



Caritas Australia Laudato Si' Action Plan



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

End poverty
Promote justice
Uphold dignity

Forward

In the spirit of the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, written by Pope Francis, we are called upon to recognise our responsibility as stewards of our planet and its inhabitants. Hence, I am both honoured and inspired to launch Caritas Australia's *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.

At the heart of the encyclical is a profound message of interconnectedness – the idea that our actions affect not only the environment but also the lives of countless individuals. As an organisation, we are determined to address our own impact and to be a role model for others.

Caritas Australia's mission is to serve those who are marginalised and vulnerable, to restore dignity and end poverty. As Pope Francis mentions in *Laudato Si'*, climate change and anthropocentric ideology are disrupting our roles as caretakers for this planet and for each other. This is rapidly becoming the largest risk to global justice we have ever seen.

It is our duty to ensure that the footprint we leave is one of sustainability, respect and compassion.

In remaining diligent, we will be making rigorous and frequent reviews of this plan in the upcoming months and years. As best practice, I invite each and every one of you to embrace this journey with enthusiasm, to share your ideas and expertise, and to collaborate persistently in this process.

I would like to extend my gratitude towards Caritas Australia's staff for their involvement in inaugurating the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan – especially those of the Climate Change Communities of Practice and the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan Sub-Committee, in the countless hours of commitment to this project. Ecological justice is something we all hold close, and I feel incredibly proud of the wisdom, tenacity and the whole staff approach that is unfolding as we embark on this journey.

Our actions, no matter how small they may seem, hold the power to create a ripple effect of positive change.

With gratitude,

Kirsty Robertson

Kirsty Robertson.



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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This *Laudato Si'* Action Plan represents Caritas Australia's commitment to act towards achieving the *Laudato Si'* Goals during 2024.

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The letter expresses praise to God and, recognising the beauty and wonder of creation, urges us to address the ecological crises facing the planet. We know that *"human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected."*¹



Talaso stands in landscape in Kenya in 2022, after experiencing its fifth consecutive failed rainy season as a result of climate change. Photo: Thom Flint/CAFOD.

1.0

Introduction

The concept of integral ecology is central to Pope Francis's letter and reminds us that everything is connected and that our treatment of the planet cannot be separated from social, cultural, economic, political and ethical concerns.

The themes in *Laudato Si'* have given rise to what the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development articulate on the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform as the *Laudato Si'* Goals. The 7 *Laudato Si'* Goals aim to help us achieve justice by promoting and sustaining integral ecology. They are: Respond to the Cry of the Earth, Respond to the Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality, Community Resilience and Empowerment.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has tasked Caritas Australia as the lead organisation for delivering the Integral Ecology Decree of the Fifth Plenary Council of Australiaⁱⁱ. Their vision is that, "witnessing to their communal ecological conversion and the urgent need for action," each Catholic parish, diocese, eparchy, educational institution or organisation commits to joining the *Laudato Si'* Platform by 2024, and developing a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan by 2030.ⁱⁱⁱ

At Caritas Australia, we know that possibilities for justice are radically increased when we work together to address the urgent challenges facing us and our common home. This means that action at every level – local, regional, national and global – is essential in an integral ecology approach.

We also know that, like the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference who have already developed their own *Laudato Si'* Action Plan, we must lead by example.

Our *Laudato Si'* Plan (LSAP) is a framework that delineates immediate and enduring actions essential for our response to the ecological crisis, concurrently cultivating the capability of our staff to immerse themselves in an integral ecological way of life. It also articulates our collective address of Caritas Australia's Strategic Goals, particularly Goal 3: "A common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice."^{iv}

The purpose of our LSAP is twofold:

1. to reflect and consolidate the ecological conversion and related commitments of Caritas Australia staff in all departments and
2. to guide the work of the agency's Climate Justice Community of Practice.

The Climate Justice Community of Practice will oversee the annual implementation and review process of the *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. During the review process at the end of 2024, the Climate COP will produce a report, evaluating the implementation of all actions noted.

Substantial strides have already been made within Caritas Australia to address the core tenets of the 7 *Laudato Si'* Goals. For example, in 2019, the organisation not only divested of fossil fuels but also pledged allegiance to the Global Catholic Divestment movement. Nevertheless, we aspire to 'be more'.

The aspirational vision articulated in this *Laudato Si'* Action Plan hinges upon:

- Deliberate and resolute inclusion of integral ecology into our operations
- Challenging staff to continue to behave in ways reflective of ecological conversion and alignment with an integral ecological ethos and to reflect on further possible growth
- Evidence in our policies of our commitment to urgently address the ecological crisis

1.0 Introduction

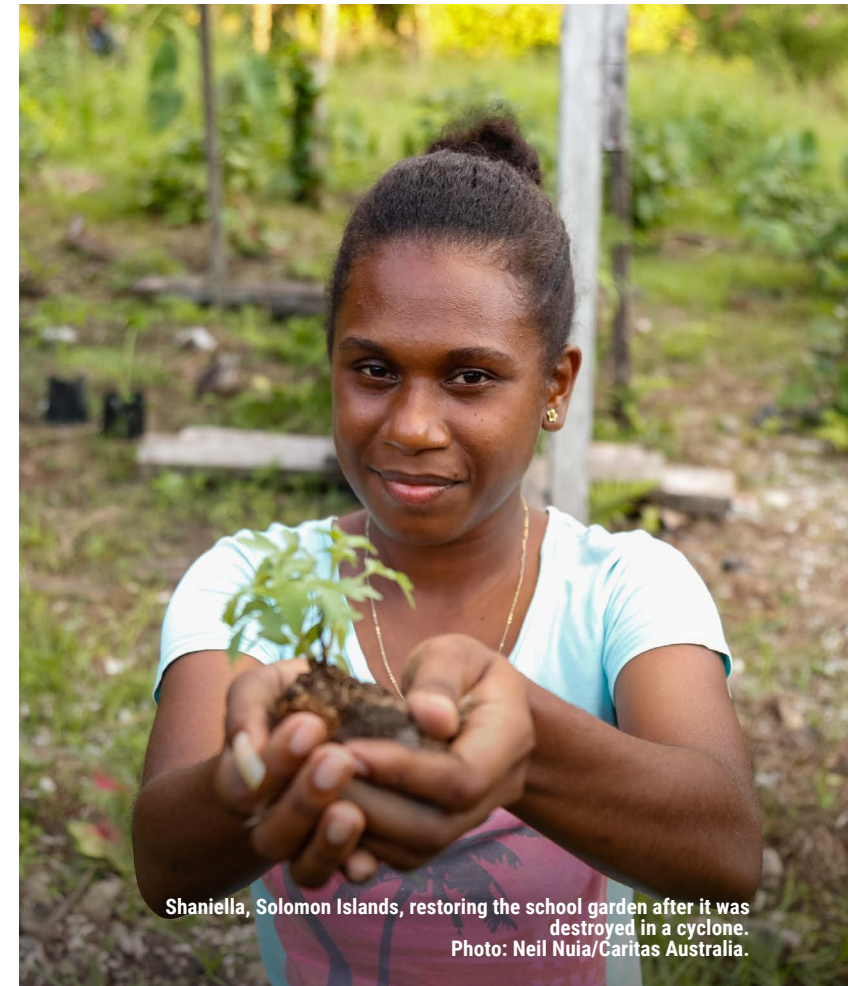
- Swift implementation of pragmatic actions requiring minimal financial outlay
- Allocation of sufficient funding to achieve our long-term objectives and aspirations.

1.2 Context

As the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, Caritas Australia works hand in hand with the most marginal and remote communities in Australia and overseas, to confront the challenges of poverty. Through locally-led programs we work with all people, with shared hope and compassion, towards a world where all can thrive and reach their full potential. Through partnerships with local organisations and Church networks, and as a member of Caritas Internationalis, one of the largest humanitarian networks in the world, we are able to reach where the need is greatest and work together for a just future.

Caritas Australia currently occupies a central office in Sydney, as well as two smaller offices situated in Brisbane and Melbourne. Additionally, our Perth Animator shares office facilities at the Catholic Pastoral Centre. Across the diverse expanse of Australia, our dedicated Diocesan Directors operate within their respective contexts, engaging communities in fundraising and educational endeavours. Our collaborative efforts extend globally through partnerships and programs overseas, complemented by in-country offices established in Papua New Guinea, Cambodia and Timor Leste.

At present, our *Laudato Si'* Action Plan is primarily focused on our Australian office spaces and Australian-based staff. Notably, our Sydney Head Office currently consumes an average of 185.37 kWh/day of energy. Concurrently, our fundraising initiatives encompass a total of 9 direct mail communications, each reaching up to 60,000 recipients. However, the full extent of our water consumption and waste generation remains to be precisely quantified. A comprehensive analysis of these variables is important. It will propel us toward a fully integrated ecological ethos. Caritas Australia is undertaking an integral ecology audit in 2024 which will inform targets that will be set regarding energy and water use, as well as other targets pertaining to program construction in the 2025 *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.

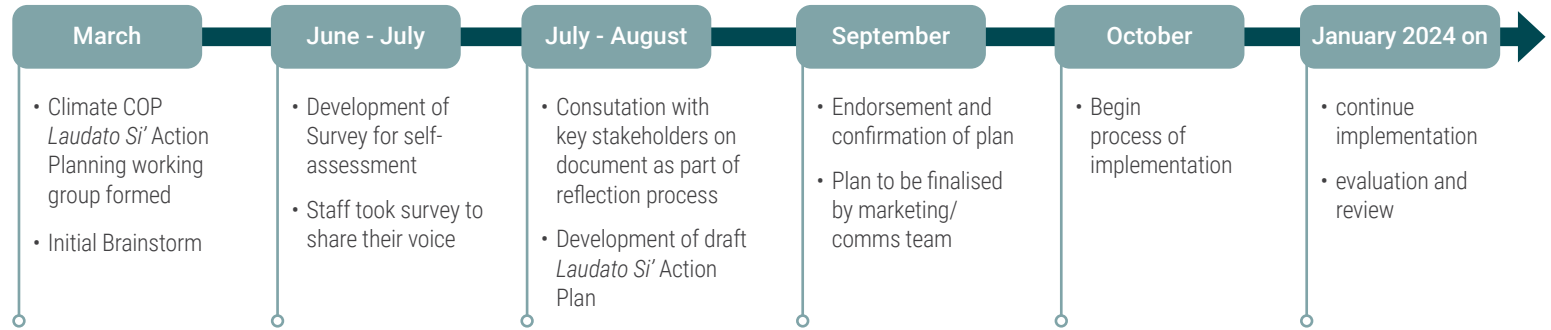


Shaniella, Solomon Islands, restoring the school garden after it was destroyed in a cyclone.
Photo: Neil Nuia/Caritas Australia.

1.0 Introduction

1.3 Process

The following figure outlines the approach to the development of this plan for 2024.





1.4 Structure

Our *Laudato Si'* Action Plan examines 4 elements of Caritas Australia:

- Work
- Policies
- Office
- Culture.

Our *Ladauto Si'* Action plan maps current good practices that we hope to maintain, and strategic initiatives we plan to introduce against our goals as outlined in The Joy of Our Hope: Strategic Directions 2021 - 2031. By mapping our *Laudato Si'* commitments to our Strategic Directions we can ensure these are embedded in our operational planning, and are monitored and reported on.

It also considers the 7 *Laudato Si'* Goals:

	Respond to the Cry of the Earth – addressing issues such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity through considering the use of fossil fuels and our impact on the land.
	Respond to the Cry of the Poor – is the core work of Caritas Australia in responding to the Catholic Social Teachings, including preferential option for the poor and ensuring human dignity.

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	Ecological Economics – considering the ways in which our investments and funds are used morally, and considering our impact on the environment.
	Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles – adjusting our cultural and work practices to live more simply and consume less.
	Ecological Education – ensuring the education of all that enables the understanding of ecology and related issues such as climate change and the loss of biodiversity.
	Ecological Spirituality – transitioning to a spirituality that acknowledges our deep human connection to the world and helps us see the God the creator in all things.
	Community Resilience and Empowerment – supporting our communities to be climate resilient and to be a voice for those suffering climate change.









This plan thus aims to communicate:

- the current work of Caritas Australia towards the Laudato Si' Goals
- the short-term commitments made by staff to respond the Laudato Si' Goals
- future goals and aspirations

2.0

Current work and practices of Caritas Australia responding to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals

Caritas Australia currently has 8 operational goals informing the work of the organisation from 2023 – 2027. In many ways, these operational goals already consider and align to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals.

Goal 1: Local Voice and Leadership - all people, especially women, are supported to lead their development and thrive.	Community Resilience and Empowerment, cry of the poor	
Goal 2: Safety, Equity and Inclusion – all people, especially the most marginalised, experience wellbeing and live in safe, just societies.	Cry of the Poor	
Goal 3: Ecological and Economic Justice – a common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice	Cry of the earth, community resilience and empowerment, ecological economics	
Goal 4: Respond and Recover – communities affected by conflict and disasters can meet their immediate needs, and recover and build back stronger from crises	Cry of the Earth, community resilience and empowerment	
Goal 5: learning and innovation – Caritas Australia is a vibrant, impact-focused organisation, committed to ongoing learning.	Cry of the earth, community resilience and empowerment, ecological economics, cry of the poor	
Goal 6: Stewardship – Caritas Australia cultivates board funding streams with a growing level of income.	Ecological economics	
Goal 7: people and partnership – Caritas Australia attracts and retains motivated staff and volunteers and nurtures effective partnerships.	Sustainable lifestyles and ecological spirituality	
Goal 8: community – Caritas Australia inspires all Australians, especially the Catholic Community, to advocate and act.	Ecological education and spirituality	

2.0

Current work and practices of Caritas Australia responding to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals

2.1 Office

Within Caritas Australia's Sydney Office, the Corporate Services team has responded to the cry of the earth by relocating the Caritas Sydney office in 2022 to a building with a 5.5-star NABERS rating^v. Additionally, Caritas Australia obtained a Green Biz Gold accreditation in 2018. The staff at the Sydney office are mindful of their resource consumption, including electricity, water, and waste.^{vi}



2.2 Policy

Caritas Australia's commitment to addressing the cry of the earth is evident in its FCM policy, aimed at reducing carbon emissions from staff flights. This policy aligns with a recent collaboration with Blue Hallow, a carbon offset service. The organization also possesses a Reconciliation Action Plan and follows sustainable practices, like a hybrid working policy to reduce staff commuting and guidelines for responsible waste management.

2.3 Work

2.3.1 Programs team



Caritas Australia's Programs department systematically evaluates the impact of climate change on its projects and integrates climate adaptation and mitigation strategies into its quality assurance framework. The team is working on partnership guidelines to ensure environmental commitment from collaborators. The humanitarian programs team follows inclusion criteria to prioritize the most vulnerable, guided by the principle of providing a preferential option for the impoverished.

Caritas Australia is a member organisation of ACFID and complies with the ACFID code of conduct.^{vii} The ACFID code of conduct is developed on 3 quality principles:

- Rights, Protection and Inclusion
- Participation, Empowerment and Local Ownership
- Sustainable Change

Furthermore, the work of our Programs team is heavily influenced by Australia's new International Development Policy.^{viii} This new policy highlights the need for Australia's development aide to focus on the needs of our neighbours in responding to the threats of Climate Change. Among other things, Climate risk must be considered in all partnership plans.

As Caritas Australia is a member organisation of the Caritas Internationalis confederation, we are required to conform to the Caritas Internationalis management standards.^{ix} Section 1.5 of the management standards states that our practices are to be informed by environmental ethics to ensure that natural resources are used wisely, waste is minimised and projects are environmentally friendly.

Caritas Australia has Development partners in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste',

2.0

Current work and practices of Caritas Australia responding to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals

Vietnam, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Tanzania, Afghanistan, Jordan, Samoa, Solomon Islands.

Caritas Australia also supports a range of International Aid partners for example in Ukraine and Turkiye. This work is how Caritas Australia responds to the cry of the poor.



Priscilla, Zimbabwe, learned conservation farming to produce drought-resistant crops. Photo: Richard Wainwright.

2.3.2 Impact team



The impact team at Caritas Australia has been developing an impact framework to measure Caritas Australia's contribution to a more just world and to the promotion of integral human development for all. The framework considers Caritas Australia's priorities around climate change and environmental protection. The team has also engaged in ecological economics initiatives, including work in Timor Leste on carbon crediting and capture processes.

2.0

Current work and practices of Caritas Australia responding to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals

2.3.3 Advocacy team



The advocacy team has focused on ecological economics by producing the “Twin Clouds on the Horizon” report in 2022, analysing the economic consequences of climate disasters on vulnerable countries and the accessibility of climate finances for local communities. Their efforts also extend to advocating for slavery-free/fair trade supply chains and addressing the needs of Pacific communities.

2.3.4 Fundraising team



The fundraising team’s sustainable approach involves reusing promotional materials and ordering campaign materials with waste reduction in mind. Printed materials now include options for online donations through QR codes and short URLs.

2.3.5 Supporter services team



The supporter services team adopts sustainable practices by reducing paper usage and acting promptly on return-to-sender communications. The team also ensures non-responsive supporters are excluded from future communications.

2.3.6 Corporate services team



The corporate services team collaborates with sustainable suppliers and sources catering from local providers with an emphasis on using local ingredients and social enterprises.



Director of Caritas Papua New Guinea Mavis Tito, Caritas Australia CEO Kirsty Robertson and His Eminence Soane Patita Paini Mafi, Caritas Oceania Regional President at the launch event of the Climate Finance report, Twin Clouds, in Papua New Guinea. Photo: Caritas Australia.

2.3.7 Community engagement team



The community engagement team has been primarily focused on ecological education. They are motivating the Catholic community to engage with issues of social and ecological justice. This includes providing public education on integral ecology through online screenings of films, providing professional development to staff in schools and working with students to engage them in social and ecological justice.

Catholic Earthcare has been tasked by the Australian Catholic Bishops conference to deliver on the Integral Ecology and Conversion for the sake of our Common Home decree. This involves ensuring that all parishes and schools sign up to the *Laudato Si'* Action platform and develop a *Laudato Si'* Action Plan.



Walking with God program supports students in developing their eco-spirituality. Photo: Caritas Australia.

2.0

Current work and practices of Caritas Australia responding to the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals

2.3.8 Justice Resources team

The Justice resources team has developed a range of ecological spirituality resources for parishes and schools, including resources to help celebrate the Season of Creation.

2.4 Culture

AA at Caritas Australia, staff have adopted more sustainable lifestyles, engaged in ecological education and spirituality and community engagement activities. Last year all staff received a personalised keep cup and over half of staff use a keep cup daily. Over half of staff bring plant-based lunches weekly. 85% of staff bring their own lunches to work every day in a container to avoid waste and use the cutlery provided at work over single-use cutlery.

When meeting with stakeholders and colleagues, staff consider their environment and ways to reduce energy consumption. When staff are required to travel they consider the use of zoom, public transport and fill regional trips with multiple engagements.

Staff are paperless where possible, print double-sided or on scrap paper and all meeting minutes and agendas are emailed.

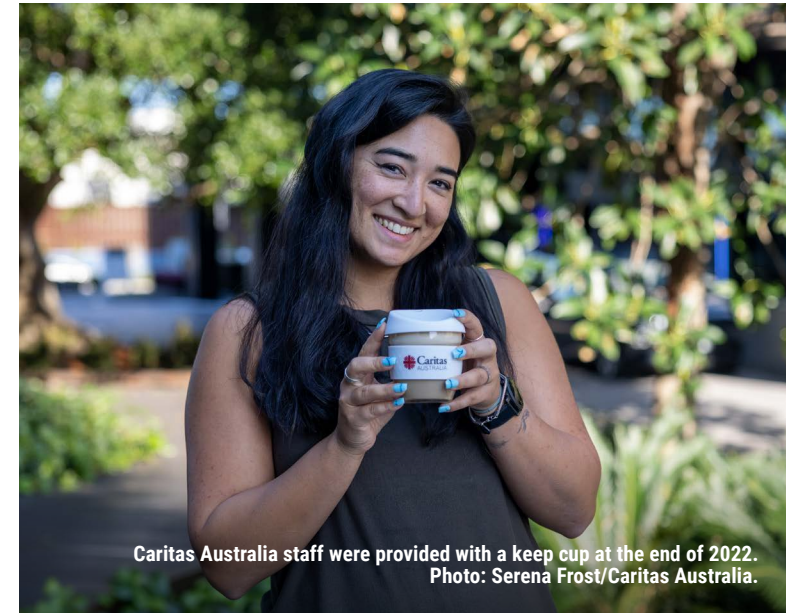
No internal reports are printed.

Only 25% of staff travel to work via car and most travel 20km or less.

Caritas Australia has provided opportunities for staff education on *Laudato Si'* and integral ecology and sustainable practices e.g. recycling.

Ecological spirituality is lived out at Caritas Australia through our prayer life that focuses on both Catholic and First Nations spirituality. Caritas Australia's values have always considered the cry of the earth. This year, our value is 'partnership' and we are partnering with theologians such as Teilhard de Chardin in our work. Our formation sessions on Cockatoo Island help bring our awareness to nature.

20% of staff have engaged in caring for creation activities e.g. clean up Australia Day, Walking with God activities or climate strikes.



Caritas Australia staff were provided with a keep cup at the end of 2022.
Photo: Serena Frost/Caritas Australia.

3.0

Commitments made by staff in the short-term

The following commitments made by staff are what we call 'quick wins.' Easy changes that we can take in our everyday practices to ensure that our ecological footprint is minimised.

3.1 Office

There are some actions that Caritas Australia can take immediately to reduce our ecological impact within our offices.

The **Corporate Services** department commit to



Recycling stations expanded to include battery, e-waste and cartridge recycling in Sydney office. Photo: Serena Frost/Caritas Australia.

Responding to the cry of the earth by	Engaging in the cyclic review of the Green Biz accreditation and including this in the annual report.	2025
	Investigating renewable energy options including green power.	2024
Adopting sustainable lifestyles by	Keeping a spare pile of paper that can be reused on the reverse side for printing if required.	2023
	Keeping spare reusable dishwashable keep cups in the cupboard for staff to use when they forget their own.	2023
	New staff will be provided with a mug when they arrive.	2023
	Putting clearer signs on bins.	2023
	Taking battery recycling to Aldi, and cartridge recycling to officeworks.	2023
	Investigating the rewiring for desk spaces in Sydney Office to be sensorised.	2025

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia's ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 3: ecological and economic justice- A common home where all people are resilient and achieve sustainable livelihoods and ecological justice.

3.0

Commitments made by staff in the short-term

3.2 Policies

The Climate Justice COP will contribute to policies for integrating climate justice in collaboration with relevant departments Within Caritas Australia. During the process of survey and consultation, it was clear that the Caritas Australia policies already consider a range of behaviours and procedures that support staff in living out the 7 *Laudato Si'* goals. However, it was noted that the implementation of those policies can be challenging. Therefore, over the next 12 months, it was recommended that a range of guidelines be produced that support staff in their decision-making processes from an integral ecology perspective.

Note: guidelines refers to a easy-to-follow document for staff when making choices. Policy changes refer to the reviewing or development of a new policy.

Policies that respond to the cry of the poor	Develop air travel guidelines. ^{xi}	2024
	Develop car travel guidelines.	2024
Policies that respond to ecological economics	Develop ethical supplier guidelines including mandating no over ordering, guidelines for purchasing office supplies and determining slavery-free supply chains.	2024
Policies that help us adopt sustainable lifestyles	Review working from home policies.	2024
	Develop a set of guidelines for choosing a meeting space that considers lighting, ventilation, use of laptops, need to travel and catering. ^{xii}	2024
	Develop guidelines for paper use within the office including a ban on laminating.	2024
	Develop catering guidelines that includes a list of Caritas approved suppliers that source food locally, treat their workers ethically, use social enterprise practices (e.g. First Nations and Refugee organisations), reduce waste and consider plant-based options.	2024



Caritas Australia will provide policies around sustainable choices, such as choosing meeting spaces. Photo: Serena Frost/Caritas Australia.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation – Caritas Australia is a vibrant, impact-focused organisation, committed to ongoing learning.

3.0

Commitments made by staff in the short-term

3.3 Work

There are some actions that Caritas Australia can take immediately to reduce our ecological impact through our work.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 3: ecological and economic justice, Goal 6: Stewardship, and Goal 8: Community.

3.3.1 The Work of the Community Engagement team will include

Ecological education	Facilitating education for the wider Australian Catholic community on Integral ecology and the need to engage with the Integral Ecology Decree of the Plenary Council. ^{xiii}
Ecological spirituality	Help increase the ecological spirituality of Australian Catholics through ecological retreats, workshops and prayer experiences. Creating community and solidarity around this issue.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 7: People and Partnership, and Operational Goal 8: community.



In 2022, Pacific Island countries made history with the first ever climate declaration in the region to be led by communities rather than politicians. Caritas Australia and Caritas Oceania signed the agreement. Caritas Australia funded the Kioia Island Community Organisation to hold the Kioia Talanoa gathering where the declaration was drafted by Pacific civil society. Photo: Miriam Deprez.

3.0

Commitments made by staff in the short-term

3.3.2. The Work of the Fundraising team will include

Adoption of sustainable lifestyles	Continuing to encourage online donations especially during PC campaigns. Including reaching out to parishes and schools to confirm resources required and encouraging them to set up an online fundraising page. Fundraising team will support Diocesan Directors in this process through education.
	The Women for the World campaign will be a paperless event as it will use devices for ticketing and has an online platform to support the campaign.
	The Women for the World recipe book will include meat-free/low carbon options.
	The Project Compassion Campaign information will include a guide for low impact fundraisers.
	The Project Compassion Campaign will trial a tap and go payment option.
	The Project Compassion Campaign will investigate and consider the paper supply of certificates and thank-you cards.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation

3.3.3 The Work of the Marketing and Communications team will include

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	Using more remote and electronic data collection and collaboration tools. ^{xiv}
	Investigate the use of freelancers for overseas marketing.
	Supporting with the development of a digital footprint policy.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation, and Goal 7: people and partnership.

3.3.4 The Work of the Supporter Services/supporter retention teams will include

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	Ensuring that supporter preferences are actioned for mail outs and communications to supporters encourage receiving updates via email over post.
	Ensuring our CRM is clean and up to date with minimal duplicate records to alleviate duplicate posting before DM packs are sent.
	Use data to determine how to efficiently send out communications.
	Continue to use FSC certified paper for newsletters and investigate alternative paper materials for DM packs. The size of the DM pack will be considered. Newsletters send less frequently.

3.0

Commitments made by staff in the short-term

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation, and Goal 7: people and partnership.

3.3.5 The Work of the Mission Facilitator will include

Ecological spirituality	Creating a wall of ‘green’ saints and heroes.
	Developing a book of green scripture.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation.

3.4 Culture

3.4.1 The Climate Justice COP Caritas *Laudato Si’* Action Plan working group commits identifying learning opportunities to underpin our actions and employing behaviour change approaches to contribute to a climate positive lifestyle. We will do by

Ecological education	Providing development for staff on <i>Laudato Si’</i> and associated topics. ^{xv}
	Reward staff who are consistently doing the right thing.
Community engagement and empowerment	Encourage staff to engage in community events to raise awareness on climate change and help reduce our ecological footprint. ^{xvi}
Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles	Development of an office charter to reinforce the work that staff are already doing and to ensure staff commitment to living <i>Laudato Si’</i> through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. reducing paper and waste b. reducing travel c. thinking locally but acting globally.^{xvii}



The Direct Marketing team is looking into less paper waste through sends, and FSC certified paper. Photo: Serena Frost/Caritas Australia.

These actions will contribute to Caritas Australia’s ongoing work – notably Operational Goal 5: learning and innovation, Goal 7: people and partnership, and Goal 8: Community.

4.0

Long term goals/ aspirations

At the end of 2024, this plan will be reviewed and a 2025 plan will be developed.

4.1 Policies

The Climate Justice COP will contribute to policies and strategies of interest for integrating climate justice in collaboration with relevant departments Within Caritas Australia.

Policies that respond to the cry of the poor	Develop a carbon neutrality policy that aims to achieve net zero emissions by 2030 by purchasing carbon credits, transitioning to hybrid or electric vehicles etc. May include the development of an ecological footprint dashboard for staff to track emissions.
	Develop a plastic-free low-waste policy.
	Develop a digital carbon footprint policy. ^{xviii}



References

- i. [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2023, "Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers"](#), p. 5.
- ii. [Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2023, "Laudato Si' Action Plan 2023-2025", Section 7.5](#)
- iii. [Australian Catholic Bishops Conference 2022, "Integral Ecology and Conversion for the sake of our Common Home Decree of the Plenary Council"](#)
- iv. [Caritas Australia, 2021, "Strategic Plan"](#)
- v. Which includes design features such as:
 - Smart thermostats
 - Effective insulation
 - LED lighting
 - Regularly repaired air conditioning that is turned off in winter
 - Meeting rooms with light and climate controls
- vi.
 - Using clean/dirty dishwasher magnets for staff to load only 1 dishwasher at a time. Only 1 dishwasher runs 1 cycle per day.
 - To avoid food waste, the ordering of milk is monitored to align with what is consumed within a week. Milk is purchased that considers low-suffering and plant-based options for staff.
 - The bathrooms have sensor water taps.
 - Caritas has purchased energy efficient office equipment that switches off when not in use.
 - Recycling bins are clearly labelled.
 - Indoor plants are dispersed throughout the office to improve air quality.
 - Dishwashing tables have biodegradable water soluble film, are plant-based and cruelty free.
- vii. [Australian Council for International Development. \(2019\).](#)
- viii. [Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. \(2023\).](#)
- ix. [Caritas Internationalis. \(2021\).](#)
- x.
 - Turning off lights when finished
 - Book suitable rooms (size, natural light)
- Unplug laptops when charged
- Considering working from home vs in the office to reduce energy consumption
- Reduced lighting and temperature control
- Use of online meetings when needed
- Meeting in green area that has natural light
- Planning meetings for when people are already in the office
- xi.
 - Reduce number of flights and use video conferencing
 - Plan travel carefully to minimise distances and increase direct flights
 - Choose better airlines (using atmosfair)
 - Economy seating as default
 - Pack lightly
 - Purchase offsets (FCM -Blue Hollow, QANTAS, ABCF...)
 - Inspired by university of Melbourne climate aware travel policy resource
 - Provide staff with options for places that we travel to regularly (Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane) with public transport options, car/driver and hotel options that are preferred.
 - Recommend or consider staff staying with family where possible or include guidelines for hotels/accommodation
- xii.
 - The use of walking meetings
 - Use natural lighting
 - Ventilation
 - LEDs and sensors
 - Turn off laptops that aren't needed
 - Minimize tech on standby
 - Carbon offsetting
 - Green travel choices
 - Meet outside
 - Consider food offered e.g. plant-based, sustainable crockery and merchandise, toilet paper, handsoap etc. (other questions answer this)
 - Walking meetings

References

xiii.

- Possible fringe event at ACYF with Tarrawarra Abbey as location
- Including reweaving the ecological map.
- James Bhagwan,
- Oceania bishops conference,
- Peter Loy Chong
- John Mundell
- Education Offices
- SJEP
- Fr Steven
- Theology and action platform.

xiv.

- Kobotoolbox for consent forms.
- Folktale platform for story collection from partners in the Pacific.
- Asana platform for project management.
- Sharepoint forms and Adobe PDF for forms.

xv.

Through:

- Lunch and learns
- Workplace posts
- Training modules
- Newsletters and fact sheets
- Short videos
- Round table discussions

About:

- The *Laudato Si'* movement
- Links to Catholic Social teaching
- Background into the development of *Laudato Si'*
- How to support communities to be more resilient
- Good practices that we can use in our everyday lives
- Integral ecology
- Alignment to SDGs and other developmental frameworks
- What other caritas' are doing
- Philosophical context of *Laudato Si'*
- Information pack on public transport options for staff (for those traveling less than 15km)

- Video about the use of keep cups in the Sydney office.
- Education on organic waste management and encouraging staff to take organic waste home to compost
- Encourage staff to take home coffee pods to recycle at drop-off points.
- Encourage staff to reduce meat consumption
- How to recycle at Caritas
- Updates on policies create
- Encouraging staff driving 15km or less to consider catching public transport or carpooling options

xvi.

- Landcare activities
- Clean up Australia day
- Laudato si week
- Season of creation
- Plant a tree day
- Climate marches
- Plastic free July
- Thermal discomfort day

xvii.

- We commit to adopt online or digital solutions over paper-based materials where possible. This should not come at the cost of accessibility. Where paper-based materials are required, continue to explore alternative paper materials to reduce environmental impact.
- We commit to hosting events online rather than in person where significant travel would be required. We recognise that there is often a need for in person events and commit to minimising the environmental impact in line with the travel policy.
- We commit to engaging locally based consultants or freelancers when undertaking short-term projects such as story collection, evaluations etc.

xviii.

Possible inclusion of digital emissions from a marketing perspective. Aurora to spearhead. References:

- [Umbraco. \(2022\)](#)(p. 33).
- [Salesforce. \(2021\)](#).
- [Litmus. \(2023\)](#).