

# MAKING THE TRANSITION TO INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

## A Guide for Religious Communities

### Outline

#### = Introduction

#### = *Laudato si'* and the Vision of Integral Ecology

#### = The 7 LS goals (LSGs) for Integral Ecology

1. **Response to the Cry of the Earth** (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels in order to achieve carbon neutrality, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)
2. **Response to the Cry of the Poor** (defense of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)
3. **Ecological Economics** (sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, divestment from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)
4. **Adoption of Simple Lifestyles** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)
5. **Ecological Education** (re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers and leaders of education etc.)
6. **Ecological Spirituality** (recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy and gratitude, promote creation-centered liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)
7. Emphasis on **Community involvement and participatory action** to care for creation at the local, regional, national and international levels (promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighbourhood ecosystems, etc.)

#### = The Community Process towards Integral Ecology

In order to complete your transition to Integral Ecology, you need to:

- Design a process that takes into account where you are in relation to the LSGs, yearly targets to cover the distance separating you from your goals, action plans to reach those targets, and evaluation mechanisms.
- Embed such a process into your community planning cycle, so that the LSGs become part of your yearly planning, implementation, and evaluation process.
- Consider that the process you are going to design does not necessarily mean adding new ministerial commitments; rather, it is first of all about tweaking your commitments and lifestyle so as to promote Integral Ecology.
- Adopt practical tools that enable you to assess how far you have gone as a community in achieving the 7 LSGs. There are plenty of toolkits and good practices, which you can access from the LS Action Platform ([coming in May 2021](#)). The Sowing Hope for the Planet [website](#) also contains helpful resources. Choose whatever is relevant and convenient in your situation. Note that often toolkits facilitate growth towards more than one LSG, and it is important to connect them, realizing that *all is connected*. For example<sup>1</sup>:
  - **Carbon Footprint Reduction**: there are various examples of toolkits that assist you in reducing your carbon footprint, which may contribute, at the same time, towards LSG 1, 3, and 4. Typically, the focus on this strategic action involves:

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<sup>1</sup> Detailed Toolkits to be added as an Appendix (still under development)

- an assessment of your carbon footprint (various Apps can assist you in doing this);
- setting yearly targets for carbon footprint reduction;
- selecting from available lists various lifestyle practices that reduce your carbon footprint;
- reassessing your carbon footprint at the end of the period concerned and planning the next steps.
- **Social Inclusion:** toolkits in this domain may assist you pursuing your LSG 2, 3, and 7. Typically, the focus on this strategic action involves:
  - identifying who are the excluded in your neighborhood, region, etc.;
  - identifying and adopting inclusion strategies (e.g. welcoming, protecting, promoting, integrating);
  - plan and implement actions;
  - evaluate and celebrate results.
- **Mainstreaming LS:** this toolkit may assist you pursuing your LSG 2, 5, 6 and 7. Typically, the focus on this strategic action involves:
  - assessing to what degree LS is integrated into the ministries in which your community is involved;
  - identifying opportunities for promoting LS in those ministries;
  - planning and implementing actions;
  - evaluating and celebrating results.

However, there are plenty of different tools and practices, very often already in use among Religious communities, that can be chosen to grow in the direction of a transition to Integral Economy, for example: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Toolkit.**

Whatever the tools adopted, you as a community are basically invited to follow 4 steps, namely:

1. Assess your situation in relation to the 7 LSGs
2. Embed the plan for transition to IE into her community project cycle
3. Evaluate her yearly journey and track her progress against set targets
4. Account for her level of accomplishment and move on to the next cycle / yearly planning.

### = **Links to Resources**

Basically there are two major data bases: the one from [Sowing Hope for the Planet](#) and that from *LS Action Platform* ([coming in May 2021](#)). The idea is to keep on adding tools and good practices to those two platforms for sharing and availing resources that may better suit the various situations and contexts of different Religious communities. We may request the administrators to indicate what LSGs are related to which toolkits.

### = **Assessment Work-sheet**

This is an instrument to monitor and evaluate the journey of transition to integral economy of Religious communities. For certification purpose, we could assign points to each level of progress assessed (“Not yet started” = 0; “On course” = 1; “Completed” = 2) and sum up the total points attained. The following table would show the state of the Community:

- = Advanced: 23 – 30 points
- = On track: 15 – 22 points
- = Beginning: 7 – 14 points

### = **Appendices**

In this section there will be various Toolkits and other resources to facilitate the work of the Religious communities.

# MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S *LAUDATO SI ACTION PLAN* proposal feedback

Congregation: ..... Date of assessment: .....

Province: ..... Assessed by: .....

Community: ..... Title / Position: .....

1	PUBLIC COMMITMENT	Progress	Status	Evidence
1.1	The community has developed a customized <i>Manifesto</i> or Covenant	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
1.2	The community has made her LS stance public	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
1.3	The community has reported her yearly results	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
1.4	The community has celebrated her accomplishments	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2	MAKING THE TRANSITION TO INTEGRAL ECOLOGY	Progress	Status	Evidence
2.1	The community has a yearly plan with references to LSGs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started	<input type="checkbox"/> On track	

		<input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.2	Has set concrete targets in relation to LSGs	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.3	Has assessed her distance from those targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.4	Has integrated those targets in the community project cycle	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.5	Makes use of practical tools for carrying out her commitment	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.6	Makes use of a monitoring and evaluation system	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
2.7	Documents results and uses assessments for planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
<b>3</b>	<b>JOURNEYING TOGETHER</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
3.1	The community is actively involved in global campaigns for integral ecology	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	

3.2	The community participates actively in the journey of a Constellation	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
3.3	The community engages actively the <i>LS Action Platform</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	
3.4	The community has invited and is accompanying another community along the journey towards integral ecology	<input type="checkbox"/> Not yet started <input type="checkbox"/> On course <input type="checkbox"/> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> On track <input type="checkbox"/> Needs support <input type="checkbox"/> Needs intervention	