



Power Shift: From Fossil Energy to Dynamic Solar Power

Robert Arthur Stayton

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Climate change researchers sometimes paint a bleak picture of our current global-warming crisis, but rarely explain how we got into this predicament in the first place and how we get out of it. Now, for the first time, a new book does just that.

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retells human history through the lens of energy, explains the science behind the crisis--in clear, succinct language that anyone can understand--and provides a detailed blueprint for the future, from governmental, commercial, and individual perspectives.

Today, we've become mired in partisan bickering among politicians and oil, gas, and coal lobbying interests who insist that fossil fuels are necessary for jobs and the US economy. However, this narrow debate has failed to notice that the world has already embarked on a transformation in how we use energy that is so fundamental, it defines a new Solar Epoch, as monumental as the discovery of fire, the development of agriculture, and the exploitation of fossil fuels in previous centuries.

The truth is that solar power--getting radically cheaper by the year--is not only a viable solution but, as the author states, "forms a clean energy system that can completely replace fossil fuels. We can gradually phase them in so that in 50 years we'll be 100% solar-powered. And because solar energy does not run out like fossil fuels, we will never need to go looking for another energy source again."

The book also explores the related crises of out-of-control CO2 emissions from fossil fuel burning: glacial melting; flooding; drought; ocean acidification that threatens mass extinction of marine life; and the often overlooked costs of rising food prices and military conflicts over oil and other fossil fuels.

Unlike other books on global warming and solar energy, *Power Shift* presents visionary plans for governments, corporations, and individuals concerned about climate change. And the author has "put his money where his mouth is." Having built a solar home in Santa Cruz County in 1997 and outfitted it with an off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) system, Stayton cites numerous personal examples to inspire others to take similar action.

Destined to become a classic in the field, and soon to be adopted as a basic text in college and university environmental studies programs, *Power Shift* is an indispensable reference for researchers and global leaders, a valuable staff training tool for solar companies, and a compelling, inspirational read for anyone eager to learn the truth about global warming and to participate "from the ground up" in the new Solar Epoch.

Reader-friendly with beautiful illustrations and firmly grounded in current science, *Power Shift* also forges a cautionary tale of what lies ahead if we don't start acting now: "We seem to be waiting for a sign," Stayton writes, "a sudden event so catastrophic that it compels us to overcome political differences and take action. However, this disaster does not rush upon us like a hurricane, but instead slowly erodes our foundation, like termites. If we wait until the house collapses, we will have waited too long."

If you buy only one book on the topic of climate change or solar power--for yourself, family, friends, or colleagues--you can depend on *Power Shift* to serve as a comprehensive, eye-opening, educational resource for years to come.

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