

**Laudato Si' defines ecological conversion as the “transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion: healing and renewing our common home.”**

**At its most basic level, an ecological conversion involves four steps:**

1. **Recognizing that we have harmed creation.** “We must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God’s creation through our actions and our failure to act” (LS 218).
2. **Repentance and turning to the Creator.** “Is it not true that an irresponsible use of creation begins precisely where God is marginalized or even denied? If the relationship between human, creatures, and the Creator is forgotten, matter is reduced to a selfish possession, man becomes the ‘last word’, and the purpose of human existence is reduced to a scramble for the maximum number of possessions possible” (Pope Benedict XVI, 8/26/09)
3. **Commitment to change and becoming good stewards of creation.** An ecological conversion “must translate into concrete ways of thinking and acting that are more respectful of creation” (Pope Francis, 9/1/16).
4. **Community conversion.** Ecological conversion takes place at the personal level, but as Pope Francis notes, a community conversion is equally important: “Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds... The ecological conversion needed to bring about lasting change is also a community conversion”.

**“Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it”.  
- Pope Francis**