

SEATTLEU

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY'S ACTION PLAN

7-YEAR JOURNEY

LAUDATO SI'
ACTION PLATFORM

toward
INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

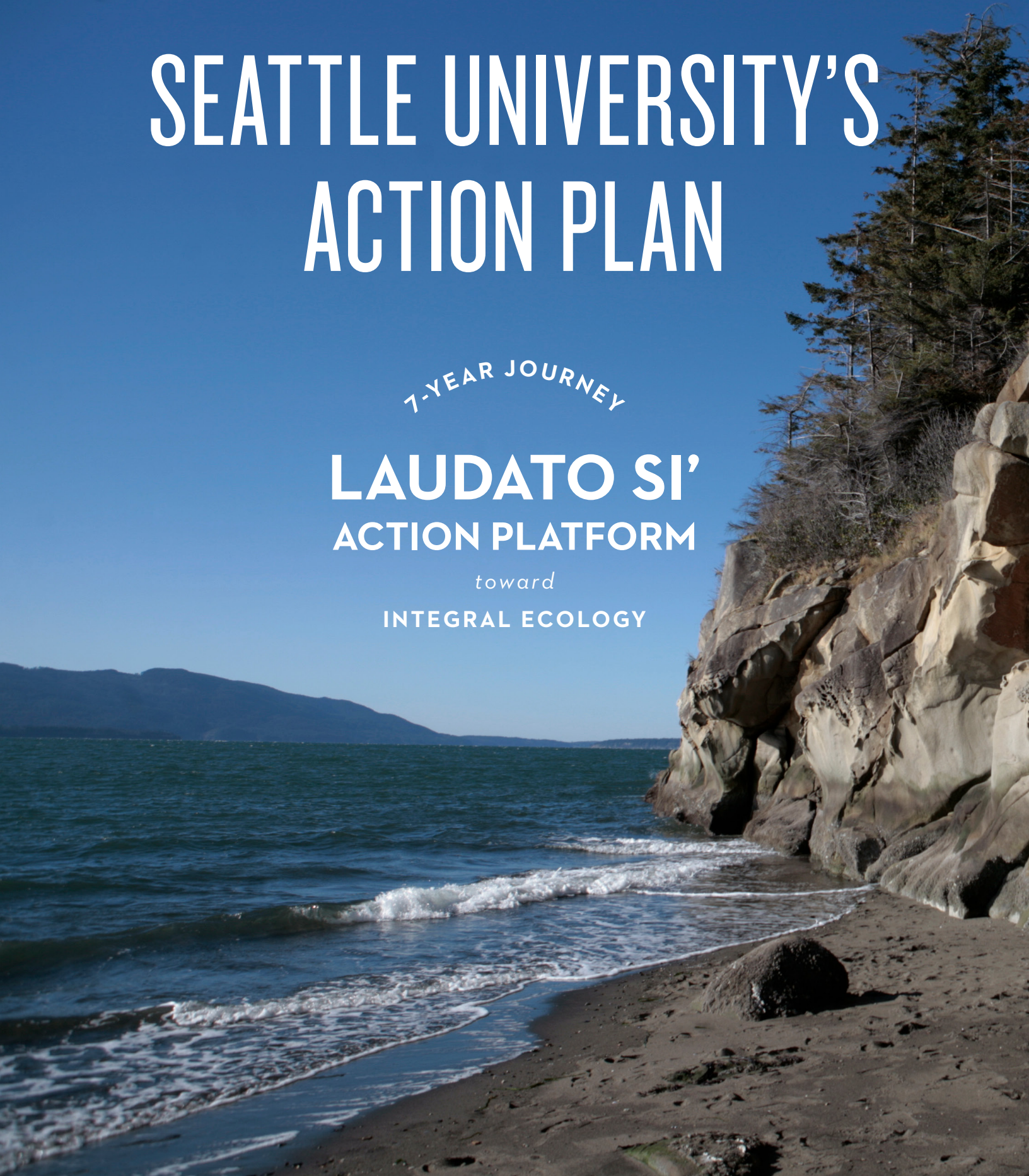




TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Commitment
Plan of Action
Acknowledgements



OUR COMMITMENT

“We will commit to institutional participation in Pope Francis’ Seven-Year Journey Toward Integral Ecology, through the Laudato Si’ Action Platform and in community with other Catholic universities.”

—Seattle University Reigniting Our Strategic Directions



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members of the university community,

As I said in my remarks at inauguration in September, the existential threat that is climate change is one of the three great challenges we face as a society. We can no longer responsibly talk about it as a looming threat—its impacts are evident all around us. As a Jesuit and Catholic university, we are committed to caring for the Earth, our common home, one of the universal apostolic preferences of the Society of Jesus. This commitment calls us to respond to the challenge in a special way.

One way we are doing this is by signing onto Pope Francis’ Seven-Year Journey Towards Integral Ecology through the Laudato Si’ Action Platform. This commitment puts concrete action behind the goals outlined by the pope in his 2015 encyclical Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.

In the encyclical, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development; laments environmental degradation and global warming; and calls on all people of the world to take “swift and unified global action.” This call led to the Laudato Si’ Action Platform (LSAP), a papal initiative launched in 2021, to envision sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology and to redefine and rebuild our relationship with each other and our common home. The LSAP supports institutions, communities, and families to discern and implement a response to Laudato Si’ by guiding actions.

As a university committed to advancing sustainability and environmental justice, the Laudato Si’ Action Platform goes to the heart of who we are and the

impact we strive to make. Being one of the first institutions of higher education to take this step very much fits with our mission.

Over many years, Seattle University has distinguished itself as a leader in sustainability, including our recent #14 ranking in Sierra magazine’s list of Cool Schools. Under the outstanding direction of our Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability and the President’s Committee for Sustainability, we continue to make strides in further lightening our impact on the planet while incorporating sustainability into our curriculum. For instance, this year we will achieve Scope 1 carbon neutrality, which applies to our direct emissions. And over the next two years, we will be reimagining our curriculum as part of the Reignite Strategic Directions process, with an eye towards making climate change and sustainability central features of the Seattle University educational experience.

The Laudato Si’ Action Platform Leadership Team will bring together and meld in a mutually reinforcing way SU’s Jesuit and Catholic educational mission with our ongoing work as a leader in sustainability. Specifically, the committee will lead the efforts towards the following goals of Laudato Si’:

Respectfully,

Eduardo M. Peñalver
President



SU MISSION

Seattle University is dedicated
to educating the whole person,
to professional formation, and
to empowering leaders for a
just and humane world.

REIGNITING OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2022–2027

Foundation: Remaining Anchored In Our Jesuit And Catholic Character

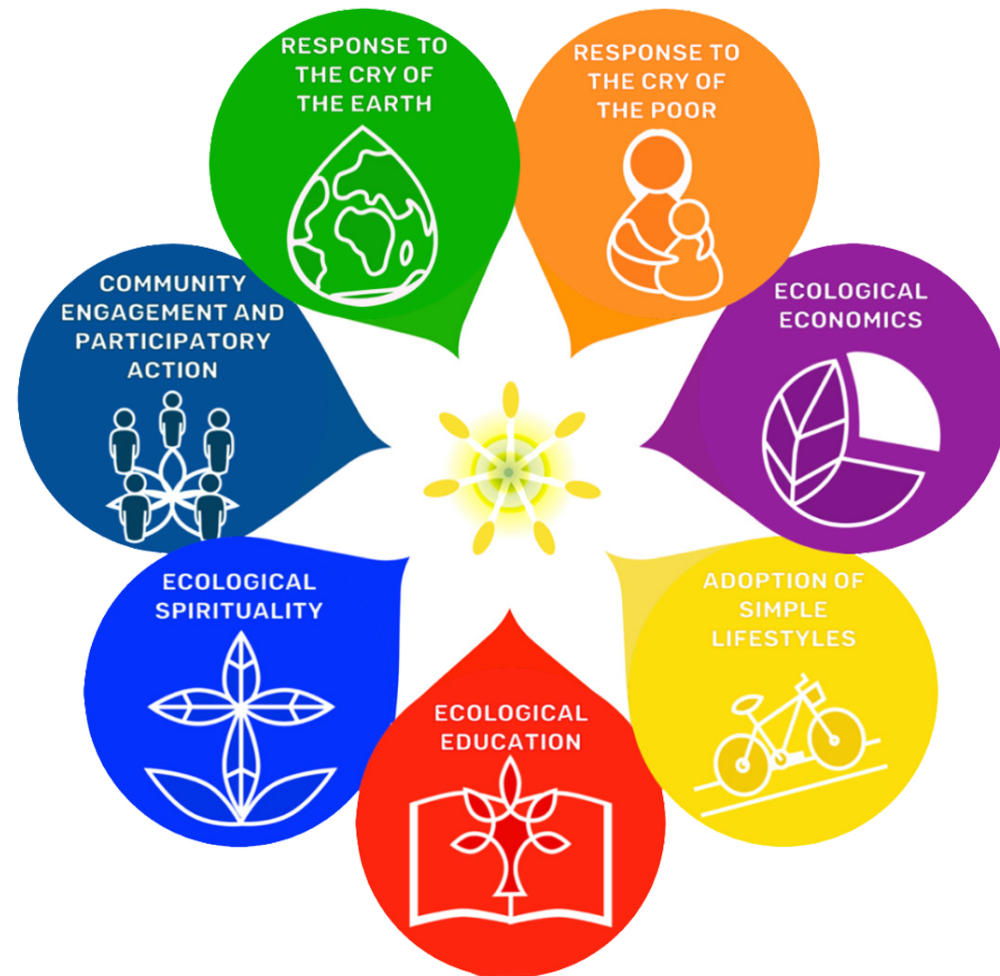
Seattle University's Jesuit and Catholic character is the very foundation of its mission and identity. From our commitment to educating the whole person to our dedication to inclusive excellence, it suffuses everything we do. Seattle University will discern how to continue to live out its Jesuit heritage in light of the transition to lay leadership for the first time in its 130-year history. We will explore organizational and programmatic changes to honor, sustain and enhance Seattle University's Jesuit identity, ensuring it is represented at the highest level of the university's leadership. Additionally, we will commit to institutional participation in Pope Francis' Seven-Year Journey Toward Integral Ecology, through the Laudato Si' Action Platform and in community with other Catholic universities.

OUR INSPIRATION/FRAMEWORK

In 2015, Pope Francis published his second encyclical, titled *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be to You"). The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home". In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development; laments environmental degradation and global warming; and calls on all people of the world to take "swift and unified global action." This call led to the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform (LSAP), a papal initiative launched in 2021, to envision sustainability in the holistic spirit of integral ecology and to redefine and rebuild our relationship with each other and our common home. The LSAP supports institutions, communities, and families to discern and implement a response to *Laudato Si'* by guiding actions.

The [seven Laudato Si' Goals](#) are:

- Response to the cry of the earth
- Response to the cry of the poor
- Ecological economics
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyles
- Ecological education
- Ecological spirituality
- Community resilience and empowerment





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

In 2015, the United Nations published [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), a “plan of action for people, planet and prosperity.” The publication outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as 169 targets and associated indicators, forming a 15-year agenda intended to balance “the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.” It seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom and recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

GOAL 1: No Poverty

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

GOAL 4: Quality Education

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

GOAL 13: Climate Action

GOAL 14: Life Below Water

GOAL 15: Life on Land

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**



STARS

The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) [Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™\(STARS\)](#) is a reporting tool for colleges and universities to assess and measure their overall sustainability performance. Because the framework shares a similar intent and scope as the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#), at a very high level an institution's STARS score or rating can be used to demonstrate progress towards helping deliver the SDGs. In addition, the Laudato Si' Action Platform pointed to AASHE's STARS as a Laudato Si' program. SU uses the STARS report to assess how our campus practices align to the SDG and LSAP goals and to support our short- and long-term sustainability action planning. SU has submitted three STARS reports since 2016 for each obtaining a GOLD rating.

- 2016: GOLD rating with a score of 69.41
- 2018: GOLD rating with improved score of 75.64
- 2021: GOLD rating with improved score of 79.39

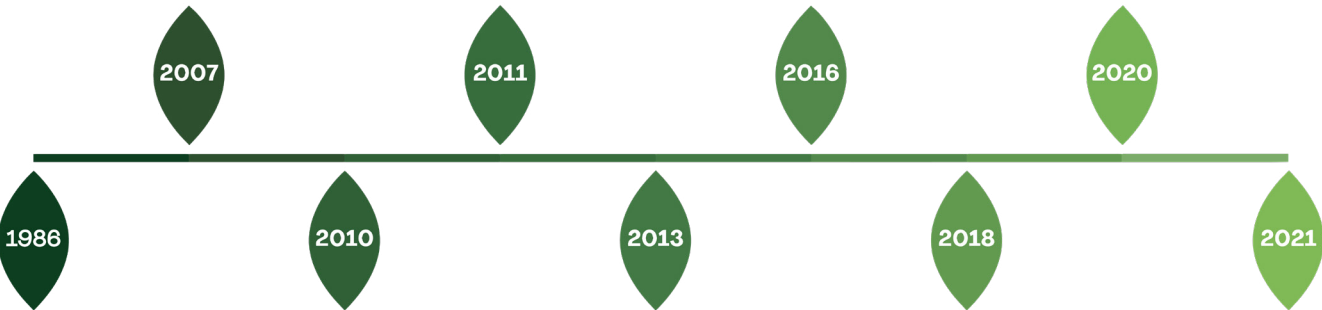
[VIEW SU's STARS REPORT HERE.](#)

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is Core to Our Catholic Jesuit Identity

As a Catholic Jesuit University, SeattleU’s ethos calls us to revere the life-giving force of the natural world, to care for our common home as responsible stewards of the planet, and to work for justice so that no peoples are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

Seattle University’s commitment to sustainability is grounded in Jesuit values that date back more than 450 years. We take our inspiration from St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, who encouraged his early companions to “Find God in All Things.” In 2015, Pope Francis issued his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si*, challenging humankind to take responsibility for the planet and be mindful of those who are suffering most from the ecological crisis now before us. And in 2019, the Society of Jesus released its four global “apostolic preferences,” explicitly making “Care of our Common Home” a vital part of their apostolic mission for the next 10 years.



SUSTAINABILITY TIMELINE

Over the past decade, Seattle University has made significant commitments and taken subsequent action to embed sustainability in the long-term development of the university: From signing on to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2007, creating a Climate Action Plan (2010) and establishing the President’s Committee for Sustainability (PCS—2011) to developing a Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability (CEJS—2013), committing to divestment from fossil fuels (2018) and setting an institutional vision “to become a leader in environmental sustainability that is socially just” (Strategic Directions 2020-2025). Since 2016, SU has joined the 1000+ universities and colleges that use the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). STARS facilitates the assessment of our campus’s sustainability performance and our contribution to the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals through operations, programs, actions, and policies.



PLAN OF ACTION

“Today, the analysis of environmental problems cannot be separated from the analysis of human, family, work-related, and urban contexts.”
(Laudato Si’ 141).

SEATTLE U'S 7- YEAR JOURNEY TO INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

FOUR SEATTLE U PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1

Integrate Integral Ecology across the Curriculum and Research



PRIORITY 2

Achieve Climate Neutrality and Reduce Seattle U's Environmental Footprint



PRIORITY 3

Practice Socially Responsible Consumption, Purchasing & Investment



PRIORITY 4

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



VISION

At Seattle University, we believe in a faith-engaged ecological conversion that opens minds and hearts to the sacred task of caring for our common home. This belief is rooted in ethical responsibility and solidarity between all peoples and future generations. Aligned with our participation in the “7-year journey toward integral ecology,” we commit to adopting institutional practices that are socially just, support human health, mitigate environmental harm, promote economic wellbeing, and restore ecological balance. We will infuse the science and ethics of these issues in our academic programs, operations, investments, and our engagement with the community. In this work, we acknowledge the wealth and wisdom from our indigenous communities and center the lives of those who are most vulnerable to environmental degradation and injustice.

*“We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. (52) The earth is essentially a shared inheritance, whose fruits are meant to benefit everyone. (93)”,
Laudato Si – Pope Francis*

PRIORITY I

INTEGRATE INTEGRAL ECOLOGY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH



GOALS

- SHORT TERM During FY23, RSD Working Group will formulate a university-wide definition of sustainability and collaborate with faculty to develop curricula with a student learning outcome that focuses on sustainability, climate change, and/or integral ecology so that every student graduates from Seattle University with an understanding of those concepts.
- SHORT TERM During FY23, work with RSD Working Group and other campus stakeholders to rewrite the Sustainability Literacy Assessment that is sent to freshmen and seniors each year, and seek to improve distribution and response rate. Use the assessments’ responses to collect information, publish results, and set recommendations for the needs and opportunities at SU related to the integration of sustainability, climate change, and/or integral ecology in the curriculum.
- SHORT TERM During FY23, the RSD working group will, in partnership with the Office for Sponsored Projects and LSAP co-chairs, identify the need and develop a budget for institutional support for a Sustainability/Integral Ecology-focused faculty-oriented program that seeks to (a) incentivize faculty in multiple disciplines to develop new courses and/or incorporate into existing courses; (b) connect faculty with teaching resources and trainings; (c) encourage sustainability and integral ecology-oriented research; (d) incorporate and connect on-campus sustainability-focused immersive learning experiences with curricular offerings, (e) explore AJCU partnerships and resource sharing around sustainability and integral ecology; and (f) strengthen SU’s participation as an “AASHE Center for Sustainability across the Curriculum.”
- SHORT TERM Starting in summer 2022, CEJS and ICTC will inventory courses, faculty research, and student local and global experiential learning opportunities in relation to their sustainability component; map them to the Laudato Si Action Platform Goals and UN SDGs; track progress annually; and publish an updated repository online each year. Ideally, in the long term, SU would formalize sustainability course listings for current and prospective students in the institution’s course catalog.
- LONG TERM During FY23, work with RSD working group, the Associate Provost of Graduate, online, and professional education, and colleagues from across campus to consider the development of a sustainability-focused graduate certificate program and/or graduate degree program.

PRIORITY 2

ACHIEVE CLIMATE NEUTRALITY AND REDUCE SEATTLE U'S ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT



GOALS

- SHORT TERM In Fall 2022, establish a target date for achieving carbon neutrality from all GHG emission scopes that is, ideally, no later than June 30, 2030.
- SHORT TERM Update the university’s carbon offset portfolio between September and February each fiscal year and select projects that have co-benefits and meet VCS or GOLD Standard criteria.
- SHORT TERM During FY23, develop a university-wide green fleet policy and start implementation in FY23.
- SHORT TERM During FY23, develop, adopt and start implementation of a plan to reduce Scope 3 emissions from commuting and air travel.
- LONG TERM In Fall 2022, in partnership with a consulting firm develop a “Zero Carbon Over Time Infrastructure Plan” (ZoT) including a phased transition to electrification and use of on-campus renewable, clean sources of energy; guidance for capital planning and future construction; and strategies for energy management and conservation. Adopt and start implementation of the plan during FY23, including setting goals for energy use reduction and on-campus renewable energy production. This would also include exploring the possibility of a Green Revolving Fund to support and sustain sustainability projects in operations.
- LONG TERM Decrease total water use per capita and potable water use per capita with 10% by 2025.

PRIORITY 3
PRACTICE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION,
PURCHASING AND INVESTMENT



GOALS

- LONG TERM In FY23, start work with Procurement, Facilities, Campus Services, IT and Athletics to develop an institution-wide ethical, equitable, and sustainable procurement policy, with a focus on diversifying vendors and promoting sustainability criteria to be applied when evaluating products and/or services.
- LONG TERM Reach “zero waste” by 2027. To work towards this goal, during FY23 develop a comprehensive zero waste strategy involving campus-wide engagement, to involve: signing on to the Break Free from Plastic Pledge; the implementation of a digital REUSE platform at SU (RenewSU); and fostering a campus culture around and supporting implementation of ‘bring your own container’. To calculate our progress, use the TRUE method of measuring achievement of “zero waste” which accounts for both waste minimization and landfill diverted waste.
- LONG TERM Increase plant-based purchasing of food and beverages from 22.5% (2020) to 30% by July 2023 and 40% by 2027.
- LONG TERM Increase verified sustainably or ethically produced food and beverage purchasing from 15% (2020) to 20% by July 2023 and 30% by 2027.
- LONG TERM Reduce food waste with 25% by 2027 (from baseline year 2022).
- LONG TERM In FY23, start implementation of SU’s socially responsible investment policy with the goal to increase the value of positive sustainable investments (ESG criteria) in SU’s investment pool, which is currently 0.21% (2021).
- LONG TERM Work with the appropriate campus stakeholders to reconsider SU’s Socially Responsible Investment options in SU’s retirement plan and explore alternatives that apply strict ESG criteria for the inclusion of companies in its Socially Responsible array.

PRIORITY 4

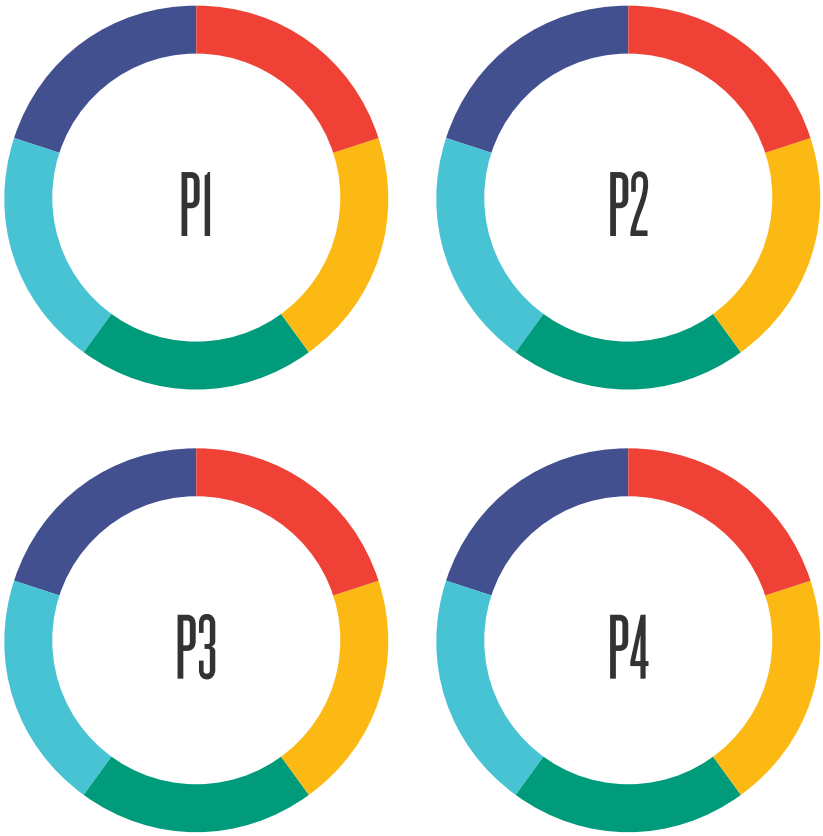
DEVELOP A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS CLIMATE AND DEEPEN
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY








GOALS

- SHORT TERM Establish an annual Laudato Si University celebration during the Season of Creation and use this as a time of education and engagement around the University’s Integral Ecology action plan priorities and goals.
- SHORT TERM Continue building relationships with local, native and BIPOC communities; listening and accompanying to manifest their insights.
- SHORT TERM Provide educational seminars and programming for informed public advocacy and campus engagement (Themes such as Laudato Si and the Economic System,...).
- LONG TERM During FY23, identify the need and develop a budget for institutional support for co-curricular peer-to-peer student educator programs such as the Zero Waste student leadership program, the Food Recovery Network student chapter, the edible campus initiative, the Residence Halls student representatives, and a future student-led green athletics program. These programs engage students to serve as educators in peer-to-peer sustainability outreach and provide a valuable learning experience that can deepen their understanding of sustainability while developing their outreach, education, and advocacy skills and contributing to SU’s integral ecology goals. Explore opportunities to connect such programs with curricular offerings or requirements. This may also include exploring the possibility of an “SUstainable, Equity, and Justice Impact” fund that provides resources for project and event implementation through small grants open to students, faculty and employees.
- SHORT TERM By June 2023, conduct a second staff survey (the first one was conducted in 2019) and organize a similar assessment at regular intervals for faculty. The survey would allow for anonymous feedback to measure employee engagement, job satisfaction, learning and advancement opportunities, diversity and inclusion, work culture and work/life balance.
- LONG TERM Work with the appropriate campus stakeholders to consider the implementation of a formal commitment to pay a living wage (benefits excluded) to all employees, that is, all regular full-time, regular part-time, and temporary/adjunct employees—academic and non-academic staff.

SEATTLE U LAUDATO SI
PLATFORM LEADERSHIP



-  **Executive Sponsor**
descriptive text
-  **Co-Chairs**
descriptive text
-  **Working Group Members**
membership constructed in light of identified goals
-  **Ex Officio**
LSAP Steering Co-Chairs
-  **Stakeholders**
consulting with faculty, staff and students

LEADERSHIP

In order to be a committed and active higher education participant in the 7-year Journey to Integral Ecology, a “SeattleU Laudato Si’ Action Platform Leadership” structure has been created to oversee, facilitate, and adequately coordinate the implementation of the LSAP priorities and goals, and to create a system of communication, collective participation, reporting as well as accountability from all parties involved. The structure is aligned with the Reigniting Our Strategic Directions 2022-2027 and consist of two LSAP Steering Co-chairs as well as Executive Sponsor, 2-3 Co-chairs, and working group members for each of the 4 SeattleU LSAP Priorities.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS