

Only Planet book offers hope for the future

Tim van Hattum, the Climate programme leader at Wageningen, wrote the book *Only Planet, klimaatgids voor de 21ste eeuw* (Only Planet: climate guide for the 21st century). It contains seven routes to a more hopeful future for our planet. Most solutions for tackling climate change are already available.

Van Hattum does not deny the situation is serious, but he thinks not enough attention is given to the fact that solutions are already available. They do need to be scaled up and rolled out quickly, and that is where the challenge lies, says the researcher.

According to Van Hattum, the key solution is to bring about a better balance between society and nature. If we work in tandem with nature and deploy smart technologies on a large scale, our future will look bright again. According to the author, a change of mindset is required, from fatalism to pulling out all the stops.

Van Hattum sees nature itself as the main solution to the climate crisis. The large-

scale protection and restoration of nature will make us more resilient to climate change and will also capture more CO₂ from the atmosphere. One example is combating desertification and the mass greening of desert areas.

The food supply is another one of his priorities. Van Hattum advocates the large-scale roll-out of aquaculture and the cultivation of food crops without the use of land, for instance. The city of the future also plays a major role in his book. The effects of climate change can be mitigated by making cities greener and more liveable.

Info: tim.vanhattum@wur.nl

