

*'it's not my problem – it's the government's'  
'can we be sure we are the cause of climate change?'*

*'the Americans are the real culprits'  
'technology will find a way out'*

...sounds familiar? The time for excuses is over.

## **How We Can Save the Planet**

**Mayer Hillman with Tina Fawcett.**

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*'For thirty years Mayer Hillman has been busily turning conventional political thinking on its head...he has come up with solutions that are hard to dismiss' – Guardian*

Climate change is the single most important issue that humankind has ever had to face, says Mayer Hillman. And hoping that technology will somehow find the answer is wishful thinking. In fact, what we need is a *radical* decrease in our energy-intensive activities. This will require rigorous government intervention across society to ensure sufficient carbon savings. Mayer Hillman believes that tackling this issue is a moral imperative: there can be no global security unless climate change is restricted to a manageable level for all of us, and this cannot be achieved without all countries sharing this common objective. The only way it can be done is to implement a programme of carbon rationing within a global system of 'Contraction and Convergence', with emissions of carbon dioxide progressively reduced according to the principle of justice and fairness.

In *How We Can Save the Planet*, the authors set out why we urgently need to adopt carbon rationing and present a practical plan for doing so. We consistently make excuses for inaction in everyday conversation and professional debate, they say, even though we know that climate change is already having disastrous outcomes. Indeed, the common excuses, from 'there's nothing I can do about it' to 'at least I am doing *something*', are comprehensively laid bare. They respond to each of them with inescapable truths.

In *How We Can Save the Planet*, the problems of climate change are addressed head on. To preserve life on earth, we must switch from energy profligate to energy thrifty lifestyles *as a matter of urgency*. The changes needed range from the challenging – far less flying, car use and rail travel, to the familiar - more insulation, more efficiency and more cycling and walking.

**"If our children and grandchildren ask us in future why we did so little about climate change, we will not be able to say we did not know what to do about it".**

**Mayer Hillman** is Senior Fellow Emeritus at Policy Studies Institute. His research has been concerned with transport, urban planning, energy conservation, health promotion, road safety and environment policies. For over thirty years, he has argued that public policy should be more socially and environmentally conscious. He was one of the first proponents of carbon rationing as the only realistic way for the world's population to prevent serious damage from climate change, and continues to highlight the lack of urgency in tackling it.

**Tina Fawcett** has worked on environmental issues for over a decade, most recently at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford. She is currently completing doctoral studies at University College London on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from UK households.

**Press contact at Penguin Books: Sarah Christie, 020 7010 4989, sarah.christie@penguin.co.uk**