



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting –Carbon Budgets Working Group

Meeting 16

Approved MINUTES

Date: 25th July 2024

Start time: 13:30

Venue: SEAI Head Office at 3 Park Place, Hatch Street, D02 FX65 & Microsoft Teams

Present: In person: Stephen Tracey, Emma Lynch, Jim Scheer, Kian Mintz-Woo, James Moran, Mert Yakut,

On MS Teams: Oliver Geden, James Murphy, Trevor Donnellan, Hannah Daly, Kelly de Bruin, Oliver Geden, Colm Duffy, John Fitzgerald,

Apologies: Kevin Hanrahan, Jeanne Moore, Niamh Garvey, David Styles, Oliver Geden

Observers: Jillian Mahon (in person), Gemma O' Reilly (in person), Andrew Murphy (online), Daniel Henn (online)

Secretariat:

In person: George Hussey, Meabh Gallagher; Phillip O'Brien, Jodie Colgan, Kieran Craven

Online: Ciara Hilliard, Bryn Canniffe

External presenters: In person Aoife Molloy (TCD), Caren Jarman (TCD) and Yvonne Buckley (TCD).

Online: Karen Whitaker (NTA), Warren Whitney (NTA), William Brazil (NTA), Barry Collery (NTA,), Peter O' Sullivan (NTA)

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 agreed by the CBWG.

1.3. Actions

One open action was discussed: Action 22. ST facilitated a discussion on the latest update to the inventory with DS, CD, the Secretariat, and the EPA inventories and projections teams. DS due to provide guidance to JW regarding the incorporation of the latest inventory refinement to the 3rd iteration of GOBLIN analysis. Action to remain open until August 2024.

It was proposed to close five actions: Action 23 – Action 27. See Actions Log below for further details.

2. Biodiversity Report – Assessment of Considerations for Carbon Budgets

Aoife Molloy, Caren Jarman and Yvonne Buckley, presented initial findings of research report commissioned by the CCAC, on an assessment of the biodiversity considerations in the carbon budgets process.

The study sought to assess the alignment of existing national climate and biodiversity policy targets and to assess impacts of climate mitigation measures on biodiversity. The study involved a literature review, two expert workshops and a webinar. The findings identified synergies and trade-offs between climate mitigation and biodiversity policy actions across Energy, LULUCF and Agriculture. Six priority recommendations were discussed to support the inclusion of biodiversity considerations in the carbon budgets process.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, a number of specific potential conflicts between protecting biodiversity were explored. This included trade-offs with biodiversity and plantation of fast-growing non-native tree species to sequester carbon was noted. Realising a monetary value of carbon stored and potential uses for replenishing biodiversity was also raised. It was noted by the report authors that due

to the spatially and temporally dependant nature of biodiversity impacts, the lack of high-resolution spatial land use and land use change data is a barrier to fully assessing trade-offs and synergies. The authors noted that due to the lack of high-resolution spatial data, regulation cannot be developed to mandate consideration of biodiversity at an appropriate scale. Spatial data and analysis can strengthen different climate mitigation policies such as those arising from the Land Use Review. The importation of bioenergy and food and the implication for offshoring of adverse biodiversity impacts was raised. The complexity of applying a cost-benefit analysis methodology to land-use change and implications for the consideration of biodiversity impacts was discussed. Methods that could increase consideration of biodiversity in these analyses, including a points-based methodology and natural capital were noted.

Following the discussion YB, CJ and AM left the meeting.

3. Energy and Transport additional modelling

Barry Colleary from National Transport Authority and Emma Lynch from Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland presented on additional analysis of the 1st and 2nd iteration core modelling results.

First BC from the NTA presented the 2nd iteration of modelling and analysis results. The presentation provided results across different scenarios including passenger kilometre comparisons, freight tonne kilometre comparisons, car/LGV/ HGV stock comparisons and fleet mix comparisons. BC presented and discussed the results comparatively to the TIM model results.

A discussion followed the presentation regarding the main differences between the TIM model and the NTA model assumptions. The different inputs to the NTA model including the use of national household survey data and population projections were outlined. The NTA analysis ran scenarios that would achieve the NCAP2023 target of 30% electric fleet by 2030 compared to 2018. The importance of future analysis to complement high density development policies such as Housing for All was noted. Assumptions and outputs of the freight demand model were discussed including its recent development. HD noted that the interaction with the NTA was extremely useful for developing and assessing aspects of the TIM modelling and thanked the team for their work.

Following the NTA presentation EL presented modelling results from the SEAI analysis of 2nd iteration TIM core modelling using the NEMF model. EL presented the scenario assumptions and model limitations, noting that the NEMF model is policy focused and current policy is heavily 2030-focused, limiting the potential for factors post 2030 to be included in projections. The impact of emissions to 2030 were outlined along with additional risk analysis across WEM and WAM assumptions.

In the discussion that followed, the differences between the NEMF and TIM model were outlined. The risk of rapid emission mitigation action leading to unintended consequences was noted along with the principal risks for exceeding carbon budgets. The assumptions regarding deployment of renewables, and the need for policy to include actions to reduce demand to avoid carbon budget exceedance were discussed. EL will follow up with HD on the risks identified. Further modelling work the SEAI are undertaking to assess pan-European policy area such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and interconnectors were highlighted.

4. Agree inputs, parameters and assumptions for 3rd Iteration of Modelling

The Secretariat presented the Council guidance with regards to the inputs, parameters and assumptions for the 3rd and final iteration of CBWG modelling. The modelling teams were requested to incorporate recent inventory refinements. The Council agreed that the scenarios for the final Carbon Budget 3 and provisional Carbon Budget 4 should assume compliance with Carbon Budgets 1 and 2. However, all three core modelling teams were requested to carry out a sensitivity analysis accounting for carbon budget exceedance in line with the latest EPA projections to provide further detail on the implications for Carbon Budgets 3 and 4 if Carbon Budgets 1 and 2 are not met. In addition, specific requests for the GOBLIN, TIM and MAGICC7 were presented, which included a request for more detail regarding rewetting and peatland assumptions under the 15 GOBLIN scenarios and the implications for imported biomass and international biodiversity under the 8 TIM scenarios, and further clarification on the warming impact analysis and implications for climate neutrality. Lastly, the Council had requested for co-ordination of assumptions or a commentary on the overlap of assumptions where applicable.

HD noted the consideration for including EPA's WEM and WAM projection scenarios in future TIM modelling of selected scenarios, along with continued alignment with other modelling results where feasible.

5. Carbon Budgets Work Plan

The meeting schedule was presented with only two remaining meetings highlighted. It was noted that the next meeting will be held in the SEAI headquarters on August 29th where the 3rd and final iteration of modelling and analysis will be presented. Prioritisation of in-person attendance for this meeting was proposed. A further discussion on Biodiversity Considerations is also scheduled to be led by JM. Lastly, the draft agenda for the final carbon budgets meeting held on the 18th September was presented including additional analysis & macroeconomic modelling results (based on the 3rd iteration), analysis of warming impact of selected core scenarios

(3rd iteration) and the economic assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation options.

The work plan was shared with the working group focussing on the final key deliverables including the CBWG Outputs Report that will be presented to Council for their consideration when proposing the next carbon budgets.

6. Next Steps and Agenda for next meeting

The Secretariat presented an update and next steps of the Scenario Dialogue tool. It was requested that each GOBLIN scenario be subdivided into three so that more detailed feedback can be provided on each element of the tool.

It was noted that the tool will be finalised before the next meeting and no further operational changes to the tool expected. The tool will be open for final comments from all CBWG members between August 29th and September 30th. The Secretariat will circulate a reminder at this point.

7. AOB

No AOB was raised.

Meeting Closed

8. CB WG Actions Log

Action Number	Date Raised	Description	Owner	Due	Status
19	22/03/24	Secretariat to schedule trilateral discussion with NTA, TIM and SEAI CBWG members.	Secretariat	Apr 2024	Closed Trilateral discussion with NTA, UCC and SEAI CBWG members on Monday the 27 th of May Follow up discussion with NTA & UCC on 22 nd of July
22	28/06/24	DS to provide guidance to JW for the 3rd iteration of analysis and ST to facilitate a bilateral call with the EPA inventories team regarding the revised soil emissions factor.	CBWG Members	Aug 2024	Open ST facilitated a discussion on the latest update to the inventory with DS, CD, the Secretariat, and the EPA inventories and projections teams. DS to provide guidance to JW regarding the incorporation of the latest inventory refinement to the 3 rd iteration of GOBLIN analysis.
23	28/06/24	Secretariat to follow up with potential sources on assumptions regarding the required grid investment for NMCI to consider as part of the next iteration of COSMO analysis	Secretariat	July 2024	Propose to Close Secretariat followed up to flag EU Reference Scenarios information on likely scale of investments in power grids required at EU27 level along with relevant EirGrid publications on grid investment projects.

24	28/06/24	JF to follow up with NMCI regarding comments on the macro analysis	CBWG Members	July 2024	Propose to Close JF followed up to provide a note outlining his comments on the macroeconomic analysis.
25	28/06/24	Secretariat to circulate the supplementary brief on the factors influencing power generation technology deployment in Ireland that was prepared by SEAI.	Secretariat	July 2024	Propose to Close Supplementary brief provided to Secretariat and circulated to CBWG members via SharePoint.
26	28/06/24	Each member was asked to fill at least one scenario in the dialogue tool before the July 25th meeting. The Secretariat will set up a call with each member to walk through the tool in more detail and address any questions the members might have.	CBWG members and Secretariat	July 2024	Propose to Close Secretariat had calls with individual CBWG members to discuss the approach to the scenario dialogue tool. The CBWG members were asked to fill one scenario and to report any user issues with the tool by the 25 th of July meeting.
27	28/06/24	Secretariat will schedule a call with KH and TD to discuss FAPRI scenario results the week of 8th of July.	Secretariat	July 2024	Propose to Close Secretariat had a call with KH and TD to discuss the next steps for the FAPRI analysis on the 11 th of July.