

# STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

2022 – 2026

CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL



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# 1. Overview of the CCAC Statement of Strategy

## Climate Change Advisory Council Statement of Strategy 2022 - 2026

### Mission

The Climate Change Advisory Council's mission is to provide independent evidence-based advice and recommendations on policy to support Ireland's just transition to a biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, climate neutral and resilient society.

### Vision

The Climate Change Advisory Council will be recognised as a trusted authoritative voice, positively impacting policy in achieving climate change targets for the benefit of all.

### Strategic Goals

**Goal 1:** Deliver on the Carbon Budget Programme and our Annual Review obligations

**Goal 2:** Provide evidence-based advice and recommendations on climate change policy, and enhance our focus on adaptation

**Goal 3:** Engage with stakeholders and monitor climate change solutions

**Goal 4:** Strengthen our voice, profile and recognition to maximise the impact of our advice

**Goal 5:** Enhance our operating and governance framework

### Value Statements

**Expert** - We provide expert advice that is underpinned by rigorous analysis and a solid evidence base

**Independent** - We provide advice, make recommendations and challenge constructively in a manner that is unbiased, and free from interference

**Integrity** - We build trust by doing the right thing. We consider the views of others, provide responsible advice, and act in good faith for the benefit of Irish people

**Transparent** - We are open in the way in which we operate. We are transparent in our approach. As Council members, we speak with one voice on Council matters

**Collaborative** - We engage with policy makers and stakeholders. We employ collective effort to build national and international relationships that effect positive change into the future



## 2. Chair's Foreword

### Welcome and Introduction from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce you to the Statement of Strategy of the Climate Change Advisory Council (the Council) for the period 2022 – 2026.

The Council was established by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and occupies a unique role, further enhanced under the 2021 Climate Amendment Act, as an independent advisory body responsible for assessing and advising on how Ireland can transition to a climate neutral, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

The Council is now in its second term and the members of Council join me in recognising the importance of this Strategy in guiding our work over the next 4 years.

This Strategy is ambitious, it has been prepared at a critical juncture in Ireland's climate change journey and reflects the increased urgency of the challenge we face as a country and a society.

The mission of the Council is to provide independent evidence-based advice and recommendations on policy to Government. Our vision is to be recognised as a trusted authoritative voice, positively impacting policy in achieving climate change targets for the benefit of all of Irish society. This Strategy sets out how we intend to realise that vision.

We will continue to deliver on our obligations in relation to the Carbon Budget Programme and the Annual Review and Report. We also intend to do more where we see policy failures or gaps emerging by making recommendations on climate change policy and providing advice. We intend to prioritise the development of advice and recommendations in relation to adaptation measures and the National Adaptation Framework, and to engage with stakeholders and monitor climate change solutions both nationally and internationally where it is of benefit to all.

We intend to strengthen our voice, our profile and our recognition and understanding to maximise the impact of our advice.

This Strategy reflects the critical and independent role that the Council plays in supporting the delivery of Ireland's targets, as set out in legislation and the Climate Action Plan. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank all those who contributed to its development and completion. I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of our Secretariat staff who continue to be pivotal to the work of the Council.

Marie Donnelly

Chair





### 3. Context

The Paris Agreement signed by 190 countries, including Ireland, aims to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C.

Since Paris, Ireland has significantly strengthened its climate ambition, through legislation, policy, finance and practice. The legislation commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction in emissions of 51% by 2030.

The Climate Change Advisory Council was established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 and its role and membership was further amended in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. The role of the Council is clear; it is to provide independent advice and recommendations to policy makers to support the achievement of climate targets. It has two legislatively defined and named obligations in the form of the Carbon Budget Programme and the Annual Review and Report. It has a role to play both in relation to mitigation and to adaptation and can execute that role in a number of ways, including by the provision of advice and recommendations where it deems it appropriate.

The Climate Action Plan sets out Government policy and actions to deliver on our climate targets. The plan will be updated annually, to ensure that it is aligned with Ireland's legally binding carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings. The Council has an important role in monitoring and evaluating compliance with these legally binding targets.

Whilst Government, policy makers and the Council have a strong role to play, there is also a responsibility on all members of society, be they citizens, homeowners, communities, businesses, large industries or the public sector, to ensure that we are successful in meeting our targets.

The Climate Change Advisory Council members will work tirelessly with relevant stakeholders over the period of this strategy. We will provide robust advice, recommendations and constructive challenge, working towards the goal of a decarbonised and resilient society to ensure our future, the future of Ireland and the future of those who will come after us.



## 4. Mission, Vision and Values

The following section summarises the core elements of the Council Statement of Strategy.

### Mission Statement

The Climate Change Advisory Council's mission is to provide independent evidence-based advice and recommendations on policy to support Ireland's just transition to a biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable, climate neutral and resilient society.

### Vision Statement to 2026

The Climate Change Advisory Council will be recognised as a trusted authoritative voice, positively impacting policy in achieving climate change targets for the benefit of all.

### Values Statement

The Values that underpin the work of the Council include:

- **Expert** - We provide expert advice that is underpinned by rigorous analysis and a solid evidence base
- **Independent** - We provide advice, make recommendations and challenge constructively in a manner that is unbiased, and free from interference
- **Integrity** - We build trust by doing the right thing. We consider the views of others, provide responsible advice, and act in good faith for the benefit of Irish people
- **Transparent** - We are open in the way in which we operate. We are transparent in our approach. As Council members, we speak with one voice on Council matters
- **Collaborative** - We engage with policy makers and stakeholders. We employ collective effort to build national and international relationships that effect positive change into the future



## 5. Strategic Goals and Objectives

The Vision is supported through five strategic goals:



In addition, each goal has a number of strategic objectives that will enable their achievement.

### Strategic Goal 1 - Deliver on the Carbon Budget Programme and our Annual Review obligations

In order to achieve this goal, we will deliver the following objectives:

- **Objective 1:** We will deliver on our obligations in relation to the Carbon Budget Programme
- **Objective 2:** We will deliver on our obligations in relation to the Annual Review and Report
- **Objective 3:** We will provide advice and recommendations to the Minister and Government on those areas specifically set out in our enabling legislation

### Strategic Goal 2 – Provide evidence-based advice and recommendations on climate change policy, and enhance our focus on adaptation

In order to achieve this goal, we will deliver the following objectives:

- **Objective 4:** We will make recommendations on climate change policy and policies that impact on climate change
- **Objective 5:** We will provide advice and comment when policy measures are working, failing or where gaps are emerging, which we consider important to address and where there is a strong evidence base to support our advice
- **Objective 6:** We will prioritise the development of advice and recommendations in relation to adaptation measures and the National Adaptation Framework



### Strategic Goal 3 - Engage with stakeholders and monitor climate change solutions

In order to achieve this goal, we will deliver the following objectives:

- **Objective 7:** We will enhance our dialogue with relevant stakeholders in order to listen, to inform and be informed and to influence policy whilst maintaining our independence
- **Objective 8:** We will monitor emerging technology, policy and research, evaluating the next wave of technologies, scientific or technological developments to advise and inform policy makers
- **Objective 9:** We will collaborate with other international climate change councils to share research, ideas and solutions and perform collaborative research where appropriate

### Strategic Goal 4 - Strengthen our voice, profile and recognition to maximise the impact of our advice

In order to achieve this goal, we will deliver the following objectives:

- **Objective 10:** We will develop a communications strategy to deliver the advice and recommendations of the Council in a way that is understood by our target audiences and allows policy makers and the Irish public to act to support the achievement of Irish climate change targets
- **Objective 11:** We will explain our advice and recommendations in an appropriate manner and will condense and convey key international messages in an Irish context. We will do so to influence policy makers and inform the public in choosing the right actions to support Ireland's transition to a climate neutral and resilient society

### Strategic Goal 5 - Enhance our operating and governance framework

In order to achieve this goal, we will deliver the following objectives:

- **Objective 12:** We will continue to build capacity within the Secretariat to broaden our expertise to support the Council in the delivery of this strategy
- **Objective 13:** We will create an environment that attracts and retains the right people. We will foster a culture that encourages diversity and provides the flexibility that meets the needs of the Council and the Secretariat
- **Objective 14:** We will ensure that we are accountable and operate with transparency, probity, and a focus on good governance and compliance principles

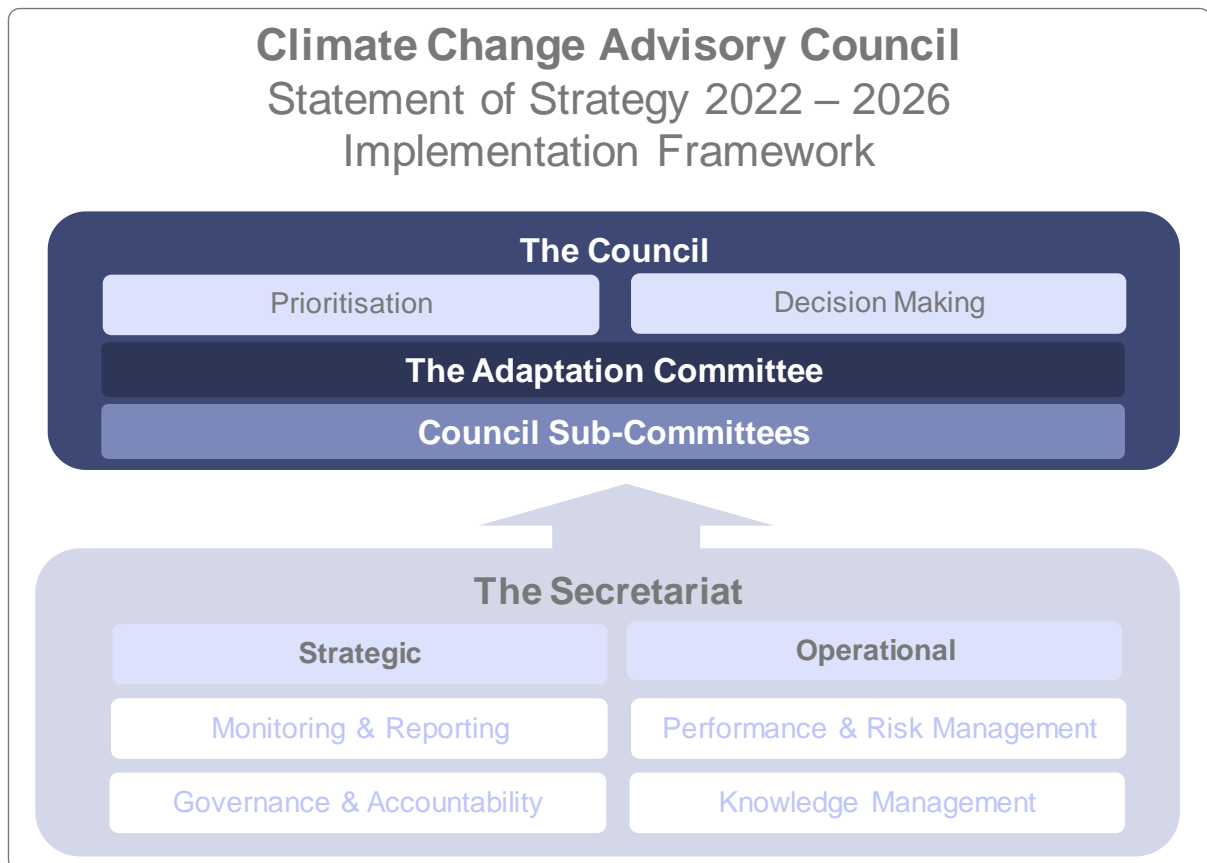




## 6. Implementation Framework

In order to realise the strategic goals and objectives set out in this statement of strategy, we have developed a robust implementation framework that will enable regular monitoring and reporting over the life of the strategy.

The following image provides an overview of the core elements that will form part of the implementation framework.



Progress on the goals and the objectives of the Statement of Strategy will be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis over the period to 2026, and where necessary adapted to reflect changes. The monitoring and reporting will be tracked against the key actions to be delivered under each objective, with each action assigned an owner, timeline and indicator to enable us to measure success.

In order for the goals of this Statement of Strategy to be realised, the commitment, collaboration and engagement of all Council members, staff across the Secretariat and our wider stakeholder community will be required.



## Appendix – List of Council Members

As at March 2022, the Council included the following members:

- Marie Donnelly (Chair)
- Dr. Cara Augustenborg
- Prof. Morgan D. Bazilian
- Laura Burke (Environmental Protection Agency) – Ex officio member
- Prof. Dr. Ottmar Edenhofer
- Prof. John Fitzgerald
- Patricia King
- Jillian Mahon
- Eoin Moran (Met Éireann) – Ex officio member
- Andrew Murphy
- Sinead O'Brien
- Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) – Ex officio member
- Julie Sinnamon
- Prof. Peter Thorne





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