

**Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting
DRAFT MINUTES**

Date: 21st September 2016
Start time: 09:00
Venue: Environmental Protection Agency,
Richview
Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14.

Present: Mark Adamson, OPW (MA); Laura Burke, EPA (LB); Prof. Robert Devoy, UCC (RD); John FitzGerald, Chair (JF); Jim Gannon, SEAI (JG); Ciarán Hayes, CCMA (CH); Dr Ina Kelly, HSE (IK); Eoin Moran, Met Éireann (EM); Dr Conor Murphy, Maynooth University (CM); Roger Street, UKCIP (RS);

Apologies: Prof. Gerry Boyle, Teagasc (GB)

Secretariat: Dr. Frank McGovern (FMcG), Dr. Niall Farrell (NF), Dr. Róisín Moriarty (RM), Rory Kelleher (RK), Claire Camilleri (CC)

Presenters: Dr. John O'Neill, Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Ann Dunleavy, Department of Transport Tourism and Sport; Denise Keogh Department of Transport Tourism and Sport; Laura Behan, Department of Transport Tourism and Sport; Barry O'Dwyer, Environmental Research Institute (ERI); University College Cork; Edward Tully, Irish Water; Mark O'Callaghan, Irish Water; Charlie Coakley, Irish Water; Climate Action & Environment; Paul Hickey, ESB; Peter O'Shea, ESB.

1. Opening of Meeting

Prof. John FitzGerald opened the meeting, outlining the role of the Committee.

1.1 Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of the Committee were accepted.

1.2 Minutes of the Adaptation Committee Meeting 20th June 2016

The Minutes of the meeting 20th June 2016 were accepted.

1.3 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was accepted.

1.4 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests declared.

1.5 Discussion of future priorities of Adaptation Committee and Introductions

The Secretariat outlined the establishment process of the Climate Change Advisory Council and the Interactions of the Adaptation Committee with the Council.. The priorities of the Adaptation Committee were outlined particularly in reference to the First Report of the Council, the Annual Review and Report and the Periodic Review and Report.

Each Committee member introduced themselves, and a general discussion followed on the role of the Committee and the importance of communicating adaptation to not only government but also the Irish public.

2. Update on National Adaptation Framework

Dr John O'Neill from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment updated the Committee on the challenge of the meeting the Paris Agreement targets, along with the impacts for Ireland and the national response. He outlined the current National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012 and updated the Committee on the ongoing work of drafting the new National Adaptation Framework – a first draft should be available in January, 2017.

3. Sector Update: Transport

Ann Dunleavy from the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport updated the Committee on developing the Transport sectoral and local adaptation plans that will form part of the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. Transport are currently scoping climate impacts, both current and future, identifying critical infrastructure, and prioritising and assessing future climate risks to then identify adaptation options.

4. Sector Update: Energy

Paul Hickey and Peter O'Shea from ESBN outlined the challenge of decarbonising Ireland and their role in facilitating energy consumption in Ireland. They also outlined the adaptation considerations for ESBN, such as flooding, increased temperatures, high winds, the greater frequency of storms and extreme weather events. These may impact ESBN in regards to site selection, design and maintenance parameters, emergency response and remedial work to the energy network. With a key focus on risk mitigation, ESBN have already carried out a risk assessment of substations.

5. Climate Information Platform

Barry O'Dwyer from the Coastal and Marine Research Centre Environmental Research Institute (ERI) in the University College Cork presented the Climate Information Platform (CIP) to the Committee. He outlined that the aim of the platform is to provide a one-stop web-based source of climate and adaptation information to support decision making for adaptation in Ireland. Mr O'Dwyer outlined the information requirements for adaptation planning and decision making, and the role of the CIP in supporting those information sources. He noted the observed climate impacts and sensitivities to date and the importance of these being appropriately mapped. Mr O'Dwyer also informed the Committee of the outreach and training on adaptation issues and planning that is currently being conducted with local

authorities, to assist in their adaptation planning and decision making. The Committee noted the importance of this platform and thanked Mr O'Dwyer for his presentation.

6. Sector Update: Water

Edward Tully from Irish Water outlined the aim of Irish Water to develop a resilient water service and the challenges of making climate-smart policy choices against a backdrop of uncertainty. Mr Tully detailed the main impacts of climate change for Irish water and wastewater services such as the increased rainfall and storm intensity and the converse of drought periods and reduced rainfall. Further information on the priorities for Irish Water were outlined, along with the data sources that help inform the decision making process for Irish Water. Mr Tully talked through the Irish Water Climate Change Policy and the importance of collaboration across sectors to address climate change.

7. Discussion

A general discussion followed the conclusion of the presentations on the main themes and issues that were presented. The Committee discussed the importance of specific responsibility of government departments in regards to adaptation planning and prioritising measures, and that collaboration is the key to ensuring joined up thinking on adaptation approaches. The Committee discussed cross-cutting effects and interdependencies between sectors, cascade effects in critical infrastructure and the importance of the linkage between climate change impacts and health and well-being. Additionally, the Committee acknowledged the role of understanding behavioural aspects when discussing adaptation in Ireland and that adaptation should be seen as a continuous learning process.

8. Adaptation Content for First Report

The draft text addressing adaptation for the First Report was presented to the Committee for discussion. The Committee discussed the text and provided feedback that will be incorporated in the next draft to take into account the behavioural aspect of adaptation planning, implementation and the governance of adaptation measures in Ireland, the link between climate and health, the importance of dealing with cross-cutting issues and critical infrastructure, developing early warning systems and how support and expert advice was needed by local authorities. The revised text will be circulated to the Committee for discussion and approval.

9. Future work of the Adaptation Committee

The Committee discussed the next steps of the First Report, and the priorities for the next meeting were agreed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. O'Dwyer', is located at the bottom center of the page.

