

In response to Pope Francis' call to environmental sustainability in the spirit of *Laudato Si'*, we're creating worksheets for each of the seven *Laudato Si'* Action Platform goals. We'll send them monthly, beginning in September 2022. Journey with us!

SEPTEMBER 2022: Goal #1 – Respond to the Cry of the Earth

“The Response to the Cry of the 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, and guaranteeing access to clean water for all.”

(www.laudatosiactionplatform.org)

In this worksheet, we'll look at some ways to reduce personal dependence on fossil fuels, conserving energy where we can while changing to renewable energy sources. This will help reduce air, water and land pollution, climate stress and biodiversity loss. This will help share our Common Home and its resources more equitably with all of its inhabitants, including those who will live in the future. **Are you ready?**

FOCUS AREAS for Goal #1

- **Electricity:** Reduce fossil fuel generated electricity; and switch to renewables such as solar and wind.
- **Natural gas and heating oil:** Reduce use of natural gas and/or oil; terminate completely where possible.
- **Transportation:** Reduce fossil fuel use in transportation.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS for Goal #1

Pray Begin including prayers for Creation and Creation Care in your normal routine.

Act 3 short term, 3 longer term actions

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

1. “Button up” your home or apartment – use shades & curtains to help the sun heat your home in the winter and to keep it cool in the summer. Fix drafts, improve insulation and weather stripping. Heat no higher than 68 degrees and cool no lower than 78 degrees. Use cold water to wash clothes, line dry when possible. Sign up for community solar.
2. Cook, dry and heat with less natural gas, opt for electricity instead where possible.
3. “Green driving” – obey speed limits, don't idle your car, combine trips, walk, carpool or bike.

LONGER TERM ACTIONS

1. Replace major appliances – electric heat pump heaters instead of gas furnaces, electric dryers instead of gas dryers, electric stoves instead of gas stoves. Replace gas water heaters with electric (ask about heat pump technology and ‘tankless’ heaters). Consider geothermal and “passive” heating and cooling measures.
2. Install solar panels if practical.
3. Replace gas or diesel autos with hybrid, plug-in hybrid, or electric vehicles.

Advocate

1. Never pass up a chance to fill out a customer questionnaire, suggest more environmentally practices, thank the company for good environmental habits that you see.
2. Write to your political leaders asking to help change our society away from fossil fuels, and increase our ecological resilience (for example, safer biking, better public transportation).
3. Ask your pastor & parish to include prayers for Creation in the Liturgy. One way to start is by regularly adding Prayers of the Faithful which address Creation Care.

My/our Plan for LS Goal #1 – Responding to the Cry of the Earth

NAME: _____

 PRAY for CreationMY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

 ACT for Creation: SHORT TERM (do these soon!)

- “Button up your abode” – use shades & curtains to help the sun heat your home in the winter and to keep it cool in the summer. Fix drafts, improve insulation and weather stripping. Heat no higher than 68 degrees and cool no lower than 78 degrees. Use cold water to wash clothes, line dry when possible. Sign up for community solar. (Check with your electricity provider, and/or “google” community solar in your zip code). The EPA’s energy saving guide can help with more ideas: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/energy-saver-guide-tips-saving-money-and-energy-home> .

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

- Cook, dry and heat with less natural gas, use electric appliances instead whenever possible.

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

- “Green driving” – obey speed limits, don’t idle your car, combine trips, walk, carpool, or bike. Consider an electric or hybrid vehicle. <http://greendivingamerica.org/smart-driving-tips.html>

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

□ **ACT for Creation: LONGER TERM (Major appliance and vehicle replacements):**

Done?	REPLACE	Date planned for replacement	Replace with _____ (usually electric)
	Gas or Oil Furnace		
	Gas Clothes Dryer		
	Gas Water Heater		
	Gas Stove		
	Gas Oven		
	Gas Fireplace		
	Gas BBQ		
	Gasoline or Diesel Vehicle		
	Install Rooftop Solar (or sign up for Community Solar)		

□ **ADVOCATE for Creation**

- Never pass up a chance to fill out a customer questionnaire, suggest more environmentally practices, thank businesses for good environmental practices which you see.
- Write to your political leadership at all levels, asking for less fossil fuels in our infrastructure and daily lives. Advocate for more sustainable communities, for example, with safer biking, better public transportation, walkable areas)
- Ask your pastor & parish to include prayers for Creation in liturgy. Start by asking that Prayers of the Faithful regularly address Creation Care.

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

Congratulations! You just helped reduce the number of oil wells, natural gas drilling sites and coal mines needed! That means less stress on natural habitats, less people engaged dangerous mining and drilling operations, less trucks and pipelines, less electrical plant operation, less air, water and land pollution and maybe even a lower energy bill for yourself. Give yourself a big pat on the back.



SIMPLE TABLE FOR FAMILY UTILITY & GASOLINE USE - 24 MONTH TRACKER

Utility	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Apr	May	June	July	Annual Totals
Electricity (kWh) 2022 - 2023													
Electricity 2023 - 2024													
Natural Gas (Therms) 2022 - 2023													
Natural Gas 2023 - 2024													
Water (Gallons or Cubic Feet) 2022 - 2023													
Water 2023 - 2024													
Miles driven 2022 - 2023													
Miles driven 2023-2024													

NOTES: 1 cubic foot = 748 gallons water, Electricity is in Kilowatt Hours (kWh), Natural Gas is in therms.

Where I live, electricity is produced using: coal: _____%, natural gas: _____%, oil: _____%, solar: _____%, wind: _____%, nuclear: _____%, other: _____%. (You can start here <https://www.nei.org/resources/statistics/state-electricity-generation-fuel-shares>).

Where I live, water comes from _____.

Where I live, natural gas comes from _____.

My vehicle's gas mileage: _____ miles per gallon (mpge for electric cars).