

Celebrate

# EARTH DAY

## WITH THE 86FSS

# LIBRARIES



*"I think we need more creativity. I think we need more intersectionality. I think we need more diversity celebrated in the climate movement. And so I really think that it's on us and our privilege to really highlight and amplify the creativity of climate solutions that are being presented by some of the most diverse and affected people by climate change. And I also think it's on all of us as diverse people to be leading this climate movement." -- Drag Queen Pattie Gonia (@pattiegonia)*

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Sixth Assessment Report just in time for Earth Day. Held each year on April 22nd, Earth Day is a globally celebrated event focusing on environmental protectionism and activism with over 100 million participants worldwide. Published this February, the IPCC's Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability states:

*"... human influence on the Earth's climate has become unequivocal, increasingly apparent, and widespread, reflected in both the growing scientific literature and in the perception and experiences of people worldwide."*

The IPCC outlined several ways to develop sustainable solutions to climate change issues--particularly through Indigenous knowledge and

climate justice--that positively impact people and the planet; celebrate Earth Day with great materials on these subjects through the 86 FSS Libraries!

While often ignored by western science, Indigenous knowledge of landscapes, resource management, and environmental conditions are vital to developing more cyclical and equitable climate change solutions. The IPCC states that "Indigenous Peoples have been faced with adaptation challenges for centuries and have developed strategies for resilience in changing environments that can enrich and strengthen current and future adaptation efforts."

This Earth Day we should elevate Indigenous and First Nation knowledge and experiences including storytelling--an incredible source for social and ecological systems--as these communities have developed

adaptation efforts across different landscapes and generations. Many governmental and non-governmental organizations are finally collaborating with Indigenous groups to enact more effective climate change solutions; for example, after years of suppressing Native American knowledge of forest and fire management, local governments in the western United States are now partnering with Indigenous communities to learn more from their ancestral expertise of fire management and prescribed burning.

### Learn More with our Online Resources!

**GreenFILE** is an Online research database of scholarly, governmental, and general collections of titles on the impacts of human activities on the environment.

**The National Geographic Virtual Library** is included with your library membership and the complete archive of content is available.

**Gale National Geographic Kids** includes content for children from ages 6-14 and the complete National Geographic Kids magazine archive.

**ScienceFlix** includes science studies with a STEM focus for grades 4-10.

**TrueFlix** includes science, nature, and social studies content for grades 3-5 to increase knowledge and literacy.

### Suggested Books for Kids

- *We are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- *The Star People* by SD Nelson
- *A Day with Yahah* by Nicola I. Campbell
- *Zunia's Rain Forest* by Juana Martinez-Neal
- *One Plastic Bag* by Miranda Paul

### Suggested Books for Adults

- *A Terrible Thing To Waste* by Harriet A. Washington
- *Stuffed and Starved* by Raj Patel
- *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *The Marrow Thieves* by Cherie Dimaline

The impacts of climate change are unequally distributed, disproportionately, and devastatingly affecting marginalized communities at greater levels than the populations contributing the highest amount of greenhouse gas emissions; the IPCC states that climate justice should be at the center of global policy-making to combat this inequity and ensure meaningful change. Vulnerable communities, particularly those with limited socioeconomic access, affected by colonization/ exploitation, and/or are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, LGBTQIA+, and other traditionally disadvantaged groups, disproportionately bear the impacts of international extraction and consumption of natural resources. For coastal communities including the Gullah / Geechee (Sea Islands of the American Southeast) and the Pointe-au-Chien Indian Tribe (present-day Louisiana Gulf Coast), soil erosion, rising sea levels, and loss of subsistence ways of life are present climate change issues currently threatening to destroy their culture and ability to not only survive, but thrive.

*"If you poison the water, you poison the culture, there's no cultural heritage called Gullah/Geechee. We were the richness that poured in our knowledge base, that poured in our spirituality, that poured in our tradition into the foundation of America." -- Queen Quet, Chiefess of Gullah / Geechee Nation*

While individuals act to prevent destructive and uncontrollable wildfires before colonization is important, community and systems-level approaches including diverse perspectives, Indigenous voices, and prioritizing justice can lead to more effective, equitable, and sustainable solutions. This Earth Day, challenge yourself to learn more about the concepts outlined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change! The 86 FSS Libraries have several resources and titles for building your knowledge of climate justice and reading works by Indigenous authors.