



## An Interview with Author Christina Soontornvat

Christina Soontornvat spent a decade working in the science museum field, where she designed programs and exhibits to get kids excited about science. She is passionate about STEM and loves learning new things. In her book *To Change a Planet*, she demonstrates the importance of caring for our planet. This book shows how our actions can make the world a better place and provides hands-on solutions that even young children can be a part of.

### What is climate change?

In the last two centuries, humans have caused average temperatures on Earth to rise about 1° C (1.8° F) – enough to affect our planet’s delicate ecosystems. Scientists warn that if the climate continues to warm too much and too quickly, it could have dire consequences for much of life on Earth.

### What is causing climate change?

The major cause of the current rise in global temperatures is human activity. Most factories, vehicles, and cities are powered by fossil fuels, including coal, petroleum, and natural gas. When these fossil fuels are used for energy, they release carbon gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases transmit sunlight to the earth’s surface and then trap some of the sun’s heat in the atmosphere, warming our planet. An excess of greenhouse gases traps too much heat and leads to harmful levels of warming.

★ “Earth’s beauty and fragility provide the impetus for activism in this introduction to climate change ... An attractive entree to a vital subject for the youngest citizens.”

*Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review*

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# Christina Soontornvat

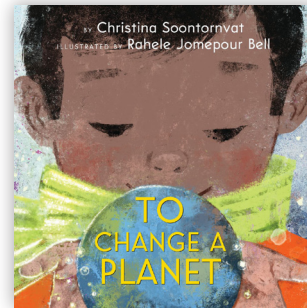
## How will rising temperatures affect life on Earth?

Climate change is already affecting life on our planet. Our oceans have become warmer and more acidic. As the ice caps at the North and South poles melt, they are causing sea levels to rise. All over the globe, flowers and trees are budding earlier, and butterflies and birds are shifting their ranges because of rising temperatures. A warming planet also causes weather to become more extreme. Scientists predict that climate change will bring more heat waves, droughts, floods, and wildfires to places where humans live. Climate change will also affect our food supply as crops, pests, and pollinators respond to rising temperatures. Global inequality puts the most vulnerable people – such as low-income communities and people of color – at the highest risk of suffering from a changing climate.

## What can we do to take action?

One of the most important ways we can make an impact on climate change at home and in our communities is to create fewer greenhouse gases. This means lowering our energy use overall by driving less, eating more plants and less meat, conserving water, and making our homes more energy efficient. Producing new things requires energy, so we can buy less new stuff and reuse and recycle our old stuff. We can talk about climate change with our friends and neighbors and make sure they know where to find reliable sources of science-based information. We can hold companies accountable. We can tell our leaders in local, state, and national governments that we expect them to take the health of our planet seriously. Climate change is the biggest challenge we face today. But when one person, another person, and another person come together, we can do the work required to change our planet for the better.

## Download Guide >>



## To Change a Planet

*Christina Soontornvat,*  
*Illus. Rahele Jamepour Bell*  
Scholastic • 2022  
Lower Elementary

With calm, truthfulness, and beauty, *To Change a Planet* demonstrates the importance of caring for our planet, and how our individual and collective actions multiplied together can make the world better. Eye-popping explosions of color on every page create a stunning visual narrative that invites readers to spot and follow the same characters through their daily lives and ultimately to the famous climate march on Washington, DC. Clear, informative, and meticulously researched endnotes answer a myriad of questions in simple language, cite irrefutable sources, and provide hands-on solutions that even young children can be a part of.

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Learn more  
about the  
book >>

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