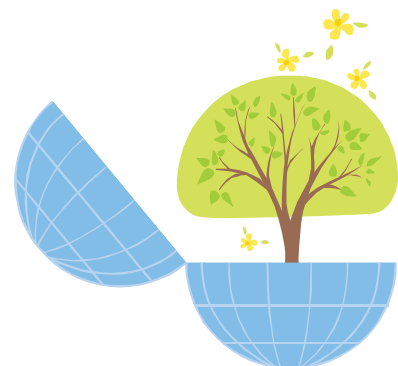


Our Environment: One People, One Planet

A Green Guide for AKF USA Volunteers



Green Guide

For AKF USA Volunteers

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Compiled by Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. | January 28, 2010

Aga Khan Foundation and the Environment

Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is not known as an environmental group or primarily as a “green” organization. But AKDN engages in a lot of work with communities to protect and manage the environment as an asset for long-term sustainable development. What makes AKDN unique is its community-centric, integrated approach that addresses economic, social and cultural concerns holistically.

In the countries where the AKDN operates, rural communities often rely on natural resources for both subsistence and income generation. It is their deep connection to these resources that forms the basis of livelihoods. AKDN aims to sustainably manage the environment to meet people’s needs now and into the future. Yet climate change, shifts in weather patterns, deforestation, and the ever-growing resource depletion that feeds the global economy threatens equitable development and conservation.

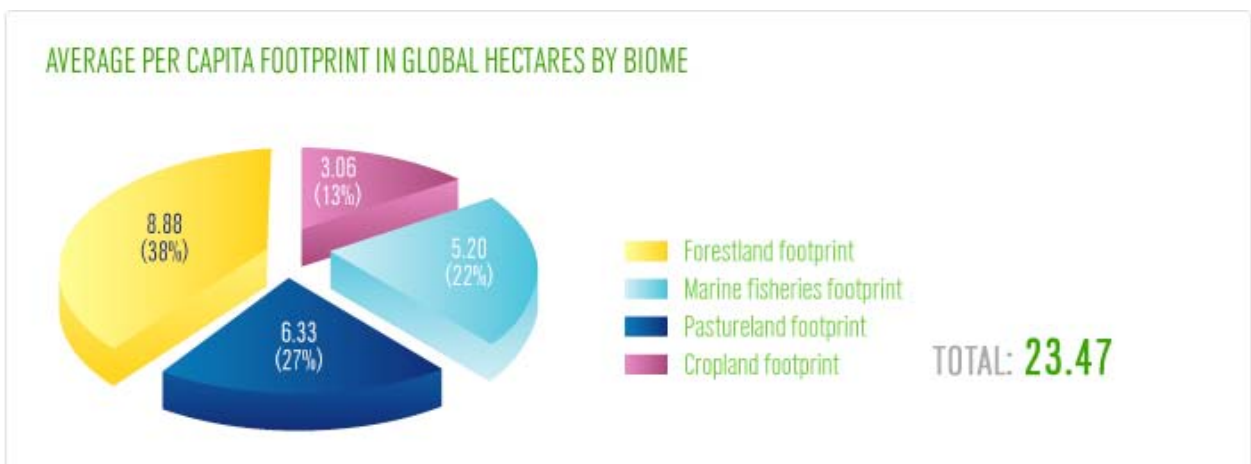
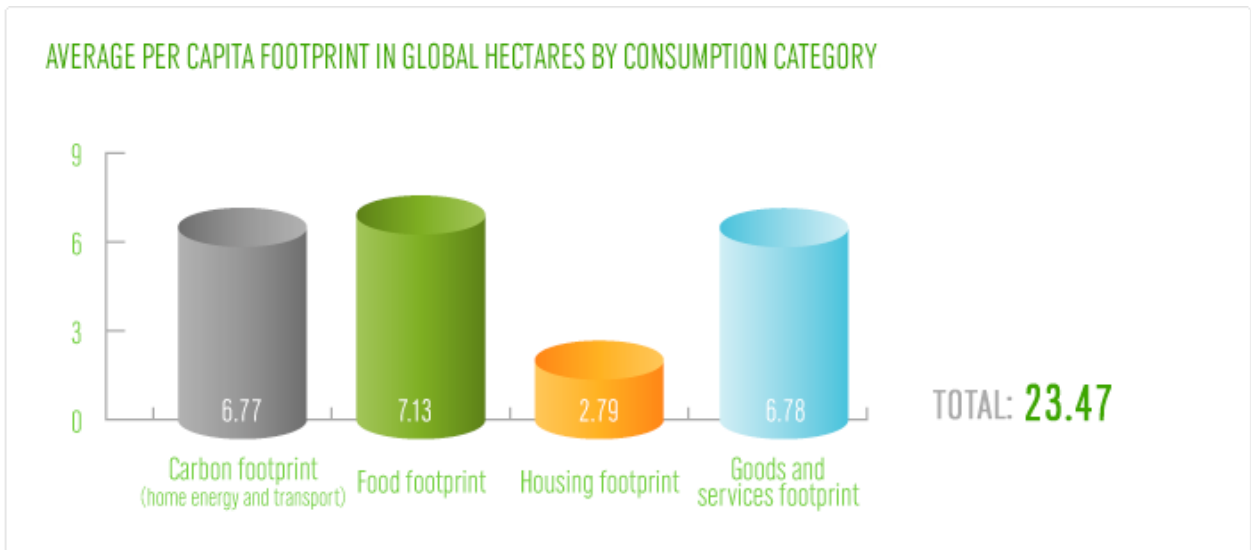
To meet these mounting challenges, AKDN’s rural support programs are active in promoting community resilience to climate change, natural resource management, efficient water and energy use, forestry and innovative approaches to agriculture. In the high mountain regions, AKDN supports disaster risk reduction programs, protecting people from glacial lake outbursts, avalanches and earthquakes.

The AKDN is active in developing clean energy solutions that range from hydro-electric to wind energy to biogas in order to provide communities with low carbon electricity that fosters sustainable development. The Building and Construction Improvement Program introduces fuel efficient and smokeless stoves that not only reduce CO₂ in the environment but improve indoor air quality that leads to better health. AKDN’s work in the restoration of cultural sites is of critical importance to society, linking preservation of cultural heritage, economic development and environmental restoration. For example, Al Azhar Park has created a green lung and an oasis of biological diversity for Cairo.

AKDN is active in planting trees, trees that serve as savings for farmers while giving dividends in food, fodder and fuel; trees that help to reduce deforestation and combat climate change. To date the AKDN has planted tens of millions of trees in Central Asia and is seeking to plant more than 5 million trees in Africa in the next two years.

Aga Khan Development Network’s solutions to environmental problems link natural resource management and alternative energy with community development. Responsible stewardship of our planet extends to *all* people from Asia to Africa to America. This year, Partnerships *InAction* will engage Americans as global citizens in the widening grassroots movement to improve the quality of life of our planet and its people.

Our Carbon Footprint



There are only 15.71 global hectares available per person on a renewable basis. This means we are overshooting the Earth's biological capacity by nearly 50%. To sustain present levels of consumption, we would need:



http://www.myfootprint.org/en/about_the_quiz/what_it_measures/

1.5 earths?

Essentially, we are currently using renewable resources too quickly for the planet to keep up. Meaning -- if we continue our current lifestyles, the earth's resources will eventually run dry.

But remember that 1.5 earths is an average of the amount of resources that each person uses. Chances are you probably accumulate more waste and use more energy and water than those in developing countries. To find out how many earths it takes to feed your current lifestyle, take the quiz at this website:

<http://earthday.net/footprint2/flash.html>

Especially in developed countries like America, we often use resources we don't need. What we consider a necessity may be a luxury to someone in one of the areas where AKF serves. As you promote environment-friendly habits to others, keep yourself in check. Being a living example is good way to advocate for your cause. We want to preserve the environment so that it can provide for all peoples, now and into the future.

Examine your lifestyle in two key areas: [Water](#) and [Energy](#). There are hundreds of easy ways to conserve more. To get started, read the following tips.

Water Conservation: One Drop at a Time

1. **Install low-flow shower heads.** They cost just \$10 to \$20 each, deliver an invigorating shower, and save 12 gallons of water per shower. The decrease in heat needed for hot water will save energy too. (Approx. 300 pounds of CO2 per year for electrically heated water, or 80 pounds for gas-heated water.)
2. **Filler 'er up.** Only run your clothes and dish washer when they're full.
3. **Reduce water use in your lawn and garden.** In some households the amount of water used in gardens represents half of the water used by the family. Just leaving a hose on can waste 265 gallons (1,000 liters) an hour. Make sure your sprinklers are arranged so that you're not watering your driveway or sidewalk, and time your watering during the cooler and less windy parts of the day.
4. **Turn off the water** when brushing your teeth or washing dishes by hand.
5. **Catch water in a container** when waiting for the shower to turn hot. You can use that water to water plants or flush the toilet.
6. **Wash vegetables** in a pan of water instead of under the tap.
7. **Sweep the driveway.** Washing the driveway with a water hose wastes 1,000 liters per hour.
8. **Use a pool cover.** Your swimming pool can lose up to 200 liters per day from evaporation. A pool cover will reduce this by 80%.
9. **Keep water clean.** Properly dispose of paints, motor oil, and pesticides by sending to a hazardous waste collection site.

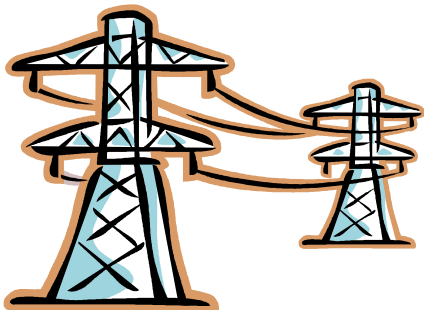


Head to this website to learn more tips while playing an interactive game.

<http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/kids/tip-tank-game.php>

Conserving Energy

1. **Set your thermostat.** In the winter, set your thermostat at 68 degrees in daytime, and 55 degrees at night. In the summer, keep it at 78. Lowering your thermostat just two degrees during winter saves 6 percent of heating-related CO2 emissions. That's a reduction of 420 pounds of CO2 per year for a typical home.
2. **Change your light bulbs.** Buy energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs for your most-used lights. They save money by using only 1/4 the energy of an ordinary incandescent bulb and lasting 8-12 times longer.
3. **Wash your clothes in cold water.** Switching from hot to warm for two loads per week can save nearly 500 pounds of CO2 per year if you have an electric water heater, or 150 pounds for a gas heater.
4. **Air dry your clothes.** Instead of using a dryer.
5. **Turn your refrigerator down.** Refrigerators account for about 20% of Household electricity use. Use a thermometer to set your refrigerator temperature as close to 37 degrees and your freezer as close to 3 degrees as possible.
6. **Walk, bike, car pool, or use mass transit.** Every gallon of gasoline you save avoids 22 pounds of CO2 emissions.
7. **Unplug.** Unplug your electronics when you're not using them to save on "phantom energy". Some electronics use energy even if they're not turned on. Especially look for appliances with lights that glow while off.
8. **Recycle old electronics.** As more and more computers become obsolete, there is a lot of non-biodegradable waste YouRenew.com
9. **Turn off the lights.** When you leave a room. It will save energy and save you money on the next electric bill.
10. **Insulate your home.** Insulating your walls, floors and ceilings will keep your house warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer without straining your cooling or heating unit.
11. **Close heating vents and doors to unused rooms** to trap cold or warm air.
12. **Clean or change your air filters.** Keeping filters clean will put less strain on your heating and air unit and use less energy.
13. **Buy energy efficient appliances.** As your old appliances begin to break or wear down, replace them with energy efficient appliances. Look for ENERGY STAR approved. Though initially costly, they'll last longer and use less energy, lowering your electric bills.
14. **Reduce, reuse, recycle.** Buy minimally packaged goods, choose reusable products over disposable ones, and recycle to reduce waste. For every pound of waste you eliminate or recycle, you save energy and reduce emissions of CO2 by at least 1 pound. Cutting down your garbage by half of one large trash bag per week saves at least 1100 pounds of CO2 per year. Making products with recycled materials, instead of from scratch with raw materials, uses 30 to 55% less for paper products, 33% less for glass, and a whopping 90% less for aluminum.





Tips and Ideas to Green Your Event

Though environment-friendly methods can be initially costly, they are well worth the investment. At all meetings and events, strive to use low energy, reusable, biodegradable products and to recycle whenever possible.

1. **Go Outdoors.** Hosting an outdoor event during the day will use less energy and give the event a setting that matches your environmentally sustainable initiatives.
2. **Buy Local.** Try to buy food and products that were grown or manufactured nearby. This will benefit your local economy and minimize CO2 emissions from transportation across long distances.
3. **Use Biodegradable.** Whenever possible, stick to biodegradable products. Find cups made of polymer (a substance made from corn) or plates and cutlery made from recycled plastic. Try PreserveProducts.com or To-GoWare.com.
4. **Recycle.** Be sure to provide MORE recycling bins than trash cans at your event, and make recycling easy. Post a sign at each bin, describing what can and can't be recycled in each box. Offer to take someone's trash for them and place each item in its appropriate place.
5. **Reuse.** Try to buy as few new decorations as possible, and if you do, make sure your purchases are good investments that can be reused for years to come. A big obstacle for greening most events is the wasteful use of cups, plates and cutlery. If you don't have the capacity to buy washable and reusable, at least aim for items made from recycled material.
6. **Donate leftovers.** Donate leftover food from your event to a local homeless shelter as a very real demonstration of how environment-friendly actions benefit people too.
7. **Encourage green habits.** Encourage recycling and conservation beyond your event. Provide guests with information on recycling and conservation. Visit earth911.com to learn about recycling in your area.

Activities

Resource Saving and Efficiency Campaigns

Campaigning to target one specific environmental issue is a great way to spread awareness, promote your organization and bring about tangible results. Be sure to choose a very specific goal. For example, students at the University of Washington created a “Sustainability is Sexy” campaign to encourage the use of reusable coffee cups. After just one year of their lip-print logo adorning mugs, t-shirts and buttons, refillable mugs were used 153,000 times, saving the University \$23,000 in paper cup costs. This specific, targeted approach is easier for others to achieve. A broad campaign like “Recycle!” likely won’t have results as large or as quickly. Look around for a specific conservation problem in your community. Too many plastic bags? No recycling bins? Not enough trees? What about pushing for a community or neighborhood garden that can be used to grow food and vegetables? The possibilities are endless.

Earth Day/Week

Use this time to focus on the environment with entertainment, speakers, seminars, activities, demonstrations, service projects, etc. But don’t feel limited to one week out of the year. Host Sustainability Fairs and other events focusing on environmental issues to spread awareness and educate your peers. 2010 marks the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.



Power up Presentation

Contact your local power company. Many power companies use more than one source of power to make enough electricity for the community. Some also buy electricity from other power companies. Ask the power company which is its primary source (for example, hydroelectric, nuclear, gas, oil, or coal) and what other sources it uses. If they can tell you, find out what percent of their output is generated by each source. If your company buys from other companies, ask if they know what source generates that company’s electricity. Write down your results in a report that can be shared with others.

Weather Report

Find a blue screen to set up and allow passersby to give a weather report. Before they step in front of the screen, give them a brief tutorial on the effect of weather patterns on the travel of acid rain over large distances. Describe to them the weather patterns in your area, so they can give a more accurate forecast.

Music to My Ears

Team up with a local band. Together create instruments using all natural materials. Have the band members perform at a high foot-traffic area in the community, while volunteers linger behind to inform inquisitive persons about the project and share environmental tips.

Comic Display

Collect acid rain, air pollution and other environmental issue-related cartoons from newspapers and magazines. Put them on display.

Metering and Feedback

If someone can see visually the amount of energy being used and it’s too high, they’re more likely to reduce their energy use. Students at Oberlin College and Dartmouth designed programs that show students the amount of energy being used in a particular building at a

given time. The monitoring systems are online or on screens outside of dorms and provide live updates on the energy use in a building, allowing students to adapt their energy use accordingly. Create something similar for your neighborhood, town or your next event.

Changing Local Policy

Citizens throughout the country are successfully pitching environmental policy changes to their state legislatures. Get to know your community. Research. Discover areas that need improvement then write to your state senators and congressmen to get your voice heard. Garner support from others in the area by setting up an online petition, posting flyers and hosting events. Many congressmen and women and lobbyists will tell you that it takes just three points of contact to be remembered. Send a letter or email, make a phone call, and visit in person if you can. Surprisingly few people voice their opinions to their local government.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Hand out egg cartons to participants with a list of 12 items to collect - e.g., natural items which are: soft, spiky, blue, strong, beautiful, old, fragile, yummy, sharp, smooth, closed, open, wet, dry, from an animal, dead, etc. Give out prizes for the first team finished, the most creative carton, etc. Be sure to advertise the event and the winners' prizes beforehand.

Star-gazing

Schedule a star-gazing trip one day. Try to find a cheap form of mass transportation like carpooling, or if you live in the country, have the event at someone's house. Partner with local churches or schools. Invite an astronomer along. (Try looking at Universities and nearby museums.) The astronomer will be able to point out constellations and planets and other interesting facts.



Students at Rice University created a "bottle tree" to demonstrate two hours' worth of discarded plastic bottles.

(Photo: Rice University Office of Sustainability)

Demonstration Projects

Using eye-catching and creative visuals, demonstrate your environmental or global development issue. For example, students at Northland College constructed solar PV panels for the University President's home. The panels themselves advocate for renewable energy, erected from a visible spot on the President's lawn and also generate enough electricity to offset the annual consumption of the president's house.

No Impact Experiment

The Experiment is a one-week carbon cleanse. It is a chance for you to see what a difference no-impact living can have on your quality of life. It's not about giving up creature comforts but an opportunity for you to test whether the modern "conveniences" you take for granted are actually making you happier or just eating away at your time and money.

When Colin Beavan (aka "No Impact Man") and his family decided to try living for a year in New York City without doing any harm to the environment, it attracted worldwide media attention. Why all the fuss? Because the Beavans traded their old habits for more environmentally-friendly ones – and discovered that doing so actually made their lives happier, healthier, and more abundant. People started talking about these discoveries, and thousands have tried their own [No Impact Experiment](#).

Joining is simple! Visit NoImpactProject.org/experiment and [sign up](#) for the spring program. You can even hold a mass registration and urge others to join. Visit [How It Works](#) for step-

by-step instructions and download the [How-To Manual](#) for day-by-day guidelines. [Watch inspiring videos](#) from past participants about their lessons from the week and [what motivated them](#) to try it. Read the [New York Times story](#) that catapulted Colin Beavan—aka No Impact Man—to international recognition.

Plant a Garden

Eat better for breakfast, lunch and dinner while helping the environment by starting a vegetable garden. At Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, a student garden project that began in 1999 expanded into a college farm on 20 acres of land. Be sure to use farming methods that are environment friendly as well. Though your garden may not be initially large enough to feed a school, it will grow.

Using Multimedia to Promote Green Initiatives

Students have created videos, PowerPoint presentations and even video games to educate others on the importance of environmental issues. Not only is there a treasure trove of movies pertaining to environmental awareness, but you can create your own films yourself. Consider entering one into a film festival or showing it at the Walk. Another alternative is to gather paintings inspired by environmental issues and display them at the Walk, in the community or in a gallery.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Competition

Start a recycling competition between different homes, neighborhoods or communities. Measure the results and have a prize for the winning dorm. Think about carrying on the competition for a couple of weeks with a different goal each week. One week, see who can recycle the most paper, the next week cans. One week, examine the city electricity bills and challenge neighborhoods to conserve the most. Be sure to inform local government officials of the competition and really get them involved. They'll be key in encouraging residents to participate. Try to find donated prizes to save money, but think of something that the entire community can appreciate and use.

Consider free laundry for a week or a pizza party. One competition at George Washington University lasted for an entire school year and saved 1,284,890 kWh and 1,691,864 gallons of water. Visit <http://www2.aashe.org/competitions/> to view a how-to guide.



One of six poster designs created by students to promote sustainability and source reduction at Michigan State University. (Photo: Course Project, Michigan State)

Recyclemania

Encourage nearby Universities to participate in Recyclemania – a nationwide recycling competition spanning 10 weeks. To learn more, visit the website: www.recyclemania.org.

Hunger Banquet

Host a hunger banquet. Unique and memorable, an Oxfam America Hunger Banquet event allows organizers and participants alike to experience firsthand how our decisions affect others in the world. Guests draw tickets at random that assign them each to either a high-, middle-, or low-income tier and receive a corresponding meal. The 15 percent in the high-income tier are served a sumptuous meal. The 35 percent in the middle-income section eat a simple meal of rice and beans. The 50 percent in the low-income tier help themselves to small portions of rice and water. (High-, middle-, and low-income statistics used in the Oxfam America *Hunger Banquet* event are based on the World Bank Development Indicators 2007.) Guests can also assume characterizations that describe the situation of a specific person at the income level to which they've been assigned. Finally, all guests are invited to share their thoughts after the meal. To view a how-to for hosting a Hunger Banquet, visit the Oxfam website.

http://fr.oxfamamerica.org/en/whatyoucandoARCHIVE/act_now/fast/skip_meal

Ideas for Guest Speakers

Use the blank spaces to jot down names and contact information.

Someone from a local zoo or aquarium

A local architect

Geologist

Meteorologist

Professor

Farmer

Botanist

Grocer

Fisherman

Someone from an energy or water treatment plant

Congressman with the your state's conservation, energy or environment committee

A lumber company worker

Paper mill employee

Lobbyist

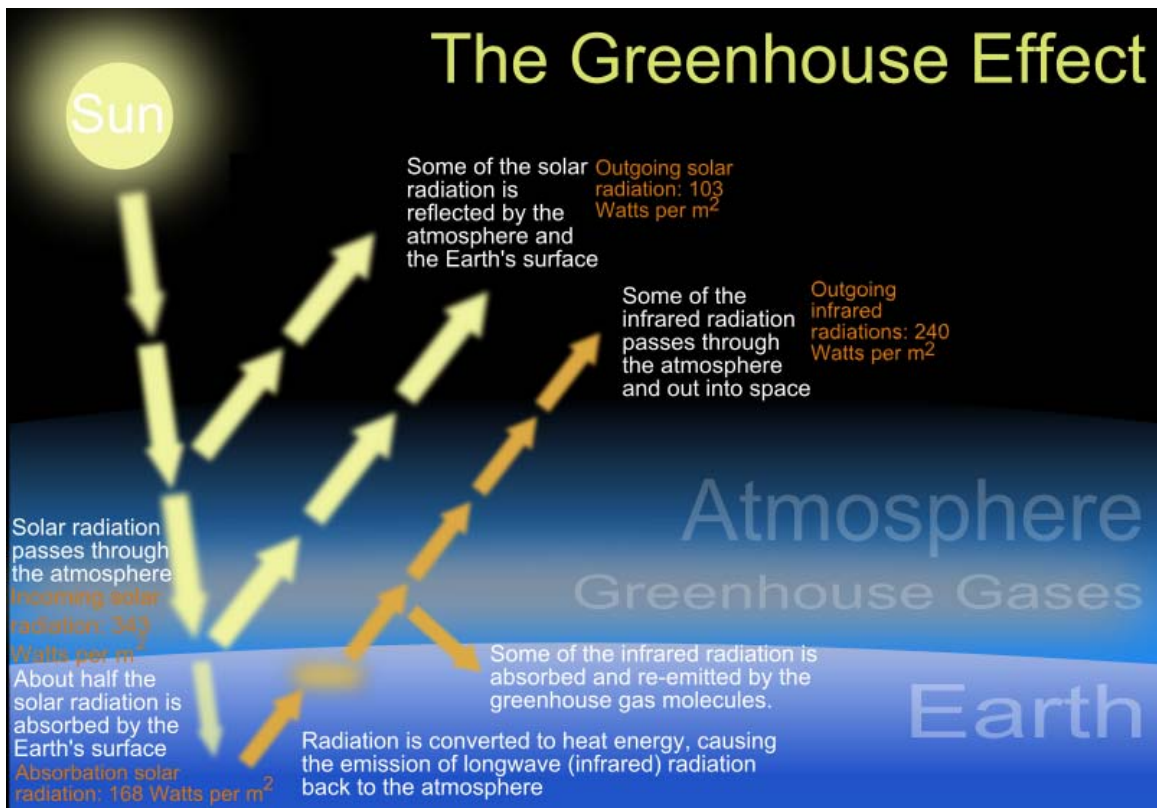
Someone with an Environmental Nonprofit Organization

Beneficiary from an Aga Khan Foundation project

Key Environmental Issues That Affect Developing Communities

Climate Change

Climate change is one of the great global challenges of our time, affecting each and every nation. In its most basic definition, climate change refers to a long-term change in a region's characteristic weather patterns (temperature, humidity, average rainfall, etc.). Global warming, caused by CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions in the earth's atmosphere, is a leading cause of climate change.



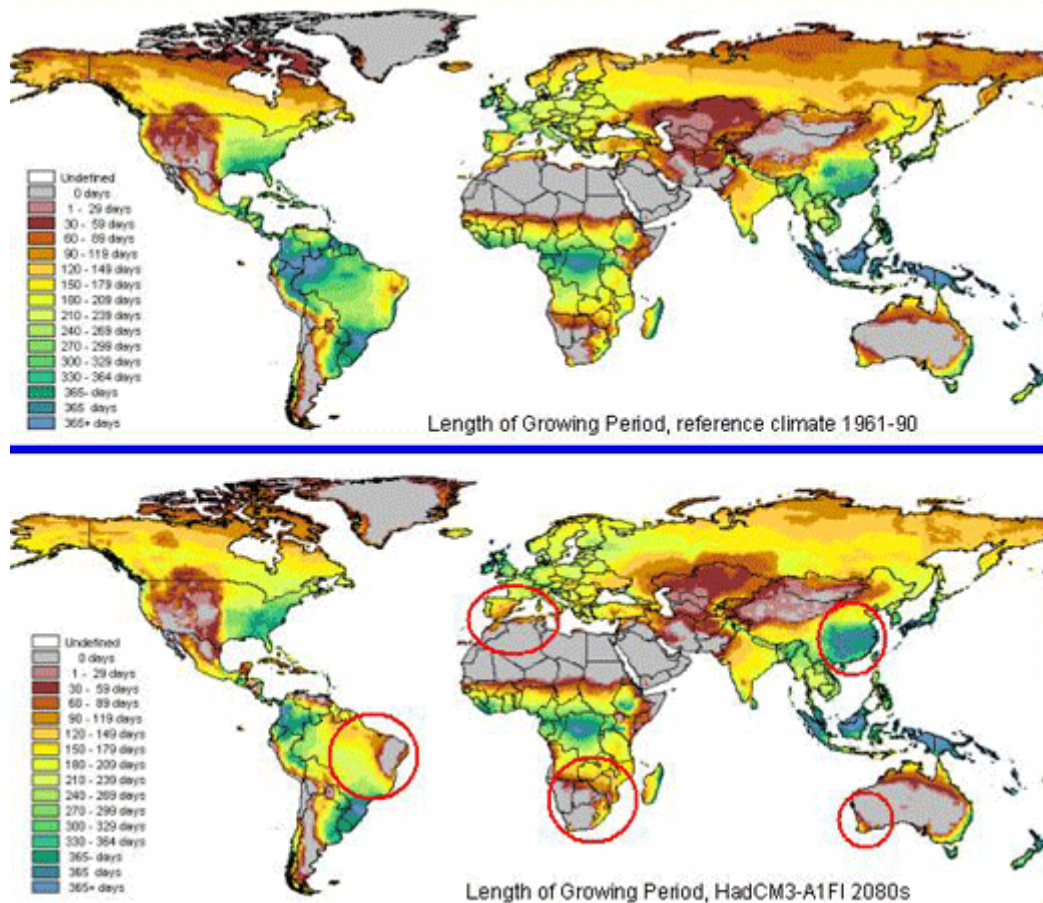
Different climates are conducive to certain types of lifestyles – lifestyles that humans have adapted to over time. People living in colder climates are better equipped to deal with snow and harsh winters; whereas, people in warmer climates have learned to live off of crops that can sustain the blazing heat. Climate affects plant and animal life as well as our own. Melting glaciers are changing water supply patterns, with random floods in the near term leading to water shortages for downstream communities. Rising sea levels will increase storm damages and could inundate Small Island Developing States. Changes in rainfall patterns and amounts will aggravate water and food insecurity in Africa. These are just some of the impacts of climate change that scientists expect to take place in the developing world.

Moreover, when one considers that three-quarters of the world's poorest citizens, those living on less than \$2 per day, are dependent on the environment for a significant part of their daily livelihoods, climate change presents a serious, multifaceted development challenge.

Land Degradation

Land degradation is the depletion in nutrients, fertility and quality of land caused directly or indirectly by humans. Issues like deforestation, clear cutting, and poor farming processes strip soil of its nutrients and remove the staples of an area's ecosystem, diminishing its biodiversity. Degraded land is susceptible to soil erosion, dereliction and acidification. The altered soil may lose its ability to sustain vegetation, threatening lives in developing communities who depend on surrounding plant life for survival.

The problems are multifaceted. Planting trees on degraded land can help revitalize the soil, but what if the trees were initially cut down by poor communities as fuel for warmth and cooking in cold climates? The initial cause of deforestation needs to be addressed first in order to preserve any new trees that are planted to re-nurture the land. For example, the Aga Khan Building and Improvement Services created fuel-efficient stoves and water heaters for rural communities in Pakistan, reducing their need for gas and firewood and improving their overall health. Recognizing the delicate and inseparable connection between humans and the environment around them is integral to creating successful, sustainable solutions to development issues.

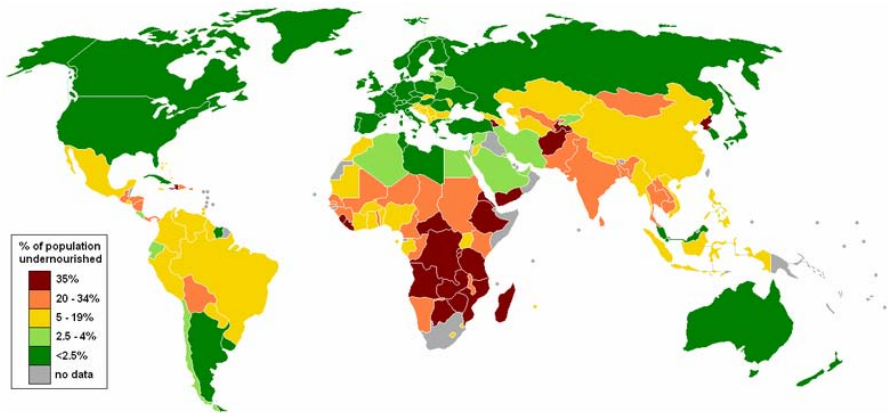


The above figure, produced by [IIASA](#), shows the distribution of expected changes in the growing period in 2080 from a specific climate scenario. Regions shaded in green have longer growing period compared to yellow and brown areas. Regions circled in red represent areas with a significant climate change-induced change in growing season length that is likely to affect land degradation rates. ([Visit IIASA](#) for additional information.)

Overpopulation

Overpopulation is a condition where an organism's numbers exceed the capacity of its habitat. When used today, the term most commonly refers to the relationship between the human population and its environment, the Earth. Overpopulation means that an area doesn't have enough resources to sustain the number of people living there, which creates a significant problem in impoverished areas.

In 8000 B.C., only 5 million people were alive—roughly the population of today's Papua New Guinea. Overuse of the world's natural resources was hardly an issue. Now some 6 billion mouths must be fed and bodies clothed and housed. Misuse or depletion of the Earth's treasures to meet those needs (for example unsustainable logging, poor farming practices, and overfishing) threatens human life and health around the world.



Industrialized countries in the past have done their share of plundering and polluting, but developing countries are the ones now paying the price. Developing countries have the greatest population growth

and some of the fewest resources to support it. It's in these areas that we must teach communities the importance of family planning, provide contraceptives, educate women and explain how to most efficiently and safely use the environment for sustenance.

Biodiversity

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, refers to the full range of plant, animal, and microbial life and the ecosystems that house them. Environmentalists began using the term during the 1980s when biologists increasingly warned that human activities were causing a loss of plant and animal species.

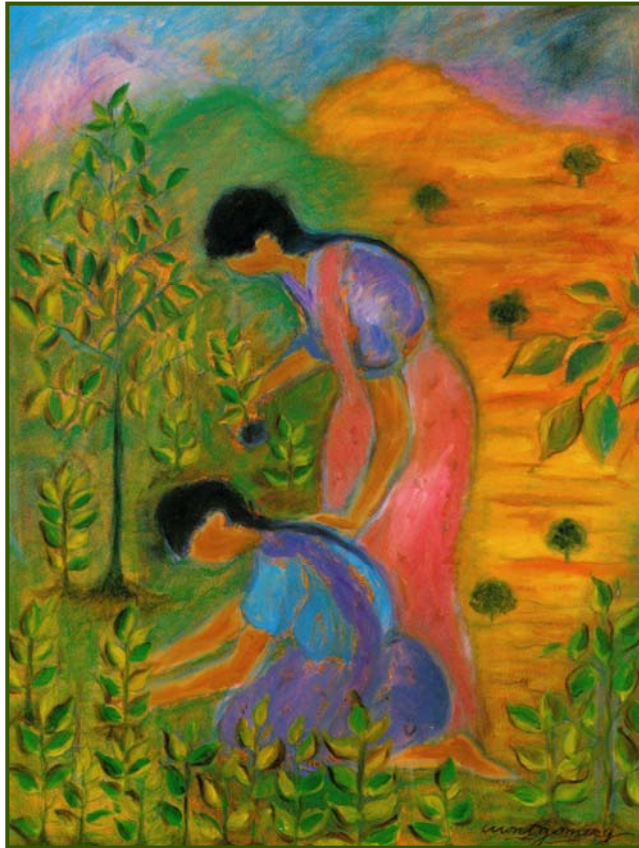
Studies of deforestation have supported the concerns about declining biodiversity, showing that tropical rain forests have dwindled from 3.5 billion acres before the industrial era to fewer than two billion acres. Deforestation has meant extinction for hundreds of species of plants and animals each year. The exact number of species in the remote forests is unknown, although it is generally accepted that they house the greatest number of species on the planet.

Biodiversity is the UN's theme for 2010, fitting accordingly with AKF USA's theme *Our Environment: One People, One Planet*.



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

More Information on the Environment



Online Resources, Films and Books

On the Web

Effects of Climate Change

12 minute video on the effects of climate change on wildlife and the wildlands.

<http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/toolkit/video>

Solar Decathlon

This bi-annual competition brings together 20 different colleges to build a solar powered home. Hosted by the US Department of Energy, the homes are judged in 10 different categories, and the structures are powerful demonstrations of energy-efficient homes that are also attractive and functional.

<http://www.solardecathlon.org/>

Generation E: Students Leading for a Clean, Sustainable Energy Future

A well-researched collection of some of the best, most innovative and most effective student-led conservation projects throughout the U.S. A very useful tool for any campus organization that aims to improve their campus' green consciousness.

http://cf.nwf.org/campusEcology/resources/HTML/generation_e_report.cfm

How To Host a Successful Conservation Competition

Created by students at Duke University, this how-to guide provides step-by-step guidance for anyone planning on an intercampus recycling or conservation competition.

<http://www2.aashe.org/competitions/>

Films

The environmental movement in the U.S. began gaining momentum in the 1970s. This was the decade that brought us Earth Day, the EPA, solar panels, Save the Whales, and the crying Native American in a “Keep America Beautiful” [ad campaign](#) to stop roadside dumping. Environmentalism was alive and kicking back in the 1970s. Since then many films have been produced reflecting environmental themes from global warming to nuclear danger to pollution to organic farming.

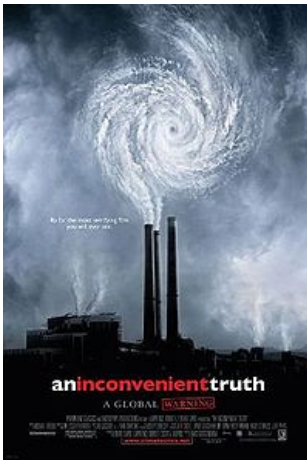
The following pages contain descriptions of some of the best films on environmental issues from the past few decades. A majority of the environmental films are documentaries, *e.g.*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *11th Hour*, *Who Killed the Electric Car*, *Food, Inc.*, *Gasland*. But, all are excellent and important films. These documentaries, produced mainly by independent filmmakers, speak out on some of the most critical issues of our day – issues with gravely serious consequences for humanity and our planet.

There are a number of dramatic feature films with big name actors, *e.g.*, *The China Syndrome*, *Soylent Green*, *A Civil Action*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Silkwood* and *Avatar*. A few are animated films, such as *WALL-E*, *FernGully: The Last Rainforest* and *The Bio Diversity Code*. A few touch upon environmental topics in other countries, *e.g.*, *Bloody Ivory*, *Garbage Dreams*, *A Lens on Climate Change*, *The Cove* and *How to Save the World: One Man, One Cow, One Planet*.

Films can be very inspiring and powerful as political tools as well as cultural influencers. For example, *The China Syndrome* – a thriller about a news crew that witnesses a control room crisis averting near disaster at a nuclear power plant – was eerily released just 12 days before the near meltdown accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979. The film helped to galvanize the anti-nuclear movement in the U.S. Some dramatize true life stories like those of Erin Brockovich, Karen Silkwood and communities from East Woburn, Massachusetts to the Columbia River Basin in southeastern Washington state to South Central Los Angeles.

You may find it worthwhile to view these films with others in a group and organize a discussion afterwards to discover a deeper understanding of the issues presented. Some of the films, particularly those broadcast on PBS have a teacher’s guide and discussion questions available on the website. The following descriptions all have links to websites where you can find more information on a particular film and how you can obtain a copy.

And it’s not all gloom and doom. Many of the films highlight strategies and solutions to avert crises.



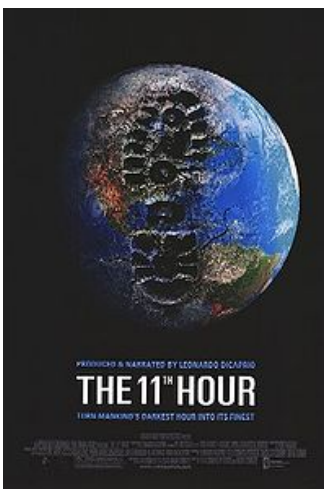
An Inconvenient Truth is a 2006 documentary film, directed by Davis Guggenheim, about former U.S. Vice President Al Gore's campaign to educate citizens about global warming via a comprehensive slide show that, by his own estimate, he has given more than a thousand times. Premiering at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival and opening in New York City and Los Angeles on May 24, 2006, the documentary was a critical box-office success, winning Academy Awards for Best Documentary Feature and for Best Original Song by Melissa Etheridge. The film also earned \$49 million at the box office worldwide, becoming the fifth-highest-grossing documentary film to date in the United States. <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>

The idea to document his efforts came from Laurie David who saw his presentation at a town-hall meeting on global warming which coincided with the opening of *The Day after Tomorrow*. David was so inspired by Gore's slide show that she, with Lawrence Bender, met with Guggenheim to adapt the presentation into a film. Since the documentary's release, *An Inconvenient Truth* has been credited for raising international public awareness of climate change and reenergizing the environmental movement.



The documentary includes the song "**I Need to Wake Up**" by Melissa Etheridge, which received the 2006 Academy Award for Best Song: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUVqUz8m2PQ>

Depending on who you talk to, this was either the most important or the most damaging film for the environmental movement. It presented the scientific case for global warming in no uncertain terms, but it seemed to polarize the nation on the subject. Nevertheless, it's hard to imagine what the climate advocacy movement would be without Al Gore at the podium. It also was historically important in opening up funding for the documentary genre, proving that even a Powerpoint presentation -- revealing content critical to all our lives -- could rake in nearly \$50 million.



The 11th Hour is a 2007 feature film documentary, produced and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, on the state of the natural environment. The film documents the grave problems facing the planet's life systems: global warming, deforestation, mass species extinction and depletion of the oceans' habitats. The film's premise is that the future of humanity is in jeopardy and proposes potential solutions to these problems by calling for restorative action by the reshaping and rethinking of global human activity through technology, social responsibility and conservation.

The expression, "the eleventh hour," means the last moment when change can happen to avert possible disaster. According to the film, in a few years we will have reached the point of no return. We are not only at the eleventh hour, but at the last few seconds of that hour. Within this century, if nothing effective is achieved, planetary damage will be dramatic and total in every area. Although impossible to predict, extreme disaster could be quick once the balance is decisively tipped in the wrong direction, and it will happen everywhere.

The *11th Hour* features leading experts from around the world, including former Soviet Prime Minister Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, Nobel Prize winner [Wangari Mathai](#), journalist Paul Hawken, former head of the CIA James Woolsey, sustainable design experts William McDonough and Bruce Mau, along with over 50 other scientists and world leaders who discuss the most important environmental issues facing the earth while presenting strategies to avert the crisis. Through nature itself, the technology exists to solve some of these crises, and part of the solution is for people to live more consciously in harmony with nature as opposed to dominating it.

The *11th Hour* explores how humanity has arrived at the current convergence of environmental crises while examining steps that people can take to avert global disaster. It illustrates how the earth is nearing meltdown, beyond climate change. The process began with the Industrial Revolution, when people started mistakenly looking on nature as external to themselves and exploitable without limits. Forests have undergone major destruction. The ocean is becoming stagnant. Almost everywhere, the soil itself is largely damaged. 50,000 species a year are becoming extinct; no ecosystem can be identified as improving. Humans suffer from increasing numbers of diseases caused by pollution. At fault is the overproduction of non-sustainable manufactures, immense waste and destruction, and an unsupportable population. The primary cause for much of the crisis is the fuels we use, petroleum being the primary one.

The film was directed by Leila Conners Petersen and Nadia Conners and financed by Adam Lewis, Pierre André Senizergues and Doyle Brunson, and distributed by Warner Independent Pictures. Its world premiere was at the 2007 60th Annual Cannes Film Festival and it was released on August 17, 2007, in the year in which the Fourth Assessment Report of the United Nations global warming panel, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was published and about a year after Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

According to an August 2007 *New York Times* review, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, the environment, blah, blah, blah, melting ice caps. To judge from all the gas-guzzlers still fouling the air and the plastic bottles clogging the dumps, it appears that the news that we are killing ourselves and the world with our greed and garbage hasn't sunk in. That's one reason *The 11th Hour*, an unnerving, surprisingly affecting documentary about our environmental calamity, is such essential viewing. It may not change your life, but it may inspire you to recycle that old slogan-button your folks pinned on their dashikis back in the day: If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. The problem looks overwhelming, literally, as demonstrated by the images of overflowing landfills and sickeningly polluted bodies of water that flicker through the movie like damning evidence."





Becoming Green: Growing Environmental Awareness



is a 4-pack DVD set of environmentally themed public television programs. It consists of the NOVA episode *Car of the Future*, in which the public radio "Car Talk" brothers Tom and Ray Magliozzi look at the environmental future of transportation; the NOVA episode *Solar Energy: Saved by the Sun* presenting the testimony of scientists, economists, and ordinary citizens seeking to better harness the untapped potential of the sun amid a world of rising oil prices; the NOVA and Frontline joint effort *Global Warming: What's Up with the Weather?* scrutinizing record high temperatures worldwide along with the increased frequency of drought, deadly flooding and catastrophic hurricanes; and the American Experience episode *Rachel Carson's Silent Spring*,

a devastating expose of the chemical industry's unregulated use of DDT. Carson had been a consulting biologist for the federal government's Fish and Wildlife Department when she first took note of the unregulated use of pesticides and herbicides—especially DDT—in "agriculture control" farming. Widespread use of these chemicals destroyed wildlife habitats and threatened human communities. Magazines refused to publish Carson's stories about the danger because they were afraid of losing advertising. When *Silent Spring* was published in 1963, Carson was viciously attacked. Huge sums of money were spent to discredit her. She was called "an ignorant and hysterical woman who wanted to turn the earth over to the insects" While the scientific methods she used were not impeccable, her message about the environment as an interrelated organic system struck a popular nerve. The smear campaign backfired. *Silent Spring* sparked a revolution in government environmental policy and became instrumental in creating a new ecological consciousness. This is the story of how one scientist's courage changed the way we think about our world. Produced and written by Neil Goodwin.

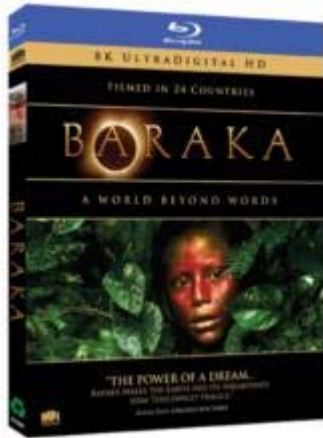
Special features include printable materials for educators for *Solar Energy* and *Global Warming*, and described video for the visually impaired in *Solar Energy* and *Car of the Future*. Unfortunately, the program, *Rachel Carson's Silent Spring*, is the one DVD of the set that is not closed captioned. This 4-part DVD is an economical and educational collection, enthusiastically recommended for public library and private collections alike. 277 minutes.

<http://shop.wgbh.org/product/show/31888>



Koyaanisqatsi (1982). Directed by Godfrey Reggio and scored by Philip Glass, this film was an epic, wordless exploration of the Hopi phrase *Koyaanisqatsi*, which means "life out of balance." It superimposes spectacular imagery of nature with the frenetic comings and goings of a modern-day megapolis. The film is an almost Buddhist meditation on our environment, both found and constructed. Tedious at first, but once you get into the zone, it is amazing. The film is the first in the [Qatsi trilogy](#) of films: it is followed by [Powaqqatsi](#) (1988) and [Naqoyqatsi](#) (2002). The trilogy depicts different aspects of the relationship between humans, nature, and technology. *Koyaanisqatsi* is the best known of the [trilogy](#). The film won the "Francis Ford Coppola Presents" endorsement at the 1982 New York Film Festival, and Coppola is now credited as an executive producer.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=5539613947839465921#>



Baraka (1993)

Baraka, the Sufi term for "blessing," is a nonverbal film with dramatic images of nature, religious ritual, oppressive city life, and war. The film, in the words of director Ron Fricke, is a journey of rediscovery and reconnecting. The dominant message is a mystical one: God is nature, big cities are unnatural, and we connect with nature through organic religious rituals. The movie was filmed during a 13-month period in 24 countries at over 150 locations. It was shot on 70 millimeter film which gives it especially high resolution (the normal film size for a feature-length movie is 35 millimeter). *Baraka* follows in the tradition of the groundbreaking nonverbal film *Koyaanisqatsi* (1982), directed Godfrey Reggio, of which Ron Fricke was the cinematographer. Wearing the director's hat this time, Fricke set out to make "The ultimate nonverbal film

in the ultimate format," as *Baraka's* producer Mark Magidson puts it. While the film contains no narration or dialogue, it nonetheless contains a clear three-act story. Act 1 depicts scenes of natural wonder and religious rituals that blend together. In Act 2 the movie shifts direction as a Brazilian rainforest tree is chainsawed to the ground. An enormous strip mine scars the landscape. Cities progressively increase in size and take on a mechanical breathing sound. The result is overpopulation, mass production, factory farms, poverty, prostitution, war, and ultimately genocide. Act 3 is one of redemption. Civilizations ultimately collapse under their own weight, and people are purified by returning to nature and religious ritual. 96 minutes. A gallery of images from *Baraka* is at this website:

<http://www.spiritofbaraka.com/baraka.aspx>

A series of **discussion questions** related to the film is available at:

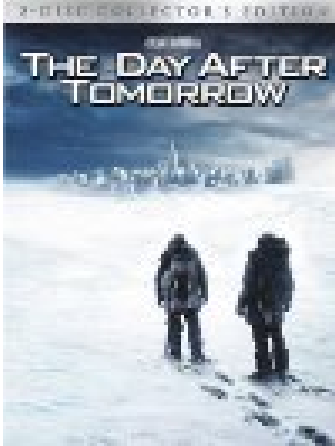
<http://www.philfilms.utm.edu/1/baraka.htm>



No Impact Man (2009)

In this movie Colin Beavan decides to completely eliminate his personal impact on the environment for the next year. It means eating vegetarian, buying only local food, and turning off the refrigerator. It also means no elevators, no television, no cars, busses or airplanes, no toxic cleaning products, no electricity, no material consumption, and no garbage. http://www.noimpactdoc.com/index_m.php

This program highlights how a "guilty liberal guy" swears off plastic, goes organic, becomes a bicycle nut, turns off his power, and makes a commitment to address the challenge of making no carbon footprint in his daily life. No problem – at least for Colin – but he and his family live in Manhattan. So when his espresso-guzzling, Prada-wearing, Four Seasons-loving, retail-worshipping wife Michelle and their two-year-old daughter are dragged into the fray, the No Impact Project has an unforeseen impact of its own. Laura Gabbert and Justin Schein's film provides an intriguing inside look into the experiment that became a national fascination and media sensation, while examining the familial strains and strengthened bonds that result from Colin and Michelle's struggle with their radical lifestyle change. Colin did it for a year, now it's your turn! The No Impact Project is challenging you to try and live no impact for one week. <http://noimpactproject.org> Also see the book in section below.



The Day after Tomorrow (2004) takes the audience on a disaster roller coaster as a sudden arctic melt wreaks havoc in New York City. Climatologist Dr. Jack Hall (Dennis Quaid) is drilling ice cores in Antarctica when a piece of the Antarctic Ice Shelf the size of Rhode Island breaks off. Jack presents his research to a conference on global warming, predicting a global warming change in the earth's climate in maybe 100 to 1,000 years from now if we don't stop polluting the atmosphere. At the conference, Jack meets Professor Terry Rapson (Ian Holm) of Scotland, who is keeping track of the world's ocean currents and tells Jack that the melting of the polar ice caps has poured fresh water into the oceans and diluted the salt level, which has caused the temperature of the ocean currents to drop 13 degrees. The

world's climate system changes for the worst. Tokyo is hit by softball size hail; it begins to snow in New Delhi; and Los Angeles is destroyed by a group of tornadoes that hit all at the same time. Jack delivers the bad news to the President that his estimate of years is now down to days, before we enter a new Ice Age. Jack advises the President to evacuate everybody in the southern states to Mexico, because it is too late to evacuate the people in the northern states. Jack gets a phone call from his son Sam (Jake Gyllenhaal), who has taken up refuge in the Manhattan Public Library. Jack tells him to stay inside and ride out the coming storm, because if you go outside, you will die. Jack heads for New York City to save his son. He is determined to get to his young son in New York, which is being taken over by a new ice age. The "what-if" epic begs a number of questions: What would you do? How far would you go? What would you risk? Producer Roland Emmerich believes "while in the past, audiences were riddled with disaster films that dealt with past terrors or extravagant glimpses into unlikely circumstances, the films of today seem to

be honing in more closely on true issues of imminent concern. The films of today are dealing with issues that are very much on the brink of happening or issues that are still able to be fixed." In *The Day After Tomorrow*, the antagonist is the mankind that has ignored the greenhouse effect and global warming. Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQDSAiPiEDU>



WALL•E is a 2008 computer-animated science-fiction film produced by Pixar Animation Studios and directed by Andrew Stanton. The story follows a robot named WALL-E, who is designed to clean up a waste-covered Earth far in the future. Throughout the 21st century, Earth was governed by the Buy n Large megacorporation (BnL), causing mass consumerism and covering the planet in trash by 2105. In an attempt to resolve the situation, Earth's population was evacuated on fully automated luxury BnL starliners for five years while an army of trash compactor robots called WALL-Es were left behind to clean up the planet.

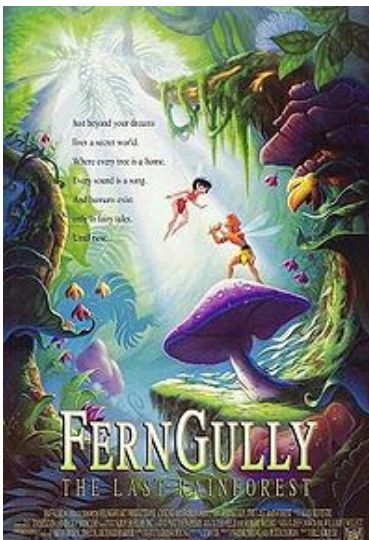
The plan largely failed, however, forcing humanity to remain in space indefinitely. Seven hundred years later, in 2805, only one WALL-E unit functions having survived by salvaging parts for himself from other defunct WALL-E units. This unit has developed sentience and a sense of emotion, particularly curiosity, as shown by his quirky habits of collecting knickknacks from the mountains of trash.

WALL-E eventually falls in love with another robot named EVE (Extraterrestrial Vegetation Evaluator), and follows her into outer space on an adventure that changes the destiny of both his kind and humanity. Walt Disney Pictures manages to paint the picture of an apocalyptic future dominated by endless landscapes of garbage and completely devoid of life (except a lovable cockroach) and make it entertaining, visionary, hilarious and sad. Pixar has downplayed the environmental message in the media but it is clear that the last robot on earth, though mute, does indeed have a message. WALL-E gives us a G-rated, computer-generated cartoon vision of our own potential extinction. <http://adisney.go.com/disneyvideos/animatedfilms/wall-e/>



Avatar (2009) *Avatar* is the story of an ex-Marine who finds himself thrust into hostilities on an alien planet filled with exotic life forms. As an Avatar, a human mind in an alien body, he finds himself torn between two worlds, in a desperate fight for his own survival and that of the indigenous people. More than ten years in the making, *Avatar* marks Cameron's return to feature directing since helming 1997's *Titanic*, the highest grossing film of all time and winner of eleven Oscars® including Best Picture. WETA Digital, renowned for its work in *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy and *King Kong*, incorporate new intuitive CGI technologies to transform the environments and characters into photorealistic 3D imagery that transport the audience into the alien world rich with imaginative vistas, creatures and characters. © 20th Century Fox

According to a post by Harold Linde of Los Angeles: "*Avatar* is without a doubt the most epic piece of environmental advocacy ever captured on celluloid, and it only very thinly veils its message which, on the heels of a failed Copenhagen summit, is more timely now than ever ... Nature will always win. The film hits all the important environmental talking-points — virgin rain forests threatened by wanton exploitation, indigenous peoples who have much to teach the developed world, a planet which functions as a collective, interconnected Gaia-istic organism, and evil corporate interests that are trying to destroy it all." Source: <http://www.mnn.com/technology/research-innovations/blogs/is-avatar-radical-environmental-propaganda> (Mother Nature Network) James Cameron's 3-D epic broke the \$1 billion barrier in just over two weeks, setting a new record. <http://www.avatarmovie.com/>

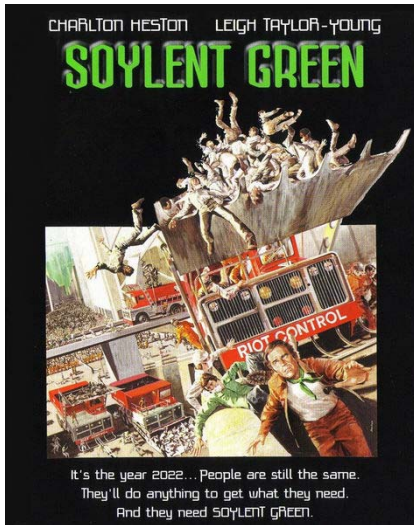


FernGully: The Last Rainforest (1992) is an Australian animated feature produced by Kroyer Films, presented by FAI Films and released by 20th Century Fox on April 10, 1992. It was adapted from a book of the same name by [Diana Young](#). It is a film with a strong environmental theme. The film features the voice talents of Jonathan Ward as Zak, Samantha Mathis as Crysta, Tim Curry as Hexxus, Robin Williams as Batty Koda, and Christian Slater as Pips. The film was the first of three animated features released in consecutive years by Fox in the early 1990s: *Once Upon A Forest* (1993) and *The Pagemaster* (1994) followed.

The film tells the story of FernGully, a rainforest in Australia. A curious fairy girl named Crysta (Samantha Mathis) sees a part of the world she has never seen before beyond FernGully and believes humans dwell on the nearby mountain Mount Warning. But the wise sprite of the forest and Crysta's motherly figure, Magi Lune, says humans are now extinct. Befriending a mentally unstable yet comical fruit bat named Batty Koda (Robin Williams) who has been experimented on by humans and now has wires and antennas fused into his head, Crysta heads to Mount Warning where she finds dead

trees all marked with red aerosol paint crosses, which mark them for cutting. <http://www.amazon.com/FernGully-Last-Rainforest-Tim-Curry/dp/6302481805>

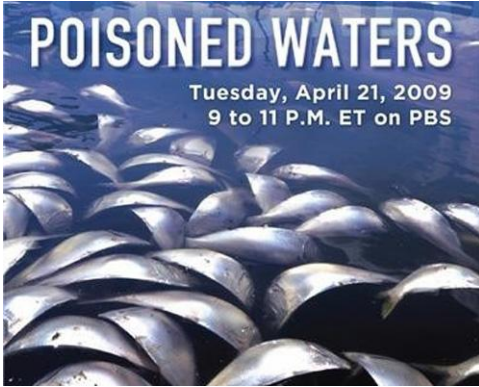
Though you may think of *Fern Gully* as just a silly kids' film, it is an important environmental film that framed for a generation of kids (who are now in their 20s) the archetypal conflict between man's hunger for resources and the fragile rain forest environment. In the end of course, nature wins. Someone put up this perfect mashup of *Fern Gully* & *Avatar* on YouTube to prove how closely *Avatar* follows the *Fern Gully* story.



Soylent Green is a 1973 American science fiction film depicting a dystopian future in which overpopulation leads to depleted resources, which in turn leads to widespread unemployment and poverty. Real fruit, vegetables and meat are rare, expensive commodities, and much of the population survives on processed food rations, including "soylent green" wafers. The film overlays the science fiction and police procedural genres as it depicts the efforts of New York City police detective Robert Thorn (Charlton Heston) and elderly police researcher Sol Roth (Edward G. Robinson) to investigate the brutal murder of a wealthy businessman named William R. Simonson (Joseph Cotten). Thorn and Roth uncover clues which suggest that it is more than simply a bungled burglary.

In New York City in the year 2022 the population is over 40 million. (The current population of New York City is ~ 8.3 million.) Without enough food to feed the masses--most of it must be manufactured in local factories. The dinner choices are between Soylent Blue, Soylent Yellow, or Soylent Green. When William Simonson an executive in the Soylent Company, is found murdered, police detective Thorn is sent in to investigate the case. As he delves deeper into his investigation he uncovers another dark secret-- the heinous truth behind the real ingredients of Soylent Green. <http://www.amazon.com/Soylent-Green-Charlton-Heston/dp/B00009NHBM>

The film is loosely based upon the 1966 science fiction novel *Make Room! Make Room!* by Harry Harrison. The sci-fi thriller paints the bleak reality of a planet completely overpopulated and far beyond its capacity to feed its teeming masses.



Poisoned Waters, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hedrick Smith examines the growing hazards of water pollution to human health and the ecosystem, revealing that stormwater runoff and agricultural waste from huge chicken farms are combining with chemicals in consumers' face creams, deodorants, prescription medications and household cleaners to threaten both human health and the environment. Focusing on genetic mutations in fish and marine life as the "canary in the coal mine," *Poisoned Waters* both sounds an urgent alarm and points to citizen and government action groups that are attempting to

address the massive problem of water pollution. Watch the full program on line. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poisonedwaters/>

Poisoned Waters is a far-reaching investigation into America's great waterways that are in peril. There's a new wave of pollution that is killing fish, causing mutations in frogs and threatening human health. The Frontline website includes a **teachers guide** that is intended for 9th-to-12th-grade classes in social studies, civics and government, current events, economics, history, environmental studies, science and language arts. Featured lessons are based on video clips from *Poisoned Waters* in addition to research on various Web sites.



Tapped (2009) Is access to clean drinking water a basic human right, or is water a commodity that should be bought and sold like any other article of commerce? Director/producer Stephanie Soechtig's debut feature is an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water. From the producers of *Who Killed the Electric Car?* and *I.O.U.S.A.*, this timely documentary is a behind-the-scenes look into the unregulated and unseen world of an industry that aims to privatize and sell back the one resource that ought never become a commodity: our water.

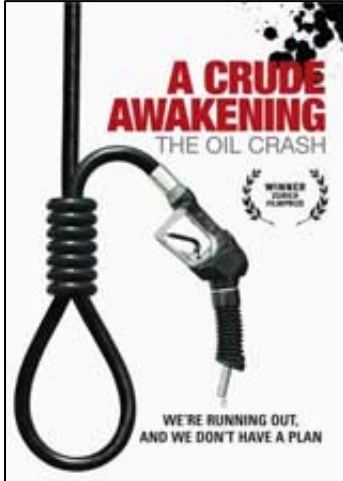


From the plastic production to the ocean in which so many of these bottles end up, this inspiring documentary trails the path of the bottled water industry and the communities which were the unwitting chips on the table. A powerful portrait of the lives affected by the bottled water industry, this revealing film features those caught at the intersection of big business and the public's right to water. 76 minutes. <http://www.tappedthemovie.com/>

Plast-ick!

Which plastics are safe? Which should be avoided? Grist advice guru Umbra Fisk broadcasts her quick tips in a special sneak preview of her new video series of environmental tips.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHCFITPv3hs&feature=channel>



A Crude Awakening - The Oil Crash (2007)

This 90-minute documentary on the planet's dwindling oil resources tells the story of how our civilization's addiction to oil puts it on a collision course with geology. Compelling, intelligent, and highly entertaining, the film visits with the world's top experts and comes to a startling, but logical conclusion – our industrial society, built on cheap and readily available oil, must be completely re-imagined and overhauled. The idea that the world's oil supplies have peaked, or will soon, is gaining mainstream currency. *Oil Crash* was produced and directed by award-winning European journalists and filmmakers Basil Gelpke and Ray McCormack.

You needn't be a conspiracy theorist to see a connection between America's current obsessions with the Middle East and national security, and the world's looming oil crisis. The frenzied search for alternative sources of energy now being pursued by the largest multinational energy corporations makes it clear they also believe a crisis is fast approaching. Each day's headlines, whether the subject is Iraq or South America, sheds new light on the issue.

Producer Basil Gelpke explains: "Suddenly, seemingly unconnected news about Katrina and Rita hitting the Gulf Coast's oil refineries; the ongoing war in Iraq; the nuclear ambitions of Iran; the populist politics of Hugo Chavez in Venezuela; the appalling corruption in most oil producing countries; the de facto nationalization of Lukos in Russia; the steep rise in costs of everything oil-related; and even increasing share prices of companies involved in solar, wind and nuclear energy all pointed in the same direction. Oil is running out, and nobody is ready for the cataclysm that is bound to follow."

Shot on location at oil fields in Azerbaijan, Venezuela, the Middle East and Texas, with original music by Daniel Schnyder and Philip Glass, the film provides not only questions, but possible solutions to the most perplexing and important economic, environmental and public policy issue of our time. http://greenplanetfilms.org/product_info.php?cPath=98&products_id=485

One year ago, in a report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy, Robert L. Hirsch challenged the notion that the free market can solve the onrushing emergency: "The world has never faced a problem like Peak Oil. Without massive mitigation more than a decade before the fact, the problem will be pervasive and will not be temporary. Previous energy transitions (wood to coal and coal to oil) were gradual and evolutionary; oil peaking will be abrupt and revolutionary."

American Experience: The Alaska Pipeline

In the early weeks of 1968, after a decade-long search for oil in Alaska's frozen wilderness, [gas burst up](#) out of an exploratory well on the North Slope with such force the crew thought it was about to blow. Geologists soon calculated that as much as 10 billion barrels of oil lay below the frozen tundra of Prudhoe Bay -- the largest oil find in North America.

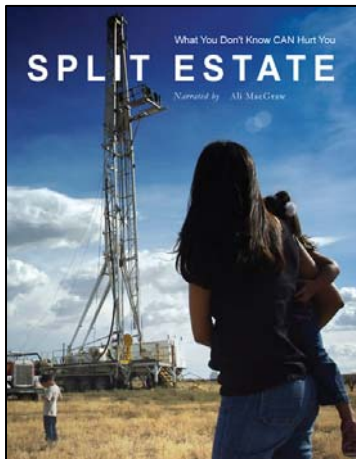


MARCUS HALEVI

The pipeline built to bring that oil to market was one of the greatest [engineering feats](#) of the 20th century. For more than three years, workers battled brutal Arctic weather to construct an 800-hundred mile pipeline that traversed three mountain ranges, 34 rivers, and 800 streams, and that withstood earthquakes and sub-zero temperatures. The men, machines and money the pipeline brought to Alaska would forever transform what had long been regarded as America's last great wilderness. The pipeline's construction pitted [America's need for energy](#) against its desire to [protect land and wildlife](#), sparking one of the most passionate conservation battles in American history.

This *American Experience* program explores the [impact](#) the pipeline had on culture and society in Alaska as well as the environment, featuring the men and women who worked on the line as well as long-time Alaska residents, members of the Native Alaskan community, environmentalists, government geologists, congressional supporters and foes of the project, and local Alaska politicians. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pipeline/filmmore/index.html>

A **teacher's guide** with suggestions for active learning is available on the website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pipeline/tguide/index.html>



Split Estate is an independent 77-minute documentary by director/producer Debra Anderson that maps a tragedy in the making, as citizens in the path of a new drilling boom in the Rocky Mountain West struggle against the erosion of their civil liberties, their communities and their health. Imagine discovering that you don't own the mineral rights under your land, and that an energy company plans to drill for natural gas 200 feet from your front door. The film highlights important questions regarding the safety of hydraulic fracturing. Ali MacGraw narrates. Split Estate is distributed by Red Rock Pictures.

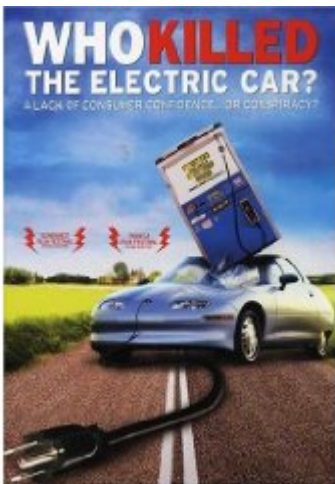
<http://www.splitestate.com/>



GAS LAND (2009) When filmmaker Josh Fox got a lucrative offer to release his family land for [natural gas drilling](#), he didn't sign it. Instead, he went out to investigate the drilling process, known as hydraulic fracturing, and its effect on the environment. The technique, developed by Halliburton, has opened up new land in 34 U.S. states to drilling, including the Marcellus Shale a vast formation that underlies most of Pennsylvania and New York, including

the New York watershed and the Catskills/Poconos. At a time when the U.S. is dependent on foreign countries for most of its energy and the country is in the midst of a recession, the appeal and immediate benefits of the technique are obvious. But on his 24-state journey, Fox discovers that in disparate areas affected by drilling, streams have turned toxic, aquifers are ruined, livestock is dying, residents are ill—and their tap water is flammable.

Part verité travelogue, part expose, part mystery, part bluegrass banjo meltdown, part showdown, Josh and his banjo encounter EPA whistleblowers, congressmen, world recognized scientists, and some of the most incredibly inspiring and heart-wrenching stories of ordinary Americans fighting against fossil fuel giants for environmental justice. *Gas Land* was an official selection in the 2010 Sundance Film Festival. <http://www.gaslandthemovie.com/>
[Trailer and Introduction](#) (July 2009) [Kill The Drill Public Service Announcement](#) (November 2009)
<http://waterunderattack.com/?p=108> www.mbpo.org/killthedrill
<http://waterunderattack.com/?p=108> [National Radio Interview- Josh Fox on "The Story" from American Public Media](#) (June 30, 2009)



Who Killed the Electric Car? is a 2006 documentary film that explores the creation, limited commercialization, and subsequent destruction of the battery electric vehicle in the United States, specifically the General Motors EV1 of the early 1990s. The film explores the roles of automobile manufacturers, the oil industry, the US government, the Californian government, batteries, hydrogen vehicles, and consumers in limiting the development and adoption of this technology. Narrated by Martin Sheen, it was released on DVD to the home video market in November 2006 by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. During an interview with CBS News, director Chris Paine announced that he would be making a sequel: *Who Saved the Electric Car?*, later renamed *Revenge of the Electric Car*.

The film features interviews with celebrities who drove the electric car, such as Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks, Alexandra Paul, Peter Horton, Ed Begley, Jr., a bi-partisan selection of prominent US political figures including Ralph Nader, Frank Gaffney, Alan Lloyd, Jim Boyd, Alan Lowenthal, S. David Freeman, and ex-CIA head James Woolsey, as well as news footage from the development, launch and marketing of EVs. <http://www.whokilledtheelectriccar.com/>

Interactive site with lots of information: <http://www.sonyclassics.com/whokilledtheelectriccar/>



Garbage Dreams (2009) follows three teenage boys born into the trash trade and growing up in the world's largest garbage village on the outskirts of Cairo. It is the home to 60,000 *Zaballeen*--Arabic for "garbage people." Far ahead of any modern "Green" initiatives, the *Zaballeen* survive by recycling 80 percent of the garbage they collect. When their community is suddenly faced with the globalization of its trade, each of the teenage boys is forced to make choices that will impact his future and the survival of his community.

Mai Iskander, the filmmaker, recalls "Growing up as an Egyptian-American, I often visited my extended family in Egypt. When I was a young teenager, friends of my family brought me to the garbage village on the outskirts of Cairo to attend a local wedding. It was a world folded onto itself: an impenetrable labyrinth of narrow roadways camouflaged by trash. Garbage was piled three stories high and the smell of rotting vegetables permeated the waste-covered streets. Amidst the crowded rooftops, goats, pigs and chickens grazed on remnants of waste, while the children played on a mountain of multi-colored rags. Some visitors have described it as Dante's inferno. I remember at the time feeling that this place was extraordinary, exotic and overwhelming. Everything seemed strange and everyone seemed like a stranger. But what was most unexpected was how warm and inviting everyone was. By 2005, I returned to the garbage village and started volunteering at the local neighborhood school, The Recycling School."

The *Zaballeen* have created the world's most effective resource recovery system, recycling 80 percent of everything they collect. They are actually saving our Earth. From out of the trash, they lifted themselves out of poverty and have a solution to the world's most pressing crisis. Portraying themes that are universal, this documentary is a 20th-century coming-of-age story that takes place in the one of the most unlikely places--the world's largest garbage village.

<http://www.garbage dreams.com/>

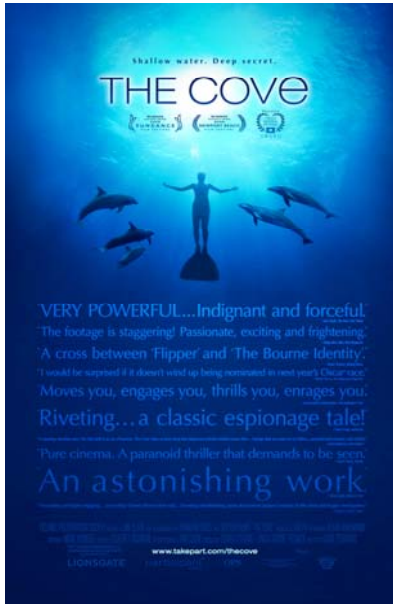


A Lens on Climate Change is a 2009 documentary on climate change refugees in Bangladesh by Larry Engel, American University School of Communication professor. The documentary focuses not on the science of global warming or the controversy that surrounds it. Rather, it explores the effect climate change already is having on the impoverished people of Bangladesh, a country the size of Wisconsin with 150 million people—roughly half the U. S. population. "The idea was to see how people were coping," says Engel.

"Instead of trying to fight the water, people are trying to live with it." Engel and the crew traveled throughout Bangladesh—the world's most densely populated country, according to the United Nations—speaking to climate change experts, architects and engineers trying to devise solutions to the rising water, and the people whose lives are impacted by it firsthand.

The program was titled "Water World," when it aired on NOW on PBS. Water is omnipresent. The country is mostly at sea level, and several major rivers come through it from China and India, like a drainage area for the Himalayas. It's not just sea water that can be a problem. Rain and runoff from these massive rivers cause flooding. The earth's rising temperature is increasing the frequency and strength of monsoons, one of which devastated the country in 2009, causing

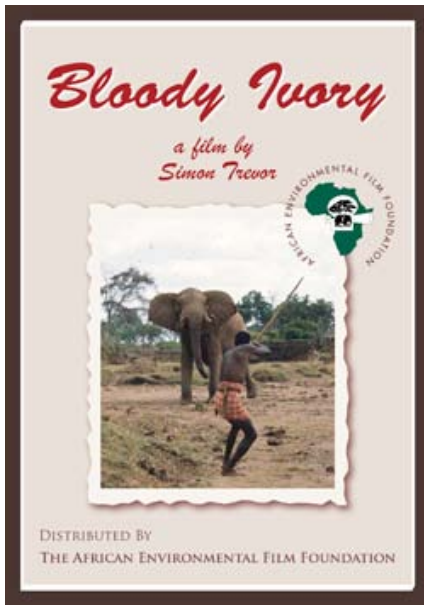
the displacement of 35,000 people. In one segment, in a makeshift village of tin and wood huts perched on a narrow strip of land, children must wade through water to reach boats that transport them to the nearest source of clean drinking water two to three times a day. "Our hope is the film will have an afterlife that helps create change in the United States and other countries around the world." [See photos from Engel's time in Bangladesh in this photo gallery](http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=3812888)
<http://www.shoppbs.org/product/index.jsp?productId=3812888>



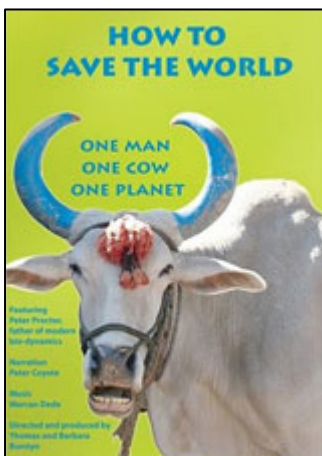
The Cove begins in Taiji, Japan, where former dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry has come to set things right after a long search for redemption. In the 1960s, it was O'Barry who captured and trained the 5 dolphins who played the title character in the international television sensation "Flipper." But his close relationship with those dolphins – the very dolphins who sparked a global fascination with trained sea mammals that continues to this day -- led O'Barry to a radical change of heart. One fateful day, a heartbroken Barry came to realize that these deeply sensitive, highly intelligent and self-aware creatures so beautifully adapted to life in the open ocean must never be subjected to human captivity again. This mission brought him to Taiji, a town that appears to be devoted to the wonders and mysteries of the sleek, playful dolphins and whales that swim off their coast. But in a remote, glistening cove, surrounded by barbed wire and "Keep Out" signs, lies a dark reality. It is here, under cover of night, that the fishermen of Taiji, driven by a multi-billion dollar dolphin entertainment industry and an underhanded

market for mercury-tainted dolphin meat, engage in an unseen hunt. The nature of what they do is so chilling – and the consequences are so dangerous to human health – they will go to great lengths to halt anyone from seeing it.

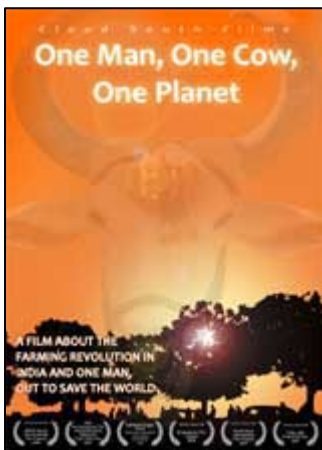
Undeterred, O'Barry joins forces with filmmaker Louis Psihoyos and the Oceanic Preservation Society to get to the truth of what's really going on in the cove and why it matters to everyone in the world. With the local chief of police hot on their trail and strong-arm fishermen keeping tabs on them, they recruit an "Ocean's Eleven"-style team of underwater sound and camera experts, special effects artists, marine explorers, adrenaline junkies and world-class free divers who will carry out an undercover operation to photograph the off-limits cove, while playing a cloak-and-dagger game with those who would have them jailed. The result is a provocative mix of investigative journalism, eco-adventure and arresting imagery that adds up to an urgent plea for hope. *The Cove* is directed by Louie Psihoyos and produced by Paula DuPre Pesman and Fisher Stevens. The film is written by Mark Monroe. The executive producer is Jim Clark and the co-producer is Olivia Ahnemann. <http://www.thecovemovie.com/>



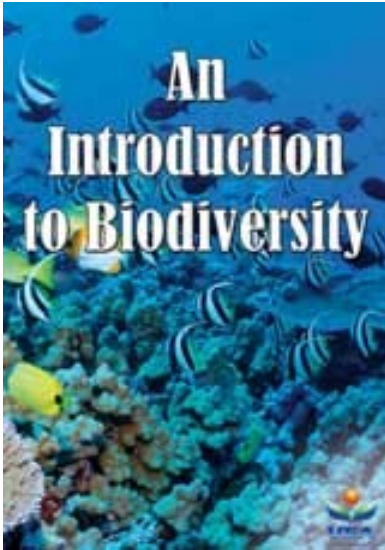
Bloody Ivory, one of the most well-known African wildlife documentaries of all time is on sale on Amazon in support of the African Environmental Film Foundation (AEFF). Produced in the 1970s, nominated for a British Academy of Film & Television Award (BAFTA Best Documentary) and at the time dubbed “The greatest wildlife film ever” by the BBC, this dramatic film records the struggle in Kenya’s Tsavo National Park to protect elephants from bow and arrow hunters supplying a rampant international ivory trade. Seven years in the making, this remarkable film by Simon Trevor is now licensed to the African Environmental Film Foundation for educational purposes. The original 16mm film has been digitized, thanks to a contribution from an anonymous donor, enabling AEFF to distribute this film on DVD. [Learn more about this film...](http://www.aeff.org/) at the AEFF website. <http://www.amazon.com/Bloody-Ivory-Home-Simon-Trevor/dp/B002HREYZ6>



How to Save the World, a film from New Zealand, explores the question: What does an environmentally friendly biodynamic food system capable of feeding everyone actually look like? Across India, marginal farmers are reviving an arcane form of agriculture and exposing the bio-colonialism of multinational corporations and their failed mantra of infinite growth in a finite world. *How to Save the World* tells their story through the teachings of an elderly New Zealander many are calling the new Gandhi. A blueprint for a post-industrial future, *How to Save the World* takes you into the heart of the world's most important renaissance. The outcome of the battle for agricultural control in India may just dictate the future of the earth. The film features Peter Proctor, New Zealand's father of modern biodynamics; directed and produced by Tom and Barbara Burstyn; and narrated by Peter Coyote. 103 minutes http://greenplanetfilms.org/product_info.php?products_id=523



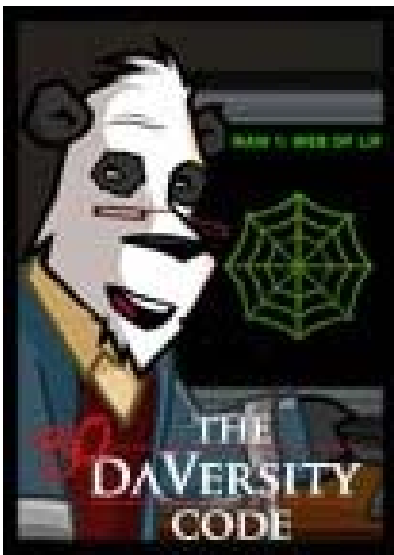
One Man, One Cow, One Planet is the broadcast offspring of *How to Save the World*, a feature length documentary (see above). At 56 minutes it is a focused exposure of India's agricultural plight and the answers provided by biodynamic farming. http://greenplanetfilms.org/product_info.php?products_id=544



An Introduction to Biodiversity (2008)

The beginning section of the 28-minute program introduces biodiversity to the students and emphasizes, with examples, the diversity and variability of living things. Once students are made aware of the impacts on biodiversity, they are then presented with practical methods where individuals and community groups can work towards to overcome current threats to biodiversity. By detailing positive examples, students are encouraged to think proactively with concern for their future and the future of their community.

http://greenplanetfilms.org/product_info.php?cPath=98&products_id=597



The Bio DaVersity Code

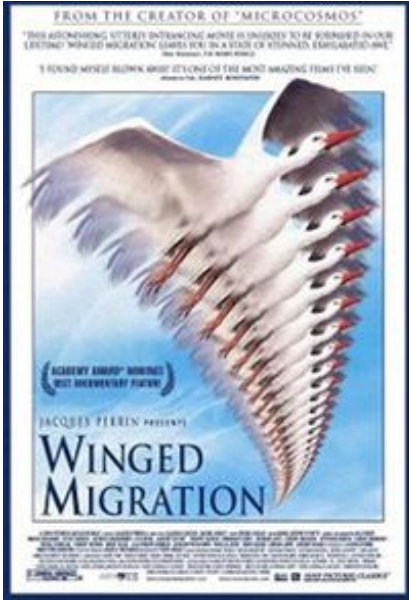
This delightful animated short film in the style of suspenseful mystery investigates the death, presumably the murder, of the polar bear. The cast of talking animal characters from the French inspector hound to the penguin professor and his sidekick fish, takes us through a murder investigation that leads to uncovering a web of intriguing interconnection for the survival of various species and humankind alike.

Working with a coalition that looked like a who's who of environmental NGOs, the Bio DaVersity code uses pop culture to communicate to audiences about species loss and the danger it poses to human beings. The movie has a positive message, teaching that if we save bio hotspots, like Australia's Great Barrier Reef, we might just save ourselves.

The website <http://www.daversitycode.com/> includes **presentations and lessons** focused on critical fronts in the race to protect the web of life. Initiatives to

restore and preserve the earth's ecosystems are addressed through cases of mangroves in Asia, rainforest in Brazil, global warming and melting of the ice caps and coral reefs. It offers a clear explanation with multiple examples of why biodiversity is critical to humanity's existence. The "Take Action" portion of the website links to the Harvard Center for Health and Global Development and offers a list of simple ways you can work to protect biodiversity and human health. <http://chge.med.harvard.edu/programs/bio/action.html>





Winged Migration is a 2001 documentary film directed by Jacques Cluzaud, Michel Dats and Jacques Perrin (who was also one of the writers and narrators) showcasing the immense journeys routinely made by birds during their migrations. The movie was shot over the course of four years on all seven continents. Shot using in-flight cameras, most of the footage is aerial, and the viewer appears to be flying alongside birds of successive species, especially Canadian geese. They traverse every kind of weather and landscape, covering vast distances in a flight for survival. The most amazing sights are simply the birds doing their thing. With the help of balloons, gliders, helicopters, and planes, Perrin's film crews managed to get a bird's-eye view of geese on the wing, pelicans skimming the surf, a blue macaw swooping inches above the chocolate-covered Peruvian Amazon. The camera floats right alongside them; you can look the birds in the eye as they float or flap along. "How did they do that?" you repeatedly ask yourself.

Though it has its thrilling and hilarious moments, *Winged Migration* is mostly calm and soothing. Yet it never puts you to sleep. We get a unique sense of the grandeur and courage of the lives of birds. To many of us, we mostly see birds flying in the distance or placidly perched somewhere, so they seem incidental and decorative. In this film they own the planet.

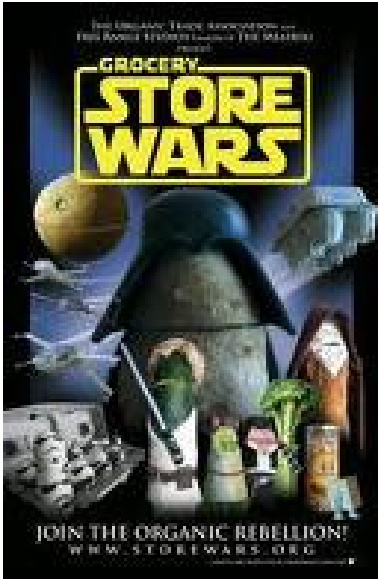
Source: David Loftus dloft59@earthlink.net Trailer http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc_qpk2d-ao



FOOD INC. How much do we really know about the food we buy at our local supermarkets and serve to our families? In *Food, Inc.*, filmmaker Robert Kenner lifts the veil on our nation's food industry, exposing the highly mechanized underbelly that has been hidden from the American consumer with the consent of our government's regulatory agencies, USDA and FDA. Our nation's food supply is now controlled by a handful of corporations that often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of the American farmer, the safety of workers and our own environment.

Featuring Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*), Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore's Dilemma*) along with forward thinking social entrepreneurs like Stonyfield Farm's Gary Hirshberg and Polyface Farms' Joel Salatin, *Food, Inc.* reveals surprising -- and often shocking truths -- about what we eat, how it is produced, who we have become as a nation and where we are going from here.

<http://www.foodincmovie.com/>



Grocery Store Wars

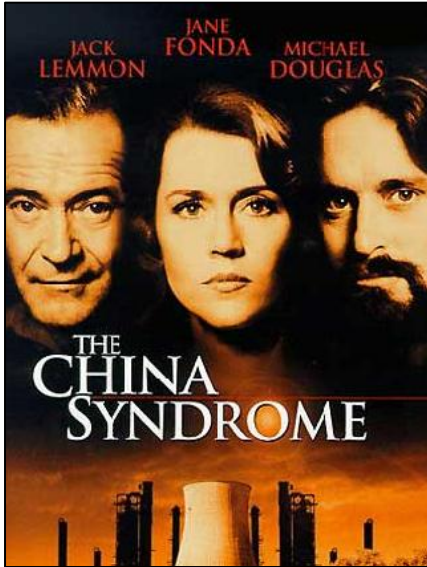
This short video is a spoof of Star Wars made with vegetable and fruit characters. Luke become Cuc Skywalker (a cucumber), Princess Lea is Princess Lettuce and Chewbacca becomes Chewbroccoli, among others. Produced by [Free Range Studios](http://www.freesrange.com) for the Organic Trade Association, the program's "good vs. evil" scenario depicts the organic foods rebellion against the prominence of produce farmed with synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides. <http://www.storewars.org/noflash/> For context, viewers should visit <http://natural-healthy-eating.com/grocery-store-wars.html> for an explanation of U.S. farming trend over the past 70 years.

Those trends in a nutshell: During World War II the United States was manufacturing [DDT](http://www.ddt.org) to be used against malaria and typhus by the military. After the war, these same manufacturers adopted a new purpose for DDT - agricultural pesticides. With a supposedly beneficial effect on saving lives and destroying insects, DDT was adopted by the majority of farmers with open arms. Organic farming was pushed to the side and synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides were born, with little thought to the health benefits of the end consumer. Chemical-laden foods and monoculture farming practices began replacing the naturally grown foods in the grocery stores. As a consumer, you didn't even know what happened. Over the decades, some became concerned over agricultural industry trends, such as J.I. Rodale of Rodale Institute who focused on nitrogen depletion in our soils and the encouragement of organic farming. The wake-up-call on the devastation caused by pesticide use in agriculture came with the publication of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson in 1962. She discovered that DDT was causing the egg shells of birds to become thinner, decreasing the bird population. That is when the reform of DDT's use as a pesticide in agriculture began, but not without struggle and controversy.

In the 1970's, *Acres USA* magazine was born and the organic community of farmers emerged through the efforts of Charles Walters, the magazine's founder, and good farming practices began to grow without the use of chemical pesticides. *Acres USA* and the Rodale Press kept the organic movement alive and expanding. Since the later years of 20th century, we are witnessing a stronger comeback in the food industry with some organic food in mainstream grocery stores. Yet it is still a struggle in the majority of grocery stores, where the conventional foods outweigh the organic.

It is this dynamic of moving away from synthetic pesticides and bringing healthy foods back to our grocery stores that *Grocery Store Wars* highlights. The takeoff on *Stars Wars* ... "May the Farm be with you!" ... will have you smiling and children will enjoy it. But to fully understand the fundamental messages embedded in the parody program, viewers need some contextual orientation to the historical trends in U.S. agricultural and farming practices and their impact on the health and well being of consumers and farmers.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVrlyEu6h_E



The China Syndrome (1979) tells the story of the possible extreme result of a [nuclear meltdown](#) at an American nuclear power plant. The title comes from the striking (though scientifically groundless) idea that the molten core of a nuclear reactor could breach the barriers below it and flow downwards through the floor of the [containment building](#) and would melt through the [crust of the Earth](#) and re-surface on the opposite side of the Earth, which would mean China in the case of the U.S.

This film is a political thriller about a news crew that accidentally witnesses a control room crisis at the Ventana nuclear energy plant. Kymberly Wells (Jane Fonda) is a reporter from a local US TV station in search of a big scoop. Together with her cameraman Richard Adams (Michael Douglas) she is given the task to shoot a report on a nuclear power plant located in the neighborhood. In

the middle of all the filming and interviewing, an accident at the power plant causes widespread panic among the powers-that-be. When the crisis is over, Kymberly and Richard (who managed to secretly film the whole event) decide to go public with a sensational report. They are temporarily silenced by Kymberly's editor-in-chief, who refuses to air such disturbing and politically dangerous news. With the help of scientist Jack Godell (Jack Lemmon), who works at the plant, they become involved in a plot that might have devastating implications. But eventually truth prevails and the public is told at last. During the Cold War people were well aware of the dangerous implications of using nuclear power. The political commitment of the time is fully embodied in Kymberly and Richard, determined to put their own lives in jeopardy in order to report about the nuclear danger. Scientist Jack Godell has left his belief in the neutrality of science behind, and is tormented by doubt up to his tragic end.

Mike Gray wrote the first draft of the screenplay in 1974 based on a real event at the Dresden II reactor near Chicago in 1970 due to the stuck needle of a water level gauge. Another draft was written in 1975 based on another real event at the Browns Ferry reactor in Alabama on March 22 when a fire disabled the cooling system and almost uncovered the fuel core threatening a 5000 degree meltdown nicknamed "The China Syndrome." As an engineer, Mike Gray understood the technology and used realistic jargon in his script.

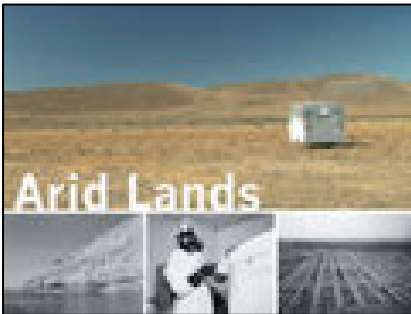
The China Syndrome, eerily released just 12 days before the near meltdown [accident at Three Mile Island](#), Pennsylvania, galvanized the anti-nuclear movement in the United States. By showing a nuclear accident while only faintly hinting at its radiation danger, *The China Syndrome* foreshadows not just Three Mile Island itself but also the media's approach to Three Mile Island. http://www.spout.com/films/The_China_Syndrome/5947/default.aspx



A Civil Action (1998)

Directed by [Schindler's List](#) screenwriter Steve Zaillian, this courtroom drama is based on a true story and non-fiction book by Jonathan Harr. The case revolves around an incident in 1979 in East Woburn, Massachusetts, where two drinking wells supplying water to the town were found to be contaminated with industrial solvents. When toxic waste was discovered later that year, suspicions arose that the local factories caused the pollution. The residents felt these companies were responsible for the unusually high rate of leukemia deaths amongst the town's children. Anne Anderson (Kathleen Quinlan), a mother who lost her son Jimmy to leukemia, fronts an effort to bring a lawsuit against the major conglomerates Beatrice Foods and W. R. Grace & Co for their pollution crimes -- a heavy-duty problem, because these companies have the money to squash the less powerful citizens. Enter Jan Schlichtmann (John Travolta), a personal injury lawyer whose small law firm is hired to sue these industrial giants for millions of dollars

in damages. He's up against Jerome Facher (Robert Duvall) and William Cheeseman (Bruce Norris), high-priced lawyers who represent the big companies. Most of the film takes place in the courtroom during the trial. It also features William H. Macy as Schlichtmann's accountant and John Lithgow as the judge. Read more in the [New York Times review](#).



Arid Lands (2007) is a 98-minute documentary feature about the land and people of the Columbia River Basin in southeastern Washington state. Sixty years ago, the Hanford nuclear site produced plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. It was America's foremost plutonium production facility. Today the area is the focus of the largest environmental cleanup in history. It is a landscape of incredible contradictions. Coyotes roam among decommissioned nuclear reactors, salmon spawn in the middle of golf courses, wine grapes grow in the sagebrush,

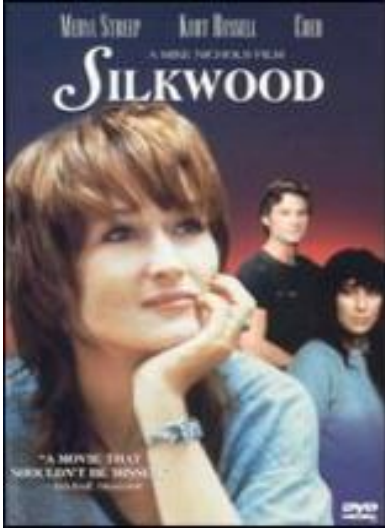
and federal cleanup dollars spur rapid urban expansion.

Arid Lands takes us into a world of sports fishermen, tattoo artists, housing developers, ecologists, and radiation scientists living and working in the area. It tells the story of how people changed the landscape over time, and how the landscape affected their lives.

<http://www.sidelongfilms.com/aridlands/film.html>

Watch the trailer <http://www.sidelongfilms.com/aridlands/watchtrailer.html>

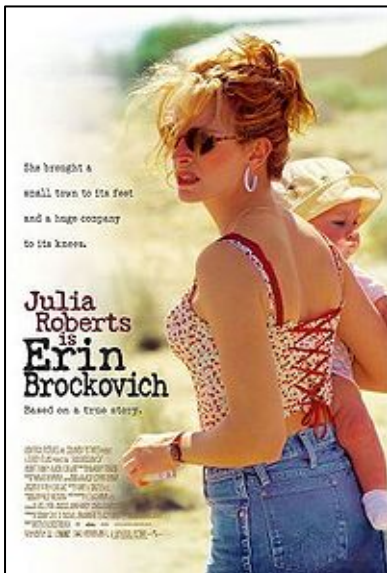
If you are interested in organizing a community screening, contact the distributor [Bullfrog Films](#).



Silkwood (1983)

Based on a true story, *Silkwood* begins and ends with Karen Silkwood (Meryl Streep) driving along a lonely road in 1974, heading to a meeting with a *New York Times* reporter to deliver evidence of negligence at the Kerr-McGee Plutonium Recycling Facility in Cimarron, Oklahoma. The balance of the film flashes back to Karen's ribald private life with her lover (Kurt Russell) and her loose-living friends (Cher and Diana Scarwid). This is in contrast to her humdrum job at Kerr-McGee—or it least it was humdrum until Karen and several other employees become contaminated by radiation. The higher-ups want to sweep this incident under the rug, but Karen thinks that something is fishy, and informs the union of that fact. X-rays of the faulty fuel rods and written proof of the inadequate safety measures that caused Karen's illness are tampered with, forcing Karen to conduct her own private

investigation. As she gathers evidence, Karen becomes a pariah to her boyfriend because of her obsession. She finally organizes the evidence into a briefcase, and heads off to her meeting with the *Times* reporter. She never makes it; the "official" report on her fatal auto accident is that Ms. Silkwood had been drinking and was under the influence of tranquilizers. Kerr-McGee was eventually forced to pay the Silkwood family an enormous settlement because of her contamination, but the full facts behind her convenient accident have never been revealed (though the filmmakers clearly indicate whom they hold responsible). Director Mike Nichols and screenwriters Nora Ephron and Alice Arlen surround this true story with a lively, improvisational atmosphere that gets the very best performances out of Streep, Russell, and Cher. For more insight, read the [New York Times review](#).



Erin Brockovich is a 2000 drama film which dramatizes the story of [Erin Brockovich](#)'s first fight against the American West Coast energy giant Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). Erin Brockovich, an unemployed single mother who becomes a legal assistant, almost single-handedly brings down a California power company accused of polluting a city's water supply. The film was directed by Steven Soderbergh and starred Julia Roberts, who won the Academy Award, Golden Globe, Screen Actors' Guild Award and BAFTA for Best Actress. It is based on a true story and the real Erin Brockovich has a cameo appearance as a waitress named Julia. This film is a rare and important example of the "cross-over" environmental film. Millions of moviegoers learned of this whistleblower tale – getting pulled in by a really good story with stunning performances by big name actors. <http://www.brockovich.com/>



The Garden (2008)

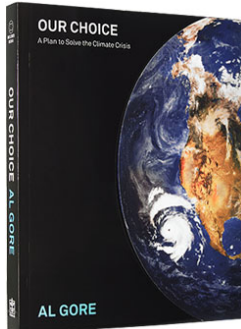
The 14-acre community garden at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles is the largest of its kind in the United States. Started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots in 1992, the South Central Farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country's most blighted neighborhoods: Growing their own food. Feeding their families. Creating a community. But now, bulldozers are poised to level their 14-acre oasis.

The Garden follows the plight of the farmers from the tilled soil of this urban farm to the polished marble of City Hall. Mostly immigrants from Latin America, from countries where they feared for their lives if they were to speak out, we watch them organize, fight back, and demand answers: Why was the land sold to a wealthy developer for millions less than fair-market value? Why was the transaction done in a closed-door session of the LA City Council? Why has it never been made public? And the powers-that-be have the same response: "The garden is wonderful, but there is nothing more we can do." If everyone told you nothing more could be done, would you give up?

The Garden has the pulse of verité with the narrative pull of fiction, telling the story of the country's largest urban farm, backroom deals, land developers, green politics, money, poverty, power, and racial discord. The film explores and exposes the fault lines in American society and raises crucial and challenging questions about liberty, equality, and justice for the poorest and most vulnerable among us. <http://www.thegardenmovie.com/>

The DVD includes feature-length commentary track with filmmaker Scott Hamilton Kennedy, farmer and activist Tezozomoc, and co-producers Vivianne Nacif and Dominique Derrenger; post screening Q/A with filmmakers, farmers, Daryl Hannah and more; *Back to the Garden*: extended scenes, protests and historical perspectives; Director interview with film critic David Poland (Movie City News); theatrical trailer and more.

Books



Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis

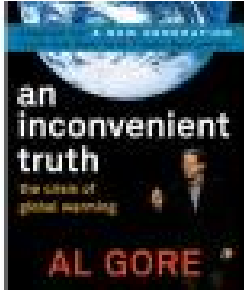
by Al Gore

Our Choice picks up where *An Inconvenient Truth* left off, providing a blueprint for solving the global climate crisis and drawing on Mr. Gore's 40 years of experience as a student, policymaker, author, filmmaker, entrepreneur, and activist. A co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 for his environmental work, Mr. Gore illuminates the real solutions to the climate crisis and describes a comprehensive global strategy to implement them urgently. *Our Choice* is an inspiring call to action for those ready to fight for solutions that really work—including some bold initiatives that were deemed impossible only a short time ago but are now gaining support around the world.

During the three and a half years since the release of *An Inconvenient Truth* Al Gore has organized and moderated over 30 lengthy and intensive "Solutions Summits," where the world's leading experts (from fields as diverse as neuroscience, agriculture, economics, information technology, and more) have come to discuss and share their knowledge with the goal of finding the most effective courses of action. *Our Choice* is result of the groundbreaking insights offered by these participants, whose expertise has made it possible to construct a fresh and unique approach not seen before.

Gore underscores the fact that we have at our fingertips the tools we need to implement change—all we need is the collective will. Better still, the collateral benefits of seeking these solutions can also help overcome extreme poverty, widespread hunger, and other problems that have been allowed to fester for centuries. The security crisis, economic crisis and climate crisis seem unsolvable in isolation—but a closer look reveals a common thread running thru them: our dangerous over-reliance on carbon-based fuels. It is at the core of all these and many other challenges.

As they did with *An Inconvenient Truth*, former Vice President Gore and Mrs. Tipper Gore donate 100 percent of the proceeds of the book *Our Choice* to the [Alliance for Climate Protection](#), a non-profit, nonpartisan group dedicated to spreading awareness about the climate crisis and how to solve it.

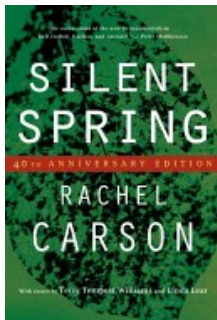


An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It

by Al Gore.

Al Gore's ground-breaking, battle cry of a follow-up to the bestselling *Earth in the Balance*—was published in conjunction with the documentary film of the same name. Both the book and film were inspired by a series of multimedia presentations on global warming that Gore created and delivered to groups around the world. With this book, Gore, who is one of our environmental heroes—and a leading expert—brings together leading-edge research from top scientists around the world; photographs, charts, and other illustrations; and personal anecdotes and observations to document the fast pace and wide scope of global warming. He presents, with alarming clarity and conclusiveness—and with humor, too—that the fact of global warming is not in question and that its consequences for the world we live in will be disastrous if left unchecked. The book, written in an accessible, entertaining style, will open the eyes of even the most skeptical.

Source: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>



Silent Spring

by Rachel Carson

First published in the United States in 1962, *Silent Spring* surveys mounting evidence that widespread pesticide use endangers both wildlife and humans. Along the way, Rachel Carson criticizes an irresponsible chemical industry, which continues to claim that pesticides are safe, and imprudent public officials, who accept without question this disinformation. As an alternative to the "scorched earth" logic underlying accepted pest-control practices, the author outlines the "biotic" approach—cheaper, safer, longer acting, natural solutions to pest problems (for example, controlling the Japanese beetle by introducing a fungus that causes a fatal disease in this insect).

The primary inspiration for the book was a friend of Carson's who was concerned about dying birds in her hometown where the authorities had sprayed DDT to control mosquitoes. At about the same time, a disastrous pesticide campaign against the fire ant of the Southeast was receiving national attention. Formerly a science writer for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Carson already had some acquaintance with research on pesticides, and she was ready to speak out. Originally planned as an article, *Silent Spring* became a book of more than 200 pages when the only outlet she could find was the book publisher Houghton Mifflin.

Few books have had as much impact on late 20th century life as Carson's *Silent Spring*. Though an environmental consciousness can be discerned in American culture as far back as the 19th century, environmentalism as it is known today has only been around for about 40 years, and Carson's book is one of its primary sources. Her tirade against humankind's attempt to use technology to dominate nature wrenched environmentalism from its relatively narrow, conservationist groove and helped transform it into a sweeping social movement that has since impacted almost every area of everyday life.



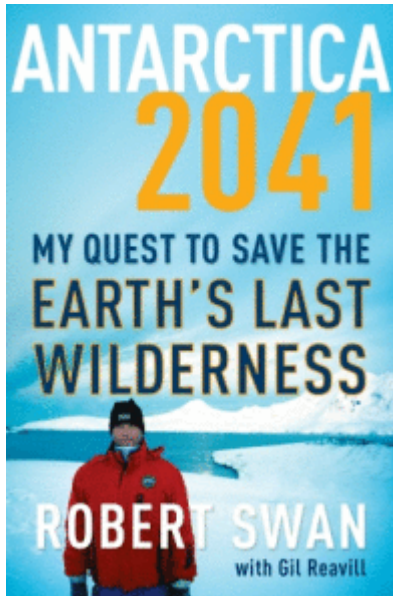
No Impact Man – The Adventures of a Guilty Liberal Who Attempts to Save the Planet and the Discoveries He Makes About Himself and Our Way of Life in the Process
by Colin Beavan

A guilty liberal finally snaps, swears off plastic, goes organic, becomes a bicycle nut, turns off his power, and generally becomes a tree-hugging lunatic who tries to save the polar bears and the rest of the planet from environmental catastrophe while dragging his baby daughter and Prada-wearing, Four Seasons-loving wife along for the ride. And that's just the beginning. Bill McKibben meets Bill Bryson in this seriously engaging look at one man's decision to put his money where his mouth is and go off the grid for one year—while still living in New York City—to see if it is possible to make no net impact on the environment. In other words, no trash, no toxins in the water, no elevators, no subway, no products in packaging, no air-conditioning, no television . . .

What would it be like to try to live a no-impact lifestyle? Is it possible? Could it catch on? Is living this way more satisfying or less satisfying? Harder or easier? Is it worthwhile or senseless? Are we all doomed or can our culture reduce the barriers to sustainable living so it becomes as easy as falling off a log? These are the questions at the heart of this whole mad endeavor, via which Colin Beavan hopes to explain to the rest of us how we can realistically live a more “eco-effective” and, by turn, more content life in an age of inconvenient truths.

This book is the toolkit for finding ways to fix what you may not think is broken. You'll get new ideas for living with an environmental conscience; you'll reaffirm the old repertoire (reduce, reuse, etc...); and you may discover a unique sense of freedom.

Use the book as a manual for the [No Impact Experiment](#), a one-week challenge to live with as small an environmental footprint as possible. Like Colin, we hope that you'll make some profound personal discoveries along the way. Read the [New York Times story](#) that catapulted Colin Beavan -- aka No Impact Man -- to international recognition.



Antarctica 2041

by Robert Swan with Gil Reavill (2009)

Adventurer turned environmentalist Robert Swan illuminates the perils facing the planet come 2041—the year when the international treaty protecting Antarctica is up for review—and the many steps that can be taken to avoid environmental calamity.

In 1985, when Robert Swan walked across Antarctica, the fragile polar environment was not high in his mind. But upon his return, the earth's perilous state became personal: Robert's ice-blue eyes were singed a pale gray, a result of being exposed to the sun's rays passing unfiltered through the depleted ozone layer. At this moment, his commitment to preserving the environment was born. In *Antarctica 2041* Swan details his journey to awareness, and his firm belief that humans can reverse the harm done to the planet thus far, and secure its future for generations to come.

Despite the dire warnings Swan raises in *Antarctica 2041*—exponentially high greenhouse-gas levels; rising seas; massive species extinction—he says there is much we can do to avert looming disaster. Ultimately an upbeat call to action, his book provides the information people need to understand the world's crisis, and the tools they need to combat it, ultimately showing us all that saving Antarctica amounts to saving ourselves.

Robert Swan is the first person to have walked to both the North and South Poles. An active lecturer, he regularly leads Antarctic expeditions. He divides time between London, New York, and Antarctica. Gil Reavill has co-authored many books including *Tiki by Tiki Barber and Steve and Me* by Terri Irwin.

View a short movie with Robert Swan highlighting what is in the book:

http://www.randomhouse.com/crown/features/antarctica2041/?ref=banner_crn_grist_antarctica2041_9780767931755_1009

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