

THE MELVILLE HOUSE CLIMATE PROJECT

RESOURCES FOR READING GROUPS

OUR PARTNERS



New York
Public
Library



READING GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What were you most surprised to learn about climate change?
2. Do you recognize any of the effects of climate change in your community?
3. What do you think is the most critical environmental crisis humanity is facing?
4. What is currently being done to fight climate change—and what more do you think should be done?
5. Do you think carbon taxes are effective, or can be effective in the future?
6. Do you think there's still time to forestall the direct effects of climate change, or is it too little too late?
7. What are some easy ways to mitigate your day-to-day footprint on the environment?
8. What do you think about the calls for vegetarianism and veganism?
9. Should environmental education be a part of public school curriculum?
10. What points can you have ready to discuss with climate deniers?

TAKE ACTION

Contact your representative:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Volunteer:

350: *350.org is building the global grassroots climate movement that can hold our leaders accountable to science and justice.*

<https://350.org/get-involved/>

*National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: *Observe your world. Help the planet. Be a citizen scientist for NOAA.*

<https://www.noaa.gov/work-with-us/volunteer-opportunities-citizen-scientists>

*National Parks Conservation Association: *We're protecting and enhancing America's National Park System for present and future generations.*

<https://www.npca.org/>

*The Nature Conservancy: *The Nature Conservancy is focused on innovative solutions that match the urgency of this crisis. We are protecting and restoring forests, improving working lands, helping communities build resilience and working to ensure a clean energy future.*

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/>

*Sierra Club: *The Earth is our only home. And the Sierra Club is dedicated to exploring, enjoying, and protecting it for everyone.*

<https://www.sierraclub.org/home>

Sunrise Movement: *We're building an army of young people to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process.*

<https://www.sunrisemovement.org/>

*local opportunities available

FURTHER READING

Nonfiction:

Silent Spring

Rachel Carson

Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was first published in three serialized excerpts in the *New Yorker* in June of 1962. The book appeared in September of that year and the outcry that followed its publication forced the banning of DDT and spurred revolutionary changes in the laws affecting our air, land, and water.

The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History

Elizabeth Kolbert

Over the last half-billion years, there have been five mass extinctions, when the diversity of life on earth suddenly and dramatically contracted. Scientists around the world are currently monitoring the sixth extinction, predicted to be the most devastating extinction event since the asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs. This time around, the cataclysm is us.

The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World

Michael Pollan

Every schoolchild learns about the mutually beneficial dance of honeybees and flowers: The bee collects nectar and pollen to make honey and, in the process, spreads the flowers' genes far and wide. In *The Botany of Desire*, Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed a similarly reciprocal relationship

The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

Andrea Wulf

The acclaimed author of *Founding Gardeners* reveals the forgotten life of Alexander von Humboldt, the visionary German naturalist whose ideas changed the way we see the natural world—and paved the way for modern environmentalism.

Rising: Dispatches From the New American Shore

Elizabeth Rush

*Winner of the National Outdoor Book Award 2018

**Chicago Tribune* Top Ten Book of 2018

Rush guides readers through some of the places where the effects of climate change has been most dramatic, from the Gulf Coast to Miami, and from New York City to the Bay Area. For many of the plants, animals, and humans in these places, the options are stark: retreat or perish in place.

Fiction:

Prodigal Summer

Barbara Kingsolver

Prodigal Summer weaves together three stories of human love within a larger tapestry of lives inhabiting the forested mountains and struggling small farms of southern Appalachia.

The City Where We Once Lived

Eric Barnes

In a near future where climate change has severely affected weather and agriculture, the North End of an unnamed city has long been abandoned in favor of the neighboring South End. Aside from the scavengers steadily stripping the empty city to its bones, only a few thousand people remain, content to live quietly among the crumbling metropolis.

The Overstory

Richard Powers

National Book Award-winner Richard Powers delivers a sweeping, impassioned novel of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paeon to—the natural world.

The Drowned World

J.G. Ballard

First published in 1962, J.G. Ballard's mesmerizing and ferociously prescient novel imagines a terrifying future in which solar radiation and global warming have melted the polar ice caps and Triassic-era jungles have overrun a submerged and tropical London.