



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES
Date: 07.05.2026
Start time: 09:30
Venue: The Rose Hotel, Tralee
Present: Prof. Peter Thorne, Dr. Ina Kelly, Dr. Helen Hoyle, Keith Lambkin, Jillian Mahon, John Spink, David Joyce, Mark Adamson (all in-person), Dr. Darragh O'Neill, Dr. Julie Clarke and Sean McKeown (all online).
Secretariat: George Hussey, Dr. Stephen Flood, Marta Carrasco, Bryn Canniffe (all in-person); Ciara Hilliard, Ben Mcfarlane, Claire Camilleri (all online).
Agenda Item 5: Dr. Cera Slevin (online)
Apologies: Prof. Robert Devoy, Prof. Conor Murphy

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 26th March 2026 were approved.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

c. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest. Dr. Julie Clarke did not attend for agenda item 5 as she was part of the research team.

2. Council Update (09.34)

The Chairperson provided an update on the main outcomes from the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting held on 22nd – 23rd April 2026. It was noted that Alex White was appointed as Chairperson of the Council and that Prof. Peter Thorne and Jillian Mahon were re-appointed as Council members. There are currently three vacancies on the Council and two vacancies on the Committee. It was noted that there is no health representative on the Council but that the areas of expertise required are covered by the Act and do not make reference to health.

3. Secretariat Update (09.47)

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

- Progress in the implementation of the CCAC research studies on: (i) Managing coastal risk with focus on planned relocation, which was approved for publication on the Council website at its April meeting (ii) Analysis of community-level support for biodiversity and climate action in local government, which was awarded to a research team from the University of Sheffield and University College Dublin.
- Climate resilience fellow: the Secretariat is currently working up a business case with Met Éireann to employ a post-doctoral researcher on the subject of global warming level trajectories and how these may be applied in Ireland. It is planned to be a two-year fellowship.
- Adaptation Action Assessment Working Group: it was noted that this working group was established and is being chaired by Jillian Mahon. It is considering the scorecard review in detail and to finalise the new Adaptation Action Assessment. It held its first meeting on 24th April and three further meetings are planned and a final report from the working group will be brought to the Committee meeting on 27th August. The Chairperson thanked Jillian for chairing the working group.
- Central Bank collaboration: The Secretariat is working jointly with the Central Bank of Ireland to write a Building Resilience Rating (BRR) scoping note, which explores the potential for a national system to assess and certify the climate resilience of buildings in Ireland. The scoping note will focus on flooding related hazards as an entry point to developing the BRR. The rationale for this approach is to link with ongoing work by Insurance Ireland, the Central Bank of Ireland, and the Department of Finance supporting actions to help reduce the flood protection gap. The document will be brought to the Committee for the June 18th Committee meeting for discussion.
- Engagement on the Built Environment and Planning Scoping Exercise: DHLGH shared a draft scoping report with the Secretariat for the built environment and planning

sector on 16th March. The draft scoping report was further shared with the assigned volunteers from the Adaptation Committee. The draft was discussed with officials from DHLGH in a meeting on 13th April. Written feedback will be sent to the department after engagement in a series of follow-up meetings with DHLGH planning experts and other relevant officials on 15th June to further inform feedback from Secretariat and Adaptation Committee members.

- International Climate Councils Network: it was noted that Stephen is continuing to co-chair (along with South Africa) this working group in 2026. An ICCN Adaptation Working Group report is currently being developed with a focus on adaptation finance to launch at the upcoming Climate COP 31 in Antalya, Turkey in November 2026.
- Other engagements: the Secretariat was invited to present to the Adaptation Taskforce on 15th May on gaps and recommendations relating to adaptation in Ireland. This was discussed by the Committee and guidance was provided on issues to cover. A meeting was organized with Prof. Suraje Dessai at the EPA on 9th April, where he reflected on the recent ESAB report on Strengthening Resilience on Climate Change (available here: [Escalating climate impacts demand urgent, coordinated adaptation across the EU](#)). This was attended by Adaptation Committee members and the Secretariat. A follow-up engagement with the ESAB Secretariat took place on 28th April to build connections and seek potential collaboration opportunities.

4. Annual Review – Biodiversity, Transport and Adaptation (10:09)

An initial draft of the resilience-related recommendations for the 2026 Annual Review on Biodiversity was presented to the Committee for comments. The detailed draft resilience-related recommendations for the Annual Review on Transport and the zero order draft for the Adaptation Annual Review were also presented for comment. The drafts were also circulated for written comment. For the adaptation annual review, it was noted that the Secretariat is conducting interviews with Adaptation Committee representatives from local government, Met Éireann and academic experts to inform a section of the annual review on flooding, which will be the main focus.

5. Presentation of research on integrating climate change risks and uncertainty in infrastructure development to ensure a climate resilient Ireland (11:05)

Dr. Cera Slevin presented the final draft research report on integrating climate change risks and uncertainty in infrastructure development. Comments were provided after the

presentation, and it was circulated for written comments until 14th May. The report was approved for transmission to the Council for its consideration at the May meeting, subject to the research team addressing the minor comments provided.

6. Potential Pathways to Climate Resilience (11:45)

The Secretariat presented draft reports of the workshop held on 15th April on potential pathways to climate resilience and subsequent roundtables that were held on 16th April. These were approved by the Committee with minor amendments for sharing with the Council for its consideration at the May meeting. The Committee expressed strong interest in a follow-up action to develop a serious game to promote the dynamic adaptive pathways approach and possible hackathon on adaptation issues with cross-sectoral implications.

7. Any Other Business, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting (12:13)

a) Next Meeting

The next meeting was planned to be held virtually on 18th June. It was noted that the Secretariat would look into the possibility of holding the next meeting at Met Éireann to learn more about its flood forecasting center.

The formal meeting closed at 12:20.



Signed electronically on 07.05.2026

The formal meeting was followed by a presentation made by the Dingle Energy Hub (<https://dinglehub.com>) which is a community action hub supporting community innovation and transition in multiple sectors across the Dingle peninsula. Field visits were then undertaken to sites relevant to climate resilience in energy, tourism and agriculture on the Dingle Peninsula as well as to the Maharees on coastal erosion and community-led adaptive management (<https://www.mahareesconservation.com>). Officials from the Dingle Energy Hub, Kerry County Council and Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment accompanied the field visits.