

2024 – 2025

Activity Report

Nuleaf Activity Plan

2024-25 Report

- █ On target
- █ Partially completed
- █ No action due to external influences
- █ Action yet to be completed

Work carried out in 2024-25

Objective 1: Engage with NDA Strategy development and delivery, representing the views of our members and raising their awareness of developments.

1.1 On behalf of our membership, play an active role in the in the Integrated Waste Management (IWM), Critical Enablers (CE) and Site Decommissioning and Remediation (SDR) Theme Overview Groups (TOGs); also liaise with the Nuclear Materials/Spent Nuclear Fuel Theme Overview Group as appropriate. Engage through other means to represent the interests of Local Authorities.

During the year Nuleaf attended 3 meetings of the CE TOG, 4 meetings of the SDR TOG and 1 Joint IWM/SDR TOG. Nuleaf also participated in other meetings such as on the sustainable reuse of controlled waste.

1.2 Participate in NDA stakeholder events & report back to members.

A number of Nuleaf members joined the NDA Summit held in Manchester on the 17th and 18th September 2024. Nuleaf's Executive Director spoke as part of a panel discussion during the event; and Nuleaf members held a meeting with NDA CEO David Peattie.

1.3 Participate in the Strategy 5 Development Group (S5DG) and other processes set up to develop the next NDA Strategy.

Nuleaf was active in the S5DG throughout its operation in 2024/25, participating in 4 meetings of the S5DG and engaging in discussion in other fora and directly with NDA colleagues. This engagement has continued into 25/26.

1.4 Host a member event of Strategy 5 to help inform our response to the consultation on Strategy 5. Prepare a detailed response to Strategy 5 consultation.

The timetable for the consultation changed, with it taking place in summer 2025. Nuleaf held a member event during the consultation period.

1.5 Respond to the consultation on the NDA Business Plan 2025-28.

A response was circulated to members for comment before submission to the NDA.

Objective 2. Use our Steering Group, Radioactive Waste Planning Group (RWPG) meetings and other ad-hoc topic based events to engage with the NDA Group and reflect our members views to them.

2.1 Use our Steering Group and RWPG meetings for reports and discussion on the work of the NDA and wider national developments in radioactive waste management. Use our meetings as a platform for NDA corporate centre, Sellafield, Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) and other elements of NDA Group to meet with local government as and when required.

During the year we held 3 online and 1 in-person Steering Group meeting and 4 online meetings of the Radioactive Waste Planning Group. Meeting topics included:

- Workshop on socio-economics in North Wales involving speakers from Gwynedd Council, Cwmni Egino and Menter Mon
- Three presentations and discussions on stakeholder engagement with independent consultants undertaking research for Nuleaf
- NDA Storage Strategy
- Developments at the Sellafield Site
- NDA engagement update
- Plans for NRS sites
- Nuleaf's international engagement
- The Canadian GDF process
- Biodiversity Net Gain on the NDA estate
- NDA work on land use and waste planning

- Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC)
- Consultation on the GRA
- Progress with the UK GDF siting process

Our Annual Gathering for members was held in June 2024 in Llandudno, Conwy. The event incorporated a site visit to Trawsfynydd and a guest dinner with after-dinner speeches from Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council and Cllr. David Moore, Chair of Nuleaf.

2.2 Work with our members and the Directors of Stakeholder Engagement at NDA, NRS and NWS to identify further opportunities to host webinars and other standalone meetings in response to new consultations/initiatives.

No other meetings held. The planned meeting on the NDA Strategy 5 consultation was postponed to summer 2025 due to a delay in the consultation going live.

Objective 3. Provide support for the NDA's stakeholder engagement

3.1 Work with NDA to maximise local government participation in the 2024 Stakeholder Summit, being held in Manchester on the 17th and 18th September.

Nuleaf encouraged members to participate in the Summit and a significant number attended. In addition to the main Summit programme, a special meeting was convened between Nuleaf members and David Peattie, NDA CEO.

3.2 Secure a speaking or Chairing opportunity for Nuleaf at the 2024 Stakeholder Summit and work to influence the agenda for the meeting.

Achieved. Nuleaf's Executive Director participated and spoke in a session at the 2024 Summit.

3.3 Engage with NDA in the development and delivery of their planned review of Site Stakeholder Groups(SSGs).

Nuleaf's Executive Director was interviewed as part of the review and participated in a stakeholder workshop. The NDA presented the emerging findings of their review to the Nuleaf Steering Group.

3.4 Commission research that will consult our members and set out our view as to how local, regional and national stakeholder engagement could be enhanced.

Research commissioned. Nuleaf Steering Group hosted three discussions with the consultants undertaking their work, so that Nuleaf members could feed into the study and comment on the emerging findings. Research to be published in 2025/26.

Objective 4. Promote the development by the NDA of an effective approach to socio-economics, sustainability and net zero carbon.

4.1 Through our Steering Group and RWPG, provide a forum for ongoing discussion & comment on socio-economics, Social Value, sustainability and Net Zero Carbon.

These issues were regularly discussed at meetings. A dedicated seminar on socio-economics in North Wales was held as part of the 2024 Annual Gathering, and these issues also formed an important element of Nuleaf's input into the development of Strategy 5.

4.2 Engage directly with the NDA in the delivery of its recently published Social Impact and Communities Strategy to ensure the NDA approach reflects local government perspectives and priorities.

Nuleaf played an active role in engaging NDA as they developed their plan (re-titled as the Social Value and Communities Strategy). Dialogue with the NDA has continued. Socio-economic best practice has formed part of the independent consultancy review commissioned by Nuleaf during 24/25 and of Nuleaf's engagement in the development of NDA Strategy 5.

4.3 Continue to advocate the development of a coherent approach to community benefits across the NDA estate, using all available fora.

Nuleaf regularly raised this issue, for example through our engagement on the NDA Business Plan and Strategy 5.

4.4 Engage with the NDA to ensure that the expansion of NRS operations to include the AGR stations and other facilities is done in ways that enhances positive Social Impact across the estate.

No such research commissioned in 2024/25 as research on public and stakeholder engagement was prioritised.

Objective 5. Engage with Government and the NDA to ensure proper dialogue with local authorities on land use and waste planning.

5.1 Use the Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group to discuss and advise DESNZ, NDA and the regulators on the potential for the planning system to be employed to oversee nuclear licensed sites and manage any residual

contamination. Key issues for discussion in 24/25 include Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs); Master-planning, Biodiversity Net Gain and potential reform of Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and EIADR.

Our RWPG met 4 times during the year and incorporated presentations and regular discussions on a wide range of land use and waste planning issues and on Biodiversity Net Gain with Government, the NDA and Regulators.

5.2 Attend the Site Decommissioning and Remediation (SDR) TOG meetings and feed into discussions on this issue.

Four SDT TOG meetings and a joint IWM/SDR TOG were attended during the year.

5.3 Work with NDA to facilitate better direct engagement between local authority planning officers and DESNZ/NDA, enabling expert input into discussions on land use and waste planning. A key element of this will be ongoing work with NDA to create a regular dialogue with local authorities.

Outside our meetings we have engaged regularly with NDA and others on planning, this leading to closer working between local planning authorities and NDA/NRS/NWS. It is expected that this relationship will develop further in the current year.

Objective 6. Provide support and advice on development of Local Plans

6.1 Nuleaf will monitor all revisions of local development and waste plans and regularly update a record of the policies on radioactive waste management in all relevant local plans.

Completed.

6.2 Nuleaf will submit consultation responses to all relevant local and waste plan revisions and support members in preparing their own consultation responses.

No relevant consultations identified during the year.

6.3 The Radioactive Waste Planning Group will continue to be used as a forum for local planners to update and discuss their local plans and related issues. A new secure section of the Nuleaf website has been launched to enable our members to share planning documents and other information.

All RWPG meetings include updates from officers on developments in their area.

Objective 7. Engage with the UK Government on radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning.

7.1 Participate in meetings of the UK Government's Radioactive Substances Policy Group (RSPG).

The Executive Director attended the only meeting of the RSPG held during this period. He met quarterly with DESNZ officials.

7.2 Engage in discussion of the policy through the NDA's Theme Overview Groups (TOG) meetings.

Nuleaf contributed to discussion on the policy review at TOG meetings.

7.3 Following the launch of the new Decommissioning and Radioactive Substances Policy, work with DESNZ and NDA Group on the range of implications it will have for national policy, site decommissioning and waste management.

The policy was launched during 2024/25. It has since underpinned discussions between Nuleaf, Government and the NDA.

7.4 Continue wider dialogue with DESNZ officials.

Meetings with DESNZ officials held quarterly during the year. The Director also participated in Nuclear Week in Parliament in January 2025.

Objective 8. Continue to engage with NDA Group, regulators and host Local Authorities on site restoration, interim and end states and Integrated Waste Management.

8.1 Engage in dialogue with NDA, Sellafield, NRS and NWS around Site End States and Lifetime Plans.

During the year the Steering Group hosted dedicated sessions of forward plans for Sellafield and the NRS sites.

8.2 On behalf of members, participate in meetings of the Site Decommissioning and Remediation Theme Overview Group and report back to Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group.

Nuleaf participated in a Joint SDR/IWM TOG.

8.3 Use the Steering Group and RWPG to host discussion with ONR and the environmental regulators as required. During 2024/25 this is likely to include a discussion with the Environment Agency on the GRA and with the ONR on Proportionate Regulatory Control (PRC).

Sessions with the ONR (on Proportionate Regulatory Control) and with the Environment Agency (EA) on GRA were held at the RWPG. A response to the consultation on the GRA was submitted.

8.4 Meet regularly with ONR and engage with the Environment Agency (EA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as appropriate.

Quarterly meetings were held with senior ONR comms and engagement staff.

Objective 9. Represent local government to help shape an optimal approach to the decommissioning of the sites operated by Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

9.1 Engage with DESNZ, NDA and NRS to ensure that the overall approach and the proposals for individual sites are developed in full consultation with local authorities and communities and meets their needs.

The Head of Land Use Planning and EIA at NRS now attends every meeting of the RWPG to update members on planning issues around individual sites. There was regular engagement with Government and NRS on these issues throughout the year, including a presentation and discussion at Steering Group and other related discussion such as on the Storage Strategy.

9.2 Organise a site visit for our members to the Trawsfynydd site, as part of our Annual Gathering 2024. Trawsfynydd is one of the NDA's 'Lead and Learn' sites and the visit will enable members to engage with NRS around plans for on-site/in site disposal, decommissioning, wider waste management and the next planned use.

Meeting completed. Positive feedback from members.

9.3 Continue to promote a strategic planning approach to the management of NRS sites along with other mechanisms such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) where these are appropriate. Seek an effective approach to the development of plans for Interim and Final Site End States.

Dialogue was ongoing throughout 2024/25 with the NDA, NRS and Avison Young. The Head of Land Use Planning and EIA at NRS now attends every meeting of the RWPG to update members on planning issues around individual sites. The RWPG heard presentations and discussed a range of planning issues with Government, NDA and NRS over the year, including Biodiversity Net Gain, Proportionate Regulatory Control, and issues around landfill disposal, EIADR, Permitted Development Rights and masterplans

Objective 10. Work with Nuclear Restoration Services to enhance dialogue with local government.

10.1 Invite senior NRS staff to present to a Nuleaf Steering Group meeting. Use our Steering Group, RWPG and bespoke/stand-alone meetings as a focus for engagement between NRS and our members as and when required.

NRS attended the Steering Group and provided an update regarding the expansion of the NRS mission and future plans for individual sites.

10.2 Hold an annual meeting for our Welsh member authorities; also involving other key stakeholders such as the Welsh Government, NRS, ONR and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

A Welsh member meeting was not held during year. It was decided to defer this given that the Nuleaf Annual Gathering in June 2024 took place in North Wales and focussed on socio-economic issues and decommissioning around Trawsfynydd and Wylfa. It is planned to hold a dedicated Welsh member meeting in 25/26.

Objective 11. Work with NRS, NDA and EDF to help shape plans for the decommissioning of the AGR stations.

11.1 Use the Steering Group, Radioactive Waste Planning Group and other engagement routes to identify member concerns and respond as appropriate.

Updates on decommissioning at AGR stations are provided to meetings.

11.2 Engage regularly with EDF operations and communications staff, and with NRS, to discuss developments in AGR decommissioning and highlight issues raised by our members.

Two meetings were held with EDF staff during the year.

11.3 Facilitate dialogue between Nuleaf, NRS and those local authorities that host an AGR site but don't have a Magnox/A site.

As the focus during 2024/25 was on the Hunterston, Dungeness and Hinkley sites, this was not progressed. It is planned to reach out to the local authorities around Hartlepool and Heysham as their sites move closer to defueling.

Objective 12. Work with Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) and the NDA Group to facilitate engagement on the Low Level Waste aspects of Integrated Waste Management.

12.1 Host an annual meeting on Low Level Waste (LLW) management between NWS and local authorities. This will cover the work of the LLW Repository and the management, storage and disposal of LLW across the country. It will also consider the implications of the UK Policy review for LLW management and the Repository site.

Paul Skelton of NWS spoke at the December Steering Group meeting in 2024. Regular updates on LLW management were provided to Steering Group and RWPG meetings.

12.2 Nuleaf to attend meetings of the Integrated Waste Management Industry Forum and other meetings as appropriate.

During the year Nuleaf attended a Joint IWM/SDR TOG. No meetings of the industry forum were held.

12.3 Report on developments in IWM to Steering Group and RWPG meetings.

Developments in IWM regularly report on and discussed at Steering Group and RWPG meetings.

12.4 Contribute to the NDA's developing work on Integrated Waste Management. This will include using Nuleaf meetings as a platform for discussion on the implications of IWM for local authorities and communities.

Issues discussed regularly at Steering Group and RWPG meetings. Participation in NDA TOG meetings and other meetings held with NDA Group staff as appropriate.

Objective 13. Engage on proposals for Near Surface Disposal (NSD) and non-radioactive waste management.

13.1 Engage with NWS and NDA Corporate Centre on Near Surface Disposal as appropriate.

Two discussions were held in 24/25 between the Nuleaf Executive Director and those leading NDA work on NSD.

13.2 Continue a dialogue with NDA around asbestos and non-radioactive waste. Continue to engage with NDA as they develop and then implement their Strategic Position Paper on asbestos.

Updates on non-rad waste were provided to the RWPG and Steering Group.

13.3 Engage on issues around NDA and non-radioactive waste through the IWM TOG and other fora. Report back to members
Nuleaf's Executive Director participated in a joint IWM/SDR TOG and reported back.

Objective 14. Maintain regular dialogue with NWS and Dept. of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to take the Geological Disposal Facility siting process forward.

14.1 Hold regular meetings with (a) senior NWS staff and (b) senior DESNZ officials to exchange information on the Geological Disposal Facility siting process.

Quarterly meetings held with senior officials in both NWS and DESNZ. Other discussions held on an ad hoc basis.

14.2 Out-with formal meetings, maintain clear communication channels between Nuleaf and NWS. Alert NWS to any issues or concerns that local authorities have in relation to the GDF siting process.

Regular dialogue with Simon Hughes and Simon Napper of NWS. Contact with other NWS staff including Sam King and Bruce Cairns during the year.

14.3 Ensure regular reports and discussion of developments in the Geological Disposal Facility siting process at Nuleaf Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group meetings.

Reports on the GDF process tabled at every Steering Group and RWPG meeting. A presentation and discussion on the progress of the UK GDF programme was given to Steering Group; as was a presentation on the Canadian Siting process.

Objective 15. Maintain and develop online resources on the Geological Disposal Facility for local government.

15.1 Maintain a LinkedIn group and X/Twitter feed to provide regular information on the Geological Disposal Facility process and progress with decommissioning and waste management.

Nuleaf maintains and regularly updates our popular Twitter/X feed (234 followers) and LinkedIn Group (78 members).

15.2 Use our website as a resource to inform local authorities and communities on the GDF siting process. Our website includes a blog which can be used by NWS to share articles on aspects of the siting process.

Paper on GDF siting process presented to every Steering Group and RWPG meeting. Presentations with NWS staff as detailed above.

15.3 Undertake a review of our suite of GDF related Briefing Papers and revise and update Papers as required.

Review undertaken.

Objective 16. Provide support and advice to NWS and to any local authorities that enter the GDF process.**16.1 Continue to hold quarterly meetings of our GDF Local Authority Group. This group is open to all local authorities engaged in Community Partnerships and provides a useful forum for discussion and debate.**

Quarterly meetings of the GDF Local Authority Group were held involving Cumberland and Lincolnshire Councils.

16.2 Respond to any requests for support and advice from Cumberland Council, Lincolnshire Council and any other local authority as required.

Quarterly meetings held with the leadership of Cumberland Council at which the GDF process was discussed. With NWS support, Nuleaf arranged for the head of infrastructure at Lincolnshire Council to join a visit to the rock lab and canister factory at Oskarshamn in Sweden in September 2024, to discuss and learn from the Swedish siting process. Regular discussions on the GDF also held with senior officers at both Cumberland and Lincolnshire Councils.

16.3 Use our Steering Group and RWPG meetings as a forum for the discussion of the issues that arise and reflecting our member concerns back to NWS and Government.

GDF papers presented to every Steering Group and RWPG meeting and key issues around the GDF discussed. Regular meetings were held with senior NWS staff to highlight issues of concern and discuss the GDF programme.

16.4 Respond positively to requests from any Working Group or Community Partnership to support or advise them or their members/local community

Nuleaf's Executive Director spoke at the Theddlethorpe Community Partnership during the year. He also gave a presentation on nuclear and GDF issues with the Cumberland Nuclear Issues Board.

16.5 Participate in the 2024 Local Government Association (LGA) conference in Harrogate on the 2nd to 4th July. Work with NWS to engage with local authorities at the event.

Achieved.

Objective 17. Participation and engagement in international networks on decommissioning and waste management.**17.1 Participate and contribute to meetings of the GMF Presidium. Play an active role in shaping the work programme and outlook of the GMF network. Participate in planned GMF meetings in Finland, France and Spain during 2024.**

Nuleaf's Executive Director continued to serve as a Vice President of GMF Europe and participated in GMF meetings in Finland, France and Spain. Nuleaf's Chair also participated in meeting in France; and the Vice Chair and an officer joined the meeting in Spain. The learning from international meetings was reported back to Steering Group. In addition the Executive Director, along with a representative of Lincolnshire County Council, joined a site visit to Oskarshamn in Sweden to learn about their GDF siting process.

17.2 Participate in the meetings of the Civil Society group of the EURAD research programme and report back to NWS and our members as appropriate. As appropriate, engage in discussions on proposals for EURAD 2, due to commence in 2024.

Nuleaf's Executive Director participated in meetings of EURAD Civil Society Group, in person and online. The programme of work concluded in late 2024.

17.3 Continue to engage with the IAEA in their ongoing work on local government/community dimensions of nuclear issues.

Nuleaf's Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director attended the IAEA Technical Meeting on local engagement in Vienna in October 2024, during which the Chair and Executive Director (ED) chaired and facilitated discussions and spoke on the UK experience. The Director worked throughout this period on the development of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership, which accepted new members from Argentina and Japan; and worked with IAEA and global partners in the development of the agenda for a Global Meeting of Mayors in Vienna in May 2025.

17.4 Participate in an NWS hosted meeting with the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) during their visit to the UK in May 2024.

Task completed.

Objective 18. Continue to support the interests of member authorities impacted by proposals for all forms of nuclear new build that have implications for NDA sites and waste management.

18.1 Provide a forum for our members to engage with DESNZ, Great British Nuclear (GBN), the NDA, EDF, UKAEA, CoRWM and other interested parties as appropriate.

An online meeting with GBN for members of Nuleaf and NNLAG was held in July 2024 and well attended. Updates on new nuclear developments provided regularly and discussed at Steering Group and RWPG meetings. Regular meetings held with DESNZ, CoRWM and EDF.

18.2 Monitor developments in proposals for Small/Advance Modular Reactors (SMR/AMR) and fusion reactors and their potential to impact on site end states and waste facilities.

Updates provided in meeting papers. Issues around waste and decommissioning highlighted in responses to consultations (see 18.4).

18.3 Liaise with the New Nuclear Local Authorities Group (NNLAG) secretariat and/or membership as appropriate.

Regular contact maintained with NNLAG. Executive Director spoke at an NNLAG meeting during the year.

18.4 Engage with DESNZ and others on work that flows from recent consultations on a draft National Policy Statement on New Nuclear and another on Alternative Routes to Market.

Nuleaf submitted further consultation responses during the year, covering the NPS for new nuclear; the Guidance on Requirements for Authorisations (GRA); Call for Evidence on revisiting the nuclear roadmap; and EN-7.

Objective 19. Continue to monitor work on the Submarine Dismantling Project, now in its delivery phase. Report issues and progress to Nuleaf Steering Group and Radioactive Waste Planning Group.

19.1 Report on developments in the Submarine Dismantling Project to members.

Updates on developments were included in meeting papers as appropriate.

19.2 Highlight any members concerns to the MOD and Government on the approach taken or the progress being made.

No action required during this year.

Objective 20. Monitor other relevant national and local policy development and alert members on engagement opportunities. Prepare and submit Nuleaf comments as appropriate.

20.1 Nuleaf will develop detailed responses to all relevant consultations, circulating draft responses to members for comment and hosting discussion at Steering Group and RWPG meetings. This will ensure high quality and informed submissions will be prepared.

During the year Nuleaf submitted responses to consultations on the NDA Business Plan 2025-28; NPS for new nuclear; Guidance on Requirements for Authorisations (GRA); Call for Evidence on revisiting the nuclear roadmap; and EN-7.

Objective 21. Supporting the Nuleaf work programme.

21.1 Provide:

- On-going monitoring of developments in radioactive waste management
- On-going monitoring of government policy & strategy
- Draft Annual Report and Finance paper to AGM
- Prepare Nuleaf Annual Report to Local Government Association

All tasks achieved.

21.2 Respond to Nuleaf members and external bodies as required, providing information where appropriate.

Achieved.

21.3 Engage with the Head of Planning at Suffolk County Council (SCC) and other SCC staff in dealing with any HR issues.

Achieved.

Objective 22. Support Nuleaf meetings and other events

22.1 Deliver Steering Group, AGM and Radioactive Waste Planning Group meetings.

All actions completed.

21.2 Assist in organising other topic-based meetings as appropriate.

No additional meetings required.

Objective 23. Ensure effective web and media communications.**23.1 Prepare a monthly newsletter and quarterly e-bulletin.**

Six newsletters and 4 Ebulletins published and circulated to members.

23.2 Research and draft case studies and papers as appropriate.

A new case study on the Canadian GDF process was prepared in consultation with the Canadian Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO).

23.3 Keep website and online media up to date. Consider potential articles for the website Blog.

Achieved.

23.4 Prepare an Annual Report for members and funders

Annual Report prepared and circulated to members and stakeholders.

Objective 24. Manage finance and accounts.**24.1 Monitor and report on finance. Prepare end of year accounts and liaise with auditors as necessary. Process all invoices and purchase orders as required. Liaise with Suffolk County Council in order to ensure finances are managed correctly. Process Pcard receipts and ensure adherence to Suffolk County Council policy.**

All finance and accounting tasks completed to a high standard. Independent audit of accounts undertaken.

24.2 Make all travel and accommodation arrangements for staff and any Nuleaf members travelling on Nuleaf business, including international travel, ensuring best value for money is obtained at all times.

Completed. Financial support provided by external bodies for many of the international meetings.

24.3 Explore all suitable avenues for new or additional funding for Nuleaf.

Ongoing discussions held with NNLAG and potential funders. Additional funding from the NDA secured during the year to support the appointment of a Co-ordinator for the Scottish Council Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS). This staff members sits within the Nuleaf team.