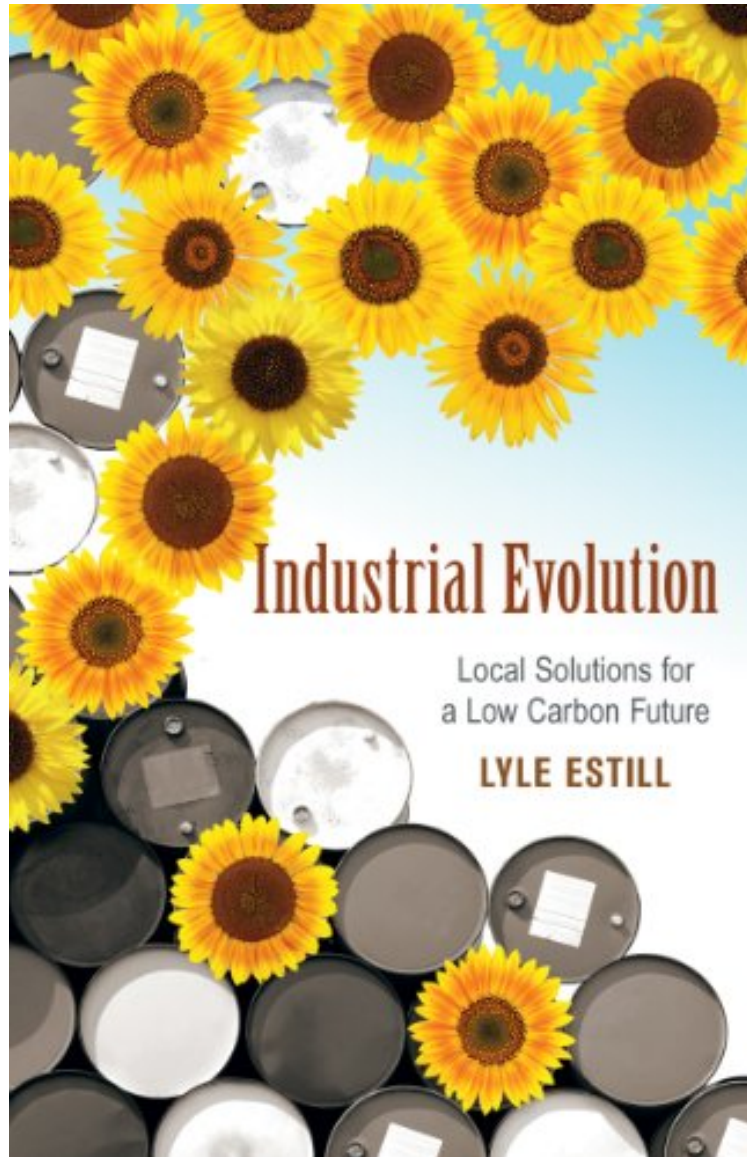


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## Industrial Evolution: Local Solutions for a Low Carbon Future

*Lyle Estill*

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**Lyle Estill : Industrial Evolution: Local Solutions for a Low Carbon Future** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Industrial Evolution: Local Solutions for a Low Carbon Future:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Story of Small EntrepreneurshipBy Jim EstillI am biased. This is my brother who wrote this book. From my blog post:I was excited to receive my brother Lyle's new book Industrial Evolution - Local Solutions for a Low Carbon Future. I think since this is his third published book, he now deserves to be called a writer. And he is a good writer (despite my bias since he is my brother) or he would not have had a third

one published. I liked his first book *Biodiesel Power* (although I never seem to be able to spell diesel without a spell checker). It was sort of an offshoot of his energy blog and compilation from it. I loved his second *Small is Possible*. (despite giving me teasing him mercilessly about being small and always wanting to be small). I think he has really found his stride with this book. He seems comfortable in his voice. Good book Lyle - congratulations. I rarely read story books which is what this one is. It is a rambling account of life in small town America. He shares the entrepreneurial struggles of the various businesses that have gotten together in his eco compound. It is well written and an easy read. I found it to be a page turner and read it in one sitting. He also has a good sense of humor which makes it fun. An excerpt: "At Piedmont Biofarm we are in the worm business. We sell Worms. We sell worm poop (called castings in polite circles). We sell worm digesters. And we sell expertise in the form of workshops, speaking gigs and consulting. One of the things I love about the worm business is that it goes beyond sustainability and pushed on to rejuvenation. If we accept the notion that the human animal has done a lot of damage to the planet via its "industrial" activity, then we must recognize that we have a lot of remediation to do. And worm castings are a great start." And I loved the label they put on the worm casting bag: "Worm FAQ's Why would I want to buy worm poop? It's a great soil amendment for bedding plants, houseplants, and gardens. So it's like fertilizer? Yup. And just like fertilizer you can think of it in ratios. Pick up a bag of fertilizer sometime and you will see an NPK listing. The N is for nitrogen. The P is for phosphorous. The K is for potassium. Worm castings have an average NPK ratio of 1.6-0.25-1. Is it organic? Yup. Worms concentrate organic matter, so their castings break down much faster than food scraps in a compost pile. Organic matter also has a C:N ratio. That's a measure of how much carbon and nitrogen are present. There's always more carbon than nitrogen. Worm castings tend to average 12.5:1. What's the PH? Worm castings average about 6.77. Is it safe? We don't suggest eating it. But it is great to add to your soil. It has trace minerals in it, and we get every batch tested by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture before we take it to the market. That way we know it is free of pathogens that can harm your bedding plants. Where do they come from? Piedmont Biofarm, on the eastern edge of Pittsboro. We collect food waste (some from Chatham Marketplace), and run it through our vermiculture digestion system. More info on Piedmont Biofarm: [...] If you would like to buy in bulk, call Amanda at 919-321-8260. We don't make a lot of these--the worms are virtually hand raised, so make sure you call ahead. Why so expensive? We are the only permitted vermiculture facility powered by human food waste in North Carolina. If you would like to save money on your castings, check out Country Home and Farm on Small St. in Pittsboro. Over there Melinda sells cheaper castings in bulk that come from hog waste. Can I just get my own worms and make my own for free? Yup. Please do. You can take Worm Workshops at the Abundance foundation next to Piedmont Biofarm, or you can go to Bountiful Backyards in Durham. Why would we advertise for our competition? Because, we think the world needs to change. One way to start change is by making dirt. Soil can be a renewable resource if it is treated right. And worm castings--from anyone--can be an excellent start." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Mastering a change By Coconut Excellent, intellectual, nicely written work by Lyle. Piedmont is an amazingly well run facility located in a small town in North Carolina. Everything about the book and the facility is refreshing and eye opening. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Visioning our future By urban homesteader I have been researching and implementing the possibilities for more sustainable living for about 8 years now. On my personal journey I was fortunate enough to meet the author of this book. Several years ago I started attending workshops in Pittsboro NC sponsored by the Abundance Foundation. I have come to know some of the "characters" in his book and they have a great story to tell. Lyle is a very good story teller and I found this book to be very entertaining. I think we face a great many challenges in the years ahead and some of the solutions to our problems will originate in places like the Piedmont Biodiesel Industrial Eco-park. I marvel at their determination. Some of the many struggles that they have had to overcome are laid out in the book. You will see a vision of the future that is realistic about the challenges but also optimistic about our ability to overcome them. This is one of the few books that I have read from cover to cover without diversion. I usually read several books at once and jump around a bit. Perhaps I was drawn in to the story because I am familiar with some of the characters. But I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good story and cares about our future.

In *Small is Possible* Lyle Estill introduced the compelling story of the creation of a strong local economy by several committed entrepreneurs. *Industrial Evolution* shows how these same entrepreneurs kept their local economy alive in the face of economic downturn and uncertain times, emerging with a model of how industry might adapt and thrive in a post carbon future.

For many people, the word "industry" brings to mind images of sprawling factories belching toxic emissions in a blighted natural landscape. "Industrial" has become synonymous with pollution, human rights abuse, and corporate greed. In *Industrial Evolution*, Lyle Estill seeks to reclaim the term, with its original connotations of hard work, diligence and productivity, and to show how community-scale enterprise can create a vibrant, sustainable local economy. *Industrial Evolution* is a story of survival. It is about how the small group of committed entrepreneurs introduced in *Small is Possible* managed to keep their dream alive and thriving through the economic

recession, emerging with a model of what a sustainable local economy might look like in a post carbon future. Compulsively readable and seasoned with light humor, this grassroots account demonstrates that ecological stewardship and enterprise at an appropriate scale can lay the foundation for abundance. *Industrial Evolution* skips the doom and gloom and is all about solutions. By showing that it is possible to take the big out of industry, this book motivates people to work together in a meaningful way. Filled with inspirational tales of success, failure, perseverance, and real world experiences that anyone can relate to, *Industrial Evolution* is a must-read for activists, organizers, politicians, and anyone who cares about resilient communities.

**About the Author** Lyle Estill is the president, co-founder and VP of Stuff at Piedmont Biofuels, and has won numerous awards for his commitment to sustainability, outreach, community development and leadership. Over the past two decades Lyle's vision of enterprise has become increasingly local for the past three years he has focused on his Hundred Mile Diet and become deeply immersed in his foodshed. Lyle is a prolific writer and the author of *Small is Possible: Life in a Local Economy* and *Biodiesel Power: The Passion, the People, and the Politics of the Next Renewable Fuel*.