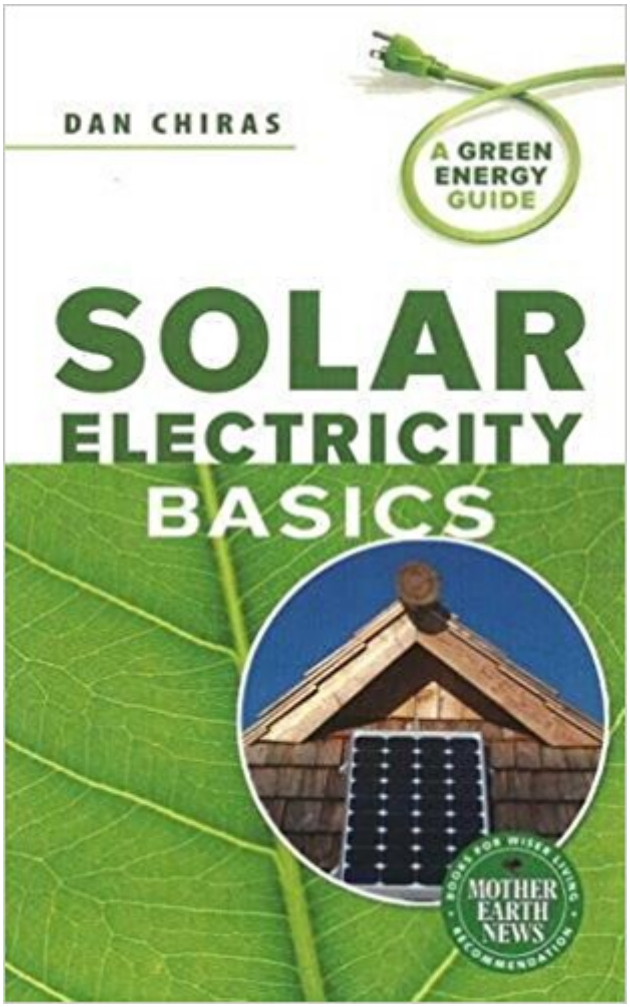
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Solar Electricity Basics: A Green Energy Guide



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Synopsis

The future will be powered by renewables. As we transition away from finite and polluting fossil fuels, clean, reliable, and affordable renewable technologies such as solar electricity will become the mainstay of our energy supply.Ã Â Solar Electricity Basics provides a clear understanding of electricity and energy. It discusses the types of solar electric system you can choose from, their components, solar site assessment, the installation of photovoltaic systems, and much more. Whether your goal is to lower your energy bill or to achieve complete energy independence, Solar Electricity Basics is the introduction you need. Dan Chiras is a respected educator and an internationally acclaimed author who has published more than twenty-five books on residential renewable energy and green building, including Power From the Sun.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Solar energy is an abundant resource. Once a curiosity, solar electric systems are becoming commonplace. As we transition away from finite and polluting fossil fuels, clean, reliable, and affordable renewable technologies such as solar electricity will become the mainstay of our energy supply. Solar Electricity Basics provides a clear understanding of the sun, solar energy, and solar electric systems. It discusses the theoretical, practical and economic aspects of residential solar installations including:InvertersBatteries and controllersCosts of solar electric systemsFinancial

incentives System installation and maintenancePermits, covenants, utility interconnection and buying a system.Whether your goal is to lower your energy bill through a grid-connected system or to achieve complete energy independence, Solar Electricity Basics is the introduction you need-no PhD required!

Dan Chiras is an internationally acclaimed author who has published over 24 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.

This is a little gem of a book for those with little, if any, knowledge of PV systems. I’d subscribed to Home Power magazine for a few years back in the early 2000s, but things have come along way since then.Chiras creates just the right balance of information and hand-holding, all the while acknowledging that most folks are going to need the assistance of professional installers. My purpose in reading the book was to get a jumping off point for an outbuilding project for our rural property. I’m going to build a 30x40 building that will accommodate a vehicle, tractor, a small woodworking shop, and possibly a tiny office. My thought is to have the building off grid, instead of running power down from the house or another line from the coop’s line at the road.As others have noted, there’s little how-to information in the book, nor is there any real information about how to make intelligent choices regarding siting, equipment mix, or how to evaluate installers’ expertise. That said, it’s a solid introduction.My only quibble with the book is that he constantly references his previous book, "Power From The Sun," for those who want more information. While I’ll buy and read it, it gets a bit tiresome reading, "For more information you may want to see my book, ’Power From The Sun.’"

This is a very good book for anybody who is honestly interested in renewable energy. It gives one a thorough understanding of what is involved ($$$) to do a project like that. Or for less $$ some kind of hybrid solution. And I liked the cross reference to wind power (which is another book, by the same author - and I bought that, too) adding a third option to a cleaner environment. I don’t want to sound too green but this book really answered some of my more advanced questions of effectively "catching some rays".I’m from the "ye olde country" up north. Back when I went through physics we had to calculate the energy output of the sun in an hour/ a day/ and a year, with paper and pencil (mind you?). That sure did impress me then and still impresses me now. Back then there were already some sunlight (energy) collection devices available -- for research facilities (including the

military, of course); but not to Joe Sixpack.We, my wife and I, now live in/on a Caribbean island with plenty of sunshine and a steady easterly wind. The included charts and references make it rather easy to get to the specific parameters (of where one lives) -- and then go from there to design an appropriate system.With all the information gathered I now feel confident to design and install a system for my everyday needs.All in all: An easy to understand book I highly recommend, even to people who just want to know.

Solar Electricity Basics in a straight-forward and easy to understand introduction to solar electricity as an energy source for your house or business.Solar power may seem like a complex subject, but everything in this book is broken-down into simple terms. If you're considering solar as an energy source, or you just want to know more about solar energy this book is for you! This is an excellent book on renewable energy.

good book, good transaction

Very informative book coving the basics for someone thinking about trying solar. If you already know the basics and your ready to start putting a system together there are problems better books with more detail on that. I am just in the learning/thinking stage so this book was great for me.

Very easy to read. He is a good writer and takes a conversational tone which is easy to read, for such a technical topic. As others have said he is pro-solar. He does say that it is not for everyone and seems to give honest advice.

Was hoping it would have more details on configuring a few different types of setups but very limited in thought. I would have appreciated more photos showing configurations.

Like his book on wind energy, this is an excellent introduction to solar energy. The terms have been explained clearly, and simply.The chapter layout is excellent, and this makes it easy to keep going back to specific sections of the book whenever you want.The writing style is clear, simple and yet covers enough matter for the lay reader to lay back and feel satisfied. For the person who wants to go deeper, the ways in have been clearly indicated.I recommend this book

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