



5 IMPACT EXPEDITION





01 RESEARCH & BRAINSTORMING

60 mins

As our neighbourhoods are constantly evolving, evaluating green and blue infrastructure is important to guide improvement recommendations and foster healthier, more enjoyable communities.

Environmental impact assessments involve a thorough evaluation of specific topics, including applying concepts like green and blue infrastructure. Green infrastructure includes natural and human-made elements like parks, green roofs, and urban forests, while blue infrastructure refers to water-related elements such as rivers, wetlands, and sustainable urban drainage systems. By integrating green and blue infrastructure, the process aims to create sustainable landscapes that are functional, visually appealing, and supportive of human well-being and ecological health.

Useful Links:

[Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment Process](#)

[Green and Blue Infrastructure: Why Does it Matter?](#)

[Why Are Environmental Impact Assessments Important?](#)

Exploring Environmental Impact Assessments Processes

- Begin by researching and understanding the key components of an environmental impact assessment. Next, delve into the critical factors influencing decision-making to make proposed projects more appealing to public interests.
- Dive deeper into the principles and practices involved in evaluating the environmental impact of urban spaces, considering how they affect the community and ecosystem. Hint: focus on how both green and blue infrastructure in our neighbourhoods have benefited us, as well as other populations and species living in these areas.
- Reflect on personal experiences visiting neighbourhoods or places that incorporate beneficial landscape design principles. Think about different spaces that contribute positively to the environment. Next, think about the *opposite*; and identify potential factors that contribute negatively to the environment, such as air and water pollution, traffic, and habitat destruction.



02 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (Pt 1)

120 mins

An environmental impact assessment requires three key important steps: planning, assessment, and thorough decision-making. All three steps are crucial in understanding how to optimize green spaces and human activity to create a welcoming and conducive environment.

By looking at your own neighbourhoods and analyzing both blue and green infrastructure in your environment using these three steps, we can all find ways in which the areas around us can implement healthier and more sustainable environmental management.

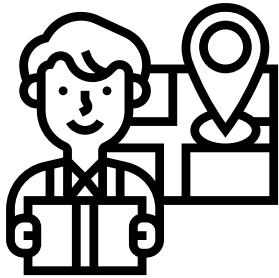
How to Create Your Own Environmental Impact Assessment

- Begin by determining your approach for gathering evidence during a neighbourhood walk. Consider using photography, surveys, and observations to collect data.
- During your neighbourhood walk, identify factors that positively contribute to the environment, especially considering local green and blue infrastructure in your areas. Take note of the integration of diverse types of these spaces, the size of these areas, and the quantity of spaces.
- Put yourself in other differing, diverse perspectives. Pay attention to how different kinds of these spaces are integrated, the size of these spaces, and the quantity of these spaces.
- While exploring, be attentive to potential factors that may negatively impact the environment. Think about how these different spaces could incorporate better green and blue spaces.
- Use the collected evidence to formulate recommendations for improving the neighbourhood's environmental quality, addressing identified issues and promoting sustainable practices.
- Create a concise and informative presentation that covers the neighborhood's history, outlines the findings of the environmental impact assessment, and offers recommendations to improve environmental sustainability!

The following page has a set of prompts to follow in order to create a successful environmental impact assessment.



02 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (Pt 2)



*While on the walk, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Explore a route that incorporates both green and blue infrastructure, or either if one is not available nearby.
- Walk for 5-10 minutes on the chosen route
- For your safety, walk together as a group, do not trespass onto private property, and do not go too close to water bodies.

The following prompts are provided to you to help you with your environmental impact assessment.

Observations



- Take note of existing features in the neighbourhood during your walk. What are the predominant features? What features in these spaces are considered either green infrastructure (e.g., parks)? Blue Infrastructure (e.g., ponds)? Neither (e.g., a parking lot)?
- How do these features contribute to the neighbourhood's functionality and aesthetics? Are there areas that seem neglected or in need of improvement?
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current neighbourhood layout in terms of environmental sustainability and community well-being.

Goals

- What objectives do you aim to accomplish through the environmental impact assessment? (e.g., enhancing green and blue spaces, reducing pollution)
- Select 2-3 priority elements to incorporate into your recommendations that align with these goals.



02 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (Pt 2 CONTINUED)

Incorporating Diverse Perspectives

- Consider different perspectives within the community. How might young families, elderly residents, or individuals with disabilities perceive the neighbourhood environment differently?
- Compare and contrast these perspectives to identify areas where improvements can benefit diverse groups within the community.

Community Engagement & Use

- Reflect on how the neighbourhood can better meet the needs of its residents. Are there opportunities to enhance recreational spaces, promote outdoor activities, or improve access to nature?
- Brainstorm recommendations for improving the neighbourhood's environmental sustainability based on your observations and collected data.
- Consider how community engagement can be fostered to implement and maintain these recommendations effectively.





03 SUBMISSION

Submit your presentation by June 30th for a chance to win some awesome prizes!

Share Your School's Presentation

- How to be eligible to win prizes:
 - Post on your chapter's Instagram account:
 - Share a short video or photo(s) showcasing your presentation, including major takeaways and what elements you learned to make a neighbourhood environment that is conducive to meeting your goals!
 - Be sure to tag [@urbanmindsTO](#) and [@1uptoronto](#) in your post to be eligible to win awesome prizes.

Winner Selection

Urban Minds' Program Coordinators will review all submissions and select a winning chapter based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of information
- Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Model
- Professionalism of presentation

*Don't forget to join the [1UP Connect Webinars](#) for deeper insights into this topic and valuable tips on enhancing your Activity Sheet submissions!