



**Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting – DRAFT  
MINUTES**

**Date:** 25.11.2021

**Start time:** 9.00

**Venue:** Video conference

**Present:** Marie Donnelly, Chair; Mark Adamson, OPW; Prof. Frank O'Mara, Teagasc; Prof. Robert Devoy, UCC; Paddy Mahon, CCMA; Dr. Ina Kelly, HSE; Keith Lambkin, Met Éireann; Prof. Conor Murphy, Maynooth University.

**Apologies:** Prof. John FitzGerald; Laura Burke, EPA; William Walsh, SEAI.

**Secretariat:** Seán O'Leary, George Hussey, Gemma O'Reilly, Dorothy Maguire, Ciara Hilliard, Therese Myslinski, Laura Marenco.

**In Attendance:** Kelly de Bruin, Loïc Henry, ESRI; Justina Corcoran, Kevin McCormick, DECC (for item 5).

## **CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL – ADAPTATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**25.11.2021**

### **1. Opening of Meeting and Introductions**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present, and particularly new members of the Secretariat for whom this was their first meeting, and Advisory Council/ESRI Adaptation Fellow Dr. Loïc Henry and his supervisor Dr. Kelly de Bruin who were in attendance.

### **1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting**

**29.07.2021**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 29th July 2021 were agreed and signed electronically by the Chair.

### **1.2 Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

### **1.3 Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures to report.

## **2. Council Update**

The Chair provided an update from the Council meetings of the 02.09.21, 22.09.21, 14.10.21, 25.10.21 and 18.11.21, noting that following the commencement of the Climate Amendment Act the 14 members of the Council were now in place. The Committee were told that the Council had signed off on, and sent to the Minister, its recommendation for carbon budgets on the 25<sup>th</sup> October, and that a discussion with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action regarding the carbon budgets was scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> December.

The Chair stated that the Council's Annual Review was being finalised and that it would be submitted to the Minister in line with the legislation ahead of being published in December.

The Committee was also told that the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications joined the Council during its last meeting, and that the issue of Adaptation was raised with him amongst other matters.

### **3. Climate Adaptation Fellowship**

Loïc Henry and Kelly de Bruin (ESRI) presented an update on the fellowship "An Economic Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Options in Ireland" which the Council is funding in the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). This project focusses on quantifying the initial climate change impacts and adaptation costs and benefits for Ireland applying Ireland's National Adaptation Framework in combination with existing literature and novel analyses. These estimates will also be used to implement climate change impacts and adaptation into the ESRI's Ireland Environment, Energy and Economy (I3E) economic model.

Following the update, the Committee discussed issues of uncertainty in modelling and where inputs for the model would come from, as well as how health would be taken into account. Offers of assistance where required were put forward by Teagasc.

### **4. Coastal Workshop Review**

A report summarising the coastal adaptation workshop organised by the Committee in September was introduced by Prof. Devoy. It was described as an excellent output which should be circulated to Council for consideration, along with recommendations for further attention on coastal adaptation issues. The importance of coastal Nature-based Adaptation was reiterated, as well as the need for community level activation and support.

It was stated that it must be recommended to government that coasts be taken more seriously within national adaptation and socioeconomic planning, as they affect such a large proportion of the Irish population and the country's infrastructure.

The summary report will be presented to Council recommending that it be published on the website and that the Adaptation Committee continue to engage on coastal adaptation issues in the coming year.

Also, the Chair congratulated Prof. Robert Devoy on 'The Coastal Atlas of Ireland', which he co-edited, winning Best Irish Published Book of the Year at the recent An Post Irish Book Awards.

### **5. Engagement with Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications**

Justina Corcoran, Principal Officer, and Kevin McCormick, Assistant Principal Officer, in the Adaptation Division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications met

with the Committee to discuss developments in adaptation policy, including preparations for the next National Adaptation Framework (NAF).

Under the Act the Minister shall review the NAF not less than once in every period of 5 years. The current NAF was completed in 2017 and launched in January 2018. S.11(1)(a) of the Climate Act states that a function of the Council shall be to advise and make recommendations to the Minister in relation to the preparation of the NAF. S.11(1)(c) states that a function of the Council shall be to advise and make recommendations to the Government in relation to the approval of a NAF.

It was noted that the Committee and Council now have the experience of providing advice on sectoral adaptation plans, the results of several Annual Reviews and other work such as workshops and small-scale studies which may inform its advice and recommendations. However, the breadth and depth of the Council's response hinges on the Department's timelines and what their plans for a review of the NAF entails and how it expects to engage with the Council in fulfilling the legislation.

It was stated that the Department would welcome early structured engagement from the Committee on the review of the National Adaptation Framework. A document is being prepared by the Department which will be circulated to all stakeholders in due course, following which an initial public consultation will be due to take place towards the end of Q1 of 2022. The Chair agreed that it would be beneficial for the Committee and the Department to cooperate as much as possible on the review.

On other adaptation policy matters, the degree to which adaptation is taken into consideration within the Climate Action Plan 2021 was discussed. Ms Corcoran stated that adaptation was far more mainstreamed throughout the plan than it had been in the Climate Action Plan 2019, and that this was as a result of working closely with each sector to obtain concrete objectives to be delivered on in the coming year. The Chair stated that Council had had a first look at the 2021 Climate Action Plan, but that it would need to see the Annex of Actions in order to review it in greater detail.

The matter of whether the Committee and the Department could work together on a future national risk assessment was discussed. The Chair emphasised the importance of not duplicating adaptation research efforts.

The Committee suggested that there remains further need for coordination between local authorities and across departments, as well as a further need to take citizen engagement into account.

Indicators were also discussed, and, while the likelihood of further EU specification of adaptation indicators was acknowledged, it was also stated that progress needs to be made on indicators with or without further EU guidance, not least because what works best varies depending on the national context.

Following the engagement, the Committee requested that written outputs be shared by the Department as a matter of course on the occasion of any future briefing to the Committee.

## **6. Development of Statement of Strategy**

The Committee were informed that the Council will be preparing a Statement of Strategy for its term. Mazars have been appointed to provide strategy planning, development and co-ordination advice. Mazars presented the process for developing a strategy and it was agreed that Mazars would meet with the Committee as part of the process in order to discuss the Committee's views.

The 15<sup>th</sup> December was proposed as a date for a consultation workshop with Committee members.

## **7. AOB, Agreed Outcomes and Plans for the Next Meeting**

An update was given to the Committee regarding the three Small Scale Studies (Decision Making Under Uncertainty; Implementation of Nature-based Adaptation; Household Level Adaptation) which were prioritised for the year. The Secretariat proposed circulating their outputs as soon as the final papers were available. These will input into future Committee and Council deliberations.

It was agreed that the researchers be invited to present their work at the Committee's next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, following which the outputs could be made available to the Council and subsequently made available on the Council website.