Caring for Creation Christmas Gift Suggestions

Books make wonderful Christmas gifts! Here are the Caring for Creation team’s favorite books on environmental topics, all available at local bookstores or online. Remember to use Manna cards to buy your gifts.

Tipping Point for Planet Earth: How Close Are We to the Edge?, by Anthony D. Barnosky and Elizabeth A. Hadly. One reviewer describes this book as “better than excellent…a real page turner that entertains as it explains why we’re headed for a global tipping point that is way beyond just climate change.”

Fact and Fiction in Global Energy Policy: Fifteen Contentious Questions, by Benjamin K. Sovacool, Marilyn A. Brown, and Scott V. Valentine. This insightful, penetrating, and witty book is a candid and balanced treatment of the most difficult energy topics.

Noah's Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards, by Sara Stein. Stein describes how our traditional lawns and gardens have had a devastating effect on wildlife, and explains how to change to an ecologically healthier native gardening approach.

The Lorax, by Dr. Seuss. A classic for all ages, this is a cautionary tale of what happens when we disregard the limits of Earth’s natural resources. In typical Dr. Seuss fashion, he creates a colorful and wildly imaginative world.

A Sand County Almanac, by Aldo Leopold. This is a collection of essays on the natural environment, written in 1949, with a message that is still important today.

Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson. Published in 1962, this book focuses on the dangers of pesticides and other common chemicals, and launched the environmental movement.

The Sea Around Us, by Rachel Carson. This book, winner of the 1951 National Book Award, is both a scientific and literary classic about the sea, with insight into the impact of human abuse on the sea.

Lost Woods: The Discovered Writing of Rachel Carson A collection of journal entries, speeches, and articles, collected by Linda Lear, Carson’s biographer.

Ishmael, An Adventure of the Mind and Spirit, by Daniel Quinn. Through a series of dialogues between Ishmael, a wise old gorilla, and the narrator, this book examines the history of civilization and sustainable living.

Comfortably Unaware: What we Chose to Eat is Killing Us and Our Planet, by Richard Oppenlander. What we eat has a direct impact on the health of the planet. Help heal the planet by changing what is on your plate.

Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming, by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway. The authors document how a small group of scientists have used doubt as a political weapon, and created the impression of scientific controversy.

Natural Landscaping: Gardening with Nature to Create a Backyard Paradise, by Sally Roth

Natural Gardening by Jim Knopf, Sally Wasowski, et al.

Both books were valuable resources when I first got interested in natural gardening, providing information about site planning, attracting and providing food for wildlife, with lists and pictures of native plants.

The Caring for Creation web site, at <http://uccdg-caring-for-creation.weebly.com/> has a list of other recommended books, plus information on the Dakota pipeline, saving Monarch butterflies, climate change, and other topics.