

November 10, 2020 Sustainability Audit planning team minutes

Present: David, Patty and Lissa

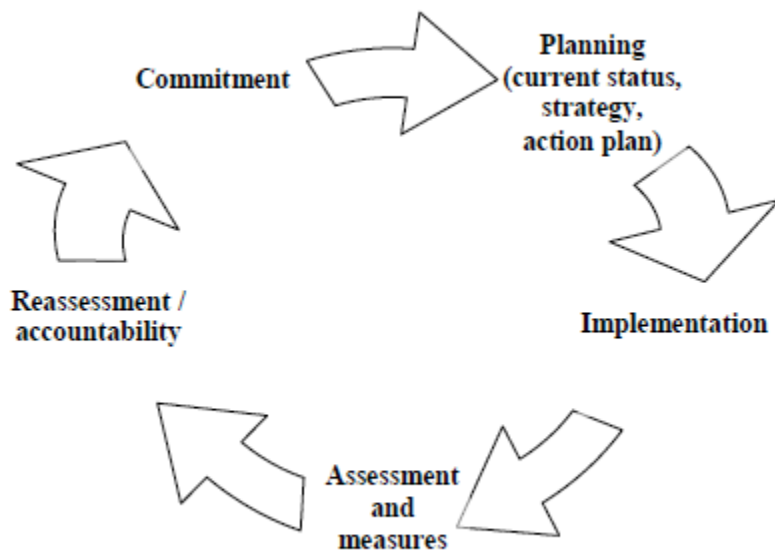
Check in and inspirational video. (Curious? Check it out at: <https://youtu.be/bOhxf6mBp7A>)

Context of CP history:

We began with conversation and reflection on the Assembly featuring Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, the seeds that were planted and some lessons learned. Importance of tilling the theological soil and holding an understanding of the cosmic Christ. Commitment is the first step (and an ongoing process).

Lissa also highlighted the importance of the first step in our process being defining our sustainability criteria and principles. Everything will spring from and be evaluated in relation to those principles and criteria.

The following is a helpful diagram to guide our thinking around the process. Importance of both qualitative and quantitative assessment and measures, as well as thinking of this as a continual, cyclic process with ongoing evaluation and evolution.



And another to help us in thinking about areas to consider for our audit. Importance of including all aspects of LS's Integral Ecology.

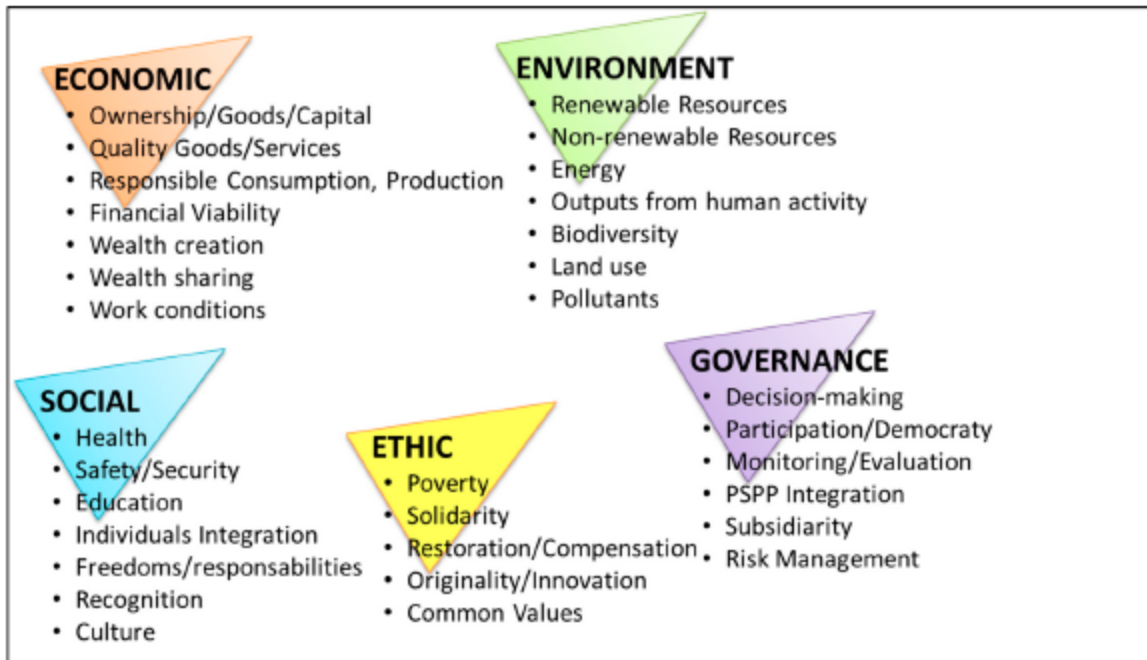


Figure 1. Dimensions and themes of the SDAG 2011.

Resources:

Patty offered the following resources:

- From the September 2016 PSN Newsletter: Laudato Si' Action plan from the Archdiocese of Atlanta: https://2nix922u0v5c1unycf149lry-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/laudato_si_actionplan.pdf
- Interfaith Power and Light Action Workbook for Congregations: https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IPL_EPA_Energy-Star-for-Congregations-Workbook_2019.pdf
- Sierra Club "Sacred Grounds" grants (and other grant possibilities): <https://www.sierraclubfoundation.org/what-we-fund>
- Energy Star for Congregations: https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/owners_and_managers/congregations

David reported back that ... [insert chat from David]

He also suggested the SC Ministries Foundation (Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati) as a potential resource for education, assessment tools and grants:

<https://www.srcharitycinti.org/ministries/empowerment/sc-ministry-foundation/>

Lissa posted two documents to the "sustainability audits" folder in our LS googledocs folder, one (Lissa Notes) listing as inclusively as possible potential elements of a sustainability audit (please feel free to add to this list) and the other (Preparatory Education) including research, samples and food for thought at we begin to create our CP sustainability audit process.

Reaching out:

- Catholic Energies. May be helpful in assessment tools. Patty is in conversation with Page Gravely there.
- Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. Patty is in conversation with Leah Wiste

Strategy:

- Importance of grounding in charism and education every step of the assessment process--and the fundamental importance that the initiatives arise from the CP entities, that it will look different at every site.
- Use our time at Leadership day to educate and energize (if it fits in with the planners' structure). Maybe produce a video celebrating different members of the CP family sharing what they are doing to bring LS to life--like Sandra and Tom in Detroit (rain garden; permeable parking lot, etc.). The projected vision of concrete action to be shared at Leadership day will be firmly grounded in what is happening in the communities and parishes. The process is community driven. How do you see this? Where are you?
- Trajectory for getting audits off the ground: VFC Newsletter feature and Leadership day (educate, celebrate, introduce principles/sustainability criteria) in December; Cafe conversations for larger LS circle (representation from all CP sites) in November.

Next steps:

- Patty will continue conversations with Catholic Energies and Michigan Interfaith Power and Light and report back.
- Lissa will create a googledoc to begin brainstorming sustainability criteria/principles.
- For the larger LSFVF team
 - VFC Newsletter video and copy
 - Leadership day plans?