



The 2022 Assessment of Progress Racine Dominican Laudato Si' Action Plan Summary November 2022

2022 Laudato Si' Events

April 22, 2022	Soil Blessing for the Siena Garden of Eatin'
March 4 – April 22, 2022	March Forth to Earth Day Events (in collaboration with Unity Racine)
March 25, 2022	Care of Creation Prayer Service
September 1, 2022	Opening Liturgy for Season of Creation (creation of "Burning Bush")
May/September 2022	Understanding Laudato Si' Part I & II
September 24, 2022	Walk to Celebrate Mother Earth
October 4, 2022	Closing Liturgy for Season of Creation (tree blessing/planting)

Objectives	Laudato Si' Goals	Actions
1 Composting	Response to the cry of the earth Ecological Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restarted program for RDR and Food Services RDR and AL ▪ Preparation of participants
2 Plastic Reduction	Cry of the Earth Sustainable Lifestyles Ecological Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provided Plastic Reduction Fact Sheets ▪ Assessed Current Reduction Efforts ▪ Received Catholic Climate Covenant Grant ▪ Planned Plastic Reduction Fair for Fall 2022
3 Rebuilding Relationships	Ecological Spirituality Ecological Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Understanding Laudato Si'” Part I & II ▪ Immersions at Full Circle Healing Farm ▪ Ongoing OOW Laudato Si' inserts ▪ Laudato Si' materials in Siena Library ▪ Celebrated Season of Creation ▪ Planning for presentations by Sr. Christin Tomy, OP 10/22 & Patty Loew 12/22
4 Renewable Energy	Cry of the Earth Ecological Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identified energy innovations completed on Siena Campus ▪ Determined that a formal Audit has not been conducted ▪ Learned the solar panels could be a good match ▪ Identified potential planning and financial resources ▪ Recognized that the installation of additional renewable energy resources on the Siena Campus requires coordination with all impacted entities

5 Sustainable Investing	Ecological Economics Ecological Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Identified that RD investments follow Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) guidelines▪ Learned that RD fossil fuel investments have been reduced by 46% since 2014.▪ Provided CFO & Leadership Team with updated divestment information▪ Planned with CFO a Fall 2022 Community education regarding SRI policy and efforts to reduce fossil fuel investments▪ Goal of total divestment from fossil fuels by 2026
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Objective 1 - Composting

Guide: Ruth Schaaf, OP Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT)
Objective 1 Composting Year One: April – October 4, 2022

Laudato Si' Action Plan Goal(s)

Cry of the Earth— a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Ecological Economics— acknowledges that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere—our common home.

Objective 1 Composting

To reinstate composting at Siena Center

Justification

The encyclical Laudato Si, reminds us that “we have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximizing their efficient use, reusing and recycling them (22).” One of the things that we can do to achieve this is composting — it allows food waste to return to the ecosystem from which it came. Siena Campus encloses several entities (Racine Dominicans, Siena on the Lake, Ascension Living, and Siena Retreat Center) that involve food preparation including service from a central kitchen, an off-site food preparation center, and kitchens in the Sisters' residence. Much of the refuse generated by meal preparation and dining room service can be recycled to become a very nutritious soil builder, fertilizer, and compost. Rather than disposing of this commodity in a landfill, we must be compelled to restore earth's topsoil and provide earth's own fertilizer by composting.

Action Steps			
Date	Action	Who is responsible?	Outcome
May, 2022	Identify and become familiar with the composting options available in Racine County	Ruth Schaaf, OP	<p>Contacted and interviewed citizens active in composting initiatives in schools, churches, gardening organizations, neighborhood groups and civic committees of the city of Racine.</p> <p>Established relationships with key leaders in composting across Racine Co.</p> <p>The fact that the Racine County landfill will be terminated in 2023 presents the reality that new opportunities and challenges are ahead regarding the recycling and the disposal of food and product waste. Laudato Si Action Team will endeavor to be a vital part of that initiative at the Racine City and County level.</p>
June 2022	Provide educational information regarding benefits of composting to the Siena Campus entities and Sisters and Associates	Ruth Schaaf, OP	<p>Some of the ways utilized to re-engage all participants were bulletin board posters highlighting facts like the dangers of disposing of food wastes in the landfill. One of the planning team members made very effective and captivating posters naming compostable food wastes to be posted at more than a half dozen collection sites around Siena Center Sisters' residence and dining room.</p>

			In August 2022, an article “Let it Rot! Composting Resumed” was published in “Community Connections”, the Racine Dominican Community newsletter.
2022	Gain understanding of the history of the composting program at Siena	Ruth Schaaf, OP	<p>Extensive interviews with two Sisters who were part of the development of the Eco Justice Center (EJC), a Racine Dominican Mission Partner, which opened in 2004. The ECJ is an ecology education center owned by the Racine Dominican Sisters for engaging in sustainable farming practices and care of the earth. Shortly after the opening of EJC, the composting program began. That initiative included the composting of food wastes at Siena Center.</p> <p>Review of the minutes on file for the early years of the establishment of Eco Justice Center and development of mission and by-laws.</p> <p>Review of the minutes of the Earth Focus Group on file for the Racine Dominican Justice and Rights Commission where the suggestion was raised to include Siena Center in the initiative for composting.</p>
May 2022	Develop a planning team to move	Ruth Schaaf, OP	Composting restarted on July 11, 2022. A Reinstatement Planning Team composed of

	<p>composting forward on the Siena Center Campus</p>		<p>the House Coordinator, Food Services Director, Chef and five Sister residents planned and continue to oversee the composting reinstatement project.</p> <p>The primary work of the composting planning team centered around these initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identify and assemble equipment and materials needed, 2) preparation of participants, 3) creating and disseminating information, 4) choosing leaders from each floor of RDR to plan and oversee the food waste collection in the RDR, 5) preparation of food service staff, and 6) setting the beginning date for return to collection of food waste for composting at RDR. <p>Sisters from the planning team remain in place to oversee the collection of food wastes of the Sisters living at the Racine Dominican Residence.</p> <p>Under the plan, organic food wastes from entities on the Siena Campus are delivered to the EJC. Weekly, approximately five 5-gallon buckets of food waste weekly go to ECJ.</p>
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			<p>The Food Service Director, employed by Ascension Living, the Chef, employed by Siena on the Lake and the Executive Director of Siena on the Lake are critical partners in moving this program forward on the Siena Center Campus. Currently the Food Service Director and the Chef are delivering the food waste to the EJC.</p>
July 2022	<p>Initiate plan for moving forward with composting on the Siena Center Campus</p>	Ruth Schaaf, OP	<p>Siena Center (including the Sister's Residence, and the centralized kitchen and dining services that serves both the Racine Dominican Community and Ascension Living) reinstated food waste composting on July 11, 2022 using the plan developed by the committee. The Food Services Director and the Chef are key components for the continuation of the composting program.</p> <p>Detailed reports on the work of the Team were submitted to the Laudato Si' Action Team on June 17, 2022 and July 8, 2022.</p>
September 2022	<p>Assess progress towards goal and develop possible 2022/2023 Action Steps</p>	Ruth Schaaf, OP	<p>Decisions to be made moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which entity on the Siena Campus would be a good option to expand the composting endeavor? • Can we expand to include more than two entities? • Is a team required to do this?

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will a more comprehensive educational piece have to precede implementation of a composting program campus-wide?• Is the arrangement with EJC adequate for expanding forward?• What options are emerging in the City of Racine and/or Racine County?• What kind of leadership is called for from Racine Dominicans for moving the City of Racine and Racine County forward in education for composting, vision for countywide composting, care of the earth in general?• Is expanding composting on the Siena Campus reasonable or advisable?• If this option is acceptable, will an additional employee be necessary?• Who would be the employer of such an addition to staff?
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Objective 2 – Plastic Reduction

Guide: Ann Pratt

Objective 2 Plastic Reduction Year One: April – October 4, 2022

Laudato Si' Action Plan Goal(s)

Cry of the Earth – a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.

Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles – Adopt a **simple lifestyle** (sobriety in the use of resources and energy, avoid single-use plastic, adopt a more plant-based diet and reduce meat consumption, greater use of public transport and avoid polluting modes of transportation, etc.)

Ecological Education – increasing awareness of our common origin, or our mutual belonging and of a future to be shared with everyone.

Objective 2 Plastic Reduction

To explore plastic usage at the Siena Campus and local Racine Dominican residences and identify ways that increasing the implementation of the five guiding principles for reducing waste: **refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, rot, can be encouraged.**

Justification

In the encyclical letter, Laudato Si', Pope Francis recognizes the need for human beings to change their behaviors, turning away from consumerism and adopting a simpler, more sustainable lifestyle. Reducing plastic usage, whose primary component is fossil fuels, directly relates to reducing the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and thereby reducing global warming. Reduction of the use of plastic reduces the need for landfills as well as decreasing the risk of plastic ending up in the ocean or endangering creatures that accidentally encounter it. Reduction can also prevent micro plastic particles from leaching into our bodies, groundwater and soil. Recycling plastics can be positive but this process also contributes to the creation of carbon dioxide. Reducing the use of plastic helps to reduce carbon emissions, protects our wildlife and food sources, and reduces the ever-increasing toxicity of our air and water.

Action Steps

Date	Action	Who is responsible?	Outcome
May 2022	Determine which entities housed on the Siena Campus and which RD local communities would be willing to collaborate in the exploration of plastic reduction and identify a contact person in each area for further action.	Ann Pratt, OP Guide Karen Fredrickson, OP RDR Coordinator Maryann McMahon, OP President Tracey Medves, Food Service Director Jasen Lohr, Chef	Overall, Campus entities are willing to reduce plastic usage but due to COVID restrictions, this has proved to be difficult. Safety of the residents is important and it is believed that single use items are an important element of safety being maintained.
June 2022	Survey measures currently in use to reduce plastic and assess impact of this reduction	Ann Pratt, OP Guide Corey Borkowski, Maintenance Dir Wanda Gall, Admin Asst.	On June 21, 2022 met with Maintenance Dir. who shared the refillable cleaning system that is in place to reduce the use of single use plastics. A similar system is in place in RDR for laundry products.
July 2022	Identify educational and promotional strategies	Ann Pratt, OP Guide	Moms for Clean Air Petrochemical Pollution

	that would aid the decrease in plastic usage		and Our Health poster was posted in the RDR to support understanding of the need to decrease plastic usage in order to decrease carbon footprint.
July 2022	Catholic Climate Covenant Victory Knoll Grant	Ann Pratt, OP Guide	In July 2022 notification was received that a \$1000 grant had been awarded for the provision of an Alternative Plastics Fair and to secure speakers to provide educational information regarding the need for plastics reduction.
July 2022	Identify possible priority focus areas and strategies that will contribute to the reduction of plastic usage	Ann Pratt, OP Guide Karen Fredrickson, OP RDR Coordinator Maryann McMahon, OP President Tracey Medves, Food Service Director Jasen Lohr, Chef	The COVID pandemic has greatly increased the use of single use plastics in both the dining services and the residence. Effective strategies for reduction of use have not yet been determined.

September 2022	Plan for a Plastics Alternative Fair to take place during the Fall Gathering 2022	Ann Pratt, OP Mare Wheeler Diane Poplawski	Funding from the CCC Victory Knoll Grant was designated for purchase of Plastic Alternatives products to help educate the Community about availability of plastic alternatives.
September 2022	Assess progress towards goal and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps	Ann Pratt, OP	Progress was made regarding both awareness of areas where plastic reduction has been achieved and where it still needs to be achieved. Educational opportunities provided throughout the year supported this awareness and will continue into the next goal year.

Objective 3 – Rebuilding Relationships

Guide: Diane Poplawski, OP Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT)

Objective 3 Rebuilding Relationships Year One: April – October 4, 2022

Laudato Si' Action Plan Goal(s)

Ecological Education – increasing awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging and of a future to be shared with everyone.

Ecological Spirituality – being open to interior conversion and awareness of the interconnectedness of all of life.

Objective 3 Rebuilding Relationships

Deepen our Racine Dominican Community's **Ecological Spirituality and Education** in the areas of:

- the historical and foundational role of the “Doctrine of Discovery;”
- the importance of knowing “whose land we are on” and the value of using Land Acknowledgements when we gather;
- “Native spirituality” and Seventh Generation Earth Ethics;
- the importance of honoring Native land from a Native American woman’s perspective;
- the need for land transitions that protect land and extend equity, access, and/or tenure to new stewards;
- the importance of our call to live in right relationships and respect all people and the earth.

Justification

In the Encyclical Letter, Laudato Si', we are called to redefine and rebuild our relationship with each other and our common home. A fuller understanding the “Doctrine of Discovery,” its historical implementations, and its use by the Catholic Church will increase our understanding of what has shaped our relationships in the past and how we can apply new understandings towards shaping them in the future. Native People have honored and cared for the earth long before our arrival. We can learn a lot by hearing directly from their voices regarding caring for the earth, the sacred balance of all of life, and the importance of relationships. This information will also provide a foundation for increased understanding of the need to explore land transitions that protect land

and extend equity, access, and/or tenure to new stewards. Our charism with “a passion for truth...” (*Constitution 7*) and “commitment to truth in light of the gospel...” (*Constitution 8*) invites us to be “lifelong learners.” The proposed educational opportunities invite us to know more of the “truth” and be more informed as we proceed with the commitment to Laudato Si’.

Action Steps

Date	Action	Who is responsible?	Outcome
Prior to April 2022	View the “Doctrine of Discovery” presentation by Christin Tomy, OP	Laudato Si’ Action Team (LSAT)	Recommendation to have presentation by Christin Tomy, OP
Prior to April 2022 (March 11 - September 28, 2022)	Provide an eight week, two-part course, “Understanding Laudato Si” based on Fr. Daniel P. Horan’s video series on the Encyclical Letter, <i>Laudato Si’: On Care of Our Common Home</i> to assist Sisters and Associates in deepening their Ecological Spirituality.	Ann Pratt, OP LSAT Facilitator	Offered Part I of this Series during March 2022 covering the first eight videos. Offered Part II in September of 2022 covering the last six videos. Offered Weekly opportunities for Sisters and Associates to view the videos and then participate in a facilitated discussion of the assigned videos.
Prior to April 2022 (March 25, 2022)	Care of Creation Prayer Service	LSAT	Deepened awareness of importance of Laudato Si’ and the Public Commitment statement made by the Racine Dominicans.
April 2022	Apply for a Call To Action (CTA) Seed Grant that addresses power and privilege through anti-racist and anti-oppressive lenses and uplifts	LSAT Facilitator and Brittany Koteles, Nuns & Nones (N&N),	Submitted application on 2/22/2022 Denial of application 3/31/2022 due to limited funding for this pilot program

	marginalized people or communities via an immersion experience on a working farm operated by a person of color.	Director, Land Justice Program	CTA encouraged LSAT to seek an alternative funder.
April 2022	Explore engaging Christin Tomy, OP live or via zoom for fall of 2022 and secure a date for the presentation.	Diane Poplawski	Confirmed for October 15, 2022 via zoom. 9 AM-11:30 AM
April 2022	Explore engaging Patty Loew (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe), Director for Native American & Indigenous Research at Northwestern University and author of <i>Seventh Generation Earth Ethics: Native Voices of Wisconsin</i> as an in-person/zoom presenter for fall of 2022 and secure a date.	Diane Poplawski	Confirmed for December 3, 2022 via zoom. 10 AM – 11:30 AM
June 2022	Write articles for “Community Connections”, the Racine Dominican internal newsletter and provide Sunday Order of Worship (OOW) Handouts	LSAT Kyla Mrazek, Communications Director Rachel Egarczynski E. Assistant	Both vehicles are used on a regular basis to increase the Community’s knowledge and understanding of Laudato Si’ and related issues
June – August 2022	Solidify arrangements regarding Christin Tomy, OP for fall of 2022	Diane Poplawski	Confirmed October 15, 2022 via Zoom
June –August 2022	Solidify arrangements for Patty Loew (Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) presentation for fall of 2022	Diane Poplawski	Confirmed December 3, 2022 via zoom.

July 2022	View “For All The Earth: Integrating Charism, Mission & Care of Creation,” Sessions I & II presentation by Laurie Brink, OP	LSAT	Ongoing assessment continues for the application of this resource.
Summer 2022	Provide a 1-day immersion experience for N & N Land Justice on a working farm operated by a Person of Color. Explore land transitions that protect land, extend equity, access, and/or tenure to new stewards and provide participants with an opportunity to engage with the joys and challenges of farming.	LSAT Facilitator Director of Land Justice Martice and Amy Scales, Operators of Full Circle Healing Farm.	On August 1, 2022, members participated in an immersion journey at Full Circle Healing Farm, Mequon.
September 2022	Evaluate Sunday OOW Handouts to determine educational effectiveness.	LSAT	Ongoing. At least monthly, the OOW includes information related to the themes of Laudato Si’
September 2022	Create designated area in Siena library for LS readings & reference materials.	Diane Poplawski	Ongoing. Updated as needed.
September 1-October 4	We will recognize the 2022 Season of Creation, Sept 1 – October 4, 2022	LSAT Janet Weyker Racine Dominican Choir Sisters and Associates	Creation of a “Burning Bush” that included petitions for the earth written by Sisters and Associates provided a beautiful environment for the Celebration. Special Opening and Closing Liturgies provided opportunities to celebrate the Season as a Community

			Throughout the Season, music and prayer intentions brought attention to the celebration. The closing Liturgy featured a homily on the theology of St. Francis. A Serviceberry tree was blessed and dedicated and latter planted on the Siena Campus.
September 24, 2022	Walk to Celebrate Mother Earth on the Siena Center Campus during Season of Creation	LSAT	Team members planned and carried out the “Walk” that included fifty-five walking participants and numerous observers, processed and prayed for creation at significant spots (ravine, lake, natural habitat, Garden of Eatin’). The “Walk” concluded with a picnic.
September 2022	Assess progress towards goal and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps	LSAT	Tasks identified for this Objective are substantially completed or are ongoing. Final determination of 2022 – 2023 tasks will take place following the scheduled Tomy and Loew presentations so that Ecological Spirituality will continue to occur.

Objective 4 – Renewable Energy

<p>Guide: Fran Hoffman Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT)</p> <p>Objective 4 Renewable Energy Year One: April – October 4, 2022</p>			
<p>Laudato Si' Action Plan Goal(s)</p> <p>Cry of the Earth— a call to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all, as we equitably address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and ecological sustainability.</p>			
<p>Objective 4 Renewable Energy To explore further decreasing the carbon footprint of the Siena Center Campus by employing additional use of renewable energy resources. This Campus includes multiple entities including The Racine Dominican Administrative Wing and Sister's Residence, Siena Retreat Center, Siena on the Lake, and Ascension Living.</p>			
<p>Justification</p> <p>In the encyclical letter, Laudato Si' we are reminded that the climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. Burning fossil fuels releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere where the gases trap heat, causing global warming. The average global temperature has increased 1°C since the 1800's. Warming above 1.5°C risks further sea level rise, extreme weather, biodiversity loss and species extinction, as well as food scarcity, worsening health and poverty for millions of people worldwide. Fossil fuel companies continue to support the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, producing and selling fossil fuel products while scientists say we need a mass switch to renewable energy and efficiency to prevent unalterable damage to our common home.</p>			
<p>Action Steps</p>			
Date	Action	Who is responsible?	Outcome
May 2022	Explore whether the Siena Center Campus has had a recent energy audit.	Fran Hoffman, OP, Objective Guide,	Fran Hoffman studied <u>Greening Sacred Spaces: An Eco-Spirituality Project</u>

	If not, request that one be completed	Agnes Johnson, OP, VP Alex Ostrov, Accounting Director	that contained a walk-through energy evaluation. The Center has not completed a formal energy audit. August 19, 2022, the Alex Ostrov outlined innovations that began in 2013 to ensure that the Campus is energy efficient. See report.
June 2022	Determine the sources currently in use for heating, cooling, and lighting etc. For each entity on the Campus	Fran Hoffman, OP, Ann Pratt, OP, Chair of Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT), Corey Borkowski, Maintenance Director, Wanda Gall, Administrative Assistant	On June 21 st , 2022, Corey Borkowski reported on the sources for heating, cooling, and lighting on the Campus including recent updates. See report. Solar panels could provide perhaps 30% savings.
June 2022	Provide educational fact sheets detailing best practices for energy management and energy efficiency to the Siena Campus entities, Sisters, and Associates	Fran Hoffman, OP, LSAT, Dominican Center for Justice Resources (DCJR)	"Tips to Save Energy and Money" from Home Energy Plus was shared with LSAT on August 21 st , 2022, and will be shared to Siena on the Lake (SOTL), Sisters, and Associates in the next goal year.

July 2022	Based on the data gathered, identify which SOTL entities would be willing to collaborate in exploring the use of renewable energy resources.	Fran Hoffman, OP, Maryann McMahan, President, Susan Boland, ED-SOTL, Maintenance Director, Claire Anderson, ED-Siena Retreat Center	Due to the complexity of the Campus, it will be important to bring all of the entities to the table to determine next steps in the exploration.
July 2022	Identify current energy consumption (by source of energy) for each of the entities who choose to collaborate and determine carbon footprint of these sources.	Fran Hoffman, OP, Maryann McMahan, OP Shari Geertsen, CFO.	Shari documented current energy consumption and carbon footprint on the Siena Campus.
July 2022	Explore possible alternative renewable energy resources that could be used with current energy sources to move towards decreasing the carbon footprint of the Siena Campus.	Fran Hoffman, OP, ED- SOTL, Maintenance Director-SOTL	Fran explored alternative energy resources and learned that solar energy could be a good match with current energy sources. She researched the PSC Energy Innovation (OEI) Grant and registered for alerts. She shared a 35% Market Relief Bonus with Corey and Susan for their consideration.

July 2022	Speak to Chief Financial Officer about possible alternative renewable energy resources.	CFO	Shari expressed interest in an OEI energy grant to recoup expenses spent on previous innovations. She viewed solar panels as compatible with the Siena Center roofs.
September 2022	Explore additional funding resources.	Fran Hoffman, OP	Fran attended a Catholic Climate Covenant (CCC) presentation on Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding entitled "A Powerful Opportunity for the Faith Community: Putting Our Faith Into Action Through Renewable Energy Investments and Funding." CCC also shared energy about their Catholic Energies program that provides support to Catholic organizations to assist them in accessing funding.
September 2022	Identify current energy consumption	CFO, Fran Hoffman, OP, Janet Weyker, OP, Ann Pratt, OP, LSAT	The results of Shari's report on energy consumption on the Siena Center Campus were reviewed.

September 2022	Draft a renewable energy plan for collaborating entities that would decrease the carbon footprint of the Campus	Fran Hoffman, OP, and LSAT, Leadership Team, CFO, ED-SOTL, Maintenance Director-SOTL, Plan advisors	Due to the size of the campus, the LSAT team recommended that the renewable energy plan be focused on only one entity. The key players will be encouraged to draft a renewable energy plan. This plan will need to be coordinated with the timeline for the IRA.
September 2022	Assess progress towards goal and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps	Fran Hoffman, OP, LSAT, Leadership Team, CFO	Fran learned that there is openness on the Campus for adding solar to the existing renewable energy resources. During 2022-2023, Fran Hoffman, OP, and LSAT will set up a meeting with the SOTL Team to discuss the possibility of applying for Solar Panel grants through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding. Progress assessment for Year One is completed. Year Two goals will be developed based on our findings.

Objective 5 – Sustainable Investing

Guide: Janet Weyker, OP Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT)

Objective 5 Sustainable Investing Year One: April – October 4, 2022

Laudato Si' Action Plan Goal(s)

Ecological Economic— acknowledging that the economy is a sub-system of human society, which itself is embedded within the biosphere-our common home we are encouraged to trade and invest ethically by divesting from fossil fuels and support sustainable energy systems. It is imperative that we prioritize people and planet over profit.

Ecological Education— re-thinking and re-designing curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology in order to foster ecological awareness and transformative action.

Objective 5 Sustainable Investing To review the Racine Dominican investment policies and screens to ensure that investments are ethical, sustainable, prioritize divesting from fossil fuels and investing in more renewable energy resources.

Justification

In the encyclical letter, Laudato Si', we are called to take into account the environmental impact of any economic undertaking. Fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) are the greatest emitters of carbon dioxide that contribute to global warming and its devastating outcomes. An ecological economy calls for a just transition to clean energy, protecting all people and other living beings from the consequences of global warming. By divesting from fossil fuels and investing in clean renewable energy, we can mitigate the effects of adding more carbon emissions to the atmosphere. Divestment from businesses that support the fossil fuel industry increases opportunities to collaborate with other institutions who prioritize ethical and sustainable choices thus increasing our ability to respond positively to the climate crisis.

Action Steps

Date	Action	Who is responsible?	Outcome
May	Examine current investment policies and screening criteria and the process for their development using positive environmental, social, and governance (ESG) screening	Janet Weyker, OP Objective Guide Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Racine Dominican (RD) Finance Department Socially Responsible Investment Committee (SRI)	Met with SRI committee and CFO. Received and reviewed SRI Investment Guide lines and Policies. Our polices follow the criteria for Socially Responsible Investments that Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors.
May	Obtain information regarding current investments in fossil fuel and sustainable related businesses	Janet Weyker, OP Ann Pratt, OP, Laudato Si' Promoter CFO RD Finance Department	Met with CFO and Finance Department and learned that since 2015 we have reduced our total funding in fossil companies by approximately 6%, which accounts for 4% of our total investments.
June	Provide information about current policies and screens including	Janet Weyker, OP Ann Pratt, OP	Shared investment guidelines and financial

	process for their development with LSAT	Laudato Si' Action Team (LSAT)	information showing our decrease in fossil fuel investments. Provided information to the CFO and Leadership Team about divestment practices of other Religious communities including an article from EarthBeat NCR 2.24.2022
Sept	Identify ways to increase the Community's understanding of current policies and screens	Janet Weyker, OP CFO President	Met with President and CFO to plan a fall 2022 Community education event regarding SRI policy and to share efforts made to reduce fossil fuel investments.
Sept	Assess progress towards goal and develop 2022/2023 Action Steps	Janet and LSAT	Some divestment progress has been made with an aim to totally divest from fossil fuels by 2026