

JEREMY RIFKIN

We are on the cusp of a third industrial revolution that could give us a door open to a new post fossil fuel era.

It was the first industrial revolution that brought together print and literacy with coal steam and rail.

The second, the telegraph and telephone with the internal combustion engine and oil.

What we have here is the possibility of a distributed energy revolution.

Each of us can create our own energy, store it and then distribute it to each other.

Twenty five years from now millions of buildings will become power plants. They load renewable energy; they actually load with solar roofs the sun, wind turbines. If they are on the coast they load ocean waves. And we are going to make the power grid of the world smart and intelligent like the internet. We call it intergrid, so that when millions and millions of us low power on our own buildings, store it with hydrogen like we store digital for media, we are going to distribute peer to peer to each other.

The first intergrids are going up in the United States this year in Houston, Boulder, Colorado and Southern California.

The third industrial revolution is an economic game plan. I think we have the science and technology to do it. It will mean nothing unless there is change in will.