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Websites / partner links:

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

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

Mayors for Peace globally and in Europe:

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org>

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.eu>

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

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

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



A blot on the landscape. NFLA joins fight against nuclear waste dump – see page 2. Image: Kurnia Aerial Photography

Prime Minister urged to convene summit to talk renewables

In response to Boris Johnson's demand that Britain takes 'big bets' on nuclear, with an outrageous aspiration to place small modular reactors in everyone's back garden, NFLA Chair Cllr David Blackburn has written to the Prime Minister asking him to instead

convene a second Downing Street roundtable summit with renewable providers to identify how green energy sources can better meet the nation's future energy needs.

Cllr Blackburn said: "The Prime Minister was right to talk about the need to 'place big bets' on developing new energy projects but so wrong to back nuclear.

Renewables are far quicker and cheaper to install, and use proven technologies, with no operational risks and with no toxic waste to deal with.

"The NFLA would like the PM to gather the key players at No. 10 to thrash out a plan to generate greener power to meet Britain's energy needs and tackle climate change".

Insulation is common sense: NFLA backs national plan to reduce energy use and lower fuel bills

Whilst the NFLA was pleased to see the removal of VAT from purchases of renewable technologies in the Chancellor's Spring financial statement, NFLA Chair David Blackburn was disappointed that Rishi Sunak did not use the opportunity to make public money available for retrofitting insulation into Britain's homes to reduce energy use and fuel bills.

Councillor Blackburn has previously written to the Chancellor asking him to

make a big investment in a national programme of home insulation.

For Councillor Blackburn investing in insulation is investing in common sense:

"Our nation's housing stock is the worst insulated in Europe.

"Many millions of British people already struggle to afford to heat their cold and draughty homes, and that struggle is getting harder with fuel bills set to soar much higher. The result will be more people in people facing fuel

poverty.

"Retrofitting insulation into British homes will mean warmer homes heated at a lower cost to consumers and less consumption of gas leading to lower carbon emissions. Plus many jobs will be created carrying out insulation work."

The independent Climate Change Committee says two-thirds of homes can be properly insulated for around £1,000 each and the Royal Institute of British Architects estimates that householders could save at least £500 a year as a result.

NFLA media releases,**March 2022:****(On NFLA website)**

- NFLA back challenge to UK nuclear weapons policies in UN Human Rights Council – 30 March
- Will the sea have them? NFLA webinar on climate change – 30 March
- NFLA calls on PM to urgently convene 'green' roundtable to talk renewables – 24 March
- Environment Agency's outrageous fee hike 'pours cold water' on future small hydro schemes in England – 22 March
- The energy crisis is now, new nuclear will be (at least) twenty years too late – 21 March
- NFLA seeks new National Community Energy Fund to drive People Power – 17 March
- New nuclear in Wales is not the answer and would be 'a tempting target in time of war', says Welsh NFLA – 16 March
- 'It's common sense': NFLA Chair calls on Chancellor to Insulate Britain – 14 March
- Eleven years on and impact of Fukushima still felt in Japan – 10 March
- NFLA marks fifth anniversary of Aberystwyth – 7 March
- Under Threat: NFLA endorses call for international action to safeguard Ukrainian reactors – 2 March

NFLA Briefings, March 2022 (on website)

- No 230: Developments and Progress Report
- Nos 229, 229a, 229b, 229c and 229d: Updates on Ukrainian nuclear power plants
- 224a: Update on the nuclear-powered Russian freighter Sevmorput

NFLA supports Lincolnshire fight against nuclear waste dump

The NFLA Secretary has visited Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe to offer advice and support to local activists and councillors opposed to plans to build an underground nuclear waste dump on the beautiful Lincolnshire coast.

Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe are better known for tourism and farming, and have no local

nuclear facilities, but Nuclear Waste Services is considering locating a Geological Disposal Facility on a former gas terminal site near the shoreline and a Haven holiday camp.

The GDF would be the repository for Britain's high-level radioactive waste. Three sites in Cumbria are also being considered.

Richard Outram had the opportunity to visit the NWS touring exhibition in Mablethorpe; tour the site with Ken Smith, Chair of the Guardians of the East Coast, a group of residents bitterly opposed to the plans; and meet twice with GOTEC activists and Councillors to discuss how the NFLA can support them in their fight to keep Lincolnshire nuclear free!

See GOTEC's website <https://www.gotec.org.uk/>

RAB should be ROB – government's nuclear finance plan means big hit to British taxpayers' pockets

The British taxpayer looks to be the biggest loser from the Johnson Government's ongoing love affair with new nuclear.

After getting stung for £200 million in funding for an experimental fusion reactor and another £210 million to support Rolls Royce in its ambitions to build a chain of small modular reactors, the Business Secretary announced another big hit to taxpayers' pockets by

taking a £4 billion, or 20% stake, in the planned Sizewell C EPR plant in Suffolk, matched by French power generator EDF Energy.

The Government is clearly desperate to keep Sizewell C in play after displacing the former lead investor, Chinese power generator CGN, as a 'none trusted vendor'. Ministers are also making £120 million available to 'address barriers to entry' to new players to the market through the Future Nuclear Enabling Fund.

British taxpayers will also be expected to cough up to cover the huge cost overruns that are common during the construction phase of new nuclear projects through the Regulated Asset Base (RAB) model introduced by the Nuclear Energy (Financing) Act that has just received Royal Assent.

RAB means risks reduced and profits assured for commercial operators, but British taxpayers will have to have deep pockets!

NFLA plans regional events to connect with campaigners

The NFLA is keen to get out and about as we move back to the 'new normal' following the Covid pandemic.

The Chair and Secretary are now

starting to plan a series of face-to-face meetings and events with Councils and campaign groups in South West and South East England, and in Wales. And in due course in Scotland and Ireland too.

With the Johnson Government now foursquare behind nuclear, we face fights against Hinkley Point C, other numerous plans for new nuclear plants, the delusion of fusion, and the nuclear waste dump. Watch this space.

Forthcoming webinars for NFLA members

Nuclear power: not fit for purpose webinar – Mon 4 April 7pm. Organised by CND's TU Advisory Group

Nuclear power is increasingly marketed as part of the solution to the climate crisis, but it's dirty, dangerous, expensive, won't help with our climate problems, and there are far more jobs in renewables.

NFLA advisor Dr Paul Dorfman will brief us on this subject.

Register at
<https://cnduk.org/events/nuclear-power-not-fit-for-purpose-cnd-webinar/>

Will the Sea have them? The impact of climate change on Britain's coastal nuclear facilities

Wed 6 April 6pm.

Speakers Dr Sally Brown / Pete Roche

More details can be found at <https://britishpugwash.org/event-climate-change-and-coastal-nuclear-infrastructure/>

The link to register with Zoom can be found at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZUKd-iorT8vHd2WjDuCLawx0enGAbeMIPfy>

Big plans for Vienna peace conference

The dates for the First Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) have now finally been fixed as 21-23 June and the venue remains Vienna.

ICAN will be holding a two day conference beforehand on 18-19 June to discuss the increased threat of nuclear war resulting from the conflict in Ukraine, whilst on June 20 the UN will host a

conference to examine the humanitarian impact of any use of nuclear weapons.

There are also plans for Mayors for Peace President, the Mayor of Hiroshima, to host an Executive Council meeting and for a founding conference of the European Chapter to be held, as which European Lead Cities will sign the documents of incorporation.

As an Executive and Vice-

Presidential city, and as the host of the Secretariat of UK/Ireland Chapter of Mayors for Peace, Manchester intends to be represented at these events during what will be an important and historic week for nuclear disarmament.

In other related news, Cote d'Ivoire (the Ivory Coast) has become the 60th nation to have ratified the TPNW, whilst the Welsh Senedd (Assembly) recently passed a resolution calling for the UK to sign the TPNW

NFLA backs Right to Life call to UN Human Rights Council

The NFLA has backed a report to the UN Human Rights Council criticising the UK Government for contravening its legal obligation to uphold the Right to Life by its continued possession of nuclear weapons.

The NFLA joined other UK civil society organisations as a co-signatory to the report which was produced by the Basel Peace Office.

NFLA Chair Councillor David Blackburn explained why: *The destructive power of these weapons is truly frightening, and their primary targets are cities and their civilian populations*."

"Any nation contemplating their use must realise that their victims would be millions of innocent men, women and children peacefully going about their daily lives. In no way can the

possession or threat of use of nuclear weapons by any state be compatible with that state's obligations under international law to maintain the right to life. The UK is such a nuclear weapon armed state and that is why the NFLA is backing this report."

The UN periodically examines the UK's commitment to human rights.

Trident webinar a big success

The March 3 webinar on nuclear weapons convoys co-hosted by the NFLA with CND and Nukewatch proved to be a big success. Chaired by CND General Secretary Dr Kate Hudson, the line-up of speakers included NFLA Chair David Blackburn. 69 people attended. 800 watched on Facebook. 186 have viewed the YouTube footage. The event can still be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqRVbrvjnVA>