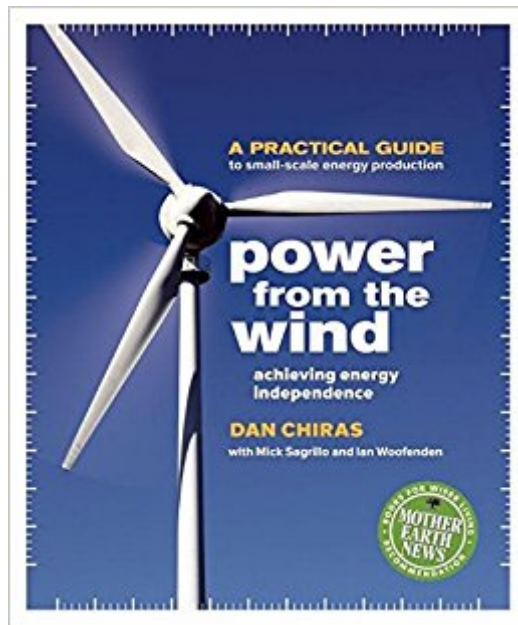




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Power From The Wind: Achieving Energy Independence



Synopsis

“Authors Dan Chiras, Mick Sagrillo, and Ian Woofenden have addressed the needs of people seeking a clearly written, comprehensive guide to the small-scale wind arena.”

Backhome Magazine “Read no further than *Power From the Wind* by prolific writer and sustainable living practitioner Dan Chiras, with contributions by Mick Sagrillo and Ian Woofenden. This book helps you assess your energy needs, your site’s wind energy potential, and sort out every aspect of the design, purchase and installation of a small-scale, or residential wind system. Amazingly, it does so without demanding that you be some technical tinkerer or electrical engineer.” - John Ivanko, *Sustainablog* “What can the wind do for the world’s power problems? *Power From The Wind* discusses how people can use wind power to power their own homes on a small scale, reducing power consumption bills. Wind is cheap and renewable; to not harvest it for use is wasteful. Outlining how to get started harvesting wind power, author Dan Chiras answers many of the most commonly asked questions. *Power From the Wind* belongs in any collection for the environmentally thoughtful.” - James. A. Cox, *The Midwest Book Review*

Faced with frequent power outages, skyrocketing energy costs, and constant reminders of the impacts of conventional energy sources, homeowners and businesses are beginning to explore ways to use energy more efficiently and to generate their own electricity to reduce fuel bills and their carbon footprint and to achieve greater independence. *Power From the Wind* is an easy-to-understand guide for individuals and businesses interested in installing small wind energy systems and includes information on the following:

- Ways to assess wind resources at your site
- Wind turbines, towers, inverters, and batteries
- Installation, maintenance, and costs

This book is designed to help readers make the smartest, most economical choices. Readers will gain the knowledge they need to make wise decisions during the design, purchase, and installation of small wind energy systems and to communicate effectively with wind system installers. Dan Chiras is an internationally acclaimed author who has published over twenty-four books, including *The Homeowner’s Guide to Renewable Energy*. He is a certified wind site assessor and has installed several residential wind systems. Dan lives in a passive solar home in Evergreen, Colorado. Mick Sagrillo is the wind technology specialist for Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy. Ian Woofenden is a wind electricity editor, writer, workshop coordinator, instructor, and user in Washington’s San Juan Islands.

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Customer Reviews

Faced with frequent power outages, skyrocketing energy costs, and constant reminders of the impacts of conventional energy sources, homeowners and businesses are beginning to explore ways to use energy more efficiently and to generate their own electricity to reduce fuel bills and their carbon footprint and to achieve greater independence. *Power From the Wind* is an easily understandable guide for individuals and businesses interested in installing small wind energy system. Written for the layperson, this practical guide provides an accurate and unbiased view of all aspects of small wind energy systems, including: Wind and wind energy systems Ways to assess wind resources at your site Wind turbines and towers Inverters and batteries Installation and maintenance of systems The costs and benefits of installing a wind system This book is designed to help readers make the smartest, most economical choices. Readers will gain the knowledge they need to make wise decisions during the design, purchase and installation of small wind energy systems and to communicate effectively with wind system installers. (2008-05-07)

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If you're considering using the wind to generate electricity for your home, this book is probably the best you'll find to help you choose the right machine. More importantly, it may help you decide wind energy is not a viable option. The author, Dan Chiras, has a gift. It's not in being inventive, or doing original work. Rather, it's his ability to distill and organize massive amounts of information and make it understandable. He covers the pros and cons of wind energy. His co-authors, Mick Sagrillo and Ian Woofenden, are truly small scale wind energy icons. They use wind energy to power their own homes, and have written extensively about the subject, primarily in Home Power magazine. Sagrillo's article, "Apples & Oranges, Choosing a Home Sized Wind Generator" (Home Power #90, Aug/Sept 2002) is arguably the best 16 pages ever written about small scale wind. However, because all three authors love wind energy, the pros generally outweigh the cons when it comes to choosing wind as an energy source. The book is divided into 9 parts: Understanding Wind and Wind Energy, covering friction and turbulence, and the concept of wind as cube: double the wind speed, and get eight times the energy. Wind Energy Systems. Grid-tie versus off-grid. Wind Site Assessment. Besides determining the wind potential of your site, a lot of emphasis, correctly, is on home energy conservation. A Primer on Wind Generators includes the importance of "swept area" as being the most reliable indicator of generator output. Towers and Tower Installation. There are three kinds of towers. A towers cost may exceed that of the generator. Understanding Batteries. This has nothing to do with wind generators, but for those considering living off-grid, this chapter is important. Inverters. If you're going to be tied to the grid you've got to have one. Covers the various types. Maintaining a Wind-Electric System. Not for the faint of heart. You may decide wind is not for you after reading this chapter. Final Considerations: Zoning, Permits, Covenants, Utility Companies, Insurance and Buying a System. I've lived off-grid with a hybrid wind/solar system for nine years. I'm on my second wind generator. I wish this book had been available when I was building my system. The only comparable book available on small scale wind is Paul Gipe's, "Wind Power." It is also excellent, but is more technical, and for me, was less accessible. For anyone interested in small scale wind energy, "Power From the Wind" is probably the best single source of information you'll find.

I had spoken with two of the authors before buying this book. It is wonderfully detailed with a lot of (black on white) illustrations and tables. I was more than casually interested in this book because I am actually going to try and get a small wind power turbine, otherwise known as a windmill. While it doesn't grind flour, at least not directly, it produces electrical energy. It's tough on a dollar and

cents basis to compete with PV solar which also produces electricity, but that's because there is something wrong with that tiny industry in the US. It's tiny exactly because it takes 15+ years to recover the initial investment, based on the price structure of US products. There are alternatives but I won't get into those here, that can greatly reduce the payback period and make wind power affordable. One of the issues is siting these units. To get them to perform efficiently they must be about 80 to 120 feet up in the air and there are not too many places where the local zoning folks go along with this. In rural areas and those that are zoned for agricultural use it is a little easier to get approval but one still has to wrestle with the local authorities to obtain height variances and sometimes set-backs as well. But if your situation is such that you could get the installation approved, especially if your local power company lets you tie the system to the power grid with a halfway attractive buy-back arrangement, by all means, go ahead. How do you get the payback period down to where it is competitive with PV solar? Well, that's another story. Ask me in six months and I will tell you. Hans

I really enjoyed this book. I have taken many of Mick Sagrillo's workshops (there are actually a few pictures in the book of workshops I have taken) and he is just great so if you ever have a chance to take one of his workshops, do it. But as far as the book goes, it really covers about everything you need to know as a purchaser. As an installer myself, I found a lot of the charts and graphs in the book useful and used them to help explain different things to my customers. I also have to add that Dan Chiras is a very good writer and the book makes you want to keep reading. You really can't go wrong with any of his books; I think I have about all of them. I do want to add that if you want specific info about turbines I would probably go with the Paul Gipe book that's like fifty dollars or so but that does take some time to read. A combination of the two would be good for very specific info on site assessing, turbine design, etc. Hope this helps.

Gives a good outline and details of the time and consideration of wind energy. Can be a little overwhelming about large scale units, but small unit can be affordable. Gives no diagrams for building, very clear explanation

good

Developing information from his first volume, *Wind Power Basics*, the author has successfully added more current, and more hands-on information for the reader/user of this volume. Good read,

excellent graphics and photos, very useful for student, hobbyist/DIYer, or professional expanding their knowledge base of wind energy options and opportunities. Well done.

Just what it says. I can imagine there are more technical books out there; I didn't feel the need for one. And there may be a "Wind Power for Dummies" out there, but this book never made me feel dumb. I'm surveying my hilltop field now, starting my wind project!

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