

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA



LAUDATO SI INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

Start: March 2020

Expected Completion Date: March 2027

Description:

The Archdiocese of Atlanta Laudato Si Initiative (LSI) is a seven-year effort based on the concept of integral ecology...meaning the connectivity of everything. With [Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Laudato Si](#) as a moral compass, the LSI will build on the momentum of the [Archdiocese of Atlanta Laudato Si Action Plan](#), the [Annual Green Mass](#), and experience gained from the 2017 Laudato Si Action Plan Pilot Project. The Archdiocese will take urgent and impactful action on the Pope's plea to "*cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents.*"

Vision:

The Archdiocese of Atlanta is to be a servant leader in integral ecology, modeling fully integrated social, environmental, and economic justice, and sustainability.

Mission:

To build greater solidarity among North Georgia Catholics to more fully hear the cry of the poor and the earth - and - take urgent and impactful action to weave together social, environmental and economic justice and sustainability into our Catholic way of life.

Scope:

- ☯ 1.3 million Catholics
- ☯ 103 parishes and missions
- ☯ 277 diocesan and religious priests
- ☯ 62 seminarians
- ☯ 18 archdiocesan Catholic schools

Goals:

- ☯ Move Forward as a Servant Leader in Integral Ecology
- ☯ Reduce our Environmental Impact via Comprehensive, Urgent and Impactful Action
- ☯ Incorporate Comprehensive Climate Action throughout the Archdiocese
- ☯ Continue to Advocate for Social, Economic and Environmental Justice
- ☯ Create and implement a Sustainable, Sharable and Duplicable Laudato Si Initiative

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Objectives for 2027:

1. Influence the hearts, minds and behaviors of North Georgia Catholics so that we better align with Laudato Si.
2. Create a culture of conservation and care for creation in each parish, mission and school.
3. Reduce energy consumption and cost at chancery, parish, mission, and school facilities by 25%.
4. Reduce water consumption and cost at chancery, parish, mission, and school facilities by 25%.
5. Reduce landfill waste and cost for chancery, parish, mission, and school facilities by up to 50%.
6. Reduce the carbon footprint of chancery, parish, mission, and school facilities by 25%.
7. Reduce the environmental impact of transportation (Congregation, school, chancery).
8. Improve how we access, buy, grow, share and prepare food.
9. Increase sustainability of land use.
10. Acknowledge and accompany environmentally-vulnerable populations.
11. Be active in the public square.
12. Put into place the infrastructure needed to maintain momentum and sustain the LSI effort beyond the seven-year “program” phase.
13. Take a Loaves and Fishes approach to funding (Define, communicate, collect, multiply.)

Areas of Improvement (from Laudato Si Action Plan) in order of LSI rollout:

Stage 1

- Conserve Energy
- Conserve Water
- Purchase Wisely & Recycle

Stage 2

- Engage Parishioners & Students
- Adapt Laudato Si for Young People
- Use Land Sustainably

Stage 3

- Make Smart Mobility Choices
- Buy & Share Food Thoughtfully
- Embrace Environmental Justice & Equity
- Advocate for the Earth & Vulnerable

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