



**Participant Information Sheet
(Questionnaire 2 'Q2')
V7 08.07.24**

Title of Project: BlueAdapt – Local Climate Adaptation Tool Evaluation and Barriers to Adaptation Assessment

Name of Researcher: Jess Dicken, Research Fellow

Invitation and brief summary:

Thanks for your interest in this research. This is for an evaluation of the Local Climate Adaptation Tool (LCAT). We want to better understand your positive and negative experience of using the tool and the impact it is, or might have, on your work.

Please take time to consider the information carefully and to discuss it with family or friends if you wish, or to ask the researcher questions.

Why have I been approached?

You have been approached because you either:

- expressed an interest to us in taking part in this research
- your colleague suggested that you might be interested in taking part in this research

This research is specifically interested in talking with people using LCAT as part of their job or professional role. The research will not be talking to members of the public using LCAT for personal use.

What would taking part involve?

The study runs from January 2024 to July 2025. If you decide to take part, we will ask you questions about:

- Your use of the tool
- The impact the tool might be having on your work, or might have in the future
- The barriers and opportunities that you might have faced in advancing climate adaptation work
- You and your work such as type of organisation
- All questions are optional.

Can I see the questions ahead?

Yes. Please ask the researcher for a copy of the questions ahead of completing the online form.

How long will it take?

The survey will run twice. Once now and again at 6-8 months after. The survey will take around 30 minutes to complete, each time. You can complete these at a date and time convenient to you, by a deadline that will be outlined by the researcher.

Where will research take place? The questionnaire will be online, using Microsoft Forms. You can undertake the questionnaire at a time that suits you.

Data collection:

Will everything be stored securely? Yes. All questionnaire answers will be stored securely on University of Exeter's secure Sharepoint platform. If you provided your email address within a questionnaire, this will be stored securely. At the point we start to analyse your results, email addresses will be transferred to a



password protected document and de-linked from the results. Thereafter we will use a non-identifiable code for your results which anonymises them.

What information are you collecting?

- Your feedback on your experience of using LCAT, information about your role and workplace and the impact it has had via a questionnaire.
- Your email address, if you have opted into or expressed an interest in taking part in this research or further interviews.

Can I be anonymous?

Yes. When we publish or promote any results/ conclusions, all participants will be anonymised. When we use a direct quote, this too will be anonymised (for example, 'participant 1 said: "I do like it") and by removing any identifiable information such as place names and names of organisations.

However, during the process of collecting your questionnaire, your email address (that you have provided us with) will be initially linked to your results. To process the data and anonymise your results ready for analysis, we will:

- Download questionnaire data onto University of Exeter's secure Sharepoint platform. Remove your email address from these results (thus uncoupling your name from your answers).
- Delete the original submission from Microsoft Forms.
- Put the email you have provided us in a separate, password protected document.
- Use a non-identifiable coding system on all future documents.

Any identifiable documents will **not** be shared publicly nor published. They will be stored securely using the University of Exeter's secure Sharepoint platform online storage.

Why are you collecting this information?

- To improve LCAT
- To support the development of future versions of LCAT
- To understand the wider context within which you work, the barriers to taking action on climate adaptation and learnings that might benefit future users
- To understand the impact that LCAT has had on you, your work, your organisation and local area
- To showcase the use of LCAT (via PR, case studies, events and promotion) and the benefits that it might bring to future users

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot promise specific personal benefits. However, we believe this research offers the following benefits:

- improvement of LCAT and therefore future user experience
- help researchers to understand the barriers and opportunities related to climate adaptation
- help researchers to better understand how LCAT is being used and what impacts it can have on advancing climate adaptation in the UK
- help showcase innovation and good practice on climate adaptation across the UK



What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not believe that taking part in the research has any foreseeable risks to participants. The minor disadvantage of taking part is our request for your time.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

You can stop taking part at any time without having to give a reason. Participants can ask to withdraw at any time. [To withdraw, please contact the research team by emailing lcat@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:lcat@exeter.ac.uk)

At any time, the following documents can be deleted at your request:

- Contact information (e.g., email address)
- Questionnaires where you are identifiable because you provided your email address
 - If you did not provide your email address, your questionnaire is anonymous and so we cannot identify which is yours. It cannot be deleted.

Withdrawing when analysis of the results has begun and thereafter:

- If analysis has already proceeded, we cannot remove your feedback from documents produced as part of the analysis or results. This is because we cannot separate out your specific feedback at this point of the process since it has been amalgamated with other people's feedback. Furthermore, by the point of analysis, we will be using anonymised data (i.e., we cannot identify you at that point as we will have separated any identifiable data e.g., email address from your feedback).

How will my information be kept confidential?

Your data will be treated in complete confidence. Names, contact details and other identifiable information are only available to the research team.

Researchers will generate an anonymous number and assign to your name. This number will be used in reporting the findings. The link between your name and the anonymous number will exist as an electronic file only. It will be stored in a separate directory to all other data, which is only accessible by selected research team members.

Personal information we will use in this project is:

- Information about you, including your area of work, type of job you do and the sector you work within;
- Your experience of using the Local Climate Adaptation Tool, the impact it has had and barriers to taking action on climate adaptation.

The consent forms that include your name will be stored electronically, separately from all other information.

All electronic data will be stored on password-protected computers, password-protected external storage devices, or storage systems approved for research data by the University of Exeter. Any paper records will be shredded before disposal and online records and documents will be deleted and removed from the 'Trash', on or before end Sept 2031.

Making data publicly available

This project is publicly funded. It is therefore a requirement that a fully anonymised version of the data be publicly available so that they can be used in related ongoing research. This dataset may be made available



for other researchers to use in a fully anonymised form, so that the information cannot be linked to you and your identity will not be revealed. The following information would be made publicly available:

- Data from questionnaires. This includes:
 - Anonymised demographics (type of job, area of work, sector of work);
 - Your experience of using the Local Climate Adaptation Tool, the impact it has had and barriers to taking action on climate adaptation.

You can still take part, even if you do not want your anonymised data shared in this way.

We will ask for your consent via the accompanying consent form.

The University of Exeter processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the public interest. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University's Data Protection Officer by emailing informationgovernance@exeter.ac.uk or at <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ig/>

If you would like to be kept up to date about the research and results, you can opt-in via the consent form and added to our mailing list. Your email will be stored in a password protected document/ folder. Your email will not be identifiable to other participants. Updates will also be posted on the LCAT project page which you can visit at any time: [New Local Climate Adaptation Tool Supports Health and Wellbeing - European Centre for Environment and Human Health | ECEHH](#)

Will I receive any payment for taking part?

No.

What will happen to the results of this study?

Findings and data from this project will be shared in the following ways. All information will be fully anonymised.

- Academic publications and conferences;
- Media interviews (e.g., BBC Radio Cornwall);
- University of Exeter, Cornwall Council, BlueAdapt and partner websites;
- Reports for partners and funders;
- Meetings and events such as with climate adaptation stakeholders or policy makers;
- Teaching or training materials for use in University activities and public engagement activities
- A fully anonymised dataset will be published as part of the academic publication process.

Information on the outcomes of the project will be available to participants at the end of the project via the project website: [New Local Climate Adaptation Tool Supports Health and Wellbeing - European Centre for Environment and Human Health | ECEHH](#)

Who is organising and funding this study?

Research team: Tim Taylor (lead researcher), Jess Dicken, Emma Bland (all University of Exeter) and the wider BlueAdapt team.

Funder: LCAT has been co-funded through the BlueAdapt project. BlueAdapt has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101057764 and by the UKRI/HM Government.



Who has reviewed this study?

This project has been reviewed by the UEMS & HCP Research Ethics Committee Sub Group at the University of Exeter (Reference Number 3646340)

Contact for any questions or requests regarding your participation in this research

In the event of queries or requests you may contact us using the following contact information.

Tim Taylor timothy.j.taylor@exeter.ac.uk

Jess Dicken j.dicken2@exeter.ac.uk

Emma Bland e.bland@exeter.ac.uk

Wider LCAT project team LCAT@exeter.ac.uk

To contact the Research Ethics Committee
please email uemsethics@exeter.ac.uk.

You can also contact the University Research Ethics and Governance Team if you wish to make a complaint
or comment please email cgr-reg@exeter.ac.uk

or Dr Antony Walsh

Head of Research Governance, Ethics and Compliance

University Corporate Services, University of Exeter

G14, Lafrowda House, St Germans Road, Exeter, EX4 6TJ

DD: 01392 726621 email A.Walsh3@exeter.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in this project.