



# ASSISI Formation - Animators for

## Catholic Earthcare Australia

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*“someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides, and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, humanity will have discovered fire.”*

(Pierre Teilhard de Chardin)

Are you wondering ...

- ◇ *What would it take to animate the call to justice, peace and integrity of creation such that we learn together how to live and work sustainably on our planet?*
  - What is required for your organisation to take the transformative journey to ecological sustainability?
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  - What wisdom exists in Catholic Teaching that may help you and your organisation respond to the call for ecological conversion and sustaining God’s Creation?
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  - What would it take to truly harness the energies of God’s love?

You have been identified as one person within your organisation that is passionate about and/or has responsibilities for aspects of ecological sustainability. In my capacity as Acting Director of Catholic Earthcare, I invite you to participate in the formation experience and, secondly, to pass this invitation to others in your network for whom this would be applicable.

Catholic Earthcare Australia offers ASSISI as a comprehensive and holistic sustainability initiative for organisations to achieve sustainability.

A three-day intensive is central to the formation experience. Participants are required to do preparatory work and follow-up work. During the course of the formation experience, participants are exposed to contemporary ecological theology, scientific understandings of sustainability and transformative social processes that can inspire and support this critical work.

*Would you like to join with others to seek, discern and transform a new way of being that responds to the call for ecological conversion through participation in our ASSISI Formation – Animators for Sustainability program?*

Yours truly,

Luke Edwards

Acting Director

Catholic Earthcare Australia

[luke.edwards@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:luke.edwards@catholicearthcare.org.au)

# ASSISI FORMATION - ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

I AM INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE ASSISI FORMATION- ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY.

Please indicate which program you are able to attend in order of preference

DATE	ORDER OF PREFERENCE
OCTOBER 5-7TH	
NOVEMBER 2-4TH	
NOVEMBER 23-25TH	

### Contact Details

Name	
Organisation	
Position or role	
Email	
Postal Address	
Mobile	
Landline	

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU REQUIRE REGARDING THE ASSISI FORMATION - ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Please post your 'Expression of Interest' form to

Catholic Earthcare Australia  
Ground Floor  
19 Mackenzie Street  
Lavender Bay  
NSW 2060

or email details to

[admin@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:admin@catholicearthcare.org.au).

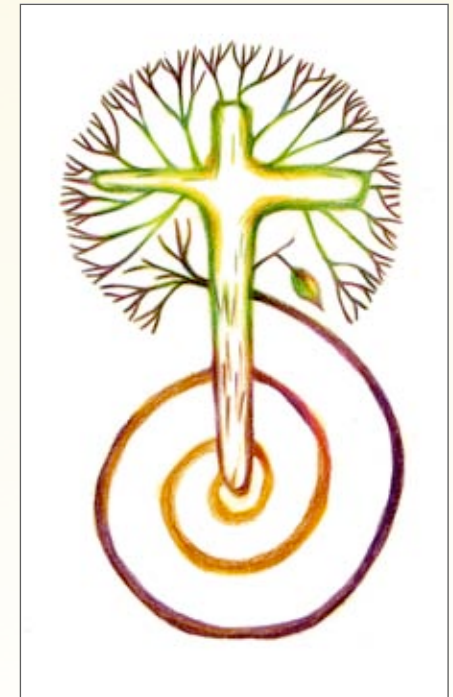
A facilitator of the *ASSISI Formation - Animators for Sustainability* will then contact you with further details.

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GROUND FLOOR, 19 MACKENZIE STREET  
LAVENDER BAY, NSW 2060

# ASSISI FORMATION - ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



CATHOLIC EARTH CARE AUSTRALIA  
Invites you to register your interest in participating in a 3 day intensive ASSISI Formation - Animators for Sustainability

## ASSISI

is the sustainability initiative developed by Catholic Earthcare Australia on behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops. The mandate of Catholic Earthcare is to bring about ecological conversion at a personal level as well as at a systems level. ASSISI provides a pathway for promoting systemic change towards sustainable living. ASSISI is the acronym for A Strategic Systems-based Integrated Sustainability Initiative.

Participants in the ASSISI Formation - Animator for Sustainability will depth their personal understandings and experience of ecological conversion through creative engagement with contemporary social technologies and processes for transformation, contemporary ecological theology and scientific understandings of sustainability. Through becoming increasingly familiar with aspects central to facilitating the ASSISI journey, participants will come to understand how to build learning communities for sustainability in their own context.

The intensive formation is aimed at those who are the potential 'change agents' within their organisation. Participants are required to work with some preparatory and follow up activities or exercises

ASSISI Formation - Animator for Sustainability will be offered at three Australian locations in 2011. Each program is limited to 18 participants and is supported by two facilitators.

# ASSISI FORMATION - ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## 2011 VENUES AND DATES

October 5, 6, 7th

Venue: Marymount Mercy Centre, Castle Hill, New South Wales

November 2, 3, 4th

Venue: TBC, Western Australia

November 23, 24, 25th

Venue: Gumburu, via Townsville, Queensland

## COST

\$870.00 AUD per participant

Includes accommodation, catering, participation in all workshops and support materials.

If you are interested in participating and none of the advertised 2011 date are convenient, please contact Catholic Earthcare Australia. [Venues for the 2012 program is in discussion.]

[admin@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:admin@catholicearthcare.org.au)

## A WORD FROM THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSISI FORMATION - ANIMATORS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

*'what has been of most value to me was the way in which I was engaged in a learning process about the two crucial issues of ecological conversion and sustainability that was attentive to heart, head and hand - and challenging.'*

*'the training provided a space to reflect, clarify my thoughts and connect ideas about ecological sustainability and ecological conversion. It has been an important journey for me...'*

*'It was a fabulous opportunity to meet with other people, dialogue with and listen to each other's stories and experiences'*

*'Expectations were exceeded...'*

*'Exposure to Theory U has been professionally life-changing. This at two levels. Firstly, it offers a credible theory for valuing creativity, imagination, intuition, etc. Secondly, it has provided me with a schema for situating the plethora of frameworks/intellectual constructs that seek to explain the world or put themselves forward as theories of knowledge...'*

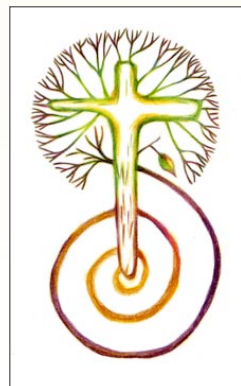
*'It is well past time for us to be living and doing in isolation. This process has the ability to create community across Australia...'*

*'I thought the program modelled best practice. It modelled listening, connection, collaboration and partnership as essential characteristics of ecological initiatives (practical, ideological and transformative). It seems to me that relationality is fundamental to deep and sustainable progress and I thought the training established that as an a priori value and as essential to the development of a systems view of reality...'*

*'the whole process/experience, in some way, is responding to the needs of the time...'*

Visit the Catholic Earthcare Website to learn more about Catholic Earthcare Australia and ASSISI

[www.catholicearthcare.org.au](http://www.catholicearthcare.org.au)





# ASSISI Formation - Animators for Sustainability

## Catholic Earthcare Australia

### INVITATION to participate in the ASSISI Formation – Animators for Sustainability Program

#### Desired outcome for all ASSISI<sup>1</sup> work:

Enabling development of an ecological worldview that manifests in sustainable living

#### Overall purpose of the ASSISI animator formation program:

To build institutional capacity and capability in a range of organisations to facilitate the design and delivery of ASSISI

#### Program objectives:

- To introduce participants to leading social technologies and social processes for transformation
- To provide an experience of these social processes and of using them to design and deliver a transformational program in their own context. This program will engage the whole system on the path of ecological sustainability

#### Learning outcomes:

- An understanding of what is required to shift from a fragmented to a systemic way of thinking and being that provides the basis for ecological praxis<sup>2</sup>
- Capacity to design and deliver a program that is informed by this understanding and that engages the whole system
- A framework for forming a collaborative learning community<sup>3</sup> in your organisation and for linking to other learning communities to prototype new forms of ecological practice

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<sup>1</sup> A Strategic Systems-Based Integrated Sustainability Initiative

<sup>2</sup> In *Ecology at the Heart of Faith* (2007) Denis Edwards talks about ecological praxis as 'not only a radical reorientation of thought, and it is not only the discovery of a new capacity for feeling for nonhuman creation. It is both of these issuing forth in personal, political and ecclesial action' (p 112)

# Invitation

- An understanding of how to function as a national network of nodes and patches as a means of building critical mass across Australia

### **Three organising frameworks for the program**

- ASSISI as organising framework (building the container)
- The ASSISI journey as organising framework for my organisation (the outer journey)
- My own journey as organising framework (the inner journey)

### **Pre-reading - Book**

*Kitchen Table Sustainability: Practical recipes for community engagement with sustainability.* 2009. Wendy Sarkissian et al. Earthscan, Dunstan House, London

### **Pre-Reading - Journal articles**

*Addressing the Blind Spot of our Time* An executive summary of Theory U. C. Otto Scharmer. *Seven Acupuncture Points for Shifting Capitalism to Create a Regenerative Ecosystem Economy.* 2010. Otto Scharmer. Oxford Leadership Journal. June 2010 • Volume 1, Issue 3

*The Blind Spot of Institutional Leadership: How To Create Deep Innovation Through Moving from Egosystem to Ecosystem Awareness.* 2010. Otto Scharmer. Paper prepared for: World Economic Forum Annual Meeting of the New Champions 2010 Tianjin, People's Republic of China, 13-15 September

*Planetary Spirituality: Exploring a Christian Ecological Approach.* 2011. Denis Edwards

*Ecology and Faith in Jesus Christ: Recent Catholic Teaching.* 2011. Denis Edwards

### **Program facilitators:**

Megan Seneque  
*Social Process Advisor to Catholic Earthcare Australia*

Luke Edwards  
*Acting Director, Catholic Earthcare Australia*

### **Additional information:**

Please email Catholic Earthcare Australia for additional information –

[admin@catholicearthcare.org.au](mailto:admin@catholicearthcare.org.au)

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<sup>3</sup> A **learning community** is a group of people who share common values and beliefs and are actively engaged in learning together from each other. These are also called Communities of Practice, supporting the idea that knowing and knowledgeability are better thought of as cultural practices exhibited by practitioners belonging to various communities. This approach ensures greater integration and coherence (including in matters of curriculum)