



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

**Date:** 10.12.2025

**Start time:** 09:30

**Venue:** Alex Hotel, 41-47 Fenian Street, Dublin2 D02 H678 and MS Teams

**In Person:** Marie Donnelly (Chair), Jillian Mahon, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Professor Edgar Morgenroth (from 09:50), Laura Burke (EPA) (from 12:30), Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from 10:00), Eoin Moran (Met Éireann), Prof. Yvonne Buckley, Prof. Morgan Bazilian, (from 14:55) Prof. Peter Thorne (except from to 11:00-12:00 and 16:00-17:00)

**Online:** Prof. Liam Delaney

**Apologies:** Patricia King

**Agenda Item 4:** Dave Linehan - Wind Energy Ireland, Ronan Power - Solar Ireland (online) and Bobby Smith, Energy Storage Ireland joined for this item.

**Agenda Item 11:** Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly, Aiken Communications joined for this item.

**Secretariat:** George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Meabh Gallagher, Stephen Flood, Ciara Hilliard, Claire Camilleri, Eleanor Mathews, Jodie Colgan, Marta Carrasco, Ben Macfarlane.

### 1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair welcomed Council members.

#### 1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025

The minutes were accepted.

#### Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.



## **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## **2. Adaptation Committee Update (09:35)**

Chair of the Adaptation Committee Prof. Peter Thorne, briefed Council members on the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held online, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November.

Meeting details included:

A review of the Adaptation scorecard is ongoing and would be expected to be presented to Council in 2026.

Further discussion over SAPs and a letter on same was presented to Council. The draft letter to Government on the importance of Sectoral Adaptation plans, climate adaptation and adaptation funding was further discussed. Council approved the letter, subject to final comments from Council and the Adaptation Committee.

The Secretariat proposed participation in a cross-country OECD report on behavioural change for adaptation. Council approved the funding of this project.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Adaptation Committee meeting would be on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2026.

## **3. Documents for Approval (09:40)**

Council member Liam Delaney presented a draft of the report of the Behavioural event held on November 4<sup>th</sup> in the Ashling Hotel for approval.

The document was approved for circulation to attendees and to publish on the Council's website. There was also further discussion as to how best to capitalise on the significant momentum of the event. Council support for an annual behavioural event was acknowledged pending the development of a more detailed proposal.

## **4. Thematic Session – Renewables Pipeline in Ireland (11:15)**

The Secretariat introduced the thematic session on the renewables pipeline in Ireland. Council noted the contents of the information sheet on the topic which had been previously circulated. The following guests then presented to Council:



- Dave Linehan, Head of Policy & Research, Wind Energy Ireland
- Ronan Power, CEO, Solar Ireland
- Bobby Smith, CEO, Energy Storage Ireland

This was followed by a round of questions to the presenters and discussion.

#### **5. Budget 2026 Assessment (09:50)**

The Secretariat presented a summary of elements of the 2026 Budget which pertain positively or negatively to climate action, emissions reductions and/or resilience. It was agreed that an overview of expenditure within Budget 2025 would be presented at the February Council meeting.

#### **6. Council Recommendations Tracker 2021-2025 (10:00)**

The Secretariat updated Council on the tracking of previous Council Recommendations including recommendations for strengthening future monitoring and influence. Council discussed potential approaches in this regard and agreed with the proposed developments set out in the discussion paper.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare draft text of a letter on the issue of transport policy and congestion in our major cities for the consideration of Council.

#### **7. Annual Review 2026 – Our Changing Climate and Electricity (14:30)**

The Secretariat presented a first look at the draft recommendations and priority areas in both mitigation and resilience elements of the Electricity Annual Review 2026.

The Secretariat presented a first look at the draft observations, both globally and nationally, of the Our Changing Climate chapter of the Annual Review 2026.

After discussion and feedback, it was agreed that the Secretariat would present further developed observations and recommendations for input at the February 2026 meeting.

#### **8. 2040 Factsheet and LULUCF Regulation Factsheet (15:30)**

The Secretariat presented the draft Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry Regulation (EU) 2023/839 Factsheet for discussion.

It was agreed that the factsheet should be published on the Council's website with minor amendment.

The Secretariat also presented the EU 2040 Climate Target Factsheet for discussion.



The Secretariat proposed that the next factsheet would be on the Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation which was transposed last year.

#### **9. Carbon Budgets Update (15:40)**

Council noted that there was no update received on the Carbon Budgets Proposal.

#### **10. Expenditure update (15:45)**

The Secretariat updated the Council on expenditure and to the end of 2025. Included was also the opening budget of 2026, which should be confirmed by the Department in mid-December.

Council noted the contents of the update.

#### **11. Comms Update and Upcoming Events (16:30)**

Chair of the Communications Subgroup, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, updated Council on the meeting of the 05.11.2025 and on upcoming events.

Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly of Aiken Communications joined the Council meeting to present the results of the recently conducted Public Opinion Survey and to present a review of the Communications Strategy.

Council noted that this was the last Council meeting within the term of the final extension to the Aiken contract as public relations and communication consultants to the Council and acknowledged the hard work and dedication shown by Aiken during their four years working with them.

#### **12. Work Programme Planning 2026 (15:55)**

The Secretariat presented the proposed Council Work Programme and Adaptation Committee Work Plan for 2026 incorporating the input of Council since the last meeting on the proposed research topics and thematic sessions. After discussion Council approved the Work Programme 2026.

#### **13. International Update (16:00)**

The Secretariat updated Council on recent ICCN activity at COP and the recent EEAC Assembly in Brussels and the APS.



The Secretariat updated Council on the Brussels Mission at the end of September including engagements with DG CLIMA and DG Energy, Ambassador Cáit Moran, Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union, members of the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union, Transport and Environment and a session with Michael McNamara, MEP and a representative for Maria Walsh, MEP.

The Secretariat also provided a round-up of the key outcomes of COP30.

#### **14. Activities of the Council (16:10)**

The Council noted the report of Council activities, with minor amendments.

#### **15. AOB and next meeting (16:15)**

- Contract finalisation under the 'Fill the Gap Analysis' framework is imminent.
- It was noted that the next Council meeting would be held in person on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 and would be held in person in the Radisson Blu, St. Helens, Stillorgan.

Signed on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie L. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'D'.