



Research Participant Information Sheet

NatHERS Existing Homes Energy Efficiency Rating Trial – Scale Stream

Project overview

In April 2023, the Australian Government announced funding to expand the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) to offer energy assessment and ratings for existing homes. This would involve modelling of existing homes through the CSIRO developed AccuRate Enterprise – Existing (AE-E) software to obtain an energy star rating.

One of the challenges of modelling existing homes is obtaining the dimensional data that is required. Unlike new homes that have dimensioned plans, existing homes generally don't have plans and traditionally a time-consuming onsite measure up has been required. CSIRO have been exploring how to better streamline the data collection process for AE-E. One such method is using LiDAR scanning technology built into mobile devices to collect and record spatial dimensions coupled with survey questions to capture construction information. This can then be exported directly into AE-E to simplify a full NatHERS energy rating.

This project aims to undertake field trials of this proposed methodology to explore its feasibility and accuracy.

The overall project is being funded by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) and CSIRO. The banking sector is funding the collection of the data and the energy assessment.

What does participation involve?

Participation in these trials will involve you granting permission for a fully trained and accredited valuation professional to access your home scan and collect construction information of your home. The scan and data collected will then be provided to a qualified energy rating assessor to undertake an energy assessment of your home. The scan and data gathering process will take up to an hour to complete but may take longer on larger and more complicated homes. There will be no cost involved to the homeowner.

Risks and benefits

There are no foreseeable risks associated with participating in this trial and we will provide you with a trial energy rating certificate.

Withdrawal from the research project

Participation in this trial is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at CSIRO. If you wish to withdraw from the project you may do so up to the time the valuer arrives at your home. After the assessment has been completed, it may be impossible for your data to be removed from the study as it will have been deidentified.

If you have concerns about your data after the assessment has been done, you can contact CSIRO which will make all reasonable efforts to re-identify your data and remove it from the study.

Confidentiality

All information provided by you will be treated confidentially. Any personal information collected will not be included in any publications resulting from the project. Any data collected by CSIRO as part of this trial will be securely stored as per CSIRO's Recordkeeping Procedure.

How will my information be used?

The data obtained through these trials will be utilised to further develop and refine a possible future existing homes rating scheme. This will help the researchers establish whether the proposed methodology for collecting existing homes data is feasible, practical and delivers accurate results. The aggregated data will be used in publications on the outcome of the project and may be used as part of future related research projects. The data may also be provided to other researchers when requested, but only when approved by CSIRO. Individual data will not be made publicly available.

Results from the energy rating assessment (star rating) will be provided to the bank that commissioned the assessment and may be utilised by the bank to undertake additional analysis and they may use the information to develop and or market products and services.

Ethics clearance and contacts

This project has been approved by CSIRO's Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (Updated 2018). If you have any questions concerning your participation in the trial, please contact the researchers via their contact details provided. Alternatively, any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study can be raised with the Executive Manager of Social Responsibility and Ethics on +61 7 3833 5693 or by email at csshrec@csiro.au.

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Thank you for taking the time to help with this research project. Please keep this sheet for your information.

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