



What is Planet Blue?

Planet Blue is the brand identity for the University of Michigan's Sustainability Initiative. It represents the astounding breadth of sustainability education, research and operations work taking place within and across University of Michigan schools, colleges, departments, and units.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability encompasses solutions-focused scholarship and practice that seeks to safeguard the planet's life-support systems and enhance quality of life for present and future generations. The field is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It draws from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences, from the professions and humanities, and from practical field experience in business, government, and civil society.



F.A.Q.

I have a great sustainability idea but don't have the time or resources to make it happen. Is there anyone who can? There may be students interested in your idea. You can submit a project idea to [ENVIRON 391: Sustainability & the Campus](#). Students also have funding available for on campus sustainability projects through [PBSIF – Planet Blue Student Innovation Fund](#) with awards up to \$50,000.

I'd like to make my workplace more sustainable, but I'm not sure how to get my supervisor on board. Any suggestions? Contact the Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) at ocs@umich.edu. They can discuss benefits of sustainability initiatives in your workplace, such as cost-savings, with you to share with your supervisor.

How can I get more involved in sustainability on North Campus?

An additional Planet Blue resource is the North Campus Sustainability Initiative. They host monthly luncheons and talks related to sustainability research, issues, and more related to North Campus. <http://www.umncsi.org/>

Where can I find sustainable food on campus, or nearby?

Check out the annual [U-M Sustainability Guide](#) for a complete list of sustainable food outlets. Many of Michigan Dining's outlets provide sustainable options. See OCS's website for a copy of [U-M Sustainable Food Guidelines](#) for what counts as sustainable food on campus. Also, attend the [Mfarmer's Markets](#) every fall. [The Ann Arbor Student Food Co.](#) and [Mhealthy](#) also sell produce regularly on campus.

My office has a lot of surplus office supplies just taking up space. Anything I can do with them instead of throwing them away? Yes! The [Waste Reduction and Recycling Office](#) holds annual "[Office Supply Reuse Days](#)" where offices can contribute supplies. Then departments can peruse donated supplies and take any for free. [MBAY](#) (accessible from U-M computers only) also provides an online forum for UM Departments to post FREE items they may no longer need. Excess U-M property for SALE must go through [Property Disposition](#).

resources • www.sustainability.umich.edu

contactinfo • planetblue@umich.edu

If you have questions or suggestions for Planet Blue, send them to this email address. We can put content on the website or electronic newsletters, the Planet Blue social media sites (Facebook, Twitter), take suggestions for the annual report, and more.

Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS) • www.ocs.umich.edu

OCS serves as the focal point for sustainable campus operations. Participate in the **Sustainable Workplace Certification** program to green your workplace by an informal inventory of office practices, identification of gaps, and taking action to implement best sustainability practices. OCS also provides a Sustainable Lab recognition program. You can see our progress towards our sustainability goals, and raw data behind them on this site. OCS hosts the annual EarthFest and U-M Sustainability Town Hall events.

Graham Sustainability Institute • www.graham.umich.edu

The Graham Institute fosters sustainability by supporting interdisciplinary educational programs, research, and outreach. Be a sustainability leader and resources in your workplace by completing a 30 minutes online training to become **Planet Blue Ambassador**. Review the sustainability knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of U-M faculty, staff, and students in our annual Sustainability Cultural Indicators Project (**SCIP**) report. Check out the U-M sustainability course database.

sustainablecomputing • www.sustainablecomputing.umich.edu

Sustainable Computing provides best practices for environmentally responsible computer use and how-to guidelines. It is also home to the Green IT Achievement Program.

UMrecycling • www.recycle.umich.edu

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling provides information on how to recycle or dispose of anything from batteries to wood. Here you will find recycling guidelines, posters, zero waste guides, sustainable event checklist, waste reduction tips, green cleaning day guide, and your building's recycling rate. Your contact for recycling or waste reduction inquires is recycle@umich.edu.

sustainabletransport • www.pts.umich.edu

Parking & Transportation Services provides support for a variety of transportation options—including vanpooling, carpooling, parking for bicycles, and Zipcars. They also operate the Michigan Bus, and provide a real-time the bus tracking system “Magic Bus.” For Ann Arbor-area bus service information check www.theride.org.

greenpurchasing • www.finance.umich.edu/procurement

Procurement Services uses its buying power and supplier partnerships to provide green purchasing guidelines and a list of green products and suppliers through their “Make Blue Green” initiative. They are also home Property Disposition. Procurement sponsors the **PrintSmart** program to optimize your document production process, with cost savings up to 30%

energymanagement • www.energymanagement.umich.edu

The Planet Blue Operations Team is home to regional energy managers who identify and stop energy waste in buildings on campus. They also provide utility information for many buildings so you can track your area's electricity, steam, gas, and water use and expenses. If you need to report energy waste or have an energy management question, email energyconservation@umich.edu.

safetyhealth • www.oseh.umich.edu

Occupational Safety and Health (OESH) is home to OCS (outlined above) as well as overseeing regulated waste, storm water, and environmental protection on campus.