

Got Sun? **Go Solar**

Get Free Renewable Energy
to Power Your Grid-Tied Home

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*Suppose the Chariot of the Sun were given you,
what would you do?*

*Apollo's question to Phaeton, *Metamorphoses* (Bk II, 74)*

Introduction

Have you ever gotten so tired of waiting for someone to do something for you that you finally just did it yourself? That's how most of us learn to fix our bicycles when we're kids: we get fed-up waiting for some disinterested adult—who will probably want an extortionary favor in return—to grudgingly agree to adjust the brakes, or fix a flat tire. Exasperated, you march off to the garage, fish around for a few tools, and get to work on the problem. By the time the repair is done and you're glowing with a self-satisfied sense of accomplishment, you realize it really wasn't all that difficult.

Sound familiar? Then this book is for you; you who have been listening to the chorus singing the praises of solar and wind energy for years, but have seen little more than an ever-bigger national investment in non-renewable energy sources and technology.

But why wait for the “big boys” to bring

clean, renewable power to your home at their customary glacial pace when, with a little bit of planning and a few components, you can convert your little piece of earth into an environmentally-responsible haven?

Today's photovoltaic (solar-electric) panels—not to be confused with the huge, heavy hot-water panels that adorned so many roofs back in the 1970s—are cheaper, more efficient and versatile than they've ever been, and modern power inverters can produce an electric current of sufficient power to run virtually any load in any home, while generating an output clean enough to satisfy the persnickety needs of the most delicate electronics.

Got wind? The noisy, awkward, breakdown-prone wind turbines of the past have been replaced with quiet, highly-efficient marvels of engineering that can produce useful amounts of power in a gentle breeze.

Many of these new-generation wind turbines can be directly tied into the power grid without the need of batteries or charge controllers.

This is all really cool stuff that wasn't available just a few years ago, and it's just waiting to be installed in, and on, your home.

Do you like the idea of legally spinning your electric meter backwards, and doing it with a simple, non-polluting, silent power source that will outlive your children? That's what solar energy can deliver right now, and this book will explain your options. Solar-electric and wind systems deliver their energy directly to your household, with any surplus pushing out through your meter into the grid. This is called utility intertie, or simply grid-tie, and it's legal in every state.

So what are you waiting for? Whether you're a trained electrician qualified to do the work yourself, or just a homeowner who believes waiting until tomorrow to make the world a better place is not an option, you can use the information in this book to help you decide what type of system will work best for you. Then, with the worksheets in the appendix, you'll be able to size

your system to fit your needs. We'll even tell you how to conserve energy in your home to achieve the greatest impact from nature's free and renewable energy sources. By the time you get around to finding an installer, you'll be on intimate terms with your future system.

If you still need a little push, many states offer financial incentives for those willing to invest in solar and wind power, including tax credits and substantial rebates. And should you need financial assistance to get the process kick-started, we'll tell you how to go down that road, too.

Face it: you are all out of excuses. Renewable energy technology is proven, affordable and adaptable to almost any situation, and the financial incentives for investing in solar and wind are about as sweet as they can be.

So, whether you decide to travel down the path to renewable energy on an off-the-shelf Schwinn or a custom-built Madone SSL by Trek, it's going to be your bicycle, so make the best of it. The wait is finally over. ❖