



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 25.09.2025

Start time: 09:30

Venue: Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan and MS Teams

In Person: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Patricia King, Jillian Mahon (to 15:20), Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Professor Edgar Morgenroth, Laura Burke (EPA)(to 15:10), Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (to 15:50), Prof. Liam Delaney, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann), Prof. Yvonne Buckley,

Online: Prof. Morgan Bazilian (from 14:30 to 14:50)

Agenda Items 6: Gillian Naughton Murphy, Department of Finance Climate Unit and John Harrington, Investment Director, ISIF Climate Team, joined for this item

Agenda Item 7: Lisa Johnson (Ecodiversity) joined for these items

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Meabh Gallagher, Stephen Flood, Bryn Canniffe, Ciara Hilliard, Claire Camilleri, Eleanor Mathews.

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair welcomed Council members.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 10th July 2025

The minutes were accepted with no amendments.

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

Prof. Peter Thorne declared that he has been selected as Review Editor for Working Group 1 of the IPCC.

Prof. Yvonne Buckley & Prof. Peter Thorne are members of the Climate + Co-Centre that is undertaking a contract with NPWS to provide technical support for the National Restoration Plan.

Eoin Moran declared that he is on the Management Board of DCEE.

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, in person, on the 11th of September in the National Emergency Co-ordination Centre, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin.

Meeting details included a discussion on the Sectoral Adaptation Plan reviews.

It was agreed that Council would draft a letter to Government on the importance of Sectoral Adaptation plans, climate adaptation and adaptation funding which would be circulated to the Adaptation Committee for discussion at the November meeting with a view to Council approval and circulation in December.

Council accepted the proposed changes to the Adaptation Committee Terms of Reference including an amendment to increase membership from 14 to 15.

The Secretariat also outlined the proposal for a Damage Register Scoping Study. It was agreed to explore the potential to broaden Council funding to €100,000 in 2026 and to explore opportunities to work with research partners to deepen the value of the outcome of the project.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Adaptation Committee meeting would be on the 6th of November 2025.

3. Review of meeting with Minister (10:45)

The Chair provided a review of the meeting with Minister Darragh O'Brien which took place on 12th of September.



4. Documents for Approval (10:55)

Council discussed the following, previously circulated paper:

- Energy Performance of Buildings Directive Factsheet

The document was approved for publication on the Council's website, with minor amendments regarding deadlines for solar readiness and solar pv installations in new and existing buildings.

5. Thematic Session Preview (10:30)

The Secretariat presented an overview on the topic of the renewables pipeline for discussion, including sources to inform a future session and the approach to preparing a paper for the discussion.

Based on feedback received from Council, the Secretariat will progress analysis and make preparations for the December meeting as advised.

6. Sustainable Finance Thematic Session (11:20)

The Secretariat introduced the thematic session on Sustainable Finance and Council noted the contents of the information sheet on the topic which had been previously circulated.

Gillian Naughton Murphy, Department of Finance Climate Unit and John Harrington, Investment Director, ISIF Climate Team, presented to Council. These were followed by a round of questions to the presenters and discussion.

7. Annual Review 2025 – Biodiversity and Cross Sectoral Reviews (14:35)

The Secretariat presented the Biodiversity sectoral review and the Summary for All, including key recommendations. Council approved the document for publication subject to incorporation of final comments from Council.

The Secretariat presented the Cross sectoral review and the Summary for All, including key recommendations, subject to final comments from Council. Council approved the documents for publication subject to the incorporation of final comments from Council which would be submitted after the meeting.



8. Carbon Budgets Update (13:40)

The Secretariat updated Council on the current status of the Council's Carbon Budgets Proposal including the recent interactions with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy.

9. Work Programme Planning 2026 (15:30)

Council noted the proposed Council Work Programme and Adaptation Committee Work Plan for 2026. Council agreed to provide feedback on the proposed research topics and thematic sessions as outlined in advance of the December meeting when these documents will be finalised.

10. Communications Update and Upcoming events (15:50)

Chair of the Communications subgroup Dr. Cara Augustenborg updated Council on the Communications Subgroup meeting on the 16th of September 2025 and with an update on upcoming events including the jointly sponsored Met Éireann and Climate Change Advisory Council Climate Award at the Young Scientist Exhibition 2026.

11. Expenditure Update and RB2 (16:00)

Council noted the contents of the update on 2025 expenditure to date and amendments to the Revised Budget 2025.

12. International Update (16:05)

The Secretariat updated Council on plans for the Council visit to Brussels to coincide with the EEAC Assembly at the end of September including engagements with DG Clima and DG Energy.

It was noted that the Council Secretariat have accepted an invitation to mentor the Maltese Climate Action Authority.

The EU proposal for a 2040 climate target and ongoing deliberations at EU Council were discussed noting the recent EU letter of intent to submit a target for 2035 ahead COP30 in the range of 66.2-72.5% which is intended to be informed by the agreed 2040 target.



13. Activities of the Council (16:20)

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

14. AOB and next meeting (17:00)

- Council noted peak shaving and load reduction study by ESBN.
- Council discussed a Solar PV Horizon scanning event.
- Council noted the Horizon Scanning behavioural event on 4th November in the Ashling Hotel with Lorraine Whitmarsh as keynote speaker.
- Horizon Scanning event with Gas Networks Ireland will take place on the 19th of November.
- It was noted that the next Council meeting would be held in person on the 10th of December 2025.

Signed on 10th December 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie L. Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Marie" on the top line and "L. Donnelly" on the bottom line.