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Driving The Future: Combating Climate Change With Cleaner, Smarter Cars



Synopsis

A distinguished expert offers a dazzling preview of the cars of the future while exploring the science and politics behind climate change. As the director of the EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality, engineer Margo Oge was the chief architect behind the Obama administration's landmark 2012 deal with automakers in the US market to double the fuel efficiency of their fleets to 54.5 mpg and cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2025. This was America's first formal climate action using regulation to reduce emissions through innovation in car design. Tom Friedman praised the new rules as the "Big Deal" that redeemed the administration's previous inaction. In *Driving the Future* Oge portrays a future where clean, intelligent vehicles with lighter frames and alternative power trains will produce zero emissions and run at 100+ mpg. With electronic architectures more like that of airplanes, cars will be smarter and safer, will park themselves, and will network with other vehicles on the road to drive themselves. Offering an insider account of the partnership between Federal agencies, California, environmental groups, and car manufacturers that led to the historic deal, she discusses the science of climate change, the politics of addressing it, and the lessons learned for policymakers. She also takes the listener through the convergence of macro trends that will drive this innovation over the next 40 years and be every bit as transformative as those wrought by Karl Benz and Henry Ford.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Margo Oge retells her very personal and behind-the-scenes experiences leading EPA's OTAQ

division through the years leading up to the country's first major regulations to mitigate climate change and beyond. The book is essentially broken up into how we got where we are on climate change, what work has recently been accomplished, and what might the future hold. If you had never had a primer on climate change and politics, this alone would be a great reason to pick up this book. Let's be honest, a lot of this story is about creating regulations and the bureaucracy that goes hand in hand with working for the Federal government which doesn't seem like it would make for the most interesting reading -but- the crazy part was that it was so amazingly well written that it was more like being inside an episode of Aaron Sorkin's *West Wing*. I could not put this book down in anticipation of what would happen next. As an aside: it was gut-wrenching reading about so many devoted EPA employee's works floundering in a single unread email so that the administration on the time would not have to act. If you are interested in reading about solutions for climate change, what happened behind the scenes at EPA during some of the biggest recent events, the history of how climate change has become the topic it is in politics, or just curious to see an expert's take of what the future might hold in transportation- this is an incredible story that I wholeheartedly recommend.

A constant refrain from some in Washington is that lazy government bureaucrats waste lots of time dreaming up useless regulations that hurt American industry, cost jobs and penalize consumers. This beautifully written book debunks all that but not in some theoretical academic treatise. An insider's account of what it is really like to develop major regulations - the long hours, the negotiating skills, the technical expertise, the political sensitivity - "Driving the Future" describes what it really takes to get important things done in government. Reading like a Grisham thriller, we see a master at work guiding her outstanding team and eventually winning over many in the very industry she is regulating. The result of their work is a stronger industry building better, cleaner cars that over time save money for consumers - not a job killer but a job creator. Based on her track record we will do well to pay close attention to Ms. Oge's vision of the future, a future that must build on the strong regulatory and technological foundation she has left behind. It is easy to be cynical and pessimistic about our ability to successfully address climate change, but reading this book gives one hope.

This book provides an excellent insider's view of one of the most important Federal actions affecting the US auto industry. Margo Oge, a former senior official at EPA, presents an accessible and captivating account of the Obama's administration historic efforts to set EPA's first ever

greenhouse gas standards and the world's most stringent fuel economy standards for cars. These actions will very well fundamentally reshape the future of the auto industry for decades. Her book provides a rare look at the technological, public policy, and political challenges that had to be overcome in order to get the widespread support from the auto industry. Her story comes alive with the real life, behind the scene personal stories she shares! A must read book.

There are few public health experts whose experience rivals Margo Oge's. I was interested in reading the book after hearing Ms. Oge speaking on CSPAN during the Los Angeles Times Book Fair and I was immediately taken by her story. Admittedly I am not an environmentalist and this is the first book of its kind that I've ever purchased. It will surely not be the last however because the history and realities of climate change coupled with the heroic story of Ms. Oge's vision for a healthier planet and her pursuit of that end have changed my view of this genre. Thank you Margo Oge, you are one of the unspoken heroes of our government. In an age of political skepticism, Congress' abysmal approval ratings and absurd legislative gridlock, Margo Oge's accomplishments are a true beacon of hope and reminder that things can actually get done if the right people are empowered in their positions.

I rarely write reviews but this book truly inspired me. Climate change is one of the defining issues of our age and this book tells the inside story of a major triumph in government policy to address climate change. It's a surprising and inspiring story about how government can affect positive change in our lives. What makes the book come alive is that it's told first hand by Margo Oge, the US EPA official who worked tirelessly with her small team to get the job done. The story of dealmaking, strategy and scientific advancement is punctuated by telling anecdotes that makes it a fast and entertaining read.

This generation's "Showdown at Gucci Gulch". At a time when students of public policy are discouraged by the continuous gridlock in Washington, Margo Oge gives us a reason to hope for progress. Her story of consensus building is remarkable. Driving the Future should be required reading in public policy classes across the country.

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