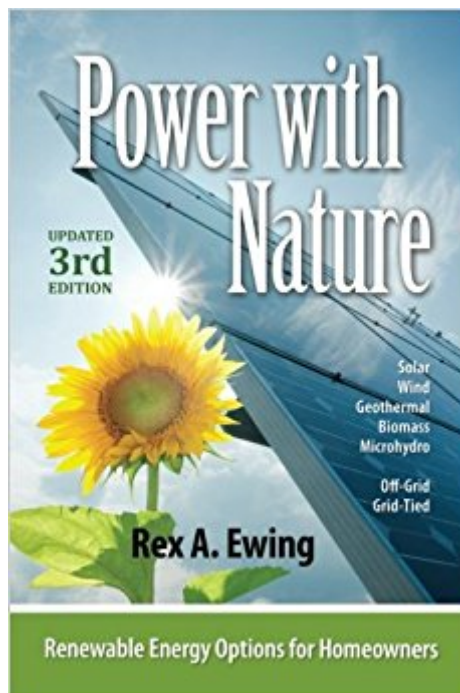




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Power With Nature, Updated 3rd Edition: Renewable Energy Options For Homeowners



Synopsis

Take a step toward self-reliance by harnessing free energy from the sun, wind, water, and the earth to power your home. Power with Nature will get you started on the right path, whether you are connected to the grid or far from the nearest power pole. For Off-Grid & Grid-Tied Homes: - Passive Solar & Other Smart Ways to Conserve Energy - Solar PV, Wind & Microhydro Systems - System Sizing, Pricing & Tax Credits - Backup Generators - Geothermal Heat Pumps - Solar Thermal Collectors - Biomass (Wood) Heating - Finding & Storing Water - Going on Vacation - Extensive Appendix (worksheets, maps, resources & more)

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: PixyJack Press; updated 3rd edition edition (November 9, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0977372499

ISBN-13: 978-0977372492

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,444,053 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Alternative & Renewable > Wind](#) #125 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Alternative & Renewable > Solar](#) #221 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Plumbing & Household Automation](#)

Customer Reviews

Readers who want to be completely self-reliant, who are looking for cost-effective solutions, or who are somewhere in the middle--all will find something useful here ... Ewing writes in a folksy, informal manner, and readers will find his hands-on primer worthwhile. --Library JournalI've read virtually every book that has been written about using solar and wind to power your home and this book is one of the best. I gave it to my wife, a true solar neophyte, and here are her comments: 'I hate technical manuals, but this book is easy to comprehend from the perspective of someone who knows next to nothing about electricity and how it works. I would highly recommend it to anyone interested in building a self-sufficient home or changing to a grid-tie system.' --Larry Cooper, Kyocera Solar, Inc.Plenty of energy guides for homeowners advocate getting off the grid; but few do

such a good job of explaining just how to go about it... An outstanding, highly recommended guide.

--California Bookwatch

From his solar- and wind-powered studio in the Colorado Rockies, Rex A. Ewing has penned a number of best-selling books on renewable energy, including *Power With Nature*; *HYDROGEN--Hot Stuff, Cool Science*; and *Got Sun? Go Solar*. For aspiring log home owners who want to incorporate solar energy into their dream home, he teamed up with his wife to produce *Crafting Log Homes Solar Style: An Inspiring Guide to Self-Sufficiency*. His magazine articles can be found in log home and sustainable living magazines. Before moving to the mountains to handcraft a log home and concentrate on his writing, Ewing raised grass hay and high-strung Thoroughbred race horses in the Platte River valley. Whenever his employees were clever enough to corral him behind a desk, he served as CEO of a well-respected equine nutrition firm, where he formulated and marketed a successful line of equine supplements worldwide. In 1997 he wrote a best-selling book on horse nutrition: *Beyond the Hay Days: Refreshingly Simple Horse Nutrition*; the expanded 2nd edition was released in 2004.

This book is good if you just have no idea what alternative power is or what your options are. However it does not have enough detail to actually BUILD anything the book talks about, and lacks information on alternate options and cost-benefit analysis of your decision. For example, the book tells you that if you live in a cold climate you MUST use evacuated tube solar collectors, ignoring the fact that these collectors cost a great deal of money and are only marginally more efficient than flat plate collectors. The hydropower portion of the book only covers pelton wheel water turbines, completely ignoring the dozen other methods that are actually better in the applications that most of us will see. Basically you are better off just skipping this book and learning what you need to know online is various alternative power forums and guides.

This book gives a decent introduction into the various elements of solar and wind production of electricity. There are a number of complications. I also found it is possible to build your own solar cells. The cost to do that is much less than buying manufactured solar cells.

This book was a great overview of every type of renewable energy that you can think of. It is written very well and takes the reader through the steps that are necessary to complete renewable energy projects. This is one of the best books I have read on the subject to date!

If you are confused by the components, their arrangement and connections, this is the book for you. The story in the beginning is a bit silly, but it does serve its purpose - to anchor concepts in your memory. It is worth enduring. You will get a decent background in components and terminology from this book, very readable, and an excellent introduction to RE.

As I prepare to live off the grid I find the Rex Ewing books the most informative and practical Kudos to Mr. Ewing. Thank you for your wonderful service.

Great book loaded with lots of information. Just what I was looking for! I'm very satisfied with my purchase!

I had already built 10-60 watt solar panels when I bought this book, but I am grid-tied now and this book has really heightened my awareness as to what I need to become grid-free, because of the input I received on batteries and chargers and inverters. Great book and really funny at times.

Great book.

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