

Books in the WhEB Library

Title	Author	Description
The Great Work	Berry, T. (1999)	An inspiring book for anyone seeking a sense of purpose grounded in an ecological spirituality. Thomas Berry believes that it is the task of present generations "to carry out the transition from a period of human devastation of the Earth to a period when humans would be present to the planet in a mutually beneficial manner". He believes that humans can only come to a benign relationship with the Earth "by honoring other modes of earthly being" and by being fully open to its wonder and beauty.
Pumpkins and Squash	Boisset, C. (1997)	A beautifully illustrated book that sets out what can be done with an amazing variety of pumpkins and squash. After a brief introductory section about the botanical aspects of pumpkins and squash, and how to grow them, the next chapters describe what can be done around the home and in the kitchen. Examples include floral display, ornamental gourds, and a great selection of cooking recipes, including soups, pies, salads, pickles and jams. A very useful book if you want to know what you can do with all those pumpkins from your garden in March, April and May.
Plan B 2.0 Rescuing a Planet Under Stress	Brown, L. , (2006)	Business-as-usual - "Plan A"- is taking the world to economic decline and eventual collapse. Lester Brown sets out his ideas for Plan B: "building a new economy, to offer a more detailed vision of what it would look like, and to provide a roadmap of how to get from here to there." Brown sees a mixture of poverty eradication, conservation, better farming practices, new and improved technologies - especially forms of renewable energy - and ecologically more sustainable cities. He views the effort as "mobilizing to save civilization".
Gaia, the Thesis, the Mechanisms and the Implications.	Bunyard, P. and E. Goldsmith (Eds.)(1988)	The proceedings of a conference on the implications of the Gaia hypothesis, with contributions from a range of scholars, including biologists, ecologists, philosophers and social scientists.

The Sea Around Us	Carson, R (1951)	Although written in 1951, this is still a readable introduction to the natural history of the oceans. Carson was an eloquent and gifted writer and her subject, the sea, was one that she loved. Tremendous advances have been made in our knowledge of the oceans since she wrote but we can perhaps still agree with her that "even with all our modern instruments for probing and sampling the deep ocean, no one now can say that we shall ever resolve the last, the ultimate mysteries of the sea." A worthwhile introduction to anyone who wants to know more about the oceans.
The Edge of the Sea	Carson, R (1955)	Describes the creatures that live along the rock pools and sandy shores of the American North Atlantic. Well written; gives a sense of wonder. (Old paperback – needs to be treated carefully)
Silent Spring (2 copies, one hardbk and one pbk)	Carson, R (1962)	The highly controversial and classic publication that revealed the harm caused by pesticides that accumulate in the environment; caused banning of DDT and other pesticides that accumulate in the food chain.
The Making of the Fittest, DNA and the Ultimate Forensic Record of Evolution	Carroll, S.B. (2006)	A very clear and readable explanation of the links between genetics and evolution. Carroll explains the genetic basis of variation and how this provides the platform for evolution through processes of natural selection.
Ecological Imperialism, The Biological expansion of Europe, 900-1900	Crosby, A.W. (1986)	A history of western expansion into the new world and its ecological consequences; highlights how native ecosystems In North America, Australia and New Zealand were rapidly and completely transformed by the combined effects of land use practices (forest clearance for agriculture), introduced plants and animals, and introduced diseases. The conquest of the New World was as much an ecological processes a military one, involving both colonists and an army of introduced plants, animals and diseases.
Bamboo Rediscovered	Cusack, V. 1997 and 2003	A well-illustrated and practical handbook on how to grow and use non-invasive clumping bamboo. Includes information on growing and use of bamboo for furniture, housing, food and musical instruments.

<p>Eco Villages</p>	<p>Dawson, J,</p>	<p>Gives a brief introduction to ecovillages - what they are, how they vary, how they operate and some of the challenges they face. It defines ecovillages as: "<i>Private citizens' initiatives in which the communication impulse is of central importance, that are seeking to win back some measure of control over community resources, that have strong shared values base (often referred to as "spirituality") and that act as centres of research, demonstration and (in most cases) training.</i>" Includes 5 case study examples (India, Brazil, Germany, the US and Senegal). Has a useful "resources" section that includes sources of information and references to books, magazines, journals. Videos, DVDs, and websites.</p>
<p>New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, 2010</p>	<p>Department of Conservation, 2010</p>	<p>The NZ Coastal Policy Statement comes under the Resource Management Act and sets objectives and policies that district and regional councils need to apply when considering development within coastal areas and out to the edge of the 12-mile territorial sea.</p>
<p>Living Your Passion</p>	<p>Diamond, R.</p>	<p>This is a wisdom book, concerned with the spiritual, emotional and practical aspects of changing lifestyles from the individualistic, consumer-based life of the past, to a new cultural model of 'oneness with the universe'. Rose Diamond asks the questions: What does it mean to live your passion? How does living your passion become Love-in-action? How does Love-in-action seed a whole new world? She has written a book based on nineteen interviews with 24 New Zealanders, people she describes as 'extraordinary people who are living their passion as Love-in-action. She believes 'New Zealand has the potential to become a role model for the world as a peaceful, sustainable, forward looking and multicultural nation', and that the people she has interviewed are, 'harbingers of a new culture, living at the unfolding edge of social change. They are developing life enhancing social innovations alongside the old, unsustainable ways.</p>

Green Political Thought	Dobson, A (4th edn,)2007)	An introduction to green political theory text for students, academics and activists. It distinguishes between environmentalism and ecologism and explains different underlying philosophies. Ecologism places the Earth and its ecological functioning as the basis for sustainability. It's philosophical basis is deep ecology rather than environmental rationality. It stresses the importance of decentralized politics as the most democratic and flexible form of government for sustainability.
Enough! The Challenge of a post-growth economy	Fitzsimons, F 2013	A 22-page pamphlet recording a wise and thoughtful speech delivered to the Religious Society of Friends in Aotearoa New Zealand (Quakers); Jeanette Fitzsimons explains how "the challenge now is not how to resume growth, but how to manage a post-growth economy in a way that nurtures wellbeing." She offers some ideas for what a new economy would involve.
Organic Summerfruit Resource Guide	Fraser, T., A. Morton & D.Proebst (2003)	Includes chapters on orchard design (site selection, soil properties etc.), crop management (e.g. pollination, thinning, water, crop protection), harvesting and marketing and certification.
The Picador Nature Reader	Halpern D. & D. Frank, (1996)	Short stories, essays and poems about nature
Blessed Unrest,	Hawken, P.	An exploration of the great variety of groups around the world that are concerned, one way or another, with sustainability and healing the earth. It includes such diverse activities as permaculture, fair trade, micro-lending as well as groups such as indigenous people, peasants, small farmers, green activists, and all who share a basic understanding "about the Earth and how it functions, and the necessity of fairness and equity for all people dependent on the planet's life-giving systems". Hawken describes it as "the largest social movement in history" and as "the great underground".

<p>Peak Everything, Waking up to the Century of Decline in Earth's Resources. (2 copies)</p>	<p>Heinberg, R. (2007)</p>	<p>Population and consumption growth mean that the world is reaching a point where, in addition to fossil fuels, many other non-renewable and some renewable resources are reaching their limit. Humankind is at the end of one era and the beginning of another. The next century will be one of decline in earth's resources.</p>
<p>The Transition Handbook, (2 copies)</p>	<p>Hopkins, R. (2008)</p>	<p>Calls on people to move away from dependence on fossil fuels and the carbon economy by developing local resilience and self-sufficiencies; it is thoroughly practical in its suggestions for how to change; thoroughly readable; full of helpful illustrations; positive in its approach to the future; a very worthwhile and constructive response to the enormous challenges that face us in the future.</p>
<p>Manifesto on Climate Change and the Future of Food Security,</p>	<p>Internatl Com. on the Future of Food and Agriculture, (2008)</p>	<p>A short (34-page pamphlet) that sets out and explains 9 principles for food security in times of climate change. The principles are: Industrial globalised agriculture contributes to and is vulnerable to climate change; ecological and organic farming contributes to mitigation and adaptation to climate change; transition to local, sustainable food systems benefit the environment and public health, biodiversity reduces vulnerability and increases resilience; genetically modified seeds and breeds: a false solution and dangerous diversion; industrial agrofuels: a false solution and new threat to food security; water conservation is central to sustainable agriculture; knowledge transition for climate adaptation; economic transition toward a sustainable and equitable food future.</p>
<p>Field Notes from a Catastrophe, A Frontline Report on Climate Change</p>	<p>Kolbert, E. (2006)</p>	<p>Kolbert journeys from the Arctic or Central America to witness the unfolding catastrophe of climate change</p>
<p>The Two-Wheeled Cowboy, A Man, His Bike, and a Land as Big as the Sky</p>	<p>Lebo, Nelson (2000)</p>	<p>The book describes a 2,000 mile journey by bicycle across the US prairies. It describes the physical, mental and emotional experience of vast space, unforgiving sun, the grandeur of the prairie landscape, its history and people encountered on the way. The writing is lyrical and reflective. It's a book to read slowly and savouringly.</p>

<p>Arctic Dreams, Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape.</p>	<p>Lopez, B (ppbk edn1999; original edn 1986)</p>	<p>A beautifully written, lyrical account of travel through the Arctic. Lopez writes with passion and understanding of the Arctic landscape and the animals and people that live there. This book is an excellent example of nature writing.</p>
<p>Gaia, a New Look at Life on Earth</p>	<p>Lovelock, J.E. (1979)</p>	<p>Bringing together knowledge from astronomy to zoology in support of his hypothesis, Lovelock explores the idea that the Earth works as a single biophysical organism. Lovelock shows how Earth has maintained the right conditions of temperature, hydrology and atmosphere for life for eons of time despite all manner of changes to the solar system.</p>
<p>The New Nature, Winners and Losers in Wild Australia.</p>	<p>Low, T, (2003)</p>	<p>Whilst cities and farmlands and the introduction of alien species have endangered many of Australia's wildlife, others have adapted and taken advantage of the new conditions. This book is a clear-eyed account of how human impacts on wildlife in Australia has created winners and losers in the ecological scheme of things; it has created whole new ecosystems and new relationships among species.</p>
<p>The Revenge of Gaia, Why the Earth is Fighting Back and How We Can Still Save Humanity</p>	<p>Lovelock, J.E. (2006)</p>	<p>Lovelock explains why the changes in environment are taking place and what can be done about them.</p>

<p>Six Degrees, Our Future on a Hotter Planet</p>	<p>Lynas, M. 2007</p>	<p>Lynas is a well respected science journalist and author. This is a well -written, well-researched book about some of the impacts we can expect under different temperature conditions (1 degree of warming, 2 degrees etc.) It is very sobering. Lynas describes the likely weather and climate conditions under different temperatures and possible consequences for the human populations affected. For example, of New York, Lynas writes that under 3 degrees of global warming, "what counts today as a one-in-a-100-year flood could arrive every 20 years by the 2050s , and every 4 years by the 2080s. The 3-metre flood zone, which today includes much of Lower Manhattan, Coney Island in Brooklyn, substantial parts of Jersey City and Hoboken as well as both Newark and LaGuardia airports could be submerging as frequently as every five years, making whole zones economically unviable." (p.147). The book is frightening but very worthwhile because it provides a very vivid picture of the practical consequences for human society and culture around the world if we do not make drastic changes to our current ways of life.</p>
<p>Classical Crafts, A Practical Compendium of Traditional Skills</p>	<p>Margetts, M. 1989</p>	<p>This book provides a short description of an unusual selection of 35 crafts. The crafts are groups under the headings: textile crafts (e.g. quilting, dyeing and knitting, making rag rugs), paper crafts (e.g. papermaking, bookbinding), kitchen crafts (e.g. goat's cheese, preserves, cider, smoking fish) and decorative crafts (e.g. toys, stained glass, jewellery). They are hand-crafts which can be done by artisans and amateurs alike, and most are ones which are rarely practiced these days. The descriptions provide a "taste" of what is involved with each craft rather than a detailed guide. Together with beautiful photographs illustrating examples of each craft, it serves as an introduction.</p>
<p>Small is Possible</p>	<p>McRobie, G. (19810</p>	<p>A sequel to E.F. Schumacher's Small is Beautiful. McRobie was a colleague of Schumacher and co-founder of the Intermediate Technology Development Group (later known as Practical Action). McRobie is one of the world's leading advocates of sustainable agriculture and small-scale technology. The book explains alternative technology as a concept and gives examples.</p>

Burn Baby Burn,	Moore, K.	This is a passionate book written at the beginning of the millennium and in light of the impact of New Zealand's 1980s/1990s neoliberal reforms. Although much of what Kevin Moore has to say has become common wisdom to those who accept that climate change is a global catastrophe in progress, he has specific things to say about the New Zealand context. For example, the dependence of our TV on commercial support means that it is particularly geared to consumer culture; eco-tourism may be anything but eco. He predicts that "unless we move quickly toward creating a stable environment and stable economy, providing for the needs of the elderly may become one of many burdens that society will be unable to carry." This book is worth a read, despite the small print and the numerous editing mistakes.
Organic Citrus Resource Guide. Soil & Health Assn	Morton, A & D.Proebst, (2003)	Includes soil, sward and tree management, crop management and orchard design from a biodynamic perspective; includes information on organic certification.
Plan C, Community Survival Strategies for Peak Oil and Climate Change	Murphy, P. (2008)	<i>Plan C</i> , offers an alternative way of life from the current one of high consumption, high dependence on fossil fuel, strong individualism and great inequality. The core values underlying Murphy's alternative involve cutting back on resource consumption and waste generation to a less materialistic and less wasteful way of life. <i>Plan C</i> is easy to read but dense with information.
Organic Gardening: a Guide	Organic New Zealand, Soil and Health Association	Practical information about learning to understand your garden (its microclimates, sun, shade, damp, dry, type of soil) and how to grow without chemical fertilisers or pest control.

<p>Growing for Good: Intensive Farming, Sustainability and New Zealand's Environment (2 Copies)</p>	<p>Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (2004)</p>	<p>A very sobering report on the impact of intensive farming on the New Zealand environment, particularly the consequences for water quality and quantity. The aims of the report were to examine current systems of food production, especially intensive forms of farming such as dairying, horticulture and viticulture; review the available research on the impacts of farming; identify the links between farming practices and environmental sustainability, and stimulate debate. The report provides a very good overview of the environmental consequences of intensive production.</p>
<p>Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food</p>	<p>Patel, R. (2007)</p>	<p>This is a very long and detailed book about the way the food systems of the world are increasingly controlled by corporate giants concerned to maximise profit. In the words of the author "Global hunger and obesity are symptoms of the same problem . . . Guided by the profit motive, the corporations that sell our food shape and constrain how we eat, and how we think about food." Patel's account ranges from GM crops to fair trade, and from the supermarket consumer to the peasants and farm workers exploited by the system.</p>
<p>Seeing Green, The Politics of Ecology Explained</p>	<p>Porrirt, J. (1984)</p>	<p>Jonathon Porrirt was Director of friends of the Earth and a leading member of the UK Green Party. This book presents his vision for an alternative path to the future.</p>
<p>WA\$TED</p>	<p>Price, Francesca (2007)</p>	<p>This is a short, handy, well-illustrated and interesting home guide for reducing your household's eco-footprint. It follows from a New Zealand TV series. Filming was based on information collected from a thorough accounting of the resources used by 10 households. It involved weekly readings of electricity, gas, water and fuel, household rubbish, shopping receipts, distance travelled each week, and insulation and the use of appliances in the home. On the basis of the research, the team identified the real impact the families were having on the environment and ways they could change to make less waste and use less resources. The guide provides details on how any household can discover what their environmental impact is, and tips for how to reduce the impact.</p>

<p>Kiwi Ingenuity,</p>	<p>Riley, B. (1995)</p>	<p>A book of NZ ideas and inventions. The book records a host of inventions by New Zealanders, from milking machine and the Hamilton jet boat to the first electric fence, the modern commercial kiwifruit, the disposable syringe and tranquiliser dart, a livestock identification system, and earthquake shock absorber and many more.</p>
<p>Forgotten Household Crafts, Recapture the Self-Sufficient Life of a Bygone Age</p>	<p>Seymour, J. (1987, 2001, 2007)</p>	<p>This book provides a short introduction to: Kitchen crafts (baking, storing, salting, pickling, drying and smoking, bottling, making tea, coffee, cider, beer, wine, herbs and spices); dairy crafts (milk and milking, making butter, cheese and ice cream), laundry crafts (making soap, washing, drying and pressing linen, dyeing), around the home (heating, beds and bedrooms, home doctoring, dining and entertaining, candle and oil lighting, cleaning, controlling pests), textiles, (spinning, mat and rug-making, crochet, knitting, making and repairing, quilting and patchwork, smocking, embroidery), decorative arts (painting and papering, stencilling, furniture and furnishings, decorations). The illustrations are in black and white and the text is densely packed but the interest of the book lies in the way it illustrates and explains old-fashioned technologies and tools and implements.</p>
<p>Soil, not Oil, Climate Change, Peak Oil, and Food Insecurity</p>	<p>Shiva, V (2008)</p>	<p>Shiva main concerns are food security, sustainable agriculture, and the elimination of poverty. She views the current global threats of climate change, peak oil and food insecurity as both a crisis and a challenge. It requires a change "from oil to soil". By this she means a change from an economy based on massive consumption of energy and resources to one that is climate change resilient, and based on networks of renewable energy; a change from an anti-democratic political system of centralised control by giant corporations and captured governments to decentralised and localised democracy; and a cultural transition from consumerism to "our rightful place as co-creators and co-producers with nature". Soil is a metaphor for decentralised and deep democracy; it teaches us how to be earth citizens and protectors of the land.</p>

Wanganui: A Resilience Action Plan, (2 copies	Smith, T. (2008)	This is "the first attempt at setting out how Wanganui could make the transition from a high energy consumption town to a low energy one." It sets out clear visions for different aspects of life (food, Youth and community, housing, livelihoods, etc.) and suggests practical steps to get there. It is a thoughtful, leading edge look at some of the consequences for Whanganui of global climate change and future change, and how Whanganui, as a community, can make a resilient response. (Pamphlet of 65 A5 pages).
Living with Natives, New Zealanders talk about their love of native plants.	Spellerberg, I. and M. Frey(2008)	A beautifully illustrated look at how individual New Zealanders have expressed their love of native plants, including such well-known figures as Jeanette Fitzsimons and Tim Shadbolt
Climate Code Red, the case for emergency action	Spratt, D and P. Sutton, 2008	This book is now outdated in many respects, but parts are still worth a read. It is in 3 parts. Part 1 describes the threats of climate change (glaciers melting, sea-level rising, biodiversity loss etc.). This entry needs to be completed
A Blueprint fore a Safer Planet, How We Can Save the World and Create Prosperity.	Stern, N. (2010)	Nicholas Stern was Chief Economist and Senior Vice-Resident of the World Bank from 2000 to 2003 and has served at the highest levels of government in the UK. The book is the outcome of research and experience on the economics(and politics) of climate change. The book suggests key elements for a global deal on climate. It includes emissions targets, development and sharing of technologies and funding. Lord Stern's approach contrasts greatly with the philosophies of Jonathon Porritt (Seeing Green) and Andrew Dobson (Green Political Thought).
Practical Conservation, Site Assessment and Management Planning	Tait, J, A. Lane & S. Carr (1988)	Covers the theory and practice on how to assess habitat and landscapes for conservation with practical examples and illustrations
Our Common Future	The World Commission on Environment & Development (1987)	What has now become a classic, this was a report to the United Nations which defined sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The report recognised that to be sustainable development must include social, economic, cultural and environmental sustainability.

<p>CCCC Kick the Habit, a UN Guide to Climate Neutrality.</p>	<p>UNEP</p>	<p>A concise, readable and well-illustrated account of the causes of greenhouse gas emissions and ways to reduce them (lots of diagrams and maps).</p>
<p>Our Ecological Footprint, Reducing Human Impact on the Earth</p>	<p>Wackernagel, M & W. Rees (1996)</p>	<p>The first book to fully explain the concept of the ecological footprint as a measure of ecological impact and illustrate how individuals and countries can be compared in the 'weight' of their ecological footprint. Readable and reasonably easy to understand.</p>
<p>The NZ Resource Recovery Park Design Guide, http://www.wasteminz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/The-New-Zealand-Resource-Recovery-Park-Design-Guide-August-2008.pdf</p>	<p>Waste Management Institute of NZ (WasteMINZ), 2008</p>	<p>Gives a comprehensive overview of how to set out a waste recycling and recovery centre. Includes a summary of legislation, how to get community buy-in, statutory consents (e.g. land use, building). Also includes design principles, site layout, operation and management. Types of waste resource examples noted include plastics, glass, cans, cardboard, paper, scrap metal, waste oil, gas bottles, reusable consumer items, green waste, building materials, polystyrene, tyres and hazardous wastes. Gives suggestions on how to control or minimise noise, litter, smell, dust and stormwater contamination.</p>
<p>Organic Avocado, Resource Guide</p>	<p>Wills, E., J. Broskery and D. Brown (2003)</p>	<p>Includes chapters on propagation orchard fertility, pests and diseases, harvesting and marketing and types of certification (e.g. Demeter, Bio-Grow, Organic Farm NZ)</p>