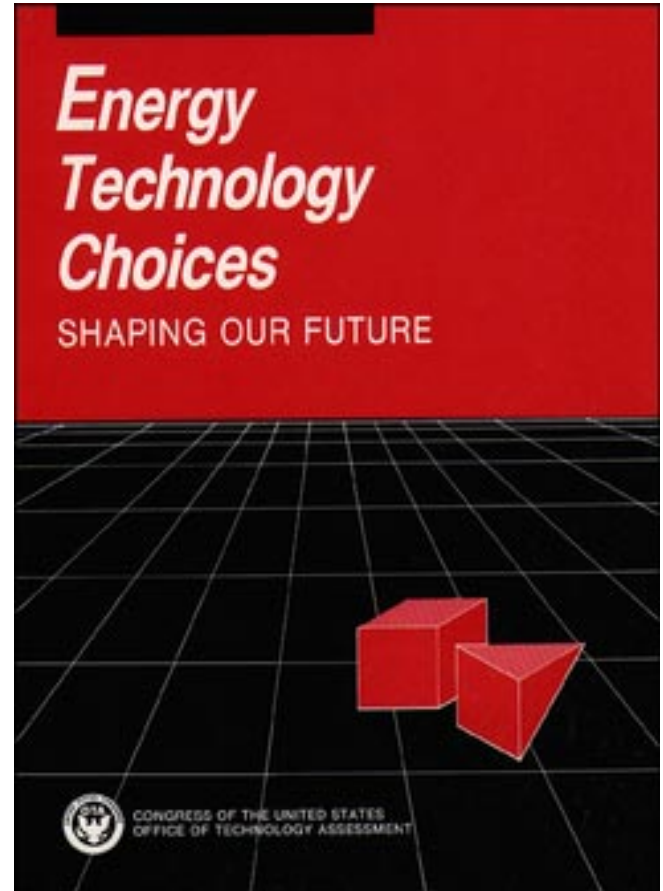


*Energy Technology Choices: Shaping Our
Future*

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Foreword

This assessment responds to a request by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House Committee on Government Operations, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to provide an evaluation of the technical risks and opportunities facing our Nation's energy future.

The report provides a broad overview of energy choices facing the Nation. It is not an exhaustive analysis of any one technology; rather, it draws together the main themes of OTA reports from the past 16 years, and other documents, into an outline of the main directions the country could follow. We hope that the report will be used as a "roadmap," not an encyclopedia. It reviews options for increasing energy supply and using energy more efficiently in the face of resource constraints and the contrasting goals the Nation faces. It then analyzes packages of options that would be appropriate to meet national objectives. There is an old Chinese proverb that is appropriate to U.S. energy strategy: "If we don't change direction, we're very likely to end up where we're headed."

OTA appreciates the invaluable assistance provided by the project's advisory panel and reviewers during the course of this study.



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NOTE: OTA appreciates and is grateful for the valuable assistance and thoughtful critiques provided by the advisory panel members. The panel does not, however, necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its contents.

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