

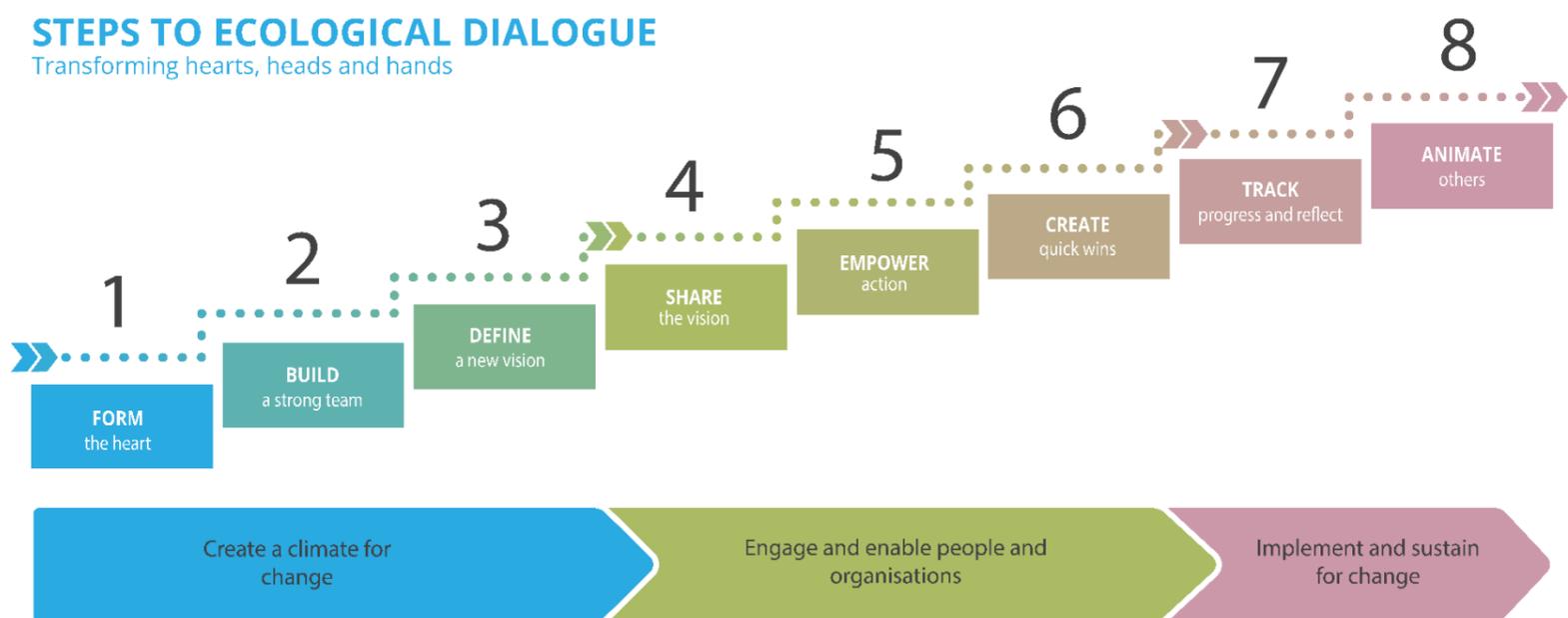
The Earthcare Schools Program is based on a behaviour change methodology that requires a 'whole of organisation' engagement focused on actioning the goals of Laudato Si'. Student-led change will develop the leaders of the future, empowering action and releasing the potential of our youth and young people.

*Young people **demand change**. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded. Pope Francis, Laudato Si' n 13*

Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue in your School

For more information and resources

<https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/>



Developed by Caritas Australia, based on John Kotter's 8 Step Process for Leading Change

How does the Earthcare Program relate to the Laudato Si' Action Goals?

The following Certification Criteria Matrix will assist you to understand what is expected at each of the 5 Earthcare levels. These criteria have the Laudato Si' goals embedded at each level. If you are registered with the Dicastery's Laudato Si' Action Platform, you could use your Earthcare action plans and audits to save time.



The Catholic Earthcare Schools 5 Star Certification Criteria Matrix

	★☆☆☆☆	★★☆☆☆	★★★☆☆	★★★★☆	★★★★★
	Affirming Ecological Practice	Ecological Dialogue Creating Change	Ecological Conversion and Sustained Change	Deep Ecological Conversion Creating Cultural Change	Living an Ecological Vocation
<p>Summary of each level.</p> <p><i>"ours may be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life"</i></p> <p>Pope Francis, <i>Laudato Si'</i> n 207</p>	<p>A Level 1 School:</p> <p>Begins the Laudato Si' action journey and commits to its first ecological actions.</p> <p>Understands the change process and the Earthcare process of eight steps to ecological dialogue.</p> <p>Starts exploring organisations that can support their journey from across the diocese, local networks, and regional Sustainable School programs.</p> <p>Register using https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/</p> <p>It is anticipated that a school would undertake this level early in the year and then move onto Level 2 for the remainder of the year.</p> <p>Tools we offer: (Download from https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> User guide to documents and levels Earthcare School Program Certification Criteria Matrix. The Catholic Earthcare 8 Steps to Ecological Dialogue. Level 1 guide. <p>No documents to submit to Earthcare</p>	<p>A level 2 School:</p> <p>Enters the Catholic Earthcare process with the goal of ecological conversion.</p> <p>Commits to whole school, student-led ecological dialogue and change actions.</p> <p>Undertakes ecological dialogue by actioning 2 of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals.</p> <p>Identifies and celebrates its achievements within their community.</p> <p>Uses its links between its charism and ecological dialogue to drive commitment to change.</p> <p><i>In the context of the Laudato Si' goals; conducts Environmental Audits and completes the Level 2 Earthcare Audit.</i></p> <p>Tools we offer: (Download from https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Curriculum audit Environmental audit Level 2 Guide Level 2 Student-led Action Plan <p>Documents to submit to Earthcare</p> <p>Download the Level 2 Audit, complete and send to the Earthcare Schools Coordinator.</p>	<p>A Level 3 School:</p> <p>Commits to a "whole of school" ecological conversion through sustained student-led ecological changes.</p> <p>Uses its links between its charism and ecological dialogue to drive commitment to change.</p> <p>Undertakes ecological dialogue by actioning 2 new goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.</p> <p>Fosters engagement with community-based ecology groups and sponsors regular school activities in partnership with these external groups. Links it back to the schools' mission and operational plan.</p> <p>Change plans and activities will result from the school being supportive of student-led change actions</p> <p>Conducts further audits and makes ecological changes based on data.</p> <p>Completes the curriculum audit and evaluation.</p> <p>Tools we offer: (Download from https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed curriculum audit Environmental Audit Level 3 Guide Level 3 Student-led Action Plan <p>Documents to submit to Earthcare</p> <p>Download the audit for level 3, complete and send to the Earthcare Schools Coordinator.</p>	<p>A Level 4 School:</p> <p>Demonstrates a deep ecological conversion through networking and collaboration, whereby the school community has undergone a cultural change.</p> <p>There is a strong commitment to ecological dialogue and conversation through a documented journey of sustained, student-led change actions.</p> <p>Undertakes ecological dialogue by actioning 2 more goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.</p> <p>It also gains leverage off its alignment between its on-going ecological dialogue and practices to build cultural change in harmony with its school charism and mission.</p> <p>Conducts audits and makes ecological changes based on data.</p> <p>Tools we offer: (Download from https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 4 Checklist Level 4 Guide <p>Documents to submit to Earthcare</p> <p>Use the Level 4 Checklist as a guide to complete your audit.</p> <p>You could share this report with a peer school and then provide a peer assessed report to Earthcare.</p>	<p>A Level 5 School:</p> <p>Has undergone a profound ecological conversion, is living an ecological vocation and is enabling change by animating others. They are change makers and leaders!</p> <p>Ensures planning and actions to care for our common home are aligned to and gain strength from the schools' charism and mission as it pursues to address the interrelatedness of the cry of the earth and cry of the poor.</p> <p>Has actioned 7 Laudato Si' Action Platform goals in 7 years.</p> <p>Tools we offer: (Download from https://catholicearthcare.org.au/earthcare-certified-schools-program/)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 5 Guide <p>Documents to submit to Earthcare</p> <p>Provide a comprehensive report to Earthcare on the school's Laudato Si' journey.</p>
<p>Step 1: Form the Heart</p> <p><i>Using education and spirituality to come to see, know and love creation as God does.</i></p>	<p>Students understand the theological imperative to care for our common home and are familiar with <i>Laudato Si'</i> and the Laudato Si' Action Platform goals.</p> <p>Include an understanding of First Nations perspectives with regards to caring for Country within your local context.</p>	<p>Include an understanding of First Nations perspectives with regards to caring for Country within your local context.</p> <p>Students carry out ecological dialogue with others and want to act. Make the connection between their actions and the goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.</p> <p>Make formal connections between the school's charism and mission and their understanding of caring for our common home.</p> <p>Staff undertake professional development in relation to the faith dimension of Caring for Our Common Home with a particular emphasis on an 'integral ecology' approach.</p>	<p>Conduct a whole of school ecological contemplative/ reflection activity to engage all staff, including ancillary, administration, and teaching staff with connection to Country and our ecology.</p> <p>Students have begun an ecological conversion process and take sustained actions to address the Laudato Si' goals.</p> <p>Celebrate the Season of Creation.</p> <p>Include an understanding of First Nations perspectives with regards to caring for Country within your local context.</p>	<p>Embed whole of staff ecological contemplative/ reflection to engage with 'Connection to Country' and our ecology.</p> <p>Design and deliver a school community engagement event / activity focussed on eco-literacy. This could be practical such as a tree planting day engaging with families.</p> <p>Students are involved in planning and delivering whole-school reflections, prayers and liturgies, and act for environmental occasions, e.g., Season of Creation, World Day of Prayer.</p>	<p>Staff take a leadership role in bringing together other schools for cluster professional learning opportunities to help animate beyond the school boundary.</p> <p>Foster engagement with community-based ecology groups and sponsor regular school activities in partnership with these external groups. Link it back to the schools' mission and operational plan.</p> <p>Student leaders conduct a whole of school ecological activity that focuses on integral ecology and animating others. Other schools are invited to attend.</p>
<p>Step 2: Build a Strong Team</p> <p><i>Create a team that represents all community stakeholders and are committed to engaging and enabling change.</i></p>	<p>Form an Earthcare Committee</p> <p>Ensure all stakeholders are represented on your committee.</p> <p>The school's Earthcare coordinator (teacher/parent) is identified.</p> <p>Earthcare Meetings</p> <p>The Earthcare Committee meets to start planning the school's Laudato Si' journey. These are student-led with adult support.</p>	<p>Earthcare Committee meets regularly.</p> <p>Students, leadership, teachers, business managers and grounds staff should be represented on your committee.</p> <p>Earthcare Committee Meetings</p> <p>The Earthcare Committee meets to manage the audit process. These are student-led with adult support.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings are kept, and progress reported back to the school community.</p>	<p>Earthcare Committee meets twice per term.</p> <p>Students share responsibility with adults to run the committee e.g., chairing, voting, taking minutes under teacher mentoring.</p> <p>Students representation from all year levels (secondary), most year levels (primary).</p> <p>Teachers, students and parents meet quarterly to review progress to become a Laudato Si' community.</p> <p><u>Maintain staff</u> representation from leadership team, parent body and grounds/ facilities, business staff.</p>	<p>Earthcare Committee meets four times per term.</p> <p>Students take responsibility to run the committee under mentorship by adults e.g., chairing, voting, taking minutes.</p> <p>The Earthcare committee has a budget allocation and a dedicated staff time allocation.</p>	<p>The Earthcare journey and the Laudato Si' goals have been embedded into the life of the school e.g., leadership positions, House activity, Awards etc.</p> <p>Integral ecology is embedded in the culture of the school where the cry of the earth and the poor are clearly heard and acted on.</p>
<p>Step 3: Define a Vision</p> <p><i>Establish how things should be in the future by developing a plan via an auditing process and reflecting on the 7 Laudato Si' goals.</i></p>	<p>Students are actively involved and "given a voice" in defining a new vision.</p> <p>The Laudato Si' goals are considered in defining your new vision.</p> <p>Reflect on what the school is currently doing concerning Laudato Si' and sustainability.</p>	<p>Undertake an audit of what the school is currently doing.</p> <p>Collect data and select a theme.</p> <p><i>Student-led audits are available for download.</i></p> <p>Form a strategic plan with prioritised goals and set targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify two themes/Laudato Si' goals to work on for the year Develop targets Nominate people responsible for managing the theme for the year. <p><i>Continued on next page.</i></p> <p>Connect to the curriculum</p>	<p>Form a strategic plan with prioritised goals and set targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 2 Laudato Si' goals /projects to work on for the year Develop targets Nominate people responsible for managing the project for the year. <p>Connect to the curriculum</p> <p>The school demonstrates links between the goals and their school curriculum.</p> <p><i>A Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download.</i></p> <p><i>Note: While these initiatives form part of a whole-school approach to implementing sustainable actions, direct connections to your curriculum need to be made.</i></p>	<p>Refine your strategic plan with prioritised goals and set targets</p> <p>Demonstrates advancement of original themes and introduces a third theme/project to action the Laudato Si' goals.</p> <p>Has demonstrated the integration of social justice ('cry of the poor') with ecological justice ('cry of the earth').</p> <p>At least one theme must involve/ engage with a group external to the school community.</p> <p><i>Continued on next page.</i></p> <p>Connect to the curriculum</p>	<p>Demonstrated continuous development of existing themes and introduction of new themes as the school undergoes a profound transformation and ecological conversion towards an ecological vocation.</p> <p>Your annual audit will determine how well you are maintaining your efforts and whether the school has addressed all the goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.</p> <p>At least two themes must involve/ engage with a group external to the school community.</p> <p>Connect to the curriculum</p> <p>Living an ecological vocation demands a comprehensive overview of ecological initiatives that are embedded in the school's curriculum at all levels.</p>

		<p>The school begins to demonstrate the links between the theme and their school curriculum.</p> <p><i>A Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download.</i></p> <p><i>Note: While these initiatives form part of a whole school approach to implementing sustainable actions, direct connections to your curriculum need to be made.</i></p>		<p>The school demonstrates links between their three themes and their school curriculum.</p> <p><i>A Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download.</i></p> <p><i>Note: While these initiatives form part of a whole-school approach to implementing sustainable actions, at this stage the school is moving towards most year levels demonstrating curriculum links to the various themes and initiatives.</i></p>	
<p>Step 4: Share the Vision</p> <p><i>Highlight your new vision and build followers across your community.</i></p>	<p>Communicate the Plan</p> <p>Your school community is informed of your proposed journey; Earthcare certificate is displayed in the main reception and on your website, social media etc. to celebrate your Earthcare journey.</p>	<p>Audit report is shared within the school community.</p> <p>Students are involved in building followers e.g., drafting articles for newsletters and magazines, posting on social media, presentations at assemblies.</p> <p>All stakeholders are involved in decision making and resulting actions.</p> <p>The school website carries direct references to the school's Earthcare Schools program.</p> <p>The principles of subsidiarity and collegiality are used for discernment.</p>	<p>Audit reports and actions are shared within the school community.</p> <p>Minutes of meetings are kept, and progress reported back to the school community.</p> <p>At least one article per term is published in the school newsletter.</p> <p>At least 2 posts per term are published on the school's social media pages.</p> <p>A photo of the Earthcare Committee is displayed in school media with an associated article.</p> <p>The principles of subsidiarity and collegiality are used for discernment.</p>	<p>Audit reports, decisions and actions are reported in the school newsletter and other media at least twice per term.</p> <p>Minutes are placed on a dedicated school notice board and a summary reported in the school's newsletter.</p> <p>Year level representatives report on the minutes to students.</p>	<p>Audit reports and plan are shared within the school community.</p> <p>Regular articles/ reports are promoted in all school publications and media, more than two times per term.</p> <p>Earthcare activities are included in the school's governance structures such as parent meetings, and council or board meetings.</p> <p>Earthcare activities are communicated outside of the school through media channels and demonstrate cooperative ventures with community groups.</p>
<p>Step 5: Empower Action</p> <p><i>Explain the importance of caring for our common home to build followers across your community.</i></p>	<p>Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school as well as the Laudato Si' goals. (<i>You can use this in your LSAP reflection</i>)</p>	<p>Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school as well as the Laudato Si' goals.</p> <p>Remove any barriers and sponsor initiatives.</p> <p>Conduct at least one Laudato Si' project aligned to the goals, showing audit baseline data.</p> <p>Encourage risk taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.</p>	<p>Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school as well as the Laudato Si' goals.</p> <p>Carry out an audit in another area addressing a new LSAP goal.</p> <p>Identify and manage obstacles to change.</p> <p>Encourage risk taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.</p>	<p>Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school.</p> <p>Carry out an audit in another area addressing a new LSAP goal.</p> <p>Demonstrate connectivity to like-minded groups and people outside of the school community.</p> <p>Identify and manage obstacles to change.</p> <p>Encourage risk-taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.</p> <p>The principles of subsidiarity, participation and collegiality are used for discernment.</p>	<p>Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school.</p> <p>Carry out an audit in another area addressing a new LSAP goal.</p> <p>Demonstrate connectivity to like-minded groups and people outside of the school community.</p> <p>Identify and manage obstacles to change.</p> <p>Encourage risk-taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.</p>
<p>Step 6: Create Quick Wins</p> <p><i>Establish achievable goals to motivate people</i></p>	<p>Build momentum 'early and often'</p> <p>Choose achievable goals by picking the low hanging fruit, i.e. demonstrate quick achievements and their meaning to your mission to build momentum.</p> <p>Celebrate "quick wins".</p> <p>Recognise and reward people involved in the process.</p> <p>Identify an obvious issue or theme to work with, going forward.</p>	<p>Build momentum 'early and often' using the Laudato Si' Goals Ideas for School's document.</p> <p>Demonstrate quick achievements and their meaning to your mission to build momentum.</p> <p>Celebrate "quick wins".</p> <p>Recognise and reward people involved in the process.</p> <p>Consolidate achievements with your single theme and start identifying areas for improvement and another theme for next year.</p>	<p>Demonstrate quick achievements and their meaning to your mission in order to build momentum.</p> <p>Recognise and reward people involved in the process.</p> <p>Consolidate achievements with your single theme and start identifying areas for improvement and a different theme for next year.</p>	<p>Recognise and reward people involved in the improvements.</p> <p>Celebrate your achievements.</p> <p>Consolidate achievements with your themes and start identifying areas for improvement and another theme for next year.</p>	<p>Demonstrate the integration of multiple themes over time into the culture and mission of the school.</p> <p>Celebrate your achievements.</p>
<p>Step 7: Track Progress and Reflect</p> <p><i>Measure and evaluate to inform the way forward</i></p>	<p>Audit current practices – how does the audit inform your choice of Earthcare projects?</p> <p>Include this audit baseline data in your Level 2 Audit sent in to Earthcare.</p>	<p>Articulate the connections between the school's charism, new behaviours and organisational success.</p> <p>Track progress and energise others through networking.</p> <p>Record all achievements and communicate these through formal meetings within the school community.</p> <p>Students undertake initial audits for your first project as outlined in your vision in Step 4.</p> <p>You can use this data to upload to the LSAP website.</p> <p>Include this audit data in your Level 2 Earthcare Schools Audit</p>	<p>Articulate the connections between the school's charism, new behaviours, and organisational success.</p> <p>Reflect upon and acknowledge improvements in processes and outcomes throughout the year.</p> <p>Gently raise the bar in each cycle of action.</p> <p>Deepen your commitment to your current theme and introduce a second theme.</p> <p>Embed action plans within renewal processes.</p> <p>Include this audit data in your Level 3 Earthcare Schools Audit</p>	<p>Track progress and energise others through networking.</p> <p>Record all achievements and communicate these through formal meetings within the school community. Upload your audit data to the LSAP website.</p> <p>Gently raise the bar in each cycle of action.</p> <p>Deepen commitments to existing themes and integrate a second theme.</p> <p><i>A peer assessment could be carried out with a like-minded school which is at the same level or at a higher level.</i></p>	<p>Work with Earthcare staff to provide a comprehensive report illustrating how all 7 Laudato Si' goals have been achieved.</p>
<p>Step 8: Animate Others</p> <p><i>Celebrate achievements and build the network by animating others</i></p>	<p>The school at this stage understands the change process required for student-led campaigns to 'animate others'.</p>	<p>Build your mission by connecting to the like-minded. Consider other community groups you can partner with.</p> <p>Share, educate and celebrate.</p> <p>Share your findings with the school community and celebrate the good work already happening.</p>	<p>Build your mission by connecting to the like-minded.</p> <p>Share, educate and celebrate.</p> <p>Host a celebration / sharing event within your school to thank everyone for their support, recognise the current initiatives, and build momentum for the next year.</p>	<p>Build your mission by linking with and encouraging like-minded schools.</p> <p>Share, educate and celebrate.</p> <p>Be part of, or host a celebration or sharing event annually, attended by other schools.</p>	<p>Become leaders and change makers by animating other schools and your community.</p> <p>Share, educate and celebrate.</p> <p>Host a sharing event for your school and demonstrate leadership in the animation of other schools.</p>