

How to talk about Laudato Si' with neighbors and colleagues

Speaking to community members about Laudato Si' is an important way to strengthen relationships. Sharing your perspective on this issue, which may be very dear to you, can help weave bonds of togetherness. This brief guide offers some suggestions that may be helpful.

Identify whom you'd like to speak with and find a time to speak

Speaking about the values we hold dear is an opportunity to build stronger and more authentic relationships. As you consider the people with whom you would like to have this conversation, you may want to think about both the people with whom you already have a strong relationship and those with whom you are just developing a relationship.

Consider a time that it would be good to talk with these people. In some cases, such as with colleagues, that might mean scheduling a formal time to discuss this issue. In other cases, such as with neighbors or close friends, the conversation may arise naturally as you discuss your ongoing events and priorities in your lives.

Share why this issue matters to you

Your interest in integral ecology likely connects with your deeply held values. Openly share those values with neighbors and colleagues.

There may also be concrete, practical reasons why integral ecology is important to. Perhaps you have a concern for the well-being of young people, such as your students, children, or grandchildren. Perhaps you have seen the local ecosystem change drastically. Perhaps you are aware of the ways the planetary crisis is affecting small-scale farmers. Share these concrete examples in conversation, explaining why this issue is not only abstract.

Finally, there may be examples of how your community is already embracing action on integral ecology, such as events that have been held, groups that have been formed, for enrollment in the Laudato Si' Action Platform. If so, share news of this momentum.

Suggest action together

If appropriate, you may want to offer to take action together. For example, you might suggest to a colleague that you create a task force to work on this issue within the organization. For a neighbor or friend, you might suggest taking a nature walk together, picking up litter together, or similar.

Listen

Listen to the response.

Pray

Either during your conversation or afterwards, pray for stronger and deeper relationships with God, each other, and all creation.