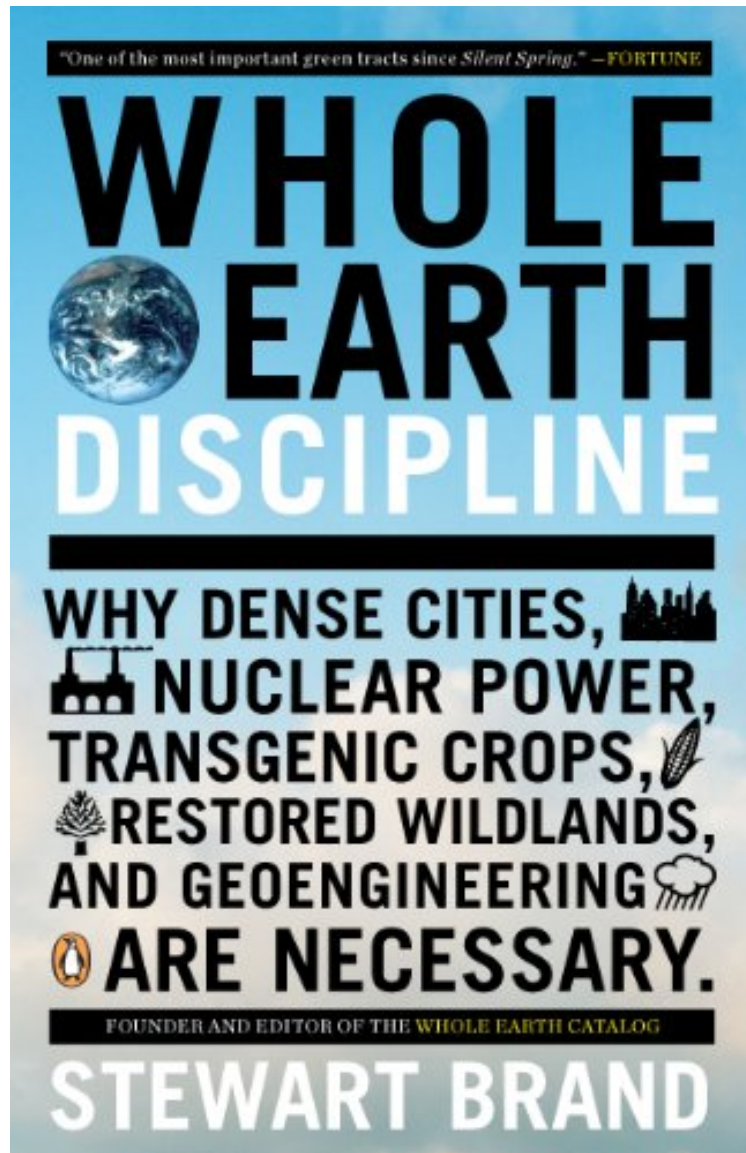


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Whole Earth Discipline: Why Dense Cities, Nuclear Power, Transgenic Crops, Restored Wildlands, and Geoengineering Are Necessary

Stewart Brand

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Stewart Brand : Whole Earth Discipline: Why Dense Cities, Nuclear Power, Transgenic Crops, Restored Wildlands, and Geoengineering Are Necessary before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whole Earth Discipline: Why Dense Cities, Nuclear Power, Transgenic Crops, Restored Wildlands, and Geoengineering Are Necessary:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Update your brain on sustainability! By Frank Fremerey
A Readers Digest - condensed edition - on the topic of sustainability, not a coherent depiction, this book represents collected knowledge of the authors's "long now foundation" in 2008. Very mind altering and helpful, a real update to what I meant to know before I read this book. Although I am not of his opinion in some respects, I am 100% congruent with his perspective which was my own long before I found the "long now foundation": Sustainability means to alter one's behavior to sustain human life on this planet for - say - another 10,000 years. Example: If you want electric power for everyone there seems to be no way but to replace coal fired plants by Thorium fired plants. Why? In 200 years all fossil energy sources including Uranium will be depleted and we will very possibly see a catastrophic climate change induced by human activity long before that date if we really burn all of these. Renewables are very fine and we should use the maximum amount of these. But: 1) wind and solar are and will be much more expensive than coal and not everyone will be able to afford these 2) wind and solar need a lot of space such that they cannot be applied to every usage scenario 3) even if we start investing into wind and solar we will never cover all energy needs of 9 Billion people in 2050 4) wind energy depends on wind blowing, solar depends on sun shining. That is why they need complimentary power which can not be fossil in the long run. As water power or biogas is not available in most places and not in the necessary amount, there will never be enough complimentary. Alternative will be Electricity storage which is roughly 20 Cent per Kilowatt hour at its cheapest, adding again to the cost 5) Complete failure of Germany to pull that thing off is proof enough for the rest of the World: at a projected cost of more 1,000 Billion Euros in subsidies promised by current law they did manage actually increase the spillout of CO2! Burning Thorium is the one solution that will power our world for the next 20,000 years, based on the knowledge of today.
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Environmentalists Must Read By Dana Blankenhorn
Stewart Brand in 2009 delivers the ultimate response to Stewart Brand in 1975. The founder of Whole Earth Catalog shows what distinguishes science from polemics, namely the willingness to change one's mind, again and again, in response to new evidence. If Brand was your hero then, make him your hero again
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. About-face views, crucial for a warming planet By David W. Stookey
I had only to read the chapter on nuclear power to have my liberal environmentalist confidence about what's best for the planet shattered. Brand goes on to confess "the environmental movement has done more harm with its opposition to genetic engineering than with any other thing we've been wrong about."
Dramatic and convincing, this book unleashes a convert's enthusiasm on these and other topics. It's likely to convert many, many readers - like me.

An icon of the environmental movement outlines a provocative approach for reclaiming our planet According to Stewart Brand, a lifelong environmentalist who sees everything in terms of solvable design problems, three profound transformations are under way on Earth right now. Climate change is real and is pushing us toward managing the planet as a whole. Urbanization? half the world's population now lives in cities, and eighty percent will by midcentury? is altering humanity's land impact and wealth. And biotechnology is becoming the world's dominant engineering tool. In light of these changes, Brand suggests that environmentalists are going to have to reverse some longheld opinions and embrace tools that they have traditionally distrusted. Only a radical rethinking of traditional green pieties will allow us to forestall the cataclysmic deterioration of the earth's resources. Whole Earth Discipline shatters a number of myths and presents counterintuitive observations on why cities are actually greener than countryside, how nuclear power is the future of energy, and why genetic engineering is the key to crop and land management. With a combination of scientific rigor and passionate advocacy, Brand shows us exactly where the sources of our dilemmas lie and offers a bold and inventive set of policies and solutions for creating a more sustainable society. In the end, says Brand, the environmental movement must become newly responsive to fast-moving science and take up the tools and discipline of engineering. We have to learn how to manage the planet's global-scale natural infrastructure with as light a touch as possible and as much intervention as necessary.

From Publishers Weekly
Brand, co-author of the seminal 1969 Whole Earth Catalog, compiles reflections and lessons learned from more than 40 years as an environmentalist in this clumsy yet compelling attempt to inspire practicable solutions to climate change. Brand haphazardly organizes his manifesto into chapters that address environmental stewardship opportunities, exhorting environmentalists to become fearless about following science; his iconoclastic proposals include transitioning to nuclear energy and ecosystem engineering. Brand believes environmentalists must embrace nuclear energy expansion and other inevitable technological advances, and refreshingly suggests a shift in the environmentalists' dogmatic approach to combating climate change. Rejecting the inflexible message so common in the Green movement, he describes a process of reasonable debate and experimentation. Brand's fresh perspective, approachable writing style and manifest wisdom ultimately convince the reader that the future is not an abyss to be feared but an opportunity for innovative problem solvers to embrace enthusiastically. (Oct.) Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. 'Now the new style of environmentalism has a worthy prophet, Stewart Brand, and a bible, Whole Earth Discipline.' Financial Times
About the Author
Stewart Brand trained originally as an ecologist. His legendary Whole Earth Catalogue won the US National Book Award in

1972. Brand, whose previous books include *The Media Lab*, *How Buildings Learn*, and *The Clock of the Long Now*, is president and cofounder of the Long Now Foundation and co-founder of the Global Business Network. He lives with his wife, Ryan Phelan, on a tugboat in San Francisco Bay.