

Let's pause for a moment to contemplate an Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples. We have to start with honesty. Land acknowledgment is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgment is a way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live.

The Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgement:

We invite you to recognize the written histories of the United States, specifically Midwestern States as fractured. Let us acknowledge then that we are currently on the land of the Indigenous who continue to be systematically erased by policies and practices that remove their histories from this place. Let us honor the enslaved people who built the wealth and foundation of the United States.

Let us recognize the histories of the United States as complicit with the racism of white supremacy. We recognize that these difficult histories persist in present-day racial realities and privileges within our movement of Building Decarbonization. We commit to dismantling racism in the spaces where we work. We invite you to work beside us to create change.

Please understand that our intentions are not to participate in Gaslighting Pedagogy and or a practice to relieve the guilt of colonizers and or white supremacy culture. Our intentions are to work towards giving LandBack and fighting for Reparations.

Adapted from: [James Madison University - Indigenous Land and Enslaved Peoples Acknowledgement \(jmu.edu\)](https://www.jmu.edu/indigenous/land-acknowledgement)