

THE MORE YOU KNOW

Recommended Readings for Indigenuity: Air

- ***Look to the mountain: An ecology of indigenous education.*** Cajete, G. (1994). Durango, CO: Kivaki Press
- ***Keepers of the Earth: Native American stories and environmental activities for fir children.*** Caduto, M.J. and Bruchac, J. (1997). Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing,
 - See chapters 3 and 9.
- ***Earth Keeper: reflections on the American Land.*** Momaday, N. Scott (2020). New York: Harper Collins.
- ***Breath: the new science of a lost art.*** Nestor, James. (2020). New York: Riverhead Books.
 - Also, see and listen to: [How The 'Lost Art' Of Breathing Impacts Sleep And Stress : Shots - Health News : NPR](#)
- ***Red Alert: saving the planet with Indigenous knowledge.*** Wildcat, Daniel. (2009). Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing
- Visit [Climate Reality Check](#) for a sobering review of why we must all take our air seriously now.
- [Unlocking our Nation's Wind Potential](#) From the Department of Energy
- [Remember.](#) Joy Harjo. 1951.
- [Sháá Áko Dahjiníleh Remember the Things They Told Us](#) From *Sáanii Dahataa The Women Are Singing* by Luci Tapahonso, University of Arizona Press. 1953.
- [Yuchi Tales.](#) See Story of Wind and Iron.
- [Ethnology of Yuchi Indians.](#) Speck, Frank Gouldsmith, 1881-1950. (Or this [link](#)). See discussion of clan system.

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An Indigenuity: Air exercise: Do a Microclimate Site Evaluation.

Air is one of the ancient areas of knowledge that Indigenous Peoples possess as an experiential awareness of their environment. Location and orientation of our camps, when moving, permanent villages, and even the dwelling we constructed and resided in were all about experiential “deep space” knowledges of place and this included an appreciation for microclimates.

So for those that have a yard or a property (ideally one you are planning to build on), conducting a microclimate evaluation can be a useful and surprising exercise. Climates vary often within small areas (especially where humans have built environments), e.g., we all know the value of shade in the summer. So here is an exercise that might surprise you. How well do you know your yard or an area.

Play around with this tool (see below) developed by the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Program. Although designed for home or yard gardeners, it is a great exercise to adapt and apply to area landscapes where one might be considering construction. Topography, seasonal prevailing winds, ground cover and natural drainage and watershed location, all, should inform what one builds and how one can work with microclimates to reduce one’s carbon footprint and live well.

[Garden Microclimate Site Evaluation Form \(ucanr.edu\)](https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/files/47782.pdf) or
<https://ucanr.edu/sites/MarinMG/files/47782.pdf>

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An Indigenuity: Air exercise: What is your carbon footprint?

Given the stark scenarios (see Climate Reality Check 2020) nearly all scientists suggest we could face shortly if we fail to reduce our global carbon footprint, it is useful to calculate your or your families carbon footprint (see below link). Use this information to ask yourself what changes you could make to reduce your footprint and, more importantly, as a basis to think about the systemic changes we can promote in our local areas, nationally and internationally to promote exercises of ***Indigenuity***.

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>