

Summary of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Self-Assessment

The Laudato Si' Action Platform's self-assessment helps you better understand where you stand on the road to integral ecology. Having a preview of the self-assessment is an important way to prepare for it.

This document is a summary of the self-assessment. In contrast to this document, the self-assessment is an interactive tool. A core set of questions will adjust to your needs as the tool learns more about you. For example, if you do not live in a community that has running water, then the self-assessment will *not* ask about your water use. If you have installed solar panels, then the self-assessment *will* ask what percentage of your electricity use is covered by them.

Similarly, the self-assessment adjusts to your sector. If you are a parish, then the self-assessment will ask slightly more detailed questions about parochial education. If you are a family, then the self-assessment will not assume that you own your residence. If you are a religious community, then the self-assessment will ask how to connect you with your congregation or province.

While this document is not interactive, the hope is that it will be a helpful summary of questions that you are likely to see. By preparing for these, you will be able to complete the self-assessment.

This is an important step in your journey to full sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. Your action is a wonderful sign of your commitment to building a better future. *Laudato si'!*

Preview of the Laudato Si' Action Platform Self-Assessment

These six questions are loosely drawn from the United Nations Human Development Index, which is a standard tool that helps analyze differences and understand regional context. There are no right answers or wrong answers. The goal is to simply understand your context in order to provide information that is relevant to your needs.

1. How do most people in your area get electricity?
 - a. *From a wall outlet*
 - b. *From a generator or small solar panel*
 - c. *Most people in my area do not have electricity*

2. How do most people in your area get water?
 - a. *From a faucet located inside a home or business*
 - b. *From a truck, water bottle service, or other private vendor of water*
 - c. *Most people in my area do not have access to their own sources of water*



3. How many people in your area can read and write easily?
 - a. *Most people in my area can read and write easily*
 - b. *Some people can read and write easily, but it is a challenge for many others*
 - c. *Most people in my area cannot read and write easily*

4. *How many people in your area have bank accounts?*
 - a. *Most people in my area have a bank account*
 - b. *Some people in my area have a bank account, but many others do not*
 - c. *Most people in my area do not have a bank account*

5. *How many people in your area have access to health care?*
 - a. *Most people in my area have access to health care whenever they need it*
 - b. *Some people in my area have access to health care, but many others do not*
 - c. *Most people in my area do not have access to healthcare*

6. How many people in your area have full-time employment?
 - a. *Most people in my area have full-time employment*
 - b. *Some people in my area have full-time employment, but many others do not*
 - c. *Most people in my area do not have full-time employment*

Thank you for helping us understand your context! Now, we'll ask some questions about your current practices.

You'll see questions for each of the Laudato Si' Goals. These first questions are about how your current practices "respond to the cry of the Earth," the first Laudato Si' Goal.

1. Do you pay directly for your use of electricity?
2. Electricity use is an important component of a carbon footprint. If you know how many kilowatt hours of electricity you used in the last year please enter that number. If you don't know, please enter the approximate amount of money you spend on electricity each month.
3. If your electricity provider allows you to choose renewable energy, what percentage of your electricity use comes from renewables?
4. If you have installed solar panels that produce electricity (also called photovoltaic panels) or wind turbines at any of your buildings, what percentage of your electricity use is now covered by them?
5. If you use heating fuel (such as oil, coal, or wood), please enter either the amount of fuel used in the last year or the approximate amount of money you spend on heating fuel each month.
6. Planting trees can help protect creation. If you have planted trees in the last 12 months, how many did you plant?



7. Considering how we irrigate gardens, lawns, and farms is an opportunity to better respond to the cry of the Earth. If you use irrigation on your property, have you taken steps to limit the amount of water you use, such as installing drip irrigation?
8. To protect biodiversity, some parishes pursue a conservation scheme to protect the land they own. Have you? If you have pursued a conservation scheme, how much land did you conserve?

These questions ask about how your practices "respond to the cry of the poor," the second Laudato Si' Goal.

1. In the last 12 months, how have you taken action to respond to the cry of the poor? Please share freely any initiatives that are meaningful to you. In the last 12 months, have you taken action to protect all life? As Laudato Si' says, "a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach." (LS 49) Have you identified how the planetary crisis is affecting social issues (such as hunger, forced migration, or respiratory illnesses) in your area?
2. How have you responded to the immediate, short-term needs of vulnerable people?
3. Have you developed or participated in any initiatives that address the underlying causes of these social-ecological challenges?
4. What program have you developed? (Please note that your answer should be no more than 200 characters.)

These questions ask about your practices in "ecological economics," the third Laudato Si' Goal.

1. In the last 12 months, how have you taken action to institute ecological economics? Please share freely any initiatives that are meaningful to you. In case it's helpful, some parishes take actions such as supporting the circular economy or developing sustainable purchasing standards.
2. Do you have investments?
3. An ecological economy embraces a just transition to clean energy, protecting all people from the consequences of a warming world. Have you divested from fossil fuels, weapons, and other investments that harm creation and human ecology? Or, if you've never had this type of investment, have you pledged that you won't make it in the future?
4. If you have investments, have you invested in socially responsible enterprises, such as renewable energy?
5. If you are able to choose your financial institution, have you chosen a banking company that has clear ethical and social standards?
6. If you are able to choose your insurance company, have you chosen an insurance company that has clear ethical and social standards?



These questions ask about your practices in "sustainable lifestyles," the fourth Laudato Si' Goal.

1. If you have control over your electricity use, and you use either heating or air conditioning, have you developed a structured process to reduce its use? Do You have control over the use of water, how much water did you use in the last year? If you don't know, please enter the approximate amount you spend on water each month. Have you installed low-flow fixtures (such as faucets, toilets, or showers)?
2. Have you installed dry toilets (such as composting or sand toilets)?
3. If you own or lease vehicles, how much fuel have you used in the last year? If you don't know the amount, approximately how much have you spent on fuel each month? Do you own or lease an electric vehicle?
4. Have you purchased air flights in the last year?
5. Have you engaged in sustainable transportation, such as using public transportation, walking, or using bicycles?
6. Our diets are a big part of our lifestyles. Our food traditions and preferences are very important, and many people are also surprised to discover that agriculture is one of the biggest ways we use water and land and contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Do you compost?
7. Many communities include meat products such as chicken, beef, pork, goat, or fish in their diets. Meat can be sustainably and ethically produced, and meat producers are an important part of many communities. In addition, meat dishes are cherished in many traditions and cultures. Because information about diets is an important element of understanding the place we occupy in creation, knowing more about your meat consumption is helpful. If you serve meat (such as chicken, beef, pork, goat, or fish), approximately how many servings are served each week?
8. If you are able to estimate how much waste you produce, approximately how much waste did you produce in the last year?
9. Have you committed to not using disposable plastic or styrofoam?

These questions ask about your practices in "ecological education," the fifth Laudato Si' Goal.

1. In the last 12 months, how have you taken action to institute ecological education? Please share freely any initiatives that are meaningful to you. Have you implemented a Laudato Si' education plan? ?
2. Have you developed opportunities for young people to lead Laudato Si' initiatives?



These questions ask about your practices in "ecological spirituality," the sixth Laudato Si' Goal.

1. In the last 12 months, how have you taken action to engage your community? Please share freely any initiatives that are meaningful to you. In the last 12 months, did you celebrate the Season of Creation with an event, statement, or other public action?
2. In the last 12 months, have you held spiritual activities outdoors?

These questions ask about your practices in "community engagement and participatory action," the seventh Laudato Si' Goal.

1. In the last 12 months, how have you taken action to engage your community? Please share freely any initiatives that are meaningful to you. Does any person/committee/team in your community have a clear mandate to lead Laudato Si' action?
2. Have these people received any type of training on environmental science and Catholic social teaching?
3. What training did they receive?
4. Have you identified a point person who has received training in environmental science and Catholic social teaching on ecology?
5. What training did this person receive?
6. Did anyone take on new leadership of Laudato Si' initiatives in the last 12 months?
7. Have you established a relationship with another community to work on Laudato Si' themes together?
8. In the last 12 months, have you collaborated on Laudato Si' issues with any Catholic organizations?

We're aware that you are engaged in so much more than simply taking action. Please feel free to use these questions to reflect on any additional progress you've made. This is your self-assessment, and you're free to use it in order to share information about anything that has been particularly meaningful to you.

1. Please feel free to describe any processes that you've instituted to support progress along your Laudato Si' journey. (Please note there is a limit of 1,500 characters.)
2. Please feel free to describe any spiritual depth or richness that you've encountered as a result of your Laudato Si' journey. (Please note there is a limit of 1,500 characters.)

Thank you for completing this self-assessment! By completing this self-assessment, you're gaining a deeper understanding of your own Laudato Si' journey and helping build a picture of progress within the Church. You will receive a report that you are welcome to share with others on your journey.

