

Shortlisted Book for the 2022-23 Book in Common

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Bill Gates

How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need

Date: 2021

List price: \$27 hardcover

Author website: <https://www.gatesnotes.com/Energy/My-new-climate-book-is-finally-here>

Book website <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/633968/how-to-avoid-a-climate-disaster-by-bill-gates/>

Publisher description:

In this urgent, authoritative book, Bill Gates sets out a wide-ranging, practical—and *accessible*—plan for how the world can get to zero greenhouse gas emissions in time to avoid a climate catastrophe. Bill Gates has spent a decade investigating the causes and effects of climate change. With the help of experts in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, political science, and finance, he has focused on what must be done in order to stop the planet’s slide to certain environmental disaster. In this book, he not only explains why we need to work toward net-zero emissions of greenhouse gases, but also details what we need to do to achieve this profoundly important goal. He gives us a clear-eyed description of the challenges we face. Drawing on his understanding of innovation and what it takes to get new ideas into the market, he describes the areas in which technology is already helping to reduce emissions, where and how the current technology can be made to function more effectively, where breakthrough technologies are needed, and who is working on these essential innovations. Finally, he lays out a concrete, practical plan for achieving the goal of zero emissions—suggesting not only policies that governments should adopt, but what we as individuals can do to keep our government, our employers, and ourselves accountable in this crucial enterprise.

This book is shortlisted for the 2021-22 Book in Common because

- *It is engaging to students and to a broad audience.* Written in a straightforward style, the book is easy to engage, well organized, and includes clear explanations.
- *It has broad appeal across disciplines.* Climate change is of urgent concern, and is relevant to a wide array of disciplines, especially courses that focus on sustainability. With his industry background and solutions, this book will also be of interest to courses in STEM and business disciplines.
- *It is relevant and timely.* Extremely timely focus on carbon neutrality and what that will mean, and includes connections to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *It relates to the university mission.* This book relates to the Strategic Priority of Resilient & Sustainable Systems to “cultivate knowledge...to increase awareness that our individual and collective actions have impact regionally, nationally, and globally” and to “integrate sustainability and resilience into curriculum.”
- *It is conducive to year-long programming.* Gates offers his perspective and set of solutions. Sustainability leaders on campus and in the community would be invited to direct attention to additional perspectives and strategies, including groups which focus on environmental justice, and local businesses committed to decreasing their carbon footprint.