



WM NET ZERO PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GROUP (PIG)

MEMBER – ROLE DESCRIPTION

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The WM-Net Zero project seeks to transform regional climate policy actions to protect and improve the health of those living in the West Midlands.

The project led by researchers at the University of Birmingham is working with regional partners to identify which greenhouse gas reduction policies will bring the most significant physical and mental health benefits.

We are focussing on three key areas:

1. **Transport** – exploring pathways towards sustainable and healthy mobility.
2. **Housing** – understanding links between home retrofitting, health and quality of life.
3. **Energy** – planning the best energy sources to power a net-zero future.

NAMED PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT

Suzanne Bartington: s.bartington@bham.ac.uk

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WHAT IS A PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT GROUP (PIG)?

A Public Involvement Group (PIG) is made up of members of the public who work with researchers to shape a project and ensure that it meets the needs of the community. The group's role is to bring the perspectives, experiences, and opinions of everyday people into the research process. This helps ensure the research is relevant, ethical, and beneficial to the people it is designed to help.



WHAT WILL THE WM-NET ZERO PIG DO?

We are forming a Public Involvement Group to guide the project. As a member, you will help shape the research, offer feedback, and ensure the project meets the needs of people in the community.

You will be involved in:

- Giving input on the project's direction and how we carry out the research.
- Checking that we follow the right procedures, such as ethical approvals.
- Monitoring the project's progress and helping to solve any challenges.
- Ensuring that we include diverse perspectives from the community.
- Helping plan events and activities to maximize the benefits for the public.
- Assisting with sharing our findings in ways that make sense to the wider community.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

- **Attend Meetings:** Join quarterly meetings online (about 2 hours each) to discuss the project. We'll send out materials ahead of time.
- **Share Your Ideas:** Provide your thoughts and feedback to help make sure the project meets its goals.
- **Support Activities:** Help with activities that involve others from the community.
- **Work Together:** Collaborate with the project team and other members to ensure we include the public's perspective throughout.

WHAT DO YOU NEED?

- **No Special Skills Needed:** You don't need any specific experience for this role. An interest in health or environmental issues is helpful, but not required.
- **Willingness to Share Your Opinions:** Be ready to give your views—everyone's voice matters.
- **Enjoy Working in a Team:** You'll be working with others, so it's important to have a positive attitude and respect for everyone's views.



WHAT TO EXPECT?

- **Time Commitment:** The project will run until September 2026. You'll be asked to attend quarterly meetings and provide occasional feedback or review documents between meetings.
- **Introduction Session:** We'll have an initial meeting to explain your role and answer any questions.
- **Compensation for Your Time:** You'll be retributed for your involvement, and we will explain the payment process during the induction.
- **Support:** A team member will be available to assist you with any questions or concerns.
- **Accessibility Needs:** If you have any specific accessibility requirements, we will ensure that appropriate adjustments are made so that you can contribute on equal footing with other group members.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND A MEETING?

If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can still participate by sharing your thoughts or feedback beforehand. You may submit your input via letter, email, voice, or text message, allowing your PIG contact to raise any important points on your behalf during the meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality must be maintained in relation to any personal information and information related to personal health that public members of the committee gather through personal and electronic contact with other public members.

All information passed onto the University of Birmingham is securely stored and kept strictly confidential under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018.



The University takes great care to ensure that personal data is handled, stored and disposed of confidentially and securely. Staff receive regular data protection training, and the University has put in place organisational and technical measures so that personal data is processed in accordance with the data protection principles set out in data protection law. More information on how the University processes personal data can be found on the University's website on the page 'Data Protection – How the University Uses Your Data' (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/privacy/index.aspx>).

All forms will be stored within the WM Net Zero Teams site hosted by the University of Birmingham and will be accessible by the project team only. These will be deleted a year after the project'S end date.