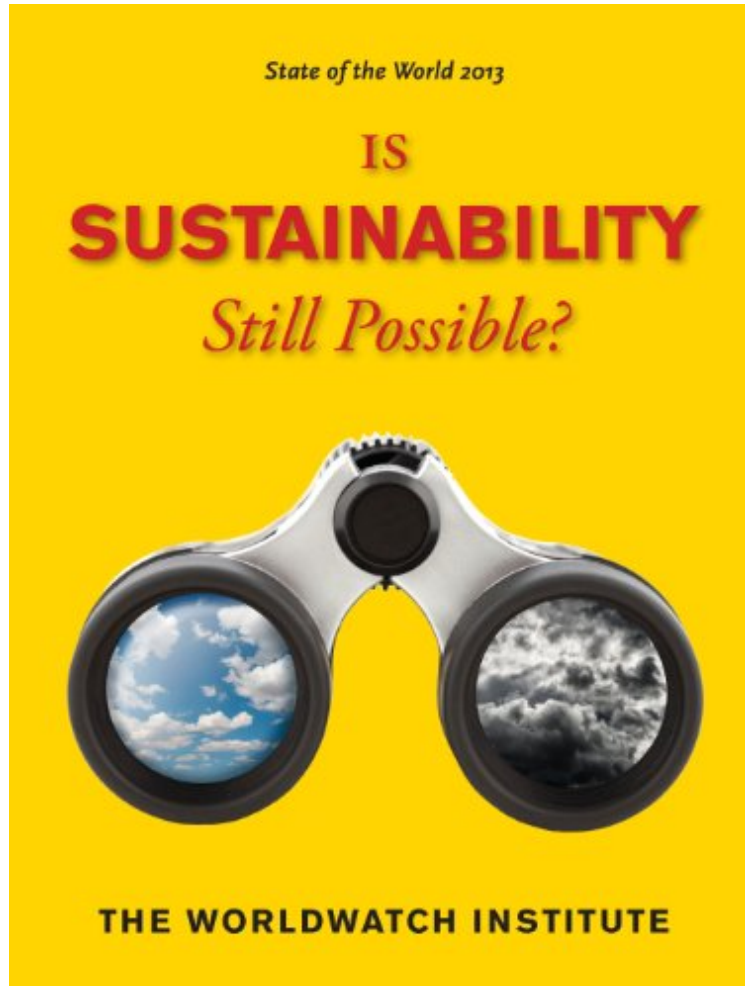


[Free and download] State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?

## State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?

*The Worldwatch Institute*

*DOC | \*audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#662137 in eBooks 2013-04-15 2013-04-15 File Name: B00C4Y9AYM | File size: 34.Mb

**The Worldwatch Institute : State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outlines our safety zones and dangerous tipping pointsBy NineLivesI'm about halfway through this book. It's very readable, and also quite sobering. We are playing with fire in how we live our lives, like the Polynesians who cut down all the trees on Easter Island for totem poles. "Is Sustainability Still Possible?" outlines our safety zones and dangerous tipping points on various criteria, such as the air quality, water acidity, and biodiversity. We have already crossed some of these thresholds. The book makes the case for revolutionary changes in our cultures and lifestyles if we are to live within our means, and live sustainably. Fascinating and educational read.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A very important bookBy OlderThanYouI've devoted perhaps as many as a couple hundred hours to reading (closely), underlining, making notations, and writing synopses of about half the chapters in the book. Simply put, I think it's very important, and

anything I can do to encourage people to read it, will be worth the time I've invested. We've all heard the words "sustainable" and "sustainability" scores if not hundreds of times in recent years. The book itself speaks of "sustainable". But despite the effort by people and organizations to promote sustainability as a path down which we must, and hopefully are, turning, it is becoming more apparent with each passing year that the way of life of the advanced nations of the world is not sustainable in its present form. We continue to burn fossil fuels as (a) the climate continues to change, and (b) as the fossil fuels themselves continue to require more effort, expense, and pollution to discover and recover. Of course they are not inexhaustible. The fossil fuel age is drawing to a close, the only question being whether we will stop burning them in time to avert climate catastrophe, or whether we will continue burning them until there are no more left or until civilization collapses; whichever occurs first. The developed nations of the world continue happily on their journey of mega-capitalism, with its mandate of continual economic (and profit) growth, ultimately promoted by the fostering of a consumer lifestyle. On a finite planet, with finite resources but an expanding population, this is unsustainable. The increasing stresses which humanity is placing on the oceans; on fish populations; on land subjected to overgrazing; on the fertility (and very existence) of the soil, on land being overexploited by factory farming; on fresh water supplies; and on the biosphere itself, are unsustainable. Hence this book, and the question it asks. The book is comprised of 35 chapters, each one written about a particular topic, by one or more knowledgeable professionals. The chapters are grouped into three sections. The first section, The Sustainability Metric, examines the questions "How should sustainability be defined" and "How should attempts at getting there be measured?" The second section, Getting to True Sustainability, uses conclusions drawn in the first section to propose actions and changes that could be undertaken to make a sustainable civilization on the planet. The third section, Open in Case of Emergency, examines from several perspectives the sorts of things we will have to deal with, and possible ways of preparing for them, if changes are not made soon. By the way, the book is loaded with references, fifty pages worth of footnotes at the back, many of them extremely useful. Almost every paragraph of the individual chapters has a footnote to references. This is typical of the way Worldwatch puts these State of the World volumes together. They also have good indexes. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Are we compatible with the longterm metabolism of the planet? By David L. Hicks Worldwatch Institute has been writing the very best environmental analyses and global projections for over 30 years. 'Sustainability' is the current ecological catchword, thrown everywhere with great abandon and little precision. Each themed annual volume in this 'State of the World' series is written by a team of disciplinary experts supported by young interns fresh from the world's best universities. Copies of these reports are presented annually to legislators around the world. The planetary perspective is evident in the 50 pages of current references following the text. Every major environmental issue is examined in detail as it relates to the growing demands of 7+ billion inhabitants. Millions more become middle class consumers every week. What can we anticipate in the next decade or so with regard to agriculture, energy, forests, fisheries, pollution, cities, rate of species extinctions, indigenous peoples, climate change, and cultural resilience?

Every day, we are presented with a range of "sustainable" products and activities—from "green" cleaning supplies to carbon offsets—but with so much labeled as "sustainable," the term has become essentially sustainable, at best indicating a practice or product slightly less damaging than the conventional alternative. Is it time to abandon the concept altogether, or can we find an accurate way to measure sustainability? If so, how can we achieve it? And if not, how can we best prepare for the coming ecological decline? In the latest edition of Worldwatch Institute's State of the World series, scientists, policy experts, and thought leaders tackle these questions, attempting to restore meaning to sustainability as more than just a marketing tool. In State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?, experts define clear sustainability metrics and examine various policies and perspectives, including geoengineering, corporate transformation, and changes in agricultural policy, that could put us on the path to prosperity without diminishing the well-being of future generations. If these approaches fall short, the final chapters explore ways to prepare for drastic environmental change and resource depletion, such as strengthening democracy and societal resilience, protecting cultural heritage, and dealing with increased conflict and migration flows. State of the World 2013 cuts through the rhetoric surrounding sustainability, offering a broad and realistic look at how close we are to fulfilling it today and which practices and policies will steer us in the right direction. This book will be especially useful for policymakers, environmental nonprofits, and students of environmental studies, sustainability, or economics.

"State of the World 2013 is a powerful collection of articles, and the vision behind it is impressive. Here is a book that gets beyond 'sustainable' and asks the tough, essential questions. It should make readers more determined than ever to do their part in avoiding planet-wide disaster—and better informed about how to do that."