



Statement of Strategic Intent

Opening statement

Caring for our common home is an essential Christian responsibility. Catholic Earthcare Australia is the Catholic Bishops national ecological agency. This Statement of Strategic Intent describes our mission. It also describes the principles that support our work, the values that direct our activities, and the relationships that we seek to build and achievements to which we aspire.

Vision

Catholic Earthcare Australia envisages an ecologically sustainable, resilient Australia - where our communities, who have developed an integral ecology and deeply value our common home, play an active role in supporting the dignity of the human person and the integrity of all creation.

Mission

Catholic Earthcare Australia embodies the vision by:

- a. Inviting our brothers and sisters to participate in the journey of ecological conversion and the development of an integral ecology;
- b. Promoting the understanding among people that creation is sacred and endangered and must be protected and sustained for present and future generations yet unborn.

Operations

Catholic Earthcare Australia draws on Sacred Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and the best available Science. It serves the Bishops of Australia, Leaders of Religious Institutes, Catholic organisations and the broader Church community in advancing the ecological responsibility of the Church.

Catholic Earthcare Australia carries out its mission by interacting with Catholic organisations in Australia and globally, governments, other churches, interfaith communities and all people of good will, to develop ecological policies, initiatives and other strategic responses that enhance the dignity of the person and integrity of Creation and work towards the economic, social, cultural, ecological and spiritual well-being of the Australian community.

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

In pursuit of its mission, Catholic Earthcare Australia seeks to embody and promote the core principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

- **Integral Ecology**

Developing a personal profile and an institutional character that upholds and flourishes the interconnectedness of all creation.

- **Dignity of the person and integrity of creation**

Our vision for society springs from our understanding of the fundamental dignity and worth of humankind and the sacredness of all life on Earth.

- **The common good and creation**

The common good of society is not an end in itself; it has value only in reference to attaining the ultimate ends of the person “and the universal good of the whole of creation”.

- **The universal destination of goods**

The goods of creation are meant for all and each creature must have access to the level of well-being necessary for their full development.

- **Preferential option for the poor**

It has been recently observed that the Earth itself is the “new poor” in its fragility and vulnerability, as the world’s ecological crises deepens.

- **Rights and responsibilities**

Human life on Earth brings with it both a range of rights and protections and a range of duties and responsibilities to care for our common home.

Principles of Catholic Earthcare Australia

Catholic Earthcare Australia embraces the following principles in its operations:

- The universe was created and is sustained in existence by God.
- Human beings have been created in the “image and likeness” of God.
- Human beings have been entrusted with the earth to care for it and hand it on to future generations.

Organisational Values

- Participation

Inviting all people to develop an integral ecology and contribute their particular giftedness to flourish life on Earth.

- Collaboration

Relationships based on mutuality and trust within the Church and the wider community, locally, nationally and internationally.

- Transformation

The journey of ecological conversion opens the way to a spirituality of communion through contemplation, dialogue, inquiry, reflection and learning that brings about a change of heart, mind and action.

- Innovation

Creative holistic thinking and action is required to enable this transformation in the Church and throughout the world.

- Reconciliation

Learning about cultural values and sacred places so that we walk alongside the first custodians of country, while reconciling our relationships with our Creator, our brothers and sisters and all creation.

Strategic Priorities

In order to pursue its mission, Catholic Earthcare Australia has identified three strategic priorities:

1. **To develop and strengthen ecological conversion in order to improve the relationship between humanity and the ecological systems which support all life on Earth by:**
 - 1.1. Promoting care for our common home as a key mission of the Catholic Church, particularly through educational resources, formation programs and pilgrimages.
 - 1.2. Fostering and further developing the ecological conversion as a core part of Catholic identity.
 - 1.3. Assisting the Catholic Church to become ecologically sustainable and become ecological leaders in local, regional and global contexts.
 - 1.4. Enabling significant culture change through processes of social transformation to develop an integral ecology.

2. **To advocate for ecological sustainability as an appropriate response to climate change, loss of biodiversity and other environmental issues with an emphasis on:**
 - 2.1. Modelling ecologically and ethically sustainable practices that bring Laudato Si to life in the community and support the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.
 - 2.2. Developing national networks to initiate, link, resource and support ecological endeavours nationally and globally, such as NEEN and GCCM
 - 2.3. Undertaking initiatives by encouraging a reverence for creation and a responsible stewardship for Earth's natural resources and ecosystems
 - 2.4. Providing a voice for the victims of pollution, environmental degradation and injustice.

3. **To ensure the capacity and sustainability of Catholic Earthcare Australia to deliver the strategic priorities**
 - 3.1. Establishing a secure and diverse funding base to support its activities.
 - 3.2. Further developing staff skills and organisational capacity with the strategic intent and organisational values
 - 3.3. Developing a formal succession plan for key staff
 - 3.4. Further developing partnerships to grow our networks.