

University of California, Los Angeles

General Information Sheet

University Village Electricity Experiment

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Professor Magali Delmas and a joint team from the Institute of the Environment and the Electrical Engineering Department, at the University of California, Los Angeles. Your participation in this research study is completely voluntary.

Why is this study being done?

We are trying to understand how to best make use of information about electricity usage to consumers to promote conservation. The results of this study could help UCLA and other communities in efforts to save electricity and reduce their carbon footprint.

What will happen if I volunteer to take part in this research study?

Your apartment is already equipped with chosen electricity metering equipment, which was installed in the circuit breaker panel box by electricians from University Village. This equipment is completely out of sight and unobtrusive. In addition, a wireless router will be added to your internet connection, which will send us data over your energy usage. This will not interfere with or slow down your internet access.

Some apartments will be given real-time information about how much electricity they are using, while other apartments will receive summary reports about their energy usage at the end of the study period. Some apartments will be rated on a weekly basis as above or below average power users. These ratings will be displayed in public forums such as the monthly newsletter, the clipboards by your apartment, or in e-mails to the experiment participants. At the beginning and conclusion of the experiment you will also be asked to fill out a brief survey. We may ask you for information on your electricity use from your tenure in your current apartment.

By consenting to be in the experiment you will allow the researchers to access basic demographic information about yourself already held by UCLA Housing and Hospitality Services. All data will be confidential.

How long will I be in the research study?

The study will last throughout the 2013/14 academic year.

Are there any potential risks or discomforts that I can expect from this study?

We will not disclose your electricity usage to anyone. At most your apartment may be classified as an above or below average electricity user. The amount of electricity you use will not affect anything outside of this study, including your ability to get UCLA student housing in the future.

Are there any potential benefits if I participate?

You will benefit directly from this research by being given either real-time or delayed information over your electricity usage. This can help you conserve energy saving both money and the environment.

Electricity generation is responsible for about 40 percent of U.S. CO₂ emissions. The results of this research will be used to help reduce residential electricity consumption in the future. We will also directly apply the findings to reducing electricity usage on campus and in UCLA Housing. This will reduce UCLA's carbon footprint and help keep UCLA student housing affordable.

Alternatives to participation

Participation is completely voluntary.

Will information about me and my participation be kept confidential?

Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can identify you will remain confidential. It will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law.

Any data that can be directly linked to you will be kept on the UCLA Housing Office's secure servers. Apart from having your apartment publicly classified as an above or below average electricity user, no information about you or your electricity usage will be released.

What are my rights if I take part in this study?

You may withdraw your consent at any time and discontinue participation without penalty or loss of benefits to which you were otherwise entitled.

You can choose whether or not you want to be in this study. If you volunteer to be in this study, you may leave the study at any time without consequences of any kind. You are not waiving any of your legal rights if you choose to be in this research study. You may refuse to answer any questions that you do not want to answer and still remain in the study.

Who can answer questions I might have about this study?

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the research, you can talk to the one of the researchers. Please contact the head of Sustainability for UCLA Housing, Aliana Lungo-Shapiro or Magali Delmas of the UCLA Institute of the Environment at energy@ioes.ucla.edu.

If you wish to ask questions about your rights as a research participant or if you wish to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study to someone other than the researchers, please call the Office of the Human Research Protection Program at (310) 825-7122 or write to the Office of the Human Research Protection Program, UCLA, 11000 Kinross Avenue, Suite 102, Box 951694, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1694.