



Caring for Our Common Home Strategy





Preamble

“Caring for Our Common Home” is a universal apostolic preference for the Society of Jesus. In his letter announcing the preferences Fr General said the following *“In his encyclical Laudato Si, Pope Francis reminds us that all human beings share responsibility for care of creation, considered by many people “mother earth.” All living things, whether they be human beings, plants or animals, inhabit the earth which is our common home. In developing our action plan, we are conscious that we are called to care for and engage with our common home at a variety of scales: globally, national, locally and personally.*

Saint Ignatius’ College is home for all those who live, work and are educated within. It is home to a rich diversity of natural and built environments and we share a responsibility to educate and inspire our community to connect, collaborate and work towards a more sustainable future for our common home that is Riverview, while developing a deeper understanding of how our actions, most of which take place in the local context and environment, impact our common home from a regional and global perspective.

Saint Ignatius’ College Riverview acknowledges the Cammeraigal people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land upon which we are privileged to live and educate. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people who dwell on this land. The Cammeraigal people lived in harmony with their environment for thousands of years. Current and future generations acknowledge and respect this tradition and must do all that they can to protect the local environment and live in a sustainable manner.

“So much as you can do,
so much dare to do
COLLEGE MOTTO ”



School Strategic Goals

In addition to being one of universal apostolic preference for the Society of Jesus, caring for our common home is enshrined in the 2020-2025 Strategic Directions and 2023 School Goals. The College has committed to leadership in environmental stewardship.

On the back of that commitment, a Caring for Our Common Home Committee was established in 2023, charged with, among other things, the development of a long-term environmental management plan. This plan has been prepared by the Committee.





Vision

Our vision is to be a leading school advancing the achievement of ecological conversion by enshrining practices in all aspects of College life that promote the protection and repair of the environment and eliminate harmful practices. We will achieve our vision in a methodical approach founded on:

- Building environmental literacy
- Developing practices to apply environmental considerations to College decision-making
- Embedding our environmental strategy in all school activities.

Caring For Our Common Home Vision - Laudato si'

“As persons for and with others we also strive to be for and with all of creation. With an awareness of our interconnectedness and with compassion and commitment, we walk together to transform our knowledge, attitudes, habits and practices in order to reconcile ourselves with all beings, all elements of the world, and with the Creator. We do this individually and collectively, both locally and globally, with the Ignatian spirit of faith and joy for a sustainable and hope-filled future. For Christians this is an ecological conversion ‘whereby the effects of their encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in their relationship with the world around them. Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue’ (LS 217).” (Caring for Our Common Home: An Ignatian Perspective (pg 2)

Five Year Plan Towards Achieving Ecological Conversion

Build Environmental Literacy

We will take steps to build knowledge and skills throughout our community to promote caring for our common home. We will do this through:

- Pursuing and expanding existing activities
- Data collection and presentation
- Promoting individual responsibility
- Collaborating with the community.

Develop Practices

We will develop, improve and amend College practices, policies and strategies to address environmental considerations including:

- Governance, procurement and fee-generating activities
- Curriculum
- Service
- Specific conservation initiatives.

Embed Strategy

We will set ambitious long-term targets and embed the College's environmental strategy in all school activities, including on and off campus activities. We will implement and execute on bold initiatives to heal and renew our common home and support other schools and communities in their initiatives by taking a leadership role.

Focus Areas

Consulting with the different viewpoints of the members of the Riverview community, including students, staff, parents and other community members, we have identified the following focus areas in pursuing our Caring for Our Common Home vision and strategy.

These focus areas, and the overarching Five Year Plan, require regular attention and consideration; they are not 'set and forget'. This is to ensure new members of the community are aware and to remind all members of our community of our ongoing commitment.

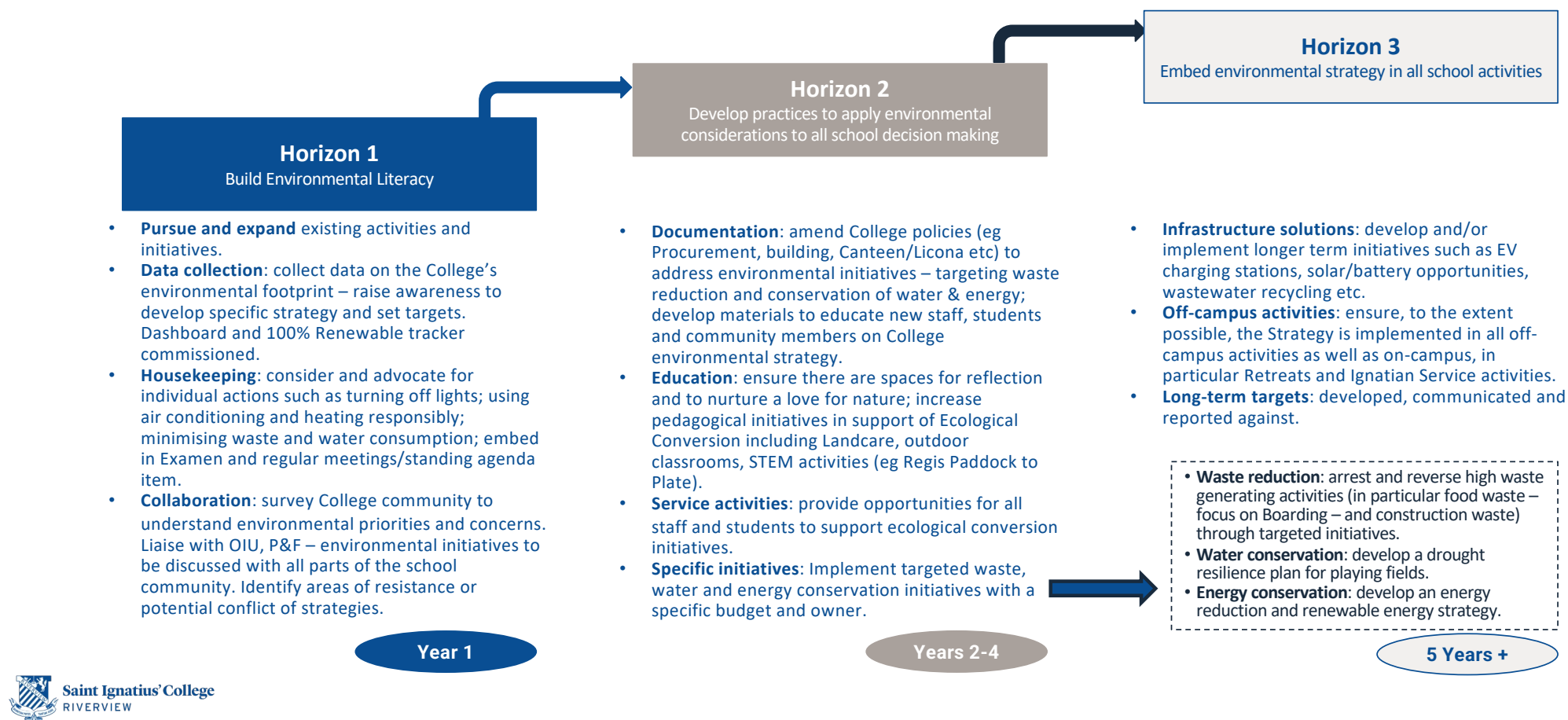


Year 1 Action Plan and Initiatives

Data collection and sharing	Individual responsibility and community collaboration	Resource conservation and waste reduction	Curriculum, co-curriculum and service activities	Governance and decision-making
Collect data on the College's environmental footprint.	Advocate for individual actions such as turning off lights, using air conditioning and heating responsibly and minimising other resource consumption.	Pursue food waste reduction initiatives in partnership with catering/facility management contractor Chartwells.	Share findings of curriculum audit and identify areas for improvement.	Include Caring for Our Common Home in regular meetings as a standing agenda item.
Commission and utilise the Jesuit 100% Renewable tracker for tracking of carbon footprint.	Survey College community to understand environmental priorities and concerns, liaising with students, staff, the OIU and the P&F.	Continue to pursue and expand successful waste reduction initiatives such as Return & Give program, problem material recycling stations, paper use reduction and others.	Introduce Caring for Our Common Home initiatives as service and co-curriculum activities.	Identify areas of conflict or synergy with other strategic focus areas.
Design and commission a bespoke College dashboard for displaying environmental statistics.	Collaborate with other schools around sustainability goals and initiatives.	Identify other areas for partnership in reducing waste (eg canteen, Licona and others)	Include Caring for Our Common Home in Examen on a regular basis.	
	Student leaders to lead awareness about litter and environmental stewardship with a view to zero tolerance on school grounds.	Broader dedicated recycle bins in House areas for house-based profiles to provide visibility and competition.		

Five Year Strategy on a Page

Pathway to Achieving Ecological Conversion – healing and renewing our common home



Caring for Our Common Home Logo

The water cycle represents an Ignatian approach to Caring for Our Common Home through our schools.

God, as represented by the sun, is the source of all life, constantly shining onto each part of the Earth to initiate and sustain the cycle. The individual raindrop refracts the light of the sun and carries nutrients and life throughout the Earth. The raindrop represents each person in our schools and collectively form different levels of the local community networks through our curricula, ministries, activities and institutional involvements. These groups collaborate to work at different levels for the transformation and care of our world.

