



CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL STATEMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL WELCOMES JOINT OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE ACTION: A CROSS-PARTY CONSENSUS FOR ACTION.

The Climate Change Advisory Council welcomes the report of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action: A Cross-Party Consensus for Action.

The Council is encouraged by the process and the all-party approach taken by the Committee, which recognises the urgency and scale of the need for action on climate change.

The Council welcomes that the report of the Committee concurs with previous Council recommendations on a number of issues. The Carbon Pricing recommendations are intended to provide a sufficient price signal to encourage innovation within the economy. The Council is encouraged to see reference to a pathway for an increase in the carbon tax to at least €80 per tonne in 2030, with supports for those in energy poverty. The Report's recommendation with respect to the EU Emissions Trading System and consideration of a Carbon Price Floor with a coalition of Member States is welcome. The Council is encouraged by the Committees recommendations on re-evaluating the co-firing subsidy for peat and biomass, and on the implementation of a national programme of rewetting and peatland restoration. The Council is encouraged that the importance of diversification within agriculture and land was highlighted by the Committee, recognising the need to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability of farming in Ireland.

“This is the beginning of a process of transition. The work of the Joint Oireachtas Committee and the positive reception it received in the Dáil chamber in response to the strong signals provided by the Citizens Assembly has added a new urgency to climate action in Ireland. The Council looks forward to continuing the momentum towards a low carbon transition which is just, delivers on co-benefits and opportunities, and is cost-effective.” said Professor FitzGerald.

Ends

For further information please contact:

Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat

Ph: +353 126 801 80 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.

Climate Change Advisory Council Members

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, (Designated 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)).