Preface

What's your *number*? Is there a *number* that can tell you how well you conserve energy, how energy efficient your home is? Yes, there is. This book will help you define that number and continuously improve it. Having spent several years building web-based Energy Information Systems for large organizations I found many ways to look at the data produced by the energy we consume. Collecting, analyzing and reporting energy consumption data and turning that into valuable information is the key to conservation. The majority of our energy consumption takes place in the workplace and has to do with business processes around the world. The energy information generated by those processes is complex and produces massive volumes of data. Conservation efforts in the workplace often get "derailed" by budget cuts or lack of expertise. This is why I feel the best place to start working on energy conservation is in the home. So I wrote this book to describe a simple and easy way for any homeowner or renter to effectively collect and analyze their energy consumption. Once they have done so and taken steps to conserve they can reapply the same methods to observe the results of their conservation actions. Teachers and students at almost any level may also find it useful for exciting classroom projects spanning the entire school year. The concepts described in this book are so simple, easy to understand and relevant to everyone that there is a perfect opportunity for them to proliferate across the globe through social media outlets. My hope is that these methods, once proven in the home, will provide valuable insight and inspiration for responsible parties in the workplace to take action toward energy conservation in an easy and effective way. The book begins with an introduction to the entire process of collecting energy information, analyzing it, making changes to your consumption and utilizing renewable energy sources. There is a chapter that explains in detail the units of measure used to track energy consumption and a chapter that shows how to analyze that data and turn it into useful information. Next I show how to use various devices to focus on your energy consumption in detail. This allows you to find the trouble spots and where you might be able to improve.There is a chapter explaining various methods used to conserve energy in the home and a chapter on renewable energy sources and how they can be used to help conserve. Finally a conclusion pulls all this together and explains how social media can help "spread the word" about how easy it can be to conserve energy.

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