

## Ecological Education

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### Description

Ecological Education is about re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action. It refers to the process of continuous learning about how nature functions; how all forms of life are connected; the ecological changes that are happening and how people can manage their behavior to promote sustainability.



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### Scripture

I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. Leviticus 26:4

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1-4



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### Laudato Si'

...we human beings above all who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone. This basic awareness would enable the development of new convictions, attitudes, and forms of life. A great cultural, spiritual, and educational challenge stands before us, and it will demand that we set out on the long path of renewal. LS #202

Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility, and compassionate care. LS #210

Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings, at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the great importance of the family. LS #213



It is my hope that our seminaries and houses of formation will provide an education in responsible simplicity of life, in grateful contemplation of God's world, and in concern for the needs of the poor and the protection of the environment. LS #214

Our efforts at education will be inadequate and ineffectual unless we strive to promote a new way of thinking about human beings, life, society, and our relationship with nature. Otherwise, the paradigm of consumerism will continue to advance, with the help of the media and the highly effective workings of the market. LS #215

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## Our Bishops

Faced with the widespread destruction of the environment, people everywhere are coming to understand that we cannot continue to use the goods of the earth as we have in the past. . . [A] new *ecological awareness* is beginning to emerge. . . The ecological crisis is a moral issue.

--Pope John Paul II, *The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility*, nos. 1, 15, December 8, 1989

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/renewing-earth>



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## Reflection

How can you better provide educational opportunities about environmental issues?

Who might you invite to collaborate with as you plan programming that invites members of your community to explore your local ecosystem?

How might you integrate ecological education into your life?

How are you already promoting ecological education? What additional ideas do you have to promote ecological education?



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## Media

[What is an ecological conversion? - YouTube](#)

What is integral ecology?: <https://eco-catholic.com/what-is-integral-ecology/>



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## Prayer

God of creativity, breathe within us the gift of innovation and open mindedness, that we may rethink the ways in which we share the work of ecological justice in our homes, classrooms, parishes, workplaces, and communities. *Ignatian Solidarity Network*



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## Actions

**Educate** yourself on ecological issues such as the climate crisis <https://www.noaa.gov/stories/ipcc-climate-change-2022-impacts-report-why-it-matters> and loss of biodiversity <https://www.britannica.com/explore/savingearth/biodiversity-loss>

**Develop** and implement a *Laudato Si' Action Plan*

**Encourage** ecological education in local schools

