

Notable LSAP Achievements and Partnerships



- **Puget Sound Business Journal, in partnership with Slalom**, honored Seattle University with a **2025 Environmental and Sustainability Award** for Operational Excellence. According to the PSBJ, honorees from throughout the Puget Sound region “are at the forefront of pioneering sustainability initiatives within their industries. Winning organizations are those that integrate sustainability into their culture, demonstrating tangible results from their climate initiatives.”
- **The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)** recognized SU as a **top performer in five areas** in its 2024 Sustainable Campus Index (SCI): Air & Climate Impact, Buildings Impact, Purchasing Impact, Well-being & Work Impact, and being a “star” in Data Accuracy.
- **The Arbor Day Foundation** has recognized Seattle University as a **2024 Tree Campus** for its dedication to enhancing community well-being through tree education, investment, and community engagement. SU has earned this designation each year since 2017. To earn Tree Campus recognition, colleges, and universities must uphold five core standards including maintain an advisory committee, set a campus tree care plan, verify annual investment in the tree care plan, celebrate Arbor Day, and create a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.
- **Campus Race to Zero Waste 2025:** SU joined 70 colleges and universities across the country in an 8-week “Campus Race to Zero Waste” competition to see how well we are doing in our zero waste efforts and gauge how we compare against other institutions. **Seattle University ranked 1st** in the medium-sized campus division of the diversion category of the competition. Some of the campus engagement and awareness events organized at SU during the competition were: two Community Recycling Days, “What Goes Where” education tables, an e-waste collection month, and a Book Donation Day.
- Seattle University has placed ninth in the **Top 10 Zero Waste Campuses of 2024**, receiving a Zero Waste Certification through the **Post-Landfill Action Network’s (PLAN) Atlas Zero Waste program**. This is SU’s first time making the list, which is now in its fourth year.



Laudato Si’ Action Platform: A “Reigniting Our Strategic Directions” Goal

In enthusiastic response to Pope Francis’s invitation to higher education institutions, President Peñalver signed a letter of commitment in September 2021 for Seattle University to participate in the “Seven-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology” and the Laudato Si Action Plan (LSAP). The LSAP Leadership team finalized our campus-wide, multi-year action plan in February 2023, which includes four main priorities and 27 goals that span campus operations, programs, and community partnerships.

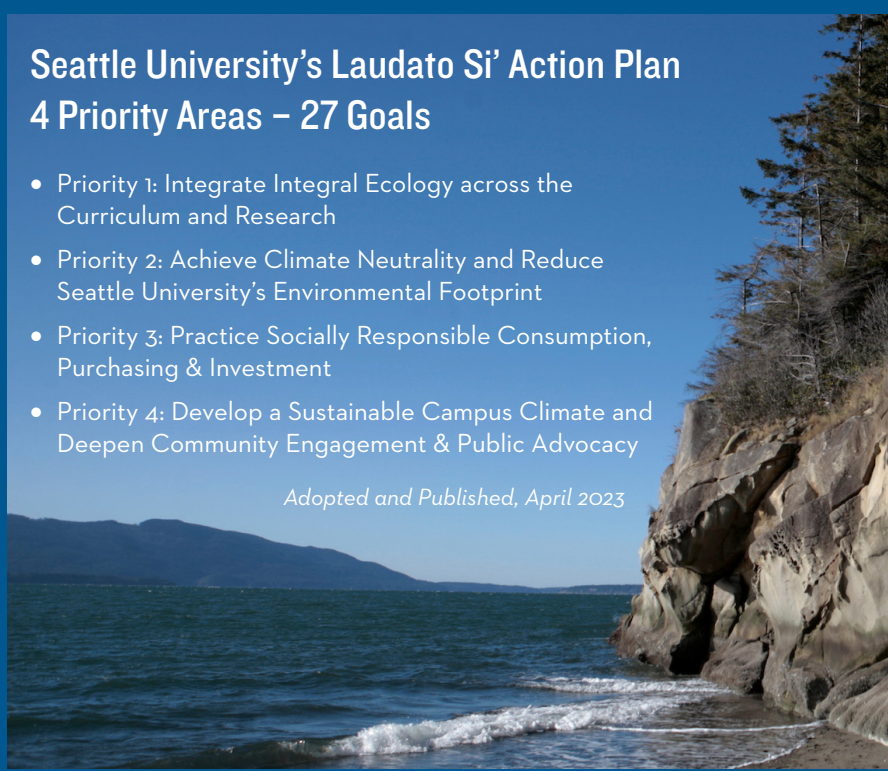
Learn more about Seattle University’s
Laudato Si’ Action Platform:



Seattle University’s Laudato Si’ Action Plan 4 Priority Areas – 27 Goals

- Priority 1: Integrate Integral Ecology across the Curriculum and Research
- Priority 2: Achieve Climate Neutrality and Reduce Seattle University’s Environmental Footprint
- Priority 3: Practice Socially Responsible Consumption, Purchasing & Investment
- Priority 4: Develop a Sustainable Campus Climate and Deepen Community Engagement & Public Advocacy

Adopted and Published, April 2023



SEATTLE
UNIVERSITY

LAUDATO SI’ ACTION PLATFORM

*“A journey towards full
sustainability in the holistic spirit
of integral ecology”*

UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
YEAR 4 ~ 2024-25

LSAP Action Plan Accomplishments

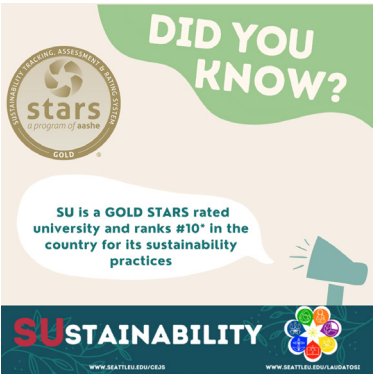
Priority 1: Integrate Integral Ecology across the Curriculum and Research

This effort seeks to embed sustainability, environmental justice, and climate change themes across academic disciplines, experiential learning, student professional formation, and faculty scholarship and professional development. Notable achievements include:



High school students at the third Urban Sustainability pre-college program

- The recently adopted **new Core at SU** seeks to “cultivate knowledge, understanding, and collective responsibility regarding the urgent challenges of our time, including systemic racial and economic injustice, the effects of rapid changes in technology, and the dire environmental threats to our common home, with remaining mindful of related intersections such as gender, sex, and sexuality.” Of the five optional “**pathways**” in the new Core, one will be focused on “**Climate and Sustainability.**” Students in this pathway will take four courses flagged as being “climate and sustainability-focused.”
- This academic year, the Division of Mission Integration (DMI) created a **Sustainability Learning Community Faculty Group** led by Dr. Michael P. Jaycox, Associate Professor Theology & Religious Studies. The 14-member community spanned three colleges and was intended primarily for faculty whose teaching and/or research focused on sustainability, climate change, ecology, and/or environmental justice.
- Second year of “**Laudato Si’**” **faculty fellowships** providing two faculty members with the opportunity to conduct a year-long research project on an environmental justice and sustainability-related topic.
- Launch of a “**sustainable development**” **concentration** in the International Studies program.
- Launch of a **certificate in “Geographic Information Systems and Geospatial Technology”** for undergraduates. It is open to all majors and includes courses from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Science and Engineering.
- Dr. Wes Lauer (Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering), Dr. Teodora Shuman (Professor of Mechanical Engineering) and Dr. Shiny Abraham (Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering), were **awarded funds in 2024 from the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Engineering for One Planet** grant program. Throughout this year, the team developed six innovative, cross-disciplinary sustainability-focused course modules, two in each partnering engineering department, to equip SU engineering students with skills, knowledge, and understanding around environmental sustainability. Each module supports the collaboration between one engineering faculty member and a non-engineering faculty member or practicing engineering professionals.



*Based on the 2024 STARS reporting tool's scores of 500+ participating higher education institutions

Priority 2: Achieve Climate Neutrality and Reduce Seattle University's Environmental Footprint

This priority’s main focus is to develop long-term strategies to transition campus operations towards carbon neutrality, increase energy efficiency, minimize waste, and conserve natural resources. Recent accomplishments are:

- Obtained a \$120k grant** from Washington State Department of Commerce to perform WA State Clean Building Performance Standard baseline reporting.
- Installation of two new EV charging stations funded through the **Facilities Energy Efficiency Revolving Fund**. Proceeds from EV charging will flow back to the Revolving Fund for future energy efficiency initiatives.
- With support of the Laudato Si’ Zero Waste working group, three student fellows** performed a holistic campus wide assessment of Seattle University’s waste management practices and established a campus wide strategic vision by engaging 35+ campus stakeholders. This creates the groundwork to conduct a Zero Waste action plan for the university.
- Launch of a reusable “**Ozzi Box**” **to-go container program** with Redhawk Dining (SU’s Food Service Provider – a Chartwells company) to reduce the use of resources, the carbon footprint, and waste from the production and consumption of single-use disposable to-go containers.



Reusable Ozzi Box to-go container

Priority 3: Practice Socially Responsible Consumption, Purchasing, and Investment

In alignment with Laudato Si’s call for ecological economics, Seattle University is advancing initiatives in ethical procurement, divestment from fossil fuels, and sustainable investments.

- Creation of the Laudato Si’ “**Socially Responsible Investment**” working group dedicated to advancing socially responsible investing within the university’s endowment and retirement plans.
- Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture Events:** Annual Laudato Si’ Summit (co-sponsored with the Laudato Si’ Movement, Archdiocese of Seattle, and other Catholic organizations); faculty and staff reading group with eco-theologian Dr. Elizabeth Johnson; the Guadalupe Faith & Hospitality Immersion Experience in Mexico with a focus area on ecological justice, and a Faculty Fellowship research presentation on incorporating Laudato Si’ into economics courses.



“Litter Pilgrimages” at the Laudato Si’ and Northwest Jesuit Advocacy summits

Priority 4: Develop a Sustainable Campus Climate and Deepen Community Engagement & Public Advocacy

Community resilience and self-efficacy call for deep listening, community engagement and participatory action at various levels. Efforts in this area focus on building relationships with local, Indigenous, and BIPOC communities, collaborating on educational seminars and programming for informed public advocacy, and bolstering student peer-to-peer educator programs.

- Year 4 LSAP Summit and Celebration, May 20, 2025:** Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Nancy Tuchman, Dean of the School of Environmental Sustainability at Loyola Chicago University, and an interdisciplinary faculty and student panel on integrating Integral Ecology in the curriculum and class projects.
- Earth Month 2025** : 22 events and initiatives total, including 9 student-led. Major campus-wide events: Conversation with Governor Ferguson (Public Affairs and Non-profit Leadership program); EARTH TALKS (Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability); Lecture with Dr. Robert D. Bullard, “Father of Environmental Justice” (Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture); Environmental Stewardship in Health Care with Dr. Elizabeth Schenk, Providence Health & Services (College of Nursing).

More Events and Programs:

- Annual Northwest Jesuit Advocacy Summit**, including a Sacred Salmon Town Hall in solidarity with Native Peoples on salmon watershed protection (partnership of SU Campus Ministry, Jesuits West and the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center).
- Annual Food Justice Summit – Recipe for Change:** Educating the campus on Food Justice and challenges facing students and local communities (Center for Social Transformation and Leadership).
- Laudato Si’ Reading Group** for faculty and staff (Center for Jesuit Education).
- Student Ignatian Eco Silent Retreat** and a **Laudato Si’ 10th Anniversary Prayer & Ritual** (Campus Ministry).
- 3rd year of the Urban Sustainability pre-college program** convening 35+ high school students from around the country to spend a week in Seattle with SU to dive into the topic of **urban sustainability** (Admissions, community partners, and faculty from environmental studies, civil and environmental engineering, biology, and chemistry).



Dr. Nancy Tuchman



WA Governor
Bob Ferguson



Dr. Robert D. Bullard



Dr. Elizabeth Schenk