



“Please, let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God’s plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.”

— Pope Francis
March 19, 2013

<http://www.ssjeearthcenter.com>



Celebrate—Educate—Practice—All is Sacred—Live in Harmony with Creation



Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia
Earth Center

Mission

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center is a sponsored work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph that fosters opportunities to educate, practice and celebrate the truth that all is sacred.

Vision

Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center is a nexus within the Wissahickon Watershed. Through the offering of educational opportunities, networking of resources and sharing of best practices it can assist in the process of increased awareness of the importance of sustainability from a faith perspective.

Purpose

The purpose of the Sisters of Saint Joseph Earth Center is to provide research, implementation and communication of best practices of planetary sustainability.

Goals

- An on-going relationship with Chestnut Hill College (CHC)
- Building working relationships with local institutions
- Creation of undergraduate and graduate interdisciplinary certificate programs in Earth sustainability and spirituality, social justice and environmental science.
- Outreach to individuals, communities, groups and organizations through courses and workshops offered independently from the College, whether on the CHC campus or other local sites
- Modeling sustainability best practices

Objectives

- Relationship with CHC
- Certificate program development (currently in progress)
- Developing specific curricula for classroom instruction and sustainable practices throughout the school physical environment (property management, utility evaluation and functions, air quality, water use, water reduction, local food and healthy nutrition, elimination of toxins, use of natural materials) creative re-use and re-purposing of existing physical materials, furniture, etc.
- Catholic Climate Change workshops offered independently from the College
 - Offering “Awakening the Dreamer” workshops for teachers at least twice each year
 - Symposia of local experts in various sustainability topics/themes
 - Step Away for a Day program
- EcoFilm Festival
- CHC Annual Urban Sustainability Conference for Colleges and Universities
- Modeling sustainability practices through such things as energy evaluations and green retrofitting of existing buildings, individual actions and the institution of new habits, organic gardening, nutrition education, cooking classes, CSA site
- Book and discussion groups around sustainability topics (recommended readings)
Earth rituals and celebrations that incorporate art, music, dance, theater and new media
Development of new media materials and use of social networks for dissemination of information