



An elephant in Botswana swims through the Discovery Channel's *Planet Earth*.

Must-See (Green) TV

Tube

You'd have to be living under a melting ice cap not to have heard about our planetary state of emergency. This month two groundbreaking new series make their cases for preservation simply by celebrating what will be lost if we don't wake from our energy-chugging, emissions-hemorrhaging, trash-mountain-building slumber. The Discovery Channel's *Planet Earth*, an 11-part show narrated by Sigourney Weaver, is essential for anyone who

inhabits the third rock. Each episode features breathtaking footage of events and places caught on film for the first time—from the mating ritual of the blue bird of paradise (it took more than 300 hours of video before the cameraman finally caught a glimpse) to a surreal-looking, snow-covered Gobi Desert. It premieres on March 25 at 8 P.M., but you can also make it a highlight of your Earth Day celebration by dipping into an 11-hour marathon on Sunday April 22. The other dazzler comes courtesy of the Sundance Channel, which

launches its environmentally focused programming block *The Green* on Tuesday April 17. The weekly three-hour event kicks off with the premiere of *Big Ideas for a Small Planet*, an original series hosted by journalist Simran Sethi and activist Majora Carter (a MacArthur "Genius" Fellow) that profiles ecological trailblazers, from scientists to fashion designers. More inspiring than foreboding, these thrilling shows remind us that, in our day-to-day lives, it is easy—and worth it—being green. —RACHEL BERTSCHE

Bite-Size Ways to Save the World

Site to See

IT HAPPENED in 2006: The earth's population hit 6.5 billion, hippos landed on the threatened species list, and we were faced with the inconvenient truth that the world is melting. What's an SUV-driving mortal to do? Sign up for idealbite.com, an online resource for people who appreciate wooded mountainsides *and* glossy magazines. Register online to receive one realistic, nature-friendly tip each weekday from founders Heather Stephenson and Jennifer Boulden. One pointer inspired 11,576 "biters" to remove their names from junk mail lists, which should, according to Ideal Bite's estimations, keep 393,584 pounds of paper out of landfills. At 85,000 subscribers and counting, the Web site is nibbling away at ecological destruction one in-box at a time. —WHITNEY FULLER

NUGGET

"The issues that confront us may seem so huge, so complicated, so difficult to deal with that it's hard to believe that anything we can do will have a meaningful impact. But there are a lot of us in the world. A lot of people doing a lot of little things could have a huge impact. And by doing something, we are also demonstrating that lots of people really do care."

—MICHAEL NORTON IN *365 WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD* (FREE PRESS)



Stephenson (left) and Boulden.

IF YOU HAVE ONLY...



8 minutes: Log on to goldmanprize.org and be inspired by the six recipients (including a Mongolian herdsman and a former Icelandic vodka maker) of this year's Goldman Environmental Prize, honoring the world's best grassroots conservationists.