



Ben Lowe wasn't content to leave his college campus the way he found it. While majoring in environmental studies he rallied students, faculty and administration alike to make Wheaton College more green. Ben is co-coordinator of Renewal, a grassroots network committed to equipping this student generation in the compassionate stewardship of all of God's creation. He previously served as director of outreach for A Rocha USA, where he mobilized campuses and churches in creation care. Lowe has a degree in environmental studies from Wheaton College, and is based out of Chicago, Illinois.

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## Facts About the Environment

- Over 1 billion people lack an adequate supply of water today, and this is projected to rise to 1.8 billion by 2025.
- Overall fish stocks are in their worst state yet, with three quarters of marine fisheries exploited unsustainably. The hardest-hit fisheries include previously ubiquitous species such as Atlantic cod and Pacific salmon.
- Other food production (through agriculture and livestock farming) is being stretched to the limit, and arable land is being lost on a constant basis, especially in Africa. As a result, food costs are rising and have resulted in the beginnings of a global food crisis.
- Developed nations may be getting cleaner, but that's largely because they are "exporting" pollution to the developing world, where exposure to these pollutants is responsible for 20 percent of human disease.
- An estimated 60 percent of all ecosystems are degraded and unsustainably used.
- Biodiversity loss is accelerating rapidly. Between a quarter and a third of all wildlife has disappeared since 1970, and a full third of all amphibians are threatened with extinction.
- Deforestation continues at an estimated rate of 13 million hectares (32 million acres) a year, with most of it occurring in the Tropics to make way for cattle grazing, soybean farming and oil palm plantations.
- The evidence for human-caused climate change continues to grow, and predictions of sea-level rise and extreme weather events become more serious given the acceleration of melting ice at the poles.
- About 1 billion people live on less than one U.S. dollar a day, and at least 2.6 billion people (40 percent of the world's population) live on under two dollars a day. These poorest of the poor are the most vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation and climate change—effects that are being felt even now.

Statistics taken from <http://www.unep.org/geo/>

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