

Suggested Reading

Ideas for Where to Go Next...

Sheet

9

Version 1, March 2007. Produced by the Free Range *Energy Beyond Oil* Project
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50p
(where sold)

The purpose of the Free Range Energy Beyond Oil Project is to raise awareness about the issue of Peak Energy. However, rather than re-invent the wheel we prefer to integrate our efforts with the body of work that already exists on these and related issues. For this reason we have produced this guide to the many other books that exist on the peak energy, climate change and other related issues in order to help people find the information/inspiration that they need.

In creating this list we are not suggesting that you read everything on it, and nor are we saying that every book on this list is good and useful addition to the public's knowledge of the peak energy issue. The purpose of this list is to give an outline of the range of books that are available.

The list has been assembled from titles suggested by contributors to the Energy Beyond Oil Project (who between them have quite a few thousand source books to draw upon) and contains books that they feel able to recommend (because they found them helpful, interesting, or shocking!). Most of these books are available from bookshops, although a number are now out of print and can only be found from second hand booksellers or junk shops. The on-line version of this guide contains links to where you can find these books. However, ideally you shouldn't buy the book – it's far cheaper and resource efficient to borrow it from a public library (many of the books, even those out of print, are available via inter-library loan). If you wish to buy book then Amazon and other booksellers will stock most of the titles, especially the American books. However we would recommend that you use:

The Green Shopping Catalogue (<http://www.green-shopping.co.uk/>) – call 01730 823311 for a catalogue;
CAT Mail Order (<http://www.cat.org.uk/>) – call 0845 3304592 or 01654 705959 for a catalogue.

Abbreviations used below: *P/B*, paperback; *H/B*, hardback; *S/H*, second hand/rare book seller (i.e., out of print)

Peak Energy and Economics

The following books deal with the issues of peak energy and/or the economic and social problems inherent within our current patterns of energy use. As well as looking at peak oil, some also look at the issue of environmental limits more generally.

Energy Beyond Oil

Paul Mobbs, 2005
Matador, ISBN 978-1905237005,
£15.99, P/B

Reputed to be the first major book on peak oil in the UK, it outlines how the UK energy economy works, the problems that peak energy will create, and the alternative options will have to adopt.

Powerdown: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World

Richard Heinberg, 2004
Clairview Books, ISBN 978-1902636634, £10.95, P/B
In the follow-on book to *The Party's Over*, Heinberg looks specifically at how the only realistic options of adapting to resource depletion is a progressive "powering down" of the economy of the developed world.

The Party's Over: Oil, War and the Fate of Industrial Societies

Richard Heinberg, 2003
New Society Publishers, ISBN 978-1905570003, £12.99, US book, P/B
Heinberg's seminal book on peak oil and what it means to the future of the American state.

The Growth Illusion: How Economic growth has Enriched the Few, Impoverished the Many and Endangered the Planet

Richard Douthwaite, 1999 (revised edition)

Green Books, ISBN 978-1870098762, £12.95, P/B

An excellent, compelling review of the problem of "growth", and the reasons why the pursuit of growth has driven us to the point of environmental collapse.

Before the Wells Run Dry: Ireland's Transition to Renewable Energy

Richard Douthwaite, 2003
Green Books, ISBN 978-1843510376, £9.95, P/B

One of the first studies of national energy descent as a means to meet the problems of energy depletion and climate change.

Limits to Growth: The 30 Year Update

Donella Meadows, Jorgen Randers and Dennis Meadows, 2004
Earthscan, ISBN 978-1844071449, £14.99, P/B

A MUST READ. Updating the Club of Rome's original report 30 years ago, the book outlines the multifaceted limits to future growth – not just oil, but other resources too.

The Final Energy Crisis

Andrew McKillop and Sheila Newman, 2005
Pluto Press, ISBN 978-0745320922, £15.99, P/B

A book on peak oil, written for economists, on the implications that a downturn in oil supply has for the world economy.

Half Gone: Oil, Gas, Hot Air and the Global Energy Crisis

Jeremy Leggett, 2005
Portobello Books, ISBN 978-1846270055, £8.99, P/B

An interesting review of the interlocking issues of energy depletion and climate change, although the solutions (mainly, more renewables) are open to interpretation.

The End of Oil: The Decline of the Petroleum Economy and the Rise of a New Energy Order

Paul Roberts, 2004
Bloomsbury, ISBN 978-0747570813, £8.99, P/B

An examination of how energy depletion will disassemble our modern lifestyle, and the how possibilities for alternative energy sources will still require significant change.

Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil

David Goodstein, 2005
W.W. Norton, ISBN 978-0393326475, £8.00, US book, P/B
A book on the end of oil that focuses on the energy issue rather than economics or politics.

Twilight in the Desert: The

Coming Saudi Oil Shock and the World Economy

Matthew Simmons, 2005
Wiley, ISBN 978-0471790181, £15.99, P/B

For those really into peak oil, Simmons' book clearly outlines the problem – the Middle East does not have the oil that it claims, and without action by western governments we never will know how much they really have left.

Blood and Oil: How America's Thirst for Petrol is Killing Us

Michael Klare, 2005
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-0141020037, £8.99, P/B

A rather depressing book that examines the relationship between America's need for energy and its foreign policy – and how energy depletion is driving them to ever greater extremes.

The Long Emergency: surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century

James Howard Kunstler, 2005
Atlantic Books, ISBN 978-1843544531, £12.99, P/B
Kunstler's exposition of the peak oil problem for the USA – not quite "end of days", but certainly a bleak view of the peak oil problem.

Hubbert's Peak: The Impending World Oil Shortage

Kenneth S. Deffeyes, 2003 (revised edition)
Princeton University Press, ISBN 978-0691116259, £11.95, US book, P/B

A memoir and commentary on the geological issues from the Princeton academic who actually worked for a while with M. King Hubbert.

Beyond Oil: The View from Hubbert's Peak

Kenneth S. Deffeyes, 2006
Hill and Wang, ISBN 978-0809029570, \$13, US book, P/B
Deffeyes updates his views on the arrival of peak oil, and states that the peak will arrive around late

2005 (the jury's still out on that until we get a couple of years more data).

The 2030 Spike: Countdown to Global Catastrophe

Colin Mason, 2003
Earthscan, ISBN 978-1844070183, £18.99, H/B
Mason, a former Australian senator, outlines the six constraints that threaten to disrupt the status quo over the next few decades – 1) energy depletion, 2) population growth, 3) climate change, 4) food supply, 5) water supply and 6) international conflict over nos. 1 to 5.

Factor Four: Doubling Wealth, Halving Resource Use

Ernst von Weizsäcker, Amory B. Loving, L. Hunter Lovins, 1998
Earthscan, ISBN 978-1853834066, £16.99, P/B

The Club of Rome's report on increasing eco-efficiency – but as a counter point, instead of seeking to increase our wealth, why not avoid getting any wealthier than today and cut consumption by a factor of four instead?

You Can't Eat GNP: Economics as if Ecology Mattered

Eric A. Davidson, 2001
Perseus Books, ISBN 978-0738204871, £13.50, US book, P/B
An excellent investigation of why

economics cannot adequately value the environment (it doesn't send the right price signals!), and hence why the theories of economics cannot hope to accommodate the protection of the environment as part of their operation.

Sustainable Fossil Fuels: The Unusual Suspect in the quest for Clean and Enduring Energy

Mark Jaccard, 2006
Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521679794, £14.99, P/B
An (incredibly) optimistic book about the future of oil and gas production which takes the highest projections for oil and gas production as if they were a certainty.

Climate & Environment

These books deal with the issue of climate change and other pressing environmental problems.

Capitalism As If The World Matters

Jonathon Porritt, 2005
Earthscan, ISBN 978-1844071920, £19.99, H/B
A book that contradicts its own thesis (page xiv, 3rd paragraph) – Porritt fails to reconcile the deep contradiction at the heart of his message... classical economic growth is not possible within the Laws of Thermodynamics!

The Revenge of Gaia

James Lovelock, 2006
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-0141025971, £8.99, P/B
Lovelock's controversial book (because he advocates nuclear power – pity he didn't check the level of uranium resources first) on how the Earth will threaten humanity if humanity doesn't change its ways.

Heat: How to Stop the Planet

Burning

George Monbiot, 2006
Allen Lane, ISBN 978-0713999242, £12.99, P/B
George looks at the need to manage carbon emissions by overhauling energy use in the UK (unfortunately, although he almost gets there, he doesn't delve into the "Less" issue).

Global Warming: The Complete Briefing

John Houghton, 2004 (third edition)
Cambridge University Press, ISBN 978-0521528740, £24.99, P/B
John Houghton, former IPCC chair, outlines in semi-technical language the findings of the IPCC's Third Assessment Report on Climate Change – a good outline of the issues and consequences of climate change, but will be a little out-dated with the release of the

IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report later this year.

An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It

Al Gore, 2006
Bloomsbury, ISBN 978-0747589068, £14.99, P/B
Al Gore's "book of the film" – learn about the climate change problem with lots of pictures.

When the Rivers Run Dry: What Happens When Our Water Runs Out?

Fred Pearce, 2006
Eden Project Books, ISBN 978-1903919576, £18.99, H/B
One of the best books on the other essential global resource – water – and how the supply of water across the globe is entering a severe depletion phase.

High Tide: How Climate Crisis is Engulfing Our Planet

Mark Lynas, 2005
Harper Collins, ISBN 978-0007139408, £8.99, P/B
Looking at the issue of climate change from the people actually experiencing its effects rather than the theoretical or research arguments.

Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble

Lester R. Brown, 2006
W.W. Norton, ISBN 978-0393328318, £10.99, US book, P/B
A very US oriented book that considers the impacts of climate change, the wider environmental crisis, and how the US needs to re-organise itself to deal with these problems.

Practical Alternatives

These books deal with some responses to the problems of energy depletion and climate change – essentially it's all about changing your lifestyle to live at a far lower level of energy and resource consumption.

The NEW Complete Book of Self-Sufficiency: The Classic Guide for Realists and Dreamers

John Seymour and Will Sutherland, 2003
Doring Kindersley, ISBN 978-0751364422, £20.00, H/B
The revised edition of the classic book on low-impact living. An essential source – albeit with the warning that it assumes you possess a lot of skills that are not detailed in the book (for which you'll need to refer to other beginner's guides for if you don't have them).

The Earth Care Manual: A Permaculture Handbook for Britain and Other Temperate Climates

Patrick Whitefield, 2004
Permanent Publications, ISBN 978-1856230216, £39.95, H/B
A practical permaculture design manual for those wishing to develop low-impact methods of food production – but it's also a damn good introduction to the holistic analysis of living systems pro-

moted by permaculture design.

How to Make a Forest Garden

Patrick Whitefield, 2002 (revised edition)
Permanent Publications, ISBN 978-1856230087, £14.95, P/B
Another excellent design guide, focussing specifically on developing (for want of a better term) "edible landscapes".

Permaculture: Principles and Pathways Beyond Sustainability

David Holmgren, 2003
Holmgren Design Services, ISBN 978-0646418445, £15.99, P/B
From the co-founder of "permaculture", this book leads you through the philosophy and theory of permaculture design as a solution to the problems of our future existence (not much use if you're looking for something practical, but good if you want to get deeper into the transformation process).

Food for Free

Richard Mabey, 2001 (revised edi-

tion)
Collins, ISBN 978-0002201599, £16.99, P/B
A revised edition of Mabey's excellent 1972 book on living from (rather than off) the land (as well as the bookshelf edition there's a pocket-sized field-guide by Collins, 978-0007183036, £4.99).

The New Woodburner's Handbook: A Guide to Safe, Healthy and Efficient Woodburning

Stephen Bushway, 1992
Storey Books, ISBN 978-0882667881, £9.99, US book, P/B
A good guide to all the different ways to burn wood, and the precautions you need to take to ensure you don't pollute the atmosphere.

The Humanure Handbook: Guide to Composting Human Manure

Joseph Jenkins, 2006 (third edition)
Jenkins Publishing, ISBN 978-0964425835, £16.95, US book, P/B

A guide to recycling an important nutrient source – your poo – back into your vegetable garden.

Back Garden Seed Saving: Keeping Your Vegetable Heritage Alive

Sue Stickland, 2001
Eco-Logic Books, ISBN 978-1899233090, £12.95, P/B
It's one thing to plant seed, but at the end of the year you need to store seed for the following year – this excellent guide shows you how.

Sprouters Handbook

Edward Cairney, 1997
Argyll Publishing, ISBN 978-1874640486, £4.99, P/B
Begin your quest for own-made food with the most simple method of cultivation – sprout seeds (far more energy efficient, and nutritious, than buying lettuce for most of the year).

Saving the Planet Without Costing the Earth: 500 Simple Steps to a Greener Lifestyle

Donnachadh McCarthy, 2004
Fusion Press, ISBN 978-1904132394, £11.99, P/B
McCarthy's self-assessment manual on "how green is your lifestyle" – it's got lots of good ideas, but the most useful aspect of the self-assessment approach is that it enables you to set out a clear baseline to measure your progress in the future.

Extreme Simplicity:

Homesteading the City
Christopher and Dolores Nyerges, 2002
Chelsea Green, ISBN 978-1890132361, £12.95, US book, P/B
An excellent book that looks at how you do back to the land permaculture in the middle of a city – this inspiring couple show how it is possible to lead low impact lifestyles within the confines of your

house and garden.

Self Reliance: A Recipe for the New Millennium
John Yeoman, 1999
Permanent Publications, ISBN 978-1856230155, £16.95, P/B
Although a little scatter-gun in its format, this book contains some little practical jewels for adapting yourself to a more low energy/low cost existence.

When Technology Fails: A

Manual for Self-Reliance and Planetary Survival

Matthew Stein, 2000
Clear Light, ISBN 978-1574160475, £12.50, US book, P/B
Definitely springing from the "survivalist" wing of the energy depletion movement, once you get past the doomsday rhetoric it contains some sensible, practical solution for personal energy descent.

Technical Energy and Construction

These books give more advanced alternatives, which means building, renovation, and becoming engaged in the technical planning of energy descent.

Eco-Renovation: The Ecological Home Improvement Guide

Edward Harland, 2004 (updated edition)
Green Books, ISBN 1870098528, £9.95, P/B
A simple, practical, step-by-step guide to addressing the energy use of your home.

The Home Energy Diet: How to Save Money by Making Your House Energy Smart

Paul Scheckel, 2005
New Society Publishers, ISBN 978-0865715301, \$18.95, US book, P/B
Similar to the above, it's a US view of how to upgrade your home to reduce energy (it's a good complement to the information in Eco-Renovation).

Energy Systems and Sustainability: Power for a Sustainable Future

Godfrey Boyle, Bob Everett and Janet Ramage, 2003
Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0199261796, £29.99, P/B
An Open University text book, but it provides an excellent, simple-English introduction to the whole concept of energy and energy con-

sumption that few other books provide.

Renewable Energy: Power for a Sustainable Future

Godfrey Boyle, 2004 (second edition)
Oxford University Press, ISBN 978-0199261789, £27.99, P/B
As above, but this volume looks at renewable energy systems.

The Green Building Bible: Essential Information to Help You Make Your Home and Buildings Less Harmful to the Environment, the Community and Your Family

Keith Hall, 2006 (third edition)
Green Building Press, ISBN 978-1898130031, £9.95, P/B
Excellent source of info. on green building and contact details for the companies who sell it.

Green Building Bible: In Depth Technical Information and Data on the Strategies and Systems Needed to Create Low Energy, Green Buildings

Keith Hall, 2006 (third edition)
Green Building Press, ISBN 978-1898130048, £9.95, P/B
Companion to the above with in-

depth data tables for building/systems design

The Homebuilder's Handbook: The Sourcebook for Professionals, Self-Builders and Home Renovators

Home Renovation Magazine, 2005 (third edition)
Ascent Publishing, ISBN 978-0955204302, £25.00, P/B
The "non-green" competitor to the Green Building Bible – but it's a useful guide to building products and installation companies providing glazing, insulation, electrical services, etc.

Building Construction Handbook (Incorporating Current Building and Construction Regulations)

Roy Chudley and Roger Greeno, 2006 (6th ed)
Butterworth-Heinemann, ISBN 978-0750668224, £22.99, P/B
If you're going to get into energy-conscious design you're going to get into building – and that means Building Regulations. This is a good source of practical design ideas to meet the requirements of Building Regs.

Introduction to Architectural Science: The Basis of Sustainable Design

Steven V. Szokolay, 2003
Architectural Press, ISBN 978-0750658492, £24.99, P/B
An excellent guide (if you're good with maths) to assessing the heat, light and environmental needs of buildings. A good resource for those who've moved beyond basic energy auditing.

Renewable Energy: Its Physics, Engineering, Environmental Impacts, Economics and Planning

Bent Sørensen, 2004 (third edition)
Academic Press, ISBN 0-12656-153-2, £39.99, H/B
Extremely heavy-duty academic reference text on renewable energy systems, but very useful if you want to get into the abstract detail of what renewable energy can practically achieve.

Renewable Energy Resources

John Twidell and Tony Weir, 2005 (second edition)
Spon Press, ISBN 978-0419253303, £31.95, P/B
Another heavy duty academic reference text, but a little lighter than the above.

Green & Glossy

Books that are a little more mainstream/oriented towards the mass consumer market – heavy on the colour pictures, light on the revolution (it's not that they're bad, they're just a little more glossy than most!).

It's Not Easy Being Green: One Family's Journey towards Eco-Friendly Living

Dick Strawbridge, 2006
BBC Books, ISBN 978-0563493464, £18.99, H/B
One family's view of how to be green. You can be technically critical of the odd thing, but you can't fault their effort and commitment to change.

No Waste Like Home

Penney Poyzer, 2005
Virgin Books, ISBN 978-0753510278, £12.95, P/B
Excellent guide to the simple, low-investment ways by which you can cut your energy use, waste production, and save cash.

Home Work: Handbuilt Shelter

Lloyd Kahn, 2004
Shelter Publications, ISBN 978-

978-0750668224, £14.99, US book, P/B

An inspirational successor to the 70's book "Shelter", which looks at alternative methods of building homes (definitely a coffee table book – you'd never get most of its content past Building Regulations approval in the UK!).

The Cabin: Inspiration for the Classic American Getaway

Dale Mulfingher and Susan E. Davis, 2004 (reprint)

The Taunton Press, ISBN 978-1561586448, £17.95, US book, P/B
Another Shelter clone, but it gives some excellent examples of more mainstream low-impact dwellings that have a far better chance of getting past Building Regulations approval (if you can get planning permission!).

Classics

If you want to understand the problems of the present it's worth returning to the primary sources of the environment movement. These books may be old, and often out-of-print, but they're still relevant to today's problems.

Only One Earth

Barbara Ward and Rene' Dubos, 1972
Pelican Books, ISBN 978-0140216011, S/H, P/B
A book on the impact of the First UN Environment and Development

Conference in 1972 (the "Stockholm Conference") and why it is so important for world leaders to act on the messages that came from the conference (err, don't think they got the message!). It's a very illuminating review of the issues

that inspired the modern environment movement.

Progress for a Small Planet

Barbara Ward, 1979
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-0140222555, S/H, H/B
An update to Only One Earth that

looks at the progress since the Stockholm Conference (err., not a lot!).

Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics as if People Mattered

E.F. Schumacher, 1993 (new edi-

tion)
Vintage, ISBN 978-0099225614,
£7.99, P/B
Although many in the environment
movement look to this book as the
definitive statement on green eco-
nomics, it's worth noting that Schu-
macher also expresses a concern
about the effects of the growth of
energy consumption.

Small is Still Beautiful
Barbara Wood Schumacher and
Joseph Pearce, 2002
Harper Collins, ISBN 978-
0007142156, £9.99, P/B
A review of Small is Beautiful, up-
dating its message for the new
Century.

**Fuel's Paradise: Energy Op-
tions for Britain**
Peter Chapman, 1975
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-
0140523164, S/H, P/B
An excellent review of energy and
growth that was well ahead of its
time (e.g., he's discussion the re-
source constraints on the future
use of nuclear power) – it clearly
outlines the resource issues be-
hind economic growth, and the
need to significantly redesign the
energy economy to avoid resource
depletion.

The Energy Question
Gerald Foley, 1976

Penguin Books, ISBN 978-
0140219241, S/H, P/B
Another book ahead of its time
(he's talking about Hubbert's meth-
ods and their implications for oil re-
sources... in 1976!) – a great re-
view of the energy questions facing
the UK, which clearly haven't
changed over the last 30 years.

Silent Spring
Rachel Carson, 2000 (new edition)
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-
0141184944, £9.99, P/B
This is the book that launched the
popular wave of environmental
consciousness in the 1960s – it's a
pity that so few modern environ-
mentalists have read it!

Since Silent Spring
Frank Graham Jr., 1970
Pan Books, ISBN 978-
0330029384, S/H, P/B
A book that updates Silent Spring
– Carson died shortly after publica-
tion of her book, so this book takes
up her campaign and shows that
her concerns were proved right
(even in the face of strong opposi-
tion/obfuscation from the chemical
industry).

The Population Bomb
Paul Ehrlich, 1968
Ballantine Books, ISBN 978-
0345216571, S/H, US book, P/B
The book that launched the debate

about environmental limits in the
modern consciousness, and which
ultimately led to the formation of
the Club of Rome and the Limits to
Growth report.

**Gaia: A New Look at Life on
Earth**
James Lovelock, 2000 (new edi-
tion)
Oxford P/Bs, ISBN 978-
0192862181, £7.99, P/B
James Lovelock's first stating of
the *Gaia Hypothesis*, which
launched Earth systems science,
and ultimately many of the meth-
ods that are being used today to
address global environmental
problems such as climate change.

This Land is Our Land
Marion Shoard, 2000 (new edition)
Gaia Books, ISBN 978-
1856750646, £10.99, P/B
A book on land rights in the UK,
and how we need to change the
nature of the ownership and con-
trol of land if we are to develop a
more sustainable society.

**Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic
Primer for Realistic Radicals**
Saul D. Alinsky, 1989 (re-issued)
Vintage, ISBN 978-0679721130,
\$12.95, US book, P/B
One of the great books on the the-
ory/practice of community activism
that inspired groups around the

world during the 70s and 80s.

Five Acres and Independence
M.G. Kains, 1973 (new edition)
Dover Publications, ISBN 978-
0486209746, \$7.95, US book, P/B
A good, practical ideas book on
small-scale farming. First pub-
lished in 1935, the best way to de-
scribe this is the US equivalent of
John Seymour's "Practical Self-
Sufficiency", although it was pub-
lished 40 years before!

Cottage Economy
William Cobbett, 2000 (new edi-
tion)
Very and Von Kanitz, ISBN 978-
0953832507, £8.99, P/B
Cobbett's writing influenced John
Seymour's work, and in this repub-
lished work you can see how Cob-
bett's ideas influenced the early
self-sufficiency movement 150
years later.

**Blueprint for a Green Planet:
How You Can Take Practical
Action Today to Fight Pollution**
John Seymour and Herbert
Giradet, 1987
Doring Kindersley, ISBN 978-
0863181788, S/H, H/B
Seymour's book that shifted the
debate from mere self-sufficiency
to low impact lifestyles.

Transport

Transport is one of the key parts of the energy depletion and climate change problems –
these books provide some alternative ideas on how we need to tackle the transport problem.

**Critical Mass: transport, Environment and Society in the Twenty-
First Century**
John Whitelegg, 1996
Pluto Press, ISBN 978-0745310824, £16.99, P/B
A review of the transport problems of the UK from an ecological per-
spective, and how we must modify our travel habits to address energy
use, climate change and the destruction of our environment.

Unsustainable transport: City transport in the New Century
David Bannister, 2005 (new edition)
Taylor and Francis, ISBN 978-0415357906, £38.00, P/B
A review of the latest issue in transport planning, and the need to ad-
dress congestion and climate change through the radical redesign of our
private and public transport systems.

Directly Unrelated, but Interesting

There are a number of books which are strictly not about peak energy, but which provide such a valuable description of the "big-
ger picture" that it would be a shame to exclude them from this list.

Alluena
Oliver James, 2007
Vermillion, ISBN 978-0-09190-010-
6, £17.99, H/B
James' excellent psychological dis-
assembly of the crisis at the heart
of our most developed societies...
people just aren't happy with more!

**The Tipping Point: How Little
Things Can Make a Big Differ-
ence**
Malcolm Gladwell, 2002 (new edi-
tion)
Abacus, ISBN 978-0349113463,
£7.99, P/B
Not directly energy related, but it's
an excellent introduction to the is-
sue of non-linear processes –
something that's extremely relev-
ant to the issue of climate change

and environmental damage.
**Deep Simplicity: Chaos, Com-
plexity and the Emergence of
Life**
John Gribben, 2005
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-
0141007229, £8.99, P/B
For those with a bent for pure
maths, this book looks at the issue
of natural non-linear systems, and
the problems they pose for human-
ity in our quest to control our envi-
ronment.

**Not on the Label: What Really
Goes into the Food on Your
Plate**
Felicity Lawrence, 2004
Penguin Books, ISBN 978-
0141015668, £8.99, P/B
A rather unsettling expose' of how

the agribusiness and food indus-
tries produce your dinner.

**Toxic Sludge is Good for You:
Lies, Damn Lies and the Public
Relations Industry**
John Stauber and Sheldon Ramp-
ton, 2004 (new UK edition)
Constable and Robinson, ISBN
978-1841199542, £6.99, P/B
One of the best books on recent
times about how big business uses
public relations to confuse and fool
the public (relevant given this has
just started in relation to the peak
oil issue, certainly in the USA).

**Trust Us, We're Experts: How
Industry Manipulates Science
and Gambles With Your Future**
John Stauber and Sheldon Ramp-
ton, 2002 (new edition)

Jeremy P Tarcher, ISBN 978-
1585421398, \$14.95, US book,
P/B
Another excellent book from
Stauber and Rampton, this time
looking at how industry use sci-
ence to mislead and obfuscate
public debate (another issue relev-
ant to peak oil and climate
change).

**Why Most Things Fail... and
How to Avoid It**
Paul Ormerod, 2005
Faber and Faber, ISBN 978-
0571220137, £8.99, P/B
Economist Paul Ormerod exam-
ines why economists and govern-
ments ignore one of the major as-
pects of our modern economic sys-
tems... failure.

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