

1. Opening of Meeting

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting – DRAFT MINUTES	
Date:	26 th April 2017
Start time:	09:00
Venue:	SEAI, Wilton Park House, Wilton Place, Dublin 2
Present:	Prof. John FitzGerald (Chair), Prof. Alan Matthews, Joseph Curtin, Laura Burke, Prof. Gerry Boyle, Prof. Anna Davies, Jim Gannon, Prof. Alan Barrett, Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer
Apologies:	Prof. Peter Clinch, Prof. Frank Convery
Secretariat:	Dr. Frank McGovern, Dr. Róisín Moriarty, Gemma O'Reilly, Phillip O'Brien, Claire Camilleri
Presenters:	Stephen Treacy and Brian Quirke, EPA. William Beausang, Patricia Coleman, Annette Connolly, Brendan Ellison, Mary Austin, John Howlin, Georgina Hughes-Elders Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. Niall Cussen and Paul Hogan, Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. Frank Maughan, Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 22nd February 2017

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 22nd February 2017 were adopted and signed by the chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

The Chair outlined his recent meetings with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment regarding the National Mitigation Plan, along with various media interviews. Correspondence between the Council, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment along with the relevant sectors was also discussed. The Chair also reported his meeting with the CEO of the National Transport Authority.

2. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projection Update

Stephen Treacy and Brian Quirke from the EPA outlined the most recent greenhouse gas emission projection update. Key points from the presentation detailed that Ireland's non-ETS sector emissions are projected to be 4 – 6 per cent below 2005

levels by 2020. Overachievement of annual limits in 2013-2015 is not sufficient to allow Ireland meet its obligations to 2020, and Ireland is projected to exceed binding annual limits in 2016. The presentation also highlighted the dominance of agriculture and transport in non-ETS emissions to 2020, and the projected increase in energy demand. A short discussion followed and the Council thanked the presenters for their time.

3. Department of Public Expenditure and Reform

A discussion with representatives from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regarding the role of the Department, particularly in regards to how the public spend is prioritised and how climate change is considered during this process. The Council and the Department also discussed the discount rate and the consistency in the application of the price of carbon used in planning public expenditure – in particular in the public expenditure code. The Council noted the public consultation on the Mid-Term Review of the Capital Plan, and that this would be discussed by the Council later in the meeting. The Council thanked the officials from the Department for attending the meeting.

4. Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

The Council and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government discussed the draft National Planning Framework. Topics including spatial planning, utility connectivity and rural development were discussed. The Council identified that the draft National Planning Framework considered climate change issues quite well, and thanked the representatives for their time.

5. Draft National Mitigation Plan

The Secretariat provided feedback from the sectoral engagement meetings held with the Transport, Agriculture and Forestry and Electricity Generation sectors regarding the Draft National Mitigation Plan.

The Council discussed the Draft National Mitigation Plan that was released in March. The Council noted its progression since the Briefing Document. The Council discussed the concept of the plan being a 'living' document, and the necessity for the governance arrangements of the Draft National Mitigation Plan to be clarified. The Council considered the sectoral mitigation plans, and agreed to provide feedback on the Draft National Mitigation Plan to the sectors and to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

6. Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

Frank Maughan from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment discussed with the Council the process of finalising the National Mitigation Plan. The Council highlighted their concern regarding the governance arrangements of the National Mitigation Plan, and the lack of consistency in utilising common scenarios. The necessity of behaviour change to influence the impacts of climate change was also noted. The Council communicated its approach to provide feedback on the Draft National Mitigation plan, and thanked Mr. Maughan for his attendance.

7. Periodic Review Report

An updated draft of the Periodic Review Report was presented for discussion. The Council considered the structure of the report and it was agreed that an updated draft would be issued to the Council at the end of May.

8. Annual Review Report

A short update on the Annual Review Report was provided. The Council agreed that further work would be done in the coming months to advance the report.

9. Consultations

The Council considered the consultation on the National Clean Air Strategy, agreed that the development of strategy and the renewed focus on improving air quality to be an important step forward for Ireland. The Council decided to write a short letter providing feedback on the strategy.

The Council also discussed the Mid-Term Review of the Capital Plan, and acknowledged the consideration of climate and energy goals in the public consultation document. The Council agreed that the Plan should aim to provide clear signals on the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, including an effective carbon price. The Council concluded that it would provide feedback on the consultation to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

10. Council Administration

The Council adopted a revised Operational Guidance Document to reflect the evolution of the Council procedures.



A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by the date "6/9/2017" written in a similar cursive style.

