



The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook: 77 Essential Skills To Stop Climate Change

David de Rothschild

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The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook is the official companion volume to the Live Earth concerts, 24 hours of nonstop concerts broadcast from around the world on July 7, 2007. The book presents 77 essential skills for stopping climate change—and for living through it. It is a fun, compelling, and sly deconstruction of a survival guide (think *Boy Scouts of America* crossed with *WorldChanging* atop the *Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook*) that offers equal parts tongue-in-cheek suggestions, practical advice, factual information, and bluesky dreaming of ways to save the world. Each skill is presented on a spread featuring a bright, full-color instructional illustration, a brief introduction to the skill and its core ideas, a set of instructions, spin-off ideas, and scientific and environmental facts. The book also includes a resource guide that provides useful resources for the eco-conscious reader.

Inside *The Live Earth Global Warming Survival Handbook*

5 Sub-Size It

If every American lost one pound, we'd save 20 million gallons of fuel per year.

CO2	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
50	10	1	1

The American dream has been supersized—and we've bitten off more than we can chew. With less than 5% of the world's population, the U.S. creates nearly one-quarter of the Earth's greenhouse gases. And American-style products—from SUVs to McMansions—are spreading around the globe.

As consumers, Americans believe that size matters: given a choice, we make it extra large. It's not just French fries. From 1970 to 2004, the average new home in the U.S. grew more than 50%, from 1,500 to 2,348 square feet, even as the average number of people in each household shrank by 21%.

Choosing big adds up. Manufacturing a big car creates more greenhouse gases—and that big car keeps creating more until it hits the junkyard. Cars and behaviors last 10 to 15 years. Houses can last 100 years or more. The decisions we make now can affect greenhouse-gas pollution for decades.

Smaller choices are almost always better for the planet—and usually cost less, too. Less maintenance time, lower finance charges, easier parking, cooler planet.

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SUPER-SIZED VS. SUB-SIZED

McMANSION	SMALL HOUSE
Per capita residential energy use has risen about 40% since 1980.	Between 1,500 and 2,000 sq ft consumes 40% less energy than a 4,000-sq-ft McMansion.
HUMMER H2 4,000 lbs 1320 mpg (highway only)	SMART CAR FORTWO 1,600 lbs 168 mpg (est. mixed use)
PLASMA This account for about 4% of U.S. energy use per big house. A 42" plasma costs \$1,000 more than a 32" one.	LCD LCDs use about half the power of plasma TVs. Just 40 watts, we did mean 27" CRT uses 100 watts.

Visit www.ecofriendlyproducts.org for more information.

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20 Put on a Sweater

If one million people put on sweaters, former President Jimmy Carter would be very happy.

CO2	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
50	5 min	1	1

STEP 1 Place your hand through the neck hole. Be careful. If you accidentally enter a store, you could be seriously injured.

STEP 2 Take care of any important last-minute errands. Your hands will be out of commission for the next few seconds.

STEP 3 Proceed slowly. Rapid movements can result in extra baggage. Keep your nose or teeth to guide you and control your speed.

STEP 4 Your sweater is a major source of heat loss, so make sure to keep it covered. Don't forget to button up your pants. You look great!

The social benefits of wearing sweaters are obvious—fame, wealth, hiding your spare tire—but what about the environmental ones?

By donning a sweater indoors and lowering your thermostat 2°F, you can save up to 4% on your energy bill and prevent 500 pounds of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere over the course of one year. The possibilities are limited only by the number of sweaters you can purchase or borrow and by your tolerance for immobility. (Caution: turtlesucks do not layer well.)

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Visit www.dailysweater.com/sweater/thermostat for more information.

21 Work at Home

If one million people worked at home full-time, we'd eliminate 3 million tons of CO₂ a year.

CO2	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
50	8 1/2 hr/day	1	1

Nine out of 10 of us drive to work, with the average commute now up to 25 minutes each way and still climbing. That's a lot of time wasted—and a lot of gasoline becoming CO₂ emissions.

Why not commute to your home office instead? You'll save time and money, increase productivity, and spare the rest of us the emissions.

Working at home is on the rise—in the U.S., it's growing by about 7.5% each year. Employees who work at home have reduced absenteeism, saved their companies money in real estate costs, and never eat your leftovers in the office fridge.

Don't think it's a day of napping, though. It takes organization to stay focused on the job. Be sure to plan your day like one at the office, with specific goals and a lunch break. Clear out the TV, change phone calls to friends, and other distractions. You're setting a brave example here, not catching up on E!

2 weeks could be saved each year if you telecommuted your job 40 hours a week.

Visit www.zworkathome.com for more information.

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44 Build a Bat House

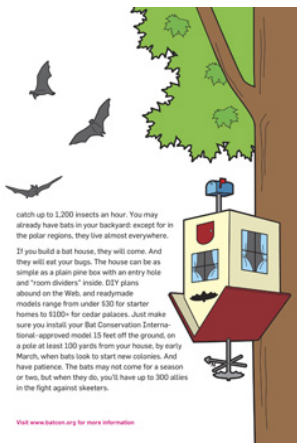
More than one million bats patrol the skies of Austin, Texas, during summer nights.

CO2	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
130	1 hr	1	1

Holy climate change, Batman! Dengue fever in Fargo? Malaria in Manchester? Scary thoughts, huh? This may be a slight exaggeration, but global warming is causing the redistribution of tropical pests and their diseases to higher latitudes and elevations, places where these afflictions didn't exist a few decades ago.

Warmer temperatures give mosquitoes and ticks a longer season and extended range. But not only are these pests finding higher latitudes hospitable, they may be experiencing an increase in reproduction rates. In 2000 the World Health Organization estimated that more than 150,000 deaths could be attributed to disease outbreaks and other conditions sparked by climate change. By 2020, it warns, that number could double. Barring a custom, head-to-tail of mosquito netting, what to do? One answer: get over your fear of bats.

Our maligned friends like nothing more than to swoop down and enjoy a disease-vector snack. Little brown and big brown bats, the most common in North America, can



Visit www.batson.org for more information.

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59 Green Is the New Black

If one million people washed their clothes in cold water instead of hot, we'd eliminate 200,000 tons of CO₂ per year, and keep our colors brighter.

CO2	TIME	EFFORT	IMPACT
120	30 min	1	1

BEFORE

DRY CLEANING The plastic wrapped over your dry-cleaned jacket isn't the only danger sign—80% of dry cleaners use the chemical PFCs, which has been linked to cancer and reproductive damage.

ROOTS Plants may have been used, but they have their own problems. Most Earthlings—ants, termites, nematodes, flies, and other critters—can eat or absorb nutrients from an array of roots. In preventing soil erosion, they're helping on your behalf.

FABRIC Nylon and polyester suck up fossil fuel during their manufacture. Those synthetics are a fashion staple—keep an eye out for recycled polyester instead, like Patagonia's Capilene, or all-natural sweaters.

TUNES Are you getting to your job without listening to the radio? Turn it off. It's usually using more electricity than you realize. Batteries are no 2005. If you love them, you're adding mercury, zinc, lithium, and cadmium to the mix.

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AFTER

Super soft and drying the body of the new bathing suit is a great idea, but also use your conditioner. It reduces perspiration and adds natural softness.

FABRIC When you buy handmade clothing, you're supporting companies that don't add pollutants to the environment in high-fashion waste quantities.

GREEN SLEEVE Though olive clothing is usually recycled, olive oil can be used to make your own fabric softener.

BELT Buckling up with a heavy belt makes you look good, but wearing it reduces perspiration and adds natural softness.

WEDESSES Footwear, leather or synthetic, is often made in China. Try to buy shoes that are made in the U.S. or other countries with strict labor laws.

JEWELRY When you buy handmade jewelry, you're supporting companies that don't add pollutants to the environment in high-fashion waste quantities.

JEANS Denim is made from cotton. The most pesticide-intensive crop there is. Make sure you buy and wash denim that's made in the U.S. or other countries with strict labor laws.

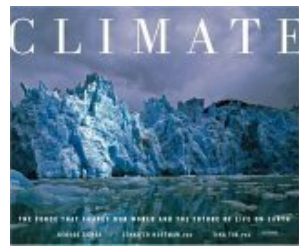
OUTFIT Recycled clothing takes fewer resources and energy to make than new. Buy and wash denim that's made in the U.S. or other countries with strict labor laws.

Visit www.greenlines.com for more information.

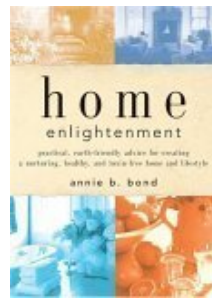
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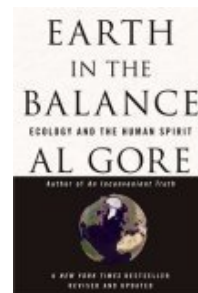
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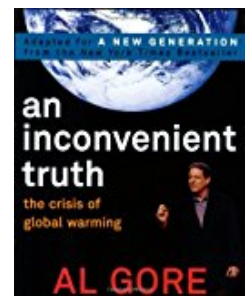
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Drew Dube:

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Bonnie Howe:

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