



A User Guide to Earthcare Schools Documents and Levels



A PROGRAM OF  Caritas AUSTRALIA

The Catholic Earthcare Australia Schools Program has 5 levels. There is a guide for each level, depending on which stage your school is at, on its sustainability journey. You will notice that each of the 5 levels are informed by the Steps to Ecological Dialogue.

At Levels 2, 3 and 4 there is an accompanying audit which will need to be completed and submitted to the Catholic Earthcare Schools Coordinator. At Level 1 there is no documentation required. Level 4 schools are asked to produce a report using the checklist provided by Catholic Earthcare Australia. The 'Level Guides' and 'Steps to Ecological Dialogue' are your master documents for the Catholic Earthcare Australia Schools Certification process.

Use the individual level guide document for the appropriate level for your school. **There is only one audit that you complete and send in to Earthcare to gain the next level. Other downloadable documents are offered as tools to assist you.**

Download Earthcare Schools documents [here](#).

Please note: For the purposes of this document "Earthcare" means Catholic Earthcare Australia.

*Auditing tools for data measurement

You can use **either** Earthcare environmental audits or audits from another reputable organisation; see suggestions below.

[Eco-Schools Australia](#)

[ResourceSmart Victoria](#) for various modules with audits

[Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative](#) South Australia

[Sustainable Schools Queensland](#)

[Sustainable Schools NSW](#)

[Sustainable Schools WA](#)

LEVEL 1

Register with Catholic Earthcare Schools and inform us of any ecological practice already undertaken. Become familiar with the certification criteria and the 8 Steps to Ecological Dialogue.

No Earthcare documentation required.

LEVEL 2

Use the tools and Level 2 Earthcare Audit to gauge how your school has actioned 2 chosen Laudato Si' goals and created change.

Tools we offer:

- Environmental Audit: Choose the one appropriate to your situation: Early Years, Primary or Secondary; or choose one from the list above*. Use the data collected in your audit for your Earthcare Schools Audit.
- Basic Curriculum Audit

Download, complete and submit the Level 2 Earthcare Schools Audit to receive Level 2 certification. You are now ready to undertake the Level 3 challenge.

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LEVEL 3

For schools that are sustaining change and are well on their way to ecological conversion. Create a revised action plan based on data you collected in Level 2. Choose 2 **new** Laudato Si' goals to action in Level 3.

Tools we offer:

- Environmental Audit: Choose the one appropriate to your situation: Early Years, Primary or Secondary; or choose one from the above list *
- Detailed Curriculum Audit

Download, complete and submit the Level 3 Earthcare Schools Audit to receive Level 3 certification. You are now ready to undertake the Level 4 challenge.

LEVEL 4

Schools that have committed to a whole school ecological conversion through sustained student-led ecological changes and are beginning to animate others. 2 **more** Laudato Si' goals that have not been actioned previously, need to be chosen to action at this level.

Tools we offer: Download and use the checklist for Level 4 as a guide for your report.

Earthcare Documents required: Schools will provide a **report** showing how they have actioned 6 of the Laudato Si' goals using the checklist provided as a guide.

LEVEL 5

Schools will choose their final Laudato Si' goal to action, they will become leaders and change makers. Schools at Level 5 will have actioned a total of 7 Laudato Si' goals in 5-7 years.

Earthcare Documents required: Schools will work with Earthcare staff on a **comprehensive report** showcasing the 8 Earthcare Steps to Ecological Dialogue and illustrating how all Laudato Si' Action goals have been achieved.