

An Taisce Special Interest Committee

An Taisce Climate Committee

Introduction:

Under article 47 of the An Taisce Articles of Association (2020) the Board may establish and dissolve committees.

Governance:

1. A committee established under article 47 shall report to the Board and Council in accordance with any instructions given by the Board.
2. At least one member of the committee must be a Board member.
3. The Board may delegate any task to or revoke any task established under article 47.
4. A committee established under article 47 shall keep a proper record of its proceedings, and it will operate within the terms of reference set by the Board (see below).
5. Committee members must adhere to the An Taisce Code of Conduct.

Terms of Reference

Committee Name	An Taisce Climate Committee (ATCC)
Context	Human activity is now impacting the environment on global scale. We are encountering multiple hard, physical planetary boundaries, each with the potential for severe damage to global ecosystems in general and human welfare in particular. Of these, cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution of the atmosphere and consequent widespread climate disruption, is the most urgent, the most potentially catastrophic, but seemingly the most resistant to effective societal response. In this unique historical context, it is necessary for An Taisce to adopt an explicit mission of advocating for radical climate policy action.
Scope	<p>The scope of ATCC is all policy issues arising directly within Ireland, and in Ireland's interaction with the rest of the global human community, in relation to the challenge of rapid human-caused change in global climate patterns.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and outreach to citizens nationally and internationally, to help them understand the scale and urgency of the challenge and to enable them to identify means of engaging in positive and effective responses according to their diverse roles and influence in society;• Interaction with national media to facilitate and promote informed public debate on the most appropriate policy initiatives and responses for Ireland;• Engagement with public and private institutions, to inform and to respond to their interventions;• Interaction with the Irish state, in the form of state agencies, local government, and especially with national government, to hold political representatives to account in their most fundamental obligation to preserve a livable global and local environment for future generations.
Retirement	ATCC will no longer be required when a just transition to a sustainable way of life has been achieved.
Operating Instructions (not for publication)	

Leverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leverage An Taisce’s statutory prescribed body role to effect changes in public policy and to intervene in relevant licensing and planning activity that impacts on the Scope set out above. ● Collaborate with all departments in An Taisce to enhance the treatment of climate change issues.
Duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prepare and disseminate high-quality briefing materials, and facilitate access to spokespersons with the appropriate expertise and media skills, to ensure informed media treatment of climate issues. ● Respond to media comment on climate change science and policy, providing critical, evidence-based commentary and rebuttals where appropriate. ● Promote strong, proactive engagement and leadership by the Irish state in international climate policy and the achievement of effective international action, commensurate with the physical challenge, and on a basis of global equity. ● Promote the enactment of specific national legislation and establishment of effective state institutions, to proactively manage the Irish national response to climate change. ● Identify and advise on situations where legal action may be open to An Taisce to promote or protect effective climate policy action. ● Respond to consultations initiated by government departments, state agencies, etc., which are relevant to climate policy. ● Engage directly with public representatives and others with formal and informal social and political influence to promote commensurate responses to the climate change challenge. ● Engage with individuals and communities throughout Ireland to inform and support them in responding to climate change, and participating in local, national, and international policy development. ● Contribute to the development of the overall An Taisce strategy on an ongoing basis. ● Engage in such other activities as ATCC, in consultation with the An Taisce Board or Council, may identify as relevant and appropriate on an ongoing basis.
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membership of ATCC will be determined by the Board and may consist of three or more persons. At least one member of the committee must be a Board member. ● Only members in good standing or staff of An Taisce shall normally be eligible to serve on ATCC. ● Any member of An Taisce may volunteer to serve on ATCC. ATCC itself may nominate additional persons to serve on ATCC. ● Resignations of membership from ATCC shall be notified to the Board. ● Membership of ATCC shall be a matter of public record, published via the An Taisce website. ● Prospective members should submit their CV, plus a brief statement on their reasons for wanting to be on the committee. Prospective members must declare their interests. If nominated by an existing committee member, said member should state why they think the person would be a valuable addition. The committee may invite prospective members to join a meeting as a guest. ● Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members must attend at least 75% of the committee’s meetings per year. ○ If a member cannot attend at least 9 meetings in every 12, exceptions can be made by the ATCC Chair to allow for personal circumstances, account for work contributed, etc. ○ Attendance can be tracked through the minutes using a chart system similar to that used by the An Taisce Board (a chart for the whole year, members marked as attended, apologies given or absent at each meeting). ○ If someone joins during the year, attendance is calculated as at 75% of all meetings they were eligible to attend (not including meeting attended as guest); the exceptional circumstances provision applies here too. ○ A review of membership/attendance can be conducted at the behest of any committee member.
Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ATCC decision-making shall be by consensus insofar as possible. Where voting is necessary, inclusive voting procedures shall be adopted as far as practical. ● ATCC adopted by MBC a policy that committee members will not fly when representing An Taisce. ● ATCC media interaction, including press releases, participation in media interviews, discussion panels, response to media queries, etc., (where such interaction is

	<p>identified as on behalf of An Taisce), shall be managed in accordance with such protocols as may be established from time to time by the Board or its delegate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ATCC shall submit a report to each regular meeting of An Taisce Council, highlighting important environmental issues and activities for discussion. ● ATCC shall submit a formal annual report to the Board in time for inclusion in the charity's Annual Report, summarising activities undertaken and plans for the following year. ● ATCC shall recommend policies and strategies to the Board that it wishes to see adopted by An Taisce. ● ATCC shall adopt such further detailed procedures as it sees fit to govern its own operation, including frequency and schedule of meetings, mechanisms for internal communication, election of officers, and assignment of specific roles to individual members. ● In the event of conflict among members of ATCC, or between ATCC members and other members, officers or staff of An Taisce, appropriate positive conflict resolution measures shall be adopted. If, and only if, such means of collaborative resolution are exhausted, the Board shall be called on for binding adjudication.
Adoption	These terms of reference were adopted by the Board on 27th January 2022