Energy Sources Picture Vocabulary

Matter and Energy







The ability to cause change.



Energy Resource



A source or supply of energy that can be used to generate electrical power to meet people's needs.



Renewable



An energy resource such as trees or wind that is replaceable by natural means.



Nonrenewable



An energy resource that takes millions of years to form from the remains of plants and animals, such as coal, oil, and natural gas.



Fossil Fuel



A natural non-renewable fuel such as coal, oil, or natural gas formed over a very long time in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.



Coal



A hard, black, solid fuel formed from the remains of plants over millions of years and extracted from the ground; a nonrenewable fossil fuel.



Petroleum (Oil)



A flammable, yellow-to-black liquid composed of hydrocarbons occurring naturally beneath Earth's surface; a nonrenewable fossil fuel processed to make gasoline used in vehicles.



Natural Gas



A gas, usually found in the ground positioned above petroleum deposits, that is burned to obtain energy; a nonrenewable fossil fuel.



Nuclear Power



The splitting of uranium atoms to release energy. Uranium is found in some minerals and is classified as a nonrenewable natural resource.



Biomass



Biological material such as plant material or animal waste converted to a usable energy source; a renewable resource.



Wind Energy



Turbines harness the movement of air and convert it to useable energy; wind energy is a renewable resource.



Hydropower



Movement of water through a dam in a river is converted to useable energy; hydropower is a renewable resource.



Geothermal Energy



Heat is harnessed from deep beneath Earth's surface and converted to useable energy; geothermal energy is a renewable resource.



Solar Resources



The Sun's energy is collected and converted to useable energy; solar energy is a renewable resource.



Pollution



The presence of harmful or unwanted levels of material in the environment.



Landfill



Disposal site for solid waste.



Greenhouse Gases



Greenhouse gases are gases in an atmosphere that absorb and retain heat energy. In moderation these gases insulate a planet from extreme temperature variations; high amounts cause air pollution and overheat the planet.



Recycling



Reduce: Make smart purchasing decisions that result in less waste and packaging. Reuse: Find ways to reuse containers and products. Recycle: Properly dispose of used resources so they can be reprocessed into new products.



Conservation



Efforts to wisely use, distribute, and protect valuable resources such as fresh water, soil, unique environments, and energy resources, as well as natural and human-made materials.

