

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 30th November 2018

Start time: 10:00

Venue: Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland, Wilton Park House, Dublin 2

Present: Professor John FitzGerald, Laura Burke, Professor Alan Barrett, Professor Alan Matthews, Professor Peter Clinch, Jim Gannon, Professor Frank Convery, Professor Anna Davies, Joseph Curtin, Professor Gerry Boyle, Professor Ottmar Edenhofer (video link).

Secretariat: Dr Róisín Moriarty, Phillip O'Brien, Dr Tadhg O'Mahony, Caroline Donnellan, Harriet Walsh, Dr Margaret Desmond.

Presenters: Martin Finucane.

1. Opening of meeting.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 19.09.2018

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 19th September 2018 were amended and signed by the chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted with some minor changes in the order of the agenda items.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures.

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

The Chair and the Council met with the Taoiseach, Minister Ross, Minister Creed, Minister Murphy and Minister Naughten (prior to his resignation). On a separate occasion the Chair also met with the new Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment Minister Bruton. The Chair discussed his meeting with the Irish Wind Energy Association. The Chair also met with DG CLIMA to discuss the climate and energy challenges facing Ireland.

2. Outcomes from Adaptation Committee Meeting 24.10.2018

The Committee discussed adaptation measures. The Committee agreed on the text of a letter replying to a call for public consultation on the Public Spending Code.

The Council noted, that the workload over the coming year for the Committee will be heavy, and agreed that an honorarium will be paid to Committee members, who do not receive any reimbursement for the work they do on the Committee. It may also be necessary to commission outside expert support.

The Committee discussed how planning for infrastructure should consider resilience to the possible impacts of a wide range of potential climate change scenarios. This should be considered in the public expenditure guidelines.

3. Carbon Price Floor Workshop Discussion

The outcomes and overall messages from the Carbon Price Floor seminar were discussed. The Council supports joining a European consortium of countries to adopt a Carbon Price Floor. It was noted that a Carbon Price Floor could act as a safety net in the Emission Trading System as it is vulnerable to market changes.

4. Budget 2019

The Council was disappointed that there was no increase in carbon tax in Budget 2019. The ESRI research on implementing a carbon tax suggests an increase would be beneficial in helping Ireland transition to a low carbon society.

Planting of forest cover has reduced to just 4,500 hectares in 2018, showing that there are barriers to getting the forestry subsidy scheme to work effectively.

5. National Energy and Climate Plan – Martin Finucane

The National Energy and Climate Plan will set out a path for reducing emissions to 2030, with a focus on the energy sector. The governance arrangements have been agreed but are not fully in place. There are binding emissions targets at a national level but the targets for renewables and energy efficiency are expressed at the level of the European Union.

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action will report on its consideration of the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly Report before the end of January 2019. This will feed into the third draft of the National Energy and Climate Plan expected in July of 2019.

The Council discussed inclusion of 2050 targets in framing for the National Energy and Climate Plan as has been requested by the European Union.

Annual Review 2019

Develop the evidence chapters to include a discussion of the sectors from an inventory category perspective and a breakdown of areas where we are not making progress towards our targets (renewables, national emissions ceilings directive and any other targets relative to greenhouse gas emissions, for example RES-H).

The special focus chapter this year will be on agriculture and land use.

Agreement was reached that a list of recommendations and advice for each Department will be included at the beginning of the Annual Review 2019.

The Council agreed to respond to the IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C in the Annual Review.

The Annual Review will also discuss the outcomes of the Conference of Parties in Katowice, Poland.

The wider cost of carbon emissions, such as the risks associated with reputational damage and the financial costs in penalties, will be included in the Annual Review.


Carbon budgeting will be an important feature throughout the Annual Review with a focus on agriculture while ensuring the negative impacts of methane are not underestimated.

Co-benefits and trade-offs should be highlighted, such as food and fuel consumptions impact on biodiversity.

A focus will be placed on communicating our messages in plain English.

6. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

Meeting was brought to a close.

 29/1/2019