

7-YEAR JOURNEY
**LAUDATO SI'
ACTION PLATFORM**
TOWARD INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S ACTION PLAN

4 Priority Areas – 27 Goals

- Priority 1: Integrate Integral Ecology across the Curriculum and Research
- Priority 2: Achieve Climate Neutrality and Reduce Seattle University's Environmental Footprint
- Priority 3: Practice Socially Responsible Consumption, Purchasing & Investment
- Priority 4: Develop a Sustainable Campus Climate and Deepen Community Engagement & Public Advocacy

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Laudato Si' Action Platform: A "Reigniting Our Strategic Directions" Goal

In enthusiastic response to Pope Francis's invitation to higher education institutions, President Peñalver signed a letter of commitment in September 2021 for Seattle University to participate in the "Seven-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology" and the Laudato Si Action Plan (LSAP). The LSAP Leadership team finalized our campus-wide, multi-year action plan in February 2023, which includes four main priorities and 27 goals that span campus operations, programs, and community partnerships.

Learn more about
Seattle University's
Laudato Si' Action Platform:



**SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY**

LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM

*"A journey towards full
sustainability in the holistic spirit
of integral ecology"*

**UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
YEAR 3 ~ 2023-24**

LSAP Action Plan Accomplishments

Priority 1: Integrate Integral Ecology across the Curriculum and Research

This effort seeks to embed sustainability, environmental justice, and climate change themes across academic disciplines, experiential learning, student professional formation, and faculty scholarship and professional development. Notable achievements include:

- Delivery of curriculum workshops.
- Launch of two Laudato Si faculty research fellowships.
- Creation of sustainability-focused courses.
- Creation of repositories of all sustainability courses offered at SU and all sustainability research conducted by SU faculty in the past three years. The courses and research are mapped to the Laudato Si' Action Platform Goals and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

“ We define sustainability as meeting the needs of present and future generations through actions that support human and ecological health, social justice, and economic wellbeing. ”

Sustainability definition adopted by SU in 2023

Priority 2: Achieve Climate Neutrality and Reduce Seattle University's Environmental Footprint

This priority's main goal is achieving climate neutrality and reducing the university's environmental footprint. The working group is developing long-term strategies to transition campus operations towards carbon neutrality, increase energy efficiency, minimize waste, and conserve natural resources. Recent accomplishments are:



- Completion of a Zero Carbon Over Time (ZoT) Infrastructure Study and baseline to develop a phased transition to electrification.
- Adoption of a Green Fleet policy.
- Creation of a Zero Waste student fellowship team to support the completion of SU's first, comprehensive, campus-wide waste assessment and the development of a strategic action plan which will lay the groundwork for the university's zero waste roadmap and infrastructure.

Priority 3: Practice Socially Responsible Consumption, Purchasing, and Investment

In alignment with Laudato Si's call for ecological economics, Seattle University is advancing initiatives in ethical procurement, divestment from fossil fuels, and sustainable investments.

- In June of 2023, Seattle University became the first university in Washington state and the first Jesuit Catholic university in the country to fulfill a commitment of divestment from fossil fuels, while charting a new course of socially responsible investing.
- In April 2024, the university adopted its first sustainable procurement policy.

Notable LSAP Achievements and Partnerships

- **#10 in the Nation for Sustainability in Higher Education:** Seattle University obtained a GOLD STARS Rating by AASHE (the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) with a score of 83.87% placing SU in the top ten of this year's 500+ STARS participating higher education institutions. 
- **AJCU Faith, Justice & Reconciliation Assembly:** LSAP Co-Chairs served on the "Laudato Si" Commission and presented, along with a dozen more SU faculty and staff at the assembly (Chicago, July 16-19, 2024).
- **Bloomberg Green Festival:** Three SU representatives were selected as "Green Champions" for this high-profile event in Seattle (July 10-13, 2024).
- **SU-Seattle Archdiocese Collaboration:** Established a partnership to collaborate on environmental justice-based programs that span business, education, and non-profit sectors.
- **National Wildlife Federation - Campus Race to Zero Waste 2024:** SU joined over 80 colleges and universities across the country in an 8-week "Campus Race to Zero Waste" competition. SU ranked 1st in the medium sized campus division of the diversion category of the competition. SU recycled and composted 131,544 pounds of waste and reduced its cumulative greenhouse gas emissions by 158 metric tons of CO₂—which is the same as keeping 31 cars off the road or the energy consumed by 14 households. 

Priority 4: Develop a Sustainable Campus Climate and Deepen Community Engagement & Public Advocacy

Community resilience and self-efficacy call for deep listening, community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Efforts in this area focus on building relationships with local, Indigenous, and BIPOC communities, collaborating on educational seminars and programming for informed public advocacy, and bolstering student peer-to-peer educator programs.

This year's programs are listed below.

LSAP Community Engagement

- **Annual LSAP Summit and Celebration, February 2024:** Year 2 LSAP update and an interdisciplinary faculty panel on Pope Francis' *Laudate Deum*. Speakers included President Eduardo Peñalver, Co-Chairs Jeanette Rodriguez and Yolanda Cieters and the four LSAP Priority Sponsors.
- **Earth Month 2024:** 21 events total, including 8 student-led. Major campus-wide events: Mission Day (Mission Integration); Earth Talks (Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability); Red Talks (Office of Diversity and Inclusion); Maguire Lecture (Campus Ministry); PCC Community Markets CEO Krish Srinivasan (Albers Executive Speakers Series). 
- **Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture (ICTC) Events:** Annual Laudato Si' Summit (co-sponsored with the Creation Care Network); "Shaped by Nature" gallery exhibit and SU and Kubota Garden tour; *Laudate Deum* Interdisciplinary Faculty Panel and faculty and staff reading group; and Faculty Fellowship research presentations (Nursing and Economics).

More Events and Programs:

- **Ignatian Advocacy Summit:** A partnership of SU Campus Ministry, Jesuits West and the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.
- **Food Justice Summit - Seed Stories: Feeding OUR Future:** Educated the campus on Food Justice and challenges facing students and local communities.
- **Climate Action: Our Clean Energy Future:** This summit examined the future of hydropower in Washington and Seattle's grid resiliency. Climate activist Bill McKibben joined via Zoom to kick off the event.
- **Braiding Sweetgrass was the Common text for AY23-24:** A reading group for faculty and staff was created for reflection and dialogue about the text.
- **Orientations and Fall Welcome SUustainability Fair**