

## Contents

Preface vii

Acknowledgments xi

### 1 How Power Density Matters 1

### 2 Quantitative Keys to Understanding Energy 7

Power of Rates 8

Power Density: Sorting Out the Rates 14

Typology and Caveats 23

### 3 Renewable Energy Flows 41

Solar Radiation and Its Conversions to Heat and Electricity 42

Wind and Wind-Generated Electricity 61

Water Power and Hydro Generation 71

Phytomass for Traditional and Modern Uses 79

Geothermal Energy 91

### 4 Fossil Fuels 97

Coal Extraction, Preparation, and Transport 99

Crude Oils, Refining, and Long-Distance Deliveries 108

Natural Gas, Pipelines, and Liquefied Natural Gas 122

### 5 Thermal Electricity Generation 129

Coal-Fired Power Plants 130

Hydrocarbons in Electricity Generation 140

Nuclear Generation 144

Transmission 156



**6 Energy Uses 159**

- A Brief Historical Perspective 162
- Hierarchy of Modern Energy Uses 169
- The Challenges of Heat Rejection 182

**7 Making Sense of Power Densities 189**

- Recapitulations 190
- Comparisons 202
- Aggregate Land Claims 208

**8 Energy Transitions 221**

- Biofuels 224
- Wind and Solar Electricity 238
- What It Would Take 243

**Appendix 257****References 261****Index 297**