

List of Songs Related to Climate Change and Human Impact on the Environment
Compiled by Richard L. Wallace, Ursinus College Environmental Studies Program
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A

Sharon Abreu – various songs (www.sharmuse.com)
Agnostic Front – “Toxic Shock”
Alabama – “Pass It On Down”
Linda Allen – “We Are the Rainbow Sign”
Dave Alvin – “Mother Earth”
Arrested Development – “Children Play With Earth”

B

Bad Religion – “Kyoto Now!”
Ann Bailey – “Excuse Me Sir, That’s My Aquifer”
The Beach Boys – “Don’t Go Near the Water”
Adrian Belew – “Burned By the Fire We Make”
Adrian Belew – “Hot Zoo”
Adrian Belew – “House of Cards”
Adrian Belew – “The Lone Rhinoceros”
Adrian Belew – “Men in Helicopters”
Adrian Belew – “Modern Man Hurricane Blues”
Adrian Belew – “Only a Dream”
The Bears – “Save Me”
Dan Berggren – “The Power from Above”
Blue Oyster Cult – “Godzilla”
Ken Boothe – “The Earth Dies Screaming”
Billy Bragg – “The Price of Oil”
Jon Braman – “The Weather”
Jon Braman – “Time Has Come”
Breaking Laces – “Global Warming Day”
Jackson Browne – “Before the Deluge”
Jackson Browne – “Doctor My Eyes”
Jimmy Buffett - “Volcano”
T Bone Burnett – “Humans from Earth”
The Byrds – “Hungry Planet”

C

Cake – “Carbon Monoxide”
Cake – “Long Line of Cars”
Capitol Steps – “God Bless My SUV”
Captain Sea Level Rise – “When the North Pole Melts”
Johnny Cash – “Don’t Go Near the Water”
Cerrone – “Supernature”
Tom Chapin – Various songs from the albums “This Pretty Planet”, “Mother Earth”, “Moonboat”, etc.
Daryl Cherney – “Dead Ducks”
Jimmy Cliff – “Save Our Planet Earth”
Bruce Cockburn – “Beautiful Creatures”

Bruce Cockburn – “If a Tree Falls”
Bruce Cockburn – “Last Night of the World”
Bruce Cockburn – “The Trouble with Normal”
Bruce Cockburn – “Wondering Where the Lions Are”
Stephen M. Coghlan Jr. – “Drilling in the Arctic Blues”
Coldcut – “Timber”
Cousteau – “Last Good Day of the Year”
Creedence Clearwater Revival – “Bad Moon Rising”
David Crosby and Graham Nash – “To the Last Whale”
Crosby, Stills, and Nash – “Barrel of Pain”
Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young – “Clear Blue Skies”
Miley Cyrus – “Wake Up America”

D

Daughtry – “What About Now?”
Dead Kennedys – “Cesspools in Eden”
Dead Kennedys – “Hop With the Jet Set”
Dead Kennedys – “Kepone Factory”
Dead Kennedys – “Moon Over Marin”
Death Cab for Cutie – “Why You’d Want To Live Here”
Deee-Lite – “I Had a Dream I Was Falling Through a Hole In the Ozone Layer”
John Denver – “Calypso”
John Denver – “Earth Day Every Day”
John Denver – “To the Wild Country”
Depeche Mode – “The Landscape is Changing”
Bo Diddley – “Pollution”
Ani DiFranco – “Tamboritza Lingua”
Dire Straits – “My Parties”
The Doors – “Ship of Fools”
Donavon Frankenreiter – “The Way it Is”
Dramarama – “What Are We Gonna Do?”
Jorge Drexler – “Disneylandia”
Duran Duran – “Planet Earth”
Bob Dylan – “A Hard Rain’s A-Gonna Fall”
Bob Dylan – “Dark Eyes”
Bob Dylan – “Everything is Broken”
Bob Dylan – “High Water”
Bob Dylan – “License to Kill”
Bob Dylan – “Talkin’ Bear Mountain Picnic Massacre Blues”
Bob Dylan – “Things Have Changed”

E

Earth Mama – various songs (www.earthmama.org)
Eddie – “Sentado na Beira do Rio”
Emerson, Lake, and Palmer – “Black Moon”
Melissa Etheridge – “I Need To Wake Up”

F

Flipper – “Love Canal”
Steve Forbert – “The Oil Song”
Freakwater – “Buckets of Oil”

G

Peter Gabriel – “Down to Earth”
Peter Gabriel – “Here Comes the Flood”
Peter Gabriel – “Red Rain”
Marvin Gaye – “Mercy Mercy Me (The Ecology Song)”
Gilberto Gil – “A Novidade”
Girlyman – “Amaze Me”
Grandaddy – “Nature Anthem”
Grateful Dead – “Throwing Stones”
Green Day – “Boulevard of Broken Dreams”
Woody Guthrie – “Dust Bowl Blues”

H

Ben Harper – “Excuse Me Mr.”
Cory Harris – “Fish Ain’t Bitin’”
Jimi Hendrix – “Earth Blues”
Don Henley – “Goodbye to a River”
Bruce Hornsby – “Look Out Any Window”
Hot Buttered Rum – (various songs, albums)

I

The Instigators – “Clean Air”
Iron Butterfly – “Slower Than Guns”

J

Michael Jackson – “Cry”
Michael Jackson – “Earth Song”
Michael Jackson – “Heal the World”
Michael Jackson – “The Man in the Mirror”
Joe Jackson – “Obvious Song”
James – “Greenpeace”
James – “What For?”
Jamiroquai – “When You Gonna Learn”
Jamiroquai – “Emergency on Planet Earth”
Jefferson Airplane – “Eskimo Blue Day”
Jethro Tull – “Jack-in-the-Green”
Jethro Tull – “North Sea Oil”
Jethro Tull – “The Whaler’s Dues”
Jethro Tull – “Wond’ring Again”
Jack Johnson – “Gone”
Jack Johnson – “The Horizon Has Been Defeated”
Jack Johnson – “The 3 Rs”
Jack Johnson – “Traffic in the Sky”
Jorge Ben Jor – “Luz Polarizada”

K

Kansas – “Death of Mother Nature Suite”
The Aaron Katz Band – “Chlorine Christmas”
The Kingston Trio – “Coal Tattoo”
The Kinks – “Apeman”
The Kinks – “Demolition”
The Kinks – “Gallon of Gas”
The Kinks – “Mountain Woman”
The Kinks – “Preservation”
The Kinks – “Village Green”
The Kinks – “Wall of Fire”
Lenny Kravitz – “Fear”

L

Tom Lehrer – “Pollution”
Julian Lennon – “How Many Times?”
Julian Lennon – “Salt Water”
Liquid Blue – “Supernova”
Little Village (John Hiatt, Ry Cooder, et al.) – “Do You Want My Job”
Kenny Loggins – “Conviction of the Heart”
Kenny Loggins – “This Island Earth”
Jeff Lynne – “Save Me Now”
Dana Lyons – various songs from the album “I’d Go Anywhere to Fight For Oil To Lubricate the Red, White, and Blue” (and other works, too).

M

Joel Mabus – “Warmer Every Day”
The Mammals – “Industrial Park”
Manfred Mann’s Earth Band – “Give Me the Good Earth”
Manu Chao – “La Vacaloca”
Ziggy Marley – “Dragonfly”
Massive Attack – “Hymn of the Big Wheel”
Dave Matthews Band – “Don’t Drink the Water”
Dave Matthews Band – “One Sweet World”
Dave Matthews Band – “Proudest Monkey”
Dave Matthews Band – “Too Much”
John Mayall’s Bluesbreakers – “Nature’s Disappearing”
Peter Mayer – various songs (<http://www.petermayer.net/music/>)
MC5 – “Over and Over”
Kirsty McColl – “Maybe It’s Imaginary”
Country Joe McDonald – “Living in the Future in a Plastic Dome”
Country Joe McDonald – “Save the Whales”
Roger McGuinn – “The Trees Are All Gone”
Megadeath – “Countdown to Extinction”
John Cougar Mellencamp – “Rain on the Scarecrow”
Midnight Oil – “Antarctica”
Midnight Oil – “Arctic World”

Midnight Oil – “A Crocodile Cries”
Midnight Oil – “Dreamworld”
Midnight Oil – “Earth and Sun and Moon”
Midnight Oil – “Feeding Frenzy”
Midnight Oil – “Now or Never Land”
Midnight Oil – “Progress”
Midnight Oil – “Renaissance Man”
Midnight Oil – “River Runs Red”
Midnight Oil – “Too Much Sunshine”
Midnight Oil – “Truganini”
Bill Miller – “Sacred Ground”
Ministry – “Breathe”
Ministry – “Isle of Man”
Joni Mitchell – “Big Yellow Taxi”
Joni Mitchell – various songs from the album “Shine”
Modest Mouse – “Convenient Parking”
Marilyn Monroe – “Heat Wave”
The Moody Blues – “How Is It”
The Moody Blues – “The Sun Is Still Shining”
Mundo Livre S/A – “Destruindo a Camada de Ozônio”
Mundo Livre S/A – “Caiu a Ficha”
The Prince Myshkin – “Ministry of Oil”

N

Randy Newman – “Burn On”
Olivia Newton-John – “Gaia”
New Riders of the Purple Sage – “Garden of Eden”
Niyorah – “Global Warming”

O

Orbital – “Impact (The Earth is Burning)”
Orchestral Manoeuvres In the Dark – “Electricity”
Ozzy Osborne – “Dreamer”
Ozzy Osborne – “Revelation (Mother Earth)”

P

Tom Paxton – “Let the Sunshine”
Tom Paxton – “Whose Garden Was This?”
The Pixies – “Monkey Gone to Heaven”
The Postal Service – “Sleeping In”
John Prine – “Paradise”
The Pretenders – “My City Was Gone”
Pulp – “The Trees”

Q

Queensryche – “Resistance”

R

Radiohead – “Idioteque”
Rainbow – “Can’t Happen Here”
Chris Rea – “The Road to Hell”
Lou Reed – “The Last Great American Whale”
Lou Reed – “Sick of You”
REM – “Fall on Me”
REM – “I Remember California”
REM – “It’s the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)”
Malvina Reynolds – “DDT On My Brain”
Malvina Reynolds – “Skagit Valley Forever”
Malvina Reynolds – “What Have They Done to the Rain?”
Jonathan Richman – “Man Walks Among Us”
Sally Rogers – “Over in the Endangered Meadow”
Xavier Rudd – “The Mother”
Rush – “Subdivisions”
Rush – “Trees”
Rush – “Vapor Trails”

S

Pete Seeger – “Cement Octopus”
Pete Seeger – “Garbage”
Pete Seeger – “God Bless the Grass”
Pete Seeger – “My Dirty Stream (The Hudson River Song)”
Pete Seeger – “To My Old Brown Earth”
Shriekback – “Nemesis”
Richard Sinclair – “Plan It Earth”
Fred Small – “Warlords”
Hurricane Smith – “Don’t Let It Die”
Jill Sobule – “Manhattan in January”
Soundgarden – “Hands All Over”
Spirit – “Fresh Garbage”
Spirit – “Nature’s Way”
Spirit – “Prelude/Nothing to Hide”
Steel Pulse – “Earth Crisis”
Steel Pulse – “Global Warning”
Cat Stevens – “Where Do the Children Play?”
Stephen Stills – “Ecology Song”
Sting – “Fragile Planet”
Stress – “Il n'y a qu'une terre”
Joe Strummer – “Johnny Appleseed”
Sweetbriars – “Get Down Into It”

T

10,000 Maniacs – “Campfire Song”
10,000 Maniacs – “Eden”
10,000 Maniacs – “Poison In the Well”
Talking Heads – “Nothing But Flowers”
James Taylor – “Gaia”

James Taylor – “Traffic Jam”
James Taylor – “Up Er Mei”
James Taylor – “Yellow and Rose”
Thin Lizzy – “Mama Nature Said”
Three Dog Night – “Out in the Country”
Timbuk 3 – “Acid Rain”
Time Zone featuring John Lydon & Afrika Bambaataa – “World Destruction”
David Todd – “Where We Going To Go?”
Tower of Power – “There’s Only So Much Oil in the Ground”
Tribo de Jah – “El Niño”
The Turtles – “Earth Anthem”

U

UFO – “Martian Landscape”
“Ukrainian Climate Change Song” (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oCr45KaaNw>)

V

W

Loudon Wainwright III – “Hard Day on the Planet”
Joe Walsh – “Song for a Dying Planet”
The Waterboys – “World Party”
Dar Williams – “Blue Light of the Flame”
Dar Williams – “Go To the Woods”
Dar Williams – “The Hudson”
Dar Williams – “Who Do You Love More Than Love?”
Hank Williams, Jr. – “Kiss Mother Nature Goodbye”
World Party – “Give it All Away”
World Party – “Is It Like Today?”
World Party – “Private Revolution”
World Party – “Put the Message In the Box”
World Party – “Ship of Fools”
World Party – “Way Down Now”
World Party – “World Party”

X

X-Ray Spex – “The Day the World Turned Day-Glo”

Y

The Yardbirds – “Shapes of Things”
Yes – “Don’t Kill the Whale”
Neil Young – “After the Garden”
Neil Young – “After the Gold Rush”
Neil Young – the entire “Greendale” album
Neil Young – “Like an Inca”
Neil Young – “Mother Earth (Natural Anthem)”
Neil Young – “Natural Beauty”
Neil Young – “Piece of Crap”

Z

Zager and Evans – “In the Year 2525”

Warren Zevon – “Run Straight Down”

Joel Zifkin – “High Water Rising”

185 different artists

277 different songs

8 “entire album” or “entire oeuvre” entries

Some Suggested Additional Resources:

A really nice blog on “rock and ecology”:

<http://rockandecology.blogspot.com/>

A list of environmental songs:

<http://new.music.yahoo.com/blogs/yradish/8039/environmental-songs-for-earth-day/>

Another list of environmental songs:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Environmental_songs

Another list of environmental songs:

<http://www.grinningplanet.com/6001/environmental-songs.htm>

A list of songs used by Prof. Michael Tierney at the College of William and Mary:

<http://mjtier.people.wm.edu/teaching/irplaylist.php>

An article from Grist on climate change songs:

<http://www.grist.org/comments/dispatches/2007/01/08/mckibben/index5.html>

Step It Up has posted some songs:

http://stepitup2007.org/userdata_display.php?modin=50

A few songs are listed here:

<http://www.ecoshock.org/2007/04/best-new-climate-music-6-songs.html>

music at: http://www.ecoshock.org/downloads/ecoshock/ES_Climate_Music_Pod.mp3

An online forum with a searchable database of mostly traditional/public domain music:

<http://www.mudcat.org/>

Another list of environmental songs, with lots of links:

<http://www.planetpatriot.net/songs.html>

A list of environmental *folk* songs, with information:

<http://folkmusic.about.com/od/toptens/tp/EarthDaySongs.htm>

Captain Sea Level Rise (aka Jim Titus, of the EPA's Office of Sea Level Change) web site, which I highlight because so many people recommended him:

http://users.rcn.com/jwtitus/When_the_North_Pole_Melts.htm

A link to Andrew Revkin's blog entry on PSU climatologist Richard Alley, with a link to Alley's "Singing Climatologist" video on You Tube:

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/09/12/the-singing-climatologist/>

A fun story about a bunch of Australian kids who penned and performed a song called "Protect the World" and then got a bunch of press. Includes link to the video on You Tube:

<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2008/06/19/australian-kids-write-song-on-climate-change/>

And, finally, a reference to an article about singing about climate politics, shared by co-author Johannes Stripple:

Paterson, M., and Stripple, J. (2007). Singing Climate Politics into Existence: On the Territorialisation of Climate Change Policymaking. In M. Pettenger (Ed.), *The Social Construction of Climate Change: Power, Knowledge, Norms, Discourses*. London: Ashgate.