The Carbon Age



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著者:Eric Roston

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The story of carbon--the building block of life that, ironically, is humanity's great threat. Carbon has always been the ubiquitous architect of life: Indeed, all living things need it to stay alive, and carbon cycles through organisms, ground, water, and atmosphere in a kind of global respiration system that helps keep Earth in balance. Yet, since the start of the industrial era, carbon dioxide emissions have sped up the carbon cycle, and chlorofluorocarbons are destroying the ozone layer and warming the planet. In "The Carbon Age," science writer Eric Roston evokes this essential element, illuminating history from the Big Bang to modern civilization, and chronicles the often surprising ways mankind has used carbon over centuries. Blending the latest science with original reporting, Roston charts how we reached the brink of catastrophe, making us aware, as never before, of the seminal impact carbon has on our lives.

作者介绍:

埃里克·罗斯顿,哥伦比亚大学欧洲史学士、俄罗斯史硕士,精通俄语。曾在《时代》 周刊做过六年的科技、科学政策和能源议题的报道撰稿人,曾参与《时代》"911"特 刊的策划撰稿,并以这期增刊赢得了2002年美国国家杂志奖。后任美国彭博新闻社编

辑,负责报道能源、自然资源和可持续发展方面的新闻。现为美国国家发展委员会的高级分析师。本书是他第一次对影响全球气候的根本因素——碳的历史做全面阐述,他深入浅出的写作方式,使人有如倾听一部宇宙、地球、碳和人类文明的史诗。
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