Collaborative Sustainability Solutions

MOTIVATION
Safeguard the planet’s life-support systems and enhance well-being for present and future generations.

OPPORTUNITY
Foster sustainability solutions through the discovery and application of knowledge that spans natural, social, economic, and technological boundaries, and is meaningful and useful to stakeholders.

APPROACH
Engage, empower, and support faculty and students from all U-M units, with student involvement spanning undergraduates, masters, professional, and doctoral levels. And integrate this talent with external stakeholders to foster sustainability solutions at all scales.

THEORY
Diverse stakeholders perspectives – spanning multiple disciplines, sectors, and cultures – are embedded throughout our processes. Research and practice show that getting to better decisions requires inclusive approaches that build mutual understanding and trust among participants.

This leads to information that:
• Is perceived to be – and is – accurate, credible, and relevant
• Clearly relates to existing knowledge and decision processes
• Aligns with, or alters, the scale of the decision making space

TRANSFORMATIONAL SCIENCE
Facilitating multi-stakeholder assessments on complex sustainability issues, supporting interdisciplinary research teams, and helping organizations connect science to real-world decisions.

Emerging Opportunities
• Transformation Grants
• Catalyst Grants

Water
• Great Lakes
• National Estuaries

TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING
Cultivating sustainability leaders who embrace diversity, think systemically, engage across disciplines, and pursue action-based learning opportunities worldwide.

Graham Scholars
• Undergraduate

Dow Fellows
• Masters/Professional Degree
• Doctoral
• Distinguished Awards

TRANSITIONAL SCIENCE
Facilitating multi-stakeholder assessments on complex sustainability issues, supporting interdisciplinary research teams, and helping organizations connect science to real-world decisions.

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ATTRIBUTES
The projects we facilitate:
• Address complex sustainability challenges at multiple scales
• Ensure inclusive engagement of stakeholders within and beyond U-M
• Assure credible information through peer review
• Propose viable options for decision-maker action and implementation
• Lead to academic journal publication opportunities for researchers
• Continually improve through ongoing evaluation and study

IMPACT
Our work effectively:
• Leverages new partners and resources
• Builds learning communities that may not otherwise exist
• Broadens perspectives and facilitates deeper understanding
• Makes science relevant to real-world applications
• Supports better management and policy decisions

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The Graham Institute catalyzes and facilitates sustainability-focused collaborations involving faculty, students, and external stakeholders. We work with organizations to understand specific needs and foster connections with relevant expertise throughout the university. We link science to real-world action by supporting the work of collaborative teams spanning multiple disciplines and sectors. We also believe diversity, equity, and inclusion are key to empowerment and the advancement of sustainability.