
Environmental Review Policy

1. Purpose

In accordance with Tri-Council principles, the Canadian Glycomics Network (GlycoNet) will make every effort to minimize the negative impact of Network-funded research activities on the environment. This Policy is enacted to identify, mitigate, and monitor hazards that have the potential for environmental harm.

2. Scope

The potential environmental impact of all research project proposals submitted to GlycoNet will be assessed as part of the funding decision. A re-evaluation of funded projects will also take place when the methodology or project scope has changed significantly.

3. Context

The GlycoNet Environmental Review Policy is informed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Act). All research activities funded by GlycoNet must be carried out in accordance with this Act and any other applicable provincial or municipal laws. In addition, institutional regulations regarding health, safety, and the environment must be adhered to at all times. Please see "[NSERC's Guidelines on Environmental Review and Assessment](#)" for more information.

4. Procedure

4.1. Self-Identification

All applicants applying for GlycoNet funds must self-identify any potential environmental hazards associated with their proposals by completing the Environmental Impact Declaration on the application form. This information must be included with the proposal at the time of application. Most projects that take place fully indoors will not require extensive environmental review.

If the proposal will result in a "designated project" being carried out (as defined by the Act "[Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#)"), the applicant must prepare and submit a project description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. As appropriate, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency will either conduct the assessment itself or refer the proposal to the National Energy Board or Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

If the proposal will result in a "project" being carried out (as defined by the Act), the proposal will be referred to the Research Management Committee for review.

4.2. Research Management Committee Review

The Research Management Committee (RMC) will review the Environmental Impact Declarations as part of the proposal review process. Concerns identified by the RMC will be shared with the investigators involved, as well as with their institutions and the Board of Directors if required. Projects will be funded when it has been determined that they are unlikely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, or on the condition that specific concerns be addressed.

During the review process, the RMC may request further information from the applicants. The RMC may also enlist the aid of third-party consultants to help reach its decision.

4.3. Implementation and Reporting

Any mitigation measures described in funded project proposals, as well as conditions and recommendations from the RMC, must be in place by the time the grant is awarded. Award holders must adhere to and fully implement these measures throughout the duration of the project. If the methodology or scope of the project changes substantially at any time, these changes must be communicated to the RMC and a re-assessment of the environmental impact will be conducted. A description of mitigation measures should be included in the final report.

5. Reporting

Each year, the Network will submit an Environmental Assessment report to the NCE Secretariat. This report will outline the policy set in place by the Board of Directors and summarize the results of all assessments undertaken in the previous year.

6. History

- Approved by the GlycoNet Board of Directors on February 18, 2016.

Environmental Impact Declaration

Please answer the following questions about the proposed research activities:

Check one:	Yes	No
1. Will any research activities:		
a) take place outdoors and on federal lands in Canada?		
b) take place outdoors and outside of Canada?		
c) carry out a “designated project,” as defined by the Act?		
d) depend upon an existing “designated project”?		
e) carry out a “project” as defined by the Act?		
2. Will any of the proposed research activities cause:		
a) a change to the environment of fish and fish habitat, aquatic species, migratory birds, or any other component of the environment?		
b) a change that may be caused to the environment that would occur on federal lands, in another province, or outside of Canada?		
c) with respect to aboriginal peoples, an effect occurring in Canada of any change that may be caused to the environment on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes or any structure, site or thing that is of historical, archeological, paleontological or architectural significance?		

If you answered “no” to all questions, no further information needs to be provided.

If you answered “yes” to any part of question 1 or 2, please provide the following information:

3. Location of the proposed research activities:

4. Detailed description of potential effects associated with research activities:

5. Description of mitigation measures, monitoring, and follow-up required:

6. Permits or authorizations required to carry out the work:

If you answered “yes” to question 1.c., you must submit a project description to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Please consult the [“Regulations Designating Physical Activities”](#) for descriptions of designated projects and agency jurisdictions, and the [“Guide to Preparing a Description of a Designated Project”](#) for assistance with document preparation. Please keep GlycoNet informed about the decisions of these agencies.

If you answered “yes” to question 1.d, you must keep GlycoNet informed of the results of planned or ongoing environmental assessments.

If you answered “yes” to question 1.e, the proposal will be reviewed by the RMC.