

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. These worksheets are written especially for households (individuals, couples and families) in north American settings, although we encourage anyone who might be interested to use them. We'll send them monthly, beginning in September 2022. Journey with us!

NOVEMBER 2022: Goal #3 – Ecological Economies

“Ecological Economics acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home. Actions could include sustainable production and consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any activity harmful to the planet and the people, supporting circular economies, and prioritizing care labour and protecting the dignity of workers.”

(www.laudatosiactionplatform.org)

In this worksheet, we'll look at how our use of personal and organizational moneys can help to build more Ecological Economies. We'll also look at how we can reduce our participation in the non-circular economies in which we live, and convert our own consumption and discarding habits so that they are more circular. This will return resources to the Earth with the least waste and environmental degradation. We'll also look at how our consumption and discarding habits can lift workers up and ensure they also have dignified lives. **Are you ready?**

FOCUS AREAS for Goal #3

- **Investment/Divestment Strategies, Faith Consistent Investing.** Organize personal finances so that banking, insurance and investment decisions are made consistent with Laudato Si' values. Petition financial institutions to divest from activity harmful to the Earth and its inhabitants. Divest from fossil fuels.
- **Circular Consumption.** Reduce purchases, especially those which will end up in landfills or are hard-to-recycle. Borrow, rent or share, especially items like tools. Purchase second-hand. Look for “recycled”, not just “recyclable” goods, especially paper and plastic. Learn what labels like “Fair Trade” and “Responsibly Made” mean and include them in your purchase decisions. Give-away or donate serviceable goods, trade with friends and neighbors, repair items, consider joining purchasing co-ops.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS for Goal #3

Pray Pray and reflect on Leviticus 25, and Matthew Chapter 6 (or Luke Chapter 12).

Act 2 short term, 2 longer term actions:

SHORT TERM ACTIONS

1. Investigate your money. Where does your bank, your insurance company, your pension fund, invest your money? Where would you like them to invest?
2. Investigate your trash and recycling bins. Find ways to reduce trash (even the recycling) by reducing purchases, especially those which are overpackaged, travel great distances, and might have been made using questionable labor practices. Consider purchasing goods second-hand, borrowing or renting, repairing, or even doing without.

LONGER TERM ACTIONS

1. Write to each of your family's banks, credit card companies, insurance providers, investment or funds managers asking them to divest from fossil fuels. Switch accounts and investments to other providers if it seems that they are likely to continue funding fossil fuels.
2. Look into your local trash collection service. Which items are accepted? Where do they go? How much ends up in the landfill? How much is composted? How much recycled?

Advocate

1. Write to your Bishop**: Ask that the Diocese divest from fossil fuels as quickly as possible.
2. Write to your Senators and Representative, asking them to co-sponsor and support the passage of the Break Free From Plastic Act without delay.
(<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/984/all-info>).
3. Ask you pastor and parish to go “Zero Waste,” especially for hospitality and events, avoiding plastic and Styrofoam, and using washable dishware wherever possible. Offer to help create dish washing teams. Ask the parish to invest in water bottle fillers, and otherwise reduce parish contributions to the local landfill. Ask them to reduce printed flyers.

My/our Plan for LS Goal #3 – Ecological Economies **NAME:** _____

- PRAY for Creation.** Read and reflect on Leviticus 25 and Matthew Chapter 6 (or Luke Chapter 12).

MY/OUR REFLECTION (What do you notice in those Scripture passages?):

- ACT for Creation: SHORT TERM** (commit to doing these soon!). Review your bank, credit card, mortgage provider, insurance provider, pension fund and other investment managers. Do the companies support environmental degradation by investing in fossil fuels? Read these guides to help consider faith-based investing, in the spirit of Laudato Si':
- Faith based guide to investment www.FaithInvest.org/living-laudato-si
 - Invest/Divest for individuals www.divestinvest.org/how-to-divestinvest/individuals
 - Includes bank and investment company information such as:
 - <https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/> (banks)
 - <https://fossilfreefunds.org> (mutual funds)
 - Insurance Company Reports <https://insure-our-future.com/scorecard>

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

- Review individual and household consumption patterns. Are purchases necessary, especially items which are hard-to-recycle or will end up in the landfill, traveled great distances or might have been made without fair labor practices? Inventory your trashcan and recycling bin every week and think about where you can make changes. Simplifying beverage, snack and condiment choices is often the best way to get started. Check these resources: <https://www.ecocycle.org/zerowaste> and http://ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/Campaigns/plastics/Workbook_How-to-Quit-Plastics.pdf.

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

ACT for Creation: LONGER TERM (Major budget and consumption/disposal habits):

	Petitioned CEO or Board that the institution divest from fossil fuels	Changed my financial institutions, or verified it was going FF free?
Bank(s) https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org		
My Credit Card, Mortgage Co.		
Insurance Co's Name (Insurance co. fossil fuel information https://tinyurl.com/y95za74d)		
Investment Co's Name (s) (Investment co.. fossil fuel info: https://fossilfreefunds.org/)		
In my local area, I can rely on these stores and co-ops to avoid new purchases, or to up-cycle or re-cycle hard-to-recycle items		
Second-hand stores	1.	2.
Purchasing co-ops	1.	2.
Orgs to donate goods to	1.	2.
Business/org which accepts hard to re-cycle materials	1.	2.
<p>IN MY LOCAL AREA, WASTE MANAGEMENT (TRASH PICK-UP) includes the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RECYCLING (YES or NO?) Where does my recycling go (location, facility)? _____ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aluminum? Glass? Plastic types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6? Paper? • Is all recycling waste recycled in my locality, or does some go to the landfill? • COMPOSTING/GREEN WASTE (YES or NO?) • MY LANDFILL items are taken to: _____ (location, facility). How do they manage landfill items? 		

ADVOCATE for Creation

- Write to your Bishop. Ask that the Diocese divest from fossil fuels as quickly as possible. (List of Bishops, contact info: <https://www.usccb.org/about/bishops-and-dioceses/all-dioceses>)
- Write to your Senators and Representative, asking them to co-sponsor and support the passage of the Break Free From Plastic Act without delay. (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/984/all-info>).
- Ask your pastor & parish to go "Zero Waste", especially for hospitality and events. Ask them to avoid all Styrofoam and plastic, and use washable dishware wherever possible. Ask that printed materials use recycled paper, and to reduce printings wherever possible.

MY/OUR ACTIONS (write in chosen activities):

Congratulations! You're making a difference through financial choices! Give yourself a big pat on the back.

*"Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them."
Gospel of Matthew, 6:26*