



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 29.01.2026

Start time: 09:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair), Dr. Ina Kelly, Prof. Robert Devoy, Dr. Helen Hoyle, Dr. Pádraig Flattery (sitting in for Keith Lambkin), Dr. Darragh O'Neill, Dr. Julie Clarke (until 12.00 pm), Jillian Mahon (from 10.00 am), Prof. Conor Murphy (until 10.12 am) and Sean McKeown (until 10.53 am).

Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr. Stephen Flood; Marta Carrasco; Ciara Hilliard; Dylan O'Flynn; Meabh Gallagher and Claire Camilleri.

Agenda Item 6: Dr. Kristin Hadfield

Agenda Item 7: Lisa Johnson

Agenda Item 8: Dr. Eugene Farrell

Apologies: David Joyce and Mark Adamson

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee (agreed)

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 6th November 2025 were approved.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments*

* The original agenda item 8 on Annual Review 2026 – Transport was subsequently moved in the agenda to become item 5 during the meeting.

c. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update (09.34)

The Chairperson provided an update on the main outcomes from the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting held on 10th December 2025.

3. Secretariat Update (09.38)

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main events that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting. The main items covered were:

- The National Adaptation Steering Committee meeting, which took place on 9th November.
- Adaptation Committee Workshop 2026.
- Research updates.
- Climate Ireland Adaptation Network Working Groups on Climate Resilience.
- Sectoral Adaptation Plans letter publication and accompanying report.
- Progressing recommendations from the Funding Adaptation in Ireland report.
- International Climate Councils Network Adaptation Working Group.
- OECD cross-country individual behaviour survey and report

4. Annual Review – Our Changing Climate 2025 (9:48)

The final draft for Our Changing Climate in 2025 was presented to the Committee for comments. Specific comments were provided on data referencing, the order and focus of the narrative, and the relevance of including attribution and phenology. The Committee approved the report to be submitted to the Council for publication. The draft was also circulated for written comment.

5. Presentation on Annual Review 2026 – Transport (first consideration) (10:00)

An initial draft of the resilience-related recommendations for the 2026 Annual Review on Transport was presented to the Committee for comments. Specific comments were provided relating the reference to NCCRA and relevant research, the mainstreaming of scientific evidence on sea-level rise and flooding impacts into ports and roads policy, and considerations regarding regional and local road infrastructure. The recommendations were also circulated in written form for comment.

6. Presentation of research on the impacts of climate change on mental health in Ireland (10:15)

Dr Kristin Hadfield from Trinity College Dublin presented the draft research report on “The impacts of climate change on mental health”. The Committee members discussed and provided comments on the study’s methodology and workshop representativeness, the inclusion of WMO approaches in the emergency cycle, the role and benefits of adaptive capacity, and the relevance of preparedness, communication and government support for communities affected by flooding. The Committee approved the report to be submitted to the Council for publication.

7. Review of the Adaptation Scorecard (11:10)

Lisa Johnson presented the report on the Review of the Adaptation Scorecard. The Committee provided comments and approved the report for submission to the Council. It was agreed that an Implementation Subgroup would be established, comprising members of the Adaptation Committee, the Secretariat and relevant scorecard stakeholders, to progress the report’s recommendations and to design a new adaptation scorecard system for introduction in 2027.

8. Presentation of research on managing coastal risks in Ireland (11:55)

Dr Eugene Farrell from MKO presented the draft research report on “Managing coastal risks in Ireland”. The Committee members discussed the need to improve public and political engagement, prioritise human needs in coastal and flood-risk policy, strengthen risk disclosure and high-level decision-making, enhance dissemination of research to the public, and progress long-term coastal management planning. The Committee approved the report to be submitted to the Council for publication.

Maybe cofounding would be a good idea – DCEE?

9. Any Other Business, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting (12:45)

a) Any Other Business

It was suggested to invite a representative from Energy Storage Ireland to give a presentation on the role of battery storage in community and household resilience and the associated safety guidelines.

Concerns were raised regarding Built Environment and Planning scoping SAP, and the Committee agreed to resume the discussion at its next meeting.

b) Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place online on 26th March.

The meeting closed at 12:50.

P.W. 

Signed electronically on 26.03.2026