Environmental Impact & Sustainability
The Ascension Environmental Impact and Sustainability program was reimagined on Earth Day 2021 with a sweeping vision for the next 10 years.

Many exciting changes and advances have taken place in healthcare sustainability in recent months, and the pace continues to accelerate. We invite you to join us on our journey as Ascension works toward its bold environmental goals by 2040.

With guidance from executive and senior leaders, as well as internal and external subject matter experts, we developed the following purpose statement to guide our work.
Ascension’s commitment to reducing our environmental footprint and achieving sustainability is rooted in our Mission, which calls us to be advocates for a compassionate and just society in our actions and our words.

Through Catholic social teaching, we recognize the human dignity of all people and the common good as we work toward equitable access to resources to improve community health and the lives of individuals we serve.
A message from Craig Cordola

As a healthcare ministry rooted in our Catholic faith and social teaching, we see environmental sustainability as both an expectation and an enormous opportunity to approach our work in a different way.

Healthcare’s impact on the environment is inextricably linked to the health of the communities and patients in our care. It is estimated that greenhouse gas emissions from healthcare represent an incredible 10% of all U.S. emissions. Climate impacts have already riddled many of the communities Ascension serves. Extreme heat days are more common in Austin, Texas. Places like Nashville, Tennessee, have experienced more frequent and intense rain events due to increased atmospheric temperatures. As oceans absorb heat, hurricane seasons are starting earlier and becoming more severe, as seen from Mobile, Alabama, to Jacksonville, Florida.

Ascension is committed to taking a greater role in leading the transformation around sustainability. Considering our broad scale and scope, we are leveraging all we know about health and healthcare to address these growing needs.

When we think about future generations, our associates and those we are privileged to serve, we are ready to reimagine what environmental impact and sustainability could look like for the next decade and beyond. Together, we will make a difference.

Craig Cordola, MBA, MHA, FACHE
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Ascension

In June 2022, Ascension Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Craig Cordola joined representatives from other healthcare organizations at the White House to pledge Ascension’s dedication to Department of Health and Human Services efforts to decarbonize the healthcare sector and make healthcare facilities more resilient to the effects of climate change.
To establish a path forward to address these complex challenges, Ascension developed a long-term Environmental Impact and Sustainability program to build upon existing efforts around energy conservation, waste management, recycling, environmentally preferred purchasing and the use of renewable fuels.
Goals for FY23

Ascension is completing a three-year timeframe to achieve 5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the end of FY23 from an FY20 baseline and 6% reduction of municipal solid waste by the end of FY23 from the FY19 baseline, normalized by pounds of municipal solid waste per patient per day.

5%
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION BY FY23
Reduce energy consumption and transition to clean energy sources to reduce air pollution in the community.

6%
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE REDUCTION BY FY23
Reduce landfill usage in our communities and emissions from existing landfills.
Ascension is taking a fresh look at our sustainability initiatives to counteract the effects of climate change, expand and enhance “green thinking” across the organization, and make a difference in the communities we serve.

As both waste and energy management contribute most to the problem and are tangible areas where we can have the biggest influence, this will in turn positively impact the communities we serve.

Our associates play an important part in achieving these goals by engaging with facility-based Green Teams. Actions can include activities to reduce carbon emissions, such as asking the Facilities Manager if a site is engaged with the steam trap program and if areas in a hospital not being occupied can have environmental controls set back in the facility’s Building Automation System.

Actions to reduce waste sent to landfills can include coordinating with TouchPoint Environmental Services to maximize cardboard recycling; working with market leadership to minimize single-use plastics; and avoiding bottled water purchases when it is safe to use filtered or tap water.
Ascension is committed to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and carbon footprint. As a signatory of the Race to Zero campaign through membership in the Health Care Climate Council, Ascension will provide annual reports on our goals to reduce emissions and on progress to meet those goals using the Health Care Climate Challenge platform.

As we begin our journey to net zero, we will define and measure greenhouse gas emissions within Scopes 1, 2 and 3. What do these numbers mean? Why are there three scopes of emissions?

The three scopes categorize the emissions a company or organization creates in its own operations as well as its wider value chain (its suppliers and customers) and establishes a baseline to measure against. The Greenhouse Gas Protocol, the world's most widely used greenhouse gas accounting standard, notes: “Developing a full [greenhouse gas] emissions inventory — incorporating Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions — enables companies to understand their full value chain emissions and focus their efforts on the greatest reduction opportunities.”

Scopes 1 and 2 are those emissions that are owned or controlled by Ascension.

- Scope 1 covers all direct emissions from the activities of Ascension that are under our control, as from the operations of healthcare facilities.
- Scope 2 are emissions that a company causes indirectly. An example is energy sources purchased for heating and cooling of our facilities.

Scope 3 encompasses emissions that are not produced by Ascension itself, and are not the result of activities from assets owned or controlled by Ascension.

- Scope 3 emissions include all sources not within the Scope 1 and 2 boundaries.
- Our organization is indirectly responsible for these emissions up and down the value chain through the purchase of goods and services. An example of this is the emissions related to the purchase, use and disposal of healthcare products from suppliers.

### Scope 1
Direct emissions from healthcare facilities

### Scope 2
Indirect emissions from purchased energy

### Scope 3
Other indirect upstream or downstream emissions from the supply chain and investment portfolio
Ascension’s Environmental Impact and Sustainability Program is positioned to maximize environmental impact with activities focused in three pillars:

**Net Zero Places**
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Mobility

**Responsible Supply Chain**
- Sourcing
- Waste

**Healthy Communities**

The Net Zero Places pillar is focused on carbon sources associated with physical environments — energy management, water management and mobility, both moving within those environments and getting to and from them. Net Zero Places considers the carbon footprint and operational efficiency of facilities as well as sustainable transportation.

The Responsible Supply Chain pillar is focused on the flow of goods from their procurement all the way through their disposition after use — encompassing sustainable sourcing, product usage management, recycling and waste management. Responsible Supply Chain efforts address responsible purchasing — to ensure Ascension buys only what is needed — as well as waste management. Together, these efforts will lower environmental impact and provide social good.

Healthy Communities is a new area of work for Ascension and is at the heart of the entire Environmental Impact and Sustainability Program — making a difference for the health and well-being of the communities we serve.

Most of Ascension’s sustainability work to this point has focused on realizing energy savings and thinking differently about how we construct and operate our facilities. Healthy Communities is focused on the relationship between sustainability and Social Determinants of Health, linking this to Ascension’s Mission to sustain and improve the health of individuals and communities the ministry is privileged to serve.
Within the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program, nine workgroups carry out initiatives on a day-to-day basis. FY22 workgroup activities included the following.

**Energy Efficiency**

Energy efficiency has been the backbone of Ascension’s sustainability work since 2008. Each Ascension hospital has an operations data dashboard to ensure Ascension facilities remain compliant, comfortable and cost effective.

**Renewable Energy**

Transition to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind is key to Ascension meeting its 2030 and 2040 goals to achieve net zero carbon.

The Renewable Energy workgroup implemented several projects in FY22, including developing an inaugural survey of Ascension’s entire carbon footprint required for Race to Zero commitment reporting.

Green energy supply agreements were completed in the Texas, Alabama and Indiana markets and efforts are underway in Michigan.

In FY23, databases will be consolidated, to create efficiencies in utility portfolio management.

**Mobility**

Ascension seeks to reduce pollution by moving away from fossil fuels with its vehicle fleet and landscape equipment.

Two electric vans were deployed as a pilot exercise in Anderson, Indiana, and Wichita, Kansas. Electric vehicle (EV) labels reflect Ascension’s sustainability initiative to the public.

We are testing electric landscape equipment and mowers for performance and suitability in several markets. Additional vehicles, equipment and charging infrastructure will be deployed as products become commercially available.

Future activity will include working with communities to enhance active and alternative transportation such as walking, biking, EV shuttles and ride-sharing.
Responsible Supply Chain – Sourcing

In FY23, this workgroup assessed the greenhouse gas emissions performance of 61 suppliers using publicly available Carbon Disclosure Project data. Forty vendors were incorporated into a Scope 3 carbon emissions dashboard.

The Resource Group, Ascension’s sourcing and purchasing subsidiary, conducted an educational series for its associates focused on Ascension’s bold goals; the impact of healthcare on the communities we serve; Care for Creation, part of Catholic Social Teaching; and a focus on waste and carbon reduction efforts.

Success stories included launching a national reusable tote program with our medical-surgical distributor that has avoided the equivalent of 11 tons of cardboard waste since August 2021.

Responsible Supply Chain – Waste

In FY22, the Waste workgroup within Responsible Supply Chain focused on installing food waste digesters in Ascension hospital cafeterias. A three-month food digester pilot study at Ascension St. Vincent’s Riverside in Florida and Ascension Saint Agnes in Baltimore helped us decide if the technology would benefit other Ascension hospitals. At the conclusion of the 12-week pilots, 32 tons of food scraps and downstream food waste were successfully diverted from landfills and instead became gray water.

Seventy digesters across Ascension were operational by the end of July 2022. Based on our pilot data, we anticipate more than 3,400 tons of food waste will be digested and diverted from landfill per year.

Construction & Demolition Waste Management guidance was rolled out in FY22 to divert construction waste from landfills and track associated data. This includes common construction materials such as concrete, asphalt, scrap metal, wood products, masonry products, packaging materials, drywall, and mixed recycling. In addition, guidance is provided for beneficial donations of medical equipment and furniture.

A cardboard recycling program was piloted at six Austin hospitals and best practices for single stream recycling were documented at Lourdes Hospital in Binghampton, New York.
The heart of the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program is healthy communities: exploring the relationship between sustainability and the Social Determinants of Health; and linking this to Ascension’s Mission to sustain and improve community health and the lives of individuals we are privileged to serve.

The workgroup identifies alignments between Ascension projects and local climate action plans. This framework is intended to employ existing programs and resources to increase the resilience of our communities as they experience the impacts of climate change.

To date, Healthy Communities has engaged internal leaders in Indianapolis, Tennessee, Michigan and Illinois to increase awareness of issues and opportunities for alignment and engagement, combined with community-driven activity.

In FY22, associates participated in numerous Earth Day neighborhood cleanup projects; Keep Indianapolis Beautiful tree planting collaboration in Indianapolis; and a Stop Food Waste Day event in Nashville, which increased collaboration and elevated existing community efforts.

Social Determinants of Health

Social Determinants of Health include healthcare access and quality; education access and quality; social and community context; economic stability; and neighborhood and built environment.

Going a step further, through our broader strategy on impacting the social determinants of health, we realize that climate change and severe weather events affect those who are poor and vulnerable the most. As we advance our environmental efforts, we stand to make a significant positive impact on the health of our communities, as depicted at right.
As a horizontal workgroup, Data Management provides essential support to all teams in the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program.

In FY22, a greenhouse gas tracking tool was implemented to measure, manage and internally report carbon emissions.

The Data Management team conducted extensive research to understand external reporting methods that will be required for public commitments such as Race to Zero and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Sector Climate Pledge.

The Communications workgroup helps shape our narrative and elevate messaging of the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program through varied internal and external storytelling media.

Publications in FY22 included the FY21 Environmental Impact and Sustainability Annual Report; an article in Catholic Health Association’s Health Progress magazine and the American College of Healthcare Executives Frontiers of Health Services Management magazine; all-associate messages from the Ascension President and CEO; and Good Day Ascension Intranet, Newscast and Podcast stories directed to associates.

Speaking engagements for Ascension leaders included audiences ranging from The Joint Commission, and the Catholic Health Association; to Practice Greenhealth and the American Society for Healthcare Engineering.

This is the third workgroup that underpins the entire program and was responsible for establishing Ascension’s Environmental Impact Office and its nine working groups to formalize sustainability planning and implementation across the ministry.

Accomplishments in FY22 included formalizing carbon reporting methodology with 2019 as the baseline year; updating System Procedure OL-14; and reinforcing sustainability engagement at the market level through Green Team activity and inclusion of sustainability-related responsibilities at each hospital for senior level executives.
Ascension announced its participation in the United Nations’ Race to Zero campaign and has pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. (Ascension’s goal is to achieve net zero carbon 10 years prior to this goal.)

Science-based interim targets are in development, including 50% reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030.

Scope 1 consists of direct emissions from healthcare facilities, while Scope 2 is defined as indirect emissions from purchased energy.

Ascension signed the Laudato Si’ Action Platform in response to Pope Francis’ 2015 Encyclical on Care for our Common Home. The seven-year global program was formed as a collaboration among the Vatican, Catholic organizations and individuals around the world.

The platform’s seven goals guide actions to redefine and rebuild relationships with each other and our common home, using a Reflect - Act - Evaluate framework.

Alignment with the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program’s three Pillars of Work, the Race to Zero pledge, and Ascension’s FY23, 2030 and 2040 goals can be seen in the chart in the Glossary of Terms.

Ascension signed the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge. By signing the pledge, Ascension commits to meet the administration’s climate goal of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

This pledge aligns with Ascension’s goals to achieve net zero carbon and zero waste by 2040.
Accomplishments

Health Care Climate Challenge Awards

Ascension was recognized with two 2021 Climate Champion awards from Health Care Without Harm, a global organization that works to transform the health sector worldwide by promoting environmental health and justice.

Green Champion Awards

Ascension’s own Environmental Impact and Sustainability program recognized 12 hospitals and their Green Teams with FY21 Green Champion awards. The awards are based on Ascension’s FY23 goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and municipal solid waste sent to landfills.

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Best-In-Class

• Ascension St. Vincent Fishers (Fishers, Indiana)
• Dell Children’s Medical Center (Austin, Texas)
• Dell Seton Medical Center at the University of Texas (Austin, Texas)

Most Improved

• Ascension Seton Highland Lakes (Burnet, Texas)
• Ascension Providence DePaul Center (Waco, Texas)
• Ascension St. Vincent Jennings (North Vernon, Indiana)

Improving Waste Management

Best-In-Class

• Ascension Via Christi St. Francis (Wichita, Kansas)
• Ascension Macomb-Oakland Hospital - Madison Heights Campus (Madison Heights, Michigan)
• Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital Milwaukee (Wisconsin)

Most Improved

• Ascension St. Vincent’s St. Clair (Pell City, Alabama)
• Ascension Seton Williamson (Round Rock, Texas)
• Ascension Seton Northwest (Austin, Texas)
Accomplishments

Practice Greenhealth Awards

Practice Greenhealth is an educational and networking organization focused on sustainability solutions in healthcare. Practice Greenhealth’s 11 impact areas range from Buildings, to Greening the Operating Room, to Sustainable Procurement. Each impact area contains tools that help implement these best practices.

Eight Ascension hospitals earned national recognition for their environmental performance in the healthcare sector.

2022 Partner for Change Award Recipients

Recognized for superior performance in environmental sustainability, covering a range of programs and activities.

• Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Hospital Ozaukee (Mequon, Wisconsin)
• Ascension Saint Mary – Chicago (Illinois)
• Ascension St. Vincent Anderson (Anderson, Indiana)
• Ascension St. Vincent’s Birmingham (Alabama)
• Ascension St. Vincent’s Southside (Jacksonville, Florida)
• Dell Seton Medical Center at The University of Texas (Austin, Texas)
• Lourdes Hospital (Binghamton, New York)

2022 Partner Recognition Award Recipient

Recognized for commitment to environmental improvements and progress in several areas of the organization.

• Ascension Providence Rochester Hospital (Rochester, Michigan)
Green Teams involve cross-functional participation of Ascension associates who are interested in improving the environmental performance of their site of care.

The Environmental Impact Office has developed tools and programs to support our care sites in launching and managing their Green Teams.

A healing garden at Lourdes Hospital (Binghamton, New York).

Associates tend to the green roof at Ascension Columbia St. Mary’s Milwaukee (Wisconsin).

One of the green roofs at Ascension NE Wisconsin – St. Elizabeth Campus (Appleton, Wisconsin).
Ascension System Procedure OL-14: Environmental Impact and Sustainability provides guidance and objectives for the sustainability program. OL-14 states that each market and operating subsidiary will adopt an Environmental Impact and Sustainability Plan. The plan will follow strategies, programs and projects that align with the sustainability program’s goals, and is consistent with the direction provided in the related Planning Guide.

The FY23 Planning Guide outlines the Environmental Impact and Sustainability program’s structure and provides guidance and resources to complete annual reporting requirements.

The FY23 Plan will establish a Green Team at each hospital and define projects that support our FY23 goals. The FY23 Plan Workbook provides instructions and a worksheet to track Green Team activities and progress throughout FY23.

Each market and operating subsidiary will provide information about its progress and improvement against its plan. The Environmental Impact Office will monitor the progress of all plans and compile the results and data in an annual sustainability report.

Reporting is in place to ensure projects and programs infuse green behavior across the organization. The reporting categories in the template are energy, water/wastewater, waste management and Green Team activity.

Practice Greenhealth resources will be made available to support sustainability solutions across Ascension.
Green Teams

Earth Day

On Earth Day, associates are compelled to improve the health of our planet and those we are privileged to serve.

- **Ascension St. Vincent’s Clay County (Jacksonville, Florida)**
  Bat houses were installed.

- **Ascension St. Vincent’s Birmingham (Alabama)**
  After a blessing of the hospital’s Infant Memory and Birth Stones Garden, associates planted flowers and shrubs to enhance the area.

- **Ascension St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital (Indiana)**
  Some 75 volunteers collected 85 bags of trash from the roadside near the hospital.

- **Ascension Seton Northwest (Austin, Texas)**
  Associates renovated landscape beds containing vegetables and herbs in an interior courtyard as an associate area of respite.

Associates removed winter leaves and debris from the healing garden at Ascension St. Vincent Anderson (Indiana).


A renovated landscape bed at Ascension Seton Northwest (Austin, Texas).

Feast of Saint Francis

We honor St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology, on Oct. 4 by uniting in prayer and action on behalf of creation. In 2021, Green Teams spread awareness of Ascension’s sustainability efforts and welcomed the opportunity to recruit new members.

The Rev. Rachel Daley, Chaplain Specialist with Ascension Saint Mary - Chicago (Illinois), distributed information and a reflection about the holiday to hospital associates, along with a list of activities in sustainability at the hospital that they could be involved with.
NEXT STEPS

In FY23, additional depth and breadth in the Environmental Impact and Sustainability Program is planned in two areas:

**Associate Engagement through Education**

The Communications workgroup plans to elevate sustainability storytelling opportunities related to Ascension’s FY23 Greenhouse Gas reduction and Municipal Solid Waste reduction goals. All Ascension associates are essential to advocate for our work in these areas.

Through all-associate messages; Good Day Ascension and Medxcel News daily articles, magazine features, podcasts and newscasts; and town halls, in-market newsletters and live presentations, there are many internal and external media formats to share the consistent message to support Ascension’s FY23, 2030 and 2040 goals.

**Greening the Built Environment**

There are exciting opportunities to integrate renewable energy into building design and to implement low-carbon building materials, CO2-based cooling and refrigeration systems, and point-of-service hot water and steam generation; and minimize fossil fuel energy sources for building and emergency power.

Additional planning and design strategies include designing to reduce demand; implementing renewable energy in states with net metering; capturing all local, state and federal subsidies available; and focused use of smart technologies.
Carbon Dioxide (CO2), Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO2e): Greenhouse gases emitted when fossil fuels are burned in vehicles, buildings and industrial processes that contribute to the greenhouse effect.

Carbon emissions: The total greenhouse gas emissions caused directly and indirectly by an individual, organization, event or product.

Carbon footprint: Emissions of greenhouse gases (in carbon equivalent) for an activity or organization over a given period of time.

Carbon neutral: Achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing carbon emitted with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or buying enough carbon credits to make up the difference.

Carbon offsetting: Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by buying credits through emissions reduction projects or carbon trading schemes.

Carbon sequestration: The capture and storage of carbon from the atmosphere, for example by planting trees.

Circular economy: A philosophy to eliminate waste and pollution by designing products and services to be regenerative instead of the “take-make-waste” model of production.

Decarbonization: The reduction or elimination of carbon dioxide from energy sources, i.e., avoiding the combustion of fossil fuels to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

Global warming: An increase in the average temperature in the atmosphere and the Earth’s surface which can contribute to the changes in global climate patterns.

Greenhouse effect: Around 60% of greenhouse gas emissions is reabsorbed by the oceans and vegetation, yet 40% stays in the atmosphere where it traps energy from the sun into the climate. This is called the greenhouse effect. While the greenhouse effect is indispensable to life, since the Industrial Revolution, the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere has increased by 14%, leading to higher concentrations than in the last 4 million years, boosting the greenhouse effect.

Greenhouse gas: Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide, water vapor and fluorinated gases. Greenhouse gases are naturally occurring. Human actions, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, have added greenhouse gases to the atmosphere at a rate that is unprecedented and unsustainable in the history of our species.

Municipal solid waste: Commonly known as trash or garbage; everyday items we use and then throw away, such as product packaging, furniture, clothing, bottles, food scraps, newspapers, appliances, paint and batteries.

Net-zero emissions: A condition that occurs when human emissions of greenhouse gases are balanced out completely by human removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; often set as a target over a specific time.
**Paris Agreement**: The landmark Paris Agreement signed at the 2015 United Nations Conference of the Parties was the first legally binding global agreement to limit climate change. A total of 190 parties signed on to the agreement, which set out a framework to limit warming to “well below 2°C” with the aim to pursue strong emissions reductions to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

**Recycling**: The recovery of useful materials, such as paper, glass, plastic and metals, from trash used to make new products, reducing the amount of raw materials needed.

**Regenerative**: Design and production methods that have lower and even net positive environmental and social impacts. Typically, recycled materials result in products with a lower quality than the original item. Regenerative design seeks to maintain the same or higher quality.

**Resilience**: The capacity of an organization or individual to survive or even thrive in the face of unforeseen changes. Sometimes used in place of “sustainability,” resilience looks for ways to manage in an imbalanced world, whereas “sustainability” seeks to put the world back into balance.

**Science Based Targets initiative**: A partnership between the Carbon Disclosure Project, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute and the World Wide Fund for Nature that drives climate action in the private sector by enabling organizations to set science-based emissions reduction targets.

**Social determinants of health**: Per HHS, these are grouped into five domains: Economic Stability; Education Access and Quality; Health Care Access and Quality; Neighborhood and Built Environment; and Social and Community Context. These are conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality of life outcomes and risks.

**Sustainability**: Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability includes three main pillars: environmental, social and economic, often also referred to as planet, people and profit. This definition was created by the United Nations Brundtland Commission in 1983.

**Sustainable Development Goals**: The United Nations blueprint “to achieve a better and more sustainable future.” The 17 goals target specific global challenges around sustainable development to be achieved by 2030.

**Triple bottom line**: The separate financial, social and environmental “bottom lines” of companies. In principle it is designed for companies to value their social and environmental profits and losses, as well as the financial ones.

**Value chain**: A series of activities that a business performs in order to deliver a valuable product or service for the market. It is similar to supply chain in principle but focuses on key points that generate value for a business.
Laudato Si Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seven Goals</th>
<th>Three Pillars of Work</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response to the Cry of the Earth</td>
<td>Net Zero Places</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equitably address climate change, biodiversity loss and ecological sustainability</td>
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<td>Response to the Cry of the Poor</td>
<td>Healthy Communities</td>
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<td>Global solidarity with special attention given to vulnerable groups</td>
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<td>Ecological Economics</td>
<td>Responsible Supply Chain</td>
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<td>Acknowledges that the economy is sub-system of human society</td>
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<td>Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles</td>
<td>Net Zero Place, Responsible Supply Chain, Healthy Communities</td>
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<td>Grounded in the idea of sufficiency (living with just enough and not excess) to ensure a good life for all</td>
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<td>Ecological Spirituality</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Office</td>
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<td>Encourages greater contact and connections with the natural world</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Environmental Impact Office</td>
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<td>Need to rethink and redesign curricular and institutional reform in the spirit of integral ecology to foster ecological awareness and action</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Healthy Communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crucial to care for creation at local, regional, national and international levels</td>
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For more information, visit ascension.org/environmental