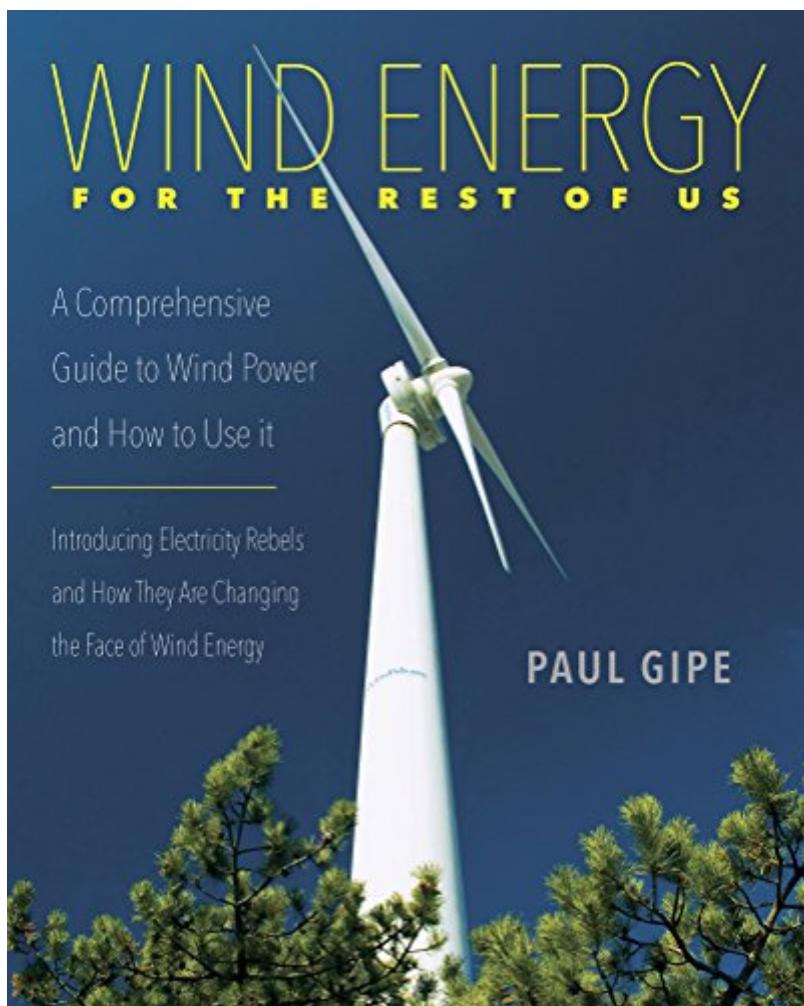


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Wind Energy For The Rest Of Us: A Comprehensive Guide To Wind Power And How To Use It



Synopsis

Wind Energy for the Rest of Us straddles two or more worlds. The book is about wind energy. It's not just about small wind turbines. It's not just about large wind turbines. It's about the depth and breadth of wind energy, encompassing more than either type of wind turbine. It includes water-pumping windmills and sailing ships. It's a sprawling book, one minute discussing how to install small wind turbines safely, the next explaining how farmers in Indiana can earn millions by installing their own multimegawatt wind turbines. If it's a book hard to categorize, that suits its author, Paul Gipe, who likes to think he's hard to categorize after four decades at the frontiers of renewable energy. His book tells the story of modern wind energy in all its complexity and introduces a North American audience to the trailblazing electricity rebels who have launched a renewable energy revolution in Europe. The book debunks novel wind turbines their promoters claim will generate electricity "too cheap to meter," and rebukes revisionist historians who falsely argue that it was the aerospace industry that delivered today's modern wind turbines. Gipe explains why new wind turbines are part of a silent revolution that is changing the way we use wind energy. This revolution doesn't garner headlines, but is making wind turbines more cost-effective in more places than ever before, lessening the need for new transmission lines, obviating the need for storage, and fueling rapid growth. Gipe refutes many common myths surrounding wind energy and argues persuasively that wind turbines are productive, effective, and environmentally sound. Gipe argues that wind energy is too important to be left to electric utilities and their subsidiaries alone. Wind energy is also for the rest of us, he says. It is our resource. We can develop it and we can own it-ourselves.

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Customer Reviews

Thank you, Paul Gipe, for pulling together the many faceted world of wind power. Anyone can read this thoroughly compiled description of how man has for many, many years utilized a resource. The author gets into the details explaining exactly the physics of transforming a stiff breeze into an electric current, the most basic component of our modern life. The comparison of different windmill designs should help interested participants in this alternative power source to choose wisely, avoiding undue monetary loss. Challenges to implementing wind farms such as noise, wildlife impacts and visual aesthetics are discussed, even an unexpected chapter about real hazards one should be aware of when working on a windmill. For the skeptics who have known only a life energized by huge utility companies, the author shows how Danes and Germans are plugging into a more independent power grid system. Furthermore, the potential of how small communities or cooperatives in the United States could possibly profit by utilizing this energy is put forward for those desiring to reduce reliance on large polluting carbon-based power plants. Our modern society, for it to function as it has become accustomed, demands electricity. This book is a wonderful window into how our presumed lifestyles can less harmfully coexist with our environment.

This is an excellent telling of the history of wind power. Including "for the rest of us" in the title led me to expect more information on small wind turbines for use at individual homes and businesses. Even with that lack this book provides good information for anyone who is contemplating the possibility of erecting a small wind turbine.

Best read ever

Ok

The most essential book for all interested in renewable energy technology

Quite remarkable. At first glance, it looks as if it's a huge technical manual that tells you everything you ever wanted to know about wind power, but when you dig in you find that it's certainly that - but it's also far more, and as well, it's written in a very easy, conversational style. So if you are entertaining any ideas about investing in, building, or promoting wind energy, Paul Gipe's book is an absolute must. Got questions about the best blades? Best towers? Price? Vertical axis? Rooftop turbines? Community ownership? Cooperatives? Setbacks? Micro-turbines? Energy production? Performance? Feed-in tariffs? It's all here - every single thing you might want to know about wind energy, in meticulously researched detail. Paul is not some journalistic observer of the wind scene - he has lived it, done it, campaigned for it and worked extensively on it for decades, and he really knows his stuff. Highly recommended.

This is a brilliant book on wind energy, by far the best I have ever seen. It's considerable depth and breadth ranges across the broad spectrum of wind energy. The writer's comments and insights on siting concerns will provide those who may resist the development of wind energy with realistic perspectives on any issues that may be of concern, such as shadow flicker or noise. The design of the book makes it a delight to browse through, the balance of pictures, drawings, charts, and writing is both easy on the eye and delightful. Don't be put off by the 500+ pages, this book is a pleasure to read in its various sections - each standing on its own yet part of a whole. For example, the fine chapter on community wind. The author brings a lifetime of experience in energy and wind energy in particular to his book. It is a book that he can be justifiably proud of.

THE most complete book about wind energy. Right from its crude beginnings to today's sophisticated turbines, Paul shares his depth of experience in a wide array of areas that are so important in understanding the wind industry today. If you have an interest in wind energy, then Wind Energy for the Rest of Us is for you.

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