Useful books for Christians on the theology and ethics of climate change


Michael S. Northcott, “A Political Theology of Climate Change”, SPCK Publishing, 2014 – The failure of political institutions to mitigate climate change requires a new political theology based on the common good and fair access to natural resources.

Richard Bauckham, “Bible and Ecology – rediscovering the community of creation” Darton, Longman and Todd, 2010 – Discusses the relationship of humans to the rest of creation and argues that there is much more to the Bible’s understanding of this relationship than the mandate of human dominion given in Genesis 1.

Edward Echlin, “Climate and Christ: a prophetic alternative” Columba Press, 2010 – Describes what climate change is and how it happens, and suggests ways in which ordinary people can help to mitigate it. It also makes suggestions for our own ‘prophetic alternative’ lifestyles inspired by Christ.

Sallie McFague, “A new climate for theology: God, the world, and global warming”, Fortress Press, 2008 – Explores the root of climate change in the economic and religious models we use, and the need for an alternative relational identity to the planet.

Alistair McIntosh, “Hell and High Water: climate change, hope and the human condition”, Birlinn, 2008 – Politics is not enough to tackle the scale and depth of climate change: at root is our addictive consumer mentality. We must face up to despair and discover the spiritual meaning of our troubled times.


David Atkinson, “Renewing the Face of the Earth: a theological and pastoral response to climate change”, Canterbury Press, 2008 – Provides a theological framework for considering and responding to the challenges of climate change, and explores the spiritual questions it raises.


Kathleen Dean Moore and Michael P. Nelson, “Moral Ground: ethical action for a planet in peril”, Trinity University Press, 2011 – Brings together the testimony of over eighty visionaries (including theologians, religious leaders, scientists and activists) on our individual and collective moral responsibility to our planet.

**Practical steps to reduce our carbon footprint**

George Marshall, “Carbon Detox: your step-by-step guide to getting real about climate change”, Gaia Books Ltd, 2007 – How to carbon audit your life and start reducing your impact; how to overcome psychological blocks such as scepticism, fear and feelings of insignificance.

Mike Berners-Lee, “How bad are bananas? The carbon footprint of everything”, Profile Books, 2010 – The information needed to pick the right battles when trying to reduce your carbon footprint.

Chris Goodall, “How to live a Low-Carbon Life: the individual’s guide to stopping climate change”, Routledge, 2007 – A reference guide to calculating your CO2 emissions and reducing them to a sustainable level.

George Monbiot, “Heat: how we can stop the planet burning”, Penguin, 2007 – Argues for an immediate and decisive response to climate change – a 90% cut in carbon emissions in the rich nations of the world by 2030 – and shows how it is possible.