

Climate Change Revisited

Irish Fiscal Advisory Council

Path for the Public Finances Conference 2024

22nd February 2024, 9am – 1:20pm (Registration from 8:30am)

In-person event, Royal Irish Academy

This is the Council's 8th annual *Path for the Public Finances* conference on public finance issues.

This year's conference is on the theme of climate change. This includes the policy challenges, green budgeting and the fiscal costs of transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy.

The conference will look at Ireland's carbon budgets, green budgeting in the EU and new research from the Council on the likely fiscal costs of transitioning to a net-zero carbon economy. We will also get an international perspective with insights from recent work at the OECD and the UK's Office for Budget Responsibility.

Conference Programme

8:30am	Registration
9:00am	Opening address Michael McMahon, Acting Chairperson of the Fiscal Council
9:10am	Opening Keynote: Climate Change Assessment and the current state of play Laura Burke
9:50am	Carbon budgets in Ireland, the most likely transition path and policy implications Hannah Daly
10:20am	An international perspective Douglas Sutherland
10:50am	Tea/coffee
11:10am	How Green Budgeting is Embedded in National Budget Processes Simona Pojar
11:40am	What Climate change means for the Irish public finances Eddie Casey and Killian Carroll
12:10pm	The fiscal implications of net zero and climate change in the UK Alison Todd

12:40pm

Panel discussion: How can Ireland successfully transition to a net-zero carbon economy?

Niall Conroy (Chair)

Marie Donnelly

Conall Mac Coille

Lisa Ryan

Speakers

Laura Burke is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Laura is a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) and a member of the High Level Implementation Committee of 'Food Vision 2030', the Irish Agri-Food Sector Strategy. She previously chaired the European Environment Agency (EEA) Management Board



Hannah Daly is a Professor in Sustainable Energy at University College Cork. She leads a team who analyse future pathways for the energy system compatible with steep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. She also communicates extensively on the topic of climate action in Ireland.

Douglas Sutherland is a head of division in the OECD Economics Department. He leads several workstreams, including climate change, labour markets and inequality, and economic security.





Simona Pojar is a policy analyst in the European Commission. For about 6 years she had been conducting country-specific economic and fiscal analysis for the Irish economy. In 2021, she joined the unit responsible for National Fiscal Frameworks and Institutions where she is working primarily on the green budgeting file; the most recent area of research being 'how green budgeting is embedded in national budget processes'.

Killian Carroll is an Economist at the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. He is currently pursuing a PhD in University College Dublin, having previously completed an MSc. Quantitative Economics there and a BSc. Economics and Mathematical Sciences in University of Limerick.



Eddie Casey is currently an expert on loan at the OECD. He is the chief economist at the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council. Eddie holds a PhD in Macroeconomics from University College Dublin, and first-class honours degrees in M.Sc. Financial Economics and B.A. Economics from University College Cork.

Alison Todd is a Senior analyst at the Office for Budget Responsibility in London. Her work focuses on energy and climate change. She has led the OBR's work on estimating the fiscal implications of net zero and climate change on the UK public finances.



Marie Donnelly is the chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Governance Committee of MaREI and an Advisory board member of UCD Energy Institute. She previously worked as Director for Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Innovation at the European Commission.



Conall Mac Coille is chief economist at Bank of Ireland. He previously worked at Davy stockbrokers, the Bank of England and the ESRI.

Lisa Ryan is a professor in energy economics in the School of Economics. Her research is in clean energy technology adoption, energy markets, and climate change economics and related policy.

