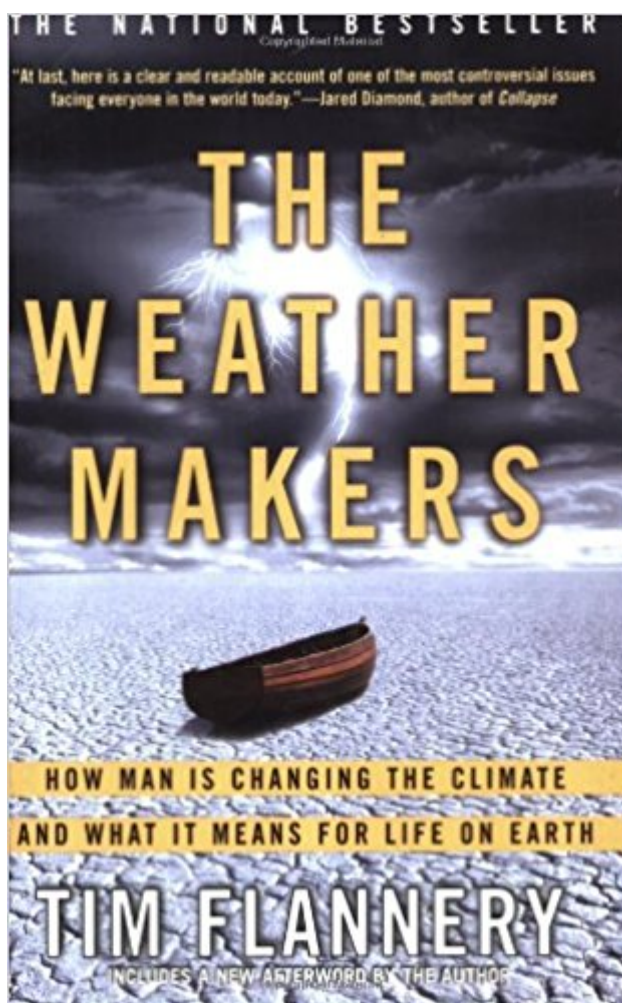


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# The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing The Climate And What It Means For Life On Earth



## Synopsis

An international best seller embraced and endorsed by policy makers, scientists, writers and energy industry executives from around the world, Tim Flannery's *The Weather Makers* contributed in bringing the topic of global warming to national prominence. For the first time, a scientist provided an accessible and comprehensive account of the history, current status, and future impact of climate change, writing what has been acclaimed by reviewers everywhere as the definitive book on global warming. With one out of every five living things on this planet committed to extinction by the levels of greenhouse gases that will accumulate in the next few decades, we are reaching a global climatic tipping point. *The Weather Makers* is both an urgent warning and a call to arms, outlining the history of climate change, how it will unfold over the next century, and what we can do to prevent a cataclysmic future. Originally somewhat of a global warming skeptic, Tim Flannery spent several years researching the topic and offers a connect-the-dots approach for a reading public who has received patchy or misleading information on the subject. Pulling on his expertise as a scientist to discuss climate change from a historical perspective, Flannery also explains how climate change is interconnected across the planet. This edition includes a new afterword by the author.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Mammologist and paleontologist Flannery (*The Eternal Frontier*), who in recent years has become well known for his controversial ideas on conservation, the environment and population control, presents a straightforward and powerfully written look at the connection between

climate change and global warming. It's destined to become required reading following Hurricane Katrina as the focus shifts to the natural forces that may have produced such a devastating event. Much of the book's success is rooted in Flannery's succinct and fascinating insights into related topics, such as the differences between the terms greenhouse effect, global warming and climate change, and how the El Niño cycle of extreme climatic events "had a profound re-organising effect on nature." But the heart of the book is Flannery's impassioned look at the earth's "colossal" carbon dioxide pollution problem and his argument for how we can shift from our current global reliance on fossil fuels [...]. Flannery consistently produces the hard goods related to his main message that our environmental behavior makes us all "weather makers" who "already possess all the tools required to avoid catastrophic climate change." Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The arguments, evidence, and conclusions should surprise few readers in Kolbert's *Field Notes from a Catastrophe* and Flannery's *The Weather Makers*. Given existing scientific knowledge, neither author (and no critic) doubts that global warming is real, with terrible consequences looming ahead. The difference between the books largely comes down to tone and style. Kolbert, a reporter for the *New Yorker*, provides an excellent primer on climate change. Praised for her elegance and accessibility, she offers a loose travelogue with "the clearest view yet of the biggest catastrophe we have ever faced" (*Los Angeles Times*). She takes her science seriously; from sulfate droplets to recarbonization; and rarely lets her belief in impending catastrophe cloud her objectivity. Flannery's book may appeal more to activists. However, the *Chicago Sun-Times* thought that his passionate clarion call to action undermined sound arguments; others criticized scattered information and incomplete discussion on ways individuals can counteract climate change. Still, like Kolbert, Flannery elucidates complex concepts in climatology, paleontology, and economics. In the end, both books ask a crucial question: "Will we be lauded by future generations for heeding the advice of our best scientific minds, or remembered hereafter as counterexamples; as paragons of hubris, of a colossal failure of the imagination?" (*Los Angeles Times*). Copyright © 2004 Phillips & Nelson Media, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book was recommended to me by one of Canada's leading advocates for saving the Polar Regions. He told me I should read this book if I wanted to read the best book that has been written

on climate change. I was skeptical, but he was right. This is the best book I have found on the subject of climate change. The author, Tim Flannery, is a well recognized scientist himself. He begins the book by discussing his reservations about global warming, how scientists are supposed to be skeptical and how much data must be present before scientific consensus can occur. From there, he explains how he was convinced that climate change was real. In the book, the author starts discussing climate change from many different scientific aspects. Although some of the science is tough, even for science majors such as myself, the specifics of the science involved are used more as examples, allowing readers with less of a scientific background to understand exactly what is being said. The author does a great job of utilizing a number of sciences, including anthropology, biology, chemistry, physics, climatology, meteorology, geology, oceanography and more to prove the argument that climate change exists from every angle. In addition, he does a great job showing how something happening in one place may affect a totally different region of the world. He covers climate change around the globe in a comprehensive manner, and shows how different peoples will be affected. Finally, the author discusses what is being done and by whom. He points out the lack of effort to change in the US, as well as in Australia and other countries. He presents good arguments for the slowing global warming and for the economic benefits that countries would enjoy. This book is the best and most comprehensive I have read on global warming. If you are looking for a book that covers all aspects, this is for you. If you would prefer ranting and raving, don't look here, as there is very little of that present. Finally, if you are in doubt about global warming this book may very well change your mind, or at the very least give you something to think about seriously.

This is one of the best books out there that explains the various major pathways that man via his activities and his overall impact is effecting the planet. The author takes a chatty and matter of fact approach. The science was explained exceptionally well and in some moderate level of detail. I appreciated this. Often in these popular science books the science is dumbed down as if the readers are all 9th graders with zero background or interest in any science or math whatsoever. I presume that is the editors doing. Not so here. I found it strongly written and very absorbing.

I must like it... I've read it twice over a one month period. This is an excellent entry level book into the issues surrounding climate change. It's an easy read eye opener for sure and a book that is hard to put down. I have walked away with a real sense of sadness that we as a species are probably too self centered to make the changes that we must if we want our economies to survive as the impact of our actions takes further hold on the planet's ability to support us. If I was in charge I'd

make this book required reading for all politicians and all high school students. I will be looking for more books from this author. Also on my best read list on this topic are William Marsden's books *Stupid to the Last Drop* and *Fools Rule: Inside the Failed Politics of Climate Change*. Both should also be considered required reading.

If you really want to know what is going on with our climate I suggest you read this book. He has it all laid out in easy to understand terminology for those who struggle with science lingo. This scientist Tim Flannery has got the answers and he lays them out for you with the data which is factual and not altered by scientists under government thumb or pay. I would recommend everyone on the Congress and Senate, House of Representatives read this so that they finally get it and not argue over data, you can not argue about the data. Some of what you read will be scary but that is where this world and way of living has brought us.

Even though this book is already five years old, it still serves as an excellent primer on man's role in the climate change dialogue. It's hard to argue that the increasing CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere is not anthropomorphic after you read Flannery's description. This is a good book to get a condensed and understandable primer on climate change and man's role. Its only weakness is that it lacks an analytical basis and will not satisfy those who need lots of numbers to justify results. However, the book is aimed at a general audience and makes no claims otherwise. It is also very well written and concise. A good first lesson on climate change. However, better read it soon, as the effects of climate change are already on top of us leaving fewer options every day, at least according to Flannery.

Flannery's description of the biological/ecological impacts of climate change are suitably depressing and should be a call to arms. Alas now with the Kyoto protocols long since kaput and the recent Paris accords just as likely to meet the same fate in the US Senate, it's at best dated and at worst futile.

*The Weather Makers* is a great over-all, general look at global warming and climate change. Easily 5 stars, the highest rating, for its reasoned, common-sense guide to a complex subject, which largely avoids partisan politics and alarmist reactions. Of more than 30 books I've read on the subject, this is in the top three, the other two being "With Speed and Violence - Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change" by Fred Pearce; and "Hell and High Water - Global Warming, the

Solution and the Politics, and What We Should Do" by Joseph Romm.

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