



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE 8TH FEBRUARY 2023

10AM COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND MS TEAMS

PRESENT

Councillors: Cllr. Bill Clear (Chair), Cllr. Peter Hamilton, Cllr. Fintan Brett (online),
Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil ([online](#))

Sectoral Interests: Sinead Rowan, Tom Malone

Officials: Joe Boland, Director of Services (online)
Paula O'Rourke, Climate Action Officer (online)
Edel Donnelly, Clerical Officer

Speakers: Conor Leahy (Codema, Senior Energy Manager)
Sinead Rowan (Public Affairs Manager, County Kildare Chamber)

Apologies:

AGENDA ITEM 1: TO NOTE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 07TH DECEMBER 2022

Minutes of meeting of the 07th December 2022 were adopted by all members present.

AGENDA ITEM 2: TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising.

AGENDA ITEM 3: PRESENTATION FROM CONOR LEAHY, CODEMA'S SENIOR ENERGY MANAGER, ON PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL 4 DAY WORKING WEEK TRIAL, MID EAST ENERGY UNIT INCLUDING 2030 NATIONAL ENERGY TARGETS AND PATH TO TASK ACHIEVEMENT

Codema a non-for-profit organisation, founded in 1997 with 23 staff. Energy advisor to 4 Dublin Local Authorities (involved in District Heating Projects around Dublin).

Public sector targets challenging to meet (51% absolute CO₂ reduction by 2030, 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030, 50% overall contribution from renewable space heating by 2030). Electricity emissions will reduce without any real measures, transport is the real area of concern and electrification of fleet a target area.

Mid-East Energy Unit (Wicklow (lead), Kildare and Meath County Council) Service Level Agreement with Wicklow. Codema and SEAI 3 year memorandum of understanding.

Codema services broken down into 3 area's:

1. Service 1 - EnMS & M&R Reviews

- review of current energy management practices and provide guidance on how they can be improved.
- review of all M&R data, ensuring entered correctly and up to date. Offer guidance on reporting system and help remedy inaccuracies.
- Identify the Significant Energy Users (SEUs) i.e. libraries and engage with those responsible for such buildings/facilities and discuss various options.

2. Service 2 – Project Pipeline

- Identify what projects need to be implemented in order to help reach targets, short, medium and long-term projects, Codema will help identify the projects best suited to deliver results.

3. Service 3 – Project Delivery

- Codema's in house Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be responsible for the development and procurement of each contract on behalf of the 3 local authorities.

Timeline of services

- Service 1 - Completed end of August
- Service 2 – Last 4 months 2023
- Service 3 – Most happen in year 2-3

4 Day Week

Codema took part in the 4-Day week trial (Feb-July 2022) in which 17 Irish companies participated.

The results were positive, and staff felt it improved their wellbeing (67%). The companies observed no impact in relation to deadlines, outputs & feedback and have decided to continue with a 4-day going forward. It was noted that 12 out of the 17 companies that took part aim to continue this practice.

Members raised the following points:

Tom Malone

- Will there be a cost to the council? Answer – Yes there will be initial costs however running costs much lower long-term.
- New EV's inefficient, range not very good, reduced battery life winter (heating) summer (AC).
- Pointed out that perhaps in future new agricultural buildings will have to have the capacity to add solar panels and maybe this needs to be discussed with planning department.

Cllr. Bill Clear

- Initial costs are high, however running costs much lower over time.
- Suggested if smart lighting in building could be examined and requested Mr. Leahy to be a visionary as possible in approach.

Cllr. Peter Hamilton

- Pointed out that most climate change activities save money in the long term.
- Electrifying fleet an effective mechanism to meet targets.
- Questioned if any engagement on fleet policy to date?

AGENDA ITEM 4: PRESENTATION FROM SINEAD ROWAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, MANAGER, COUNTY KILDARE CHAMBER AND MEMBER OF CA SPC, ON BUSINESS AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY INTO THE FUTURE

County Kildare Chamber has over 400 members, employing over 42,000 staff, run over 100 plus events annually and organizes trade visits to countries such as Brussels, Scotland, Boston and Dubai.

Members took part in Sustainable Kildare Project/Challenge sponsored by Intel (October 2022), 3-week challenge, encouraged participants to work/commute in a more sustainable manner. Winners of the 'Engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals' award at the 2022 Chambers Ireland Awards.

Kildare County Chamber recently conducted a survey of its members – Energy & Business 2023. The findings were as follows:

- 43% of business very concerned about rising energy costs
- 27% of businesses bills had increased by 41-60%
- 76% of respondents said they were not able to avail of TBESS
- Over 2/3's had implemented energy saving measures in the last 3 months
- Of the 32% who had not, over a half had already implemented all possible measures, a third said the difference between cost and payback was not enough

TBESS not very easy avail off and needs to be simplified, while it was also pointed out that some businesses are waiting on technology to improve in order to get a better payback.

Questions

Members raised the following points:

Cllr. Peter Hamilton

- The issue of renewables has come to the fore since the Ukrainian War and the work done while great may have been due to high energy costs and would love to see a more permanent change.

AGENDA ITEM 5: OPEN DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL TOPICS THE COMMITTEE WISH TO PURSUE IN 2023

Councillor Bill Clear suggested a talk from Fergus Sharkey, Head of Department, Business and Public Sector, SEAI. It was also proposed that Raoul Empey, Managing Director of Sustineo be invited to speak at the next Climate Action SPC.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was noted.

AGENDA ITEM 8: TO NOTE DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place Wednesday, 10th May 2023.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 11.23 a.m.