

Thinking Green: Ethics for a Small Planet

A book by Karel Rogers

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In addition to students and professors of environmental studies and environmental ethics, sustainable business people, eco-survivalists, environmentalists, and conservationists will find author-activist Karel Rogers' debut, *Thinking Green: Ethics for a Small Planet*, an invaluable guide that promotes important and critical dialogue on personal environmental ethics. In it, she ties together how scholars of disparate disciplines have approached as well as defined evolution and she identifies how "purposeful" living within the rules of visible matter in the universe, as individuals and as a species, will improve the quality of our lives.

In the vein of Jared Diamond's *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* that reveals how cultures have adapted or perished throughout history and Thomas Friedman's *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*, which brought attention to the major problems facing Americans and the globe, what's extraordinary about Rogers' work is it illustrates how our social constructs derive from our views and norms as individuals, which, in turn, are directly tied to our personal sense of ethical responsibility and morality. While Rogers' message is, at times, alarming, it is one filled with hope that mankind will adapt so as geologic history continues to unfold it will include humans as a vital, synergistic component of life thriving on earth.

Extended Description

As alarming as it is compelling, *Thinking Green: Ethics for a Small Planet* by author-activist Karel Rogers, PhD, is not your run of the mill environmental book that offers traditional ways to save the planet. And while it promotes a green way of life, it goes deeper than the environmentalists' mantra of recycling, conservation, and self-deprivation. What *Thinking Green* does is open vital dialogue on personal and environmental ethics. A fascinating user's guide for students working to solve our current global social/environmental/economic crisis, this powerful work of nonfiction examines the underlying semantic constructs of Americans. It also illustrates mankind's journey as a species to ultimately recognize the key to mankind's long-term viability is promotion of diversity, a commitment to live on current solar income, the habit of renewing resources, and meeting opportunities and problems with information-rich solutions.

In four sections that include *Rethinking Core Issues* and *The Challenges We Face* and twelve chapters such as *Obligate Consumption*, *People Are a Part of Nature*, and *The Great Unfolding Story*, she deftly describes risks for the human species and earth in relation to individual choices. As she relays the cultural, social, and environmental consequences of common American choices, she outlines how we have unwisely expelled ourselves as a "natural" part of nature. While choices derived from human-centric ethics undermine earth's organizational and life support systems ranging from subatomic particles to cells to ecosystems to human cultures as well as economies and earth's biogeochemical cycles, the universe and everything in it continues to evolve. If American culture is to survive in the long term, we must first individually reconsider our ethical responsibility in the context of the larger systems that support human well being.