

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

STUDY TITLE

Local Green New Deals: a sustainable and equitable path for post Covid-19 recovery.

INVITATION PARAGRAPH

You are being invited to take part in a research study about exploring interaction between measures to address the climate emergency by reducing energy demand while enhancing wellbeing for citizens and communities at a local level. Many local authorities, have declared a climate crisis and begun to develop and implement local low carbon energy plans. At the same time the Covid-19 pandemic has shown how many people value local social and environmental benefits, including cleaner air, physical and mental health and community spirit. This creates a need for investigation of the forms of low carbon economic development to be implemented at a local and regional level. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Research into energy demand has shown the potential for significant changes in practices to reduce energy demand and GHG emissions whilst delivering the same or higher quality of life, but further work is needed to understand how this potential can be translated into policy action. We are conducting two case studies, until March 2023, to examine the challenge facing city-regions (Greater Brighton and North of Tyne) in how to assess and evaluate different choices so as to deliver wider social and environmental benefits, whilst stimulating economic opportunities.

WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

We are contacting about 30 local community representatives of community groups, local businesses associations and institutions to participate in a workshop to discuss wellbeing criteria, social, environmental and economic benefits of low carbon transition plans. Participants have been selected because of their role of representatives within local community groups and institutions.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

You are invited to attend a friendly and informal workshop to discuss wellbeing criteria, social, environmental and economic benefits of low carbon transition plans. The workshop will last about three hours.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGES AND RISKS OF TAKING PART?

The workshop should last three hours. There should be no disadvantages to you beyond the commitment of your time.

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WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

The study is trying to develop recommendations to local and regional authorities on how to integrate locally-developed wellbeing criteria within energy and environmental policies and projects. Your input will help us to create these recommendations.

WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

This research seeks to collect qualitative data about your perception of wellbeing. It is not our intention to collect data which identify you personally, unless you specify so in the consent form.

If you choose to participate, the data we gather will be accessible to the research team and transcription services who will not disclose this data to any other individual or party. Following the project, data may be processed to remove any person or place identifiers, and housed in the ESRC UK Data Archive. You will not be identifiable in any way through these files.

Whatever you say in the workshop may be used in reports and academic papers that are written for the project, but your contribution will be attributed under a pseudonym. If you do not want information provided in the workshop to be included in the project or academic papers, please state this clearly in the workshop. We will then not include it. You are free to express any opinion with no risk to yourself.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?

If you are happy to be involved in the project, you will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm this.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?

While we will write reports and articles which may be based on some of the information provided here, you will not be identified in these documents. Electronic files will be secured on encrypted hard drives under pseudonyms in accordance with the University's data management and record-keeping policy, while paper copies/documents related to the research will be held in a locked cabinet on campus for a period of five years. The data will be retained by the investigators for a period of 5 years from completion of the project, after which it will be securely archived (non-sensitive personal data) following anonymisation or destroyed (sensitive personal data) in line with the Data Protection Act 2018.

WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?

This research is being conducted as a funded Centre of Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) project, carried out by staff members of the University of Sussex Business School.

WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?

The research has been approved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC), review application number ER/GM460/2

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact Prof. Tim Foxon (t.j.foxon@sussex.ac.uk) if you have further questions about this study. If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you should contact the Chair of the C-REC, Dr. Ruth Stirton (R.Stirton@sussex.ac.uk).

INSURANCE

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this information.

17 March 2022

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