

GENERAL MOTORS

Susan Kelsey
Global Biodiversity Program Manager
General Motors

Susan Kelsey is GM's global biodiversity program manager. In this role, she leads the company's wildlife habitat efforts, working with global teams to achieve certified habitat programs at all GM manufacturing sites by 2020.

Under her leadership, GM now manages over 4,700 acres of Wildlife Habitat Council-certified habitat at 60 sites in 11 countries. Kelsey believes in the economic value of biodiversity, with work continuing on natural capital for daily decision making. She works to address ecosystems through net positive improvement in biodiversity. GM's program also integrates the work into outdoor classrooms and strengthens ties to the communities in which GM operates.



Kelsey collaborates with a variety of environmental groups, NGOs and policymakers to advance biodiversity and raise awareness of the role businesses can play in protecting the world's natural resources. She recently convened a study through the U.S. Business Council for Sustainable Development to understand how corporate lands can help stabilize declining pollinator populations, supporting the USA National Pollinator Health Strategy.

During her 37-year career with GM, Kelsey has served in various sustainability and manufacturing roles. She was one of the first environmental engineers at GM and served as the company's first environmental regional manager, creating the role and replicating it across GM's operations worldwide.

Kelsey earned a Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Michigan – Flint and a Master of Science in manufacturing management from GMI Engineering and Management Institute, now called Kettering University.

She is past president of the Clinton River Watershed Council, a 501(c)3 covering 760 square miles, 72 municipalities, four counties, and 1.5 million people. In its 43-year history, the watershed went from being declared dead to becoming a trout habitat.