



Report: The Mercy Earth Challenge – one year later

Participants of the [Mercy Earth Challenge](#) report that they continue to conserve water, eat less meat and reduce their use of plastics more than a year after the initiative concluded. Many are also making purchases of food and other products with sustainability and economic justice in mind.

The Mercy Earth Challenge launched in May 2020 with the five-year anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*. Over the following year, the Mercy Justice Team invited sisters, associates, companions, co-workers, volunteers and friends to join us in more environmentally sustainable practices.

In July 2022 the Justice Team surveyed the nearly 1,000 Challenge participants about what they have continued to integrate into their lifestyles. Examples from the 72 responses include:

- continuing [Mercy Meatless Mondays](#);
- purchasing second-hand clothing to extend the use of products;
- buying local produce and shopping at farmers' markets;
- avoiding palm oil, the production of which contributes to deforestation, and processed foods
- planting a garden or growing fruit trees;
- and seeking out products sold in glass containers rather than in plastic.

The Mercy Justice Team will continue to share opportunities for adopting more environmentally sustainable and socially just lifestyles through the Institute's participation in the *Laudato Si* Action Platform.