

Graham Scholars - UUA Carbon Neutrality Team 2020-21 UUA Annual Report

- **Author(s):** University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Scholars, Zoe Bultman (Team Leader), Bridgette Pollaski, Morgan McBain, Elana Weberman, Eloise Jansen
- **Brief description:** The Graham Sustainability Scholars - UUA Project Team worked with UUA staff and ministry group leaders.
- **Engagement:** Students led an analysis of the UUA building, internal processes, and collaborated with six UUA members, staff, and ministry group leaders, and engaged with others (Washt. Cty. Waste Mgmt., MI Interfaith Power & Light, etc.)
- **Active participants in this project:** Elizabeth LaPorte, Ed Lynn, Jeannine LaPrad, Colleen Crawley, Don Hackney, and Dave Friedrichs

Major Themes (Deliverables):

- **Building & Energy** – Potential to get to carbon neutral through energy efficiency and additional rooftop solar.
- **Zero Waste** – Partnerships can reduce material and hauling costs.
- **Landscaping** – Reduce mowing, incorporate native plant species, consider carbon sequestration and ensure trees do not impact rooftop solar.
- **Engagement** – Event Toolkit (recycle, compost, plastics), recruit volunteers.
- **Short, medium, and long-term Recommendations:** Energy efficiency audit, recycle more, composting, renewable energy, and minimize waste.
 - **~220 Tons of Carbon Reduced:** Sure-saver plan to decrease carbon emissions.
 - **Thousands of products diverted from landfill:** Switch to compostable serviceware diverts more than 3,500 disposable products from the landfill monthly.
 - **Changing Culture:** Water bottle refill fountains (eliminate plastic bottles) and educational efforts to reduce waste will help shift to a culture of sustainability.

Key Accomplishments:

- Completed a robust summary report and presentation
- Building and Energy Analysis Report
- Landscape Report & Recommendations
- Outreach & Engagement Toolkit
- Eight Zero Waste documents, including a guide to implementing a Zero Waste plan

UUA Vision 20/50 alignment with the Graham Scholars Recommendations:

The UUA Vision 2050 strategic plan prioritizes Climate Justice as one of three vision focus areas. The project report, recommendations, and the deliverables that accompany it, reflect the first step toward climate justice. However, the Graham Scholars team recognizes that UUA members and staff will need to take an active role in the implementation of these recommendations.