

AHURI INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Thanks for agreeing to take part in these interviews. I want to stress that there are no right or wrong answers to the questions I'm about to ask. What's important to us, is that you are open and honest about your responding – we want to get an accurate picture of how people feel about these issues.

I'm going to use the word 'sustainable' in the interview. What I'm talking about when I use this word is the amount of energy and water you use and the way you manage waste (e.g., recycling, composting, reducing amount of waste etc).

Eliciting beliefs

I'd like to start by asking you about the ways your household goes about using and conserving energy and water and how you manage waste.

[Present people with the lists of ways to conserve energy & water & manage waste]

For your household, what do you believe are the advantages of these types of actions?

What do you believe are the disadvantages?

Are there any individuals or groups who would approve of your household engaging in these actions?

Are there any who would disapprove?

What factors or circumstances would make it easy for your household to do these things?

What factors or circumstances would make it hard?

Apart from the things that are listed, are there any other things that you do/appliances that you've installed to make the household more sustainable?

Changes

Over the last three years, has your household changed the way you use water or energy or manage waste? [probe about what has changed if necessary]

Why changed or why not changed?

Policies

[Present participants with the list of policy options that were listed in the survey]

In your opinion, which policies (strategies) should the government be putting in place to make households more sustainable?

[It would be good to get information here about whether their preferences are underpinned by judgements of the acceptability for them or whether they perceive the policies as effective]

[probe if they are having trouble answering the question: If you were in government which policy or policies would you want to introduce?]

Do you think that different policies are needed for different people (i.e., different policies for low income earners or old people?).

Household dynamics

Is there a particular person in the household who takes responsibility for making sure the household is sustainable or is it a joint effort?

Do you ever talk in your household about energy and water use or waste? [probe for content of conversations & who is involved]

Do you ever have arguments or disagreements over energy/water use/waste?

[Probe: people often talk about arguments in the household when one person showers for too long – especially teenagers – or when one person leaves all the lights or never puts the right things in the recycling bins – does any of this happen in your household?]

Do you know how much water your household uses? Do you know if that is the same or higher or lower relative to other households?

What about energy [as above]?

Do you know whether the amount of waste you produce is the same or higher or lower than other people?

General

This question is not specifically about household sustainability: If you suddenly came into a \$20,000 windfall, what would you do with it?

If you could only spend it on making your house more sustainable what would you do with it?