The Sustainable Living Reference Collection

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April 29, 2009
LS507

"Leave the world better than you found it, take no more than you need, try not to harm life or the environment, make amends if you do." Paul Hawken wrote these words to describe sustainability 15 years ago (McConnell & Abel, 2008, p. 19), and they still ring true today. The timeliness of the subject is one of the reasons the Left Coasters developed a reference collection on sustainable living. This paper will describe how we arrived at that topic, why we narrowed the scope, what type of library this collection is most appropriate for, how we selected resources for the collection, and what discoveries we made during the collection development process. An annotated bibliography that contains all the sustainable living resources in our collection is included at the end of this paper.

To decide on a topic, all group members made suggestions, which were then discussed on our eLearning board. When it became evident our interests were widespread and varied, we developed a survey to narrow down the topic choices. The survey helped limit our selections, but a clear favorite did not emerge. The Left Coasters met and discussed the top three options, finally arriving at sustainable living as our general topic because it met our objectives. We wanted a topic that would be of interest to all group members and contain enough accessible resources to allow us to be selective in, but not overwhelmed by, our choices. We did preliminary research to discover whether there were enough reference-quality resources available on our topic. Happily, initial searches yielded a bounty of possibilities from which to choose, but not so many they engulfed us. At this point, the Left Coasters realized we needed to narrow the topic's focus.

We decided the most logical place to focus the collection was on the household level, at the intersection of our individual interests in green building, alternative energy, and thoughtful consumption. The next step was the division of resource procurement. Because group members had access to different types of libraries, we decided divisions based on resource type would be less viable than divisions based on subject matter. Reasonable divisions arose from our preliminary research and we chose the following subtopics: green consumerism and household management, alternative energy and conservation, green building and remodeling, and ethical considerations and a broader context for sustainable living. Each group member selected a subtopic of interest. There was some overlap among the subtopics, but the group maintained communication throughout the process to ensure we were neither doubling efforts in intersecting areas nor ignoring any critical areas.

It became apparent, almost from the beginning of this project, that our collection was best suited for a public library. Shortly after deciding upon our topic, its relevance to public libraries became even more obvious with the arrival of the April 2009 issue of *American Libraries,* which contained articles spotlighting the demand for green programming in U.S. libraries. In fact, this summer at the American Library Association's annual convention, sustainability and green living expert Wanda Urbanska will be speaking about becoming a greener librarian (Urbanska, 2009, p. 55). The value and relevance of our reference collection for public libraries was reinforced by the practical nature of this collection, as well as its relative affordability. Aside from a few "traditional" reference sources (such as print encyclopedias), many of the resources for this collection cost less than $25.00. Not only is this collection timely, but it also serves a clear need in the community. Public libraries are so often placed in the role of community educator, and this collection will be vital in helping to fulfill that role. The topic and its subtopics readily lend themselves to questions from public library patrons. To anticipate the needs of our audience and guide our resource selections, we constructed a list of questions our collection needed to be able to answer. That list is included in Appendix A.

After the Left Coasters narrowed down the topic and determined the type of library that would benefit most from this collection, it was time to start the process of selecting resources. Our group went through three main steps when finding and selecting resources: searching, browsing, and evaluating. These steps were iterative in nature, rather than linear: a search would produce candidates that were browsed for other possible candidates to search for, and so on.

Our process began with searching local public and academic libraries' online catalogs and WorldCat, using both keyword and subject heading strategies. We have listed those we found most useful in Appendix B. As we found relevant search terms, we added them to the list of keywords and subject headings so other group members might use and benefit from them. Both this list and the list of questions mentioned previously were shared throughout the group by placing documents on a shared content management platform (CatFiles). Originally, the Left Coasters attempted to use the Google Docs application (http://docs.google.com) for document sharing, but after several frustrating experiences, switched to CatFiles, which was more reliable.

Once we had identified potential candidates for inclusion in the collection, we scoured the resource lists found within those items to identify additional candidates. We browsed the *Guide to Reference* online, as well as the *Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)* Web site, the *American Reference Books Annual*, the *Library Journal* Web site, and *Choice's Outstanding Academic Titles 1998-2002. Peterson's* online was used to identify institutions that had programs in environmental studies; those institutions' library Web sites were then visited to browse their environmental subject guides. We also looked through publishers' Web sites for additional candidates**.**

The Left Coasters evaluated candidates continuously throughout the searching and browsing steps. We all applied the criteria stated by Katz (2002, pp. 26-36) and Cassell and Hiremath

(2006, pp. 292-295) when evaluating likely candidates. Although all group members focused on their specific areas within the collection, we shared relevant information. A group member who found a wonderful resource that did not fit in their subtopic area would share it with other group members, in case there was a place for it in another subtopic area. When a group member could not find a particular resource locally, a message was posted to the discussion boards to see if any other group member had access to the resource and could help with the decision-making process. Most group members used reviews of potential candidates during the evaluation phase of the process to help make final decisions about resources.

During evaluation of possible resources for our subtopic areas, group members also kept an eye out for good, general resources about sustainable living. We evaluated a variety of resource types, such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, manuals, and Web sites. After individual selections were made, we met as a group to finalize the entire collection. All group members came to the meeting with at least seven firm selections. We then called on the collective wisdom of the group to decide whether to include some of the borderline suggestions.

The Left Coasters made a few discoveries while working on this assignment. First, this collection was not especially easy to build. Although numerous resources on this topic are available, many are not considered traditional reference items. We were disappointed we did not find more reviews of the items in our collection in sources specifically directed at librarians.

Second, in a subject area that continues to evolve as political, economic, and ethical ideologies shift, it is challenging to find reference works that are both universally recognized and reflect current thinking on the subject. We found many excellent resources that we did not feel we could include because of currency issues.

Finally, group members had a range of responses to the resources available through our individual library networks. One group member was thoroughly impressed with her library network, even receiving several items through interlibrary loan she never expected to obtain. Another group member, however, was not as thrilled with her large public library system, which made her pay for interlibrary loans without any guarantee she would receive the materials.

This paper has attempted to document our group’s process on this project. We have discussed how the Left Coasters arrived at and defined our topic, the type of library this collection was assembled for, the process we used to select resources, and a few interesting things that arose during our collection development process. The Left Coasters are excited about this collection and are looking for ways to implement a similar collection during our careers.

References

Cassell, K. A., & Hiremath, U. (2006). *Reference and information services in the 21st century: An introduction* (3rd ed., pp. 292-295). New York: Neal-Schuman.

Katz, W. A. (2002). *Introduction to reference work, Vol. 1: Basic information services* (8th ed., pp. 26-36*).* Boston: McGraw-Hill.

McConnell, R. L. & Abel, D.C. (2008). *Environmental issues: An introduction to sustainability* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Urbanska, W. (2009). A greener library, a greener you. *American Libraries, 40*(4), 52-55.

Appendix A

Questions about Sustainable Living

Green houses: Building, renovating, buying, and landscaping

- What is the most earth friendly insulation I can use in my home?
- I heard someone talking about planting a garden on your roof. Can you tell me more about that?
- I am looking to buy a house and I have heard that I should try to find a "green home." How will I know the house is "green?"
- What are my options for environmentally friendly flooring?
- What is permaculture?
- What types of home construction are considered to be sustainable? I've heard about straw bale and rammed earth construction. What are those? Are there others?
- Is it more expensive to buy/build/remodel a "green" home compared to a conventionally built home?
- How can I preserve my existing land/habitat while building a new home?
- Are there minor remodeling projects I can do that will make my home more environmentally sustainable?
- I want to build a home using a sustainable model, but I don't know how to do that. Are there any architects/designers/builders out there who specialize in that area?
- How can I landscape my yard in an environmentally sensitive way?
- Are there U.S. communities that are focused on sustainable living and offer "green" homes throughout?

Alternative energy and conservation of resources

- Does using alternative energy at home really make a difference?
- What is a CFL? Are they recyclable?
- How much money can I save by switching to alternative energy?
- How can I conserve water at home?

- I can't afford to set my house up to run on solar power or something like that but I do want to use less energy. What can I do?
- How much money can I save by switching to compact fluorescent bulbs?
- What kinds of alternative energy systems are available for home use?
- What regulations do I need to be aware of if I choose to install an alternative energy source?
- How much energy can I expect to harness from alternative energy sources?
- Can I adequately heat my home using alternative energy?
- How do I connect my home renewable energy system to the local utility?
- How can I take my home off-the-grid? Why would I want to?
- Can I sell excess power I generate from my own alternative energy system back to the local utility?
- What financial incentives does the government provide for installing an alternative energy system?
- How expensive is it to purchase and install an alternative energy system?
- What is PURPA?
- What kind of safety considerations do I need to be aware of when operating and maintaining a wind turbine? Can I put one up in my backyard? Will my neighbors be angry if I do?
- What does all of the different energy efficiency labeling mean?

Why should I care about sustainable living?: Environmental ethics, the current problems, where the future is headed, how did we get here

- I hear a lot about how human activity is increasing global warming. Is global warming really such a big deal? I mean, it would be nice not to have these brutally cold Alaskan winters!
- I'd like to start recycling but it seems like I can't make much of a difference doing that. What impact can just one person really make? What are some ways to make an impact beyond my household?
- What is sustainability? How can I know what choices I should make to live sustainably?

- The sustainability and greening movements seem like they just popped out of nowhere. How long have they been around? Who were some of the pioneers leading the charge?
- I keep hearing this term deep ecology – what exactly does that mean?
- How can I find out if progress is being made toward sustainability goals in my community?

A green lifestyle: Organics and green consumerism

- I have heard that using the usual store-bought household cleaners can be toxic not only for my family but also for the environment. Is that true? What else is there to use?
- Is there really a nutritional or safety difference between organics and the other stuff?
- Why is organic agriculture important for the environment?
- My sister said I should buy locally produced foods and products whenever possible. Why?
- I am trying to grow organic vegetables for my family but I am struggling to keep the bugs away. What can I do?
- Recycling is great but how can I reduce the amount of waste my household produces?
- How can I dispose of hazardous waste responsibly so that I don't pollute the environment?
- I am looking for an eco-friendly alternative to the usual dishwasher detergents. Can you help me with that?
- I have heard that companies like Kraft are environmentally and ethically irresponsible. How can I find out about better alternative brands for the things I buy? How can I find which companies are considered environmentally and ethically irresponsible?
- If I am primarily concerned with ingesting chemicals and pesticides, is it necessary to buy organic for foods like oranges? I mean, I don't eat the peel.
- Can you help me find companies that sell eco-friendly furniture for my house?
- I've heard "green" cleaning products cost more than conventional and don't work as well. Is that true? Are there ways to make my own green cleaning products?

Appendix B

Subject Headings and keyword search terms

Alternative lifestyles

Conservation of natural resources

Consumption (Economics)--Environmental aspects

Ecological houses

Economic development--Environmental aspects

Environmental conservation--Social aspects

Environmental ethics

Environmental protection--Citizen participation

Environmental responsibility

Environmentalism

Green movement

Green products

Green technology

House cleaning--Environmental aspects

Household ecology

Housing and health

Human ecology

Natural foods

Natural products

Nature--Effect of human beings on

Organic gardening

Organic living

Recycling (Waste)

Renewable energy sources

Solar energy

Sustainable architecture

Sustainable development

Sustainable living

Waste minimization

Wind power

Annotated Bibliography

Sustainable Living: A Reference Collection

The following are the resources the Left Coasters selected for inclusion in our reference collection on sustainable living. Each subtopic section includes a link to its corresponding RefWorks folder. Each entry includes a brief annotation, with the author's name immediately following the annotation text.

General Works

Selected by the Left Coasters
RefShare Link: http://tinyurl.com/ccjtra

EcoEarth.info: Environment portal and search engine. (1999-2009). Retrieved April 12, 2009, from http://ecoearth.info/

EcoEarth.info is a Web portal maintained by Ecological Internet that provides a single starting point for accessing "reviewed environmental sustainability news, information retrieval tools, and original analysis and action opportunities" (Ecological Internet, 2009, para. 1). The site attempts to be comprehensive; linked content is international in scope and covers a broad range of issues in environmental science and ecology, including renewable energy, environmental economics, population growth, the ozone layer, and drinking water. The news section and archive is updated continuously. Earth Alerts are also frequently updated and are available via RSS. Author affiliations are listed with linked news content; blog posts only list user names. Volunteers also contribute to *EcoEarth.info*. Since the site is a portal to mostly external content, commentary is relegated primarily to the blog section. Because the site is intended to appeal to a general audience as well as to working environmental conservation professionals, the language is clear and free of jargon.

In terms of layout, *EcoEarth.info* is highly text-based with limited graphics (to speed retrieval and to allow for fuller indexing in major search engines) and, unfortunately, has a rather cluttered interface. Ads, all of which relate to the environment, are included on the site and add to the disarray. The site is divided into several main sections: Environment Links (a directory of Web sites on sustainability, land, air, ocean, water, and toxics), Earth Blog, Earth News, and Earth Alerts. The site's FAQ describes the differences among the four main search options (Internet, news, links, or site), but it does not describe how searches may be conducted (use of quotations for phrase searching, truncation, and so on). News results can be filtered by broad topic, region, country, or year. Icons indicate material that is new, popular, updated, or an editor's pick. Links are organized by categories and include breadcrumb trails to help the user navigate back to previous levels. Social networking features include the ability to rate links and stories, as well as an online

community known as My.EcoEarth.Info. There is no bibliography or suggested reading list on the site. While the site could benefit from a more streamlined user interface, *EcoEarth.info* is still a recommended resource, particularly for public libraries. – Kathleen Spring

Ecological Internet. (2009). *About EcoEarth.info*. Retrieved April 12, 2009, from http://ecoearth.info/about/

The encyclopedia of earth. (n.d.). Retrieved March 28, 2009, from http://www.eoearth.org/

The Encyclopedia of Earth is an award-winning component of a larger Web site known as Earth Portal that also includes Earth News and Earth Forum. *The Encyclopedia of Earth* is a free, online collection of articles in a wiki format. The site deals with the environment broadly, with a particular focus on the interrelationship between society and the earth's natural environments (Kieft & Oldenkamp, 2009). Information from the hard and social sciences, as well as interdisciplinary fields like journalism and education, is included. Contributing authors are considered experts in their fields by their peers and are active researchers, teachers, and writers. Articles are written in non-technical language and are appropriate for academic, middle and high school, and public library patrons. Editorial access is restricted to approved experts; all content, including free and open source content provided by content partners, is reviewed and approved by topic editors prior to its public inclusion on the site. Existing content is continuously updated, with new content added regularly. The editorial policies clearly state the site's commitment to neutrality and include discussion of values controversy, scientific controversy, advocacy, language, dialectics, and the importance of balance in topic presentation ("About the EoE," n.d.). The Web site also provides a statement on inclusion/exclusion policies and the use of content from Wikipedia.

Layout of the site is clear, with consistent navigation and design throughout. RSS feeds are available for the site. The search function works well and allows for multiple points of access. The various browse functions serve as mini site-maps; browsing is available by content sources, content partner, author, topic editor, topic, title, collection, eBook, and a category known as environmental classics (seminal works in environmental studies). The Find Us Here page lists information resources that index *The Encyclopedia of Earth*. Hyperlinks occur throughout the entries, connecting relevant articles to one another, and some articles contain links to video and additional information housed on external sites. Clicking on a thumbnail image will open a full-size view of the image, with source credit given for all images. A list of further readings is included for each entry, along with citation information, and some articles contain footnotes. This Web site is highly recommended for all libraries. – Kathleen Spring

About the EoE. (n.d.). Retrieved March 28, 2009, from http://www.eoearth.org/eoe/about

Kieft, R. (Gen. Ed.), & Oldenkamp, D. (Sub. Ed.). (2009). [Review of the Web site *Encyclopedia of earth*]. In *Guide to reference* [Electronic version]. Retrieved March 28, 2009, from http://guidetoreference.com/

GreenFILE. (2009). Retrieved March 21, 2009, from http://greeninfoonline.com

Focusing on the intersection of humans and the environment, *GreenFILE* is a free database provided by EBSCO that indexes both scholarly and general interest titles, as well as information from the government. Topics range widely (solar energy, environmental ethics, organic foods, acid rain, radon, and sustainable buildings are just a few examples), drawing on a variety of disciplines, including agriculture, law, technology, education, and science. More than 600 titles are abstracted and indexed (totaling more than 295,000 individual records), and complete coverage is available for some titles, including full-text coverage of open-access titles (EBSCO, 2009, para. 5). The database is continuously updated.

Perhaps the largest advantage to this resource is that it is built on the familiar EBSCO interface and therefore offers a wide array of search features. EBSCO'S Green Thesaurus allows the user to browse subject terms; many terms can be "exploded" into narrower and related terms. A full list of publications allows for both alphabetical and subject browsing as well as keyword title searching. Boolean searching is available, as is EBSCO's SmartText Searching. A visual search is also available, although it is less intuitive than EBSCO's previous visual search tool. Results can be limited by the usual host of EBSCO features, including by full-text, by peer-reviewed journals, by document or publication type, by year via a date slider, and by subject clusters. Hovering over the magnifying glass icon next to a result produces a preview of the article. Results can be sorted by date, source, author, and relevance; sorting by relevance displays a relevancy ranking bar for each article. Users can save search histories, combine previous searches, and set up alerts. Users who set up an account via My EBSCOhost can also set preferences for page layout, citation style, and other features. *GreenFILE* provides access to an impressive array of information at a simply unbeatable price. This resource is highly recommended for all libraries. – Kathleen Spring

EBSCO Industries. (2009). *Customer success center*. Retrieved March 21, 2009, from http://www.ebscohost.com/customerSuccess/default.php?id=7

Park, C. C. (2007). *A dictionary of environment and conservation*. New York: Oxford University Press.

This comprehensive, interdisciplinary dictionary features over 8,500 terms related to the scientific and social aspects of environment and conservation. While most of the clearly written entries range from one or two sentences to a paragraph in length, others are up to a page long. These occasional longer entries, such as for acid rain and sustainable development, are contained in sidebars placed just slightly out of alphabetical order. Many entries list contrasting terms, alternative terms, and “see also” references. In addition,

starred words within definitions signify that the words have their own entries elsewhere in the volume, should the reader need further clarification. Since the focus of the dictionary is on concepts rather than the words themselves, its entries lack pronunciation and etymologies. Appendices include sources of environmental data and international environmental treaties. Though some critics (Wilson, 2008, p. 632) may fault the book for having a number of terms that are only loosely tied to the environment, it remains valuable for providing definitions for a broad spectrum of relevant terms related to both the scientific and social issues in a single volume. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Wilson, M. A. (2008). A dictionary of environment and conservation [Review of the book *A dictionary of environment and conservation*]. *American Reference Books Annual, 39,* 631-632.

Robbins, P. (Ed.). (2007). *Encyclopedia of environment and society*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
This five-volume encyclopedia provides a snapshot of current environmental issues and the conversation surrounding them. The interdisciplinary nature of the set reflects the editor's viewpoint that environment and society are so intertwined that no distinction exists between them. Though the focus is primarily on the United States and North America as a whole, worldwide issues are addressed. The set contains 1200 entries written by expert authors, each with cross references to other articles and bibliographies identifying both print and online sources. The encyclopedia contains numerous avenues of discovery, including a reader's guide listing articles according to various themes and topics, an article title list, an extensive index of terms, and an alphabetical article arrangement. Articles are clearly written, well-edited, and can be understood by readers with a high school education. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Steffen, A. (Ed.). (2006). *Worldchanging: A user's guide for the 21st century*. New York: Abrams.
As the title suggests, this book, edited by Alex Steffen, who worked as an environmental journalist and consultant before co-founding the Worldchanging organization, takes a worldview of the issue of achieving sustainability. It covers very broad areas, separated into chapters such as shelter, politics, and community. Each chapter is subdivided into sections which focus on a particular idea within that area. Those sections contain short articles detailing specifics. Each article is signed by one or more of the over 50 international contributors, whose biographical details are found at the *Worldchanging* Web site (http://worldchanging.com). Each section is followed by resource lists, which are particularly valuable. The chapters, sections and articles are arranged to allow for maximum browsing capability, with chapter introductions in bold, green bars at the beginning of each article, and lines separating the articles. A detailed table of contents and index make finding distinct entries in the book easy. Color photographs are interspersed throughout the book, breaking up the text and illustrating ideas. The accompanying Web site is a wonderful

resource itself. It includes updates to the book, links to resources and a glossary. – Deb Ripley

U.S. environmental protection agency. (2009). Retrieved April 17, 2009, from http://www.epa.gov/

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Web site provides a central location for information covering the environment, conservation, and government initiatives, developments, and standards regarding these topics. This Web site has excellent authority and reliability because it is authored and sponsored by the EPA. It contains specific Web pages geared toward business and non-profit organizations, concerned citizens, the media, scientists and researchers, state and local governments, students and educators, and Native American Indian tribes. Other notable Web pages available on this Web site provide information on green building and living, energy and water conservation, recycling, and pollution prevention. Most Web pages have been updated within the past two years. Visitors to this Web site can download podcasts from the EPA, and they can access RSS news feeds and widgets. Breadcrumbs enhance navigation on this Web site, and links to a thorough index and an FAQ are included. Additionally, this Web site offers an advanced search feature and a link to a Web page with tips on how to conduct searches. – Allon Kesselman

Green Building and Remodeling

Selected by Deb Ripley

RefShare Link: http://tiny.cc/buildingbuyingremodeling

Green home guide. (2009). Retrieved April 8, 2009, from http://www.greenhomeguide.org

The U.S Green Building Council (USGBC) is nationally recognized as the preeminent professional organization of green building in the United States. It developed this free Web site and launched it in 2008 to educate U.S. consumers about its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design *(*LEED) program, which is "the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings" (USGBC, 2009). The Web site focuses on the LEED for Homes program, as well as many other aspects of making a home green. The “Green Homes 101” Web page is a good place for a renter or homeowner wanting to “go green” to start, as it includes a definition of a green home and discusses the benefits and incentives of living in them. An entire section of the Web site is devoted to “Living Green,” with information about sustainable lifestyles and green communities. The “Resources” page is full of case studies, videos, interactive tools and links to other Web sites. A glossary link is also very useful. The “Project Profiles” page has links to documents which detail techniques people are using to make their homes green. The clearly defined navigation bars across the top, right side, and bottom make navigating through the site effortless, with little chance of becoming lost down a dead end. The search feature is powered by Google and offers another good navigation option, if all else fails. – Deb Ripley

USGBC Information. (2009). Retrieved April 18, 2009, from US Green Building Council: www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=222

Johnston, D., & Master, K. (2004). *Green remodeling: Changing the world one room at a time*. Gabriola Island, British Columbia, Canada: New Society Publishers.
The authors of *Green Remodeling*, an environmental construction professional with over thirty years experience and a LEED-accredited professional with considerable experience in sustainable building, wrote this book as a "how to" manual. The book focuses not only on how to achieve certain remodeling projects, but also how to finance the work, find a contractor and understand the basics of building science. The table of contents and index are detailed enough to make finding a specific area of interest simple. Endnotes, eight pages of resources (mostly US-based, but some Canadian, as well), and an author's accompanying Web site (*http://www.whatsworking.com*) are available for further research. The "Indoor Air Pollutants" index (with information about different pollutants, how to find them, and what to do about them) is a nice plus. *Library Journal* included this book on its 2006 "Home Repair Bestsellers" list (Library Journal staff, 2006). The small black and white photos do not add any value to the book, but the use of symbols indicating specific benefits to be gained from each green feature discussed is a nice plus. This soft-cover, 379-page book, published in 2004, is part of the *Mother Earth News Books for Wiser Living* series and would be an excellent, and inexpensive, addition to any public library's collection. – Deb Ripley

Library Journal staff. (2006, March 1). *Library Journal home repair bestsellers list.* Retrieved April 9, 2009, from Library Journal: http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6308664.html

Regreen Program. (2009). Retrieved April 1, 2009, from http://www.regreenprogram.org/
The Regreen program free Web site (http://www.regreenprogram.org/) is the result of a collaborative effort between the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and the American Society of Interior Designers' Foundation (ASID). Launched in 2008, the Web site provides guidelines for the ten most common sustainable home improvement project types, as well as multiple education opportunities. The site is so small it does not offer a search function but it is easy to navigate. All links to case studies, webinars, and checklists are clearly marked and work. The Web site also includes information about how the Regreen program was created with the help of public input (ASID & USGBC, 2007). This Web site is aimed at both professionals and homeowners, who may find some of the information outside their scope; however, it is a great resource for the homeowner looking for professional help in achieving a sustainable home remodel. Although the Web site itself does not include a resource list, the downloadable "Regreen Guidelines 2008" and "Green Product Checklist" documents are full of them. – Deb Ripley

ASID & USGBC. (2007, December). *Public Comment.* Retrieved April 23, 2009, from Regreen Program: http://www.regreenprogram.org/documents/public_comment.pdf

Schmidt, P. (2008). *The complete guide to a green home: The good citizen's guide to earth-friendly remodeling & home maintenance*. Minneapolis, MN: Creative Publishing International.

This manual of home maintenance and remodeling, published in 2008, is part of Black & Decker's "The Complete Guide" book series. The table of contents and index are detailed, making it simple for the reader to find what he or she is looking for. Each chapter centers on a particular element of the home, such as a specific room (the kitchen) or system (heating). Projects related to that element are part of the chapters. Each chapter has a broad introduction, followed by project background and specifics. Many of the projects in this book include step-by-step instructions. The inclusion of color photographs and drawings make the project steps easy to follow for the do-it-yourselfer. The author is an environmentalist, as well as an expert on home improvement, which he has written several books about. The resource list is on the small side and includes many "conventional" businesses which offer green alternatives, making it especially good for someone just starting to think about going green. A short glossary is also useful but could be more inclusive. Although hard-core sustainability advocates may not find this book as green as they would like, the project instructions alone make it a valuable resource, and the resource list adds to that value. – Deb Ripley

Snell, C., & Callahan, T. (2005). *Building green: A complete how-to guide to alternative building methods*. New York: Lark Books.

The authors of *Building Green* are, respectively, an expert in the green building field and a master craftsman and contractor with over 30 years' experience in conventional building. The authors' individual experiences provide a fairly well-balanced perspective on building a home using alternative methods and materials, although Snell's obvious dislike of conventional building methods often takes center stage. Together, they built a small cottage, which contains all the basic amenities of a full-sized home, to illustrate many different sustainable building techniques, as well as to provide a step-by-step primer to building an environmentally-friendly (or "green") home. The 615-page book is both a "how to" manual illustrating basic techniques and an introduction to green building. The book starts with a chapter on green building philosophy, than moves to a discussion of design basics, including site determination and design of the actual structure. The next, largest sections involve the actual building process. The text avoids highly technical terminology and is written for the average adult reader. A full index and glossary at the back of the book are augmented by the companion Web site, *Think Green Building* (www.thinkgreenbuilding.com). Unfortunately, the "links" area on the Web site is empty. The book was published in 2005, and it appears the companion Web site may have been last updated shortly thereafter. Also, the text has no

bibliography. Even so, the book is valuable because of its combination of general philosophy and specific technique, the collective expertise of its authors, its many high-quality color photographs, illustrations, and charts, and, not least, the useful and unique information contained within. – Deb Ripley

Thompson, J. W., & Sorvig, K. (2008). *Sustainable landscape construction: A guide to green building outdoors* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Island Press.

The authors of this work are the story editor for the magazine for the American Society of Landscape Architects and a professor at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of New Mexico, respectively. It is published by Island Press, the only nonprofit publication organization in the United States whose publications focus on environmental issues. A very detailed table of contents and index make this book a welcome resource for information about sustainable landscaping. This book is not a "how to" manual, but focuses on concepts and processes. Its chapters are organized by ten principles of sustainability. The chapters are divided into subsections with specific methods to accomplish the principles. Each chapter section ends with a list of resources. Sections about light and noise pollution join more typical entries about landscape materials and maintenance. Over 100 international projects, highlighting sustainable methods, are described as well. The black and white photographs illustrating those projects are unprofessional and do not add much to the book. Although the book is aimed at landscaping professionals, the average homeowner wanting to landscape around their home in a sustainable way will find plenty of resources (both professionals and materials) and information to help them on their way. A *Choice* review says this book "is essential for…anyone involved in landscaping" (Rowe, 2008, p. 1972). – Deb Ripley

Rowe, B. (2008, July). [Review of the book *Sustainable landscape construction: a guide to green building outdoors*]. *Choice, 45*(11), 1971-1972. Retrieved April 29, 2009, from Research Library database.

Wasowski, A., & Wasowski, S. (2000). *Building inside nature's envelope*. New York: Oxford University Press.

The authors of this book are nationally recognized experts in native landscaping, who describe techniques for building a home while maintaining the surrounding environment. While the table of contents is not very detailed, the index provides enough particulars so the reader can find his or her way around the text-heavy book. The color photographs are helpful when identifying varieties of native plants but are generally small and amateurish. This book focuses on the philosophical aspects of building inside an environment, using examples from many habitats found in the United States, such as deserts, woodlands, and meadows. It also provides some real-life advice on how to build a new home while preserving the surrounding land. This guidance is not a step-by-step project strategy but, again, centers on the philosophical decisions that go into this sort of planning. The resource

list consists solely of state-based native plant societies, but a complete bibliography provides many other potential resources. This book is unique in its scope and works really well in conjunction with other, more practical, manuals and handbooks. – Deb Ripley

Yudelson, J. (2008). *Choosing green: The homebuyer's guide to good green homes*. Gabriola Island, British Columbia, Canada: New Society Publishers.
This book is small (only 9X6 inches), but every one of its 237 pages contains valuable information for people wanting to buy a green home. Written by Jerry Yudelson, a respected expert in the green building field for more than 25 years, and published in 2008, the information in this book is not only current, but timely. It begins with an exploration of what makes a home green and why people choose to seek out and purchase green homes. There are sections on products and technologies found in green homes, discussions of certification and rating programs, regional lists of single-family home developments and condominiums focused on sustainability, financial aspects of buying or building green, and a look into the future of green building. Although this book could be read cover to cover, the detailed table of contents and large index make access from anywhere unproblematic. An extensive resource list, endnotes, and glossary make this book exceptionally valuable. – Deb Ripley

Alternative Energy and Conservation

Selected by Allon Kesselman
RefShare Link: http://tinyurl.com/alt-energy-con

Berinstein, P. (2001). *Alternative energy: Facts, statistics, and issues*. Westport, CT: Oryx Press.
This paperback book covers the historical development of conventional energy sources as well as alternative energy sources, including solar, wind, biomass, ocean, fusion, geothermal, and hydrogen sources. It also examines potential alternative energy sources for the future. The geographic coverage of this book is limited to the United States. Although this book is almost eight years old, it is still a relevant resource based on the historical and scientific background it provides for alternative energy sources (Stephenson & Karis, 2004, p. 50). This book offers a comprehensive glossary and index to its material, which includes extensive tables and figures. Source material is provided for each of these images. The author, Paula Berinstein, has worked as a reference librarian in science and technology libraries and run a research company that provided statistical information to clients. Berinstein obtained most of the data in this book from a reputable source, the U.S. Department of Energy. This book is written for a layperson without an alternative energy or technical background; however, professionals in the alternative energy field will also find the historical information useful. – Allon Kesselman

Stephenson, C., & Karis, C. (2004, May/June). [Review of the book *Alternative energy: Facts, statistics, and issues*]. *Knowledge Quest*, *32*(5), 50-51. Retrieved April 20, 2009, from Academic Search Premier database.

Chiras, D. D. (2006). *The homeowner's guide to renewable energy: Achieving energy independence through solar, wind, biomass, and hydropower*. Gabriola, British Columbia, Canada: New Society.

This paperback book provides information on alternative energies, including solar, wind, and micro hydro, and how they can be used for household applications, such as electricity, home heating and cooling, and water heating. Individual chapters are also devoted to the following subjects: energy conservation, heating using wood, and future developments. The geographic coverage of this book is limited to the United States. This book is current, as it was published in 2006. Numerous tables, graphs, charts, illustrations, diagrams, and black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. An annotated bibliography and an index are included at the end of this book. The author, Dan Chiras, has over 30 years of experience with renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable design. He has published 250 articles and 22 books related to the subjects of environmental issues, sustainable living, green building, and renewable energy. He also teaches courses on those subjects as a visiting professor at Colorado College. This book is written for a layperson without a technological or alternative energy background. – Allon Kesselman

Ewing, R. A., & Pratt, D. (2005). *Got sun? go solar: Get free renewable energy to power your grid-tied home*. Masonville, CO: PixyJack Press.

This paperback book covers all aspects of the practical application of alternative energies, including solar and wind, to the home. Individual chapters are devoted to regulations governing the use of alternative energy, guidelines for properly sizing an alternative energy system for the home, and the following considerations for such systems: costs and financial incentives, permits and paperwork required for installation, and recommendations for purchasing equipment. Tips for energy conservation are also provided. The geographic coverage of this book is limited to the United States. This book is current, as it was published in 2005. Numerous charts, tables, product information, worksheets, illustrations, diagrams, and black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. At the end of this book, a directory of state energy offices, a list of reputable contacts and organizations in the solar and wind energy industries, an annotated bibliography, a glossary, and an index are included. One of the authors, Doug Pratt, has worked in the alternative energy field since 1985 as a consultant, teacher, technician, and writer. The other author, Rex Ewing, has written multiple books and articles regarding alternative energy and has lived in a home off the utility grid since 1999 with solar and wind energy. This book is written for a layperson without a technological or alternative energy background. – Allon Kesselman

Gipe, P. (2003). *Wind power: Renewable energy for home, farm, and business* (Rev. ed.). White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing.

This paperback book covers all aspects of wind energy and its application, including assessing the potential of wind as an energy source, examining economic implications, and providing guidelines for purchasing, siting, and installing a wind system. Practical

information is included about how to connect a wind system to a local utility, ensure optimal system performance, and operate and maintain a system safely. The geographic coverage of this book is international, as it addresses the development and use of wind energy outside of the United States. This book is still quite current for sources in the alternative energy field, as it was published in 2003. Numerous tables, graphs, charts, illustrations, diagrams, and color as well as black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. An annotated bibliography that includes entries for English language as well as non-English language sources, an index, a glossary, and a multilingual lexicon are included at the end of this book. The author, Paul Gipe, has been involved in the wind energy field since the 1970s and has been recognized by the World Renewable Energy Congress for his efforts. This book is primarily written for the layperson and assumes the reader has little or no experience in the alternative energy field; however, someone experienced in the field is likely to find the detailed information regarding practical applications very beneficial. Additionally, it is important to note this book is one of the few resources regarding alternative energy that explicitly addresses safety concerns. – Allon Kesselman

Pahl, G. (2003). *Natural home heating: The complete guide to renewable energy options*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green Publishing.

This paperback book covers all aspects of using alternative energy sources to heat homes. It is divided into five sections with the first covering the basic principles of heating and the remaining four each covering one of the following alternative energy sources for heating: solar, biomass, wood, and geothermal. The sections devoted to alternative energy sources are further divided into chapters covering a variety of heating designs and systems; for example, active and passive solar, woodstoves, pellet furnaces and boilers, and ground-source heat pumps. This book also includes specific information regarding the regulations, costs, installation, operation, maintenance, safety, and warranties associated with heating designs and systems. The geographic coverage of this book is limited to the United States. This book is still quite current for sources in the alternative energy field, as it was published in 2003. Illustrations, diagrams, tables discussing the pros and cons of designs and systems, and black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. At the end of this book, a list of reputable organizations and online resources, a bibliography, a glossary, and an index are provided. The author, Greg Pahl, has been involved as a journalist in the field of alternative energy since the 1970s. He has written multiple books and articles on sustainable living and alternative energies and their applications (Pahl, 2008, para. 2). This book is written for a layperson without a technological background or experience in the alternative energy field; however, it includes a wealth of practical information that someone experienced in the field would also undoubtedly find beneficial. – Allon Kesselman

Pahl, G. (2008). *Greg Pahl - Biography*. Retrieved April 23, 2009, from http://www.gregpahl.com/bio.shtml

Schaeffer, J., Berolzheimer, A., & Giebler, B. (Eds.). (2008). *Real Goods solar living sourcebook: Your complete guide to renewable energy technologies and sustainable living* (Special 30th anniversary ed.). Hopland, CA: Gaiam.

This paperback book provides detailed coverage of the application of conservation and alternative energy to everyday living. Individual chapters are devoted to topics such as energy conservation, water development (conservation), water heating, water and air purification, composting toilets and greywater systems, sustainable transportation, and natural burial. The geographic coverage of this book is mostly limited to the United States; however, some information about the use and development of alternative energy internationally is provided. This book is very current, as it was recently updated for 2007. A wealth of charts, tables, product data, worksheets, illustrations, diagrams, and black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. An extensive annotated bibliography, a resource list of reputable contacts and organizations, a directory of state energy offices, a glossary, and product and subject indexes are included at the end of this book. The main editor and author, John Schaeffer, has been involved in the field of solar energy for over 30 years and helped to start the sale of solar panels within the U.S. This book is written for a layperson without a background in conservation or experience in the alternative energy field; however, it includes a wealth of practical information that someone experienced in the field would also undoubtedly find beneficial. – Allon Kesselman

Sklar, S., & Sheinkopf, K. G. (2002). *Consumer guide to solar energy: New ways to lower utility costs, cut taxes, and take control of your energy needs* (3rd ed.). Chicago: Bonus Books.

This paperback book focuses on solar energy and how it can be applied to the household. Individual chapters examine the following applications of solar energy: water and pool heating, electricity, water purification, cooking, and home cooling and heating. Chapters discussing the history of solar energy and the economics and incentives involved with its use are also included. The geographic coverage of this book is mostly limited to the United States, but some discussion is provided regarding international efforts and developments of solar energy. Although this resource is seven years old, it is still relatively current compared to most sources available in the alternative energy field and contains information not readily found in similar sources. Numerous tables, worksheets, illustrations, diagrams, and black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. An annotated bibliography, a resource list of reputable contacts and organizations, a glossary, and an index are included at the end of this book. One of the authors, Scott Sklar, served as the executive director of the Solar Energy Industries Association, the national trade association for solar energy, for 15 years and has testified before state regulatory agencies and Congress. The other author, Ken Sheinkopf, has written over 100 journal articles on solar energy and has worked for the Solar Energy Research and Education Foundation and the Solar Energy Industries Association. This book is written for a layperson without a background in conservation or alternative energy. – Allon Kesselman

U.S. Department of Energy. (n.d.). Retrieved April 19, 2009, from http://www.energy.gov/

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Web site provides a central location for information covering renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and government initiatives, developments, and standards regarding these topics. It has excellent authority and reliability because it is authored and sponsored by the DOE. This Web site contains Web pages that provide overviews and descriptions of a variety of renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, and biomasss, as well as the various aspects of energy efficiency, including the Energy Star program, home energy efficiency, and weatherization. These Web pages in turn link to other Web pages with descriptions of government programs and efforts related to each topic. This Web site also provides Web pages for each of the 50 states that contain information regarding their developments related to energy sources, as well as contact information for the state energy offices. Additionally, this Web site provides specific Web pages geared toward consumers, researchers, educators, and students regarding alternative energy and energy conservation. Most Web pages have been updated within the past two years. Breadcrumbs enhance navigation on this Web site, and links to a site map and an FAQ that links to a glossary are included. Additionally, this Web site offers an advanced search feature powered by Google and a link to a Web page with tips on how to conduct searches. – Allon Kesselman

Woodside, C. (2006). *Homeowner's guide to energy independence: Alternative power sources for the average American*. Guilford, CT: Lyons Press.

This paperback book covers the use of alternative energies and the conservation of resources in the home and everyday living. The first six chapters of this book explain how alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind, wood, and micro hydro, can be used in the home and describe the costs and environmental impacts associated with their use. The remaining four chapters provide information on the potential of alternative cars, detailed tips on conserving electricity and water at home, and information regarding the energy impact of appliances. The geographic coverage of this book is limited to the United States. This book is current, as it was published in 2006. Tables, worksheets, and color as well as black-and-white photographs are provided throughout the text. An appendix with a list of reputable organizations and resources, a bibliography, and an index are provided at the end of this book. The author, Christine Woodside, is a journalist and environmental reporter whose work has won awards and appeared in publications, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*. This book is written for a layperson without a technological background or experience in alternative energy or conservation. – Allon Kesselman

Green Consumerism and Household Management

Selected by D'Arcy Hutchings

RefShare Link: http://tinyurl.com/greenconsumer

Bradley, F. M., Ellis, B. W. & Phillips, E. (Eds.). (2009). *Rodale's ultimate encyclopedia of organic gardening: The indispensable green resource for every gardener.* New York: Rodale.

This hefty 708-page, one-volume encyclopedia lives up to the editor's claim that it is complete, practical, and easy to use. This revised and fully updated most recent edition of the 1959 classic contains nearly 300 alphabetically listed entries on organic gardening methods and concepts, as well as edible, crop bearing, and ornamental plants. Entries range from a quarter page to well over a dozen pages, such as those for "Gardenia" and "Vegetable Gardening," respectively. Twenty-eight of these longer entries make up the core practical component of the encyclopedia, while the majority of entries are devoted to individual plant species. In the text, crop bearing plants are listed by their common names and ornamentals are listed by their botanical names to avoid confusion that arises from multiple common names for the same plant. The 27 page index lists both the botanical name and all commonly used names for each plant, in addition to keywords and topics related to gardening, making quick reference a breeze. A topical quick reference guide further links the reader to needed information by grouping entries together under headings like annuals, perennials, and landscaping. Though this text-heavy book lacks color or inviting photographs, the largely hand-drawn illustrations support and clarify the content. A detailed table of contents, plant problem diagnostic table spanning five pages, glossary, and gardening resource list round out this essential organic gardening reference. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Clark, D., & Unterberger, R. (2007). *The rough guide to shopping with a conscience*. New York: Rough Guides.

This book on ethical consumerism investigates the issues surrounding the goods and services we buy, including food, clothing, household goods, travel, and financial services. Though the book clearly addresses green consumerism throughout, its overall scope is even wider, encompassing all aspects of socially responsible shopping, including issues of fair trade and supporting local business and industry. In this small paperback, the authors clearly spell out the ethical questions involved with the things we buy, the options available to consumers, the pros and cons of each option, and encourage the reader to make his or her own decision about what to buy and from whom. In addition to a list of general ethical consumption resources at the end of the book, lists of alternative companies demonstrating a higher ethical standard appear throughout the text. A detailed table of contents helps the reader navigate through the text, which is logically organized by type of commodity or service. The index provides an excellent selection of terms, along with individual, business, organization, and product names. Key terms are bolded throughout the text, enabling readers entering the book via the index to quickly find the relevant information on each page. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Cox, J. (2008). *The organic food shopper's guide: What you need to know to select and cook the best food on the market*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

This comprehensive, well-written organic foods guide, authored by a leader of the organic

foods movement and editor of *Organic Gardening* magazine, helps readers navigate the grocery aisle and farmer's market, while showing them why buying organic matters. It contains over 150 entries covering vegetables, fruits, grains, beans, meat, dairy, coffee, chocolate, and more. Foods are organized categorically (vegetables, herbs, and spices, etc.), then alphabetically within each category. Each entry describes the differences between buying organically and conventionally grown specimens for that particular food item, addressing issues such as nutritional difference, safety concerns, environmental impact, farming methods, and taste. Information about where to find each food, peak seasons, how to select the best specimens, nutrition, and how each food can be used is provided in most entries. The index lists an impressive variety of foods and terms related to food production and distribution. Some foods, such as coconuts, are excluded from the work because they are not currently produced organically in any scale that allows them to be commonly available. Keywords printed vertically on the edge of each page let the reader know what food is discussed on that page. In addition to a bibliography, the work includes a 13-page annotated resource guide connecting readers to organic food suppliers to additional information about organic food. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Green America. (2009). *National green pages*. Washington, DC: Green America.

This one-of-a-kind annual directory lists nearly 3,000 U.S. businesses, all of which have undergone an extensive screening process to ensure that they consistently demonstrate a commitment to "social and environmental responsibility" (Green America, 2009, p. 9). Each listing includes contact information, Web site URLs, codes identifying the type of business (mail order, wholesaler, retailer, online sales, and business to business services), and a few sentences describing the business and its products or services. Listings are organized first alphabetically by type of product or service (i.e., cleaning products), and then alphabetically by business name within that product section (i.e., Seventh Generation). "See" references throughout the directory guide readers to the primary listing for each business, and "see also" references at the end of many sections refer readers to similar product sections (such as referrals to cleaning services and pest control at the end of the cleaning products section). Readers are able to quickly find specific business names and local businesses using the business name and city/state indexes. In order to receive this phone book style directory in print, libraries must join Green America for $85 per year (individual membership is $20). Libraries and individuals may opt to utilize the directory for free online at http://greenamericatoday.org/pubs/greenpages/. The Web site is updated more regularly than the annual print directory. Readers can search for specific products and businesses on the site, or they may opt to browse through the numerous product categories. In either format, this directory is essential for anyone interested in using their consumer dollars to support businesses striving to do right by society and the earth. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Loux, R. (2008). *Easy green living: The ultimate guide to simple, eco-friendly choices for you and your home*. New York: Rodale.

In this hefty paperback, eco-celebrity Renee Loux seeks to educate and inspire readers to live a green lifestyle by focusing primarily on reducing the toxins and chemicals present in the home for the sake of our health and the health of the earth. As an award-winning author, host of a TV show, eco-consultant, and organic chef, Loux is well known for her work related to green lifestyles (more about the author at http://www.reneeloux.com/). The book begins with a chapter on green living in general, addressing why one should strive to live green, simple steps one can make toward living a green life, how to interpret product labels and claims, the impact of recycling, and the hazards of common household chemicals. Subsequent chapters detail different aspects of one's home and lifestyle, including housecleaning, kitchens, bathrooms, beauty and personal care products, bedrooms, lighting, and home furnishings. In each section, the author has included tables identifying the hazards of commonly used ingredients, small directories of eco-friendly products, and recipes for homemade alternatives to highly toxic store-bought cleaners and beauty products. Loux has gone to great lengths to extensively cite works supporting her claims and arguments, as evidenced by 30 pages of endnotes. Though the table of contents is very basic, listing only chapter titles, the 21-page index makes quickly locating information a breeze. – D'Arcy Hutchings

National Geographic Society. (2008). *Green guide: The complete reference for consuming wisely.* Washington, D.C.: National Geographic.

Written for the layperson, this book educates consumers about the most environmentally friendly ways to spend their money. It addresses the majority of products and services American families purchase and consume, including food, household goods, pet supplies, transportation, home improvement supplies, home décor items, and more. The editors clearly attempt to present both sides of an issue (for example, cloth vs. disposable diapers) and to avoid making concrete recommendations, instead encouraging the reader to weigh the pros and cons. The *Green Guide* evolved from, and now complements, a comprehensive Web site (www.thegreenguide.com, established in 2002) and a monthly magazine (published since 1994) of the same name. Among the Web site's offerings are a blog, a buying guide, an ask a question feature, an online store for green products, and a search feature to find local food, events, recycling facilities, transportation, and jobs. Credentials for all involved in the creation of the book—editors, contributors, and even the project advisory board—are included, lending additional authority to a book published by the National Geographic Society. The *Green Guide's* detailed and thorough index, along with keywords appearing in bold within the text, make quick reference easy. The book also contains a number of features to aid the user in browsing. The side of each page lists the primary topic appearing on that page. The brief table of contents would be more useful if the content lists appearing at the start of each chapter also appeared there. Cross-references to other points in the text appear throughout. Although a list of suggested readings is provided at the back of *The Green Guide*, the resource unfortunately does not provide bibliographies either for individual

entries or the work as a whole. Still, the *Green Guide* is a highly useful, practical resource for all things green in the household. – Kathleen Spring & D'Arcy Hutchings

Schoff, J. P. (2008). *Green-up your cleanup*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Creative Homeowner.
This spiral-bound book indentifies green cleaning strategies, provides recipes for homemade cleaners, and articulates the consequences of using chemicals in the home. Writing is conversational and easy to understand. Most of the cleaning methods presented in the book are traditional ways to clean that people used for many generations before store-bought chemical cleaners became commonplace. This book provides a bridge between those all but forgotten traditions and modern generations who have grown up using chemical cleaners. The book contains countless photographs and illustrations, about half of which are helpful in understanding the methods and concepts described in the text. Unfortunately, the other half are extraneous and distracting in their large numbers. Similarly distracting is the excessive use of sidebars. It is often difficult to decide what to read first when turning a page. This may interfere with reading the book cover to cover as the author intended, but the format lends itself well to quick reference when the reader enters via the index. The detailed table of contents lists the chapter titles, which are clearly based on areas of the home, as well as topical subheadings that exist within each chapter. A resource lists provides contact information and brief descriptions for associations and manufacturers of eco-friendly products. This book will be useful to anyone interested in becoming less dependent on chemicals in the home, whether their motivation is the health of the environment or the health of their family. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Scott, N. (2007). *Reduce, reuse, recycle: An easy household guide*. White River Junction, VT.: Chelsea Green Publishing.
This pocket-sized 94-page paperback educates readers about the ways they can reuse, recycle, and reduce consumption of most household goods, such as glass, batteries, refrigerators, and computer monitors. The alphabetically arranged entries range from a single sentence to two pages in length. While the book lacks an index, it is small enough that browsing to find the entry is a reasonable option. Also, frequent "see" references for alternate terms guide the reader quickly to the primary term and associated entry. For example, "bags" refers readers to "plastic bags," and "cartridges" refers readers to the entry at "toner cartridges." In addition to the A-Z guide, the book includes brief discussions of the landfill overflow problem, recycling myths, and general ways to incorporate reducing, reusing, and recycling into one's life. The work lacks a true bibliography but does include a resource list of organizations and publications for the reader. This inexpensive quick reference guide to reusing, reducing, and recycling is an excellent addition to any library. – D'Arcy Hutchings

Ethical Considerations

Selected by Kathleen Spring
RefShare Link: http://tinyurl.com/d9vumz

Allin, C. W. (Ed.), & McClenaghan, R. (Proj. Ed.). (2000). *Encyclopedia of environmental issues*. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press.

This three-volume, hardcover work covers a range of environmental issues, including the human impact on the environment. Published in 2000, it continues to be a relevant resource since many of the entries provide historical context. Topics (ranging from energy-efficiency labeling and wind energy to deep ecology and environmental ethics) are addressed both broadly and in more specific entries. Each of the 475 articles is signed by the author, who is an expert in the field. Author affiliation can be seen in a list of contributors at the front of Volume 1, along with a list of broad topic categories and their related entries. Volume 3 contains a timeline of milestones in modern environmentalism, a directory of environmental organizations, a directory of U.S. national parks, a glossary, a bibliography of selected works of interest on environmental issues (based on the categories used throughout the series), and a comprehensive index. The encyclopedia is focused on the U.S. and does not provide particularly in-depth coverage of international perspectives. The editors have tried to maintain neutrality throughout the work, especially with regard to controversial issues. Written clearly enough to be understood by non-specialists, articles are arranged alphabetically, with each volume also having an alphabetical table of contents. A brief summary prior to each article that places it within the larger context of environmental issues is a helpful feature. Cross-references to other articles in the series are included at the end of each entry, and suggested readings are included for many articles. Although clearly reproduced, photographs, charts, and graphs are all in black and white. As an overview of environmental issues from the fields of biology, earth science, demographics, and philosophy, among others, this resource is recommended for most libraries. – Kathleen Spring

Brown, L. R. (2008). *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to save civilization*. New York: W. W. Norton.

Plan B 3.0 outlines four primary, interrelated goals: stabilizing climate, stabilizing population, eradicating poverty, and restoring the earth's ecosystems. An alternate plan to "business as usual" (what Brown refers to as Plan A), the book provides a comprehensive look at issues of oil and food security, rising temperatures and their impact on the oceans, water shortages, stresses on ecosystems, poverty and population, designing cities, energy efficiency, and mobilization to save the planet. Published in 2008, writing for *Plan B 3.0* was completed in late 2007. This volume updates Brown's 2006 book *Plan B 2.0* (which was itself an update of the original *Plan B*, published in 2003). Some new material has been added, and statistics have been updated throughout. Brown, founder of both the Worldwatch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute, holds master’s degrees in agricultural economics and public administration; the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, he has authored or co-

authored 50 books ("Detailed Biography," n.d.). Brown's view is singularly focused and more concerned with setting forth his agenda (diagnosing the problems, providing solutions, and then mobilizing the world's citizens) than with rebutting any conflicting viewpoints. The writing is straightforward and extremely well documented, intended to be of interest both to the general public as well as scholars and politicians.

Plan B. 3.0 can be downloaded in its entirety for free from its companion Web site (http://www.earthpolicy.org). The Web site also provides Plan B updates (called Eco-Economy Updates) that assess progress in implementing Plan B. Additionally, interviews, podcasts, and PowerPoint presentations can be downloaded from the site. The resource is arranged in 13 chapters with subheadings, which make it easy for the reader to identify and read short sections. A few tables are scattered throughout. A fairly detailed table of contents is a useful tool, as is the detailed index. Each chapter's references can be found in a lengthy notes section following the final chapter. Although *Plan B 3.0* is not a standard reference work, it merits inclusion in a reference collection on sustainable living. Its thorough treatment of sustainability and global environmental issues provides the necessary context for people who want to understand why they should care about the environment. – Kathleen Spring

Detailed biography: Lester R. Brown. (n.d.). Retrieved April 11, 2009, from http://www.earthpolicy.org/About/Lester_bio.htm

Callicott, J. B., & Frodeman, R. (Eds.). (2009). *Encyclopedia of environmental ethics and philosophy*. Detroit, MI: Macmillan Reference USA.

This 2-volume hardcover set is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary look at environmental attitudes and values and the relationship between human beings and the natural world. Areas of coverage range from food and agriculture to conservation and related laws, from religion and the environment to ecofeminism and activist movements. Biographical entries are included for persons making substantial contributions to the field who are either deceased or at least 70 years old. Originally conceived in 2004 as a complementary resource for the 5-volume reference work *Environmental Philosophy: Critical Concepts in the Environment* (edited by Callicott and Clare Palmer, an associate editor of this work), the encyclopedia began to take shape in late 2006 and was eventually published in 2009. Most contributors are academics; author affiliation and the articles written by each author can be found in the list of contributors at the beginning of Volume 1. In addition, the full editorial board (complete with affiliations) is listed at the front of each volume. The editors admit to an Anglo-American philosophical perspective but selected the associate editors (a Continental philosopher, an ecofeminist philosopher, and two from the American Pragmatist tradition) to try to counterbalance this viewpoint. The editors claim an international view, but that is perhaps too grand a claim. While the writing is clear, the work uses a fair amount of philosophical terminology and therefore might be considered advanced for some readers.

The writing style is scholarly and is directed more towards academic readers than general readers, although the layperson will certainly find useful content here.

Also available as an e-book, the encyclopedia contains more than 300 articles. Photographs, figures, and tables, while well chosen, are all black-and-white. See also references follow each article. All articles have bibliographies, and all biographical entries include a list of suggested readings; additionally, there is an annotated bibliography for the entire work in Volume 2. A table of contents is provided for each volume. Volume 1 contains a Foreword with a detailed description of the project's development and the editorial process, as well as an Afterword that discusses common types of ethical theory. Since the work is arranged alphabetically, Volume 1 also contains a thematic outline to aid the reader in finding related entries, although this courtesy is not extended to Volume 2. A running head at the top of each page acts as an additional finding aid for the reader. As part of the appendix, Volume 2 contains a glossary of terms that do not have an entry of their own in the encyclopedia proper. The appendix also includes copyright acknowledgments, the full text of ten seminal primary source works, and an extensive index. The index notes what the bolded (main entry) and italicized terms (illustrations, figures, and tables) represent. This work is an essential overview of the relationship between philosophy, ethics, and the environment and is recommended highly for all libraries. – Kathleen Spring

Middletown Thrall Library. (n.d.). *Thrall special coverage guide: Going green web guide.* Retrieved April 15, 2009, from http://www.thrall.org/special/goinggreen.html

Going Green is a comprehensive, online subject guide created by the Middletown Thrall Library, a public library in Orange County, NY. The goal of the guide is to provide relevant, high-quality links to Web sites with information about all aspects of going green. Sample topic areas include conservation, construction, consumer information, energy and fuels, green maps, organic food, recycling, and sustainable development. Links to local, regional, and state information are provided in addition to information from the federal government. Nearly every link (except those for definitions) is accompanied by a clear, concise description of the resource; some descriptions come directly from the Web sites, while others are provided by the library. Some links to Wikipedia articles are provided; in all cases, the description also includes a link to Wikipedia's disclaimers. Special features include a blogs section with a link to the library's own environmental blog (available via RSS feed) and a Books & Videos section that automatically searches the library's catalog when the user clicks on a subject.

The site is essentially a directory in the form of one long Web page. Topic areas are arranged alphabetically; links within each area are also sub-arranged alphabetically. See also areas are provided at the end of many sections to direct the user to related content. Because there are so many links, navigating the page involves a fair amount of scrolling. The site would be more user-friendly if hyperlinks were provided to take the user from one section

back to the main topic menu. A separate page describing the subject guides offered by the library indicates that all resources are selected by librarians and are reviewed regularly for both quality and currency (although what constitutes regularly is not spelled out). Broken links are removed as they are found or reported and are replaced as necessary with links to comparable or superior resources. The library recognizes that users need to be aware of issues such as Web site evaluation, copyright, and bias; it provides links to documents with information on these issues via its About Our Internet Resource Guides - Disclaimers page. A vast resource guide, *Going Green* is recommended for all libraries, particularly public libraries. – Kathleen Spring

Schreurs, M. A., & Papadakis, E. (2007). *Historical dictionary of the green movement*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press.

This historical dictionary provides a comprehensive overview of green campaigns and movements (organized attempts to change how humans perceive, think about, and value their relationship with nature), focusing primarily on the 20th century after World War II (Schreurs & Papadakis, 2007, p. xxxiii). International in scope, with entries related to more than 40 countries, *Historical Dictionary of the Green Movement* is the 80th volume in the series *Historical Dictionaries of Religions, Philosophies, and Movements*. The second edition was published in 2007, expanding the first edition (published in 1998) by nearly 100 pages with the addition of new parties, issues, and attention to older issues that have risen in prominence during the last decade. Entries range from broader topics (sustainable development; environmental justice) to noted environmentalists (Rachel Carson; Aldo Leopold) to specific terminology (the polluter pays principle; spaceship earth). Schreurs is a professor and specialist in environmental politics and policy; Papadakis is a professor of European studies who has written extensively in this area. Care is taken to present all sides of the issues fairly and to avoid a U.S.-centered perspective. The writing is clear, and the resource is appropriate for students, the general public, and researchers.

The dictionary is a surprisingly compact hardcover volume, with entries arranged alphabetically and ranging in length from a single paragraph to several pages. The resource begins with a brief table of contents and an extended chronology. A 31-page introduction sums up the green movement's progress thus far, addressing such issues as influential writers, fundamental principles and concepts, the rise of the green movement, and green political issues. A list of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the work is also included. Entry terms appear in all capital letters and are in bold; bolded terms within entries refer the reader to related entries, although this is not made clear anywhere in the work. See references are interspersed in alphabetical order throughout the dictionary, and see also references appear in capitals at the end of many entries. The 70-page bibliography is very extensive and includes its own table of contents and introduction. It covers professional journals, biographies, green concepts and issues, the green movement, green parties, green policies and politics, international relations, and environmental Web sites.

This resource is excellent for providing definitions and a historical perspective of the green movement, particularly for citizens who want to be able to make informed decisions. – Kathleen Spring