Cities, companies, and citizens across the globe are strengthening their commitment to sustainable practices and are considering alternatives to carbon-intensive and resource-abusive development pathways. Hotter summers, rising sea levels, forest fires, and climate extremes are beginning to persuade even recalcitrant onlookers that something is amiss. Success requires a transition in how we produce and consume energy, because the global reliance on fossil fuels has been one of the biggest—if not THE biggest—cause of pollution and environmental degradation in the world.

Fortuitously, low-carbon renewable energy systems have advanced remarkably and are more affordable than ever, and radical solutions for improving energy efficiency are now cost-competitive. But there are forces that resist change; their influence has made most governments unwilling to put a premium on the price of fossil fuels to reflect the human health and environmental damages they are causing. As a result, new policies and new business models are needed to mobilize and accelerate the clean energy transition.
Empowering the Great Energy Transition argues that a transition away from carbon-intensive energy sources is inevitable. It offers ways to expedite the transition, buoyed by a decade of technology breakthroughs.

At the same time, the book places issues of energy and climate justice front and center. A focus on equity is particularly important when public resources are being deployed or when vulnerable groups are affected. Empowering the Great Energy Transition takes up these themes and more.

Readers will be taken on a journey through the energy world as it is today; they will explore the numerous barriers to change and learn about the many developments that give us reason for optimism. With just a few adjustments, we can set humanity on a course to a new energy future that empowers entrepreneurs and communities, inspires innovation, and mitigates the damages caused by conventional energy technologies that have served their purpose. We describe the achievable steps that citizens, organizational leaders, and policymakers can take to put their commitments to sustainability into practice. Empowering the Great Energy Transition shows that, with just a few adjustments, we can set humanity on a course that motivates and supports entrepreneurs and communities that seek a cleaner energy future.

In sum, this book:

- Is written by authors who together have produced over thirty books on energy and who are recognized experts in the field.
- Begins with a strong and surprising assertion, supported by ten key market trends, that indicates that a transition away from carbon-intensive energy technologies is unavoidable.
- Clarifies where the uncertainties of climate science lie and why these uncertainties impede market evolution.
- Provides a politically infused assessment of the obstacles that are slowing a low-carbon energy transition.
- Concludes with specific prescriptions to consumers, organizational leaders, and policymakers on how they can make a difference.