



Participant Information Sheet

Delivering Net Zero, the role of research

The UKRI Energy Programme has commissioned the University of Leeds in collaboration with Cardiff University and Cultivate Innovation to produce a shared vision by the UK academic community for the UK's net zero future. The UK has committed to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050. It is essential that the best available evidence and insights from multiple disciplines are used to guide such a rapid transition. The project, entitled "Delivering Net Zero", will address this issue using deliberative consensus building approaches with leading UK academics in the fields of energy and climate policy.

The aim of this project is to ensure that the research informs and guides the responses of UK decision makers to climate change. The project will also identify those areas in which consensus cannot be achieved, clarifying where further research and wider engagement are needed. The desired outcome is to create a situation whereby rapid but above all robust decisions made in the UK are informed by the most advanced research on climate mitigation.

What is the purpose of the project?

To prevent catastrophic climate change, CO₂ emissions need to be reduced to net zero i.e. the amount of greenhouse gas produced must be balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere. Globally the target for achieving net zero is 2060 and the UK has committed to achieving this by 2050. However, concern has been raised by academic researchers and the Committee on Climate Change that we need to reach this target sooner to avoid dangerous climate change. Decisions need to be made based on the best available evidence.

This project has been funded by the UK Research & Innovation Energy Strategic Advisory Council to ensure that the research they have funded is used as much as possible to inform decisions towards a net zero future for the UK. The aim of this project is to understand the needs of decision makers and to make sure that current research is used by decision makers to inform their decisions on climate change policy.

The outcome of this project will be a clear vision of what we need to do to achieve a net zero future by 2040. A short-term action plan (to 2030) and a long term action plan (to 2040) will be developed during the project from participant consensus. The project runs from 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2022.

Why have I been chosen?

We would like to invite you to be one of the workshop participants selected to take part in this process. Your knowledge and expertise is essential to delivering net zero in the UK and to the success of our project.



Do I have to take part?

Participation in this research project is entirely voluntary. In addition to this, participants are able to withdraw from the study completely within two weeks of attending a workshop. If you chose to withdraw within two weeks of attending a research workshop the relevant data will be removed from the study.

Due to the methodological design of the study you will not be able to withdraw completely once data analysis has begun. This is due to the fact that withdrawal of individual responses is not possible due to the nature of the discussions and methodological implications of removing part of a debate. Therefore, if you choose to withdraw at a later stage in the study your data will simply be anonymised as part of the analysis approach we are using.

What do I have to do?/ What will happen to me if I take part?

Three rounds of workshops will take place with participants from a particular sector at each. The final workshop will bring together participants from all sectors with the aim of reaching consensus where possible to develop a clear vision on what is required to achieve net zero for the UK by 2040. Workshops will be recorded (audio and video) and will generate qualitative data, which will be added by theme to a *Knowledge framework*.

Before attending the first workshop participants will be required to complete a short preparatory exercise, which will be emailed to them several weeks ahead, along with a set of background documents which will provide context to the workshops. The success of the project relies on the participants actively engaging in the process.

You will be required to attend at least one full day workshop and participate in a range of discussions and consensus building activities. All workshops will take place online using zoom and involve the use of an interactive platform, mural.

Participants are required to be:

- Pragmatic – engage with decision making processes based on best available data and ideas
- Open-minded – adopt an approach that shows respect for other stakeholder's opinions
- Holistic – objectively consider their own specialist knowledge in a whole energy system context
- Decisive – comfortable with uncertainty and the role of risk in robust processes

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

- Breach of confidentiality which damages reputation (mitigated by ensuring every participant signs a consent form beforehand which includes agreement to confidentiality.)
- Discomfort from clashes of viewpoint (managed by the facilitator of the workshops)

What are the possible benefits of taking part?



- Creating new links and networks
- Better understanding of the net zero challenges that the UK faces
- Working together with other participants to achieve a common goal

Use, dissemination and storage of research data

- Data will be stored for research purposes
- We will anonymise transcription data and hold a secure key that links individual details to anonymised details. No identifying information will be included in the transcriptions of the recordings.
- Anonymised data will be used during the project and for writing up the project by the DNZ Project Team.
- Data will be stored electronically in the secure encrypted University of Leeds system and will only be accessed by DNZ Project group members.
- Where laptops are used for recording or analysis, they will have all appropriate security measures in place. Data will be deleted from laptops as soon as it has been transferred to the central system. Laptops will not be used for long term storage of data. A clear data management strategy is in place which all DNZ members have subscribed to.

What will happen to my personal information?

Personal contact information will only be used where consent has been obtained and for the agreed purpose. Personally identifiable data will be destroyed five years after the end of the study (March 2027).

Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?

Workshops will be recorded (video/audio) and will generate qualitative data. Video recordings will be used for summary analysis and transcription purposes and will be destroyed once transcription has been completed. No identifying information will be included in the transcription of the recordings.

Additional consent will be obtained for photographs of workshops and consent will be sought again if photographs are to be used in project outputs.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of the research project are likely to be published in a final project report on the project website, shared at dissemination events at the end of the project, and published in academic journals.

All the contact information that we collect during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. We will take steps wherever possible to anonymise the research data so that you will not be identified in reports or publications, unless you have given specific consent.



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What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project's objectives?

We are seeking your input at workshops because your knowledge and expertise is essential to delivering net zero in the UK.

We will use a planned process, like that adopted by the Climate Assembly, running four rounds of workshops with leading academics and key stakeholders from the public, private and third sectors.

Who is organising/ funding the research?

This project has been funded by the UK Research & Innovation Energy Strategic Advisory Committee to ensure that the research they have funded is used as much as possible to inform decisions towards a net zero future for the UK.

Contact for further information

John Barrett; j.r.barrett@leeds.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read through the project information.