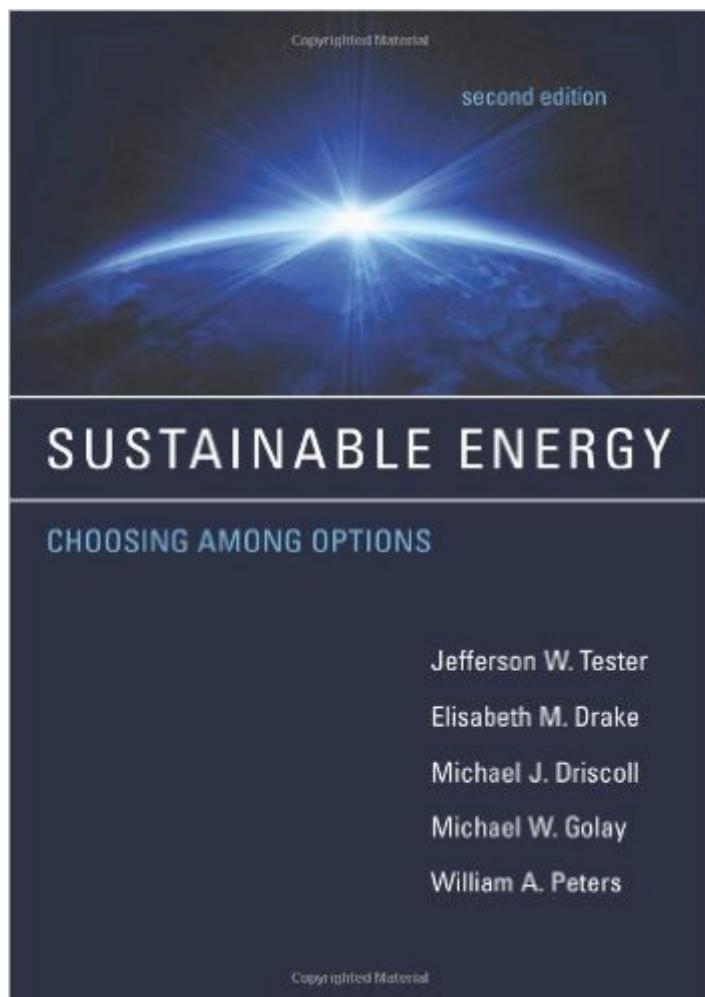


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Sustainable Energy: Choosing Among Options (MIT Press)



Synopsis

Human survival depends on a continuing supply of energy, but the need for ever-increasing amounts of it poses a dilemma: How can we find energy sources that are sustainable and ways to convert and utilize energy that are more efficient? This widely used textbook is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students as well as others who have an interest in exploring energy resource options and technologies with a view toward achieving sustainability on local, national, and global scales. It clearly presents the tradeoffs and uncertainties inherent in evaluating and choosing sound energy portfolios and provides a framework for assessing policy solutions. The second edition examines the broader aspects of energy use, including resource estimation, environmental effects, and economic evaluations; reviews the main energy sources of today and tomorrow, from fossil fuels and nuclear power to biomass, hydropower, and solar energy; treats energy carriers and energy storage, transmission, and distribution; addresses end-use patterns in the transportation, industrial, and building sectors; and considers synergistic complex systems. This new edition also offers updated statistical data and references; a new chapter on the complex interactions among energy, water, and land use; expanded coverage of renewable energy; and new color illustrations. Sustainable Energy addresses the challenges of making responsible energy choices for a more sustainable future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a well written text book that gives an introduction to a great number of important fields. It does a particularly good job giving a fair treatment to some options that are often overlooked in books on sustainable energy such as geothermal and nuclear energy. It also gives a good background in the economics of electricity and liquid fuels. It is however already quite dated. The book was published right before the price of oil started to soar, and completely didn't see it coming. Many statements support the idea that oil will be cheap for many decades to come. They certainly were not alone in not seeing this coming, but it is sometimes hard to take them seriously on other subjects when they keep referring back to the low price of oil.

I've been working in the energy field for the past few years, and this is one of the few references I've found that describes all of our energy options with real depth. Information is well organized and systematically laid out. The book is, as others have pointed out, unfortunately already outdated.

As a student with little to no experience in the field, some topics and language can be overwhelming. As an electrical engineer, I have some background into the technologies presented. However, some concepts are either presented lightly or ambiguously. The later chapters cover some technologies in-depth and present their uses and future well. However, the intro chapters present a steep learning curve for the reader. Would recommend as a reference.

This book was one I was required to buy for a class, and it was overall an interesting book, with a large repertoire of information. There are only two problems I want to highlight. One, the book was very wordy and somewhat informal. This might be better for some people but it was not something I liked. I felt I could have been told the information much more succinctly. Two, the questions at the end of the book (which are presumably used for homework, as they were in my case) were horrible. To answer the questions it takes many external resources as the book does not delve deeply enough into its own themes. There were also a few typos in the book, but I have yet to encounter a textbook that does *not* have typos.

I use this book as the reference for Sustainable Energy Systems course in my program of study. It's a thousand-pages book which covers many aspects of sustainability around various energy sources. I have gone just through two first chapters of the book and cannot provide more comments about the contents. I got the book from "firstclassbooks" which was slightly cheaper than other

sellers. Packaging was OK and it was delivered in 7 days which is pretty normal for standard shipping.

I love this book. It is relevant and puts the current energy issue in quantitative terms that are understandable. It is not "Energy resources for Dummies," so I will warn you of that. But if your brain works, you enjoy learning, and you aren't afraid of graphs and tables, you will find that this book is packed with fascinating information.

We are consuming our world, there is no doubt about it... the main problem today are greenhouse gases and the planet overheating... but the truth is that earth passed during the past milleniums through a series of climate changes, some of them with the presence of human beings, some other without humans. Our kind already faced one ice age, but... are we ready to face a new climate change?, the earth will survive, but, if we are not ready to face this changes, will we survive this?? This book is a overview of what human activity have done to our planet, and some answers on how to reverse the situation. Maybe we still have some time to react...

If you're a beginner or someone with more experience, this is the "one book" to purchase in the area of energy and sustainability. Useful, practical content at a level that allows you to refresh or build on your knowledge in the area.

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