

# Quality of Life and Renewable Energy Technologies

Dear Resident,

The Ontario Research Chair program in Renewable Energy Technologies and Health (ORC-RETH) at the University of Waterloo is exploring if there is a relationship between quality of life and living within close proximity of renewable energy technologies such as solar farms, wind farms, and biogas plants. This study will use different methods like surveys and physical assessments in hopes of understanding the potential quality of life impacts that may result from renewable energy technologies in Ontario communities.

Your community has been selected by our research team as one of several communities to be included in this project. Your experience and perspective is very important to understanding the role renewable energy technologies play in quality of life across Ontario.

The enclosed survey is the first component of our research program. The survey should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. The questions are intended to provide general information about you, your health and personal well-being, your community, and renewable energy technologies. Questions about your health and demographic information are asked for study purposes only. **This survey is for adults who live in this house regularly. To ensure our study selects people at random, we are asking the adult (18 years or older) in your household with the next upcoming birthday to fill out this survey. Please fill out the survey by yourself and only complete responses based on your own experiences and not the experiences of others.**

You may change your mind about participation and not return the survey. All questions are voluntary and you do not have to complete all questions to participate. All information you provide will be considered confidential. To ensure the confidentiality of individuals' data, each participant will be identified by a participant identification code known only to the University of Waterloo researchers. Any publications or reports that result from this study will primarily report average responses of groups of participants. In the case where individual data may be presented, the individual will not be identified. Your information will be stored safely and securely at the University of Waterloo at the School of Public Health and Health Systems. Any identifying information will be retained for seven years, after which it will be destroyed by confidential shredding. While de-identified data will be retained indefinitely, after this point, no identifiers will exist linking you to the data collected during this study. All information you provide will be kept confidential, except as required under law. There are no known or anticipated risks to participation in this survey.

If you are interested in participating in this study, you can complete the survey on your own time and return the completed survey in the enclosed, self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will then enter your name into a draw. If selected, you will receive a \$150 gift card for a store of your choice. The amount received is taxable. It is your responsibility to report the amount received for income tax purposes.

This study also involves a second component, which will include a more detailed health assessment in which you will be asked to undergo a health assessment in your home by a nursing student and a research assistant from the RETH group. This assessment may include any of the following parts: providing a small hair sample, keeping a sleep diary and symptom journal for a week, collecting saliva samples for three days, completing a similar survey to this one, and allowing a research assistant to measure the Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates of your home. If you are interested in being contacted to participate in the second component please indicate this on the contact form. Not all participants who volunteer to take part in this component will be selected. You will receive up to \$75 if you are selected to participate, depending on which and how many parts of the assessment you participate in.

If you have any questions about this study please contact Tanya Christidis (Project Coordinator) at the University of Waterloo **1-519-888-4567 ext. 31342** or [tchristi@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:tchristi@uwaterloo.ca). For more information about the Ontario Research Chair program in Renewable Energy Technologies and Health please visit <http://www.orc-reth.uwaterloo.ca/>.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through the Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo. Should you have any comments or concerns resulting from your participation in this study, please contact Dr. Maureen Nummelin, Director of the Office of Research Ethics, at 1-519-888-4567, ext. 36005 or [maureen.nummelin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:maureen.nummelin@uwaterloo.ca). Thank you in advance for your interest in this project.

Yours sincerely,

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