

# Concrete Suggestions

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## Healing a Broken World: Task Force on Ecology

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### **6. CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS**

#### **General**

- (i) Examine our pattern and levels of consumption and firmly commit ourselves to a reduction in consumption.
- (ii) Make the establishing of right (just) relationships with creation a theme of prayer in Jesuit communities. There is need to develop and share relevant texts and materials for common prayer or for community retreats.
- (iii) Provide orientation to Jesuit and lay staff of our institutions on ecological perspectives, resources, and shared practices.
- (iv) Provide tools and concepts that may help the community or the institution to plan for more sustainable ways of living: measurement of ecological footprint, buying from local markets, etc.
- (v) Develop eco-heritage sites at provincial level.

#### **Mobility and communication**

- (i) Examine modes of travel and actively search for alternatives. For example, limiting the use of cars and favouring public transportation and the use of cycles.
- (ii) Offset the carbon —debt from air travel by investing in Jesuit ecology projects.
- (iii) Provide facilities for video- or Skype conferences instead of air travel.

#### **Living spaces and buildings**

- (i) Carry out energy audits and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Resource Assessments (ERA) to assess the ecological footprint of our community, work and province.
- (ii) Act on them by establishing environment management plans that look closely at the running of our works, and obtain available certification of our (new) buildings.
- (iii) This may lead us to invest in energy efficient heating/cooling systems, in appropriate electrical appliances, solar energy and other forms of renewable energy etc.
- (iv) In all our communities and works, and especially houses of formation, there should be a simple and constant practice of recycling perishable and imperishable materials.
- (v) Wherever applicable, we should recommend architects and engineers who are conscious of environmental issues and can help provinces in drafting building plans.

(vi) Any new construction of Jesuit institutions should examine ecotoilets, interlocking blocks, solar energy for heating water and allowing natural light into the building, water catchment and storage, biogas, and grey water.

### **Food**

(i) Offer training courses to learn about ways to render more sustainable our practices of buying food: promote organically grown, local and seasonal fairly traded food.

(ii) Reduce food wastage as much as possible and compost organic kitchen waste.

(iii) Encourage vegetarian (meat free) days or weeks in all communities, especially (but not exclusively) during Lent.

(iv) If possible, do not use bottled water.

(v) Communities with outdoor space may want to grow vegetables.

### **Electronic devices, household appliances and other non-perishable goods**

(i) Follow the three Rs: reduce, recycle, and re-use in all our works and communities.

(ii) Examine our tendency to accumulate gadgets; ask always the question: do I really need this item?

(iii) Recycle appropriately all broken or unused consumer electronics.

(iv) When buying new devices/appliances, pay special attention to energy efficiency and longevity.

(v) Use re-chargeable batteries.

(vi) Unplug your electronic devices. Don't leave them in standby mode.

(vii) When buying clothes, make sure they are made of natural, organically grown fibres and/or fairly traded.

### **Cleaning products**

(i) Use biodegradable cleaning products, especially if there are problems with waste water treatment.

(ii) Use paper-based hygiene products made from recycled materials.

(iii) Use cloth that can be washed rather than thrown away.

### **Financial management**

(i) FACSI could allocate some funds for environmental projects in the Society world-wide.

(ii) Provinces should invest with socially and ecologically responsible criteria.