

Reading and Resources to Address Climate Change and Support Environmental Stewardship

Books – many of these are available through the Vancouver Island Regional Library
<http://ipac.virl.bc.ca> *indicates a recent item added to this resource list

Global Warming Science and Solutions

Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse *by David W. Orr, 2009, *connects rigorous science to the public policy solutions needed to avert climate collapse*

The Big Picture - reflections on science, humanity and a quickly changing planet *by David Suzuki and Dave Robert Taylor, 2009

Now or Never *by Tim Flannery, 2009 *Australian conservation biologist's essays and conversations on sustainability with a environmental, business and political leaders (author of The Weather Makers, 2005)*

The Vanishing Face of Gaia: A Final Warning *by James Lovelock, 2009 (author of The Gaia Hypothesis and The Revenge of Gaia: Earth's Climate Crisis and the Fate of Humanity, 2006)

Keeping Our Cool: Canada in a Warming World by Andrew Weaver, 2008 *UVic's Andrew Weaver, a leading climate scientist and author for the Nobel prize-winning IPCC, clearly explains the science and the action required of Canada's government to protect our children's future*

Global Fever: How to Treat Climate Change by William H Calvin, 2008

Earth: the Sequel – the race to reinvent energy and stop global warming by Fred Krupp and Miriam Horn, 2008 - *focus on how cap and trade is key to making the shift to non-carbon based energy*

The Hot Topic: What We Can Do About Global Warming by Gabrielle Walker and Sir David King, 2008 *David King teaches chemistry and environmental studies at Cambridge and Oxford and was chief science advisor in the UK until 2007. Section on climate myths and misconceptions is useful for discussions with global warming skeptics.*

Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization by Lester R. Brown, 2008 (also author of Plan B2.0: Rescuing a Planet under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble) *American author, President of the Earth Policy Institute; international focus*

Six Degrees: Our Future on a Hotter Planet by Mark Lynas, 2008 *provides a picture of global and local changes that can be expected relative to different CO₂e concentrations and degrees of warming*

Hot Air: Meeting Canada's Climate Change Challenge by Jeffrey Simpson, Mark Jaccard and Nic Rivers, 2007. *on the potential of carbon taxes and cap and trade to limit emissions*

How We Can Save the Planet: Preventing Global Climate Catastrophe by Mayer Hillman, Tina Fawcett and Sudhir Chella Rajan, 2007, *gives a clear explanation of Contraction and Convergence; addresses the impact of the Airline Industry; Was titled The Suicidal Planet in hardcover.*

The Last Generation: How Nature will Take Revenge for Man Made Climate Change by Fred Pearce, 2007 *very current information on the science of climate change, and not as depressing as it sounds (also author of When the Rivers Run Dry)*

Heat: How to Stop the Planet from Warming by George Monbiot, 2006 (updated Canadian preface 2007) *Oxford professor and journalist Monbiot's book is still one of the most relevant – if you don't have time to read broadly, read this book*

Urban Meltdown: Cities, Climate Change and Politics as Usual by Clive Doucet, 2007 *Canadian*

An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore, 2006 *very visual, like the movie*

Climate Crash by John D. Cox, 2005

The Sustainability Revolution: Portrait of a Paradigm Shift by Andres R. Edwards, 2005

Hard Choices – Climate Change in Canada by Harold G. Coward, Andrew John Weaver, 2004

Stormy Weather by Guy Dauncey, 2001

Storm Warning: Gambling with the Climate of Our Planet by Lydia Dotto, 1999 – *Canadian science writer provides the basis and inspiration for the film The Great Warming*

Greenhouse – The 200-Year Story of Global Warming by Gale E. Christianson, 1999

Politics and Global Political Implications – including Censorship and the Denial Industry

Climate Cover-up: The Crusade to Deny Global Warming *by James L. Hoggan, 2009

Why Your World is about to Get a Whole Lot Smaller, Oil and the End of Globalization *by Jeff Rubin, 2009

Climate Wars by Gwynne Dyer, 2008 – *a geopolitical analysis of the implications for increased instability in the face of climate change*

Intent for a Nation: What is Canada for? by Michael Byers, 2008 - *especially read Chapter 6: Climate Change: Our Greatest Challenge and Chapter 10: Global Citizenship*

Censoring Science: Inside the Political Attack on Dr. James Hansen and the Truth of Global Warming by Mark Bowen, 2008 *relevant to Canada as the Harper government has put similar constraints on climate scientists at Environment Canada*

Boiling Point: how politicians, big oil and coal, journalists and activists are fueling the climate crisis and what we can do to avert disaster by Ross Gelbspan, 2005 (also author of The Heat is On, 1998)

War, Big Oil and the Fight for the Planet: It's the Crude Dude by Linda McQuaig, 2004

The Tar Sands – a problem big enough for a category all its own

Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent *by Peter Nikiforuk, 2008, *winner of the W.O Mitchell Book Prize and the Rachel Carson Environment Book Award*

Tar Sands Showdown: Canada and the New Politics of Oil in an Age of Climate Change *by Tony Clarke, 2008

Stupid to the Last Drop: How Alberta is Bringing Environmental Armageddon to Canada (and doesn't seem to care) by William Marsden, 2007 *Investigative journalist Marsden went to Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan and the Athabasca river valley to research the Tar Sands, site of Canada greatest GHG emissions. Not as outrageous as the title sounds..*

Stories about Communities Affected by Climate Change – Getting Personal

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change by Elizabeth Kolbert, 2006

The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas and the Coming Death of America's Costal Cities by Mike Tidewell, 2005

High Tide: The Truth about Our Climate Crisis by Mark Lynas, 2004

2030: Confronting Thermageddon in Our Lifetime by Robert Hunter, 2002, *Hunter, a long-time Greenpeace activist, gives his personal perspective*

Nature, Biodiversity, Extinction and Climate

Heatstroke, Nature in an Age of Global Warming *by Anthony D. Barnosky, 2009, *Paleoecologist Barnosky addresses how global warming is changing the natural world; why species loss is accelerating*

Under a Green Sky: global warming, the mass extinctions of the past and what they can tell us about our future by Peter D Ward, 2007 *Paleobiologist, Ward connects the sciences of paleontology, biology and climatology*

Historical and Anthropological Perspectives –Learning from the Past

Peak Everything: Waking Up to the Century of Decline by Richard Heinberg, 2008, *essays on human history and culture as influenced by agriculture, the industrial revolution, etc. and what it will take to wean human society from fossil fuel dependence*

Fixing Climate: What Past Climate Changes Reveal about the Current Threat – and How to Counter It by Wallace S. Broecker and Robert Kunzig, 2008 *Paleo-climatologist Broecker, like Hansen, is one of the world's great climate scientists, and with science writer Kunzig, a great storyteller*

The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations by Brian Fagan, 2008

The Winds of Change: Climate, Weather and the Destruction of Civilizations by Eugene Linden, 2006

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed by Jared M. Diamond, 2005

A Short History of Progress by Ronald Wright, 2004 *Massey lecture by BC historian*

Spiritual and Ethical Perspectives

Coming Back to Life – practices to reconnect our lives, our world *by Joanna Macy and Molly Young Brown, 1998 *the work of this Buddhist philosopher, deep ecologist, systems thinker and social activist is as relevant today as ever..*

Experiencing Ecological Christianity by Tim Scorer with Bruce Sanguin, 2008, *a 9 session workbook for groups, comes with DVD and a copy of Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos*

Darwin, Divinity and the Dance of the Cosmos: and ecological Christianity by Bruce Sanguin, 2007 *author is Minister at Memorial United Church and Centre for Peace in Vancouver*

Inspiring Progress: Religion's Contributions to Sustainable Development by Gary T. Gardner, 2006

The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth by E.O Wilson, 2006

Solidarity with Victims of Climate Change, World Council of Churches Publications, 2002
UCRD #800 001 098

Climate Change and the Quest for Sustainable Societies, World Council of Churches Publications, 2002 UCRD #400 000 056

Spiritual Values for Earth Community, by David Hallman, WCC Publications, 2000

The Great Work: Our Way into the Future, by Thomas Berry, 1999

The End of Nature by Bill McKibben, 1997 *first book for a general audience on Global Warming* (author of The Comforting Whirlwind: God, Job and the Scale of Creation)

The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering our place in nature, by David Suzuki, 1997

Quantum Theology by Diarmuid O'Murchu, 1996

Climate Change: Five Years after Kyoto, Velma I. Grover, editor

Ethics and Climate Change: the Greenhouse Effect, by Harold G. Coward, et. al., 1994

Food, Water and Sustainability

In Defense of Food by Michael Pollen, 2008 <http://www.michaelpollan.com/>

Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver, 2007

Blue Covenant: the global water crisis and the fight for the right to water by Maude Barlow, 2007

The 100 – Mile Diet – A Year of Local Eating by Alisa Smith and J.B. MacKinnon, 2007

Slow Food Nation: Why our food should be good, clean and fair by Carlo Petrini, 2007

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollan, 2006

Harvest for Hope: a Guide to Mindful Eating by Jane Goodall, 2005

Eat Here: Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket by Brian Halweil, 2004

Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet by Frances Moore Lappe and Anna Lappe, 2003

Blue Gold: the Battle Against Corporate Theft of the World's Water by Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke, 2002

Speaking Out, Taking Action, Creating Change

The Necessary Revolution: How Individuals and Organizations Are Working Together to Create a Sustainable World by Peter Senge et al, 2008 (also author of Presence) *describes some surprising collaborations between activists, NGOs and corporations to bring about major shifts to sustainability*

Fight Global Warming Now: The Handbook for Taking Action in Your Community by Bill McKibben, 2007 *US focus*

Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being and Why No One Saw it Coming by Paul Hawken, 2007

The Solution is You – An Activists Guide by Laurie David, 2006

Carry Tiger to Mountain: The Tao of Activism and Leadership by Stephen Legault, 2006 *Victoria Author*

Presence: the Exploration of Profound Change in People, Organizations and Society by Peter Senge et al, 2005

Don't Think of an Elephant: Know your Values and Frame the Debate by George Lakoff, 2004

Individual, Family and Community-based Solutions

Plan C: Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change by Pat Murphy, 2008

David Suzuki's Green Guide by David Suzuki and David R. Boyd, 2008

The Greenpeace Green Living Guide edited by Amy Katz, 2007

The Carbon Buster's Home Energy Handbook – Slowing Climate Change and Saving Money by Godo Stoyke, 2007

The Global Warming Survival Handbook: 77 Essential Skills to Stop Climate Change or Live Through It by David De Rothschild, 2007 *Illustrated, accessible and, if the enormity of climate change is getting to you ,there's humour here..*

In Praise of Slow: How a Worldwide Movement is Changing the Cult of Speed by Carl Honore, 2004

Smart Power – An urban guide to renewable energy and efficiency by William H. Kemp, 2004

The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices by Sarah James and Torbjorn Lahti, 2004

Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth by Mathis Wackernagel & William Rees, 1996

The Greening Congregations Handbook available from www.earthministry.org

Fiction (*where the basic premise is based on sound science*):

Forty Signs of Rain, Fifty Degrees Below Zero, and Sixty Days and Counting (2007) by Kim Stanley Robinson *near future science fiction with a Buddhist twist..*

Hotter than Hell by Mark Tushingham, *the Environment Canada climatologist the government tried to silence; perhaps good science - but not great literature*

Films

The Age of Stupid – www.ageofstupid.net , *2009, award-winning documentary from McLibel director, Fanny Armstrong

An Inconvenient Truth - Participant Films, 2006 – Al Gore's documentary on climate change www.climatecrisis.net

The Great Warming – Stonehaven Productions, 2006, Canadian documentary on climate change www.thegreatwarming.com *has more on solutions than Gore's movie*

The Refugees of the Blue Planet, NFB, 2006, Canadian documentary - environmental and climate change refugee from the small island states like the Maldives to Alberta's environmental evacuees.

The 11th Hour, Warner Bros, 2008, Leonardo DiCaprio's documentary *focus on commentary from scientists and world renowned thinkers and leaders*

Web Resources

<http://www.ipcc.ch/> site with UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports

<http://www.ghf-geneva.org/> *Global Humanitarian Forum headed by former UN Secretary General Kofi Anan

<http://wri.org/climate> World Resources Institute think tank working to reverse degradation of ecosystems and protect the global climate system

www.earthpolicy.org non-profit environmental research with a focus on climate

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/solutions/ Union of Concerned Scientists

<http://www.justearth.net/declaration/index.aspx> Canadian climate justice coalition that came out of the 2006 congress of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association

for Churches – ecumenical support for action on social justice and sustainability

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/ecology/climateChange/> - KAIROS – has action section and new climate change initiative at <http://www.re-energize.org/>

<http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/ecology.html> - World Council of Churches - justice statement on climate change at <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/cop6-e.html>

www.earthministry.org – Greening Congregation Handbook and other resources

www.eco-justice.org sponsoring youth environmental justice camp May 2007 in Victoria (see www.justicecamp.org)

<http://www.united-church.ca/ecology/climate/> United Church action on climate change

<http://www.greeningspirit.ca/> BC and Yukon Anglican Environmental Action

<http://www.coejl.org/index.php> Jewish Climate Stewardship group

<http://www.webofcreation.org> eco-justice focus; connections for theology students interested in environmental ministry

Social and Political Activism

www.350.org *connects the science (350ppm of CO2 as the upper limit that will stabilize climate to support biodiversity and human life) with activism to engage the world's leaders in coming to an ambitious, fair, binding, science-based international climate treaty

<http://tcktcktck.org/> *coalition of NGOs organizing for climate justice

<http://www.greenpeace.org/canada/en/campaigns/climate-and-energy> - Greenpeace's Canadian climate campaign, support for non-violent direct action in the Tar Sands, alternate gift giving

<http://www.dogwoodinitiative.org/> - BC environmental, aboriginal, labour, citizen's coalition working on local and provincial environment and climate change issues

http://www.naturecanada.ca/climate_change.asp - conservation, climate action

<http://www.nature.org/> conservation, climate action, alternate gift giving

<http://www.conservancy.bc.ca/index.asp?section=home> BC Land Conservancy, alternative gifts

<http://www.sierraclub.ca/bc/programs/climate/index.shtml> - BC info and focus on action

http://www.davidsuzuki.org/Climate_Change/ - info, action, The Nature Challenge

<http://www.wwf.ca/AboutWWF/WhatWeDo/ConservationPrograms/GlobalWarming.asp> - World Wildlife Fund climate change campaign, alternate gift giving

<http://www.climatenetwork.org> A worldwide network of NGOs working to promote government and individual action

<http://www.ecojustice.ca/> Non-profit legal advocacy to strengthen & enforce environmental laws

<http://www.wcel.org/> West Coast Environmental Law – legal advocacy with west coast focus

www.janegoodall.org – The Jane Goodall Institute works with youth, promotes sustainable livelihoods and citizen activism

<http://islandsfirst.org/index.htm> assisting Small Island States confront the threats of climate change

Local Government Initiatives

<http://www.12things.ca/12things/index.php> Sustainable Cowichan, CVRD Environment Commission

Local and Organic Food – Food Security

www.spud.ca - Organic box delivery on Vancouver Island – local produce, some alternative fuel delivery vehicles, carbon offsets included, no Super-Store-style open freezers

<http://100milediet.org/home/> support local eating, food growing

www.slowfood.com good food - environmental agriculture, biodiversity, fair trade context

www.chefscollaborative.org promotes sustainably raised, locally grown, artisan food

www.mbayaq.org – Monterey Bay Aquarium – promotes conservation of the oceans – issues Seafood Watch cards identifying endangered fish and recommending environmentally friendly seafoods.

<http://www.wfp.org/aboutwfp/introduction/hunger> World Food Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations,

<http://www.foodgrainsbank.ca/global/security> Canadian Food Grains Bank

McMichael, AJ, et. al, *Food, livestock production, energy, climate change and health*, The Lancet, DOI:10.1016/S0140-6736 (07)61256-2 (Series – energy and health) <http://www.thelancet.com>

Water

www.blueplanetproject.net – an international project to protect the world's fresh water

Local Composting and Recycling

<http://www.cvrld.bc.ca/html/pdf/ESNew/BurningFactSht2.pdf> Cowichan Valley info on composting and alternatives to open burning

www.frogfile.com Source of 100% post consumer recycled paper and other environmentally friendly office supplies

Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy

www.citygreen.ca - Canadian/ BC home energy audits and rebate program

<http://www.bchydro.com/business/gpcerts/gpcerts22520.html> - buying green power certificates

<http://www.energyalternatives.ca/default.asp> - Victoria-based –solar, wind, small hydro, batteries, etc.

http://www.pembina.org/wind/wind_power_20000.php - certificates for wind powered computers

Travel and Offsets *offset GHGs for flights; even better - walk, bike, or take the bus or train whenever possible...*

www.nativeenergy.com – Native Energy offsets meet the international “gold standard”, focus on renewable energy, Native American owned and operated.

<http://www.offsetters.ca/> - Canadian non-profit carbon offsets for air and other travel – West Jet tickets pays partial offsets for travel on West Jet when you enter the promotion code “offsetters” on the West Jet website.

Taking Action in Our Own Lives and in Our Communities

Thinking about Climate Change and the problems that come with human-induced global warming can feel pretty overwhelming – so what can we do right now?

Eat sustainably

- Eat local foods, support local farmers (Eating a NZ apple in BC creates 50X the CO₂ emissions than eating a BC or Washington State apple)
- grow a vegetable garden, plant fruit trees, compost and collect rainwater
- Eat organic (non-organic agriculture is more fossil fuel intensive; organic coffee is grown in intact forests, regular coffee is not)
- Eat less meat (raising meat requires more deforestation and fossil fuel than growing food for a vegetarian diet – even one meat free day a week makes a difference)
- Carry a cloth shopping bag with you wherever you go

Conserve Energy and Water

- Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs -use ¼ the electricity of incandescent
- Book a home energy audit (rebates may be available for many CO₂ reducing changes)
- Use energy efficient appliances & use them outside of peak power times when possible – fossil fuels are used to generate extra power capacity to meet peak demand
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows; ensure adequate insulation
- Turn your thermostat down by a degree, install a programmable thermostat
- Don't leave appliances on “stand-by” – use a power bar to turn off computers, TVs, DVDs, e
- Use low-flow showerheads and low-flush toilets
- Turn down your hot water heater to 51 degrees or install a solar hot water system
- Hang laundry out to dry when the sun shines
- Don't use herbicides, pesticide or chemical fertilizers (they are fossil fuel intensive);
- Don't water lawns (on the coast our summer is the lawn's dormant season)

Transportation

- Take public transportation, walk or bicycle whenever possible
- Drive the smallest, most energy efficient vehicle you can
- Plan errands and activities for efficient vehicle use; multi-task and carpool
- Vacation close to home
- Buy carbon off-sets when you must fly and look for creative alternatives

Gift giving

- Ask ourselves and our families – do we really need more stuff?
- Give alternative gifts through environmental, conservation and peace & social justice organizations

Investing

- Work with an investment advisor who specializes in socially responsible investing (make sure you are not personally invested in the Tar Sands!)

Taking individual political action – speaking up

- Write to the local paper; write federal, provincial and local politicians – commit to a letter a month on climate change – advocate for serious public policy that limits GHG emissions
- If you don't like to write, send the letters prepared by environmental groups available on their website
- Attend public meetings, protests and events; support organizations working on the issue

In Our Community - How can we support each other and act together

- Educate ourselves –read, discussion, watch films together
- Include environmental stewardship in our prayers and worship
- Commit to a carbon Sabbath
- Have a congregation-wide one-tonne challenge
- Consider and speak up about environmental & climate change impacts around the world in our peace and social justice work
- Do energy audits and improve the efficiency of our public buildings
- Put green procurement policies and composting and recycling systems in place in our workplaces, churches and community organizations
- Car pool to events together
- Plant a community garden
- Make our events carbon-neutral
- Shift to web-based and phone meetings instead of flying
- Engage community /political leaders about planning for sustainability
- **Advocate collectively** - community events, letter-writing campaigns, etc. – for:
 - improved public transportation,
 - bike paths,
 - improved vehicle emission standards,
 - better building codes,
 - preservation of forests and other natural ecosystems,
 - less investment in road and airport expansion and more investment in trains, bus systems and shipping by sea,
 - regulation limiting industrial and other greenhouse gas emissions,
 - instituting well regulated cap and trade and carbon tax systems,
 - serious action on an integrated national system to regulate and reduce emissions, and an international agreement with binding emissions caps, leading to equitable global emissions reductions, such as through Contraction and Convergence, and climate stability.....