

Informed Consent

Introduction:

You are being asked to participate in a research study. Before you agree, however, you must be fully informed about the purpose of the study, the procedures to be followed, and any benefits, risks or discomfort that you may experience as a result of your participation. This form presents information about the study so that you may make a fully informed decision regarding your participation.

Purpose of the study:

This study focuses on the effects of extreme weather on the community run refrigerators maintained and operated by Worcester Community Fridges. This study aims to create a weatherproofing method to allow for continued and unhindered use of the fridges through the hotter and colder months.

Procedures to be followed:

Participation in the study will last the length of a short semi-structured interview, with an average runtime of 15-20 minutes. Any further participation in the study is not expected.

Risk to study participants:

There is no risk to the participant in this study.

Benefits to research participants and others:

There is no benefit to the participant for participation in this study.

Record keeping and confidentiality:

Records of answers to the interview questions will be held in a document only accessible to the investigators. Records of your participation in this study will be held confidential so far as permitted by law. However, the study investigators, the sponsor or its designee and, under certain circumstances, the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Institutional Review Board (WPI IRB) will be able to inspect and have access to confidential data that identify you by name. Any publication or presentation of the data will not identify you.

Compensation or treatment in the event of injury:

You do not give up any of your legal rights by signing this statement.

For more information about this research or about the rights of research participants, or in case of research-related injury, contact: gr-wocfridgesiqpd23@wpi.edu for contact with the investigators. Laura Roberts, Email: lroberts@wpi.edu for the IRB Manager.

Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your refusal to participate will not result in any penalty to you or any loss of benefits to which you may otherwise be entitled. You may decide to stop participating in the research at any time without penalty or loss of other benefits. The project investigators retain the right to cancel or postpone the experimental procedures at any time they see fit.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have been informed about and consent to be a participant in the study described above. Make sure that your questions are answered to your satisfaction before signing. You are entitled to retain a copy of this consent agreement.

Lawrence R. Halsey
Study Participant Signature

Date: 4.27.23

Lawrence R. Halsey
Study Participant Name (Please print)

Michael Williams
Signature of Person who explained this study

Date: 4/26/2023