

# BUFFALO Commons

## Proposal for Research

Created by the Partnership for the Public Good and Cornell in Buffalo, the **Buffalo Commons** seeks to make **Buffalo-Niagara-focused research** accessible to the community and to inspire collaborative efforts among researchers and practitioners that will expand that body of knowledge.

Through the research portal, community organizations can propose topics for research that would help them serve the public. Students and faculty can then choose from those topics and produce work to benefit the community. The Buffalo Commons will publish and archive the resulting research so that it is easily available. A description of your initiative will help researchers choose your topic.

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**Name of your Organization** Partnership for the Public Good

### **Brief Description of what your organization does/is and/or the community served**

PPG is a community-based think tank doing research and advocacy on behalf of roughly 300 organizations in Buffalo-Niagara.

### **Brief description of the research needed**

With their large tracts of vacant land and their intense need for decent, sustainable, affordable housing, Rust Belt cities seem like good candidates for eco-villages with solar power, geothermal heating, solar hot water, and some level of shared amenities (green space, playground, community garden, tool-sharing, etc.). What are best practices in affordable urban eco-villages, and what is necessary to make them feasible in cities like Buffalo?

**Potential Title of Proposed Research Project** Eco-Villages for the Rust Belt

**Is there a specific date by which this research is needed?** May 2020.

**How will this research be used to aid the community?** We will share it with cities and non-profits and use it to advocate for policies, programs, and funding for eco-villages.

**What (if any) other community groups are involved** We have many partners active in providing affordable housing.

**What resources can you offer to aid the researcher (access to data, people to interview, etc.)**

We have some past research and data and can connect with community organizations and city officials.