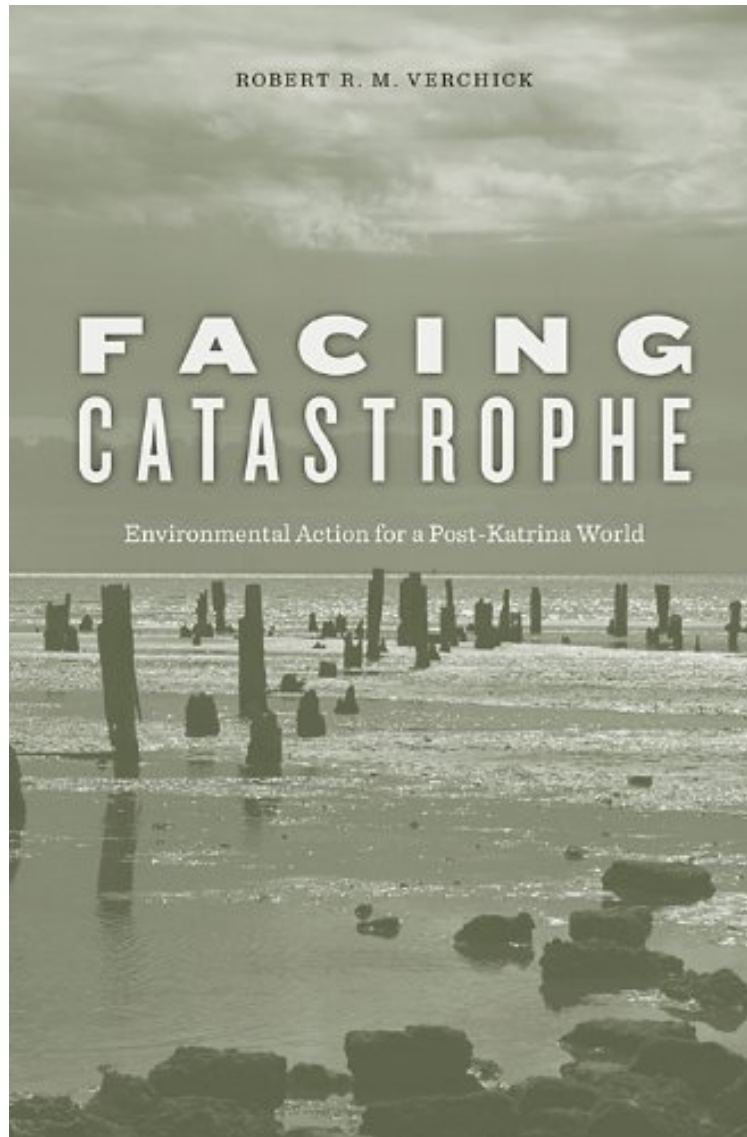


(Download) Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World

Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World

Robert R. M. Verchick

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Robert R. M. Verchick : Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Facing Catastrophe: Environmental Action for a Post-Katrina World:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating, persuasive, and inspiringBy J KalbIf I could have every

policymaker in my home state of Louisiana read one book, it would be this one. Rob Verchick argues persuasively that our best response to so-called "natural" disasters is to invest wisely in the natural infrastructure. He translates his three deceptively simple principles, "Go Green," "Be Fair," and "Keep Safe" into concrete suggestions for regulatory action. Unlike much that is written in this area, Verchick's account is both tremendously readable and ultimately optimistic. On the eve of the fifth anniversary of Katrina, this book has left me educated, motivated, and inspired. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A must read for environmental law students. By W. Remer. Students and young professionals looking to pursue careers in environmental law and policy, hazard mitigation, and disaster management this is your vindication. Verchick provides well documented evidence that current policies and approaches in land-use planning and environmental protection are not sufficient for our twenty-first century urban lifestyles. Facing Catastrophe is a long awaited wake up call. His book is rooted with academic integrity, but delivered as an easy and practical read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Terrific Read. By N Boar. This book is one of the clearest, most accessible ways to educate oneself about disaster policy and what sort of steps should be taken to change the way we currently deal with them. A must-read for those who live in disaster-prone areas, those who engineer policy for disaster-prone areas, or those who simply want to learn new things without the dryness that normally accompanies it.

As Hurricane Katrina vividly revealed, disaster policy in the United States is broken and needs reform. What can we learn from past disasters—storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and wildfires—about preparing for and responding to future catastrophes? How can these lessons be applied in a future threatened by climate change? In this bold contribution to environmental law, Robert Verchick argues for a new perspective on disaster law that is based on the principles of environmental protection. His prescription boils down to three simple commands: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Going green means minimizing exposure to hazards by preserving natural buffers and integrating those buffers into artificial systems like levees or seawalls. Being fair means looking after public health, safety, and the environment without increasing personal and social vulnerabilities. Keeping safe means a more cautionary approach when confronting disaster risks. Verchick argues that government must assume a stronger regulatory role in managing natural infrastructure, distributional fairness, and public risk. He proposes changes to the federal statutes governing environmental impact assessments, wetlands development, air emissions, and flood control, among others. Making a strong case for more transparent governmental decision-making, Verchick offers a new vision of disaster law for the next generation.

Beautifully written, powerfully argued, and sweeping in its scope, *Facing Catastrophe* answers the wake-up call for environmental policymakers that was Hurricane Katrina. This is a book that deserves to be read, re-read, and read yet again. (Douglas A. Kysar, Yale University) Hurricane Katrina was not just a storm; it was also the occasion for a complete governmental debacle. As Rob Verchick trenchantly demonstrates, we can learn much from this tragedy about how to face other major societal risks such as climate change. Let's hope we learn from this experience, and from Verchick's thoughtful analysis, without waiting for the lessons to be reinforced by still more disastrous policy failures. (Daniel A. Farber, University of California, Berkeley) Makes a compelling case for reforming disaster policy, making government decision-making more transparent. (New Orleans Times-Picayune 2010-07-18) The book is an important attempt to, among other things, take the "lessons of Katrina" and make from them a new kind of national policy: one that can calculate the economic value of "natural infrastructure"—like Louisiana's coastal wetlands, which help to diminish the ferocity of incoming hurricanes—and can use that calculation to make saner cost-benefit decisions about our environment. (Harry Shearer Huffington Post 2010-08-17) In unraveling the engineering, social, and political debacles that created the catastrophic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Verchick proposes fundamental reforms in disaster policy and environmental law for coping effectively and ethically with future natural disasters. His analysis of this complex tragedy is masterful and lucid, and his prudent prescriptions are compelling... Anyone concerned with human and environmental well-being should read this important synthesis about proactive disaster preparation, particularly in light of the ongoing warming of the atmosphere and rising sea levels. (P. R. Pinet Choice 2010-11-01) About the Author Robert R. M. Verchick is Gauthier St. Martin Professor of Environmental Law at Loyola University New Orleans.