



The Power of Zero: Learning from the World's First Net Zero Energy Buildings

Brad Liljequist

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Forty percent of American energy use today comes from building operations. We have the technology today to reduce this number to zero demonstrated by the nineteen remarkable net zero energy buildings contained in *The Power of Zero*. Net zero energy buildings use no more energy than they generate over the course of a year. These buildings offer a powerful antidote to the myriad of problems and finite limitations associated with fossil fuel use climate change, ocean acidification, extraction impacts, defending energy supplies, and more. *The Power of Zero* showcases the world's leading net zero energy buildings, demonstrating tangible examples, successful strategies, and actual data for developers, designers and contractors to effectively achieve net zero energy performance. Projects include commercial, residential, and institutional buildings, both new and remodeled, in an array of different climates. *The Power of Zero* is written in a transparent and readable style for both the interested layperson and the engaged technician. As well, the book contains many nuggets of technical and design wisdom for the most well-informed designer. Part I begins with an exploration of the underlying principles of and reasons for achieving net zero energy at the building and community scale, while taking a close look at the relentless toll of fossil fuel use across many sectors and geographies. Part II presents nineteen unique case studies from proven *Net Zero Energy Certified* projects in a variety of climates with different typologies and sizes. Best practices in design, management, and construction are also highlighted. Part III delves into the visionary master planning involved in the creation of net zero energy communities, including several case studies of leading edge existing neighborhoods operating at the forefront of low energy use. Considering this array of powerful examples and innovative concepts, the book concludes with a progressive look ahead along the regenerative path to achieving a carbon-free, Net Positive future. Lead author Brad Liljequist is one of the world's leading experts on net zero energy buildings and communities. Brad conceptualized and led the development of zHome, the first net zero energy multifamily community in the United States, as well as Issaquah Fire Station 72, the world's most energy efficient fire station and recipient in 2012 of the international ASHRAE Technology award. Today, he is the Director of the International Living Future Institute's Net Zero Energy and *Living Community Challenge* programs, working with the most energy efficient and innovative buildings and communities worldwide. *The Power of Zero* takes an inside look at the bold projects that have achieved dramatic energy performance by integrating smart design and innovative, renewable, on-site energy generation. Explore *The Power of Zero* to learn why net zero energy is quickly becoming one of the most sought-after goals for forward-thinking design teams around the globe.

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