

# Celebrating 10 years

2006 – 2016



GRAHAM  
SUSTAINABILITY INSTITUTE  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN







**The Graham Sustainability Institute** was founded with an initial \$5 million commitment from Don and Ingrid Graham and matching funds from U-M.







“

Graham's ability to convene people from all kinds of different perspectives and different disciplines is a huge strength.

”

–Libby Cheney  
TRIO Global Consulting, Principal



**Sustainability Cultural Indicators Program (SCIP) is a multi-year project to measure and track the culture of sustainability at U-M.**

# TIMELINE '07



**Doctoral Fellows** program at full steam with 12 students from 6 different U-M schools and colleges.





“ Coming together with people from all different disciplines to work together on sustainability topics, and learning to translate the research of others, are skills I gained through the Graham Institute. ”

–Laura Sherman

U-M Earth & Environmental Sciences , Graham Doctoral Fellow



# TIMELINE '07



First multidisciplinary **research grants** awarded, supporting 22 faculty from 7 U-M schools and colleges.



# TIMELINE '08



**Don and Ingrid Graham** commit additional \$5 million with matching funds from U-M.







# TIMELINE '08



**Student Sustainability Initiative** launches to integrate sustainability-related student groups across campus.



“ We depend on U-M, we depend on the Graham Institute for the best research, the best science we can find, to help us make decisions on investments today that will protect our communities and our people in the future. ”

–George Heartwell  
City of Grand Rapids, Former Mayor

# Graham Engagement across U-M



## FACULTY

**366**  
Engaged

**195**  
Funded



## STUDENTS

**1372**  
Engaged

**1103**  
Funded



TIMELINE '09



Graham Director, Don Scavia, named **Special Counsel to the President for Sustainability** by President Mary Sue Coleman.



“

Graham focuses on making our world sustainable at local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

”

–Andy Buchsbaum

National Wildlife Federation, Vice President



The Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund (PBSIF) allows student teams to compete annually for grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 in grants to implement innovative, transformative, and visible sustainability projects on campus.





# TIMELINE '09



Graham sponsors the first **international field experience** course for undergraduate students at **Mpala** in Kenya.





On the former sites of vacant homes in Detroit, U-M researchers are designing innovative bioretention gardens to help manage stormwater while removing neighborhood blight.











“

The institute has developed into a leading center for work on sustainability. Today, the institute is engaged in critically important work, examining and addressing the most complex problems that face our society and developing the people who will lead this work in the future.

”

–Martha Pollack, U-M Provost





\$4 million grant from NOAA creates the **Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (GLISA)**.



Climate scientists are providing historical climate data and working with local municipalities to assess climate and health risks for cities, such as flooding and increased heat.















The Hydraulic Fracturing in Michigan Integrated Assessment project created and integrated detailed reports on seven key topics with additional peer-reviewed materials, stakeholder input, and expert peer review.





“

The rules that took effect this week regarding high-volume hydraulic fracturing were developed while key decision-makers from the state were participating in the first phase of an integrated assessment by the University of Michigan's Graham Institute.

”

–Governor Rick Snyder



# TIMELINE '10



U-M commits to **LEED Silver certification** for all new buildings following an assessment initiated by Graham.



GLISA partnered with NOAA and the MI Department of Health and Human Services to analyze changing climate conditions and their impact on environmental and public health in Michigan.





**Undergraduate Scholars** program fully operational, with 50 students representing the 25 different academic programs.



“

The University of Michigan, through the leadership of the Graham Institute, is able to really bring an unprecedented amount of resources to critical problems that we face in society.

”

–Steve Hamburg  
Environmental Defense Fund, Chief Scientist







A research team developed alternative solutions that allow gold-mining to occur in Ghana in ways that are safe for environmental and human health without decreasing economic prosperity.



President Coleman announces 2025 **Campus Sustainability goals**, following recommendations from the Graham-led Campus IA.







“

It is great to have this outstanding team from the Graham Institute help guide critical resource management actions for the international Detroit River watershed meet phosphorus loading targets. Input from the Graham team was instrumental in developing binational phosphorous targets for Lake Erie adopted by the United States and Canada. This project carried that expertise forward to identifying actions that will make a difference for the health of Lake Erie.

”

–Gail Hesse

Great Lakes Water Program, Director

# TIMELINE '12



**U-M Water Center** launches its work with \$9 million from the Erb Family Foundation and U-M funding.







U-M receives \$10 million from the Dow Chemical company for the **Dow Sustainability Fellows Program**, to be administered by Graham.



CAROLAN CANDY BOOTS

**M planetblue**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

### educationresearch

#### education

What U-M is doing to train future sustainability leaders:

- Offer interdisciplinary courses and interdisciplinary research programs. Sustainability isn't the "green" issue.
- Offer interdisciplinary programs. 12 master's programs and 10 doctoral programs across 10 schools.
- Offer a wide range of sustainability courses, including interdisciplinary programs. A certificate program, too.
- Offer a variety of sustainability courses, including interdisciplinary programs through the Center for Sustainable Systems.
- Offer a variety of sustainability courses, including interdisciplinary programs through the Center for Sustainable Systems.



#### research

How U-M sustains its research

U-M researchers are working on a wide range of sustainability issues, from climate change to water scarcity. The University is committed to supporting research that addresses these challenges. For more information, visit [www.sustainability.umich.edu](http://www.sustainability.umich.edu).

#### sustainability goals



#### get involved

Join the U-M Sustainability Community

### Sustainability Pledge



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ask me about



“

I'm grateful for the Graham Institute for providing educational programs for both undergrad and grad students, all the way up to postdocs and faculty, so that all of us can learn more together.

”

–Lizzie Grobbel

U-M Civil Environmental Engineering, Graham Scholar





The logo for the Michigan Journal of Sustainability (MJS) is centered on a white rectangular background. It features the letters 'MJS' in a large, light blue, serif font. Below the 'MJS' is the full name 'Michigan Journal of Sustainability' in a smaller, dark blue, serif font.

MJS  
Michigan Journal of Sustainability

The **Michigan Journal of Sustainability** debuts to make scholarly research accessible to practitioners and policy-makers.



The Graham Scholars program engages undergraduate students in action-based learning and co-curricular activities that foster systems thinking sustainability leaders.











Student Sustainability Initiative (SSI) facilitates collaboration and communication among sustainability-minded student groups across campus and makes resources available to them through competitive processes.





“

The work supported by the Graham Institute was absolutely essential to our success in being selected as one of the first two EcoDistricts in Detroit.

”

–Debbie Fisher, HOPE Village Director











“

Graham is extremely unique across all universities,  
and I see a lot of them.

”

–Neil Hawkins

Dow Chemical, Corporate Vice President  
& Chief Sustainability Officer



A 100-block residential area in Detroit was improved through visioning plans and design strategies for potential park space, identifying opportunities to improve safety.









New **Campus Culture** programs are up and running, including Planet Blue Ambassadors, Student Innovation Fund, and Cultural Indicators Survey.



NO  
YES  
YES  
NO

Plastic bottle  
Metal can  
Paper  
Paper







“

Graham gave me an opportunity to take what I had learned in the classroom and actually apply it in a practical sense while working to explore sustainability in a real way.

”

–Matt Friedrichs

U-M Civil & Environmental Engineering, Graham Scholar





The Climate Center provides information on potential climate change impacts on the wolf-moose eco-system on Isle Royale. Their focus is on evolving the maintenance of the Island based on future conditions, rather than on conserving past ecosystems.





NOAA awards \$20 million to the Water Center to implement the **National Estuarine Research Reserve System Science Collaborative**.



“

Hundreds of students, faculty and staff have studied campus operations, from greenhouse gas emissions and energy efficiency to how we use water and the types of food we purchase. We don't know of any other university that has conducted such an extensive, democratic assessment of its operations.

”

–Former U-M President, Mary Sue Coleman



Graham initiates the **Sustainability Institute Roundtable** with directors from 12 major research universities.







A Water Center researcher illustrated the potential danger of an oil spill in the Mackinac Straits using computer modeling to show how quickly oil may spread throughout the Great Lakes.









New incentive program encourages sustainability-related **MCubed research teams** to form larger and more impactful sustainability blocks.





“

The Graham Institute has played an invaluable role in bringing together the directors of environmental research institutes around the nation to share lessons, inspire new ideas, and encourage greater collaboration.

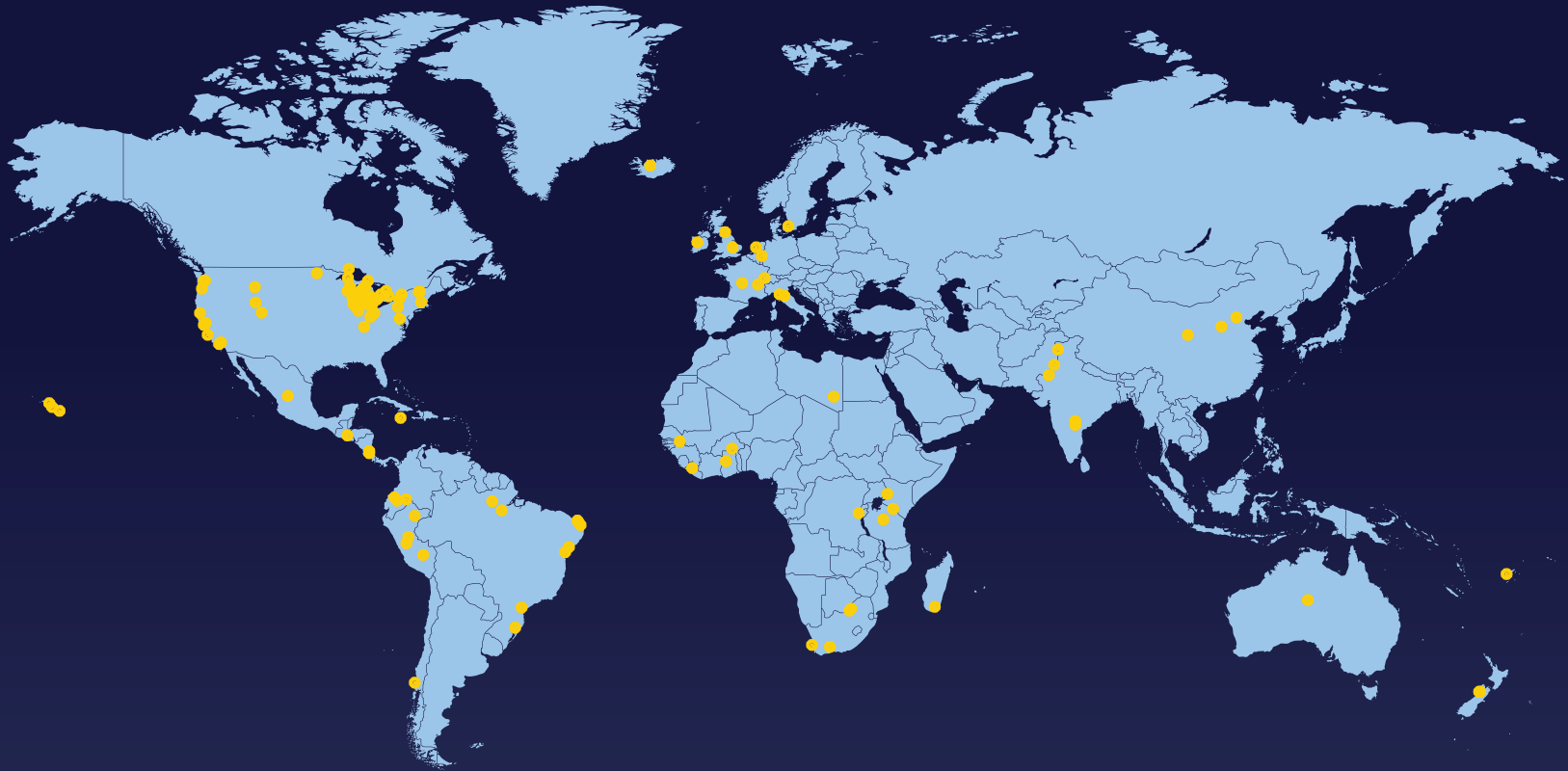
”

–Barton “Buzz” Thompson  
Stanford Woods Institute, Founding Director





# Supported Work Worldwide









“

Building on the interdisciplinary strength of the University, Graham draws together teams of experts who bring an array of perspectives to bear on sustainability issues.

”

–Martha Pollack, U-M Provost

# TIMELINE '15



After identifying and filling key gaps, Graham leads U-M's second **STARS** submission, earning the University a **Gold rating**.









“

The Graham Institute has been an essential tool for us to engage with the campus community and identify individuals who care about the environment and are ready to help in many ways.

”

–Kevin Morgan  
U-M Regional Energy Manager

# TIMELINE '16



The **Transformation Grants** program is launched to support faculty conducting a wide range of collaborative sustainability research and assessment projects.











The Planet Blue Ambassadors Program (PBA) provides faculty and students opportunities to engage in sustainability by providing introductory training around our campus sustainability goal areas.



CENTRAL CAMPUS TRANSIT CENTER



9:30 AM  
MAGIC BUS

TO GLAZIER WAY

My planet blue

ARTA  
734-996-0400



047

M

3047

hybrid electric clean mobility

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



“

The Graham Sustainability Institute has become a wonderful example of U-M at its best. The Institute's innovative approach helps U-M leverage the breadth of our academic portfolio to create a better world.

”

–U-M President, Mark Schlissel









**Catalyst Grants** are initiated to support a range of short-term, small-scale collaborative sustainability activities led by U-M faculty.

