

WMCA: LOCAL NET ZERO ACCELERATOR

CONSENT TO SHARE DATA FOR LNZA PROGRAMME

Privacy Notice

Who we are

We are the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). We are working with local councils and the University of Birmingham on a project called the Local Net Zero Accelerator (LNZA). The project is funded by the UK Government's Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

About the project

The Local Net Zero Accelerator (LNZA) is a two-year project to help the West Midlands reduce carbon emissions. The project is designed to attract investment and deliver benefits such as energy savings, cleaner transport, and healthier homes.

To check if the project works and could be done on a larger scale, we need to collect information about homes, communities, and the results of energy-saving improvements. This helps us show whether the changes deliver value for money and real benefits for residents.

Why we need to collect information from you

If you live in the West Midlands, you may have smart meters, sensors, or other energy systems fitted in your home. We need your help to provide information so we can check how well the project is working and what benefits it brings.

To check if the project works and could be done on a larger scale, we need to collect information about homes, communities, and the results of energy-saving improvements. This helps us show whether the changes deliver value for money and real benefits for residents.

We are interested in understanding how effective our project is at reducing fuel bills and carbon emissions. We are also interested in understanding the benefits that improving the energy efficiency of homes may have on your health and wellbeing. We can only achieve this by collecting some data from you to evidence these outcomes.

If we can show the outcomes from our work, this will help us to deliver more home improvements in the region, allowing us to make more homes cheaper and healthier to live in for more residents across the region.

What information are we collecting?

We may collect the following types of information:

- Where your home is located
- Details about your home (such as size, energy rating, who lives there)
- Personal details (such as your name, address, phone number, and email)
- Demographic details (such as age, household income, disability status)
- Information about how you use energy (gas and electricity bills or smart meter data)
- Sensor readings from your home (temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide, air quality)
- Device login information (such as a username)
- Survey information, including details about your health if you choose to share it

Why and how we will use your personal information

We use your information so we can:

- Contact you about the programme
- Give you access to smart devices
- Measure the results of home energy improvements and value for money
- Confirm your energy bills and expenses
- Understand how the project affects health and wellbeing

We will not collect information about children under 16. We may also use trusted third-party data sources, such as government housing and energy data, but always in a way that protects your privacy.

What is the legal basis for us to process your data?

We process your data under the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The main reason is that it is part of our public duty to run and review the LNZA project. We will only collect data with your clear consent. You can withdraw your consent at any time.

How and where the collected information will be stored

Your data will be stored securely by the WMCA in systems provided by trusted companies such as Microsoft, Amazon, Google, or Oracle, within the UK. We have strict security policies to keep your data safe. A copy of this policy is available on request.

Who will have access to your information

Some of the data you share with us will be personal data, that is traceable to you, and some of the data will be anonymised, with no links to you.

Personal data may be shared with:

- Project partners, so they can install improvements in your home
- Your housing provider, if relevant
- The WMCA technology team (to create logins for smart devices)
- Researchers at the University of Birmingham and INHABIT project (under strict agreements)

Anonymised data may be shared with:

- Data processors who plan project work
- UK government departments (anonymised reports)

Data access control

WMCA uses a 'need to know' rule. Only trained staff and approved partners who need access to do their work can see your data. Everyone must follow strict policies and agreements to protect confidentiality and security.

Data sharing agreement with University of Birmingham

We are working with the University of Birmingham, who will help collect some of the data. WMCA is responsible for keeping it safe and secure. Only authorised officials and researchers will have access to complete the project.

You may access your information through the WMCA or by contacting the University of Birmingham using the following contact details:

WMCA contact

West Midlands Combined Authority.

Information Management Unit

Contact Person: Data Protection Officer

Telephone Number: 0345 303 67 60

Postal Address: 16 Summer Lane Birmingham B19 3SD

Email: information.officer@wmca.org.uk

UoB contact

Contact Person: Dr. Cat Muller or Professor Zongbo Shi

Postal Address: School of Geography Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT. **Email:** inhabit@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Mobile: 07483 103594 (9–5 working days)

Website: www.inhabithub.org.uk

Data retention

We will keep your personal data for up to 10 years. You can ask us to delete it sooner by withdrawing your consent. After 10 years, all information will be anonymised or deleted.

Handling data breaches

If personal data is accidentally shared, lost, or accessed without permission, we will follow legal rules for reporting and fixing the problem. We also take many steps to prevent breaches from happening in the first place.

Transparency statement

Your data protection rights

Under data protection law, you have rights, including:

- To see the data we hold about you
- To correct inaccurate or incomplete data
- To ask us to delete your data ('the right to be forgotten')
- To restrict or object to how your data is used
- To ask us to transfer your data to another organization

If you want to exercise any of these rights you can contact us and we will action your request within a month (or two months for multiple requests). You can do this at any time and it won't cost you anything.

How to complain

If you are worried about how your data is handled, you can complain to WMCA. If you are not satisfied, you can also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK's independent regulator. You can also complain to the WMCA using these contact details:

Our contact details

West Midlands Combined Authority.

Information Management Unit

Contact Person: Data Protection Officer

Telephone Number: 0345 303 67 60

Postal Address: 16 Summer Lane Birmingham B19 3SD

Email: Information.Officer@wmca.org.uk

You may also contact DESNZ' Data Protection Officer at the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET, or via email, dataprotection@beis.gov.uk.

Participant information

If you take part, we will install air quality and energy usage sensors in your home. You may allow authorised staff to visit your home to install the sensors, ask you some questions (participants survey) and carry out an energy assessment of your home. You do not have to give consent – it is your choice. You can also withdraw consent at any time, without penalty and at no cost to you.

Benefits include a free report on your home's energy efficiency and indoor environment, advice on reducing bills, and the chance to access free home improvements if you are eligible.

There are no expected risks. Your data will be kept private and secure according to data protection laws.

To make sure the data we collect from you is useful, we ask that you don't tamper with the sensors and let us know if you have any problems. Contact details for the project teams will be stuck to the side of the sensors if you need to get in touch with us.

End of the programme

We will let you know when the programme ends. You will also be able to see the results. After this point, your obligations end.

Consent form

You will be asked to confirm whether you agree to:

- Sensors being installed in your home
- Taking part in surveys, including questions about your health
- Sharing your personal data with WMCA and partners for the project

We need your consent to install the sensors, record your answers to the surveys and process your data to make sure we are doing things properly, and in line with data protection laws. You don't have to agree to this as participation is voluntary, and if you change your mind you can withdraw at any time before your data is anonymised.

This form will be given to you with the following information contained in this document:

1. Privacy notice
2. Transparency statement
3. Participant information
4. INHABIT project information (from the University of Birmingham)

Please read the information before you sign anything, and ask us any questions you may have first.

Participant's declaration:

- I have read and understood all the information supplied to me before I sign this consent form.
- I have had the chance to ask any questions before I sign this consent form.
- The questions I have asked have been answered, and I am still happy to proceed.
- I agree to participate in the *Healthy Homes project* (as part of the WMCA's Local Net Zero Accelerator project) as follows:
 - I give consent for the installation of sensors inside my house for the purpose of measuring my energy consumption and indoor air quality. I understand that this will lead to automatic collection of sensor data from the installed sensors.
- Yes ☐
- I agree to participate in surveys as part of the project, including giving some information on any health conditions I might have to help us understand how our work might help.

- Yes ☐

- I agree to share my personal data with the West Midlands Combined Authority, the University of Birmingham and our project partners, to enable us to complete our projects.
- I understand that I don't have to participate, and I can change my mind at any time. If I do choose to not participate or change my mind there will be no detriment to me.
- I understand that if I want to, I can contact the WMCA and they will delete my data, until the point at which it is anonymized and can't be traced back to me.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____