

Minutes of Northern Ireland Climate Change Impacts Partnership meeting held on Friday 5 November 2010, DoE Office, Goodwood House, May Street, Belfast

Attendees			Apologies		
John McMullan (Chairman)	JMM	Bryson Group	Karen Smyth	KS	NILGA
Irene McGee (Secretariat)	IMG	SNIFFER	Lisa McElherron	LME	NICVA
Ivan Gregg	IG	DoE	Angus Kerr	AK	DoE
Michael McCallion	MMC	DoE	Stephen Bradshaw	SB	DRDNI
Brian Doyle	BD	Rivers Agency	Sue Christie	SC	NIEL
Joe Nicholson	JN	Rivers Agency	Nigel McMahan	NMM	DHSSPS
Emer Murnaghan	EM	ICE	George Dorrian	GD	FSB
Barry McAuley	BMC	DoE	Aileen Lawson	AL	UFU
Fiona Mulholland	FM	NIEA	Christine Butler	CB	DARD
Raymond Smyth	RS	CEHOG	Valerie Crozier	VC	NI Water
Gerry Metcalf	GM	UKCIP	Julian Holbrook	JH	SNIFFER
Keith Miller	KM	DHSSPS			
Jim Kitchen	JK	SDC			
Paddy Brow	PB	NI Water			
Deirdre Stewart	DS	CBI			

1. Welcome (JMM)

JMM welcomed everyone to meeting at DoE Building. JMM acknowledged that NICCIP Member Emer Murnaghan is changing roles, and today would be her last NICCIP meeting.

JMM acknowledged Emer's work for NICCIP and noted how the overall partnership appreciated her contributions. Recently new NICCIP member Anne Lockwood, representing PEPG, has taken early retirement, and will be replaced by Angus Kerr.

2. Action Points from the last NICCIP meeting

Minutes for the last meeting were accepted to be a true record.

IM provided a summary of the action points from the last meeting. RS provided an update on NI Declarations Action Point.

Raymond Smyth, Gary McFarlane (CIEH), Karen Smyth (NILGA) gave some consideration on how to raise the profile of climate change work within the councils. It was felt that this could best be achieved by undertaking Local Climate Impact Profiles (LCLIPs), either as a pilot involving a few councils or encompassing all interested councils in appropriate clusters, using the methodology developed by the UK Climate Impacts Programme. This was submitted to the Department of the Environment for funding of the project, however it was unsuccessful due to current budget constraints within the DoE. GMF has since appointed some temporary external appointments

(students through a GAP programme) to complete a LCLIPs for Omagh District Council. The student has currently completed the 'media trawl' process and has arranged meetings and events in order to continue the LCIPs process.

JMM requested RS to keep NICCIP informed of the process.

3. Presentation

Joe Nicholson from Rivers Agency provided a comprehensive presentation of Flooding in NI.

Action Point 1: IMG to circulate the presentation on Flooding.

4. UKCIP Update

GM provided an update on 3 items from UCKIP via teleconference;

(a) CCRA event and UK Departmental Action Plans

GM found the UKCCRA workshop in Hillsborough on 29th of September to be a good event, with good attendance and new faces. Responsibility for adaptation currently lies within the DEFRA team. However it would be useful if this was more applied in other central government departments. Each Department issued a Departmental Adaptation Plan in March 2010, which is now unaccountable due to the new administration. There is a concern at a strategic level that having a cross-Departmental adaptation approach seems unlikely.

(b) UKCIP contract

GM stated that the UKCIP contract ends next September. DEFRA are reviewing the entire adaptation landscape. An invitation to Tender will be issued in January. DEFRA's invitation to tender should embrace all of the UK, however the Devolved administrations have responsibility for adaptation. UKCIP has been having continuous conversations with the regional climate change partnerships (RCCP's) on an integrated approach, where multiple aspects such as evidence, knowledge transfer, outreach etc. should be delivered by a single function.

(c) RCCP's

Climate UK, the over-arching body for all RCCP's (Regional Climate Change Partnerships), are convening a meeting with UKCIP later this month to discuss future working potential of UKCIP and RCCP's. The RCCP's have been funded in part by DEFRA, originally contracted to March, however DEFRA have now extended their contract to September. DEFRA may be thinking of aligning the partnerships with UKCIP.

JMM thanked GM for his useful insight into DEFRA, UKCIP and the RCCP's. PB commented that he will be speaking on behalf of NI Water at a climate change adaptation conference soon, where DEFRA will be present. PB would be concerned that different water companies may not have a common standing point in adaptation and its impacts if UKCIP were not to continue. PB offered to advocate for UKCIP at this presentation, and will discuss this further with GM.

Action Point 2: PB to contact GM directly about NI Water presentation at climate change adaptation conference, and the role of UKCP09 and UKCIP in assisting water companies.

5. Policy Update

IG provided an overall update on policy items.

(a) Environmental Policy Division

There have been a number of changes to the Climate and Waste Division of DOE. It now includes several teams from what used to be the Planning and Natural Resource Division, and the name has been changed to the Environmental Policy Division. There has also been a change in senior management structure and the Deputy Secretary for the Division is now John McMillan, Chief Executive of NIEA.

(b) UKCCRA

The NI CCRA workshop on the 29th of September in Hillsborough was well attended and feedback received from attendees was very positive. A draft record of the workshop has been circulated to attendees and comments forwarded to HR Wallingford who are making amendments to the record. A final workshop record should be circulated in the next week.

(c) Adaptation Economic Analysis

Defra and the DAs have commenced work on a 'UK Adaptation Economic Analysis'. This will be an important piece of work that will inform the National Adaptation Programmes. The aim is to inform government about costs and benefits of adaptation to climate change; provides an overall indication of the scale of the challenge and identify priority areas for action. It is also intended that the method will be transferrable and scalable. Following the Corporate Spending Review, discussions are currently focussing on the methodology and the potential/need for cost savings

(d) CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (Mitigation)

The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory, energy saving, carbon emissions reduction scheme for the UK which is intended to act as an incentive to improve energy efficiency. The scheme went live on 1 April 2010 with organisations required to register by the end of 30 September 2010. There are expected to be around 5000 participants UK wide with around 80-100 in Northern Ireland. Participants are required to purchase allowances at the start of the year and then having a proportion of that 'recycled' to them depending on performance. However, in the Spending Review Statement of 20 October 2010, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Treasury announced a decision to end revenue recycling in CRC, with HMT keeping all monies generated from sales of allowances. It is estimated that this will net Treasury approximately £650m in the first year (approximately £20m of which will come from the Northern Ireland public and private sectors).

6. Climate Week

Secretariat provided an introduction to Climate Week. Climate Week, on 21-27 March 2011, is a national occasion that offers an annual renewal of our ambition and confidence to combat climate change. NICCIP had originally intended to host an annual climate change event in March, however the CCHG will be hosting their event in March. Therefore NICCIP will now be holding their annual climate change event to next Autumn 2011. However, it is a potentially good idea for NICCIP to act as lead advocates in NI in relation to promoting Climate week.

NICCIP members were content to act as advocates. Ideas from the NICCIP group included linking up with Universities, pushing for all climate change PR to be released that week on items such as climate change waste campaigns, electric vehicles etc. and encouraging others to hold events this week.

Action Point 3: IMG to arrange a NICCIP communications sub-group meeting discussion to advance ideas on Climate week.

7. Headline Messages

IG provided an update on the UKCIP Headline Messages. As provided in the meeting papers, an initial set of headline messages were requested to be prepared and available for the next British Irish Council (Environment) meeting (scheduled for March 2011), it is suggested that this activity should be initiated in November 2010 and completed by early February 2011. The messages are intended to be short (ideally 1-2 lines) and identify a policy, impact, consequence or risk for which action is required. The Department need a number of people with different ideas and views. Roger Street from UKCIP will be travelling to NI in early December to develop the concept. IG requested 2-3 people from NICCIP, with background experience in the projections to meet and discuss. DoE will co-ordinate a group around this. Sub group volunteers were Brian Doyle, Keith Miller, Emer Murnaghan and Paddy Brow.

Action Point 4: IG to lead on the headline messages work. NICCIP members/volunteers to meet to discuss.

8. Minutes from last meeting

NICCIP Tier 2 minutes approved.

Action Point 5: IM to upload minutes to NICCIP webpage.

9. NICCIP Communications - Joint NICCIP/CCHG Website

CCHG have requested NICCIP consider a joint NICCIP / CCHG website. NICCIP members felt both should be kept separate as it could cause a loss of identity.

Action Point 6: JMM to put some thought to creating the NICCIP website.

10. AOB

- JMM issued a congratulations to EM on her move to Graham Construction. It will be a great loss to the partnership. EM said she would be replaced and interviews are being held next week.
- DS queried the outlook of the SDC. It was reported that JK thinks the NI post is under threat. OFMDFM feel they can fulfil the role in-house.
- FM highlighted the EU Consultation on the Roadmap to a Low Carbon Economy. It was suggested that NICCIP members could respond individually or collectively.

Action Point 7: IMG to circulate email on the EU Consultation on Roadmap to Low Carbon Economy and request responses from NICCIP members.

- PB highlighted how he has information he is willing to share on the NI Water Climate change mitigation strategy. To help ensure continued support of CC Mitigation NI Water has sought to illustrate the very strong link between Climate Change Mitigation and operational cost efficiencies.

Action Point 8: PB to circulate presentation and information on NI Water Climate Change Mitigation.

- EM and JMM highlighted the launch of the 'Green New Deal' which has been driven by John Woods, a private consultant commissioned by the social partners to support the development of the GND concept and business plan. The social partnership consists of IoD, NICVA, Housing Executive, Energy Companies, Bryson, etc.. The Green New Deal looks at investing in infrastructure which reduces the impact of climate change, such as investing in housing infrastructure, reducing CO2 emissions, increasing renewables, and creating jobs which go into micro-communities. 2 Ministers attended the launch event – DSD Minister and DET Minister. The DSD Minister embraced housing policy, and will engage in further dialogue with DETI.

Next NICCIP meeting is **Friday 28th January 2011**, venue ICE (TBC).

Irene McGee
17th November 2010
