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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>

Johnson Government backs nuclear madness

In the latest manifestation of the current government fixation with all things nuclear, the recently published British Energy Security Strategy ignored the obvious, most cost effective and quickest solutions to addressing the current energy and climate change crisis – a big investment in home insulation and on-shore wind – and instead plumped for the one that will cost the most, take the

longest to deliver, is the least secure (being reliant on overseas uranium, finance, and technology), and comes with the massive and costly headache of radioactive waste – namely new nuclear.

For the Johnson Government has set its heart on generating 25% of Britain's future electricity needs through building 24GW of new nuclear capacity, or eight new Hinkley Point C's, a power station currently estimated to cost

taxpayers £23 billion and years behind schedule!

NFLA Chair Councillor David Blackburn said:

"It defies common sense for government to turn to a technology that is too slow to install, too costly to build, remains risky to operate, vulnerable to military and terrorist attack, and leaves a legacy of radioactive waste for millennia."

Time to do the right thing: NFLA writes to 'big six' banks and insurers urging them to divest from nuclear weapons

The NFLA has written to six leading UK banks and pension funds urging them to divest from nuclear weapons.

Recent research from ICAN, Pax and the Nuclear Weapons Financing Research Group (NWFRG) shows that UK financiers have invested £25 billion (\$32 billion) in the nuclear sector.

In support of the Investing to Change campaign being led by the faith-based NWFRG, NFLA Chair Councillor David Blackburn, has written to Barclays, HSBC, NatWest, Nest, The People's Pension and Royal London asking them to adopt clear policies to divest from nuclear weapons investment as these weapons are now outlawed by the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Cllr Blackburn said:

"Investing in weapons that are outlawed by the international community and that are seen as an anathema in the eyes of the peoples of the world is bad business. The NFLA believes that our financial institutions should redirect our money to projects which serve a social good. That is why the NFLA has written to these 'big six' to 'do the right thing'."



With their message clearly projected onto the dome of the Sizewell B reactor, Suffolk campaigners make clear that Sizewell C is no solution. Image: Stop Sizewell C

NFLA media releases.**April 2022:****(On NFLA website)**

- NFLA fears anniversary missile salvo signals continued danger to Ukrainian nuclear plants – 27 April
- Just do the right thing': NFLA join call on financiers to divest from nuclear weapons – 26 April
- No dumping at Fukushima: NFLA joins Welsh call to Japanese Government – 21 April
- 8 in 10 Britons support onshore wind - the NFLA says Government should back it – 20 April
- "Characterized by cost overruns and significant delays": the nuclear projects built by the UK Government's new US partners – 19 April
- Minister appears not to have given a second thought to Sizewell approval – 13 April
- Johnson's 'nuclear fantasy' will not reduce rising fuel bills or rising temperatures – 11 April

NFLA Briefings, April 2022 (on website)

- No 232: Developments and NFLA Progress Report, April 2022
- No 231: Nuclear Power Stations and Sea Level Rise

US projects characterised by 'cost overruns & significant delays'.

The Welsh Secretary has visited the Vogtle nuclear project in Georgia, USA, to court Bechtel and Westinghouse to build a new power plant at Wylfa.

If Minister Simon Hart had done his research, he would have found these potential commercial partners from across the pond sadly lacking.

Vogtle being built by Bechtel has so far cost US \$30 billion, ironically

around the same price tag as Hinkley Point C with this monstrous boondoggle being backed by US \$12 billion in US Energy Department loans.

Westinghouse was responsible for the failed VC Summer project in South Carolina which was abruptly terminated in July 2017. This limped along for nine years and cost US \$9 billion before Westinghouse was forced to declare Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The US Attorney's Office berated the 'cost overruns and significant delays' in the project.

Welsh NFLA Chair Councillor Ernie Galsworthy said:

"Vogtle rumbles on at vast cost with no certain end date. V C Summer was described by lawmakers as a 'fiasco' with a cost to taxpayers of \$2 billion for 'a hole in the ground that would never produce any power'".

One dump may not be enough

The NFLA fears that Johnson's nuclear ambitions may mean that the government may need to build a second underground nuclear dump in the next 20 years.

Officials have spent five decades trying to find a way to dispose of radioactive waste and are fixed upon building a Geological Disposal Facility, a nuclear waste

dump underground or under the seabed. Sites in Lincolnshire and Cumbria are under investigation, but it seems the government's big plans to build 24 GW of nuclear capacity may mean the UK may need two.

Nuclear waste expert, Professor Claire Corkhill said that existing plans only provide sufficient capacity to take the legacy waste from 70 years of operations and waste from up to 16

gigawatts of new build.

Each one could cost up to £53 billion to build at today's prices.

Councillor Blackburn said: *"We oppose any GDF. We want existing waste managed on-site, near the surface at the places where it was produced so that it can be kept secure and monitored, rather than dumped down a hole and forgotten about!"*

Secretary of State breaches guidance in backing Sizewell C

We are "committed to Sizewell" said the Business Secretary defying guidance that Ministers 'avoid expressing views on the merits of a proposed scheme which is the subject of a (planning) application'.

After pledging to take a 20% stake in the £20 billion project, Secretary of State Kwasi Kwarteng made his statement on the BBC's Today programme before Sizewell C has received permission to proceed from his own department.

Councillor David Blackburn said; *"The Minister's conduct puts the shine on the belief that despite the many public objections the whole planning approval might have been pre-determined from the beginning."*

Forthcoming webinars for NFLA members

Nuclear power: the jobs myth – CND webinar

9 May @ 7:00 pm - 8:30
pm

Organised by CND's trade
union advisory group.

New nuclear is being sold
as a panacea for energy
security and meeting
decarbonisation targets.

This webinar will look at the
myth of jobs in the nuclear
sector, the many alternate
jobs in decarbonizing the
economy and the hype
around SMRs.

With guest speakers Sam
Mason, PCS; Professor M. V
Ramana, SMR expert,
University of British
Columbia. Chaired by Daniel
Blaney, CND Vice-Chair.

**You can pre-register to
participate via this link**
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_Lr2In2HZQkagvIaMkDiwVA

WEBINAR BY MAYORS FOR PEACE, NFLA, ICAN AND UCLG

**"Nuclear disarmament
and international
security: The role of
local governments"**
Online meeting, 25 May
2022 – 10 AM – 11:00
AM (CET)

[Please hold this space
in your diary.](#)

[More details to follow](#)

NFLA joins appeal to Japanese Government NFLA NEWSLETTER 3

The NFLA was a co-signatory to a letter sent by leading Welsh anti-nuclear groups to senior Japanese Government ministers urging them not to dump radioactive waste from the Fukushima disaster at sea.

Following the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on 11 March 2011, water has been used to keep the damaged reactor cores cool. One million tons of this radioactive water is now stored in

barrels on the site

The Japanese government wants to build an underwater pipe 1km out to sea and dump the water there.

NFLA Chair, Councillor David Blackburn, explained why we have backed this appeal:

"Eleven years on and the Japanese Government still cannot come up with an environmentally safe solution to resolve the ongoing storage of the contaminated water

barrels, instead it has looked to the most expedient but unsound method of getting rid of the problem – just dump it out at sea.

"The NFLA stands in solidarity with British and Japanese anti-nuclear groups and the many local Japanese who are bitterly opposed to this plan, especially the local fishing community which continues to see its livelihood wrecked.

"In support of the people of Fukushima and of the people of Japan we say 'No'."

Good news from trio of Mayors for Peace partners

There is good news on the Mayors for Peace front as two new local authorities have decided to become members.

Lancaster City Council and Todmorden Town Council, which both previously passed resolutions calling on the UK Government to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, decided to

join up after a direct appeal from the UK / Ireland Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

More local authorities will be approached after the May local elections.

Elsewhere, existing member Keighley Town Council also passed a resolution favouring the Treaty Ban, Mayor Julie Adams being joined by renowned peace activist, Sylvia Boyes to sign her support (top right).



Mayors for Peace Secretary Richard Outram said: *"We will be writing to our members soon to outline our plans for the coming year where working for nuclear disarmament and peace in Europe will be all important."*

Rising seas webinar second success

35 participants joined our 6 April webinar, titled **'Will the sea take them?'** about the possible impact of rising sea levels on coastal nuclear facilities. Chaired by Councillor David Blackburn, there were presentations from Dr Sally Brown from Bournemouth University and Peter Roche, NFLA Policy Advisor. These presentations can be found at :

Dr Sally Brown <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq8B7eg6Eso>

Pete Roche <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghfEiJVYq5g>