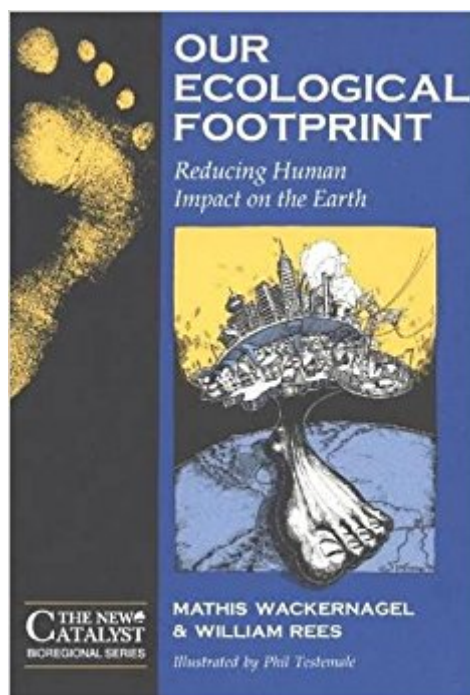


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Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact On The Earth (New Catalyst Bioregional Series) (Paperback)



Synopsis

An excellent handbook for community activists, planners, teachers, students and policy makers.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

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Customer Reviews

Our Ecological Footprint presents an internationally-acclaimed tool for measuring and visualizing the resources required to sustain our households, communities, regions and nations, converting the seemingly complex concepts of carrying capacity, resource-use, waste-disposal and the like into a graphic form that everyone can grasp and use. An excellent handbook for community activists, planners, teachers, students and policy makers.

Mathis Wackernagel is currently the Executive Director of Global Footprint Network, and William Rees is the Chair of the School of Urban Planning and Regional Development at the University of British Columbia.

A very interesting book in that it provides metrics for the human ecological footprint. The footprint is the earth's carrying capacity turned upside down, so to speak. The idea is to balance our global footprint with the earth's total carrying capacity for humans and allow sufficient carrying capacity for other species, as well. The first two parts are fairly easy to understand. The graphics throughout are very helpful. Part 3 gets more technical about how to actually use the metrics, and may require some rereading and study. I did for me, and I think I am reasonably scientifically literate. It is worth

the read.

Back when Rees and Wackernagel wrote Our Ecological Footprint, no one was looking at the problem in that way. Now that everyone has jumped on the "our-planet-is-finite" bandwagon, we need to be reminded that this is where it started. Much research has been done since it came out, and some of the figures will no doubt be out of date, but it still belongs in every environmentally conscious person's collection. Buy it while you can! G. Bisailon

I am an environmental practitioner and I am researching on ecological footprint in my local region in Kenya. The best way is to start by reading the works of the pioneers of the subject. I love the book.

This book is especially important for readers interested in ecology, environmental science, geography and demography. A very important piece of published work that deserves more readership attention.

Professors Rees and Wackernagel have developed a new concept to assess individuals and countries impact on the environment, a quantitative measure which acts as a common denominator for all peoples, at all levels of affluence or poverty. This will become the yardstick of our future, like the invention of money by the Babylonians or Assyrians has become the unit of exchange in the trade of goods and services. Clearly written, the book is needed to be understood by all politicians, bankers, voters, leaders and living humans. Knowing ideas such as these is crucial and essential for our survival in the biosphere.

The GNP is a downright stupid way to measure the economic activity of a society, since the GNP really measures the destruction of nature. A tree is worth 0 USD until it is cut and sold as wood. A whale is worth 0 USD until it is caught and cut to pieces. What capitalism leaves behind is a total depletion of natural resources, and this is what we then call "progress" or "welfare". The authors lead us back to the basics, when they state : "We do not have a body, we are a body; we are not surrounded by an "environment

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