



Looking after Our Planet – Climate Change and Sustainability

Climate change is very much in the news at present with the discussions and proposed legislation of Australia's Federal politicians or on the larger stage of the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP30) currently underway in Brazil.

The dangers of climate change and lack of sustainability can lead to intensifying and extreme weather, rising sea levels, and damage to ecosystems. These impacts can lead to health crises, food and water shortages, economic instability, mass displacement, and potential conflict over resources, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.

And the statement below is indicative of the work that still needs to be done to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Below is a statement UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell

On the eve of COP30, one thing is clear: The Paris Agreement is delivering real progress, but we must accelerate in the Amazon.

Devastating climate damages are happening already, from Hurricane Melissa hitting the Caribbean, Super Typhoons smashing Vietnam and the Philippines, to a tornado ripping through Southern Brazil.

This is why COP must achieve three things:

It must send a clear signal: nations are fully on board for climate cooperation - that means agreeing strong outcomes on all the key issues.

It must speed up implementation across all sectors of all economies.

And it must connect climate action to people's real lives – to help spread its benefits: stronger growth, more jobs, less pollution and better health, more affordable, secure energy.

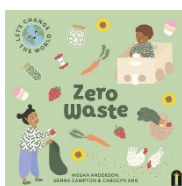
This is my fourth COP since taking office. At each one – and many before – countries have overcome their differences and delivered.

So, let's get on with the job.

This bibliography lists books that deal with these subjects and provide ideas on how we can contribute to efforts to combat climate change and the effects of over-consumption and generally to take care of our planet. It is the only one we have.

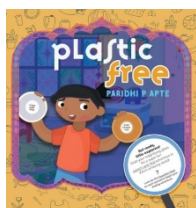
Where available, links are provided to entries in the NCACL databases.

All books listed are available for viewing at the National Centre for Australian Children's Literature based at the University of Canberra.



1. ANDERSON, Megan. Illustrated by Gemma Compton and Caroline Ang
Zero Waste. Bright Light, 2021. ISBN: 9781760509460

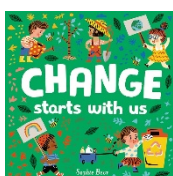
Zero Waste highlights the positive side of making more ethical choices when it comes to waste. From composting and recycling to buying nude food (food that is not wrapped in plastic, foil or commercial packaging) and growing veggies, a zero-waste lifestyle can be a whole lot of fun!



2. APTE, Paridhi P

Plastic Free: will you accept the challenge. Paridhi P Apte, 2024. ISBN: 9780645271188

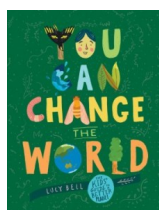
Zara has a special homework assignment - to have a plastic-free weekend. It sounds easy but putting it into practice turns out to be quite a challenge. Will Zara succeed? Join her as she learns ways that we can remove plastic from our lives and make a positive change for the environment.



3. BEER. Sophie

Change starts with us. Little Hare Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781760505820

From turning off the lights to eating less meat, there are many small changes we can make to help save our beautiful planet

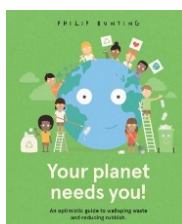


4. BELL, Lucy

You can change the World. The Kid's Guide to a Better Planet. 2nd edition.

Pantera Press, 2020. ISBN: 9780648748984

Every day, we see a problem we would like to fix. A piece of rubbish in a green, grassy park. Plastic water bottles buried in the sand at the beach. A garbage bin overflowing onto the street. A skinny, stray dog. A homeless person on a cold day. These problems seem impossible for one person to change. But we can fix them if we each do our part - one step at a time. This practical guide is designed to empower kids to make changes in their lives to help make a difference in the world.



5. BUNTING, Philip

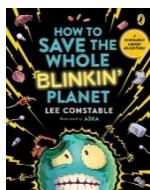
Your planet needs you! Little Hare, 2020, ISBN: 9781760506803.

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/your-planet-needs-you/>



6. *Composting*. Puffin Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781760897017

A book designed to teach children how to help save their planet simply by composting. Instead of putting vegetable scraps into the rubbish turn them into compost to improve the soil and grow better and more delicious vegetables and other plants.



7. CONSTABLE, Lee. Illustrated by Aśka
How to save the whole blinkin' planet. A renewable energy adventure. Puffin Books, 2024. ISBN: 9781761340826

Join an exciting mission exploring the future of energy. Learn more about everyday energy the issue with fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas and the exciting world of renewables. We know we need electricity in our day-to-day lives but we also know the harm the use of fossil fuels is doing to the climate. This book will explain what can be done to do less harm and still power your devices.



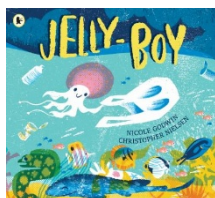
8. CONSTABLE, Lee. Illustrated by James Hart
How to save the whole stinkin' planet. Puffin Books, 2019. ISBN: 9781760890261
Go on a garbological adventure. Dive into the rubbish bin, delve into landfill, dig in compost and rummage through recycling. You train to become a waste warrior understand waste management and the impact our household rubbish is having on the whole planet.



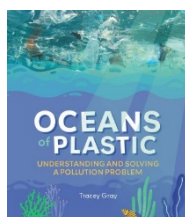
9. FLORIS, Megan. Illustrated by Rachel Tribout
There is no such place as Away : an exploration of matter cycles on Earth. Foodweb Education Ecological Literacy Program, 2020. ISBN: 9780648858911
A rhyming book that introduces children to the concept of matter cycles on Earth including human society. The message is challenging and requires taking a different approach to material things and human behaviour. Its fun approach aims to encourage curiosity and further investigation into the life cycle of human produced products as well as basic chemistry and the Earth's bio-geochemical cycles.



10. CRUPI, Jaclyn. Illustrated by Cheryl Orsini
The ABC Kids Guide to Loving the Planet. ABC Books, 2022. ISBN: 9780733341045
Our planet is precious. It's where we live, learn, work and play. This picture book is a gentle introduction to caring for the world around us. The simple, engaging text and beautiful illustrations explore ideas like planting veggie gardens and recycling, to show the ways every person, no matter how big or small, can make a difference.

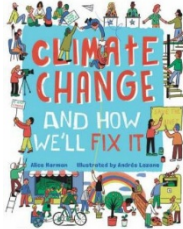


11. GODWIN, Nicole. Illustrated by Christopher Nielsen
Jelly-Boy. Walker Books Australia, 2020. ISBN: 9781760651237
What happens when a jellyfish falls in love with a plastic bag she mistakes for a jelly-boy? He is big and strong, and so very brave, but hides a dangerous truth. A cautionary conservation tale about protecting our oceans.



12. GRAY, Tracey
Oceans of Plastic. Understanding and solving a pollution problem. CSIRO, 2022. ISBN: 9781486312573
Our oceans are amazing, filled with wondrous sea creature and essential for a healthy planet. It is now estimated that there are more pieces of plastic in the oceans than there are stars in the Milky Way. So how can we stop plastic from our homes, towns and cities ending up in the oceans. This book sets out to

explore ocean systems and currents and uncovers the floating world of the plastisphere and explains how plastic breaks up not down and can end up on your dinner plate. It's full of ideas and simple changes that can help and inspire you and others to become 'Ocean Change-Makers.'



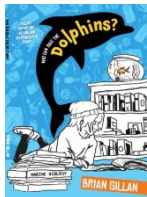
13. HARMAN, Alice. Illustrated by Andrés Lozano
Climate change and how we'll fix it. Australian Geographic, 2020. ISBN: 9781925847956

The science is in. We know climate change is happening, we know it's serious, we know what's causing it, and we know what needs to change. So why aren't we fixing it? This book cuts through the politics and misconceptions and shows how working together can lead to a cleaner, fairer and better world.

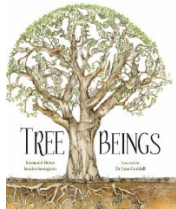


14. *Hope: 50 ways to help our planet every day*. Puffin Books, 2020. ISBN: 9781760896737

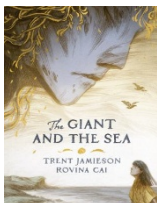
What can we do to help combat climate change? Don't despair have hope there are plenty of ways we can help the planet every day. This book is full of practical tips and easy activities that can involve your school, family and community. A simple guide to making a difference.



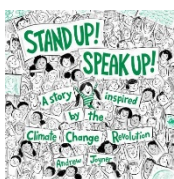
15. GILLAN, Brian. Illustrated by Morgan Todonai
Who can save the dolphins? Green Hill Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 9781922337757
On a school excursion to the Adelaide Dolphin Sanctuary, 10-year-old Sam discovers a sick baby dolphin who has swallowed a plastic bag. Sam and his friends set off on a quest to 'Save the Dolphins' little did they know what they would encounter or the impact of their adventure.



16. HUBER, Raymond. Illustrated by Sandra Severgnini
Tree Beings. Exisle Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 9781925820539
Imagine if there was a machine that fights climate change, is powered by the sun, makes clean air for us, gives animals a home, grows delicious food, makes it rain, saves the soil, cleans up pollution and is intelligent and beautiful! Get ready to meet the tree. Go inside the incredible world of trees. Learn how they talk to each other and how forests enrich the planet and meet some amazing people young and old who love, protect and promote the priceless value of trees to our planet.



17. JAMIESON, Trent. Illustrated by Rovina Cai
The Giant and the Sea. Lothian, 2020. ISBN: 9780734418876
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/the-giant-and-the-sea/>



18. JOYNER, Andrew
Stand Up! Speak Up! A story inspired by the Climate Change revolution. Schwartz Wade Books, 2020. ISBN: 9780593301586
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/stand-up-speak-up-a-story-inspired-by-the-climate-change-revolution/>



19. LESLEY, John

Bushfires in Australia. Redback Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 9781922322463

Bushfires have always been part of Australia's natural environment. Increasing population has led to more homes being built nearer or in areas of natural bushland with the increasing risk and threats of bushfire. Indigenous Australians developed methods of managing bushfires so that Country would not suffer catastrophic destruction. Today hazard reduction burns are today undertaken by firefighters to keep areas safe from bushfires.



20. LESLEY, John

Floods in Australia. Redback Publishing, 2024. ISBN: 9780994624796

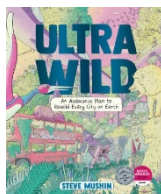
Floods periodically create devastation across parts of Australia. Climate change has an impact on the increase in rain/flooding scenarios. Floods can destroy towns, take lives and ruin farming land. Increasing urbanisation has led to homes being built in flood-prone areas contributing to the misery and hardship. However, floods also bring benefits to parts of the landscape bringing water to parched deserts and dry lakes. Over time plants and wildlife have adapted to regular flooding even depending on them for their continued survival.



21. MARSDEN, Polly. Illustrated by Chris Nixon.

The Australian Climate Change Book. Lothian, 2021. ISBN: 9780734420831.

Australia has a unique and diverse natural environment made up of many different eco-systems that rely on each other to survive. It is a delicate balance. Things like fossil fuels and greenhouse gases are upsetting this balance and leading to changes in our climate and more extreme weather events that damage our natural environment. Here we learn that it is not too late and that even small steps can help slow climate change and save Australia's unique eco-systems.



22. MUSHIN, Steve

Ultrawild: an audacious plan to rewild every city on Earth. Allen & Unwin, 2023. ISBN: 9781760292812

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/ultrawild-an-audacious-plan-to-rewild-every-city-on-earth/>



23. REEDER, Stephanie Owen. Illustrated by Tanya McCartney

Australia's Wild, Weird, Wonderful Weather. NLA Publishing, 2020. ISBN: 9780642279637

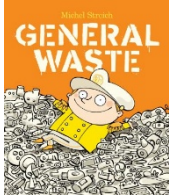
Readers are introduced to the wide range of weather in Australia, with bite-size pieces of information presented alongside graphic illustrations to entice young readers. Older readers will enjoy the detailed explanations about everything weather, from what causes certain phenomena to reading weather maps, exploring the climate of the past and preparing for the climate of the future. With sections about Australia's extreme weather and the effects of climate change, Australia's Wild Weird Wonderful Weather introduces young readers to the challenges of a warming planet and encourages them to be mindful of impact their actions have on the environment.



24. SPEECHLEY, Michael

The all new must have Orange 430. Penguin Random House, 2018. ISBN: 9780143788973

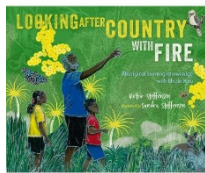
<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/the-all-new-must-have-orange-430/>



25. STREICH, Michel

General Waste. Scholastic Press, 2024. ISBN: 9781761205699

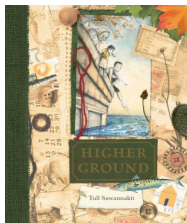
General Waste loves stuff! Wasting lots of stuff! He tosses away apples after bite, he has hour-long showers, he must have the latest uniform fashion, and he rides around in a monster truck! He shares a house with Gram-Gram. She always saves her leftovers, does her own repairs and cycles everywhere! One day General Waste finds himself trapped under a mountain of his own stuff, Gram-Gram comes to the rescue. General Waste is a hilarious tale about how to find joy in the simple things in life.



26. STEFFENSEN, Victor. Illustrated by Sandra Steffensen.

Looking after Country with Fire: Aboriginal burning knowledge with Uncle Kuu. Hardie Grant Explore, 2022, ISBN: 9781741177824

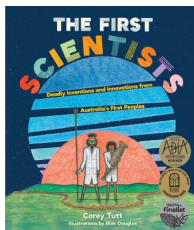
https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/looking-after-country-with-fire-aboriginal-burning-knowledge-with-uncle-kuu/



27. SUWANNAKIT, Tull

Higher Ground. New Frontier Publishing, 2023. ISBN: 9781922326997

<https://www.ncacl.org.au/pbor-database/higher-ground/>



27. TUTT, Corey

The First Scientists: Deadly Inventions and Innovations from Australia's First People. Hardie Grant Explore, 2021. ISBN: 9781741177527

https://www.ncacl.org.au/atsi_resource/the-first-scientists-deadly-inventions-and-innovations-from-australias-first-people/