



Commonweal Reading List: Climate and Environment

The Commonweal Collection holds a diversity of material about environmental activism and the climate crisis, from the 1970s to the present. What can we learn about the movement for climate justice from older texts? How has the way we talk about it changed? What progress have we made towards climate justice, if any?

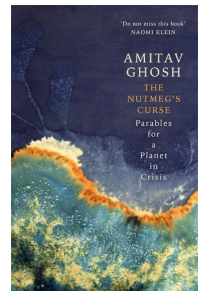
The books listed in our Climate and Environment reading list explore some of these - and many more! - complex questions. We hope the books below will encourage and nurture, but perhaps also provoke and challenge.

We are always welcome to ideas for new materials to add to the Collection - get in touch with us via email: commonwealoutreach@peacemuseum.org.uk. Your suggestions will feature on our website and social media, and also help us to identify gaps in the Collection.

The Nutmeg's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis by Amitav Ghosh

First published in 2021, this book traces global climate injustice to the geopolitical order instilled by Western colonialism. The story of the nutmeg becomes a parable revealing the ways human history has always been entangled with earthly materials - spices, tea, sugarcane, opium, and fossil fuels. Our crisis, Ghosh shows, is ultimately the result of a mechanistic view of the earth, where nature exists only as a resource for humans to use for our own ends, rather than a force of its own, full of agency and meaning.

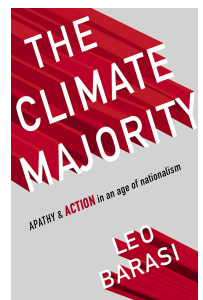
Classification: Qo GHO (Environmental Crisis Critique & Discussion) - check it's available [here](#).



The Climate Majority: Apathy and Action in an age of nationalism by Leo Barasi

Few people still deny that climate change is happening, but few care enough to make a change. This book investigates climate apathy and how to appeal to those disengaged from the issue of climate change to make a change. Only by influencing those who have, so far, remained outside the debate, Barasi argues, will we have a chance of building a climate majority to back the measures required to avoid disaster.

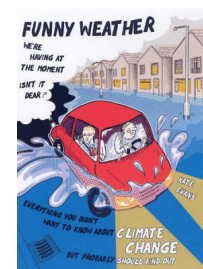
Classification: Qj BAR (Climate Change) - check it's available [here](#).



Funny Weather We're Having At The Moment, Isn't It Dear? By Kate Evans

Subtitled '... everything you didn't want to know about climate change but probably should', this short comic from 2000 explores contemporary climate change statistics in an accessible format. It's interesting/terrifying to look through and see predictions for years that are getting closer and closer...

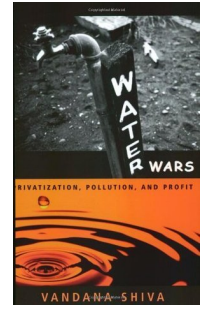
Classification: Qj EVA Pamphlet (category) - check it's available [here](#).



Water Wars: Privatisation, Pollution and Profit by Vandana Shiva

While drought and desertification are intensifying around the world, corporations are aggressively converting free-flowing water into bottled profits. In this book, Shiva outlines the emergence of corporate culture and industrial activities of damming, mining and aquafarming, alongside the historical erosion of communal water rights and disenfranchisement of the world's poor.

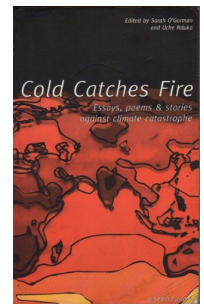
Classification: Qo SHI (Environmental Crisis Critique & Discussion) - check it's available [here](#).



Cold Catches Fire: Essays, poems and stories against the climate catastrophe Edited by Sarah O'Gorman and Uche Nduka

A compendium of thoughts and expressive views on climate change, Cold Catches Fire encapsulates the disastrous effects of an unstable global climate on people.

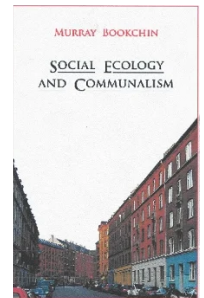
Classification: Qj OGO (Climate Change) - check it's available [here](#).



Social Ecology and Communalism by Murray Bookchin

Pioneer of the theory of social ecology within 20th century leftist movements, Murray Bookchin founded the Institute for Social Ecology. Developing from his earlier works on social ecology - which combined ecological principles with the abolition of social hierarchy and economic inequality - Communalism is a blend of libertarian municipalism and anarchist and Marxist traditions. This book is a selection of essays written by Bookchin towards the end of his life.

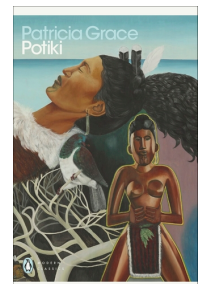
Classification: Qp BOO (Ecological Thought) - check it's available [here](#).



Potiki by Patricia Grace

A prize-winning novel first published in 1986. On the remote coast of New Zealand, at the curve that binds the land and the sea, a small Maori community live, work, fish, play and tell stories of their ancestors. But something is changing: men with dollars and big plans to develop the area for tourism. As their ancestral land becomes threatened, the people must unite in a battle for survival. A moving story of a Maori community's fight for survival, from one of New Zealand's most prominent and celebrated authors.

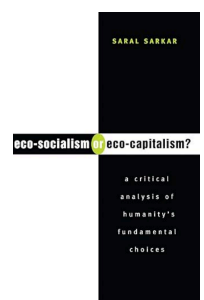
Classification: Cr GRA (Anti-racist Fiction) - check it's available [here](#).



Eco-socialism or Eco-capitalism? By Saral Sarkar

This book explores some of the most important questions facing humanity in the coming generations, treating the environment and social justice as inescapably related questions. Sarkar explores why the soviet model failed, and argues against a "eco-capitalist" economics.

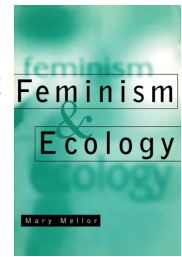
Classification: Qn SAR (Ecological Social Order) - check it's available [here](#).



Feminism and Ecology by Mary Mellor

From 1997, this book provides a comprehensive introduction to ideas within the ecofeminist movement, its history and its relationship to other ecological movements. Mellor argues that the relationship between women and the environment can help us to understand the relationship between humanity and the natural world.

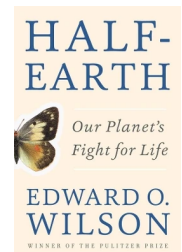
Classification: Qv MEL (Eco-feminism) - check it's available [here](#).



Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life by Edward O. Wilson

Wilson argues that we cannot save human life on Earth through engineering and technology: humans are dependent on every other organism in the biosphere for survival. But we still have time to reclaim biodiversity in half the Earth. Suffused with a profound Darwinian understanding of our planet's fragility, *Half-Earth* reverberates with an urgency, offering an attainable goal that we can strive for on behalf of all life.

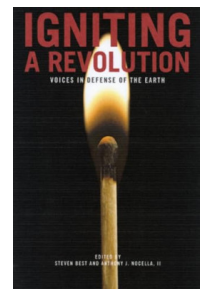
Classification: Qc WIL (Conservation) - check it's available [here](#).



Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of the Earth, edited by Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella II

For decades, environmental groups have been resisting the destructive trends set by industry and government, but as the social and political climate has changed, popular protest movements have become less and less effective. As the earth's situation worsens, those opposing its destruction have out of necessity become increasingly militant. Whether you're drawn by frustration with environmental strategies that, to date, have been ineffective against this growing ecological crisis, or simply by curiosity, *Igniting a Revolution* offers a fascinating and compelling look at the emerging movement of revolutionary environmentalism.

Classification: Qa BES (Eco-action) - check it's available [here](#).



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To find out more, scan the QR code, visit www.commonwealnonviolence.org or email: commonweal@peacemuseum.org.uk

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