



**[GUND] INSTITUTE  
KEY MESSAGES**

August 8, 2016; Revised September 16, 2016

1. The Institute is a major new university-wide research and scholarship endeavor that will mobilize scholars and leaders – at UVM and beyond – to engage in creative collaboration to understand and solve the world’s most critical environmental problems.
2. The Institute will enhance significantly transdisciplinary research, a key University priority, by capitalizing on – and adding strategic focus to – UVM’s long-standing leadership in environmental research, scholarship and outreach.
3. The Institute was designed over a four-year faculty-led process. The recommendations of three separate faculty-led working groups have coalesced with our fundraising efforts. In June 2016, donors signaled their willingness to make a leadership gift to the Institute in the very near future.
4. The Institute will result from a significant expansion of UVM’s existing Gund Institute for Ecological Economics (GIEE). The new entity will have a university-wide mandate, a broader research focus, and more resources to ensure greater success and impact.
5. As a university-wide resource, the Institute – originally recommended in the 2013 Envisioning Environment report – will benefit scholars and academic units across UVM. The Institute will provide support for faculty research, as well as support for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and visiting scholars (the Institute will not grant degrees or appoint faculty).
6. UVM’s President, Provost, and Deans are highly supportive of the new Institute. Rubenstein School Dean Nancy Mathews has shown extraordinary leadership and support for the Institute’s establishment, and the transition from the GIEE in the Rubenstein School to a university-wide Institute.
7. The Institute’s budget in the first year is \$1.3M, ramping steadily to a continuing level of \$2.2M in year five. Funding will come from a combination of (1) repurposed existing funds from the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources; (2) new strategic investment funds (\$500,000 annually); and (3) philanthropy and grants.
8. All UVM faculty and students interested in transdisciplinary research and scholarship on the environment are invited to participate with the Institute, its efforts and initiatives. A formal affiliation mechanism for faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral associates will be announced in the fall.