



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy

2025 – 2030





Introduction

“ Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience. ”

LS 217

The Laudato Si’ Sustainability Strategy (Strategy) has been developed by Catholic Education Western Australia Ltd (CEWA) to fulfil both its Catholic Church obligations, as set out in the [Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8](#), and meet its obligations as an incorporated entity.

The Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8 builds on Pope Francis’ landmark [Encyclical Letter Laudato Si’ \(2015\)](#) urging all to take action for our common home.

Throughout 2024 a Working Party, chaired by Rev Mark Powell, Director Religious Education, collaborated on the development of the Strategy and related Action Plan. The Working Party comprised cross-directorate office staff, as well as representation from schools, and First Nations and church agencies, as per the Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8.

The Strategy approaches Laudato Si’ in a holistic way across all levels of the CEWA system.

At a school level...	the Strategy will	... make Laudato Si’ front of mind and an integral part of whole-school planning.
At the office level...		... ensure adequate support is provided to schools to facilitate the implementation of actions aligned with the seven Laudato Si’ Goals.
At the system level...		... ensure Laudato Si’ principles guide decision making and are embedded across all levels of the CEWA system.

Vision

The CEWA Laudato Si’ Sustainability Strategy enables Catholic Education Western Australia to answer to our obligations as a Catholic organisation set out in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’, as well as meeting our corporate obligations. The Laudato Si’ Sustainability Strategy is an integral part of our Christ-centred and child-focused communities of engaged learning environments inspiring all to actively live the Gospel, fostering environmental, social and economic wellbeing.



Laudato Si' and the Laudato Si' Action Platform



Following the publication of [Laudato Si'](#) the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development launched the [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#), a global platform to equip the Church to achieve real and lasting solutions to the ecological crisis. The program supports participants to develop tailored Laudato Si' Action Plans, as decreed by the [Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8](#).

The Laudato Si' Action Platform provides a framework of seven Laudato Si' Goals (LSG) to align selected actions to, as pictured below (image adapted from Laudato Si' Action Platform).

						
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
<p>...a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability.</p> <p>Actions could include the adoption of renewable energies and energy sufficiency measures, achieving carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable agriculture.</p>	<p>...a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend all forms of life on Earth.</p> <p>Actions could include projects to promote solidarity, with special attention given to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, refugees, migrants and children at risk, and social service programs.</p>	<p>...acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere - our common home.</p> <p>Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any harmful activity, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.</p>	<p>...is grounded in the idea of sufficiency and promoting sobriety in the use of resources and energy.</p> <p>Actions could include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable diets (more plant-based diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport, active mobility (walking / cycling) and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic).</p>	<p>...is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.</p> <p>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) and ecological restoration activities.</p>	<p>...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.</p> <p>Actions could include promoting creation-based liturgical celebrations, developing ecological catechesis, retreats and formation programs etc.</p>	<p>...envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.</p> <p>Actions could include advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging a deep rooted sense of belonging in local communities.</p>



Strategy

The Strategy is a shared responsibility of the whole organisation, across the three levels of CEWA - schools, offices and system-level. The Strategy is implemented through this Laudato Si' Action Plan (Action Plan) and is aligned with the CECWA Strategic Initiatives 2030.

The Action Plan functions as an internal progress report and identifies timelines and responsibilities for each action. Reporting to the Executive will happen on a quarterly basis (and more frequently if required) and to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) on an annual basis. The Action Plan is intended to be dynamic, driven by ongoing review and improvement to deliver on the Strategy. The Strategy aligns with, and supports, the realisation of the CECWA Strategic Initiatives 2030.

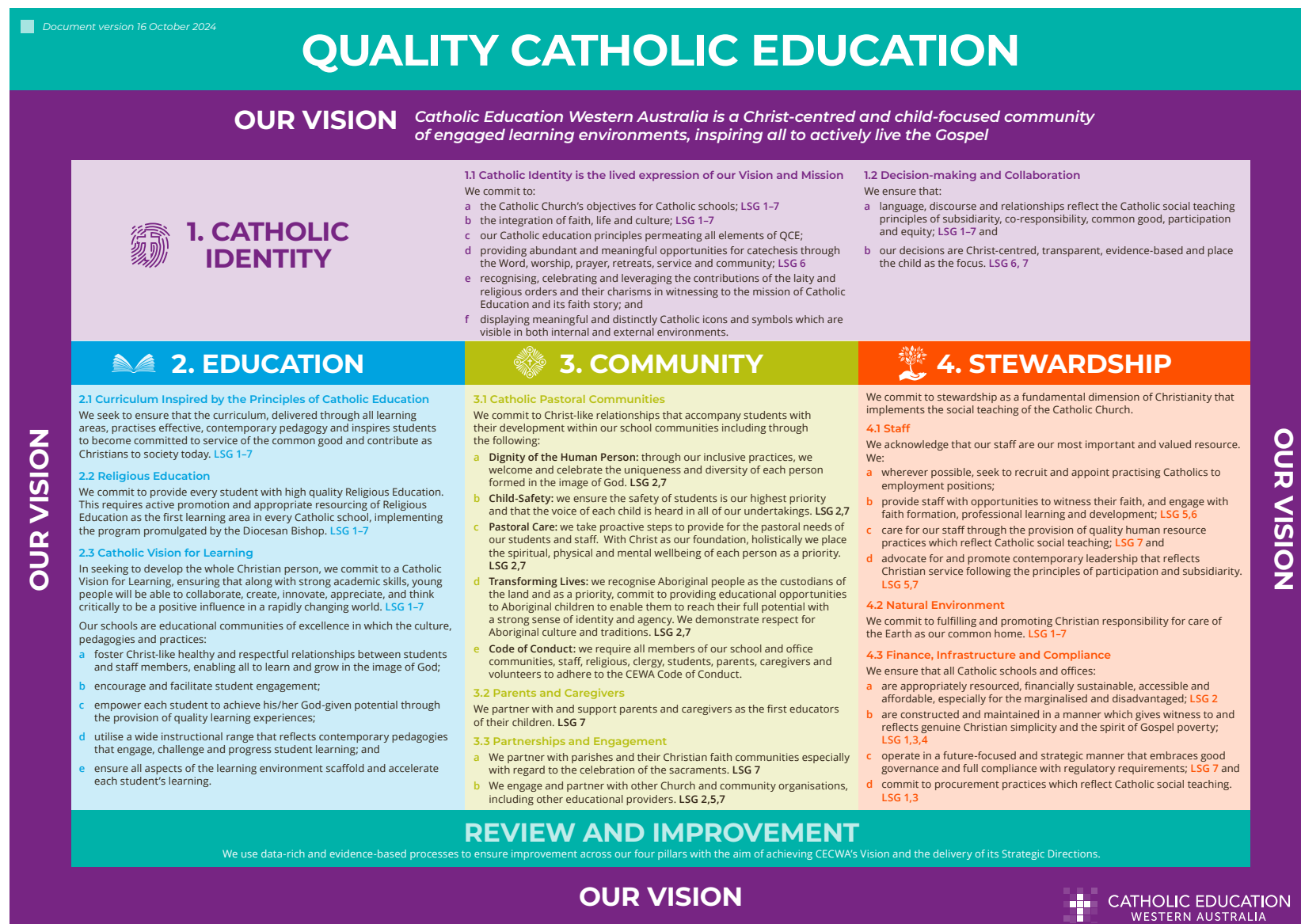
CECWA STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2030			
Formation for Mission	Excellence for Success	Witness for Impact	Growth for Access
Purpose			
To provide effective faith formation.	To ensure all we do is of the highest quality.	To elevate our Catholic story.	To provide more students with a Catholic education.
Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy Connection			
<p>The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Formation for Mission by:</p> <p><i>Enabling conversion of the Heart and Mind</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting all staff in profound ecological conversion.Fostering Laudato Si' themes at all levels of the system.	<p>The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Excellence for Success by:</p> <p><i>Demonstrating Transformative Action</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Establishing a future and action-focused culture by taking up the call to respond to the Cry of the Earth in a data-informed way.Re-thinking curricular support in the spirit of integral ecology.Delivering professional learning opportunities to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.	<p>The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Witness for Impact by:</p> <p><i>Elevating our Catholic Story</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Emphasising CEWA's commitment to the common good at school, office and system level.Elevating the Catholic story around sustainability within the community, in full alignment with the wider societal responsibilities.Celebrating achievements and best practice by schools and offices to encourage participatory action and collaboration at all levels of the system.	<p>The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Growth for Access by:</p> <p><i>Emphasising what sets CEWA apart</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing the highest quality of education aligned with Laudato Si' for all families seeking to embrace the Laudato Si' Goals.Explicitly taking up the call to respond to the Cry of the Poor, by inviting and supporting student voice from all students, across all age groups, abilities, and cultural background, including First Nations communities.
Specific Laudato Si' Goals (LSG) connected to this Strategic Initiative			
LSG 6: Ecological Spirituality	LSG 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth LSG 3: Ecological Economics LSG 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles LSG 5: Ecological Education LSG 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment	LSG 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor LSG 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment	LSG 2: Response to the Cry of the Poor LSG 5: Ecological Education LSG 7: Community Resilience and Empowerment Governance processes to support Laudato Si' implementation across the system
Review and Improvement			



QCE Elements

Quality Catholic Education (QCE) explicitly mentions CEWA's commitment to fulfilling and promoting Christian responsibility for care for the Earth as our common home under QCE element 4.2: Natural Environment. This provides a direct link to Laudato Si' Goal 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth.

However, the alignment and links between the seven Laudato Si' Goals and the QCE elements is much more elaborate, as illustrated on the right.



The seven Laudato Si' Goals and alignment with QCE



Legislative Context

“ Political and institutional frameworks do not exist simply to avoid bad practice, but also to promote best practice, to stimulate creativity in seeking new solutions and to encourage individual or group initiatives. ”

LS 177

As an incorporated organisation CEWA seeks to uphold its social license to satisfy its major stakeholders: the Catholic Church, through the Bishops of Western Australia, and the Catholic school communities.

CEWA must ensure the system complies with all reporting requirements. As an example, since 2019, CEWA has been submitting an annual Modern Slavery Statement to the Australian Catholic Anti-Slavery Network (ACAN), as per the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth). The annual Modern Slavery Statement is a public commitment to reduce the risk of modern slavery in CEWA's operations and supply chains. This commitment was reinforced by the adoption of the Modern Slavery Prevention Executive Directive in 2021. Providing annual reporting is an expression of CEWA's commitment

to operating in a future-focused and strategic manner that embraces good governance and authentic corporate social responsibility.

In recent years, an increasing number of corporations have been developing Corporate Social Responsibility Strategies and ESG strategies - strategies that describe a corporation's actions in terms of environmental, social and governance. Reporting on these strategies is not yet legislated, yet stakeholders are increasingly seeking reassurance on these elements. Commencing in 2025 corporations will be required to submit Sustainability Financial Reporting. This Strategy, and related processes for review and improvement, position CEWA in a proactive space for when these legislative changes may occur.



Photos: St Paul's Primary School (Karratha) and Kururrungku Catholic Education Centre (Billiluna)



Global Context

“ I cannot deny that it is necessary to be honest and recognise that the most effective solutions will not come from the individual efforts alone, but above all from major political decisions on the national and international level. ”

LD 69

In response to the climate crisis, two landmark publications were launched in 2015: Pope Francis' [Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'](#) and the United Nations' [UN 2030 Agenda](#).

The UN 2030 Agenda outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. Australia, along with all 193 member countries, is a signatory to the UN 2030 Agenda.

Pope Francis, in [addressing the United Nations General Assembly in 2015](#), called the UN 2030 Agenda 'an important sign of hope' and stated that 'we cannot permit ourselves to postpone 'certain agendas' for the future. The future demands of us critical and global decisions in the face of world-wide conflicts which increase the number of the excluded and those in need.'

[Laudato Si'](#) and the UN 2030 Agenda are complementary in directing global climate action, with the topic of all 17 SDGs addressed in [Laudato Si'](#).

In 2023, both Pope Francis and the United Nations reflected on the limited progress made since their landmark publications in 2015. Pope Francis, in [Laudato Deum](#), expresses the need for more urgent and concerted effort. Similarly, in the [United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report 2030](#), it is recognised that at the halfway-point to realising the UN 2030 Agenda the world is off track to meet the SDGs and hence to limit global warming by a maximum of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, despite the legally binding international treaty on climate change (the Paris Agreement).





Action Plan

“ There is a nobility in the duty to care for creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyle. Education in environmental responsibility can encourage ways of acting which directly and significantly affect the world around us. ”

LS 211

The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy is supported by a comprehensive set of actions aligned with the seven Laudato Si' Goals, a framework provided by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development on the global [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#). An additional Governance focus area supports the Action Plan, as per the [Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8](#).

In developing the Action Plan, the Working Party drew on qualitative and quantitative data gathered from schools and office teams.

In Term 3, 2024, all CEWA schools were invited to participate in a survey to help inform the Strategy. The survey was designed to get a picture of what actions schools are currently taking in response to Laudato Si', and to identify any barriers and challenges schools may encounter. The survey was framed as a celebration of current actions - not as an assessment of schools. The data confirmed Laudato Si' is already strongly embedded across CEWA schools and identified opportunities for the CEWA offices to further support schools on their journey. The data collected from the school survey allowed the Working Party to formulate specific actions that answer directly to the needs identified by the schools. The school survey is intended to be repeated at annual intervals, with the 2024 data serving as a baseline to measure future growth and improvement.

In addition, all office team leaders were invited to face-to-face conversations during Term 2 and Term 3, 2024, with the Project Officer. The goal of these conversations was to:

- provide each team with information about Laudato Si' and the development of the Strategy;

- enquire how teams are currently already engaging with Laudato Si' themes in their work; and
- identify opportunities for future actions that might be taken in the short term (2025).

The collated data allowed the Working Party to distil a comprehensive set of actions across the seven Laudato Si' Goals and Governance. All actions are labelled either as 'new', when it concerns a completely new initiative, or 'in progress' when concerning an existing initiative addressing Laudato Si'.

Each action is allocated to the most suitable CEWA level: school, office, system or a combination. Several actions may address multiple Laudato Si' Goals at once, demonstrating the interconnectedness of the Action Plan. For this Action Plan each action has been attributed to the main Laudato Si' Goal it is addressing.

The Action Plan takes an integrated, consultative approach. Where possible, actions are integrated within already existing processes or structures. Staff at schools and offices are invited to provide their input at various occasions, via surveys and/or feedback forms, to help shape the actions.

For each action a set of well-defined deliverables is provided, consisting of SMART targets. Each deliverable is allocated to a responsible team or directorate, with general oversight of the Strategy and Action Plan residing with the Director, Religious Education.

The Action Plan is intended to be dynamic and an updated Action Plan will be developed by the end of 2025.

Funding and Resource Implications

The actions contained within the 2025 Action Plan will be accommodated within existing budgets. Any additional funding required for specific projects moving forward will be requested via the annual budget planning process.

Documents Informing the Strategy

- Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA), [Strategic Initiatives 2030](#)
- Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, [Laudato Si' Action Platform](#)
- Fifth Plenary Council of Australia, [Decree 8](#)
- Pope Francis, [Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' \(2015\)](#)
- Pope Francis, [Apostolic Exhortation Laudato Deum \(2023\)](#)
- United Nations, [UN 2030 Agenda \(2015\)](#)

Working Party Members

The development of the Strategy was driven by the CEWA Laudato Si' Sustainability Working Party, comprising cross-directorate office staff, as well as representation from schools, and First Nations and church agencies as set out in the Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8.

Name	Role
Rev Mark Powell	Director, Religious Education (Chair)
Eveline Masco	Project Officer, Religious Education
Jonathon Woolfrey	CECWA Commissioner
Peter Davis	Team Leader Procurement and Contracts
Isabel Barne	Business Analyst, Digital Technology
Gunther De Vos	Research and Planning Consultant, Business Development Team
Lynne Beckingham	Project Manager AFaFE, Aboriginal Education Team
Rebecca Griffin	QCESR Officer, School Improvement Team
Linley Plowman	Governance Consultant, Strategy and Governance Team
Emma Bell	Mary's Mount Primary School, Gooseberry Hill; Catholic Primary Principals' Association
Belinda Henderson	Sustainability and Environmental Leader, Mary's Mount Primary School, Gooseberry Hill
Ian Hagen	Salvado Catholic College, Byford; Catholic Secondary Principals' Association
Carol Mitchell	Director, Justice, Ecology and Development Office (JEDO)
Cheryl Lennox-Bradley	Aboriginal Catholic Ministry

Acknowledgment of Country

Catholic Education Western Australia acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians and Elders, both past and present, of the lands on which Catholic Education Western Australia's schools, offices and operations are located across Western Australia.



Photo: St Joseph's School (Boulder)



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