



Youth Center for North America (YCNA)

Laudato Si' Action Plan

At YCNA we create and plan opportunities for young people to come together and build community through activities and programs that help develop the whole person. Its vision - A united world where fraternity is lived among all people. Its mission – to inspire and mobilize young people from all backgrounds to live for a more united world.

YCNA wants to give an active response to the ecological crisis, so urgently illustrated in Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si'. We are also inspired by the words of Focolare founder Chiara Lubich: "Let's do what plants do. They absorb from the earth only the water, nutrients and other things they need, and not more. So, each of us must have what we need and everything else be given away and shared with others."

To act now, when it is "urgent and necessary" (LS 57), YCNA has created this plan to offer concrete actions, assistance and support so that we may continue to care for our home!

What we do

"In the office where I work, we take at least 2 coffee breaks every day. This means that at least 2 plastic cups are thrown away by each colleague. I convinced everyone to give up the plastic cups and to bring cups from home that we wash together with the dishes after the lunch break. Now the coffee break is even more "colorful" because each of us has a different cup from the other."

We want to "take from the earth healthily and directly as a steward the creation that God designed for us to be our nourishment instead of being catered by those who pillage the earth and manipulate nutrients by chemical means for monetary gain."

Let's "treat our environment as if it were our own home."

"I leave my car at home and go by bus to school, which will save me money and help serve as an example to others."



Concrete actions

At home | in the office

- **Reduce, reuse, and recycle**
- Turn off **lights** and appliances when not in use
- **Fix things** and prolong the lifespan of things that work
- Buy from and support **local farms** and organizations
- **Turn off the water** when not necessary (like when brushing teeth)
- Stretch out the fuel filling time
- Instead of using a dryer after laundry, **hang your clothes outside** to make use of the heat of the sun
- Use **environmentally safe office supplies**: paperless notebooks, recycled and biodegradable pens, decrease the brightness on your computer monitor, turn off your computer monitor at night, get rid of individual trash cans
- **reusing paper** that has already been used on one side.
- Use **digital communication** instead of paper copies and pamphlets.

Out with friends and family | Running errands

- Use **public transportation** or carpool to reduce emissions
- Participate in **local clean-up efforts** to keep our surroundings clean and beautiful
- Don't be a consumerist of planned obsolescence items
- Go out with friends with **just one car**
- When at a restaurant, **finish all the drinking water** you get so that none is wasted
- **Carry around a reusable bottle or thermos** for your water or coffee.
- Use **reusable bags** or cloth bags (totes) and bring them to the supermarkets to reduce using plastic bags

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Website - www.ycna.focolare.us

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/ycna.official/>

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