

Contents

Preface

ix

1. Entering a New World	3
<i>The Nature of the New World</i>	4
<i>Learning from China</i>	9
<i>Learning from the Past</i>	11
<i>The Emerging Politics of Scarcity</i>	14
<i>Getting the Price Right</i>	15
<i>Plan B—A Plan of Hope</i>	17

I. A CIVILIZATION IN TROUBLE

2. Beyond the Oil Peak	21
<i>The Coming Decline of Oil</i>	22
<i>The Oil Intensity of Food</i>	25
<i>The Falling Wheat-Oil Exchange Rate</i>	29
<i>Food and Fuel Compete for Land</i>	30
<i>Cities and Suburbs After Peak Oil</i>	36
<i>The World After Oil Peaks</i>	38
3. Emerging Water Shortages	41
<i>Falling Water Tables</i>	42
<i>Rivers Running Dry</i>	48
<i>Disappearing Lakes</i>	50
<i>Farmers Losing to Cities</i>	53
<i>Scarcity Crossing National Borders</i>	55
<i>A Food Bubble Economy</i>	57
4. Rising Temperatures and Rising Seas	59
<i>Rising Temperature and Its Effects</i>	60
<i>The Crop Yield Effect</i>	64
<i>Reservoirs in the Sky</i>	66

<i>Melting Ice and Rising Seas</i>	68
<i>More Destructive Storms</i>	74
<i>Subsidizing Climate Change</i>	77
5. Natural Systems Under Stress	79
<i>Shrinking Forests: The Costs</i>	80
<i>Losing Soil</i>	84
<i>Deteriorating Rangelands</i>	87
<i>Advancing Deserts</i>	89
<i>Collapsing Fisheries</i>	91
<i>Disappearing Plants and Animals</i>	94
6. Early Signs of Decline	99
<i>Our Socially Divided World</i>	100
<i>Health Challenge Growing</i>	103
<i>Throwaway Economy in Trouble</i>	108
<i>Population and Resource Conflicts</i>	110
<i>Environmental Refugees on the Rise</i>	114
<i>Failed States and Terrorism</i>	117

II. THE RESPONSE—PLAN B

7. Eradicating Poverty, Stabilizing Population	123
<i>Universal Basic Education</i>	124
<i>Stabilizing Population</i>	128
<i>Better Health for All</i>	131
<i>Curbing the HIV Epidemic</i>	134
<i>Reducing Farm Subsidies and Debt</i>	136
<i>A Poverty-Eradication Budget</i>	139
8. Restoring the Earth	142
<i>Protecting and Restoring Forests</i>	143
<i>Conserving and Rebuilding Soils</i>	149
<i>Meeting Nature's Water Needs</i>	152
<i>Regenerating Fisheries</i>	154
<i>Protecting Plant and Animal Diversity</i>	156
<i>The Earth Restoration Budget</i>	157
9. Feeding Seven Billion Well	163
<i>Rethinking Land Productivity</i>	164
<i>Raising Water Productivity</i>	167
<i>Producing Protein More Efficiently</i>	170
<i>New Protein Production Systems</i>	174

<i>Moving Down the Food Chain</i>	177
<i>Action on Many Fronts</i>	179
10. Stabilizing Climate	182
<i>Raising Energy Productivity</i>	185
<i>Harnessing the Wind</i>	187
<i>Hybrid Cars and Wind Power</i>	191
<i>Converting Sunlight to Electricity</i>	193
<i>Energy From the Earth</i>	197
<i>Cutting Carbon Emissions Fast</i>	200
11. Designing Sustainable Cities	204
<i>The Ecology of Cities</i>	206
<i>Redesigning Urban Transport</i>	209
<i>Farming in the City</i>	213
<i>Reducing Urban Water Use</i>	216
<i>The Challenge of Urban Slums</i>	219
<i>Cities for People</i>	221
III: AN EXCITING NEW OPTION	
12. Building a New Economy	227
<i>Shifting Taxes</i>	228
<i>Shifting Subsidies</i>	233
<i>Ecolabeling: Voting with Our Wallets</i>	235
<i>A New Materials Economy</i>	238
<i>New Industries, New Jobs</i>	244
<i>The Environmental Revolution</i>	247
13. Plan B: Building a New Future	249
<i>Listening for Wake-up Calls</i>	250
<i>A Wartime Mobilization</i>	253
<i>Mobilizing to Save Civilization</i>	255
<i>A Call to Greatness</i>	261
<i>You and Me</i>	264
Additional Resources	267
Notes	273
Index	345
Acknowledgements	361
About the Author	367