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FUND

## Participant Information Sheet

**Title of study:** The QUB Green Comic: co-designing a comic-style leaflet to reduce plastic waste through behaviour change

You are being invited to take part in a research study funded by Queen's Green Fund (<https://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/EstatesDirectorate/Services/SustainabilityatQueens/GreenFund/>). This study has been reviewed by the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Ethics Committee. Before you decide whether or not to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for reading this.

### What is the purpose of the study?

Plastic waste is a global issue with profound implications for the health of the earth and its inhabitants. Addressing the problem of plastic waste requires engagement, commitment and behaviour change, however as we all know too well, attitudes and habits can be hard to change. This project focuses on plastic waste and recycling behaviour in an academic/educational environment, with an aim of developing ways to help to lower QUB's carbon footprint. Given the abundance of (sometimes *bland* or *confusing*) educational resources related to plastic waste and recycling, we hope to work with staff and students across the University to design a fun, engaging, and creative resource to incentivise positive plastic usage and recycling behaviour.

### Why have I been chosen?

As a member of staff or student from QUB, we need your help to decide what goes into the resource and what things are important to cover. We also have a very cool, professional comic book artist on board to help with the design...

### Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and you will be asked to sign a consent form. If you choose to take part, you can change your mind at any time and withdraw from the study without giving a reason. However, after taking part, you will have up to **2 weeks** to request your data is withdrawn, after which point the data will have been analysed and collated.

## **5. What will happen to me if I take part?**

You will have the choice to take part in 1-3 workshops (*you can attend any of the workshops and in any order*) which will be focused on the contents and design of a creative resource to tackle plastic waste through plastic usage and plastic recycling behaviour change among QUB staff and students. Workshop participants will include staff and students from QUB from a range of disciplines, to get a broad variation of perspectives on what the resource should look like and include. Workshops will be facilitated by members of the research team (Psychology and Engineering staff/students) and a comic book artist who is a skilled creative workshop facilitator. Workshops will last for 3-4 hours and will be held in the **Students Union building at QUB (Clubroom 5)** on the following dates and at the following times:

- **Friday 28th February from 10am – 2.00pm**
- **Friday 27th March from 10am - 2.00pm**
- **Friday 24th April from 10am - 2.00pm**

Workshop 1 (brainstorming session) will focus on exploring barriers to recycling plastics, ways to incentivise recycling, and therefore what the resource should include. Workshop 2 and 3 (brainstorming and prototyping sessions) will focus more on the design and more specific contents of the resource. There will be opportunities for you to get 'creative' but do not worry if drawing/art is not your 'thing', we are keen to explore your ideas about the content/focus of the resource as well. Workshops will be recorded but any contribution made will be anonymised to preserve your identity and confidentiality.

**Participants will be provided with free refreshments (tea/coffee and biscuits) and a light lunch.**

Please register to secure your place on the following Eventbrite link:

- <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-qub-green-comic-co-design-workshops-tickets-95406522477>

You are also invited to take part in a brief follow-up interview (at a time that suits you best) to get a sense of how you found participating in the workshops. But you are not obliged to take part in this follow-up, it is entirely up to you. You can indicate this on the consent form.

### **What are the possible risks or disadvantages of taking part?**

There are no anticipated risks of taking part

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There are no direct benefits of taking part, apart from your contribution which will help to shape a new resource for QUB. We hope to share the resource across the University (and beyond in other educational settings) online and at different QUB, Green/environmental, and other public events.

### **What if something goes wrong?**

If you have any concerns about any aspects of the study, you can contact the Chief Investigator Dr Emma Berry ([E.Berry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:E.Berry@qub.ac.uk); +44 (0)28 9097 4373). Should you remain unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Research Governance Team at Queen's University Belfast (Telephone: 028 9097 2529; Email: [researchgovernance@qub.ac.uk](mailto:researchgovernance@qub.ac.uk)).

### **Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

Any data contributed will be anonymised and both data and consent information will be held securely on University premises and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018.

### **What will happen to the results of the research?**

Results of the study may be published in the form of a report or summarised in the form of a blog. Results will be disseminated also through talks/presentations. Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained throughout and it will not be possible to identify you from any publications/ other disseminations resulting from this study.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This study is organised by researchers from QUB and received funding from the QUB Green Fund Award 2019/2020.

## Contact for Further Information

Dr Emma Berry (Chief Investigator)

[E.Berry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:E.Berry@qub.ac.uk)

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*This research will be conducted in compliance with data protection legislation. For more information about how we look after your information, how to access your rights and who to contact if you have any queries or concerns about data protection please visit the Queen's University Belfast website -*

[www.qub.ac.uk/privacynotice/Research/ListofResearchPrivacyNotices/PrivacyNoticeforResearchParticipants](http://www.qub.ac.uk/privacynotice/Research/ListofResearchPrivacyNotices/PrivacyNoticeforResearchParticipants)

**Thank you for your interest in this study and for taking the time to read through this information sheet.**