

## Milwaukee Public Library Climate Change and Environmentalist Booklist

This booklist is inspired by Milwaukee Public Library's participation in the Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change initiative of the American Library Association (ALA). The booklist features titles to spark consciousness, build climate change knowledge, reflect and think, better understand lived experiences, create action, and uncover untold stories.

# **Adult Fiction**



The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin. The continent of Stillness is on the brink of ruin. Their society is rife with paranoia and fear because some inhabitants can control geological chaos, such as earthquakes, eruptions, and more.



The Overstory by Richard Powers. This environmental fable examines society's relationship with nature and why acting on climate change is so difficult.



Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler. Water shortages in California have led people to do anything necessary to endure. Fifteen-year-old Lauren starts a religion called Earthseed, forms a band of followers, and plans her own sustainable community.



Hummingbird Salamander by Jeff Vandermeer.

Jane Smith receives a list of animals and a key to a storage unit. The sender is an eco-terrorist and Jane is now involved in a global conspiracy.



The Wall by John Lanchester. Every inch of shoreline is defended by a wall that keeps out illegal migrants and rising sea levels. Young guards also patrol, with orders to destroy any approaching boats.

# **Adult NonFiction**



Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance by Nick Estes.

Estes chronicles the history of indigenous people protesting against harmful practices to the environment, including coverage of

the 2016 Dakota Access Pipeline protest at Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.



A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind by Harriet A. Washington. Washington, author of *Medical Apartheid*, reveals the impact of racism and how it contributes to environmental poisoning among minority communities in the U.S.



Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming edited by Paul Hawke. Science leaders and policy makers provide optimistic and strategic plans to combat and reverse the effects of global warming.



Under a White Sky: The Nature of the Future by Elizabeth Kolbert. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Kolbert examines if new technologies are the only answer to repairing the damage that humans have caused to the environment.



What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. Dr. Hanna-Attisha and a team of researchers, community members, and local leaders, expose how governmental indifference, budgetary concerns, and neglect led to the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

### Teens



#### Imaginary Borders by

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez. Ages 12-14. Environmental activist and hip-hop artist, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, tells how he uses his art and activism to make young people aware of the seriousness of climate change and that it cannot be ignored.



How to be a Global Citizen: Be informed. Get involved. Ages 12-14. This practical guide for teens gives the basics about creating a better community, from the local level all the way to worldwide issues.



Global Citizenship: Engage in the Politics of a Changing World by Julie Knutson; illustrated by Traci Van Wagoner. Ages 12-14. Based on the ideas outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals of 2015, teens are encouraged to advocate for

equal rights for people around the world.



Earth Day and the Environmental Movement: Standing Up For Earth by Christy Peterson. Ages 12-14. Learn the history of Earth Day, from its creation to how it has evolved today into a worldwide movement.



The Ones We're Meant to Find by Joan He. Ages 15-18. In this futuristic world, a STEM prodigy is stranded in the last unpolluted city and needs to reconnect with her sister, who has woken up on an abandoned island.

### Children



Reuse This Book edited by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Ages 3-5. This bright and interactive picture book introduces young learners to earth-friendly concepts like

recycling and conservation.



Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to our Planet by April Pulley Sayre. Ages 3-7. Vibrant photographs accompany this heart-felt love letter to earth, giving thanks for all of the beauty

and resources it provides.



We Are Water Protectors by Carole Lindstrom; illustrated by Micaela Goade. Ages 4-8. This Caldecott-winning title follows a young and courageous water protector as she stands up to a

black snake that threatens to poison the communal water supply.



The Leak by Kate Reed Petty; illustrated by Andrea Bell. Ages 9-12. In this graphic novel, an aspiring young journalist uncovers a mysterious slime in the lake near her home and sets out to investigate the cause, no matter the personal cost.



The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba. Ages 9-12. In this adaptation for young readers, Kamkwamba tells his own story of resilience, building a windmill to save his village from a devastating drought.



Kids vs. Plastic: Ditch the Straw and Find the Pollution Solution to Bottles, Bags, and other Single-Use Plastics: How You Can be a Waste Warrior! by Julie Beer. Ages 8-12. Through simple definitions, digestible facts, and practical solutions, kids

will learn how to become "Waste Warriors" on a mission to help the planet.

Ask a librarian at the Milwaukee Public Library in your neighborhood for more reading suggestions!

