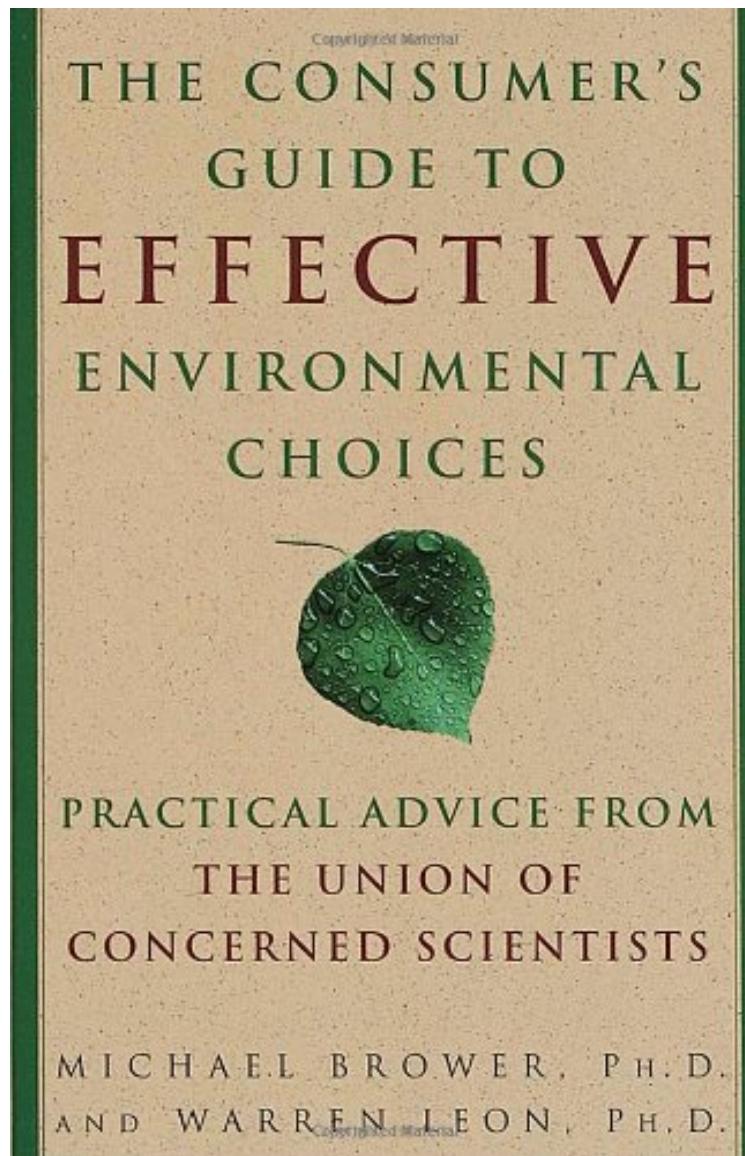


[Download] The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists

The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists

Michael Brower, Warren Leon

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Michael Brower, Warren Leon : The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: 1st (first) Edition from three rivers press By CDP's Once again habit of purchasing This book, The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists 1st (first) Edition by Michael Brower, Warren Leon in Paperback is a detailed scientific analysis of consumer products that should be of concern to the environmentally conscientious consumer. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A great practical book for the environmentally-concerned By Joel Shore This book, written by two PhD scientists, documents and explains what actions consumers can take to help the environment. Unlike some other books on the subject, it is not just a laundry list of ideas... The authors have built a model which attempts to assess the environmental impact of various consumer products ranging from refrigerators to diapers. The basic conclusions are that some things are worth worrying about (e.g., what kind of car you drive and how much you drive, how energy-efficient your house and the major appliances you own are, what sort of food you eat). Others are not (e.g., "paper of plastic", cloth or disposable diapers, occasional use of disposable cups and silverware). Perhaps the best summary of the conclusions is provided by Denis Hayes (Chair of Earth Day 2000) as quoted on the back cover: "Too many people drive their Land Rovers to the grocery store and think 'paper or plastic' is a meaningful choice. [This book] will help you to distinguish the crucial from the trivial and make choices that are congruent with your values." I found this book to be an excellent attempt to assess the environmental consequences of one's lifestyle choices. It is not the last word on the subject, of course. No such study is perfect. However, the results are cogently and honestly presented (and with good humor too). I think it sets a new high standard for discussions about how to protect the environment through your purchases. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Ron Too much talk, not enough information.

From one of the most prestigious nonprofit organizations devoted to environmental issues comes a clear, practical, and rational overview of the relationship between consumers and the environment. Paper or plastic? Bus or car? Old house or new? Cloth diapers or disposables? Some choices have a huge impact on the environment; others are of negligible importance. To those of us who care about our quality of life and what is happening to the earth, this is a vastly important issue. In these pages, the Union of Concerned Scientists help inform consumers about everyday decisions that significantly affect the environment. For example, a few major decisions--such as the choice of a house or vehicle--have such a disproportionately large effect on the environment that minor environmental infractions shrink by comparison. This book identifies the 4 Most Significant Consumer-Related Environmental Problems, the 7 Most Damaging Spending Categories, 11 Priority Actions, and 7 Rules for Responsible Consumption. Learn what you can do to have a truly significant impact on our world from the people who are at the forefront of scientific research.

.com Paper or plastic? Cloth or disposable? Regular or organic? Every day, environmentally conscious consumers are faced with the overwhelming catch-22 of a capitalist society--reconciling the harm we do by consuming, while still providing ourselves and our families with the goods and services we need. It's enough to make a city dweller crazy. Fret no more! The Union of Concerned Scientists has put together a well-researched and eminently practical guide to the decisions that matter. The authors hope that the book will help you set priorities, stop worrying about insignificant things, and understand the real environmental impacts of household decisions. For instance, you may be surprised to learn that buying and eating meat and poultry is much more harmful to the environment than the packaging the meat is wrapped in, even if it's Styrofoam. This guide takes on both sides of the consumer-impact argument, going sacred cows of the environmentalist movement (like the strident emphasis on recycling) and the industrialist perspective (like the relentless message to buy more, more, more). If you're confused and overwhelmed by all the environmental decision-making in the modern world, you'll find new inspiration in this book. --Therese Littleton From School Library Journal YA-Brower and Leon, along with input from their colleagues, present statistics, describe solutions, and endorse steps for readers to take to live more ecologically based lifestyles as consumers of the Earth's resources. They encourage individuals to go beyond basic recycling and to look at changing the policies of government and large institutions, explain how negatively consumer choices can affect the environment, and present a quantitative analysis of which items most affect the environment. Important information is dramatically put forth in highlighted boxes of lists. The authors stress the fact that choice is the optimal word for today's consumers and some choices are easier than others. They wisely point out that some consumers don't have the leeway to make what might be considered the most ecological of choices available and present different styles of compromise in a variety of situations. A list of active Web sites for additional information and other pertinent resources is appended. Young adults interested in effecting change will find sources to help in their search as well as proven research to help them make their own decisions. Pam Johnson, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist With all the conflicting information floating around about environmental issues, many consumers are confused. The Union of Concerned Scientists has responded with sound, practical advice, based on thoughtful analysis of how our ordinary daily actions affect the environment. For folk who love lists, the volume ranks the leading consumption-related environmental problems (air and water pollution, global warming, and habitat alteration); suggests nearly a dozen "priority actions" in the areas of transportation, food, and household operations; urges readers to avoid or reduce "high-

impact activities" (using powerboats, pesticides and fertilizers, gas-powered yard equipment, fireplaces and wood stores, and products made from endangered or threatened species); and provides "Seven Rules for Responsible Consumption" and "Four Key Government Strategies" for which citizens can lobby. Other useful features of the book include copious charts and graphs; an epilogue that traces American attitudes about consumption "From Walden to Wal-Mart" and contains an explanation of the authors' research methods and results; and a resource list (books, periodicals, and Web sites). Mary Carroll