



Institute for Human and Planetary Sustainability
IHAPS

TRANSFORM LOCALLY, IMPACT GLOBALLY.

**SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM
APPLICATION GUIDELINES
2022 - 2023**



IHAPS GRANT GUIDELINES

Sustainable development was first defined in 1987 by the Brundtland Commission as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations General Assembly, 1987, p. 43). In the 1992 Earth Summit’s outcome document, Agenda 21, sustainable development was depicted by the convergence of 3 different pillars or dimensions, which include social, economic, and environmental. Historically, development has been siloed and isolated instead of balanced and integrated between all 3 dimensions, resulting in growing global challenges. In 2015, the UN introduced 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals to address these challenges (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>).

UH-Clear Lake recognizes that sustainability requires education, collaboration, and a long-term vision to make a difference in our communities and impact in our world for generations to come. Therefore, including the educational dimension in developing sustainable solutions is essential and fully represented in the IHAPS mission to promote innovative solutions and sustainable outcomes to global challenges through a multi-disciplinary approach bringing social, economic, environmental, and educational perspectives to the forefront.

Strategically, the University through IHAPS, seeks to strengthen and nurture a distinctive and substantial research program in sustainability by increasing faculty interdisciplinary collaborations in applied research, as it relates to the University’s Strategic Plan ([Impact 2025 and Beyond](#)). In support of these efforts, IHAPS is excited to accept proposals for our 2022-23 **Sustainability Research Grants**. These grants serve to establish a vibrant, productive, collaborative research community focused on projects related to the four dimensions of sustainability: ***environmental, social, economic, and educational***.

Grant Proposal Applications for the 2022-2023 award cycle must be submitted online by **September 18, 2022**, via www.uhcl.edu/ihaps.

I. About the Grants

- A. IHAPS will fund a maximum of 8 research projects in FY23.
- B. Project awards will not exceed \$12,500.
 - i. Funding will be distributed to the college(s) and disbursed in accordance with the approved project budget.
- C. Expenses can include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - i. Compensation to grantees, which will be paid as a one-time stipend via payroll, in accordance with University policies and procedures.
 - ii. Compensation to research assistants, in accordance with University policies and procedures.

- iii. Consultant fees, non-conference research travel, supplies, and books.
- D. Grants must address Section II: *Team Qualifications*; follow Section III: *Proposal Guidelines and Format*; and meet the requirements of Section IV: *Requirements of Awardees*.
- E. Awards will be announced by **November 1, 2022**.
 - i. The funds will be disbursed by December 1, 2022.

II. Team Qualifications

To support inter-disciplinary collaboration and effectively address the intersectionality of sustainability challenges, the proposal should include:

- A. At least two UHCL faculty members from **two** different colleges and disciplines
 - i. All faculty designations are eligible to apply, except faculty with temporary positions.
- B. A minimum of two UHCL students -or- one UHCL student and one UHCL staff member
 - i. The proposed learning outcomes and designated responsibilities should be specified.
- C. A collaboration with an external company, agency, or organization
 - i. Example collaborations include, but are not limited to, data support, addressing a specific challenge, mentorship, providing access to resources, etc.
 - ii. For assistance on identifying and connecting with an appropriate community partner, contact UHCL Strategic Partnerships at strategicpartner@uhcl.edu or 281-283-2076.

III. Proposal Guidelines and Format

The grant proposal should include the following via an Online Application Form:

- A. Title and description of project, including a detailed rationale and plan of work, including key project objectives, and method(s). Be sure to explain how the project directly engages sustainability (elaborate on at least two of the four dimensions: environmental, social, economic, and educational as defined by IHAPS). The proposal should also address project originality, innovation, and the potential impact on campus sustainability (e.g., campus as a living lab).
- B. Team names, including a one-page abbreviated vitae of relevant professional work, research, and coursework.
- C. Principal Investigator(s) with contact information.
- D. A statement indicating how the proposed project builds on past research (identifying any research gaps or intentions for establishing new pathways).

- E. Related grants or fellowships (internal or external) received during the past two years (*if any*); include a brief report of outcomes and possible next steps.
- F. Project timeline and deliverables (between Nov 1, 2022 – Aug 31, 2023).
- G. Itemized budget proposal.
- H. A recorded video pitch summarizing the project.
 - i. Recordings should be no longer than 5 minutes and should emphasize the sustainability impacts.

IV. Requirements of Awardees

- A. Project Update (April 2023)
 - i. Additional instructions for submitting this update will be provided and will include information on what has been achieved to date, any challenges or opportunities experienced, and the timeline for remaining activities
- B. Final Project Report (Early September 2023)
 - i. Specific elements will be determined based on the scope of each project, but will generally focus on the impact and outcomes of the research as they relate to stated intended results
- C. Final Project Presentation (Date TBD)
 - i. The presentation event will be scheduled to ensure both internal and external stakeholder attendance and engagement, as appropriate.

V. Proposal Review

- A. The proposals will be reviewed and awarded by an interdisciplinary team that represents expertise from across the university and local industry.
- B. Evaluators will use the following criteria:
 - i. The quality of the proposal and the project, including how it relates to sustainability (impact).
 - ii. The value of the intended outcomes to contribute towards solving a problem or challenge (applied research).
 - iii. The research project will significantly contribute to student experiential learning (student success).
 - iv. The nature of the project supporting past research gaps and/or establishing new research pathways (meaningful contribution).