

GUIDELINES FOR CARING FOR CREATION

Created in the image of God, each of us has an inherent dignity and a role in the biblical creation mandate to serve life. As creatures of God, we live in the “common home”¹ of creation.

Saint Francis of Assisi saw himself as a brother to all creatures. Mutual respect and appreciation are therefore central values for our intercultural life together and for our commitment to peace and justice in this world.

We are placed in global economic contexts in which there is much injustice. This obliges us to think globally, to bear in mind the repercussions of our actions and to combat the systemic causes of poverty and all forms of injustice.

As the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Siessen, we take our responsibility for God's creation seriously and are committed to a sustainable and life-enhancing engagement with the goods of creation. Aware of the limited amount of natural resources, we consistently base our actions on **the following guidelines**:

1. **We use the available natural resources carefully** so that all people, including future generations, can live in the “common home” of creation. We strive to use energy and other natural resources prudently and to contribute to an environment worth living in.
2. **We strive to avoid or reduce any lasting impact on the environment.** In our actions, we consider the potential negative effects on the environment, particularly on water, air, soil and biodiversity.
3. **When purchasing goods, we ensure compliance with ethical and sustainable criteria.** We pay particular attention to aspects such as environmental compatibility, regional and low-energy production, fair production conditions and wages, durability, recyclability and reparability.
4. **We regularly review our commitment to the environment** with the aim of continuously improving our efforts. We comply with applicable environmental regulations and voluntarily go above and beyond these requirements.
5. **We are continuously educating ourselves** on justice, peace and the integrity of creation. Beyond topic-specific offerings, we strive to deepen our awareness in these areas.
6. **We raise awareness among ourselves and others about treating the environment with care.** We want to involve as many people as possible with whom we come into contact in our commitment to creation.

¹ Cf. Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'* of Pope Francis, 2015, 1.