



Informed Consent Form

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Purpose of the Research:

The Trash Team at the University of Toronto in partnership with Toronto Environmental Alliance and Green Neighbours Network are conducting a study to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with implementing reusables programs in local businesses in Toronto. The objectives of this project are: 1) Assess the level of participation in reducing single-use plastic items in local businesses within Toronto. 2) Increase awareness about the benefits of switching from single-use to reusable foodware (cost savings and waste reduction) and the forthcoming regulations, and identify supports required by businesses to comply. 3) Provide resources to businesses that include practical guidance to be successful.

Procedure, Confidentiality and Protection of Privacy:

You will be interviewed to understand both challenges and opportunities the business face in the implementation of such programs. A semi-structured questionnaire will be conducted in-person, over the phone or video call to assess factors including financial advantages and strains, logistical feasibility, waste management and consumer perceptions. No demographic information will be collected on participants. Your identity will not be linked to the data. All information you supply during the research will be held in confidence and your name will not appear in any report or publication of the research. Your data will be safely encrypted and stored on the researchers' password-protected laptop and only research members will have access to this information. Electronic files will be securely erased from the researcher's computer/secure server three years after the completion of the study. The researcher plans to publish the results of this study in academic journals and provide short summary reports to participants who request them.

Voluntary Participation & Withdrawal from the Study: Your participation in the study is completely voluntary. You can decide to withdraw from the study by contacting us at the email address included below. You may withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Risks: In some cases, you may feel uncomfortable about revealing your business waste consumption. Our role is to document challenges and opportunities associated with implementing reusables programs and not to judge the business consumption choices. It is important to note that participation is confidential, and your identities will not be revealed.

Benefits: Participation in this program may lead to a better understanding of the reusable programs and therefore help implement single-use reduction initiatives.

Questions About the Research:

If you have any questions about this study, or about your rights as a participant in the study, please contact us at rafaela.gutierrez@utoronto.ca or phone: 647 882-4118.

By answering the questionnaire, you consent to participate in the study on Reusable Foodware conducted by Rafaela F. Gutierrez. You have had the opportunity to ask questions about your involvement in this study, and to receive any additional details I wanted to know about the study.