

Laudato si' Action Plan Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

25 June 2021

What is Laudato si' Action Plan Framework?

A document developed by, and for, the Society of Jesus in Australia. This resource contains:

1. a suggested planning process and activities to engage a high number of people across the ministry; and
2. a suggested template for ministries to articulate their twin commitment to the poor and to creation.

Why are we doing this?

To answer the call found in:

- The [Society of Jesus Universal Apostolic Preferences 2019-2029](#) “*To collaborate in the care of our Common Home*”.
- The [Australian Jesuit Province Apostolic Plan 2019-24](#) priority “*Heal humanity and our world*” which requires that care for all of creation be an integral element of Jesuit ministries and communities.
- Pope Francis’ Encyclicals [Laudato si’](#) and [Fratelli Tutti](#).

Who does it apply to?

The *Laudato si’* Action Plan Framework was developed for the ministries of the Society of Jesus in Australia. This includes: schools, social services, parishes, spirituality services and many others. Ministries and others outside the Jesuit family are also welcome to use the Framework.

Who is responsible for implementing the Laudato si’ Action Plan?

The Head and Chair of each ministry are responsible for all aspects of their ministry – including environmental sustainability and social justice. The Province Ministries Commission has asked all ministries to report on their implementation of these aspects of the Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Province Apostolic Plan.

The Head and Chair of each ministry can decide if, or how much of, the *Laudato si’* Action Plan Framework they will use in their ministries response to the Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Province Apostolic Plan. It is hoped that each ministry will be form a team to drive this work.

The Province Reconciliation with Creation Committee is responsible for providing resources, support and coordinating reporting on the environmental sustainability aspects of ministries response to the Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Province Apostolic Plan.

Who is on the Reconciliation with Creation Committee?

The Ministries Commission appoints a couple of representatives from parishes, schools, social ministries, Ignatian formation and others to the Province Reconciliation with Creation Committee. Each year the Ministries Commission approves strategic priorities for this Committee.

Does the Province have a target for overall outcomes?

There is no Province-wide target and the Province is not imposing a target on any ministry. The initial aim is to start the journey together. As we progress we will learn more about our ministry’s environmental impact/potential. We will also learn from each other. It is also possible for ministries to set their own target e.g., carbon neutral by 2040.

What will be done with the plans?

At the end of each calendar year the Reconciliation with Creation Committee will ask ministries for a copy of their *Laudato si’* Action Plan. The Committee will provide these reports to the Ministries Commission. The Committee will also provide the Ministries Commission with a report that shows the consolidated action of the Province’s ministries. The Ministries Commission will decide on the circulation of any of these reports.



What kind of SMART measures and accountabilities will be required?

There is no requirement that ministries measure their progress quantifiably e.g., litres of water, tonnes of waste to landfill, kilowatts of electricity or greenhouse gas emissions.

What about schools?

Many schools have already developed a school environment management plan (SEMP). The Province Framework is designed to complement these. Schools, like ministries, are at different stages. Some will report using the *Laudato si'* Action Plan. Others will report using their current SEMP and other documents.

Can we include a discernment process in the review stage?

Yes. Discernment is part of our Ignatian way of proceeding. Discernment will be helpful throughout the process.

Is it a one-off or an ongoing initiative?

The Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Province Apostolic Plan to which this framework relates span several years. It is hoped that the impact of each ministries plan will develop each year as they work through the process of: discern, conversion, plan, implement and report.

Is it mandatory?

An annual report on the environmental sustainability aspects of the Universal Apostolic Preferences and the Province Apostolic Plan is mandatory. Each ministry has flexibility concerning the form of that report and on the ambition and the activities being reported on.

When do we need to start?

At the end of the 2021 the Reconciliation with Creation Committee will ask ministries for the *Laudato si'* Action Plan that they have developed for the 2022 calendar year. It is possible that some ministries are just beginning this work and their 2022 plan might be mainly ecological education and ecological conversion and developing a team.

Does the committee have any resources to share?

The Reconciliation with Creation Committee will share resources that it has developed or has accessed from elsewhere. Some Reconciliation with Creation Committee members have time to assist a ministry as they start or work their way through the process.

Is there a shared repository for resources?

The Province and individual ministries have previously shared:

- policy on environmental sustainability and policy on ethical investment;
- examples of successful liturgical, spiritual, educational and other resources;
- resources for raising awareness amongst alumni groups to impact foundations

The Province office is currently investigating suitable ways for ministries to save and share resources.

How does this Framework link with the Vatican's Laudato si' Action Platform?

In October 2021, the Vatican will call all parts of the Church to commit to implementing its seven goals from *Laudato si'*. Many Jesuit ministries will want to join that initiative. The Province Framework is designed to complement the Vatican's *Laudato si'* Action Platform. The Province's Framework and template plan include options from the Vatican's *Laudato si'* Action Platform. Our Framework will be refined to ease the burden on ministries who want to participate in both initiatives.

Can the Jesuit Laudato si' Action Plan framework link with projects being undertaken by the CRA Ecology Alliance Committee?

Province is a microcosm of the church – we have parishes, schools, social ministries, spirituality services and administration. Our experience in implementing *Laudato si'* could be informative to others in the Church. The Province Reconciliation with Creation Committee engages with Catholic Earthcare and the CRA Ecology Alliance Committee as places where we share our experience and where we learn from others.

If your ministry has a question that hasn't been answered email: rwc@siasl.org.au