

## Research Information Sheet

Title of Study: Smart Management of Microplastic Pollution in the Great Lakes

Principal Investigator (PI): Yongli Zhang  
Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE)  
313-577-9962

Funding Source: Great Lakes Protection Fund

### Key Information about this Study

This is a research project and participation is voluntary. The purpose is to inspire action to control pollution caused by plastics and microplastics. You are being provided with a filtration bag in which you can machine-wash your laundry to control microplastic pollution, instructions on how to use it, information about plastic pollution, and a pledge you can take to control microplastic pollution. During this project, your awareness of pollution may increase, which may cause mental distress. Your ability to control pollution by using the laundry bag may also increase, reducing mental distress. You may choose not to participate in the study at any time.

### Purpose

You are being asked to be in a research study of ways to control plastic and microplastic pollution because you found out about this study through either the Ingham Conservation District or the Clinton River Watershed Council, and you are a resident of Michigan. This study is being conducted at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

### Study Procedures

If you take part in the study, you will be asked to:

- Provide your mailing address to receive a laundry bag, instructions, and information about plastic and microplastic pollution. The laundry bag is a lightweight zippered case into which fabric can be placed for machine-washing. The bag reduces friction that can dislodge microfibers that might otherwise pollute the wastewater from your home.
- Provide your email address to receive a link to an online pledge to reduce microplastic pollution.

### Benefits

- As a participant in this research study, there will be no direct benefit for you; however, information from this study may benefit other people now or in the future. For example, methods for controlling and preventing microplastic pollution may increase.
- Additionally, some users of laundry bags report that their clothing is protected from friction during washing and does not seem to wear out as quickly. Some users also report feeling satisfied that they are doing something that may reduce pollution.

### Risks

By taking part in this study, you may experience the following risks:

- Physical risks, such as: changes in the way your laundry turns out, for example, heavily-soiled items inside a bag may not seem to get as clean; or temporary changes in machine operation like off-balance laundry loads,

## Smart Management of Microplastic Pollution in the Great Lakes

- Emotional risks, such as feelings of sadness or anxiety relating to laundry, plastics, microplastics and environmental pollution, or
- Social risks, such as possible loss of confidentiality if there is a data breach

### **Costs**

- There will be no costs to you for participation in this research study.

### **Compensation**

- You will not be paid for taking part in this study.

### **Confidentiality**

- All information collected about you during the course of this study will be kept without any identifiers.

### **Voluntary Participation /Withdrawal**

Taking part in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to take part in this study, or if you decide to take part, you can change your mind later and withdraw from the study. You are free to not answer any questions or withdraw at any time. Your decision will not change any present or future relationships with Wayne State University or its affiliates.

### **Questions**

If you have any questions about this study now or in the future, you may contact Dr. Yongli Zhang or one of her research team members at the following phone number: 313-577-9962. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, the Chair of the Institutional Review Board can be contacted at (313) 577-1628. If you are unable to contact the research staff, or if you want to talk to someone other than the research staff, you may also call the Wayne State Research Subject Advocate at (313) 577-1628 to discuss problems, obtain information, or offer input.

### **Participation**

By providing your address to be mailed a laundry bag and your email address to be sent the online pledge, you are agreeing to participate in this study.

The data that you provide may be collected and used by Google forms as per their privacy agreements. Additionally, participation in this research is for residents of the United States over the age of 18; if you are not a resident of the United States and/or under the age of 18, please do not complete this survey.