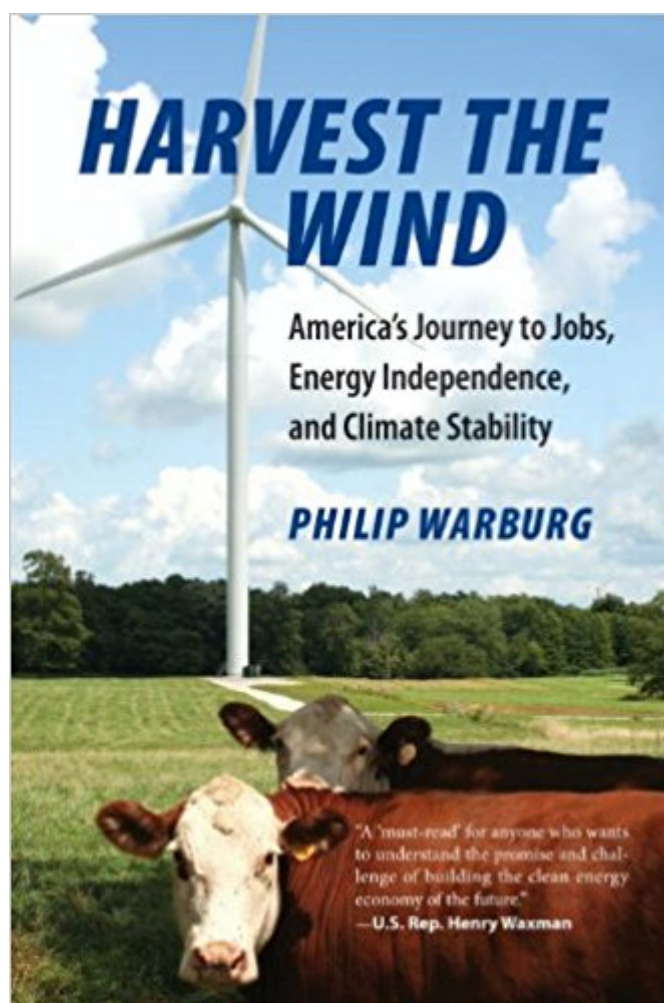


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# Harvest The Wind: America's Journey To Jobs, Energy Independence, And Climate Stability



## Synopsis

Winds sweeping through the Great Plains once robbed the Farm Belt of its future, stripping away overworked topsoil and creating the dreaded Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Today, those winds are bringing new hope to the declining rural communities of the central United States. Nowhere is wind's promise more palpable than in Cloud County, Kansas, where the soaring turbines of the Meridian Way Wind Farm are boosting incomes and bringing green jobs to a community that has, for decades, watched its children drift away. In *Harvest the Wind*, Philip Warburg brings readers face-to-face with the people behind the green economy's "powered resurgence in Cloud County and communities like it across the United States. This corner of Kansas is the first stop on an odyssey that introduces readers to farmers, factory workers, biologists, and high-tech entrepreneurs—all players in a transformative industry that is taking hold across America and around the globe. In this illuminating book, Warburg reveals both the remarkable growth of a breakthrough technology and the formidable challenges it faces. He visits epicenters of anti-wind opposition as well as communities that have embraced wind farms as neighbors. He guides readers through an Iowa turbine assembly plant that is struggling to compete in a global marketplace dominated by European and Chinese manufacturers. And he looks at the thousands of miles that wind-generated power will need to travel to reach American consumers. *Harvest the Wind* is an earthly antidote to loftier treatises on global warming and green energy. By showing us how practical solutions are being implemented at the local level, Warburg offers an inspirational look at how we can all pursue a saner and more sustainable energy future while at the same time investing in the nation's infrastructure and jumpstarting its economy. From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Beacon Press (April 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807000493

ISBN-13: 978-0807000496

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,430,334 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Alternative & Renewable > Wind

#1027 in [Books > Business & Money > Industries > Energy & Mining > Oil & Energy](#) #3450  
in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Violence in Society](#)

## Customer Reviews

“The definitive book on wind power.” —U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, ranking member, House Energy and Commerce Committee

“Makes it clear that ... wind is fast becoming a mainstream part of the global energy system.” —Dan Reicher, Science

“Warburg’s book looks at communities ... that have seen a resurgence of farming, manufacturing and entrepreneurial spirit due to an upsurge in wind technology.” —Cape Cod Times

“This text will appeal to the idealist and the environmental warrior, providing fuel for wind-power advocates by doing a hefty amount of surface-level research and footwork for them.” —Library Journal

“Warburg’s attitude toward the probability of energy independence is optimistic and his knowledge extensive.” —Publisher’s Weekly

“Combining graceful prose, analytical rigor, and colorful characters, *Harvest the Wind* portrays the excitement of a new industry. Much more than just an exploration of the prospects for wind energy, though, *Harvest* takes us along on the author’s journey through the American heartland in search of the nation’s soul, and its future.” —Denis Hayes, National Coordinator of the first Earth Day and former director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

“At a time when America faces growing energy, economic, environmental, and national security uncertainties, we need to tap into our core national heritage of self-reliance to turn challenge into opportunity. With *Harvest the Wind*, Philip Warburg presents a compelling account of real people doing just that. This is the story about our own Greatest Generation creating the victory gardens of the twenty-first century with clean, renewable energy.” —Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, U.S. Navy (ret.), president and CEO, American Council on Renewable Energy

“Ensuring future energy security requires a revolution in our energy thinking. In revolutions, there are winners and losers, and in the global arena there is no doubt that wind will be one of the winners. Warburg provides a vivid portrait of an industry that is quickly proving itself as a model for international collaboration in reducing our dependence on non-renewable energy sources.” —Professor Katherine Richardson, Chair, Danish Commission on Climate Change Policy

From the Hardcover edition.

Philip Warburg was president of the Conservation Law Foundation, New England’s leading environmental advocacy group, from 2003 to 2009. Earlier, he ran the Israel Union for Environmental Defense in Tel Aviv and was an attorney at the Environmental Law Institute in

Washington, D.C. He has also worked with governments and citizen groups on anti-pollution initiatives in Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and across Eastern Europe. From the Hardcover edition.

Ten years from now this book will only be out of date but still a pleasure to read. Warburg's book chronicles the development of the wind energy power to date without glossing over the problems or the potential of this energy source. It is a "must read" for anyone who is interested in understanding the recent past of this technology and gives one insight as to what must be done to realize the full potential of wind as a power source. The book includes stories, narratives with representative characters, and the politics surrounding wind turbine development.

I really enjoyed the book, very insightful and full of good facts. As a STEM teacher I appreciated the insight learned a great deal that I can share with my students.

This book provides a very good picture of the progress made in wind energy in US and in the world. It includes the history, economics and the technology aspects of wind energy. The book is an excellent read for environmentally conscious people. And for other folks as well. It portrays the stronger usage of wind energy as an alternate energy source, while talking about the challenges involved in setting up wind energy farms. It makes a strong business case for alternate energy via the wind power. I did not realize that 196 gigawatts of wind energy was produced in the world at the end of 2010. While the technology has grown by leaps and bounds, the power output from each turbine has increased to 3 megawatts. And each wind farm has several such turbines. The 3 blade rotors have grown larger and are installed on higher support towers as a result. The higher the blades and larger they are, more power is generated. The power generated is proportional to the area swept by the rotors. Not every place is suitable for installation of a wind energy farm. The equipment installation and maintenance costs are significant and unless the wind flow is there to justify the costs, it does not make sense to do so. The power generated is proportional to cube of the wind speed (if wind speed doubles, the power increases 8 times). The windy states of Kansas, Texas etc. are good targets. And now wind farms are moving offshore too, within a few miles from the coast into the water. The resistance from communities is on the lines of "not in my backyard". Objections ranging from spoiling the beauty of the landscape to the constant din generated by the turning rotors. Added to these are the environmental objections for causing bird injuries and deaths. In some installations, this is being mitigated by watching for bird patterns. If a flock is flying towards the turbines, the turbines are stopped immediately. Most disturbing objection to the first offshore

wind farm off the coast of Martha's Vineyard was from the late Senator Ted Kennedy, who was a vocal proponent of alternate energy but somehow fell in line with the scenic objections from his wealthy neighbors. Wind is creating lot of technical jobs in manufacturing, maintenance and monitoring of turbines. It is a very serious economic case and can survive on its own without any subsidies in future. But because of various objections and the anti-science posturing of Republicans, other countries lead US in generation of wind power. Countries like Germany, Spain, China and India. Denmark produces 20% of its energy from wind and Vestas is the Danish company which leads in manufacture of wind energy equipment. Tianjin is the place in China where most of the turbine manufacturing takes place. China is also getting lot of power generated from coal, nuclear, and hydro electric projects. President Obama is justifiably concerned about US falling further and further behind. Other challenges are to balance the power generation and consumption. Wind blows in the night too when demand for power is weaker. It can be used to charge plug-in hybrid cars or all electric cars. Or the excess energy can be stored in batteries or flywheels or to pump water to a higher level or compress air into underground caverns. In each of these cases, power can be generated whenever it is required. Transmission lines need to be built from the wind farms to the electric grid. I give a rating of 4 stars, because I did not find any pictures of any of the installations or the equipment itself. Also missing is the table of the equipment producers on a global basis. What is given in the appendix is only for US. Otherwise, it is a 5 star material.

If there is one thing I have come to dislike about debates about the United State's energy policy it is the spin that normally comes along with it. In the book HARVEST THE WIND by Philip Warburg we are able to see both sides of the argument in a practical way but to say how bi-partisan decisions have been made before and can be done again in order to do what is best for the country. What is really great about the way the book is laid out is that it allows you to see the benefits of researching alternative methods of energy but also the price that can be paid for not doing so. In the end we will have to decide what we really want as far as the prospects for the future and be open to the possibility that there are ways others than our own to get things done. I don't see this as a Right vs. Left issue, though some will forever see it that way. In my opinion it is a what's right versus what's wrong discussion, and looked at that way we are able to see that all of us no matter where we are have a role to make the earth as safe as possible for our generation and those to come. Without a doubt Philip Warburg's HARVEST THE WIND put the energy debate in perspective, and we are better off because of it.

As a college student, it isn't often that I read books that are seemingly educational for pleasure. However, Harvest the Wind is a fairly easy read while still being informative and timely in content. The combination of personal stories with a worldly perspective is enlightening and reveals a whole new side to the global crisis that we are in today and that we have all become familiar with. I would recommend this read for anyone who would like to lay out in the sun with a good book while learning something new and thus avoiding the guilt of a brainless afternoon.

Harvest the Wind is a captivating, great read - - an adventure story with terrific characters surrounded by trenchant analysis of this new industry and people it affects. Warburg colorfully and generously captures the people, the issues, the opportunities. We're taken on an exciting trip from Cloud County, Kansas, to Tianjin, China to Aarhus, Denmark, personally introduced to the individuals who build the turbines, to the homeowner and landowners, the birders, and the scientists, and even share the author's claustrophobic climb into a wind tower. We're exposed to the challenging, complex policy and practical issues facing wind and renewable developers in the context of the best overview of today's range of energy issues I've read in years (and I'm a seasoned environmental professional). A must read - for everyone.

If you've whether wind power can be scaled up, what the foibles are, and how to handle them -- this is the book to answer your questions. It combines clear analysis with short stories about the people who make wind turbines, install them, regulate them, and oppose them. Well done Warburg!

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