



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 15.02.2024

Start time: 11:00

Venue: MS Teams

In person: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Patricia King, Jillian Mahon (to 15:15), Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon, Eoin Moran (Met Éireann) (to 16:40), Prof. Peter Thorne, Andrew Murphy (from 11:30 to 17:00), Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (to 16:40), Eimear Cotter (EPA Observer in place of Laura Burke), William Walsh (SEAI observer) (to 12:50).

Agenda Item 5: Seán O'Leary and Gavin Lawlor from the Irish Planning Institute joined (virtually) for this item.

Apologies: Laura Burke (EPA); Prof. Morgan Bazilian.

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Claire Camilleri, Gina Kelly, Bryn Canniffe, Ciara Hilliard, Eleanor Mathews, Meabh Gallagher, Kieran Craven, Katherine Dooley.

1. Opening of Meeting (11:00)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

It was noted that Katherine Dooley has now joined the Secretariat as a member of the Science Team.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 16th November 2023

The minutes were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Disclosure of Interests



Marie Donnelly disclosed that she has accepted an invitation to be a member of the ENTSO-E external advisory group, to give independent strategic advice on their work programme.

Prof. Peter Thorne disclosed his acceptance of the role of Deputy Chair of the Global Climate Observing System.

2. AR 2024 Draft Recommendations – Electricity and Enterprise (11:05)

Council discussed the preparations for the Electricity Sector and the Enterprise and Waste sectors. Council provided feedback to the Secretariat.

3. Emissions Indicators Update & NCAP 2024 Discussion (12:05)

Council discussed a draft Statement on the progress of climate targets and suggested amendments. It was agreed that a revised version of the document would be circulated to Council for approval by written procedure.

4. Thematic session preview on Sustainable Food Systems (12:30)

The Secretariat gave an introduction to the thematic discussion on sustainable food systems for the April 2024 Council meeting.

Council welcomed the opportunity to discuss this further.

Based on feedback received from Council, the Secretariat will progress analysis and prepare a Council paper in advance of the April meeting.

5. Documents for approval (12:50)

It was agreed that the following report should be published on the Council website:

- Identification and assessment of best practice in nature-based solutions

With regard to the report *Filling the gaps in Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023*, Council agreed that some updates would be suggested to authors prior to publication.

6. Thematic session – Planning and National Planning Framework (13:30)

Seán O'Leary and Gavin Lawlor from the Irish Planning Institute joined the meeting and briefed Council on planning reform, the National Planning Framework review, forward planning issues and biodiversity. The Chair thanked the guests for their attendance and encouraged continued communication between the IPI and Climate Change Advisory Council.



The National Planning Framework public consultation is scheduled for June. Council agreed that the Secretariat would draft a response to be circulated to Council for comment and written approval.

7. Adaptation Committee Update (14.45)

The Secretariat briefed Council members on the outcomes of the Adaptation Committee meetings held on 14th December 2023 and 25th January 2024. It was noted that the Secretariat is coordinating a submission from the Adaptation Committee on the National Adaptation Framework. The meeting was briefed on the external presentations made to the Adaptation Committee, 2024 workplan of the Adaptation Committee, preparations for the adaptation scorecard and the Adaptation Committee annual workshop on climate adaptation indicators that is to take place on 12th March.

The Adaptation Committee raised the challenge of attracting and retaining staff to work on climate change issues across Government and Local Authorities to Council for its consideration. Council discussed this issue and agreed to address it further in future Council meetings and after the report on the capacity of the public sector to deliver climate action is published.

8. Carbon Budgets Update (12:50 – Decision item) (14:30 – Discussion Item)

The Secretariat provided an update on the meetings held on 23rd of November and 15th of December and previewed the upcoming topics for discussion at the next meetings scheduled for 29th February 2024 and 22nd March 2024.

The Council discussed the main guidance points to be provided to the Carbon Budgets Working Group as it proceeds to the 2nd iteration of modelling and analysis;

- Additional scenarios requested to widen the scope of modelling.
- A brief accompanying descriptive narrative needed for each of the modelled scenarios.
- FAPRI scenario modelling required out to 2050 which explores a 30 - 60% reduction in agriculture emissions.

Council agreed that Prof. John Fitzgerald should formally be approved as a member of the Carbon Budgets Working Group.



9. Communications Update (16:40)

The Secretariat briefed Council on the Communications Subgroup meeting on 23rd January 2024. Council discussed key events in 2024 and noted the indicative outline of the timing of and communications approach to the publication of the Annual Review 2024.

10. Work Programme Update (16:45)

The Secretariat updated Council on the work programme, budget and 2024 research topics.

11. EU/International Update (16:50)

The Secretariat gave a verbal update on Council activities at COP28, Dubai and brief overview of the EU Work Programme for 2024.

12. Activities of the Council (16:55)

The Council noted the report of Council activities and drew attention to some minor amendments.

13. AOB (17:00)

- Council noted that the biannual EPA/CCAC MOU meeting took place on 11th of January 2024.
- The Council noted the Horizon Scanning Report 2023 and that Secretariat will follow up once 2024 events are scheduled
- It was agreed that a short submission to the NECP public consultation would be considered by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Chairperson. The Irish Climate Change Assessment was launched in January and could be considered as a tool for future Council work.

Next meeting: It was noted that the next Council meeting would be on the 25th of April 2024 and would be held virtually on MS Teams.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie L. Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Signed on 25.04.2024