

Diocese of San Diego, USA
Bishop Michael Pham

Laudato Si’ Action Plan FIVE: 2026-2027



BISHOP MICHAEL PHAM, BISHOP OF SAN DIEGO
STATEMENT ON CARE FOR CREATION

True love unites in diversity. Indeed, love unites us with our Triune God and with one another. The gift of God's creation reveals this love, connecting us all. Now more than ever, we have seen drastic changes in irregular weather patterns throughout the world. We are therefore called to respond to this revelation by caring for this gift. We are to care for our common home and begin with where we are living.

As one of the most biodiverse dioceses in the United States, the Diocese of San Diego recognizes the great responsibility we have been given to steward the vast richness of our region, understanding a thriving integral ecology makes human flourishing possible. Through the gifts of the earth, we are able to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked, responding to the cry of the poor and vulnerable.

Poised on the border, where the global is local, we are challenged to live justly and bring justice to our international community, mindful of our sisters and brothers who suffer the effects of our careless consumption, who are subjected to the effects of climate change, and who are forced to flee their homeland in the face of environmental impact. With this plan, we respond to the cry of the earth seeking the common good of the people. All people.

Diocese of San Diego Laudato Si' Action Platform 2026-2027

Our Purpose & Mission:

In 2022, the Diocese of San Diego established a full-time Associate Director in the Office of Life, Peace & Justice, dedicated to leading our Care for Creation, thereby joining two dimensions of Creation Care:

1. A top-down-directed operational transformation, including fossil fuel divestment and solarization, which, to date, includes ~55% of parishes and schools, as well as our diocesan Pastoral Center, for which over 90% of electricity consumed is drawn from renewable sources.
2. Formal ministerial work, which aims to foster an Ecological Conversion of heart, leading to action at the parish, school, and grassroots levels—in theory, multiplying our institutional capacity for change by every Catholic in our community.

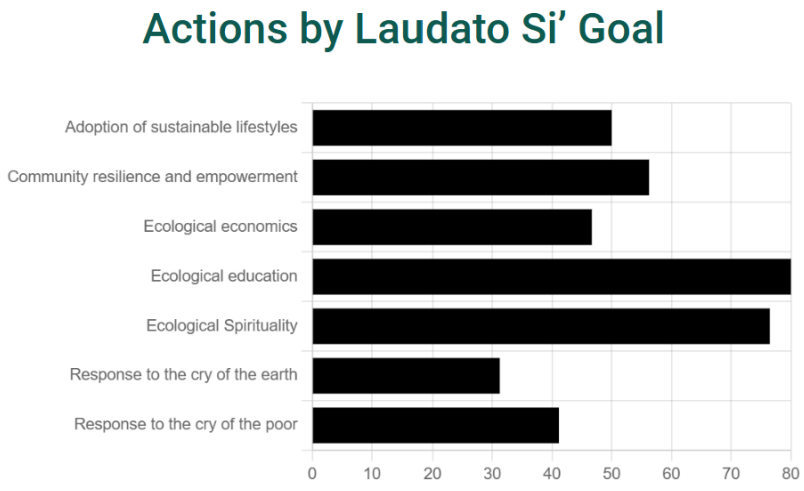
As a result, operationally speaking, the Diocese of San Diego is well on track to meet or exceed the emissions reduction aims of the Paris Climate Agreement. BUT ALSO, a structured but flexible catechetical pathway to action unites our community in the care of our common home, rooted in faith and producing love of neighbor at global scale through participation in the Laudato Si' Action Platform. To date, twenty-two parishes/parish schools have enrolled and are actively participating, as well as two local high schools and the University of San Diego.

The mission guiding this ministry has inspired our three previous Laudato Si' Action Platform plans and continues to direct our action in this year's plan:

Our mission is to spread Catholic teaching of creation care concerning our duty to be good stewards of our common home, to include the just use of our environmental resources and the protection of all life. We raise awareness to the "cry of the earth" and the "cry of the poor," encourage individual and community resilience and empowerment, and advocate for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles, all with the urgency the times require.

Our Reflection:

Our third reflection, informing the creation of this year's plan, is available at, bit.ly/SDCatholicLSAPReflection3, a case sensitive link. Evaluation of the LSAP suggested actions is included in Appendix A of this plan, summarized below in the graphic shown.





Parishes and Schools LSAP enrollment based on their self-reporting to the Diocese of San Diego

Our Pastoral Approach:

The Laudato Si' Action Platform has served as a very useful tool in fostering integral ecology in the Diocese of San Diego. Centered on engagement with the platform, the Creation Care Ministry has created a structured but flexible catechetical pathway to action using the Catholic Social Teaching model of SEE-JUDGE/DISCERN-ACT. This begins with a highly accessible method of instruction—a movie.

In this first step, community members are invited to watch *The Letter*, a co-production of the Vatican and the Laudato Si' Movement (https://theletterfilm.org/). Before beginning, however, we invite attendees to contemplate a place in nature where, as a child, they felt connected to the Creator. They share with a partner, and we highlight a few responses. This invites the group into an agreeable, shared space of awe and wonder for the gift of creation and helps to overcome feelings of divisiveness.

The movie brings four representatives from impacted populations to the Vatican to meet Pope Francis and share their experiences, revealing through the eyes of the vulnerable what is happening to our common home. Following the movie, we invite attendees to share their current experiences of environmental impact and their hopes for the future.

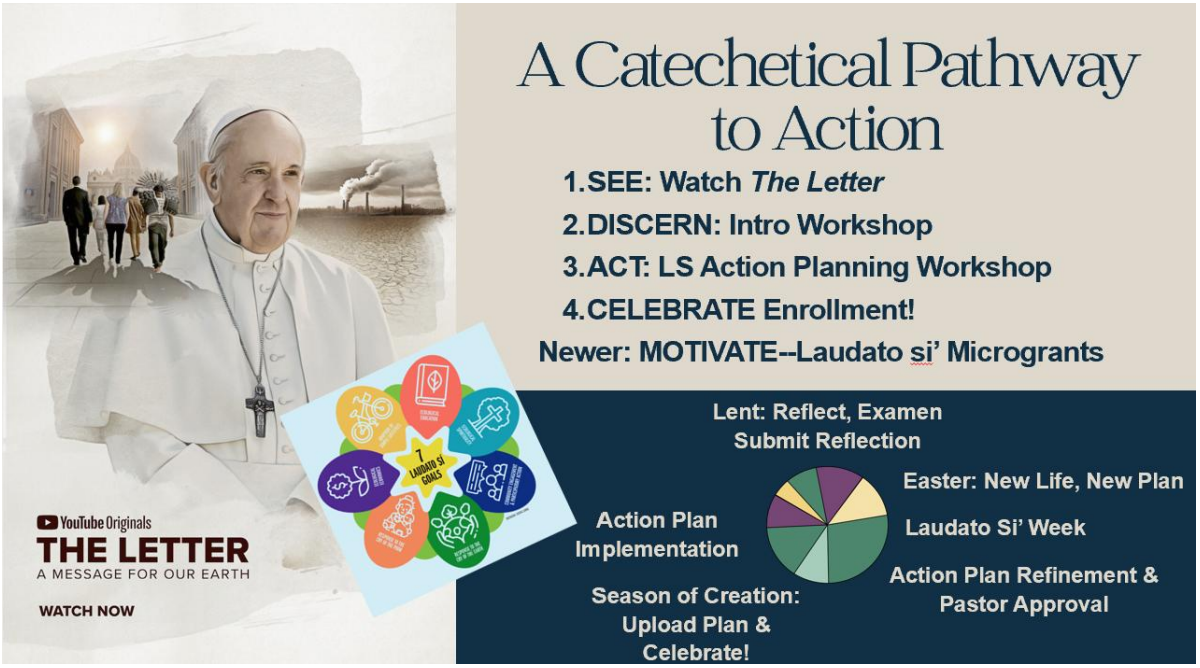
In step two, we build upon this "ah-hah moment," introducing and *reminding* attendees of the Scripture, Tradition, and Magisterial teachings that call us to care for our common home. Though we don't restrict the conversation to climate change, we do cover the basic science and especially focus on the uneven impact of environmental degradation felt by the poor. Importantly, the 7 goals of Laudato Si' are held up as synthesizing our Catholic teachings vis-à-vis today's ecological crisis, providing the means by which to discern a response to what we SEE.

Step three, the response—getting on the Laudato Si' Action Platform! Workshop participants bring their own laptops for hands-on instruction because the platform can be difficult to navigate for volunteers. Together, we click through the steps of enrollment, reflection, and reviewing suggested actions; then we

plan. Attendees review several samples of others' action plans, recognizing there is no need to reinvent the wheel. They consider their community strengths and weaknesses and what they might do. An important slogan is, "No one can do everything, but everyone can do something!"

During Earth Day month, Laudato si' microgrants provide additional incentive. We have distributed $24,000 for specific actions over the past 3 years.

Finally, we set all of this against the backdrop of our liturgical calendar, embedding a new cycle of action within familiar patterns of faith practice, as studies show this is the best way to invite adoption of new ideas. During Season of Creation each year, we celebrate!



Laudato Si' Actions for 2026-2027

Response to the Cry of the Earth: A call to protect our common home for the well-being of all, addressing the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability in a fair and equitable manner.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Common Home, Common Ground Initiative to foster ecological conversion through ENCOUNTER with Our Sister Mother Earth, gardening and farming our Catholic land in an effort to sew beauty and feed our community.	Creation Care Ministry director Christina Slentz (overseeing) with Daniel Sullivan, Brother James Lockman, OFM as expert volunteer leads; in partnership with parishes, schools, and Catholic Charities	Launched Season of Creation 2026 and ongoing	$3000 budgeted from Creation Care Ministry to provide $500 to each of four major parish operations and $250 to each of four parish-school partnership operations	The goal of this action is two-fold, both to promote ecological conversion as well as to augment local foodbanks with produce grown by our Catholic community.	TBD
ACTION	**LEAD**	**DATE**	**RESOURCES**	**EXPECTED RESULTS**	**ACTUAL RESULT**
Transforming the Pastoral Center grounds into a Saint Kateri Habitat and working to redesign the property in preparation for upcoming requirements to remove unused lawns (a two-year goal approved last year)	Christina Slentz and diocesan Creation Care Team under the direction of Chancellor Marioly Galván and in coordination with diocesan Facilities Manager Peter Barry	Spring 2027	$250 from Creation Care Ministry funds will achieve this goal at a minimum, planting native species along our hillside and adding a pollinator garden. To include outdoor Stations of the Cross will require $2800, which we hope to obtain through grant money. Removing the lawns will be funded by diocesan grounds keeping budget	A Saint Kateri Garden will be installed by May 2027. Wider transformation of the lawns will be dependent on local policies.	TBD

Response to the Cry of the Poor: A call to promote eco-justice, recognizing that we are called to defend all forms of life on Earth.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Host and report on a Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor synodal listening session and facilitate continued dialogue and collaboration	Christina Slentz with the generous support and participation of Bishop Michael Pham, as well as our executive director of Catholic Charities, and collaboration with the University of San Diego	Listening Session, 9/16/2026 plus digital survey through Oct 2026; report will be submitted by 11/30/2026; collaboration will be ongoing	$900 covered dinner hosting listening session attendees	Shared fontline communities' experience of environmental impact has fostered greater support for action and collaboration within the diocese, adding strong connections to University of San Diego, Catholic Charities, and the Franciscan School of Theology	As expected

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Facilitate the mapping of a foodbank network to move food grown/gathered by parishes and schools to nearby foodbanks	Creation Care Ministry and Catholic Charities	Jan-2027	N/A	For parishes/schools growing food, nearby foodbanks will be identified to facilitate delivery of food to those in need	TBD

Ecological Economics: Calls us to promote ethical investments, encourage a circular economy, divest from fossil fuels, and avoid activities harmful to the planet and people.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Host an environmental disaster preparedness event in partnership with Catholic Mutual	Christina Slentz and Catholic Mutual Agent, Rob Blogget	Spring 2026	N/A	Gathering for parish and school leadership and facilities managers to enhance environmental resilience	TBD

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Offer our annual Laudato Si' Microgrants to parishes and schools for Laudato Si' Action projects. Requires their enrollment on the LSAP.	Christina Slentz	April-May 2027	$5,000	Laudato Si' Action in the Diocese of San Diego	

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles: Based on the idea of sufficiency, it promotes sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Facilitate our Catholic Energies Efficiency Assessment and planning for subsequent action with designated parish	Christina Slentz with Deacon Mike Macie, Director of diocesan Services Corporation and the Pastor/Staff at the selected parish	October - December 2026 for initial submission; execution and planning for follow-on action in Spring 2027.	$10,000 grant from Catholic Energies	Identify energy efficieny gaps and develop a plan to close those gaps as the parish is able.	TBD

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Continue to use compostable serving ware in the Pastoral Center and reduce use of single-use plastics	Meeting Services Coordinator Silvia Parades	Ongoing	Budgeted as part of normal diocesan event hosting	Continued sustainability	Sustainable practice

Ecological Education: Redesigning curricular and institutional reform to foster ecological awareness, education, and transformative action.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Host our annual Creation Care Exhibition Booth at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress	Creation Care Ministry in partnership with the California Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement	April 22-25, 2027	$1200 for the booth plus sponsorship from the Catholic Climate Covenant, Catholic Energies, and Laudato Si' Movement	Creation Care Catechesis in Southern California and the wider West Coast US Catholic Community	As expected

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Laudato Si' Advocacy Youth Summit to Sacramento (3rd year) in collaboration with Jesuits West and California Laudato Si' Movement	Creation Care Teens program led by Christina Slentz in partnership with Jesuits West and the California Chapter of the Laudato Si' Movement	April 25-26, 2027	Funding provided by the Jesuits West and the North America Laudato Si' Movement	350-400 Catholic High School Students will meet with state representatives advocating for legislation they have identified in alignment with Laudato Si' principles	As expected

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Continued offering of our Catechetical Pathway to Creation Care Action and outreach to our schools through film screenings of *The Letter* and workshops to educate on Laudato Si' action--how to respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor	Creation Care Ministry Team	Two intro workshops and two action workshops are offered at a minimum at the Diocesan Pastoral Center AND by request at parishes and schools	Diocesan Pastoral Center workshops include a pizza dinner in advance and parish/school/youth group screenings of The Letter receive $25-50 toward refreshments; a total of ~$600 covers this catechetical outreach each year provided by Creation Care ministry budget	This catechetical pathway has resulted in 22 parishes/parish schools enrolling on the Laudato Si' Action Platform over the past 3 years. Actions at schools are most frequently garden projects; parishes take action by eliminating single-use plastics, hosting screenings of *The Letter*, gardening, and educating their community on what items go where in the trash.	As expected

Ecological Spirituality: Recovers a spiritual vision of God's creation and fosters deeper contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Season of Creation Children and Youth Creation Art Contest	Volunteer Judges under oversight of Christina Slentz	Sep-27	$300 from Creation Care Ministry budget	~75-100 students in grades 4-12 participate with winners selected in 4 age group categories	As expected

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Provide expert knowledge and support for use of the new Mass for the Care of Creation and offer similar guidance and resource/materials support to parish and school level celebrations of the Feast of Saint Francis during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Saint Francis	Christina Slentz with the strong support of our diocesan Office of Liturgy and Spirituality	Especially Season of Creation but planning to promote use of the Mass for the Care of Creation on Earth Day 2027 (April 22)	N/A	Providing critical spiritual connectedness to our Care for Creation program and an understanding that our actions are rooted in faith.	As expected

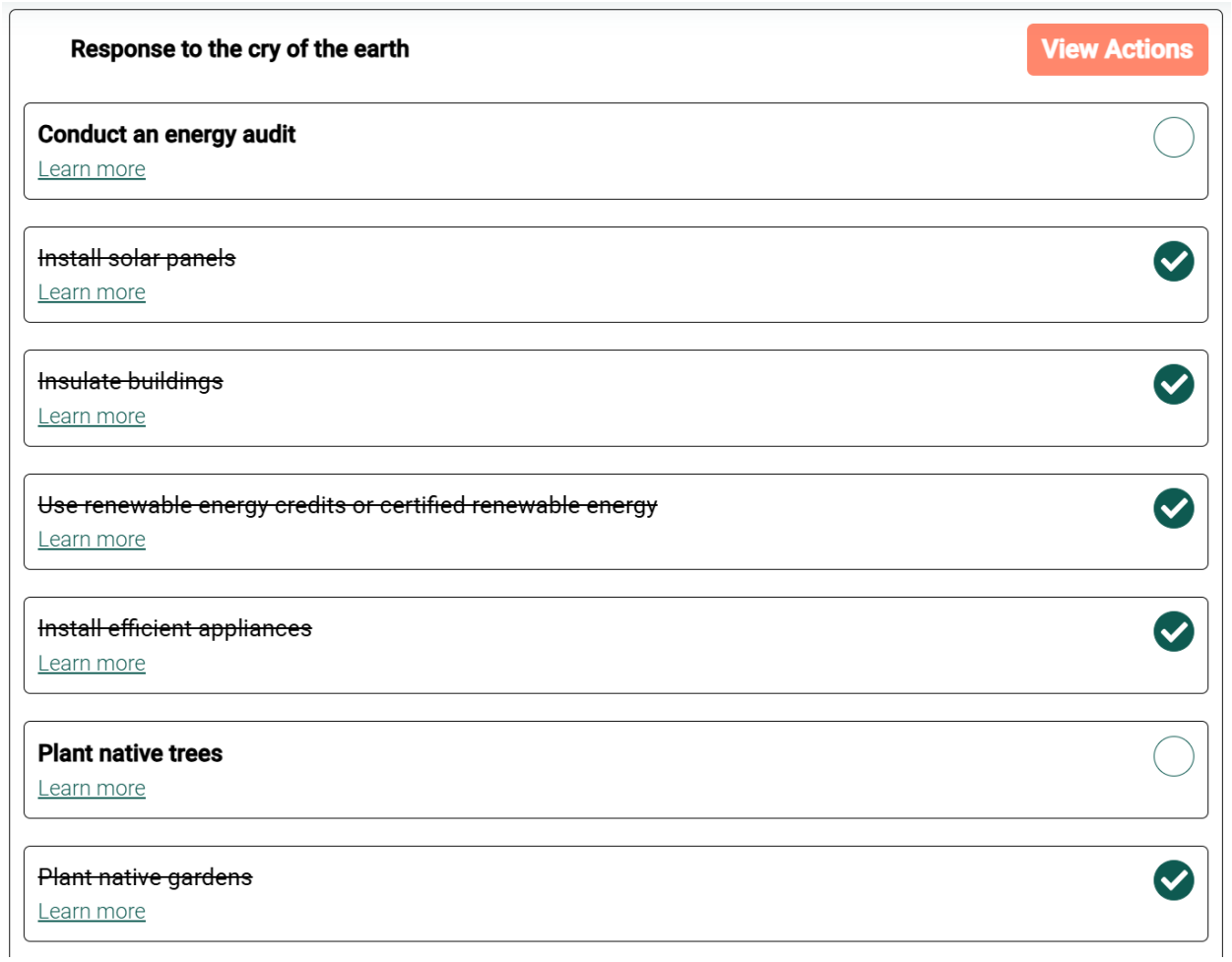
Community Resilience and Empowerment: Envisions a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels, defending our common home and engaging decision-makers.

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Begin collaboration with Catholic Charities to increase local environmental adaptation and resilience capacity (a two-year goal approved last year)	Creation Care Ministry and Catholic Charities	Spring 2027	Fleshing out the budget is an important step we have not yet accomplished	Providing capacity to serve our poor and vulnerable communities in the face of envrionmental impact.	TBD

ACTION	LEAD	DATE	RESOURCES	EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL RESULT
Host a webinar on how to function as a resilience shelter.	Creation Care Ministry and Catholic Charities	Spring 2027	N/A	Providing capacity to serve our poor and vulnerable communities in the face of envrionmental impact.	TBD

Appendix A

Suggested Actions Evaluation



Response to the cry of the poor View Actions

~~Identify challenges caused by failing social systems and who is likely to be most vulnerable~~ ✓
Learn more

~~In solidarity with those affected by failed systems, support programmes that address immediate, short-term needs~~ ✓
Learn more

~~In solidarity with those affected by failed systems, support programmes that address the underlying causes of social inequality~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Engage elders to promote awareness of collective practices that have helped to overcome community challenges~~ ✓
Learn more

Promote initiatives that use existing resources to serve the wider public ○
Learn more

As part of your budgeting process, define what is "enough" for your community and if possible donate to projects that create equitable social systems ○
Learn more

~~Hold social or ecological action days~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Develop educational events to encourage the defence of human life from conception to natural death~~ ✓
Learn more

Ecological Spirituality View Actions

~~Publish annual statements of support for the Season of Creation~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Nurture a spirituality that embraces the call to ecological conversion~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Speak about Laudato Si' within the community~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Make Laudato Si' study and prayer guides available~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Bless a natural space as a reflection or meditation area and regularly pray outdoors~~ ✓
Learn more

Regularly host outdoor prayer services ○
Learn more

Create a prayer journal, bulletin board, or other way of recording and sharing prayers made in nature ○
Learn more

~~Visit another faith community to discuss your social and ecological initiatives~~ ✓
Learn more

Regularly include Laudato Si' themes in homilies ○
Learn more

~~Include Laudato Si' themes in the celebration of liturgical moments~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Co-host a Season of Creation event with another community~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Publicly pray during the Season of Creation~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Develop a Season of Creation spiritual practice and observe it each year~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Promote celebration of Saints connected to Care for Our Common Home~~

Learn more

~~Encourage Parishes and Schools to celebrate a blessing of the animals~~

Learn more

~~Promoted and supported participation in the Extraordinary Year of Saint Francis~~

Learn more

Ecological education View Actions

~~Ensure members of the community are familiar with the local ecosystem~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Ensure members of the community are familiar with the science of the ecological crisis and its social dimensions~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Ensure members of the community are familiar with ecological virtues~~ ✓
Learn more

Develop opportunities for community members to learn about local ecology by restoring a piece of land ○
Learn more

Create ways for educators to connect with nature and to undergo ecological conversions ○
Learn more

~~Create opportunities for youth-led Laudato Si' initiatives~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Develop mechanisms to publicly recognise young people for their leadership~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Regularly highlight Laudato Si' themes in your internal communications channels~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Encourage community members to complete a Laudato Si' Plan or use another planning tool~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Ensure frequently under-represented groups have access to education~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Offer culturally appropriate modes of education and/or offer alternative forms of education~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Ensure that education includes promotion of human rights and dignity~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Develop and implement a Laudato Si' education plan~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Partner with local Catholic higher education institutions to provide more opportunities to learning~~ ✓
Learn more

🗑

Ecological economics View Actions

Invest in socially responsible enterprises (e.g. renewable energy)
Learn more

~~Choose an ethical banking company~~
Learn more

~~Choose an ethical insurance company~~
Learn more

~~Ensure that those who perform 'care labour' are well supported, with special attention to the girls and women who often perform it~~
Learn more

Teach and practise gift economy values
Learn more

Promote the sharing of goods
Learn more

~~Purchase recycled and sustainable materials~~
Learn more

~~Divest from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to people and the planet, or sign the pledge for no future investment~~
Learn more

~~We held a "Degrowth" workshop.~~
Learn more

~~Offer microgrants to parishes and schools for Laudato Si' Actions~~
Learn more

Community resilience and empowerment View Actions

~~Strengthen connections between the Church and social-ecological initiatives~~ ✓
Learn more

Develop a community coalition to prepare for and respond to emergent social crises ○
Learn more

~~Develop a coalition with other groups and approach decision-makers in a united way~~ ✓
Learn more

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

~~Ensure buildings are prepared for changes in heat, storm intensity, and sea-level rise~~ ✓
Learn more

Ensure members of the community are able to travel to other locations in the event of a weather emergency ○
Learn more

~~Create institutional structures to manage Laudato Si' initiatives~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Identify a social/environmental policy focus~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Make public statements about advocacy issues~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Organise social/ecological events~~ ✓
Learn more

Regularly explore the local ecosystem as a group ○
Learn more

~~Promote integral ecology in public communications channels~~ ✓
Learn more

~~Foster dialogue on social-ecological issues~~ ✓
Learn more