



Statement of Strategic Intent

Opening statement

Caring for God's Creation is an essential Christian responsibility. Catholic Earthcare Australia is the Catholic Church's peak national environmental body. 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 environment that is closer to the plan of the Creator.

Mission

Catholic Earthcare Australia embodies the vision by:

- a. Inviting others to participate in the journey towards ecological conversion and the holistic care of social, human and environmental 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 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, governments, other churches and all people of goodwill, to develop ecological policies, programs 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:

- 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 person 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 nature 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 obligations.

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.
- Human beings are the pinnacle of creation and have been endowed with the capacity of reason and ingenuity to respond to challenges to the quality of human life and all life on Earth.

- As Catholics we base our lives and attitudes on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Organisational Values

- 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 strategic thinking and action is required to enable this transformation in the Church and throughout Australia.

Strategic Priorities

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

1. To develop and strengthen the ecological conversion in Australia in order to improve the relationship between all Australians and the ecological systems which support all life on Earth by:

- 1.1. Promoting care for Earth as a key manifestation of the mission of the Catholic Church particularly through educational materials and resources
- 1.2. Fostering and further developing the ecological conversion as a core part of Catholic identity
- 1.3. Assisting the Catholic Church in Australia to become ecologically sustainable and become ecological leaders in Australia
- 1.4. Enabling significant culture change through processes of social transformation

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. Ecologically and ethically sustainable practices
- 2.2. Information to assist in the carrying out of environmental audits
- 2.3. Developing national networks to initiate, link, resource and support ecological endeavours within the Catholic Church and beyond
- 2.4. Undertaking initiatives by encouraging a reverence for creation and a responsible stewardship for Earth's natural resources and ecosystems
- 2.5. 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. Establish a secure and diverse funding base to support its activities.
- 3.2. Align staff skills and organisational capacity with the strategic intent and organisational values
- 3.3. Develop a formal succession plan for key staff