

Forum.



Hinkley Point B, now defueled.

Welcome

Here is a summary of what has been hitting the headlines, recently issued reports, consultations in progress, forthcoming meeting dates and other items of note. This is a service which we provide to those of our members who financially support our work.

Dates for the diary

The next meeting of our **Steering Group** will be held online from 10am to 1pm on Wednesday the 11th March 2026.

The next **Radioactive Waste Planning Group** meeting will be on Wednesday the 29th April from 10am until 12.30pm.

If you are interested in joining either meeting, please contact Chloe Atkinson Chloe.Atkinson@nuleaf.org.uk.



Nuleaf 's Director and other leaders of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership in Vienna.

NDA news

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) published its new **Group Strategy** on the 23rd February. The Strategy sets the long terms direction for the NDA Group. It is a requirement of the Energy Act (2004) that it is renewed every 5 years. Nuleaf was a member of the Strategy 5 Development Group (S5DG) and fed back detailed comments on the draft Strategy during the recent [consultation](#).

The document identifies strategic priorities for the Group as being around site decommissioning and remediation, consistent and effective waste management and the development of long term plans for the management of nuclear materials (plutonium and uranium).

The Strategy also commits the NDA to act as a strategic partner for Government around climate change and in the management of non-NDA nuclear liabilities; and establishes sustainability as a strategic principle that is embedded across the mission. Activity is supported by a range of Critical Enablers including around Socio-economics and Engagement.

Nuleaf also submitted a response to the consultation on the **NDA Business Plan 2026-29** – the consultation closed on the 2nd February. It can be viewed [here](#). In it we comment on a range of areas including the need for:

- Clarity of the decommissioning plans for the individual Magnox sites.
- Better connections between the NDA's work and plans for new nuclear developments.
- More information on socio-economics and in particular how the NDA and local authorities can work to support regional growth.

The final Business Plan is expected to be published at the end of March.

UK Government updates

On the 26th January the UK Government announced that it was launching an **Independent Review of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority**, led by Dr Tim Stone. Tim is the Chair of Nuclear Risk Insurers and a Non-Executive Director of Great British Energy – Nuclear. He was previously Chair of the Nuclear Industry Association.

The review will be guided by an independent panel of experts and is intended to provide assurance on NDA performance and governance. The last such review was undertaken in 2021.

Nuleaf has been in contact with the team in the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) that are supporting this work, and will feed into the review as it progresses. It is expected that the report will be published this autumn.

Around the sites

On the 13th January the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) confirmed that **Hinkley Point B** nuclear power station in Somerset is officially fuel free, meaning the site has been defueled on time and on budget. Over the past three years more than 4,900 elements of spent fuel have been removed and packaged into specially engineered fuel flasks which were then transported by rail to Sellafield for safe storage.

The regulator has also granted formal consent to the decommissioning of the station. This decision comes after a public consultation (which Nuleaf responded to) and a detailed assessment by ONR specialist inspectors of EDF's environmental statement and Habitats Regulations Assessment. ONR's decision, and public consultation response can be viewed [here](#).

Gwynedd Councillors have approved the next steps in the proposed Innovation, Business and Skills Centre at the former **Trawsfynydd** nuclear power station site.

The multi-use centre, estimated to cost around £20 million, is designed to create high-value jobs and strengthen the regional economy by supporting growth in sectors including nuclear decommissioning, low-carbon energy, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Sponsored by Cyngor Gwynedd, the hub will provide flexible office, laboratory, training and collaboration space to support research, skills development, business growth and innovation.

The proposal represents the first phase of a wider masterplan for the Trawsfynydd site, which sits within the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the North Wales AI Growth Zone.



Nuleaf and the NFLA

Nuleaf's Executive Director participated in an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) **Technical Meeting on Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships** in Vienna on the 10th to 12th December. During the meeting he spoke on Nuleaf's development over its 20 year history and was a panellist on discussions on the experience of nuclear host communities and the development of the Nuclear Communities Global Partnership. His involvement was funded by IAEA.

The **Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA)** ceased operations at the end of January 2026, following a decline in membership. Founded in 1981, the network had an important role in the foundation of Nuleaf in 2005, and has continued to be engaged in our work. Despite the demise of the NFLA at a UK and Ireland level, an in principle decision has been taken to form a Scottish NFLA network. There are also plans to relaunch the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance (WANA).

We wish outgoing NFLA Secretary Richard Outram all the best for the future. As a broad Forum, Nuleaf will continue to welcome all local authorities across England and Wales, regardless of their views on nuclear power.

GDF: Young people have their say

Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership has set up a youth group. Aimed at those aged 16 to 25 and living in the Gosforth Ward, the group got underway with an event on the 18th February. The meeting is being supported by Inspira, which provides career guidance, skills development and employment support to young people and adults in Cumbria, and is also a member of the Partnership.

Andy Pratt, Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Chair, said: *'We want to build on the strong work we have already established in the area working with young people through our development of shaping a community vision. Creating a youth group to meet with the Partnership will take the youth voice to the next level in discussing and debating what they think a GDF could mean.'*

This initiative connects with the **National Youth Forum**, launched a year ago by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), working in partnership with Arup and The Young Foundation. The Forum, involving 12 young people, was established to bring fresh perspectives and increase young peoples' understanding of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

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