



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 13th May 2021

Start time: 09:00

Venue: Video Conference Meeting

Present: Marie Donnelly, Professor Alan Barrett (ESRI), Professor Gerry Boyle (Teagasc), Laura Burke (EPA), Professor John FitzGerald, Patricia King, Andrew Murphy, Julie Sinnamon, Professor Peter Thorne, William Walsh (SEAI).

Apologies: Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Prof. Morgan Bazilian.

Observers: Eoin Moran, Met Éireann; Dr. Cara Augustenborg and Sinéad O'Brien.

Secretariat: Dr Margaret Desmond, Phillip O'Brien, Gemma O'Reilly, Seán O'Leary, Claire Camilleri.

Presenters: Mr Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and Dr. Hannah Daly, Sustainable Energy and Energy Systems Modelling, University College Cork.

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair acknowledged Dr Cara Augustenborg, Sinéad O'Brien and Prof. Morgan Bazilian (apologies) who will join Eoin Moran, Director of Met Éireann as observers to the Climate Change Advisory Council. The Chair reminded meeting participants of the Operational Guidance procedures for the Climate Change Advisory Council, including the Code of Business Conduct for the Council.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 15.04.2021

The minutes for the meeting held on the 15th April 2021 were accepted.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Draft Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill and Interim Actions

THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE

[REDACTED]

The Council were also provided with a copy of the response of Minister to the Joint Committee on Climate Action Report on the Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of Draft Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill for noting.

3. Department of Environment, Climate and Communications

Brian Carroll, Assistant Secretary General, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications updated the Council on the progress of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 and provided an update on the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021. Mr Carroll proposed to share the synthesis report of the Climate Action Plan 2021 consultation with the Council that is due to be finalised shortly.

Following the presentation, the Council held a discussion and confirmed that they would continue to engage with the department. The Council also discussed the EU Climate Plan, climate justice and a just transition, the treatment of LULUCF, the communication of the climate challenge, behavioural considerations and the choreography of outputs of both government and Council.

4. Carbon Budgets

Dr. Hannah Daly from University College Cork presented an update on the Times Ireland Model and an outline of a set of scenarios that provide technical solutions consistent with the 51% emission reduction target proposed in the Amendment Bill (Mar 2021).

The Council considered the full range of scenarios presented and requested Dr. Daly to also model a scenario based on the illustrative model pathway for no or limited overshoot in the IPCC Special Report on 1.5C degrees for Agricultural Methane emissions in 2030 and 2050 and a scenario aimed at achieving the 2050 goal at optimal cost.

The Secretariat provided an update on the work of the Committee on Carbon Budgets.

Subject to further clarification, the Council provided the following guidance to the Committee:

1. The carbon budgets should be communicated in terms of the Global Warming Potential evaluated over 100 years metric, GWP100.
2. Furthermore, the values for GWP100 published in the IPCC AR5 should be used.
3. Emissions associated with international aviation and navigation should not be included in the assessment of total emissions for the purpose of carbon budgets.

The treatment of emissions and removals from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF), and consistency with the national greenhouse gas inventory, would be raised with the Department.

The Chair will engage with the Department for additional clarification on these questions. The Council agreed that a small scale study looking at biodiversity issues should also be conducted to help inform their work on carbon budgets. The Council agreed that some members would meet with the Secretariat to steer this work further.

5. Adaptation Committee Update

The Council approved the recommended Procedures and Basis for Reviewing Resilience Progress for the Annual Review 2021 from the Adaptation Committee and the issuing of a consultation template to the 12 National Adaptation Framework sectors, CAROs and the adaptation division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC). This will help inform the development of the adaptation sections of the Annual Review 2021. Due to time constraints, the Council will discuss the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee's meeting on the 22nd April at the June meeting.

6. Annual Review 2021

The Council will be updated on progress at its June meeting.

7. European Climate Law

The Council noted a short document on the analysis of the EU Climate Law.

8. Chair's Report of Council Activities

A list of Council activities, including by the Chair and the Secretariat, was included in the meeting papers.

9. AOB

The Council were informed that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Irish Climate Change Advisory Council and all relevant Government Departments and Agencies that facilitates the sharing of data, modelling and analysis with the Council has been signed and will be published on the Council website shortly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Maire P. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

18.06.2021