

MUCH MORE ON SUSTAINABILITY

Clapp and Dauvergne provide a good starting point to thinking about approaches to the complexities of sustainability. But—for better and worse--there is much more that should not be ignored. Some 90 books on "Sustainability" have been published since early 2009 and are listed by GFB (see Browse by Category). Another 140 books deal with Climate Change, a more specific concern. A selection of 50 recent books on Sustainability is grouped here in five categories: 1) General; 2) UNU Sustainability Science Series; 3) Urban Greens: Cities and Buildings (arguably a fifth path to a green world); 4) Economics and Sustainability; and 5) Ethics and Lifestyles.

1) GENERAL.

Most if not all of these books reflect the worldviews of Bioenvironmentalists and Social Greens. [Sustainability or Collapse?](#) Edited by Robert Costanza, Lisa J. Graumlich, and Will Steffen (MIT Press, pb. edition, March 2011, 520p), first published in 2007, offers an integrated history and future of human-environmental systems over millennial, centennial, and decadal time. [Sustainability Unpacked: Food, Energy, and Water for Resilient Environments and Societies](#) by Kristina Vogt and seven others (Earthscan, Oct 2010, 320p) reviews merits of various metrics and applies them to 27 countries. [Dynamic Sustainabilities: Technology, Environment, Social Justice](#) by Melissa Leach *et al.* (Earthscan, June 2010, 224p) lays out a "new pathways approach" that appreciates dynamics, complexity, uncertainty, and differing values. [Thriving Beyond Sustainability: Pathways to a Resilient Society](#) by Andres R. Edwards (New Society, May 2010, 240p) describes individuals, organizations, and communities worldwide that are committed to building ecological health and rejuvenated environmental and economic systems. [Treading Softly: Paths to Ecological Order](#) by Thomas Princen (MIT Press, March 2010, 224p) urges an economy grounded in the way natural systems work. [Weak versus Strong Sustainability: Exploring the Limits of Two Opposing Paradigms](#) by Eric Neumayer (Edward Elgar, 3rd Edition, March 2010, 288p) describes indicators of weak and strong sustainability.

[Sustainable World SourceBook: Critical Issues, Viable Solutions](#) by the Sustainable World Coalition (New Society, Nov 2009, 96p) provides a concise overview of key issues and successful models for local communities and green jobs. [Sustainability by Design: A Subversive Strategy for Transforming Our Consumer Culture](#) by John R. Ehrenfeld (Yale U Press, Aug 2009, 272p) views eco-efficiency and CSR as band-aids, and proposes a new definition of long-term sustainability. [Ecologica](#) by the late social philosopher Andre Gorz (Seagull/U of Chicago dist., March 2010, 186p) argues that the key to planetary survival requires a switch to non-consumerist modes of living. [The Ecological Rift: Capitalism's War on the Earth](#) by John Bellamy Foster *et al.* (Monthly Review/NYU Press dist., Aug 2010, 352p) views impending environmental catastrophe due to the capitalist paradox of wealth, which expands individual riches at the expense of public wealth.

2) UNU SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE SERIES.

The Tokyo-based United Nations University is in the midst of publishing a five-volume all-Japanese "Sustainability Science Series" that should be in the General category above but is deserving of separate mention. [Sustainability Science: A Multidisciplinary Approach](#) edited by Hiroshi Komiyama *et al.* (UNU Press, April 2011, 488p) proposes "a new academic discipline" to help build a sustainable society, using "comprehensive, integrated solutions to complex problems" and a restructuring of education. [Climate Change and Global Sustainability: A Holistic Approach](#) edited by Akimasa Sumi *et al.* (UNU Press, April 2011, 325p) maps knowledge about global warming and integrates three scenarios: a low-carbon society, a resource-circulating society, and a society in harmony with nature. [Establishing a Resource-Circulating Society in Asia: Challenges and Opportunities](#) edited by Tohru Morioka *et al.* (UNU Press, May 2011, 375p) views Japan's past and present initiatives in resource circulation to be at the forefront, promising "a significant impact on Asian sustainability." [Designing Our Future: Perspectives on Bioproduction, Ecosystems, and Humanity](#) edited by Mitsuru Osaki (UNU Press, April 2011, 504p) develops a scenario of harmonious coexistence with nature, focusing on both local and national levels. [Achieving Global Sustainability: Policy Recommendations](#) edited by Takamitsu Sawa *et al.* of the Kyoto Sustainability Initiative (UNU Press, Aug 2011?, 425p) views global sustainability as "indisputably the most serious issue facing humanity today," and advocates a Green New Deal and paradigm shifts to drastically redesign society in all aspects. Although not a part of the

UNU series, a related title is [Transition to Low-Carbon and Climate Resilient Economies in Asia](#) edited by Ancha Srinivasan *et al.* (Earthscan, Jan 2010, 192p), describing a “fourth economic revolution” emerging in Asia.

3) URBAN GREENS: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND BUILDINGS.

Clapp and Dauverge only touch lightly on this category, which could well constitute a fifth worldview. Similar to Social Greens, Urban Greens focus on local, bottom-up action. Unlike Social Greens, who favor small and (relatively) self-reliant communities, the Urban Greens who are grounded in city planning focus on large cities and regions, and have little or nothing to say about social justice or globalization. [One exception to this is [Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis](#) edited by M. Paloma Pavel (MIT Press, June 2010, 456p), with case studies that attend to the triple bottom line of economy, environment, and equity.] The more conventional focus is exemplified in [Toward Sustainable Communities: Transition and Transformations in Environmental Policy](#) by Daniel A. Mazmanian and Michael E. Kraft (MIT Press, Second Edition, May 2010, 352p), which considers the various laws, programs, and approaches developed over the past four decades. On a global level, [Sustainable Urbanization](#) by UN-Habitat (Earthscan, Oct 2009, 380p), the 2009 Global Report on Human Settlements, reviews the defects of modern urban planning and points to innovative practices responsive to future challenges. [Eco 2 Cities: Ecological Cities as Economic Cities](#) by Hiroaki Suzuki *et al.* (World Bank, June 2010, 388p) offers strategic guidance on integrated urban development. [Sustainability in America's Cities: Creating the Green Metropolis](#) edited by Matthew I. Slavin (Island Press, May 2011, 288p) offers case studies of policy, planning, and practice in large US cities. [Emerald Cities: Urban Sustainability and Economic Development](#) by Joan Fitzgerald (Oxford U Press, Feb 2010, 256p) has case studies of large and mid-size US cities that have taken the lead in addressing environmental issues. [Building an Emerald City](#) by Lucia Athens (Island Press, Jan 2009, 264p) describes Seattle's Green Building Program and how to create green building policies and programs. [Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change](#) by Peter Calthorpe, a leader of New Urbanism (Island Press, Sept 2010, 225p), considers the next generation of ecological design and transit, smart grids, and climate-responsive buildings. [Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature into Urban Design and Planning](#) by Timothy Beatley (Island Press, Nov 2010, 200p) expands biophilia—the need to connect with nature—from individuals to cities. [Local Economic Development in the 21st Century: Quality of Life and Sustainability](#) by Daphne T. Greenwood and Richard P.F. Holt (M.E. Sharpe, 2010, 288p) draws on case studies at state and local levels, and includes both mainstream and alternative perspectives. [Local Climate Action Planning](#) by Michael R. Boswell *et al.* (Island Press, June 2011, 320p) helps planners and citizens develop Climate Action Plans to mitigate GHG emissions and adapt to local impacts of climate change.

Many Urban Green books focus more specifically on green buildings and design. [The Agile City: Building Well-Being and Wealth in an Era of Climate Change](#) by James S. Russell (Island Press, June 2011, 304p) urges retrofits of cities, towns, and suburbs, in that buildings account for 39% of greenhouse emissions. [Costs and Benefits of Greening the Built World](#) by Gregory Kats (Island Press, Jan 2009, 252p) reports that green buildings cost only about 2% more to build than conventional buildings—far less than assumed—while reducing energy use by 33% on average and providing financial and health benefits. [Making Healthy Places: Designing and Building for Health, Well-Being, and Sustainability](#) edited by Andrew L. Dannenberg *et al.* (Island Press, June 2011, 302p) adds a public health perspective to sustainability concerns. [Integral Sustainable Design: A Transformative Perspective](#) by Mark DeKay (Earthscan, March 2011, 368p) offers 12 Principles of Integral Sustainable Design, 6 Perceptual Shifts for Ecological Design Thinking, 10 Injunctions for Designing Connects to Nature, etc. [Rough Guide to Sustainability: A Design Primer](#) by Brian Edwards (Earthscan, Third Edition, May 2010, 304p) offers design advice on schools, offices, housing, and cities, with a history of green architecture education. [Computer Modelling for Sustainable Urban Design](#) by Darren Robinson (Earthscan, May 2011, 432p) addresses the physics of urban sustainability and how urban resources can be optimized.

4) ECONOMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY.

Rethinking economics is critical for serious progress toward sustainability. As articulated by James Gustave Speth (Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and former head of the World Resources Institute), in [The Bridge at the End of the World: Capitalism, Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability](#) (Yale U Press, Feb 2009, 320p, \$18pb; March 2008, 295p,

\$28hc), our market economy operates on “wildly wrong market signals; long-term solutions must get prices right and abandon the GNP measure. On a more upbeat note, the unique [Report on the Green Transition Scoreboard](#) by futurist Hazel Henderson *et al.* (Ethical Markets Media, Feb 2011, 26p) estimates >\$2 trillion invested in renewable energy, green construction, cleantech, etc. in the 2007-2010 period, on track to reach \$10 trillion in investments by 2020. The OECD’s [Interim Report of the Green Growth Strategy: Implementing Our Commitment for a Sustainable Future](#) (OECD, Aug 2010, 94p; Synthesis Report due May 2011) urges a path to pursue economic growth and development while preventing environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable resource use; also advocates new measures of well-being and policy packages that correct distortions. [Cents and Sustainability: Securing Our Common Future by Decoupling Economic Growth from Environmental Pressures](#) by Michael H. Smith *et al.* of Australia’s Natural Edge Project (Earthscan, Sept 2010, 405p) describes conditions where sustainable growth is possible and explains national strategies for decoupling. [Accounting for Sustainability](#) edited by Anthony Hopwood *et al.* (Earthscan, July 2010, 240p) identifies key principles to embed sustainability and develops a decision-making tool enabling sustainability issues to be taken into account. [Handbook of Environmental Accounting](#) edited by Thomas Aronsson and Karl-Gustaf Lofgren (Edward Elgar, Aug 2010, 350p) assesses ways to modify the misleading system of national accounts and to measure the more comprehensive net national product that measures sustainability. [Modelling Sustainable Development](#) edited by Valentina Bosetti *et al.* (Edward Elgar, Sept 2009, 288p) complements recent work on the “sustainomics framework” that balances economic, social, and environmental dimensions. [A Global Green New Deal: Rethinking the Economic Recovery](#) by Edward R. Barbier (Cambridge U Press, July 2010, 336p) urges a strategy for a more environmentally sustainable recovery through policy at the national and international levels. [Embedded Sustainability: The Next Big Competitive Advantage](#) by Chris Laszlo and Nadya Zhexembayeva (Stanford U Press, April 2011, 224p) explains how smart companies can incorporate environmental, health, and social value into the product life cycle with no trade-off for price or quality. On the horizon, [Personal Carbon Trading](#) edited by Yael Parag and Tina Fawcett of the Oxford Environmental Change Institute (Earthscan, Sept 2010, 144p), describes a scheme where a carbon allowance is allocated to each individual, to be used and traded in the same way as national schemes; PCT is “rapidly moving up the political agenda as recognition grows of its potential.”

5) ETHICS AND LIFESTYLES.

The PCT proposal nicely bridges into a final category of changes in individual thinking and behavior. [Ethical Transformations for a Sustainable Future](#) edited by Olivier Urbain and Deva Temple (Transaction, Dec 2010, 157p) urges a new ethics organized around reconnecting with nature, reframing the way people prioritize choices, and rethinking the mission of education. [Theoretical Foundations for Environmental Ethics: Reconstructing Patristic and Medieval Concepts](#) by Jame Schaefer (Georgetown U Press, May 2009, 288p) shows how to “green” the Catholic faith to value the beauty of creation, show kinship of all creatures, and live virtuously in the earth community. [Environmental Policy and Household Behavior: Sustainability in Everyday Life](#) by Patrik Soderholm (Earthscan, Aug 2010, 274p) looks at the politics of lifestyle change, and barriers and facilitators for pro-environmental behavior. [Engaging the Public with Climate Change: Behavior Change and Communication](#) edited by Lorraine Whitmarsh *et al.* (Earthscan, Jan 2011, 288p) calls for effective methods to foster sustainable lifestyles, community action, and social change. [Fostering Sustainable Behavior: An Introduction to Community-Based Social Marketing](#) by Canadian psychologist Doug McKenzie-Mohr (New Society, Nov 2010, 288p) describes his many workshops that target unsustainable behavior, identify barriers to change, enhance motivation, and invite participation. [The Better World Shopping Guide #3](#) by Ellis Jones (New Society, Oct 2010, 177p) grades a wide range of products and services from A to F, as concerns corporate commitment to environmental sustainability and social justice. [Shaping Sustainable Fashion: Changing the Way We Make and Use Clothes](#) edited by Alison Gwilt and Timo Rissanen (Earthscan, March 2011, 192p) discusses alternatives in design and manufacture of fashion garments, strategies to slow fashion consumption, and recycling of garments.