

books

Kick the habit: A UN guide to Climate Neutrality



This new UNEP book — launched on World Environment Day — shows how various levels of society can work towards climate neutrality. Written and reviewed by experts from many disciplines and various countries, the book is aimed at a broad audience, with solutions for individuals, small and large businesses, NGOs, international organizations, cities and countries. With case studies, illustrations, maps and graphics the book is intended as a valuable reference

publication and entry point for anyone wanting to find out more about going climate neutral. A web version of the book will be launched following the print publication, helping to make this guide easily accessible as well as climate neutral.

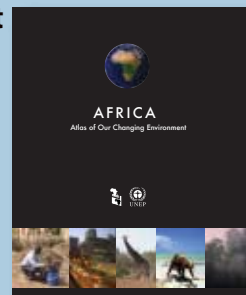
Ting and the possible futures

This children's book, released for World Environment Day, brings to life the frightening but real possibilities of an out-of-control climate crisis — and the positive and achievable steps we can all take to save our climate. Ting and her friends travel to two different futures using a time machine. The first future Ting explores is one of drought, submerged coastal cities, and refugee shantytowns. In the second possible future, Ting sees a huge change in attitude as well as landscape because people acted in time and averted the worst effects of climate change. Ting sees creative sources of energy, the power of planting trees and urban gardens, and a transport system that relies on trains, trams, bikes, and walking.



Africa: Atlas of our changing environment

This 350-page atlas chronicles the dramatic environmental change taking place in each of Africa's 53 countries. Through a combination of ground photographs, current and historical satellite images, and narrative based on extensive scientific evidence, it illustrates the ways in which human activities impact Africa's environment. Side-by-side displays of before-and-after satellite images show at a single glance the changes wrought over time — including forest loss, urban growth, shrinking lakes and receding glaciers. The Atlas documents the changes and their causes to communicate the urgency of addressing them to policy makers and the general public.



Green breakthroughs

This booklet, distributed to Ministers and senior officials at UNEP's Governing Council in February 2008, describes effective policies and laws that have been used to solve environmental problems. Regional and country success stories from around the world include energy and climate change solutions, the management of various kinds of wastes, the preservation and restoration of ecosystems, and the sustainable use of biodiversity and fisheries. The book shows how innovative policies and laws can reduce damage, increase efficiency and sustainability, and ensure environmental, social and financial benefits.

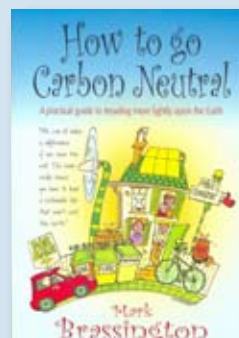


How to Go Carbon Neutral: A Practical Guide to Treading More Lightly upon the Earth

Mark Brassington (Oxford: How To Books, May 2008)

This book offers instructions on how to change your lifestyle to become more carbon neutral, based on the principle that every step matters

— from low-energy light bulbs to electric cars and a 50KW wind turbine. The author has doggedly set about trying to make his own house carbon neutral, searching through many sources, including books and websites. Having tried a variety of approaches, including the more unusual ones such as putting vegetable oil in his car, and he uses this broad knowledge as the basis for the advice in his book. The chapters include sections on heating, electricity, water, transport, food and shopping.

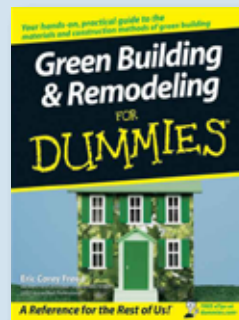


Green Building & Remodeling For Dummies

Eric Corey Freed (For Dummies, December 2007)

This recent addition to the 'For Dummies' series is a step-by-step guide to green building techniques.

Over its 361 pages, the book introduces every facet of green building and renovating, from selecting materials to reducing energy and water use. It includes sections on the lifecycle of building materials, choosing green building methods and sustainable systems, as well as information on asbestos and lead-paint hazards and on how to avoid costly mistakes. Finally, it lists 10 green things to do on every construction project and 10 things you can do right away in your home in order to go green. To quote the book's back cover, this is "The fun and easy way to plan and build your dream green home".



Sustaining Life: How Human Health Depends on Biodiversity

Eric Chivian and Aaron Bernstein (Oxford University Press, June 2008)

The Earth's biodiversity is disappearing at an alarming rate. While many books have focused on the expected ecological or economic consequences of this loss, Sustaining Life is the first to examine the full range of potential threats that diminishing biodiversity poses to human health. Edited and written by two Harvard Medical School physicians, with contributions and reviews by more than 100 leading scientists, the book presents a sobering view of how human medicines, biomedical research, the emergence and spread of infectious diseases, and the production of food, both on land and in the oceans, depend on biodiversity. Sustaining Life was supported by UNEP, the World Conservation Union, the UN Development Programme and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

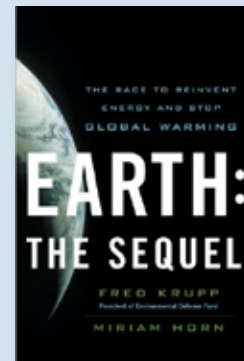


Earth: The Sequel: The Race to Reinvent Energy and Stop Global Warming

Fred Krupp, Miriam Horn (W. W. Norton, March 2008)

Fred Krupp, the President of the Environmental Defense Fund, and journalist Miriam Horn, explore breakthroughs

in solar, wind and biomass technologies in the fight against climate change. The book offers a business-centred prescription for alleviating climate change, coupling the market force of capitalism with technological innovation and entrepreneurial inventiveness. The authors argue in favour of strict federal carbon caps, which would induce innovators to explore new ways to control carbon dioxide emissions. The book notes the global and historical successes of cap and trade mechanisms, such as the Clean Air Act of 1990 — designed specifically to control sulphur dioxide (which causes acid rain), the Clean Air Act cut emissions 30 per cent more than the law required by providing coal plant operators with a financial incentive to modernize. The book balances science with profiles of individuals who are blending business and science in an attempt to save the planet.



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