

Environmental Authors to Know

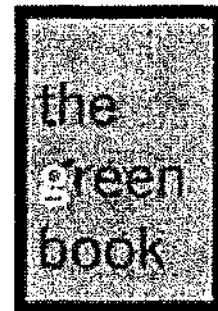
Today, being Green is considered both cool and hot! There are a number of environmentalists who are recognizing this green trend, turning to the pen and using their expert voices to inspire us to live more eco-friendly lifestyles. The following three authors are trendy environmentalists with compelling stories that teens will either easily identify with, or already be talking about.

Thomas Kostigen



Kostigen believes in the philosophy that we all want to do good for the world, and with the right 'green modeling' we will become empowered and change our daily habits to be more protective of our planet. As a longtime journalist, Kostigen has been writing about global warming, and other issues surrounding the environment for nearly two decades, being published internationally. He is a recognized expert and speaker on social responsibility, focusing his agenda on water, electronic waste, energy consumption and carbon emissions. Kostigen, active in social causes both domestically and abroad, is admired for his unique ability to connect the dots from simple, individual actions to global environmental causes.

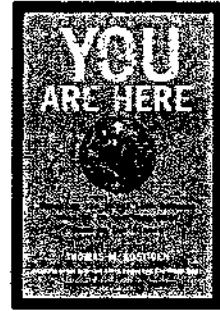
His literary contributions tend to provide succinct guidelines for the layperson to follow on how to live greener lifestyles. He coauthored the *New York Times* bestseller, *The Green Book: The Everyday Guide to Saving the Planet One Simple Step at a Time*. Published in 2007, this addresses twelve aspects of everyday life, suggesting simple adjustments that will improve energy consumption for each area. Also, to emphasize how small adjustments in the way we consume and dispose of resources adds up to significant and positive environmental effects, Kostigen draws on the celebrity voice to endorse his hopeful, practical viewpoint.



As a follow-up, in 2008, Kostigen wrote *You Are Here: Exposing the Vital Link Between What We Do and What That Does to Our Planet*.

This travelogue chronicles Kostigen's experiences at different environmental hot zones around the world. Instead of preaching, he sets out to expose the real damages happening to our environment, the price we are already paying for our failure to live eco-

consciously. This global account shows how everything is interconnected, and the choices we make here will affect the rest of the world.



He also writes the "Ethics Monitor" column for *Dow Jones MarketWatch* and the "Better Planet" column and blog for *Discover* magazine.

Kostigen currently resides in Sana Monica, California, where he strongly advocates for environmental policy within his community. Recently, he was tapped by the state as an environmental expert to help promote AB 32, the most progressive global warming legislation in the country.

Linda Sivertsen

Living green has been a lifelong commitment and passion for Linda, who recalls learning about global warming, the dying oceans, and organic gardening from her mother in her early childhood days. Today, as an author, editor and activist, she is best recognized for her unique approach to environmental education through the entertainment industry. When she began her writing career she felt like her



messages on cleaning up the oceans, reducing CO2 emissions and saving the last strands of redwood groves, although timely and relevant, were not being taken seriously. That was when she made the celebrity connection. Working as a professional dog walker in Beverly Hills, she already had VIP access to the homes of stars and Linda sought out those who were using their time and resources to help save the natural world. Motivated by her enthusiasm, they in turn introduced her to scientists,



activists, and leaders in the field. This began Linda's ever-present passion and commitment to make "environmental education through entertainment" her life's work.

In 1998 Linda published *Lives Charmed: Intimate Conversations with Extraordinary People*, which offered chapters on Woody Harrelson getting himself



arrested on behalf of the redwoods, Julia Butterfly Hill's record-breaking tree sit, and Pierce Brosnan's tireless efforts to enact the Dolphin Safe Tuna Act. Although critics are not always in favour of her approach in interviewing celebrities, Sivertsen defends that the public's intense fascination with their lives is an excellent platform to enlighten and motivate. She sees them as holding the "biggest mi-

crophones" in any case when you want to galvanize the masses. But Linda herself does not need celebrity advice to understand green living. While she wrote this book she was living in a solar cabin in the forest of New Mexico. She and her family lived 100% off the grid, catching rainwater from the roof, using an outhouse in below-freezing temperatures, powering her computer with solar panels, and using fallen trees as their only heat source.

Recently, Linda collaborated with her son Tosh and released *Generation Green: the Ultimate Teen Guide to Living an Eco-Friendly Life*, a fast-paced, easy read for any young adult who's interested in finding purpose in their life and making a difference. It is deep and smart, yet fun and filled with great tips, facts, stories, and teen interviews. For more information check out the affiliated website: <http://www.generationgreenthebook.com>.



In 2002, Linda became the West Coast Editor of Balance magazine, where she continues interviewing amazing women and writing the magazine's cover stories. She is relieved that people are catching on to the green theme, and she keeps "raising the stakes and raising hope for a world with a future."

Jenn Savedge



As a full-time mom and environmentalist, author Jenn Savedge researches and writes about the two topics that she holds closest to her heart: children and the environment. As a child Jenn was inspired by the natural world, initiating projects to clean up litter, protect wildlife and reduce pollution. Her youthful enthusiasm led her to pursue an academic career in Environmental Studies at Ithaca College, followed by a Master of Science in Environmental Studies with a concentration in International Environmental Policy at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, Scotland. For many years, Jenn worked with an environmental non-profit agency that pursued campaigns to protect endangered and threatened species such as elephants, tigers, and whales.

When Jenn became a mother, she wanted to continue to lobby Congress and the United Nations to ensure better protection for endangered species, but she struggled to find the time to fit it all in. Unable to set eco-matters aside after recognizing the new importance her activism had on her own children, Jenn began actively researching ways to reduce her own family's environmental impact. This research led to interviews, conferences, chats with other green parents, and eventually to her first book, *The Green Parent: A Kid-Friendly Guide to Earth-Friendly Living*. As a credible voice, Jenn's aim in writing this book was to help parents find easy and fun ways to go green. She teaches parents how to help their own kids make eco-friendly choices. You can keep up-to-date on this kid friendly advice for earth friendly living by regularly checking her blog: <http://www.thegreenparent.com/>



But parenting is only a part of the development of eco-friendly children, and in many ways they must carve a green pathway for themselves. Kids today are growing up





hearing more about environmental issues, in their music, movies, and even in their video games, than any generation before them. With this in mind, Jenn wrote *The Green Teen: The Eco-Friendly Teen's Guide to Saving the Planet*. Published in 2009, this text will inspire teens to take environmental action and guide them along the way to a greener tomorrow.

Jenn recognizes the challenges in being green and reminds her readership not to worry too much about “eco-guilt.” She believes that every little change makes a difference, so she recommends just trying to do the simple things that make your lifestyle as green as possible. Her next project is to focus on the money-savers. People seem to think that going green is only for those who can afford it. In reality, the essence of going green is to use less stuff, and to be more discriminating about the stuff we do need to use, translating into major savings.

Sources

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Teens Going Green

Illinois college student, Joshua Schipp is "teaching a new, six-week 4-H course through the University of Illinois/Rock Island County Extension Service called the 'Teen Green Squad' that seeks to get high school-age students involved in environmental issues. He hopes that kids will get turned on to the environment and nature and then take that concern back to their families, schools and communities for a healthier planet. He also hopes that participants will continue meeting and working as a group after the classes end."

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