Parish Stewardship of Creation Action Plan: List of Ideas in Each Category/Goal

Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth: a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address biodiversity, promote sustainable agriculture, and guarantee access to clean water for all

* 1. conduct an energy audit
  2. install solar panels
  3. insulate buildings
  4. use renewable energy credits
  5. install efficient appliances
  6. plant native trees
  7. plant native gardens
  8. remove invasive species
  9. practice regenerative agriculture
  10. protect pollinators
  11. ensure sensible fertilizer application
  12. institute conservative irrigation models
  13. plant buffers along waterways
  14. manage water drainage
  15. institute regular litter prevention and removal campaigns
  16. pursue conservation schemes

Goal 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor: a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to natural death and all forms of life on Earth

2.1 develop educational events to encourage the defense of human life from conception to natural death

2.2 explore the past and current forms of slavery/human trafficking and implement an anti-slavery/trafficking campaign

2.3 ensure members of the community have free access to water

2.4 ensure members of the community are fully trained in hygiene best practices

2.5 ensure Indigenous people retain the rights to their lands and waters

2.6 elevate the leadership of Indigenous people on ecological issues

2.7 ensure members of the community have regular free access to green space

2.8 ensure that children are protected from air pollution in places where they play and study

2.9 identify challenges caused by failing social systems and who is likely to be most vulnerable

2.10 in solidarity with those affected by failed systems, support programs that address immediate, short-term needs

2.11 in solidarity with those affected by failed systems, support programs that address the underlying causes of social inequality

2.12 engage elders to promote awareness of collective practices that have helped overcome community challenges

2.13 promote initiatives that use existing resources to serve the wider public

2.14 as part of your budgeting process, define what is “enough” for your community and if possible donate to projects that create equitable social systems

2.15 hold social or ecological action days

Goal 3: Ecological Economics: acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

3.1 promote the sharing of goods

3.2 purchase recycled and sustainable materials

3.3 divest from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to people and the planet, or sign the pledge for no future investment

3.4 invest in socially responsible enterprises (e.g. renewable energy)

3.5 choose an ethical banking company

3.6 choose an ethical insurance company

3.7 purchase from businesses with ethical wags and a commitment to sustainability

3.8 take a ‘total cost of ownership’ approach to what you buy

3.9 purchase goods from local retailers

3.10 support good jobs with livable wages and benefits

3.11 support cooperative management practices

3.12 ensure that those who perform ‘care labor’ are well supported

3.13 teach and practice gift economy values

Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles: grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy

4.1 install efficient lighting

4.2 reduce use of heating and air conditioning

4.3 install low-flow fixtures

4.4 use low-emission vehicles

4.5 reduce flying

4.6 reduce car trips

4.7 reduce food waste

4.8 compost

4.9 buy food from local produces whenever possible

4.10 transition diet from meat-based to plant-based as much as possible

4.11 eliminate the use of disposable plastic and Stryofoam

4.12 recycle as much as possible

4.13 reduce purchases of new consumer goods

Goal 5: Ecological Education: re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and transformative action

5.1 develop and implement a Laudato Si’ education plan

5.2 ensure members of the community are familiar with the local ecosystem

5.3 ensure members of the community are familiar with the science of the ecological crisis and its social dimensions

5.4 ensure members of the community are familiar with ecological virtues

5.5 develop opportunities for community members to learn about local ecology by restoring a piece of land

5.6 create ways for educators to connect with nature and to undergo ecological conversions

5.7 create opportunities for youth-led Laudato Si’ initiatives

5.8 develop mechanisms to publicly recognize young people for their leadership

5.9 regularly highlight Laudato Si’ themes in your internal communication channels

5.10 encourage community members to complete a Laudato Si’ Plan or use another planning tool

5.11 ensure frequent under-represented groups have access to education

5.12 ensure a wide variety of people shape the vision and implementation of education programs

5.13 offer culturally appropriate modes of education and/or offer alternative forms of education

5.14 ensure that education includes promotion of human rights and dignity

Goal 6: Ecological Spirituality: ecological conversion and “discover God in all things” through the beauty of creation, in the sighs of the sick, and the groans of the afflicted

6.1 regularly include Laudato Si’ themes in homilies

6.2 include Laudato Si’ themes in the celebration of liturgical moments

6.3 regularly include Laudato Si’ themes in shared prayers

6.4 co-host a Season of Creation event with another community

6.5 publicly pray during the Season of Creation

6.6 develop a Season of Creation spiritual practice and observe it each year

6.7 publish annual statements of support for the Season of Creation

6.8 speak about Laudato Si’ within the community

6.9 make Laudato Si’ study and prayer guides available

6.10 bless a natural space as a reflection or meditation area and regularly pray outdoors

6.11 regularly host outdoor prayer services

6.12 create a prayer, journal, bulletin board, or other way of recording and sharing prayers made in nature

6.13 visit another faith community to discuss your social and ecological initiatives

Goal 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment: envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels

7.1 identify a social/environmental policy focus

7.2 create institutional structures to manage Laudato Si’ initiatives

7.3 organize public community events with officials to discuss advocacy issues

7.4 organize private meetings with officials to discuss advocacy issues

7.5 maintain a regular review of local, regional, or national policies and share updates with the community; use this to inform engagement with decision-makers

7.6 make public statements about advocacy issues

7.7 organize social/ecological events

7.8 regularly explore the local ecosystem as a group

7.9 promote integral ecology in public communications channels

7.10 identify ways the Church can support ecological programs or groups

7.11 develop a community coalition to prepare for and respond to emergent social crises

7.12 develop a coalition with other groups and approach decision-makers in a united way

7.13 analyze the physical, social, and spiritual ways your community is likely to be affected by climate change and biodiversity loss; make a plan to resiliently prepare for those changes

7.14 ensure buildings are prepared for change in heat, storm intensity, and sea-level rise

7.15 ensure members of the community are able to travel to other locations in the event of a weather emergency