

# Trashing the Planet

*A book that explains exactly what is and is not happening to the environment*

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Many of our readers are skeptical when it comes to stories about how industry is destroying the environment. Some of the skepticism comes from the fact that they make their livings by caring for the earth. But they also feel a righteous indignation, because they know that the facts are being twisted or not reported.

There is, however, a book that explains exactly what is and is not happening to the environment, and it would make a great gift for special clients: *Trashing the Planet* by Dixy Lee Ray and Lan Guzzo (1990, Regnery Gateway Publishers, Washington, D.C.)

Ray once headed the Atomic Energy Commission, was governor of Washington, and has been associated with the U.S. Bureau of Oceans. She's also taught zoology at the University of Washington. Guzzo is a TV-radio-newspaperman and author.

*Trashing the Planet* is loaded with factual information refuting every eco-crisis you've come to love over the years:

**The greenhouse effect:** If the severe winters of 1978, 1982 or 1989 didn't convince you that the earth is not overheating, consider that, according to Ray, the computer models used to predict global warming are too simplistic and contain much guesswork. There also are variables that affect temperature that we can't control: ocean temperature, currents, volcanic eruptions, solar activity.

And while reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> is advisable, the great fluctuations of earth's temperature cast doubt on the belief that man's increased carbon dioxide output is causing global warming.

**The ozone layer:** As Ray explains, the thickness of the ozone

layer changes periodically. Natural layer fluctuations are about 15 percent, and brief.

"The term 'ozone hole,'" writes Ray, "is misleading since it persists for only a few weeks. The Antarctic ozone 'hole' grew during the early 1980s becoming large in 1985 smaller in 1986

and reaching its greatest size in 1987. In 1988, the 'hole' did not appear as expected. It was finally discovered — only 15 percent as large as predicted and displaced over the ocean."

Ray also reports that penetration of ultraviolet light reaching the earth's surface has been decreasing up to 1.1 percent each year.

**Pesticides** — The amount of natural pesticides we eat every day is at least 10,000 times the level of pesticide residue from agricultural use of synthetics.

**Acid rain** — There are many sources: decaying organic matter in swamps and wetlands; volcanoes; lightning. Man-made sources have been reduced by more than 40 percent since the Clean Air Act of 1970.

Other man-made pollutants include volatile organic compounds, ammonia and hydrocarbons. But insects and disease have combined to kill more trees than any man-made source.

Man's stewardship is far from perfect, as Ray admits. But the point of much of *Trashing the Planet* is that change — and taxpayer-funded clean-up programs — must be based on fact, not assumptions, and science must be allowed to play its part in further developments and solutions.

If you've not read *Trashing the Planet* pick up a copy. The science is easy to follow, and it contains common sense we can all understand.

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