Annotated List of About 60 Books on Sustainability/Climate Change
June 2026 update
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Particularly Recommended Recent Books

Hawken, Paul. (Ed). 2017. *Drawdown*. Penguin. Outstanding, comprehensive climate change blockbuster. Detailed global analysis of 100 methods of all sorts that can help us avert climate catastrophe, ranked quantitatively in order of likely impact. Inspiring examples from across the globe. A don't-miss for anyone who cares in the slightest. Valuable website, too.

- Hawken's group's 2021 *Regeneration* is a worthy follow-up, but start with the original. Memorable *Regeneration* quote: "Since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015, the banking industry has loaned and invested more than 3.8 trillion in the oil and gas industry, more than enough money to retrofit every building in America to be a zero-waste structure. The energy saved would exceed the amount gained by oil and gas exploration by a factor of ten."

Behrens, Paul. 2020. *The Best of Times, the Worst of Times: Futures from the Frontiers of Climate Science*. A brilliant, readable work of scholarship, for one of the best looks at the bigger picture that I have seen. Alternates pessimistic chapters with more optimistic ones. People alive today have the gift and burden of choosing the future... The barriers to a hopeful outcome are real. Can they be overcome? Covers many angles, organized around sections on climate science, energy, food, economics, and progress on population and development. Highly recommended.

DeMocker, Mary. 2018. *The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution: 100 Ways to Build a Fossil-Free Future, Raise Empowered Kids, and Still Get a Good Night's Sleep.* New World. **Not just for parents.** Magnificent! Manages to be upbeat, innovative, and inspiring while fully accepting how little time we have left to confront the climate challenge. No wonder Yale Climate Connections and many others love it (including everyone I've recommended it to). Whether you have kids or not, this fun-to-read book motivates and informs, with a wide range of wonderful suggestions. If everyone acted on it, we have a real shot at avoiding catastrophe. This is the book I give away at climate events.

Thunberg, Greta (Ed). 2023. *The Climate Book*. Greta recruited well-known experts to cover every aspect of the climate crisis, resulting in about 100 short chapters of 2-4 pages each. It's simply packed with information. Should be on everyone's shelf.

Griffith, Saul (MacArthur awardee). 2021. *Electrify: An Optimist's Playbook for Our Clean Energy Future*. US focus. Lots of useful details and suggestions, lots of data; Griffith did a detailed breakdown of all US energy use for the Dept of Energy and it shows. Emphasizes the need to electrify everything quickly, and makes the case for rebates and other incentives. Starting the switch in 2000 would have let us reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 4% per year, for the 2030 goal. That's for holding warming to 1.5 C (2.7 F). Now we have a much harder challenge, with drastic reductions required quickly. This is what's most frightening, how we've run short on time. But there *is* still time, if just barely, hence the optimism in the title. And the fact that return on investment calculations greatly favor renewables. Also don't miss Appendix B, which suggests what citizens can do, across categories like electricians, teachers, farmers, young people who can't vote yet, hourly workers, small business owners, etc.

McKibben, Bill. 2025. *Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.* From the celebrated, long-time climate leader - outstanding. A concise summary of where we are right now with solar and wind energy. Good news is its astonishingly low price, which, with some exceptions (see *The Price is Wrong*) is driving leaps and bounds in adoption around the world. At the same time, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Full of fascinating statistics and cause for hope. For example, a gigawatt of solar panels is going up every 18 hrs; a gigawatt is about the output of a coal or nuclear power plant. And in 2024, 92% of all new electricity came from renewables.

Wallace-Wells, David. 2019. *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming*. Penguin. Deservedly a bestseller: insightful and well done, but also the ultimate in terrifying. Do read this, but maybe in small doses (that's how I managed). Never use Bitcoin, by the way. A quote that hit home: "That climate change demands expertise, and faith in it, at precisely the moment when public confidence in expertise is collapsing, is one of its historical ironies" (p. 160). BUT – if we accept responsibility and move faster, it's not too late. There is some good news, just not enough.

Sharpe, Simon. 2023. *Fives Times Faster: Rethinking the Science, Economics, and Diplomacy of Climate Change*. Cambridge. The bigger picture in climate policy, a brilliant book (in my view). How can we get the needed macro changes quickly enough? There is a *lot* in this book. Sharpe was a UK Deputy Director for COP 26 in Glasgow (the annual international climate negotiation), and has inside experience in all the realms he analyzes. That includes industry, finance, and international diplomacy. His suggestions are practical as well as bold, based on past successes and careful analysis of the barriers to large-scale change. Examples: If you can't get all the nations you need to sign on to something, get the ones you can into collaboratives that bring costs down, provide role models, and help change incentive systems. Boost (don't just take advantage of) technology learning/adoption curves and economies of scale. And more… Hopeful, if daunting.

Ritchie, Hannah. 2024. *Not the End of the World: How We Can Be the First Generation to Build a Sustainable Planet*. A hopeful book that looks at the environmental bigger picture, recognizing the challenges but celebrating progress and causes for hope. International in scope. Doesn't address the political challenges (as noted by its Guardian review), but does an excellent job at summarizing the context for ways forward in addressing climate change, air pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, food and agricultural issues, ocean plastics, and overfishing. The author is a lead researcher at Our World in Data. Helpful to ponder in the middle of the night when climate anxiety hits.

Johnson, Ayana. 2024. *What If We Get It Right?* A book of interviews, by a distinguished PhD marine biologist, environmental activist, and think tank founder who is an African-American woman. Covers a lot of ground in an engaging way: oceans (her own specialty), agriculture, divestment, messaging, handling disasters, etc., with attention to environmental justice throughout. Excellent choice of interviewees, many of whom Johnson knows professionally or personally. Sneak peaks at innovations under development. Johnson's resume includes positions at EPA and NOAA.

Goodell, Jeff. 2017. *The Water Will Come*. Little, Brown. Outstanding. Well researched, beautifully written, nuanced. How are developed & developing nations coping with current sea level rise and planning for more? - or not, in some cases, as Goodell devastatingly describes. As usual, follow the money. Europe provides some success stories.

Goodell, Jeff. 2023. *The Heat Will Kill You First: Life and Death on a Scorched Planet*. Again, outstanding: well researched and beautifully written. The sheer number of people killed in heat waves is powerfully conveyed... but because those numbers only become clear later, these killers don't have the same gut impact as climate change-driven fires and floods. Thoughtful coverage of the implications, and I also appreciated his personal narratives. A NYT bestseller, highly recommended.

Harvey, Hal. 2018. *Designing Climate Solutions: A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon Energy*. Island Press. Very thorough: Everything you could want to know about the policy-based solutions to climate change – and policy is the big lever. Look what California has accomplished, and the other nations and states that are leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Performance standards that continually increase are one of many evidence-based recommendations. Time-tested, with lots of the details that have made the difference between success and failure. All broken down carefully and specifically by sector.

- Likewise noteworthy is Hal Harvey's most recent book (with Justin Gillis), 2022's *The Big Fix: 7 Practical Steps to Save Our Planet*. Up to date and nontechnical, it's an excellent introduction to climate action, with something for everyone. Covers the main sectors. Naturally, is good on policy.

Stokes, Leah. 2020. *Short Circuiting Policy: Interest Groups and the Battle over Clean Energy and Climate Policy in the American States*. Oxford UP. Highly recommended - very detailed analyses of how the big utilities have prevented or reversed renewable energy policy in different states, plus a few more hopeful cases where climate advocates fought them off. One of the most discouraging sections shows how quickly the US has to switch over to renewables now, to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals - given the decades of foot-dragging because of utility and fossil fuel co. obstruction. If you have time for only one chapter, the Conclusion includes advice for advocates. If we lose this battle, we lose the war. See Christophers, *The Price is Wrong*.

Humes, Edward. 2016. *Door to Door: The Magnificent, Maddening, Mysterious World of Transportation*. Harper. Really impressive reach - freight, ocean shipping, ports, robotic cars . . . The down side of fast shipping (**avoid Amazon Prime and its ilk, please**). Covers congestion now, the carnage on the streets that we take for granted (pedestrians beware), the gross inadequacy historically of the US gas tax, all the ins and outs. An American dies in a car accident every 15 minutes . . . Life cycle analyses for transport of everyday items are eye-opening. Also the harm done by SUVs. Lots of interesting facts, and – overall - a hopeful book (NYC is a success story in some surprising ways). Moving to electric vehicles is absolutely critical, and I'm proud to say I've did so years ago!

- For those interested, UC Davis professor Dan Sperling's more technical and focused *Three Revolutions: Automated, Shared, and Electric Vehicles to a Better Future* (2018) is great too. EVs aren't enough; amping up all the forms of ride-sharing is absolutely critical.

Lynas, Mark. 2020. *Our Final Warning: Six Degrees of Climate Emergency.* An update of his earlier work, *Six Degrees*. Lays out the outcomes resulting from different levels of global warming, in every sector and part of the globe. Even 2 degrees is bad (heck, even where we are now at 1.4 degrees is!). 3 degrees is profoundly frightening, and yet unless we take swifter action, it's on the horizon. You will lose sleep, and maybe that's what's needed. Based on recent climate developments and scientific research, has fewer positive outcomes than his earlier book. If you need to motivate someone, this provides lots of ammunition. The title says it all. We are on the precipice of catastrophe.

Hendrickson, Debra. 2024. *The Air They Breathe: A Pediatrician on the Front Lines of Climate Change.* Outstanding. Polluted air, fatal heat waves, floods and fires, disease, PTSD and anxiety, and the many subtler, harder-to-see harms done by the climate crisis. And these are our kids, everywhere, already dying in large numbers from climate change. Blends powerful personal stories with the science. Deserves a wide readership.

Alter, Lloyd. 2021. *Living the 1.5 Degree Lifestyle: Why Individual Climate Action Matters More Than Ever*. New Society. It's consumer demand that drives carbon production, after all. This engaging book offers a positive, evidence-based path forward, focusing on living better with a bit less stuff – "sufficiency," with the complications of carbon footprints for activities and products nicely handled. Personal anecdotes of his own sustainability journey make it fun to read. It's very practical, too: "don't sweat the small stuff." A nice combination of household economics, scaling up green lifestyle choices, and the bigger picture. This *is* doable, and some of it is already happening. Alter is well-known in the environmental community.

Rich, Nathaniel. 2019 *Losing Earth: A Recent History*. Farrar. During 1979-89 the world almost got international climate action. Covers unfamiliar history as well as brief summaries of well-known incidents like NASA's James Hansen's Congressional testimony (& events have shown that he nailed it). John Sununu emerges as one of the villains, along of course with a fossil fuel industry that almost chose an ethical route rather than its disastrously successful disinformation campaign. Outstanding, short, reads like a novel. A dystopia, sadly. But maybe seeing where we went wrong can help us?

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General Recommended List
Bigger Picture/Economics

Cullenward, Danny, & Victor, David. 2021. *Making Climate Policy Work*. Shows that market-based carbon pricing systems haven't been doing that much, the EU excepted. It's regulations and industrial policy that have actually been reducing GHG emissions. As Jaccard noted below, the politics get in the way of economists' ideal market-based solutions. The authors go into wonky depth on the problems in different states and nations in making cap and trade or carbon taxes work, then they offer solutions. Thorough international analysis, lots of graphs and tables. Impressive and important. We *have* to do better at getting GHG emissions down, and fast.

Tal, Alon. 2024. *Making Climate Tech Work: Policies that Drive Innovation*. Outstanding, thorough; a sort of follow-up to Cullenward & Victor, which Tal acknowledges. Global in scope. What policies are working to drive both the development of new green tech and the implementation of existing methods? Chapters on government procurement policy and developing nations' challenges as well as on carbon pricing and financing. Includes some behavioral science, good to see. Very readable too! Recommended.

Grunwald, Michael. 2025. *We Are Eating the Earth: The Race to Fix Our Food System and Save Our Climate*. A crucially important book that pulls no punches about the crisis in agriculture. How do we feed everyone and still bring down greenhouse gas emissions and save the planet's biodiversity? It's a very tall order, and Grunwald delves into many aspects, focusing on the sweeping recommendations of Tim Searchinger, whose detailed analyses don't always support received wisdom. Regenerative

agriculture, for example, sometimes doesn't compute to be nearly as green as its reputation (sadly). And the "opportunity cost" of using land for biofuels like ethanol rather than needed food is a deal-killer that produces far more carbon than it saves. Realistically, while Americans are cutting back on beef (good), not nearly enough are going to go full vegan or close. Meanwhile, people in developing nations who don't currently eat much meat will be eating more. We need to ramp up productivity of both crops and livestock rearing on existing ag land, and that means using fertilizer and pesticides, according to the data presented. Plant-based meat substitutes can help. Go, Impossible Burger! - available, for example, at your local Burger King. Well supported arguments with lots of graphs.

Raworth, Kate. 2017. *Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist*. Which means recognizing that we need to achieve sustainability on a planetary as well as national scale – and that means modifying our economic framework and expectations. Insightful. Practical suggestions include promoting the sharing economy, deemphasizing GDP, being "agnostic" on economic growth, incentivizing regenerative approaches, and changing patent law. Good on addressing inequity. Good on the importance of framing: "tax justice" and "public investment" should be the watchwords. A few weak spots from my viewpoint as a behavioral psychologist, but overall, a valuable read.

Christophers, Brett. 2024. *The Price is Wrong: Why Capitalism Won't Save the Planet*. An important book, a brilliant analysis of global electricity markets, documenting in detail the incredibly complicated nature of these unwieldy, often illogical systems. Christophers documents the failure of supposedly "free market" approaches to power generation, all (without exception) relying on heavy government support in some fashion or another for renewables, for a large number of reasons. Upshot: The fact that renewables are the least costly option is **meaningless**. It is profits that matter to investors, not costs, and renewables are seldom profitable the way current markets operate. It has taken a long time for politicians and industry players to see this, and significant barriers remain to the sort of changes that are needed to deliver the great transition to renewables. Data support the arguments all along the way, with lots of examples. Great reviews from Sierra Club, the Guardian, the NY Times. However, a challenging technical book, not an easy read.

Klein, Naomi. 2015. *This Changes Everything.* Like Raworth, makes the case for systemic modifications in the Western approach to the economics of climate change, particularly in the US. I had some issues with parts of it, but consider it a worthwhile and thought-provoking read.
Klein, Naomi. 2019. *On Fire: The (Burning) Case for a Green New Deal*.
Klein, Naomi. 2017. *No Is Not Enough.*
Follow-ups to *This Changes Everything*. Updates and historical comparisons. The criticism of insufficiently-regulated US-style capitalism continues: From *On Fire*, **"There is simply no way to square a belief system that vilifies collective action and venerates total market freedom with a problem that demands collective action on an unprecedented scale and a dramatic reining in of the market forces that created and are deepening the crisis."** (p. 70) Fun fact for some relief: During WWII, citizens' Victory Gardens provided over 40% of produce consumed in the US.

And for a counterweight to Klein,
Jaccard, Mark. 2020. *Citizen's Guide to Climate Success*. Insightful. A Canadian academic, economist Jaccard spent years in charge of British Columbia's utilities commission, and helped design its carbon tax and clean energy standard. He's seen the vicious politics and misinformation campaigns

threatening these gains. Outcome: Anything perceived as a "tax" is likely to be a political loser, while flexible regulations and cap-and-trade are more acceptable. Working with sincerely concerned politicians is critical, focusing on electricity and transportation. Jaccard is sincere himself, to the point of spending a few civil disobedience hours in jail for a coal train demonstration – impressive! But he considers Klein's approach too extreme. While his chapter on behavior change is not ideal (my view, my area), this is an impressive, well-thought-out book and an engaging read as well.

Lonergan, Eric & Sawers, Corinne. 2022. *Supercharge Me: Net Zero Faster*. Lonergan is an economist. Based in part on Jaccard's book, powerful arguments for a range of finance-system based incentives to cut greenhouse gas emissions faster. (Also see Sharpe's book above.) I loved the focus on EPICs, "Extreme Positive Incentives for Change." To electrify faster, make those alternatives comparatively cheaper, duh. EPIC methods have worked for places like Denmark and California. The authors list some innovative ways for global financing, taking advantage of existing institutions like "export credit agencies" (don't ask). "Smart regulations" and "contingent carbon taxes" that focus on greening a specific industry. And more. We can still meet the climate challenge if we act *fast*. The payoff is improved lifestyles around the world, and thriving economies. An important book, global in scope.

Burt, Justine. 2019. *The Great Pivot: Creating Meaningful Work to Build a Sustainable Future*. Excellent, with a very practical focus on shifting the US economy. Benefits are emphasized, but downsides, such as job losses in old-economy areas, need to be offset by green jobs and training. A nice summary and handbook, with many useful tables and graphs. Includes costs (e.g., for bike infrastructure) and means of financing. Includes current transportation sustainability apps – I can't keep up with them all! Burt has her own consulting firm and it shows.

Nakate, Vanessa. 2021. *A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis.* Excellent! - and very accessible. Organized around Nakate's inspiring personal story. Africa is suffering disproportionately from climate change, although its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is small. Nakate bravely broke social norms to engage in climate activism, got others involved, and ended up with a platform at the international COP climate conferences and even Davos. She does indeed get the bigger picture, and her book covers a lot of ground concisely. I love that one of her focuses is girls' education and women's empowerment and equality – one of *Drawdown*'s top ten. Great recommendations for what needs to be done – the UN Sustainable Development Goals feature - and how ordinary people around the world can help.

Usher, Bruce. 2022. *Investing in the Era of Climate Change*. Columbia. Excellent coverage of the critical role of big finance as well as advice for ordinary people. The Great Transition to renewables and sustainability is going to require huge amounts of capital, as recognized in climate policy books like *Supercharge Me*. Yes, the payoff is even bigger, and the opportunities are exciting, but from what sources will the financing come? Usher breaks down the different private sources, matches the different levels of risk, shares existing successes (there's a lot of them!), and shows a path forward to the level of investing that is needed.

Bittle, Jake. 2023. *The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration*. Outstanding. Agonizing real stories of Americans dealing with floods, fires, sea level rise, drought, etc. - and losing their homes and communities and savings. Winners and losers and the role of the

insurance industry and government bureaucracy. Excellent policy analysis and recommendations, including the social justice implications.

- Bittle deals with internal migration only. Also note Gaia Vince's *Nomad Century* for the benefits of welcoming international climate migrants.

Pettifor, Ann. 2019. *The Case for the Green New Deal.* Excellent. Laser-focused on the financial side (so be prepared for occasional heavy wading; it's short and that helps). Monetary and fiscal policy – the arcane financial workings of our modern world, private vs public savings and debt, and the history with its ups and downs, heroes and villains. Lots of detail. If we don't get this right, we won't be able to make change that's fast enough and large enough. Pettifor notes how critical it is to target the industries and people with the highest carbon footprints. Includes some coverage of environmental justice for the Global South and the poor in the North.

Little, Amanda. 2019. *The Fate of Food: What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World.* Worthy follow-up to *The End of Plenty*, an older book that I used to include. High-tech, low-tech, space-age and ancient foods, meat and meat substitutes, fruits and veggies, Little covers them all, examining food system responses to our era of climate change and drought. But start with *We Are Eating the Earth.*

Oreskes, Naomi & Erik Conway. 2012. *Merchants of Doubt.* Classic, masterful investigative report documenting deliberate media campaigns of lies by the tobacco industry and then the fossil fuel industry – casting public doubt on established science even as internal documents show that the science was actually acknowledged by these large corporations. Often using the same legal and marketing teams. PBS's Frontline had a corresponding series on The Power of Big Oil with some revealing interviews with oil industry executives and scientists. Absolutely shameful.
- and a recent follow-up to Merchants:
Dembicki, Geoff. 2022. *The Petroleum Papers: Inside the Far Right Conspiracy to Cover Up Climate Change.* Outstanding. Documents the fossil fuel industry's many internal reports on the existence and validity of climate change - reports from their own scientists, going back to the 1970s. Includes the varied internal responses, which unfortunately led to a massive public disinformation campaign.

Hill, Alice & Martinez-Diaz, Leonardo. 2020. *Building a Resilient Tomorrow: How to Prepare for the Coming Climate Disruption*. Excellent, focus on resilience - and solutions. Includes markets, legal approaches, novel finance & insurance mechanisms, relocation vs in-place resilience, climate refugees & immigration, data accessibility, inequality, national security, and health implications. Practical examples from policy wonks who know how to make change happen.

Carbon Footprint and Energy Basics

Kalmus, Peter. 2017. *Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution*. A climate scientist from CalTech and NASA with a wife and two children cut his family's carbon footprint drastically in innovative ways, and is loving the change. Some of the recommendations are not for everyone – raising chickens? – but they're inspiring.

Berners-Lee, Mike. 2011. *How Bad are Bananas: The Carbon Footprint of Everything*. Euro-centric and now somewhat outdated (and I question a few of his assessments). But this great book does something really important: look at the greenhouse gas impact of all sorts of human activities, while

recognizing the complexities in trying to generate even ballpark figures. His order of magnitude categorization is useful, as is his understanding of the nuances. A book full of humor despite the content. Berners-Lee focuses on behavior changes that have a significant impact; let's not dwell on the small stuff too much. For example, boat transport for produce/goods is cheap & CO2 friendly. So local doesn't always win (even if it's still usually a good idea), and bananas are fine (in case you were wondering!).

Berners-Lee, Mike. 2019. *There Is No Planet B*. Excellent, if not quite the standout as his *How Bad Are Bananas* (below). Broad in scope, including not just food, energy, transport – the usual suspects – but discussion of the importance of a more equitable income distribution. **What we're aiming for with sustainability: a clean environment, and healthy, long lives for everyone, with restored biodiversity, less violence, more trust and collaboration in a global community that respects everyone's rights.**

MacKinnon, J. B. 2023. *The Day the World Stops Shopping*. Excellent! Looks at many different angles of consumerism. Yes, the climate crisis means we in the developed world need to cut back on buying stuff, but how do we do that without wrecking the economy? The answer is, carefully and thoughtfully - and with an eye out for the workers in developing nations who will need extra help with the transition to sustainability. Well written, interesting examples.

Climate Fiction

Robinson, Kim Stanley. 2020. *The Ministry for the Future*. The famed science fiction author produces a hybrid – a novel that reads like nonfiction in many places, with lots of solid facts. This is very near-term climate fiction, featuring realistic setbacks, on a global scale. If the potential solutions involve excessive geo-engineering, well, we may come to that if safer climate rescues never gain enough political traction. Lots on the critical economics, yet the human drama works too.

Powell, James. 2020. *The 2084 Report*. Another fictional work that includes lots of climate facts, and it's absolutely riveting. An all-too-real oral history of earth's gradual descent into dystopia, with first-person accounts of floods, fires, droughts, water wars, and climate refugees with nowhere to go.

Googins, Nick. 2023. *The Great Transition*. Outstanding clifi. Set post-transition, after climate change has caused devastation, and huge sea level rise has changed the face of the earth. As a plus, global society is now much more sustainable and egalitarian, but the wounds remain. A 15-year-old girl and her family are the chief protagonists. Should there be delayed retribution against wealthy climate criminals? Riveting. The author is a 4th grade teacher, and Ursula K. LeGuin's wonderful scifi novel, *The Dispossessed*, was part of his inspiration.

Majumdar, Megha. 2025. *A Guardian and a Thief*. Outstanding clifi. In near-future Kolkata, climate impacts bring famine. People do the best they can, but the struggle for food and shelter for their families leads to a breakdown of the social order. Movingly, realistically portrayed, with all the details of life in India. A family with air tickets and passports tries desperately to get through one more week before they can join a family member living in the US. Thoughtful, riveting, devastating.

Briefly

Boswell, Greve, & Seale. 2019. *Climate Action Planning: A Guide to Creating Low-Carbon, Resilient Communities*. I wish I'd known about this workbook as soon as it came out - we could have used it in the CA climate action coalition I co-founded. Lays out all the local climate action steps in detail, with real-life examples from small to large cities across the US. That includes greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans, community engagement, financing, and implementation. I loved it.

Johnston, Nicholas, & Parzen. 2013. *The Guide to Greening Cities*. Island Press. Superb, in-depth presentation of what has worked, written by the same people who helped transform Chicago, Vancouver, and other large cities. Includes concrete examples and ways to overcome barriers. Emphasizing the positive (e.g., cost savings) makes change an easier sell. Wonderful resource still.

Goodman, Sherri. 2024. *Threat Multiplier: Climate, Military Leadership, and the Fight for Global Security*. Island Press. Good news: The US military gets the nature of climate change as a threat multiplier, has been trying to reduce its own carbon footprint, and routinely helps at home and abroad with disaster relief. Generals who had been skeptical years ago are now on board. The author was Deputy Undersecretary of Defense (Environmental Security) from 1993 to 2001, and is currently Secretary General of the International Military Council on Climate & Security.

Rush, Elizabeth. 2018. *Rising: Despatches from the New American Shore*. What to do when your house is in a flood zone during this era of rising sea levels? What happens to your neighborhood? And how does socioeconomic status influence the outcomes? (Hint: quite a bit.) Rush focuses on the poor and middle class, in a poetic elegy on environmental injustice and (sometimes) resilience.

Thunberg, Greta. 2019. *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference.* A short collection of her inspiring talks. Excellent, motivational.

Dasgupta, Ani. (2025). *The New Global Possible: Rebuilding Optimism in the Age of Climate Crisis*. Provides an international perspective on what needs to be done, with chapters on multilateralism, technology, business, climate justice, cities, and economy/finance. Lots of references - that's a good thing - but the technical side is kept readable. Great examples. Dasgupta is President of the World Resources Institute, a large and highly-respected nonprofit that's been working on climate change internationally for decades. Previously, he worked at the World Bank for nearly 20 years.

Nesbit, Jeff. 2018. *This is the Way the World Ends: How Droughts, and Die-Offs*, *Heat Waves and Hurricanes Are Converging on America*. Overall - good. Covers a lot of scary ground, includes interviews.

Otto, Friederike. 2019. *Angry Weather: Heat Waves, Floods, Storms, & the New Science of Climate Change*. All about climate change attribution science, from an Oxford scientist who co-led its development. She and a few colleagues have been doing this work for free. Very clear. Quote: **"People who profit from a system often don't want to change it; rich states and fossil fuel-exporting countries benefit from fossil fuels. They say the right things and then prevent necessary measures from being taken. This is one of the main problems with climate negotiations."**

Weisman, Alan. 2025. *Hope Dies Last.* Weisman wrote the excellent *Countdown* and bestseller *The Earth Without Us*. Sustainability innovations range impressively from kelp and seaweed as wonder foods to successes in refugee camps; also microbes as food, fusion energy, sustainable fertilizer, and activism. Interviews convey the personal sagas of these people jump-starting the Great Transition.

Keenan, Jesse. 2025. *North: The Future of Post-Climate America*. Oxford UP. An academic book that offers valuable and well-documented coverage of climate migration and housing in the US. What's the current status, what's likely to happen soon, and what are the barriers and opportunities and costs? Good graphics. An excellent resource on topics like insurance along the Gulf Coast. Keenan is also an expert on Duluth, one of the climate havens.

Blue, Elly. 2013. *Bikenomics: How Bicycling Can Save the Economy.* A real eye-opener. Adding bicycling infrastructure bring all sorts of *economic* benefits along with better health and (obviously) climate action benefits. Well-researched, inspiring, good examples. Old but still good.

Sherrell, Daniel. 2021. *Warmth: Coming of Age at the End of Our World*. Young climate activist Sherrell writes to his future child, should he choose to have one, about the overwhelmingness of what he calls The Problem that his generation was born into. How do we cope? Excellent psychology. Riveting, powerful, cathartic, for me, anyway. And beautifully written.

Gardiner, Beth. 2019. *Choked: Life and Breath in the Age of Air Pollution* – causing about 7 million early deaths/year worldwide. Great coverage of Dieselgate, which involved many cheating manufacturers, not just VW. India's smog is unimaginable. Cutting back fossil fuels has many benefits.

Romer, Jennie. 2021. *Can I Recycle This? A Guide to Better Recycling (And How to Reduce Single-Use Plastics).* Valuable info about what can be recycled, what can't, and why. A theme throughout is the need to reduce single-use plastics, and how to go about that.

Milman, Oliver. 2022. *The Insect Crisis*. Magnificent and depressing. Thoroughly covers the research showing serious declines for many insects, and how devastating that would be. They run the planet… pollination is just one prime example. Well written too. Good summary of the solutions: change ag, less pesticide use, more cover cropping, more hedgerows and "weeds," etc. Neonicotinoids are hugely problematic and often minimally helpful to farmers.
-Goulson, Dave. 2022. *Silent Earth: Averting the Insect Apocalypse.* Covers the same ground and is also outstanding – also highly recommended. More focused on the UK than Milman's book.

Minter, Adam. 2015. *Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade*. The recycling side of sustainability. Well done, and global indeed in scope. Starting to get a bit dated.
- 2019. *Secondhand*. Again, impressive - global reuse markets rather than recycling. Fascinating, with unexpected twists as Minter digs deep into where used stuff goes. Goodwill is just the beginning. More important for sustainability than recycling, with "reduce" being the prime directive, of course!

Karelas, Andreas. 2020. *Climate Courage.* Thoughtful coverage. Buys into some pop psychology, but I liked its coverage of fossil fuel subsidies, road maps to clean energy (her own expertise), inspiring solar successes, the importance of more plant-based diets, and a useful list of what people need to *change*.

Kramer, Ron. 2020. *Carbon Criminals, Climate Crimes*. Provides the criminology context for corporations' and governments' misinformation campaigns and failure to act. Thoroughly documented.

Gore, Al. 2017. *An Inconvenient Sequel*. Excellent – an easy read with lots of graphics, yet covers the basics and inspires with great examples.

De Gracia, Naira. 2023. *The Last Cold Place: A Field Season Studying Penguins in Antarctica.* A young research tech spends 5 months on an Antarctic island. Beautifully written and thoughtful. Includes some history as well as the challenges of living in isolation with a small team. Global warming is having dramatic effects on ice cover and the shrimplike krill population, the base of the Antarctic ecosystem, and an important part of local carbon sequestration. De Gracia's team studied in great detail the nesting and foraging success of local penguins and seals. While climate change isn't the main focus, its threat is always there in the background. Fascinating and worthwhile.

Bell, Alice. 2021. *Our Biggest Experiment: An Epic History of the Climate Crisis*. Wide-ranging and thoughtful. Includes contributions of women and minorities.

Henderson, Chelsea. 2024. *Glacial: The Inside Story of Climate Politics.* Over the years, some Republican politicians have tried to make progress on climate change. Here's an inside story of those attempts, written by one of their staffers. It's not intended to be balanced (see other histories like *Our Biggest Experiment* and *Losing Earth* for that). But it's invaluable for what it does, especially right now.

Figueres, Christiana & Rivett-Carnac, Tom. 2020. *The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis*. The authors were in charge of the 2015 Paris climate agreement process. A short summary of where we are, strongest on visualizing what the future could look like if we do take action.

Doerr, John. 2022. *Speed & Scale: An Action Plan for Solving Our Climate Crisis*. From a venture capitalist who funded Google and other big tech startups, including the solar giant Enphase. (My solar panels use Enphase.) Quantifies what a climate action plan must aim for with different sectors, with a focus on venture capitalist funding. Features behind-the-scenes stories from other cleantech leaders.

Margolin, Jamie. 2020. *Youth to Power*. A young activist tells it like it is for young activists - impressive. What to do to fight the climate crisis, and how to overcome the barriers. Much of it is applicable to any activist. Inspiring and practical. Blurbs from Al Gore, McKibben, Ken Burns - wow.