

ASSISI Formation – Animators for Sustainability



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Desired outcome for all ASSISI¹ work:

Enabling development of an ecological worldview that manifests in sustainable relationships with God, Earth and all Creation.

Overall purpose of the ASSISI animator formation program:

To build institutional capacity and capability in a range of organisations to facilitate the design and delivery of ASSISI

Program objectives:

- To introduce participants to leading social technologies and social processes for transformation
- To provide an experience of these social processes and of using them to design and deliver a transformational program in their own context. This program will engage the whole system in response to the call for ecological conversion.

Learning outcomes:

- An understanding of what is required to shift from a fragmented to a systemic way of thinking and being that provides the basis for ecological praxis²
- Capacity to design and deliver a program that is informed by this understanding and that engages the whole system
- A framework for forming a collaborative learning community³ in your organisation and for linking to other learning communities to prototype new forms of ecological practice

¹ A Strategic Systems-Based Integrated Sustainability Initiative

² In *Ecology at the Heart of Faith* (2007) Denis Edwards talks about ecological praxis as ‘not only a radical reorientation of thought, and it is not only the discovery of a new capacity for feeling for nonhuman creation. It is both of these issuing forth in personal, political and ecclesial action’ (p 112)

³ A **learning community** is a group of people who share common values and beliefs and are actively engaged in learning together from each other. These are also called Communities of Practice, supporting the idea that knowing and knowledgeability are better thought of as cultural practices exhibited by practitioners belonging to various communities. This approach ensures greater integration and coherence (including in matters of curriculum)

- An understanding of how to function as a national network of nodes and patches as a means of building critical mass across Australia.

Three organising frameworks for the program

- ASSISI as organising framework (building the container)
- The ASSISI journey as organising framework for my organisation (the outer journey)
- My own journey as organising framework (the inner journey)

Pre-reading - Book [core reading – please source copies]

- Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical recipes for community engagement with sustainability.* 2009. Wendy Sarkissian et al. Earthscan, Dunstan House, London
- Jesus and the Natural World*, 2012, Denis Edwards, Garratt Publishing, Melbourne [[Garratt Publishing](#)]

Pre-Reading - Journal articles [see www.catholicearthcare.org.au to download these readings]

- Addressing the Blind Spot of our Time* An executive summary of Theory U. C. Otto Scharmer.
- Seven Acupuncture Points for Shifting Capitalism to Create a Regenerative Ecosystem Economy.* 2010. Otto Scharmer. *Oxford Leadership Journal*. June 2010 • Volume 1, Issue 3
- The Blind Spot of Institutional Leadership: How To Create Deep Innovation Through Moving from Ecosystem to Ecosystem Awareness.* 2010. Otto Scharmer. Paper prepared for: World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2010 Tianjin, People's Republic of China, 13-15 September
- Planetary Spirituality: Exploring a Christian Ecological Approach.* 2011. Denis Edwards
- Ecology and Faith in Jesus Christ: Recent Catholic Teaching.* 2011. Denis Edwards

Program facilitators:

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Additional information:

Please email us for any additional information – admin@catholicearthcare.org.au
