

## Minutes

### Retail Forum Working Group Future of Retail – Green Transition Meeting 2 04 May 2022

#### **CHATHAM HOUSE RULES APPLY**

**Attendees:** Appendix A

**Next meeting:** 10am, Wednesday 25 May 2022

**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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**Objective:** The **Future of Retail – Green Transition** working group is tasked with identifying a set of achievable actions to feed into a Retail Action Plan that will be presented to the Minister for Retail, Damian English T.D. at the Retail Forum meeting on 08 June 2022.

#### **1. Agenda Items**

##### **Action 1 - Promote the *Sustainable Irish Retail Action Survey***

The Group was provided with an update on the SIRA Survey. The Sustainable Irish Retail Action is led by Think Plan Do Consulting and BehaviourWise in partnership with Retail Excellence and Champion Green. The survey which was conducted within the retail sector will form the basis of a plan, under 10 key pillars of their retail sustainability platform, that will support consumer behavioural change towards more sustainable choices. Each pillar will have a simple set of information including facts, case studies, top tip and navigational guides.

It was agreed that this action is completed as the Department issued an email on 14 April with the 10 pillars under SIRA, along with a request for case studies under each pillar.

*Comments arising:*

- Survey results will be published in 10 days, and the Retail Excellence representative will circulate the results to the working group members.
- The Guide for Retailers is scheduled to be launched on 8 June and will contain 25/30 case studies.

**Action Complete**

##### **Action 2 – Provide stakeholder input in to the SEAI Retail Sector Energy Guide.**

The Group was provided with an update on the SEAI Retail Sector Energy Guide which is due to be completed by early June 2022. Members were advised that they will be given an opportunity to provide input into the draft guide but due to the timeframe there will be a short response time.

**Action Ongoing**

**Action 3 – Map existing supports available to the retail sector in relation to the Green Transition**

The Co-Chair gave an overview of the current draft list of supports and is awaiting feedback from the EPA on some additional supports. The revised list of supports will be issued to Working Group members in advance of the next meeting. It was agreed that this action should remain on the actions list.

**Action Ongoing**

**Action 4 – Consider and identify how to best communicate supports via existing Government and business channels.**

It was agreed that this action should remain on the actions list. Consideration could also be given to including information on supports in the trade presses i.e. Retail News, Checkout and Shelf Life.

**Action Ongoing**

**Action 5 – Assess and identify how best to gather data on engagement of the sector in the sustainability agenda**

It was agreed that this action should remain on the actions list.

*Comments arising:*

- Can representative bodies collaborate on this?
- Member advised that Ibec have a short-term working group concerning sustainability and they will forward information to the group on their activities.
- Members were advised that the other two Retail Forum Working Groups are also looking at data sources.
- Need to identify what data is required and what are the aims.

The co-chair gave an overview of the SME Green barometer and agreed to forward a copy to the Working Group.

**Action Ongoing**

**Action 6 – Monitor the roll out of the Deposit Return Scheme**

It was agreed that this action should remain on the actions list to show the benefits of the scheme, similar to the plastic bag levy.

**Action Ongoing**

**Action 7 – Explore the feasibility of a pilot mentoring programme**

It was agreed that this action should remain on the actions list

*Comments arising;*

- Perhaps knowledge sharing (online workshops) rather than a mentoring programme could be considered
- Any programme needs to support small retailers in overcoming any fears and barriers in engaging with the sustainability agenda.

**Action Ongoing**

## 2. Revised *DRAFT* Actions

1.	DETE SEAI Working Group members	Provide stakeholder input to the SEAI Retail Sector Energy Guide	Working Group to be consulted on the development of the forthcoming SEAI Guide for Retailers.	Short-Term
2.	DETE SEAI Chambers Ireland Retail Representative bodies Working Group Members	Map existing supports available to the retail sector in relation to the Green Transition.	Map existing financial supports available from SEAI, LEOs, EPA and any soft supports from Chambers Ireland and representative bodies.	Short-Term
3.	DETE SEAI Working Group members	Consider and identify how to best communicate supports via existing Government and business channels.	Potential for inclusion on a dedicated retail page on enterprise.gov.ie or Gov.ie	Medium-Term
4.	DETE All members	Assess and identify how best to gather data on engagement of the sector in the sustainability agenda	Liaise with retail representative bodies, Working Group members, Local Enterprise Office's <i>Green for Micro</i> programme and DETEs <i>Climatetoolkit4business</i> on available data	Medium-Term
5.	Working Group members DETE	Monitor the roll out of the Deposit Return Scheme	Working Group members to monitor the implementation of the Scheme and update the Working Group and the Retail Forum	Medium-Term
6.	Retail Representative bodies, Chambers Ireland DETE	Explore the feasibility of a pilot mentoring programme	Identify suitable retailers who are willing to engage in a pilot mentoring programme supported through the sector.	Long-Term

## 3. AOB

Additional potential actions for consideration set out below.

- a. Consider the way the Public Service Obligation (PSO) levy, which is a charge placed on all electricity customers, is calculated.
- b. The effect of the cost of sourcing sustainable material for retailers when retrofitting.
- c. Pilot a programme for around 50 retailers taking them through the full arrays of grants available which may identify overlaps in grants.

## Appendix A

**Retail Forum Working Group  
Future of Retail – Green Transition**

**Attendance List:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (co-Chair)	Sandra	Mullen
Chambers Ireland	James	Kiernan
CSNA	Vincent	Jennings
Cork Flower Studio	Justine	Looney
Retail Excellence	Sharon	Yourell
SEAI	Sara	Norris
Tesco	Lorraine	Shiels

**Apologies:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
Primark	Emma	Ormond
Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment (Chair)	Deborah	Dignam
Hardware Association Ireland	Martin	Markey

**DETE Officials:**

Helen	Keane-MacDonough
Niamh	Martin
Amie	Reddin
Sinead	O'Brien
Susan	McNamee