

Going Green: An Earth Day Bibliography

On April 22, 1970 the first Earth Day, millions of Americans mobilized to draw attention to a looming environmental crisis brought about by toxins and pollution. Forty-two years later, Earth Day has become a national day of awareness, but the environmental crisis still looms, focused now on climate change. Now is a great time to take a look at the resources in your public, school, classroom or home libraries to make sure they are up to date. *SB&F* has put together a list of our top environmental books to help the consumer make informed, eco-friendly choices and to encourage children to take an active role in saving the environment.

Books for Children

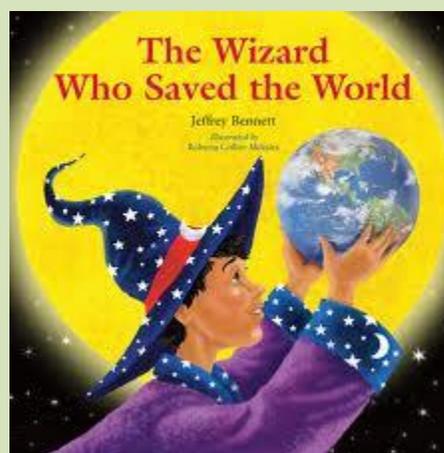
Barnham, Kay. *Protect Nature*. (Illus.; from the Environment Action! Series.) NY: Crabtree, 2008. 32pp. \$22.60. 2007029998. ISBN 978-0-7787-3658-5. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

Recycle. 2007030000. ISBN 978-0-7787-3659-2.

Save Energy. 2007030001. ISBN 978-0-7787-3660-8.

Save Water. 2007030002. ISBN 978-0-7787-3661-5.

The Environment Action! series is a welcome addition to the shelves of any kindergarten-third-grade school library or local community library. The series exposes young children to concepts that can truly make a difference in their lives and the greater world around them. The books are in a hard-cover format, are written at a young reader's level, and have plenty of colorful, relevant, and interesting glossy color photographs. Each title is full of ideas that children and students can use to minimize their impact on the environment, make environmentally responsible choices, and raise awareness of global environmental issues.



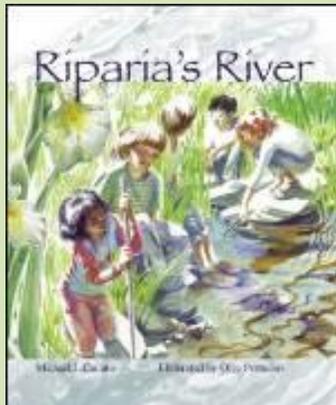
Bennet, Jeffrey. *The Wizard Who Saved the World* (Illus. by Roberta Collier-Morales.) Boulder, CO Big Kid Science 2012. 32pp. \$15.00. ISBN 9780972181945.

The Wizard Who Saved the World is an interesting blend of illustrations, fiction, and non-fiction. The story is centered on Diego – a boy who imagines he becomes a wizard in order to save the world. Although there are many problems in the world, Diego decides to focus on the one he sees as most pressing global warming. The fiction writing does a great job seeing the world through a child's eyes and would be appropriate to read to ages 6 and up. The non-fiction segments are side-bars on most of the pages. These side-bars go into detail about the subjects

mentioned in the fictional text and are very well written and explained. The book attempts to instill a larger sense of purpose and dispel selfishness. The author reiterates that we are part of a much larger picture; although we are fortunate for what we have on this planet, we should take better care of what we have.

Burgan, Michael, with Peter H. Gleick, consultant. *Not a Drop to Drink: Water for a Thirsty World.* (Illus.; from the National Geographic Investigates Series.) National Geographic Society, 2008. 64pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978-1-4263-0360-9. Glossary; Index.

This is one of the best children's books on water that is available. There are six major chapters each focusing on a separate component of water, and each 5 - 6 pages long. Each chapter covers an essential aspect of water, such as the water cycle, oceanic warming cycles, greenhouse gases, drought, disappearing glaciers, and declining water supplies. Each chapter includes the research work of one or more scientists focusing on specific issues covered in that chapter. Dr. Peter Gleick, a widely recognized scientist working on water issues and global warming, served as the scientific consultant. The illustrations live up to the standards one expects in a National Geographic publication.



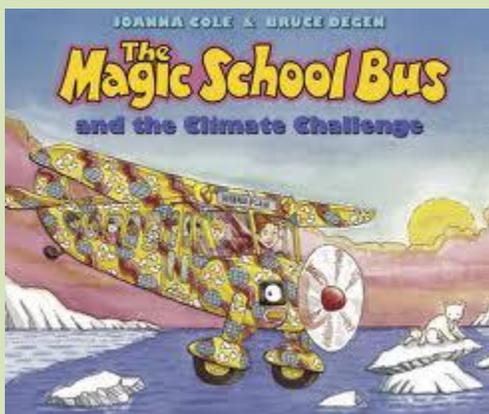
Caduto, Michael. *Riparia's River.* (Illus. by Olga Pastuchiv.) Gardiner, ME Tilbury House 2011. 32pp. \$16.95. 2010047971. ISBN 9780884483274. C. I.P.

This book begins with four children jumping into a river for a swim, only to be deterred by a foul smelling slime they find in the water. They decide to go upstream to see if they can discover where the slime is coming from. As they walk along the riverbank they meet Riparia, a woman whose name means “of the riverbank” and who leads them upriver and tells them about the many living things found in its waters. As they make their way they encounter eroded riverbanks and fields of corn planted all the way to the water's edge. Further along they also find cows grazing in the river. Riparia explains how the cow waste and fertilized soil that washes into the river have caused the algae to overgrow, thus leading to the foul smelling slime in their swimming hole. Eventually, the children devise a plan to create a buffer along the riverbank to help restore the clean water in their swimming hole. An interesting aspect of this book is that the story encourages stewardship of the environment while recognizing that practical solutions need to take into account the needs of all stakeholders, and the polluters, in this case local farmers, are not depicted as villains.

Cherry, Lynne, and Gary Braasch. *How We Know What We Know About Our Changing Climate: Scientists and Kids Explore Global Warming.* (Illus; A Sharing Nature with Children Book.) Nevada City, CA: Dawn, 2008. 66pp. \$17.95. ISBN 978-1-58469-103-7

Teachers and parents will find that this book accurately presents the evidence for global warming. Equally compelling and pervasive,

though, is the message that scientists do interesting and important work and that all kids can be scientists. Each beautiful two-page spread includes a photograph of the scientist(s) at work, presented alongside a very readable summary of their work. The science is diverse: birds, butterflies, tree rings, tree budding, penguins, polar bears, ocean currents, ice caps, glaciers, sea levels, carbon dioxide concentrations, ocean sediment, etc. The tone is persistently one of enablement. The focus is not doom and gloom, but rather a call to action that goes way beyond just compact fluorescents to true community involvement.



Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge.* (Illus. by Bruce Degen; from the Magic School Bus Series.) NY Scholastic 2010. 39pp. \$16.99. ISBN 9780590108263.

In this excellent book, Ms. Frizzle and her class, known to many children from earlier Magic School Bus volumes, explore climate change. The content is well researched and balanced, and the illustrations are helpful and fun. The depiction of “special microscope goggles” that allow students to “see” gas molecules in the air is a clever device that clarifies a confusing concept. The greenhouse effect is well illustrated by kids sliding down sunbeams, turning to heat,

rising into the atmosphere, and being reflected back down to earth. The pictures of alternative energy sources also work well. Overall, the book would be a great addition to an elementary or secondary school library.

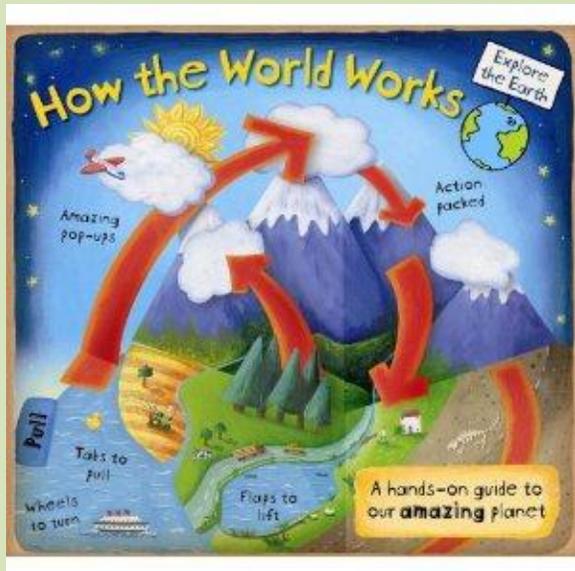
Collins, Terry. *Getting to the Bottom of Global Warming: An Isabel Soto Investigation.* (Illus. by Cynthia Martin and Bill Anderson; from the Graphic Expeditions Series.) Minneapolis Capstone 2010. 32pp. \$27.99. 2009026658. ISBN 9781429639729. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

This book is important in its uniqueness. The format is that of a graphic novel (like a comic book) and will be engaging for young readers. The topic is global climate change, but from the perspective of a science historian. The protagonist (Isabel Soto) uses a handheld device to travel through space and time to visit historical figures, including famous scientists who have studied the issue of greenhouse gases and climate change. Among those who carry on a dialog with Soto are Fourier, Tyndall, Arrhenius, Henry Ford, and Guy Stewart Callendar. In the present time, Soto discusses her historical research with present-day scientists, with a stated goal of raising awareness of global warming.

Dell, Pamela. *Protecting the Planet: Environmental Activism* (Illus.; from the Green Generation Series.) Minneapolis Compass Point Books 2010. 64pp. \$31.99. 2009008782. ISBN 9780756542481. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

This slim book is packed full of information and stories about the environment, covering a great deal of scientific content in only sixty-plus pages. Each chapter discusses a different aspect of the environment (air,

water, trees, or animals) and offers the reader ideas for helping the environment that are age appropriate and go beyond the usual simple tips. Author Pamela Dell presents the material with a thorough and detailed approach that neither talks down to kids nor avoids discussing the challenges. A large number of color pictures illustrating the concepts keeps the book lively and engaging. With its wealth of facts and data, it will serve as a good reference book for elementary school reports on the environment.



Dorion, Christiane. *How the World Works: A Hands-on Guide to Our Amazing Planet.* (Illus. by Beverly Young.) Surrey, UK Templar Books 2010. 18pp. \$17.99. 2009031057. ISBN 9780763648015.

Pull tabs, spinning wells, flip books, pop-up trees, and a three-dimensional depiction of the water cycle... this book has it all. Upper elementary school aged students will love exploring the colorful book, which packs a lot of information into a few short pages. The illustrated text covers some of the major concepts in Earth science: seasons, the

evolution of life over the past 3.8 billion years, plate tectonics, and the Earth's weather. The construction of the pages invites students to linger and think about each of the topics presented, but to get most students to pause and think will be a tough task because there are so many things to spin, tug on, and pop up. Interesting tidbits are sprinkled across the pages in short paragraphs and are tied to the illustrations by graphics and proximity.

Environmental Careers Organization.

The Eco Guide to Careers that Make a Difference. (Illus.) Washington, DC: Island Press, 2005. 400pp. \$34.95. 2004014493. ISBN 1559639660. Index; C.I.P.

This excellent book is appropriate as reference material for anyone seeking information about careers involving the environment. Students at the high school, college, and graduate levels, as well as their academic advisors and career counselors, will get a clear picture of the scope of these careers and the job market within each category. Adults of any age seeking a career change will also find the text very useful because of the wealth of information it contains about today's jobs and future trends for employment in environmentally related careers. Outstanding and knowledgeable people present the environmental issues of our times clearly and thoughtfully in this book, which is appropriate for general awareness of environmental concerns, as well as for students seeking career information and people looking for employment.

Gardner, Robert. *Planet Earth Science Projects, Revised and Expanded Using the Scientific Method.* (Illus.; from the Earth Science Projects Using the Scientific Method Series.) Berkeley Heights, NJ

Enslow 2010. 160pp. \$34.60. 2009026546. ISBN 9780766034235. Index; C.I.P.

The volume contains more than 30 science investigations dealing with astronomy and geology, most of which the author claims are appropriate for science fair projects. The book has an extensive introduction that discusses how scientists search for answers, the scientific method, science fairs, and safety issues involved in doing science projects. The appendix contains a list of science supply companies, a list of further reading resources, and a short list of Internet addresses. In between the introduction and the appendix are the activities, which always start with a question and then continue with a hypothesis, a list of required materials, a section on the procedure to be carried out, and a discussion of the results and conclusions.

Gardner, Robert. *Recycle: Green Science Projects for a Sustainable Planet*. (Illus.; from the Team Green Science Projects Series.) Berkeley Heights, NJ Enslow 2011. 128pp. \$31.93. 2009037903. ISBN 9780766036482. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

There is a lot of talk about recycling and its importance in attaining sustainability, but there has been a need for a guide that explains the why and how of recycling in a way that will get young people excited about what they can do to help create a greener world. *Recycle: Green Science Projects for a Sustainable Planet* serves this purpose well. It provides essential background information and a series of green science projects that get children actively involved in exploring recycling, and it does this in a way that they makes them enthusiastic participants. Each of the five chapters (Plastics and Recycling, Solid Waste and Decomposition, The Greening of Waste,

More Things to Recycle, and What Can YOU Do?) includes an introduction to the topic followed by five or more experiments, demonstrations, and activities. Gardener's clear, succinct, and engaging style of writing makes this a book middle grade students can use on their own, but it will also serve well as a reference for teachers for introducing students to recycling.

Hock, Peggy. *Our Earth: Clean Energy*. (Illus.; from the Scholastic News Nonfiction - Conservation Series.) Danbury, CT: Children's Press, 2008. 24pp. \$20.00. ISBN 978-0-531-13833-5. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

***Our Earth: Helping Out*.** ISBN 978-0-531-13831-1.

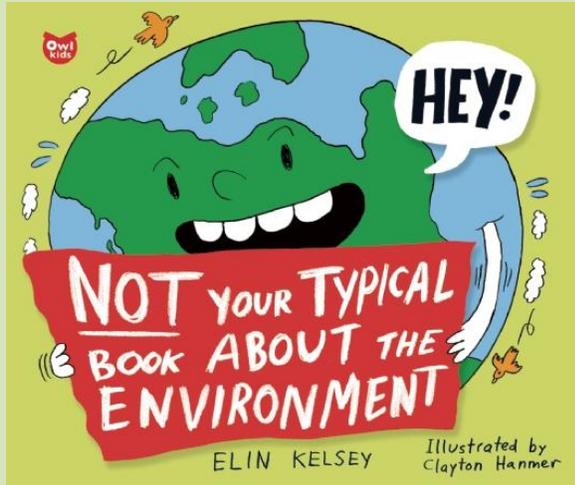
***Our Earth: Keeping It Clean*.** ISBN 978-0-531-20432-0.

***Our Earth: Making Less Trash*.** ISBN 978-0-531-13834-2.

***Our Earth: Saving Energy*.** ISBN 978-0-531-13835-9.

***Our Earth: Saving Water*.** ISBN 978-0-531-13836-6.

Each of the six books in the Scholastic News Nonfiction Conservation Series addresses the applied-science topic identified in its title in 24 pages. The ideas, language, large print, and extensive color photos are appropriate for use with children in kindergarten to second grade. The books provide a rationale for responsible personal environmental behavior and outline steps to accomplish this end.

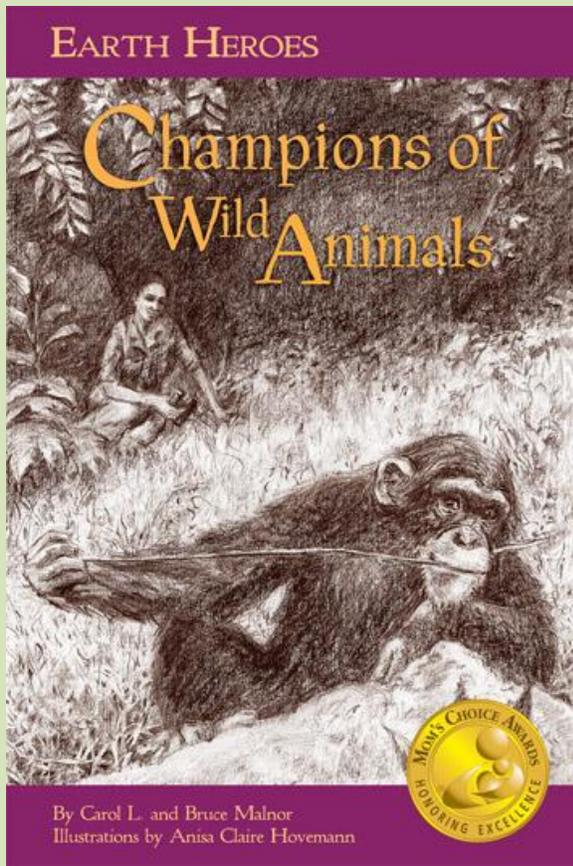


Kelsey, Elin. *Not Your Typical Book About the Environment*. (Illus. by Clayton Hamner.) Toronto Owl Books 2010. 64pp. \$22.95. C2009-905896-0. ISBN 9781897349847. Index; C.I.P.

Not Your Typical Book about the Environment is aptly named. Elin Kelsey has put together an amazing collection of chapters that each deals with ways in which children's lives affect the environment. In her first chapter, "Fast Fashion," Kelsey clearly explains the benefits and drawbacks of four types of T-shirts: bamboo, hemp, organic cotton, and vintage. Similar treatments are employed when dealing with food choices, technology, and energy consumption. Each topic is illustrated in comic-book style, and the characters depicted are very diverse. These illustrations drive home the connections made between seemingly unrelated subjects throughout the book—polar fleece and plastic bottles, sea otters and fish sticks, honeybees and hamburgers, and electronics and gorillas, to name a few. Kelsey has selected real people who are making a difference in the "Meet an Expert" segments. These people include the co-creator of the Ecological Footprint, an ecological economist, a sustainable-happiness teacher, and a local chef.

McKay, Kim, and Jenny Bonnin. *True Green Kids: 100 Things You Can Do to Save the Planet*. (Illus.) Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2008. 143pp. \$15.95. ISBN 978-1-4263-0442-2. Glossary.

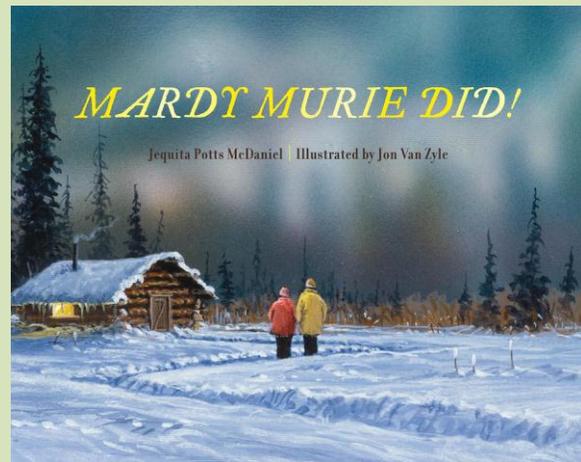
True Green Kids is aimed at U.S. kids who live in U.S. households, which contribute almost one-fifth of the country's greenhouse gases in a country that has the highest rate of carbon emissions in the world. The book's purpose is to motivate kids and to guide them in the philosophy of "reduce, reuse, recycle, rethink." The book is graphically very attractive, with a very simple and straightforward organization: one hundred single actions that would move the child and his or her household toward a smaller "eco-footprint." Actions are organized by where (your room, your home, outdoors, your school, on vacation) and by how (with friends, buying stuff, teamwork, making fun things). Each action is given its own brightly illustrated page with a few powerful facts, an action step, and, often, a reference website for more "how-to" information. This book is attractive and fun enough that it might make a great gift to a family, child, or teacher who is becoming concerned about global warming and the future of the environment.



Malnor, Carol L. and Bruce. *Champions of Wild Animals.* (Illus. by Anisa Claire Hovemann; from the Earth Heroes Series.) Nevada City, CA Dawn Publications 2010. 144pp. \$11.95. 2010016030. ISBN 9781584691235. Index; C.I.P.

Champions of Wild Animals recounts the life, struggles, and accomplishments of seven men and women (and one family) who have devoted their lives to the protection of wildlife. From the internationally renowned (Rachel Carson, Roger Tory Peterson, Jane Goodall) to the less well known (William Hornaday, Ron Lewis, the Douglas-Hamilton family), there is something exciting and inspiring to be found in every life. Carol and Bruce Malnor do an admirable job distilling and juxtaposing the bellwether events of the eight lives that fill the book. Each biography

is approximately 14 pages (easily readable in 30 minutes or so) and concludes with a list of biographical “Fast Facts” and a time line. These pages not only provide a neat summary of the subject’s accomplishments, but also put those accomplishments into historical context. Overall, *Champions of Wild Animals* is an attractive and engaging publication and should find appeal among environmentally aware youngsters.



McDaniel, Jequita Potts. *Mardy Murie Did! Grandmother of Conservation.* (Illus. by Jon Van Zyle.) Lanham, MD Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group 2010. 32pp. \$15.95. 2010020055. ISBN 9781589795655. C.I.P.

Biographies for children, in general, have a major handicap: Young children are often so focused on themselves that making them care about anyone (especially an adult) they don't know is a serious challenge. *Mardy Murie Did!* overcomes that handicap by putting the child's perspective front and center, with a series of poems, each beginning with the question "Did you ever...?" The answer to some of these questions is likely "No": Few children have "bundled tight in a sleigh/Pulled over icy white snow/By strong furry dogs/Knowing

just where to go." But after reading this book, young readers will surely at least wish to experience these moments, just as "Mardy Murie did!" Other moments ("Did you ever splash in the stream/With bare feet in the water, cold and clean?") are easily accessible to many children, and with these experiences, Mardy Murie gradually becomes a character we didn't know before, but wish we did. By the end, we know what she loved, what her daily life was like ("in a cabin/Hugged by trees and mountains above"), and what she accomplished. We also, thanks to Murie and this book, have a bucket list: "Maybe you can see/Wolves and caribou,/And snow-covered trees,/And ride a dogsled for miles and miles/And have lots of fun with giggles and smiles/Outside in the mountains/Still wild and free." Between Jequita Potts McDaniel's text and Jon Van Zyle's illustrations, this book ends up feeling less like a look at Mardy Murie and more like a walk alongside of her through her favorite places, with richly colored, vivid, textured paintings of creatures and sights, standing in quality alongside Jane Yolen's Owl Moon (New York: Philomel Books, 1987; with John Schoenherr's magical watercolors). Through these paintings, we look over the backs of Murie's sled dogs and we look with her at wolves, caribou, mountains, and winter trees, but we rarely look at Murie herself, at least not until we are so fond of her world and her vision that we're pleased to meet just who it is we've been walking alongside for this enchanting literary journey.

Rau, Dana Meachen. *Alternative Energy: Beyond Fossil Fuels*. (Illus. from the Green Generation Series.) Minneapolis Compass Point Books 2010. 64pp. \$31.99. 2009008778. ISBN 9780756542474. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

This great little book introduces the topics of fossil fuel usage, the limited nature of fossil fuels, and alternative energy options. It is particularly praiseworthy for its refreshingly objective, but still enthusiastic, presentations on solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass energy. The best feature of the book is the last chapter, which presents practical energy savings that readers can realistically put into practice. Interesting, well written, and appropriately illustrated, the book is entertaining enough for general reading, but factual enough for use as a science text. Without question, this is the best young readers' book on the subject that I have seen.

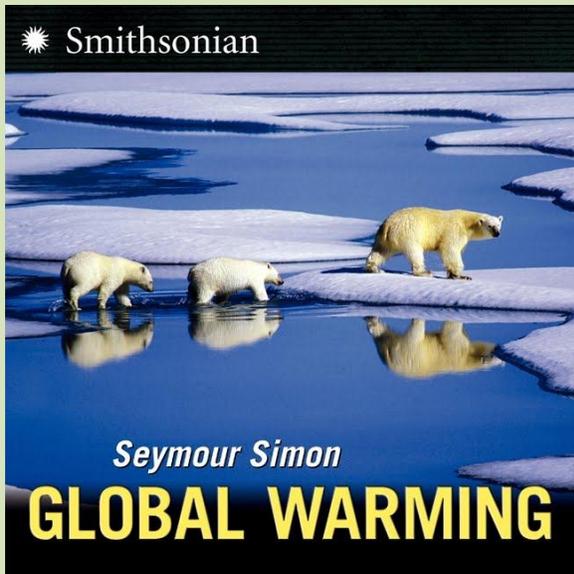
Silverman, Buffy. *Composting: Decomposition*. (Illus.; from the Do It Yourself Series.) Westport, CT: Heinemann, 2008. 48pp. \$31.43. 2008008449. ISBN 978-1-4329-1089-1. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

***Recycling: Reducing Waste*.** 2008008452. ISBN 978-1-4329-1090-7.

***Saving Energy: Earth's Resources*.** 2008008672. ISBN 978-1-4329-1091-4.

***Saving Water: The Water Cycle*.** 2008008671. ISBN 978-1-4329-1092-1.

This delightful set from the Do It Yourself series on energy, recycling, composting, and water emphasizes small experiments that an interested young child could perform to reinforce the principles presented. The science is accurate. The books are well illustrated, and each has a small glossary and index. Each also has two pages entitled "Find Out More" that includes lists of a few books, websites, and places to visit, from San Francisco's Exploratorium to the Smithsonian and elsewhere. The books could be used by a parent or a teacher.

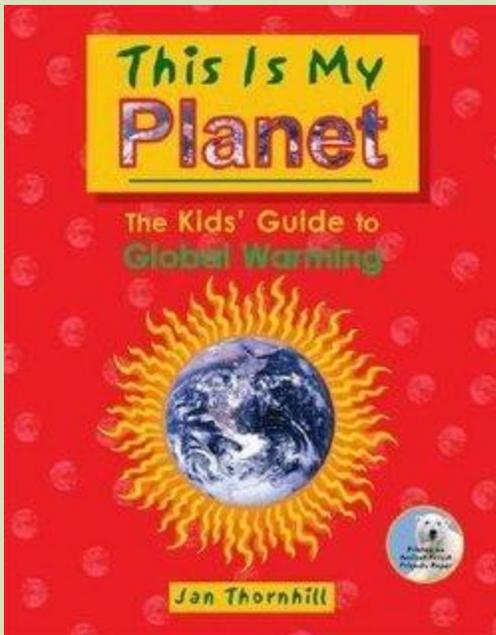


Simon, Seymour. *Global Warming*. (Illus.) Washington, DC Smithsonian Books 2010. 32pp. \$17.99. 2009001265. ISBN 9780061142505. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

Global Warming, by Seymour Simon, is a nicely presented overview of the topic for children. One of 25 volumes written by Simon and the Smithsonian, it is part of a valuable nonfiction collection for a children's library. Clearly presented, in simple, straightforward language, the text is augmented with bright, colorful photography that illustrates each concept presented. Many facets of global warming are examined, from the varying worldwide effects, to possible causes, to suggestions for slowing the progress. A glossary and an index are provided, as is a list of websites for further exploration. While most appropriate for upper elementary through junior high school readers, is the book has valuable information that could be read to younger children and would also be of interest to parents or teachers reading it to them. I recommend this highly book for elementary school, junior high school, and home libraries.

Smith, Molly. *Simple Steps Toward a Healthier Earth*. (Illus. by Tad Carpenter.) San Francisco Chronicle Books 2010. 80pp. \$12.99. ISBN 9780811871419.

In an era where science is still not taught as a core academic subject in many elementary schools across the nation, *Simple Steps Toward a Healthier Earth* is a must-have title for all elementary teachers from kindergarten through grade 6. This title is a consumable workbook that seems initially designed for environmentally conscious individuals to use at home with their children. The workbook is printed on environmentally responsible paper, is filled with a broad range of environmental topics and associated activities (over 55, and with stickers, too!), is authored by Molly Smith, and has strong academic credibility, as it was developed in collaboration with the Natural Resources Defense Council. The book asks students to think about topics that are current in our era: energy and climate, water and oceans, land and animals, health and food, and waste and recycling. Background information on each concept is given, and the activities are engaging for youngsters and ask them to think and be creative. For younger students, recurring characters, such as the Energy Vampire and Buzzle Bee, provide a fun atmosphere. For teachers, the workbook (with answer key) can be incorporated into existing lessons or utilized as a basic environmental curriculum to help expose children to these environmental issues facing their generation.



Thornhill, Jan. *This Is My Planet: A Kids' Guide to Global Warming.* (Illus.) Toronto: Maple Tree Press, 2007. 64pp. C2007-901808-X. ISBN 978-1-897349-06-9. Index; C.I.P.

This Is My Planet is a thorough, accurate, interesting guide to global warming. The book begins by posing important questions about earth's climate and then proceeds to (1) provide compelling evidence of worrisome changes, (2) explain underlying scientific processes, (3) highlight a wide array of negative consequences, both to humans and to other living things, and (4) suggest ways that we humans can modify our behavior and enact constructive policies. The role and methodologies of science in the study of climate change are prominent, as are examples of technological advances that have the potential to offset detrimental human impacts. Scientific uncertainty receives appropriate attention. Overall, this book is a welcome addition to the body of children's resources on global warming.

Books for Young Adult and General Audiences

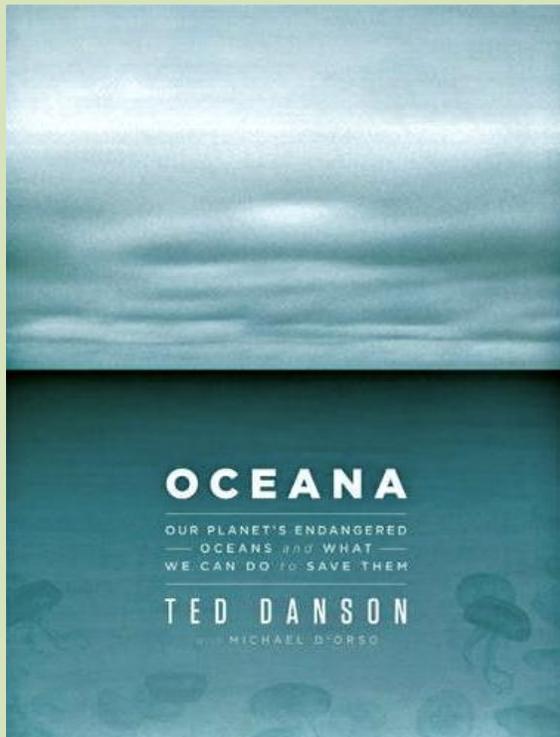
Braasch, Gary, with an afterword by Bill McKibben. *Earth Under Fire: How Global Warming Is Changing the World.* (Illus.) Berkeley, CA: University of California, 2007. 290pp. \$34.95. 2007002259. ISBN 978-0-520-24438-2. Index; C.I.P.

Photographer Gary Braasch's new book, *Earth Under Fire*, presents his "World View of Global Warming," a timely, thought-provoking, accessible, and informative overview of what is at stake in deciding how to address the challenges that climate change poses. Braasch spent years visiting scientists on every continent who have been working to understand what climate change will mean for the earth's physical and biological systems. Chapters cover familiar examples of the impact of global warming on polar regions, glaciers, and wildlife. What sets *Earth Under Fire* apart from other books on the same topic are the inspiring photographs. These images are an effective tool that helps the reader understand what the implications of climate change are—for people, for other organisms, and for entire ecosystems.

Danson, Ted. *Oceana: Our Endangered Oceans and What We Can Do to Save Them.* (Illus.) Emmaus, PA Rodale 2011. xv+304pp \$32.50. 2011001685. ISBN 9781605292625. Index; C.I.P.

Actor and environmentalist Ted Danson has produced a book that can reach out and touch the most skeptical reader. His optimism is contagious and upbeat, given the seriousness of the problems. The text covers eight major subjects of concern: Offshore oil drilling; climate change; overfishing; the illusion of abundance;

biological oceanography; government subsidies and flags of convenience; and fish farming. These are subjects we run into daily in the media, but such disjointed details tend to boggle a public searching for workable arguments that can affect policy making. Adjusting hard science to an understandable form is not easy. Danson does it using interesting sidebars featuring personalities, many of whom are lesser known. More striking is his use of graphics and color photography that tell the story with visual clarity in spite of what many scientists would prefer. The audience here is an eager general public looking for valid data that makes sense. Appealing to these readers is the basis for ample discussions labeled “What you can do.” There is a well-documented section on recommended reading, along with an index.



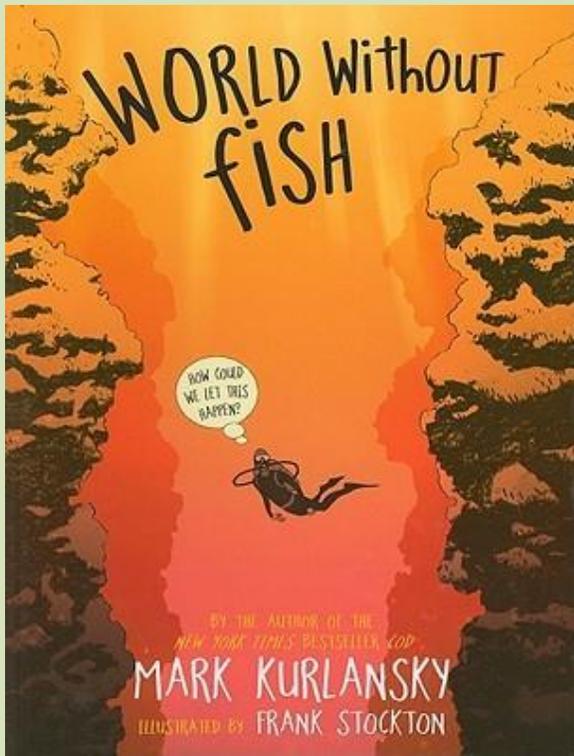
Environmental Careers Organization.
The Eco Guide to Careers that Make a Difference. (Illus.) Washington, DC: Island

Press, 2005. 400pp. \$34.95. 2004014493.
ISBN 1559639660. Index; C.I.P.

This excellent book is appropriate as reference material for anyone seeking information about careers involving the environment. Students at the high school, college, and graduate levels, as well as their academic advisors and career counselors, will get a clear picture of the scope of these careers and the job market within each category. Adults of any age seeking a career change will also find the text very useful because of the wealth of information it contains about today's jobs and future trends for employment in environmentally related careers. Outstanding and knowledgeable people present the environmental issues of our times clearly and thoughtfully in this book, which is appropriate for general awareness of environmental concerns, as well as for students seeking career information and people looking for employment.

Fishman, Charles. *Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water.* 2011. 388pp. \$26.99. 2010033989. ISBN 9781439102077. Index; C.I.P.

The author has arranged an excellent collection of the innumerable aspects of water that are generally taken for granted. The book contains an amazing rapid-fire barrage of information regarding the enormity of water use for so many purposes such as crop irrigation, lawn sprinkling, bathing, toilet flushing, etc. The author's style is breezy but extremely informative – the reader is subjected to an amazing array or current information about the myriad dimensions of water in short fact filled paragraphs.



Kurlansky, Mark. *World Without Fish*. (Illus. by Frank Stockton.) NY Workman 2011. xxiii+183pp. \$16.95. 2011015516. ISBN 9780761156079. Index; C.I.P.

Understanding the threats of pollution and extinction in the oceans may not come as naturally to children as the comprehension of these same threats to land ecosystems. Luckily, *World Without Fish* is there to help kids, as well as the adults in their life, process the catastrophic details of ocean destruction. The book begins with a history of the fishing industry and moves on to describe its interconnections and constant dynamic flux with Darwin's theories, pollution, and global warming. Throughout the book, an 11 page beautifully illustrated graphic novel unfolds, summarizing the more serious lessons of the book and allowing the book's message to be shared with an even broader audience. All in all, the book acts as a call-to-arms by boldly

suggesting that the target audience for this book, the youth themselves, need to become active stewards for the oceans, complete with a list of steps kids themselves can take to start reversing the decline of fish populations and ocean pollution.

Madrigal, Alexis. *Powering the Dream: The History and Promise of Green Technology*. 2011. ix+343pp. \$27.50. 2011003081. ISBN 9780306818851. Index; C.I.P.

This is a well-researched, densely packed study of the development of energy systems within the United States since the mid-19th century. The book makes extensive use of old and original documents to create a vivid picture of the origins of energy production, storage, and delivery systems, including petroleum, gas, wind, and solar energy, but fails to mention biofuels as a component of the total energy picture. The issue of the scale for energy production is central, particularly given today's population concentration in cities. Politics plays a prominent role in the whole book, often regarding who should pay, and who should be rewarded, for advances in energy technology. Many illustrations show that, with both public and private investment, returns are never guaranteed. The tone of the book is a persistent, emotional plea for governmental development of renewable energy, defined primarily as wind and solar energy. This book is an interesting read for someone who appreciates the history of technology; it would also be useful for a college-level course on the history of energy technology.

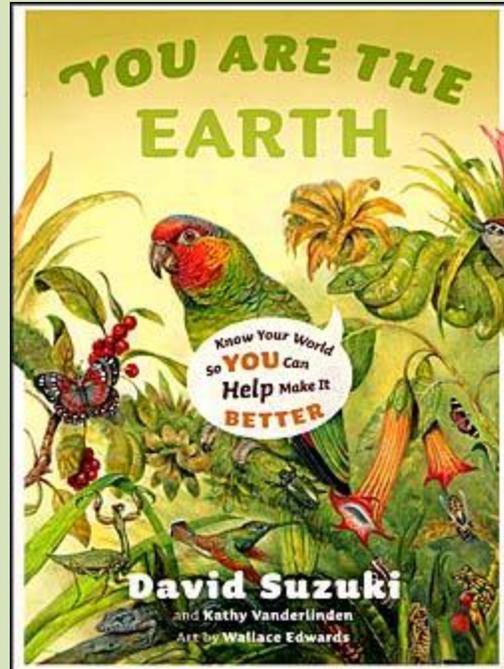
Malnor, Bruce and Carol L. Malnor. *Earth Movers: Champions of the Wilderness*. (Illus. by Anisa Claire Hovemann; from the Earth Movers Series.)

Dawn, 2009. 143pp. \$11.95. 2008053670. ISBN 978-1-58469-116-7. Index; C.I.P.

This book is a gem which includes short biographies of eight "heroes" who have championed the preservation and/or conservation of wilderness areas around the world over the past two centuries. Included are Thoreau, Muir, Teddy Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold, Richard St. Barbe Baker, Mardy Murie, David Suzuki, and Wangari Maathai. The storytelling is fluent and engaging, despite a few copy editing glitches. This book would work well in an elementary library to pique students' interest in the environment when they move through that stage of fascination to true life stories.

Newman, Peter, Timothy Beatley, and Heather Boyer. *Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change*. (Illus.) Washington, DC: Island Press, 2009. xiii+166pp. \$35.00. 2008014874. ISBN 978-1-5972-6499-0. Index; C.I.P.

The problem addressed in this book is the relationship between climate change, the decline in the supply of fossil fuels as demand continues to rise, and the consequences for large cities. The authors, two planners and a journalist, discuss four possible outcomes: collapse, ruralization, division (as in gated communities), and resilience (adaptation to the environment). Some examples are given of each, but the authors' main interest is resilience: developing renewable energy sources, constructing green buildings, consuming locally, etc. The science is descriptive rather than analytic, but is generally well researched and carefully documented.



Suzuki, David. *You Are the Earth: Know Your World so You Can Help Make It Better*. (Illus. by Wallace Edwards.) Vancouver, BC Greystone 2010. 160pp. \$22.95. C2009-907541-5. ISBN 9781553654766. Glossary; Index; C.I.P.

Readable, interesting, containing content varying from the scientific to the personal to the cultural, and with folktales juxtaposed next to scientific evidence, the book makes you keep reading just to see what is on the next page. The reader will also appreciate the fact that Suzuki includes not just text, but activities, thought provoking questions, a glossary, and even some self-check questions for review. The book can be used as a supplement for a variety of lessons or even as the core of an environmental science or social studies unit. Younger students might like it read out loud, whereas older students will read it on their own. The activities described or suggested could be done individually, as demonstrations, or as thought experiments. Or the book can be read for fun in one sitting.