



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 13 & 14.07.2022

Start time: 09:00

Venue: Conference Room, EPA, Johnstown Castle, Wexford and on MS Teams

Present: Marie Donnelly (Chair); Professor John Fitzgerald; Laura Burke (EPA), Day 1 for all items except first half of Agenda Item 4 (OECD); Patricia King (to Agenda Item 8), Andrew Murphy (left at 13:00 and returned for AR discussion part 2 at 16:24), Prof. Peter Thorne, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon (left Day 1 at 15:30 rejoined at 17:35); Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian, Jillian Mahon, Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from Agenda Item 4 Day 1); Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer (from 10:15 on Day 2).

Sharon Finnegan (EPA) attended as an observer on Day 2.

Shane Finnegan (Aiken Communications) joined the meeting for Agenda Items 6 and 7 on Day 2.

Apologies: Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer for Day 1, Sineád O'Brien, Laura Burke for 14th July; William Walsh (Observer).

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Meabh Gallagher, Gina Kelly, Laura Marenco, Ciara Hilliard.

Day 1

1. Opening of Meeting (10:40)

The Chair congratulated Eoin Moran on his appointment as chairman of Europe's Meteorological Satellite Agency, for a two-year term.

The Chair noted that it would be the last Council meeting for Secretariat intern, Laura Marenco, and thanked her for her contribution.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 13 & 14.07.2022

The minutes were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes

- Meeting of 26 May 2022 Agenda item 4 – CCAC Operational Guidance

Council noted that the legal advice on the CCAC Operational Guidance had been returned and noted the minor amendments to the final document as a result. It was agreed that the final document would be circulated to Council by email and that each member would need to return their acknowledgement and understanding of the document.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council with some restructuring to the timings of the agenda to facilitate more in depth AR discussions.

This included:

- taking Agenda item 4 before Item 3.
- Deferring Day 2 Item 3 (Joint CCAC, NI & UK CCC workshop) to September meeting
- Deferring Day 2 Agenda Item 6. (Yale study) to a future meeting and moving Day 1 Item 6 (EPA GHG emissions projections) into its place.

Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures of interest.

Council noted the legal advice regarding disclosures of interest within the Operational Guidance.

It was noted that Prof. Peter Thorne and Laura Burke have both been invited to join the Central Bank Climate Risk and Sustainable Finance Forum ("Climate Forum").

2. Annual Review 2022 (10.40 and post OECD discussions from 12:00)

The Secretariat gave a presentation of each section of the final draft of the Annual Review.

Council extensively discussed the draft document. A revised structure of the summary pages for each sector was agreed, to include key observations and key recommendations.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would make revisions overnight and bring new drafts to Council on the morning of Day 2 of the meeting.

Prof. Peter Thorne explained the rationale and proposed timing of making the Council's submission to the Review of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) review in July, in advance of the publication of the Annual Review. This timing was agreed and the content would also be published as part of the Annual Review.

3. OECD – The Well-being Lens applied to Irish Transport (11:09)

The Secretariat presented the draft report “*Redesigning Transport: Towards transport systems that work for Irish people and the planet*” for discussion.

Members outlined concerns with regard to the presentation of some elements of the draft report which the Secretariat agreed to forward to the OECD. It was agreed that the updated report would be presented again at the September meeting.

A ‘Save the Date’ invitation would be issued for the OECD report launch event on 5th October in the following weeks.

4. Tour of Teagasc research projects (14:00-15:40)

Council were brought on a tour of the Teagasc research facility to see:

1. Carbon observatory & Multispecies swards
2. Compound fertiliser emission factor trial & effect of peat rewetting on soil Carbon emissions

5. EEAC letter on sustainable food systems (15.40)

Council considered a request by the EEAC that member Councils consider endorsing the EEAC advice to the EU Commission on a Framework Law for a Sustainable Food System informed by EEAC analysis.

It was agreed that Council would not endorse the draft EEAC letter. The Secretariat would communicate constructive advice and concerns to the EEAC related to the process adopted to develop the paper.

Council also agreed that NESC should be invited to come in to present to a future Council meeting on their areas of work.

6. Calendar 2022/2023 (15:45)

The Secretariat presented a proposal for discussion in relation to future meetings.

Council approved this proposal with the following amendments:

- A correction of dates in error in 2024 calendar
- That the original date of the 27th October 2022 would be maintained.

Update on Sectoral Engagement

The Secretariat provided an oral update on recent sectoral engagement.

It was agreed that Council would consider engaging with other finance agencies and industry within the sectoral engagement meetings.

DAY 2

1. Annual Review 2022 (9:10)

Council continued their discussions of the Annual Review and were presented with a revised version of the key messages and recommendations incorporating comments from Day 1 of the meeting.

The redraft of Chapter 4 of the document was re-presented to Council and was approved as a submission to the Review of the National Adaptation Framework.

It was agreed that a revised version of the draft Annual Review would be circulated to Council in the following weeks for further comment and that a further 'red line comments only' version would issue a few days later for decision by the Chair.

Council discussed issues surrounding the launch of the report.

2. Proposed next steps for the second programme of Carbon Budgets (12:25)

The Secretariat presented an update on research capacity requirements, feedback interviews with Council and Carbon Budget Committee members, international engagement and a modelling workshop to support the second programme of Carbon Budgets.

Council agreed to send a letter to DECC outlining Council modelling capacity requirements for potential inclusion in their RFTs and contracts.

Secretariat also outlined a proposal on a carbon budgets modelling workshop which included a draft agenda for Council consideration. Council agreed to this approach.

Prof. Peter Thorne questioned the governance elements of any proposed new Carbon Budgets Committee. It was agreed that the Council would wait for the upcoming report on the Carbon Budget process before determining next steps on engaging expertise for future carbon budgets.

Council discussed the logistical elements of the workshop and agreed that it would be an exclusively online event.

3. Adaptation Committee meeting update (12:10)

Prof. Peter Thorne, chair of the Adaptation Committee, updated on the Committee's last meeting of 23rd June.

The Committee's work on the Adaptation chapters and scorecard of the Annual Review were noted.

The Committee discussed the proposed adaptation workshop on resilience of energy infrastructure. Council noted that the Committee would need to be appraised of the subsequent Council discussion that the workshop should be deferred.

In relation to the item on a proposed electricity workshop, which was deferred until the September Council meeting, it was agreed that the Shared Island Unit in Dept of An Taoiseach should be approached to assist with this engagement should a workshop on electricity with the UK CCC and NI progress further.

Eoin Moran discussed 'Translate' and the national framework for climate services - implementing and guiding climate services in the country. Prof. Peter Thorne noted that the Committee would be happy to hear from these groups.

4. Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections (13:30)

Stephen Treacy, EPA, presented the latest greenhouse gas emission projections to Council, including implications for carbon budgets and the National Climate Objective.

5. Chair's Report of Council Activities (14:40)

The Council noted the report of Council activities and the submission received from Stop Climate Chaos since the circulation of papers. It was agreed that a response should be drafted to this submission and would be signed off by the Chair.

6. Communications Update (14:45)

Shane Finnegan, Aiken Communications joined in person for this item.

The Chair of the Communications subgroup, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, gave an update on the current work on the Communications strategy, including the Communications calendar of events over the next 12 months and the Terms of Reference of the subgroup which was circulated at the meeting and approved by Council.

Shane Finnegan outlined the proposed public communications approach to the launch of Annual Review 2022.

Council members volunteered to be spokespeople as follows:

- Prof. Peter Thorne – Adaptation
- Dr. Cara Augustenborg – Agriculture

7. AOB and next meeting (15.25)

- It was noted that the Revised Budget 2 submission may be required to be submitted to EPA before next meeting but it would be circulated to Council by Secretariat before that time if required.
- Eoin Moran informed Council that Irish Aid announced funding that would enable the work of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) which would support developing countries in preparing for climate change impacts.
- It was noted that the next Council meeting will be a virtual meeting on the 15th of September.
- It was noted that Sinead Walsh from DFA would engage with Council at October meeting.

The next meeting will be held virtually on 15th September 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marie L. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'D'.

signed electronically on 15.09.2022