



The Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Laudato Si' Action Platform Year Four Plan – DRAFT January 1 – December 31, 2025

The **Response to the Cry of Earth** is a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Actions could include:

- *the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures*
- *achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity*
- *promoting sustainable agriculture*
- *guaranteeing access to clean water for all*

The **Response to the Cry of the Poor** is a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend human life from conception to death, and all forms of life on Earth.

Actions could include:

- *projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants, and children at risk*
- *analysis and improvement of social systems*
- *social service programs*

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

Actions could include:

- *sustainable production and consumption*
- *ethical investments*
- *divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people*
- *supporting circular economies*
- *prioritizing care labor and protecting the dignity of workers*

The **Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles** is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.

Actions could include:

- *reducing waste and recycling*
- *adopting sustainable dietary habits (opting for a more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption)*
- *greater use of public transport*
- *active mobility (walking, cycling)*
- *avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic, etc.).*

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Actions could include:

- *ensuring equitable access to education for all and promoting human rights*
- *fostering Laudato Si' themes within the community*
- *encouraging ecological leadership (students, teachers)*
- *ecological restoration activities*

Ecological Spirituality springs from a profound ecological conversion and helps us to “discover God in all things”, both in the beauty of creation and in the sighs of the sick and the groans of the afflicted, aware that the life of the spirit is not dissociated from worldly realities.

Actions could include:

- *promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations*
- *developing ecological catechesis*
- *developing ecological retreats and formation programs, etc.*

Community resilience and empowerment envisage a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

Actions could include:

- *promoting advocacy and developing people's campaigns*
- *encouraging rootedness and a sense of belonging in local communities and neighborhood ecosystems*

Goal 1: Increase Landfill Diversion Efforts

What will we do?

1. Because we lack 100% satisfaction with cost and service of current services with Denali/Organix, we will continue to explore alternative options that we can confidently recommend to other area stores and businesses.
2. Give retreatants the option to compost during their stay.
3. Provide outreach and encourage local schools, businesses, and churches to consider a landfill diversion program like ours or similar.
4. Share more information with the general public on the importance of [Food Waste Reduction](#)

This addresses portions of the following LSAP/CSA goals:

Response to the cry of the Earth; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Community resilience and empowerment

How & when will we do it?

1. Tracy will explore Dinner Bell Farms
2. Chelsea will develop a procedure and brochure for hermitage retreatants.
3. Tracy will work with SMSA
4. Trish will do an article on Food Waste Prevention week

PROGRESS/RESULTS:

1. The biodigester in Forest County near Potawatomi recently filed for a demolition permit with the DNR. They closed after 9 years due to COVID.
2. Dinner Bell Farms' composting service is not up and running yet and once it is, it will not be providing small volume, residential pick ups. Tracy presented other composting companies doing pickups in Sun Prairie and Green Bay area. She will pursue Green Box out of Sun Prairie.
3. Green Box quoted \$200/month for every-other-week pickups from a 64-gallon tote, but requires a contract and three more entities to also contract to make it worth the drive. Tracy and Peg will be meeting with: Hospice, SMSA, Marian, MPTC, and others.
4. Chelsea created a procedure and handout when offering retreatants a compost bucket when staying. She is getting a good response to this so far. Two buckets were initially purchased, but due to demand, two more were purchased so that all hermitages have the option.

Goal 2: Implement Sustainability Guidelines

What will we do?

1. Create conversation guides for households to discuss their commitment level to Laudato Si'
2. Encourage monthly conversations on Laudato Si' topics
3. Continue reducing single-use plastics

This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:

Response to the cry of the Earth; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment

How & when will we do it?

1. Dusty will generate conversation guidelines
2. Dusty will talk to RCs about encouraging use of Trish's blogs for discussion starters for circles
3. Ask Leadership Liaisons to discuss guidelines with their staff
4. Tracy will ask Suzanne to explore rechargeable AA, AAA, and 9V batteries (instead of alkaline)

PROGRESS/RESULTS:

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Goal 3: Implement Aspects of Land Management Plan

What will we do?

1. Invasive pulls
2. Controlled burns - winter and spring
3. Moving/removing trees
4. Provide quarterly update to LSAT and in Hearts Transforming

This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:

Response to the cry of the Earth; Response to the cry of the poor; Ecological economics; Adoption of sustainable lifestyles; Ecological education; Ecological spirituality; Community resilience and empowerment.

How & when will we do it?

1. Maintenance will complete tasks as timing and budget allow in accordance with the Land Management Plan

PROGRESS/RESULTS:

- On February 5, 2025, the prairie burn took place.
- The brush pile in the forest south of the road is being removed. The escarpment is now visible.

Goal 4: Advocate in Local and State Organizations

What will we do?

1. Look for way to have statewide action to eliminate plastic take home containers/switch to compostable containers
2. If an eco-friendly version of a product is not available in a store, submit request for the store to begin stocking it.
3. Recruit/Train at least one new Laudato Si' Animator
4. Consider action, greater involvement with [Faith in Place](#)? Madison's outreach coordinator is Laura. Milwaukee is Shahzad.

This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:

How & when will we do it?

1. Not determined
2. Not determined
3. Carol Braun has committed to becoming a Laudato Si' Animator in 2025
4. Contact made by Tracy.

PROGRESS/RESULTS:

- Muhammad "Shahzad" Huissain from Faith in Place attended our April meeting to introduce himself and better understand CSA's Care for Creation initiatives and Laudato Si' Plan. Shahzad will be back to table at the Earth Fair and has signed up for the LS animator training.

Goal 5: Increase EcoSpirituality Offerings

What will we do?

1. Create/expand prayer garden with native plants
2. Provide "Forest Bathing"
3. Prayer Services on Ecological Spirituality
4. Move Labyrinth to an area that is easier for the public to access and easier for maintenance to maintain
5. Have a Farmers Market presence to discuss Laudato Si'/EcoSpirituality
6. Invite Marian and SMSA students to the property for EcoSpirituality offerings
7. Create EcoSpirituality handouts for those in hermitages/walking grounds
8. Explore offering an Eco-Pilgrimage for Season of Creation

This addresses portions of the following LSAP goals:

How & when will we do it?

1. Lael will order native plants from GLC plant sale for the prayer garden
2. Forest Bathing will be offered during the Earth Fair on April 26
3. Trish will reach out to Sister Ruth about potential prayer services
4. A labyrinth committee will be formed and determine the best path forward for the labyrinth
5. Not determined
6. Not determined
7. Lael will generate content for an EcoSpirituality booklet; Mission Advancement will design and print
8. Tracy will explore. Carol has a program she will share.

PROGRESS/RESULTS:

- Three bluebird houses and two butterfly houses.
- LSAT members and others from the community will be encouraged to attend the online Faith in Place 10th Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit, September 22-24, 2025. Guest speaker is Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Ongoing Annual Goals (Longitudinal)

- Grow animators with one new animator each year
 - Carol Braun in Spring 2025
 - Kelsey Beine in Spring 2025
- Partnerships with GLC, Bird City, Matthew 25...
 - Events
 - Kestrel banding
 - Host bird walks
 - Pill bottle collection
- Annual Earth Day Fair