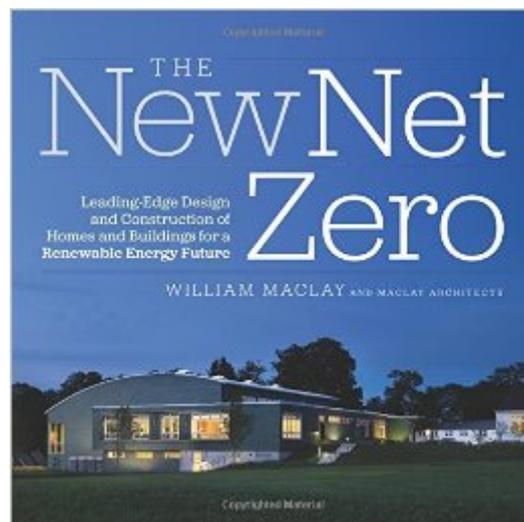


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# The New Net Zero: Leading-Edge Design And Construction Of Homes And Buildings For A Renewable Energy Future



## Synopsis

The new threshold for green building is not just low energy, it's net-zero energy. In *The New Net Zero*, sustainable architect Bill Maclay charts the path for designers and builders interested in exploring green design's new frontier net-zero-energy structures that produce as much energy as they consume and are carbon neutral. In a nation where traditional buildings use roughly 40 percent of the total fossil energy, the interest in net-zero building is growing enormously "among both designers interested in addressing climate change and consumers interested in energy efficiency and long-term savings. Maclay, an award-winning net-zero designer whose buildings have achieved high-performance goals at affordable costs, makes the case for a net-zero future; explains net-zero building metrics, integrated design practices, and renewable energy options; and shares his lessons learned on net-zero teambuilding. Designers and builders will find a wealth of state-of-the-art information on such considerations as air, water, and vapor barriers; embodied energy; residential and commercial net-zero standards; monitoring and commissioning; insulation options; costs; and more. The comprehensive overview is accompanied by several case studies, which include institutional buildings, commercial projects, and residences. Both new-building and renovation projects are covered in detail. The *New Net Zero* is geared toward professionals exploring net-zero design, but also suitable for nonprofessionals seeking ideas and strategies on net-zero options that are beautiful and renewably powered.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As an Architect with 30 years experience in both Commercial and Residential Design & Construction, I purchased this book to upgrade my knowledge of the New Net Zero technologies. I found this book to be extremely informative for the EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL who can read and understand construction drawings. The book describes the new technology for both small commercial building and single family homes by the use of project photographs, floor plans, wall sections and details that are both clearly depicted and very informative. The projects are primarily designed for Cold Climates in Maine and Vermont but would apply certainly to the Midwest where I live and practice. This book is NOT written for the weekend DIY builder but for experienced Architects, Builders and Contractors. Highly recommend it!!!

If you're seriously interested in building or owning a new structure that at least approaches "Net-Zero", this is the book for you. It takes you through life styles, costs, heat loss, HVAC and controls, construction details and architectural teams - all in readable, easy to comprehend language. The science behind the imperative to combat climate change is explained, as well. This is not a fast read, but it's organized for easy reference and has great photos. It's a must for today's builders, architects and "building-owners-to-be".

As a veteran Builder with 41 years in the industry, I have found this book detailed, thorough, beautiful and inspiring. The building sections and analysis are clear and balanced, and the presentation of everything from the math and science to the art and trades is comprehensive. I recommend this for those seeking a deep look, starting out, taking the pulse of progress, and those lookign for refreshment and updating: architcts, planners, builders, developers, instituitonal managers. Jonathan A. Wright. Northampton, MA

When I first saw the book's listing on , I balked at the price. Once you see the quality and content of this book, however, you'll see that it's well worth it. Most of the book is centered around case studies. Beautiful diagrams and photography are coupled with cold, hard data and provide a great foundation for educating yourself on energy efficient home building strategies. I especially like the author's acknowledgment that ROI is important. Just because you can do net-zero doesn't mean it's awesome cost effective. There is a balance. This is a great book for established builders and architects, as well as laypeople just interested in the field.

A very good book overall, but with one incredibly misinformed paragraph on page 214 when

discussing the reasons against thermal solar in net zero buildings. 1. I regularly build 1,000 gallon solar thermal storage for little cost. Round, atmospheric tanks only require an aluminum skin, 3â • cut polyiso, and a EPDM liner. Thank you Alan Rushforth for leading the way! 2. I regularly install commercial drainback systems that are freeze-proof, require one pump & control panel, and require almost no maintenance after several years. 3. I live in Big Bear Lake, CA, with 300 days of sun a year, very expensive electric costs, and low natural gas costs. Iâ™ve run the numbers: Installing radiant floor heating (& cooling) powered by solar thermal with a mod/con 96% efficient boiler backup is far cheaper than PV panels running anything electric. This book should at least educate the reader on how to run the numbers instead of discounting thermal solar altogether. I do agree that glycol systems can be complex, and are pushed by the big companies so they can sell all the components. There is a better, way cheaper, and more effective way: drainback! With Cali rebates, anyone can install these systems for next to nothing.

Excellent information, very well written, nice pictures and illustrations. So much to learn in just one book.

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