



Barrow Arctic Research Center

Science and Logistics Support in the Arctic



Abstract

UIC Science, LLC (UIC Science), provides a wide variety of logistical services for Arctic research projects based out of the Barrow Arctic Research Center (BARC), a cutting-edge research facility built in Utqiagvik, AK in 2007. The BARC is equipped with laboratory and office space, refrigeration/freezer units, necropsy labs, and conference rooms. The BARC goes beyond being just a research facility, it is a pillar within the community, proactively enriching scientific knowledge of its residents and cultivating a center for learning and exploration.



The Barrow Arctic Research Center in Utqiagvik, AK. Photo credit: Lloyd Pikok Jr.

Each year, the BARC hosts numerous research projects, educational programs, field trips, science fairs, and community events to bring science back to the residents of the Utqiagvik community.

Dedicated Research Area

In 1992, to ensure space for Arctic environmental research, Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corporation set aside 7,466 acres of privately owned lands as the Charles Etok Edwardsen Barrow Environmental Observatory (BEO). The BEO is a specially zoned Scientific Research District to facilitate field research activities in an accessible and natural tundra ecosystem.

The BARC is located next to the BEO and hosts 40 – 50 projects per year, directly supported by UIC Science.



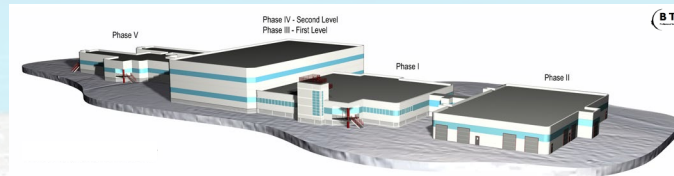
The Barrow Environmental Observatory (BEO) outlined in red.

Goals

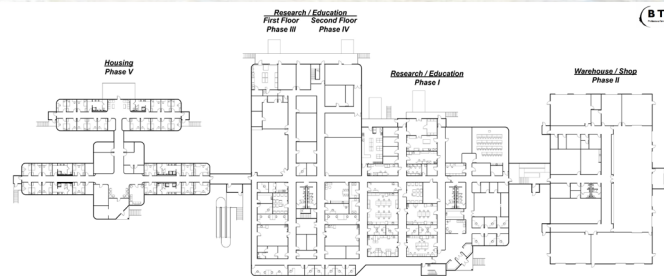
UIC Science strives to expand and promote scientific and logistics support in the Arctic. Future goals include:

- Secure funding and execute phases II – V of the BARC
- Enhance national and international partnerships
- Establish internship opportunities for local students to pursue scientific fields of their interest
- Continue engaging the community in research projects, particularly early in the project proposal stage
- Promote traditional knowledge holders of the staff and explore new collaborations with Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) specialists

Future BARC Phases



Phase I-V – Master Plan (Exterior)



Phase I-V – Master Plan (Interior Floor Plan)

Contact Information

To learn more about UIC Science and the Barrow Arctic Research Center, please scan the QR code or call (907) 677-5208.



Science & Logistics Services

As an Alaska Native Corporation, UIC Science delivers success by understanding the complex politics, culture, land use issues, regulations, and environmental conditions impacting scientific research and support. UIC Science is committed to acknowledging the valuable role of traditional knowledge in science and the traditional knowledge holders of the staff, which includes local Iñupiat hunters, whalers, expert Arctic survivalists and an Arctic Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) specialist.

Operations

- Local field experts & utilization of traditional knowledge (i.e. ice guides, bear guards)
- Project management & cost estimating
- Outreach & engagement services
- Professional videographer/photographer
- Vehicles, boats, ATVs, & snowmachines
- Set-up & operation of remote labs/camps
- Science equipment deployment & maintenance
- Permitting, local orientation & safety training



UIC Science field technicians repairing a snowmachine. Photo credit: Ben Jones

UIC Science staff and leadership are guided by core Iñupiat values and strive to create a viable, sustainable ecosystem for Utqiagvik residents to pursue scientific fields that benefit the local community. With these values in mind, UIC Science is developing partnerships with Ilisaigvik College (a tribal owned college), the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, and the U.S. Geological Survey to provide internship opportunities for local students to learn about scientific processes and research community interests.



UIC Science bear guards guiding a research group (left) and deterring a polar bear on the sea ice (right). Photo credit: Lloyd Pikok Jr. (left) and Bernice Oyagak (right)