



## Rebugging the Planet

The Remarkable Things that Insects (and Other Invertebrates) Do – And Why We Need to Love Them More  
Vicki Hird



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**Imagine a world with no insects and invertebrates. No flowers. No trees. No crops. No food. No clean water. Enormous piles of waste blighting our landscapes. This is the reality of a world without bugs.**

This vision is perilously close to where we are now. With over 40% of insect species at risk of extinction and a third more endangered, our planet is headed towards ‘insectageddon’ – a catastrophic loss of life that would have global ramifications. In *Rebugging the Planet*, environmental campaigner Vicki Hird passionately shows us how insects and invertebrates are the cornerstone of our ecosystems and demonstrates how we must turn the tide on this dramatic bug decline.

It’s up to us to rebug our attitudes. We need to re-learn to respond to creepy-crawlies with excitement, not repulsion, in order to foster respect and value for our littlest allies – and we must pass this fascination onto our children. Worms are essential for aerating our soil and recycling waste to provide nutrients for plants and crops. Flies and maggots are essential for clearing waste and the much-maligned wasp actually controls pests and pollinates plants. These are but a few examples of how bugs enrich our world. By embracing these brilliant, essential minibeasts, we can give them the space and habitats they need to flourish.

Vicki looks at the global-local solutions for rebugging, and weaves practical tips, advice and activities throughout the book with the underlying message that we all have the power to rebug our planet and every little action helps.

- Learn how to rebug parks, schools, pavements, verges and other green spaces
- Leave your garden to grow a little wild and plant weedkiller-free, wildlife-friendly plants
- Take your kids on minibeast treasure hunts and learn how to build bug palaces
- Make bug-friendly choices with your food and clothes and support good farming practices
- Discover how reducing inequality and poverty helps nature too – it’s all connected

***Rebugging the Planet* gives us the tools we need to take responsibility for all the beautiful, inventive and economically invaluable bugs and to act NOW!**

### About the Author



Vicki Hird is Head of the Sustainable Farming Campaign for Sustain: The Alliance for Better Food and Farming, and she also runs an independent consultancy. An experienced and award-winning environmental campaigner, researcher, writer and strategist working mainly in the food, farming and environmental policy arenas, Vicki has worked on government policy for many years and is the author of *Perfectly Safe to Eat?: The Facts on Food*. Vicki’s passion is insects. The first pets she gave her children were a family of stick insects, and she received a giraffe-necked weevil tattoo for her 50th birthday. Vicki has a masters in pest management and is a fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (FRES).