

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A New Novel - The Big Melt

A self help guide for humans in a time of rapidly changing climates
Columbia, Maryland November 15, 2018

This new novel by Ned Tillman gets at the core of what most people are not telling you about the flooding in Ellicott City, Maryland (or the California fires, Midwest droughts, and Middle East climate refugees). The bottom line is that we cannot stop the flooding or any of these catastrophic events with Band-Aids.

We have to slow the warming and that will take every one of us to change our everyday behaviors. We have to reduce the amount of CO2 we are pumping into the atmosphere every day. There are many ways we can do that (see Paul Hawken's Drawdown) and this book follows the awakening and struggle of a typical small town in America to this challenge.

The Big Melt is an engaging novel that shows how each of us can take action today and help to make a real difference in places like Ellicott City. We are clearly not doing enough. People all over the world are taking actions and we as individuals, communities, and businesses can take actions too. In this book, Jim's Ten Steps to a Cooler Planet is a great guide for all of us. Wanda's Plan for saving her hometown of Sleepy Valley shows how you can balance the need for restoration efforts and the greater need for prevention. More importantly, the transformation of Marley and Brianne, the lead characters, serves as great role models for all of us.

Ned says, "I chose to wait until after the election to release this book because this should not be a political issue. We all need to come together behind a plan where we can take actions now so we all don't suffer more in the future. We owe it to our children and grandchildren."

Author Bio - Tillman knows a little about Ellicott City. He served as the chair of the Howard County Sustainability Board, The General Plan Task Force, the Conservancy, and facilitated the efforts to gain heritage status for the Patapsco River Valley. He has given talks and led walks that point out the challenges of this town built in a rocky gorge. He is also the author of the award-winning books: *The Chesapeake Watershed* and *Saving the Places we Love*.

Who would have thought the little historic town of Ellicott City, MD would be hit by 1000 year storms in 2016 and 2018? But in reality, we all should have known it. Those planning concepts of 1000 year storms are no longer relevant in a time of changing climates. So if we are to be honest with ourselves we will need to do more than just rebuild, more than just try to make our vulnerable areas more resilient, we will take actions to slow down the warming. Of course, that requires real leadership on the individual level as well as a community, state, national, and international level. I want to see the leaders stand up now and create a plan we all can get behind. I want to see them use their bully pulpits to align the power of the people who care about our future to act now to preserve it. This book is a good tool to motivate more of us to take action.

Contact the author for review copies of the book

Ned Tillman
443-472-3681

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ned@sustainable.us

www.SavingThePlaces.com

@nedtillman

facebook.com/Ned-Tillman-Saving-the-Places

Call to Action - The story is certainly focused on the coming of age of the young adults, but their older mentors evolve as well. As Marley says in the book, “it’s going to take all of us working together.” He’s right, it’s time to take advantage of all of these wake-up calls and get involved. Let’s not lament for the rest of our lives that we should have gotten involved sooner.

All profits from the sale of this book will go to efforts to prevent future weather-related disasters.

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