



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 13.02.2025

Start time: 10:30

Venue: MS Teams

Council: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Patricia King (to 16:45) , Jillian Mahon (to 15:50 and from 17:15), Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon, Prof. Peter Thorne, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from 11:15), Professor Yvonne Buckley, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Professor Edgar Morgenroth; Laura Burke (EPA) (from 11:40) , Prof. Morgan Bazilian (from 12:05).

Agenda Item 2: - Sinead Byrne from Allone Corporate Solutions Ltd. joined for this item.

Agenda Item 4: - Patricia Lentz (UCD) and Prof. Leonhard Lades (Stirling University) joined for this item.

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gina Kelly, Meabh Gallagher, Stephen Flood, Bryn Canniffe, Kieran Craven, Ciara Hilliard, Claire Camilleri, Ben MacFarlane, Marta Carrasco

1. Opening of Meeting (10:30)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and welcomed Ben MacFarlane and Marta Carrasco to the Secretariat.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 28th November 2024

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



- Peter Thorne declared that he has been selected as co-Lead Author on the IPCC Special Report on Cities. He also advised that he would recuse himself from Agenda Item 9 as he is involved in an associated EPA award.
- Eoin Moran declared that Met Eireann is being transferred to the Dept of Climate, Environment and Energy and would update Council further on any conflict that may arise due to this move if such conflicts become apparent.

2. FOI Briefing – Part B - Principles of FOI and AIE (10:35)

Sinead Byrne from Allone Corporate Solutions Ltd. briefed the Council in the second of a two-part series on FOI and AIE principles.

3. Adaptation Committee Update

The Secretariat briefed Council members on the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held on the 19th December 2024 and 23rd January 2025.

The Adaptation Committee's 2025 Workplan was approved.

The AR 2025 resilience publication 'Our Changing Climate' was submitted to the December meeting and amended in the January meeting. It was approved by the Committee for submission to Council as a final draft in the February Council meeting.

It was noted that the theme of the Adaptation Committee workshop in 2025 would be 'Navigating Uncertainty in Critical Infrastructure-focused Climate Adaptation Planning' and would take place on Tuesday, 8th April, at the Ashling Hotel.

The Council noted that ahead of the deadline for submission to Government by the end of September 2025, the Adaptation Committee has assigned Committee members to review and contribute to each of the Sectoral Adaptation Plans.

Council noted that a new member has joined the Adaptation Committee as the CCMA representative on the Mr. Sean McKeown, , Chief Executive of Waterford County Council.

The Committee approved a proposal from the Secretariat for undertaking the scorecard in 2025 and over the medium term.



A thematic session on adaptation investment was held during the January Adaptation Committee meeting including the OECD, the Central Bank of Ireland the Department of Taoiseach.

Teagasc presented the 'Farm Level Behavioural Change for Resilience' report.

The Adaptation Committee also provided comments on the draft risk register for the NCCRA, which was shared in December 2024.

Council were updated on the Adaptation Committee meeting which would be held in Galway and the Aran Islands from 27th-29th May.

4. Thematic Session Administrative Burdens to Climate Action (11:45)

The ABICAP team presented on their policy briefs on administrative burdens to climate action and the Secretariat presented an analysis paper on potential further administrative barriers.

Council discussed the project and gave significant feedback. They thanked the ABICAP team for this valuable and important work.

5. Preview of Thematic Session on Skills and Capacity (14:00)

The Secretariat gave an introduction to the upcoming Thematic Session on Skills and Capacity Council provided feedback for the Secretariat to incorporate into the draft of the paper.

Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss this further.

Based on feedback received from Council, the Secretariat will progress analysis and prepare a Council paper in advance of the April meeting.

6. Documents for approval (14:30)

Council discussed the report 'Compliance Costs associated with the ESR, RED III and LULUCF Regulation in collaboration with IFAC'. It was agreed that Council's feedback would be incorporated into the draft and approved it for publication, subject to some further changes through a peer review process. It was agreed that a final version would be circulated before publication for approval by silence procedure.



7. Legal Advice on the Planning and Development Act 2024 (14:40)

Secretariat updated Council on recent legal advice on the Planning Act 2024. Council noted the contents of the supporting documents provided.

8. Renewable Energy Directive Factsheet (14:45)

The Secretariat presented an overview of the Renewable Energy Directive for Council information and feedback was provided. It was agreed that this factsheet, and the previously provided factsheets on associated issues, should be disseminated to a wider audience, by uploading to the Council website.

9. Research Programme 2025 (15:00)

The Secretariat presented a revised plan further to discussion at November 2024 meeting. Council discussed and approved priority areas for commencement of research/policy briefs as part of the work programme for 2025. The Secretariat will engage with relevant stakeholders in the further scoping of each research topic.

10. Annual Review (15:35)

Council discussed the final draft of the 'Our Changing Climate Chapter'. It was agreed that additional text was required along with other minor amendments before final approval, so a further draft would circulate for approval by silence procedure.

The Secretariat presented draft recommendations for the electricity and transport chapters of the Annual Review. Council provided feedback on the recommendations which would be presented in draft chapters at future Council meetings. It was agreed that the Secretariat would upload an Excel ranking tool for the draft electricity and transport annual review recommendations to Sharepoint for Council feedback after the meeting.

11. Communications (17:05)

The Secretariat briefed Council members on the Communications subgroup meeting on the 28th of January 2025.

Items discussed:



- BTYSTE Exhibition, debrief on experience and plans for 2026
- Stakeholder Gap analysis
- Communications Activities in 2025 including in person event at the end of the 2025.

12. International Update (17:10)

- EEAC met to discuss Working Groups on Climate which will be attended
- ESAB have also published their 2025 workplan and will run a session on 25th February 2025.
- ICCN – Workplan for 2025 also circulated.

13. Budget 2025 Assessment – follow up expenditure (17:15)

The Secretariat presented a follow-up summary of the assessment of Budget 2025 which was previously presented in November 2024, with further details on relevant expenditure following the publication of;

- The Revised Estimates for Public Services 2025
- DPENDR's assessment of Climate and Environmental Expenditure in Budget 2025

Council noted the contents of the submitted supporting papers.

14. Activities of the Council (17:20)

- The Secretariat presented a report providing a summary of Horizon Scanning events in 2024.
- Council also noted the report outlining the provisional schedule of events for the 2025 Horizon Scanning Programme.
- The Secretariat presented the close out of the Council's expenditure in 2024 and planned activities for 2025. Council approved the approach to planned expenditure for 2025.
- The Council noted the report of Council activities.

15. AOB and next meeting (17:40)

- It was noted that the next Council meeting would be held in the Talbot Hotel in



Stillorgan on 10th April 2025.

- DAFM will be hosting the a key national conference called 'Agriculture and Climate Change Conference' on June 5th in Dublin Castle which would clash with the June Council meeting.
- Julie Sinnamon advised that she will be stepping down from the Council after the April meeting due to other commitments.

Signed on 10.04.2025

Marie E. Donnelly