

## Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization

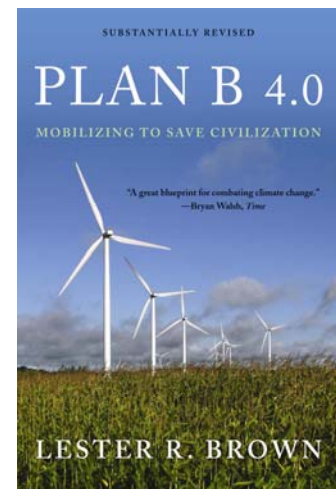
*Environmental analyst Lester Brown releases a new edition of his landmark blueprint for avoiding climate catastrophe*

As we watch the earth's climate changing at a pace that outstrips worst-case scenarios from leading scientists, we find ourselves in a race between political and natural tipping points on water depletion and climate change. In an attempt to mobilize our generation, Earth Policy Institute President, Lester R. Brown, has released an updated version of his prescription for saving civilization.

*"Can we move onto an economic path that is environmentally sustainable? We think we can. That is what **Plan B 4.0** is about." - Lester R. Brown*

- Outlining a route to avoid environmental collapse, *Plan B 4.0* offers a bold new direction for the world economy and global leaders. The book's recommendations aim to protect climate, stabilize population, eradicate poverty, and restore the economy's natural support systems.

**New in *Plan B 4.0***



### Our Growing Food Insecurity: The weak link

- **The tripling of grain prices from 2006-2008 was trend-driven** (unlike event-driven surges in the past). Among the trends are the annual addition of 80 million people, 3 billion people moving up the food chain, and one fourth of the U.S. grain harvest being used to produce fuel for cars. On the supply side are falling water tables, eroding soils, and rising temperatures, all making humanity more vulnerable to food shortages.
- **Some 175 million Indians and 130 million Chinese are fed with grain irrigated by overpumping wells.** Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Yemen face similar challenges due to groundwater depletion.
- After decades of nutritional gains, **the number of hungry people has jumped from 825 million in the mid-1990s to over 1 billion in 2009.** Combined with rising food prices and intensifying competition for land and water, this trend has opened a disturbing new chapter in the politics of food scarcity.

### A Shift toward Solutions: Have we reached a renewable energy tipping point?

- The shift to renewable sources of energy is moving at a pace and on a scale we could not imagine even two years ago. Nationwide, **the United States installed 8,400 megawatts (MW) of new wind generating capacity in 2008**, while new coal plants only totaled 1,400 MW.
- The U.S. is not alone: China is working on **six wind farm mega-complexes with generating capacities of 10,000-30,000 MW** each, while in Europe, a corporate consortium is proposing to tap the massive solar thermal generating capacity of North Africa – a source that could power half of Europe.
- The **energy efficiency revolution has barely begun.** For instance, the electricity savings from adopting new lighting technologies would enable us to close 705 of the world's 2,670 coal-fired power plants.

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**Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization** is available online for free downloading at [www.earthpolicy.org](http://www.earthpolicy.org)