



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting – MINUTES

Date: 22 and 23.04.26

Start time: 14:00

Venue: Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny and MS Teams

In Person: Alex White (Chair), Jillian Mahon, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Professor Edgar Morgenroth, Dr. Eimear Cotter, Prof. Yvonne Buckley, Prof. Liam Delaney, Prof. Frank O'Mara (Day 1 to 16:00, Day 2 from 09:40) (Teagasc), Prof. Peter Thorne, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann), (Margie McCarthy SEAI Observer to 16:00 Day 1 and all Day 2)

Apologies: Prof. Morgan Bazilian

Agenda Item 3: Dr. Karl Richards and Dr. Kevin Hanrahan (online) from Teagasc joined for this item.

Agenda Item 4: Lisa Johnson from Ecodiversity, joined for this item.

Agenda Item 5: Martin Hession (DG Clima) joined for this item.

Agenda Item 9: Vance Culbert; Nhat Do – COFFIS, Jacquie Kirrane; Clare O'Hara; Rosin Byrne; Deirdre Mahony – CSO, Çağaçan Değer - ESRI; Stacy Wrenn & Megan Skelly – DCEE & David Owens – Dept. of Finance all joined (online) for this item.

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

Day 1

1. Opening of Meeting (14:00)

The Chair welcomed Council members and congratulated Dr. Eimear Cotter on her recent appointment as EPA Director General. The Chair also welcomed the reappointment of Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Prof. Peter Thorne and Jillian Mahon to the Council.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 19th February 2026.

The minutes were accepted and signed by Prof. Thorne.

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 (14:15)

Chair of the Adaptation Committee Prof. Peter Thorne, briefed Council members on the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meeting held on 26th of March 2026.

Meeting details included:

- a. The draft resilience-related recommendations for the Annual Review on Electricity were presented for comment and the initial Built Environment and Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use recommendations were also presented for comment.
- b. The Adaptation Committee discussed options to advance flood response policy, as outlined at previous Council meetings, and recommended a strong focus on this issue in the 2026 Annual Review on Adaptation. It was also recommended that the Secretariat undertake consultations with relevant Committee representatives to inform the evidence base for new recommendations on this matter.
- c. Presentation of research on spatial vulnerability in a climate context by Dr. Walther Cámara, UCC.
- d. A Factsheet on EU Nature Restoration Regulation was presented for comment.
- e. It was noted that Council agreed to rename the Scorecard and that a working group had been established to progress the newly named Review of the Adaptation Action Assessment
- f. The next meeting of the Adaptation Committee would be 6-8 May in Kerry, and details for this trip were outlined.

3. Teagasc presentation of ESAB Agriculture and Land Use Report (14:30)

In March the European Scientific Advisory Board published the Agriculture and Land Use Report on adaptation and mitigation within the AFOLU sector consistent with EU climate objectives.

Karl Richards and Kevin Hanrahan, Teagasc, joined the meeting and presented an overview of the findings of the report.

4. Annual Review 2026 (Day 1 15:30 – 17:00 and Day 2 11:20)

The Secretariat presented a draft of the Electricity sectoral review.

It was agreed that a final version of the document would be made available following the meeting and would be approved by silence procedure.

Council discussed the draft Transport Sectoral Review and provided feedback to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will circulate a final draft version of documents to Council for red line issues only and for approval by silence procedure.

A draft of the Transport Recommendations for 2026 were discussed for ranking.

It was noted that an amended Recommendations Ranking tool would be made available to Council following the meeting.

A first draft of possible Built Environment recommendations for 2026 were presented and discussed.

A first draft of possible Agriculture and Land Use recommendations for 2026 were presented and discussed.

5. Paris Agreement Article 6 (17:05)

Martin Hession, European Commission Negotiator on International Carbon Markets (DG CLIMA), gave a brief overview of the history of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and a longer perspective on its future and, in particular, how it will be relevant to the EU and Member States efforts during the 2031-2040 period.

DAY 2

6. Reopening of meeting (09:05)

No points of note.

7. Documents for Approval (09:10)

The Secretariat presented two documents for Council consideration.

The Report on managing coastal risks in Ireland was commissioned by the Council. This report was also presented to the Inter-Department Group (IDG) for Coastal Change Management. on 25th March. Comments were received from IDG representatives from the Department of Finance, Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, Department of Transport, County and City Management Association, Office of Public Works, and Geological Survey Ireland.

Council approved the report for publication on the Council website.

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation Factsheet gives a brief overview of key aspects of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and highlights the key articles under the Regulation Ireland will need to consider. Council approved the factsheet for publication on the Council website.

8. Carbon Budgets Update (09:15)

Council were updated on upcoming engagements with the Department.

9. Thematic Session– Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (09:45)

Council noted the background information provided on the current status of fossil fuel subsidies in Ireland which summarised a range of recent work on the topic from various sources. The Council also heard presentations from a number of domestic and international experts on this topic. Speakers were:

Vance Culbert;- COFFIS,

Rosin Byrne; – CSO,

Çağaçan Değer - ESRI;

Stacy Wrenn & Megan Skelly – DCEE

David Owens – Dept. of Finance

10. Topical Issues (12:00)

The Secretariat presented various topical issues for information and discussion.

In discussion of the Critical Infrastructure Bill, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Minister to clarify issues that arise.

11. Governance (09:30)

The Council presented legal advice on the Operational Guidance Document of the Council to incorporate new requirements under the Ethics Acts. Council discussed the issue and the proposed changes to the guidance were adopted.

A budget update was provided and noted.

12. International Update (13:00)

The Secretariat updated Council on recent ICCN, EEAC and ESAB activities and their work programmes for 2026.

Council also discussed attendance at COP 31 in Turkey in November 2026.

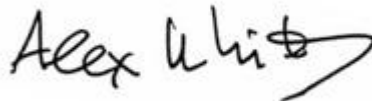
13. Council Activities (13:10)

The Council noted the report of Council activities.

14. Next meeting and close (17:25)

It was noted that the next Council meeting would be held on MS Teams on the 28th of May 2026.

Signed on 28.05.2026:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex White", with a stylized flourish at the end.