

Level 4

Deep Ecological Conversion Creating Cultural Change



A Level 4 Catholic Earthcare School demonstrates a deep ecological conversion through networking and collaboration, whereby the school community has undergone a cultural change.

There is a strong commitment to ecological dialogue and conversation through a documented journey of sustained, student-led change actions.

The school undertakes ecological dialogue by actioning 2 more goals of the Laudato Si' Action Platform bringing the total to 6 goals.

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.

Conducts audits and makes ecological changes based on data.

Tools we offer to [download](#) for your own use are a Level 4 Checklist. It is expected by this stage the Laudato Si' principles will be embedded in the whole-school curriculum and that audits would be occurring on an 'as needs' basis.

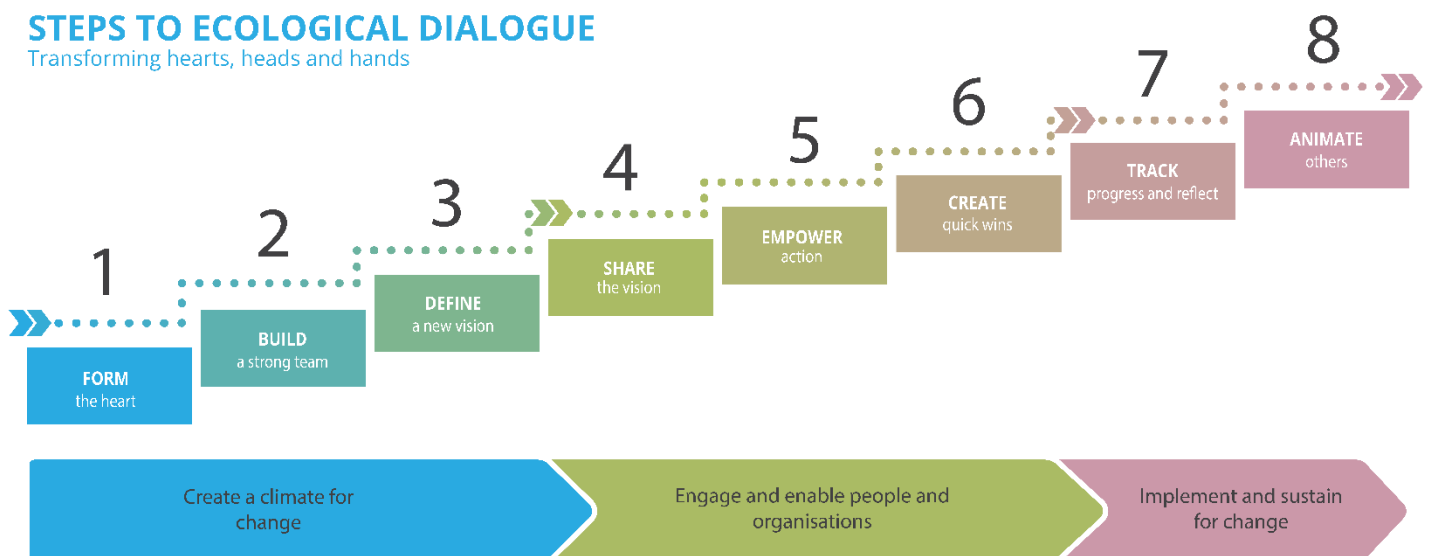
Use the level 4 Checklist as a guide to complete an action plan. Share this action plan with a peer school and Earthcare. The provide the peer-assessed report to Earthcare.

Documents to submit to Earthcare are an action plan and report outlining how you are almost a Level 5 Earthcare school.

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



STEPS TO ECOLOGICAL DIALOGUE

Using the Steps to Ecological Dialogue as a framework, these are the typical actions you could implement in your school at Level 4.

1. Form the Heart

- Embed a whole of staff ecological contemplative/ reflection activity to engage with connection to Country and our ecology.
- Design and deliver a school community engagement event / activity focussed on eco-literacy. This could be more practical orientated such as a tree planting day engaging with families.
- Students are involved in planning and delivering whole-school reflections, prayers and liturgies and take action for environmental occasions. E.g., Season of Creation, World Day of Prayer.

2. Build a Strong Team

- Earthcare Student Committee meets four times per term.
- Students take responsibility to run the committee under mentorship by adults e.g., chairing, voting, taking minutes.
- The Earthcare Committee has a budget allocation and a dedicated staff time allocation.

3. Define the Vision

- Refine your Action Plan with prioritised goals and set targets.
- Demonstrates advancement of original themes and introduces the final seventh theme/project to action the Laudato Si' goals.
- Has demonstrated the integration of social justice ('cry of the poor') with ecological justice ('cry of the earth').
- At least one theme must involve/ engage with a group external to the school community.
- **Connect to the curriculum:** The school demonstrates links between the Laudato Si' Action Platform goals and their school curriculum.

A Curriculum Audit Tool is available for download

Note: While these initiatives form part of a whole school approach to implementing sustainable actions, at this stage the school is moving towards all year levels demonstrating curriculum links to the various themes and initiatives.

4. Share the Vision

- Audit reports, decisions and actions are reported in the school newsletter and other media at least twice per term.
- Minutes are placed on a dedicated school notice board and a summary reported in the school's newsletter.
- Year level representatives report on the minutes to students.

5. Empower Action

- Demonstrate how actions are aligned to the charism and vision of the school.
- Carry out an audit in another area addressing the new LSAP goals.
- Demonstrate connectivity to like-minded groups and people outside of the school community.
- Identify and manage obstacles to change.
- Encourage risk-taking and non-traditional ideas, activities, and actions.
- The principles of subsidiarity, participation and collegiality are used for discernment.

6. Create Quick Wins

- Recognise and reward people involved in the improvements.
- Celebrate your achievements.
- Consolidate achievements with your themes and start identifying areas for improvement and another theme for next year.

7. Track Progress and Reflect

- Track progress and energise others through networking.
- Record all achievements and communicate these through formal meetings within the school community. Upload your audit data on to the LSAP website.
- Gently raise the bar in each cycle of action.
- Deepen commitments to existing themes and integrate a second theme.
- A peer assessment will be carried out together with a like-minded school.

8. Animate Others

- Build your mission by linking with and encouraging like-minded schools.
- Share, educate and celebrate.
- Be part of, or host a celebration or sharing event annually, attended by other schools.