The Institute for Human and Planetary Sustainability (IHAPS) mission is 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.

**The Four Dimensions of Sustainability**

**Social**
Ensures wellness through the understanding of basic human needs.

**Economic**
Promotes long-term economic growth while minimizing negative impact to other dimensions.

**Educational**
Supports the building and sharing of knowledge and practice related to how humans and the planet can interact in a sustainable manner.

**Environmental**
Protects the Earth’s ecosystem while ensuring humans can exist comfortably and sustainable.
IHAPS OBJECTIVES: A Simple Breakdown

Facilities and Operations
- To support students and faculty with sustainability facility related projects - applied research and applications.
- To develop and maintain a healthy, energy efficient, and cost–effective environment while promoting sustainable functions and operations in such areas as landscaping, land use, buildings, infrastructure and energy efficient use, water and waste management, purchasing, materials management and recycling, dining services, transportation and power equipment.
- To make our campus a ‘living laboratory’ for all interested in participating in sustainability efforts that support the purpose of the institute.

Building Knowledge
- To foster an understanding of sustainability issues through education, training and communication by the dissemination of pedagogical materials, discussion topics, case studies, e–learning tools, and current and emerging technology.
- To endorse a cross–faculty approach, to broaden the curricula to include components of critical–ethical analysis and systems thinking for sustainable development.
- To support a student holistic learning approach by integrating sustainability elements in degree programs, resources, and exhibitions.
- To focus faculty in research on sustainability challenges with innovative solutions.

Leadership & Organizational Structure
- To improve organizational structures aimed to promote more effective university–wide collaboration on sustainable practices.
- To support leadership activities that align with sustainable practices within organizations.

Local and Global Communities
- To serve as a resource to champion resilient sustainability activities for local and global communities.
- To bring a regional focus to efforts that implement concepts of sustainability.
- To provide a convening function that reaches out to the civic and environmental leaders around the world, business executives, and government officials.
- To provide information and communication between individuals, groups, institutions and organizations, local and globally, to facilitate positive debates and build knowledge regarding sustainable developments.

IHAPS alignment with the United Nations: To reach its goal as a transformative public university in Texas, the world and beyond, the institute should be ready to provide opportunities and programmatic support to advance studies and research in the fields, which support the growth of sustainability. This desired was described by the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by all the United Nations Member States in 2015, as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The IHAPS aims to address some of the goals such as: #3 Good Health & Well–being, #4 Quality Education, #7 Affordable & Clean Energy, #9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, #10 Reduced Inequalities, #11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, #16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, #17 Partnerships for the Goals.

The IHAPS goals are also directly related to UH–Clear Lake’s new vision, mission, values, and strategic plan.

“A key component of our new Vision is to engage in Innovative Research, and a key component of our new Mission involves Community Partnerships, both of which are related to IHAPS activities and scope. Most importantly, the IHAPS is directly built upon the UH Clear Lake Core Value of Sustainability, as it relates to stewardship over both natural and social resources,” said Chief Officer Dr. Kevin Wooten. “IHAPS directly supports five of fifteen University strategic objectives, inclusive of Improve Technology, Improve Learning Resources, Improve Community Collaborative Processes, Improve Innovation, and Improve University Recognition. Thus, IHAPS is a crucial driver in the future success of UH Clear Lake,” said Dr. Wooten.

For more information, visit www.uhcl.edu/ihaps