



Living Laudato Si' in the Diocese of Leeds

Statement of Intent

At the March 2023 meeting of the Diocesan Board of Trustees, the following targets and dates were set:

During the 2023/24 Financial Year we will recruit for a Trustee with responsibility for Environmental matters and embed sustainability into all diocesan recruitment.

We will identify and partner with local University Departments and specialists for consultancy, information-gathering and strategic planning, using the Guardians of Creation Catholic Diocesan Carbon Accounting material to determine Diocesan Carbon Footprint baseline year, rationale and boundaries.

We will create online spiritual and practical resources similar to the Diocese of Salford's *For the Beauty of the Earth* and *Hearing the Cry: Responding with Hope*. These will bring together accessible explanations of integral ecology, promote ecological conversion of heart and spiritual renewal, encourage engagement activities and the sharing of ideas to work with nature, live sustainably, support fairness and social justice – and, crucially, will emphasise the necessity of working together as One Diocese if we are to convey the necessary sense of urgency whilst converting hearts and minds into genuine conviction and positive actions.

During the 2024/25 Financial Year if not before we will recruit for a dedicated Curia Sustainability and Environment post to continue the work toward the target Net Zero date and beyond, ensuring that there is a period of overlap between the strategic work undertaken with consultants and the permanent, operational role.

Immediate action to begin after Easter 2023 will be to set our Carbon Net Zero Target date for the Diocese of Leeds. We will liaise with Local Authorities to determine a practical Carbon Net Zero target, following the example of Salford Diocese which has chosen 2038 as it is in sync with that area's Local Authorities' targets. The published Carbon Net Zero targets for Local Authorities in the Diocese of Leeds are: Bradford, Calderdale, Greater Manchester & Kirklees = 2038 and Leeds, North Yorkshire & Pendle = 2030 (or as near to that date as possible).

We will conduct Parish and Schools Environment Surveys and Employee/Curia Travel Surveys (based on the equivalent Salford Survey templates) using the same online communications and feedback pathways as the Synodal Process. The Surveys are intended to raise awareness, promote ecological conversion and provide an initial 'audit' of current best practice in parishes, schools and curia, identifying what support is needed, and providing initial data for carbon footprinting. This will inform the future route-map and also provide the necessary insights to refine and hone the existing diocesan strategies for communicating Laudato Si' and encouraging engagement with environmental matters.

Parish and School 'Champions' identified by these Surveys will help lead renewal and encourage personal conversion. Aided by the Justice and Peace Commission's Climate Action Group members and in liaison with the Environmental Leads and Diocesan Property and Communications, the Champions will create and connect Laudato Si' networks in schools, parishes and curia, to inspire, encourage and support more parishes and school achieving CAFOD LiveSimply Awards and share learning, opportunities and best practice to help others in developing and co-ordinating their own response to Laudato Si' both locally and across the diocese. CMATs across the diocese are conducting/planning to conduct their own sustainability audits.