



“We don’t own the land, the land owns us.” — Bob Randall, Yankunytjatjara elder

The land is more than the ground we walk on. This newsletter explores different views of the land: those of indigenous peoples, as well as legal forms of land ownership. Some entries present the efforts of government, corporations and private citizens to safeguard the land, as well as the effects of the climate crisis on land use. Finally, we call your attention to the altering of the land by human drivers, and some actions we as individuals can take to preserve, protect, and respect this gift of the land.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND

Aboriginal Bob Randall, a Yankunytjatjara elder, explains the [connectedness of every living thing](#).

What is [climate agriculture](#)? Check out this video for a simple description.

Enjoy the [song](#), *We Belong to the Earth*, by Magpie and Kim and Reggie Harris.

See how the indigenous [White Mesa Community Group](#) protested the commercial dumping of radioactive waste on their land.

Watch a short presentation of different forms of [land ownership among indigenous](#) people in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Read how Pew Charitable Trusts [works worldwide](#) on conservation projects for a changing planet.

[Nygren Wetland Preserve](#): the Story. View these exquisite wetlands, listen to the story, and be captivated by all of the beauty.

NEWS UPDATE

European court rules [human rights were violated](#) due to climate inaction. Case brought to court by Swiss women, mostly in their 70's, who were affected by global warming.

And in the US, Bucks County, Pennsylvania filed [lawsuit accusing fossil fuel companies](#) of carrying out deceptive marketing campaigns similar to those of the tobacco industry.

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE LAND

Balancing food consumption and the sustainability of land is a [critical issue](#) as we approach a population of 10 billion in thirty years.

Learn how [climate change has impacted](#) the length of the growing season, threat of fires, need for weed and pest control, water quality, and health of agricultural workers and livestock.

Climate change adaptation, mitigation, desertification, land degradation and food security are addressed in this [special report](#) on land use and sustainable land management.

The growth, harvest and quality of [grapes](#) have been affected by climate change and now threatens the production of many popular wine making grapes.

Human activities have been the major driver for climate change. View how [extreme heat affects](#) the land and everything on our earth.

The climate crisis is increasingly linked to [conflict and human displacement](#). Read where the UN Refugee Agency is taking action to mitigate the crisis.

Are [floating cities](#) the answer to climate change’s effects on land? See how these cities may be an answer to overcrowding and survival.

Climate change could affect [global](#) agriculture within ten years according to NASA. See which crops are affected.

Dr. Jane Zelikova, a climate change scientist, tells us that we can help our planet by looking down at the soil beneath us. [Carbon-rich soil](#) can help us mitigate climate change.

The climate crisis has [affected plants and changed animal behaviors](#) in many ways. Read how plants and animals have adapted to climate change.

WHAT CAN YOU DO PERSONALLY?

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. [Human composting](#) is now the ultimate and most environmentally-conscious alternative to conventional burial and cremation.

What you eat can have a notable impact on your carbon footprint. Learn which [protein sources](#) are the most climate friendly and why.

If you haven't already heard about Doug Tallamy's idea of the [Homegrown National Park](#), here's a video worth watching. Whether you have a yard or just a pot on your patio, you can be part of the movement.

If you own property, you can improve it by removing invasive species and planting native ones. Here's a list of [plants to replace invasives](#). Though the list is for Connecticut, it also works for other northeastern states.

You don't need to wait for an organization or special day to help [clean up litter](#). Take a litter bag with you when you walk the dog or yourself. Invite others to join you and help make your neighborhood a cleaner place. Others may be motivated by your actions.

Reflections of a Composter

By Maureen Shanley

Why I compost I just wanted to leave a smaller footprint on this earth. Approximately 20% to 35% of your weekly garbage could be composted to make rich new earth. All those kitchen veggie scraps make fertile soil that can be used to grow flowers or more veggies!

In Connecticut, I had a patch of land where we piled all the fall leaves. I would simply dump my veggie scraps and then drag up some of the leaves to cover them. Granted, not all of the scraps turned into compost because I am sure that I was feeding many critters who considered this pile their "dinner table". Personally, as long as the veggie scraps were not going to the garbage dump, I was happy.

In Florida, I had to change my leisurely way of composting. I bought a container that I can keep on my kitchen counter. This container has a charcoal filter that prevents the funky smell that comes from veggies as they start to break down. I did not have the land where I could dump my veggie scraps because I did not want to invite roof rats, alligators, or other night creatures to dine close to my living space.

Also, I bought a rotating composting bin that is on a stand. I was careful to place it over dirt so that when liquids came out of the composting container, it would leak into the earth. Because the container rotates, I can put the composting materials into the octagonal container and turn it at the same time. However, since the composting materials were no longer on the ground, I added worms that I ordered from Amazon. I made the decision to no longer add eggshells because it simply takes too long for them to break down, and I did not like seeing those white pieces of eggshell when I used it with my flower pots.

The [EPA has a website](#) that will answer most of your questions. There are YouTube videos [here](#) and [here](#) that show you how to create and maintain compost piles.

Now you too can leave a lighter footprint on our earth. Enjoy flowers and veggies that will love your dark, rich, new earth!!!!



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