

ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH
CENTRE (ESRC)

Community Partnerships in Action at Brock University

Brock
University

Presentation Overview

- What is the ESRC?
- Why has Brock and the ESRC focused on innovative community partnerships?
- How have these partnerships enabled capacity building?
 - Overview of three innovative partnerships
- What's next?



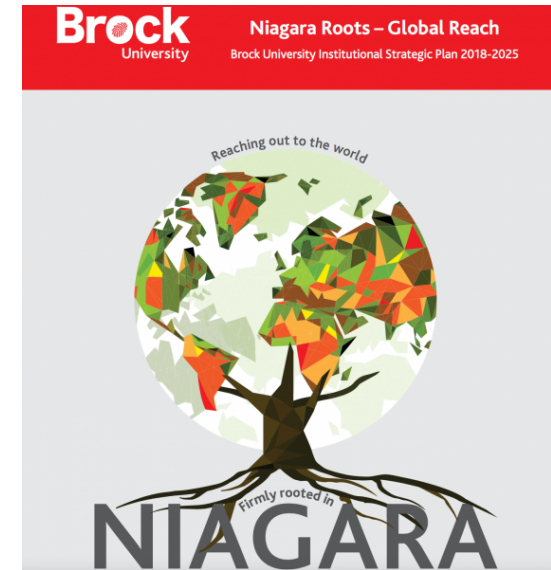


What is the ESRC?

The Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC) is a transformative and creative transdisciplinary community dedicated to research and education advancing environmental sustainability locally and globally.

Why has Brock and the ESRC focused on innovative community partnerships?

- Fall 2018: Niagara Roots - Global Reach
- Connects the academy to the community to enable capacity building for both Brock and the community



How have these partnerships enabled capacity building?

- Provide community partners with added capacity to deal with complex challenges through innovative solutions
- Enhance the student experience
- Co-create knowledge at the science-policy interface





Overview of three innovative partnerships:

- Brock-Lincoln Living Lab
- Brock University Project Charter
- Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Initiative

Brock-Lincoln Living Lab (BL-LL)



- 5-Year partnership agreement between the Town of Lincoln and the ESRC
- Leverages the expertise of ESRC faculty to assist Lincoln in making evidence-based decisions in terms of sustainability



“Living labs are defined as user-centered, open innovation ecosystems based on a systematic user co-creation approach, integrating research and innovation processes in real life communities and settings”
(ENoLL, 2016)

Capacity Building in Action

- Co-op placement and multiple experiential education opportunities for students
- Increasing research funding opportunities
- Promoting the work of the BL-LL jointly at both academic and non-academic conferences and events
- Working with the Senior Management Team to create an Action Plan



Brock University Charter Agreement

- 5-year partnership to bridge the operating and academic constituents concerned with Sustainability at Brock
- Leverages resources, capacities, and talents of both internal units to address environmental sustainability issues and initiatives on campus
- Focuses on the knowledge-to-action gap that currently exists at Brock





Building Capacity in Action

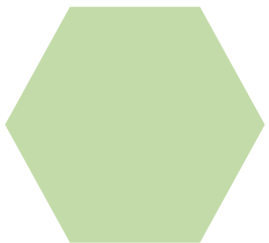
- Co-op placement and research assistantships annually, as well as multiple experiential education opportunities for students
- Focusing on knowledge mobilization strategies to engage with campus stakeholders and promote sustainability initiatives taking place on campus
- Working with both the academic and administrative sides to further sustainability initiatives on campus



Excellence in Environmental Stewardship Initiative



- 5-year partnership agreement between the Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) and the ESRC
- Utilizes the expertise and resources of both organizations to increase environmental stewardship through public events and, in the case of students, through co-op education opportunities, course work and research



Building Capacity in Action

- Research opportunities (thesis work) and experiential education for students
- Assisting in the creation of an Environmental Stewardship Action Plan for the NPC
- Leveraging the partnership for research purposes - received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant focused on advanced monitoring and evaluation of multiple NPC sites



What's next?

- Monitoring and evaluating these partnerships and their impacts
- Continued partnership building to enhance community capacity building within Niagara and beyond



www.brocku.ca/esrc



Interested
in learning
more?