



NFLA SC Chair Councillor
Lawrence O'Neill

NFLA/MFP Chapter Secretary
Richard Outram

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (England)
and English Forum Chair
Councillor David Blackburn

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Scotland)
Councillor Bill Butler

NFLA SC Vice-Chair (Wales) and
Welsh Forum Chair
Councillor Sue Lent

NFLA SC Vice-Chairs (Ireland)
and All-Ireland Forum Co-Chairs
Councillor Karen McKeivitt (NI)
Councillor David Healy (RoI)

NFLA Scotland Convener
Councillor Paul Leinster

NFLA Scotland Vice-Convener
Councillor Audrey Doig

NFLA Scotland Secretary
Cathy Birrell

NFLA All-Ireland Secretary
Eamonn Keaveney

NFLA Policy Advisor Pete Roche

NFLA English and Welsh Forum
Vice Chairs – currently vacant

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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>

Nice to see you: NFLA meets in Paisley

For the first time in almost three years, representatives from the NFLA met in person at their Annual General Meeting in Paisley in early December.

The last such meeting was hosted by Manchester City Council in January 2020 prior to the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. On this occasion, Renfrewshire Council kindly hosted the event. Councillors Councillors joined online as well as attending in-person.

Councillor Lawrence O'Neill from West Dunbartonshire Council was elected as the new Chair, receiving the congratulations and best wishes of all present.

Cllr O'Neill praised outgoing Chair Councillor David Blackburn of Leeds City Council for his hard work and commitment during his four-year term of office, much of which was served during the exceptionally difficult Covid-19 lockdown.

Cllr Blackburn will continue to serve as Chair of the NFLA English Forum.

In his annual report, NFLA Secretary Richard Outram highlighted his media work; the membership drive; the

engagement and lobbying of government ministers, nuclear industry chiefs and regulators; and partnership work with local campaign groups over plans for new nuclear projects and a nuclear waste dump.

Agreed priorities in the coming year included continued opposition to new nuclear projects; promoting renewable energy; and a four-nation membership drive in Scotland, Wales, Ireland and England.

Councillor Blackburn said of his time in office: "It has been a great honour to be Chair for the last 4 years. I would like to thank the Secretary Richard Outram and his predecessor Sean Morris for their amazing work. I would also like to congratulate Cllr Lawrence O'Neil on his election, and I hope he will enjoy being Chair as much as I have."

NFLA backs community energy amendments to Energy Bill

In his first act as NFLA Chair Cllr Lawrence O'Neill has written to Energy Minister Lord Callanan asking him to support Amendments 237 and 238 to the government's Energy Bill when it comes back to the House of Lords in December.

Right: Hand over at the top. New NFLA Chair Councillor Lawrence O'Neill (left) shakes hands with outgoing Chair Councillor David Blackburn



Amendments 237 and 238 were written by the campaign group Power for People to create a fairer playing field for small community owned renewable energy generators to become electricity suppliers to local customers.

Cllr O'Neill said: "Community energy projects are part of the solution to get to net zero. Using proven renewable technologies and capital raised from supportive local people, community owned projects can generate electricity much more quickly and cheaply, than large, slow and costly nuclear projects.

"And unlike nuclear power, these communities get the benefit from surplus profits, not the unwanted legacy of radioactive waste."



The UK / Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities wish all readers and supporters a Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year

NFLA media releases,
December 2022:
(On website)

Nuclear Free Local Authorities disappointed' government will press ahead with 'criminal nuclear power tax' – 19 Dec

All aboard: NFLA Spokesperson visits Rosyth for nuclear sub inspection – 16 Dec

Fusion: beware the snake oil salesmen – 15 Dec

Ineos: Not a safe location for any nuclear reactor, say Scottish NFLAs – 13 Dec

Hypocrites: NFLA decries government ministers for promising wind, not nuclear, must have 'local support' – 12 Dec

Government urged to unlock community energy by backing amendments to bill – 12 Dec

'Every home and community could be a power station': the NFLA's future renewable energy vision for Wales – 7 Dec

Talking football pitches but not in Qatar – 5 Dec

NFLA disappointed government to go ahead with RAB

In a pre-Xmas blow, the NFLA was disappointed to hear that the government rejected our plea not to introduce the Regulated Asset Base model to fund future nuclear reactors.

From Sizewell C onwards the intention is to force all electricity customers to pay a 'tax' on each bill towards the cost of construction and to pay for any delays or overruns. Nuclear plants are notorious for coming in-late and over budget so customers will suffer.

In our response to a consultation in August we asked for older, poorer and vulnerable households to be exempted – to no avail.

Every Welsh home and public building could be a 'power station'

This was the vision outlined by the NFLA Secretary at a December event held in the Senedd Pierhead Building in Cardiff by CND Cymru to celebrate the 40th anniversary of a nuclear-free Wales.

The first half of the event was moderated by CND Cymru Chair Jill Evans and focused on the importance of building political support for the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Speakers were Dr Rebecca Johnson, Vice-President of CND, following by Welsh Senedd members from three political parties.

The second half of the meeting was chaired by Welsh NFLA Chair,

Councillor Sue Lent, and focused on the threat of new nuclear power plants in North Wales.

CND Cymru Secretary Dr Bethan Sian explained why marchers walked from Trawsfynydd to Wylfa to protest the plans and why nuclear had no place in Wales.

Launching the Cardiff Declaration, NFLA Secretary Richard Outram described a vision where Wales could be powered by renewables alone: "Wales is blessed with rivers, tides, sun and wind from which energy can be generated, and has untapped geothermal power in the abandoned coal mines that lie beneath our feet!"

"Homes and public buildings should be fully insulated, to reduce energy use and customers' bills, and fitted with solar panels, heat pumps, and battery storage, to generate and store their own heat and power, making them energy independent of the National Grid.

"Many Welsh homes and public buildings could become power stations."

The event closed with participants signing the Declaration.



Grangemouth SMR plan 'may represent a disaster waiting-to-happen'

With media speculation that British billionaire Sir Jim Radcliffe is courting Rolls-Royce to bring one of their Small Modular Reactors to power his Ineos Grangemouth refinery, the Scottish NFLA is convinced that placing a nuclear power plant next to a powder-keg of explosive chemicals may represent a disaster waiting-to-happen.

Ineos describes Grangemouth as a 'world-scale petrochemicals plant' which produces each year about 7 million tonnes of fuels, much of which is used in Scotland, and 1.4 million tonnes of other inflammable petrochemical products. Grangemouth is located just outside Falkirk in

Scotland's heavily populated central belt.

Councillor Paul Leinster, NFLA Scottish Forum Convenor, challenges the logic of locating an SMR next to the Grangemouth plant:

"The NFLA would be opposed to any nuclear reactor co-located with Grangemouth, especially the unproven SMR, because there are two real accident scenarios we fear most.

"One scenario involves an explosion at the refinery which compromises the integrity of the reactor vessel or which damages vital cooling and engineering features that control the fission reaction leading to an out-of-control plant. The other possibility is that there could be an accident at the

nuclear plant that could cause a secondary explosion at the refinery.

"In both instances, not only could there be colossal damage and loss of life within the local community, but also radioactive contamination released over the most populated part of Scotland.

"This would be a monumental calumny for Scotland against which any Hollywood disaster movie would pale by comparison; it is madness to partner a nuclear power plant with Scotland's biggest chemicals factory."

Cllr Leinster has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson MSP, urging the Scottish Government to resist the plan.

40 years on: Embrace the Base

As peace campaigners renew the fight to stop new US nuclear weapons being stationed in the UK, Greenham women gathered earlier this month to mark the 40th anniversary of their successful campaign to rid Britain of American cruise missiles at the height of the first Cold War.

On 12 December 1982, over 30,000 women joined hands to surround the nine miles of security fencing that enclosed the base. This action was one of many countless actions carried out by women, many living at the Greenham Peace Camp.

From 9-11 December, the Greenham women met in person and online to celebrate their contribution to the ongoing campaign for nuclear disarmament.



Welsh NFLA Chair, Councillor Sue Lent was not only a Greenham Woman and a participant in the Embrace the Base event, but Sue was one of the original marchers who walked from Cardiff to Greenham to initiate the campaign.

So, it was only fitting that Sue be the principal signatory of the letter of support that the NFLA sent in solidarity to the event organisers.

Hypocrites: NFLA blasts two-faced ministers

Threatened by a Conservative backbench revolt against the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill, Energy Minister Grant Shapps has recently announced that a 'technical consultation' will soon be launched 'to explore how local authorities (can) demonstrate local support and respond to views of their communities when considering onshore wind development in England'.

A blanket ban was effectively imposed during the Cameron Government on new onshore wind developments in England.

Now the government have said that they shall permit local Councils to allow new developments so long as they are 'able to demonstrate local support and satisfactorily address any impacts identified by the local community'.

Prohibitions shall remain on developments in National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Green Belt.

To the English Nuclear Free Local Authorities, ministers are demonstrating their rank hypocrisy in promising new windfarm developments will only go ahead in England with 'community consent' – whilst completely ignoring the wishes of communities affected by new nuclear projects.

NFLA England Chair Councillor David Blackburn explains: "The environmental and societal impact of the imposition of a new nuclear power project

upon a community is off the scale compared to that of a wind turbine. Yet Grant Shapps wants to consider environmental impact and public opinion when it comes to wind, but not when it comes to nuclear.

"The construction of any new nuclear power plant over more than a decade will decimate the quality of life of residents and devastate the local natural environment. Once operational, a nuclear plant invariably radioactively contaminates local rivers, seas and beaches, always presents the risk of an accident, and leaves the legacy of radioactive waste and a contaminated plant to clear up. A wind turbine does none of these things.

"So it is rank hypocrisy for Conservative ministers to now say that, for an onshore wind project, local people, local communities and local Councils must make the ultimate decision, whilst denying these same rights to their counterparts where new nuclear power plants or nuclear waste dumps are being built or planned in England and in Wales.

"Here, local people and local councillors have for years, sometimes decades, been fervently demonstrating their outright opposition to these plans, yet they have been consistently ignored".

The NFLA will be responding robustly to the consultation.

NFLA spokesperson sees Rosyth submarine decommissioning at the sharp end

Fife Councillor Brian Goodall has just been appointed NFLA Spokesperson on nuclear submarine decommissioning. And he has a good reason for wanting the role – for the Rosyth Dockyard in which some old subs are being scrapped lies in the electoral ward that he represents.

Cllr Goodall was able to go onboard a submarine to see the progress and to observe the safety processes in place for workers and visitors. He also visited the waste storage facility and saw how radioactively contaminated materials from the Dismantling Project went through the building before leaving the site.

At a recent meeting of Fife Council's South and West Fife Area Committee that meeting, Cllr Goodall called for the re-establishment of the local liaison group so elected members and representatives from the Rosyth community could have ongoing input into the delivery of the project.

Councillor Goodall said: "The big news for me from the visit is that work is now underway to prepare for the transfer of the resins, the last intermediate level waste at Rosyth, to a facility in Dorset.

"At a future point, the reactor vessel will be removed from each submarine and sent to interim storage before they are ultimately moved to a proposed Deep Geological Disposal Facility, an underground nuclear waste dump, a site for which has not yet been found."