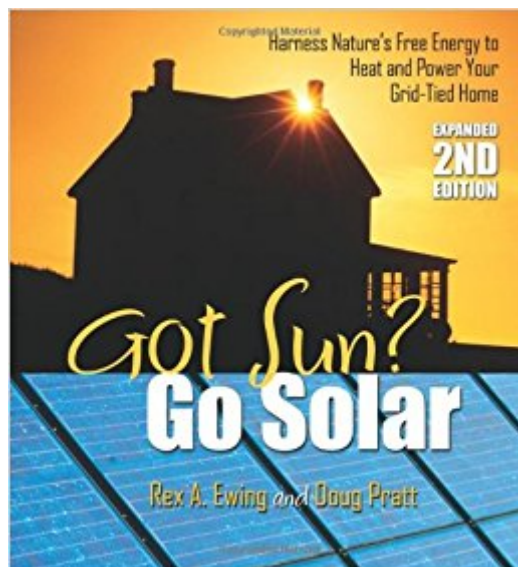




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Got Sun? Go Solar, Expanded 2nd Edition: Harness Nature's Free Energy To Heat And Power Your Grid-Tied Home



Synopsis

This straight-talking book cuts through the green energy hype and explains how grid-connected homeowners can be smart about their energy future. Solar and wind-generated electricity, solar water heating, passive solar techniques and geothermal heating/cooling will enable homeowners to become self-sufficient while protecting themselves from rising utility rates and grid blackouts. With financial incentives now available, the time is perfect to utilize nature's free energy. Table of Contents - Why Invest in Renewable Energy - Is It Legal and Safe - How Solar Electricity Works - Grid-tied Solar and Wind System Options, with and without batteries - Sizing Your Solar / Wind System - What Does It Cost - Any Financial Help Out There - Permits & Paperwork - Nuts & Bolts: What to Look For, What to Avoid - Who Does the Solar/Wind Installation - Using the Sun's Warmth to Heat Your Home (NEW) - Solar Water Heating Systems (NEW) - Geothermal Heating & Cooling (NEW) - Extensive Appendix includes manufacturers, associations, reference web sites, state energy offices, worksheets, glossary and more

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Learn a new vocabulary! Take a refresher course on the electrical power of the sun and the wind! Although the enthusiasm of renewable-energy experts Ewing and Pratt might get a bit wearing, they've developed a nontechnical reference and guide for home owners thinking about pulling the plug on their utility connections. In fact, after a look at the table of contents, the appendixes just

might be the right place to start figuring out whether photovoltaic panel installation makes sense geographically and financially and which states offer rebates or incentives. A host of resources is also offered. Sidebars (e.g., special meter or no?) and trivia (e.g., the watt is named after its Scottish-born inventor) plus numerous charts, illustrations, and anecdotes help demystify the science and math. No windy authors here. Barbara JacobsCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A book that's on topic, to the point, and well-written! Without burdening the reader with off-on-a-tangent distractions or too little information, Rex and Doug have done an excellent job in addressing the more important bits of knowledge and information sought after by those wanting to get involved with solar energy. A true value of the book is found in the Appendices: there is a great amount of information to a large number of related, from lists of component manufacturers, to state agencies, U.S. maps of solar insolation, lists of organizations and associations, and others.

--Richard Carter, GreenEnergyCafe.comAre you connected to the grid but seeking independence from high energy bills? Looking to harness solar and wind power? Plenty of other books have surveyed the benefits of renewable energy or systems; but this is one of the few to add simplicity into the formula to make it possible for novices to convert. Chapters tell how to power an existing grid-tied home with renewable sources and how to make the conversion at minimum expense. From understanding a home's big energy wasters and how to contemplate either doing without or doing with less to sizing a system, obtaining permits for installations, and considering the pros and cons of manufacturers, Got Sun? Go Solar is a winning guide: specific where others just generalize. --Diane Donovan, California BookwatchGot Sun? Go Solar offers a clear and practical introduction for non-technical folks wanting to adopt solar electricity. And renewable energy dealers and installers will find it to be an excellent tool for helping their potential customers sort through all the options.

--Chris Phipps, DC Power Systems, Inc.

After cruising the web for Solar info, I decided on this as my first solar personal library resource, and am happy I did. After a full career in computer systems hungry for power, I had little background knowledge of electricity, current, even some helpful history. This book has provided me with just the right amount of background on (residential) electricity for me to learn about PV systems, what they can provide, and where to start. This book is well written and an easy and fast read, informative without being overly or self-rightously technical, gives web and other sources to follow, and adds some humor and anecdotes to keep your interest high. I like doing my own projects, intending to

follow up with more technical design and installation books and web resources, and an online tutorial, culminating with my mostly-self designed rural grid-tie PV solar system. I found this book to be a great motivator toward that goal.

This book is a quick read, and very informative as an introduction. The layout and progression of topics make it very easy to follow, and there is plenty of good, current information on how to get started on moving to solar power. Consultations with a couple of solar installers confirmed much of what I learned from this book to be true. The appendix and references are worth a lot on their own. Of course, you CAN find all this info on the web, but having it in one book to start out with is very handy. Just keep in mind this is NOT a how-to. The author's purpose is to make you aware of what you need to know before you call an installer, not to tell you how to do it yourself, which he discourages for several reasons which he lists. But he does show you how to size a system and give you a fairly comprehensive look at the different options and configurations that are available. Nice Job!

An well-designed book (with data-filled sidebars) covering a wide range of empirical information (based on authors' experiences). It reveals points not disclosed by PV sellers/installers...perhaps because a PV buyer doesn't know what questions to ask, such as, every 10 degree rise in temperature over 77 degrees diminishes output 2.7%. It offers heat pump info (p.51), enphase technology, even windpower info that wasn't pertinent to my quest--I wanted only PV info. An expensive (college-course) textbook (PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS--450+pages), which I haven't finished reading or skimming, is much more detailed, yet lacks info on enphase tech--only mentioning AC module inverters on p. 213. For me, GOT SUN? was a serendipitous find among an array of reasonably priced texts in the solar/PV sphere.

Interesting to read AND has useful information. With humor and spirit, the authors give information about solar power, wind power, and how to implement it for personal use. They include-how solar power works-the system behind solar power in a home, including costs-remarks on the products they most recommend, including different portions of solar and wind systems*-cost analysis-things to look into prior to setting up a home system*they include many brands -- they didn't seem biased. I won't be getting a solar system (first I would need a home), but this book was a great source for information for those interested in solar power for themselves or just in interested in the topic, in general.

This book is an easy read and very informative about solar photovoltaics. And the price is right. It's written in layman's English so you won't get tangled up in highly technical jargon. There is also a chapter about small scale windpower. This book will tell you that 95% of solar PV installations are grid-tied and why. Yet it also discusses battery backup systems as well. There are easy to follow diagrams for both grid-tied and battery backup systems. Of course some of the information has changed due to newer solar panels, inverters, etc. If you are considering a PV system on your home or just want information on PV systems, I would heartily recommend this book.

So you want to GO Solar - well this book is a good start. It will help you learn the questions you need to ask of yourself, family, and contractor (if you use one). Do not expect this or any book to answer every question - it won't happen. Just what is a PV System? What do off-grid and grid tied mean - what is a KW vs MW? Do you know how much power that toaster uses? What about your microwave? Get this book, read it, learn from it, but remember just because you Got Sun, you shouldn't Go Solar. This book will help supply you with the knowledge to decide if it is right for you.

I was thinking about making the move to solar so I decided to purchase this book and do some online research. This book does a great job explaining how solar works and what you can expect with respect to wattage from a solar array based on the size of the array, where you live, time of year, etc. It explains the different types of solar installations and helps you decide which one is best for you. It also shows how to pursue local, state and federal tax incentives to help offset the costs of purchase and installation.

Pretty comprehensive up to the date it was updated, but probably needs another updated edition since the technology is moving so fast.

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