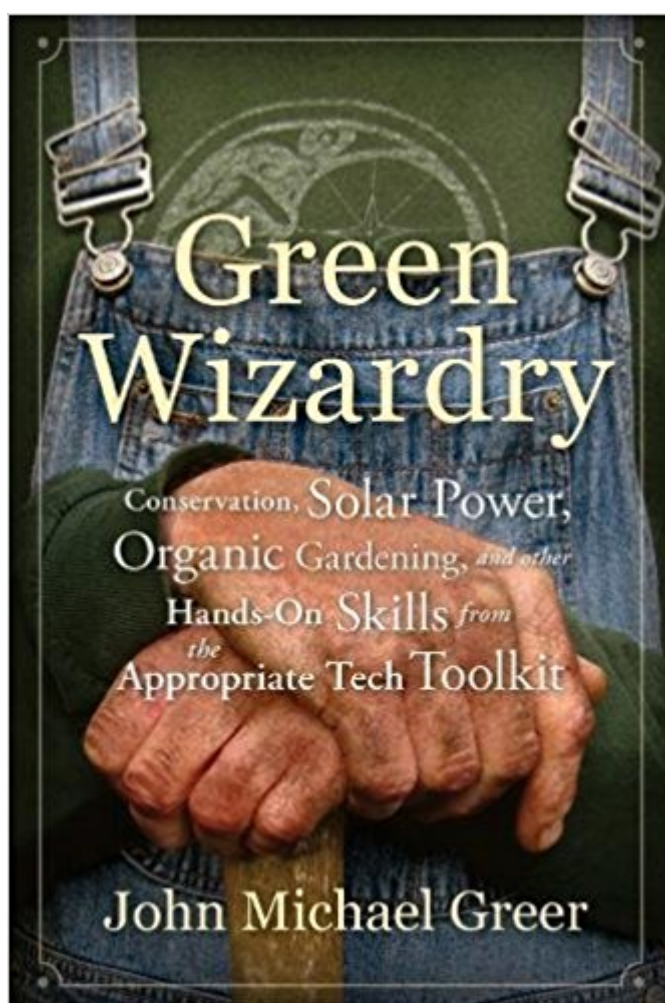


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# Green Wizardry: Conservation, Solar Power, Organic Gardening, And Other Hands-On Skills From The Appropriate Tech Toolkit



## Synopsis

Merlin, Gandalf, Voldemort; these well-known sorcerers from popular culture are famed for their amazing spells and spectacular magical powers. In ancient times, however, a wizard was actually a freelance intellectual whose main stock in trade was good advice, supported by a thorough education in agriculture, navigation, political and military science, languages, commerce, mathematics, medicine, and the natural sciences; in essence, the true Renaissance man. John Michael Greer proposes a modern mage for uncertain times; one who possesses a startling array of practical skills gleaned from the appropriate tech and organic gardening movements forged in the energy crisis of the 1970s. From the basic concepts of ecology to a plethora of practical techniques such as composting, green manure, low-tech food preservation and storage, small-scale chicken and rabbit raising, solar water heating, alternative energy sources, and more, *Green Wizardry* is a comprehensive manual for today's wizard-in-training. Providing a solid practical introduction to the entire appropriate tech toolkit, this book is a must-read for anyone concerned about decreasing our dependence on an overloaded industrial system and, in a world of serious energy shortages and economic troubles, making life a great deal less traumatic and more livable. John Michael Greer is a scholar of ecological history and an internationally renowned Peak Oil theorist whose blog *The Archdruid Report* has become one of the most widely cited online resources dealing with the future of industrial society. He is the author of more than thirty books, including *The Wealth of Nature* and *The Long Descent*.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: New Society Publishers (September 3, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0865717478

ISBN-13: 978-0865717473

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #597,477 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Energy Production & Extraction > Alternative & Renewable > Solar #350 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable Agriculture #412 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Technique > Organic

## Customer Reviews

Using an integrated systems approach to ecologically sustainable living strategies, John Michael Greer tackles energy, economics, technology and organic production practices with approachable precision in *Green Wizardry*. Interested in a real 'Green' revolution? Let *Green Wizardry* show you the way AND the why! --Hank Will, editor-in-chief, GRIT magazine, and author, *Plowing with Pigs and Other Creative, Low-budget Homesteading Solutions* Wanted: real wizards. Must be capable of guiding their communities through difficult times by exercising practical skills and applying down-to-earth knowledge of how things work. If you're interested in applying for the job, then read this marvelous book. Greer is the ideal guide; his wisdom and gentle humor animate every page. A magical career awaits you. -- Richard Heinberg, author, *The End of Growth* This is book is part nostalgic trip through what once could have been, and could have saved us, before we decided to go all in on unbounded economic growth and endless militarism, and part survival guide which, now that the results of this bout of folly are coming in, can allow families and communities to cut their burn rate in comfort and style. And it also lays out the foundations of a very useful and very necessary vocation to which all of us, young and old can aspire: *Green Wizardry*.---Dmitry Orlov, author of *Reinventing Collapse* and *The Five Stages of Collapse* Just as someone starting a business would get a book on business planning, this is the book for planning a greener life. Rather than being split into chapters, *Green Wizardry* is split into 36 lessons, each with an exercise at the end, where you are challenged to apply your new-found knowledge to your own life or delve more deeply into a subject. If there were a class on green living, this would be the ideal text! ---Deborah Niemann, author of *Homegrown and Handmade*, *Ecothrifty*, and *Raising Goats Naturally* Using an integrated systems approach to ecologically sustainable living strategies, John Michael Greer tackles energy, economics, technology and organic production practices with approachable precision in *Green Wizardry*. Interested in a real 'Green' revolution? Let *Green Wizardry* show you the way AND the why! --Hank Will, editor-in-chief, GRIT magazine, and author, *Plowing with Pigs and Other Creative, Low-budget Homesteading Solutions* Wanted: real wizards. Must be capable of guiding their communities through difficult times by exercising practical skills and applying down-to-earth knowledge of how things work. If you're interested in applying for the job, then read this marvelous book. Greer is the ideal guide; his wisdom and gentle humor animate every page. A magical career awaits you.-- Richard Heinberg, author, *The End of Growth* This is book is part nostalgic trip through what once could have been, and could have saved us, before we decided to go all in on unbounded economic growth and endless militarism, and part survival guide which, now that the results of this bout of folly are coming in, can allow families and communities to

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Greer's point of view is one many people find hard to agree with, that humanity missed its chance to develop sustainable lifestyles and now faces a sharp decline in fossil fuel availability. This mistake will be costly and for many it will be catastrophic. Greer offers a tried and true toolkit that can dramatically increase our ability to survive the coming decline. While this is not easy medicine to swallow, it is crucial that we remove our rose coloured glasses as we look at our personal futures. I personally am struggling with how to implement this path in my life. My present house, while comparatively energy efficient, was not very liveable during a 3 day blackout a year ago. Most likely I will need a different house that will adapt better to alternative energy sources to have minimal discomfort in the next blackout. Greer looks at ways to provide our own basics (food, fuel, shelter,

barter) not at the level we are used to, but at a level that allows survival in the event our traditional access to these is cut off. Another book I've read, "The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from The Union of Concerned Scientists" offers ways to reduce impacts within our current consumption model. But once you accept that this model is headed for the dustbin, it seems embarrassingly inappropriate. Green Wizardry is exactly right for our time, but how many will find this and take it to heart?

I was exposed to John Michael Greer through his various appearances on podcasts that I listen to, mostly dealing with peak oil, resilience, and druidry. And really, what better person to take environmentally sensible advice from than a grand arch druid? I was in the midst of sealing my current HVAC set up to prevent the forming of ice dams on the roof of my house when a google search turned up this book. Comes with sensible advice, it's a good introduction to practical ideas on how to retrofit your house for optimum energy conservation, good lists of recommended reading, and skills to center on. Mostly, Greer's experience with the environmentally conscious ethos of yesteryear that has largely been forgotten is a great boon to this Gen Y reader, since I straddle the line between the Xer's and millennials, for whom the consumer culture has eclipsed most common sense. Also, Greer doesn't just give you sensible solutions to energy problems, he goes into comprehensive detail about how the laws of thermodynamics come into play and how energy systems work from a holistic sense. I enjoyed this work and will be reading more from this author.

Well written book and enjoy having it in my library

JMG tends to be a bit of a rambler on his blog, but he reels it in here. He concisely summarizes where we are in history, how we got here and makes an impassioned case for individual growth through appropriate technology. Each section is ended with a exercise reenforcing the fact that this is meant to be used more like a text book than a novel. Some of exercises challenge us to think differently or explore our own habits, and others are more practical skill building experiences. I highly suggest this for anyone concerned with the risks to energy, the economy and the environment. Our way of life is not sustainable and this book gives a more honest appraisal of what that overused word really means and how individuals can sustain themselves and their families through good times and hard times.

Found other books on the matter to be much more authoritative. Good attempt though, considering

how much this man writes about and how well he does doing so. Two thumbs way up.

For those of us who don't have a green thumb, there is still hope.

Fantastic book.

This is an excellent book.

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