



## Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting –Carbon Budgets Working Group

### Meeting 13

#### APPROVED MINUTES

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Start time:** 13:30

**Venue:** EPA offices, Clonskeagh and Video Conference Meeting

**Present:** In person: John Fitzgerald, Jeanne Moore. On MS Teams: Niamh Garvey, Emma Lynch, James Murphy, Stephen Treacy, Hannah Daly, Kevin Hanrahan, Trevor Donnellan, Brian Ó Gallachóir, Mert Yakut, Colm Duffy, Niall McInerney

**Apologies:** Jim Scheer, David Styles, Kelly de Bruin, Oliver Geden, Kian Mintz-Woo

**Observers:** Online: Jillian Mahon, James Moran

**Secretariat:** In person: George Hussey, Gina Kelly, Meabh Gallagher, Kieran Craven; Phillip O'Brien, Claire Camilleri, Jodie Colgan. Online: Ciara Hilliard

**External presenters:** Kerrie Sheehan, John McCann, Karl Richards, Gary Lanigan. Online: Jean-Pierre Roux, Sarah Kelly, Laurance Shalloo

### 1. Opening of meeting

All were welcomed to the meeting.

#### 1.1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by the CBWG.

#### 1.2. Minutes for the Carbon Budgets Working Group Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted by the CBWG.

### **1.3 Actions**

A number of actions remained open from the last meeting. Three actions were discussed:

Action 15 on the clarification of role of the CBWG – the ToR was previously shared with the CBWG and will be reiterated to Council at their meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Action 16 relating to the discussion of feasibility of scenarios - the Secretariat outlined the requested accompanying descriptive narrative for the models from core modellers, and proposed scenario dialogue tool that will be available for all members.

Action 17 relating to delivery timelines for additional modellers – additional modelling teams have confirmed delivery of results on 28<sup>th</sup> June (Central Bank) and 25<sup>th</sup> July (SEAI and NTA). The Secretariat and CBWG economists (JF, ESRI, Central Bank) plan to meet in advance of May meeting.

## **2. Decarbonised Electricity System Study**

Kerrie Sheehan, John McCann and Jean-Pierre Roux from SEAI and Sarah Kelly of Byrne Ó Cléirigh presented on insights from their Decarbonised Electricity System Study (DESS). Timelines for Phase 1 and Phase 2 were presented and the methodology, workplan and expected outputs for Phase 2 were outlined. Preliminary results from the expert elicitation on plausible deployment rates of variable renewables in Ireland were presented.

Following the presentations discussions included differences in the methodology between the study and other modelling studies, and the benefit of increased scenario modelling was noted and potential for collaboration with individual members of the CBWG was proposed. The important distinction between plausible and necessary pathways was made in relation to sectoral emission ceilings and carbon budgets. Potential consequences for EPA projections were noted. Renewable deployment rates, including the impacts of planning and supply chain limitations to onshore and offshore renewables were raised. Following the discussion KS, JMcC, SK and JPR left the meeting.

## **3. Research on mitigation options available to agriculture**

For this agenda item, Karl Richards and Gary Lanigan of Teagasc joined the meeting in person, with Laurence Shalloo joining online. KR gave an overview of the ongoing research at the Teagasc Climate Centre and the emissions inventory research was presented. An outline of farm demographics, agricultural emissions, LULUCF emissions, inventory refinement, mitigation science was presented. Ongoing research for modelling pathways to net zero was outlined and the work of the National Agricultural Soil Carbon Observatory highlighted. Significant reductions in the emission inventory for LULUCF for 2024 were outlined together with impacts of mitigation options for LULUCF and AFOLU. The importance of adoption and knowledge-transfer and methodologies for achieving these was mentioned.

Discussions involved carbon fixation in forestry, and future plans for MACCs out to 2050. The adoptions rates of MACC mitigation measures and associated challenges were raised, along with the knowledge transfer and incentives to promote uptake. The emission inventory and uptake of urea were raised. The participation of the signpost farms and implications for uptake of measures was stressed. Following the discussion, contributors were thanked and colleagues from the Teagasc left the meeting.

#### **4. Just Transition Principles and Considerations in the Carbon Budget Process**

Jeanne Moore and Niamh Garvey opened the discussion on Just Transition and implications for Carbon Budgets. The four principles introduced for discussion included social dialogue, integrated evidence-based approach, equipping of people with the right skills, and cost-sharing.

Discussion included the importance of a Just Transition and the challenges fairness posed for the setting of the Carbon Budgets. The distinction between quantitative evidence, and qualitative evidence of people already impacted by changes was highlighted for the CB process. The limitations of the timeframe for the CB process was noted. The importance of accessibility of outcomes of the CB process for a wide audience was raised.

The role and responsibility of Government on the implementation of carbon budgets was discussed in the context of the integration of Just Transition considerations. The CBWG proposed to identify Just Transition considerations for Government to consider when implementing CB. The distributional effects of government interventions on sectors impacted by CB implementation were raised. The importance of a Just Transition in the consideration of CBs was outlined, with a need to focus on both emission mitigation and the impact to those affected on a national and regional level. The role of Climate Justice was raised, and the differentiation between carbon budgets and sectoral emission ceilings (and the roles and responsibilities of various parties under the Act) was stressed.

The Secretariat outlined the draft scenario dialogue tool that would be shared with CBWG members where there would be the option for all members to comment on all modelled scenarios for the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of modelling. Comments on Just Transition are included in the dialogue tool that would be used to provide information to Council for their consideration.

#### **5. Carbon Budgets Work Plan**

The Secretariat returned to Action 16 relating to requests for discussion on feasibility. The scenario dialogue tool was presented to the CBWG, including requirements for consideration under the Act. The ability to comment on aspects of the scenarios from all CBWG members was outlined. Feedback from the CBWG members on the layout and content of the dialogue tool was requested. The structure was indicated as being suitable for collating considerations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of modelling. The dialogue tool will be brought for further consideration and discussion at subsequent CBWG meetings.

The work plan was shared with the working group focussing on the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of modelling with results due in May. Core modelling results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> iterations are due 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The analysis of warming impacts of these, and COSMO macroeconomic modelling results are due 28<sup>th</sup> June, with additional testing of scenario results (SEAI and NTA) are due 25<sup>th</sup> July.

The meeting schedule was presented with the short number of remaining meetings highlighted. Prioritisation of in-person attendance at the July and August meeting was proposed by the Secretariat, with locations suggested in Dublin, Cork and Galway, and the potential for existing times of meetings possible to change. Suggestions to help facilitate in-person meetings were requested. There was a proposal to circulate a poll to determine the best location to hold this meeting.

**Action 16:** Secretariat to share the dialogue tool in the week following the meeting. Updated version to be shared with the CBWG following feedback from members

**Action 17:** Secretariat to schedule follow-up call with the CBWG economists the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action 19:** Secretariat to schedule follow-up call with SEAI, UCC and NTA the week of 27<sup>th</sup> May

**Action 21:** Secretariat to poll CBWG members for feedback on in person attendance for future meetings

## **6. Next Steps and Agenda for next meeting**

The May meeting, SEAI will return to present their final results from DESS. The remainder of the May meeting will be focussed on the presentation of results from the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of core modelling (FAPRI, GOBLIN and TIM). Where possible, in person attendance for this meeting was requested.

The June meeting will include presenting of the temperature analysis by Joe Wheatley for the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of modelling, the COSMO macroeconomic modelling results by Niall McInerney, and a briefing paper on aviation and maritime emissions by the Secretariat.

## **7. AOB**

James Moran's membership of the CBWG is due for considered by Council on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April. All contributors were thanked for continuing positive engagement.

## 8. CB WG Actions Log

Action Number	Date Raised	Description	Owner	Due	Status
15	29/02/24	Request for clarification on the role of the CBWG in terms of presenting a range of scenarios for Council consideration as opposed to proposing a particular feasible pathway.	CCAC Secretariat	April 2024	Open  CBWG referred to ToR of the group. ToR of the CBWG will be raised with CCAC at their April meeting. Proposed to close following the April CCAC meeting.
16	29/02/24	Request for a more detailed discussion within the CBWG on the practical technical feasibility of various scenarios	CBWG Members	April 2024	Open  Secretariat circulated scenario dialogue tool template for commentary on impacts and opportunities of the various scenarios by CBWG members
17	29/02/24	Core and additional modelling teams to confirm delivery timelines for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> iteration of modelling and analysis in line with Carbon Budgets Workplan	CBWG Members	Mar 2024	Open  Email correspondence with modelling groups. Bilateral meetings to be scheduled with additional modelling teams.  The Secretariat and CBWG economists (JF, ESRI, Central Bank) to meet in advance of May meeting.
19	22/03/24	Secretariat to schedule trilateral discussion with NTA, TIM and	Secretariat	Apr 2024	Open

		SEAI CBWG members.			
21	22/03/24	Secretariat to issue a poll to hold an in-person meeting in an alternative location	Secretariat	May 2024	Open