

Contents

Preface to First Edition *xi*

Preface to the Second Edition *xiii*

- 1 **Our Hunger for Energy** 1
 - 1.1 Energy Supply – Yesterday and Today 2
 - 1.1.1 From the French Revolution to the Early Twentieth Century 2
 - 1.1.2 The Era of Black Gold 4
 - 1.1.3 Natural Gas – The Newest Fossil Energy Source 7
 - 1.1.4 Nuclear Power – Split Energy 8
 - 1.1.5 The Century of Fossil Energy 12
 - 1.1.6 The Renewables Century 13
 - 1.2 Energy Needs – Who Needs What, Where, and How Much? 14
 - 1.3 ‘Anyway’ Energy 17
 - 1.4 Energy Reserves – Wealth for a Time 20
 - 1.4.1 Non-Conventional Reserves – Prolongation of the Oil Age 21
 - 1.4.2 An End in Sight 22
 - 1.4.3 The End of Fission 24
 - 1.5 High Energy Prices – the Key to Climate Protection 24

- 2 **The Climate Before the Collapse** 27
 - 2.1 It Is Getting Warm – Climate Changes Today 27
 - 2.1.1 Accelerated Ice Melt 27
 - 2.1.2 More Frequent Natural Catastrophes 30
 - 2.2 The Guilty Parties – Causes of Climate Change 33
 - 2.2.1 The Greenhouse Effect 33
 - 2.2.2 The Prime Suspect: Carbon Dioxide 34
 - 2.2.3 Other Culprits 38
 - 2.3 Outlook and Recommendations – What Lies Ahead? 40
 - 2.3.1 Will it Be Bitterly Cold in Europe? 43
 - 2.3.2 Recommendations for Effective Climate Protection 45
 - 2.4 A Difficult Birth – Politics and Climate Change 48
 - 2.4.1 German Climate Policy 48
 - 2.4.2 International Climate Policy 49
 - 2.5 Self-Help Climate Protection 51

3	From Wasting Energy to Saving Energy and Reducing Carbon Dioxide	53
3.1	Inefficiency	53
3.2	Personal Energy Needs – Savings at Home	56
3.2.1	Domestic Electricity – Money Wasted	56
3.2.2	Heat – Surviving the Winter with Almost No Heating	60
3.2.3	Transport – Getting Somewhere Using Less Energy	64
3.3	Industry and Commerce – Everyone Else is to Blame	66
3.4	Your Personal Carbon Dioxide Balance	67
3.4.1	Emissions Caused Directly by One’s Own Activities	67
3.4.2	Indirect Emissions	68
3.4.3	Total Emissions	71
3.5	The Sale of Ecological Indulgences	71
4	‘Energiewende’ (Energy Transition) – The Way to a Better Future?	75
4.1	Coal and Nuclear Power Plants – Crutch Instead of Bridge	75
4.1.1	Energy and Automotive Companies Have Bet on the Wrong Horse	76
4.1.2	Lignite – A Climate Killer Made in Germany	78
4.1.3	Carbon Dioxide Sequestration – Out of Sight, Out of Mind	81
4.1.4	Nuclear Power Comeback Was Not a Radiant Success	83
4.2	Efficiency and CHP – A Good Double for Starters	84
4.2.1	Combined Heat and Power – Using Fuel Twice	84
4.2.2	Saving Energy – Achieving More with Less	85
4.3	Renewables – Energy Without End	87
4.4	Germany Is Becoming Renewable	88
4.4.1	All Sectors Are Important	89
4.4.2	Energy Transition in the Heat Sector	90
4.4.3	Energy Transition in the Transport Sector	93
4.4.4	Energy Transition in the Electricity Sector	94
4.4.5	Reliable Supply Using Renewables	97
4.4.6	Decentralized Instead of Centralized – Fewer Power Lines	100
4.5	Not So Expensive – The Myth of Unaffordability	101
4.6	Energy Revolution Instead of Half-Hearted Energy Transition	103
4.6.1	German Energy Policy – In the Shadow of Corporations	103
4.6.2	Energy Transition in the Hands of the Citizens – A Revolution Is Imminent	104
5	Photovoltaics – Energy from Sand	107
5.1	Structure and Function	107
5.1.1	Electrons, Holes, and Space-Charge Regions	107
5.1.2	Efficiency, Characteristics, and MPP	109
5.2	Production of Solar Cells – From Sand to Cell	111
5.2.1	Silicon Solar Cells – Power from Sand	111
5.2.2	From Cell to Module	113
5.2.3	Thin-Film Solar Cells	114
5.3	PV Systems – Grids and Islands	115
5.3.1	Sun Islands	115

- 5.3.2 Sun in the Grid 118
- 5.3.3 More Solar Independence 121
- 5.4 Planning and Design 124
 - 5.4.1 Designing Stand-Alone Systems 124
 - 5.4.2 Designing Grid-Connected Systems 126
 - 5.4.3 Planned Autonomy 130
- 5.5 Economics 131
 - 5.5.1 What Does It Cost? 131
 - 5.5.2 Funding Programmes 132
 - 5.5.3 Avoiding VAT 134
- 5.6 Ecology 135
 - 5.7 PV Markets 136
 - 5.8 Outlook and Development Potential 137

- 6 Solar Thermal Systems – Year-Round Heating from the Sun 141
 - 6.1 Structure and Functionality 142
 - 6.2 Solar Collectors – Collecting the Sun 145
 - 6.2.1 Swimming Pool Absorbers 145
 - 6.2.2 Flat-Plate Collectors 145
 - 6.2.3 Air-Based Collectors 146
 - 6.2.4 Vacuum-Tube Collectors 147
 - 6.3 Solar Thermal Systems 149
 - 6.3.1 Hot Water from the Sun 149
 - 6.3.2 Heating with the Sun 152
 - 6.3.3 Solar Communities 154
 - 6.3.4 Cooling with the Sun 155
 - 6.3.5 Swimming with the Sun 156
 - 6.3.6 Cooking with the Sun 157
 - 6.4 Planning and Design 158
 - 6.4.1 Solar Thermal Heating of Domestic Hot Water 158
 - 6.4.2 Solar Thermal Auxiliary Heating 161
 - 6.5 Economics 163
 - 6.5.1 When Does It Pay off? 163
 - 6.5.2 Funding Programmes 163
 - 6.6 Ecology 164
 - 6.7 Solar Thermal Markets 165
 - 6.8 Outlook and Development Potential 167

- 7 Solar Power Plants – Even More Power from the Sun 169
 - 7.1 Focusing on the Sun 169
 - 7.2 Solar Power Plants 171
 - 7.2.1 Parabolic Trough Power Plants 171
 - 7.2.2 Solar Tower Power Plants 175
 - 7.2.3 Dish-Stirling Power Plants 177
 - 7.2.4 Solar Chimney Power Plants 178
 - 7.2.5 Concentrating Photovoltaic Power Plants 179
 - 7.2.6 Solar Chemistry 179

7.3	Planning and Design	180
7.3.1	Concentrating Solar Thermal Power Plants	181
7.3.2	Solar Chimney Power Plants	182
7.3.3	Concentrating Photovoltaic Power Plants	182
7.4	Economics	182
7.5	Ecology	183
7.6	Solar Power Plant Markets	184
7.7	Outlook and Development Potential	185
8	Wind Power Systems – Electricity from Thin Air	189
8.1	Gone with the Wind – Where the Wind Comes From	190
8.2	Utilizing Wind	192
8.3	Wind Turbines and Windfarms	196
8.3.1	Wind Chargers	196
8.3.2	Large, Grid-Connected Wind Turbines	197
8.3.3	Small Wind Turbines	201
8.3.4	Windfarms	202
8.3.5	Offshore Windfarms	203
8.4	Planning and Design	206
8.5	Economics	208
8.6	Ecology	210
8.7	Wind Power Markets	212
8.8	Outlook and Development Potential	213
9	Hydropower Plants – Wet Electricity	215
9.1	Tapping into the Water Cycle	215
9.2	Water Turbines	217
9.3	Hydropower Plants	220
9.3.1	Run-of-River Hydropower Plants	220
9.3.2	Storage Power Plants	222
9.3.3	Pumped-storage Hydropower Plants	222
9.3.4	Tidal Power Plants	224
9.3.5	Wave Power Plants	225
9.3.6	Ocean Current Power Plants	226
9.4	Planning and Design	227
9.5	Economics	228
9.6	Ecology	228
9.7	Hydropower Markets	230
9.8	Outlook and Development Potential	231
10	Geothermal Energy – Power from the Deep	233
10.1	Tapping into the Earth’s Heat	233
10.2	Geothermal Heat and Power Plants	237
10.2.1	Geothermal Heat Plants	237
10.2.2	Geothermal Power Plants	238
10.2.3	Geothermal HDR Power Plants	240
10.3	Planning and Design	241

- 10.4 Economics 242
- 10.5 Ecology 242
- 10.6 Geothermal Markets 243
- 10.7 Outlook and Development Potential 244

- 11 Heat Pumps – From Cold to Hot 245
 - 11.1 Heat Sources for Low-Temperature Heat 245
 - 11.2 Operating Principle of Heat Pumps 247
 - 11.2.1 Compression Heat Pumps 248
 - 11.2.2 Absorption Heat Pumps and Adsorption Heat Pumps 249
 - 11.3 Planning and Design 250
 - 11.4 Economics 253
 - 11.5 Ecology 254
 - 11.6 Heat Pump Markets 257
 - 11.7 Outlook and Development Potential 257

- 12 Biomass – Energy from Nature 259
 - 12.1 Origins and Use of Biomass 260
 - 12.2 Biomass Heating 263
 - 12.2.1 Wood as a Fuel 263
 - 12.2.2 Open Fires and Woodburning Stoves 266
 - 12.2.3 Log Boilers 266
 - 12.2.4 Wood Pellet Heating 268
 - 12.3 Biomass Heat and Power Plants 269
 - 12.4 Biofuels 271
 - 12.4.1 Bio-oil 271
 - 12.4.2 Biodiesel 272
 - 12.4.3 Bioethanol 273
 - 12.4.4 BtL Fuels 274
 - 12.4.5 Biogas 275
 - 12.5 Planning and Design 276
 - 12.5.1 Log Boilers 276
 - 12.5.2 Wood Pellet Heating 277
 - 12.6 Economics 279
 - 12.7 Ecology 280
 - 12.7.1 Solid Fuels 281
 - 12.7.2 Biofuels 282
 - 12.8 Biomass Markets 282
 - 12.9 Outlook and Development Potential 284

- 13 Renewable Gas and Fuel Cells 285
 - 13.1 Hydrogen as an Energy Source 287
 - 13.2 Methanation 289
 - 13.3 Transport and Storage of Renewable Gas 290
 - 13.3.1 Transport and Storage of Hydrogen 290
 - 13.3.2 Transport and Storage of Renewable Methane 291
 - 13.4 Fuel Cells: Bearers of Hope 293

13.5	Economics	296
13.6	Ecology	297
13.7	Markets, Outlook, and Development Potential	298
14	Sunny Prospects – Examples of Sustainable Energy Supply	301
14.1	Climate-Compatible Living	301
14.1.1	Carbon-Neutral Standard Prefabricated Houses	301
14.1.2	Plus-Energy Solar House	302
14.1.3	Plus-Energy Housing Estate	303
14.1.4	Heating Only with the Sun	304
14.1.5	Zero Heating Costs After Redevelopment	305
14.2	Working and Producing in a Climate-friendly Manner	306
14.2.1	Offices and Shops in the ‘Sonnenschiff’	306
14.2.2	Zero-Emissions Factory	306
14.2.3	Carbon-free Heavy Equipment Factory	307
14.2.4	Plus-Energy Head Office	307
14.3	Climate-Compatible Driving	309
14.3.1	Travelling Around the World in a Solar Car	309
14.3.2	Across Australia in 33 hours	310
14.3.3	Emission-free Deliveries	311
14.3.4	Electric Cars for All	312
14.4	Climate-Compatible Travel by Water or Air	313
14.4.1	Advanced Sailing	313
14.4.2	Solar Ferry on Lake Constance	314
14.4.3	World Altitude Record with a Solar Aeroplane	314
14.4.4	Flying Around the World in a Solar Plane	315
14.4.5	Flying for Solar Kitchens	316
14.5	Everything Becomes Renewable	317
14.5.1	A Village Becomes Independent	317
14.5.2	Hybrid Power Plant for Secure Renewable Supply	318
14.6	Everything will Turn Out Fine	319
A	Appendix	321
A.1	Energy Units and Prefixes	321
A.2	Geographic Coordinates of Power Plants	322
A.3	Further Reading	325
	References	327
	Index	331