

Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 23.10.2019

Start time: 10:30

Venue: Environmental Protection Agency, McCumskey House, Richview, Dublin 14

Present: Prof. John FitzGerald, Chair; Ciarán Hayes, CCMA; Keith Lambkin, Met Éireann; Prof. Robert Devoy, UCC; Dr Ina Kelly, HSE; Phil Hemmingway, SEAI

Apologies: Roger Street, Oxford University; Laura Burke, EPA; Dr Conor Murphy, Maynooth University; Mark Adamson, OPW; Prof. Gerry Boyle, Teagasc.

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

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting 30.05.19

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 30th May 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

1.3 Disclosure of Interests

No disclosures to report.

2. Council Update

The Secretariat provided a verbal update from the Council meetings on 13.06.2019 and 19.10.2019 and of the Annual Review 2019 launch. The Committee discussed the importance of further increasing awareness regarding adaptation in light of the increased coverage of adaptation in the media following the launch.

3. Engagement with Local Authorities/Climate Action Regional Offices and Local Authority Sector Update

Ciarán Hayes presented an update on other relevant local authority initiatives addressing both adaptation and mitigation, their role under the Climate Action Plan 2019 and issues of community engagement and public participation.

Representatives of the four Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) were in attendance to discuss local authority adaptation strategy development and implementation. The Committee received a presentation outlining the work of the CAROs, their role in local adaptation strategy development and considered issues regarding cross sectoral coordination. All 31 local authorities now have a local adaptation strategy in place in line with their obligations under the National Adaptation Framework. The four Dublin local authorities strategies are wider climate action strategies that also address mitigation.

Following the presentations, the Committee and CARO representatives discussed a range of issues including policies that might conflict with the transition and ways to increase coherence across local, regional, sectoral and national levels; the role of the planning system; indicators; and resourcing the transition at local and national level.

4. Review of Sectoral Adaptation Planning

The Committee discussed the 2019 sectoral adaptation planning process, including the role of the Climate Change Advisory Council in providing advice and recommendations to the 12 sectors. This included high level observations on the draft sectoral adaptation plans and recommendations on their content and the overall process that may be built on in future adaptation planning cycles.

The Committee recommended that a report reviewing the process based on the discussions be presented to Council for approval. The report is to be based on the advice and recommendations provided to Departments on their draft sectoral adaptation plans by the Council, examining the lessons that can be learned from the first cycle of making statutory adaptation plans under the Climate Act 2015 and National Adaptation Framework. The amendment of the Climate Act 2015 as part of the implementation of the Government's Climate Action Plan 2019 may provide an opportunity for Government to act on some of these recommendations.

If approved by Council, the final review will be issued to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Climate Change Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach before being published on the Council website.

5. Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered and agreed a proposed work programme for 2020. The 2019 work programme of the Adaptation Committee concentrated on the preparation of text for the Annual Review 2019 and providing advice and recommendations on sectoral adaptation plans. Building on this work, for 2020 it is proposed to structure the Committee's work around four themes - Climate Science, Impacts and Vulnerabilities; Policy and Legislation; Research; and the Annual Review.

It is proposed that the Annual Review adaptation text in 2020 assesses the reported implementation of the first 9 months of statutory sectoral adaptation plans and local adaptation strategies, along with any adaptation reporting and policy developments in the Annual Transition Statement 2019, Climate Action Plan 2019, NECP etc. The text will also consider prioritised assessments and publications and gives special focus to adaptation and cities considering infrastructural, coastal, mainstreaming and other issues affecting the resilience of Irish cities. This also provides an opportunity to identify and reflect on how to address gaps in this context. The work programme will issue to Council for their adoption.

6. Public Consultation on Climate Change and Insurance in the context of the 'Climate Action Plan 2019 to Tackle Climate Breakdown'

The Department of Finance held a public consultation on insurance related matters in a climate change context as part of the Climate Action Plan. A draft submission was agreed for circulation to the Council for adoption before issuing.

7. Recent Publications

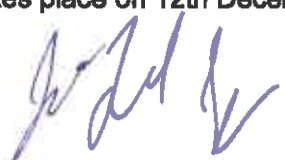
The Committee were provided with a copy of the Global Commission on Adaptation's report 'Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience' released in September. Summaries for policymakers of recent IPCC special reports on climate change and land, and climate change and oceans were also circulated to the Committee.

8. Agreed Outcomes and AOB

Review of Sectoral Adaptation Planning Review and Committee work programme 2020 to be included on the November Council meeting Agenda.

Climate Change and Insurance submission to be agreed by the Council.

The next meeting takes place on 12th December 2019.

 12/12/19