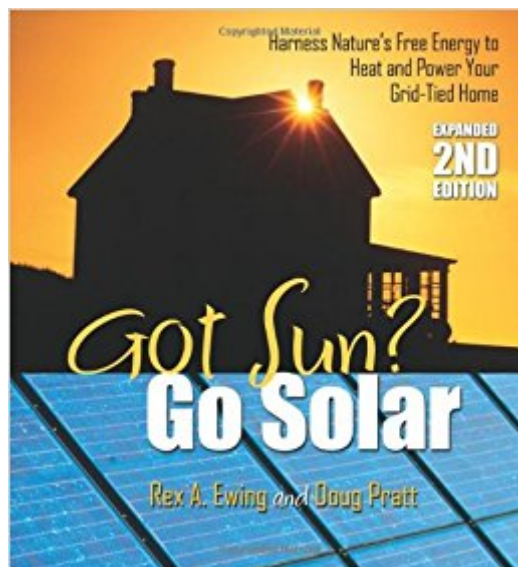




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Got Sun? Go Solar, Expanded 2nd Edition: Harness Nature's Free Energy To Heat And Power Your Grid-Tied Home



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

I've lived off-grid with a PV system long enough to recognize how realistic and practical Rex's books and magazine articles on solar living are. Now preparing to build on property already furnished with grid power, I wondered whether a grid-intertie system was a good idea or if it would turn out to be just a costly indulgence of my renewable-energy philosophies. Now that I've met Rex and LaVonne, visited their PV-powered home, and read this book, I'm convinced that there will be no

regrets. Where I live there are apparently no financial incentives, other than net metering, for grid-intertie installations. This book points out that many states and localities do have quite attractive incentive programs and suggests ways to find out. If you live in such a place, lucky you! Go for it! "Got Sun? Go Solar" doesn't provide all the information you'll need. There are too many variables: personal preference, budget, climate, local politics and attitudes, and so on. Rex and his co-author, Doug Pratt, have instead compiled a guidebook with enough technical background to understand the nature of grid-intertie technology plus resources (many on the Internet) where you can acquire the rest of the information you need. Don't be concerned that this will be dry reading. The only "dry" is the humor that fills the book. In the world of PV energy there are many funny stories and you'll get to read some of them.

I bought the Idiot's Guide and this book. This book covers actual equipment and actual costs, a big plus for me. I liked the technical information, maps, diagrams and illustrations. You can find enough information in this book to get started. It is complete enough that it may scare some people into hiring a contractor to do the work. There are some important technologies coming in the field of solar cells. A friend builds satellites, and told me of PV cell efficiencies of up to 26% and higher coming soon. Couple this with the world wide shortage of PV cells, makes prices high now. All in all, you should have this book before you buy solar electric equipment.

If you are interested in solar power, then this book will get you started. It is a quick read and it will answer a lot of questions you might have at the very beginning of your journey towards a solar-powered home. Is it going to answer all the questions? No. But it will answer your fundamental questions, and after reading this book, you will know what questions to ask next.

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!

Are 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.

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.

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