



***Guide to the Healing Earth* Introduction**

Preface

It is important that your students read the *HE* Introduction. There is information here that is fundamental for understanding the method and content covered in *HE*.

We assume that you are taking a look at *HE* because you are seeking a new way to teach environmental science, one that incorporates ethics, spirituality, and action. Or, you may be looking for a new way to teach environmental ethics and you want the discussion to be grounded in science and inclusive of spirituality and action. Or, you may be teaching environmental spirituality or theology and you want to include ethics, action and science in your course planning. Whatever the path that has brought you here, welcome!

HE is a completely unique environmental science textbook. We say that not to begin explaining all its features, but to impress upon you the importance of reading through this guide to the Introduction. The *rationale* behind everything said in the Introduction is given here, along with deeper *explanations* of the basic concepts.

HE presents an *integral ecology*. The creators of *HE* believe an education in integral ecology is vital for our students as they learn about the natural world, as well as the profound environmental challenges we face now and in the years ahead. This is also the approach taken by Pope Francis in his landmark encyclical *Laudato Sí*. We know that some of our teachers in secondary schools, universities, and adult learning groups already use parts of *Laudato Sí* in their presentations, or wish to do so. Throughout this guide to the *HE* Introduction we include [quotes from *Laudato Sí*](#) for those who would to see links between *HE* and the Pope's encyclical.

There are seven parts to this guide to the *HE* Introduction:

Preface

Part 1 Environmental Science and Integral Ecology

A general introduction to *HE*'s major ideas, topics, and themes.

Part 2 Science in *HE*

What science is and how it is presented in *HE*.

Part 3 Ethics in *HE*

The environmental ethic presented in *HE*.

Part 4 Spirituality in *HE*

The approach taken toward spirituality in *HE*.

Part 5 Action in *HE*

Incorporating action into the curriculum.

Part 6 Chapter Structure and Website Features

Each part stands on its own, but it is a good idea to read through each part sequentially.