



Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 28.11.2024

Start time: 09:30

Venue: Radisson Blu St. Helens Hotel, Stillorgan Dublin 4, and on MS Teams

In Person: Marie Donnelly (Chair), Patricia King, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, Julie Sinnamon (until 15:30 and from 16:10 online), Prof. Peter Thorne, Andrew Murphy (from 11:00), Prof. Frank O' Mara (Teagasc) (from 12:40), Eoin Moran (Met Éireann); Laura Burke (EPA) (to 16:30), William Walsh (SEAI observer).

Online: Professor Liam Delaney, Jillian Mahon, Professor Edgar Morgenroth (to 13:50 & from 15:55), Professor Yvonne Buckley.

Apologies: Prof. Morgan Bazilian.

Agenda Item 2 - Sinead Byrne from Allone Corporate Solutions Ltd. joined (virtually) for this item.

Agenda Item 3 – Dr. Mohammed Mohammadrezaei, Dr. Maeve Henchion and Dr. Sharon Sweeney, Teagasc for this item.

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Gina Kelly, Meabh Gallagher, Stephen Flood, Eleanor Mathews, Bryn Canniffe, Ciara Hilliard, Jodie Colgan, Claire Camilleri

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

1.1 Minutes for the Climate Change Advisory Council Meeting 28th November 2024

The minutes were accepted.



Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

Disclosure of Interests

Prof. Yvonne Buckley declared that she is the Director of the AIB Trinity Climate Hub, funded through a €10M agreement with AIB. This agreement makes provision for full academic freedom.

2. FOI briefing Part A - Principles of FOI and AIE (09:40)

Sinead Byrne from Allone Corporate Solutions Ltd. briefed the Council in the first of a two-part briefing on FOI and AIE principles.

3. Presentation of Research (10:45)

Mohammed Mohammadrezaei and his colleagues Dr. Maeve Henchion and Dr. Sharon Sweeney from Teagasc and presented on the Farm-level Behavioural Change Towards Building Climate Resilience study.

4. Annual Review 2025 (11:45)

The Secretariat presented a proposal for the production of Annual Review 2025.

It was agreed that there would be a special sitting of the Communications subgroup in December with a single item agenda on this matter. The subgroup would recommend an approach to Council for agreement by silence procedure.

5. Documents for approval (12:25)

Council discussed document 5.1 Sustainable Finance: A Review of Mitigation and Adaptation Finance Options in Ireland and agreed that it should be published on the Council website.

6. Research and Thematic Sessions 2025 (12:30)

The Secretariat presented a schedule of thematic sessions for 2025 and priority areas for research/policy briefs in 2025 based on feedback from Council Members.



The Secretariat and Dr. Cara Augustenborg gave an introduction to the thematic discussion on administrative barriers to climate action for the February 2025 Council meeting.

Based on feedback received from Council, it was agreed that the Secretariat, with support from relevant Council members would progress analysis and prepare a Council paper in advance of the February meeting.

Council also agreed to progress with a collaboration with Irish Fiscal Advisory Council looking at costs of compliance in further detail.

It was agreed that other priority areas for 2025 would be reviewed at the February meeting.

7. Energy Efficiency Directive Factsheet (12:40)

The Secretariat presented an updated version of the Energy Efficiency Directive Factsheet for Council discussion and an overview of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop a factsheet on the Renewable Energy Directive to be presented to Council at the February meeting.

8. Carbon Budgets (13:35)

The Secretariat presented the Carbon Budgets Working Group Outputs for Councils information. They also presented a suite of draft Carbon Budgets documents for finalisation. Further to discussion it was agreed that the final text would be circulated to Council for approval by silence procedure.

9. Communications (16:30)

The Chair of the Council's Communications Subgroup, Dr. Cara Augustenborg, briefed the Council on the meeting of the Council's Subgroup on Communications of 12th of November 2024.

It was agreed that the Council would activate their account on Bluesky, holding a dual presence on X and Bluesky until further Council discussion.

Further to discussion and review of the Public Relations and Communications Services contract, Council agreed to extend the contract for a further 12 months.

10. Activities of the Council (16:35)

The Council noted the report of Council activities.



11. AOB and next meeting (17:30)

It was agreed that the Chair would write to the members of the Carbon Budgets Working Group to thank them for their contribution to the Carbon Budget process.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Council would be 13th of February 2025 and would be held virtually.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie C. Donnelly".

Signed: _____ 13th February 2025