



Participant Information and Consent: Energy Data Platform

1. What is this project about?

We are creating a database of anonymised energy data to share with researchers from UNSW and other Australian research institutions. The data will help researchers understand how rooftop solar performs in the real world and how households use energy, as well as verifying the output of research models. In turn, this will help the integration of more renewable energy into the electricity network.

2. Who is conducting this research?

The data platform is being created at the University of New South Wales by a research team comprising Dr Mike Roberts, Dr Anna Bruce, Dr Nargess Nourbakhsh, Dr Navid Haghdadi, Dr Baran Yildiz, Prof Renate Egan. Anonymised data will also be shared with researchers from ANU, Monash, Melbourne University, University of Queensland and CSIRO.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

To participate in the study, you must be

- over the age of 18
- the electricity account holder for the property
- willing to share your energy data for research purposes

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any stage.

5. What does participation in this research require?

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, please:

- Read all the information carefully (contact us with questions if necessary)
- Tick the appropriate boxes on the webform and click 'Yes, I would like to participate'
- Complete the initial online survey (around 10 minutes)
- Keep a copy of this information for your records
- Complete a 5-minute online check-in survey each year

Your Wattwatchers MyEnergy Marketplace data will be shared with UNSW. UNSW will combine the energy data and survey data, remove all personal or identifying information and add it to the Energy Data Platform. Collection of your energy data will continue for 5 years of your Solar Analytics subscription.

Each year you will be asked to complete a very short online check-in survey to let us know of any relevant changes in your household or appliance use. Your data will be collected as long as you stay involved for up to 5 years. To participate in the study, simply complete the survey.

In return for your participation

- A \$50 digital gift card will be emailed to you once you have signed-up and completed the initial survey
- Your existing 3-year subscription to the Wattwatchers MyEnergy app will be extended to 5 years
- Enrolment in prize draw (for \$1000 cash) each 6 months for ongoing participation up to 5 years.

6. What will happen to information about me?

By agreeing to participate, you are providing your permission for the research team to collect and use information about you for research purposes. Your data will be kept securely at UNSW for a minimum of 7 years. We will securely store information about you in an identifiable format, but before any data is shared, all identifying information will be removed. Your information will only be shared with approved research institutions and used for research purposes only.



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If you specifically agree, the research team will also use your address as part of a project to verify the method behind the APVI's [SunSPoT](#) solar assessment tool. This is entirely optional. Your address will not be used for any other purpose or shared with other researchers.

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

Because the data is anonymised and will be used for research projects by multiple Australian research institutions, we are unable to inform participants about research outcomes.

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by emailing the research team and telling them you no longer want to participate, or by completing the 'Form for Withdrawal of Consent' below and sending it to the research team. If you decide to leave, no additional information will be collected from you but your anonymised data cannot be withdrawn from the Energy Data Platform. You will receive no further rewards (but can retain those already given to you). If you withdraw from this study during the first 3 years of your MyEnergy Marketplace membership, your membership will not be affected. If you withdraw after 3 years, your MyEnergy Marketplace membership will also end. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study, will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney or Wattwatchers.

9. What if I move house?

If you move house, please let us know. You will automatically be withdrawn from the research study and your My Energy Marketplace membership will be ended. This is because the membership is associated with a physical device installed in the switchboard of your house.

10. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator on 02 9385 6222 or email humanethics@unsw.edu.au quoting Reference Number **HC210821**:

11. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

Name	Dr Mike Roberts (Chief investigator)
Position	Senior Research Associate
Telephone	(02) 9065 0400
Email	m.roberts@unsw.edu.au
Postal address	SPREE, Level 3 TETB, UNSW, Kensington, NSW, 2052



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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to **WITHDRAW** my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal will end my free Solar analytics subscription but will otherwise not affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales or Solar Analytics.

- I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn. I understand that my anonymised data cannot be withdrawn.

Participant Name

Name of Participant	
Address of property	
Date	

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

Name	Dr Mike Roberts (Chief investigator)
Position	Senior Research Associate
Email	m.roberts@unsw.edu.au
Postal address	SPREE, Level 3 TETB, UNSW, Kensington, NSW, 2052