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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Towards net-zero carbon buildings: tackling uncertainty when predicting the carbon footprint of construction products and buildings
Industry Survey

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This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask one of the researchers named above if you are not clear about any details of the project prior to consenting to take part in the survey.

1. What is the purpose of the project:

This survey is intended to establish how the building design industry currently uses environmental product declarations (EPDs) within the building design process. In addition, the survey seeks to identify what building design practitioners would like from future EPDs to better support the building design process.

2. Who can be a participant?

Individuals are free to participate in this survey at their own choice. The scope of the survey is intended to capture people's perspectives who are involved within the building design process however the survey is open to all who wish to take part.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is completely up to you to decide if you would like to participate. Before you decide to take part we ask you to read through this Participant Information Sheet and introduction to the survey on the Microsoft Form. If you agree to take part in the survey please agree to the consent statement in Section 1 of the survey and you will be able to access the full survey. However, if at any time you decide you no longer wish to take part in the project you are free to withdraw by not submitting your responses to the survey.

4. What will I be asked to do?

You will be asked to provide responses based on your industry experience and understanding of sustainability related topics. Involvement in the survey is a one-time commitment and you will not be asked for any follow-up information nor support for the project based on your responses to the survey.

5. Are there reasons why I should not take part?

Anyone is free to participate in the survey, however analysis of responses will focus on response profiles that indicate the respondents are involved within the building design process within Europe (with an emphasis on the United Kingdom). Therefore, you do not need to participate in the survey if you are not involved within the building design process.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no obvious direct benefits of taking part in the project. However, the information that you and other participants provide in this project will help us to illustrate how environmental product declarations (EPDs) are currently used in practice and what building design practitioners would like to better support the development of their designs within the context of the ongoing climate emergency.

7. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no obvious disadvantages to you taking part in the project. If the survey asks you a question that you do not want to answer for any reason, you can choose not to provide an answer.

8. Will my participation involve any discomfort or embarrassment?

We do not expect you to feel any discomfort or embarrassment if you take part in the survey.

9. Who will have access to the information that I provide?

Only the research team will have access to information that you provide. All responses are anonymous and no personally identifiable information is being asked. Therefore, there is no means of identifying you based on the responses you provide. A summary of the survey responses will be included within a publication

10. What will happen to the data collected and results of the project?

All data collected during the project will be kept in a password protected file on the University of Bath's secure server (X:drive). This storage of data will be done in accordance with current UK data protection legislation. Recorded data will not be kept for any longer than 5 years. No personally identifiable information is being collected nor stored as part of this project. All data collected is anonymised prior to collection and your responses can not be tracked back to you.

After the project has finished, we intend to publish the a summary of the results in an open-access format. At time of publication, all respondents will be able to access the

publication and see the summary of the survey responses and the overall findings of the project.

11. Who has reviewed the project?

This project has been given a favourable opinion by the University of Bath, Social Science Research Ethics Committee (SSREC) [reference: XX XXXX XXX].

12. How can I withdraw from the project?

If you wish to stop participating before completing all parts of the survey, you can withdraw from the project by not submitting your completed responses. You do not need to provide reasons for doing so and you will not incur any consequences.

Since the survey is anonymized prior to the responses being collected, there is no means of tacking a response profile back to an individual. As such, there is no means of withdrawing a specific response profile after the responses have been submitted. Your individual responses will not be identifiable in any way in any presentation or publication.

13. University of Bath privacy notice

The University of Bath privacy notice can be found here:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/university-of-bath-privacy-notice-for-research-participants/>.

14. What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of the project please contact the researchers who will do their best to answer any questions. If they are unable to resolve your concern, or you wish to make a complaint regarding the project, please contact the Chair of SSREC at ssrec@bath.ac.uk.

15. If I require further information who should I contact and how?

Thank you for expressing an interest in participating in this project. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you would like some more information.

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