

## **Preface**

The majority of the population don't give much thought to energy. Sure, everyone gripes a bit (maybe a lot) when the cost of electricity or gasoline rises for the tenth time this year. But do most people really ever think about energy? Where does it come from and what impact does it have on the family budget, the environment, or our children's future?

Most of us are so busy trying to stay afloat in our hectic lives that these questions only surface as polite dinner discussions. Nevertheless, every once in a while someone stops to ponder these issues. Perhaps that's why you've picked up *\$mart Power; An Urban Guide to Renewable Energy and Efficiency*.

Within the covers of this handbook, you will be provided with the background information, purchasing data, and step-by-step instructions to allow you to:

- stretch your heating and utility dollar;
- make the electrical meter run backwards by generating your own electrical power;
- provide energy for domestic hot water, space heating, and electricity from independent and clean sources;
- worry just a little bit less about acid rain, ozone depletion, airborne smog, nuclear waste, or world oil supply problems.

Whether you are just curious or an industry expert, if these issues are on your mind then *\$mart Power* is for you.

We will discuss how to stretch your energy dollar, doing much more with less. Step-by-step guidance and easy-to-understand instruction will help pave the way to better energy management and renewable energy production, whether you own an estate in the suburbs or rent a small apartment downtown.

We will guide you to a new relationship with the environment that lets you consume energy without worrying about the effects of dumping today's pollution on tomorrow's children. Unlike fossil fuels or nuclear energy, renewable sources are just that: renewable. No matter how much energy we capture and use, there will always be more for everyone else.

And most important of all, *\$mart Power* will show you how to do it economically and do it now!