

Paul Hawken

BIOGRAPHY

Paul Hawken is an environmentalist, entrepreneur, author and activist who has dedicated his life to environmental sustainability and changing the relationship between society, business and the environment. His work includes founding successful, ecologically conscious businesses, writing about the impacts of commerce on living systems, and consulting with heads of state and CEOs on economic development, industrial ecology, climate and environmental policy.



Paul has appeared in numerous media including the Today Show, Larry King, Talk of the Nation, Charlie Rose, and has been profiled or featured in hundreds of articles including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek*, *Washington Post*, *Business Week*, *Esquire*, and *US News and World Report*.

His writings have appeared in the *Harvard Business Review*, *Resurgence*, *New Statesman*, *Inc*, *Boston Globe*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Mother Jones*, *Utne Reader*, *Orion*, and many other publications.

He authors articles, op-eds, and peer-reviewed papers, and has written eight books including five national bestsellers, *The Next Economy* (Ballantine 1983), *Growing a Business* (Simon and Schuster 1987), and *The Ecology of Commerce* (HarperCollins 1993) and *Blessed Unrest* (Viking, 2007), and more recently *Drawdown. The Ecology of Commerce* was voted in 2013 as the #1 college text on business and the environment by professors in 67 business schools. *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* (Little Brown, September 1999) co-authored with Amory Lovins, has been read and referred to by several heads of state including President Bill Clinton who called it one of the five most important books in the world today. His books have been published in over 50 countries in 30 languages. *Growing a Business* became the basis of a 17-part PBS series, which Mr. Hawken hosted and produced. The program, which explored the challenges and pitfalls of starting and operating socially responsive companies, was shown on television in 115 countries and watched by over 100 million people.

He is the founder of Project Drawdown, which was first proposed in 2001 but initiated in 2013. It works with over two hundred scholars, students, scientists, researchers, and activists to map, measure, and model the one hundred most substantive solutions that can cumulatively reverse global warming. *Drawdown* is now published or being published in the UK, Italy, Brazil, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Danish, Hungary, Taiwan (Cantonese), China (Mandarin), Vietnam, Kuwait, Japan, and Denmark. He is currently creating a new project and book called, *Regeneration, How to Create One Billion Jobs and Reverse the Climate Crisis* (Penguin, 2021).

Paul founded several companies, starting in 1966 with Erewhon, one of the first natural food companies in the U.S. that relied solely on sustainable agricultural methods. He went on in 1979 to co-found Smith & Hawken, the retail and catalog company. In 2009 Paul founded OneSun, an

energy company focused on ultra low-cost solar based on green chemistry and biomimicry, which is now called Energy Everywhere.

In 1965, Paul worked with Martin Luther King Jr.'s staff in Selma, Alabama prior to the historic March on Montgomery. As press coordinator, Paul registered members of the press, issued credentials, gave updates and interviews on national radio, and acted as a marshal for the final march. That same year, he worked in New Orleans as a staff photographer for the Congress of Racial Equality, focusing on voter registration drives in Bogalusa, Louisiana and the panhandle of Florida, and photographing the Ku Klux Klan in Meridian, Mississippi, after three civil rights workers were tortured and killed. In Meridian, he was assaulted and seized by Klan members, but escaped due to FBI surveillance and intervention. Paul has spoken, conducted research, and traveled extensively throughout the world, undertaking journeys into insurgent-held territories of Burma to research tropical teak deforestation, as well as a 1999 humanitarian/photojournalistic trek to war-torn Kosovo and Macedonia.

Paul has served on the board of many environmental organizations including Point Foundation (publisher of the Whole Earth Catalogs), Center for Plant Conservation, Conservation International, Trust for Public Land, Friends of the Earth, and National Audubon Society. In 2014 he was named one of the three Pioneers of Sustainability along with Professors Peter Senge and Michael Porter. In 2019 he received a lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council on Science Education. Paul has received six honorary doctorates. PBS named his 2009 commencement speech at the University of Portland the best commencement speech of the year.