

INFORMATION SHEET FOR RESEARCH STUDY

Urban Prosumers – Citizens as producers and consumers of sustainable solutions to climate-neutrality: Citizen Solutions to Sustainability Challenges community grant

Invitation to participate in research

You are invited to participate in a research study that focuses on the “Citizen Solutions to Sustainability Challenges” community grant call by the Urban Prosumers project. Through the community grant call, citizens’ roles and opportunities to influence climate work are studied in the Urban Prosumers project. After reading this information sheet, you will have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have by email or phone (you can find the researchers’ contact information at the end of the sheet).

The aim of the Urban Prosumers project is to research and develop participatory infrastructures, tools and resources that can be utilised by cities in the development of resident-driven climate and nature work. The project is coordinated by Tampere University and funded by the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme.

Purpose of the research

The purpose of this study is to examine the participation of local residents, communities and stakeholders in the development of sustainable solutions at the local level through community projects and their preparation. In addition, community grants and projects are studied as a means for participatory climate work. The research investigates how those who participate in the planning and implementation of community projects experience local sustainability work. Objects of study can be, for example, different actors’ positions, interpretations and roles in sustainability work. The study also aims to increase understanding of the enablers and barriers to the implementation of local sustainability solutions (in particular in the themes of food, mobility, and energy).

Description of the process

The study will be conducted and data collected throughout the Urban Prosumers project, from the preparation of community grant applications and the selection of community projects to be funded to the implementation and final reporting of the community projects. Data can be collected also after the community projects have ended.

The Citizen Solutions to Sustainability Challenges grant call is open from 1 July to 30 September 2026. Applications will be assessed during the autumn 2026 and the implementation period of the funded community projects is between 1 February and 30 September 2027. The duration of the Urban Prosumers project is from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2028.

Procedures for collecting research data

Research data will include materials produced in the preparation and implementation of community projects as well as data collected separately for research purposes.

Materials produced in the preparation and implementation of community projects that can be utilized as research data include, for example, community grant applications and their appendices, as well as image, video, audio or text materials created in the implementation of community projects. Data can be collected separately for research purposes through interviews, surveys, workshops and other events organised by the project, for example.

The interviews and workshops will be digitally recorded. Voice and possibly the names of the participants, if they are mentioned in the discussion, are stored on the recording as direct personal identifiers. Indirect personal identifiers that are stored include the names of represented organisations, places of residence, and other general personal data that the participants wish to disclose. When collecting video data, direct personal identifiers that may be recorded include identifiable images of persons, voice, and possibly the names of the persons appearing in the videos. Indirect personal identifiers that are stored include the names of represented organisations or places of residence. Collected image data may contain identifiable images of persons.

Potential risks and benefits of participation

Applying for a community grant, implementing a community project, and participation in the study may benefit the development of sustainability solutions by residents and communities. The results of this study can be used to enhance opportunities for sustainability solutions produced by residents and communities to be utilized more broadly in the climate work of the city of Tampere and other cities to achieve the aims of the EU Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission.

The procedures and methods used during this study do not involve health risks, social risks, financial risks, or risks relating to personal data breaches.

Data confidentiality, processing and storage

All personal data collected during the study will be processed in compliance with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the data protection laws of Finland.

The collected research data will be securely stored in Tampere University information systems protected by two-factor authentication and accessible only by the members of the Urban Prosumers consortium, who all have a duty of confidentiality. In the analysis of research data, the data will be pseudonymised, which means changing personal identifiers into such a form that an individual participant cannot be identified from them without additional information. Names and contact information of participants will be retained until the study has been completed to ensure that the participant can be contacted if necessary.

The processing and storage of personal data are described in more detail in the privacy notice. After the study is completed, the data collected separately for research purposes will be archived without personally identifiable information or destroyed.

Protecting the privacy of participants in research papers/publications

In scientific articles or other publications on the study, the aim is to report the results in such a way that an individual participant cannot be identified. However, considering the unique nature of

communities participating in the study and community projects, it is possible that a person who knows the community well may be able to deduce the identity of a specific participant.

Funding sources

The Urban Prosumers project and the research conducted in the project are funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw from the study at any time either permanently or for a temporary period. Withdrawing from the study for a temporary period means a temporary break from the research situation, for example, a refreshment break during the interview.

Note that the lawful basis for processing personal data is scientific research carried out in the public interest, and thus the research data collected until the withdrawal can still be used in the study. If you wish to withdraw, please contact the researcher.

Insurance coverage and compensation

Participants are not insured on behalf of the research group.

Use of data for non-research and later research purposes

The research materials and data collected during the study may also be used for the reporting and communications of the Urban Prosumers project. Research data from which personally identifiable information is removed may be used during and after the project also in other research purposes, for example, as a part of theses or doctoral dissertations. Despite the removal of personally identifiable information, it is possible that a person who knows the community well may be able to deduce the identity of a specific participant. After the completion of the research study, the rights to utilise the data collected in the study will remain with the researchers.

After the research study has been completed, the data collected separately for research purposes will be archived without personally identifiable information or securely destroyed. The data, from which personally identifiable information has been removed, will be offered to be made openly accessible via the Finnish Social Science Data Archive FSD maintained by Tampere University or via the open research repository Zenodo. These repositories guarantee permanent storage and long-term accessibility for the data for non-profit purposes.

Contact the researchers for more information about the research study:

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