



PRESS RELEASE: CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Climate Change Advisory Council launches Periodic Review Report 2017

The Climate Change Advisory Council launches its first Periodic Review Report today. The Report makes recommendations to Government on climate policy. It reviews developments in international climate policy, in the context of national policy, and assesses progress in meeting emissions targets to 2020 and in furthering the achievement of the national transition objective to 2050.

Chair of the Council, Professor John FitzGerald said: “The Council welcomes the publication of the National Mitigation Plan by the Government. The Plan represents an important step forward in tackling the problem of climate change. It incorporates some of the advice and recommendations made by the Council. While the Plan provides details on many possible policy initiatives, it does not provide a framework for policy prioritisation. In the absence of decisions on additional policy actions, Ireland will not achieve the national transition objective by 2050. Many of the recommendations made by the Council remain to be implemented.”

Chair of the Council, Professor John FitzGerald said: “Based on current trends and projections, Ireland is likely to miss its 2020 greenhouse gas emissions targets by a substantial margin. This will have implications, not only for 2020 targets, but also for compliance with 2030 targets and longer term decarbonisation to 2050. It is urgent that effective additional policies are implemented to place our economy on an environmentally sustainable pathway to a low-carbon Ireland in 2050.”

In its Periodic Review Report 2017, the Council reinforced its message that Ireland should aim to have no further negative impacts on the climate system by the middle of this century. In this context the Council considers it urgent that:

- A target for emissions reduction to 2030 is adopted in the context of a roadmap for achievement of an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050.
- An approach to neutrality in the agriculture and land use sector by 2050 is defined and advanced.
- The scope and nature of the 2050 national goal of making Ireland resilient to the damaging effects of future climate change needs to be determined.

The Council recognises the importance of the National Mitigation Plan and the forthcoming National Adaptation Framework for providing the framework for national climate change policy. The Council also looks forward to the future development of the National Mitigation Plan, as signalled by the Government at its launch.

Professor FitzGerald continued: “The Council’s Periodic Review Report was delivered to Government before publication of the National Mitigation Plan. However, the key message



remains valid: it is essential for Government to commit to new, cost effective emissions reduction policies and measures”.

The Council is an independent statutory body, established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Its role is to review national climate policy and advise government on how Ireland can move to a low carbon, climate resilient economy and society by 2050.

The full report will be available for download at www.climatecouncil.ie

Ends

For further information please contact:

Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat

Ph: +353 126 801 80, +353 870 927 935 Email: media@climatecouncil.ie



Editor Notes

The Climate Change Advisory Council is an independent, statutory body established under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015. Its role includes the provision of advice to Government on national policy relating to climate change. It was formally established in January 2016.

The Periodic Review and Report is mandated under Section 13 of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.

Council Membership

Prof John FitzGerald, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council

Laura Burke (Director General, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); ex-officio)

Prof Alan Barrett (Director, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI); ex-officio)

Jim Gannon, (CEO Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI); ex-officio)

Prof Gerry Boyle, (Director of Teagasc; ex-officio)

Prof Ottmar Edenhofer, (Deputy Director and Chief Economist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK))

Prof Frank Convery (Chief Economist, Environmental Defence Fund, New York)

Prof Peter Clinch (Jean Monnet Chair of European Economic Integration and Professor of Public Policy at University College Dublin)

Prof Anna Davies (Professor of Geography at Trinity College Dublin)

Prof Alan Matthews (Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy at Trinity College Dublin)

Joseph Curtin (Senior Research Fellow, at the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA)).

Members of the Adaptation Committee

Prof John FitzGerald, Chair of the Adaptation Committee

Mark Adamson (Head of Flood Relief and Risk Management Division, Office of Public Works (OPW))

Prof Gerry Boyle, (Director of Teagasc)

Laura Burke (Director General, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA))

Prof Robert Devoy (Professor in Physical Geography and Emeritus Professor in Geography University College Cork (UCC))

Jim Gannon (CEO Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI))

Ciarán Hayes (Chair of the County & City Management Association (CCMA) Committee on Climate Change)

Dr Ina Kelly (Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Health and Wellbeing, Health Service Executive (HSE))

Eoin Moran (Director, Met Éireann)



Dr Conor Murphy (Lecturer in the Department of Geography at Maynooth University)

Roger Street (Technical Director United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP)
Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University)