

Summer Reading

Silent Spring by Rachel Carson ignited the modern environmental movement in 1963, and Bill McKibbens' End of Nature in 1989 is credited as the first to elevate climate change from the halls of academia to the public discourse. Since then, a number of non-fiction books and novels have addressed or incorporated climate change and sustainability themes, creating what some critics call a climate genre.

The New York Times' webinar series The Greenhouse devoted an [April 22nd segment](#) to highlighting their critic's choices of climate literature. This [list](#) includes some stand-outs from the mid-2000's, when climate burgeoned as a topic, but also recent titles, including The Story of More, by Hope Jahren, the Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming by David Walker-Wells, and dystopian novel The Wall by John Lanchester. For those still struggling with the science and scientific consensus that human activities are responsible for the current warming trend, I recommend the 88-page book, What we Know About Climate, by MIT atmospheric scientist Kerry Emanuel. The new 2018 edition, with a forward from US Representative Bob Inglis (R-SC) provides a understandable overview of the science and compelling argument for why action is needed now.

Basic

- The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming by David Walker-Wells ©2019 (overview of impacts)
- What We Know About Climate by Kerry Emanuel ©2007 & 2018 (not too long, good primer)
- The Sixth Extinction by Elizabeth Kolbert ©2014 (loss of biodiversity)
- Merchants of Doubt by Naomi Oreskes & Erik Conway ©2010 – (who is shaping the policy narrative)
- Earth Odyssey by Mark Hertzberg © 1999 (general environmental book and issues of equity)

Topic focused

- The Story of More by Hope Jahren ©2020 (how the world should use less and share more)
- The Water will Come by Jeff Goodell ©2017 (focused on coastal cities globally, including Miami)
- The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan ©2017 (climate, water quality and Lake Erie)
- The Great Derangement by Amitav Ghosh ©2016 (philosophical approach to the failure to act)
- Windfall, by McKenzie Funk ©2014 (profiteering from climate inaction)

Novels

- The Wall by John Lanchester ©2019 (a dystopian novel)
- The Overstory by Richard Powers ©2018 (about the destruction of trees and forest)
- Parable of the Sower–by Octavia Butler- ©1993 (a classic from a teenager's perspective)