



## CHALLENGING POWER WITH COMMUNITY ENERGY PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

### **Invitation**

You are invited to take part in a research project exploring new ways to make joining energy cooperatives more appealing. What are energy cooperatives, you ask?

They're groups where people come together to create, save and distribute energy often from renewable sources to help us move to a greener way of living. It's all about community power!

This sheet provides you with information on why the research is being run and the activities you are being asked to participate in so you can decide whether or not you'd like to join in and offer your perspectives.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

### **What is the purpose of the project?**

Imagine a London where everyone, regardless of their background, can play a part in shaping our city's energy future. That's the vision of our project, "Challenging Power"!

We've noticed that some of London's diverse communities aren't currently well represented in energy cooperatives. So, we're on a mission to change this. We're exploring new ways to make joining these energy cooperatives more appealing and accessible to everyone.

Our team of community researchers from North Kensington and Newham are leading the way. They're supported by the combined forces of Repowering London, King's College London, and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Together, we're working to ensure that everyone in London has the opportunity to contribute to our energy future. You can help us by participating in this research.

### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You've been invited to be part of this project because you're an adult who lives, works, studies, or is part of the community in North Kensington or Newham. We want to hear from many different people, especially those who might not think they know a lot about energy or are not usually involved in energy discussions.

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## **What will happen if I take part?**

### **If you have been invited to take part in an interview or a focus group**

- Interview: you will be asked to take part in an interview either in person in a public or community space, by telephone or online video call – depending on your preferences
- Focus group: you will be asked to participate in a discussion with around 10 other people from your community. This will take place in person in community location e.g. local library or community centre or other community space. Please be aware that as you will be sharing your thoughts with other people in the focus group, what you say may not be stay within the group.

**How long will it take?** Around 30 minutes

### **What will I be asked?**

- How you are currently involved in your community and your perception of energy cooperatives.
- Some personal data, such as age, ethnicity or education level, so we can understand who is taking part in our research.
- If you are interested in taking part in more of our research, we will also ask for your name and contact details.

With your consent, interviews and focus groups will be audio or video recorded.

### **If you have been asked whether you will allow a researcher to observe you take part in an activity**

Carry on as normal. Take part in the activity. A researcher will be observing the activity and what people say and do and will take notes that are relevant to understanding how community energy can be made more attractive to a wider range of people. The person/people observing will make themselves known before the activity starts.

They may also take photographs of any drawings or objects that you create or post-it notes or paper that you write on which you share amongst the group. They will ask for your consent before taking these photos.

**How long will it take?** The length of the activity

### **At the end of these activities you will be invited to take part in a survey**

The survey is short – focusing on questions about your age, education, gender and ethnicity. We are asking these questions so that we can make sure that we do talk to a diverse range of people and can understand if there are any patterns that can help us to make community energy more attractive to currently under-represented groups.

## **Do I have to take part?**

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. If you want to take part in one activity but not another, this is not a problem.

Once you have read the information sheet, please contact us if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about taking part.

### **Want to participate? Here's what you need to know!**

If you decide to take part in **an interview or focus group and/or survey**, we will ask you to give consent verbally at the start of the research activity.

If we are **observing an activity** you are participating in, we'll let you know we are observing and we'll consider your active involvement in the activity as your agreement to participate.

**But what if you want to be involved, but prefer not to be observed?** That's completely fine! We'll give you the chance to choose before the activity starts. At this point let us know that you don't want to be observed and we'll ensure not to record anything about your participation.

It's all about ensuring you're comfortable while we work together to shape our energy future! 😊

### **What could go wrong if I join?**

We don't think anything bad will happen if you join this study.

### **What good things could happen if I join?**

You won't get money for joining. But, you can help us make energy groups better for everyone. If you join, you can also say you want to help us more in the next stages of the research.

### **Data handling and confidentiality**

Your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection law (including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018).

- Any comments made by you during the research activity may be included in research reports and papers.
- All comments to be published will be anonymised or pseudonymised, unless you give explicit written permission otherwise.
- Any inputs or personal data collected during the research will be stored securely on an online server until the completion of data analysis and with your permission will then be archived as it may be useful for future research. If you give permission for the data to be archived, any data that could identify you will be removed. If you do not give permission for your data to be archived, it will be deleted by 31/01/2034.
- Identifiable data will only be shared with the research team, a third-party transcriber and may be reviewed by specialist teams within King's College London whose job it is to ensure that all information collected about you is kept safe and secure.
- If you agree to be contacted for other research projects in the future, we will keep your contact details in a secure place until 2029 at which point they will be deleted.

### **Data Protection Statement**

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If you would like more information about how your data will be processed under the terms of UK data protection laws please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

### **What if I change my mind about taking part?**

You are free to withdraw at any point of the project, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way.

If you decide to withdraw, we will discuss options with you for removing any personal information you have provided up to that point. You can remove data up to 1 May 2024 at which point it will have been analysed and included in our research report.

Just to let you know, if you have provided information anonymously (i.e. name is not linked to the information) we will not be able to withdraw any data you have already provided as we won't know which data is yours. For example, writing ideas on a post-it note without your name, creating posters or art work without your name, being observed) We will be able to withdraw any interview data, survey data or items which have your names linked to them.

### **How is the project being funded?**

This project is being funded through the Connect Fund managed by the Barrow Cadbury Trust. They can be contacted at: [t.thornton@barrowcadbury.org.uk](mailto:t.thornton@barrowcadbury.org.uk) or 020 7632 9060.

### **What will happen to the results of the project?**

The results of the project will be summarised in a toolkit to be published in June 2024. This practical toolkit will be designed to support energy cooperatives in designing more inclusive community shares and membership offers. It will also be used for writing research articles which may be presented at academic conferences and published in academic journals.

### **Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact either Ruth Chiat (for Newham) at [ruth.chait@repowering.org.uk](mailto:ruth.chait@repowering.org.uk) or Nasri Ismael (for North Kensington) at [nasri.ismael@repowering.org.uk](mailto:nasri.ismael@repowering.org.uk) or Dr Anna Rebmann at [anna.rebmann@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:anna.rebmann@kcl.ac.uk). Or you can call Repowering on 020 3674 7519.

### **What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?**

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

**The Chair, Education & Business Research Ethics Panel, [rec@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:rec@kcl.ac.uk)**

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**

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