

CES Ltd

# Laudato Si' ACTION PLANNER



# Instructions

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1. Spend time in prayer and conversation about the Laudato Si' Goals <https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/laudato-si-goals/>
2. Register your **school / office / community** as a Catholic Earthcare School / Organisation and begin the Earthcare process by completing the audit. Record what your community already does to care for our Earth.
3. Make a Plan - identify the actions your community will take next to care for our Earth. Start with small, achievable actions. Select from the suggestions listed below under each Goal or add your own ideas.
  - Decide on the timeline for each new action, e.g. 1 term or semester or year (or more - up to 7 years).
  - Publish your action plan. Encourage everyone in your community to get involved.
  - When you are ready, e.g. at the end of each year, complete and submit your Action Planner to Catholic Earthcare.
4. Review and celebrate your achievements.
5. Continue.

# Action Plan

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**School / Office:**

**Date:**

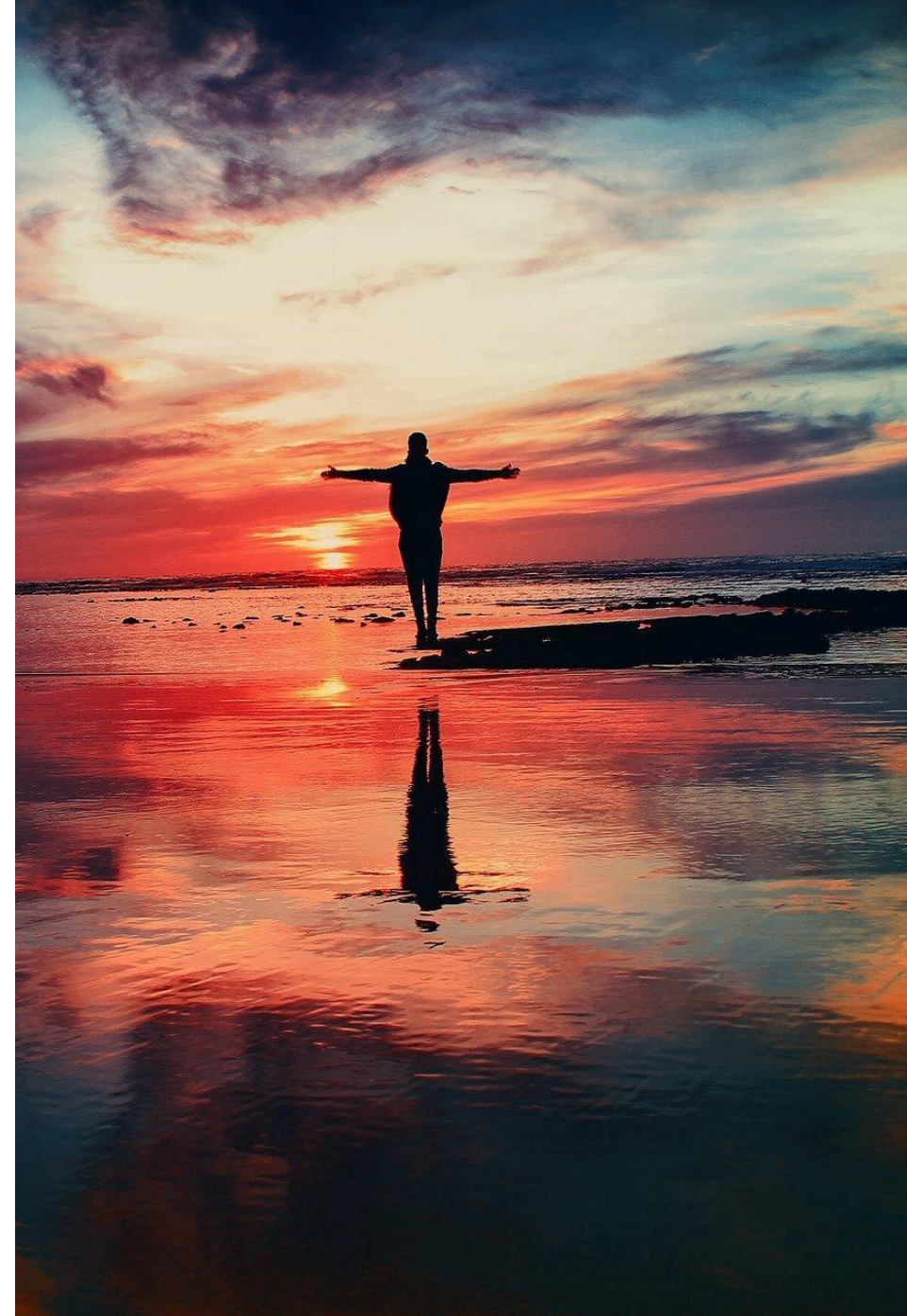
**Plan Coordinator/s:**

Action	LS Goals	Responsibility	Timeline	Review Date	Completed
<i>e.g. implement a four-way waste stream</i>	1, 4	<i>Student sustainability leaders</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>Dec</i>	
<i>e.g. celebrate Laudato Si Week in May</i>	5, 6	<i>REL / Sustainability leaders (staff and students) / FIRE carriers</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	

# The 7 Laudato Si' Goals are:

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1. Response to the Cry of the Earth
2. Response to the Cry of the Poor
3. Ecological Economics
4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles
5. Ecological Education
6. Ecological Spirituality
7. Community Resilience and Empowerment



# 1. Response to the Cry of the Earth

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**The Response to the Cry of the Earth is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability. Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.**

- Invite a First Nations leader and/or other local expert to speak about sustainable ways of managing the landscape.
- Host a discussion group/guest speaker to learn more about renewable energies.
- Regularly check waterways for litter and invasive weed species.
- Remove weed plants from garden beds and grounds and replace with local native plant species – invite an expert from your local council or conservation group to advise, if you're unsure.
- Install nesting boxes and insect hotels.
- Read bills and meters to assess usage and look for possible savings.
- Assess the energy efficiency of buildings.
- Have a solar panel system installed on buildings. Consider a solar storage battery as part of this system.
- Install water tank/s for use.
- Have leaky taps repaired and/or replaced with water efficient taps.
- Install or renew insulation.
- Fit draught excluders around windows and doors.
- Use sustainably sourced materials in building repairs.
- Start a compost bin or worm farm for green garden and kitchen waste.
- Mulch garden beds before summer, to reduce water loss.
- Develop a four-way waste stream for soft plastics, recyclables, organics and landfill. Obtain a green waste recycling bin from your council.
- Minimise paper use/waste.
- Commit to using recycled paper.
- Commit to using locally-sourced produce and suppliers.
- Use only environmentally friendly and ethically sourced / FairTrade products (e.g. biodegradable cleaning products, compostable cling film)
- Avoid single-use plastic, polystyrene and non-recyclable items.
- Collect and deliver quality used goods to your local Vinnies store.

## 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor

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**The Response to the Cry of the Poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth. Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk, analysis and improvement of social systems, and social service programmes.**

- Give to charity.
- Help Caritas Australia support those in need, including our First Nations peoples
- Support agencies (e.g. Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Refugee Council of Australia, CASPA) which in turn support refugees and asylum seekers.
- Support the Opening the Doors Foundation.
- Learn together about the Uluru Statement from the Heart.  
Promote Project Compassion, e.g. by conducting a Caritas K's event or by hosting a Pancake Tuesday, Fish Friday or Global Reality Meal event
- Contact your local Vinnies and other organisations working with people who are vulnerable, at risk or marginalised in your local community; ask how you can help or support them.
- Support vulnerable families / households financially.
- Offer transition support, e.g. to refugee families new to your area.  
In liturgies, programs and communications, promote the concept and practice of solidarity with people who are vulnerable, at risk or marginalised.
- If you have spacious and suitable building facilities (e.g. a hall with commercial-grade kitchen), consider sharing them with local organisations supporting vulnerable groups, on an occasional or regular basis and at low - or no -cost. Find other ways to support local initiatives, e.g. the Winter Night Shelter
- Start a food collection basket to donate to local organisations supporting vulnerable, at risk or marginalised people.
- Support and promote Fair Trade and slavery-free products and enterprises and encourage families to do the same.
- Commit to using local suppliers and service providers wherever possible.
- Host a quality used goods donation day and deliver collected goods to your local Vinnies store.
- Ask “who is missing?” in decision making.

# 3. Ecology Economics

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**Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.**

- Host a one-off or regular event to fundraise for Caritas Australia’s Women for the World campaign, supporting the education, health, livelihoods and protection of vulnerable women and girls.  
Through the school website, social media, bulletins, and other communication, encourage families and community members to review their own energy and other resource consumption and challenge themselves to reduce it.
- Plan a working bee to plant local native species, including trees where appropriate, on church grounds, to help sequester carbon from the atmosphere.
- Switch to a renewable energy provider.  
Make a commitment to reduce your energy consumption, e.g. by switching all appliances off at the wall at the end of each day.
- Install timers and sensors wherever possible, to automatically turn taps, appliances and lighting on and off.  
Budget for a solar system for hot water and other energy needs.
- Use sustainably sourced materials in building repairs.
- Start a compost bin or worm farm for green garden and kitchen waste.  
Order a green waste recycling bin from your council.  
Budget for future purchase of water tanks.
- Find ways to reduce your petrol consumption. Encourage others to do the same, e.g. a community walk / ride to school event, a neighbourhood walking bus.
- Buy Fair Trade / slavery-free coffee and other supplies for the parish office, kitchen and events.
- Abide by the Modern Slavery Act, e.g. in the supply chain of goods purchased, fair pay for employees.  
Commit to using local suppliers and service providers wherever possible.
- Host a quality used goods donation day and deliver collected goods to your local Vinnies store.
- Consider conducting some meetings online.

# 4. Adoption of Simple Lifestyles

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The Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy. Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking, cycling), and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic etc.).

- Invite a First Nations leader (local, if possible) to speak about sustainable ways of managing the landscape.
- Each week for a month, in school assemblies, invite different people (including children) to share one tip from their experience that makes everyday life more sustainable. Include these sustainability tips in your weekly school newsletter.
- Involve your community, especially young people, in conducting energy audits. Provide regular updates on energy use to stakeholders.
- Plant indigenous species to provide food and shelter for native animals, birds and insects.
- Install water/bird baths to your gardens.
- Install or renew insulation.
- Fit draught excluders around windows and doors.
- Install interior solar block blinds on north and west windows or exterior blinds or shutters on north and west windows.
- Use sustainably sourced materials in building repairs.
- Start a compost bin or worm farm for leaves, grass clippings and kitchen waste. Use mature compost on your garden beds.
- Order a green waste recycling bin from your council and encourage families to do the same.
- Plant indigenous trees in north and west sides of the property.
- Minimise paper use/waste. Commit to using recycled paper.
- Commit to using locally-sourced produce and suppliers, e.g. when catering.
- Be more mindful of food wastage, e.g. when catering.
- Go without single-use packaging, cups, plates, cutlery and straws.
- Purchase and use only environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Commit to hosting a percentage of meetings via Zoom.
- Develop a four-way waste stream for soft plastics, recyclables, organics and landfill.
- Participate in Sandhurst Switches Off.
- Reduce heaters by one degree; turn them off when not in use – lights too.
- Collect rainwater in tanks and use e.g. in your gardens / grounds.
- Consider resource use in all decisions.



# 5. Ecological Education

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**Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. Actions could include ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights, fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community, encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers), and ecological restoration activities.**

- Read / discuss / teach about the Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*.
- Become Earthcare schools and offices.
- Have designated leaders of Environmental Sustainability.; encourage greater student voice and agency.
- Make *Laudato Si'* themes and goals a regular feature of weekly assemblies and/or newsletters.
- Work with your parish to inform and enhance their understanding of ecological justice and to support their initiatives.
- Invite a guest speaker to talk about a relevant ecological topic.
- Encourage families and community members to put their suggestions for action into practice.
- Write a short article or social media post about Caring for Our Common Home that you can share with your wider local community.
- Add posters about Laudato Si' Goals and integral ecology to noticeboards and website.
- Use Laudato Si Week (May) & Season of Creation (September) as particular opportunities to inform and educate.
- Connect with local First Nations people and organisations, to learn about their strengths and challenges, as they identify them, and ways you can support them.
- Research Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) to identify what Country you are on [www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au](http://www.aboriginalheritagecouncil.vic.gov.au)
- Display an AIATSIS First Nations Country map of Australia on a prominent noticeboard.
- Include Acknowledgement of Country on your website, weekly bulletins and all communication, including staff email signatures.
- Include sustainability tips in your weekly newsletter.
- Raise awareness on ecological justice days and weeks, e.g. Clean Up Australia Day, Sandhurst Switches Off, World Environment Day, Schools Tree Day.
- Teach the Source of Life Stewardship units (Years 5 – 10); teach an appreciation for the sacramentality of all creation which God has made and which is constantly in relationship with God.
- Attend Sandhurst Just Leadership Days.
- (Secondary schools) Attend Justice Matters Camp.

# 6. Ecological Spirituality

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**Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the Spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities. Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programmes, etc.**

- Learn about Aboriginal spirituality and incorporate prayers, liturgies and music by First Nations people into liturgies.
- Welcome / Acknowledge Country at all gatherings.
- Invest FIRE carrier leaders (students, staff and leaders); implement and regularly update your FIRE Carrier Covenant.
- Provide opportunities for connecting with practices that honour creation, e.g. Dadirri, Wayapa Wuurrk.
- Celebrate liturgies that are creation-centred, e.g. including the Ecological Examen.
- Celebrate Laudato Si Week (May) and Season of Creation (September).
- Encourage staff in small groups to read and discuss the work of eco-theologians, e.g. Elizabeth Johnson, Teilhard de Chardin, Ilia Delio.
- Plan outdoor prayer events or meetings, as weather allows.
- Plan a community walk with God in nature.
- Offer an outdoor area for prayer and contemplation. If appropriate open it to community members.
- Design and install a labyrinth on school grounds; it may be permanent, temporary or seasonal.
- Add a sign or plaque to your building that acknowledges the First Nations People of your area and celebrates their long and continuing tradition of spiritual connection to Country.
- Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a sign of acknowledgement, celebration and respect.
- Encourage staff and volunteers to take their tea breaks outdoors, away from computers and other devices. Set up an outdoor setting.

# 7. Community Resilience and Empowerment

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**Community Resilience and Empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Actions could include promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns, engagement with decision-makers, and encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighbourhood ecosystems.**

- Share Caritas Australia's national and international projects with community members through the school website and newsletters, drawing particular attention to opportunities for advocacy.
- Connect with local First Nations people and organisations, to learn about their strengths and challenges, as they identify them, and ways you can support them.
- Provide information and advocacy opportunities on justice related issues, e.g. climate change, refugees, local and global poverty, First Nations issues.
- Organise opportunities to write to and/or meet with decision-makers to advocate for change.
- Host an integral ecology workshop for the wider local community.
- Invite a guest speaker, introduce the Laudato Si' Goals and your school's Earthcare Action Plan commitments and finish with a plant sale or swap meet.
- Organise your community to attend relevant rallies, sign petitions, write to politicians, etc. about a particular ecological justice issue.
- Identify, learn from and work with local environmental groups, e.g. Landcare Australia, Australian Conservation Foundation.
- Support local community groups in environmental action, e.g. Clean Up Australia Day, Schools' Tree Day
- Learn about how local action impacts people and communities elsewhere, e.g. by featuring the Caritas development stories during Lent; learn about the people and the culture and history of their country in RE classes.