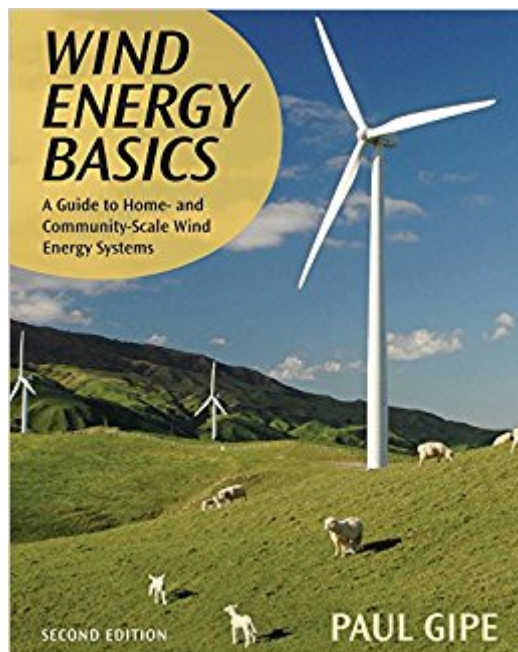




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# Wind Energy Basics: A Guide To Home And Community Scale Wind-Energy Systems



## Synopsis

The availability of clean, renewable power is without question going to be the defining challenge and goal of the 21st century, and wind will lead the way. Internationally acclaimed wind energy expert Paul Gipe is as soberly critical of past energy mistakes as he is convincingly optimistic about the future. The overwhelming challenge of transforming our world from one of fossil carbon to one of clean power seems daunting at best and paralyzingly impractical at worst. *Wind Energy Basics* offers a solution. Wind power can realistically not only replace the lion's share of oil-, coal-, and natural-gas-fired electrical plants in the U.S., but also can add enough extra power capacity to allow for most of the cars in the nation to run on electricity. Gipe explains why such a startlingly straightforward solution is eminently doable and can be accomplished much sooner than previously thought and will have the capacity to resuscitate small and regional economies. *Wind Energy Basics* offers a how-to for home-based wind applications, with advice on which wind turbines to choose and which to avoid. He guides wind-energy installers through considerations such as renewable investment strategies and gives cautionary tales of wind applications gone wrong. And for the activist, he suggests methods of prodding federal, state, and provincial governments to promote energy independence.

## Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing; 2nd edition (May 5, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603580301

ISBN-13: 978-1603580304

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 35 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #623,151 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Alternative & Renewable > Wind #322 in Books > Textbooks > Engineering > Environmental Engineering #1463 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Civil & Environmental > Environmental

## Customer Reviews

"Gipe provides the reader with an informative and easy-to-understand guide to small and micro wind systems for the generation of energy. . . *Wind Energy Basics* is a 'must' for environmentally

supportive advocates seeking to establish non-polluting energy resources for themselves, their families, and their businesses."--Midwest Book Review, (Refers to the first edition of Wind Energy Basics.)"Without abandoning the needs of individuals aiming for energy independence, Gipe wisely promotes community-scale wind power in his new book. He is not only an unrivalled expert, but an excellent teacher as well."--Peter Barnes, author of Climate Solutions "Paul Gipe, the country's leading expert on small scale and locally-owned wind energy, has written the how-to manual for those who want to literally bring power to the people."--David Morris, Vice President, Institute for Local Self Reliance, and author of Seeing the Light: Regaining Control of Our Electricity System"This second edition of Gipe's Wind Energy Basics is a much needed critique of the state of small wind today. Gipe advances what will inevitably be a growth industry in the US, community wind projects, based on the successful models in many parts of Europe over the past three decades. Paul also advocates for equitable feed-in tariffs for wind to level the playing field for wind turbines that work. Finally, Gipe wades through the numerous internet wonders and surrounding hype that are doing more harm than help for prospective turbine owners. Wind Energy Basics is a must read, and reread."--Mick Sagrillo, "Advice from an Expert" columnist for the American Wind Energy Association and coauthor of Power from the Wind"Paul Gipe is an independent, opinionated voice on wind energy, cutting right to the core on almost any wind energy topic. He analyzes the issues with uncompromising standards. With Paul's journalistic background and years in the worldwide wind industry, he has no trouble sharing the story as he sees it, encouraging all to explore business models and policies that offer something more, something for all of us. Paul is a visionary on the energy front, presenting a compelling case for change."--Lisa Daniels, Executive Director, Windustry"[A] wonderful primer for all but the professional wind enthusiast."--Trevor Robotham, proprietor of Sun Wind & Power (solar and wind installations) (Refers to the first edition of Wind Energy Basics)"If you want straight talk on wind electricity, with no bull, seek out Paul Gipe. Not beholden to any company or segment of the industry, Paul tells it like it is. His no-nonsense book will steer you in the right direction--away from fantasy and failure and toward a successful wind-electric system."--Ian Woofenden, Senior Editor, Home Power magazine"Gipe's call for an ethical energy policy in Wind Energy Basics is a message that North American politicians should heed. The people deserve nothing less."--Glen Estill, past President of the Canadian Wind Energy Association and successful wind entrepreneur

Paul Gipe is an author, advocate, and analyst of the renewable energy industry. He has written extensively about the subject for the past four decades, receiving numerous awards for his efforts.

Gipe has lectured before groups from Patagonia to Puglia, from Tasmania to Toronto, and from Halifax to Husum. He has spoken to audiences as large as 10,000 and as small as a private presentation for Vice President Al Gore. Gipe is well known for his frank appraisal of the promise and pitfalls of wind energy, including his stinging critiques of Internet wonders and the hustlers and charlatans who promote them. He led the campaign to adapt electricity feed laws to the North American market—the same policy that has stirred a renewable energy revolution in Germany.

In *Wind Energy Basics*, Paul Gipe provides the reader with an informative and easy-to-understand guide to small and micro wind systems for the generation of energy. Gipe includes detailed information on planning, purchasing, siting, and installing a wind system, and explains the integration of wind power with solar photovoltaics for more cost-effective and reliable off-the-grid applications. Gipe also explains "net metering" and intertie possibilities, describing how homeowners and businesses in many states can now sell their excess electricity back to the utility company. *Wind Energy Basics* is a "must" for environmentally supportive advocates seeking to establish non-polluting energy resources for themselves, their families, and their businesses.

I bought this book expecting it to go over the installation of a wind system. It does very little of that. The author spends an inordinate amount of time on designs that did not work—instead of just summing up "Vertical Axis machines have never met their hoped for potential" — he goes over specific machines and why each failed. This information might be very useful to a person who is going to DESIGN and BUILD their own wind turbine. The book says BASICS. What person interested in BASICS is going to DESIGN their own machine? The book contains more information on what NOT to do rather than what to do. The good section of the book was on economics of wind power. The author clearly shows how wind power makes little sense economically on the small scale. He did such a good job on this that I am investing my money elsewhere. If you want to put in a small wind power plant because you just like to tinker — this is NOT the book for you — I would recommend *Wind Power for Idiots* or one of the many others on the market.

I'm a graduate student at a large state university with a 4.0 GPA studying Wind Energy. In this program, I have had to read several books on the subject, including massive textbooks, some costing nearly \$200 each. This inexpensive book is the best one I've come across so far, and I would choose it as the textbook for a first college (undergraduate or graduate level) class in Wind Energy. Paul Gipe is THE GURU of modern wind energy, and his decades of experience in this

subject are the ace up my sleeve. If you want to learn all that you really need to know from a single book to get a really good grasp of this subject, this is that one book.

Paul Gipe is not only a leading authority on wind energy but he is an exceptional teacher. This second edition of *Wind Energy Basics* covers most of the current models of wind turbines on the consumer and commercial market as of 2009. The book is an excellent introduction to wind energy that will serve both potential wind turbine buyers and those interested in wind energy well. There is some math involved but nothing over basic high school algebra and it is kept to a minimum. This is a great, inexpensive way to learn about wind turbines. If you are more interested in design and want more in depth analysis, Paul's other book, "*Wind Energy*", is an excellent choice.

THIS IS A LITTLE TECHNICAL TO UNDERSTAND, AND SOME OF THE GRAPHS AND CHARTS DONT HAVE ENOUGH EXPLANATION TO THE AVERAGE PERSON . I EXPECTED A EASY TO FOLLOW BASIC BOOK ON HOW TO , POSSIBLY MAKE YOUR OWN, IN A PICTURE OR ILLUSTRATIVE WAY . THE BOOK TOUCHED ON IT, BUT WAS TOO COMPLEX FOR A BASIC BOOK .. I SAW NO IDEA OF HOW BIG THE ELECTRICAL USE OF THE AVERAGE HOUSE WAS, SO I DONT KNOW HOW LARGE A WINDMILL MUST BE MADE OR PURCHASED.. PROBABLY A GREAT BOOK FOR ELECTRICIANS ,BUT NOT BASIC ENOUGH FOR ME .I WAS WANTING TO MAKE MY OWN ( FROM SCRATCH )AND HAVE THE BOOK TELL ME WHAT I NEEDED ..

helpful if you are interested in buying or having someone install one. not much help if you want to build one.

Five stars

Thank you for the local prison project.

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