



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting –Carbon Budgets Working Group

Meeting 1

APPROVED MINUTES

Date: 9th March 2023

Start time: 10:00

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: In person: Stephen Treacy, Kian Mintz-Woo, Hannah Daly,

On MS Teams: Trevor Donnellan, David Styles, Kevin Hanrahan, Jim Scheer, Yvonne Buckley, Kelly de Bruin, Niall McInerney, Jeanne Moore, Brian Ó' Gallachóir, Niamh Garvey, Emma Lynch

Apologies: James Murphy, Colm Duffy, Mert Yakut.

Agenda Item 7: Paul Price, Andrew Smith, Aideen O'Dochartaigh, Barry McMullin joined online for this agenda item.

Observers: John Fitzgerald (in person), Jillian Mahon (online)

Secretariat: In person: George Hussey, Meabh Gallagher, Claire Camilleri, and Gina Kelly, and Online: Gemma O'Reilly and Simon Ngorok

1. Opening of meeting

1.1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Carbon Budgets Working Group (CB WG).

1.2. Minutes for the Carbon Budgets Working Group Meeting

It was noted that minutes of meetings would be presented at subsequent meetings for adoption and each set of minutes would have an Actions Log.

2. Introduction and Scene Setting

i. Introduction of CB WG Members and Secretariat

Members of the working group and Secretariat introduced themselves.

ii. Background presentation by Secretariat on CCAC and Carbon Budgets.

The Secretariat outlined the membership and remit of the Council. They also provided background to the methodology used in the first programme of carbon budgets.

iii. Overview of practical governance and operation of the CB WG.

The Secretariat referred to the circulated Terms of Reference and outlined the make-up and representative areas of the membership of the group. It was noted that an international member of the group is still being sought.

iv. Q&A

The need for a demographic representative on the working group was discussed in the context of population growth and should be considered. It was agreed that a CSO or ESRI presentation, at least, would be useful.

It was suggested that there may be some gap in Climate Science expertise and was noted that the hope would be that an international member and future speakers at the working group may assist in bringing that experience to the discussions.

The need to also focus on the mobilization of society was discussed and it was suggested that the working group should consider inviting speakers to present relevant analysis such as the outcomes of the ESNB Dingle Peninsula Project.

3. Carbon Budgets Methodology and Topics for Meetings

i. Discussion on draft methodology and approach to Carbon budgets process for Q1 2023 - Q4 2024

The Secretariat outlined potential pathways development and sectoral analysis under the range of carbon budgets:

- Pathways development and Modelling
- Paris Test of pathways – Objectives of the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and Climate Justice

- Analysis of Macroeconomic Impact of Carbon Budgets
- Analysis of Socioeconomic Impact of Carbon Budgets and Just Transition
- Biodiversity Considerations
- Assessment of Overshoot Scenarios and role of negative emissions
- Sectoral Engagement for carbon budgets

The Working Group discussed the methodology in detail particularly in relation to potential gaps.

The incorporation of biodiversity constraints into the modelling scenarios was discussed and it was suggested that while the sectoral models were not necessarily granular enough to capture biodiversity aspects. EU targets such as the 20% preservation of land area or the global biodiversity framework for 30 by 30 would be important constraints to consider.

Caution regarding modelling uncertainty, particularly for longer term measures in the Land Use sector, was noted. The need for due consideration of Just Transition, modelling for land use changes, the need for clarity on 2050 goals and future need for negative emissions and carbon removal was discussed.

ii. Discussion on topics and schedule of CB WG discussions

The Secretariat proposed the topics that would be considered in future meetings and sought feedback from the group:

- Carbon Budgets Methodology
- Vision for 2050
- Pathways development and modelling
- Climate Justice and 'Paris Test'
- Focused discussion on LULUCF emissions and land use review
- Focused discussion on international approaches to carbon budgets
- Focused discussion on methane
- Macroeconomic and socioeconomic impacts of carbon budgets
- Biodiversity considerations
- Role of negative emissions

4. Overview of meeting schedule & feedback

The Secretariat presented a proposed schedule and planning for CB WG meetings in 2023 and sought feedback from the group.

It was suggested that the scope of the Vision for 2050 paper would be extended beyond 2050 and that macroeconomics and socioeconomics would be split into two distinct sessions.

The proposed schedule of meetings was discussed, and it was agreed that meetings would not start before 10.30 where possible and longer durations would be considered.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would reconsider the proposed topics, appropriate running order, amended meeting dates and length of meetings and revert with meeting invites as appropriate.

5. MoU between the CCAC and all relevant Government Departments and Agencies

The Secretariat advised that initial requests for modelling capacity for the 2nd programme of Carbon Budgets had been sent out to appropriate Departments and Agencies. The Secretariat expect to send more detailed follow-up requests in Q2 2023.

It was noted that there may be constraints around the availability of capacity within certain organisations.

6. Next Steps and Agenda for next meeting

Agree actions for next meeting:

- A word version of the methodology document under Agenda Item 3 would be made available for Amendments.
- Comments sought on the draft methodology and topics for consideration by 20th March 2023.
- Secretariat to revert with meeting invites for working group meetings in 2023 based on feedback received.
- Meeting materials to be circulated 1 week in advance of the next meeting.

7. Presentation by Carbon Budget Research Fellows Paul Price and Andrew Smith

Paul Price, Andrew Smith, Aideen O'Dochartaigh and Barry McMullin joined for this agenda item.

Paul Price and Andrew Smith presented to the working group on their Carbon Budget Fellowships.

The Working Group thanked the presenters for their input.

8. AOB

No items raised under AOB

Actions Log

Action Number	Date Raised	Description	Owner	Due	Status
1	09/03/2023	Secretariat to invite a speaker to provide an update on demographics and inform the group about the process for outputs from the 2022 Census.	CCAC Secretariat	Q2 2023	
2	09/03/2023	Working Group members to provide written comment on the draft methodology and list of topics for consideration by 20/03/2023	CB WG Members	20/03/2023	