



CAFES-Carleton University Community Engagement - Project Information Sheet

for Community Associations/Organizations interested in SOCI/ANTH 2180, Fall 2026

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Sign-Up Form [HERE](#)

The CAFES network is partnering with an undergraduate class at Carleton University, *SOCI 2180: Foundations in Community Engagement*, to take action on waste reduction in Ottawa neighbourhoods. Your Community Association/Organization is invited to join!

Overview: CAFES and Carleton University are collaborating on an advocacy project with the goal of increasing education and capacity for managing waste in Ottawa. The 40-60 students in SOCI/ANTH 2180 will be working in groups of approximately 7-8 with various community associations/organizations (CAs) from the CAFES network across Ottawa to learn about the issue and to create a series of products and deliverables on the chosen topic that will ultimately benefit the CA's neighbourhood.

The course begins on Thursday September 10 2026, where students will form groups and match with a different Community Association. In the first few weeks, the students and CA representatives will get to know one another, and the students will attend a neighbourhood walking tour led by the CA, to give a basic understanding of their assigned neighbourhood. The students will continue working with their CA in class to develop a community engagement plan and begin mapping out their projects. Student projects may take the form of posters, infographics, social media posts, small community events/dialogues, short videos, etc - all on the theme of waste from a community engagement lens. At the end of term, students will deliver final presentations outlining their deliverables and what they learned. CAs are invited to attend the presentations to benefit from the learnings of the students as they share barriers, methods, solutions, and successes.

Benefits: Past years' students have extolled the confidence they gained through working on a real-world project. They expressed their newfound appreciation for the work of community volunteers. Many found personal commitment for working with their communities in the future! Participating CAs not only appreciated the communication tools that the students developed for their use but enjoyed and learned from their fresh eyes and youth perspectives.

Commitment: Participating CA's need to identify two representatives for the project who can expect to spend an average of 2-4 hours per week between September 10th and November 26th, preparing, learning, and sharing



their expertise and feedback with their student team. At least one of the CA representatives is expected to be in class each week on Thursdays from approximately 3:30pm to 5pm, to work with the students on their projects.

At least **one** CA representative **MUST** be available to lead students around their neighbourhood on the September 24th neighbourhood walking tour.

Further details can be found on the following pages.

CA Sign Up Form → [HERE](#)



Project Details for Community Associations/Organizations

- a. **Developing the project goals.** The general outline of the engagement opportunity has been developed by CAFES and the course instructor to create an opportunity that will be useful to the community associations and a manageable learning opportunity for the students.
- b. **Engaging students in the project.** Students will be introduced to the project by the instructor and CAFES in Week 1 of the course (September 10th). CAs will be invited to briefly introduce themselves and their neighbourhood to the class, or to submit a brief introduction to the instructor to be shared with the class. Students will sign up for a community association/organization based on the location, goals, and products of interest to the CA.
- c. **Introducing students to your community.** In the third class, **Thursday September 24th, from around (exact time TBD) 3 to 5 pm, you will guide the students in your group on a walking tour of your neighbourhood** . This is your opportunity to introduce students to your community and for students to introduce themselves to you.
- d. **Attending a community association meeting.** Please invite your students to attend an optional board meeting or other community event as part of their learning about how volunteer organizations work. You can introduce them at the beginning of the meeting but otherwise proceed as you normally work. Note that this is optional for the students to attend; possibly only a few students may wish to attend as they are working and studying and may not be available.
- e. **Project design.** The project is intended to give students an experience of engaging with a community organization. The *process* of working with a community group is a significant course goal! The students are not content experts but will have ideas from their own experience and from the workshops offered in the course. They also come with a youth perspective and can assist you to increase youth involvement. Please give the students as much support/assistance/content for the projects as you wish. While they should be coming up with the specific wording and putting together the visuals, please give them feedback on what the message should be and what products you wish to see. Feel free to correct their direction.
 - i. **Possible products include but are not limited to:**
 1. Infographics - Students will use their learnings to create attractive and versatile infographics that can be posted online or printed for distribution.
 2. Video or an interview - Students can create and record an interview with the community association reps if the association desires, or record a “how-to” video,



a video demonstrating an important message, etc. The students could (lightly) edit this video and ready it to post online.

3. Social media posts - Students can create posts for your existing social media accounts that are focussed on engaging a broader membership in your CA.
 4. Creation of an Instagram or other social media account - Students could create an account and some posts to get you started. They can introduce you to the platform and how it is used.
 5. Pamphlet or booklet - Containing important facts/info about waste reduction that your CA can hand out at events, give out door to door or post online.
 6. Webpage content - Students can create relevant content and update an existing website on your CA website.
 7. Other projects are welcome to be negotiated between the association and the student team and approved by the instructor. Students in the past have also written newspaper articles that were published in local community or university papers, gone door to door speaking to residents, organized small-scale events in partnership with local businesses or organizations.
- f. **Final project presentations.** Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their experience and what they learned, during the final presentations that will take place during one of the last weeks of the class in late November. Each presentation will be 10-20 minutes depending on the number of groups. You may attend just your team's presentation or the whole class. In previous years, CAs found watching all the presentations was engaging, and gave them ideas for their own CA.
- g. **Evaluation.** At the end of term, complete a brief survey distributed by CAFES asking about the usefulness of the project, successes, areas for improvement, and ideas for future years.