



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

**Date:** 02.09.2021

**Start time:** 13:30

**Venue:** Video Conference Meeting

**Present:** Marie Donnelly, Professor Gerry Boyle (Teagasc), Laura Burke (EPA), Professor John FitzGerald, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Professor Peter Thorne, William Walsh (SEAI),

**Observers:** Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Sinéad O'Brien, Frank O'Mara (Teagasc) Prof. Morgan Bazilian

**Apologies:** Julie Sinnamon, Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Professor Alan Barrett (ESRI),

**Secretariat:** George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Therése Myslinski; Laura Morenco, Ciara Hilliard

**Presenters:** Dr. Tadhg O'Mahony, Tadhg O'Mahony Consulting.

### 1. Opening of Meeting

#### 1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 22.07.2021

The minutes for the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2021 were accepted.

#### 1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

#### 1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

### 2. Council Membership

The chair updated the Council on the situation arising from the need for a commencement order of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

The chair, in agreement with the members, invited SEAI to remain on the council as an observer for their valuable input which was accepted.

### **3. IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) WG I report**

Peter Thorne gave a brief overview of the report. Peter highlighted the importance of graphics in communications and outlined lessons learned on the communications strategy. Reports of working groups 2 and 3 are expected to be issued in February and March 2022.

Council congratulated Peter on his contribution to the report and his excellent media interventions following its publication.

### **4. Adaptation Committee update**

The Council were provided with an update from the Adaptation Committee meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

The Council noted that Paddy Mahon, Longford Co Co attended for his first meeting of the Committee representing the CCMA.

The Committee's meeting focused on the development of the Annual Review adaptation chapter, particularly the preliminary progress assessments of sectors. The revised draft of the Adaptation section was issued to the Council for their consideration as part of the deliberations on the Annual Review.

The Council discussed the update and members regretted the lack of response from the Communications Networks sector and emphasised the importance of adaptation in the built environment and coasts and the potential of integrated coastal management. It was noted that there are no sectoral adaptation plans in place for either coasts or the built environment.

The work programme of the Committee was also discussed, including three small-scale studies on household adaptation, decision making under uncertainty and nature based adaptation and an update was given on the coastal workshop to be held later in September.

Quantifying the costs of climate adaptation was also discussed as an area for future investigation.

It was noted that the adaptation fellowship with the ESRI is due to commence shortly.

The next meeting of the Adaptation Committee is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November.

## **5. Annual Review 2021**

The Secretariat provided an update on the progress of work related to the Annual Review 2021, and associated timelines.

Dr Tadhg O'Mahony presented a chapter by chapter overview of the latest draft for consideration by the Council.

The Council provided feedback on the draft, gave consideration to key messaging on the outcomes of the review and noted proposals on the final developments of the report.

It was noted that the next document to Council will be an amalgamated draft taking account of comments at the meeting and any final written comments received. Council also noted the new mandated timelines in the Climate Act for completion and publication of the Annual Review.

## **6. Carbon budgets**

### **a) Regulations update**

The Council Secretariat gave an overview of the latest draft of the letter of advice to the Minister on the drafting of the regulations and discussed the effects of the delay of the regulation on the finalisation of the carbon budgets.

The Council agreed the draft letter, with small adjustments, and to issue the letter to the Minister on 3rd September 2021. The letter will be published on the Council website after the regulation is issued.

### **b) Update on papers/analysis**

Secretariat briefed the council on updates to the documentation supporting the Carbon Budget Committee work on Carbon Budgets.

### **c) Update from the Committee on Carbon Budgets**

It was noted that the Committee on Carbon Budgets plans to convene for two further meetings before the Council meeting on the 22nd of September 2021 with a view to providing a final draft of the technical report for that meeting.

### **d) Updated Technical Report & draft letter**

The Council discussed the ongoing development of its advice and proposals on the carbon budgets.

The secretariat plans to issue a new draft of the letter to Council next week with a view to finalising at the Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2021. A further draft of the technical report will issue after the next two Carbon Budget Committee meetings which are currently planned to take place on September 9th and 16th.

Council noted that it does not have a mandate to publish the Carbon Budgets nor can it finalise the letter to the Minister until the Regulation has been issued.

## **7. Chair's Report of Council Activities**

The Council noted the report of activities.

## **8. AOB**

### **a) Update on Public Consultation on Ireland's Common Agricultural Policy**

Council noted the publication of this public consultation paper.

### **b) Council attendance at COP 26**

The Chair drew attention to COP 26 and advised that the Secretariat can facilitate attendance of council members if required.

### **c) International Climate Councils**

The Chair indicated that Council would participate in upcoming meetings of the International Climate Council's activities.

### **d) Climate Change Advisory Council Strategy session**

Council noted the proposal for a strategy session to possibly take place in Jan 2022.

### **e) FOI request**

Council noted that the Secretariat received an FOI request on 01/09/2021. Details on the request will issue to Council members in due course.



**22.09.2021**