The Graham Sustainability Institute was founded in 2006 with an initial $5 million commitment from Don and Ingrid Graham and matching funds from U-M. Since then, the Institute has played a key role in catalyzing, incubating, coordinating, supporting and administering myriad new University of Michigan sustainability initiatives.

- Doctoral fellows program at full steam, with 12 students from 6 different U-M schools and colleges
- First multidisciplinary research grants awarded, supporting 22 faculty from 7 U-M schools and colleges
- Student Sustainability Initiative launches to integrate sustainability-related student groups across campus
- Don and Ingrid Graham commit an additional $5 million with matching funds from U-M
- Integrated Assessment (IA) program begins with an IA focused on creating campus sustainability goals, supporting 11 faculty and 73 students from 9 U-M schools and colleges
- Graham Director, Don Scavia named Special Counsel to the President for Sustainability by President Mary Sue Coleman
- Graham sponsors the first international field experience course for undergraduate students at Mpala in Kenya
- $4 million grant from NOAA creates the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center (GLISA), one of nine regional centers focused on adaptation to climate change and variability
- U-M commits to LEED Silver certification for all new buildings following an assessment initiated by Graham
Undergraduate Scholars program fully operational, with 50 students representing 25 different academic programs

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

To strengthen U-M’s work in the Great Lakes, the U-M Water Center is established with $4.5 million from the Erb Family Foundation and matching funds from U-M

U-M receives $10 million from The Dow Chemical Company for the Dow Sustainability Fellows Program, to be administered by Graham

Graham leads U-M’s first AASHE STARS submission, earning the University a Silver rating

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

Michigan Journal of Sustainability debuts, making scholarly sustainability research accessible to practitioners and policymakers

Don and Ingrid Graham commit an additional $10 million to initiate an operating endowment

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

New partnership with the Environmental Defense Fund supports U-M social science research on applied sustainability solutions

Presidential committees are formed to review progress on campus goals, leading to $100 million in new campus investments

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

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

GLISA receives 5-year, $4 million renewal from NOAA

The Water Center receives an additional $3 million from the Erb Family Foundation

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

The Transformation Grants program is launched to support faculty conducting a wide range of large-scale, multi-year collaborative sustainability research and assessment projects

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