



# Retail Forum Working Group Minutes: Future of Retail – Green Transition

**17 February 2023**

## Meeting 5

### CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY

**Attendees:** Appendix A

**Minutes:** The minutes from this meeting are to be agreed under Silence Procedure and will be available on [www.enterprise.gov.ie](http://www.enterprise.gov.ie)

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#### **Item 1: Welcome**

The Chair advised the Group that following the Retail Forum membership review in 2022 and number of new members are joining both the Retail Forum and the Retail Forum Workings Groups. Tesco, Kilkenny Group and Easons are new members to the Green Transition Working Group.

#### **Item 2: Update on Sustainability Works *A Guide for Ireland's Retail Sector***

Aideen O'Hora, Sustainability Works gave an overview of the research into *Adapting the Reality of Climate Change A Guide for Ireland's Retail Sector*. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to Working Group members.

#### **Item 3: Update on *National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap for 2023-2025***

Brian Quirke and Les Carberry, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) gave an overview of the National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap for 2023-2025. A copy of the presentation will be forwarded to Working Group members.

Action 20 in the *National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap for 2023-2025* refers to the Retail Forum as follows

*Raise awareness on food redistribution and donation including the use of consumer and local business facing technology platforms that facilitate food redistribution and donation. Presentation to the Retail Forum*

This action is now complete. The Retail Forum/Green Transition Working Group will continue to engage with DECC on Food Waste Prevention and asked DECC to advise on the best way to maintain that engagement.

#### *Points raised included*

- Steps for small SMEs
- Food redistribution in a sustainable way
- Offsetting Tax credits
- Further updates on the EPA's Food Waste Charter

#### **Item 4: Working Group Actions**

- The following actions are completed.
  - *Action 15 Identify and raise awareness of sustainability supports available to the retail sector*  
A link to the *Energy and Sustainability: Government schemes and resources for retailers* will be added to the new Retail Sector page.
  - *Action 19 Provide stakeholder input to the SEAI Retail Sector Energy Guide*  
A link to the Guide will be added to the new Retail Sector page.
  - *Action 16 Identify barriers to engagement in sustainability programmes for retailers - in particular SME retailers*  
A number of barriers have been identified including time, value of support available, readiness of the business and size of business. This has been addressed by discussion at the Green Transition Working Group meetings and the Retail Forum. The Retail Sector has requested clearer information on how supports can help and for the supports to be communicated more widely.
  - *Action 18 Monitor the roll out of the Deposit Return Scheme*  
An update on the DRS was received at the December 2022 Retail Forum meeting. A further update is to be provided by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications at the next Retail Forum meeting on 22 March 2023. In relation to this action the following points were raised
    - DRS is a very live issue.
    - Clarity around planning, safety, VAT and procurement of vending machines in order for the timeline to be feasible.
    - DECC advised that on the planning point draft regulations are currently going through the Oireachtas. VAT is a matter for Revenue and Department of Finance.
    - Management of the Returns. Local Authorities and other key stakeholders are key to assisting with this.
    - DECC advised that a full presentation on DRS will be given at the next Retail Forum meeting on 22 March 2023.
- The following action is ongoing.
  - *Action 17 Explore the feasibility of a pilot mentoring programme in relation to sustainability*  
One member agreed to review their current mentoring offering and will revert on it. Another member added that they are happy to explore it further.

#### **Action:**

- Copy of both presentations to be forwarded to Working Group members.
- DECC to give an update on DRS at the next Retail Forum meeting on 22 March 2023.
- DECC to liaise with the Green Transition Working Group on the EPA's Food Waste Charter.
- Retail Forum member to update the Group in relation to Action 17.

**Retail Section  
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment  
21 February 2023**

## Appendix A

### Retail Forum Working Group: Future of Retail – Green Transition

#### Attendees

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment (Chair)	Deborah	Dignam
Chambers Ireland	James	Kiernan
CSNA	Vincent	Jennings
Primark	Emma	Ormond
Retail Excellence	Duncan	Graham
Retail Ireland	Arnold	Dillon
SEAI	Ali	Donnellan
Tesco	Tracey	McDermott
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	Catherine	McGinty

#### Apologies

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Kilkenny Group	Marian	O’Gorman
Easons	Liam	Hanly

#### Presenters

Organisation	First Name	Surname
Sustainability Works	Aideen	O’Hora
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	Les	Carberry
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	Brian	Quirke