CONTENTS

Foreword by Ian Lowe	х
Acknowledgements	xiii
Introduction	xiv
Part A: Basic concepts and scenarios 1 Energy and its greenhouse gas emissions Natural flows of energy Human use of energy What are energy and power? Energy is conserved Energy flows 'downhill' Energy production, consumption and associated emissions Balancing electricity demand and supply Enter 'intermittent' renewable energy Ecologically sustainable energy system Conclusion	1 3 4 5 7 9 11 13 16 22 23 26
2 Energy resources and technologies Maturity of energy technologies Solar energy Wind energy Bioenergy Hydro-electricity and marine energy Geothermal energy Storage of renewable electricity Conclusion	28 30 36 45 46 51 55 56
3 Sustainable energy scenarios Overview of scenario studies GHG reduction scenarios: wide scope Electricity scenarios Electricity scenarios: computer simulations Simulations of 100 per cent renewable	63 64 66 74 76
electricity Myth-busting results and discussion	78 83

How rapidly can we transition? Conclusion	90 91
Part B: Which technologies are sustainable? 4 Saving energy Energy efficiency: buildings and industry Barriers to energy efficiency Overcoming barriers: strategies and policies Conclusion	93 95 102 105 107 114
5 Renewable energy technology impacts Energy payback Water and other materials Other environmental, health and social impacts Quantified costs and unquantified benefits Jobs in sustainable energy Conclusion	116 117 121 122 128 133 136
A personal statement Introduction Status of nuclear energy Nuclear energy life-cycle Life-cycle CO ₂ emissions Alternative nuclear technologies Slow deployment High-level radioactive wastes Accidents Proliferation and terrorism Economics Conclusion	137 138 139 141 144 147 151 152 153 156 162 170
7 Transport and urban form Impacts of car and truck dependency Integrated urban and transport planning Improved vehicles and fuels Intercity transport Encouraging signs of change Conclusion	172 174 179 186 191 192 193
Part C: Policies, strategies, politics and actions 8 General policies for the Great Transition	195 197

	Barriers to change What is a carbon price? Is a carbon price necessary? Sufficient? Carbon tax Cap-and-trade emissions trading Carbon tax or ETS? Changing the economic system Ending population growth without coercion International agreements	198 201 203 208 210 216 219 223
	Conclusion	226
9	Targeted policies for renewable energy Barriers to technological maturity Targets for sustainable energy Feed-in tariffs Tradable renewable energy certificates Removing subsidies to fossil fuels and nuclear energy Innovative finance for sustainable energy Transmission infrastructure Policies for renewable heating New business models for electricity industry Conclusion	228 229 231 233 235 237 239 242 243 244 254
10	Who will drive the transition? Limits to individual action Action by cooperatives and other community groups Action by corporations Conclusion	257 258 263 266 268
11	Citizen action The unavoidable power struggle 'Organising' groups Strategy Tactics What we can do	270 272 275 276 278 287
12	Conclusion Proposed campaign strategy Even bigger challenges lie ahead	289 292 294

Appendix: What you can do	295
References and notes	300
Glossary	327
Abbreviations	336
Units and conversion factors	338
Further reading	340
List of tables, figures and boxes	344
Index	346