



The Global Catholic
Climate Movement

10 Things a Catholic Diocese Can Do to Promote Care for Our Common Home in Parishes

There are more than 2,800 dioceses in the Catholic Church. Each diocese is administered by a bishop, and divided into parishes that serve pastoral needs of congregations directly. Diocesan administration typically includes matters such as personnel, real property (land and buildings), communications, education and other programs, health and social services. The diocese is also a point of dissemination of information and promulgation of new initiatives from the Vatican. In these roles, the diocese organization is in a good position to promote care for creation in both practical and spiritual life.

1. **Appoint someone to help bring *Laudato Si'* to life** in parishes and other organizations in the diocese. Often this is associated with other work on justice and peace.
2. **Convene a group of experts** (Catholic volunteers from universities, development agencies, government, business, green groups, etc) to advise the diocese on how to shrink environmental footprint of the diocese, leveraging existing resources and programs available in the area.
3. **Create a plan** to strengthen care for our common home in the diocese
4. **Encourage formation of Care for Creation Teams** at parishes, schools and other facilities, and support them through:
 - orientation and training events
 - online resource library (add a link to GCCM Eco-Parish Guide)
 - selection of educational resources for students and staff
 - forum for Teams to exchange experience and resources
5. **Inspire care for creation among the faithful** through prayer, liturgies, communications and events
 - diocese-wide care for creation celebrations on April 22, June 5, September 1 to October 4
 - diocese-wide care for creation event for secondary school students in diocesan Catholic schools
 - sample homilies, newsletter articles, eco-tips
 - identify potential guest homilists
 - diocese-wide conference, speaker series, etc

6. **Adopt diocese guidelines** for best practices in:

- waste reduction, recycling and (where available) composting,
- water conservation
- green purchasing
- sustainable grounds maintenance
- sustainable transportation
- document management (print / no print; color / black and white)

7. **Save energy and use renewables** in the diocese

- collect energy use data for the diocese-owned buildings
- benchmark churches in EPA Portfolio Manager for Houses of Worship
- set a diocese-wide energy savings / emissions reduction target
- promote the purchase 100% renewable electricity via the grid where available
- provide or otherwise help parishes get access to financing and expertise for energy savings and renewable energy

8. **Advocate for environmental justice**, joining with people of other faiths and with secular organizations

- locally on issues such as waste, air and water quality and promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy to phase out the use of fossil fuels
- nationally, on national environmental standards and the realization of Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to reduce carbon emissions
- globally, for international agreements to limit the extent of global climate change and to aid the world's poorest in coping with climate change impacts

9. **Care for those harmed** by environmental degradation

- coordinate volunteer opportunities and direct material assistance to those affected in the region
- coordinate collections for Catholic aid agencies (Caritas Internationalis, Catholic Relief Services, CAFOD etc) for those affected overseas
- support development and adaptation as well as emergency response and recovery

10. **Measure and communicate progress** on care for our common home

- newsletters, website,
- public statements, media interviews
- deanery meetings, convocations

To see more ideas, including the free downloadable Eco-Parish Guide visit <https://catholicclimatemovement.global/eco-parish>