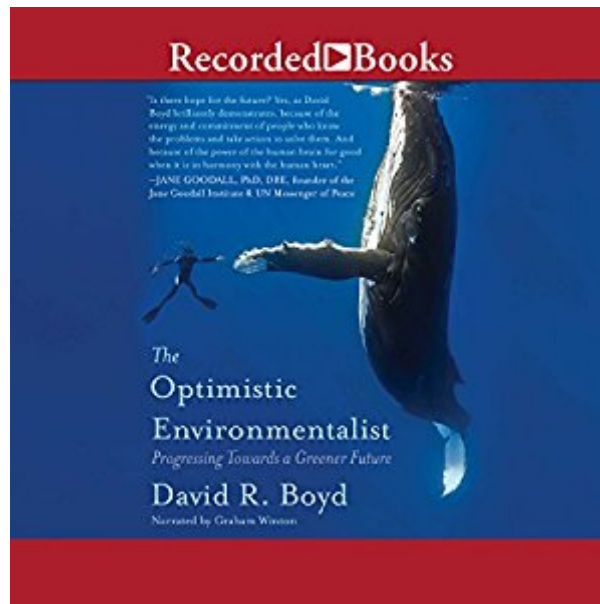


The book was found

The Optimistic Environmentalist: Progressing Towards A Greener Future



Synopsis

A hopeful, inspiring, and honest take on the environment. Yes, the world faces substantial environmental challenges - climate change, pollution, and extinction. But the surprisingly good news is that we have solutions to these problems. In the past 50 years, a remarkable number of environmental problems have been solved while substantial progress is ongoing on others. The Optimistic Environmentalist chronicles these remarkable success stories. Endangered species - from bald eagles to gray whales - pulled back from the precipice of extinction. Thousands of new parks, protecting billions of hectares of land and water. The salvation of the ozone layer, vital to life on Earth. The exponential growth of renewable energy powered by wind, water, and sun. The race to be the greenest city in the world. Remarkable strides in cleaning up the air we breathe and the water we drink. The banning of dozens of the world's most toxic chemicals. A circular economy where waste is a thing of the past. Past successes pave the way for even greater achievements in the future. Providing a powerful antidote to environmental despair, this audiobook inspires optimism, leading listeners to take action and exemplifying how change can happen.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Version: Unabridged

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> Economics > Sustainable Development

Customer Reviews

XXXXX œYes, the world faces substantial environmental challengesâ ”climate change, pollution, [species] extinction. But the surprisingly good news is that a remarkable number of environmental problems have been solved, while substantial progress is ongoing on others.[This book] chronicles these remarkable success stories and suggests a bright green future is not only possible, itâ™s

within our grasp. •The above comes from this extremely positive book by David Boyd. Boyd is an environmental lawyer, professor, and award-winning author. Before reading this book, I read some of the endorsements for it. Endorsing it were people like Jane Goodall (primatologist, anthropologist, U.N. Messenger of Peace), David Suzuki (geneticist, professor, science broadcaster, environmentalist), and Elizabeth May (Canada's first Green Party Member of Parliament, lawyer, author, environmentalist). I said to myself, "This book must be good." I was not disappointed. This book was not only good, it was fantastic. This book does EXACTLY what it says it's going to do. It provides kind of an antidote to the plague of ecological negativity we're bombarded with by giving readers a sense of optimism that a greener, cleaner, healthier, and happy future IS possible. This hopeful attitude isn't based on cherry-picking some heart-warming, kumbaya anecdotes but is based on a sober and balanced examination of the FACTS about humanity's past environmental successes (there's an excellent chapter on how humanity saved the ozone layer), current trends (such as people demanding and using electric transport), and future possibilities (such as the future of buildings).

When you're climbing a mountain, and the distance before you seems overwhelming, it's helpful to look back at how far you've come already. This book serves as a reminder that environmental activists have accomplished the seemingly impossible before, so it's possible to do it again. Progress is being made in other corners of the earth, even if it's not visible to you. Boyd manages to give the activist in us all a shot of adrenaline and hope without making the current problems seem any less daunting. My impression of the book is mostly positive, but there are a few downsides. I think that the first chapter on animal species that have recovered is perhaps the most simplistic and his weakest, so it's unfortunate that it came first. He definitely has a point, but doesn't include the whole picture for the species he focuses on. His research just felt less thorough on that topic than on the others. But once he got going, it was informative. It was also a smooth read. The autobiographical parts of the book were a little awkward -- I guess I didn't really read it to find out what the author ate or how long he went before buying a car. As I read, I was trying to figure out why those sections are in there at all, and I concluded that making it personal might help us to feel empowered to do something in our own lives, but I don't think it really worked. An account of how powerful letters to politicians are or how organizations can be most effective might have been more helpful. But these sections, although awkward, did not ruin the book for me at all. I learned a lot, updating my knowledge of good stuff going on in the world. And that was the whole point. The storytelling is, well, storytelling. It is anecdotal. And that's okay.

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