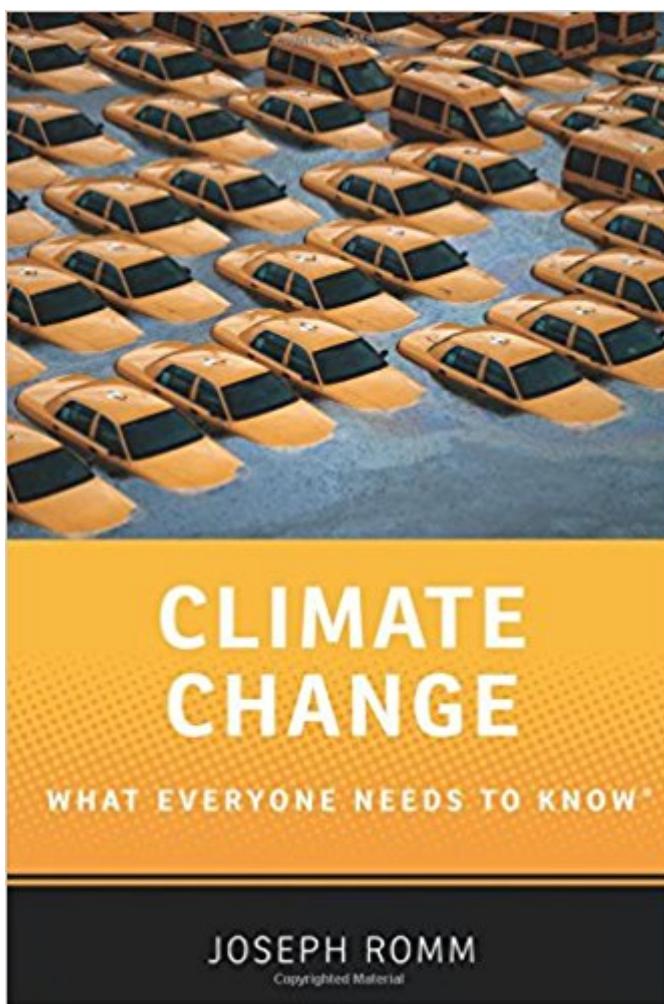


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# Climate Change: What Everyone Needs To Know®



## Synopsis

Climate change will have a bigger impact on humanity than the Internet has had. The last decade's spate of superstorms, wildfires, heat waves, and droughts has accelerated the public discourse on this topic and lent credence to climatologist Lonnie Thomson's 2010 statement that climate change "represents a clear and present danger to civilization." In June 2015, the Pope declared that action on climate change is a moral issue. This book offers the most up-to-date examination of climate change's foundational science, its implications for our future, and the core clean energy solutions. Alongside detailed but highly accessible descriptions of what is causing climate change, this entry in the *What Everyone Needs to Know* series answers questions about the practical implications of this growing force on our world: Â How will climate change impact you and your family in the coming decades? Â What are the future implications for owners of coastal property? Â Should you plan on retiring in South Florida or the U.S. Southwest or Southern Europe? Â What occupations and fields of study will be most in demand in a globally warmed world? Â What impact will climate change have on investments and the global economy? As the world struggles to stem climate change and its effects, everyone will become a part of this story of the century. Here is what you need to know.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Given the pressing need for action, Climate Change is the right book at the right time: accessible, comprehensive, unflinching, humane." --The Daily Beast"Climate Change, What Everyone Needs to

Know is a must-read for those who want to become climate literate and join the growing conversation about the greatest threat humanity faces today." --The Guardian"Romm provides a useful primer on the drivers of climate change, the ways that the world might achieve that target, and the obstacles to moving away from business as usual... [the book] is full of useful information and accessible analysis." --Foreign Affairs"An up-to-date, comprehensive examination of the science behind climate change, what these environmental issues mean for the future, and possible clean energy solutions." --Mother Earth News "This is, for my money, the best single-source primer on the state of climate-change science - a wide-ranging survey organized into bite-size chapters that covers both the present tense of warming and what is possible down the road." --NY Magazine

Joseph Romm, Ph.D., is one of the country's most influential communicators on climate science and solutions. Romm is Chief Science Advisor for "Years of Living Dangerously," which won the 2014 Emmy Award for Outstanding Nonfiction Series. He is the founding editor of Climate Progress, which New York Times columnist Tom Friedman called "the indispensable blog." In 2009, Time named him one of its "Heroes of the Environment," calling him "The Web's most influential climate-change blogger." In 2009, Rolling Stone put Romm on its list of 100 "people who are reinventing America." Romm was acting assistant secretary of energy in 1997, where he oversaw \$1 billion in low-carbon technology development and deployment. He is a Senior Fellow at American Progress and holds a Ph.D. in physics from MIT.

Joseph Romm, scientist (PhD, MIT), prolific author, recognized expert on valuable clean energy solutions to deal with climate destabilization, and founder of the highly respected blog, ClimateProgress.org, has performed an admirable public service in his new book, Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know. There is no lack of climate information - most of it accessible on the Web, including the massive, multi-volume, several thousand pages of the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s Fifth Assessment Report (which gets read by very few citizens, and not totally read by nearly all scientists, scholars, officials, advocates, or media reporters). Yet, because of the dis-information campaigns funded by fossil fuel interests, most people hear misinformation being reported by the media, and equally as bad, most media hardly ever cover climate destabilization, and when they do cover, they frequently report incorrectly. Yet, as Joe Romm emphasizes, "Climate change is now an existential issue for humanity. Since everyone's family will be affected by climate change" indeed, they already are" everyone needs to know the basics about it, regardless of their politics. Many of the major decisions

that you, your family, and friends will have to make in the coming years and decades will be affected by human-caused climate change."Joe wrote this book to help you understand the risks of and resolutions to climate destabilization, while saving you immense time having to track down this knowledge. Within 100 questions Joe covers the gamut. Romm includes both the state of knowledge, which has witnessed rapid insights and new news in just the past 36 months, as well as a new piece of information yet to get proper attention: "Also, this is the first book to examine one of the most important climate questions of all: "Does carbon dioxide at exposure levels expected this century have any direct impacts on human health or cognition?"I find Joe's engaging writing style a real asset, which avoids unnecessary academic verbiage, or experts' technical jargon, or political grandstanding that has gripped so many politicians. This book is for any and all citizens to read, discuss, share, and seize opportunities. It is so highly informative it is worthy of being an integrated curriculum guidebook for educational classes of all levels, serving as a rich go-to reference book. I certainly hope many CEOs and public leaders of all persuasions make use of Romm's book, learn how they can play important and immediate roles, and encourage their staff and customers to pick up the book.

This is the most up to date examination of climate change science, the effects of climate change on humans, policy related problems, and energy-related solutions. Everyone should read this book, and if you teach earth system sciences you should consider using this book as a guide in your teaching, or in some cases, assigning it in class. The book is written to be read by general audiences, so it would work well in a high school or college setting. As Romm points out, climate change will have more of an impact on humans, including you, than even the Internet. It is an existential issue. Romm acknowledges that some of these impacts are already happening, but that future impacts are likely to be very significant. Over the last 10 years or so, we have seen remarkable superstorms, significant drought, notable wildfires, and killer heat waves. These events have made people sit up and take notice. For this reason, more people want to know more about climate change, and indeed, everyone should know something about this problem. *Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know* is an effort to provide that information to the average person. Romm's book is divided into major sections: Climate Science Basics, Extreme Weather and Climate Change, Projected Climate Impacts, Avoiding the Worse Impacts, Climate Politics and Policies, The Role of Clean Energy, and Climate Change and You. Each of these chapters is divided into a number of bite-sized mini-chapters covering the larger topic in logical sequence, with helpful illustrations. To me, one of the most significant contributions of this book is

Romm's discussion of severe weather and climate change. This is an emerging area of science. In my view, the weather related impacts of climate change have been visible since about 1980, but have increased more recently, even in the last five years or so. It is very difficult to study these changes because severe weather events, while common, end up being rare when you divide them by region, season, kind of impact, and kind of climate related cause. Also, meteorologists, who are in the trenches when it comes to severe weather, have been reluctant in recent years to openly acknowledge climate change (especially among the presenters or TV meteorologists, as they are called in different countries). This is said to be because they are part of the press, which is in large part funded by the corporate world, and you don't want to piss off your corporate sponsors. Romm's sections on climate change and extreme weather are well thought out, well documented, and well presented. Another area of strength is Romm's treatment of energy alternatives. Romm is detailed and specific in his discussion of energy and suggestions about the needed changes. Romm's section on "Climate Change and You" is a unique contribution to the growing literature on this topic. Romm points out that many Americans, when they decide to retire, consider moving to a place that is near a coast line, or a place that is relatively warm, or both. Bad idea. With sea level rise and increasing heat, one should really re-think that strategy. He talks about the impending crash in coastal property values (something I've been yammering about for some time now) the current value of land that will be inundated by sea level rise is actually almost zero, though the market has not adjusted yet!). He also covers what students who want to be prepared for a role in a climate-changing world should study, investment strategies, necessary changes in diet, and how one can (and should) reduce one's own carbon footprint.

Joe Romm is both a brilliant scientist and a master communicator. This book addresses the key issues facing humanity as we confront the climate challenge, and does so in an approachable and readable way. Romm asks and answers the questions an intelligent observer might have about climate, such as "Is climate change making hurricanes more destructive?", "What fraction of recent global warming is due to human causes vs. natural causes?", "In a warming world, why do some winters still seem unusually severe?", and "What is ocean acidification and why does it matter to sea life?". The whole book is a series of questions and answers, which allows the interested reader to jump straight to the questions of most interest, and breaks the book up into bite size pieces. My own expertise is on climate solutions, and on these issues I find Romm to be almost invariably on the mark (as I would expect from a physicist with a Ph.D. from MIT and decades of experience

studying these issues). The professional literature on climate (like that summarized in the IPCC) is not generally approachable for the lay reader. Romm's book translates that literature for interested non-experts in an accurate, comprehensive, and authoritative way. There is no better introduction to climate science and solutions. Highly recommended. Full disclosure: I was a prepublication reviewer for this book.

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