



## INTEGRAL ECOLOGY PROJECT

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*The Inspiration of EREA Principals' Ecological Sustainability Statement: Solidarity through Care for Our Common Home*

*The opportunity to respond to the call for an 'ecological' paradigm shift*

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### Background

Inspired by the *EREA Principals' Ecological Sustainability Statement: Solidarity through Care for Our Common Home*, The Integral Ecology Project (IEP) has been designed to respond to the call within the EREA Strategic Directions for 2020-2024, for an ecological paradigm shift<sup>1</sup>.

The IEP embodies the stated Aspiration of EREA Principals, who in their Ecological Sustainability Statement of 2018, invited EREA communities to:

- Contribute to a cultural transformation, whereby an ecological conversion of heart and mind can take place.
- Come together to care for our common home as a way of embodying our commitment towards becoming a national community in mission.
- Be awakened to a new reverence for life and a firm resolve to achieve sustainability.  
(*Earth Charter 2000*)
- Come to experience our common home as a “joyful mystery to be contemplated.” (Ls' #12)

### Vision

*To inspire, support and enable a coordinated response that unites all communities across EREA as we come together to create the ecological foundations to care for and nurture our common home.*

## Goals of the Integral Ecology Project

***To create and make visible the conditions necessary for a paradigm shift on ecology relevant to our educational mission.***

*This will be supported by:*

- Capturing the diversity and perspective (voice) of stakeholders across the EREA community associated with understandings and implications of integral ecology.
- Capturing current insights, understandings, challenges and opportunities related to nurturing a way of being informed by the concept of integral ecology.
- Heighten awareness, understanding and engagement across EREA and its schools about the implications and possibilities connected to cultivating educational communities that are committed to the challenges and aspirations of the EREA Principals' Statement: Solidarity through care for our common home (2018)

***To build capacity and capability for learning and knowledge creation around integral ecology, so that the broader transformational paradigm shift on ecology can be realised through practice, across the national EREA community.***

*This will be supported by:*

- Identifying leverage opportunities to serve the EREA national community based upon what has been discovered from phase 1
- Work with schools and communities to develop resources and prototypes that support the leverage opportunities that emerge from phase 1

## Outcomes of the Integral Ecology Project

- A common narrative across EREA and within each school and office around what it means to live an ecological paradigm shift
- Deeper understanding of integral ecology that supports the embedding of practices that can facilitate an ecological paradigm shift
- A platform for co-ordinated, collaborative endeavour across the country
- An intelligence that enables EREA school communities and offices to assess, plan, implement and track how their community is transforming towards integral ecology
- A set of well-developed resources which can be used by the EREA community for the ongoing work of an ecological paradigm shift
- A well-documented case study that captures the paradigm shift of ecology across EREA and presents how the transformation is reflected in action.

## Key Focus of the Project – Inquiring into Integral Ecology

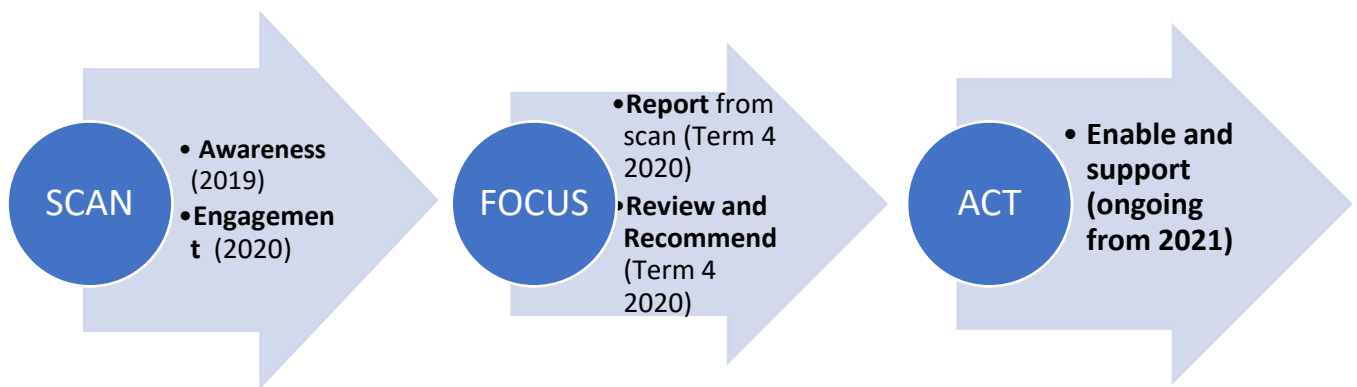
Focusing on the principles of “integral ecology” provides an opportunity to cultivate the holistic and mission inspired response that lies at the heart of the **transformation** we have named within our Strategic Directions (2020-2014). This connection to the mission of EREA finds resonance in the words of Pope Francis who calls for a realisation that “..a true **ecological approach always becomes a social approach**; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. (LS 49).

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*For many years it's been clear that there is a choice to be made between modernization and ecologization, but what we didn't realize before this encyclical is that "sister-mother-earth" is the best way of analysing, of observing, of revolutionizing the current situation and the crisis we are in. The "integral ecology" proposed by Pope Francis is crucial for our time.*  
(Bruno Latour), <http://www.campion.ox.ac.uk/?q=content/connecting-ecologies>

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### Phases of the Project



### Key Activities for Scan Phase

- An **awareness** raising process that communicates the focus of the Project across the EREA community. (Term 4 2019)
- **Engagement** of different parts of the EREA community via:
  1. an **inquiry** throughout **2020** that identifies how schools make sense of ‘integral ecology’ and what’s needed to apply it holistically?
  2. **Capacity building (from 2020 - 2024)** - Build capacity and capability for learning, knowledge creation and practices around integral ecology.<sup>2</sup>
- Regular updates communicated to EREA national community

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<sup>2</sup> What we find out will inform the ACT Phase.