Sustainability at Michigan: Respective roles of SEAS and Graham Institute

The University of Michigan will use its disciplinary strength and interdisciplinary breadth to address global sustainability challenges at the intersection of environment and society through research, teaching, and engagement. We will use our campus as a laboratory for learning and engaging the world in co-developing actionable research and scholarship that can solve problems for communities, companies, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

Our strategy is founded on building strong networks among all of the units that do this work, with the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) as a leading academic unit through which many faculty, students and stakeholders can connect using joint appointments, shared academic programs and knowledge networks. The Graham Institute is another key unit in this synergy. While SEAS focuses on research and academics, Graham, as a boundary organization, supports academic units focusing on sustainability at UM in building networks and connections with external stakeholders.

SEAS	Graham
An academic unit that serves as a center for sustainability work at UM, a tenure home for core sustainability faculty, and secondary home for affiliated sustainability faculty with primary appointments in other U-M units.	*UM-wide service unit that catalyzes, facilitates and enables sustainability collaborations and engagement involving faculty and students across all academic units, including those for whom sustainability is not their primary focus.*
- A home for research, scholarship, education, and civic engagement focused on sustainability and the environment - Conducts wide-ranging research on issues of sustainability and the environment. - Supports SEAS faculty-driven research focused on creation, dissemination and application of new knowledge, including civic engagement and knowledge co-production with those outside academia. Conducts engaged research and learning in partnership with external stakeholders and	- Builds links and networks to connect stakeholders to the academic mission of U-M - Serves as an interface between external stakeholders and internal research and scholarship within the U-M. Provides relationship management, emphasizing and facilitating collaborative engagement and co-production of actionable knowledge. - Convenes faculty and students from across campus to connect on relevant topics, and provides interdisciplinary seed funding to foster interactions. - Supports faculty

organizations (e.g. corporate, government, NGOs). • Supports and convenes the development of inter- and transdisciplinary grant proposals across schools and colleges. • Develops and delivers curricula, academic degree programs, and provides student services to those enrolled in SEAS. Offers masters & doctoral degrees, and jointly with LSA, a liberal arts & sciences based undergraduate degree. • Leads efforts to develops and teach curricula focused on using the campus as a living-learning lab.	in developing "broader impacts" components of complex grant proposals and provides outreach & engagement support to funded research teams as needed. • Administers interdisciplinary co-curricular student programs for students from all schools. • Co-leads on institutional reporting efforts (e.g. AASHE STARS), and to ensure all UM students, faculty, and staff have opportunities to engage with campus sustainability activities.

Graham's core expertise must be in soliciting and understanding the interests and needs of stakeholders (both internal & external) across disciplinary boundaries to enable and create capacity for translation and co-production of actionable knowledge; they must be expert in communicating and engaging and making engagement easy both for external partners and knowledge producers at the UM. They must know the UM landscape and be simultaneously accessible to external partners.

SEAS must perform cutting edge research and education, and be highly visible to both the world-wide academic community and also to practitioners and external communities with whom SEAS faculty & students could partner for mutual benefit. This is key for SEAS to attract the faculty & student talent they need to have impact.

Effective partnership and collaboration between SEAS and the Graham Institute are essential, as both units share a common vision of placing the University of Michigan at the forefront of environment and sustainability in service of society, from the scale of our local communities in Michigan to the scale of the nation and globe. The complementary capacities of these units, when combined with those of other units across campus, are critical for success.

Campus Community

OCS
Student Life
Planet Blue

Education & Research

SEAS
Joint PitE
CoE
LSA
Ross
SPH
...

Network Building

Network Building

Network Builders

External Stakeholders

Communities
Gov. Agencies
Companies
Foundations

Graham Sustainability Institute