



*The **Graham Sustainability Institute** is a University of Michigan (U-M) Provost's unit. We foster sustainability at all scales by leading stakeholder-centric activities that systematically bring together and harness talents across all U-M schools, colleges, and units. Our work focuses on three key areas:*

TRANSLATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

We lead vibrant collaborations among academic, practitioner, and other stakeholder communities to advance sustainability scholarship and influence decisions that protect the environment and enhance quality of life for present and future generations.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

We cultivate sustainability leadership by helping students engage across disciplines, employ systems thinking, experience diverse stakeholder perspectives, and pursue action-based learning opportunities throughout the world.

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

We advance U-M's presidential initiative—**Planet Blue**—by serving as the university's designated sustainability liaison, and by guiding institutional discussions, planning, and coordination for U-M sustainability activities.

For a brief overview of our efforts in these three areas, please see the reverse side of this fact sheet. To learn more, visit the Graham Institute website at graham.umich.edu.



planet blue
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Administrative Offices

625 E. Liberty St., Suite 300
Ann Arbor MI 48104

Research Offices

214 S. State St., Suite 200
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Contact

(734) 615-8230
graham-institute@umich.edu

TRANSLATIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Engaged Problem Solving: We address real-world sustainability problems through an interdisciplinary and collaborative research methodology known as ***Integrated Assessment***, which actively involves subject matter experts, decision-makers, and key stakeholders in outlining viable pathways toward sustainability solutions.

Freshwater Ecosystems: Initially funded with \$9 million from the Erb Family Foundation and the University of Michigan, the ***U-M Water Center*** marshals multi-disciplinary expertise across sectors to better protect, restore, and manage the Great Lakes and freshwater systems globally.

Climate Adaptation: Funded by the federal government (NOAA), the ***Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA)*** Center is a partnership with Michigan State University that bridges gaps between producers and users of scientific information to facilitate smart responses to climate variability and change in the Great Lakes region.

Michigan Journal of Sustainability: Developed by a team of Graham doctoral fellows, this open-access online periodical fills a unique niche by translating scholarly sustainability research into formats and language that can be effectively used by practitioners and policymakers.

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING

Sustainability Scholars Program: Open exclusively to top-performing undergraduate students across U-M, this innovative program engages 60 students per year in action-based learning courses and co-curricular activities that foster systems thinking skills and leadership development for sustainability.

Dow Sustainability Fellows Program: We administer this university-wide program that supports 75 fellows per year at the ***Masters, Doctoral, and Postdoctoral*** levels. Through workshops and other activities, fellows enhance their sustainability knowledge by sharing perspectives across multiple disciplines. The program also includes an annual ***Distinguished Awards*** competition to support innovative sustainability projects with significant positive impact.

Planet Blue Student Leaders: As part of the campus-wide Planet Blue Ambassadors program, this initiative gives students the training and tools they need to help cultivate a culture of sustainability on campus. Student Leaders conduct educational programming, lead waste audits, and serve as peer-to-peer mentors in their U-M Housing communities.

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Special Counsel to the U-M President on Sustainability: Graham Professor and Director Don Scavia serves as the university's primary strategist, spokesperson, and liaison for sustainability at U-M. Through this role, the Graham Institute leads and coordinates university-wide sustainability efforts with regard to sustainability research and education.

Living-Learning Lab: We lead integrated efforts to advance sustainability awareness and sustainable behavior throughout the U-M campus. Here's how:

- **Sustainability Cultural Indicators:** In collaboration with U-M's Institute for Social Research, we oversee this extensive longitudinal survey to measure and track sustainability knowledge, behavior, and attitudes among U-M students, faculty, and staff. The survey is repeated annually to measure trends and changes over time.
- **Planet Blue Ambassadors:** This program provides the U-M community with baseline sustainability knowledge and develops leaders who promote and model sustainable practices on and off campus. All U-M faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to become Ambassadors through the online certification program.
- **Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund:** With awardees selected by a student board, PBSIF offers annual grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for innovative, visible, and transformative student-initiated projects that promote environmental sustainability on the U-M campus.
- **Student Sustainability Initiative:** This student group serves as the key mechanism for integrating and advancing sustainability-related interests and activities among students on campus. The SSI engages fellow students by holding monthly roundtables to discuss sustainability-related news, events, and initiatives at U-M.



GRAHAM
SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN