



Group 1: Unequal Exposure to Water Risks

Members: Elin Betanzo, Rita Loch-Carusio

Issue: Rapid Response to Community Unequal Exposure to Water Risks

What can the University do to address the issue?

- Multidisciplinary coalition
- Rapid response team to advise/coach communities that suspect unequal exposure to water risks
- Reward system for faculty involvement in educational and community outreach
- Establish web interface to advertise the service

What partners would the University need for this work?

- University established relationships
- Citizen groups, businesses, NGOs

What resources would this collaboration need?

- Staff support to receive requests and maintain expertise lists
- Policies defining satisfactory response

Members: Nancy Love and Patrick Rose

Issue: Independent coalition building around transdisciplinary topics in support of equal access to water

What can the University do to address the issue?

- Independent coalition
 - o Composed of support disciplines: policy, law, business
- Focuses on education, outreach, explicit valuation
- University
 - o Supports creation and work of independent coalition
 - o Explicitly values faculty, staff, and student work on coalition
 - o Creates curricular, co-curricular, and service-learning activities around this outside of our silos and in a way that does not perpetuate colonialist practices

What partners would the University need for this work?

- Governments
 - o Public Service Commission
 - o State legislature
 - o Treasury Department
- Utilities
 - o MWEA, MiAWWA
 - o National level organizations (Water Research Foundation)

What resources would this collaboration need?

- Faculty time
- Staff support
- Student funding
- Travel

Members: Michele Swanson, Lori Tschirhart

Issue: Data – Research to produce better data collection to drive policy, provide infrastructure and commitment to making water quality data publically available

What can the University do to address the issue?

- Foster interdisciplinary research to develop systems to automate data collection, analysis, and communication to appropriate stakeholders.
 - o For example, sensors for chlorine, algorithms to interpret, automated communication channels to DEQ, local, and state health departments

What partners would the University need for this work?

- Local, state, and federal agency partnerships, including health departments
- Local, state, and federal elected officials
- Oversight group that includes subject matter experts and citizen community partners

What resources would this collaboration need?

- Data storage infrastructure as research resource
- Cluster hires
- Symposia to identify gaps that can be filled
- Commitment to prolonged commitment (establish an academic center)
- New degree program that combines engineering, public health, and public policy – curriculum designed to provide real life problem solving/service opportunities

Members: Lori Tschirhart

Issue: Affordability of clean, low risk water

What can the University do to address the issue?

- Ensure that all U-M staff (including adjuncts and custodians, for example) are compensated at a level that allows choice in housing so affiliates are not forced to live with unnecessarily high exposure to risky water
- For scholars, engaging in water rights advocacy, balance publication/research expectations with teaching and outreach/public engagement/science communication

What partners would the University need for this work?

- University finance office
- Office for Institutional Equity
- City of Ann Arbor, City of Ypsilanti living wage researchers

*See: Washtenaw County Living Wage Ordinance

What resources would this collaboration need?

- Money