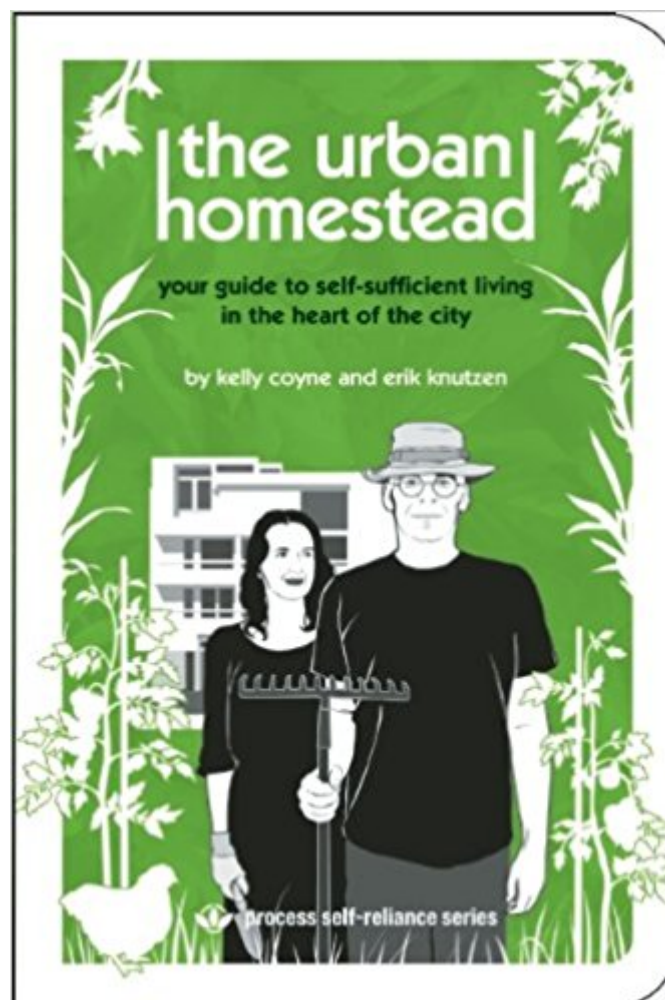




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The Urban Homestead: Your Guide To Self-sufficient Living In The Heart Of The City (Process Self-reliance Series)



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Synopsis

The Urban Homestead is the essential handbook for a fast-growing new movement: urbanites are becoming gardeners and farmers. Rejecting both end-times hand wringing and dewy-eyed faith that technology will save us from ourselves, urban homesteaders choose instead to act. By growing their own food and harnessing natural energy, they are planting seeds for the future of our cities. If you would like to harvest your own vegetables, raise city chickens, or convert to solar energy, this practical, hands-on book is full of step-by-step projects that will get you started homesteading immediately, whether you live in an apartment or a house. It is also a guidebook to the larger movement and will point you to the best books and Internet resources on self-sufficiency topics. Projects include: How to grow food on a patio or balcony How to clean your house without toxins How to preserve food How to cook with solar energy How to divert your grey water to your garden How to choose the best homestead for you Written by city dwellers for city dwellers, this illustrated, smartly designed, two-color instruction book proposes a paradigm shift that will improve our lives, our community, and our planet. Authors Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen happily farm in Los Angeles and run the urban homestead blog www.homegrownrevolution.org.

Book Information

Series: Process Self-reliance Series

Paperback: 330 pages

Publisher: Process (June 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1934170011

ISBN-13: 978-1934170014

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 115 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #754,100 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Energy Efficiency](#) #125 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > How-to & Home Improvements > Green Housecleaning](#) #525 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening](#)

Customer Reviews

"...a delightfully readable and very useful guide to front- and back-yard vegetable gardening, food foraging, food preserving, chicken keeping, and other useful skills for anyone interested in taking a

more active role in growing and preparing the food they eat. --BoingBoing.net "The Urban Homestead...touches on vegetable gardening, poultry, DIY cleaning products and beer making -- all outlined with a sense of play and fun."--Whole Life Times --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen are creators of the blog homegrownrevolution.org, a green living and self-sufficiency resource for urbanites. They contribute regularly to Daniel Pinchbeck's new online magazine, realitysandwich.com. They live in Los Angeles. Kelly Coyne and Erik Knutzen are creators of the blog homegrownrevolution.com, a green living and self-sufficiency resource for urbanites. They contribute regularly to Daniel Pinchbeck's new online magazine, realitysandwich.com. They live in Los Angeles.

Like the authors, I live in the middle of Los Angeles. What I appreciate most about this book is that it inspires me to problem solve and think about possibilities that are available to me in my urban neighborhood. The negative reviews of this book seem to focus on the fact that this is not a "how-to" book with recipes. But this lack of specifics is exactly why I like this book. For example, there are no recipes for compost involving wood ash (where do I get this if it's too hot to ever turn on a fireplace and my house doesn't have a wood burning stove)? The authors don't have one right way to do things--because even for someone who lives in the same neighborhood, there is no one-size-fits-all answer to how to live a greener life. Instead, this book provides a ton of jumping off points for a variety of projects to consider and tailor to individual abilities and needs. Flexibility is this book's greatest attribute. Also, I like the authors' keep-it-simple methodology. Too many green lifestyle books make the process of home food prep or gardening seem ridiculously unachievable just from a work hours perspective. The various projects that they cover in this book can be done seasonally, as one-time events, or put into a permanent, larger system of managing a house and garden. They don't present urban homesteading as an all or nothing lifestyle, which sets people up for failure. Over time, I have managed to make many of the projects that are covered in the book from home pickling to drip irrigation to solar cooking. And, as a result of many little steps, I now live a much greener life.

As I found myself getting more and more back to my country roots and wanting to share those experiences with my kids, I've been slowly transforming our suburban life. Little did I know there was a term for this activity "Urban homesteading". When searching for this term at my local public

library, I put my name on the waiting list for this book. I thought it may have a few nice tips on planting, etc. When I got the book, I couldn't put it down! It would be a great book just for the tremendous and varied amount of knowledge that it contains, but above and beyond that it is told in a very conversational and often humorous way. The authors's philosophy toward this growing movement is perfect for beginners all the way to hard-core "off the grid" folks. You are encouraged to do just what you can do and to try for more when you are ready. They share their strategies, their past mistakes (so you don't make the same ones) and money saving tips. This book has changed the way I look at my world, from needless paving to guerilla gardening. After devouring my public library copy, I knew I had to own this! Since purchasing it here @ , I've read and re-read it, adding post-it bookmarks for quick references in the future (how to make a self-watering container, raised beds, etc.). Thank you so much to the authors for a great book. I plan on buying more copies to give as gifts to my friends who are also interested in "city farming" and living a better lifestyle.

Yes, if you live in a row house or brownstone then this is a good book but I "truly" live in the "heart of the city" as I live in a NYC apartment. 3/4 of the book are not relevant to me. The other 1/4 is stuff I already know.... can't fault them for that I guess.

I am always looking for new ways to save money in this money grabbing society and this book although not an alternative for everyone, gives ideas on savings and even some not so everyday ideas, (such as raising your own chickens) to help save. There are many more practical yet unconventional ideas as well to help with the high cost of living but you need to read it for your self and find what works (and doesn't work) for you. Even when an idea was not for me, the information was entertaining as well as enlightening. Did you know, chickens are natural bug fighters in your garden and that they eat slugs, grubs, and they do weeding in the form of "scratching" the soil to get at the pests? You can use solar panels to fight high electric and heating bills (and the government gives tax credit on many energy fighting ideas) which washer will save you hundreds in water and energy costs? Many more good and fun facts inside!

this book is awesome. we have been trying to live self sufficiently for the past 5 years , we had already acquired a good chunk of this information contained in this book before coming across it. that didn't matter one bit though , this book gave us different ways of looking at our "projects" that were already up and running. while this book might not walk you thru every little step it gives you enough that you can figure out how to do this on your own and usefull information that you can

easily pair with other sources of information to make your "projects"

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