



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting – DRAFT MINUTES	
Date:	2 nd June 2016
Start time:	09:00
Venue:	McCumiskey House, Environmental Protection Agency, Richview. Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14.
Present:	Prof. John FitzGerald (JF)(Chair), Prof. Anna Davies (AD), Prof. Alan Matthews (AM), Joseph Curtin (JC), Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer (OE), Prof. Frank Convery (FC), Laura Burke (LB), Jim Gannon (JG).
Apologies:	Prof. Peter Clinch (PC), Prof. Alan Barrett (AB), Prof. Gerry Boyle (GB).
Observer:	Dr. Frank O'Mara, Teagasc
Secretariat present:	Dr. Frank McGovern (FMcG), Dr. Niall Farrell (NF), Dr. Róisín Moriarty (RM), Nichola Hughes (NH), Claire Camilleri (CC)
Presenters:	Mr John O'Neill, Department of Environment

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council 6th April 2016 Meeting

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 6th April 2016 were adopted with minor changes and signed by the chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest for this meeting.

1.4 Chairman's Report of Activities



The Chair provided an outline of activities undertaken since the previous meeting and previewed upcoming activities ahead of the next meeting.

The Chair, JC and FMcG (Secretariat) attended a meeting of the International Network of the Climate Change Committees to share best practice and challenges in their work and to discuss the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This was hosted by the UK Climate Change Committee and its Finnish equivalent in London on the 25 and 26th April. FMcG updated the Council on the attendance and discussions at the meeting and advised that it was a useful network. The UK and Finland will provide a more formal report of the meeting, including options for its development. An existing network already established to consider climate change was highlighted by the Netherlands at the London meeting and is being explored with NESO who are linked to this network.

The Council received correspondence from the Department of Environment to provide feedback on the National Adaptation Framework Consultation. The Chair advised the Council that he has written to the Department advising that comments will be provided post the next Council Meeting on the 20th July, following consideration of a response by the Adaptation Committee which had been established at the previous Council meeting.

The Council also noted the establishment of the new Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. The Secretariat informed the Council that they have made arrangements for an update on the new structures to be provided at the next meeting on the 20th July.

2. EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The Secretariat introduced the topic along with responses to issues raised at the last meeting. A draft letter from the Council to the Minister of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment was also outlined. The Council discussed the EU ETS in detail, particularly in regards to the interplay of pricing and the market stability reserve.

The Council considered that this was an important issue for Ireland's actions on climate change. It agreed that following revisions requested by the Council, the letter



would be sent to the Minister ahead of June 20th EU Council meeting where proposals for reform of the EU ETS were to be considered. It was agreed that the letter and background material would be released to the public along with a press release shortly afterwards.

3. Presentation by Department of Environment

John O'Neill from the Department of Environment provided an update to the Council on the new structures within Government and the Programme for Government. This included updating the Council on the timings of the National Mitigation Plan, National Adaptation Framework and the latest developments on the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The Council discussed the implications of these for timings of their work and production of the first report. The necessity for the department to provide material in time to allow for its consideration by the Council was highlighted. The Council thanked Mr O'Neill for his presentation.

4. First Report

A zero-order draft of the First Report was presented by the Secretariat. Background information papers on decoupling of emissions and GDP; analysis of per-capita CO₂ emissions and a preliminary taxonomy of Irish policies with climate change mitigation were also presented. Discussion around the content of the First Report concluded that:

- Executive summary is critical in conveying the right language and key messages of the Council's report.
- Scientific summary to include science around greenhouse gas emissions.
- A broader framing of issues needs to be applied to the policy areas to reflect wider societal issues and improve communication.
- The decoupling of emissions and GDP should be updated to reflect a more European context.
- The gap to targets should be articulated to reflect the urgency of the situation in Ireland.

Council will provide further comments to the Secretariat, and a first order draft of the report will be provided ahead of the next meeting.

5. Adaptation



An update on the draft agenda for the first meeting of the Adaptation Committee on the 20th June was presented by the Secretariat and accepted by the Council. Representatives from the UK Climate Change Committee Secretariat and the European Environmental Agency will present on adaptation experiences at an international level, and experts from Met Éireann, OPW, EPA and Clare County Council will also present on adaptations matters within the national context. The response to the consultation on the National Adaptation Framework will also be considered at the Committee meeting and a Terms of Reference for the Committee will be tabled.

The Council accepted this approach and asked that the Committee consider options and nominations for additional Committee members and agreed to assist in identifying appropriate candidates for consideration at the Committee meeting on the 20th June.

The committee will report back to the Council at its 20th July meeting.

6. Periodic Review and Report

A draft structure for the Periodic Report was presented to Council, along with initial analysis on topics that require further investigation to assist in developing the Periodic Report. The Council considered the data currently available, particularly identifying current model frameworks to be interrogated and reduce the duplication of work required in capturing information for the Periodic Review. JG of SEAI also offered assistance in providing relevant data, and a meeting with the Secretariat and SEAI is to be coordinated. Teagasc also offered assistance in identifying current data sets and research available that could be beneficial and help inform the work required for the Periodic Review and Report. The Council requested that the Secretariat further develop the list of knowledge and information gaps that may be relevant for Council reports, with input to be sought from Council and findings to be presented at the next meeting. The Council adopted the structure and outline content for the Periodic Report.

7. Analytical Framework

The draft Analytical Framework was presented incorporating comments from the last meeting. The Council identified that a wider focus should be considered for the



analytical framework to incorporate external factors and account for distributional affects. The Analytical Framework is to be reviewed for language and incorporate comments from the Council. This will be maintained as a working paper.


8. Council Website

A short meeting paper and verbal update on the Council website was provided. It was recommended that the Council website would be hosted on the EPA website but should appear as an external website with its own brand, image, and independent content management. The Council endorsed this recommendation.

9. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council discussed the hosting of a potential Seminar on Agriculture to be held prior to the next Council Meeting on the 19th July in conjunction with Teagasc. The Secretariat and Teagasc will liaise to develop the Seminar.

The next meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Council will be held on 20th July 2016.

 20/7/16

