

Low Carbon Communities

'We are faced with the greatest challenge to public engagement since World War Two, and a new discourse of fear – not military invasion but climate change. At the same time most people cannot grasp the scale of the challenge nor what they are supposed to do about it. Good governance requires an informed citizenry who are much more than consumers and customers, but active participants in a new post-carbon politics. Low Carbon Communities helps to set out the political and cultural agenda for the first half of the twenty-first century and, ultimately, the imaginative approaches that are required now to address climate change.'

– Michael Redclift, University of London, UK

'Few aspects of the transition to sustainability are more important than the search for effective means of enabling behaviour change, innovation and cooperation in local communities. This collection is a hugely valuable contribution to our understanding, and to the work of practitioners and policymakers alike.'

– From the Foreword by Ian Christie, Associate, Green Alliance and Chair, RESOLVE Advisory Committee

Community action is a vital strategy in the fight against climate change and has increasingly informed government policy, academic inquiry and grassroots action over the last decade. This timely and engaging volume explores both the promise of community-based action in tackling climate change and some of its limitations.

On the one hand, community-based action offers a meaningful way to achieve global targets and an avenue for renewing social relations at the local level. On the other, it challenges fundamental aspects of social organization in the modern economy and sometimes comes into conflict with wider structures and constraints. This volume brings together theoretical and practical perspectives on community action to mobilize social change towards a sustainable, low carbon future. The opportunities and challenges are considered through a diverse range of models and case studies. Fresh conceptual insights are provided and new light is shed on the policy implications and practical ramifications of establishing effective community engagement in efforts to combat climate change locally.

This book will prove a stimulating read for academic researchers in the fields of climate change science, local and national level policy analysis and governance research. Local authorities, development agencies and policymakers seeking to understand and to influence the behaviours and practices of 'energy consumers' and the communities in which they live will also find much to inspire them.

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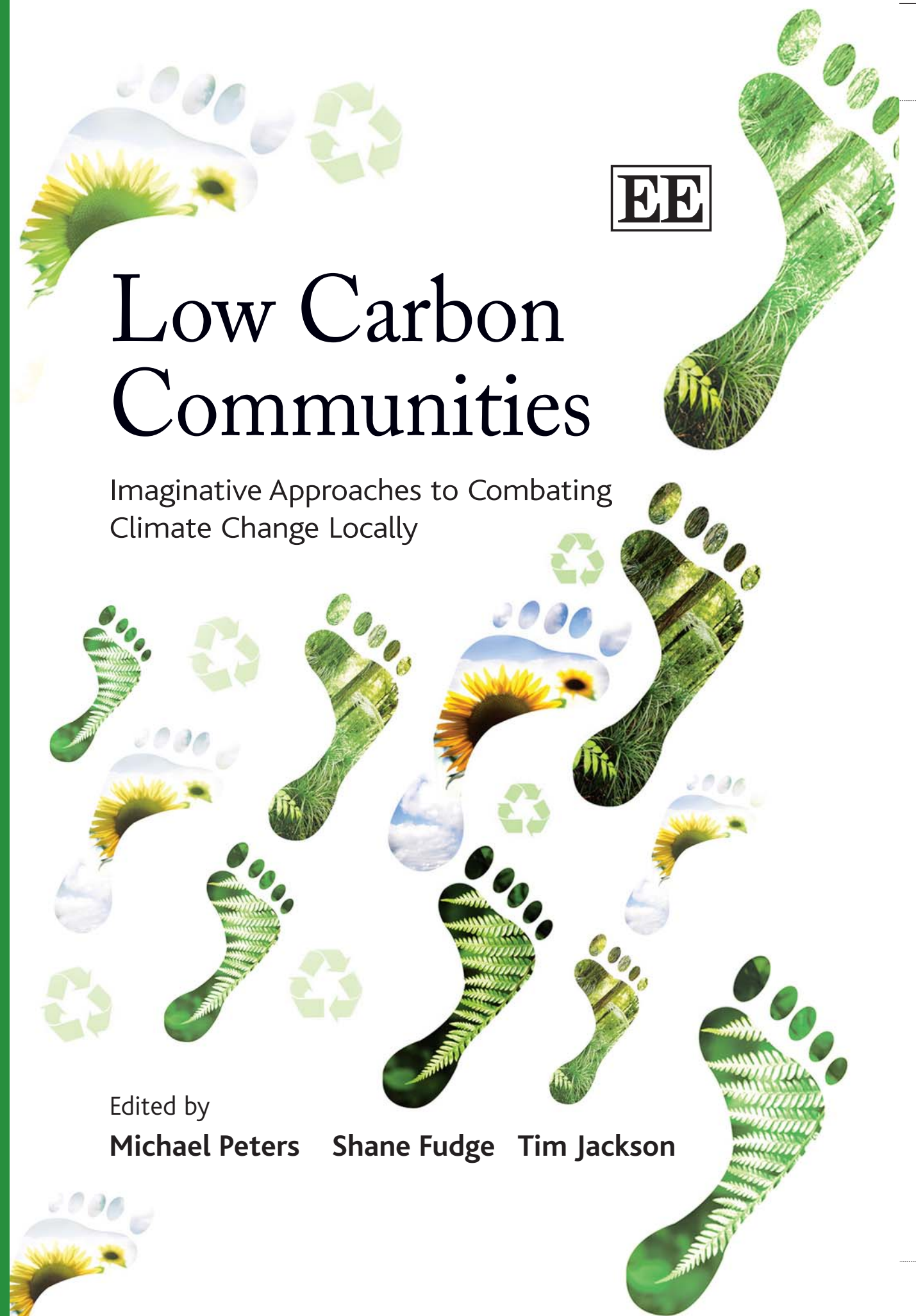
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Imaginative Approaches to Combating Climate Change Locally

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