

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date:

31st August 2016

Start time:

09:00 Teagasc

Venue:

Food Research Centre

Ashtown Dublin 15

Present:

Prof. John FitzGerald (JF)(Chair), Prof. Alan Matthews (AM),

Joseph Curtin (JC), Laura Burke (LB), Jim Gannon (JG), Prof. Alan Barrett

(AB), Prof. Gerry Boyle (GB), Prof. Ottmar Edenhofer

Apologies:

Frank Convery (FC), Prof. Anna Davies (AD), Prof. Peter Clinch (PC),

Secretariat: Dr. Frank McGovern (FMcG), Dr. Niall Farrell (NF), Dr.

Róisín Moriarty (RM), Claire Camilleri (CC)

Presenters:

Mr Stephen Treacy, EPA

Dr Eimear Cotter, SEAI

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 20th July 2016

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 20th July 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 interest for this meeting.

1.4 Chairman's Report of Activities

The Chair advised that there were no significant developments due to the Summer period.

2. EU Effort Sharing Proposal Update



Stephen Treacy from the EPA presented an update following the publication of the EU Effort Sharing Proposal on binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction for Member States from 2021-2030.

Mr Treacy outlined the effort sharing task in relation to current EPA projections with additional information on the Sectoral share projections from 2005-2030. The Council discussed the difficulty of particular Sectors that needs to be addressed, and the wider consequences for 2050 targets.

The Council considered the projections and the implications of the proposal, and how the National Mitigation Plan will be important in addressing Ireland's response to the EU Effort Sharing Proposal. The Council thanked Mr Treacy for his time.

3. & 4. First Report

The Secretariat provided an overview of the second order draft of the First Report. The Council discussed the structure of the report, along with key content and recommendations to be provided along with the overall tone of the document. The Secretariat thanked the Council for the input, and will follow up directly with the Council to seek further specific feedback and outlined the timelines for feedback in preparation for the next meeting on the 6th October where a final draft will be presented.

5. SEAI Presentation

Dr Eimear Cotter from SEAI presented the latest information from SEAI capturing a range of tools and models that inform and assess the impacts of energy policy.

The presentation identified the positive shift in the energy sector in regards to the use of renewable energy sources for electricity provision, heat and transport. The presentation identified challenges to progress, including a need to increase community uptake to ensure energy efficiency in homes and businesses, and to reform transport through better utilisation of renewables. The Council also considered the work of the SEAI in understanding the consumer decision making process and measures required to assist in transitioning to a more energy efficient Ireland and acknowledged the complexity of issues in this area. The Council thanked Dr Cotter for her time.

6. Periodic Review and Report

Further discussion took place on the content of the Periodic Review and Report with discussion focused on identifying information gaps for the content of the Report. The Council discussed the current modelling capacity available in Ireland, and will liaise with government on the ability of the models and already commissioned scenarios to meet the needs required to inform the Periodic Review and Report.



Work will continue on the Periodic Review and Report, with an initial draft to be presented to Council at the December meeting.

7. Adaptation

The Council discussed the membership of the Adaptation Committee and considered the nominations of Committee Members. The following candidates were endorsed by Council:

- Prof. John FitzGerald, Chair
- Dr Conor Murphy, Maynooth University
- Dr Ina Kelly, Health and Wellbeing, HSE
- Eoin Moran, Assistant Director, Met Éireann
- Ciarán Hayes, CCMA (to be confirmed by the CCMA)
- Mark Adamson, Head of Flood Relief and Risk Management Division, OPW
- Prof. Robert Devoy, UCC
- Roger Street, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University
- Prof. Gerry Boyle, Director, Teagasc
- Laura Burke, Director General, EPA
- Jim Gannon, Chief Executive Officer, SEAI

The European Environment Agency also offered assistance in an advisory capacity.

The agenda for the next Committee meeting was accepted, with particular focus on the adaptation contribution to the first report.

The Committee will meet on the 21st September.

8. Analytical Framework

The Council discussed the purpose of the Analytical Framework and its importance to the work of the Council. It was discussed that the Analytical Framework will need to be applied to a policy as a worked example to assess its applicability.

9. Council Administration

The Secretariat presented the Climate Change Advisory Council's new website for approval. The Council provided feedback, with the website to be launched following a few amendments. The Secretariat informed the Council of FOI procedures that are to be established through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the EPA. The Council endorsed the MoU, subject to amendments. A Communications Policy was also adopted with amendments.

10. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The next meetings of the Climate Change Advisory Council will be held on the 6th October 2016.