

RENEWABLE ENERGY VOCABULARY

Energy

The capacity to do work or the ability of something (motion, heat, light, or sound) to do work. It is transferred from one form to another, but it is never created or destroyed.

Primary Energy Source

Direct energy sources such as coal, oil, natural gas, and hydro power.

Non-renewable Energy

Resources that are finite, such as fossil fuels.

Renewable Energy

Resources that are "infinite" or replenish themselves naturally.

Types of Renewable Energy

Hydropower

Energy from the flow of water.

Geothermal Energy

Energy from the Earth's internal heat.

Solar Energy

Energy from the sun, captured by solar panels and converted into electricity or heat.

Wind Energy

Energy from the movement of air, captured by wind turbines.

Hydrothermal Energy

Energy from the heat of the Earth's interior, used to generate electricity.

Energy Efficiency

The amount of energy that is not wasted.

Energy Conservation

Reducing energy use to save resources and reduce costs.

Secondary Energy Source

Energy that is produced from a primary energy source.

"Saving" energy

To use less energy (e.g., turning off lights).

"Wasting" energy

To use more energy than needed.

Carbon Footprint

The amount of CO2 emissions produced by an individual, organization, or product.