

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. Solar hot water systems remain rare in cities like Buffalo, despite their relatively low upfront cost and fast payback period. What are the main barriers to their use? What policies, programs, or civic education are needed to make them more widely used in cities such as Buffalo? How feasible are they for non-profits doing affordable housing development with public funding?

Potential Title of Proposed Research Project Solar Hot Water for Cold-Weather Cities

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

How will this research be used to aid the community? PPG will share it with affordable housing developers (especially non-profits) and government agencies that fund affordable housing.

What (if any) other community groups are involved. PPG has many partner organizations that do affordable housing.

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

PPG can supply research support and guidance.