



Year of Climate Action (YOCA) Research Awards Guidelines

Lakehead University has declared 2021/22 the Year of Climate Action (YOCA).

YOCA is about...

- recognizing the causes and consequences of climate change, and the steps that we need to take to restore our relationships with each other and the land. This is an opportunity to reflect on the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and how our actions should advance on social, environmental and climate justice, including intergenerational inequity;
- rising up, regenerating, transitioning, and sustaining; and
- creating the possibility for change that is amplified when we work together.

YOCA is an invitation, a call to action, and an opportunity for faculty, staff, administration, students, and our larger community to collectively join together to listen, learn, share, and most importantly act on climate change. The YOCA Research Awards are one way to support the YOCA.

Climate action encompasses climate adaptation, climate mitigation, education, resilience, and activism.

To support this initiative, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation is providing funding for research projects that generate knowledge about and/or support climate action. Proposals from all disciplines are encouraged.

When applying for this grant, key things to consider are:

- The interdisciplinary approach to the research project;
- The relationship of the project to the broad themes of climate change and climate action; and
- Community involvement or the impact of the project on communities.

Purpose: To promote interdisciplinary research activity that leads to finding innovative solutions to climate change.

Eligibility: Faculty members with tenure-track, tenured, and 3-year limited term appointments are eligible to apply. Faculty with limited term appointments must provide evidence to demonstrate that they can complete the project prior to the

end date of their appointment. Eligible faculty members can apply **once** to this special competition as principal investigator. There are **no restrictions** on how many times an eligible faculty member can apply as co-investigator on a research team.

A student or team of students may apply; however, an eligible faculty member must agree to supervise the project as the principal investigator. In this case, the grant will be awarded to the faculty member who will then oversee distribution of funds according to the submitted budget. For graduate students, awards may be given as top-up funding for current graduate support.

Application Process: Requests for funds must be made using the on-line Romeo Research Portal. To access the portal, log into myInfo and select “Romeo Research Portal” under the web utilities icon.

As part of the Romeo application, the following should be included:

- A research plan;
- Detailed budget and budget justification;
- Curriculum Vitae—CCV (preferred)—for all faculty members; and
- Letters of support from research partners (if applicable)

Funding Level: It is anticipated that this call will fund a maximum of six projects with a maximum budget of \$5,000 each. Funds should be spent within one year of award.

Selection Process and Criteria: The Vice-President, Research and Innovation will appoint a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will review all submitted applications and make its recommendation to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation.

The Selection Committee will review all eligible applications based on their degree of:

- **(1) Innovation:** Situate the proposal in the existing literature, context, and clearly explain how the research proposed is original, innovative and of high quality.
- **(2) Feasibility:** Please describe the key milestones, including methodology, you propose to use and the project’s feasibility to produce impactful results.
- **(3) Training of HQP:** Please describe how the proposed research has the potential to develop research capacity among HQP.
- **(4) Impact on Climate Action:** Please describe how the proposed project addresses climate action research questions. Please describe the anticipated impacts and deliverables.

Application Deadline: Friday, October 29, 2021 at 11:59 pm.

Required Reporting and Deliverables: A final report must be submitted through the Romeo Research Portal within 30 days of completing the project.

At the end of YOCA (end of the 2021-2022 academic year), grant recipients will be invited to present their research during an event hosted by the Office of Sustainability, YOCA Coordinating Committee, and the Office of Research & Innovation.

For additional information regarding the application process, please contact ea.vpri@lakeheadu.ca.