

## **MINUTES Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting**

**Date:** 8th February, 2016

**Start time:** 09:30

**Venue:** NECC Rooms,  
Agriculture House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2

**Present:** John Fitzgerald (JF)(Chair); Laura Burke (LB); William Walsh (WW); Gerry Boyle (GB); Alan Barrett (AB); Alan Matthews (AM); Joseph Curtin (JC); Ottmar Edenhofer (OE); Peter Clinch (PC); Anna Davies (AD);

**Apologies:** Frank Convery (FC);

**Secretariat present:** Frank McGovern (FMcG), Niall Farrell (NF), Roisin Moriarty (RM), Nicola Hughes (NH), Claire Camilleri (CC)

**Minute taker:** Debbie Breen (EPA)

**Presenters:** John O'Neill, DECLG (Agenda Item 2); Brian Ó Gallachóir, UCC (Agenda Item 4); Andrew Kelly, IMP/UCD (Agenda Item 4); Adele Bergin, and John Curtis, ESRI (Agenda Item 4); George Hussey, DECLG (Agenda Item 4); John Callinan, George Burke and Owen Feeney Department of Taoiseach (Agenda Item 5); Phillip O'Brien, EPA (Agenda Item 6)

### **1. Opening of meeting**

#### **a. Adoption of minutes for the CCAC 28<sup>th</sup> November meeting**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were adopted with no changes.

#### **b. Update on secretariat and other CCAC developments**

Update was provided on the formal establishment of the Climate Change Advisory Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Council Members made declarations of interest.

Council Members considered the operations and procedures of the Council, and have requested that a draft Standing Orders of Operations of the CCAC be presented at the next meeting.

**Action:** Standing Orders for Operation of CCAC to be drafted for next meeting.

#### **c. Climate Council Secretariat**

The recruitment process for the Secretariat staff has been finalised and the following staff were introduced to the council: Dr. Niall Farrell, Economist; Dr. Róisín Moriarty, Climate Change Mitigation; Nicola Hughes, Climate Change Adaptation and Claire Camilleri, Managing Administrator. The Chair welcomed the Secretariat staff.

The Chair provided an outline of activities undertaken both before the meeting and planned activities ahead of the next meeting via a brief report. Key elements of the report include:

- The Chair met with National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), where they highlighted their interest in climate change.

- On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the Chair met with the Danish Economic Council and then also met with the Danish Climate Change Council along with FMcG and AM.
- The Chair, FMcG and AM also met with their UK counterparts from the Committee on Climate Change. It was agreed that a meeting of European Climate Change Councils should take place in Q3/Q4 of 2016. A short report was provided by FMcG on the UK perspective.
- AM outlined a meeting with the UK and Finnish Councils that took place as part of COP21 in Paris.

The Council noted that the outcomes of the meetings with the Danish Economic Council and the possible meeting of Climate Change Councils later in the year could be useful.

## **2. Outline of the Climate Change Act and timelines for actions (DECLG)**

John O'Neill (DECLG) provided an outline of the Climate Act including Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of the Act. The Council considered the timeline and process for the Act. This was focused on the production of CCAC reports.

Formal timelines as outlined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act were discussed. It is required that the National Low Carbon Transition & Mitigation plan be submitted to Government no later than 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017. It was noted that the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework is to be submitted to Government no later than 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and that Sectoral Adaptation Plans are to be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas no later than 3 months after the approval of the National Adaptation Framework. It was further noted that the Periodic Report of the CCAC is due no later than 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The Council Requested that a complete list of sectors be circulated for information, along with the National Adaptation Framework 2012 for reference.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Circulate SEA documents to the Council
- Circulate a list of sectors to the Council
- Circulate the National Adaptation Framework to the Council

## **3. Production of CCAC Reports**

The Council considered initial views on the timings and content around the Periodic and Annual Reports.

There was further discussion around the Annual Report, and if there should be a theme for each report. This is under consideration by the Council. It was further agreed that the 1st Annual Report be produced in Q4 of 2016 which would address some of the requirements of the Act and include additional material.

The Council further discussed the reports, and it was concluded that Members of the Council would be asked to provide inputs on the content of the Periodic and Annual Reports by the end of February.

The Council also requested that a 'Framework of Analysis' should be developed to assist Council in their deliberations.

The Council discussed a possible statement on ETS, in particular the revision of EU ETS post 2020. They requested a short paper be provided to the Council at the next meeting.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Secretariat to consult with Council members by end of February regarding their thoughts on the structure of the reports.
- Prepare a Framework for Analysis for next meeting
- Prepare statement on ETS for next meeting

#### **4. National modelling Capacity; outline of capacity, analysis provided, current activities and expected developments**

Presentations were made on the following modelling applications:

- (a) IrishTimes (Brian Ó Gallachóir, UCC)
- (b) GAINS Ireland, (Andrew Kelly IMP/UCD)
- (c) ESRI modelling, (Adele Bergin and John Curtis)
- (d) TRAM structures and processes, (George Hussey, DECLG)

Each presentation focused on specific models and subsequent simulation possibilities for Ireland. Limitations, challenges and advantages were discussed, and an open question and answer session followed each presentation. The Council thanked each of the presenters for their time.

#### **5. Update on EU and international developments; IPCC, UNFCCC (EPA/DECLG)**

##### **Outline of the Paris Agreement**

##### **(a) The IPCC 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment Cycle**

FMcG outlined the outcomes of the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and provided a perspective on what this means for Ireland. OE provided a short update on international issues. This focused on the 'renaissance' of coal globally and its implication on the global climate system.

#### **6. Discussion with representative of the Department of the Taoiseach (John Callinan)**

Mr Callinan took time to outline the role of the Department of the Taoiseach, particularly as a coordination unit of the Government. Other mechanisms of Government around Climate Change were also discussed. The Council thanked Mr Callinan and his colleagues for their presentation.

#### **7. Presentation on methane and metrics issues (Phillip O'Brien)**

Mr O'Brien provided a presentation on current methane emissions and the challenges to be considered in addressing these.

The presentation also highlighted challenges to achieve the national policy position goal of neutrality in agriculture, land use and forestry by 2050. The Council raised issues around LULUCF rules, and that further consideration is required at a later date. The Council agreed that further research in these areas is warranted.

#### **8. Agreed Outcomes, next meeting and AOB**

The Chair recounted the actions arising from earlier agenda items.

It was also agreed by the Council that a website needs to be developed, so that the Council has a public interface. This plan is to be developed and presented at next Council meeting.

#### **9. Details of future meetings in 2016**

The following dates were agreed:

- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016
- 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016
- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016
- 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**10. Any Other Business**

*a) London Council Conference*

It was noted that senior officials of the UK Committee on Climate Change and the Finish Climate Change Council are organising a meeting in London in April 2016 to discuss how best to deliver on their role in light of the Agreement in Paris. It was agreed that the Council will be represented at this meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



6/4/2016