

**Bordentown City Environmental Commission**

**Suggested Reading on Environmental and Sustainability Issues**

*The following titles constitute a subjective selection of books, ranging from the popular to the obscure, that will help the interested reader explore various environmental and sustainability issues from the local to the global level.*

**\*\* = Editor's Picks**

**ARCHITECTURE:**

101 Things I Learned in Architecture School by Matthew Frederick

A Place of My Own: The Education of an Amateur Builder by Michael Pollan

**\*\***Looking Around: A Journey Through Architecture by Witold Rybczynski

Dream House: On Building a House by a Pond by Joe Coomer

One Good Turn: A Natural History of the Screwdriver and the Screw by Witold Rybczynski

Ranches, Row Houses and Railroad Flats by Christine Hunter

Sex and Real Estate: Why We Love Houses by Marjorie Garber

The Look of Architecture by Witold Rybczynski

The Most Beautiful House in the World by Witold Rybczynski

Villa and Cottage Architecture: The Style Book of the Hudson River School by Calvert Vaux

**ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT:**

Car Sick: Solutions for Our Car-addicted Culture by Lynn Sloman

Critical Mass: Bicycling's Defiant Celebration edited by Chris Carlsson

The Art of Urban Cycling: Lessons from the Street by Robert Hurst

The Immortal Class: Bike Messengers and the Cult of Human Power by Travis Hugh Culley

### **CLIMATE CHANGE/PEAK OIL:**

\*\*An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore

Fight Global Warming Now: The Handbook for Taking Action in Your Community by Bill McKibben

Oil on the Brain by Lisa Margonelli

Post Carbon Cities: Planning for Energy and Climate Uncertainty: A Guidebook on Peak Oil and Global Warming for Local Governments by Daniel Lerch

\*\*The Long Emergency: Surviving the Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century by James Howard Kunstler

### **CONSUMERISM:**

\*\*The Paradox of Choice by Barry Schwartz

(Not) Buying It: My Year without Shopping by Judith Levine

### **DEEP ECOLOGY:**

Living Richly in an Age of Limits: Using Deep Ecology for an Abundant Life by Bill Devall

\*\*The World Without Us by Alan Weisman

### **ECONOMY:**

\*\*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America by Barbara Ehrenreich

**ENERGY:**

\*\*Oil on the Brain: Adventures from the Pump to the Pipeline by Lisa Margonelli

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:**

\*\*No Child Left in the Woods by Richard Louv

**FARMING:**

Permaculture in a Nutshell by Patrick Whitefield

This Common Ground: Seasons on an Organic Farm by Scott Chasky

**FOOD:**

\*\*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver

Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World by Greg Crister

In Defense of Food by Michael Pollan

Is Our Food Safe: A Consumer's Guide to Protecting Your Health and the Environment  
by Warren Leon

Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat by Howard Lyman

The Botany of Desire by Michael Pollan

\*\*The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan

**FIELD GUIDES to NJ:**

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife of New Jersey by Bruce Beans and Larry Niles

**GARDENING:**

Eat More Dirt: Diverting and Instructive Tips for Growing and Tending an Organic Garden by Ellen Sandbeck

Permaculture in a Nutshell by Patrick Whitefield

The \$64 Tomato: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, Spent a Fortune, and Endured an Existential Crisis in the Quest for the Perfect Garden by William Alexander

### **GREEN BUILDING:**

Eco-Renovation: The Ecological Home Improvement Guide by Edward Harland

Green Building Products: The GreenSpec Guide to Residential Building Materials (Edited by Alex Wilson and Mark Piepkorn)

Sustainable Architecture: White Papers (Earth Pledge Foundation)

Sustainable Landscape Construction: A Guide to Green Building Outdoors by I. William Thompson and Kim Sorvig

Your Green Home: A Guide to Planning a Healthy, Environmentally Friendly new Home by Alex Wilson

### **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE:**

\*\*A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmstead and America in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by Witold Rybczynski

Paradise by Design: Native Plants and the New American Landscape by Kathryn Phillips

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM:**

Better Not Bigger: How to Take Control of Urban Growth and Improve Your Community by Eben Fodor

The Better World Handbook: From Good Intentions to Everyday Actions by Ellis Jones, Ross Haenfler and Brett Johnson

Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility by Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger

Cleaning Up Air Pollution from America's Power Plants (National Environmental Trust)

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Saving the Environment by Greg Pahl

The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices by Michael Brower

Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate by George Lakoff

Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age by Bill McKibben

Enough is Enough: How to Organize a Successful Campaign for Change by Diane MacEachern

Grassroots Organizing Training Manual by the Sierra Club

How to Save Your Neighborhood, City or Town: The Sierra Club Guide to Community Organizing by Maritza Pick

One Makes the Difference: Inspiring Actions that Change Our World by Julia Butterfly Hill

\*\*Living the Good Life: How to Live Sanely and Simply in a Troubled World by Helen and Scot Nearing

\*\*The End of Nature by Bill McKibben

The Official Earth Day Guide to Planet Repair by Denis Hayes

### **NATURAL HISTORY:**

An Adirondack Passage: The Cruise of the Canoe *Sairy Gamp* by Christine Jerome

\*\*A Sand Country Almanac by Aldo Leopold

\*\*Giving Good Weight by John McPhee

In Suspect Terrain by John McPhee

In the Presence of Fear: Three Essays for a Changed World by Wendell Berry

Table of Contents by John McPhee

The Control of Nature by John McPhee

The Crofter and the Laird by John McPhee

\*\*The Founding Fish by John McPhee (*about the return of shad to the Delaware River*)

\*\*The Pine Barrens by John McPhee

The Snow Geese by William Fines

\*\*Walden and Other Writings by Henry David Thoreau

Why We Run: A Natural History by Bernd Heinrich

**PLACE:**

A Handmade Wilderness by Don Schueler

A Family Place by Charles Gaines

A Family Place: A Hudson Valley Farm, Three Centuries, Five Wars One family by Leila Philip

A Good Place to Live: America's Last Migration by Terry Pindell

A Home in the Heart of the City: A Woman's Search for Community by Kathleen Hirsch

\*\*A Walk Across America by Peter Jenkins

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson

A Year in the Maine Woods by Bernd Heinrich

Body Toxic by Suzanne Antonetta

\*\*Celebrating the Third Place: Inspiring Stories about the "Great Good Places" at the Heart of Our Communities by Ray Oldenburg

Confluence: A River, the Environment, Politics, and the Fate of All Humanity by Nathaniel Tripp (Foreward by Howard Dean)

Country of Exiles: The Destruction of Place in American Life by William Leach

Fifty Days of Solitude by Doris Grumbach

Geography of Home: Writings on Where We Live by Akiko Busch

On Whale Island: Notes from a Place I Never Meant to Leave by Daniel Hays

My Father's Cabin: A Tale of Life, Love, Loss and Land by Mark Phillips

No News at Throat Lake by Lawrence Donegan

North Country: A Personal Journey Through the Borderland by Howard Frank Mosher

Point Last Seen: A Woman Tracker's Story of Domestic Violence and Personal Triumph  
by Hannah Nyala

South of the Northeast Kingdom by David Mamet

Staying Put: Making a Home in a Restless World by Scott Russell Sanders

\*\*The Experience of Place by Tony Hiss

The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home by George Howe  
Colt

The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons and the Other  
Hangouts at the Heart of a Community by Ray Oldenberg

The Great Neighborhood Book: A Do It Yourself Guide to Placemaking by Jay  
Walljasper

\*\*The Last Undiscovered Place by David K. Leff

The Outermost House: A Year in the Life of the Great Beach of Cape Cod by Henry  
Beston

The Place You Love is Gone: Progress Hits Home by Melissa Holbrook Pierson

This Organic Life: Confessions of a Suburban Homesteader by Joan Dye Gussow

Wandering Home: A Long Walk Across America's Most Hopeful Landscape: Vermont's  
Champlain Valley and New York's Adirondacks by Bill McKibben

Wanderlust: A History of Walking by Rebecca Solnit

Walking to Vermont: From Times Square into the Green Mountains, A Homeward  
Adventure by Christopher Wren

Wickerby: An Urban Pastoral by Charles Siebert

Yearning for the Land: A Search for the Importance of Place by John Warfield Simpson

You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination by Katherine  
Harmon

**RECYCLING/WASTE:**

Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash by Elizabeth Royte

**RELOCATING TO THE COUNTRY:**

A Barn in New England: Making a Home on Three Acres by Joseph Monninger

A Good House: Building a Life on the Land by Richard Manning

A Place in the Country: A Memoir by Laura Shaine Cunningham

Life After the City: A Harrowsmith Guide to Rural Living by Charles Long

Moving to A Small Town: A Guidebook for Moving from Urban to Rural America by Wanda Urbanska and Frank Levering

Living on a Few Acres

Moving to Maine: The Essential Guide to Getting You There by Victoria Doudera

Moving to the Country Once and For All by Lisa Rogak

Renovations: A Father and Son Rebuild a House and Rediscover Each Other by John Marchese

Starting Fresh: How to Plan for a Simpler Happier and More Fulfilling New Life in the Country by John F. Edwards

\*\*Stone Work: Reflections on Serious Play and other Aspects of Country Life by John Jerome

We Took to the Woods by Louise Dickinson Rich

**SIMPLE LIVING:**

Better Off: Flipping the Switch on Technology by Eric Brende

Epicurean Simplicity by Stephanie Mills

Extreme Simplicity: Homesteading in the City by Christopher and Dolores Lynn Nyerges

Fifty Days of Solitude by Doris Grumbach

In Praise of Slowness: How a Worldwide Movement is Changing the Cult of Speed by Carl Honore

It Takes A Village Idiot: Complicating the Simple Life by Jim Mullen

\*\*Living the Good Life: How to Live Sanely and Simply in a Troubled World by Helen and Scot Nearing

New Pioneers: The Back to the Land Movement and the Search for a Sustainable Future by Jeffery Jacob

Take Back Your time: Fighting Overwork and Time Poverty in America by John de Graaf, Editor

The New Village Green: Living Light, Living Local, Living Large by Stephen Morris

### **NEW URBANISM:**

Directory of the New Urbanism: People, Places, Products 2007 (New Urban News Publications)

The Celebration Chronicles: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Property Value in Disney's New Town by Andrew Ross

Getting to Smart Growth II: 100 More Policies for Implementation (Smart Growth Network)

\*\*Home from Nowhere: Remaking Our Everyday World for the 21st Century by James Howard Kunstler

The Culture of Cities by Sharon Zukin

\*\*The Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jane Jacobs

\*\*The Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Man-made Landscape by James Howard Kunstler

The Next American Metropolis: Ecology, Community and the American Dream by Peter Calthorpe

\*\*The Option of Urbanism: Investing in a New American Dream by Christopher B. Leinberger

The Wealth of Cities: Revitalizing the Centers of American Life by John Norquist

## **SUSTAINABILITY:**

**\*\*Cradle to Cradle** by William McDonough

Cities for a Small Country by Richard Rogers and Anne Power

Cities for a Small Planet by Richard Rogers

Choices for Sustainable Living: A Discussion Course (Northwest Earth Institute)

Creating Sustainable Cities by Herbert Girardet

Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future by Bill McKibben

Give the City Back to the People by George W. Jernstedt

Hope, Human and Wild by Bill McKibben

Maybe One: A Case for Smaller Families by Bill McKibben

Towards Sustainable Communities: Resources for Citizens and their Governments by Mark Roseland

## **TRAILS/GREENWAYS:**

Community Trails Handbook by The Brandywine Conservancy

Designing Greenways: Sustainable Landscapes for Nature and People by Paul Hellmund and Daniel Smith

Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design and Development by Loring Schwarz

Trails for the Twenty-First Century: Planning, Design, and Management Manual for Multi-Use Trails (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed) by Charles Flink

## **URBAN/COMMUNITY DESIGN:**

**\*\*A Better Place to Live: Reshaping the American Suburb** by Philip Langdon

**\*\*A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction** by Christopher Alexander

Belltown Paradise/Making Their Own Plans (City of Seattle)

Building Livable Communities: A Policymaker's Guide to Infill Development (The Center for Livable Communities)

**\*\*City Comforts: How to Build an Urban Village by David Sucher**

Common Place: Toward Neighborhood and Regional Design by Douglas Kelbaugh

Creative Land Development by Lemire

Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town: Design Characteristics of Traditional Neighborhoods, Old and New by Randall Arendt

Get Urban: The Complete Guide to City Living by Kyle Ezell

Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Ordinances by Randall Arendt

How to Turn a Place Around: A Handbook for Creating Successful Public Spaces (Project for Public Spaces)

New Community Design to the Rescue: Fulfilling Another American Dream by Joel Hirschorn

Out of Place: Restoring Identity to the Regional Landscape by Michael Hough

Placemaking on a Budget: Improving Small Towns, Neighborhoods, and Downtowns without Spending a Lot of Money by Al Zelinka and Susan Jackson Harden

Planning for Transit Friendly Land Use: A Handbook for NJ Communities (NJ Transit)

Planning to Stay: Learning to See the Physical Features of Your Neighborhood by William Morrish and Catherine Brown

Public Places, Urban Spaces: The Dimensions of Urban Design by Matthew Carmona

Save Our Lands, Save Our Towns by Thomas Hylton

Superbia!: 31 Ways to Create Sustainable Neighborhoods by Dan Chiras and Dave Wann

Sustainable Communities: A New Design Synthesis for Cities, Suburbs and Towns by Sim van der Ryn and Peter Calthorpe

The Architectural Handbook: A Tool for Building Great Neighborhoods by Urban Design Associates

**\*\*The Concise Townscape by Gordon Cullen**

**\*\*The Image of the City by Kevin Lynch**

The Redevelopment Handbook: A Guide to Rebuilding New Jersey's Communities by Stan Slachetka and David Roberts

Toward the Livable City by Emile Buchwald, Editor

Urban Open Space: Designing for User Needs by Mark Francis

**\*\*Visions for a New American Dream: Process, Principles, and an Ordinance to Plan and Design Small Communities by Anton Nelessen**

Walk for Life: Restoring Neighborhood Walkways to Enhance Community Life, Improve Street Safety and Reduce Obesity by Marie Demers

Where We Live: A Citizen's Guide to Conducting a Community Environmental Inventory by Donald Harker

### **URBAN ECOLOGY:**

Suburban Safari: A Year on the Lawn by Hannah Holmes

**\*\*The Meadowlands: Wilderness Adventures on the Edge of a City by Robert Sullivan**

The Urban Naturalist by Steven D. Garber

Urban Almanac: Celebrating Nature and Her Rhythms in the City by Eric Utne

Wild in the City: A Guide to Portland's Natural Areas by Michael Houck and M.J. Cody

### **URBAN STUDIES:**

Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-200 by Dolores Hayden

Flight or Fight: Metropolitan Philadelphia and its Future

Give the City Back to the People: New Mobility Can Make Our Cities a Joy Again by George Jernstedt with Tom Phares

Hot Towns: The Future of the Fastest Growing Communities in America by Peter Wolf

Last Harvest: How a Cornfield Became New Daleville by Witold Rybczynski

**\*\*The Last Landscape by William Whyte**

The City in History by Lewis Mumford

**\*\*The City in Mind: Notes on the Urban Condition by James Howard Kunstler**

The Culture of Cities by Lewis Mumford

The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration: 1966-1999 by Ray Suarez

The Option of Urbanism: Investing in a New American Dream by Christopher B. Leinberger

### **WATER:**

Bottlemania by Elizabeth Royte

The Clean Water Book: Lifestyles for Water Resource Protection by NJDEP

### **WILDERNESS:**

Into the Wild by John Krakauer

Let the Mountains talk, let Rivers Run: A Call to Those Who Would Save the Earth by David Brower

Rowing to Latitude: Journey's Along the Arctic's Edge by Jill Fredston

Wilderness and the American Mind by Roderick Nash