Presenting the impacts of climate change on human health

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS
version 4 – 21 Jun 2012

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you of any kind and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The study aims to test whether different presentation formats alter the perceived impact of climate change. The results of this research may prove useful to scientists wanting to transmit findings to non-experts such as decision-makers and/or the general public

What Type of Participants are Needed?

The research requires people living in Cornwall. Participants will require an internet connection, and a web browser such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari or Internet Explorer, with the Adobe Flash player installed. This is commonly included with most computers, but can also be downloaded for free from http://www.adobe.com/support/flashplayer/downloads.html. You will be prompted in the unlikely event that you do not already have it on your computer.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to take part in this project, you may be asked to read a short text or information graphic about one effect of climate change on health. Afterwards, you will be asked to try to recall some information from this presentation. You will then be asked some questions about how you feel about climate change, which will complete the first phase of the study.

After a period of two weeks, you may be invited to take part in a follow-up study, in which you will be asked if you remember some information from the presentation that you saw.

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project at any time, without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

Time Commitment

The survey is expected to take between 10 and 15 minutes.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?
We will ask you several questions about your opinions relating to climate change. We will also ask for information on your age, gender, your political allegience, and your job or other occupation.

This data will enable us to show the effects of different information presentations on communication of climate change.

The data we collect will be stored on a secure server at the University of Plymouth. Only the lead researcher will have access to this data, which will be downloaded to an encrypted computer held at the University for analysis.

Results of this project may be published but any data included will not be individually identifiable.

Participants in this project will be provided with a copy of the final report.

The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those mentioned above will be able to gain access to it.

Why Me?
You have been invited to take part as you are a resident of Cornwall.

What if Participants have any Questions?
If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact:

Will Stahl-Timmins
European Centre for Environment and Human Health
Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry
wstahl-timmins@pms.ac.uk
+44 (0)1872 258 168

Complaints
If you have any complaints about the way in which this study has been carried out please contact the Chair of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry Research Ethics Committee:-

Dr Peta Foxall
Director of Graduate Education Programmes
Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry

Email: pfoxall@pms.ac.uk

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry Research Ethics Committee

Project supported by: