



PRESS RELEASE: CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

3rd of November 2016

Climate Change Advisory Council launches First Report

The Climate Change Advisory Council launches its First Report today. The Council is an independent statutory body, established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Its role is to review national climate policy and advise government on how Ireland can move to a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society by 2050.

In its First Report the Council outlines its views on the challenges that climate change presents for Ireland. The first report aims to assist in the development of the National Mitigation Plan, which is expected to be published later this year.

The Council recognises the scale of the challenges that Ireland faces in addressing the causes and the consequences of climate change. The National Mitigation Plan must chart a pathway to achieving the required reduction in Irish greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Chair of the Council, Professor John FitzGerald said: "This report lays out the Council's thinking on the necessity for effective climate action. The Council considers that Ireland must play its part in EU and global actions on climate change. In doing this Ireland should aim to have no further negative influence on the Earth's climate system by the middle of this century".

He said: "An adequate price signal for carbon emissions at EU and national level is needed for this to happen. The National Mitigation Plan should address the effectiveness of the current national carbon price and make proposals for its development to 2050. However, price signals alone are not enough and other measures including regulation, education and information are also needed."

The Council expressed concern that official projections of greenhouse gas emissions indicate that Ireland may not meet its 2020 targets and may not be on a pathway to meet its 2050 goals. This should be addressed in the National Mitigation Plan.

The report's observations and recommendations include:

- **Transport:** building on past experience with the restructuring of the motor tax system, policy must provide appropriate price signals and develop other vital policy areas that influence transport choices. Unmanaged growth in transport also generates wider societal and environmental costs, in particular congestion and health costs, which need to be taken into account in developing policy.
- **Home heating and retrofits:** To meet current targets, around 75,000 homes will need to be upgraded for improved energy efficiency every year between now and 2020. While the benefits of upgrades will generally exceed the costs, factoring health and



quality of life benefits into the analysis will make such investment more attractive. The many non-cost barriers to households undertaking improvements need to be addressed.

- Agriculture, in combination with forestry and other land use sectors, will need to outline a pathway to neutrality in 2050. This issue should be addressed in the National Mitigation Plan and it will be considered in more detail in the Council's Periodic Report, to be published in the first half of 2017.
- Policy to enable enhanced deployment of renewable energy technologies is essential. The removal of fossil fuel subsidies in an appropriate manner is necessary and the National Mitigation Plan should identify how this will be addressed.
- It is essential that authoritative information on the range of climate scenarios that are relevant for Ireland is provided in preparing the National Adaptation Framework.
- A well-structured and effective climate change research and innovation programme is an essential component of the national response to climate change.

The full report is available for download at www.climatecouncil.ie

Ends

For further information please contact:

Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat

Ph: +353 126 801 80, +353 870 927 935 Email: media@climatecouncil.ie

For further comment:

Professor John FitzGerald

Chair, Climate Change Advisory Council

Ph: +353 877 978 588 Email: JOFITZGE@tcd.ie



Editor Notes

The Climate Change Advisory Council is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Its role includes the provision of advice to Government on national policy relating to climate change. It was formally established in January 2016.

Council Membership

Prof John FitzGerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council

Laura Burke (Director General, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); ex-officio)

Prof Alan Barrett (Director, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI); ex-officio)

Jim Gannon, (CEO Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI); ex-officio)

Prof Gerry Boyle, (Director of Teagasc; ex-officio)

Prof Ottmar Edenhofer, (Deputy Director and Chief Economist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK))

Prof Frank Convery (Chief Economist, Environmental Defence Fund, New York)

Prof Peter Clinch (Jean Monnet Chair of European Economic Integration and Professor of Public Policy at University College Dublin)

Prof Anna Davies (Professor of Geography at Trinity College Dublin)

Prof Alan Matthews (Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin)

Joseph Curtin (Senior Research Fellow, at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA).

Members of the Adaptation Committee

Prof John Fitzgerald, Chair of the Adaptation Committee

Mark Adamson (Head of Flood Relief and Risk Management Division, Office of Public Works (OPW))

Prof Gerry Boyle, (Director of Teagasc)

Laura Burke (Director General, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA))

Prof Robert Devoy (Professor in Physical Geography and Emeritus Professor in Geography University College Cork (UCC))

Jim Gannon (CEO Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI))

Ciarán Hayes (Chair of the County & City Management Association (CCMA) Committee on Climate Change)

Dr Ina Kelly (Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Health and Wellbeing, Health Service Executive (HSE))

Eoin Moran (Director, Met Éireann)

Dr Conor Murphy (Lecturer in the Department of Geography at Maynooth University)

Roger Street (Technical Director United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University)