

Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 24.10.2018

Start time: 10:30

Venue: McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14

Present: John FitzGerald, Chair, Conor Murphy NUIM , Keith Lambkin, Met Éireann
Robert Devoy, UCC Roger Street, Oxford University, Gerry Boyle,
Teagasc.

Apologies: Jim Gannon, SEAI; Eoin Moran, Met Éireann; Robert Devoy, UCC;
Mark Adamson, OPW

Secretariat: Margaret Desmond, Róisín Moriarty, Tadhg O'Mahony, Phillip O'Brien,
Claire Camilleri, Harriet Walsh, Sonja Smith

Presenters: Kit England, Climate Ready Clyde; John O'Neill, DCCAE

1. Opening of Meeting

Prof. John FitzGerald opened the meeting.

1.1 Minutes of the Adaptation Committee Meeting 23.05.2018

The minutes of the meeting 23rd May 2018 were accepted.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was accepted.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interests were declared at this meeting.

2. Council Update

Chair provided oral update on Activities of Council relevant to Adaptation Committee

3. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C

The report identifies that 1.5°C can be achieved, and that it is worthwhile to do so, as there are significant decreases in the risks associated with climate change of 1.5°C compared to 2°C (or higher). Nevertheless, 1.5°C is not "safe", and Ireland will need to invest in adaptation measures to improve resilience across all sectors.

There is sufficient evidence of increased impacts and risks to act now, with mitigation and adaptation in parallel.

There is uncertainty as to impacts of the climate change Ireland will experience, but this should inform not hinder action. As a priority, research is required to provide this higher resolution, Ireland specific analysis.

Planning and development across all sectors need to consider the observed rate of emissions and the on-going rate of accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Although actions for have been promised for global mitigation, these have not as yet been effective in moving global trends away from high emissions scenarios (3.5-4°C warming).

4. Climate Ready Clyde

Presentation from Dr Kit England from Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) and their experience in progressing adaptation awareness and implementation at a regional/local scale.

<https://www.sniffer.org.uk/climatereadyclyde>

An interesting insight into the Scottish experience in establishment of regional climate action capacity in policy and planning development and outreach to business and local communities.

Useful for CAROs to exchange knowledge with CRC.

Stakeholder diversity and the challenge to give voice to vulnerable people.

The Committee believes it would be very useful for the Climate Action Regional Offices to contact CRC to learn from their experience and approaches to regional climate action planning and implementation. This has been communicated directly to CARO representatives via practitioner networks.

5. Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

John O'Neill from DCCAIE provided update on progress on Sector and Local Authority Adaptation Plans and on relevant sections of the National Transition Statement.

There will be 11 Sector Adaptation Plans in development in the period to Sept 2019. The Sector plans are obliged to consult with Council. DCCAIE undertook to communicate directly with lead departments regarding this obligation.

Local Authorities will not be required to consult with Council. In the development of their Adaptation Strategies. The Committee would like to reserve the option to contact selected Local Authorities during public consultation.

DCCAIE have identified gaps in the Sectoral Plans including Marine, Tourism and Sports and other policy areas, including Defence, Justice (Garda), Education. DCCAIE is exploring options to ensure these sectors are covered within the existing framework.

The Committee recommended DCCAIE ensure that investments under the NDP explicitly consider climate proofing/resilience. The Committee considers that planned investments in the near and medium term should consider global warming of 3.5- 4.0°C as a default design constraint for resilience. A no regrets design approach is encouraged, including design for incremental development and expansion of adaptation infrastructure were appropriate.

6. Consultation on National Energy and Climate Plan

The Committee strongly encourage an equal focus for adaptation and mitigation, framed as climate action.

The Committee recommended Council consider the following text on adaptation to be included Council response to the public consultation:

"In the development of the National Energy and Climate Plan it is critical to assess the linkages between mitigation and adaptation; detailed risk assessment of all proposed actions, measures and policies is required. The National Energy and Climate Plan must ensure mitigation planning is consistent with adaptation objectives and the national policy objective to achieve transition to a competitive, low-carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050."

7. Future Work Programme

The Committee discussed the future work programme for 2019, to include:

- Consideration of IPCC special reports on Land; and Oceans.
- Consultation on Sectoral and Local Authority adaptation plans.
- Options for managing workload.
- Watching brief on climate and weather events.
- Attribution outcomes for 2017/2018 events
- Possibly consider the ISO standards being developed for risk assessment and adaptation.

The Committee requested the Secretariat to develop a template for assessment of Adaptation Plans for discussion and adoption at next meeting.

8. AOB, Next Meeting

No AOB were raised.

Date of next meeting agreed: 13th December 2018

