Institute Overview

**MOTIVATION**
To safeguard the planet’s life-support systems and enhance wellbeing for present and future generations.

**CHALLENGE**
Sustainability solutions demand 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 undergraduate, masters, professional, doctoral, and postdoctoral levels. And integrate this talent with external stakeholders to foster sustainability solutions at all scales.

**THEORY**
Diverse stakeholder perspectives – spanning multiple disciplines, sectors and cultures – are embedded throughout our processes, because 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

**OUTCOMES**
The rigorous processes we facilitate:
- 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
- Are continually improved through ongoing evaluation and study

**IMPACTS**
Our work effectively:
- Addresses complex sustainability challenges at multiple scales
- 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
We facilitate and teach collaboration across all programs areas:

**TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING**
Exposing students to the complexities of sustainability challenges from a wide range of disciplines, sectors, and perspectives.

*Graham Scholars*
- Undergraduate

*Dow Fellows*
- Masters/Professional Degree
- Doctoral
- Postdoctoral
- Distinguished Awards

**INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP**
Embedding faculty and students within operational efforts to reduce the campus footprint, improve sustainable behavior, and use the campus as a living-learning laboratory.

*Campus Culture Programs*
- Sustainability Cultural Indicators
- Planet Blue Ambassadors
- Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund
- Student Sustainability Initiative

*Executive Counsel*
- Advising President and Executives
- Special Projects

**TRANSLATIONAL KNOWLEDGE**
Facilitating multi-stakeholder assessments on complex issues, supporting scientist/end-users teams, and supporting organizations that connect science to decision-making.

*Sustainability Collaboratory*
- Integrated Assessments
- M-Cubed Sustainability Blocks

*Water Center*
- Great Lakes & National Estuaries

*Climate Center*
- Adaptation & Decision Support

*Michigan Journal of Sustainability*