ESPP was established in 2003 under the leadership of Dr. Thomas Dietz to build graduate education programs that are innovative, interdisciplinary and campus wide.

Director Jinhua Zhao, now in his fifth year as director, has increased the educational, research and collaboration opportunities provided by ESPP, including:

- Environmental Systems Modeling Certification program to allow educators, researchers and students to tackle complex issues and study coupled human and natural systems;
- Fate of the Earth Symposium bringing international researchers to MSU to address the issues of global sustainability; and
- ESPP Research Colloquia and Distinguished Lecture Series featuring world class researchers on such topics as climate change, water issues and environmental risk and decision-making.

In addition, Dr. Zhao and Associate Director Volodymyr Tarabara continue to build and strengthen ESPP’s interdisciplinary graduate education program and research across MSU.

For more information

Contact the program or visit online at http://environment.msu.edu/

Environmental Science and Policy Program
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Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1212

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MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer

Connect with us
Building on a tradition of strength, the Environmental Science and Policy Program (ESPP) at Michigan State University (MSU) draws flexibility, creativity, and knowledge from many fields to build the pathways that create better policy.

ESPP offers:

- A graduate education that combines interdisciplinary breadth with disciplinary depth.
- A curriculum that emphasizes both global and local impacts.
- World-class experts in environmental issues united under one initiative.

ESPP has 234 affiliated faculty from throughout the university. They represent 60 departments and 12 colleges.

Signature research programs focus on:
- Animal studies
- Environmental monitoring and analysis
- Bioeconomy
- Environmental communication and literacy
- Biogeochemistry
- Invasive species
- Business and the environment
- Land
- Global climate change
- Risk, values, and decision making
- Coupled human and natural systems
- Sustainability science
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- Environment and human health
- Water

Any faculty member at MSU can affiliate with ESPP and any graduate student enroll classes. The director and assistant director and Faculty Advisory Council set priorities.

The ESPP website is an evolving hub for communications and resources related to environmental work at MSU. The website includes a faculty expertise database and information about funding opportunities, campus events, and MSU courses.

Travel funding open to all graduate students to attend interdisciplinary environmental conferences

Tuition fellowships awarded to incoming ESPP students

Student seminar series to discuss these issues within an interdisciplinary setting

Professional development workshops

A chance to connect across disciplines with both students and faculty