



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Executive Action Summary

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**Committee Name** Budget & Finance

**Date** September 6, 2024

**Agenda Item:** Authorization to Proceed - Plant and Environmental Science Building

**Information**

**Discussion**

**Action**

**Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to proceed with the project entitled “Plant and Environmental Sciences Building”.

**Recommendation:**

The Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration to proceed with the new laboratory research space to accommodate current and planned growth in plant and environmental sciences. The project budget is \$200M.

**Prior Action by BOT:** The Board authorized planning of this project on June 24, 2022.

**Responsible Officers:** Thomas Jeitschko, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Doug Gage, Vice President for Research and Innovation

Barbara Kranz, Assistant Provost, Institutional Space Planning and Management

Daniel Bollman, Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities

**Summary:** The Plant and Environmental Sciences building is critical to developing a new continuum of high-impact plant research facilities when coupled with the investment in the greenhouse complex and existing field facilities.

- Enhanced potential for discovery and new synergies by consolidating top-ranked researchers.
- State-of-the-art research facilities to attract and retain leading scientists.
- Address aging infrastructure that is no longer competitive.
- Expanding capabilities to support climate change research.
- Substantial completion by January 2027.

**Background Information:**

This new building aligns with and supports the investment in excellence in research and is critical for maintaining and enhancing MSU's strength as a globally recognized leader in plant and environmental sciences.

The building will:

- (a) provide new capacity,
- (b) align modern building infrastructure, space functionality, and
- (c) support the consolidation of top ranked researchers and students, thereby enabling new synergies and enhanced potential for discovery.

The new building will provide the same quality of research facilities as our peer institutions and allow MSU to attract and retain leading scientists, expand research to support Michigan, US and global agriculture, and increase federal funding in high-demand research areas.

Completion of the building will position the Plant Biology Building for adaptive re-use and enable the future demolition of the Center for Integrated Plant Systems building which has exceeded its useful life.

**Source of Funds:**

The project will be funded with debt financing supported by the general fund.

**Resource Impact:**

Building may be added to the new CHP and CWP project for cooling, including process cooling. Currently under review.

The Plant and Environmental Sciences building will contribute to MSU Research Excellence in the following ways:

- Position MSU to be an international leader in the plant sciences.
- High-impact research teams: 7 of 11 members of the National Academy of Sciences are in the Plant or Environmental Sciences.
- Significant federal funding in high-demand research areas which is essential to maintaining and growing Plant Research Laboratory, Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center, Long Term Ecological Research and numerous major grants led by plant and environmental science teams and individual investigators.
- Position MSU to be competitive for large new research grants.

CP22084

## Building Design and Site

- **Site** - Located on the Northeast corner of Farm Lane and Wilson Road
- **# of Levels** - Four Floors plus Basement and Penthouse
- **Building Square Footage** - 208,600 Gross Sq. Ft. (120,000 Assignable Sq.Ft.)
- **Impacted Research Programs** - Photosynthesis and Plant Resilience, Regenerative Agriculture, Environmental Science and Ecology



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