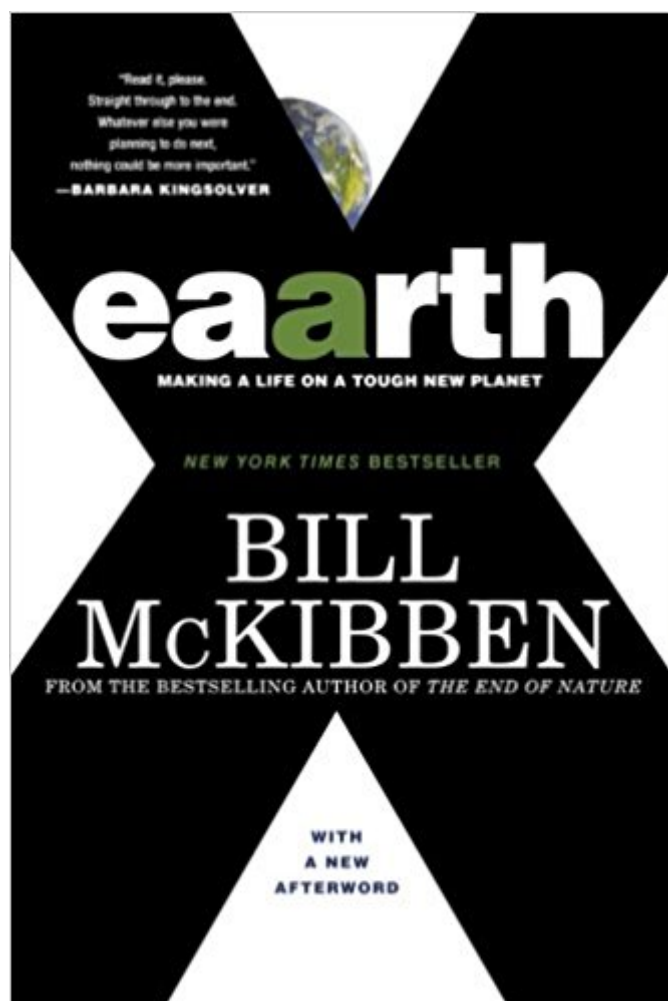


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Eaarth: Making A Life On A Tough New Planet



Synopsis

The bestselling author of *Deep Economy* shows that we're living on a fundamentally altered planet and opens our eyes to the kind of change we'll need in order to make our civilization endure. Twenty years ago, with *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben offered one of the earliest warnings about global warming. Those warnings went mostly unheeded; now, he insists, we need to acknowledge that we've waited too long, and that massive change is not only unavoidable but already under way. Our old familiar globe is suddenly melting, drying, acidifying, flooding, and burning in ways that no human has ever seen. We've created, in very short order, a new planet, still recognizable but fundamentally different. We may as well call it Eearth. That new planet is filled with new binds and traps. A changing world costs large sums to defend — think of the money that went to repair New Orleans, or the trillions of dollars it will take to transform our energy systems. But the endless economic growth that could underwrite such largesse depends on the stable planet we've managed to damage and degrade. We can't rely on old habits any longer. Our hope depends, McKibben argues, on scaling back — on building the kind of societies and economies that can hunker down, concentrate on essentials, and create the type of community (in the neighborhood, but also on the Internet) that will allow us to weather trouble on an unprecedented scale. Change — fundamental change — is our best hope on a planet suddenly and violently out of balance. From the Hardcover edition. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Best Books of the Month, April 2010: Since he first heralded our era of environmental collapse in 1989's *The End of Nature*, Bill McKibben has raised a series of eloquent alarms. In *Eaarth*, he leads readers to the devastatingly comprehensive conclusion that we no longer inhabit the world in which we've flourished for most of human history: we've passed the tipping point for dramatic climate change, and even if we could stop emissions yesterday, our world will keep warming, triggering more extreme storms, droughts, and other erratic catastrophes, for centuries to come. This is not just our grandchildren's problem, or our children's--we're living through the effects of climate change now, and it's time for us to get creative about our survival. McKibben pulls no punches, and swaths of this book can feel bleak, but his dry wit and pragmatic optimism refuse to yield to despair. Focusing our attention on inspiring communities of "functional independence" arising around the world, he offers galvanizing possibilities for keeping our humanity intact as the world we've known breaks down. --Mari Malcolm

The world as we know it has ended forever: that's the melancholy message of this nonetheless cautiously optimistic assessment of the planet's future by McKibben, whose *The End of Nature* first warned of global warming's inevitable impact 20 years ago. Twelve books later, the committed environmentalist concedes that the earth has lost the climatic stability that marked all of human civilization. His litany of damage done by a carbon-fueled world economy is by now familiar: in some places rainfall is dramatically heavier, while Australia and the American Southwest face a permanent drought; polar ice is vanishing, glaciers everywhere are melting, typhoons and hurricanes are fiercer, and the oceans are more acidic; food yields are dropping as temperatures rise and mosquitoes in expanding tropical zones are delivering deadly disease to millions. McKibben's prescription for coping on our new earth is to adopt maintenance as our mantra, to think locally not globally, and to learn to live lightly, carefully, gracefullyâ "a glass-half-full attitude that might strike some as Pollyannaish or merely insufficient. But for others McKibben's refusal to abandon hope may restore faith in the future. (Apr.) Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

You have a choice. Read the book and try to do something about it in whatever way is at your disposal or put your head in the sand and pretend that everything is all right with the world. If the scientists are even 10% correct in their predictions (and 90% plus of what they say makes sense to me) then we are in a spot of bother in the coming few decades. If I can editorialize, the root of the

problem is PPCT. Who Pays the Piper Calls the Tune. As long as politicians are supported financially in any way by vested interests, they will never do what is good for us or good for the world. Also see Feral by Monbiot for a ray of hope if we will only follow what he suggests.

Somehow I missed this book when it was published in 2010. I've read and enjoyed a number of articles written by Bill McKibben and have had the good fortune to hear him speak at an Adirondack Mountain Club event. I discovered 350.org while reading Barbara Kingsolver's (one of my favorite authors) newest book, "Flight Behavior: A Novel". From the website I learned about the efforts of 350.org and about this novel. The book is very convincing about climate change and the need to reduce carbon in the atmosphere. Every fact is clearly explained, easily understood and supported by mountains of research for non-scientists like myself. It left me wondering how we could inspire everyone to work towards reducing our use of fossil fuels. The one idea I had would be for TV weather reports to report on levels of carbon in the air we breathe. This would at least make us aware of highs and lows and enable viewers to correlate high levels of carbon with poor air quality and possibly storms, etc. It's not difficult to read and easy to identify with because many of Bill's examples are close to home!

McKibben is truly brilliant, and he brilliantly communicates our terrifying reality. Every other struggle that humanity has ever faced, every civilization that has risen and fallen, every disease, every event, will pale in comparison to the climate change-fueled decline that awaits. While I appreciate the hopeful message provided at the book's end (that major agricultural reform could mitigate this), it's unlikely to be the hoped for panacea. Please continue writing and continue fighting, Mr. McKibben. No other endeavor is as important.

In Eaarth, McKibben asserts that, due to climate change and the human activities that have driven it forward, we no longer live on the same planet that we did even a few decades ago. Therefore, he writes that we need to develop new habits in order to survive on it. He uses the first half of the book to show that climate change is problematic. In the second half, he outlines some potential solutions. One of his primary points is that we need to give up our political and economic pursuit of constant growth and adopt a lifestyle of maintenance. This transition will require us to relinquish our dependence on fossil fuels and to become smaller and less centralized. He claims that, by becoming smaller, we will also be able to develop stronger communities in which we contribute to the well-being of our neighbors rather than large, wealthy corporations. According to McKibben, we

will never be able to get back to the conditions of a few decades ago, but with some drastic lifestyle changes, we can reach stability. He admits that the necessary changes will not come about easily or quickly. Overall, I thought this book was quite interesting. I found McKibben's subtle sense of humor entertaining, which kept the book from becoming dull. He provides a wealth of information and ideas. As someone who had never really given climate change much thought, I learned a great deal through this book. McKibben's proposed solutions primarily apply to the energy and food industries. Out of my own personal curiosity, I wish that he had spent more time discussing how he believes our transportation system should change. Although it's apparent that he thinks we should be traveling less, I would be interested in reading more detailed information. I also have mixed feelings about his claim that the Internet alone would keep our lives from becoming dull if we were to adopt simpler lives based in rural communities. Since we are so accustomed to a pursuit of novelty and entertainment, can it really be that simple? On the other hand, maybe that's his point. That lifestyle may not be as luxurious as the one we're used to, but if we are to survive, it will have to do. This is a very thought-provoking book that will inspire some people and could potentially upset others.

Eye opening text that I remember even years after reading it. I forgot to review it and seeing this again makes me want to finish the book. NOTE I did not stop reading because I didn't like the book, I stopped because I was too busy with other school projects to need to complete the book. I almost read it all, and it was profound. I didn't sell it, which I usually do with required texts, and I intend to read it (yep one of those stories but I mean it.) and likely will never get rid of it. So what I got from this text was a lot about how we're horribly screwing up our planet and it revealed some statistics and hypothesis that suggest there is NO turning back. Sadly, I'm not inclined to doubt anything in this book. That is not to say that I wouldn't question or research things for myself, but this is a good, cited resource for learning more about the world you live in. A world most of us are destroying, many ignorantly so. It's pretty sad when the book shifts from anecdotal scenarios and talk about the way of things and jumps into factual PROOF. I did not expect that and honestly, halfway through the book if you're not shocked and worried for this planet you either do not care, you do not understand, or you already knew and accepted it. All things considered this is a GREAT book I highly recommend. Take anything you read with a grain of salt but definitely take what this book says and learn more, we'll all be better off.

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