



Introduction

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 <u>Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8</u>, and meet its obligations as an incorporated entity.

The Fifth Plenary Council Decree 8 builds on Pope Francis' landmark <u>Encyclical Letter Laudato Si' (2015)</u> 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.



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 Crv of the Earth

...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, achieveing carbon neutrality, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable agriculture.



Response to the Crv of the Poor

...a call to promote eco-justice, aware that we are called to defend 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, and social service programs.



Ecological economics

...acknowledges that the economy in the idea of is a sub-system of human society, and promoting which itself is embedded within use of resources the biosphere - our common home.

Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any harmful activity, supporting circular economies, and prioriting care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.



Adoption of sustainable lifestyles

...is grounded sufficiency sobriety in the and energy.

Actions could

include reducing waste and recycling, adopting sustainable diets (more plantbased diet and reducing meat consumption), greater use of public transport active mobility (walking / cycling) and avoiding single use items (e.g. plastic).



Ecological education

...is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology 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 /

ecological restoration activities.

teachers) and



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, retreats and formation programs etc.



Community resilience and empowerment

...envisages a synodal journey of community engagement and participatory action at various levels.

Actions could include advocacy and developing people's campaigns, encouraging a deep rooted sense of belonging in local communities.



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				
The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Formation for Mission by: Enabling conversion of the Heart and Mind Supporting all staff in profound ecological conversion. Fostering Laudato Si' themes at all levels of the system.	 The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Excellence for Success by: Demonstrating Transformative Action 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. 	 The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Witness for Impact by: Elevating our Catholic Story 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. 	 The Laudato Si' Sustainability Strategy contributes to Growth for Access by: Emphasising what sets CEWA apart 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 (OCE) explicitly mentions CFWA's commitment to fulfilling and promoting Christian responsibility for care for the Farth 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 Farth

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

QUALITY CATHOLIC EDUCATION

OUR VISION

Catholic Education Western Australia is a Christ-centred and child-focused community of engaged learning environments, inspiring all to actively live the Gospel



- 1.1 Catholic Identity is the lived expression of our Vision and Mission 1.2 Decision-making and Collaboration We commit to:
- a the Catholic Church's objectives for Catholic schools; LSG 1-7 b the integration of faith, life and culture; LSG 1-7
- c our Catholic education principles permeating all elements of QCE;
- d providing abundant and meaningful opportunities for catechesis through the Word, worship, prayer, retreats, service and community; LSG 6
- e recognising, celebrating and leveraging the contributions of the laity and religious orders and their charisms in witnessing to the mission of Catholic Education and its faith story; and
- displaying meaningful and distinctly Catholic icons and symbols which are visible in both internal and external environments.

3. COMMUNITY

- a language, discourse and relationships reflect the Catholic social teaching principles of subsidiarity, co-responsibility, common good, participation and equity; LSG 1-7 and
- b our decisions are Christ-centred, transparent, evidence-based and place the child as the focus, LSG 6, 7

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Curriculum Inspired by the Principles of Catholic Education

We seek to ensure that the curriculum, delivered through all learning areas, practises effective, contemporary pedagogy and inspires students to become committed to service of the common good and contribute as Christians to society today, LSG 1-7

We commit to provide every student with high quality Religious Education. This requires active promotion and appropriate resourcing of Religious Education as the first learning area in every Catholic school, implementing the program promulgated by the Diocesan Bishop. LSG 1-7

In seeking to develop the whole Christian person, we commit to a Catholic Vision for Learning, ensuring that along with strong academic skills, young people will be able to collaborate, create, innovate, appreciate, and think critically to be a positive influence in a rapidly changing world. LSG 1-7

Our schools are educational communities of excellence in which the culture. pedagogies and practices:

- foster Christ-like healthy and respectful relationships between students and staff members, enabling all to learn and grow in the image of God;
- encourage and facilitate student engagement;
- empower each student to achieve his/her God-given potential through the provision of quality learning experiences;
- utilise a wide instructional range that reflects contemporary pedagogies that engage, challenge and progress student learning; and
- ensure all aspects of the learning environment scaffold and accelerate each student's learning.

3.1 Catholic Pastoral Communities

We commit to Christ-like relationships that accompany students with their development within our school communities including through

- a Dignity of the Human Person: through our inclusive practices, we welcome and celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of each person formed in the image of God. LSG 2,7
- b Child-Safety: we ensure the safety of students is our highest priority and that the voice of each child is heard in all of our undertakings. LSG 2,7
- c Pastoral Care: we take proactive steps to provide for the pastoral needs of our students and staff. With Christ as our foundation, holistically we place the spiritual, physical and mental wellbeing of each person as a priority.
- d Transforming Lives: we recognise Aboriginal people as the custodians of the land and as a priority, commit to providing educational opportunities to Aboriginal children to enable them to reach their full potential with a strong sense of identity and agency. We demonstrate respect for Aboriginal culture and traditions. LSG 2,7
- Code of Conduct: we require all members of our school and office communities, staff, religious, clergy, students, parents, caregivers and volunteers to adhere to the CEWA Code of Conduct.

We partner with and support parents and caregivers as the first educators of their children, LSG 7

3.3 Partnerships and Engagement

- a We partner with parishes and their Christian faith communities especially with regard to the celebration of the sacraments. LSG 7
- b We engage and partner with other Church and community organisations, including other educational providers. LSG 2,5,7

4. STEWARDSHIP

We commit to stewardship as a fundamental dimension of Christianity that implements the social teaching of the Catholic Church.

We acknowledge that our staff are our most important and valued resource.

- a wherever possible, seek to recruit and appoint practising Catholics to employment positions;
- provide staff with opportunities to witness their faith, and engage with faith formation, professional learning and development; LSG 5,6
- care for our staff through the provision of quality human resource practices which reflect Catholic social teaching; LSG 7 and
- d advocate for and promote contemporary leadership that reflects Christian service following the principles of participation and subsidiarity.

4.2 Natural Environment

We commit to fulfilling and promoting Christian responsibility for care of the Earth as our common home. LSG 1-7

4.3 Finance, Infrastructure and Compliance

We ensure that all Catholic schools and offices:

- a are appropriately resourced, financially sustainable, accessible and affordable, especially for the marginalised and disadvantaged; LSG 2
- h are constructed and maintained in a manner which gives witness to and reflects genuine Christian simplicity and the spirit of Gospel poverty;
- operate in a future-focused and strategic manner that embraces good governance and full compliance with regulatory requirements; LSG 7 and
- d commit to procurement practices which reflect Catholic social teaching.

REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

OUR VISION





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. ""

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.

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 counties, 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).





Photos: Mary's Mount Primary School (Gooseberry Hill), Assumption Catholic Primary School (Mandurah), St Damien's Catholic Primary School (Dawesville), St Joseph's School (Waroona), St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Pinjarra) and Mandurah Catholic College (Mandurah)



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'.

Fach 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, <u>UN 2030 Agenda (2015)</u>

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	
lan 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)

