



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 27.10.2022

Start time: 13:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Professor John Fitzgerald, Laura Burke (EPA) to 14:00, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann) from 15:30; Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon; Jillian Mahon, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc); Sineád O'Brien, Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian, Prof Peter Thorne,

Item 3: Niall McLoughlin & Albert Jordan – DECC, joined for this item.

Item 7: Mary Frances Rochford & Conor Quinlan – EPA, joined for this item.

Item 7 & 8: Shane Finnegan and Seamus Donnelly – Aiken Communications, joined for these items.

Apologies. Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer, William Walsh (Observer)

Secretariat: George Hussey; Phillip O'Brien; Gemma O'Reilly; Meabh Gallagher; Claire Camilleri; Gina Kelly; Ciara Hilliard; Jodie Colgan; Stephen Flood; Syed Faiz ul Islam; Eleanor Matthews.

1. Opening of Meeting (13:30)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 27.10.2022

The minutes were accepted with one minor amendment.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

2. Items for formal agreement (13:35)

Adaptation Committee Terms of Reference

Council noted that the revised Adaptation Committee Terms of Reference had been amended to be consistent with Council's Operational Guidance. Council adopted the Terms of Reference.

Work programme expenditure approvals

Council noted and approved the update of the work programme of activities and proposed budgetary spend for the remainder of 2022. While approval was granted, Council encouraged engagement with other agencies to ensure that any research outcomes arising supplement rather than duplicate existing work streams.

It was further noted that a work programme for 2023 expenditure would be provided at the December meeting.

3. DECC – Fit for 55 (13:51)

Niall McLoughlin and Albert Jordan attended for this item to provide an update on the progress at EU level on the EU 'Fit for 55' package. Members were invited to submit any follow up questions for DECC through the Secretariat.

4. Carbon Budgets (14:42)

The Secretariat presented a draft Carbon Budgets Working Group Terms of Reference. It was agreed that Council members should submit any comments they had on the Carbon Budgets Working Group Terms of Reference and an updated document will be submitted for approval in December.

The Secretariat also updated Council on the outcomes of the Carbon Budget Workshop and proposed the next steps to be taken following the workshop. The Secretariat will follow up with an outcome report which will be published on the Council website, along with the workshop presentations. Council congratulated Meabh Gallagher and Gina Kelly on a well organised and engaging event.

Council discussed concerns around modelling capacity and funding for the upcoming programme of carbon budgets. It was agreed that the Secretariat would explore avenues to assist with the current issues in terms of short-term funding if it can be of assistance.

A methodology and work plan along with a proposal for membership of the Carbon Budgets Working Group will be presented to Council in December and it was agreed that the Secretariat will chair the Working Group and provide routine updates on the progress of the Working Group once established.

5. Fiscal Budget Update (15:00)

The Council discussed provisions within the recent national budget announcement that have direct or potential indirect impacts on climate action.

The Council discussed areas for improvement and identified the need for further equity in the budget in promoting a just transition.

There was a recommendation for further work to examine and determine the climate impact of some expenditures.

6. Council Thematic Programme (15:40)

An updated draft proposal on the thematic programme of Council meetings was presented for discussion, reflecting inputs received from Council members.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would initiate a horizon scanning programme which may include a series of internal meetings and/or small scale webinars with experts. Updates on this programme will be provided to Council. These may inform the topics to be considered in future inputs from Council members.

Council approved the proposal for the next twelve months without amendments.

Council noted that there would be a thematic discussion on hydrogen at the December Council meeting. Based on feedback received from Council, the Secretariat would progress analysis, engage with DECC and prepare a Council paper for the December meeting.

7. Climate Change in the Irish Mind (16:05)

Mary Frances Rochford and Conor Quinlan from the EPA, Office of Environmental Sustainability presented on the Yale/EPA project 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind' including the highlights of the 2022 segmentation report.

Council welcomed this important research and asked to continue to be included in the dissemination of future results.

8. Draft Communications Strategy and subgroup update (16:30)

The Chair of the Communications subgroup updated the Council on the work of the subgroup and briefly introduced the draft Communication Strategy. It was noted that the final Communications Strategy would be presented for adoption at the December meeting.

Council confirmed its agreement for Secretariat members to engage in external communication activities, where appropriate and with approval by the Chair.

9. International Developments (16:45)

Updates were provided as follows:

- **COP27 Preparations**

It was noted that Marie Donnelly, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, George Hussey and Claire Camilleri will attend COP27 and that both Marie Donnelly and Dr. Augustenborg will have formal engagements representing Council, during that time.

- **International Climate Councils Network meeting updates**

It was noted that an ICCN letter to COP27 had been signed by the Chair and returned to ICCN.

- **European Scientific Advisory Board on Climate Change (ESAB) - National Climate Advisory Bodies meeting**

It was noted that Claire Camilleri attended the ESAB event in person and Marie Donnelly and George Hussey attended virtually. The Secretariat outlined the discussions at the meeting and the proposed direction of the work programme of the ESAB.

10. Chair's Report of Council Activities (17:00)

The Council noted the report of Council activities. Two minor corrections were noted.

11. AOB (17:05)

- **MoU Update from the Climate Change Advisory Council and all relevant Government Departments and Agencies**

The MoU has been signed by the Chair and returned to the Department of the Taoiseach. It will be published on the Council website once the Department have finalised all signatures.

- **Annual Review updates**

It was noted that the Secretariat have made final amendments to the Annual Review which have been returned to the designer for finalisation. The final updated document will replace the current document on the website.

- **SEAI request**

It was noted that a request had been received by the SEAI to share the results of the recently conducted CCAC Public Opinion Survey with the SEAI board. Council granted this request.

- **Next meeting**

It was noted that the next Council meeting will be on 15th of December and will be a hybrid event with the in-person element being kindly hosted by the SEAI in their offices on Hatch Street, Dublin.

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 a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Signed electronically on 15th December 2022