFLA meetings will be scheduled in September and October, with a number of public meetings also being developed.