

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL CARE FOR CREATION EARTH DAY NEWS

The Care for Creation Committee of St. James Cathedral, uplifted by *Laudato Si'*, informs and inspires our parishioners and our communities to revere God through respectful stewardship of Creation. Attentive to the cries of the Earth and of the poor, we encourage all people to advocate for equitable and sustainable solutions to the climate crisis through prayer, education, and action.



This past week, people throughout the world celebrated Earth Day. This year's theme, "Our Power, Our Planet", serves as a call to stand shoulder to shoulder in defense of the home we share. We welcome you to stand with us as we share changes in U.S. climate policy, the importance that the Catholic Church places in caring for our common home, and what you can do to take action through the Cathedral's Care for Creation Committee.

Did you know?

According to the *Harvard Law School Environmental and Energy Law Program*, which tracks changes to U.S. environmental law, after a significant decades-long advance in preventing pollution, the following major changes are planned, under review, or have occurred over the past twelve months (2025-2026), impacting *air pollution protections* for human and environmental health across the U.S.:

- EPA proposes limiting regulation of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) emissions
- EPA reconsiders National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone, Particulates
- EPA rescinds finding that greenhouse gas emissions contribute to air pollution harming human health and welfare – the basis of regulating vehicle emissions, power plants and oil and gas production emissions
- EPA rescinds Clean Car rules limiting or eliminating emissions standards

Seeing progress closer to home

Recent measures in the Washington legislature have increased environmental accountability, while reducing air pollution and resource degradation. By measuring carbon emissions and reinvesting in climate resiliency, Washington State is breaking new ground in environmental policy.

Environmental Advocacy from the Washington State Catholic Conference

A greater voice

Dedicated to supporting life, justice and peace the Washington State Catholic Conference (wacatholics.org) advocates policies promoting the common good. The WSCC contends, "...the common good demands a proper respect for the land, the air and the water..."

Legislative action

- A bill passed, requiring independent power facilities that serve data centers to comply with Washington's emissions-reduction law
- Right to Repair laws (HB1483/SB5689) will enhance consumer rights and reduce waste.

Hearing the Call of *Laudato Si'* – Inspiring Leadership

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si': On Care for our Common Home*, Pope Francis encouraged being open to "...the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." It was a bold call-to-action, linking spirituality and faith to care for God's creation.

On the eve of Ash Wednesday this year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issued *An Invitation to Ecological Conversion for U.S. Catholics*. It emphasizes that:

- the world is "hurtling toward unsustainable climate conditions" that threaten human flourishing;
- Catholics need to listen to "the cries of [God's] children around the world whose livelihoods are impacted by our own actions and lifestyles" and;
- environmental responsibility is a moral and spiritual obligation, not a political preference.



Call to Action: Ways to Engage/What You Can Do

- Read *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical (papal teaching) on the environment,



or listen to or read this summary:
<https://capp-usa.org/2025/03/laudato-si-summary/>

- Learn about *The Climate Crisis and U.S. Catholic Responses* through the Washington State Catholic Conference's May 14, 12pm webinar with Dan Misleh of the Catholic Climate Covenant:
<https://bit.ly/48CSPHH>
- Join the **St. James Care for Creation Committee's** next meeting, May 6 at 6:30pm. Contact Patrick Barredo (pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org | 206-382-4515).

- The **Laudato Si Movement's Washington State chapter** works together to save God's creation. Contact Jessica Palmer (palmerj@SeattleU.edu) to find out more.