

Every year at the University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and Environment, approximately 20-25 interdisciplinary teams of master's students tackle real world environmental projects with a professional client organization. If you have a potential project idea, we encourage you to consider submitting it.

WHAT IS A MASTER'S PROJECT?

Master's projects are 12-15 month long (begin in March and most are typically completed by the following April) problem-solving experiences conducted by interdisciplinary teams of SNRE Master's degree students as the capstone of their academic program at the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and Environment. Projects provide students with a team experience that approximates a future work environment while also providing client organizations with solutions to complex environmental issues and useful products. Clients and faculty advisors provide feedback along the way.

WHY SUBMIT A PROJECT IDEA?

It's a chance to get an interdisciplinary team of master's students to tackle an environmental issue of importance to your organization while providing them with a real-world problem solving learning experience.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF RECENT PROJECTS:

- * Climate Change Adaptation in Great Lakes Cities
- * Increasing energy efficiency at a research facility in Africa
- * Assisting a tribal community with business planning and forestland acquisition
- * Evaluating Home Energy Audit and Retrofit Programs
- * Creating a Watershed Management Plan
- ** See more project examples here: http://snre.umich.edu/current_students/masters_projects/masters_archives

HOT MASTER'S PROJECT TOPICS:

Each year we survey our incoming class to identify research topics of high interest to our community. We encourage you to submit project ideas that especially focus on these general topic areas but other project ideas are certainly welcome. Feel free to contact Erin to discuss your project idea.

1. Climate change adaptation/mitigation
2. Sustainable food/agriculture/food-access
3. Watershed conservation planning/implementation
4. Behavior change and sustainability
5. Biodiversity conservation
6. Corporate sustainability
7. Renewable energy
8. Climate change and economic risks/investment effects
9. Sustainable/ecological/historical landscape design
10. Sustainable transportation
11. Environmental policy analysis
12. Environmental education
13. Energy efficiency (residential)
14. Urban design
15. GIS mapping
16. Environmental justice

17. Sustainability of emerging technologies
18. Assessment of community-based forestry
19. Supply chain sustainability
20. Life cycle assessment (LCA)

Some additional themes identified by students (in the recent student survey) include: sustainable packaging, CleanTech, sustainability in healthcare, and community-based management of aquatic/marine resources.

WHAT'S THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES ON THESE PROJECTS?

A Master's project is an academic learning experience that encourages SNRE students to work in interdisciplinary teams. For example, a policy student may work on a team with GIS mapping and sustainable system business students on a wind energy project assessing policy, geographic and economic feasibility issues. We encourage projects to include at least 2-3 different fields of study to prepare our students for real-world project teams at NGOs, consulting firms, agencies, and companies addressing cutting edge environmental challenges.

HOW TO SUBMIT A MASTER'S PROJECT IDEA:

- Learn more about Master's Projects: http://www.snre.umich.edu/current_students/masters_projects

(see past projects to get a sense what project topics appeal to students and the scope of a project idea, etc.)

- How to Submit an Idea: http://www.snre.umich.edu/current_students/masters_projects/submit_idea

(instructions on submitting a project idea + the form to submit your idea)

- Priority Deadline: November 1st (projects submitted by this date have a higher chance of being selected)
- Final Deadline: December 2nd
- Questions: Contact Erin Lane, Email: eeallen@umich.edu or Ph: 734-764-1402

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Erin Lane, Master's Project Administrative Coordinator University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and Environment

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