



EkoCalendar 2025

Books for a Better World



Dear Colleagues,

EkoCalendar is Back!

Ekonnect Knowledge Foundation and Environmental Management Centre Pvt Ltd are thrilled to present EkoCalendar 2025, your companion to get introduced to some of the most influential books on sustainability.

This curated collection of 12 books is structured to take the reader on a thematic journey, starting with the awakening of environmental consciousness, moving through the exploration of humanity's relationship with nature and resources, culminating in insights towards mainstreaming sustainability.

I often ask a question in the interviews to young professionals and students “which book did they follow during their studies”. In many cases, you will be surprised that the student does not even remember the title and author of the book! That's terribly disappointing. I feel sorry. Some students when answer, I feel that they could have followed some other book instead. And when I ask, do they possess the book as collection in their “library”, the answer is generally negative. Folks don't buy books anymore. The concept of building a personal physical library now no more exists.

In this digital era, the charm of reading physical books and maintaining personal libraries is gradually vanishing, overshadowed by the rise of e-books and audiobooks. Personal libraries, once symbols of passion and intellectual depth, have lost their prestige in a fast-paced world driven by instant digital information retrieval. Flipping the pages of the book, underlining some text in a pencil for the next read or placing a fancy bookmark and occasionally “smelling” the pages of the book while taking a deep breath is an experience of a very different kind!

Here is an exciting offer for you and for your friends and colleagues. Check out the last page of this very EkoCalendar and get a chance to have these 12 wonderful books to build your personal library for FREE.

We wish you a year filled with hope and positivity. Let us all make a difference, we want to see.

Dr. Prasad Modak

Managing Director, Environmental Management Centre Pvt. Ltd.
Director, Ekonnect Knowledge Foundation



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Books for a Better World



Silent Spring

- Rachel Carson

Start the new year with a seminal work that catalyzed the global environmental movement, setting the tone for critical thinking about our planet's future.

January

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01 - Global Family Day

04 - EMC's 29th Birthday

16 - National Startup Day

26 - Republic Day & International Environmental Education Day

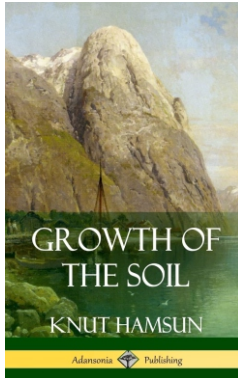


A groundbreaking piece of work that exposed the devastating impact of pesticides on wildlife and human health. Carson ignited public awareness about environmental destruction with scientific clarity and poetic prose. Despite fierce opposition from industry giants, the book spurred legislative reforms and inspired the global environmental movement. Carson's courageous advocacy led to the banning of harmful chemicals like DDT, marking a turning point in ecological history. A timeless call to action, *Silent Spring* remains a cornerstone of environmental literature.



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Books for a Better World



Growth of the Soil

- Knut Hamsun

As winter's chill begins to thaw, "The Growth of the Soil" by Knut Hamsun reminds us that true growth and renewal can only be achieved by cultivating a deeper connection with nature.

February

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- 02 - World Wetlands Day
- 20 - World Day of Social Justice
- 27 - World Sustainable Energy Day

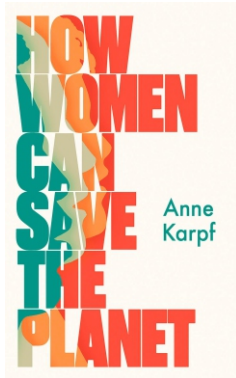


Growth of the Soil by Knut Hamsun is a timeless masterpiece that explores the profound bond between humans and nature. The story of Isak, a man who builds a life in Norway's untamed land, reflects themes of resilience, simplicity, and survival. Hamsun's writing captures the stark beauty and elemental power of rural life with a biblical calm. Sverre Lyngstad's translation enhances the novel's quiet strength and literary brilliance. A crowning achievement of 20th-century literature, it remains a moving celebration of humanity's connection to the earth.



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Books for a Better World



How Women Can Save The Planet

- Anne Karpf

A month symbolising growth and renewal introduces a discussion on gender's role in addressing environmental challenges fostering inclusivity and equity.

March

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08 - International Women's Day

14 - International Day of Action for Rivers

18 - Global Recycling Day

22 - World Water Day | Leveraging Water for Peace

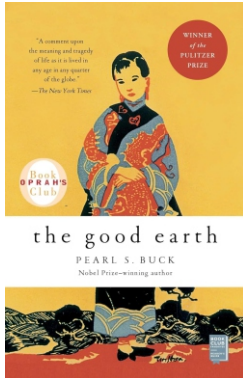


The book highlights the disproportionate impact of climate change on women, especially poor women of color. Karpf advocates for gender-inclusive climate policies and amplifies the voices of female activists worldwide. Through compelling research and radical ideas, she challenges the male-dominated decision-making at the top. The book inspires hope by showcasing the strength and diversity of women-led solutions to the climate crisis.



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Books for a Better World



The Good Earth

- Pearl S. Buck

As spring blooms, this classic novel underscores humanity's reliance on exploitation of natural resources, urging a mindful stewardship.

April

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04 - Walk to Work Day

22 - Earth Day

28 - World Day for Safety and Health at Work

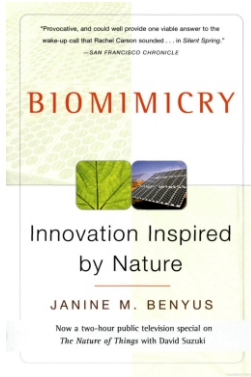


A Pulitzer Prize-winning classic is a powerful tale of Wang Lung, an honest farmer, and his selfless wife, O-Lan, set in pre-revolutionary China. The novel vividly portrays their struggles, triumphs, and the impact of societal change on their lives. Through themes of passion, greed, and survival, Buck captures the complexities of human emotions and desires. The story beautifully reflects the connection between the land and its people, offering a timeless exploration of family and resilience.



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Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature - Janine M. Benyus

Nature's silent work and its creative energy aligns with a focus on innovation inspired by nature, showcasing sustainable solutions that mimic ecological processes.

May

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- 14 - World Fairtrade Day
- 16 - Endangered Species Day
- 22 - International Day for Biodiversity

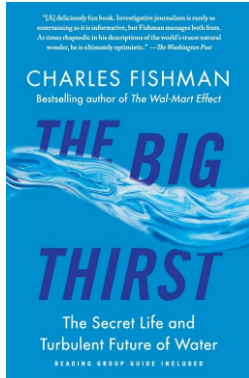


The book explores how nature's designs inspire human innovation. Benyus showcases breakthroughs in materials, medicine, and energy by mimicking nature's solutions. From spider silk to photosynthesis, she reveals nature as a model for sustainable technology. The book combines science, storytelling, and practical insights into biomimicry's potential. A fascinating read for anyone interested in nature-driven innovation.



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Books for a Better World



The Big Thirst

- Charles Fishman

With the onset of monsoons, this book explores water's critical role in life emphasizing conservation during a season of high consumption.

June

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- 03 - World Bicycle Day
- 05 - World Environment Day
- 08 - World Oceans Day
- 15 - Global Wind Day

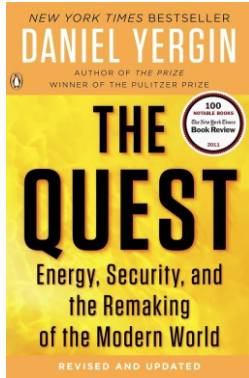


The Big Thirst by Charles Fishman explores humanity's fragile and fascinating relationship with water. Fishman reveals how water scarcity threatens our future while highlighting innovative solutions to manage it wisely. Through engaging stories and surprising facts, he shows that the issue isn't a lack of water but our failure to value and use it smartly. The book challenges readers to rethink their water habits and consciousness. A thought-provoking and essential read for understanding the future of this vital resource.



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Books for a Better World



The Quest

- Daniel Yergin

As monsoon renews the earth with care, we explore energy transitions that highlight the importance of managing resources for a sustainable future.

July

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- 03 - International Plastic Bag Free Day
- 12 - World Paper Bag Day
- 28 - World Nature Conservation Day

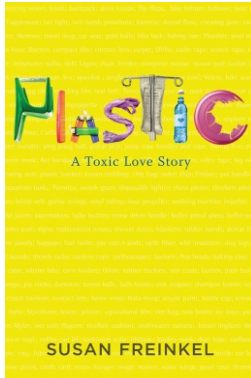


The Quest by Daniel Yergin is a captivating exploration of energy's role in shaping our world. Yergin traces the history of fossil fuels, the rise of renewables, and the challenges of climate change with expert storytelling. Rich in detail and insight, the book unpacks how energy drives global politics, economics, and innovation. It offers a clear understanding of the forces shaping the future of energy. A definitive and timely guide for anyone seeking to grasp the energy landscape of the 21st century.



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Plastic: A Toxic Love Story

- Susan Freinkel

Late monsoon's reflection turns to plastic – its ubiquity, toxicity, and the urgent need to address plastic waste management challenges.

August

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09 - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

12 - International Youth Day

15 - Independence Day

20 - National Renewable Energy Day

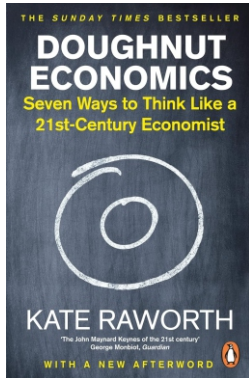


Plastics draw on dwindling fossil fuels, leach harmful chemicals, litter landscapes, and destroy marine life. Did you know that we have produced more plastic in the past decade as we did in the entire 20th century? Freinkel gives us the tools we need to understand this alarming phenomenon with a blend of lively anecdotes and analysis. She tells her story through eight familiar plastic objects: comb, chair, Frisbee, IV bag, disposable lighter, grocery bag, soda bottle, and credit card. A fascinating read.



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Doughnut Economics

- Kate Raworth

As the season changes, this transformative work introduces a vision for an economy that balances human well-being with planetary health.

September

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- 07 - International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies
- 16 - International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 20 - Ekonnect's 12th Birthday!
- 26 - World Environmental Health Day



The book reimagines economics to tackle 21st-century challenges. She introduces the “doughnut” model, balancing human well-being with planetary boundaries. Challenging outdated ideas like infinite growth, Raworth offers a sustainable alternative to current systems. Clear, bold, and accessible, the book inspires new ways of thinking about prosperity. A must-read for building an economy that works for people and the planet.



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Books for a Better World



Tickling Sharks - John Elkington

This inspiring book ties corporate responsibility to optimism for the future, aligning with autumn's introspective yet hopeful mood.

October

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- 06 - World Habitat Day
- 13 - International Day for Disaster Reduction
- 14 - International E-Waste Day
- 24 - International Day of Climate Action



Tickling Sharks by John Elkington is an engaging memoir tracing the rise of sustainability in business. Elkington shares his journey of pushing corporations to embrace greener practices with humor and insight. The book critiques past progress while offering a bold vision for a regenerative economy. Combining personal stories with sharp analysis, it inspires leaders to rethink capitalism. A must-read for changemakers seeking a sustainable future.



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Books for a Better World



Junkyard Planet

- Adam Minter

As the year winds down, exploring global recycling systems offers practical insights into turning waste into value by storytelling.

November

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10 - World Public Transport Day

14 - World Usability Day

26 - World Sustainable Transport Day

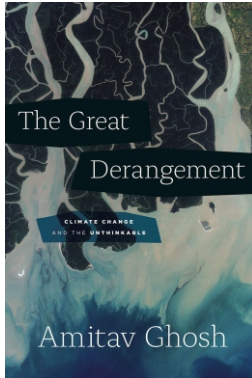


Junkyard Planet by Adam Minter is a captivating journey into the global recycling industry. Minter reveals how our discarded waste fuels a hidden, billion-dollar economy, often halfway across the world. With vivid storytelling and deep insights, he explores the environmental and economic impacts of our consumption habits. The book challenges readers to rethink waste and embrace smarter, sustainable practices.



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Books for a Better World



The Great Derangement

- Amitav Ghosh

Conclude the year by reflecting on how art and literature can reshape the narrative around climate change, encouraging action through creativity.

December

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

05 - World Soil Day

05 - International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

14 - National Energy Conservation Day

18 - International Migrants Day



The Great Derangement is a thought-provoking exploration of humanity's failure to address climate change. Ghosh examines how literature, history, and politics have overlooked the crisis, calling it an "imaginative failure." He argues that fiction is essential to reimagining our relationship with the planet. Urgent and insightful, the book challenges readers to confront the scale of the climate emergency. A powerful call to rethink how we tell stories in an age of crisis.



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Books for a Better World



How to get these precious books for free!

Submit a short essay on any of the 12 books like an extended book review of no more than 3000 words, tracing the background such as why this book was written and what was its impact. End your review with three important takeaways. Finally, you may list upto 3 books for additional reading as relevant.



For submission guidelines scan QR code below

Prizes:

1st Prize: All 12 books

2nd Prize: Any 6 books out of 12

3rd Prize: Any 3 books out of 12

Post the award ceremony, upto 20 top applicants will be selected by 1st July 2025 and will be invited to contribute an essay of 5000 words. The essays will be inspiring sustainability stories on the ground and may require site visits for connecting with the stakeholders. Top 10 essays will be edited and accepted for the e-publication that will be released by end of 2025. A modest honorarium will be offered to all those whose essays will be accepted for the publication.

Join us in the above journey.
Team, EMC and Eknnect.

