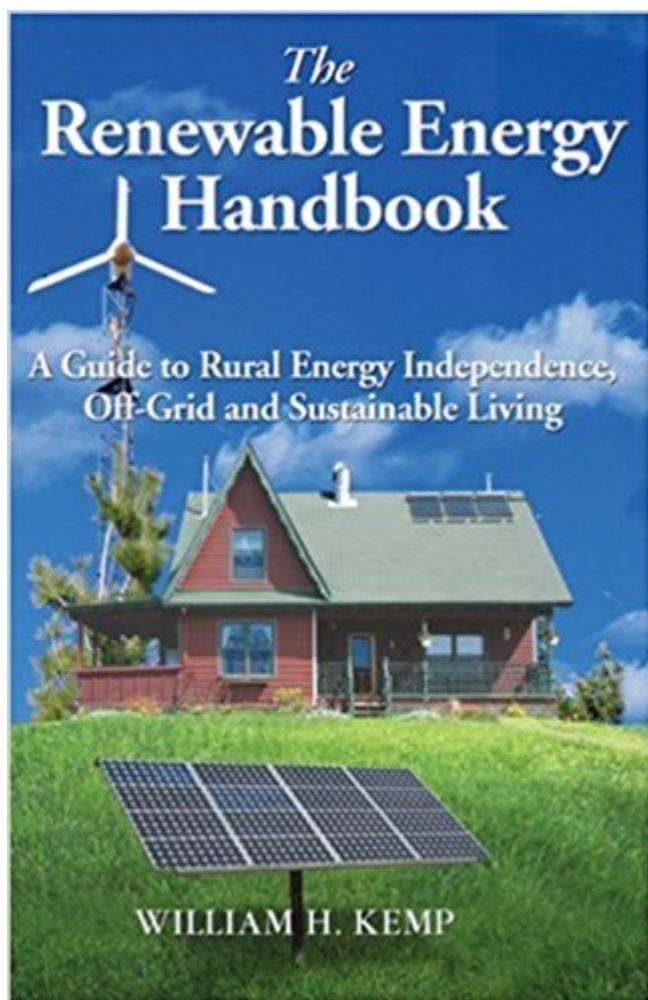


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The Renewable Energy Handbook: A Guide To Rural Energy Independence, Off-Grid And Sustainable Living



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 à œmiddle-classâ • 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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

This book had some good information for people that never considered energy conservation. however, if you are like me and was looking for information to design a hydro/electric system it fell far short of what I was looking for. It had a lot of information that is easy to get from your local solar PV installation contractor who have the software to print out the latest projection based on tax incentives that are available, but vary depending on where you are located. It has very little information on hydro/electric generation systems that are less common and don't qualify for all the rebates. The information it does have on hydro/electric was so general in nature that it was useless for what I needed. I did not need to be told to conserve energy by changing out my electric appliances for more efficient ones. This book had a lot of filler in it that you could just as easily get by googling on the internet.

This book is very shallow in technical information. It is nothing more than just a skimming of all basic alternative energy options. There is absolutely no hands-on technical information that would be useful to a do it your selfer type of individual. The only true value of this book as far as an alternative energy solution would be to use it as a fire starter in a wood burning stove. I gleened the book for photo voltaic information, found about 14 pages of general information that could have been obtained in a magazine article for less money and probably would have been more valuable as far as technical content is concerned. This book is just a skim-job written to produce a cover to put a twenty dollar price tag on. Save your money and look elsewhere for a decent book with more hands-on information on subjects like photovoltaic solar electric generation. Where the reviewers came up with the 4 and 5 star recommendations is beyond me. I am an electronic technician with forty years of experience in the field and I am aghast as to why anyone would give this book more than one star for technical content. Incidentally, this is my second review, did not publish my first one. I sent the book back for a refund. I take no joy in a review of this type, but I do it so no one else will waste their money like I did. Regards, D. Paganelli

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.

If you don't know anything about renewable energy, you well after reading this. An in depth precise book on everything you ever wanted to know on solar, wind, hydro and just about everything in between. After reading this you'll want to go off-grid like I did.

The information is a little dated but still worthy. There have been many technological breakthroughs for green energy. It is still a very educational book and I'm so glad I bought it.

Great information and fun to look through and dream.

..... time I have bought this book. We really got a lot out of this book. My husband liked it so much he loaned it to some friends then we decided to give it as a gift and get another for ourselves.

This author could have written this book in half the space by leaving out all of their lecturing on saving our environment.

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