

CONTENTS

Preface	xiii
Acknowledgment	xvii
Introduction: Rising Energy Costs	xix
PART I A TRILOGY OF POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS	1
1 Global Warming	3
Conventional Wisdom, 4	
CO ₂ and the Carbon Cycle, 7	
The Greenhouse Effect, 10	
Recent Climate Changes, 11	
Carbon Dioxide, 13	
Other Global Warming “Forcing Agents”, 15	
Water Vapor, 15	
Methane, 20	
Nitrous Oxide, 21	
Ozone, 22	
Sulfur, 24	
Other Pollutants, 24	
Carbon-Based and Other Particulates, 26	
Solar Influences—Insolation and Irradiance, 26	
Global Net Primary Productivity (NPP), 30	
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 32	

IPCC Report Conclusions, 34
 Footnote on the IPCC, 35
 Dealing with Global Warming, 36
 Can Anything Be Done?, 37
 The Kyoto Protocol, 38

2 The Hydrogen Economy (Aka, the Impossible Dream) 41

The Promise of Hydrogen, 42
 The Scale of the Task—Why Replace Gasoline?, 42
 Replacing Fuels Other than Gasoline, 43
 Hydrogen as an Alternative Fuel, 44
 Hydrogen Production Methods, 44
 Water-Splitting Processes—Overview, 47
 Hydrogen from Electrolysis, 48
 Electrolytic Hydrogen Production, 49
 Oxygen By-products, 49
 Energy Consumption and Electrolyzer Efficiency, 50
 Electrolysis: Emissions, 53
 Electrolysis: Economics, 53
 Hydrogen from Hydrocarbons, 54
 Thermal and Catalytic Reforming from Natural Gas, 54
 Catalytic Thermochemical Reforming, 55
 Scaling Issues—Up and Down, 56
 Combustion CO₂ from Reforming, 57
 Hydrogen Production Costs, 59
 Natural Gas Reserves and Hydrogen, 61
 Natural Gas and Hydrogen Manufacture, 62
 Other Hydrogen Production Methods, 62
 Photoelectrolysis, 63
 Biomass Conversion to Hydrogen, 64
 Hydrogen Production—Summary, 65
 Safety Considerations, 66
 Transporting and Distributing Hydrogen, 67
 Compressing Hydrogen, 68
 Liquid Hydrogen, 69
 Pipelining Hydrogen, 70
 Pipeline Leakage Losses, 73
 Road Tanker Transportation of Hydrogen, 73
 Hydrogen Leakage Losses, 74
 Transportation and Distribution Alternatives, 75
 Distributed Manufacturing of Hydrogen, 75
 By Electrolysis, 75
 By Reforming, 76
 Hydrogen Reformer Reliability, 76
 Hydrogen Reformer Safety, 76

Onboard Manufacture of Hydrogen, 77	
Hydrogen Storage, 77	
Hydrogen Storage Approaches, 78	
Compressed Hydrogen Gas: Containment Technologies for 5000–10,000 psig, 78	
Liquid Hydrogen: Cryogenic Containment, 80	
Storage in Metals and Metal Hydrides, 84	
Background on Metal Hydrides, 86	
Complex Hydrides, 89	
Catalyzed Hydrogen Adsorption and/or Desorption, 91	
Feasibility of Metal Hydrides as Storage Media, 92	
Hydrogen Adsorption/Desorption: “Chemical Hydrides”, 92	
Hydride Slurries for Hydrogen Storage and Transportation, 93	
Possible Nonmetal Hydrides/Hydrogen Carriers, 95	
Hydrocarbons via Partial Dehydrogenation, 96	
Carbon-Based Adsorption Systems, 97	
Graphite, 97	
Graphitic Nanotubes, 98	
Zeolites, 99	
Novel Hydrogen Storage Methods, 99	
Hydrogen Carriers, 101	
Ammonia, 101	
Methanol, 103	
Hydrogen Storage and DOE Criteria, 103	
Storage Implications for Light-Duty Vehicles, 104	
Hydrogen Storage with No Gravimetric or Volumetric Capacity Constraints, 112	
Hydrogen Storage Assessment, 112	
Hydrogen Safety, 114	
Some Additional Safety Issues, 115	
Summary of Hydrogen Issues, 116	

3 Nuclear Energy and the Plutonium Economy

117

The Influence of Nuclear Energy, 117	
Evolution of Reactor Designs, 122	
Generation IV Reactors, 123	
Fuel Recycling and Mixed Oxide Fuel, 125	
Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) Use in Light-Water Reactors, 125	
Mixed Oxide Fuel (MOX) Production and Processing, 126	
Fast-Breeder Reactors, 127	
Gas-Cooled Fast Reactor (GFR), 128	
Lead-Cooled Fast Reactor (LFR), 128	
Sodium-Cooled Fast Reactor (SFR), 129	
Supercritical-Water-Cooled Reactor (SCWR), 131	
Very High-Temperature Reactor (VHTR), 133	

Radioactive Waste Disposal, 134	
Nuclear Facility Decommissioning, 137	
Decommissioning Examples, 139	
Transmutation of Nuclear Wastes, 140	
Uranium Supply Concerns, 142	
Supply Projections, 146	
Uranium from Seawater, 150	
Uncertainty about Safe and Sustainable Reactor Technology, 151	
The Problem in Ontario, Canada, 152	
Fusion Power, 153	
The Future is Dimming on Nuclear Power, 153	
PART II ENERGY OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE	155
4 Conventional Oil and Oil Reserves	157
Oil Reserves, 158	
Conventional Natural Gas, 164	
“Unconventional” Oil, 167	
“Unconventional” Gas, 168	
Coal-Bed Methane (CBM), 169	
“Tight” Gas, 170	
Stranded or Orphaned Gas, 170	
A Short (Age) Summary, 171	
Who Really Sets Oil Prices?, 171	
Future Supply, Demand, and Pricing, 172	
Oil, 172	
Natural Gas and Synthetics, 175	
5 Coal and Bituminous Reserves	178
Coal, 179	
The Lurgi Process (Coal to Syngas or High BTU Fuel Gas), 182	
The Hygas Process (Coal to SNG), 183	
The Bi-Gas Process (Coal to SNG), 183	
The CO ₂ Acceptor Process, 183	
Other Coal Processes, 186	
Underground Processing of Coal, 186	
Other Important Alternative Energy Sources, 187	
Municipal Waste, 188	
6 Biomass and Ethanol	189
Current Availability, 189	
Biomass Conversion Technologies, 191	
Prepreparation, 191	

Conversion, 191	
Enzymatic Saccharification of Cellulose, 192	
Steam Explosion, 192	
Saccharification and Fermentation, 192	
Conversion Products and By-Products, 193	
Sugars, 193	
Value-Added Products (e.g., Ethanol, Polymers), 193	
By-Products, 193	
Animal Feed, 193	
Lignin and Lignin Derivatives, 194	
Cellulose Derivatives, 194	
Other Raw Materials for Biomass, 194	
Large-Scale, High-Value End Products from Non-Corn	
Biomass Conversion, 195	
Chemicals from Corn, 195	
Available Technologies for Chemicals Production	
from Biomass, 196	
Acid Hydrolysis of Biomass Cellulose, 196	
Countercurrent Hydrolysis, 197	
Enzymatic Hydrolysis, 197	
Commercialization, 198	
Cost Implications of Biomass Use, 198	
Net Energy Balances, 199	
Manufacturing Efficiency, 200	
The Thermodynamics of Growing Corn, 201	
The Thermodynamics of Processing Corn into Ethanol, 202	
Ethanol Production Efficiencies, 206	
Corn Production in the United States, 207	
Federal Subsidies for Ethanol, 208	
Longer Term Ethanol Prospects, 208	
Final Ethanol Observations, 209	
7 Methanol	211
Possible Fossil Sources of Syngas, 214	
Methanol as an Energy Carrier, 215	
Methanol Manufacturing and Applications, 216	
8 Diesel and Biodiesel	219
“Clean Diesel” Fuel and Diesel Fuel Substitutes, 219	
The Diesel Market: The Future of Diesel Engines and Diesel Fuels, 219	
Diesel Engine Emissions, 222	
Biodiesel, 223	
What is Biodiesel?, 224	
Advantages of Biodiesel, 227	

Disadvantages of Biodiesel, 233	
Oxidative and Hydrolytic Stability, 234	
Use in Diesel Hybrids, 236	
Alternatives to Vegetable Oil-Based Biodiesel for Diesel Substitution, 236	
Other Alcohols in Petroleum Diesel, 236	
Other Oxygenated Additives in Petroleum Diesel, 237	
Gas-to-Liquid (GTL) or Biomass-to-Liquid (BTL) Products as Diesel Substitutes, 238	
Diesel Fuels and Fuel Substitutes—Summary and Discussion, 241	
Diesel Fuel Conclusions, 243	
9 Solar Energy and Photovoltaics	245
Solar Radiation, 245	
Scattered, Beam, and Albedo Radiation, 246	
Solar Insolation, 247	
Direct Solar Energy, 248	
Passive and Active Solar Heating, 248	
Solar Photovoltaic Systems, 250	
General Operation of PV Cells, 251	
PV Types, 253	
Amorphous Silicon, 253	
Single-Crystalline Silicon, 254	
Polycrystalline Silicon, 255	
Polycrystalline Thin Films, 255	
Polycrystalline Thin-Film Materials, 255	
Multijunction PV Cells, 257	
Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells, 257	
Organic Solar Cells (OSC), 258	
Grid-Connected Solar Energy, 259	
PV Solar Energy Prices, 259	
PV Manufacturing Giants, 260	
Future Outlook, 261	
10 Fuel Cells for Stationary and Mobile Use	263
Fuel Cell Principles, 264	
Types of Fuel Cell, 264	
The Importance of FC Operating Temperatures, 265	
Polymer Electrolyte Membrane/Proton Exchange Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC), 266	
Regenerative PEM Cells, 269	
The Direct Methanol Fuel Cell, 269	
Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFCs), 271	
Hybrid Power Systems Incorporating SOFCs, 272	
Other Important Fuel Cells, 273	

- The Alkaline Fuel Cell (AFC), 273
- The Phosphoric Acid Fuel Cell (PAFC), 273
- The Molten Carbonate Fuel Cell (MCFC), 273
- Fuels for Fuel Cells, 274
- Hydrogen—A Bad Choice for Fuel Cells, 274
- Real-World Fuel Cell Efficiencies, 276
- User Expectations, 278
- Onboard Fuel Storage Requirements, 279
 - Realistic DOE Objectives, 280
 - Current Status, 281

- Appendix 1 FAQ on Energy and Hydrogen 285**
 - Introduction, 285
 - Questions on Basic Facts, 285

- Appendix 2 Terms and Definitions 325**
 - Selected Terms and Conditions Courtesy H.S.D.Q.E., 325

- Index 373**

