

Are there any good books I
could read to help me learn
more?

Alex Edwards MSc

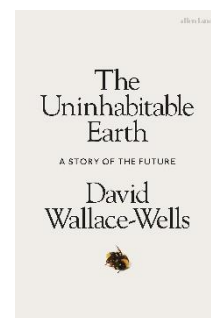


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There is a wealth of resources available that tackle issues related to the climate and ecological crises. I have listed several books below that I think provide a useful overview of the challenges and solutions.

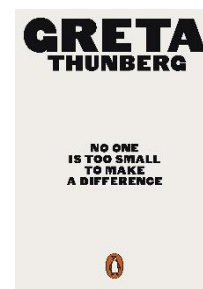
The Uninhabitable Earth – David Wallace-Wells

We all hear about climate change in the news, whether in relation to wildfires in California, or floods in the UK, but how bad actually is the problem? Well, as David Wallace-Wells makes clear in the first line of this book “It is worse, much worse, than you think”. Uninhabitable Earth, named after the viral article of the same name, takes a deep dive into the latest science and what the not-too-distant future will look like. Some may call the book alarmist, and Wallace-Wells admits himself that he is “alarmed”, but there is a distinction between alarmism and realism and Wallace-Wells masterfully walks this line. What the book does brilliantly, is to remind the reader that there is no room for complacency when it comes to climate change.



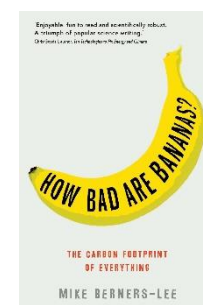
No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference – Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is the teenage climate activist that has inspired a global climate movement and gained international recognition from world leaders. This book collates many of her speeches that have made history and inspired a nation to take action on climate change, no matter how small you are.



How Bad are Bananas? – Mike Berners-Lee

In an impressive feat, Mike Berners-Lee has meticulously worked out the carbon footprint of over 100 items. He gives us a breakdown of what makes a difference, and what is less important, thus allowing the environmentally conscious individual to focus their attention where it really matters.



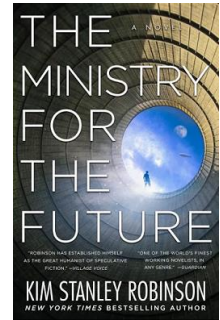
Zero Waste Home – Bea Johnson

The guru of zero waste living, Bea Johnson shares her tips on going waste-free in all aspects of your life from food, to holidaying to parenting. Full of practical advice and tips for what is probably a more extreme version of what most people would set out to achieve, it can certainly inspire change in the right direction.



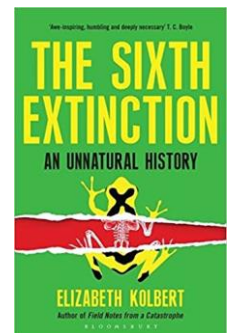
The Ministry for the Future – Kim Stanley Robinson

From the brilliant science fiction writer, comes a tale of what the rest of our lives could look like as a result of climate change. What makes *The Ministry for the Future*, so prescient is that it is not set in some post-apocalyptic future, but in the year 2025, when a new UN body - the Ministry for the Future - is established to defend all life on earth both present and future. The book is both depressing and hopeful in equal measures and probably the best fiction book on climate change.



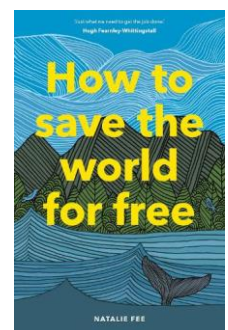
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History – Elizabeth Kolbert

In this Pulitzer Prize winning book, Elizabeth Kolbert documents how human activities are affecting the natural world and bringing about a 6th mass extinction. Most of us will be aware of the large asteroid which smashed into Mexico about 66 million years ago and wiped out the dinosaurs, but less people will know that this was in fact the fifth mass extinction event (leading to a loss of over 75% of all species) to occur in the last 500 million years. In 13 chapters, Kolbert takes the reader on a journey through the history of mass extinctions, its origins as a concept and what it means for humans and the species, we share the earth with.



How to Save the World for Free – Natalie Fee

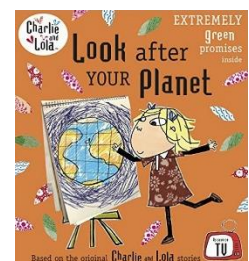
Natalie Fee is an award-winning environmental campaigner, author and speaker and her new book will make you both laugh and cry. Most importantly though, her book will motivate you to think and act differently in everyday life, for the good of the environment. With tips on and advice on making small changes to the most common place activities (like making a cup of tea), we can all make more eco-conscious choices that really make a difference.



To read with your children:

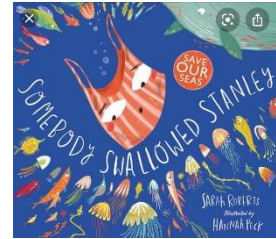
Charlie and Lola: Look after your Planet – Lauren Child

Based on the very popular Charlie and Lola stories, this version is true to form offering a fun and educational introduction to recycling and is ideal for children who already know (and love) Charlie and Lola.



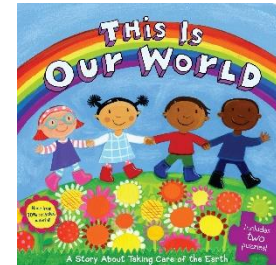
Somebody swallowed Stanley – Sarah Roberts

A very sweet book with fantastic illustration that educates children on the dangers of plastic pollution to ocean creatures. Stanley is a really engaging character carrying a very important message for the younger children.



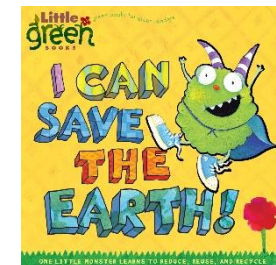
This is our world – Emily Sollinger

This is a vibrant and interactive book which includes puzzle pieces that can be collected on each page and used to create two puzzles at the end of the book. The messages around recycling are of a more simplified nature and the book offers ideas for being more environmentally friendly such as planting more trees, a beach clean up and making bird houses out of old milk cartons.



I can save the earth! – Alison Inches

In this edition of the series, Max the Little Monster gains a new appreciation for the outside world after a power cut forces him to go outside and he realises the world is beautiful, and he wants to save it. He changes his ways, choosing the outdoors over in, recycling, conserving energy and turns into the Little GREEN Monster!



10 things I can do to help my world – Melanie Walsh

True to form the illustrations of this book by Melanie Walsh has brilliant illustrations and the creatively transforming pages, make this book an ideal introduction for a younger one on small changes that can be taken up to help save the planet. The books feel high quality; lots of effort has gone into the feel and design, and it shows.

