

Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction — 1

- 1.1 History — 1
 - 1.1.1 The earliest conversion of materials to energy — 1
 - 1.1.2 Solar — 2
 - 1.1.3 Water wheels — 3
 - 1.1.4 Wind — 3
- 1.2 The industrial revolution — 4
 - 1.2.1 The human potential and cost — 5
- 1.3 Industrialized nations — 5
- 1.4 Energy and quality of life — 6
 - 1.4.1 Automotive transport — 7
 - 1.4.2 Mass communication — 8
 - 1.4.3 The internet — 9
 - 1.4.4 Creature comforts — 10
- References — 11

Chapter 2

Coal — 12

- 2.1 Introduction, history, geographic locations — 12
- 2.2 Grades and combustion of coal — 13
- 2.3 “Clean” coal — 15
- 2.4 Coal fires — 16
- 2.5 The cycle of carbon — 17
- 2.6 Coal emissions and climate change — 18
- References — 19

Chapter 3

Oil and natural gas — 21

- 3.1 Introduction — 21
- 3.2 Geographic locations — 21
- 3.3 Sweet and sour crude — 23
- 3.4 Natural gas — 24
 - 3.4.1 Natural gas and power generation — 24
 - 3.4.2 Transportation and natural gas — 24
 - 3.4.3 Household use of natural gas — 25
 - 3.4.4 Syngas — 25
 - 3.4.5 Natural gas and fertilizer — 25
- 3.5 Refining — 26
 - 3.5.1 Desalting — 26

3.5.2	Distillation — 26
3.5.3	Hydrotreating or hydroprocessing — 26
3.5.4	Cracking or hydrocracking — 27
3.5.5	Coking — 27
3.5.6	Visbreaking — 27
3.5.7	Steam cracking — 27
3.5.8	Catalytic reformers — 28
3.5.9	Alkylation — 28
3.5.10	Isolation of C1, or natural gas fraction — 29
3.5.11	Recovery of sulfur by-products — 29
3.6	Transportation fuel use — 30
3.7	Nonfuel use and by-products — 31
3.8	Recycling plastics for fuel for power generation — 32
3.9	The politics of oil and natural gas — 35
	References — 37

Chapter 4

Biofuels — 43

4.1	Introduction – bioethanol — 43
4.1.1	Starch sources — 43
4.1.2	Cellulosic ethanol — 45
4.1.3	Nontraditional sources — 46
4.2	Biobutanol — 48
4.3	Biodiesel — 49
4.3.1	Vegetable sources — 50
4.3.2	Animal sources — 50
4.4	Future and challenges — 51
	References — 51

Chapter 5

Nuclear power — 53

5.1	Nuclear power – introduction — 53
5.2	Nuclear fission — 53
5.2.1	Reaction chemistry — 54
5.2.2	From ore to fuel rods — 54
5.2.3	Nuclear waste — 56
5.2.4	Nuclear power plant operations — 57
5.2.5	Nuclear power accidents — 58
5.3	Thorium-based power — 58
5.4	Nuclear fusion — 60
5.4.1	Tokamak — 61
	References — 61

Chapter 6**Hydropower — 63**

- 6.1 Dams – introduction — 63
- 6.1.1 Dam requirements — 63
- 6.1.2 Dam locations worldwide — 64
- 6.2 Run-of-river hydropower — 66
- 6.3 Tidal power — 67
- 6.3.1 Tidal power designs — 68
- 6.3.2 Areas of large tidal difference — 70
- 6.4 Wave power — 71
- 6.5 Thermocline, ocean thermal energy conversion — 72
- 6.5.1 OTEC plant design — 72
- 6.5.2 Chemical requirements, heat transfer — 73
- 6.5.3 Construction and maintenance challenges — 73
- References — 74

Chapter 7**Geothermal energy — 76**

- 7.1 Geothermal energy – introduction — 76
- 7.2 Geographic locations — 76
- 7.3 Types of geothermal power plants — 78
- 7.3.1 Dry steam power plants — 79
- 7.3.2 Flash steam power plants — 79
- 7.3.3 Binary cycle power plants — 80
- 7.4 Residential geothermal energy — 81
- 7.4.1 Heat pumps — 81
- References — 82

Chapter 8**Solar power — 83**

- 8.1 Solar power – introduction — 83
- 8.2 Solar photovoltaics (PVs) — 83
- 8.2.1 Photovoltaic function — 84
- 8.2.2 Photovoltaic material sources — 85
- 8.3 Concentrated solar power (CSP) — 86
- 8.3.1 Fresnel reflectors — 87
- 8.3.2 Parabolic troughs — 87
- 8.3.3 Solar power tower — 88
- 8.3.4 Stirling engine — 89
- 8.3.5 Household CSP — 91
- 8.4 Thermal gradient – wind/solar updraft towers — 91
- References — 92

Chapter 9

Wind power — 95

- 9.1 Introduction — 95
- 9.2 Geography — 95
 - 9.2.1 Wind farms — 96
 - 9.2.2 Offshore wind power — 98
- 9.3 Turbine designs — 99
 - 9.3.1 Vertical design — 100
 - 9.3.2 Darrieus turbines — 101
 - 9.3.3 Airborne designs — 101
 - 9.3.4 Others — 101
- 9.4 Convective towers — 102
 - 9.4.1 Downdraft tower — 102
 - 9.4.2 Household solar chimney — 103
- 9.5 Materials requirements — 103
 - References — 104

Chapter 10

Energy storage — 106

- 10.1 Energy storage – introduction — 106
- 10.2 Battery types — 106
 - 10.2.1 Lead-acid batteries — 109
 - 10.2.2 Zinc-manganese dioxide cell — 110
 - 10.2.3 NiCad batteries — 111
 - 10.2.4 Nickel–metal hydride batteries — 111
 - 10.2.5 Silver oxide batteries — 112
 - 10.2.6 Mercury batteries — 112
 - 10.2.7 Lithium batteries — 113
 - 10.2.8 Other battery couples — 114
- 10.3 Material sourcing and recycling for batteries — 114
 - References — 117

Chapter 11

Energy harvesting — 119

- 11.1 Energy harvesting – introduction — 119
- 11.2 Potential areas for harvesting — 119
 - 11.2.1 Traditional harvesting — 119
 - 11.2.2 Bicycles — 120
 - 11.2.3 Personal backpacks, walking options — 121
 - 11.2.4 Piezoelectric effect possibilities — 121

- 11.2.5 Stairs or rugs — 122
- 11.2.6 Other possibilities — 122
- 11.3 The future of energy harvesting — 123
- References — 123

Chapter 12

Energy and climate change — 125

- 12.1 Introduction — 125
- 12.2 Types and sources of greenhouse gases — 126
 - 12.2.1 Carbon dioxide (CO₂) — 126
 - 12.2.2 Methane (CH₄) — 127
 - 12.2.3 Nitrous oxide (N₂O) — 127
 - 12.2.4 Ozone — 128
 - 12.2.5 Chlorofluorocarbons — 128
- 12.3 Governmental policies — 129
 - 12.3.1 Tax incentives — 130
 - 12.3.2 Regulations — 130
- 12.4 Public perceptions and opinion — 130
- References — 131

Index — 135