



Climate Action Plan
2023-2026



CatholicCare NT

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the past, present and future Traditional and Custodial Owners of these lands and waters where we meet today.

We respect their spiritual relationship with their country and acknowledge the continuing importance of their language, heritage, and culture.

We acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land and our hope and belief that we can move to a place of equity, justice and partnerships together.

Jayne Lloyd, Director



Message from our Director

The Earth's environment is under severe stress from uncontrolled human activity, threatening the survival of our society and CatholicCare NT's ability to be true to its mission. Looking after our environment is everyone's responsibility and we at CatholicCare NT are committed to taking this responsibility seriously.

I am proud that CatholicCare NT is committing itself to climate change and is exploring practical ways we, as an organisation, can do this.

I would encourage all staff to participate in this important process and where you can, work closely with the Climate Action Plan Committee in exploring, developing, and implementing strategies to look after our environment and strengthen our commitment to Stewardship of Creation and Working for the Common Good.

Our **Vision** for our Climate Action Plan

An organisation that strives to protect the environment and the sustainability of our Earth, our Common Home.

Our **Belief** and **Commitment**

CatholicCare NT accepts that we must work to preserve the environmental sustainability of our Earth at all levels of our operations – in our own work, as a participant in the community, and as a participant in the Australian and Global discourse. We therefore believe that the environmental crisis facing our planet has a direct impact on the people who experience disadvantage and vulnerability in our society. CatholicCare NT is committed to complying with applicable law in all its operations, and minimising risks and impact through the development of robust and documented systems. By implementing these systems, we will measure and monitor environmental performance both within our operations and the broader community.

Our **Mission** for our Climate Action Plan

Guided by our values, which are based on the Principles of Catholic Social Thought and include Stewardship of Creation, Preferential Option for people experiencing disadvantage, and Working for the Common Good, CatholicCare NT aspires to minimise its impact on our environment and maximise the effectiveness of resources. We strive to achieve this by increasing communication and awareness of our efforts in accordance with our Environmental Sustainability Policy and by fostering responsible environmental behaviour among staff, volunteers, and participants at all levels.

Our **Values**

Our Values of Respect, Honesty, Courage, Connection and Fairness provide us with direction to:

RESPECT

We care for the environment and the country on which we work and ensure that our actions do not cause further destruction and harm.

COURAGE

We have the courage and conviction to do what needs to be done as we carry out the strategies in our Climate Action Plan. We are prepared to be a voice of advocacy working with other like-minded groups on environmental and climate issues.

FAIRNESS

We tread with fairness on our Earth as we lighten our carbon footprint with a sense of purpose and justice.

HONESTY

We act with honesty and integrity so that we can be relied on to carry out our commitment to protect our environment and the sustainability of our Earth in all areas of our work.

CONNECTION

We work together for the Common Good and to witness our commitment to our Stewardship of Creation. Connection indicates we are accountable and open to forming like-minded partnerships and that we respect the cultures and the lands on which we live and work. We connect and engage with Traditional Owners and Elders as we work together for the care of our Earth.

Aboriginal Perspective

Climate change will continue to affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lands and cultures. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people view the seasons from a different perspective to non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For them, the seasons differ from country to country and their food and water security depends on these seasons. These seasons are depicted on the various Seasonal Calendars, often portrayed in the form of a wheel. These calendars show when each environment produces the resources needed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for survival.

As climate change becomes a reality, these Seasonal Calendars are changing. While some windows are open for longer periods of time, others become shorter, and resources become limited. Changes in temperature lead to changes in plant flowering and fruiting periods. As habitats change, animal species become endangered or extinct, impacting food choices. Animals are being forced to move out of their habitats due to environmental changes and human activities, leading to change in their diets, impacting taste and quality when eaten. Pollution in the ocean affects the taste and quality of fish, and in some areas, the fish caught can no longer be consumed. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in coastal areas, rising sea levels may force them off their land. Those living in desert areas may also be forced off their land, as temperatures are rising even faster in deserts than in other environments.

It isn't just food supplies that are affected; traditions that have continued for thousands of years are at threat of disappearing. As plants and animals often used in traditional practice or sacred ceremonies become less available, tribal culture and ways of life are greatly affected. Medicinal plants are also at risk, which is likely to change the way traditional healing is carried out, rendering it almost impossible in some circumstances. The reality is that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their traditional life and culture will begin to fade away.



Goal 1: Increase education and awareness around climate change to promote responsibility for an environmentally sustainable culture.

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Form Climate Action Plan Committee comprised of Climate Action Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an overarching Climate Action Plan Committee consisting of committed, interested staff Source staff from each region to act as CAP Champions 	August 2023	GM Mission & Culture and volunteers
Celebrate significant environmental awareness events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose from the following events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Environment Day (5th June) World Refill Day (16th June) National Clean Air Day (16th June) World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (17th June) World Humanist Day (21st June) World Female Ranger Week (23-30th June) World Sand Dune Day (25th June) Clean Beaches Week (1-6th July) Plastic Free July (1-31st July) International Plastic Bag Free Day (3rd July) National Marine Week (24th July – 7th August) World Car Free Day (22nd September) World Habitat Day (4th October) 	4 times per year	Regional CAP Champions
Examine ways to highlight climate change among staff and participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At site meetings, include agenda item offering the opportunity for staff to speak about what their program or site is doing to address climate change 	Monthly	Regional CAP Champions
Raise awareness of and educate around climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite guest speakers to provide input on and discuss climate change Distribute regular communications via CCNT social channels around climate change Email messages to all staff highlighting climate issues and how they can be addressed Send out climate related trivia questions with weekly bulletin 	3 times per year Monthly Weekly Weekly	Regional CAP Champions, Social Media coordinator, Director EA
Link caring for our environment to our Mission and Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase focus on climate change during Mission and Values integration conversations during site visits Ensure climate change is linked to Mission and Values during inductions and orientations 	1 visit per site per year Quarterly	GM Mission & Culture

Goal 2: Develop achievable strategies to reduce our carbon footprint.

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Reduce energy usage	Turn off lights if room is not in use	Ongoing	All staff
	Develop solar energy plans for all CCNT sites	March 2025	Executive, Regional Managers
	Have preference for solar power when leasing buildings for CCNT	Ongoing	Executive, Finance
	Include funding in budget for solar panels at CCNT sites	June 2025	Finance
	Analyse energy usage accounts and determine how our energy usage can be decreased	Quarterly	Executive, Finance
	Explore energy efficient lighting with better use of natural lighting	December 2023	Executive, CAP Committee
Ensure future construction results in a sustainable building	Engage architects and builders to achieve environmentally sound buildings, both when renovating and building new facilities, including solar power and charging outlets for electric cars	Ongoing	Executive, Finance
Being mindful when commuting	Promote a green day where staff are to walk or catch public transport to work	Once per year	CAP Committee
	Carpool where possible	Ongoing	All staff
	Develop a plan for electric cars including buying hybrid cars with a view to transition to electric cars in the future	June 2025	Executive, Finance
Offset our carbon usage	Develop a plan to plant more trees, possibly in partnership with other organisations	December 2024	CAP Committee
	Include planting trees as a critical aspect when landscaping	Ongoing	Executive
	Consider purchasing carbon offset units when making airline bookings	Ongoing	Travel Coordinator
Recycle where possible	Explore further options for recycling	August 2023	CAP Committee
	Use re-useable water bottles where possible	Ongoing	All staff
	Encourage community members to use their own cups/water bottles at events	Ongoing	All staff
Avoid food waste	Create eco-friendly kitchens	December 2023	CAP Committee
	Being mindful when deciding on catering for meetings/events	Ongoing	All staff
	Distribute left-over food to people when appropriate	Ongoing	All staff
	Create a compost at each site	December 2023	Regional CAP Champions

Goal 3: Build partnerships with environmental groups and suppliers who promote sound environmental practices.

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Encourage membership in such groups	Encourage staff to become members of such groups	Ongoing	All staff
	CCNT to become a member of two climate-positive organisations	March 2024	Executive
Promote CAP and environmental stance	Statement in CCNT email signature stating support for climate preservation	July 2023	IT
	CAP to be uploaded to website, intranet, and BRAVO	July 2023	Director EA
Become involved in events held by other organisations	CCNT to be placed on mailing list of other climate positive organisations	Ongoing	CAP Committee
	Attendance by staff at two environmental events per year	2 times per year	Executive, all staff
Advocate for the reduction of climate change	Include CCNT's environmental stance in tenders and grant applications	Ongoing	Director

Goal 4: Contribute financially to environmental causes.

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Investing ethically	CCNT to invest in environmentally ethical companies	Ongoing	Executive, Finance
Being environmentally conscious when investing in superannuation	Individuals can choose to organise with payroll for a percentage of their pay to go to an ethical cause	Ongoing	Finance, all staff
	Individuals can choose to join an ethical super group	Ongoing	Finance, all staff
Generating funds through fundraising	Raffle tickets for a raffle with a sustainable prize	Ongoing	CAP Committee
	Gold-coin donations on significant days of environmental awareness, e.g. World Environment Day	Ongoing	CAP Committee

Goal 5: Develop evaluation processes for implementation of Environmental Sustainability Policy.

Action	Deliverables	Timeline	Responsibility
Conduct rigorous audits and self-assessments	Develop an audit tool that provides qualitative and quantitative data regarding our Climate Action Plan	June 2023	Executive, Quality, Regional Managers
Include Climate Risk on our Risk Register	Develop Risk Description, Causal Factors, Potential Impacts, Existing Controls, analyse risks, evaluate risks, Change to manage risk, and new or additional controls	June 2023, reviewed yearly	Executive, Quality, Regional Managers, CAP Committee



Our Review

This document will be reviewed by the Climate Action Plan Committee as the need arises. All CatholicCare NT staff are encouraged to attend and participate in the review.

References

- Laudato Si' - Pope Francis: Encyclical on Care for our Common Home
- Fratelli Tutti - Pope Francis: Encyclical on Social Friendship
- CatholicCare NT Mission and Values Integration Framework
- CatholicCare NT Environmental Sustainability Policy
- CatholicCare NT Strategic Plan
- Environmental Report for Australia 2021



CatholicCare NT

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