

Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 27 February 2020

Start time: 9:30am

Venue: SEAI, St Kevin's, 3 Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2

Present: Professor John FitzGerald, Professor Alan Barrett, Professor Gerry Boyle, Laura Burke, Professor Peter Clinch, Professor Anna Davies, Professor Ottmar Edenhofer, Professor Alan Matthews, William Walsh,

Apologies: Dr Joseph Curtin, Professor Frank Convery.

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

Presenters: Professor Aoife Ahern, University College Dublin; Dr Brian Caulfield, Trinity College Dublin and Assistant Professor Páraic Carroll, University College Dublin

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 28.11.2019

The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 28th November 2019 were signed by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the Council.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

Prof. Peter Clinch declared that he has been appointed as Chair of the Board of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

1.4 Chair's Report of Activities

The Chair informed the council of his recent activities including in January his attendance at the 'Heads of Mission' conference with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Dinner in honour of H.E. Dr Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

He also met with Energy Improvement Training and Auditing Services (EITAS) in regards to financing community based approach for energy upgrades, and presented at the IFA's event 'Climate Action in Agriculture – A Balanced Approach'.

The Chair also presented at the School of Natural Sciences in Trinity College Dublin on 'Irish Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Environments' and met with the Department of the Taoiseach in regards to the Climate Change Advisory Council. He also met with the Regional Assemblies of Ireland about national indicators and presented the keynote address at the 3 Counties Energy Agency 10 Year Regional Strategy to 2030.

In February, the Chair along with Prof. Alan Matthews and members of the Secretariat met with the Danish Council on Climate Change (Klimarådet) to have an international exchange on climate action and the activities of the two Councils.

The Chair also presented at the Global Annual Conference of the European Banking Institute on 'Sustainable Finance' and presented at the CDP Ireland Network 2019 Climate Change report launch on the role of business in addressing our climate change challenges.

It was also noted that since the last meeting the Council approved its Work Programme 2020 by written procedure. The Council also finalised and issued letters of advice regarding the implications of the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land in an Irish context Advice and on a suitable approach for preparation of multi-annual carbon budgets to inform preparation of drafting of legislation.

2. Adaptation Committee Update

The Committee met with officials from the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and discussed their role in recent sectoral adaptation planning and the cost of adaptation along with the need for coherence and coordination. Dr. Stephen Flood presented on a research project in the Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine (MaREI) regarding 'Policy Coherence in Adaptation Studies: Selecting and Using Indicators of Climate Resilience' research project.

The Committee also met with representatives of the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and discussed the CRU's statutory functions in electricity, gas and water and how they relate to adaptation and climate change.

The Committee also heard from Conor Quinlan (EPA) regarding work on developing a common framework for climate change projections, scenarios and assessment methods with particular focus on the water/catchments sector. It was agreed that the focus for the next meeting would be on the built environment, and that the first draft of the adaptation text for the annual review would be presented.

3. Access to Modelling Update

The Council were updated by the Secretariat on their invitation to present at an upcoming meeting of the cross-departmental Research and Modelling Sub-Group on the Environment, following on from the recommendation in the December letter on advice on the development of carbon budgets that recommends that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is established between the government and the Council to ensure access to the necessary data, analysis and models. The Council discussed the contents of a possible MoU and identified the need for flexibility within the MoU.

4. UN Climate Change Conference - December 2019 (COP 25)

The Council were provided with an update on the key outcomes of COP25 and noted the contents of the Minister's address. It was noted that there was a presentation of the IPCC Special Reports and Land and Oceans/Cryosphere and that it is intended to look into findings and include in future negotiations. It was also noted that common metrics involved in accounting methods were also not fully agreed, and that Parties will return to this at COP26 in Glasgow.

5. Draft General Scheme of the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019

The Council discussed the publication of the Draft General Scheme of the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill 2019 and reemphasised the necessity of appropriate resources to be allocated to the Council in relation to the change of function proposed under the Bill. It also discussed some issues within the draft Bill that should be addressed and will need to be highlighted to government.

The Council also discussed similar international and domestic advisory bodies and the disparity in regards to not only preparing carbon budgets, but also responsibilities in providing advisory services to government. The Council concluded that a letter to government should be drafted around this issue and to consider it again at the next meeting.

6. Annual Transition Statement

The Council were provided with a summary of the Annual Transition Statement and identified that recommendations of the Council stemming from the publication of the Annual Transition Statement should be incorporated into the Annual Review 2020.

7. Just Transition

The Council were presented with an initial draft on the work being undertaken in the exploration of a just transition for Ireland. The Council recommended that the scope be refined further and that it would then be developed accordingly. The Council discussed the process of incorporating this work into the Annual Review 2020 and will be presented with a further draft at the next meeting.

8. Transport

Professor Aoife Ahern (UCD), Dr Brian Caulfield (TCD) and Assistant Professor Páraic Carroll (UCD) presented an outline of their work to date in regards to the exploration of the transition of Irish transport to 2050. The Council discussed the parameters of the analysis and recommended that the focus be centred around a reduction of emissions in the sector as per the remit of the Council. Further refinement of the approach was then recommended for inclusion to the special chapter within the Annual Review 2020.

9. Carbon Budget Development

The Council continued the discussion around the methodology of what other countries are currently employing in the development and analysis of carbon budgets and the resources necessary.

The Council reiterated its need to write to the government on this particular issue and follow up on proposed changes that include the work of the Council as outlined in the draft Bill.

10. Annual Review 2020

The Council were presented with a draft outline of the Technical Review section of the Annual Review 2020 and made recommendations on further drafting for the next meeting.

11. Council Administration

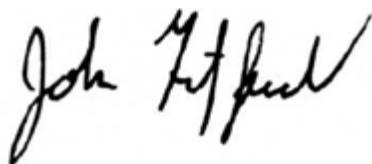
The Council were updated on the increase of emails, phone calls and requests for advice fielded by the Council and the secretariat. Additionally, there has also been an increase in requests for presentations and meetings, which has put pressure on the resources of the Chair and Secretariat. It was noted that this demonstrates the visibility of the work of the Council.

12. Agreed Outcomes, plans for next meeting and AOB

The Council noted a number of documents recently published including the LGMA CCMA publication 'Global Issue Local Response': Local Authorities Working on Climate and the Irish Wind Energy Association's Briefing Paper on Wind Energy Guidelines. The Council noted receipt of a letter from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport regarding the Council's recommendations on their Sectoral Adaptation Plan. The Council also noted the publication of the EU Green Deal.

The Council thanked Dr Sabrina Dekker and Claire Lombard for their contributions to date.

The next Council meeting will be held on the 23rd April 2020.



23.04.2020