GREEN IGLU

Toronto, Ontario, Arviat & Naujaat, Nunavut



Green Iglu is a not-for-profit organization that uses dome greenhouse technology to grow fresh produce in some northern, remote communities. In Nunavut they have two ongoing hydroponic projects in Naujaat and Arviat. Both projects operate in partnership with local Hamlets. This growing season they produced 9,500 servings (400 kg produce) worth \$10,400. This consisted mainly of leafy greens, root vegetables and tomatoes.

The Green Iglu model has changed and adapted over the past 6 years of operation. It was initiated as a food security impact project by a group of students from Ryerson University. They conducted a food security survey in Naujaat which led to the design and development of the first Growing North project. Their goal is to build the greenhouse to teach and train local people in its operation and maintenance to give the community the opportunity to continue as a commercial venture.

The initial project includes developing a partnership with the local Hamlet in the installation of the greenhouse, training and technical support, providing recipes for how to use the produce and create recipe books with recipes such as natsiq pesto and caribou/rice lettuce wraps. A transitional period of 2-3 years is expected as communities develop capacity and take on the roles of sustaining greenhouse operations.





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Although the organization is very young, they have an expanded view for the future. This includes winter growing through the sourcing of waste heat from community buildings, adding the production of fish and eggs to greenhouse operations and developing new technologies to enhance community operations. The non-profit is reaching out to schools and departments of education using the organizations Connected North and Taking It Global to provide educational units and background to technologies for schools to share learning across communities.

Green Iglu is also reaching out internationally to encourage uptake of their approach to more rural and remote populations in the hope that it increases access to affordable, locally sourced healthy food can be an expectation in Nunavut.



