



Community-Based Research (CBR) Project Proposal Form

U-Links Administration Only

Project Number (automatically generated by CBR database):

Recommended Courses and/or Disciplines (i.e. GEOG4030Y, FRSC4890Y, IDST3700Y/3710H/3720H, ERSC3160H, PSYCH or Alternatives):

Recommended Faculty Advisors:

PROJECT TITLE: Study of Growing Domes in Haliburton County

A – CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: June 15, 2025

Contact person: Nell Thomas

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Email: nell.thomas@doctor.com

B – COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

- a) **Organization’s name and address:** Environment Haliburton! (EH) / FOOD ALLIANCE, 2634 County Road 21, Minden ON K0M 2K0

- b) **Briefly state the organization’s purpose and the products or services offered:**

Environment Haliburton! (EH!): Mission Statement: To promote environmental health and social justice through advocacy and education. We achieve this mainly through monthly educational events we call “Enviro-Cafes”, usually held the second Tuesday evening of each month.

FOOD ALLIANCE: A community coalition of food growers, producers, and those with the know-how for long term food preservation, safe storage systems, and food waste reduction.

- c) **Has an immediate supervisor or board approved this application?** Yes.

This application has been endorsed by Environment Haliburton (EH!). EH! is a community group promoting environmental health and social justice through advocacy and education.

C - PROJECT SCOPE

a) Full year undergraduate CBR projects are allotted 220 hours total, per 1-2 students on a single project. The condensed hours are similar to six weeks of full-time work. Full-term students would be working on this project from September to April as part of a course, while balancing work from other courses as well. Half term students will be working on this project from September - December or January to April. Does the scope of your project fit within this timeframe?

Yes No Comments: 8 months preferred

b) Select the theme(s) for your project:

Cultural Economic Environmental Social • Other:

c) Based on the timeframe and complexity of your project, please indicate the potential project scale:

- Single year project, possibility follow up
 - Ideal for undergraduate or can be expanded to graduate level
- NOTE: This project has potential to become multi-phase initiative connected to future applied research on biodigester integration.

d) Is your project appropriate for a single student or a group?

Single or group.

e) Describe the purpose of the project:

This project seeks to examine the viability of year-round indoor growing in Haliburton County, using an existing geodesic Arctic Dome as a pilot case. The student(s) will conduct a feasibility study for how these types of (cold climate) grow domes can be scaled or replicated across the region, improving food production. This project will:

- Investigate need for increased year round access to (fresh, affordable, local) produce in Haliburton County
- Identify barriers and opportunities related to growing domes
- Conduct a Feasibility/PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal, Environmental) analysis of building and sustainability related to growing domes
- Outline funding opportunities, community partnerships, outreach strategies to support future dome projects or green infrastructure

How will the project benefit your organization and/or clients?

Provide credible research to attract community investment.

This project will provide community specific research that can be used to attract investment, apply for grants, and guide future programming around food self sufficiency and climate resilience. It will also provide a roadmap for similar organizations and partners to consider variable scale, closed loop food systems.

f) How will the results of this project benefit Haliburton County?

Haliburton County faces unique food access challenges due to its geography and climate. This project will explore how to localize food production year round, support circular economics through green waste management and enhance community health, food equity and climate resilience. The research will also increase capacity by creating tools and knowledge

How did you hear about U-Links Centre for Community Based Research?

Word of Mouth Social Media Newsletter News Article Other:

D – RESEARCH DESIGN

a) What are the proposed research questions to be answered?

- Is there a need for fresh, local, affordable, and accessible food in Haliburton County?
- What grants are available to build an indoor growing space?
- What partners and tools are needed to successfully construct and operate a growing dome in Haliburton County?

b) What are your ideas on how these questions might be answered (i.e. survey, literature review, field work, etc.)?

Literature review, site visits (interviewing), comparison of best practices from existing projects.

c) Do you have knowledge of or expertise with these types of research methods?

Yes.

E - SCREENING AND/OR TRAINING

a) Do the students require any specific screening or training? (e.g. police checks, confidentiality agreements, CPR, WHMIS):

Yes **No**

Comments:

EXAMPLES: Projects involving vulnerable populations may require police checks. Some types of field work may involve WHMIS or other safety related training. Students and hosts working on boats need to understand and follow the U-Links Boat Safety Guidelines.

F – RESEARCH ETHICS

a) Does the research involve human subjects? (i.e. surveys, interviews)

Yes **No**

NOTE: If yes, the students may be required to submit an application for ethical review of the research. This process may take several weeks and will need to be taken into consideration when creating project timelines.

b) If your project involves collecting human subject data (i.e. interview transcripts), would you like access to that “raw” data at the end of the project, in addition to receiving the “summary” of data in the final report?

Yes **No** Comments: Can be informal for research needs. No need for access to raw data.

c) Does the organization/employer have policies about research ethics approval?

Yes No

If yes, please explain:

G – PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE *(This section should be completed by the final draft)*

a) Please outline the major tasks and timelines involved in completing the project.

These tasks include important information to be gathered, key stakeholders who should be involved relevant dates for your organization, and critical meetings for the student to attend. Your Coordinator can help you complete this section.

Task: *Planning kick-off*

Objective: *Familiarize students with project goals and success metrics. Set up a shared digital workspace. Assess potential resources.*

Date: *By Week 1*

Task: *Complete detailed project outline/project agreement*

Objective: *Finalize project details, responsibilities, logistics, etc.*

Date: *By Week 2*

Task: *Human and Health Research*

Objective: *Research food security, community needs, the value of indoor growing, etc. Liaise with expert local growers (master gardeners, farmers) and non profit community kitchens and food banks.*

Date: *By Month 1*

Task: *Technical and Policy Research*

Objective: *Research grow dome types, material details, city zoning laws, identify key community players, and zone energy needs. Create a cost analysis.*

Date: *By Month 2*

Task: *Financial and Engagement Planning*

Objective: *Complete any of the following: Identify relevant grants, build an investment pitch, conduct outreach, draft a volunteer plan*

Date: *By Month 3*

Task: *Deliverable Creation and Material Testing*

Objective: *Create identified communication tools (i.e. Policy brief, investment pitch, engagement plan, build guide, etc.)*

Date: *By Month 4*

Each task can be extended if an 8-month term is chosen.

H – RESOURCES

NOTE: All known and needed resources should be listed in this section (e.g. for project coordination, data collection and analysis, software, hardware, photocopying, office supplies, workspace, travel expenses, food and refreshments, training, etc.). Students' travel expenses are reimbursed by U-Links at the end of the term.

- a) **What resources are needed to support the research – financial or otherwise? Please indicate what, if any, resources your organization might be able to provide.**

Unknown. Can discuss as needed. Travel expenses likely required for research.

- b) **Do you anticipate needing funding or other types of resources? If so, please explain (including any ideas on where resourcing may be obtained):**

Access to academic articles- can likely be obtained through student accounts

I – KNOWLEDGE SHARING

NOTE: Please note the researcher(s) will own the copyright for all work completed as part of his/her involvement, but the lead organization/group/employer may use all project outputs in whole or in part, as it sees fit as long as the researcher(s) is duly credited as the author. If work is completed collaboratively, copyright will be decided by all project participants.

- a) **How are the project results to be circulated and made useful to the broader community? Please indicate all that applies from the list below:**

Note: dependent on time frame and Phase 3 research.

- Academic article
- Conference/forum
- Manual
- Marketing, promotional, newsletter, outreach materials**
- Policy brief**
- Report
- Roundtable
- Video
- Workshop**
- Presentation to the host organization Note: to community groups
- Not sure of the above, let's talk some more

- b) **If there are special circumstances where results might not be made public, please explain:**

J - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- a) **Are you able to credit U-Links when utilizing project results for the development of new programs, funding applications, policy, and other community endeavors? (Suggestions: cite U-Links and display our logo in your organization's printed matter and on your website, credit U-Links when speaking about your project in public and in the press, social media etc.)**

Yes No Possibly

b) Following successful completion of the research project, with results beneficial to the goals of your organization, would you consider a financial contribution to U-Links?

Yes No Possibly

c) Can we highlight your project on our website and in social media?

Yes No

K – PROJECT PROMOTION

Please “insert” an image below to help promote your project proposal.



[Growing Spaces Greenhouse Kits - The Best Geodesic Dome Greenhouses](#)
[Planta Greenhouses Kits - DIY Backyard and Commercial Greenhouse Kits](#)