



## Community characteristics & orientation

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Community & UN SDG(s): Earth Wells (Those who have or need knowledge about natural water filters), Clean Water & Salination (UN SDG #6)

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### Instructions

Research the community you are most interested in exploring using links from the UN Sustainable Goals website (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and others. In your exhaustive research, answer the following.

Community characteristics		
Community life-cycle (current state)		
Where is your community in its life-cycle?	What you need to focus on:	Special needs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Just forming</b> Need basic tools to connect, but not sure from there	Research and/or discuss the potential of some basic tools with members, explore what ideas it might give them, and see what they might bring in with them.	The community is currently not really formed, there is some interest in it though. There are quite a few parallel organizations and also lots of articles about research or small scale DIY's but nothing where they all come together and talk specifically and concretely about the technology. The research articles are on advanced technology around water filtration, while the DIYs are geared towards children. There is very few articles or explicit knowledge out there about real life applications of natural water filters. There is some risk with this community in this stage of development because the community may never form, there may be a reason why it hasn't occurred naturally which is something to take into consideration when developing for communities that don't already have a strong presence.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Self-designing</b> Information stage, but with a strong sense of what it wants to accomplish	Contribute ideas to the design. Analyze systematically the implications of their community design for technology, infrastructure, and technology skills.	The community is currently merged with other similar communities. For example, water salination outreach is a common other community that the clean water community is joined with. The reason for this is often community members who are interested in natural water filters are interested in clean water and salination in general. There are many NGO's and charity organizations that aim to help fulfill UN SDG #6 but not many that are only focused on just natural water filters.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Growing &amp; restless</b> Ready to add new functionality to its tool configuration	Try to make this a community reflection and self-design event. Does their restlessness suggest a major change, such	Since there isn't really a connected community, we need to begin with adding some basic tools and features.



	as a transition to a new platform?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Stable and adapting</b> Just needing some new tools	How much disruption will the community tolerate? How will the new tools be integrated into or affect existing practices?	There are some charity organizations that address UN SDG #6 as a whole or for larger established communities (like villages in this context) and I would like to focus in on a small scale to individual basis.

## Constitution

**Diversity:** How diverse is the community?

Topic	Your notes
What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation?	There will be many different types of members within the community ranging from researchers, charity organizers, users in need of cleaner water solutions. And within these we could have a range of technical and academic backgrounds. Each of the users will have different levels of participation, it depend on how passionate they are about the topic. Participation will also depend on when a user may need a natural water filter they will be more invested in learning about them. I would like to gear this application towards those living in Canada especially those living in more remote areas where there may not be sufficient water infrastructure.
How spread apart is it in terms of location and time zones?	They could be coming from all around the world, but I would like to focus on Canada so it would be geared towards Canadian time zones and localities. People from around the world will be welcome but primary focus will remain Canada
What language(s) do members speak?	They would speak mainly English and French, because I am focusing on Canada, but I would like to make sure that whatever I create is easily accessible to translation services and therefore accessible to the world.
What other cultural or other diversity aspects may affect your technology choices?	Accessibility, clean water technology should not be limited to a certain set of people it should always strive to be inclusive. So, the execution of those project and its technology choices should not interfere with current accessibility tools that may be in use such as screen readers.

**Openness:** How connected to the outside world is your community?

Topic	Your notes
How much do you want to control the boundaries of your community? Does your community need <div> <input type="checkbox"/> To be private/secure  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open boundaries  <input type="checkbox"/> Both private &amp; public spaces           </div>	I would like this to be a very open forum, there shouldn't be many barriers to entry or qualifications required as it is meant to be a resource for everyone so naturally that means open boundaries. I might consider a private message function in a later MVP but the main focus is an open forum that provides knowledge for all and is open to community contribution.
How does your community need to interact with other communities? Do you need common tools for sharing and learning with them?	The community should work well with similar communities especially the ones that are also focusing on SDG #6 (clean water and salination) as they will relate the most to this community and have the most value added by exchange of information/partnership. So common tools will definitely be a consideration.

## Technology aspirations



**Technology savvy, tolerance, & constraints:** What are your community's technology interests and skills and patience thereof? What are the constraints imposed by technology factors?

Topic	Your notes
How interested is your community in technology?	It varies, I would say the average because there are individuals at either extreme. Both in terms of computer technology where some users will be more keen on adapting new technology. And, also in the natural water filtration technology aspect. There will be some researchers who will be advanced and some everyday people who will not be aware of current breakthroughs.
What is their capacity for learning new tools?	Their capacity is average, there will be some natural technology stewards as the users will be varying in their willingness to adapt.
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	The range of skills is from academics researching for new filtration methods and new breakthrough technology. The other hand is humanitarian workers who want to enact actual change that be new filter installations or lobbying for more funding and governmental supports, to users in need of clean water. I don't think there will be much conflict due to the fact that they are united under one goal and the purpose of the community is to help each other and raise awareness.
How tolerant are members of the adoption of a wide variety of tools?	They are average due to the wide diversity. Some will be early adapters, and some will be late adapters.
How many technological boundaries are they willing to cross, e.g. sign in to more than one web-based tool, learn to use new tools, or give up old favorites? This helps you understand what level of integration you need.	They would not be willing to cross many boundaries as the resource is meant to act as a one stop shop for most of the knowledge created or added to the community. The community currently has to cross lots of boundaries to obtain the knowledge they require; Earth Wells forum aims to reduce the number of boundaries to close to 0.
What are your members' technology constraints (e.g., bandwidth, operating systems, etc.)?	The operating constraints is low bandwidth and low threshold to technology requirements. We want to keep the application accessible to both those in remote areas and those who don't use technology as much. And we also want the technology to be simple, so it is learnable for others.
How much time are members able to be online and from where (office, home, field)? Some people have limited online time, or are able to be online only in specific locations. Others are always on. Very diverse situations can affect participation	There will be a mix bag, but the aim is that there shouldn't be a large time commitment because we don't want users to feel overwhelmed and therefore contribute less, the more info there is the more useful the platform will become. So, time commitment will depend on user with the minimum being very low to keep the app open to those who do not have a lot of time on their hands.

## Community orientation

**Relevance to community:** Use the range from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (high relevance) to determine what matters most to the community. Look at these from the perspectives of the different types of members (under "constitution"). Also discuss the "value-added" to each member group



0	1	2	3	4	5	Orientations	Variants	Key activities/your notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Meetings</b> Many communities place a great emphasis on regular meetings where members engage in shared activities for a specific time. Meetings, and the visible participation of members, assert the community's existence	<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face/blended <input type="checkbox"/> Online synchronous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online asynchronous	Mostly having discussion around new techniques and methods, so no formal meetings required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Open-ended conversation</b> Some communities maintain ongoing conversations as their primary vehicles for learning. Open-ended conversations are common when a community is co-located and people keep the conversation going as they "bump" into each other.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single-stream discussions <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-topic conversations <input type="checkbox"/> Distributed conversations	We want users to discuss filters and new developments. So open-ended discussions are very important to this community. The conversation will be the main method for users to gain knowledge from the forum
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Projects</b> In some communities' members want to focus on particular topics, go deep, and collaborate on projects to solve problems or produce useful artifacts. Learning is not just a matter of sharing knowledge or discussing issues. Members need to do things together in order to develop their practice. Projects usually involve a subgroup within the community	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project teams <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction	We would like if the community worked to initialize project stemming from the knowledge gained from Earth Wells platform so they platform will aim to integrate some project management tools.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Content</b> Some communities are primarily interested in creating, sharing, and providing access to documents, tools, and other content. Valuable and well-organized content is a useful resource for members	<input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Structured self-publish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open self-publish <input type="checkbox"/> Content integration	We want the users to be reifying articles of knowledge they read or write themselves on different platforms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Access to expertise</b> Some communities create value by providing focused and timely access to expertise in the community's domain, whether internally or externally. Communities with this orientation focus on answering questions, fulfilling requests for advice, or engaging in collaborative, just-in-time problem solving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Questions & requests <input type="checkbox"/> Access to experts <input type="checkbox"/> Shared problem solving <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Knowledge validation	The main goal of this platform is to exchange expertise on all types of filtration systems available within Canada and help users identify what materials or processes can be replaced by each so experts will play a key role in the success and usefulness of this project.



							<input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship & mentoring	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Relationships</b> Some communities focus on relationship building among members as the basis for both ongoing learning and being available to each other. This orientation emphasizes the interpersonal aspect of learning together. Communities with this orientation place a high value on knowing each other personally, emphasizing networking, trust building, and mutual discovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing about people <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting informally	Just regular connection, we would like for users to form connections over topics so that they can continue on to perhaps start projects and help their community.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Individual participation</b> Learning together happens in the context of a group, but it is realized in the experience of individuals. People bring different backgrounds, communication styles, and aspirations to their participation in a community. People have different levels of commitment, they take on different roles, and they use tools differently	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Levels of participation <input type="checkbox"/> Personalization <input type="checkbox"/> Individual development <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-membership	We would like to see some high community participation, the more people on the platform adding knowledge or answering question the better.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Community cultivation</b> Some communities are happy with loose self-organization and unplanned evolution, while others thrive on attention to community cultivation. They have a need to reflect on the effectiveness and health of the community to make things better, joined with a willingness to work on it	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic governance <input type="checkbox"/> Strong core group <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal coordination <input type="checkbox"/> External facilitation	Mostly an exchange of knowledge so community cultivation isn't necessary, but it will be useful if we want to pursue more of a project orientation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Service context</b> In some cases, serving a specific context becomes central to the community's identity and the ways it operates. They may live inside an organization, whose charter their practice needs to serve. They may have a mission to provide learning resources to the world or to recruit members widely. Or they may seek interactions with other	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization as context <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-organizational <input type="checkbox"/> Other related communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public mission	We are not serving a context, but we are serving a public mission. The mission for everyone to have clean water despite where they may live, I feel like the platform should support this mission thoroughly, but it isn't the main goal of the platform.



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						communities whose domain complements their own		
<b>Scratchpad (other interesting insights, questions/answers, etc.)</b>								
The main orientation is clear but the secondary and tertiary orientation are unclear, hopefully as the development starts and ideas of the platform are developed it will become more clear what exactly the orientations are.								