



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting
Date: 22.06.2023
Start time: 09:30
Venue: MS Teams
Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Jillian Mahon; John Spink (alternate, Teagasc); Dr. Ina Kelly; Roger Street, Keith Lambkin. Virtual: Dr. Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA) (to 11:10) Prof. Conor Murphy; Prof. Robert Devoy (from 10:05) Apologies: David Joyce; Dr. Julie Clarke; Mark Adamson; Sinéad O'Brien Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr. Stephen Flood; Jodie Colgan; Bryn Canniffe; Ciara Hilliard; Virtual: Phillip O'Brien; Claire Camilleri; Simon Ngorok, Niamh McCarthy; Aoife McKeon Agenda Item 5 - Dr Eimear Cotter, Mary Frances Rochford (EPA)

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

It was noted that Liam Conneally, Chief Executive of Galway County Council will replace Paddy Mahon as the CCMA representative on the Adaptation Committee.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 17th of May 2023 were agreed.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

c. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update (09:40)

The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting of 15th of June 2023.

- The Council was informed of the main outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held on 17th May. This included an update on ECCA preparations, the adaptation scorecard results, the Climate Resilient Critical Energy Infrastructure workshop and the Adaptation Committee observations on the draft Annual Review.
- The Council's social media accounts on both Twitter and LinkedIn have been launched and are now operational.
- A presentation was received from UCC researchers on the preliminary findings from a project commissioned by the Council on the projected shortfall in measures to deliver the Carbon Budgets and identified policy proposals to bridge the gap.
- A discussion was held with Minister Eamonn Ryan. The Council conveyed to the Minister concerns relating to the scale of the climate challenge and the urgency of actions needed to meet our climate obligations.
- The Council discussed a draft response letter to the Minister relating to the Long-Term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.
- The Council provided comments on the content of the draft Annual Review and supported the Adaptation Committee recommendation to move up the adaptation chapter in the Annual Review to chapter 3.

It was also noted that Jillian Mahon attended the National Economic Dialogue who noted that decarbonisation is now at the center of the national economic agenda.

3. Secretariat Update (09:45)

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main events that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting, including the Conference of Irish Geographers, critical energy infrastructure workshop as well as the Council and Secretariat's participation in the recently concluded ECCA conference.

It was noted that the report of the critical energy infrastructure workshop was being drafted. It was also noted that the resilience of critical infrastructure was a prominent topic at the ECCA

conference, and the Secretariat was encouraged to progress the outputs of the workshop. It was also encouraged to learn from related activities in other countries such as Canada and the UK.

The Committee discussed the need for a database of infrastructure damaged in extreme weather events. There was also a discussion on the need for a broader assessment on metrics in climate impacts and adaptation. It was agreed that the Secretariat would give further consideration to these issues in planning forthcoming work.

4. ECCA 2023 (10:00)

Committee members who attended the conference provided updates and reflections on the highlights of the conference.

The key messages from the conference were:

- The need to move from planning to implementation and that adaptation is not an issue of foresight but immediacy. This decade was emphasized as a decade for decision and action on adaptation.
- Mobilising further dedicated adaptation finance from public and private sources.
- Making critical energy infrastructure more resilient to climate change.
- A variety of tools and instruments are now available providing scientific knowledge and information on adaptation, but standardised risk assessments and adaptation indicators are still needed.
- Peer pressure was identified as a highly effective way of generating the needed behavioural change.
- The importance of art in relaying climate change issues and messages.

5. Climate Ireland update (10:30)

Dr Eimear Cotter, Director of the Office of Evidence and Assessment (OEA), EPA, and Mary Frances Rochford, Programme Manager, Climate Science, Evidence and Services attended in person to present and discuss the climate adaptation developments within the EPA.

6. Scoping study: data collection requirements to inform strategies for sustainable agriculture at farm-level (11:20)

Dr Áine Macken-Walsh and Dr. Emma Dillon from Teagasc's Rural Economy and Development Programme (REDP) presented the final draft of THE small-scale study, "Scoping study: data collection requirements to inform strategies for sustainable agriculture at farm-level".

The Committee agreed to recommend adoption of this report to the Council for publication on the Council website, subject to minor amendments.

7. Annual Review 2023 (11.45)

The Secretariat presented the updated draft key messages and observations from the Adaptation Chapters of the Annual Review 2023 for discussion. The main comments received were to:

- Strengthen the language of several of the recommendations and make them more specific and actionable.
- Make the resilience chapters more concise.
- Better signpost the interconnections of biodiversity and just transition with other chapters in the Annual Review.

It was noted that the draft chapters of the Annual Review would be available for Committee members' comments until 16th June 2023.

8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting

a) Tidy Towns

While recognising the significant advances in recent years towards rewarding biodiversity actions within the Tidy Towns scheme, there was discussion around the difficulty of balancing the need for biodiversity conservation with the more manicured approach that is promoted by the Tidy Towns scheme and expected as standard by local communities. It was considered that the Tidy Towns should further promote biodiversity through encouraging towns to see biodiversity as aesthetically pleasing within the criteria of the competition. It was noted the competition itself could be used as an educational and awareness tool while providing benefits to biodiversity.

b) 2024 Meetings

It was noted that a roadmap of 2024 meetings would be presented to the September meeting.

c) 2024 Workshops

An additional discussion was had regarding ideas for the 2024 workshop which would be further brainstormed at the next meeting. 'Finance and funding of adaptation' and 'metrics for adaptation' were provisionally put forward as ideas.

d) Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 7th of September 2023 and would be held virtually.

P.W. 

signed electronically on 07.09.2023