

Advert

How well do you know your household? A household survey of energy use

In this survey we are investigating how well one member of a household can guess everyone else's responses. You will be asked questions which have been found previously to affect to energy use such as attitudes and values.

One of the biggest problems with research into domestic energy use is that surveys are sent out to households and only one person completes them on behalf of the household. Household energy consumption depends on all members of the household who might have quite different opinions.

Please could you and your household participate in a survey about the psychology of energy use within the home? In return, you will be entered into a prize draw, There are three prizes of 'love 2 shop' vouchers worth £100 each. The prize draw will be held on the 2nd of March.

What does the research study involve?

You will be given multiple copies of the same survey for each household member to fill out. householders must be willing and must be over 16. You will receive one entry to the prize draw for each household member who responds.

There will be one copy of a slightly different survey printed on pink coloured paper. This should be filled out by the person who normally responds to surveys on behalf of the household. For example, this could be the person who normally fills out the census or the electoral registry form. It should take less than 10 minutes

How long will it take?

The multiple individual surveys take less than 5 mins per person and the longer survey takes less than 10 mins.

How will I get the surveys?

We will post you a survey pack and you send it back to us in the 'free post' envelope provided.

Does every member of the household need to take part?

Only if they want to and if they are over 16.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Your data is completely anonymous and confidential. We will need a means of contacting you if you have won the prize. This will not be stored with your data and will be destroyed after the prize draw.

If you want to withdraw your data at a later date you will be given instructions on how to do this.

This research has been approved by the Department of Psychology Ethics Committee (13 - 144)

Why should you take part?

- You will help us to better understand the household dynamics of energy consumption which may inform domestic energy reduction interventions.
- You will be entered into a prize draw. There are three prizes of 'love 2 shop' vouchers worth £100 each. You will get an entry for every household member who participates.
- There are no negative side effects of taking part.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you would like to participate or would like more information please contact:

We will need to know

1. Your address (to send the survey pack)
2. How many people in your household are participating (so we know how many surveys to send)

letter

[Address]

Home ID number:

Dear

Thanks again for agreeing to take part in our study of household energy use.

The goal of this survey is to discover how well one member of a household can guess everyone else's responses. You will be asked questions which have been found previously to affect energy use such as attitudes and values.

Please find enclosed:

- **A household survey printed on pink paper**
- **Individual survey/s printed on blue paper**
- **A consent form**
- **A freepost envelope**

Instructions

Pink survey

One person should complete the pink survey first. This should be the person who usually fills in surveys on behalf of the household, for example the census or the electoral registry form. If there is no one who fits that description, please decide between yourselves who will fill out this survey. It is important that **you do not look at the other surveys** when you are filling out the pink survey.

Blue surveys

These surveys are shorter and should be filled out by every other member of the household who wants to take part and is over 16. The person who filled in the pink survey doesn't need to complete a blue survey. Once you have finished put your survey straight in the free post envelope so that no one can see your responses.

Consent form

Please make sure all those household members taking part have signed the consent form. If they are under 18 a parent or guardian will also need to sign for them. Please do not allow anyone under 16 to fill in the survey as we will not be able to use the data.

Free post envelope

Once everything is completed, make sure all the surveys and consent form go into the free post envelope and put it in the post.

Things to know

- The prize draw will be held on the 2nd of March 2015. The vouchers must be used by the 31st March 2015.
- Your data is completely anonymous and confidential. We have a record of your email address so we can let you know if you have won the prize draw. This information will not be stored with your survey data and will be destroyed after the prize draw.
- The survey is completely voluntary. If you want to withdraw your data at a later date please contact me with your ID number (details above) and your data will be deleted. Once the data has been analysed and written up, it will no longer be possible to remove your data from any reports. The data in the reports will be completely anonymous.
- If you haven't been contacted by the 2nd of March then unfortunately you have not won the prize draw.

Why am I doing this research?

I am a psychology researcher from the University of Bath working with Exeter City Council. I am interested in the psychology of energy use within the home. One of the biggest problems with research in this area is that psychological factors concern individual people and household energy consumption depends on the behaviour of all members of the household.

Any questions please contact:

Yimini Lo
hyyl20@bath.ac.uk

or

Dr Elizabeth Gabe-Thomas
Egt25@bath.ac.uk
01225 383374
(please leave a message and we will get back to you).

If you know someone who would also like to participate in this research please ask get in touch and tell us that you referred them. You will receive an extra entry into the prize draw for every person who gets in touch with us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Elizabeth Gabe-Thomas

Please sign this!
Consent to take part in research project
Environmental Psychology Questionnaire

The objectives of this research have been explained to us.

Our data is completely confidential and anonymous.

We understand that we are free to withdraw from the research at any stage, and ask for our data to be destroyed if we wish.

Under these circumstances, we agree to participate in the research.

Person A	Parent or guardian if person A is under 18
Signature:	Signature:
Date:.....	Date:.....

Person B	Parent or guardian if person B is under 18
Signature:	Signature:
Date:.....	Date:.....

Person C	Parent or guardian if person C is under 18
Signature:	Signature:
Date:.....	Date:.....

Person D	Parent or guardian if person D is under 18
Signature:	Signature:
Date:.....	Date:.....

Person E	Parent or guardian if person E is under 18
Signature:	Signature:
Date:.....	Date:.....
