

# Level 2: Ecological Dialogue Creating Change



A Level 2 Catholic Earthcare School enters the Catholic Earthcare process with the goal of ecological conversion. It commits to a whole-school, student-led ecological dialogue with associated change actions.

- The school chooses projects within the context of the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) goals.
- Identifies and celebrates its achievements within their community.
- Uses the links between its charism and ecological dialogue to drive a commitment to change.

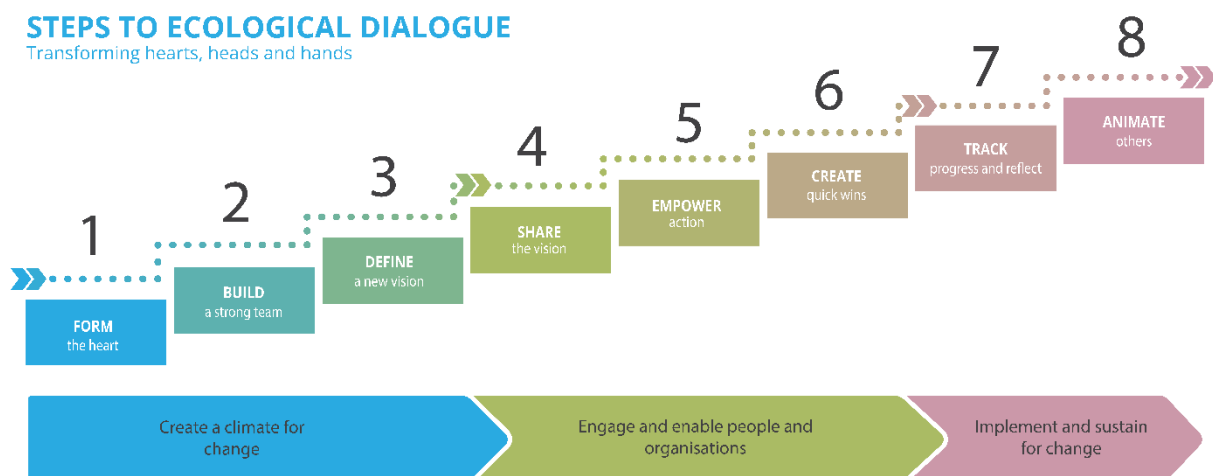
Catholic Earthcare Australia offers the following tools for you to [download](#) and use as a Level 2 Earthcare school.

- Basic Curriculum Audit
- Environmental Audit

Feel free to use audits from other sustainability organisations e.g. Resource Smart. These audits are for your own use and should inform the final audit you send to Earthcare for certification.

**Documents to complete and send to the Earthcare Schools Coordinator is the Level 2 Audit only, available on the [website](#).**

- If you are registered on the Laudato Si' Action Platform, upload your self-assessment and annual plan.



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

## STEPS TO ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

Using Catholic Earthcare Australia's Steps to Ecological Dialogue as a framework, these are the typical actions you could implement in your school at Level 2.

### 1. Form the Heart

*Using education and spirituality to come to see, know and love creation as God does.*

- Include an understanding of First Nations perspectives with regards to caring for Country within your local context.
- 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. Make formal connections between the school's charism and mission and your understanding of caring for our common home.
- 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.

### 2. Build a Strong Team

- Earthcare team meets regularly. Leadership, teachers, students, business managers and grounds staff should be represented on your team.
- The Earthcare Student Committee meets regularly to manage the audit process.
- Minutes of meetings are kept, and progress reported back to the school community.

### 3. Define the Vision

Establish your vision for the future by developing a plan via an auditing process and reflecting on the 7 Laudato Si' goals.

- **Audit:** Undertake an audit of what the school is currently doing. (Student-led audits are available for download). Feel free to use audits from other sustainability organisations e.g. Resource Smart. These audits are for your own use.
- Select a theme or project focusing on at least 2 goals of the LSAP, then collect data.
- Develop targets and nominate people responsible for managing the projects for the year.
- **Form a strategic plan** with prioritised goals and set targets. This plan can be used as your action plan to upload to the LSAP.
- **Connect to the curriculum:** the school begins to demonstrate the links between the theme and their school curriculum.

*Note: A Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download*

While these initiatives form part of a whole-school approach to implementing sustainable actions, direct connections to your curriculum need to be made at each year level.

### 4. Share the Vision

- Share your audit reports with the school community.
- Students are involved in building followers e.g., drafting articles for newsletters and magazines, posting on social media, presentations at assemblies and so on.
- Involve all stakeholders in decision making and resulting actions.

- The school website carries direct references to the school's Earthcare Schools program.
- The principles of subsidiarity and collegiality are used for discernment.

## 5. Empower Action

- Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school as well as the Laudato Si' goals.
- Remove any barriers and sponsor initiatives.
- Conduct at least two Laudato Si' projects aligned to the goals, showing audit baseline data.
- Encourage risk taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.

## 6. Create Quick Wins

- Build momentum 'early and often' i.e. choose a quick and easy project that can be achieved and showcased in a short amount of time. You may want to use the [Laudato Si' Goals Ideas for Schools](#).
- Demonstrate quick achievements and their meaning to your mission to build momentum.
- Celebrate 'quick wins'.
- Recognise and reward people involved in the process.
- Consolidate achievements within your projects and start identifying areas for improvement. Will you improve on this theme or choose a new one?

## 7. Track Progress and Reflect

- Articulate the connections between the school's charism, new behaviours and organisational success.
- Track progress and energise others through networking.
- Record all achievements and communicate these through formal meetings within the school community.
- Students undertake audits for projects as outlined in your vision.

You can use this data to upload on to the Laudato Si' Action Platform.  
Include this audit data in your Level 2 Earthcare Schools Audit.

## 8. Animate Others

- Build your mission by connecting to other like-minded people, network and inspire others.
- Share, educate and celebrate.
- Share your findings with the school community and celebrate the good work already happening.