



# *Laudato si'*

ACTION PLAN 2022

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP &  
CATHOLIC DEVELOPMENT FUND



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
WOLLONGONG

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## NOTES

This plan is authorised by the Bishop of Wollongong. Those nominated as responsible for implementing each action will develop a work plan and evaluation criteria to assess achievements where appropriate and necessary.

Evaluation of the plan's implementation will occur in eight months from the launch of this plan, April 2023.

This evaluation will help to guide development of the *Laudato si' Action Plan* for the Office of the Bishop and the Catholic Development Fund, Diocese of Wollongong, for the second year September 2023 to August 2024.

Overall management and coordination of the plan's implementation rests with the Leadership Team for the Office of the Bishop, Diocese of Wollongong, which will regularly report progress to and seek direction from the Bishop of Wollongong.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Dharawal, Tharawal, Gundungurra and Yuin nations who have, over millennia, cared for the Country on which the Office of the Bishop and the Catholic Development Fund in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong serves.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of just recognition and reconciliation.

May we all walk gently and thoughtfully on Country.



## LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM REFLECTION

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW  
DIOCESAN RESPONSE TO THE  
LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM](#)

## LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLAN

In February 2022, the Diocese of Wollongong enrolled in the *Laudato si' Action Platform* and, in so doing, it made a commitment to take action to embrace Pope Francis' vision of an integral ecology. This plan is for the first of seven years of action to work toward the seven *Laudato si' Action Platform* Goals within the Office of the Bishop and the Catholic Development Fund, Diocese of Wollongong.

# transform our way

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD

**My sisters and brothers in Christ,  
Seven years ago Pope Francis gave us his Encyclical Letter, *Laudato si', On Care for Our Common Home*. In this encyclical Pope Francis presented a sobering picture of the many ecological and social challenges we face, and called upon "every person living on this planet" (LS, 3) to enter into a dialogue and a new solidarity towards building a better future for our common home. In recent years the truth of what he wrote has been evident to all of us. This situation is critical and the Church is uniquely placed to advocate, care for and transform our world.**

Last year I officially committed the Diocese of Wollongong to engage in the *Laudato si' Action Platform* joining the global Catholic family in a seven year journey of ecological conversion.

Today, I launch the Office of the Bishop (OOB) and the Catholic Development Fund (CDF), Diocese of Wollongong *Laudato si' Action Plan*. In the spirit of subsidiarity, where real ecological and social change happens at the local level, this is the first of many action plans that will bring about lasting change in the Diocese of Wollongong. I thank the diligent working group who have produced this Action Plan and I encourage every member of the OOB & CDF to embrace it.

I also encourage and call upon every individual, family, parish, religious order, school, pastoral work, community and organisation in the Diocese of Wollongong to write and embrace their own *Laudato si' Action Plan*.

As we do this, we recognise that we are not starting from scratch. There are many wonderful environmental and social initiatives and actions that have occurred and are continuing to occur across our diocese, but more can be, and needs to be done. Please feel free to use the examples in this Action Plan in your own plan of action or reflect upon throughout your journey towards total sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato si'*. Where applicable, as part of our diocesan approach to engaging with the goals of *Laudato si'*, it is my expectation that all mission partners in the diocese will support and promote all action plans developed.

As Pope Francis has said, "We need a new ecological approach that can transform our way of dwelling in the world, our styles of life, our relationship with the resources of the Earth and, in general, our way of looking at humanity and living life." (24 May 2021) For the sake of younger generations and their future, and for the sake of all species, human and other, "we must choose to eat, travel, spend, invest and live differently, thinking not only of immediate interest and gains, but also of future benefits."

Yours in Christ



**Most Rev Brian G Mascord DD**

Bishop of Wollongong

Launched 1 September 2022

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

The first day of the Season of Creation

<https://seasonofcreation.org/>



1.

# response to the cry of the earth

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  | TEAM                                     | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS   | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|--|--|---|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>1.1 Use indoor spaces and rooms in energy efficient ways</b> by choosing spaces to suit numbers, closing off areas to keep heat in; and challenge norms for cross ventilation/air flow with open windows.</p>    | All Office of the Bishop (OOB) staff     | 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles   | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>1.2 Provide information and advocacy opportunities specific to earth-related justice issues</b> including climate change, refugees, local and global poverty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</p> | Development & Community Engagement (DCE) | 2. Response to the Cry of the Poor<br>5. Ecological Education   | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>1.3 Reduce travel-related emissions.</b> Use digital technologies such as Zoom options, carpooling, use of public transport, bicycles and walking.</p>   | All OOB staff                            | 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles   | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>1.4 Encourage the planting of native trees.</b> Vegetation will be encouraged on all OOB properties; guidelines and advice will be developed and offered to parishes</p>   | Finance (Properties) Team                | 4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles<br>5. Ecological Education<br>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment | Planning | 2023                |



2.

## response to the cry of the poor

The response to the cry of the poor is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life. *Strategies for a solution demand an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, at the same time protecting nature (139).*

| ACTIONS   | TEAM                             | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS  | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|---|----------------------------------|--|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>2.1 Appoint a diocesan advisory committee to animate, coordinate and promote social justice, ecology, peace and awareness.</b> Includes engaging with church agencies that encourage fundraising and/or advocacy for children and adults at risk.</p>   | Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC)  | <p>5. Ecological Education</p> <p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p>   | Planning | 2023–2024           |
| <p><b>2.2a Advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and reconciliation</b> by raising awareness and education for the <i>Uluru Statement from the Heart</i> as expressed in Motion 1 of the Plenary Council “Reconciliation: Healing Wounds, Receiving Gifts.”</p> <p><b>2.2b. Investigate the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)</b> for the diocese which includes an Acknowledgement of Country—the Aboriginal people of the Dharawal, Tharawal, Gundungurra and Yuin nations before events and celebrations, and in publications (including our website); encourage the placement of plaques and flags in the foyers in all church buildings and pastoral works offices.</p> | Chancery                         | <p>3. Ecological Economics</p> <p>5. Ecological Education</p> <p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p> <p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p> | Start    | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>2.3 The diocese will continue to develop plans and actions to mitigate modern slavery risk</b> in its procurement of resources and to eliminate modern slavery from its supply chains through a robust supplier engagement plan. An education and awareness program for employees involved in procurement and other people across the diocese will be developed to support this work.</p>   | CDF & Finance (Properties) Teams | <p>3. Ecological Economics</p> <p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>  | Planning | 2022–2023           |
| <p><b>2.4 Support Parishes in their quest to provide affordable social housing for the homeless and those in need.</b></p>  | Finance (Properties) Team        | <p>5. Ecological Education</p> <p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p> <p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>                                | Start    | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>2.5 Promote Diocesan engagement with the ACBC’s Annual Social Justice Statement. 2022–2023 Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse.</b></p>   | Leadership Team                  | <p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p> <p>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</p>   | Start    | 2022–2023           |



3.

# ecological economics

Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.



| ACTIONS  | TEAM                | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS  | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|--|---------------------|--|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>3.1a Invest in socially responsible companies</b> (e.g. solar, wind, batteries). Review the quality of OOB’s investment.</p> <p><b>3.1b An assessment of the OOB’s investment in fossil fuels</b>, both directly and indirectly through banking insurance, superannuation and other forms of investment, will be undertaken with a view to reduce dependence on fossil fuel investments.</p> | CDF & Finance Teams | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>Ecological Economics</li> <li>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> <li>Ecological Education</li> <li>Ecological Spirituality</li> <li>Community Resilience and Empowerment</li> </ol> | Planning | 2023–2024           |
| <p><b>3.1c Investigate the use of a ‘green’ renewable energy provider.</b></p>   | Finance Team        |  |          |                     |
| <p><b>3.2 Create an OOB policy on socially responsible purchasing.</b> Include criteria such as sustainability, cooperative management, and fair treatment of labourers.</p>   | Finance Team        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>Community Resilience and Empowerment</li> </ol>  | Planning | 2023                |
| <p><b>3.3 Carbon offset for plane travel.</b> The OOB will minimise its contribution to carbon pollution through air travel.</p>   | All OOB Staff       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> </ol>   | Start    | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>3.4 There is a preparedness to pay premium for the ethical choices</b> as well as ensuring that our quality second-hand items are repurposed, reused and recycled appropriately.</p>   | All OOB Staff       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>Ecological Economics</li> <li>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> </ol>  | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>3.5 Establish baseline evaluation criteria.</b></p>  | Leadership Team     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>Ecological Economics</li> <li>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> <li>Ecological Education</li> <li>Ecological Spirituality</li> <li>Community Resilience and Empowerment</li> </ol> | Start    | 2022                |



4.

# adoption of sustainable lifestyles

The adoption of sustainable lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

| ACTIONS  | TEAM            | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS   | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|--|-----------------|---|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>4.1 Recycle and compost as much as possible.</b> Provide training and resources to enable full staff participation. Streamlining waste management systems–(waste streams–paper/cardboard, co-mingled, FOGO, Return and Earn, soft-plastics, landfill).</p>   | All OOB staff   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>5. Ecological Education</li> </ol>            | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>4.2 Create an OOB policy on zero food waste,</b> including by having a plan in place to donate the leftovers from any events to programs that feed the hungry when possible. Avoid the use of single-use plastic and implement eco protocols for catering and hospitality.</p>   | Leadership Team | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> </ol> | Planning | 2023                |
| <p><b>4.3a Introduce an energy monitoring policy</b> for all buildings owned by OOB.<br/><a href="https://www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/">https://www.energysaver.nsw.gov.au/</a></p> <p><b>4.3b</b> Ensure efficient energy use and monitoring in all buildings including Insulation.</p> <p><b>4.3c</b> Progressively replace lights with efficient alternatives, solar panels, heating and cooling systems.</p> <p><b>4.3d</b> Progressively introduce renewable energy sources to all OOB buildings.</p> <p><b>4.3e</b> Have appliances, equipment, systems serviced regularly and ensure any new appliances have low energy usage ratings.</p> | Finance Team    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>3. Ecological Economics</li> </ol>            | Planning | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>4.4 Create a policy for fleet vehicles</b> that incorporates the movement to hybrid and electric vehicles (as prices fall), phasing out petrol driven cars.</p>  | Finance Team    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>3. Ecological Economics</li> </ol>            | Planning | 2023–2035           |
| <p><b>4.5 Consider ecologically sustainable development for any new building designs.</b></p>  | Leadership Team | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>3. Ecological Economics</li> </ol>            | Planning | 2024                |



5.

# ecological education

The adoption of sustainable lifestyles is grounded in the idea of sufficiency, and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

| ACTIONS   | TEAM                                | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS   | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>5.1a Encourage ecological literacy and awareness of <i>Laudato si'</i> and ecological conversion</b> across the diocese. Promote via staff prayer, staff meetings and weekly communications with parishes.</p>  | Leadership team                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>6. Ecological Spirituality</li> </ol>   | Start    | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>5.1b Share online resources, workshops details and talks</b> to learn more and collaborate about the key messages of <i>Laudato si'</i>.</p>  | DCE                                 |   |          |                     |
| <p><b>5.1c Offer opportunities for staff and clergy to learn about <i>Laudato si'</i> and understand it more deeply</b> e.g. hold a staff development /interagency day, clergy gatherings unpacking the theological and practical aspects of <i>Laudato si'</i> encouraging staff to care for their common home and engage with the <i>LSAP</i>.</p>  | Diocesan Executive Council (DEC)    |   |          |                     |
| <p><b>5.2a Encourage parishes to develop a <i>Laudato si'</i> commitment</b> including the engagement with the <i>Laudato si'</i> Action Platform.</p> <p><b>5.2b Encourage individuals in OOB and Parishes to undertake training as <i>Laudato si'</i> animators</b> and develop a network of animators throughout the diocese.</p> <p><a href="https://laudatosianimators.org/">https://laudatosianimators.org/</a></p> | Chancery Leadership Team & Chancery | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>6. Ecological Spirituality</li> </ol>   | Start    | 2022–2024           |
|   |                                     |   |          |                     |
| <p><b>5.3 Add a section for Ecological Conversion to the Diocesan website</b> to provide information and resources on both the key themes and messages of <i>Laudato si'</i> and opportunities for environmental action.</p>  | Creative Communications             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> <li>6. Ecological Spirituality</li> <li>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</li> </ol> | Planning | 2023                |



6.

## ecological spirituality

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   | TEAM                           | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS  | PROGRESS | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|---|--------------------------------|--|----------|---------------------|
| <p><b>6.1 Promote creation-centred prayer and liturgies and ecological conversion</b> at appropriate times throughout the liturgical and calendar year and integrate Catholic social and moral teaching regarding care for creation.</p>              | DCE                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>5. Ecological Education</li> </ul>                 | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>6.2 Promote Diocesan engagement with the celebrations of <i>Laudato si' Week</i>, the <i>World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation</i> and the <i>Season of Creation</i>.</b></p>  | DCE                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>5. Ecological Education</li> </ul>                 | Start    | 2022                |
| <p><b>6.3 Promote particular Sunday celebrations e.g. NATSICC, Seafarers, Vinnies, etc which support vulnerable people.</b></p>   | Diocesan Liturgy Council & DCE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>7. Community Resilience and Empowerment</li> </ul> | Start    | 2022–2024           |
| <p><b>6.4 Encourage ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats and formation experiences</b> that encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude to recover a religious vision of God's creation.</p> | DPC                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>5. Ecological Education</li> </ul>                 | Planning | 2023                |



7.

# community resilience and empowerment

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.



| ACTIONS  | TEAM  | OTHER LS GOAL CONNECTIONS  | PROGRESS        | TIMEFRAME/ DEADLINE |
|--|---|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| <p><b>7.1 Continued support and engagement with persons who have experienced harm in environments owned by the diocese.</b></p>  | <p>Chancery &amp; Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding</p> | <p>6. Ecological Spirituality</p>  | <p>Start</p>    | <p>2022</p>         |
| <p><b>7.2a Continue and deepen our partnerships with</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Catholic Earthcare</li> <li>ii. CARITAS</li> <li>iii. Catholic Mission</li> <li>iv. St Vincent de Paul</li> <li>v. NATSICC</li> </ul> <p><b>7.2b Respond to emergent social crises as appropriate</b> e.g. facilitate the communication of related appeals.</p> | <p>DCE</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> </ul>  | <p>Start</p>    | <p>2022</p>         |
| <p><b>7.3 Act, advocate and promote care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels</b> as expressed in Motion 8 of the Plenary Council “Integral Ecology and Conversion for the Sake of Our Common Home” based on Catholic Social Teaching.</p>   | <p>DPC</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> </ul>  | <p>Planning</p> | <p>2023</p>         |
| <p><b>7.4 Ensure that ecological information and events are acknowledged, included and are accessible across OOB</b> and encourage ways staff can contribute to ecological justice and actions.</p>  | <p>Leadership Team</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Response to the Cry of the Earth</li> <li>2. Response to the Cry of the Poor</li> <li>4. Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</li> <li>6. Ecological Spirituality</li> </ul> | <p>Planning</p> | <p>2023</p>         |

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>LSAP</b>         | <i>Laudato si' Action Plan</i>  |
| <b>LS</b>           | <i>Laudato si'</i>  |
| <b>OOB</b>          | Office of the Bishop  |
| <b>CDF</b>          | Catholic Development Fund   |
| <b>DCE</b>          | Development & Community Engagement  |
| <b>DEC</b>          | Diocesan Executive Council  |
| <b>DPC</b>          | Diocesan Pastoral Council   |
| <b>RAP</b>          | Reconciliation Action Plan  |
| <b>ACBC</b>         | Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference   |
| <b>NAIDOC</b>       | National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee   |
| <b>NATSICC</b>      | National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council   |
| <b>FOGO</b>         | Food Organics, Garden Organics  |
| <b>SUBSIDIARITY</b> | The principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level |



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**WOLLONGONG**

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