

# From Archdiocese of Washington's Laudato Si' Action Plan Released Aug 2021

Download the pdf of the ADW plan at  
<https://adw.org/living-the-faith/social-concerns/laudato-si-action-plan/>

## MARKER 1: Response to the Cry of the Earth

In Washington, D.C., and Maryland, nearly two-thirds of our electricity<sup>11</sup> comes from the burning of two fossil fuels—coal and natural gas. By generating cleaner electricity without carbon dioxide emissions and by reducing electrical use, we can reduce harmful emissions. The Archdiocese has already taken significant steps to purchase and produce clean energy.

- In May 2020, the number of parishes and parish schools in the Archdiocese buying their electricity from clean wind-power generators went from two to ninety-one.
- In 2020, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington switched on the largest ground-based solar array in the District of Columbia, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on electric costs. These savings allow Catholic Charities to carry out its mission.

### Possible actions for individuals, families, parishes and schools:

- Seal or caulk around windows and door frames (easy)
- Turn off light sources when not needed (easy)
- Adjust temperatures to 70 degrees or lower in winter and 80 degrees or higher in summer (easy)
- Open windows and use fans for cooling (easy)
- Lower water consumption
  - Reduce indoor water consumption (easy)
    - Look to EPA's WaterSense program for help (moderate)
    - Repair leaks quickly (moderate)
    - Retrofit kitchens and bathrooms by installing low-flow sinks and toilets (advanced)
  - Reduce outdoor water consumption (moderate to advanced)
- Connect to free resources and expertise like:
  - EPA ENERGY STAR® program (easy)
  - Establish energy baselines (moderate)
- Develop a facilities plan for your parish or school and action steps to reduce emissions (moderate)
- Replace all lightbulbs with LED bulbs (moderate)
- Purchase power strips to turn off electronics when not in use (moderate)
- Purchase a programmable thermostat to reduce heat or cooling when not in use (moderate)
- Protect watersheds and wildlife (moderate)
  - Increase tree canopy (easy)
  - Eliminate chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and deicers (easy)
  - Create/build gardens (easy)
  - Introduce storm water pollution reduction methods (easy to moderate)
  - Reduce turf grass (easy to moderate)
  - Plant pollinator plants and conservation landscaping (easy to moderate)
  - Compost at home (easy to moderate)
  - Begin a parish or school composting program (easy to moderate)
- Install shades or heat-shielding film on windows directly exposed to sun and pull drapes at night to keep in the heat (moderate to advanced)
- Install solar panels on property (moderate to advanced)
- Install timers or motion sensors on outdoor lighting (advanced)
- Utilize EPA's ENERGY STAR ratings when replacing or buying new appliances (advanced)