



Pope Francis endorses [Earth4All](#)

Broadcaster Sky Italia hosted the premiere of a documentary spotlighting Earth4All and Pope Francis on the 28th of November 2023 in Rome.

The documentary retraces the meeting of influential women environmental activists—Ineza Umuhoza Grace, Licypriya Kangujam, Maya Gabeira, and Sophia Kianni—and Earth for All co-authors—Sandrine Dixson-Declève and Per Espen Stoknes —with Pope Francis on World Environment Day in June 2023.

Together, they presented [Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity](#), the 2022 report to the Club of Rome, to Pope Francis in the Vatican and discussed humanity’s responsibility to step up to the challenge to safeguard our planet. Later that evening, the group reconvened at Rome’s Colosseum, transformed into the stage of Repubblica’s [Green&Blue festival](#). There, inspiring speeches by the activists, Earth for All co-authors, including scientist Johan Rockström, echoed the urgent call for action to address current environmental crises.

Capturing this monumental event, a documentary by Sky and GEDI, directed by Daniele Moretti and Riccardo Luna, aimed at revealing the convergence of scientific evidence, the activists’ objectives, and the Pope’s vision—driving towards a unique goal: to awaken global consciousness and urge governments to take bold action for a just ecological transition.

The private screening was held with the Italian Ministry of Environment & Energy Security, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin. Following the premiere, the documentary was shown on SKYTG24 and Sky Nature on November 29 - this 50 minute powerful and inspiring film with English subtitles can be viewed [here](#):



Earth4All- Briefing

Five decades ago, *The Limits to Growth* shocked the world by showing that population and industrial growth were pushing humanity towards a cliff. Today the world recognizes that we have now reached the cliff edge. Earth has crossed multiple planetary boundaries while widespread inequality is causing deep instabilities in societies.

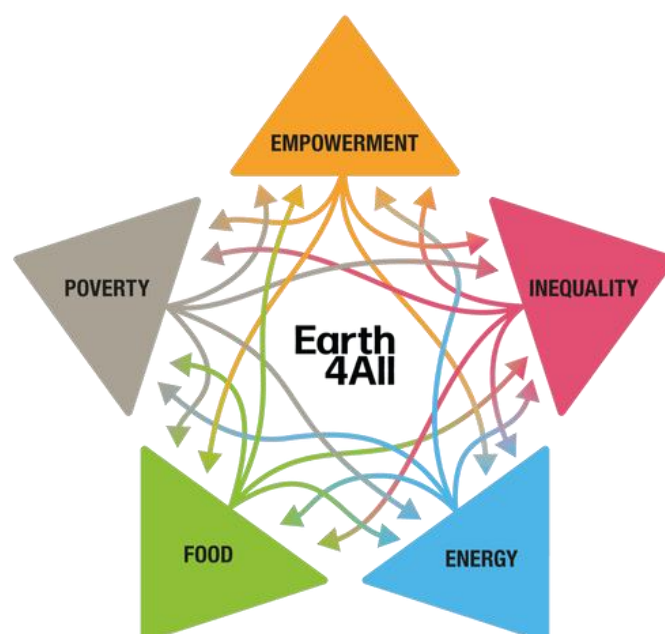
Earth For All is both an antidote to despair and a road map to a better future. Using powerful state-of-the-art computer modelling to explore policies likely to deliver the best outcome for the majority of people, a leading group of scientists and economists present five extraordinary turnarounds to achieve prosperity for all within planetary limits in a single generation.

Content includes:

- Results of new global modelling that indicates falling well-being and rising social tensions heighten risk of regional societal collapses;
- Two alternative scenarios – Too-Little-Too-Late vs The Giant Leap – and the implications for our collective future;
- Five system-shifting steps that can upend poverty and inequality, lift up marginalized people, and transform our food and energy systems by 2050;
- A clear pathway to reboot the global economic system so it works for all people and the planet.

Upgrading the economic system

It is feasible to redesign economic and social policies to put our societies on a pathway towards wellbeing for all within planetary boundaries. The five extraordinary turnarounds presented by Earth4All are the minimum requirements that support wellbeing for all, whilst protecting the planet.



1. Eliminate poverty

Extreme poverty has declined dramatically in the last fifty years. But still almost half the world lives in poverty, surviving on less than US\$4 per day. The poverty turnaround focuses on the solutions to raise the national average income to USD\$15,000 per year. At this level, if inequality is restrained, the majority of people can enjoy higher wellbeing, greater economic security and more economic opportunities. This will require rapid economic growth at a time when growth is slowing or even stagnating in the poorest countries. The old strategies to drive growth, driven by energy from fossil fuels, are a dead end. New economic models for low-income countries are necessary. New models can help reverse historic injustices and open the doors for unprecedented investment in clean energy, sustainable food and cities.

Goal GDP growth rate of at least 5% for low-income countries until per capita GDP reaches USD\$15k.

2. Reduce inequality

Decade by decade, countries have become more unequal in most regions of the world. In many places, the 10% richest take over 50% of national incomes. This is a recipe for deeply dysfunctional, polarised societies. We need a recipe to build cooperation and trust. New data has allowed us to see an unambiguous pattern related to inequality over recent decades: countries with greater equality perform better in all areas of human wellbeing and achievement. A key goal of the Earth4All inequality turnaround is to ensure the wealthiest 10% take less than 40% of national incomes.

Goal The wealthiest 10% take less than 40% of national incomes.

3. Empower women

Gender equity is essential for a fair and just future, and a stable planet. Massive investment in education for girls and delivering economic security for women are both critically important for a good life within planetary boundaries. This is how we create fair and just societies. Today, societies where everyone feels valued function better. Look to the wealthy Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. They regularly top international polls on innovation, wellbeing and happiness. It is no coincidence that these market economies invest in gender equity and in families. These countries invest in the future. There is an important additional benefit. As women have more control over their future, they choose to have fewer children.

Goal Full gender equity in terms of agency, rights, resources, and power in law and employment.

4. Transform food systems

The last fifty years have witnessed an astonishing turnaround in food security, with a dramatic reduction in the number of deaths as a result of famine. Progress has, however, come at a cost. The way we farm, transport and consume food affects more planetary boundaries than anything else. Agriculture is one of the biggest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. It is also the biggest driver of deforestation, biodiversity loss and the creation of vast dead zones in our streams, lakes and oceans. Agriculture is not working for people

either, with 9% of our global population severely food insecure at one extreme 8% of deaths globally attributable to obesity at the other. Our food systems are due a comprehensive redesign.

Goal A regenerative, sustainable food system that works for all within planetary boundaries.

5. The energy turnaround

The energy system is at the beginning of the most disruptive transformation in a century. Within a generation most countries could achieve energy security for the first time. This brings with it many more benefits, from clean air and better health to zero fossil-fuel emissions. The Paris Agreement's goal to stay well below 2°C requires approximately halving greenhouse gas emissions globally every decade from 2020, to reach close to zero in the 2050s. Solutions to halve emissions in a decade are available, affordable and ready to scale rapidly. Crucially, we have reached the critical inflection point where prices of renewables are comparable or cheaper than fossil fuels. Exciting new solutions now exist in sectors that were once considered hard to decarbonise, such as long-distance trucking, shipping, or cement and steel manufacturing. Urgent action is needed to implement these solutions.

Goal Net-zero emissions by 2050

6. Upgrade our economic system

Academia is alive with fiery debates about economic growth. Is green growth possible? Is degrowth desirable? What about steady-state economies? Let's go beyond growth. People should be agnostic about economic growth. It really depends on what is growing.

Consumption of many materials cannot keep growing. And greenhouse gas emissions need to be halted. But revolutions in energy and food will drive economic growth. And low-income countries need to grow their economies.

Instead of a myopic focus on economic growth, political leaders should instead ask: is the economy optimised for resilience? Is it improving the lives of the majority? Is it perceived as reasonably fair? Does it protect our planet and the wellbeing of future generations? Does it help deliver the prime goal of a state – to keep citizens safe and secure over the long term? Are we measuring and valuing the right things?

Goal Re-define what really matters in economic policies.

Conclusion

The Earth for All project describes how a better future could be achieved for all if humanity acts with wisdom, courage and vision. Endorsed by Pope Francis we may recognise the important role people of faith have in awakening global consciousness and inspiring action towards a just ecological transition.

Briefing taken from the [Earth4All website](#) and resources.

Chris Myers

Diocesan Environment Group