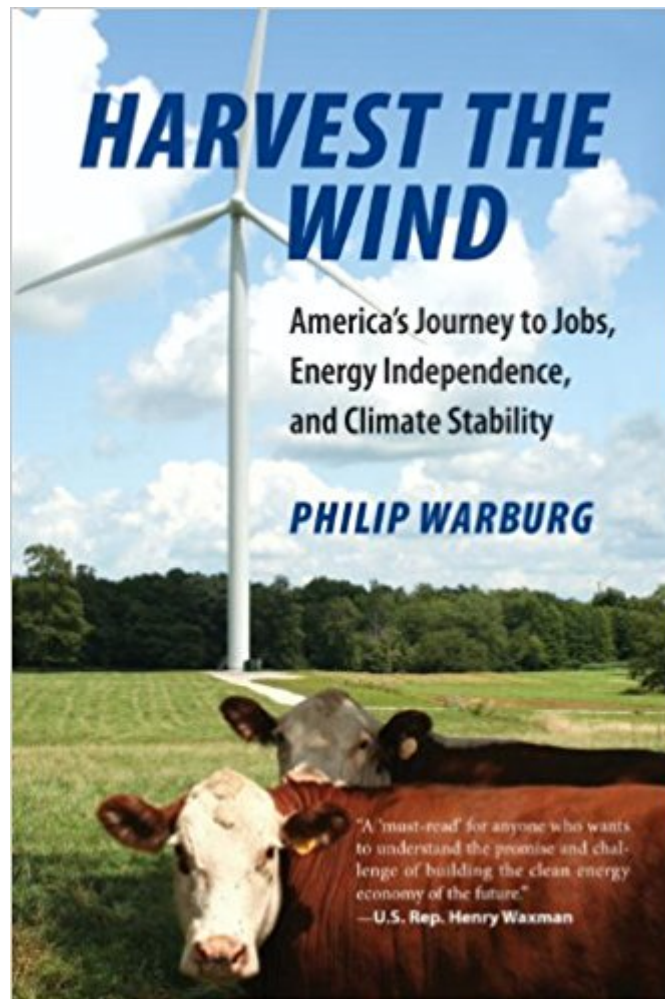


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# Harvest The Wind: America's Journey To Jobs, Energy Independence, And Climate Stability



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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