

The Graham Sustainability Institute is a University of Michigan Provost's unit that systematically brings together and harnesses talents across all U-M schools, colleges, and units. Our work focuses on three key areas: Translational Knowledge, Transformative Learning, and Institutional Leadership

Translational Knowledge

[Integrated Assessment Center](#) employs an interdisciplinary and collaborative research methodology that involves subject matter experts, decision-makers, and key stakeholders to outline viable pathways toward real-world sustainability solutions.

Invested more than \$4 million to support 71 faculty and 153 students working on The following topics: U-M Campus Sustainability, Sustainability Indicators and the HOPE Village Initiative in Detroit, Hydraulic Fracturing in Michigan, Climate Adaptation in Great Lakes Cities, Managing Variable Water Levels in the Great Lakes, Transportation and Livable Communities on the Pacific Coast, Water Quality and Human Health in Ghana and Peru.

[Water Center](#) engages researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and nonprofit groups to support, integrate, and improve current and future freshwater restoration and protection efforts.

Awarded over \$1.3M in leveraging grants and over \$4.8 million in large grants to bolster freshwater research, restoration, and protection efforts in the Great Lakes region. Supported 81 PIs at 55 universities, agencies, and NGOs across the region and involving 14 U-M units including 60 faculty that would not otherwise focus on Great Lakes issues. Delivered two new Great Lakes courses on science and management and field methods and hosted "meet and connect" sessions for almost 100 U-M faculty to nurture new natural and social science partnerships in freshwater research.

[Climate Adaptation Center](#) develops strategies for adapting to climate change that minimize adverse impacts on people, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Our novel approach spans the physical, biological, social, technological, and policy sciences.

Co-led Midwest chapter of National Climate Assessment and produced a related book. Created new paradigm for climate adaptation through funding and advising boundary organizations while employing social science research to study them; Built decision-support tools to assist city adaptation to climate; and Partnered with AOSS to sponsor projects for Applied Climate Master's Degree students.

[Michigan Journal of Sustainability](#) is a student-run journal publishing timely, innovative, stimulating, and peer-reviewed sustainability-related articles and blogs that translate academic work for practitioners from a broad range of specialties and backgrounds.

Volume 1 topics include: Academic Engagement in Public and Political Discourse; Adaptation to Climate Change; Are Green Cities Nice Places to Live?; Sustainable Development and Social Justice; Clearing the Waters of the Fracking Debate; Liquid Planning; A Lesson in Service Learning and Community Engagement

[U-M Experts Database](#) is an online tool that allows users to search more than 850 current sustainability-related U-M experts.

Transformative Learning

[Undergraduate Scholars](#) admits 25-30 top-performing rising juniors annually into this two-year action-based program that fosters systems thinking and leadership development for sustainability. Scholars explore natural, social, economic, political, *and* technological aspects of sustainability through special seminars, required courses, and electives, and receive special access and funding for the required field-based course. Upon completion, they earn a Supplemental Studies notation on their transcript.

[Dow Masters/Professional Fellows](#) awards 40 fellowships annually from a select pool of candidates nominated by their Schools and Colleges. In addition to receiving a \$20K stipend, fellows participate in year-long collaborative engagement activities, an interdisciplinary team project, and monthly seminars and workshops about sustainability. We have supported 80 fellows to date.

[Dow Doctoral Fellows](#) is a community of emerging sustainability scholars training to become thought leaders in academia, business, government, and non-governmental organizations. The two-year fellowship provides up to a \$50K award that is matched by the fellow's home unit. Cohort-building activities expand individual understanding and effectiveness through regular engagement across a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. Including the predecessor Graham Doctoral Fellows program we have supported 42 Fellows to date.

[Dow Postdoctoral Fellows](#) creates a new generation of sustainability scholars who understand the necessity of collaborating across disciplines and sectors to solve complex sustainability challenges, with a focus on collaborations with the social sciences. We currently support six two-year postdocs and will bring in an additional eight in the fall of 2014, each co-funded by and housed in an academic unit. An equal number of Distinguished Faculty Fellows participate in monthly dinners and discussions.

[Planet Blue Student Leaders](#), part of Planet Blue Ambassadors program, gives 20-25 students who live in residence halls the training and tools to foster a culture of sustainability on campus. Student Leaders conduct educational programming, lead waste audits, and serve as peer-to-peer mentors within University Housing. The program, which has trained 70 students to date, includes a one-credit seminar each semester and a weekly time commitment of 3-5 hours toward service and/or learning.

[U-M Courses Database](#) is an online tool that allows users to search more than 500 current sustainability-related U-M courses.

Institutional Leadership

[Special Counsel to the President on Sustainability](#) serves as U-M's primary sustainability point person - advising the president and Sustainability Executive Council on sustainability; serving as the primary contact for students working on sustainability-related issues; and guiding the discussion, planning, and coordination of the full range of sustainability activities across campus. In addition to coordinating the university's academic sustainability portfolio, the Graham Institute staffs the Special Counsel.

[Planet Blue Ambassadors](#) provides faculty, students, and staff with baseline sustainability knowledge and cultivates leaders who promote and model sustainable practices on and off campus. In addition to the Planet Blue Student Leaders referenced above, this program includes an online [Ambassador Certification](#) program that requires completing five [online training](#) modules focused on: energy, food, waste, water, and community awareness. More than 1300 have been certified to date.

[Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund](#) offers grants of up to \$50,000 annually for student-initiated projects to reduce the university's environmental footprint and/or promote a culture of sustainability on campus. Graham administers the program, and a student board makes decisions with input from Graham and Office of Campus Sustainability advisors. Funded projects include a reusable food container program at the Michigan Union's U-Club; bike air pumps and fix-it stations on campus; on-campus produce stands; and a campus farm.

[Student Sustainability Initiative](#) is supported by Graham and led by a student board. It brings together student groups across campus to connect students seeking strategic sustainability-related actions with the university administration, and vice versa. In partnership with Central Student Government, they hold monthly roundtables to discuss and plan sustainability goals, events, and initiatives.

[Sustainability Cultural Indicators](#) is a six-year study in collaboration with ISR that assesses sustainability knowledge, behaviors, and attitudes across U-M students, faculty, and staff over time to inform educational programs and campus operations.

[Campus Sustainability Course](#) is a Program in the Environment offering developed by Graham that uses campus as a "living-learning laboratory" for sustainability. The hands-on course engages students in group projects in partnership with university sponsors. Course projects have helped launch several initiatives including the Campus Farm, Ann Arbor bike share program, the "How to be a Green Wolverine" guide, and greening of commencement.

... and here is the [Graham Team](#) that makes it all happen!

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