

Participant Information Sheet
(Stakeholder survey and key informant interviews)

Title of Project:

Guidance on the economic evaluation of the
health impacts of climate action
(ECO-CHICA)

Introduction

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. We invite you to review this information and please contact us to ask any questions you may have. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or you would like more information. Please feel free to talk to others about the study if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) are conducting research into the appropriate methods for the economic evaluation of the health impacts of climate adaptation or mitigation strategies (climate action/inaction).

What does the study involve?

This phase of the research involves two interlinked activities, namely (i) a survey of stakeholders to gather opinions on the economic evaluation of the health impacts of climate action; followed by (ii) targeted interviews with key informants (identified through a stakeholder mapping exercise) participating in semi-structured interviews remotely with the aim of exploring aspects covered in the survey in more detail.

Why have I been asked to take part?

You have been invited because you have signed up to express interest in becoming a stakeholder in the ECO-CHICA research project and have provided your contact details to us for further information.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide to take part or not. If you don't want to take part, that's ok. Participation in our online survey will be taken as willingness to be involved in the study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will first be asked for your consent to take part. This will involve agreeing to the following statements:

- I confirm that I have read the information sheet dated for the above-named study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have these answered satisfactorily.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason.

A copy of this informed consent document to be offered to the participant

- I understand that relevant responses made by me as part of the study will be analysed by individuals from the study team.
- I understand that data from me may be shared via a public data repository or by sharing directly with other researchers, and that I will not be identifiable from this information
- I understand that my name will be listed as a contributor to this research
- I agree to take part in the above-named study

You will be sent a link to an online survey and the first question will ask you to agree to these statements by checking a box.

You may also be invited to take part in a key informant interview. If you agree to take part, we will ask you verbally whether you have read, understood and agree to these consent statements in this participant information sheet.

Your responses to the survey/interview will be used to identify existing approaches and key research gaps in the use of economic evaluation to inform climate action. All information will be kept confidential and no identifying information will be made publicly available.

What will I have to do?

Follow the link to complete the online survey at a time that is convenient to you. All personal information will be anonymised.

If you are invited to be interviewed, participation in that instance consists of a single interview where notes will be taken during the session. No audio recording will be made. However, we intend to employ artificial intelligence (AI) mediated transcription of the interview to facilitate note taking. We will only use this AI tool with your agreement and if the systems can be regarded as secure and compliant with data protection rules. Any auto-transcripts will be anonymised – in other words the transcripts will not be retained with your name included. Moreover, all files related to the transcription are deleted once the notes are established.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

We are not aware of any risks or disadvantages of participating in this research. The opportunity cost of your time is the only major disadvantage.

However, risks of misinterpretation or miscommunication, potentially leading to negative perceptions could occur. This risk will be managed via diverse communication strategies (e.g., using plain language and encouraging the asking of clarifying questions). We will also regularly check for participant understanding throughout the process.

What are the possible benefits?

The benefits of this study are that consistent guidance for economic evaluation across studies evaluating climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies and health economic evaluation should allow greater consistency of decision making with respect to the use of scarce resources that impact human health.

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What if something goes wrong?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions (please see the contact details provided at the bottom of this participant information sheet). If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting: The Research Governance and Integrity Office at rgio@lshtm.ac.uk or +44 (0) 20 7927 2626>

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine holds insurance policies which apply to this study. If you experience harm or injury as a result of taking part in this study, you may be eligible to claim compensation.

Can I change my mind about taking part?

Yes. You can withdraw from the study at any time. You just need to inform the principal investigator (contact details below) of your desire to withdraw your participation.

If you withdraw from the study, we will destroy all the data collected from you to date and you will not be listed as a contributor to any publications arising from the project.

What will happen to information collected about me?

All the information we collect during the course of the research will be kept confidential and there are strict laws which safeguard your privacy at every stage.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are based in the United Kingdom. To follow the United Kingdom's data protection regulations, we must inform you of how we will use and store your personal data.

As a university, we use personally identifiable information to conduct research to improve health, care and services. As a publicly funded organisation, we have to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally identifiable information from people who have agreed to take part in research. For this specific study, personal identifiable information is only held as a means to contact you. Your responses will not be attributable to you personally. With your permission, your name will be listed as a contributor to this research.

Your personal details, meaning your name and other identifiable information, will be kept only on secure London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine servers and will be destroyed within one year of the end of the study.

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will act as the data controller for this study. This means that they are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason. If you withdraw from the study, we will destroy all the data collected from you to date and you will not be listed as a contributor to any publications arising from the project.

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Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- At <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/files/research-participant-privacy-notice.pdf>
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to DPO@lshtm.ac.uk

What will happen to the results of this study?

The study results will be published in an academic journal. With your permission, we will list your name in the study report as a participant in the study. However, no responses you make within the survey/interview will be attributed to you personally.

Who is organising and funding this study?

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine is the sponsor for the research, and they have full responsibility for the project including the collection, storage and analysis of your data, and will act as the Data Controller for the study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research involving human participants is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Observational Research Ethics Committee (REF: 31469).

Further information and contact details

Andrew Briggs (Principal Investigator)
Professor of Health Economics
Department of Health Services Research & Policy
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
15-17 Tavistock Place
London WC1H 9SH
andrew.briggs@lshtm.ac.uk
+44 (0)207 927 2348

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

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