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## Plan Overview

*A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline*

**Title:** Wind energy Survey

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**Funder:** Science Europe

**Template:** Science Europe Template

### Project abstract:

This survey aims to examine public awareness, attitudes, and perceptions regarding wind energy development and renewable electricity in Ireland. The primary objective is to understand how individuals perceive the benefits and challenges associated with wind farms, as well as how these perceptions influence consumer behaviour, such as the selection of electricity providers offering renewable or “green” energy. By exploring factors including environmental awareness, proximity to wind farms, and opinions on government policy and sustainability targets, the survey seeks to identify public support levels for both onshore and offshore wind energy projects. The responses will provide valuable insights into how community acceptance, local impact, and information transparency shape the national transition toward renewable energy and Ireland’s progress in achieving its 2030 sustainability goals. Data gathered will contribute to an academic study assessing the role of wind energy in advancing national sustainability objectives, with particular attention to social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

**ID:** 189646

**Start date:** 24-10-2025

**End date:** 21-11-2025

**Last modified:** 30-10-2025

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# Wind energy Survey

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## Data description and collection or re-use of existing data

### How will new data be collected or produced and/or how will existing data be re-used?

New data will be collected through an online survey designed and distributed using Google Forms. The survey consists of multiple-choice and open-ended questions aimed at assessing public awareness, perceptions, and attitudes toward wind energy and renewable electricity in Ireland. Participants will be recruited through general online circulation (e.g., email, social media, and academic or community networks) to reach a broad demographic.

All responses will be submitted directly by participants through the secure Google Forms platform and automatically stored in an encrypted format accessible only to the researcher via a password-protected university account. No personal or identifiable information (such as names, emails, or IP addresses) will be collected, ensuring complete anonymity.

No existing data will be re-used in this study. All data collected will be new, primary data generated specifically for this undergraduate research project. The anonymised dataset may be summarised in charts or tables within the final dissertation but will not be shared publicly or reused in future studies without further ethical approval.

### What data (for example the kinds, formats, and volumes) will be collected or produced?

The research will generate primary quantitative and qualitative data collected through an online survey hosted on Google Forms. The dataset will include multiple-choice responses (e.g., demographic information, awareness levels, attitudes toward wind farms, and energy provider preferences) and short open-text responses reflecting participants' personal views on renewable energy and sustainability in Ireland.

All survey responses will be automatically exported from Google Forms into Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) format for analysis. Summary data and visual outputs (such as graphs and charts) will be produced using Microsoft Excel for inclusion in the write up report.

The total data volume is expected to be relatively small as the survey will consist of approximately 25-30 questions and an anticipated sample size of between 20 and 30 participants. No sensitive or personally identifiable data will be collected.

## Documentation and data quality

### What metadata and documentation (for example the methodology of data collection and way of organising data) will accompany data?

The dataset will be accompanied by comprehensive documentation that explains the methodology of data collection, survey structure, and data organisation to ensure clarity and transparency. A link to the completed Google Forms survey will be included to show the original data collection instrument. A Word document paper will accompany the dataset, detailing the background, sampling strategy, survey design, data analysis methods, and key findings. This document will act as both metadata and

supporting research context, describing how the survey was conducted and how results were processed and interpreted.

All files will be organised in a clear folder structure, and consistent file naming conventions will be used to maintain traceability. This will ensure the dataset and its accompanying materials are transparent, well-documented, and compliant with TUS data management and ethics standards.

### **What data quality control measures will be used?**

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data collected, I will apply several quality control measures throughout the research process. The survey will be carefully designed and pre-tested to identify and correct any unclear or ambiguous questions before distribution. Multiple-choice options will be structured to avoid overlap or bias, and mandatory questions will be used in Google Forms to minimise missing responses.

Data collected will be automatically stored in a structured format by Google Forms, reducing the potential for manual input errors. Once data collection is complete, I will review all responses to check for inconsistencies, incomplete answers, or duplicate submissions. Any invalid or non-serious responses (if identified) will be excluded from analysis.

During analysis, I will verify all calculations and coding in Microsoft Excel to ensure that statistical summaries and charts accurately reflect the collected data. File version control will also be maintained to prevent accidental overwriting or data loss. These steps will help maintain high data quality, consistency, and integrity throughout the project.

### **Storage and backup during the research process**

#### **How will data and metadata be stored and backed up during the research process?**

All data collected through the online survey will be stored securely within the Google Forms platform, automatically linked to the researcher's TUS student Google account, which is protected by institutional login credentials and two-factor authentication. Once data collection is complete, responses will be exported and stored locally on a password-protected laptop and backed up to TUS OneDrive cloud storage to ensure data preservation and prevent accidental loss.

Regular backups will be performed to ensure no data loss occurs during the research process. No survey data will be stored on external or unsecured personal devices, and no data will be shared via email or third-party storage platforms.

#### **How will data security and protection of sensitive data be taken care of during the research?**

All data will be managed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Data Protection Policy. The survey has been designed to collect no personal or sensitive information — respondents will not be asked to provide names, contact details, IP addresses, or any other identifying information. Participation will be entirely anonymous.

Survey data will be stored securely within Google Forms under the researcher's institutional account, protected by a unique TUS login and two-factor authentication. Once downloaded, data files will be

stored on a password-protected laptop and backed up to TUS OneDrive, both of which comply with institutional IT security standards.

Access to the dataset will be strictly limited to the researcher and the academic supervisor. No data will be shared via email, removable media, or non-secure cloud services. All files will remain encrypted and stored in secure folders until the completion of the study, after which they will be permanently deleted in line with TUS data retention and disposal procedures.

## **Legal and ethical requirements, codes of conduct**

### **If personal data are processed, how will compliance with legislation on personal data and on data security be ensured?**

This research project is designed to avoid the collection or processing of personal or sensitive data. The online survey does not request names, email addresses, IP information, or any other identifiable details. All participation is anonymous, and responses cannot be traced back to individual participants. In the unlikely event that any personal data are inadvertently submitted (for example, if a participant voluntarily includes identifying details in an open-text response), such information will be immediately removed or anonymised before analysis.

Should any personal data require processing, all handling will fully comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU 2016/679) and the TUS Data Protection Policy. Data would be stored on password-protected, encrypted university systems with access limited strictly to the researcher and the academic supervisor. Any processing of personal data would also be carried out in accordance with the TUS Research Ethics Committee's guidelines and institutional data retention procedures.

### **How will other legal issues, such as intellectual property rights and ownership, be managed? What legislation is applicable?**

All data collected through this research project will be original and generated solely for academic purposes. The resulting dataset, analysis, and dissertation will be subject to Technological University of the Shannon's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy, which recognises the student and the university as joint holders of rights to academic research materials produced in the course of study.

As the project involves the creation of anonymised survey data and does not include third-party or copyrighted materials, no external IP or licensing issues are anticipated. Any use of publicly available literature or images will be properly cited and referenced in accordance with academic integrity and fair use guidelines.

Applicable legislation includes the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679), the Data Protection Acts 1988–2018 (Ireland), the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000 (Ireland), and relevant TUS institutional research ethics and IP policies. Compliance with these frameworks ensures that data ownership, confidentiality, and intellectual property rights are managed appropriately throughout the research process.

### **How will possible ethical issues be taken into account, and codes of conduct followed?**

All ethical considerations have been addressed in accordance with the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Research Ethics Policy and the Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The study

involves voluntary participation from adult respondents (aged 18 and over) completing an anonymous online survey about public perceptions of wind energy and renewable electricity in Ireland.

Prior to participation, each respondent is presented with a clear Participant Information and Consent Statement outlining the purpose of the research, the use of data, participants' rights, and data protection measures. Consent is explicitly obtained before any data are collected. Participants are informed that they may withdraw at any stage prior to submitting their responses and that no identifiable information is recorded.

The survey content has been reviewed to ensure it poses no psychological, social, or professional risk to participants. All procedures adhere to the principles of respect, beneficence, voluntary participation, and confidentiality, as outlined in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2017) and the TUS Research Ethics Committee guidelines.

## **Data sharing and long-term preservation**

### **How and when will data be shared? Are there possible restrictions to data sharing or embargo reasons?**

The data collected through this survey will be used solely for the purpose of completing an academic assignment within the School of Engineering at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) – Athlone Campus. The dataset will not be shared publicly or reused for any other research projects or publications.

All information gathered will remain confidential and anonymous, as participants were informed that their responses would be used exclusively for this coursework exercise. The data will be summarised only in the final assignment submission, presented in aggregated or descriptive form (e.g., charts or tables), without any personally identifiable details.

Access to the dataset will be limited to the researcher and the supervising lecturer. Following grading and assessment, all survey data will be securely deleted in line with TUS data retention and disposal policies. Consequently, the dataset will not be shared externally, and an embargo applies to ensure participant confidentiality and compliance with GDPR and institutional ethics standards.

### **How will data for preservation be selected, and where will data be preserved long-term (for example a data repository or archive)?**

As this project is being conducted solely for the purpose of completing an academic assignment within the School of Engineering at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) – Athlone Campus, there is no requirement for long-term data preservation or deposit in a research repository.

All survey data will be stored temporarily on secure, password-protected TUS systems (Google Forms and OneDrive) during the data collection and analysis period. Only the researcher and supervising lecturer will have access.

Once the assignment has been submitted, assessed, and graded, all digital files—including raw data, spreadsheets, and related documentation—will be permanently deleted in line with TUS data retention and disposal policies. Only summarised findings presented in the assignment will remain, and no identifiable or raw data will be preserved or shared externally.

### **What methods or software tools will be needed to access and use the data?**

The data will be collected and managed using Google Forms, which allows secure online data entry and automatic storage within the researcher's institutional Google account. The survey responses will then be exported to Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) format for data cleaning, organisation, and analysis.

Basic descriptive statistics and visual outputs (such as tables, bar charts, and pie charts) will be produced within Excel to support the findings presented in the written assignment. No specialised statistical or data analysis software will be required.

Both Google Forms and Microsoft Excel are accessible through the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) licensed software environment, ensuring compliance with institutional IT and data security standards.

### **How will the application of a unique and persistent identifier (such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI)) to each data set be ensured?**

As this project involves a short-term, assignment-based survey conducted solely for educational purposes within the School of Engineering at Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) – Athlone Campus, the resulting dataset will not be deposited in a public repository or shared beyond the assignment submission. Therefore, no Digital Object Identifier (DOI) or other persistent identifier will be assigned.

## **Data management responsibilities and resources**

### **Who (for example role, position, and institution) will be responsible for data management (i.e. the data steward)?**

I will be primarily responsible for managing all data collected as part of this project. This includes ensuring that data are collected, stored, handled, and disposed of in accordance with the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Data Protection Policy, GDPR, and the ethical standards approved for student research.

My academic supervisor, Mr. Paul Archbold, Lecturer in the School of Engineering at TUS – Athlone Campus, will provide oversight and guidance throughout the project to ensure that proper data management procedures are followed.

As this project is being completed for an academic assignment, responsibility for data management will end once the assignment has been submitted, assessed, and all associated files have been securely deleted in line with TUS data retention and disposal policies.

### **What resources (for example financial and time) will be dedicated to data management and ensuring that data will be FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Re-usable)?**

No additional financial resources are required for data management in this project. All activities related to data collection, organisation, and analysis will be completed using freely available tools provided through Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), including Google Forms for data collection and Microsoft Excel for data analysis and storage.

I will allocate sufficient time within the duration of the assignment to ensure data are accurately collected, clearly documented, and securely stored in line with university policies. Although the data

will not be shared publicly, I will apply the principles of FAIR data management where appropriate by maintaining a well-organised dataset (Findable), ensuring secure access for myself and my supervisor (Accessible), using common and interoperable file formats such as .xlsx, and producing documentation that describes the structure and variables of the dataset for potential internal reuse if required (Reusable).

As this project is solely for an academic assignment, all data will be securely deleted after grading, in compliance with TUS data retention and disposal procedures.