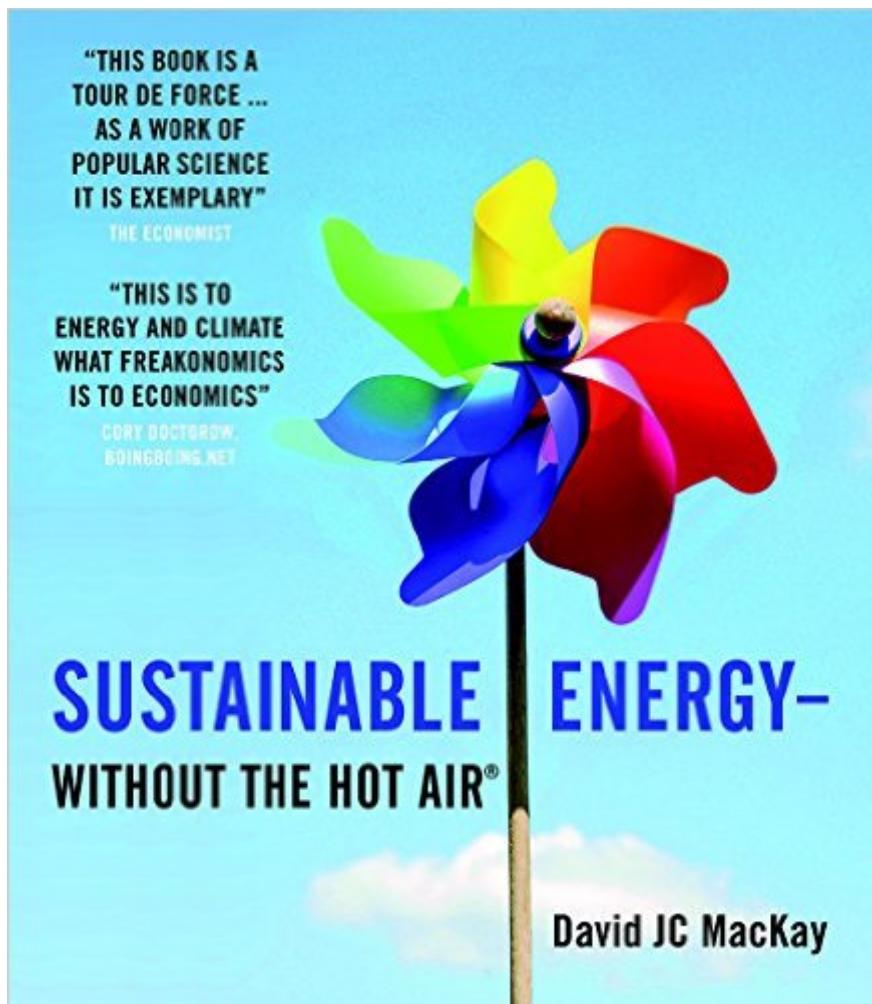


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# Sustainable Energy - Without The Hot Air



## Synopsis

Addressing the sustainable energy crisis in an objective manner, this enlightening book analyzes the relevant numbers and organizes a plan for change on both a personal level and an international scale for Europe, the United States, and the world. In case study format, this informative reference answers questions surrounding nuclear energy, the potential of sustainable fossil fuels, and the possibilities of sharing renewable power with foreign countries. While underlining the difficulty of minimizing consumption, the tone remains positive as it debunks misinformation and clearly explains the calculations of expenditure per person to encourage people to make individual changes that will benefit the world at large.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If someone wants an overall view of how energy gets used, where it comes from, and the challenges in switching to new sources, this is the book to read." — Bill Gates, chairman, Microsoft "I would choose Sustainable Energy as a text over its competitors because MacKay has moved the energy discussion in the direction where energy alternatives can be considered quantitatively." — American Journal of Physics "This is a must-have book for anyone who is seriously interested in energy policy." — Scott Kirwin, therazor.org "The main text of his book is readable (and witty) and its technical appendices bristle with equations. If the planet and its people are the patient, MacKay's book is the the lab results, temperature chart and

electrocardiogram." •The New York Review of Books (April 26, 2012) "This is a brilliant book that is both a racy read and hugely informative . . . It shows . . . how cars might become far more efficient but why planes cannot." •David Newbery, director, Electricity Policy Research Group, University of Cambridge"Here are the numbers in a form easy to digest about energy use and availability. Fantastic achievement." •Professor Volker Heine, Fellow of the Royal Society"May be the best technical book about the environment that I've ever read." •This is to energy and climate what *Freakonomics* is to economics. •boingboing.net"A tour de force . . . As a work of popular science it is exemplary . . . For anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the real problems involved [it] is the place to start." •economist.com"There are so many books about sustainable energy and alternative energy on today's market that one might wonder about the need for yet another; but *Sustainable Energy - Without the Hot Air* offers something different - and that's a notable achievement in a genre overloaded with too many revamps using the same approach." •D.

Donovan, •Midwest Book Review, California Bookwatch

Breakthrough Institute is proud to announce David MacKay, Regius Professor of Engineering at Cambridge University and former Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change, as the 2016 Breakthrough Paradigm Award winner. •David MacKay is a professor in the department of physics at Cambridge University, a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Climate Change, and a regular lecturer on sustainable energy.

I read the free e-book first and liked it so well that I bought the paperback book to get more readable graphs and tables. It is absolutely the most factual and understandable book about sustainable energy that I have come across in 10 years of reading in this area. David MacKay avoids adjectives totally by substituting straightforward conversions of varying types of power into kilowatts and gigawatts and of energy into kilowatt-hours/day. He also calculates the land area required to implement each type of sustainable energy to weed out what he calls "country sized" energy sources. His coverage is unbiased and comprehensive. This is a must-read for anyone that wants to get past sound bites and understand how to replace current fossil fuels -- whether you are worried about global warming or just running out of fossil fuels themselves. Furthermore, his straightforward and entertaining writing style makes it a fun read. One note: The book is written in England from that perspective. Some of the area comparisons are based on parts of England and will require

conversion to square miles and states for those of us in the metrically-challenged US. This does not detract at all from the discussions. One small irritation is that he constantly points out the fact that the per-capita energy consumption in Britain is about half of that in the US. This is partly fair due to our love affair with central heating, muscle cars, pickups and SUVs. However, having personally experienced temperatures of +113F (45C) and -30F (-34C) and driven 70+ miles (113 kilometers) between towns in the US west, I think that at least some of the criticism is overdone. A more fair per-capita comparison might be taken from New England in the US, since both are densely-populated areas in northern maritime climates warmed somewhat by the Gulf Stream. In addition, the solution he proposes to replace all transportation with electric vehicles would not work in the spread-out Western US without either radically new battery technology or battery exchanges. Despite these small gripes this is a must-read book for energy literacy, whether you download the free e-book or purchase the book itself.

Easy read with lots of information about energy. A wonderful book full of facts about generation of electricity and options for how it can be done in the future. This is a great book with hard numbers, and not just a bunch of armchair waving, and armchair theorizing. I cannot recommend this book too highly for anyone who wishes to understand the energy issues facing the industrial world. Mr. MacKay did a wonderful job of getting a large amount of hard data together about the UK and to a lesser extent the world, and power, in particular, electrical energy use and generation, now and in the future. It was originally free on line at a web site "withoutthehotair", however as of the date of this write up, unfortunately it is no longer available on line. MacKay is a British, so this book is written about the United Kingdom, and not the US. However, all of the basic principals and arguments that he presents can be easily applied to the USA. He starts from the place that we like the life that we live with ample and reasonably priced electricity. He does address the CO2 emission issue, for the global warming crew, so there is hard information to consider. He is not going down the hair shirt route that we all need to cut our energy use by x percent or the world will cook tomorrow. It is so nice to look at a book that deals with real numbers and the world as it is, and that people like living in this world. He looks briefly at the world and history of CO2 emission over the years essentially since before the industrial revolution. He does a wonderful and very comprehensive job of looking at the different proposals for generating energy such as tidal, wave, wind, geothermal, etc. The specifics are tied to the UK, but they can be applied to the USA or any other country as applicable. Tidal could apply to the Bay of Fundy for example in North America. He has a breakout for where all of the energy including the electrical energy goes which is interesting. He breakouts out total energy

consumption including air travel. He looks at the energy that is used for housing and different approaches. All of this is preparation for the last section of the book, where you can play king for a day, and devise your own approach to providing the required electrical power fro the UK by selecting the option that you prefer. He includes nuclear as an option. My favorite section is 27, "Five Energy Plans for Britain", where he presents five different options to illustrate the choices that one must make in deciding what options to select among wind, tide, solar, geothermal. nuclear, solar in the desert, hydro, waste etc.

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