

---

## AJCU Laudato Si Commission

# SUMMER 2023 MEMBER HANDBOOK

---

*“Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”*  
- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*

-----  
*“Action on behalf of life transforms. Because the relationship between self and the world is reciprocal. . . . As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us.”*  
— Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*

---

### Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Commission Charter</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Commission members assigned to initial discussion groups</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Laudato Si goals and university action plans</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Collective impact approach</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Potential partners and examples: a preliminary list</b>	<b>9</b>
Laudato Si’ and environmental justice resources	9
STARS - The sustainability tracking, assessment and rating system	11
Collective action across universities for sustainability - the University of CA example	13
<b>Topical working groups</b>	<b>14</b>
Business Operations Working Group - sample actions	15
Community Formation Working Group - sample actions	19
Academic Affairs Working Group - sample actions	23
Civic Engagement Working Group - sample actions	26
Networking Working Group - sample actions	29

---

## Introduction

*Dear Colleagues,*

*Our Commission's overall charge is to present at the AJCU Faith, Justice, & Reconciliation Assembly 2024, a set of Laudato Si' inspired transformative actions that would clearly demonstrate a Jesuit university's commitment to making environmental sustainability and justice a hallmark of the institution's operational and educational mission. These transformative actions must, in various ways, challenge and engage the university; and, at the same time, the actions must be doable within and across AJCU Universities.*

*You were nominated to become part of this commission based on your notable work, so we know that you already have many excellent ideas. As we begin to think about our work ahead and the process of shaping a menu of options that will then be prioritized through a decrement process in fall of 2023, we encourage you to both draw from your experiences and engage in a wide range of possible actions.*

*Now that we have created a shared vision through revisions to our Commission's charter, several of our next steps include developing a shared vocabulary, frameworks (e.g., Laudato Si' Action Plans and the collective impact model), and several examples of the changes that we could propose to build together. We ask you to carefully read the first 13 pages of this guide, where we established several key concepts and assigned members to several discussion groups.*

*You can then browse through the many brief sample actions to see if any idea or combination of ideas surface that might be open to development into a transformative action. The purpose of working through these ideas is to fast-track our thinking and not reinvent pre-conceived actions. To further direct the brows, general topics have been created within which related ideas are listed. Each member is invited to join one or two topical discussion groups so as to further focus our browsing and idea incubation. The ideas are loosely grouped under each working group topic, though many ideas could be listed under more than one working group. This is why members should look through not only the ideas within their working group, but also the ideas listed under the other working groups.*

*From now till the end of August, we hope that group members can think about their ideas and exchange several communications to develop 2-4 ideas. These ideas will become the focus of our Commission's first fall meetings, during which we hope that the number of ideas could be further reduced so we get closer to the set of transformative actions we want to prepare for the AJCU Assembly.*

*This Handbook compiles our work to date and outlines the timeline for the next year in greater detail, it contains a wealth of ideas to incubate the imagination. The sources of the ideas are: the April Commission meeting discussion (and follow-up), University Pathways, select sustainability practices within US Jesuit universities, STARS, and the University of California sustainability program.*

*We encourage folks to look for examples of creative and effective implementation and imagine bold goals. We know that there is particular power in the possibility of individual universities developing Laudato Si' action plans and our Commission's planned work to compile exciting LS' Action Plans, including details of the goals and actions plans. Building from the shared agenda offered in the LS' Goals, the activities of combining goals and implementation progress across universities can start to leverage our collective impact (see collective impact model below). Beyond simply creating an inventory of existing actions at individual institutions, we anticipate that this Commission will engage in a process of fostering collective impact (see section below) that includes new proposals for action, sharing best practices, and*

*more effectively leveraging institutional strengths and accessing new additional resources to advance sustainability and environmental justice.*

*We anticipate moving toward a consensus on shared criteria for identifying priority projects/ideas in our meetings this fall. In order to get started here is a set of preliminary criteria that may help those with more existing ideas that may already be in practice further shape their proposal, these criteria are:*

- 1. Inspired by Laudato Si' Goals*
- 2. Ambitious and potentially transformative actions that go beyond business as usual*
- 3. Leads to tangible impacts that advance sustainability and environmental justice*
- 4. Uses a collective impact approach*
- 5. Feasible and could be implemented by most (if not all) AJCU Universities*
- 6. Institutions could pilot the proposed project before July '24*
- 7. Leverages strengths and collective action across AJCU Universities*

*To advance this work, we offer this Handbook as one of the starting points. We ask for forgiveness as we know it is hardly a work of art at this stage, but we hope that it offers useful background, vocabulary, frameworks, examples, and a bit of inspiration for our work ahead.*

*On page 5, you will see that we assigned you to an initial discussion group or two (these can change or may dissolve over time, so don't let this limit your creativity). From now till the end of August, we hope that group members can think about their ideas and exchange several communications to develop 2-4 ideas that will become the focus of our Commission's first fall meetings. During the fall, we will narrow the list to focus on a set of transformative actions we want to prepare for the AJCU Assembly.*

*In summary, we are asking you to:*

- 1. Carefully review the commission charter, Laudato Si' Action Goals, the Collective Impact Model, existing programs, and examples from other institutions.*
- 2. Note the discussion group or groups that you have been assigned. Think about your own ideas and browse through all the ideas with attention to those that are pertinent to your working group's topic.*
- 3. During the rest of July and August, communicate - at least a little - within your discussion group to see if the group wants to bring several ideas for discussion at the next Commission meeting.*

*We see this as a living document, and we hope that you consider adding other examples and important work that you and others are already doing - or could do - to develop LS' Inspired transformative change.*

*In Solidarity and Towards a Just Sustainability*

*- Chris and Mike*

## Commission Charter

Countering today's global climate and ecological crisis is a supreme challenge of our time. Piece-meal, short-term responses are not enough. As Pope Francis highlights in his encyclical *Laudato Sí*, more of us must hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. As part of a response, all people of goodwill are further called upon to engage in an 'ecological conversion' to truly grasp nature's intricacies and intrinsic value, the links between social justice, environmental justice and spirituality, and the consequent responsibilities we have to Earth and each other. These are features of an integral ecology, the *Laudato Sí*-recommended, comprehensive orientation we need to heal our common home.

Universities and colleges are privileged locations for teaching and exemplifying Integral Ecology. This privilege is especially true of institutions founded by the Society of Jesus and inspired by the Jesuit's Fourth Apostolic Preference: 'Caring for our Common Home: Collaborate, with Gospel Depth, for the Protection and Renewal of God's Creation.' Knowing the urgent cry of the Earth and its poor, inspired by Pope Francis' vision of an integral ecology, and assigned by the Society of Jesus and Pope Francis to be in solidarity with all creation, how can we make integral ecology a hallmark of our Jesuit colleges and universities in their operations, academic affairs, community formation, and civic engagement?

The purpose of the *Laudato Sí* Commission for the AJCU Faith, Justice & Reconciliation Assembly in 2024 is to show "how Jesuit colleges and universities can respond to some of our society's deepest concerns" and "propose specific steps for that response." In the months leading up to the 2024 Assembly, the *Laudato Sí* Commission will work through and winnow submitted ideas until arriving at a set of transformative, actionable recommendations for making integral ecology a hallmark of our Jesuit colleges and universities.

## Commission members assigned to initial discussion groups

<b>Commission Member / Discussion Group</b>	<b>Business Operations</b>	<b>Community Formation</b>	<b>Academic Affairs</b>	<b>Civic Engagement</b>	<b>Networking</b>
Bacon Co-Chair; Assoc. Professor, Environmental Studies Santa Clara University (SCU)	Chris		Chris	Chris	Chris
Doug Christie Professor, Theology Loyola Marymount University		Doug			
Yolanda Cieters Sustainability Manager, Seattle University	Yolanda				
Dan Dileo Professor, Theology; Director, Justice & Peace Studies Creighton University	Dan			Dan	
Jennifer Eagleton Associate Director, Environmental Justice Program Georgetown University			Jennifer		
Julie Gafney Director, Center for Engaged Learning Fordham University			Julie	Julie	
Tracy Harvey Director, Sustainability Program Loyola Maryland University	Tracy				Tracy
Mary Haskins Professor, Biology Rockhurst University			Mary		
Brian Henning Director, Center for Climate, Society & Environment Gonzaga University		Brian			Brian
Lindsey Kalkbrenner Director, Office of Sustainability SCU	Lindsey				
Alice Kaswan Professor, School of Law University of San Francisco (USF)			Alice	Alice	
Sergio De La Torre Professor, Fine Arts USF				Sergio	
Cathy Liebowitz Director, Sustainability Program College of Holy Cross	Cathy				Cathy
Mark Mackey Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Sustainability Loyola University Chicago		Mark			
Sue Margulis Professor, Biology and Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation Canisius College			Sue		Sue
Chad Raphael Professor, Communications SCU			Chad		Chad
Jeanette Rodriguez Professor, Theology Seattle University	Jeanette				Jeanette
Tom Ryan Vice President, Mission & Identity Loyola New Orleans University		Tom			
Mike Schuck Co-Chair; Professor, Theology & School of Environmental Sustainability Loyola University Chicago		Mike	Mike		Mike
Nancy Tuchman Dean, School of Environmental Sustainability Loyola University Chicago	Nancy			Nancy	Nancy
Mariah Webinger Associate Professor, Accounting John Carroll University		Mariah		Mariah	
Proposed Discussion Group Coordinator (please send the first email to get the discussion started)	Cathy	Tom	Jennifer	Julie	Chad

## Laudato Si goals and university action plans <sup>1</sup>

“In 2015, Pope Francis released his landmark encyclical letter *Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home* which focuses on caring for the natural environment and all people, as well as broader questions about the relationship between God, humans, and the Earth. The encyclical’s subtitle, “Care for Our Common Home,” reinforces these key themes.

Moved by this encyclical, many people around the world turned their attention to care for the Earth and human society. On the 5th Anniversary of *Laudato Si’*, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development announced a yearlong celebration with a series of initiatives and events worldwide, culminating with the launch of a *Laudato Si’ Action Platform* and Pope Francis’ *7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology*.

Colleges and universities began signing Commitment Letters and enrolling in the Journey in October 2021. Pope Francis asked universities in Year 1 of the Journey to take these 7 Laudato Si’ goals and 1) see how university’s actions are already addressing one or more of these goals, 2) find additional transformative actions within universities that could generate further positive outcomes for the natural world and human society, and 3) bring current and new actions into a Laudato Si’ Plan that can be monitored and adjusted for the next six years.”

The Laudato Si’ Goals are guides on our path to renewal. Together, they offer a holistic approach to social, cultural and economic transformation.



After signing the commitment letters, Universities across the AJCU are developing action plans that respond to Pope Francis’ 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology.

To better understand the state of LS’ Action Planning at AJCU Universities the Commission Co-chairs are conducting a rapid assessment of these activities. Families, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, businesses, religious orders, and community organizations are also developing these plans, opening up possibilities for cross sectoral collaboration.

---

<sup>1</sup> This section is copied from the Sustainable SCU: Leading Through Laudato Si’ Study Guide. Produced by Santa Clara University and available here: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vD8SVZY\\_cvUxq\\_q9yoozpa1-h8EILJHSfIZ4Vge928/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vD8SVZY_cvUxq_q9yoozpa1-h8EILJHSfIZ4Vge928/edit)

## Timeline

- **Winter 2023 – Who is in the group and what is our charge?** AJCU President Fr. Garanzini Selects Commission Co-Chairs. Nominations sent by Provosts, faculty, Mission Officers and others. Commission invites sent and commission formed.
- **Spring 2023** – First meeting held at Santa Clara University’s Climate and Environmental Justice Conference April 28, 2023- Getting to know each other, reviewing our charge, initial brainstorming of potential ideas for action and working groups.
- **Summer 2023** – \*\* Optional \*\* – Expanded idea collection and initial refinement through participation in working groups to share ideas. Skim background documents.
- **Fall -2023 – What do “we” propose to do?**
  - Meeting 1: What LS’ related work is already happening in AJCU Universities and what can we learn from other exemplary projects? Sharing research on best practices, report-back from brainstorming and discussion on topical groups orientation, and prep of project proposals for the menu that will inform the discernment process in Fall meeting 2 (60 min)
  - Meeting 2: Discerning priority projects to refine during 2024. (90 min meeting). Details of the discernment process to be announced before meeting 2.
- **Winter 2024 – How will we do it?** Developing and piloting proposals for change.
  - Further developing the priority project ideas.
  - Early winter we need a draft of our plans for the AJCU Justice conference.
  - Planning the workshop, developing the outputs/ideas, piloting/experimenting with key contributions in the menu options.
- **Spring 2024 – Let’s do it.** Final paper, dissemination paper, and draft presentation released. Workshop plans for the conference. Reports come in from pilot projects and are drafted and shared with smaller groups of universities that are collaborating together.
- July 16-19, 2024 – **Let’s share it.** AJCU Faith, Justice & Reconciliation Assembly, Loyola University Chicago. Attend and participate sharing our stories, recruiting participants for larger projects, seeking the resources.
- **Post Conference – Let’s scale it.** Key projects that have compelling ideas are taken up by University leadership across the region and the process of continually improving and scaling continues, with a focus on thoughtful implementation.

## Collective impact approach

One way that we propose to work together is through a [collective impact model](#). We can think of **collective impact as the commitment of a group of important actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a specific social problem at scale**. We borrowed from and then annotated the [Collective Impact Forum](#) and the [Community Toolbox's](#) useful summary of key elements of successful collective impact initiatives, including:

- **Common Agenda**
  - All participants share a vision for change that includes a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it.
  - Comments - We have much of this in the Laudato Si' Goals and our Commission charter. But it's good to clarify which problems have priority and how universities in this collaboration could approach/solve them together.
- **Shared Measurement**
  - All participating organizations agree on the ways success will be measured and reported, with a short list of common indicators identified and used for learning and improvement.
  - Comments - This will need to be defined for the initiatives that we prioritize. For an example of a shared measurement system see the STARS system below.
- **Mutually Reinforcing Activities**
  - A diverse set of stakeholders, typically across sectors, coordinate a set of differentiated activities through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.
  - Comments - Most proposals would need to think through this part carefully to find the opportunities for strategic collaboration across universities and possibilities of continual improvement through friendly competition.
- **Continuous Communication**
  - All players engage in frequent and structured open communication to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.
  - Comments - New proposals should include some way to facilitate internal and external communications.
- **Backbone Support**
  - That means having a team dedicated to aligning and coordinating the work of the group.
  - Comments - At many universities, there are dedicated staff and faculty to help make some of the actions happen on campus and proposals, in other cases volunteer and new positions may need to be proposed. Over time proposals will need to explain how they will be resourced.

*There are two aspects to every university. The first and most evident is that it deals with culture, with knowledge, the use of the intellect. The second, and not so evident, is that it must be concerned with the social reality--precisely because a university is inescapably a social force: it must transform and enlighten the society in which it lives. But how does it do that? How does a university transform the social reality of which it is so much a part?*

*- Fr. Ellacuría, Ignacio, S.J. , 1982*



## Potential partners and examples: a preliminary list

### Laudato Si' and environmental justice resources<sup>2</sup>

- “A Guidebook for [Laudato Si' Universities](#) - taking up Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology puts his landmark encyclical, Laudato Si', into action. Families, dioceses, schools, universities, hospitals, business, religious orders, and community organizations are now challenged to do the magis—the more—to heal the Earth.
- Research Guide  
Chad Raphael. [Engaged scholarship for environmental justice: A guide](#).  
An overview and guide to designing community-engaged, participatory research and arts projects for faculty, students, and community-based partners. Briefly grounds community-engaged approach to research in Jesuit pedagogy.
- Reading and Discussion Guides to Laudato Si'  
Pope Francis, [Encyclical Letter Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home](#)  
David DeCosse and Brian Green, [Ethics and Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter Laudato Si': A Teaching Module](#)  
Thomas Reese, SJ, [A Reader's Guide to Laudato Si'](#)  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home Discussion Guide](#)
- Additional Statements  
Journeying toward Care for Our Common Home ([summary](#) / [full text](#))  
Document developed by several Vatican Dicasteries marking the five-year anniversary of Laudato Si' includes more detailed steps toward integral ecology for universities and other institutions, including fossil fuel divestment.  
Fratelli Tutti ([summary](#) / [full text](#))  
Papal encyclical letter of 2020 addressing justice and social friendship in relationships, social life, politics and institutions
- Laudato Si' Action and Activism  
[Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)  
Goals and action steps, including for [universities](#).
- [Ignatian Solidarity Network](#)  
A national social and environmental justice network for Jesuit higher education and Catholic social ministry organizations. See their [21 Day Environmental Justice Challenge](#), an excellent collection of videos, podcasts, readings, and activities focused on different environmental justice issues each day. Includes a [network of educators](#), [environmental legislation advocacy program](#), [21 Day Racial Justice Challenge](#), and the [Catholic Community Ethical Purchasing Alliance](#) (for institutions) and other [campaigns](#).
- [Catholic Climate Covenant](#)  
A national organization addressing climate change and climate justice through an array of [programs](#), including advocacy, community organizing, education, and reducing the climate footprint of Catholic institutions.

---

<sup>2</sup> These resources are copied from SCU's Environmental Justice and Common Good Initiative's Website and are available here: <https://www.scu.edu/ej/programs-/jesuit-education-network/jesuit-education-resources/>

- “Catholic Charities  
Some chapters have EJ programs, such as the [Diocese of Stockton](#), and the organization has several [advocacy initiatives](#)
- Sustainability and Justice in Jesuit Education  
[AJCU Ecology Educators](#) and [International Jesuit Ecology Project](#)  
Reflections on, and visions of, an Ignatian pedagogy of sustainability.
- [AJCU Integral Ecology Affinity Group](#) Strengthens research, education, and community engagement to advance environmental and economic justice.
- DeCosse, D., & Ladrigan-Whelpley, T. (Eds.). (2016). [Our future on a shared planet](#) (special issue). *Explore*, 19 (Spring).  
Essays on Laudato Si’ and Silicon Valley, climate science and climate justice, environmental justice, public policy, social action, and a sustainable economy.
- [Ecojesuit](#)  
Online journal for the exchange of ideas and practices on a broad array of ecological and social issues around the world, especially water and watershed management, mineral development, food security, climate change, disaster risk resilience, renewable and alternative energy, Indigenous Peoples and cultural integrity, and sustainable development.
- Ladrigan-Whelpley, T. (Ed.). (2018). [Is there a common good in our common home?](#) (special issue). *Explore*, 20 (Spring).
- Essays on the common good and the Jesuit university, racial and ethnic justice, economic justice, gender justice, and environmental justice.
- Leighter, J., & Smythe, K. [Ignatian Pedagogy for Sustainability: An Overview](#). *Jesuit Higher Education*, 8(1), Article 3.  
Develops an Ignatian approach to teaching about sustainability and justice.
- Schmidt, E. W. (Ed.). (2016). [Laudato Si’: Responsibility, conservation, sustainability](#) (special issue). *Conversations in Jesuit Higher Education*, 50 (Fall).  
Essays on Laudato Si’ and Jesuit universities.
- Environmental Science  
Schuck, M. (Ed.) (2016), [Healing Earth](#)  
Loyola University Chicago’s open access e-textbook integrating environmental science, ethics, spirituality, and action on major challenges of biodiversity, natural resources, renewable energy, water, food, and climate change.
- Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Development  
[Miller Center for Social Entrepreneurship](#)  
Programs, research, and practical resources on teaching social entrepreneurship in a Jesuit university.  
Sachs, W. (2017). [The Sustainable Development Goals and Laudato Si’: Varieties of post-development?](#) *Third World Quarterly*, 38(12), 2573-2587.  
Compares and contrasts the U.N. SDGs and Laudato Si’ as roadmaps to sustainability.  
Warner, K. D. (2018). [Social entrepreneurship for Laudato Si’: Pedagogies of acceleration and accompaniment](#). *Educatio Catholica*, 4(1), 151-162.  
Explains methods for teaching social entrepreneurship and their relationship to Catholic social teaching.”

## STARS - The sustainability tracking, assessment and rating system

Many universities in the AJCU use the STARS (The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) to measure, track, communicate and market their sustainability commitments. The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

“In 2022, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) began a revision of the [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System \(STARS\)](#). The new version, STARS 3.0, will provide a standardized, comprehensive, and user-friendly platform for sustainability assessment and reporting that inspires urgent and transformative action by higher education institutions to create an ecologically healthy and socially just world.

“In accordance with the STARS Technical Development Policy, provisional drafts of the new version are being published for public comment. The feedback provided will be published and analyzed by AASHE staff to inform further revisions, subject to approval by the STARS Steering Committee. The projected release date for the new version is currently Q4 2023.”

***These are robust and carefully curated standards that could drive change if Universities make progress towards the goals. We encourage you to take a look at some of these standards and also think about how they could be bolstered by a Laudato Si’ Inspired approach.***

**This Commission could consider opportunities for collective impact tracking, shared goal setting, leveraging institutional purchasing practices of more ethical and sustainable food, clothing and energy and much more.**

### **Revised draft provisionally approved by the STARS Steering Committee**

[Curriculum](#)

[Research & Scholarship](#)

[Campus Engagement](#)

[Public Engagement](#)

[Buildings & Grounds](#)

[Transportation](#)

### **First draft currently under public comment/revision**

[Diversity, Equity & Inclusion](#)

[Energy & Climate](#)

[Procurement & Waste](#)

[Food and Dining](#)

[Water Use](#)

[Wellbeing & Work](#)

The commission co-chairs and others will also conduct some follow-up research to better compile some of the existing data from AJCU universities. We feel that with potential for using STARS lies in combining and showing collective impact through things like tonnes of carbon emissions avoided, encouraging shared work towards more ambitious goals, and leveraging additional resources to support this work.

## Collective action across universities for sustainability - the University of CA example

The University of California is a system of 10 campuses, five medical centers plus three affiliated national laboratories. This public system is different from the AJCU in many ways, including the fact that the UC has a centralized Office of the President with a sizable staff, which may not be the best model in this sense. This Office of the President of the UC serves as the headquarters and manages/supports campuses and students through funding and programs. It also manages legal services, investments and more as a public university system that receives funding from the state/federal government. Additionally, each campus also raises external funding.

“The Office of the President has a [centralized Office of Sustainability](#) that coordinates and supports cross campus initiatives and reports progress towards the goals outlined in the policy in the [UC Annual Report on Sustainable Practices](#). The University’s climate and sustainability leadership includes the [Carbon Neutrality Initiative](#) and the [Global Food Initiative](#), as well as the [Pathways to a Fossil Free UC Task Force](#).

“[UC’s Carbon Neutrality Initiative](#) - Formed in 2013, the Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) commits the UC to emitting net zero greenhouse gasses from its buildings and vehicle fleet by 2025. The President formed the Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) to advise UC on achieving this ambitious goal. More information on campus and system level progress can be found in the Climate Change and Clean Energy section of this site, as well as in the most recent UC Annual Sustainability Report (pdf).

“To date, the GCLC has secured funding for and supported implementation of a number of carbon neutrality projects in support of this initiative and spanning the University’s teaching, research and public service mission. The [Bending the Curve curriculum](#), [Climate Action Student Fellowships Program](#), and [Cool Campus Challenge](#) provide a few examples of the many projects seeded by CNI. While working towards the 2025 carbon neutrality goal, the CNI also continues to advance fossil fuel free planning efforts, including UC’s persistent gains in energy efficiency, investments in renewable energy projects across the system, and developing strategies to replace natural gas.”

## Topical working groups

### **Business Operations Working Group**

This working group explores ideas related to a university's environmental sustainability efforts in its operations, economic model, and governance structures. Relevant Laudato Si' Goals (LSG) include LSG 1 Response to the Cry of the Earth LSG 3 Ecological Economics,

### **Community Formation Working Group**

This working group explores ideas related to the promotion of sustainable lifestyles among faculty, staff, and students, and the availability of university-wide direction in environmental spirituality. Includes actions relevant for SG 4 Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles and LSG 6 Ecological Spirituality.

### **Academic Affairs Working Group**

This working group explores ideas related to curriculum design, teaching, research, and scholarly programming for environmental sustainability and justice. Includes actions relevant for LSG 5 Ecological Education.

### **Civic Engagement Working Group**

This working group explores ideas related to the needs of marginalized people in society and disempowered communities, especially as these conditions are linked to the contemporary environmental crisis. Includes suggested actions relevant for the LSG 2 Response to the Cry of the Poor LSG 7 Community Resilience and Empowerment.

### **Networking Working Group**

This working group explores the possibility of creating coalitions, partnerships, or joint projects, across Jesuit universities (nationally or internationally) around ideas raised within the aforementioned working groups: business operations, community formation, academic affairs, and civic engagement. Suggested actions for this working group will be especially related to how the collective impact model could be further developed and implemented.

## Business Operations Working Group - sample actions

### Project Ideas Related to LSG 1 Response to the Cry of the Earth LSG 3 Ecological Economics

taken from April 2023 Commission Meeting and  
*University Pathways* website  
<https://laudatosiuniversities.com/>

#### Climate Stability

##### **Carbon Emission**

Begin measuring campus carbon footprint; promote walking, ride sharing, and public transportation to campus.

Refit or replace inefficient campus heating & cooling systems; install efficient appliances; support *integral* interdisciplinary research on climate and society.

Collect used campus cooking oils for on-site or off-site biodiesel production; transition campus vehicles to biodiesel.

Net Zero Carbon by 2024

##### **Energy Use**

Begin lowering and measuring energy use in campus buildings; install high-efficiency washers & dryers in residence halls; campus-wide occupancy-sensor lighting.

Install solar panels & green roofs; insulate buildings; make electric-vehicle charging stations available; make priority parking for low-emissions vehicles.

Transition to clean energy suppliers; design & build all new campus structures for reduced energy consumption; where available, buy energy credits.

#### Biodiversity Recovery

##### **Species Protection**

Plant gardens and native species; remove invasive tree species and weeds; fertilize properly.

Compost campus grass clippings, flowers, small branches into nutrient rich soil for campus garden beds; support *integral*, interdisciplinary research on biodiversity and society.

Create a campus greenhouse; create campus signage that gives information on local native species.

##### **Native Plants & Trees**

Begin increasing the ratio of campus green space to non-green space.

Begin a reconciliation with nature: plant bee & bird friendly flowers; increase use of native plants and trees.

Make all campus green space open to the local community; install green roofs.

## Land Protection

### **Food Procurement**

Begin monitoring food intake & food waste in campus cafeteria.

Plant an on-campus edible garden; practice regenerative agriculture; support *integral*, interdisciplinary research on the global food system.

Source all on-campus food from environmentally sustainable suppliers.

Sign up for and invest in the research related to the [World Resources Institute's Cool Food Challenge](#) and/or the Good Food Purchasing Program

### **Waste Management**

Begin measuring campus material inputs and waste output.

Establish campus recycling system; reduce use of paper, plastic, and hazardous materials.

Build a campus organic waste treatment system; build a food waste composting system.

## Water Security

### **Water Protection & Use**

Begin monitoring campus-wide water use; repair water leaks; where possible, collect rainwater in recycled-plastic barrels for use in watering gardens.

Install water-saving devices; plant on-campus grasses & shrubs that require less water; plant buffers along coasts and streams; use green cleaning products.

Build a campus gray-water retention system; remove impermeable surfaces; support integral, interdisciplinary research on water and society.

## Circular Economy

### **Investing**

Audit investments and insurance for environmental impact; divest from fossil fuel industries, industries that manufacture weapons, and industries complicit in war.

Develop and implement an environmentally sustainable budget, including Earth-friendly investment, banking with cooperatively owned financial institutions, and green contract policies.



Reinvest divested-funds into clean energy and jobs for workers and communities dislocated from fossil-fuel jobs; support interdisciplinary, integral research in circular economics.

### **Purchasing**

Take a 'total cost of ownership' (TCO) approach to purchasing.

Establish relationships with sustainable businesses in the local community.

Create courses or programs on a circular, green economic model for universities.

### **Sustainable Facilities**

#### **Physical Plant**

Audit environmental impact of facilities maintenance procedures.

Develop and implement a sustainability plan for facilities maintenance.

Set a date for carbon neutrality and an associated action plan.

#### **Materials**

Measure campus waste footprint by conducting a waste audit, differentiating landfill, recycling, and organic waste streams.

Begin a campus-wide repairing and repurposing policy for all material stock; compost food waste.

Begin a small biodiesel production program using campus waste vegetable oils; begin a biogas production program using campus compost.

### **Ecology-Minded Organization**

#### **Administration**

Establish an office and administrative position in environmental sustainability.

Put environmental awareness and nonviolence in official university mission statement; ensure that women and people from underrepresented communities participate in administrative discussions.

Build a dedicated center, institute, or school for environmental sustainability; provide 'green retirement' resources to retiring faculty and staff.

Create Sustainability certificates to Award Successful Units

Draw Integral Ecology into Governance Structures

Promote STARS

## **Procedures**

Initiate a campus-wide 'green office' process; begin a program of distributing graduating students' clothing and goods to incoming students.

Begin using a comprehensive ecological footprint system for the university; require that all university-funded research has sustainability impact statements.

Begin a faculty hiring initiative in environmental studies, science, and economics.

## **Economic Justice**

### **Employees**

Provide good jobs with livable wages, conditions, and benefits; honor the right of employees to join a union.

Make university education benefits available to employees and their family members.

Create fora where employees from every sector of the university can meet and gain awareness of the benefits gained and challenges faced by working people across the entire institution.

### **Community relations**

Audit the economic impact of the university on the local community.

Support community-based research on how communities can sustain circular economic methods within a linear national economy.

Build a campus gray-water retention system; remove impermeable surfaces; assist community clean-ups of nearby rivers, lakes, or oceans.

## Community Formation Working Group - sample actions

### Project Ideas Related to LSG 4 Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles LSG 6 Ecological Spirituality

taken from April 2023 Commission Meeting and  
*University Pathways* website  
<https://laudatosiuniversities.com/>

#### Lower Carbon Emissions

##### **Transportation**

Create a program that better enables community members to walk, bike, and use public transportation to and from campus.

Bar university-funded air travel within a six hour drive parameter.

Make free bicycles available for campus community use; create a campus bicycle repair shop.

##### **Communication**

Develop an incentive program for community members to unplug all electronic devices at night.

Develop an incentive program for community members to monitor daily cell phone/social media use and reduce by 50%.

Incentivize community members to reduce cell phone/social media use by another 50%.

#### Reduced Consumption and Waste

##### **Consumption**

Develop a campus protocol for community members to calculate their personal ecological footprint and follow reduction advice; develop a protocol for monitoring weekly consumption of meat and reduce by 50%.

Incentivize the reduction of meat consumption by another 50%, excess water use by 50%, and A/C use.

Bar commercial advertising on campus; reduce campus give-away promotional items; all campus events catered vegetarian.

##### **Waste**

Develop a campus protocol for community members to recycle, reuse, and reduce waste; assist community members with food waste composting.

Develop a protocol for community members to eliminate single use plastic, bottled water and styrofoam; reduce size of plates in university cafeterias; eliminate trays.

Support interdisciplinary, integral research in environmental psychology on the impact of consumption and waste reduction for human wellbeing.

## Student Health and Wellness

### **Awareness Training**

Connect student health and wellness to the environment.

Address student eco-anxiety.

## Personal Eco-Banking and Trading

### **Banking**

Build a campaign encouraging community members to place personal accounts in community banks or credit unions.

Expand the community bank campaign to include investment in green, sustainable business and organizations.

Support interdisciplinary, integral research on the relationship between the personal banking industry and environmental sustainability.

### **Trading**

Provide education to all community members on how to read product labels carefully and make eco-friendly product purchases.

Organize second-hand fairs on campus and dorm deposits of unwanted items for incoming students.

Establish a campus surplus 'stuff store'.

## Closer Bond With Nature and Community

### **Nature**

Plant flowers, vegetables, and trees; capture rainwater.

Participate in nature watch projects at [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/).

Organize annual guided 'nature walk outings' for university administrators, faculty, students, and staff.

### **Community**

Learn practices of *Buen Vivir*, living in simplicity and reconciliation with nature, others, and God.

Practice compassionate listening and nonviolence; support local food producers.

Participate in community environmental restoration projects.

Create a Simple Living Community.

## Prayer and Worship

### **Personal Prayer**

Offer community members an opportunity to begin each morning by praying with the *Canticle of the Creatures*.

Introduce students, faculty, administrators, and staff to an Ignatian Ecological Examen.

Make trained spiritual guides available to help community members follow a process of personal acknowledgement and reconciliation over harms done to God's creation.

Show connection between sustainability and faith.

### **Community Worship**

Hold an annual Feast of St. Francis Mass; include a petition for creation care and nonviolence in all worship services .

Establish an annual Earth Day worship service.

Host an outdoor prayer service with the community and/or the wider public.

Engage University Mission and Ministry.

### **Season of Creation**

Develop an annual *Season of Creation* spiritual practice.

Co-host a *Season of Creation* event integrated with Catholic Nonviolent Days of Action events with a local parish.

Coordinate *Season of Creation* events integrated with Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action events with diocesan activities and local Bishop.

## Religions and Nature

### **World Religions**

Invite a local leader of a non-Christian religious community to speak on the meaning of nature in their faith tradition.

Hold fora for all student religious groups to discuss creation care and nonviolence in their faith traditions.

Support a student group to attend a meeting of the Parliament of World Religion.

## **Indigenous Religions**

Invite a leader of an Indigenous community to speak on the meaning of nature in their spiritual tradition.

Learn a short prayer in an Indigenous language and discover the relationship between word and Earth.

Support a student group to attend a public celebration and prayer gathering of an Indigenous community.

## **Laudato Sí Reflection**

### **Inspiration**

Bless a natural space on campus as a *Laudato Si'* Garden for outdoor reflection and prayer.  
Create a local community-based *Laudato Si'* study and prayer guide.

Install creation care signage with quotes from *Laudato Si* at strategic nature points on campus; promote a local nature restoration project and link to spiritual restoration.

Facilitate ecological conversion.

### **Retreat**

Hold an annual student eco-spirituality retreat in an off-campus nature area; hold similar retreats for faculty, administrators, and staff.

Hold a *Laudato Si'* eco-social justice event during 'Catholic NonViolent Action Days'.

Design a retreat method that enables the entire university community to reflect on the meaning of Pope Francis' 7-Year Journey for the mission of the institution.

Academic Affairs Working Group - sample actions

Project Ideas Related to  
LSG 5 Ecological Education

taken from April 2023 Commission Meeting and  
*University Pathways* website  
<https://laudatosiuniversities.com/>

Integral Ecology Curriculum

**All Levels**

Utilize interdisciplinary online textbook in integral ecology *Healing Earth*; require course in environmental science; education in nonviolence; use [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) data.

Develop a concentration, major and/or minor in environmental studies/science, sustainability and nonviolence studies; create distance learning courses in environmental science/studies.

Design courses linked to on-campus environmental problem-solving; create a distance learning course on *Laudato Si'* principles through institutional partnerships.

Build online courses.

Integral Ecology Research

**University-Based**

Create hands-on projects with environmental data gathering; discontinue research that supports weapons & war, as well as the fossil fuel industry; create open-access integral ecology library.

Support interdisciplinary environmental studies/science research projects; generate transdisciplinary research that affects nonviolent socio-ecological change.

Build environmental studies/science research partnerships with other universities; build an integral ecology research institute.

**Community-Based**

Organize an initial local environmental justice immersion for faculty, students, and staff.

Support community-based research on local eco-social problems.

Organize collaboration between local community-based research on an eco-social problem with an international community.

### Student and Faculty Development

#### **Student**

Establish a student award for achievement in environmental education; create biology/ecology study grants for students from underrepresented populations.

Create student research fellowships in environmental studies/science; offer student internships in local development projects.

Invite student participation in university programming decisions around environmental studies/science.

Expand student exchange opportunities.

#### **Faculty**

Organize an interdisciplinary group of faculty interested in environmental issues; ensure faculty are familiar with the local ecosystem.

Create opportunities for all faculty to be updated on contemporary environmental issues; offer eco-retreats.

Arrange funding support for environment-related faculty publication.

### Eco-Social Programs

#### **Scholarly**

Create a campus-wide sustainability learning group of faculty, staff, and students.

Create a sustainability lecture series; build annual scholarly events around international Earth Day, Water Day, or Indigenous Peoples Day.

Organize a program of reconciliation for the university community, addressing the brutal legacies of colonialism in human communities and the natural world.



Address the intersection of environmental and social justice.

Start a common reading of environmental classics.

Provide spring-break eco-immersion trips.

### **Co-Curricular**

Organize a student environmental club; provide training workshops in nonviolent direct action for creation care.

Include environment-related careers in student counseling.

Establish student study abroad opportunities in environmental studies/science.

## Civic Engagement Working Group - sample actions

### Project Ideas Related to LSG 2 Response to the Cry of the Poor LSG 7 Community Resilience and Empowerment taken from April 2023 Commission Meeting and *University Pathways* website <https://laudatosiuniversities.com/>

#### Availability of Basic Goods

##### **Food, Water, Clothing**

Audit water and food deficiencies in local community; create an on-campus food pantry and water station.

Create a free 'clothing closet' for the local community; offer workshops on nutrition for the local community.

Offer community programs on microplastic and prescription drug pollution; support local community actions for food and water rights.

##### **Sanitation and Health Care**

Audit sanitation and health care conditions in the local community; eliminate environmental hazards on campus; open campus green space to the local community.

Create a campus sanitation and health care station for the local community; sponsor a 12-step addiction recovery program for the campus and local communities.

Hold an annual health fair for campus and local communities; build and maintain a public restroom facility.

##### **Housing and Security**

Audit housing deficiencies in the local community; create mechanisms of collaboration between campus and city security personnel that emphasize alternative methods of community protection.

Conduct human trafficking awareness workshops for campus and local communities; involve women and members of underrepresented university groups in decisions about campus security.

Collaborate with housing and security rights organizations in the local community; support integral, interdisciplinary research on environmental and social security.

## **Jobs and Job Safety**

Audit unemployment and working conditions in the local community.

Offer free basic job training to the local community.

Support local community actions for the human right to work & workplace safety.

## **Relations of Solidarity**

### **Outreach to Migrants and People Without Homes**

Develop an outreach program to local homeless and migrant people; participate in creating a community homeless shelter.

Offer basic financial literacy training to the local community; offer free language training for migrants and refugees in the local community.

Target searches for vacant university staff positions to unemployed people in the local community; hold a community refugee & migrant welcome day.

### **Outreach to People in Indigenous Communities**

Gather historical data on the original Indigenous occupants of the university property.

Create curricula and programming that honors the contributions of Indigenous People; seek Indigenous dialogue partners on biodiversity, water, and climate protection.

Create a university Land Acknowledgement Statement; advocate for Indigenous People's rights to land and water; work for the protection of endangered indigenous languages.

## **Social Justice**

### **Equity**

Create university policies combating race and gender discrimination; ensure that women and underrepresented people participate in the policymaking process.

Support local community actions for equity and inclusion in policy-making discussions.

Support *integral*, interdisciplinary research on issues in environmental and social equity.

### **Recognition**

Record local community history from community elders.

Offer campus meeting space for local justice organization meetings.

Assist the local community in voicing justice concerns to state and local government.

## **Reconciliation**

Begin a program of contact and reconciliation with oppressed people in the local community.

Invite dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution through public fora; support *integral*, interdisciplinary research on nonviolent conflict resolution.

Take an active part in local, regional and national truth and reconciliation programs.

## **Advocacy**

### **Action**

Link nonviolence to advocacy for environmental justice; support social action to protect Earth's ecosystems.

Train students in methods of creative, strategic nonviolent social action.

Organize campus-wide environmental protection letter-writing campaign to newspapers, social media outlets, and government officials.

### **Research & Information**

Enable partnerships between the university and communities conducting participatory action research.

Organize public events with government officials over social/environmental policy and advocacy.

Make available a university-wide review of local, regional, or national social/environmental policies.

## **Collaboration**

### **Organizations**

Identify ways the university can collaborate in creation care with the Roman Catholic Church and other worshipping communities.

Develop a community coalition to participate in local, regional, and national policy formation and response to social crises and catastrophic weather events.

Create virtual community networks with international environmental organizations.

Develop community coalitions around Net Zero carbon by 2040.

Support environment-focused business and nonprofits.

## Community

### **Leadership**

Strengthen student environmental leadership education with service learning and immersion opportunities in communities facing eco-social justice challenges.

Take on a leadership role in local community response to repair after a catastrophic weather event.

Provide training in the organization and maintenance of sustainable intentional communities.

Promote Citizen Science.

### Networking Working Group - sample actions

## Integration Possibilities Drawn From April 2023 Commission Meeting and University Pathways website, as noted on pp. 3-15

### Sustainability Coalitions on Business Operations Across Jesuit Universities

#### **Climate Stability**

Carbon Emission

Energy Use

#### **Biodiversity Recovery**

Species Protection

Native Plants & Trees

#### **Land Protection**

Food Procurement

Waste Management

#### **Water Security**

Water Protection & Use

#### **Circular Economy**

Investing/Divesting

Purchasing

#### **Sustainable Facilities**

Physical Plant

Materials

#### **Ecology-Minded Organization**

Administration

Procedures

#### **Economic Justice**

Employees

Community Relations

## Shared Model for Community Formation Across Jesuit Universities

### **Lower Carbon Emissions**

- Transportation
- Communication

### **Reduced Consumption and Waste**

- Consumption
- Waste

### **Personal Eco-Banking and Trading**

- Banking
- Trading

### **Closer Bond with Nature and Community**

- Nature
- Community

### **Prayer and Worship**

- Personal Prayer
- Community Worship
- Season of Creation

### **Religions and Nature**

- World Religions
- Indigenous Religions

### **Laudato Sí Reflection**

- Inspiration
- Retreat

### **Student and Faculty Development**

- Student
- Faculty

## An Integral Ecology Curriculum for all Jesuit Universities

### **Integral Ecology Curriculum**

- Required Foundational Course
- Sequential Intermediate Course
- Capstone Course

## Joint Research Projects Across Jesuit Universities

### **Integral Ecology Research**

- University-Based
- Community-Engaged Research for Environmental Justice

## University Eco-Social Programs

### **Scholarly**

### **Co-Curricular**

## Shared Model of Civic Engagement Across Jesuit Universities

### **Availability of Basic Goods to the Poor**

- Food, Water, Clothing
- Sanitation and Health Care
- Housing and Security
- Jobs and Job Safety

### **Relations of Solidarity with the Marginalized**

- Outreach to Migrants and People Without Homes
- Outreach to People in Indigenous Communities

### **Social Justice Advocacy & Action**

- Equity
- Recognition
- Reconciliation
- Action
- Research & Information

### **Collaboration with Local Organizations**

### **Community Leadership Education**

---

“Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

— Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants*

END

---