



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009**

## **A Renewable World**

Energy, Ecology, Equality

A Report for the World Future Council

by

Herbert Girardet and Miguel Mendonça

***A state-of-the-art handbook for policy-makers, planners,  
and for all those looking for smart options for a sustainable future***

**“Here’s the book we’ve been waiting for: a thorough, up-to-date, and above all proportionate response to our climatic predicament. When I say proportionate, I mean: it tells us how to solve the problem we really have, not the one we wish we had. It’s truly important.” Bill McKibben, founder 350.org, and leading US writer on ecology**

Herbert Girardet, co-founder of the World Future Council and world-renowned expert on sustainable development, and Miguel Mendonça, Research Manager at the World Future Council and expert on renewable energy policy, have jointly written **A Renewable World**, published today.

In the run-up to COP 15, the crucial UN climate Summit to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009, the book proposes concrete solutions to the most pressing challenges of the day – climate change and sustainability. This 250 page colour illustrated book summarises key steps towards a truly sustainable, low carbon existence for humanity.

Each of the ten chapters addresses a key issue (e.g. Energy Change, Climate Change; Carbon and the Biosphere; Renewable Energy; The Green Collar Economy; Renewing the City; From Global to Local, etc.) and offers positive proposals, by citing examples of policies or innovations that have turned problems into solutions through practical, new approaches.

Herbert Girardet sums up the key points of the book as follows:

- Climate change prospects are terrifying but the situation is still not irreversible;
- The challenge is no longer just to reduce annual greenhouse gas *emissions*, but to reduce actual *concentrations* in the atmosphere;
- This means finding new ways absorbing (or sequestering) greenhouse gases, especially CO<sub>2</sub>;
- *Geo-sequestration*, or carbon capture and storage, is the solution favoured by politicians and engineers, but it can’t be made work on the scale that is needed;
- *Bio-sequestration*, or enhancing the capacity of the biosphere to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>, is a much better prospect, as described in Chapter 2;
- Mainstreaming *Renewable Energy* (RE) is of critical importance for a sustainable world, as described in Chapter 3;
- Technical breakthroughs have brought the cost of renewable energy down dramatically, but

supporting policies, such as *feed-in tariffs*, are needed to accelerate the penetration of RE across the world;

- It is now evident that even large *cities* can be powered with 100% RE, but additional measures, such as major *energy efficiency initiatives*, are also needed to make our cities sustainable;
- RE and other environmental innovations are already major sources of new, *green-collar jobs*, and future prospects in this sector are very bright indeed;
- *Localisation* of food and energy supplies, and other ways to enhance local economies, are part of the sustainability trajectory outlined in the book;
- In the end it is our responsibility to *future generations*, and their prospects for a viable existence, that must motivate our actions.

Miguel Mendonça adds: “We have tried our best to write a state-of-the art book. Drawing on many years of experience, we have looked at what is going in over 50 countries across the globe and have distilled the knowledge of hundreds of experts working across every renewable energy and sustainable development discipline. We then assembled these findings into ten chapters to enable readers to broaden their understanding of the issues, and to start thinking about the practical changes they can apply within their own world”.

- Ends -

For further information, please contact:

Christopher Biggs, Sinclair Consultants

T + 44 (0)1803 868824

E [cbiggs@sinclair-consultants.com](mailto:cbiggs@sinclair-consultants.com)

Herbie Girardet is available for interview. Please contact Christopher Biggs to set this up.

Note for Editors:

A Renewable World is published by Green Books, Dartington, Devon.

ISBN 9781900322492

256 pages with full colour photos, charts and diagrams. £14.95 paperback.

Further copies are available on request from Green Books

T + 44 (0)1803 863 260

E [laura@greenbooks.co.uk](mailto:laura@greenbooks.co.uk)

A copy of the book is enclosed for review purposes.