

- Working Draft -

Dear Colleagues,

As we prepare a publication outlining all of Xavier's sustainability initiatives, please review the draft document below and:

- (1) Note a point of pleasant surprise**
- (2) Identify any campus sustainability assets that are missing and should be added before going to press***

** please review for content not style or format. It will be fancied-up once turned over to MarComm*

- Working Draft -

April 2, 2024 @ Draft

Cura Terrae at Xavier University

Radical Care for Our Common Home



A Laudato Si' University
committed to environmental sustainability

Message from the President



At Xavier University, environmental sustainability and integral ecology are central to who we are as a Jesuit Catholic university. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Society of Jesus' Universal Apostolic Preferences call us to deepen our commitment to caring for our common home.

In 2021, I pledged Xavier University as a *Laudato Si' University* to advance on seven goals of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Our undertakings are University-wide, with coordination centered within our Division of Mission and Ministry. Effective partnerships with organizations, faith communities, municipalities and universities in the tri-state region amplify our efforts.

I am pleased to share this book with you that outlines Xavier University's environmental initiatives and assets, our *Cura Terrae*, furthering our culture of radical care.

Signature here

Dr. Colleen Hanycz, President

Laudato Si' is Pope Francis' call to "every person living on this planet" to work for global environmental justice. The title of his Papal encyclical, signed on May 24, 2015, translates from Italian to "Praise be to You," which is phrasing from the *Canticle of the Creatures* written by St. Francis of Assisi.

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I. Recognitions

Xavier is a ‘*Laudato Si*’ Community’

In 2023, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati recognized Xavier University as a *Laudato Si* Community for effectively living out Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si*’ message of caring for God’s creation.

Xavier is a ‘Tree Campus’

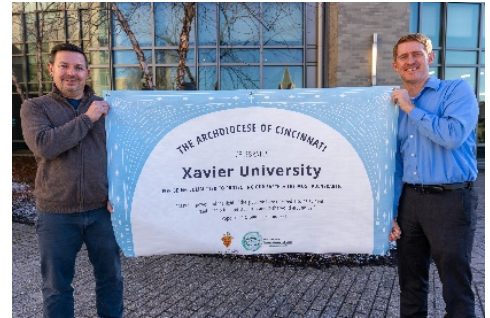
Since 2021, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Xavier as a Tree Campus due to our effective forest management and engagement in conservation efforts.

Xavier’s campus as an ‘Arboretum’

Led by Karen McCabe, Xavier’s Horticultural Specialist, the University is applying to be recognized as an arboretum. This accreditation would recognize Xavier’s work of conservation, research, community engagement, public education, and management of its campus trees.

XU Office Swap

Cathy Baker, Xavier’s Assistant Manager in the Central Procurement Department, has been awarded the Brian Yeoman Sustainable Procurement Award through the National Association of Educational Procurement for creating the XU Office Swap. This program reduces waste sent to landfills by collecting and repurposing office supplies instead of purchasing new supplies.



II. Organizational Support

***Laudato Si'* Action Platform Committee**

In 2022, Xavier formed the President's *Laudato Si'* Steering Committee which includes broad representation from the campus community and working groups involving more than 40 additional students, faculty, and staff. Xavier's *Laudato Si'* Action Plan focuses the work of Xavier's environmental sustainability on the themes of the Pope's encyclical:

- Response to the cry of the earth
- Ecological education
- Response to the cry of the poor
- Ecological spirituality
- Ecological economics
- Adoption of sustainable lifestyle
- Community resilience and empowerment

Xavier's approach was praised for its committee structure and significant student engagement by Dr. Nancy Tuchman, founding dean of Loyola University Chicago's School of Environmental Sustainability.

Xavier's 2024 Committee

Maia Austvold, student
Matthew Bak, student
Luke Bernsen, student
Shasta Bray, Education Abroad
Beth Boland, Accounts Payable
Diana Hodge, Physical Plant
Julie Hoffmann, Business Analytics and Information Systems
Monica Human, Procurement
Jaimie Kuhlmeier, Office of the Graduate School
Zac Martin, student
Dr. Mollie McIntosh, Biology
John Mercer, Central Procurement and Accounts Payable
Henry Nebesky, student
Ella O'Maley, student, ECOS, 2025, Co-president Xavier Student Sustainability Club
John Parham, II, Student Athlete Academic Support Services
Tim Reese, Hall Director
Anderson Reeves, Hall Director
Dr. Matthew Regele, Management and Entrepreneurship
Caelan Reinhart, student
Amelia Riedel, Communications
Dr. Justin Roush, Economics
Anne Ryckbost, University Library
Colleen Ryan Mayrand, Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice
Robert Sheeran, Facilities
Peter Smith, Physics

John Sniegocki, Theology
Abbey Stout, student
Marybeth Sullivan, Health and Wellness
Fr. Eric Sundrup, Mission and Ministry
Dr. O'neil Van Horn, Theology
Dr. Ashley Varol, Exercise Science
Clare Wangard, student
Olivia Wasserstrom, student

Sustainability Officer – Tim Sundrup, MDiv

To support the University in its strategic ecological commitment, a new position was created for an **Associate Director of Mission and Identity/University Sustainability Coordinator** and chair of the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform. Xavier is the first university of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities to coordinate its sustainability efforts through the Division of Mission and Ministry.



Physical Plant

Among the numerous services provided to care for the physical assets of the University is the maintenance of electrical, mechanical and plumbing functions, landscaping, groundskeeping, recycling and waste management.

Eigel Center for Community-Engaged Learning

The Center guides the development and integration of meaningful immersive and service-learning courses that bridge classrooms to communities while providing a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources, including those related to integral ecology.

The Brueggeman Center works collaboratively for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. The Center works in partnership with community organizations – regionally, nationally, and globally – to collaborate in the essential work of deepening interfaith understanding and promoting systemic change on issues of social and environmental justice.

The Universal Apostolic Preferences are four interrelated values announced by the Jesuit Superior General, Fr. Arturo Sosa, S.J., to guide the work of all members of the Ignatian global family for the decade 2019-2029:

- To show the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises and discernment
- To walk with the poor, the outcasts of the world, those whose dignity has been violated, in a mission of reconciliation and justice
- To accompany young people in the creation of a hope-filled future
- To collaborate in the care of our Common Home

III. Sustainable Buildings and Infrastructure

LEED Buildings

Since 2010, Xavier has made a concerted effort to build each of its new buildings to at least LEED Silver Standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The U.S. Green Building Council specifies that buildings built to LEED specifications achieve the following goals:

- Reducing contribution to global climate change
- Enhancing individual human health
- Protecting and restoring water resources
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Promoting sustainable regenerative material cycles
- Enhancing community quality of life

Several Xavier buildings meet Silver or Gold LEED standards:

- Alter Hall
- Health United Building
- Conaton Learning Commons
- Smith Hall
- Justice Hall
- Central Utility Plant
- College of Osteopathic Medicine (planned)



Geothermal Energy: Our Lady of Peace Chapel

The Our Lady of Peace Chapel, is Xavier's first building to use efficient and renewable geothermal energy. The chapel's heating and cooling system uses naturally stable ground temperature to keep it warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Green Roof on Justice Hall

This unique feature of Xavier's largest residence hall includes numerous trees, plants, and a large lawn which provides significant sustainability impact including:

- Reducing storm water runoff and delaying runoff from entering the public sewer, lessening the load on the sewer system
- Lessening the heat island effect
- Reducing energy consumption by shading and cooling the roof
- Providing thermal mass and insulation
- Increasing habitat for animals and plants which helps biodiversity
- Creating a more pleasing aesthetic

Cura terrae – is Latin for care for the earth. It complements other important 'caring' qualities for educational excellence in the Jesuit Catholic tradition: *cura apostolica* (the institution), *cura personalis* (the whole unique person), *cura propria* (oneself), *cura studiorum* (the plan of studies).

White Roofs

Xavier has installed white roofs on many of its buildings which prevent 80% of sunlight from heating the city air and atmosphere, directly reducing the earth's temperature and reducing energy consumption from heating and cooling our buildings.

Central Utility Plant (CUP)

A main reason Xavier's CUP provides significant energy conservation and financial savings is due to the selection of very efficient equipment. The construction of the CUP also provided the opportunity to efficiently connect utility services within the academic mall and retire old, inefficient equipment.

In addition to greater efficiency, central utility plants like Xavier's have a number of advantages over decentralized systems including easier and better maintenance, built-in equipment redundancy, and reduced operating costs.

Air Quality

Low VOC materials, CO2 monitors, and occupancy sensors are just a few of the ways Xavier is keeping the air clean and comfortable indoors and outdoors.

Energy Wheels

Energy wheels reduce energy consumption and maintain comfortable indoor environments through an exchange of heat and moisture that pre-conditions incoming air.

Lighting

The vast majority of Xavier's buildings utilize high efficiency lighting including LED, CFL, and T5 light fixtures.



Low VOC Materials

Use of carpets, paint, and other materials with low volatile organic compounds benefit the natural environment and improve indoor conditions.

Fleet Vehicles

Since 2008, Xavier's Physical Plant has begun switching from gas powered to electric and solar utility vehicles to help reduce Xavier's carbon footprint.

Integral Ecology reflects Pope Francis' perspective on sustainability, outlined in *Laudato Si'*, as an integrated, holistic, human approach. Today's ecological crisis is caused by a multitude of complex and interrelated social, political, economic and environmental problems. Integral ecology presumes that a comprehensive vision, focused on the common good, is necessary for improvement of the global environmental crisis. While daunting, Pope Francis, notes that "an integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness.

IV. Academics

Sustainability Attribute

Per a recommendation from the Ecology Education subcommittee, the development of an Attribute for environmental sustainability courses has been approved. The Attribute will make it easier for students to identify courses where sustainability is a topic. Syllabuses are being gathered to create a course catalogue.

Economics, Sustainability, and Society Major

Students can obtain a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Sustainability, and Society. This program focuses on sustainable economies, and includes the study of natural resources, ecological and environmental problems, processes, and policies at local, national and global levels. Students will integrate economic analysis with cultural studies, global economic development, policy studies, and management, as they gain skills to conceptualize and solve sustainability problems.

Environmental Science Major

Students can obtain a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science in two ways. The first is a traditional undergraduate four-year degree; the second is through Xavier's Environmental Science with a concentration in Environmental Management Program, where students attend Xavier and Duke University to obtain both their Bachelor of Science and graduate degree in a 5-year period.



Ecology is the branch of biological sciences that studies ecosystems, specifically the distributions, abundance and relationships of organisms, including humans, and their interactions with the environment. Ecology comes from a Greek word meaning home.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Costa Rica

Through this program, students visit five sustainable schools, while learning about culturally responsive teaching. During these school visits, students participate in lessons that integrate the schools' vision of sustainability which includes school gardens, recycling, and composting.

Ireland

This opportunity is part of an IDEAS Grant supporting students with disabilities and giving them the opportunity to study abroad. Xavier students spend time at Mary Immaculate College learning about sustainability efforts on their campus and their various educational systems. The group plans to identify one or two ideas that we might implement on Xavier's campus in support of our sustainability goals.

Wales and England

This science program allows science and non-science majors to study Biology and Physics courses in an experiential environment while in Wales and England. Students start on the beaches of Llandudno and spend time exploring the 13th Century Conwy castle. The cohort hikes in the rainforests of Cwm Eionion and follows in the footsteps of Charles Darwin in Eryri/Snowdonia National Park.

Xavier Expeditions

Founded by theology teaching professor Dr. Leon Chartrand, Xavier expeditions offer immersion programs to all seven continents for credit. Students learn and experience “our most basic role within the life-earth-universe story” to “facilitate self-discovery of earth as our primary reality, healer and teacher.”



Center for Teaching Excellence - Book Club

In Spring 2024, the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform sponsored a book discussion, facilitated by Dr. Kathleen Smythe, on *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Kimmerer, a Potawatomi woman and biologist who explores indigenous wisdom on plants and ecology and how ways of knowing can inform, enhance, and deepen more professionalized ways of knowing in higher education.

Environmental sustainability are actions to protect the environment for the welfare of future generations.

Environmental justice recognizes the connections between social injustice and environmental problems.

A Sample of Scholarship and Presentations of Xavier Faculty and Staff

Articulating Globalization: Exploring the Bottom of the Pyramid Terrain

Dr. Suparna Chatterjee, *Organization Studies*,

Beyond Slacktivism: A Culture of Encounter and Ecological Conversion through a Screen?

Dr. Marcus Mescher, *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*

Cura Terrae: A 5th Care for Excellence in Jesuit Education

Dr. Debra Mooney, *Faith, Justice and Reconciliation Assembly*

Efficacy of Trapping Protocols for Agrilus Jewel Beetles: A Multi-country Assessment

Sarah Devine, Emily Franzen & Dr. Ann Ray with Dr. G. Santoiemma, et al. *Journal of Pest Science*

Green Analytical Chemistry: Teaching Towards Sustainable and Responsible Choices

Dr. Supaporn Kradtap Hartwell, *Teaching to the Mission*

“I Can’t Breathe”: There is No Climate Justice Without Racial Justice

Anne McCarty, *AJCU Ecology Educators*

The Implications of Solidarity for Food Ethics

Dr. John Sniegocki, *The Journal of Social Encounters*

The Last Prairie: A Documentary about the Nebraska Sandhills

Dr. John O’Keefe, *Nebraska PBS*

On the Ground: Terrestrial Theopoetics and Planetary Politics

Dr. O’neil Van Horn, *Fordham University*

“Once one engages the *Laudato Si’* challenge for an ecological conversion, one then begins to understand the struggle necessary to participate in bringing into existence a new understanding of creation; one that requires a community to make real a sustainable and renewed earth.

Xavier University has begun to do just that.

Together, all is possible.”

Fr. Dan McDonald SJ, Midwest Provincial Assistant for Higher Education

Postcolonially Bittersweet in America: Ecojustice and Sacramental Agency

Dr. Kristine Suna-Koro, *Journal of Postcolonial Theory and Theology*

Relationship Models Addressing Food Insecurity at NEXUS Community Garden and Urban Farm

Tim Sundrup with T. Severyn and D. Peebles, *Loyola University Chicago's Climate Change Conference*

Second-Best Prioritization of Environmental Cleanups

Dr. Justin Roush with Drs. J. LaRiviere, and M. McMahon, *Environmental and Resource Economics*

Selective Predation by Pond-Breeding Salamanders in Ephemeral Wetlands of Ohio and Illinois

Dr. Mollie McIntosh with Dr. B. Stuecker et al. *Journal of Herpetology*

Spectrality and Survivance: Living the Anthropocene

Dr. Lisa Ottum, *European Journal of Literature, Culture & Environment*

Towards Muslim Engagement with Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si'*

Dr. Anas Malik, *Arc of the Universe*

Whole Earth Living: Reconnecting Earth, History, Body and Mind

Dr. Kathleen Smythe, *Dixi Books*



The statue of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology and animals, in the garden of the Williams College of Business

V. Student Activities, Clubs, and Events

Summer Service Internships

Throughout the Summer, Xavier provides opportunities for students to serve full-time at local community-based, non-profit organizations and live in community on campus. Several of our partner organizations include a focus on sustainability and ecological justice including the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati and the IMAGO Earth Center.

Alternative Breaks

Xavier's Alternative Breaks program offers students Spring break options designed to create a world of active citizens immersed in education, service, and reflection with a focus on social justice issues facing the world today. Sustainability-focused experiences include:

- The Rights and Welfare of Animals
- Simple Living and Appalachian Culture
- Conservation of Our Native Ecosystems

Community Action Days

Xavier's largest service experience invites students, faculty, staff, and alumni to step off campus to learn from, grow with, and serve the communities that exist beyond our university. With a focus on meaningful service accompanied by reflection, this program seeks to spark compassion for and connection. Sustainability focused sites include:

- Evanston Community Council
- Gorman Heritage Farm
- Mill Creek Alliance
- NEXUS Community Garden and Urban Farm

Xavier Student Sustainability Club

XSS promotes sustainability while fostering an environment where students can explore, learn, and engage in discussion. *Ecofest*, the Club's annual headlining event, is hosted every spring to support reuse and recycling habits. The club produces educational materials including a pamphlet on climate anxiety. The club advisor is Dr. Rachel Behr.

Animals, People, and the Earth at Xavier Club

This student organization raises awareness about animal rights and the ways in which human activity impacts the environment. The club advisor is Dr. John Sniegocki.



Plant Potting

House plants have been shown to reduce stress and boost moods and Xavier offers a number of opportunities to learn about planting and bring them into residence rooms and homes especially at Welcome Week and during exam periods at the ABSN site in Cleveland.



Veg-out Dinners

Students gather weekly for fun and camaraderie around vegetarian meals prepared by staff chefs of the Dorothy Day Center for Faith and Justice.

Catholic social teachings – are ideals and values that have been disseminated through papal and other Catholic Church documents over time; themes include stewardship of creation, seeking the common good, enhancing the life and dignity of the human person, protecting human rights, and pursuing peace and justice.

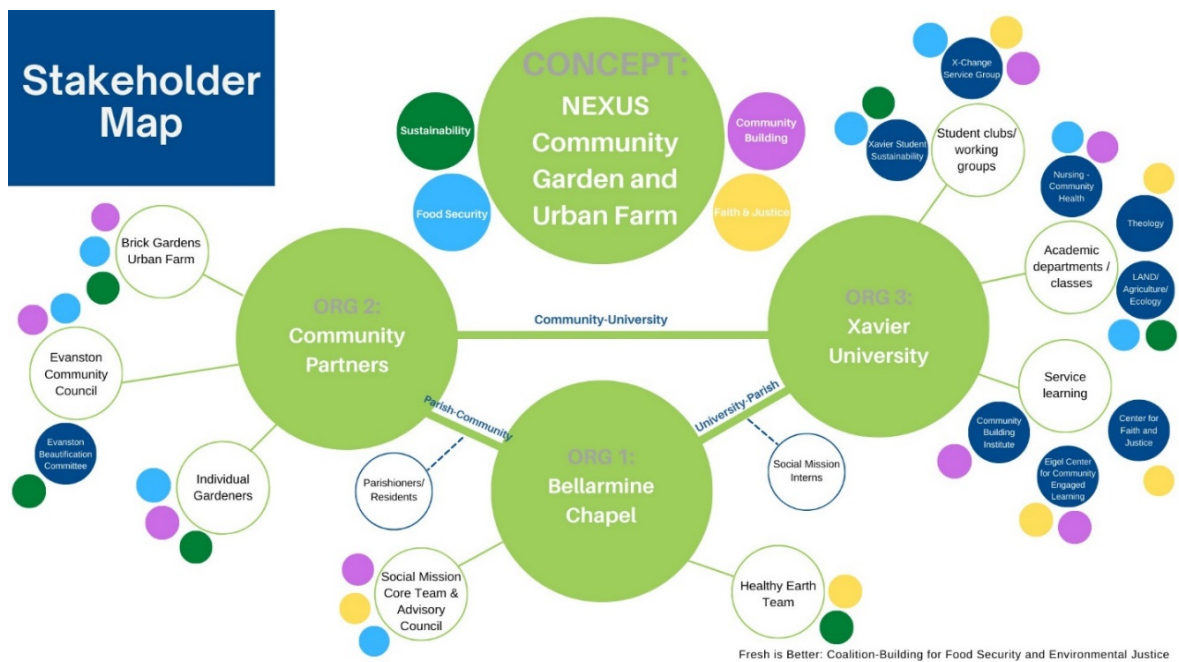


VI. Food, Food Security, and Waste Reduction

The NEXUS (Norwood, Evanston, Xavier University, Sustainability) Community Garden and Urban Farm

The NEXUS garden on Xavier University's campus is a collaborative learning and growing space managed by Bellarmine Chapel in partnership with Brick Gardens, a black-owned business that creates micro-economic assets for communities in food deserts and addresses racial inequity in the food system by providing access to food, jobs for youth, and education on healthy nutrition.

Designed to bring together diverse stakeholders from its neighboring communities, the NEXUS garden strives to grow transformative relationships, address food insecurity, educate on the importance of urban agriculture, and promote sustainability. NEXUS does this through a culture of encounter and mutual belonging, centered on organic gardening, healthy food, environmental justice, and the sacred connection of an individual and our common home. Approximately six hundred and fifty pounds of fresh produce are grown and donated to local food pantries from the garden each year.



Model presented by Tim Sundrup, with colleagues from Bellarmine Chapel and Brick Gardens, at the 2024 Climate Conference at Loyola University Chicago and at the Midwest Sustainability Symposium in Cincinnati.

Composting through a Johnson-Su Bioreactor

The NEXUS Community Garden and Urban Farm's commitment to sustainable organic farming and gardening includes a commitment to reduce garden waste through composting. The most recent addition to this program is the introduction of a Johnson-Su Bioreactor composting system. This passive, no-turn system uses increased airflow to achieve material breakdown through high levels of beneficial fungi and microbes.

The Hoff Dining Hall and Compass/Chartwells

The Hoff Dining Hall is adorned with symbols and communications associated with the Gifts of the Ignatian Heritage, the Seal of the Society of Jesus, and waste reduction and climate change mitigation messaging.

Xavier Dining works to serve ingredients from small to mid-sized local farms when seasonably available. Education is at the center of Xavier Dining's programming which includes a food waste collection and reduction event. Other programs focus on minimizing the environmental impact of food, sustainable purchasing initiatives, supporting charitable initiatives, nutrition and wellness, recycling and waste reduction, and energy and water conservation. They have also incorporated reusable takeout boxes to replace the use of disposable Styrofoam containers.

The Hoff Dining Hall has a five-level vertical hydroponic grow system producing bok choy, basil, mint, kale, lettuce, micro greens, and edible flowers that are used in student meals and campus catering

In response to the cry of the poor and our Jesuit values, Auxiliary Services has created an online system where meals can be donated in the form of swipe card entry into the Hoff Dining Commons and then anonymously requested by students facing food insecurity.



Cintas Concessions Leftover Food Program for Students

During the 2023 Spring Semester, Xavier Dining in partnership with Auxiliary Services and Care Management launched a pilot program to distribute surplus prepared food items after all Men's basketball home games. Highly perishable and ready to eat food that cannot be safely stored and reused is collected prior to the end of the game and made available for 90 minutes after the conclusion of the game for students experiencing food insecurity by electronic communication. This program was refined and relaunched on a permanent basis at the beginning of the 2023-24 season.

The Store

Xavier's student-run food pantry, called "The Store," promotes food security and nutrition by providing free fresh, frozen, and non-perishable foods, as well as hygiene and household products. The Store was created in 2017 following a survey conducted by students enrolled in a sociology course which found that 23% of students without a meal plan were food insecure, including nearly 11% who were experiencing hunger. The Store is available to all students whether they live on campus or off campus. Xavier students can access it by swiping in with their Xavier One Pass. Xavier's *Laudato Si'* Action Platform: Response to the Cry of the Poor committee is working with Care Management and The Store to explore ways to further address food insecurity.

VII. Eco Spirituality and Reflection

Fr. Michael J. Graham, SJ Legacy Labyrinth

Honoring Xavier's 34th president, Xavier's outdoor labyrinth provides a spiritual tool for finding God in daily life, the hallmark of Ignatian Spirituality.



The inscription on the entering plaque reads:

As the longest serving president in Xavier history, Fr. Graham's vision expressed that, "Xavier men and women become people of learning and reflection, integrity and achievement, in solidarity for and with others." This Labyrinth offers an invitation to all members of the community to reflect and discern their own path, always asking "Where is the more universal good?"

Native Plants and Grassland Berm

The campus prioritizes the planting of species that grow naturally in the region to benefit the local environment and wildlife, including trillium, wild geranium, and goldenrod. A native grassland berm has been planted along the walking path east of the Cintas Center.

The Terrace Rain Garden

The garden on the south side of Alter Hall channels rainwater from the building's roof through a series of terraces which model the hydrology and ecology of a natural watershed and nurtures a diversity of plants.

Mission Mile

The campus community is invited to take a beautiful walking tour of the campus with reflection prompts at mission-relevant sites along the way.

Ecological Taizé Prayer Service

The Jesuit Family of Works offers a series of presentations, immersions and prayer experiences titled Embracing God's Creation focused on the ecological spirituality of *Laudato Si'* including an annual Ecological Taizé prayer service renewing our spiritual commitment to *Laudato Si'*.

Go Veg/Lent program

Each year, John Sniegocki of the Theology Department, coordinates a campaign where Xavier community members challenge themselves to adopt a plant-based diet. Throughout the program participants are sent encouragement, recipes, and information on how their dietary choices affect ecology, world hunger, animal wellbeing, and a spirituality of compassion.



An Ignatian Daily Examen For Connection to the Living World

St. Ignatius Loyola's Examen is a peaceful reflective prayer bringing forth awareness to the movement of God in our day. With the modern call to read the signs-of-the-times, thematic Examens have been created; this Examen guides reflection on your connection with the environment and the living world. Begin with a pause and a slow deep breath or two. Become aware that you are in the presence of the Holy.

Thanksgiving

As I review my day, what aspects of the living world and my surroundings am I especially grateful for?

Opening Petition

As I review my bond with *Our Common Home*, I ask for the light to better know my place within God's creation.

Review

As I review my connections with nature - including people, plants, animals, air, food, waste, water, sun and stars- what stirs in me?

The sounds, sights, and tastes I have encountered...

The peace I received...

The learning I obtained...

The beauty of

The actions I have initiated...

A challenge overcome...

An event that took place...

The joy that I have experienced...

Response

In light of my review, have I noticed God's presence in any of this?

Closing Petition adapted from a prayer in *Laudato Si'*

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon me the power of your love, that I may protect life and beauty.

Amen

by Dr. Debra Mooney

VIII. Green Living: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

XU Office Swap

Xavier's Office Swap program reduces office waste through reuse and repurposing of office supplies. Faculty and staff can donate excess office supplies into a university-wide pool from which they can also acquire supplies at no cost. This initiative gives useful supplies a second life and reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills.

XU Office Swap has already resulted in over 750 items being salvaged, 100 items being repurposed, and saves the university approximately \$2,600 each semester. Faculty and staff can access the online catalog of supplies through the Xavier Buy system.

Move in/out

Opportunities are being explored with partners both on campus and off to assist students to store, reuse, and recycle more items during their move in and move out from campus and thus reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Waste Less Wednesdays

"Waste Less Wednesdays" is an educational campaign designed by the *Laudato Si'* Sustainable Lifestyles committee. It is focused on increasing recycling across campus. Based on best practices for marketing personal change the campaign included gamification, personal pledges, and informational posts.

E-waste Recycling

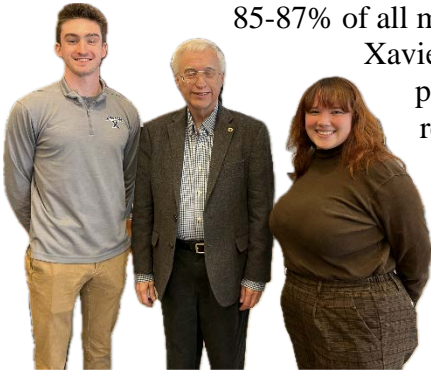
Xavier has a path to recycle technology assets. Information Technologies will receive or pick up old or unused University technology equipment to be reused or recycled. Xavier is currently exploring further partnerships with Cohen Recycling for electronic waste recycling. E-waste is approximately 2% of landfill material and 70% of toxic contamination.



Green living means embracing a lifestyle of daily habits that involve eco-friendly practices aligning with 3 principles: reduce, reuse, recycle.

Recycling Audit

In the Fall of 2023, Xavier completed an audit of its recycling programs to address opportunities and efficiencies in our waste management system. This audit was done compliments of Xavier adjunct professor Bob Gedert, and two Xavier students: Savannah Mays, an Economics, Sustainability, and Society major, and Luke Frigo, an Environmental Science major.



85-87% of all materials placed in recycling bins at Xavier are able to be recycled. This percentage is consistent with most residential areas in Cincinnati.

Better separation of recyclables from non-recyclable trash and cleaning contaminated recyclables is the 'next-step' for campus to increase its recycling rate.

Digital Campus

An initiative from the *Laudato Si'* Ecological Economics committee centers around reducing paper consumption. Specifically focusing on the amount of printing across the campus, this initiative is working with faculty and staff to identify areas of unnecessary paper use and offer digital and alternative methods of operation.

Montessori Lab School

The Montessori school, serving approximately 150 students in pre-kindergarten through 8th grade, is exemplary in incorporating sustainable living and ecological education into a curriculum. Along with its environmental lessons, the lab school, has a specialized recycling program that collects hard to recycle items that the University's regular recycling system cannot. This program is supported by the Head of School Ericka Eicholz, teachers Victoria Pinciotti and Donna Hutchinson-Smyth, and a team of volunteer parents.

Did You Know?
Xavier has a single stream recycling program so that all recycled materials can go into any of our 2,000 recycling bins. Rumpke, Xavier's recycling services company, then separates plastics, paper and metals through their system.

Wishcycling is when you place something you hope is acceptable in a recycling bin - but it isn't (e.g.: greasy pizza boxes, plastic grocery sacks.) While done with good intentions, "wishcycling" should be avoided because can lead to contamination of recyclable materials which then ends up in the landfill.

IX. Community Representation, Engagement, and Partnerships

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati

Xavier representatives, including the Chief Sustainability Officer, serve on a number of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's sustainability focused committees including:

- *Laudato Si'* Action Platform Implementation Committee
- Care for Creation Task Force
- Cincinnati Catholic Higher Education Cohort

This work resulted in the cosponsoring and planning of the Archdiocese's first *Care for God's Creation: The Laudato Si' Action Platform Conference*, where Xavier faculty, staff, and students spoke on panels, led breakout session, and assisted with a prayer service.

Greater Cincinnati Green Business Council

Since 2013, Xavier has been a member of the Greater Cincinnati Green Business Council which serves as an educational forum for the exchange of information, expertise, and environmental best practices for collective green action in the region. Member organizations including altafiber, the Cincinnati Zoo, Cintas, Cohen Recycling, CVG Airport, Duke Energy, 84.51, emersion DESIGN, Fifth Third Bank, Bricker Graydon, Kroger, Macy's, Madtree, Melink, P&G, Scripps, Standard Textile, and Triversity Construction. Tim Sundrup, Xavier's Chief Sustainability Officer and Dr. Justin Roush, Assistant Professor of Economics, were elected to serve as the Council's Vice Presidents of Membership from 2024 through 2025.

City of Cincinnati Partnership – Green Cincinnati Plan

Xavier faculty and staff helped various steering committees develop portions of the *Green Cincinnati Plan*. Xavier continues to support this plan in multiple areas of overlap with Xavier's *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. Xavier is also a member of the City of Cincinnati's Higher Education cohort focused on food waste.

Green Umbrella

This tri-state regional network is committed to taking action on climate change. As an organizational member since its founding, Xavier is an active supporter of activities such as the annual Midwest Sustainability Summit on which Dr. John O'Keefe, Director of the Brueggeman Center, serves as a member of the planning committee.

Faith Communities Go Green

This collaboration between Green Umbrella and Equasion, an organization promoting interfaith dialogue in Greater Cincinnati, partners with religious communities to reduce the risk and impacts of climate change. Xavier is a supporter through collaborations with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Dr. Anas Malik, Professor of Political Science, serves on the Steering Committee.

Threes for Trees Program

Since 2014, a partnership between the Formica Corporation and the Xavier University men's basketball team has resulted in over 20,000 trees being planted. As part of the program's tenth year, this partnership has teamed up with *Learfield Sports' Xavier Sports Properties* and Cincinnati Parks to plant the trees *locally* – resulting in ten trees being planted for every three-point basket made during the 2023-24 men's basketball season.



Social Innovation Weekend

Hosted by Xavier’s Center for Innovation, students at this weekend-long event, learn about a topic from a team of community experts, divide into teams and engage in workshops to brainstorm possible solutions, and then create and present presentations on those solutions. The 2024 topic was waste reduction on Xavier’s campus.

Xavier Reading Camp on Sustainability

This two-week long summer camp hosted by the Education Department brought two hundred local students in grades one through eight together on campus to learn about ecology. Students read books, designed and carried out projects, and had a lot of fun exploring topics related to plants, bees, composting, alternate/renewable energy, and deforestation.

Jesuit Networks Advancing Ecological Justice

International Association of Jesuit Universities
EcoJesuit
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Cincinnati Jesuit Family of Works



X. What Can I Do?

- Join a *Laudato Si'* Action Platform committee and support Xavier's sustainability efforts.
- Engage in continuous learning about integral ecology and environmental justice to live a life of 'informed action' - as our Mission Statement invites us to do.
- Donate to *The Store* or contribute extra meals from your food plan to Auxiliary Services' Swipe Program to support the basic needs of students for optimal learning.
- Use Xavier's Office Swap Program when procuring office supplies and furniture.
- Connect with nature by praying the Labyrinth, walking the Mission Mile, enjoying lunch on the green roof, or finding gratitude in the campus trees, native plants, Terrace Rain and NEXUS gardens.
- Tell students about Xavier's sustainability learning opportunities, including majors, courses, clubs, study abroad options, summer internships, and Alternative Break experiences.
- Author an Ignatian Examen for Sustainability and reflect on it daily for a semester.
- Reduce resource consumption; start by decreasing what you print and use of water and energy.
- Visit Xavier.edu/green

You can put any of these items into **any** recycling bin at Xavier:



- Working Draft -



*Xavier's sustainability logo was designed
by Professor Jonathon Gibson's art class in 2014*

For more information on any of these topics: www.Xavier.edu/Green

Printed on recycled paper in 2024