

# Debating Climate Ethics: Exploring the Moral Dimensions of Climate Change

Climate change poses one of the most pressing ethical challenges of our time. The consequences of climate change extend far beyond environmental degradation, impacting human well-being, social justice, and the very fabric of our societies. Debating Climate Ethics provides an essential guide to the complex moral dimensions of climate change, offering a comprehensive exploration of the ethical issues at stake and the implications for policy and action.



## Debating Climate Ethics (Debating Ethics)

by Stephen M. Gardiner

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 280 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change

Climate change raises a myriad of ethical concerns, including:

- **Intergenerational justice:** How do we ensure that future generations inherit a habitable planet?

- **Distributive justice:** How do we distribute the costs and benefits of climate change mitigation and adaptation fairly across different regions, countries, and communities?
- **Responsibility and accountability:** Who is responsible for causing climate change and who should bear the burden of addressing it?
- **Values and priorities:** How do we balance the need for economic growth and development with the imperative of environmental protection?
- **Moral uncertainty and scientific consensus:** How do we navigate the complexities of scientific uncertainty while addressing the ethical urgency of climate change?

## Ethical Dilemmas in Climate Policy

The ethical dimensions of climate change translate into a range of ethical dilemmas in policymaking, such as:

- **Balancing economic growth and environmental protection:** How do we reconcile the need for economic development with the urgency of climate change mitigation?
- **Prioritizing adaptation and mitigation:** How do we allocate resources between adapting to the impacts of climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions?

li>\*\*Fairness in emission reduction: How do we ensure that countries and communities with different historical contributions to climate change bear a fair share of the burden of emissions reductions?

## Implications for Policy and Action

Debating Climate Ethics provides valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners, guiding them in the development of ethical and effective climate policies. The book emphasizes the need for:

- **Recognizing the ethical dimensions of climate change:** Climate change policies must be grounded in a deep understanding of the ethical issues at stake.
- **Engaging in participatory decision-making:** Climate policies should be developed through inclusive and transparent processes that engage diverse stakeholders.
- **Prioritizing equity and justice:** Climate policies must prioritize the needs and concerns of vulnerable communities and future generations.
- **Promoting international cooperation:** Climate change is a global issue that requires collective action and international cooperation.
- **Balancing short-term and long-term considerations:** Climate policies must balance the need for immediate action with the imperative of long-term sustainability.

Debating Climate Ethics is an essential resource for anyone seeking to understand the ethical implications of climate change and to contribute to the development of just and sustainable climate policies. By exploring the moral dimensions of this critical issue, the book provides a roadmap for navigating the ethical complexities of climate change and for building a more resilient and equitable future for all.

Leaving the world's poor to sink or swim with their own meagre resources in the face of the threat posed by climate change is morally wrong. We can not read climate change as justified.

— Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## Climate Change & Environmental Decline as a Moral Issue

Two Day Retreat - Toronto  
April 15-17, 2010

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Olav Koyen, President & CEO, World Vision Canada  
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Marc Tardif, Moderator, United Church of Canada  
The Hon. David MacDonald, Former Subsecretary & MP, World Council of Churches  
Dennis Hayes, Professor, Geography/Urban Studies, University of Toronto, IPCC lead author

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What do we in faith communities have to offer?  
Wednesday, April 14, 2010 @ 7pm  
Trinity St. Paul's United Church, 437 Bloor St. W.

Creation Care  
Why should Christians Care for the Environment?  
Thursday, April 15, 2010 @ 7pm  
Knox Presbyterian Church, 600 Spadina Ave.

For information & to register: [ucalgary.ca/oikos/retreat/toronto](http://ucalgary.ca/oikos/retreat/toronto)

## About the Author

Dr. Sarah Miller is a leading climate ethicist and professor of philosophy at the University of Oxford. She is the author of numerous books and articles on climate ethics and environmental ethics. Her work has been influential in shaping international climate policy and has been translated into over 20 languages.

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