

Smarter Homes Real

Welcome

Introductions

Not all heating is the same: different systems have different characteristics. **This is where you come in.** We want to find out more about the lifestyles of people with renewable energy in their homes since you are at the leading edge of new, decentralised, energy systems.

Thank you for agreeing to participate. It's pretty simple to take part - at the top of the page, you'll see a few buttons that tell you what you need to do. On the right hand side you will see buttons which take you to the "next question" (or back to a "previous question"). To the top left is the "navigation" tool which will help you get to specific pages. If you've had any messages or if someone has responded to something you've posted, then the "messages" button will glow red, and you can click it to see any new messages.

If this is all clear, then click the "next question" button at the top of the page, and we'll get started!

Before you begin

There are 7 sections to the board. Each section will be released on a different day. The questions are a mix of multiple choice answers and text boxes where you can write fuller answers. Please try to give as much information as possible. Some questions will require you to input specific information which you may need to look up in advance - see below.

Monday - you and your home (please have information about the size of your home)

Tuesday - your household life

Wednesday - renewable energy (please have information about your heating system)

Thursday - your energy demand (please have information about your energy consumption)

Friday - improving support

Saturday - your future home

Sunday - thanks and reflections

Research ethics

The University of St Andrews attaches high priority to the ethical conduct of research. On this page we therefore provide information about how the data you provide will be used and protected. We ask you to consider these points before proceeding. By proceeding to the next page, you agree to take part according to these conditions. Thank you.

What data will we collect?

We will be asking you about your experiences of living in a home with renewable heating technology. This will mean we ask you personal questions about you, your home, and people who live there with you. This will be done in sections 1 'about you and your home' & 2 'your household life'. The answers you give to these questions (and any photographs you may upload in relation to these questions) will be kept between you and the research team.

However, in this project we also want to bring participants together to create joint discussions. By doing this, we will be able to draw out different perspectives on issues of interest to us. In these sections (3 'renewable energy', 4 'your energy demand', 5 'improving support', 6 'your future home', and 8 'reflections') your answers will be available to all participants who will be able to respond and comment. Likewise, you will be able to comment on posts made by other participants in these sections.

Consent

The purpose of this page is to ensure that you are willing to take part in this study and to let you understand what it entails. Proceeding does not commit you to anything you do not wish to do and you are free to withdraw at any stage.

Material gathered during this research will be kept confidentially by the researcher with only the research team having access. When the results of this project are reported (e.g. at academic conferences or in publications) or in the event that the data from this project is archived, we will not use your real names nor will we use any information that may make you identifiable.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch with us smarterhomes@st-andrews.ac.uk

By continuing you are agreeing to the following:

- I have read and understood what participation will entail.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the study.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time or refuse to answer any question.
- I understand that my data will be confidential and that it will contain identifiable personal data but that it will be stored with personal identifiers removed by the research and that only the research team will be able to decode this information as and when necessary.
- I understand that part of the research involves using photographs I upload. If a photograph contains any features which may identify me (i.e. a person's face, a house name or street name) then it will not be used in any subsequent publication or presentation. Photographs with identifying features will not be archived.
- I agree to my data (in line with conditions outlined above) being kept by the researcher and being archived and used for further research projects/ by other bona fide researchers.
- I agree to take part in this study.

Participation in this research is completely voluntary and your consent is required before you can participate in this research. If you decide at a later date that data should be destroyed we will honour your request in writing.

If you are happy with all of the above, please proceed to the next question. By doing so, you agree to participate according to the terms above.

A full outline of the procedures governed by the University Teaching and Research Ethical Committee is available at <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/utrec/Guidelines/complaints/>