

## Energy: Supply and Demand

Focusing on trends in energy supply and demand, this text provides students with a comprehensive account of the subject and an understanding of how to use data analysis and modeling to make future projections and study climate impacts.

Developments in technology and policy are discussed in depth, including the role of coal, the fracking revolutions for oil and gas, the electricity grid, wind and solar power, battery storage, and biofuels. Trends in demand are also detailed, with analysis of electrical demands such as LEDs, air conditioning, heat pumps, and information technology, and the transportation demands of railroads, ships, and cars (including electric vehicles). The environmental impacts of the energy industry are considered throughout, and a full chapter is dedicated to climate change. Real-life case studies and examples add context, and over 400 full-color figures illustrate key concepts.

Accompanied by a package of online resources including solutions, video examples, sample data, and PowerPoint slides, this is an ideal text for courses on energy and is accessible to a range of students from engineering and related disciplines.

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# Energy: Supply and Demand

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California Institute of Technology



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To my wife  
Dale

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## Preface

Where does our energy come from? How do we use it? This book is an introduction to the fossil fuels and the alternatives, the electrical grid, energy use in buildings and transportation, agriculture, and climate-change policy for fossil fuels. Modeling is emphasized for understanding trends and for making projections. It is important to appreciate what models can tell us about how energy systems are evolving. Students should learn the distinction between physical laws that allow precise predictions and model projections that can be wrong. Models did not predict the shale gas revolution.

The material evolved from years of teaching classes to Caltech students at all levels. The students in the courses complete homework and laboratory exercises and they take tours of a natural gas power plant and a solar power station. At the end of the term, each student selects a topic to investigate and makes a presentation to the other students. After completing the course, students should be comfortable making energy calculations and developing models for energy systems. In addition, students should be able to critically assess articles, books, and films on energy. They should be familiar with the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments made by early writers like Stanley Jevons and King Hubbert. They should appreciate the potential of new energy technology. Finally, students should be able to recognize when government policies are working and when they are not.

Some homework problems involve locating energy databases online and downloading and analyzing the data. The online databases often provide their information in Excel format. Some students lack experience in Excel, and it is helpful for an instructor to demonstrate the functions that are used in the homework.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge people who have helped me in writing this book. Dale Yee took photographs and drew figures. Professor Joseph Shepherd at Caltech has been a collaborator in the classes. I have not found a question on combustion that he could not answer. Kent Potter at Caltech developed exercises and critiqued many of the ideas. Dr. Romeo Flores, formerly of the United States Geological Survey and the nation's foremost expert on coal, encouraged the work at the early stages. Jean Laherrere, formerly of the Total oil company, graciously provided production statistics. Jean taught many of us how to look at data. Several people read early drafts and made thoughtful suggestions, including the late Tom Tombrello, professor of physics at Caltech and erstwhile director of research at Schlumberger, Dr. Euan Mearns of Aberdeen, Scotland, founder of the blog Energy Matters, and

my brother John Rutledge, Vice-President and Water Resources Group Manager at Freese and Nichols, Inc., consulting civil engineers in Fort Worth, Texas. At the Cambridge University Press, I would like to thank Julie Lancashire, who has supported the project from the beginning, Nicola Chapman, who managed a challenging production process, and my wonderful editor, Heather Brolly.

Please let me know of errors by email at [rutledge@caltech.edu](mailto:rutledge@caltech.edu).