gala
Open Tools for Sustainability Learning
About Gala

- Initiative concerned with case-based approaches to environment and sustainability learning.
- Online tool for authoring and teaching with media-rich case studies [learnGala.com](http://learngala.com).
- Emphasis on openness, experimentation and collaboration.
MBDH Learning Innovation Fellows

- How can data be used to enrich case studies?
- How can data skills for environment and sustainability be taught in an applied, interdisciplinary context?
MBDH Learning Innovation Fellows

- Fellows matched with a case study/need and a faculty advisor.
- Facilitated peer-learning and feedback.
- Capture and share insights and resources.
- Opportunity build skills that compliment core technical skills:
  - version management and collaboration
  - sourcing data
  - project management and iterative development
Fall 2021 Cohort

- Started second cohort this fall
- 5 students from across the midwest
- Undergrad–PhD students

From:

- St. Catherine University
- University of Michigan
- Purdue University
- University of Illinois
- University of Minnesota

Studying:
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Biology and Data Science
- Atmospheric Science
- Environment and Sustainability
Fall 2021 Cohort

Case studies:

- Improving distribution system flushing programs through accessible data science
- How could policies in the early 20th century have shaped more sustainable transportation systems?
- What actions would be necessary to ensure a just distribution of the Rouge River’s ecosystem services?
- Who should deal with the groundwater contamination in a university town?
- Does it matter which tree species you plant?

Projects using:
- Geospatial data
- Python
- System Modeling

Faculty in:
- Environmental Justice
- Sustainable Systems
- Environmental Health
- Natural Resource Ecology
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
Building on Experience

- NSF DChem Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation
- Public Interest Technology (PIT-UN Challenge)
Contact

Ed Waisanen  waisaed@umich.edu
Rebecca Hardin  rdhardin@umich.edu
Gala  about.learngala.com
(Twitter)  @learnMSC