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Urban 100% Renewable Energy Pathways: Assessing the Drivers that Shift Grids from Brown to Green

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

1. *Why is this research being conducted?*

This research focuses on how COVID-19 has affected the commitments made by city governments to adopt renewable energy sources. Before the onset of COVID-19, hundreds of cities around the world set ambitious renewable energy transition commitments. This research will aim to uncover how these commitments have been impacted and how city governments are strategizing to re-start their implementation.

City-based actors will be surveyed to understand the role they have played thus far in transitioning to renewables in their respective cities, how COVID-19 has impacted their objectives, and other barriers they may be facing in the present context. The research results may be published in academic publications and other media meant to raise awareness about climate action and renewable energy transitions during COVID-19 more widely.

2. *Why have I been invited to take part?*

You have been invited because you have a role in the planning and adoption of renewable energy transition and adoption commitments in your city and/or organisation.

3. *Do I have to take part?*

No. You can ask questions about the research before deciding whether to take part. If you do agree to take part, you may withdraw yourself from the study at any time. I will remove all the data associated with your participation and input if you make such a decision.

4. *What will happen to me if I take part in the survey?*

You will take part in the survey and I may ask you to conduct a follow-up interview at a time that is convenient for you. Considering COVID19 considerations, we would schedule a virtual interview. At that time, I will talk you through the study procedures and give you the chance to ask any questions before the beginning of the interview. If you are still happy to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form.

5. *Are there any potential risks in taking part?*

There are minimal risks to taking part in this survey since the topic is not sensitive or personal and most of the participants are publicly active city administrators and local actors. To reduce any potential risks, the

data will be pseudonymised and anonymised as appropriate. The files will be kept under password protection as is the computer where they will be stored.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

You will contribute to the climate change and renewable energy fields by helping to generate more understanding and awareness about how local governments and influential city actors successfully influence the shift from fossil fuel to renewable energy sources. It is particularly important to understand how COVID19 might impact such policy leadership.

7. What happens to the data provided?

The information you provide during the study is the **research data**. Any research data from which you can be identified is known as **personal data**. I will be collecting your name, but it will be pseudonymized or avoided in any presentations or printed material that result from the research.

Personal data will be stored on a password protected computer in the researcher's home and will only be retained for 3 years after publication. **Other research data** (including consent forms) will be stored if it is needed for research purposes.

Your personal data may be transferred to, and stored at, a destination outside the UK and the European Economic Area. Identifiable data will be removed whenever possible and any data transfer will be done securely and with a similar level of data protection as required under UK law.

The researcher and select professors in the Oxford Environmental Change Institute (ECI) will have access to the research data. Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the research.

I would like your permission to use direct quotes and for your name to be attributed to these against a pseudonym in any research outputs. All personal information that could identify you will be removed or changed before information is shared with other researchers or results are made public.

8. Will the research be published?

The research may be published in academic publications, websites, and other publications.

The University of Oxford is committed to the dissemination of its research for the benefit of society and the economy and, in support of this commitment, has established an online archive of research materials. This archive includes digital copies of student theses successfully submitted as part of a University of Oxford postgraduate degree programme. Holding the archive online gives easy access for researchers to the full text of freely available theses, thereby increasing the likely impact and use of that research.

On successful submission of the thesis, it will be deposited both in print and online in the University archives to facilitate its use in future research. If so, the thesis will be openly accessible.

9. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Oxford Central University Research Ethics Committee.

10. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Kerry Constabile at kerry.constabile@ouce.ox.ac.uk or Nick Eyre (nick.eyre@ouce.ox.ac.uk) and Tina Fawcett (tina.fawcett@eci.ox.ac.uk) at the Environmental Change Institute, and we will do our best to answer your query. I/we will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will

be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, Social Sciences & Humanities Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk;

Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

11. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest.

Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>.

12. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

Kerry Constabile

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