



THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM YEAR TWO PLAN ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

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), and avoiding single-use items (e.g. plastic, etc.). laudatosiactionplatform.org

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia made a public commitment to the seven-year journey of ecological conversion called for by Pope Francis through the Laudato Si' Action Platform. We committed ourselves to integral ecology. "An integral ecology includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator who lives among us and surrounds us, whose presence 'must not be contrived but found, uncovered.'" (*Laudato Si'* 225) "An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation, and selfishness." (*Laudato Si'* 230)

In October 2022, at our regional chapter meetings, we dialogued among ourselves and with our companions to determine which of the seven LSAP goals we would focus on in the second year of our seven-year journey. From this exchange, it was evident that the LSAP goal that we desired to focus on is **Goal 4: Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles**. This goal is grounded in our Franciscan charism of simplicity and our belief that all of creation is holy and belongs to God. Seeing all as brother and sister, we pledge to change our actions, both on the congregational level and as individuals living in local communities.

Thus, our plan is two-fold: to pursue actions at the congregational level that will lead to sustainable living, and to examine our lifestyle and do what is ours to do to live more simply. We do this for the sake of our sister, Mother Earth, and all our sisters and brothers living together on planet Earth, our common home.

1. Congregational Level:

- A. Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels:
 - Research the feasibility of installing solar panels on congregational properties.
 - Research the feasibility of purchasing/leasing hybrid or electric vehicles.
 - Continue shareholder resolutions to reduce fossil fuel and promote alternative energy sources.
- B. Review the pay scale yearly for employees to ensure livable wages and benefits.
- C. Develop a policy to continue reducing single-use plastics and styrofoam on congregational property, with the goal to eliminate their use by 2025.
- D. Encourage all committees and offices to develop and report their sustainability efforts, such as using less paper, etc.
- E. Continue sustainable maintenance of congregational properties (non-toxic products, organic maintenance of trees and fauna, etc.) and research areas for improvement (such as motion detector lights outside buildings, possible land trust, etc.)
- F. Continue to support our CSA farm; plan and promote classes on organic foods and sustainable living for members and the surrounding community.
- G. Invite and engage young adults in initiatives related to sustainable living.
- H. Continue and expand webinars and discussions on sustainable lifestyle as eco-education for our Franciscan family, both within the congregation (sisters, companions, and coworkers) and to the general public, through congregational committees, charism circles staff, and our Franciscan spiritual centers.

2. Individual/Local Community Level:

- A. Publish monthly suggestions for action on the individual and local level regarding sustainable

living, with a focus on the areas of food, water, and energy; including education and rationale.

- **Food:** commit to less meat consumption; reduce the use of processed foods; eat seasonally and locally produced items when possible; share relevant recipes.
- **Water:** reduce the use of water.
- **Energy:** use efficient lighting, turn off unused lights, unplug devices when not in use; whenever possible use renewable energies for heat and electricity; choose energy-efficient transportation.

B. Provide an evaluation process for each area annually.

3. Sharing and Accountability:

A. Encourage sharing the changes we make at each Regional Chapter.

B. Use various communication channels to share the actions being at the congregational, individual, and local community levels.