



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting –Carbon Budgets Working Group

### Meeting 6

#### APPROVED MINUTES

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**Start time:** 13:30

**Venue:** EPA officers, Clonskeagh and Video Conference Meeting

**Present: In person:** Jeanne Moore, James Murphy

**On MS Teams:** Brian Ó Gallachóir, Hannah Daly, Emma Lynch, Trevor Donnellan, Kevin Hanrahan, Niall McInerney, Niamh Garvey, Yvonne Buckley, Stephen Treacy Kian Mintz-Woo, David Styles

**Apologies:** Jim Scheer, Kelly de Bruin, Oliver Gedden. Colm Duffy, Mert Yakut

**Observers:** John Fitzgerald (in person), Patricia King (online).

**Secretariat:** In person: George Hussey, Meabh Gallagher, Kieran Craven; Phillip O'Brien, Gina Kelly, Claire Camilleri. Online: Jodie Colgan, Aoife McKeon

**External Presenters:** Online: Tim Linehan (CSO), Adele Bergin (ESRI), Colin Ferchner (DHLGH)

## 1. Opening of meeting

### 1.1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Carbon Budgets Working Group (CBWG).

### 1.2. Minutes for the Carbon Budgets Working Group Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by the CBWG

### **1.3 Actions**

Action 3 of the Actions Log will be revisited next meeting.

Actions 5-7 were proposed for closure by the Secretariat. There was no opposition for this, and the actions were closed.

## **2. Population Projections**

Presentations were given from external groups (CSO, ESRI and DHLGH) on the generation and application of population projections in Ireland.

Tim Linehan from the CSO provided an outline on the methodology for population projections employed by the CSO. The last iteration of modelling projecting populations over timescales up to 50 years and applied a deterministic approach, provided six scenarios and was based on census data. The key variables of migration, fertility and mortality were outlined and their relative roles in projections. An expert group will help determine the assumptions included and the role that a probabilistic approach will be applied for the next iteration. Discussion was had around the assumptions and values of net migration, including demographics and global impacts, the impacts of climate change to modelling assumptions and the accuracy of projections.

Adele Bergin from the ESRI presented on the approach, assumptions and results of modelling they have conducted. Differences between Ireland and the EU were highlighted, including differences in demographics and historic population growth. The importance and influence of migration, mortality and fertility were outlined. Discussions were had around the impact of recent migration and possible future trends, along with the strong link between migration flows and economic conditions. There is ongoing work at the ESRI on current trends in headship rates i.e., the proportion within each age group who identify themselves as the head of an independent household.

Colin Fulcher presented on the application of population projections to the revision of the National Planning Framework. Projections were important for standardising the way local authorities formulated their Development Plans. The draft revised plan is due for publication in December 2023, with amendments in Q1 of 2024 and final publication in Q2 of 2024. Discussions were held around the relative growth of cities and their hinterlands. Variations to the methodology are envisaged, including redefinition of boundaries.

It was noted that the three presentations would be uploaded to SharePoint after the meeting.

## **3. Approaching Just Transition in Practice**

Niamh Garvey and Jeanne Moore presented on findings from the recent NESC report on Just Transition in Agriculture and Land Use and its possible implications for the process of determining Carbon Budgets. The background, measures, outcomes and recommendations of the report were presented with the corresponding Just Transition principles. Discussion was held on the importance of meaningful, active engagement with stakeholders. The importance for a national communication campaign on the opportunities and supports available was highlighted. The differentiation between vulnerable and impacted stakeholders

was raised and the importance of burden sharing across the whole of society. NESC outlined their availability for further engagement with the CBWG on this subject.

#### 4. Carbon Budgets Work Plan

The Secretariat outlined the work programme for the CBWG including future thematic topics. In October the emissions projections process will be discussed, while the November meeting will include negative emissions and international approaches to Carbon Budgets. The December meeting thematic topic is to be confirmed and could include a global stocktake, ESAB 2040 advice and/or initial results from the first iteration of the Carbon Budget modelling.

For the September Workshop, the Secretariat outlined the draft agenda to include the building blocks for scenarios, presentations from some of the modelling groups on their high-level methodology proposal, input assumptions and anticipated outcomes. Competing Land-use requirements and a timeline for modelling will also be covered.

For the October meeting, the EPA will present on the projections process with overview of methodology and input from SEAI and ESRI. Biodiversity considerations will be included along with Ag and Land-Use Review

A proposal for 2024 meetings was presented. A total of 18 meetings by September 2024 is proposed, distributed to account for work commitments of the Council and Secretariat.

**Action:** CBWG members to provide feedback on the proposed 2024 schedule of meetings.

#### 5. Next Steps and Agenda for next meeting

CBWG members should inform the Secretariat if they can attend the workshop in person.

One new action was raised at the meeting (see action 8 in the Actions Log below). The next meeting will include a discussion of the EPA 2024 GHG projections process.

#### 6. AOB

The Secretariat noted that it had received a supportive response from DECC regarding the requested modelling capacity under the MoU.

Participants were thanked for their contributions.

#### 7. CB WG Actions Log

Action Number	Date Raised	Description	Owner	Due	Status
3	20/04/23	Expand discussion of macroeconomic inputs/ drivers	CCAC Secretariat and relevant	Q3 2023	Ongoing – Update to be provided at CB

			CB WG Members		WG Meeting 4 and 6
5	20/04/23	Further develop the approach and preparation for topical discussions	CCAC Secretariat	Q3 2023	Closed
6	27/07/23	CB WG Members to provide comment on the Draft agenda for the September workshop by the 4 <sup>th</sup> of August	CB WG Members	04/08/23	Closed
7	27/07/23	CCAC Secretariat to schedule individual meetings with modellers prior to finalising the September workshop agenda	CCAC Secretariat	06/09/23	Closed
8	08/09/23	CBWG members to provide feedback on the proposed meeting schedule for 2024	CCAC Secretariat	29/09/23	