

The Renewable Energy Handbook: A Guide to Rural Energy Independence, Off-Grid and Sustainable Living

by

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Synopsis

As oil prices continue to rise, many people are starting to think about how to unhook from the electricity grid. The Renewable Energy Handbook focuses completely on off-grid, sustainable living and rural energy independence. Author/engineer William H. Kemp, who is a leading expert in small- and mid-scale renewable energy technologies, designed and built his own off-grid home. The result is a house that has all the standard “middle-class” creature comforts while using less than five times the total fossil-fuel energy of the average North American house. The Renewable Energy Handbook focuses on the unique requirements of off-grid living and contains chapters on energy conservation; heating and cooling; backup power; domestic water heating; wireless communications; photovoltaic, wind, and microhydro energy generation; battery selection; and inverters. Since its release in 2003, The Renewable Energy Handbook has been a top-selling technology book and is recognized as the best book in its field. The book is augmented with hundreds of illustrations, line drawings, photographs, and appendices.

Sort review

About the Author William Kemp is VP Engineering of Powerbase Automation Systems Inc. and a consulting electronics/software designer who develops control systems for low environmental impact hydroelectric utilities worldwide. He is also an author, sustainable living and clean energy advocate working in renewable energy heating, energy efficiency, photovoltaic, micro-hydro and wind electric systems.

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The Renewable Energy Handbook: The Updated Comprehensive Guide to Renewable Energy and Independent Living

What people say about this book

Mike Beggs, "A great handbook. The book IS "helpful to a neophyte in the renewable energy field". As the title states it's a "Handbook" not a technical treatise. I agree with other reviewers "That the author uses the book to make subtle political statements is annoying." and "I would have given this book a four-star rating if not for the preaching that permeated each chapter. I didn't buy this book to learn how to save the planet from evil, wasteful humans. Having written that, the author does a good job explaining varied methods to exist without relying on the commercial power grid."I would have given this book 5 stars instead of 4 if not for the political preaching. I will say that the political sections are easily skimmed over once you recognize the structure of the book. Many of the books I've purchased on energy, sustainable living, etc have the preaching woven into every paragraph on every page, almost rendering them useless. This book does manage to separate the two enough so you can get the information you're after rather than someone else's views on the world.Before other reviewers slam me, let me state that I agree with many of the author's views, but that's not why I bought the book. I bought the Renewable Energy Handbook because I'm ALREADY interested in it. No preaching to the choir required."

mhansoon, "great book to get you started and thinking about how to make your house self sufficient. I searched and read a lot of review to find a good book on creating a self sufficient house. I found "the renewable energy handbook" and i am glad that i bought it. I am in the design phase of my house now and reading this book gave me a lot of good ideas to incorporate into my house. i really enjoyed reading this book, it was very easy to read and very easy to follow. all of the items were explained very well and i plan on using the book when shopping for alternate energy items for my home so i will fully understand what to ask for and what the contractors are selling me.buy this book if you are looking for explanations on how to convert/build an energy efficient renewable resourced powered house."

AR, "Highly Recommended Reference. Kemp's "Renewable Energy Handbook" is an excellent reference on the various R.E. resources available today. It provides insight on the various resources, their use, and their drawbacks in certain situations. Kemp does not try to sway the user in any particular direction. Rather, he provides solid information for the user to make their own decision.Presentation of various real-world R.E. installations provide the user with some practical info, providing a nice balance to the theory in the book. One item that provided a slight irritation for me is the "preachy-ness" when he covers biofuels, but with the current trend in oil prices and the search for alternates, I'll overlook it since there are also some valid warnings about working with alternate fuelsI highly recommend this as a first-read book for a homeowner considering using any type of R.E. resources. Since R.E. information can change rapidly, make sure you are purchasing the most recent edition."

L. Fred Roensch, "Great solar and sustainable energy home book. I'm not sure what planet these, negative reviewers are from! This book, in my opinion, is the best overall coverage of energy savings and sustainable energy systems for home owners I have ever read. I read this twice book twice in detail and compared to all of the others this one is the one best by far. There are a few typos but whos cares.I do think, since I am a chemist, he understates the dangers of handling caustic in the description of preparing biodiesel.Methanol is flammable but caustic is much worse than acid to handle!The author obviously has a lot of direct experince with most of the areas he covers and his first chapter is wonderful for anyone whether they contemplate building a truely energy self sufficientt home or not.I highly recommend the book and compliment the author for writing and publishing it."

Edgar Paternina, "WHAT A HANDBOOK!!!. This excellent work by the engineer William H. Kemp has made me to decide about installing my own small-wind turbine generator.In this book you will find the basics about renewable energy, without entering in much technical details, so as a good introductory book it is excellent. Living in a farm with excellent resources all the year round, wind and water, not only I will install a wind generator, but because of this book I have started thinking about in micro hydro electricity production, chapter 8; chapters 9 to 11, are dedicated with some extend to batteries, converters DC TO AC, and DC regulation or controllers.Evidently if you want to know a little bit more you have to study more, I would recommend too to the excellent manual by Hugh Piggott, HOW TO BUILD A WIND TURBINE."

DanielD, "Amazing book!. Excellent acquisition. It is a book that has allowed me to expand my knowledge and supports my work. This jewel was delivered to me on time by Amazon."

Kasper Madsen, "Very good all round book on energy independence!. I have researched energy independence for several years now and I found this book to be a very good collection of basically all the areas of energy independence that I have explored in this time. This is really good starting point as it contains information about many relevant aspects of getting off the grid. It is not very technical and can easily be digested by any interested reader."

Ivo, "The Renewable Energy Handbook, Revised Edition in Colour. Great book, it changer my perspective on how a house should be built it gives you a lot of nice tips and tricks on how to setup prepare and do research on electrical products that you would by for your house. This book has everything that you need to know about building a house properly."

Antony barrett, "Too much detail for me.. This book has too much information for my preference. I understand that it's a complicated subject but reading this is like wading through treacle. If you want a really detailed book on renewable energy then this is great."

N Hook, "BOW DOWN to the bible of renewable energy, everyone needs one!. Fantastic book,

wouldn't be without it!"

The book by Clarke Snell has a rating of 5 out of 4.4. 99 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

Language: English

Paperback: 592 pages

Item Weight: 1.95 pounds

Dimensions: 6 x 1.5 x 9 inches

Hardcover: 250 pages

Calendar: 24 pages

Lexile measure: 1160L

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