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For speaking inquiries, contact
Philip Warburg
info@philipwarburg.com

Philip Warburg, an environmental lawyer, writes and speaks widely about renewable energy. In his latest book, *Harness the Sun: America's Quest for a Solar-Powered Future*, he traces solar energy's remarkable ascent and introduces readers to a surprising collection of pioneers who are transforming the way we power the American economy. His previous book, *Harvest the Wind: America's Journey to Jobs, Energy Independence, and Climate Stability*, looks at wind power's enormous promise as a means of weaning America off fossil fuels.

Mr. Warburg's writings about renewable energy have appeared in numerous policy journals and newspapers including *Audubon*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Daily Beast*, *HuffPost Green*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *The New York Times* and *Yale e360*. His speaking venues have included Chicago Ideas Week, Lincoln Center Film Society, Talks at Google, Town Hall Seattle, and numerous college and university campuses. He has been interviewed on NPR (*Living on Earth*) as well as dozens of commercial and public radio talk shows across the country.

A Harvard-trained environmental lawyer, Warburg has led environmental law reform initiatives in Central Europe, the Middle East, Washington DC, and his native New England. After several years as executive director of the Israel Union for Environmental Defense in Tel Aviv, he served as president of the Conservation Law Foundation, New England's oldest and largest environmental advocacy group, from 2003 to 2009.

Philip Warburg lives in a solar-powered home in Newton, Massachusetts. His wife Tamar is an architect, and they have two daughters.

“Phil Warburg has invented a new literary genre: the clean energy travelogue. His trips to the places and characters behind the solar energy boom are brilliantly entertaining and informative. He has written the definitive guide to America's solar transformation.”

-U.S. Rep. Henry A. Waxman (ret.), former chair, House Energy & Commerce Committee

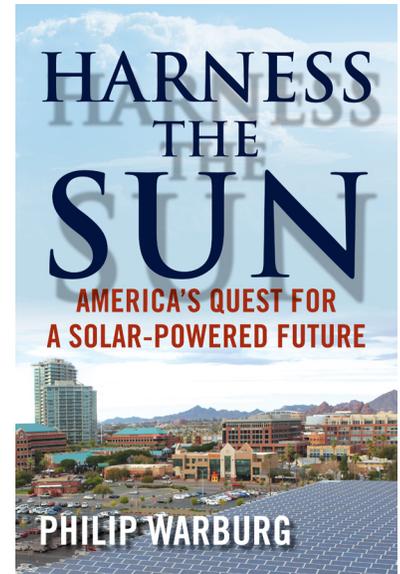
Solar energy was once the domain of futurists and environmentally-minded suburbanites. Today it is the epicenter of a storm that is changing the way we power the American economy. *Harness the Sun* captures this remarkable transformation.

Beginning in his solar-powered home in New England, Philip Warburg takes readers on an odyssey that ranges from inner-city Chicago to upscale Marin County, from big-box stores to football stadiums, and from New Jersey landfills to the Mojave desert. Throughout this journey, he profiles the pioneers who are bringing solar power to mainstream America. Social activists and technology innovators are finding common cause with politicians across the ideological spectrum as they advance new ways to tap the sun. Together they are steering us toward a lower-carbon future, creating job growth at twenty times the national average.

Warburg balances his celebration of solar power's ascent with a sober look at the challenges facing this fast-growing industry. Will utilities adapt to, rather than fight, a technology that threatens the primacy of power delivered from our aging fleet of coal and nuclear plants? What can we do to protect vulnerable wildlife at large-scale solar farms? And how can we manage all the waste when billions of solar panels reach the end of their useful lives?

As he charts solar power's future, Warburg embraces local innovation and private-sector initiative as enthusiastically as national policy reform. His balanced reporting from the field presents persuasive evidence of the steps already taken and the future measures required to achieve solar power's full potential as a clean energy resource—one that will promote local energy autonomy along with American energy independence.

Harness the Sun



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Beacon Press | Amazon | IndieBound
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“*Harness the Sun* is an indispensable guide to the technologies that undergird an emerging solar revolution. It describes the businesses that will profit from it, the interests that will be disrupted by it, and the policies that could accelerate it. Phil Warburg does all this by wandering across the land, talking with workers and consumers and CEOs, and asking them exactly the same questions that every intelligent open-minded reader would want to have answered. If you are intrigued by solar energy in concept but think it is just a futuristic option, read this book today.”

-Denis Hayes, national coordinator of the first Earth Day, former director of the U.S. Solar Energy Research Institute

America's Journey to Jobs, Energy Independence, and Climate Stability

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 declining rural communities across the American heartland. Nowhere is wind's promise more palpable than in Cloud County, Kansas, where the soaring turbines of the Meridian Way Wind Farm are boosting farm 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-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.

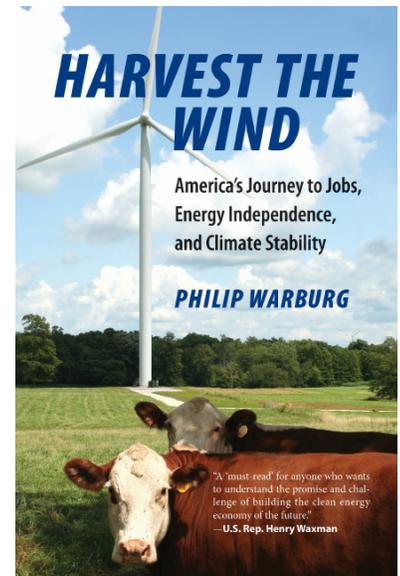
In this illuminating book, Warburg reveals both the remarkable growth of a breakthrough technology and the formidable challenges it faces. He visits epicenters of anti-wind activism as well as communities that have embraced wind farms as neighbors. He guides readers through an Iowa turbine assembly plant 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 may 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 more sustainable energy future—while at the same time investing in the nation's infrastructure and jumpstarting its economy.

“At a time when America faces growing energy, economic, environmental, and national security uncertainties, we need to seize the moment and turn challenge into opportunity. *Harvest the Wind* presents a compelling story about real people doing just that.”

-Dennis v. McGinn, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy (ret.), and president and CEO, American Council on Renewable Energy

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Speaking Topics

Harness the Sun: America's Quest for a Solar-Powered Future

Solar energy is transforming the way we power the American economy. From inner-city Chicago to upscale Marin County, from big-box stores to football stadiums, and from New Jersey landfills to tribal communities in the West, we'll meet the community activists, technology innovators and politicians who are finding common cause in tapping the sun. We'll learn about the raging trade battle between US and Chinese solar manufacturers, and we'll also examine utility leaders' fears of a "death spiral" as homeowners and businesses shed their reliance on polluting coal plants and aging nuclear reactors.

Harvest the Wind: America's Journey to Jobs, Energy Independence and Climate Stability

In this journey through the heartland, we will encounter the farmers, ranchers, factory workers and entrepreneurs who are making America the world's wind power leader. From these first-hand accounts we will learn about the jobs and new business opportunities that wind power has brought to cash-starved communities, garnering support that spans the Red state–Blue state political divide. We'll also look at a few of the environmental concerns – turbine noise and bird kill – that need to be addressed as the wind industry gears up to provide a third or more of America's power by mid-century.

Solar Means Business: Renewable Energy Meets Corporate America

It may be no surprise that high-tech companies like Google and Apple are reducing their carbon footprint by harnessing the sun. More revealing is the widespread adoption of solar energy by traditional businesses. Walmart is committed to bringing solar to a thousand of its buildings; IKEA plans to meet 100% of its energy needs from renewable resources. In this talk we'll look at this rapidly growing trend by profiling some of the retailers, sports teams, and manufacturers that are making the move to solar. Reputational benefits will be explored along with the economic and environmental gains of switching to solar power.

What Colleges and Universities Can Do to 'Green Up' Their Campuses

"Divest Fossil Fuels" has become the new mantra on college and university campuses, calling for fossil fuel stocks to be stripped from school endowments. Amidst this new wave of activism, too little attention is paid to how schools can *invest* in clean energy by tapping the solar, wind and energy efficiency opportunities on their campuses. This talk will highlight the clean energy strategies that are now being advanced across higher ed, from small private colleges to large state universities. We will examine the money that can be saved as well as the carbon emissions that can be avoided through smart energy planning.

“*Harness the Sun* eloquently details the role that solar can - and must - play in our clean energy future.”

-Peter Lehner, executive director, Natural Resources Defense Council

Previous Speaking Engagements

American Wind Energy Association
Bates College
Boston Foundation
Brown University
Chicago Ideas Week
Conservation Law Foundation
Duke University
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Google (Kirkland, WA & Cambridge, MA)
Iowa State University
Lincoln Center Film Society
Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting
Miami Book Fair
Middlebury College
National Press Club
Northwestern University
Princeton (NJ) Environmental Film Festival
Smith College
Town Hall Seattle
Tufts University
University of California Santa Barbara
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of South Dakota
University of Wisconsin
Vashon Allied Arts
Williams College

Media Coverage

