



Level 3: Ecological Conversion and Sustained Change



A Level 3 Catholic Earthcare School commits to a 'whole of school' ecological conversion through sustained student-led ecological changes.

- The school uses its links between its charism and ecological dialogue to drive commitment to change.
- Undertakes ecological dialogue by actioning 2 **new** goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform.
- Fosters engagement with community-based ecological groups and sponsors regular school activities in partnership with these external groups. Links projects back to the school's mission and operational plan.
- Plans and activities will result from the school being supportive of student-led change actions.
- Conducts further audits and makes ecological changes based on data. Completes the curriculum audit and evaluation.

Tools we offer to [download](#) for your own use:

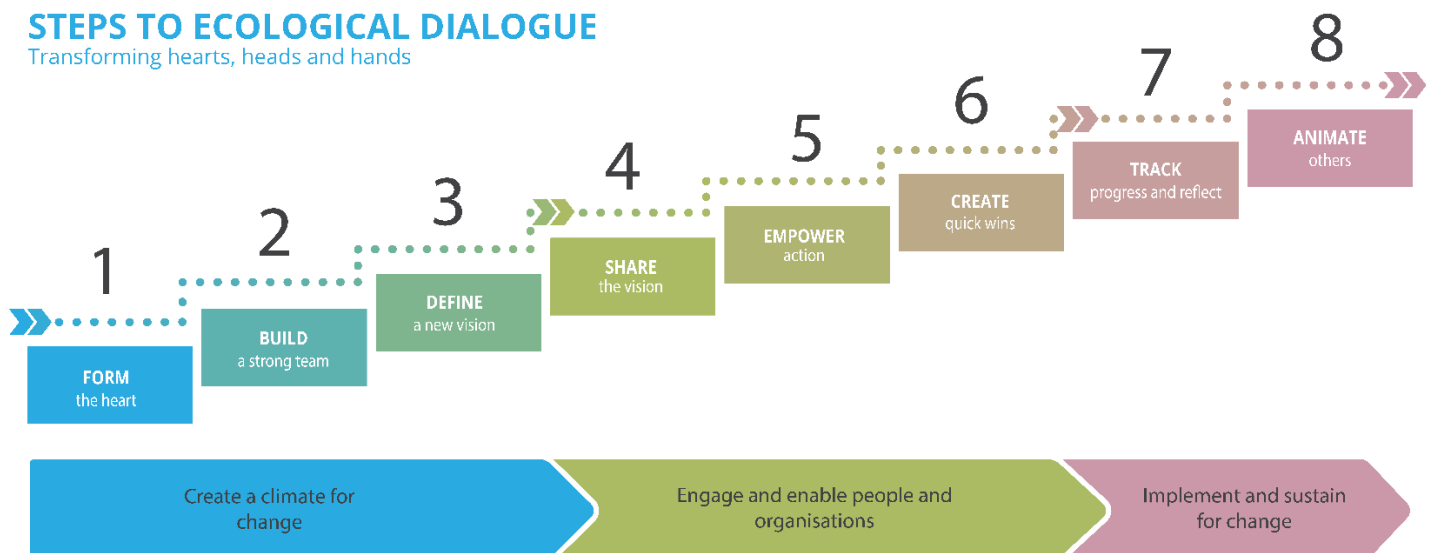
- Detailed Curriculum Audit
- Environmental Audit
- Student-Led Action Plan sample

Feel free to use audits from other sustainability organisations. 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 are the Level 3 Audit only. If you are registered on the Laudato Si' Action Platform, upload your self-assessment and annual plan.

STEPS TO ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

Transforming hearts, heads and hands



Using the Steps to Ecological Dialogue as a framework, these are the typical actions you could implement in your school at Level 3.

1. Form the Heart

- Conduct a whole of school ecological contemplative/ reflection activity which includes connection to Country and local ecology. This should engage all staff, including ancillary, administration, and teaching staff.
- Students have begun an ecological conversion process and take sustained actions to address the Laudato Si' goals.
- Celebrate the Season of Creation.
- Include an understanding of First Nations perspectives with regards to caring for Country within your local context.

2. Build a Strong Team

- Earthcare Student Committee meetings held twice per term.
- Students share responsibility with adults to run the committee e.g. chairing, voting, taking minutes (under teacher mentoring).
- Students from all year levels are represented (secondary), most year levels (primary).
- The Earthcare Team (teachers, students and parents) meet quarterly to review progress on their journey to become a Laudato Si' community.
- If possible, include representation from the leadership team, parent body, grounds/ facilities and business staff.

3. Define the Vision

- Form a strategic plan with prioritised goals and set targets.
- Identify 2 new Laudato Si' goals /projects to work on for the year.
- Develop targets.
- Nominate people responsible for managing the project for the year.
- **Connect to the curriculum:** the school demonstrates the links between the themes/goals and their school curriculum.

Note: A detailed Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download.

4. Share the Vision

- Audit reports and actions are shared within the school community.
- Minutes of meetings are kept and progress is reported back to the school community.
- At least one Earthcare article per term is published in the school newsletter.
- At least 2 Earthcare posts per term are published on the school's social media platforms.
- Display a photo of the Earthcare Committee in school media with an related article.
- 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.
- Carry out an audit in another area addressing your 2 new Laudato Si' Action goals.
- Identify and manage obstacles to change.
- Encourage risk taking and non-traditional ideas, activities and actions.

6. Create Quick Wins

- Demonstrate quick achievements and their meaning to your mission to build momentum.
- Recognise and reward people involved in the process.
- Consolidate achievements within your themes/projects and start identifying areas for improvement and some different themes for the next cycle/year.

7. Track Progress and Reflect

- Articulate the connections between the school's charism, new behaviours, and organisational success.
- Reflect upon and acknowledge improvements in processes and outcomes throughout the year.
- Gently raise the bar in each cycle of action.
- Deepen your commitment to your current theme and introduce a second theme.
- Embed action plans within renewal processes.

Include any raw data in your Level 3 Audit sent to Earthcare.

* The only document to complete and send to the Earthcare Schools Coordinator is the Level 3 Audit.

8. Animate Others

- Build your mission by connecting to the like-minded.
- Share, educate and celebrate.
- 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.