

Laudato Si Action Plan approved 12/14/23

Molloy University, Rockville Centre, New York  
2023 – 2028  
Five Year Action Plan



(taken from <https://www.laudatosi.org/laudato-si/laudato-si-goals/>)

Measuring Integral Ecology in the spirit of Laudato Si'

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1. Response to the **Cry of the Earth** (greater use of clean renewable energy and reducing fossil fuels to achieve ecological sustainability, efforts to protect and promote biodiversity, guaranteeing access to clean water for all, etc.)

2. Response to the **Cry of the Poor** (defence of human life from conception to death and all forms of life on Earth, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, migrants, children at risk through slavery, etc.)

3. Ecological **Economics** (sustainable production, Fair-trade, ethical consumption, ethical investments, reduced dependence from fossil fuels and any economic activity harmful to the planet and the people, investment in renewable energy, etc.)

4. Adoption of **Simple Lifestyles** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and access rates and quantities of meat consumption, greater use of public transport and reduce use of modes of transportation contributing significant quantities of air pollutants.)

5. Ecological **Education** (re-think and re-design educational curricula and educational institution reform in the spirit of integral ecology to create ecological awareness and action, promoting the ecological vocation of young people, teachers, and leaders of education etc.)

6. Ecological **Spirituality** (recover a religious vision of God's creation, encourage greater contact with the natural world in a spirit of wonder, praise, joy, and gratitude, promote creation-centred liturgical celebrations, develop ecological catechesis, prayer, retreats, formation, etc.)

7. Emphasis on **Community involvement and participatory** action to care for creation at the local, regional, national, and international levels (promote advocacy and people's campaigns, encourage rootedness in local territory and neighborhood ecosystems, plus promote a robust and diversified network of conservation biology and ecological sustainability.)

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**LAUDATO SI' ACTION PLATFORM (LSAP) COMMITTEE**

*CHARGE*

*Develop an LSAP Action Plan that demonstrates Molloy University's commitment to the seven (7) goals established by the Laudato Si' Action Platform.*

Timeline for the 7-Year Journey

Year 1 – Create the Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP) Committee; introduce the Laudato Si' Action Platform and its 7 goals to the community.

Year 2 - Task the LSAP Committee to create Molloy University's LSAP Action Plan.

Year 3 - Introduce Molloy University's 5-Year LSAP Action Plan (see 5-year plan attached) to the wider community for input and cooperation; begin work on short-term Action Plan items.

Year 4 - Continue work on short-term Action Plan items and ongoing development of mid-term Action Plan items.

Year 5 - Implement mid-term Action Plan items; continue planning/development of long-term Action Plan items.

Year 6 - Assess Molloy University's LSAP Action Plan and prepare final report.

Year 7 – Celebrate meeting the goals and actions accomplished; address any aspirational goals for the future.

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To meet the charge, LSAP Committee members divided into five sector subcommittees. The sectors were determined by the full committee:

Facilities/Operations \* Curriculum \* Student Initiatives \* Community  
Engagement \* Administration and Planning

Each sector subcommittee met during the 2022-23 Academic year to:

1. Determine which of the 7 goals pertain to a subcommittee's particular sector. Not all of the 7 goals will fall within the specific focus of each subcommittee. Moreover, please be mindful that specific expertise pertaining to the various goals will be represented by the focus and/or membership of other sector subcommittees. (Timeframe: Nov – Dec '22)
2. Perform an environmental scan of the institution to determine how a subcommittee's particular sector might already be addressing or currently engaging one or more of the 7 goals. (Timeframe: Dec '22 – Feb '23)
3. Draft action ideas or possible action items that will be that subcommittee's contribution to the LSAP Action Plan for Molloy University to be presented to the larger University community. Consider delineating action items according to an appropriate timeframe for the action to be implemented: short-term, mid-term, and "aspirational" goals (i.e., goals which require longer timeframes for planning and implementation and/or more extensive institutional resources, and which exemplify the permanent institutional-cultural change that the LSAP intends for participating entities). (Timeframe: February – May '23)

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#### **LSAP Committee**

Dr. Connie Lasher, Co-Chair  
Catherine Muscente, Co-Chair  
Normadeane Armstrong  
Dr. Noelle Cutter  
Elizabeth Hertler (student)  
Celine Lukito (student)  
Elizabeth Gregory (student)  
Ryan Pierce (student)  
Nina Scanze (student)  
Dr. Howard Ponzer  
Dr. Elizabeth Suter  
Molly Ballerstein  
Sister Maureen Muir, O.P.  
Dr. John Tanacredi  
Dr. Katherine Schmidt  
Andrew Manitt  
Neal Lewis  
Dr. Michelle Piskulich  
Dr. Donald “DJ” Mitchell  
Susanna Stickley  
Angela Zimmerman  
Sheila Carrigan  
Dr. Janine Biscari  
Kevin Milella  
Michelle Martin  
Francine Wisnewski  
Sarah Shin  
Lisa Peluso  
Jeannine Perrin  
Sister Diane Capuano, O.P.  
Demo Maratos  
Sister Alex Wolochuk, O.P.

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#### **PRIORITIES for Year 1 and Year 2 (Academic years '23/24; '24/25)**

To listen and respond to the Cry of the EARTH (1), Ecological Economics (3), Adopt Simple Lifestyles (4),

Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Be aware of recycling opportunities available in all campus locations.
  - Build the facilities management website for up-to-date information.
  - Engage the community in the *Did You Know* campaign.
  - Build up the Molloy Thrift Store initiative.
  - Initiate student-led mini-recycling bottle/can campaigns.
  - Increase outreach to all student organizations for input and collaboration.
- *Making Small Steps to Make an Impact Campaign*
  - Commit to bringing your own mug to meetings.
  - Commit to trying meat-free meals.
  - Commit to one waste-free lunch a week.
  - Commit to participating in a “clean-up” opportunity (parks, beaches, etc.)
  - Increase outreach to all student organizations for input and collaboration to work towards a more sustainable campus.
- Increase opportunities to engage the community in reducing consumption of limited resources.
  - Determine alternative ways to have non-balloon celebrations.
  - *Wait before you print* Campaign to limit the amount of paper that needs to be recycled.
  - Determine opportunities to install covered bicycle rack(s) on Rockville Centre Campus; set up e-bike charging stations.

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- Evaluate possible locations on Molloy's campuses for additional EV charging stations.
- Investigate energy efficient vehicles (public safety cars, vans and shuttles). Look into Grant money options for paying for these types of vehicles.
- Highlight programming offered through Molloy's Sustainability Institute such as Clean Energy Task Force, Clean Energy Communities, Climate Smart Communities.
- Perform Baseline Energy Performance review of all main campus buildings to monitor energy usage.
- Continue to diminish use of non-energy efficient lighting.

To listen and respond to the Cry of the Poor (2)

#### Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Build up the Molloy Food Pantry
  - Assess student needs.
  - Calls for donations every semester.
  - Market access to the Molloy Food Pantry for those in need
- Continue to build programming and service opportunities that address issues of homelessness, food insecurity, financial literacy, and health equity.
  - Create opportunities to educate as well as serve and support.
  - Increase outreach to all student organizations for input and collaboration.
  - Increase programs offered through Molloy Service Corps.

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- Ensure that service-learning opportunities incorporate aspects of Laudato Si'

To provide Ecological Education (5), Ecological Spirituality (6), and Community Involvement (7):

#### Suggested Actions for the Molloy Community

- Establish the Curriculum & Academics Subcommittee as a new faculty-led Community of Practice within the School of Arts and Sciences. The goals of this committee format are to create a Faculty Learning Community to audit academic program curricula and identify places where the seven goals of Laudato Si' are represented; to identify areas for improvement, including establishment of new academic programs (such as minors, micro-credentials, etc.), and to recommend potential learning goals and outcomes associated with the principles and concepts on integral ecology.
- Highlight STEM discipline collaborative programs associated with the BCES BS degree in EES (i.e. Saturday science for Students at the Explorer's Club, AMNH – from A-Z Monday Science talks, Hutton House Environmental Lectures, etc.)
- Understand and appreciate the connection between food consumption and the environment.
  - Restart and re-engage Vegan Lifestyles program sponsored by Sustainability Institute.
  - Offer certificate program with a focus on Long Island farming issues and the science of bees. Expand community outreach within Molloy and with community partners. Incorporate a service component within the certificate to do hands-on work in this area.



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- Engage Molloy food vendor in ongoing conversations about food waste and composting.
- Offer educational workshops on composting on Long Island with suggestions for at-home composting.
- Campus Ministries sponsor monthly interfaith prayer for peace at the Peace pole.

### **PRIORITIES for Year 3 (Academic year '25/26)**

To listen and respond to the Cry of the EARTH (1), Ecological Economics (3)  
Adopt Simple Lifestyles (4)

Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Continue to grow opportunities for recycling on campus.
  - Engage the community in disposing properly of all recycled material; have appropriate recycling bins available.
  - Evaluate opportunities and space for composting and follow any NYS guidance on the need to compost food waste by on-campus food vendor.
- Continue discussions regarding fleet vehicles owned by the University to determine feasibility of having more energy efficient cars and trucks and act upon any opportunities in the grant pipeline or rebates to assist in this effort.

## Laudato Si Action Plan approved 12/14/23

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To provide Ecological Education (5)

Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Establish/make available/promote new minors and curricular paths of study with a multidisciplinary content focus on the principles of integral ecology as represented in Laudato Si as that process is outlined in the faculty handbook.

### PRIORITIES for Year 4 and Year 5 (Academic years '26/27, '27/28)

To listen and respond to the Cry of the EARTH (1) Cry of the POOR (2) and Adopt Simple Lifestyles (4)

Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Grow the campus-wide recycling program and food waste separation initiative.
- Evaluate and assess campus-wide initiatives that have led to energy savings.
- Combine a breakfast Lunch & Learn with a book club once a semester and select books (about simplifying your life or one of the books from the Common Read under the theme of Cry of the Earth, Simple Lifestyle and of Ecological education).
- Follow a plan to simplify your lifestyle; Resources available at <https://zenhabits.net/simple-living-manifesto-72-ideas-to-simplify-your-life/>
- Continue to support initiatives to combat food insecurity and homelessness throughout the Long Island region. Identify new opportunities to be of service to the poor and marginalized in an impactful way.

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To provide adoption of Ecological Education and (5) Community Involvement (7)

Suggested Actions for all the Molloy Community:

- Continue to develop and promote new minors and curricular paths of study with a multidisciplinary content focus on the principles of integral ecology as represented in Laudato Si'.
- Plan and organize a conference around the experience of the Laudato Si' Action Platform initiatives with peer-level Dominican institutions who have taken the 7-year journey. Possibly an offering for the 2028 Biennial Colloquium sponsored by the Dominican Higher Education Council.
- Develop and circulate assessment tool to evaluate achieved Action Plan Initiatives and review assessment data from the last 5 years. Create a sustainable plan for the University to follow moving forward.

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