

# THE Daily Telegraph

## Fix a meal, and the world

June 02, 2007 12:00

Article from: Agence France-Presse

### **A NEW weight-loss book will help those worried about their waste-lines and the world simultaneously.**

The soon-to-be-published "Global Warming Diet," American chef Laura Stec and climate change expert Eugene Cordero say it is not enough for a good meal to be presentable and delectable - it must also be environmentally friendly.

"One of the most positive effects you can have on the environment begins on your dinner plate" - particularly in reducing one's carbon footprint, the authors maintain in promotional literature plugging their book.

The book, to be published next year, advocates "eating more local, more organic, adding more seasonal food, ... using less packaging, buying in bulk, growing your own food," Stec said.

While former US vice president Al Gore's bestselling book and Oscar-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" awakened Americans to the impending environmental crisis caused by global warming, it did not deal with the impact from food consumption choices -- a huge oversight, according to the authors.

They said it takes 5.5 kilograms of grain and 2,500 gallons of water to make just a half-kilo hamburger.

"When growing meat, you have to feed the cows," said Cordero.

"In the US, we feed them corn, and corn is a very carbon-intensive crop to grow, because it's growing in a manner that requires a large amount of fertilization because the land is nearly given no time to recover," the environment professor said.

A 1999 study by the Union of Concerned Scientists also found that eating too much beef and poultry and non-organic fruits and vegetables were the most harmful activities a consumer could engage in, with the exception of driving a gasoline-powered car.

The book advocates the use of sustainable agriculture and local family farming; eating more plant-based foods; reducing food waste through composting; limits on bulky packaging; and the use of fewer pesticides.

Stec and Cordero also rail against the ubiquitous plastic shopping bags, 30 billion of which are used each year in this country, to say nothing of the 10 billion paper bags it takes some 14 million trees to make.

Only about one percent of Americans bring their own bags to the store when making their food purchases, they note.

And the environmentally conscious dieter also will buy foods in season, Stec said.

"If you want to eat cherries in December, or tomatoes, they will be flown over from Australia," she said.

"We are not asking anything that is too crazy. We are asking to return to our roots, when we were paying more attention to our food, when we enjoyed food and spent little time preparing it," she said.



Baked earth ... A new book helps you lose weight - and save the earth at the same time / The Daily Telegraph

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